

# **25 Years of Military Operations Research in the US**

**. By**

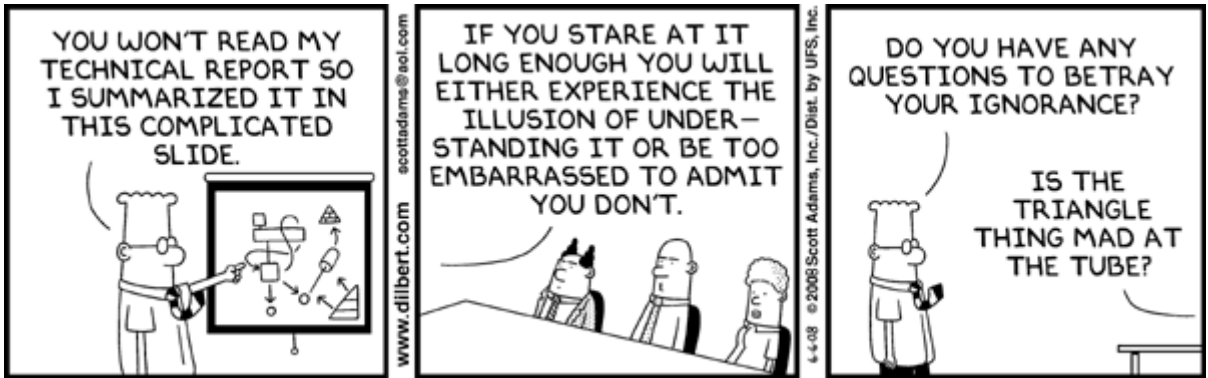
**A. Curmudgeon  
(aka Gene Visco)**

**25 ISMOR**

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# Dilbert



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# Two Myths

- Military Operational Research was “invented” by our British cousins in the late 1930s
- The “Mixed Team” concept characterizes Military Operational Research
- ...However...

# The Truth

- Only the name was new in the 1930s; MOR reaches back to antiquity
- Mixed approaches (vice mixed teams) characterize military operational research
- The past 25 years divide into 2 (perhaps 3) vastly different periods of military operational research

# For the US, Important Characteristics of the Last 25 Years

- Reagan, Bush the Elder, Clinton, Bush the Younger
- Dec '89: Cold War declared over
- Bi-polar (maybe Tri-polar) to Uni-polar to Multi-polar
- '90-'91: Desert Storm
- 2001: 11 September (9-11)
- '03: Invasion of Iraq
- Terror operations throughout the world

# Items of Interest in US Military Operational Research

- History of computers
- Changes in focus: Cold War vice “Small” Wars vice “Global” War on Terror
- Models vice Analysis
- How to see the Future
- The Black Swan concept
- Agent based models
- “Bumper Stickers” galore

# US 1984 Events (The Birth of ISMOR)

- Dick Wiles: Executive Director of MORIS; now Executive VP Emeritus
- EB Vandiver: Director, CAA
- Military Modeling monograph published; now in 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- Verification & Validation: which is which?
- Reiner Huber active with MAS
- Emphasis on human behavior as key element in combat analysis

# Five Year Chunks

## 1984-1988

- Introduction of MORS Special Meetings: MORIMOC series
- Woolsey's banquet talk
- Grace Hopper speaks
- Japan & US ORS-1
- AI & OR becomes popular theme
- V&V begins to be serious



# Five Year Chunks

## 1989-1993

- SIMNET introduced
- MOR code of ethics
- 3:1 theory explained(?)
- MORS Special Meetings:
  - SIMVAL series
  - Analytic Lessons from Desert Storm
- 1<sup>st</sup> MORS Fellows
- Shephard, *et al*, book
- Base of Sand debate
- Osipov introduced
- UK & US establish Combined Program Review (MOR)

# Five Year Chunks

## 1989-1993

(continued)

- MORS Heritage focus
- Increasing interest in combat analysis
- *We Were Soldiers Once—And Young* published
- Increasing interest in “abnormal” behavior of models
- Sir Solly Zuckerman, C. Northcote Parkinson & Wilbur Payne pass away
- *MOR* first published

# Five Year Chunks

## 1994-1998

- USN & USAF hold MOR conferences
- VV&A templates emerge from SIMVAL & VV&A dominates
- Distributed simulations become of interest
- SCHODA, West Byfleet
- First Cornwallis meeting
- OOTW Workshop
- “asymmetric warfare” appears
- 1<sup>st</sup> QDR

