

خبر عاجل
بالجزيرة

أسبيل

Fourth Generation Warfare (4GW)

Boyd Conference

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What is 4GW?

- 1989 Marine Corps Gazette Article to examine future war
- 1GW = Age of Napoleon
- 2GW = Age of Firepower
- 3GW = Age of Maneuver and Ideas
- 4GW = Small Independent Action Cells
(Asymmetric Warfare)

4GW: Working Definition

- 4GW encompasses attempts to circumvent or undermine an opponent's strengths while exploiting weaknesses, using methods that differ substantially from an opponent's usual mode of operations

More on 4GW

- Strategic
 - Loss of nation state's monopoly on war
 - A return to a world of cultures and states in conflict
 - Internal segmentation/division along ethnic, religious, and special interest lines within our own society
- Operational
 - Seeks major psychological impact (will to fight, public opinion)
 - Disproportionate results to investment
- Tactical
 - Shift in focus from enemy's front to his rear
 - Use the enemy's strength against him

Moral Conflict

ESSENCE OF MORAL CONFLICT

Create, Exploit, and Magnify:

- Menace

Impressions of danger to one's well being and survival.

- Uncertainty:

Impressions, or atmosphere, generated by events that appear ambiguous, contradictory, erratic, unfamiliar, chaotic, etc.

- Mistrust

Atmosphere of doubt and suspicion that loosens human bonds among members of an organic whole or between organic wholes.

Idea

- Surface fear, anxiety, and alienation in order to generate many non-cooperative centers of gravity thereby magnify internal friction

AIM

Destroy moral bonds that permit an organic whole to exist.

Role of Technology in 4GW

- Technology Aided rather than Technology Driven
 - Boots on the ground critical to exploit
 - Enables small units
- WMD become paramount concern: Race for time
- Technology may become the target
- RMA has limited impact on 4GW
 - Mixes of old and new weapons to combat

Scale of 4GW

- Global
 - Cells loosely knit
 - State Sponsored in some cases
 - Terrorist run states in some cases
- } **Key factor:
SANCTUARY**
- To combat 4GW requires coordinated response
 - Political
 - Military
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Religious?

A Look at Afghanistan

- **Strategy**
 - President's strategy involves all sectors not just military AND not confined to just Afghanistan
 - Liberal application of money
- **Operations**
 - Role of CENTCOM
 - Limited Footprint on the Ground
 - Reliance on uncertain allies
- **Tactics**
 - Mixed Bag, but SOF clearly have a better approach with early successes

War in Afghanistan to Date

Phase	Characteristics	Period	Results	Generation
I	US air strikes based on TechInt targets and in response to Afghan requests.	7 Oct 01 – 20 Oct 01	Not effective in dislodging Taliban. Terrorists retained initiative.	2GW (Attrition)
II	SOF and CIA on ground to advise, direct CAS, and gather intelligence. Reconnaissance Pull. Adaptive Operations.	21 Oct 01 – 15 Dec 01	Extremely effective in forcing Taliban and Al Qaeda into mountains. US and Allies won initiative. Rapidly cleared country.	3GW (Maneuver)
III	Al Qaeda located in stronghold Tora Bora Mountains	15 Dec 01 15 Jan 02	Al Qaeda intimidated allied forces who “went home” after declaring victory. Al Qaeda took initiative from allies	4GW applied by Al Qaeda
IV	Conventional US forces applied to knock out Al Qaeda in the caves of Shah-i-Kot (Operation Anaconda)	16 Jan 02 - 18 Mar 02	Not very effective – similar to Soviet/Afghan war. Al Qaeda wrested initiative. Escaped.	2GW (Attrition) applied by U.S. Al Qaeda fought 4GW

The Future Is Here

- Doesn't matter what you call it. We are at War!
- US military has huge investment in conventional forces
- US military has a limited investment in Special Operations Forces
- US military has huge investment in military technology and weapons
- US military needs to have many different arrows in its quiver of capabilities - next campaign may be conventional or NBC
- US military needs to understand Sun Tzu more so than Clausewitz
- Pattern for future war is set

