



# Conflict in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia



# Overview

- History Review
- Operations Review
- Lessons Learned

# Lesson Objective

OBJECTIVE: Know the **major issues** concerning the conflict in the Balkans

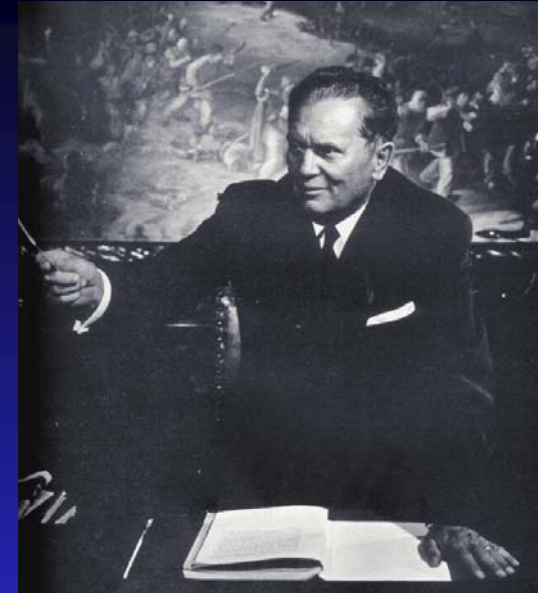
## Samples of Behavior

- Identify **three vital interests** the United States and its NATO allies had at stake during the Kosovo crisis.
- State the **five NATO objectives** established in April 1999
- State the **three key strategic objectives** of Operation ALLIED FORCE
- Identify the **key lessons** learned from Operation ALLIED FORCE

**Review**

## A Brief Background

- After World War II, Tito ruled Yugoslavia with iron hand
- When Tito died in 1980...fragile nature of federation became apparent
- With Soviet collapse, Serbian Slobodan Milosevic took control



*Stability of Yugoslavia began to fracture along ethnic lines*

**Review**

# Three Ethnic Groups Fell into Conflict

**Serbs** - dominant in Yugoslavia's politics and army, orthodox Christianity makes them natural allies of Russia

**Croats** - Roman Catholics, closer to the West than Serbs and exposed to Western influences

**Muslims** - living mainly in ethnically mixed towns and cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina

*Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina broke away...but Kosovo remained part of Serbia*

# Kosovo Crisis



- Kosovo has mixed population...  
majority are ethnic Albanians (Muslims)
- Serbian leader, Milosevic, altered the status of Kosovo: removed its autonomy & brought it under direct control of Belgrade
- Kosovar Albanians vehemently opposed

*Serbian Army violently repressed Muslims*



# U.S. and NATO Vital Interests at Stake



- Created a staggering humanitarian crisis
  - ▾ Massive flow into Albania and Macedonia
- Threatened peace throughout the Balkans and stability of NATO's SE region
- Milosevic's conduct directly challenged the credibility of NATO



# NATO Action



- After a year of diplomatic efforts failed...
- Mar 99--North Atlantic Council authorized NATO air strikes
- Strategic targets in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

*What was NATO seeking?*



# NATO's Objectives (Apr 99)

1. Cessation of military action...  
immediate end to violence and repression
2. Withdrawal of Serbian military, police and paramilitary forces from Kosovo
3. International military presence in Kosovo
4. Work on basis of past agreements in conformity with international law and the UN charter
5. Safe return of refugees

*To achieve these political goals...Operation Allied Force*

# Military Objective

*“...degrade and damage the military and security structure President Milosevic has used to depopulate and destroy the Albanian majority in Kosovo.”*

William Cohen, SECDEF

15 April 99

# Strategic Objectives of Allied Force (3Ds)

- **Demonstrate** seriousness of NATO's opposition to Belgrade's aggression
- **Deter** Milosevic from continuing attacks on helpless civilians...stop ethnic cleansing
- **Damage** Serbia's capacity to wage war, either on Kosovo or surrounding neighbors

*In other words...defang Milosevic...using an Air Campaign*

# NATO Air Campaign

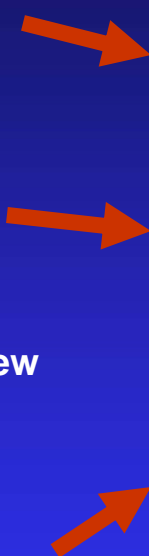
- Initially small-scale air attacks to “convince”
- JFACC (Lt Gen Short) advocated aggressive campaign...additional targets added
- Very tight collateral damage restrictions
  - ▾ We operate in CNN fishbowl...Chinese Embassy
- 78-day Air Campaign achieved objectives... without ground campaign... **a first!**
  - ▾ Milosevic capitulated...led to his downfall a year later

