



From the Editor

Corporal Samuel Toloza stood surrounded by armed, fanatic Iraqi militants. Sam was one of only 4 men from his battalion still standing; a friend lay dead at his feet, and 12 others were wounded. Ammunition spent, no relief inbound,

Sam saw Muqtada al-Sadr’s gunmen—modern headhunters shooting without regard for the innocents they purposely thrust into the melee—closing in.

In that moment of truth, Corporal Toloza was a man of action: He flipped open his knife and rushed a cluster of 10 Iraqi gunmen, killing at least 1 and forcing the others to flee. Later, Sam said, “I thought, ‘This is the end.’ But, at the same time, I asked the Lord to protect and save me. . . . My immediate reaction was that I had to defend my friend, and the only thing I had in my hands was a knife.” Corporal Toloza’s actions were widely reported, and he became a national hero. Secretary Rumsfeld pinned medals on the corporal and his comrades in a special ceremony, thanking them on behalf of the U.S. Armed Forces and all Americans.

When I first heard about the corporal’s heroism, like most of us who have fought and grappled, who have been both targets and shooters, I saw the battle through his eyes. This was an all-American, apple-pie, war hero story. Yet in this case, Sam was not a stereotypical high school football star who went home to Kansas with a shiny medal and a duffle bag of dirty clothes. Corporal Toloza was from the Cuscatlan Battalion, part of the Salvadoran mission to Iraq, an important part of the international coalition often overlooked by the press. His friend who died by gunshot was Private Natividad Mendez, also from El Salvador.

Toloza’s story demonstrates that individual acts of honor and integrity can have strategic effects. With Salvadoran spirit and years of American training and support, a corporal’s bravery became a symbol of national pride and metaphor for a strategic alliance between nations. This is a far cry from the obsolete perception of the embattled Cold War El Salvador of two decades ago. Corporal Toloza’s tale shows how professionalism and pride, loyalty and integrity, are desirable personal as well as national character traits. America’s allies, after years of joint training, exercises, and military education, make sacrifices and are heroes, virtually indistinguishable from their U.S. counterparts.

This issue of *Joint Force Quarterly* brings the focus on military and security issues back from Southwest Asia, with research essays by authors who examine security challenges and opportunities closer to home. The Forum spotlight lands on U.S. Southern Command and the nations south of America’s border, which are so important to its defense and prosperity.

Also closer to home and affecting future American military and U.S. policy abroad is the Department of Defense’s Office of Force Transformation, which *JFQ* examines in a Special Feature. Since the passing of Admiral Arthur Cebrowski—Director of the DOD Office of Force Transformation, network-centric warfare advocate, and military transformation evangelist—some inside the Beltway have questioned the focus of military transformation. *JFQ* raised this question in an interview with the office’s acting director, Terry Pudas, who offers insight into the current vision of transformation. In this feature, readers also will find unusual articles examining some current “transformational” programs.

JFQ is pleased to offer a greater number of articles than usual in this issue, adding a better mix of tight analyses to the traditional in-depth examinations of security issues. We do this while improv-

ing upon the high-quality writing and exceptional artistic presentation that long-time readers have come to expect. I particularly recommend a feature article by Colonel Mike Isherwood, USAF, recounting lessons from Operation *Enduring Freedom* that apply across the full spectrum of conflict. Colonel Isherwood delivered his article from Baghram, Afghanistan, just as this issue went to press. In the Commentary section, General Carlos Alberto Ospina, Chief of the Military Forces of Colombia, provides another unique international story with insights on an ally’s complex security

challenges. Also tied by a common thread of hemispheric alliances is our Interagency Dialogue, which includes an exclusive interview with Ambassador Carlos Pascual, who until recently was the State Department Coordinator, Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization.

Although the journal reflects the priorities of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I assure you that you are not reading a company magazine. *Joint Force Quarterly* is a professional military and security studies journal, a vehicle for information-sharing and vigorous debate on the Nation’s most important domestic and international security and policy issues. To promote this debate, we welcome your feedback. Please tell us what you find useful. Better yet, send us a well-written policy analysis or strategic research essay. New readers will find that *JFQ* is a unique print and online publication that promotes communication and information-sharing among a network of colleagues that crosses Service, agency, and international stovepipes. No similar journal exists, and we hope you find *JFQ* stimulating, timely, and provocative. We look forward to serving you. **JFQ**



CPL Toloza displays knife used to fight Iraqi gunmen after his unit ran out of ammunition

AP/Wide World Photo (Sarah Das)

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