Summary

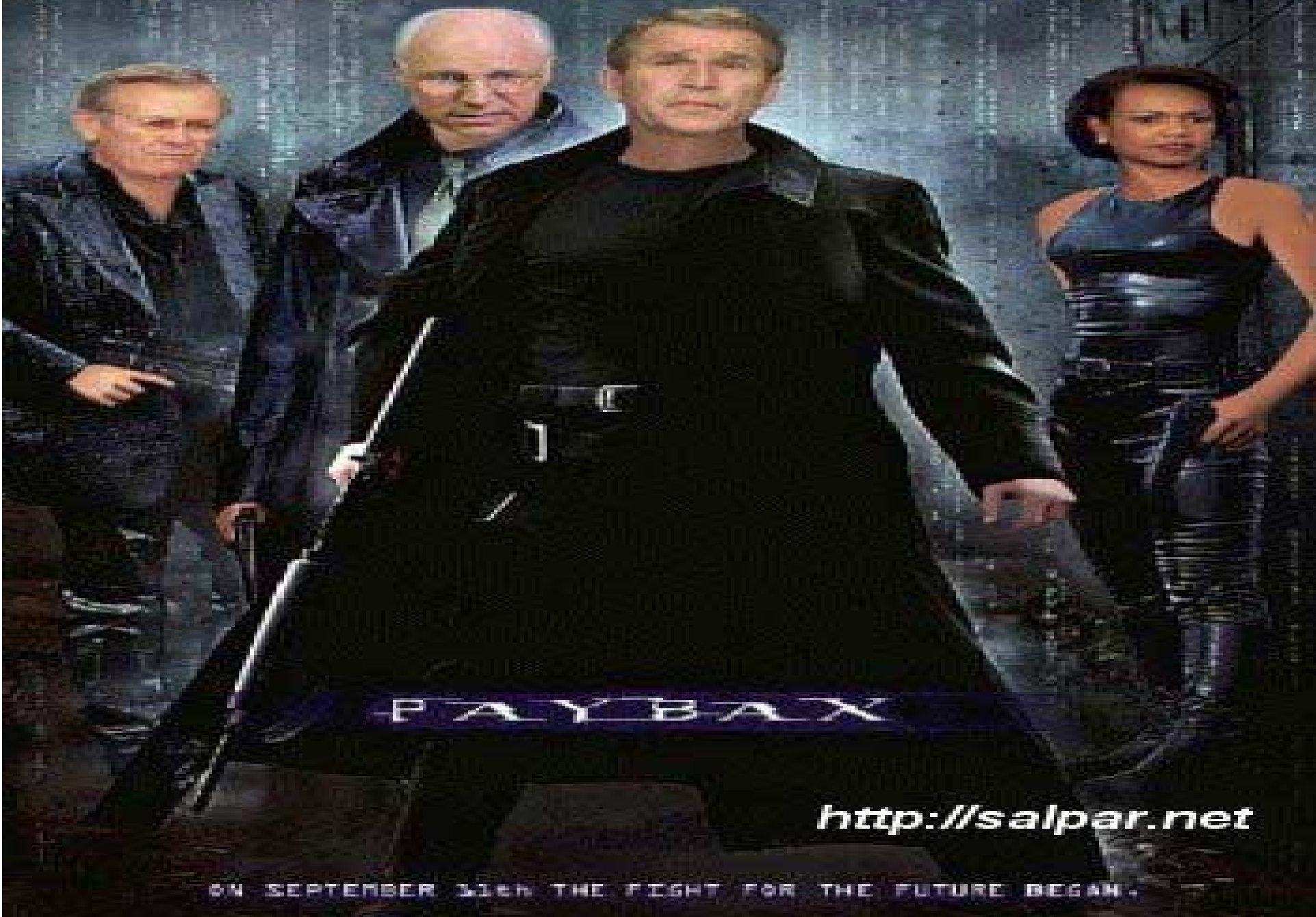
- 4GW not new, but recent development
 - Question is: Can we adapt?
- Can be terrorism, can be guerrilla warfare, can be economic warfare, can be all of the above
- Military role in 4GW subordinate
- War of ideas and time (Moral War)
 - Enemy has time
 - We do not
- End State?

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PAYBACK

<http://salpar.net>

ON SEPTEMBER 11TH THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE BEGAN.