



Tactics of the Crescent Moon: Militant Muslim Combat Methods

By H. John Poole

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This book may still be required reading at Forts Benning and Leavenworth (and some Marine commands), **because it fully details the Islamists' yet-to-be-defeated 4GW method.** That method is best countered by "truly light" infantry tactics, but America has had only "line" infantry since 1943. Its modern sequel travels mostly by truck and fights mostly with supporting arms. That's because the Pentagon is still practicing a "higher-tech" version of 2GW (killing as many enemy as possible). How to operate the latest equipment takes up so much of the young infantryman's day that he never learns how to sneak up on an expert defender. He and his buddies don't become any less visible by donning advanced electronics, so their traditional small-unit maneuvers remain just as predictable as before. Instead of historical artifacts, all Posterity Press books should be viewed as vehicles of long-overdue change.

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Editorial Review

Review

"After asking some of the other SOFREP writers their opinion on the book [Tactics of the Crescent Moon], I think Peter Nealen summed it up best when he said, 'Most of it should be required reading for any infantryman/NCO.'" -- *SOFREP News*, 14 June 2015

"[This Book] ... may help to turn the tide of this war.... [It] provides ... battlefield intelligence you can't get any other way." -- *Leatherneck*, December 2004

"[T]he insurgency's ... mid-level leaders ... [are] from al-Qaeda, the Lebanese Shiite ... Hezbollah, and ... Iran's Revolutionary Guards, said the author." -- *Newhouse News Service*, 12 November 2004

"[This book] ... is a comprehensive interpretation of Muslim extremists' tactics, theory, and thinking." -- *North County Times (San Diego)*, 28 November 2004

"Have become addicted to ... Poole's savvy books on how to beat the enemy, written for ... grunt at the bayonet level (author of 'About Face')." -- *Col. David H. Hackworth U.S. Army (Ret.)*, September 2004

"John Poole has ... captured the nature of the new threat and ... produced a required read for our troopers' packs (former head of CENTCOM)." -- *Gen. Anthony C. Zinni USMC (Ret.)*, November 2004

"This book grasps Fourth Generation war against Islamic opponents far better than anything coming out of TRADOC or Quantico (U.S. father of 4th-Generation Warfare theory)." -- *William S. Lind*, September 2004

"Poole ... [says] bombarding cities ... almost always backfires, because embittered civilians provide more cover to guerrillas and terrorists." -- *Atlantic Monthly*, April 2005

"[F]ull of valuable pointers of how our high-tech military could outwit a low-tech enemy.... [S]hould be required reading for every serviceman or woman headed to Iraq or the Mideast." -- *El Paso Times*, 14 August 2005

"Whether you are a security officer in Washington, D.C., a first responder in London, or a soldier in Kabul, 'Tactics of the Crescent Moon' provides valuable knowledge." -- *The Counter Terrorist*, January 2009

"Poole's well-titled 'Tactics of the Crescent Moon' offers an absorbing ... analytic study of ... Islamic guerrilla tactics (former Head of History & Museums Division, HQMC)." -- *B.Gen. Edwin H. Simmons USMC (Ret.)*, September 2004

"'Tactics of the Crescent Moon' comes none too soon for deployed U.S. military personnel.... It shows ... how Muslim militants fight at short range." -- *Camp Lejeune Globe*, 9 December 2004

"[D]etailed ... look at the combat techniques of Muslim fighters in Iraq, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iran, and Chechnya.... [S]olid treatise on [the] enemy." -- *Military Officers Assn. of America (MOAA) Magazine*, Professional Reading List entry, 2008

"One of the most innovative and practical modern writers on military tactics.... For those who want to learn, 'Tactics of the Crescent Moon' is an invaluable resource." -- *Washington Dispatch*, November 2004

"Once again, John Poole proves himself to be on the leading edge of military writers and researchers with this book." --*Maj.Gen. Ray L. Smith USMC (Ret.)*, 2004

"Posterity Press has published books on counterinsurgent tactics." --*Chicago Tribune*, 6 June 2005

"'U.S. forces have depended more on firepower than surprise,' Poole writes. 'They can no longer move unnoticed along the ground.'" -- *Savannah Morning News*, 6 February 2005

"Book has 12 chapters,... 'How Islamic Guerrillas Are Trained' [is one of them]." --*Newport News Daily Press*, 12 December 2004

"Poole has ... hit a home run.... [I]f we ... adapt our training and operations ..., we can still prevail (publisher emeritus of Presidio Press)."-- *Col. Robert V. Kane U.S. Army (Ret.)*, October 2004

"'Tactics of the Crescent Moon' helps us understand the threat of terrorism and what must be done to defeat it (former commander of 1st Marine Division)."--*Maj.Gen. John H. Admire USMC (Ret.)*, November 2004

"To handle fourth-generation warfare at the tactical level,... recommend Poole and Ray Smith's October 2004 book, 'Tactics of the Crescent Moon'." --*Inside the Pentagon*, December 2004

"The depth of research is absolutely amazing which makes this dissertation a MUST READ.... This book is a revealing insight into the Muslim mind (frigate commander at the Battle of Leyte Gulf)."--*Vice Adm. Thomas R. Sargent USCG (Ret.)*, 2004

From the Publisher

Tactics of the Crescent Moon shows—in detail—how Muslim militants fight at short range. From all available intelligence, it has extracted small-unit tactical trends. While the enemy's combat methods may seem amateurish, they are quite effective in a 4th-generation-warfare environment. They have already forced the Israeli Army out of Southern Lebanon and the Soviet Army out of Afghanistan. To make matters worse, they may be improving. In the book's foreword, Maj.Gen. Ray L. Smith USMC (Ret.) warns that the current crop of "irregulars have flexible and adaptable training techniques and tactical methods." This book should help U.S. forces to counter those methods.

From the Author

This is more than one foreign faction at work in Iraq. There is al-Qaeda and its veterans of the Afghan or Chechen Wars. But there is also Lebanese Hezbollah (an Iranian Revolutionary Guard affiliate) and its suicide recruits (largely Palestinian). Both factions are recruiting and training locals to do the fighting. Normally at a disadvantage in firepower and technology, both rely on surprise. While not yet as tactically sophisticated as the Viet Cong were 35 years ago, both are unfettered by bureaucratic restriction and doctrinal inertia. Their training method is decentralized and dynamic. It allows each instructor to refine what he teaches. Unless, U.S. soldiers and Marines follow suit, they may be facing a protracted struggle with a Vietnam-like ending.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rita Kirby:

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