*Successful...objectives met. But there were other agendas*

# Lessons Learned on Kosovo War Objectives

## US Grand Strategy

- Maintain a peaceful, prosperous US-led Europe
- Convince NATO to transition from old Cold War common defense against external threats to new Continental security coalition
- Persuade NATO to acquire means and will to conduct “out of area” military ops



## Kosovo War Aims

- Stop the Serbian slaughter & expulsion of ethnic Albanians
- Remove Milosovic from power
- Accomplish the above with minimal collateral damage and NATO casualties

## European Strategy

- Maintain a peaceful, prosperous & independent Europe
- Prevent spillover into Albania & Macedonia, thence to Greece & Turkey
- Maintain NATO relationship with Russia and give it a role in helping end the crisis
- Demonstrate European unity



*Common Effort Concealed Widely Differing Objectives*

# Lessons Learned by US Military

- Global reach can work but duration uncertain...very costly
  - ▼ **B-2 debut**...missions of 30+ hours; Tankers were stretched
- Force structure “numbers” & resources are inadequate for current level of commitments (all services)...stretched thin
  - ▼ On the brink of another “Hollow Force”
- Older platforms with smart weapons may be “good enough”
  - ▼ Smart weapons may be better than smart platforms...**debut of JDAM**
- Need the right force structure...UAVs, mission planning upgrades
- C4ISR is currently the weakest link in joint & coalition ops

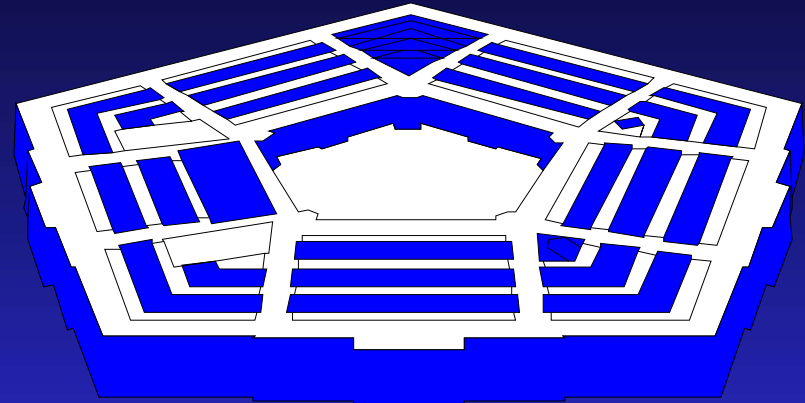
# Political Lessons Learned by Europeans

- **Militarily, Europe remains dependent on Americans**
  - ▼ **Best technology, weapons & platforms “Made in U.S.A.”**
  - ▼ **Unwilling to pay the cost of matching unique U.S. capabilities**
- **U.S. cannot always be counted on to serve the Alliance’s interests**
  - ▼ **U.S. focus shifted with opinion polls**
  - ▼ **Fear U.S. commitment could falter if U.S. forces take heavy casualties**
- **EU can provide diplomatic muscle. Many foreign policy interests are similar among EU Nations**
  - ▼ **Refugee issue**
  - ▼ **Humanitarian (ethnic cleansing)**
  - ▼ **Threat of rising Islamic fundamentalism**
  - ▼ **Need to build external identity**
- **Europe can overcome internal diversity to maintain cohesion**
  - ▼ **German Luftwaffe conducted first combat missions since 1945**
  - ▼ **Greece provided logistical support despite popular opposition**
  - ▼ **Italy and France (which have Communist ministers) offered air bases**

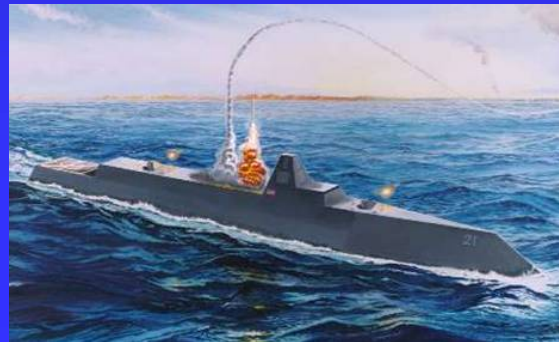


# Impact of Kosovo Lessons Learned on Future DOD Budget Trends

- No DoD spending surge like after DESERT STORM
- Shrinking Int'l defense market
- Readiness & Retention will increasingly consume \$\$\$\$ for Modernization
- Tax Cut legislation will challenge DOD budgets
- Old platforms with smart weapons were good enough
- Congress may balk at big bills for new platforms(JSF, F-22, CVX, DD-21)
- Support Forces will need big \$\$\$\$ too



*We have to make a trade between smart weapons and platforms...We need to encourage the services to concentrate more on smart weapons."*



# Summary

- History of the Region
- Operation Allied Force Review
- Lessons Learned