OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WATCH ("OE WATCH")

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Foreign Military Studies Office
15 October 2013

"OE Watch" Guidance for Contributors

Background: The Operational Environment Watch (*"OE Watch"*) is a monthly e-journal that presents non-American perspectives regarding unique aspects of defense and security issues. It is a forum for experts like yourself to call special attention to non-US media and issues that you believe would be useful and interesting to senior leaders in the defense, security, and academic communities. This document provides you with general guidelines and a simple submission format, an example of how it all comes together, and a more detailed style manual.

The OE Watch Audience: The *OE Watch* audience includes three groups:

- Civilian or military area experts who may share your depth of career and regional expertise.
- Civilian and military security affairs specialists who may not be experts in your particular area or topic.
- Informed and intelligent readers, including busy policy-makers and senior military leaders, who will take a genuine but general interest in your topic.

As a contributor to the OE Watch, your topic and material selection, writing style, and accompanying visual aides should be clear, informative, and compelling to this combined audience.

Guidance

1. Choose unclassified, non-American sources that reflect a unique aspect of a security or defense-related topic.
2. Translate and provide only a short, representative portion(s) of the key part(s) of the article(s). Provide all relevant source reference data, including publication information, titles and references using non-American language scripts/fonts if possible (Cyrillic, Arabic, etc.). Also identify a key quote from the article.
3. Provide about three brief paragraphs of your own commentary that present a short background of the topic and your explanation of why these articles are interesting and valuable. Also make up an interesting title for your submission. *Your short commentary is **not** designed to be deep analysis, rather it is a short piece to orient intelligent readers and convince them that the article and topic are interesting and important.*
4. If possible, include a picture or other visual material that helps to illustrate your topic. This material needs to be in .jpeg or .gif format; 100-300kb. Make sure that this material is copyright free!\
5. Check out the Submission Format and the Example on the next pages. Also look at past issues at *http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/*
6. Send your submissions to rayfin3@gmail.com. The internal FMSO deadline for the journal is usually mid-month.

Do:

- Provide the <u>non-American</u> perspective.
- Provide aspects of an enduring security issue or current event that will be interesting but not widely known.
- Provide crisp, clear and <u>brief </u>commentary for the audience described above.
- Reference the article or author's opinions in your commentary; establish your view from a neutral position ("The accompanying article suggests that…," "As the author states…," etc.)

Do Not:

- Provide subjective or vague analysis, critique or criticism, polemical or inflammatory editorial.
- Pontificate, recommend, or advise on national policy issues (particularly US policy).
- Provide an 'answer' when the original article is ambiguous.
- Use first person ("I think that…").

A Note on Editing: FMSO will try to work with the authors to edit their submissions, but *ultimately FMSO reserves the right to publish submissions without the contributor's approval of editing adjustments in order to meet organizational standards and publication deadlines. Similarly, FMSO may reject or defer articles.*

CENTRAL ASIA

The Development of Uzbekistan's Special Forces

7 June 2013

> "*The government of Uzbekistan has been one of the most vocal governments in Central Asia about security threats that could emerge from Afghanistan following the drawdown of forces in 2014.*"

Uzbekistan Special Forces. Source via: http://rt.com/politics/uzbekistan-military-base-ban-956/

OE Watch Commentary: The government of Uzbekistan has been one of the most vocal governments in Central Asia about security threats that could emerge from Afghanistan following the drawdown of ISAF forces in 2014. The accompanying article on the establishment of a new department for training in counterterrorism and special operations in the Chirchik Higher Tank Command School of Engineering shows that this continues to be an important issue. The article itself is short, but there are a couple of additional points to consider.

First, the establishment of a new department within the Chirchik Command School is noteworthy, but perhaps even more interesting is that the announcement did not receive much attention outside of a couple of news sources. In particular, it did not receive attention from media in Tajikistan, which is somewhat surprising, considering the poor relationship between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. There has been tension between the two sides over a number of issues, and while the possibility of a conflict is small, the news of Uzbekistan developing its special operations capabilities does not appear to have caused too much concern for Tajikistan, at least not publicly.