# Five Year Chunks

## 1994-1998

(continued)

- Hughes: “Is there a boundary to MOR?”
- Oral history project established
- Helmbold predicts 7 interstate wars, 2000-2009 (is he right?)
- Morse & Kimball reprinted
- Mourn the passing of Ronnie, Art Stein, Trevor Dupuy, & Jack Walker

# Five Year Chunks

## 1999-2003

- **RMA intensifies**
- **increasing interest in insurgency-counterinsurgency**
- **Clay Thomas, Hugh Miser, Abe Golub, Gary Wheatley pass away**
- **Emergent behaviors (agent-based models) begin to be popular**
- **Dick Wiles retires as EVP of MORS; Brian Engler is new EVP (retired this year)**
- **25<sup>th</sup> ABCA QWG AOR Symposium at CAA**
- **1<sup>st</sup> student of US military academy presents at 17 ISMOR**
- **Shephard lecture (by R. Huber): questions VV&A as dictated by US OSD**

# Five Year Chunks

## 1999-2003

### (continued)

- **Continued emphasis on C3ISR analysis**
- **Special Meetings:**
  - Urban Warfare
  - Information Operations
  - Analysis for peace support operations
- **Latest buzz phrases: Effects-Based Operations, Network Centric Warfare, Joint Analysis**
- **Space operations new arena for analysis**
- **Field analysis of increasing interest**
- **Continued deliberations on opening MORSS to non-US participants**
- **MORS chapters formed at military academies**

# Five Year Chunks

## 2004-2008

- **Training Transformation big thing**
- **“Human Terrain Teams” formed & deployed**
- **MORS Workshops:**
  - **War on Terrorism**
  - **Homeland Security**
  - **Agent-based models to support stability operations**
  - **Non-traditional Security Challenges**
  - **Analytical Rigor to Experimentation**
  - **Warrior Analysts as Combat Multipliers**
  - **Information Assurance**
  - **Value of Infrastructure**

# Five Year Chunks

## 2004-2008

### (continued)

- MORS turned 40 in 2005
- Increasing emphasis on homeland security; 7<sup>th</sup> MORS Sponsor: Dept. of Homeland Security
- George Dantzig passes away
- Natalie Kelly—25 years with MORS
- AFSAA becomes HQ, USAF/A9
- ODUSA(OR) dissolved
- DIME-PMESII appears



# Five Year Chunks

## 2004-2008

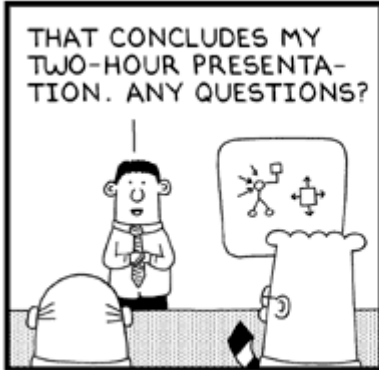
### (continued)

- Increasing concern with formality of VV&A
- ORSA Hall of Fame established
- Vols I & II of History of US Army OR published
- *Methods for Conducting Military Operational Analysis* published
- Report of WWI Naval Consulting Board produced in PDF format
- Intensive efforts to add international members to annual MORS Symposium
- Iraq deployed analysts (51) attend Assessment Integration Seminar
- MORS Workshops
  - Wargaming & Analysis
  - Impact of Emerging Societies on National Security
  - Methods for Defeating IED
  - Irregular Warfare Analysis
  - Deterrence Analysis

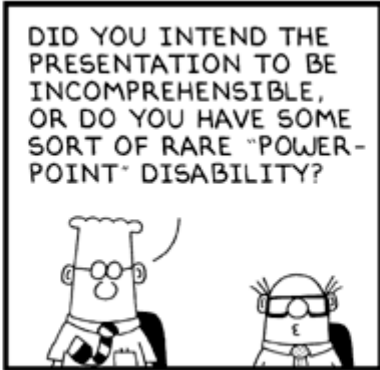
# Summation

## (Is it even possible?)

- Lots of dynamics—changes in the US MOR world
- Bumper stickers come and go
- Formalized VV&A under fire; increasing emphasis on the analyst and the analysis
- US MOR back in support of combat units in the field
- MORS is an important institution; needs to reflect on unintended consequences of its actions



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