*Second, while the article mentions that current facilities will receive modern technology, it is difficult to determine how much of an upgrade this will be or what impact it might have. Certainly, the Uzbek Ministry of Defense could be preparing for any number of scenarios to combat terrorism, and while the new department could help with that, counterterrorism operations might also involve other security ministries of Uzbekistan. It could be that Uzbekistan is placing an emphasis on its Ministry of Defense to deal with these threats, but it is worth remembering that it is not the only ministry that would combat terrorism. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)***

Source: Azizov, D. "Узбекистан будет готовить специалистов по проведению спецопераций (Uzbekistan will prepare specialists to carry out special operations)," Trend, 7 June 2013.http://www.trend.az/regions/casia/uzbekistan/2158999.html

Uzbekistan will prepare specialists to carry out special operations

The Higher Tank Command School of Engineering in Chirchik, Uzbekistan has opened a new department for the training of counterterrorism and special operations, reported the head of military training department of the Ministry of Defense of Uzbekistan, Colonel Shukhrat Kasimov…

…"Starting this year, the school will train units to combat terrorism and carry out special operations," – said the ministry representative…Kasimov has said that the facilities for developing effective airborne, chemical, and engineering training will feature modern technology. Cadets will be able to use a pool, sports fields, a special obstacle course, a computerized shooting range, combat vehicle simulator systems, a gym, library, and study rooms.

At the moment the higher military educational institutions of the Ministry of Defense of Uzbekistan prepare officers in nearly 30 occupational specialties.

Style Manual for *OE Watch* Commentaries

1. *You should review previous issues of the OE Watch to get a taste for the format and content: (http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/).* Please use Word format (.doc or .docx) and provide the precise citation where the reader can find the selected article.

2. Avoid using inflammatory editorial characterizations, unless these come from the article(s) upon which you are commenting. For example, do not refer to the leader of a country as "the evil leader of the country" unless the author of the article has done so, in which case you need to make that clear ("The author of the article, referring to the leader of the country as evil,...")

3. Because this is a commentary and **not** an analytical study, footnotes/endnotes should be kept to a minimum, if used at all. Notes should be indicated by Arabic numerals, not Roman.

4. When referring to articles, maps, pictures, etc. that are optionally included with your commentary, avoid using "spatially specific" phrases such as "the article below," "the adjacent map," etc. Since we do not know what the final formatted *OE Watch* will look like, such phrases can be misleading. Instead, use "spatially neutral" phrases such as "the accompanying map shows..."

5. Avoid using acronyms. These commentaries are short pieces and really do not require them. However, if you do use them, make sure the first time they appear you give the full form as well. Do not use an acronym if it is going to appear only once in your commentary.

6. If your entry is sent back because of problems dealing with clarity, please address those questions in the edited version, but do not attempt to completely rewrite the analysis or submit different material.

7. Quotation marks combined with other punctuation marks: commas and periods are placed inside the end quote; colons and semi-colons are placed outside the end quote.

8. Footnote/endnote numbers: these numbers are placed after punctuation marks. They are also placed outside quotation marks.

9. There is a difference between the abbreviations "i.e.," and "e.g.": i.e. (Latin *id est*), literally "that is" is used when the phrase after i.e. is equivalent to the phrase before the i.e. For example: "Ivan was brought up in the Soviet Union, i.e., his formative years were spent under Communist rule." On the other hand, e.g. (Latin *exempli gratia*) means for example, and is used when the phrase after e.g. is a subset (an example) that illustrates the phrase before e.g. For example, "The Arctic region is rich in many natural resources, e.g., hydrocarbons, natural gas, etc." Note: both these abbreviations are always preceded and followed by commas.

10. Ranks or official positions are capitalized when accompanied by the name of the person to whom the rank/position refers, but are lower case when not accompanied by such. For example, "US Secretary of State Kerry recently visited Turkey," but "The US secretary of state recently visited Turkey." "Lieutenant Colonel Petrosian, Commander of 153rd Motorized Rifle Battalion, was born in Armenia" but "The commander of 153rd Motorized Rifle Battalion is traditionally a lieutenant colonel."

11. Numbers from 1-10 are spelled out; Arabic numerals are used for the rest. There are two exceptions:
    a. If the number is part of a hyphenated adjective, the Arabic numeral is used (e.g., a 5-km section of pipeline)
    b. If there are a series of numbers in a sentence, then they are all either spelled out or given as Arabic numerals (e.g., 5 tons of corn, 15 tons of wheat, and 20 tons of rye; or five tons of corn, fifteen tons of wheat, and twenty tons of rye).