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Dear Harold:

Well, old buddy, I am afraid you have stumbled into a morass more sinister, more complicated than the Warren Report, Jim Garrison and the FBI combined--the Hale Groves billing system!

Last fall, right before I went on vacation, Hale called me and said, "Should we send Weisberg fruit?" Stupidly, I said yes! So, the first thing they did, they sent Us a box of fruit. Betsy called them and it was allegedly straightened out. We were supposed to be credited with the fruit, but it seems we were not. I sent them a check last week, which should have zeroed out my account.

I hope to live long enough to get it corrected.

It would be nice if they would send ME the bill for our gift.

Oh, well.

Thanks for the article. I'll send it along to Gerry.

Right now, I am trying to target the weekend of September 12 to come up to Frederick. Right now, I may solo. Betsy took that new job at the prison, addit avoids putting the dog in the kennel.

I would like to go over Groden's books with you. I do have some questions. I know the text is very BS.

Gerald Posner has a new book out on Ross Perot. By the time you get this letter, I am sure Perot will be complaining about it.

As the years have gone by and I am more or less competent in the area of the JFK assassination, I have come to appreciate your work and Meagher's very much. Fact is fact and bullshit is bs, and you two and Roffman have done a great job of sticking to the facts.

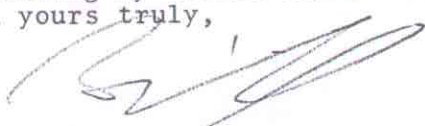
I notice the Navy has come up with a new idea- a sub with nuclear missiles that is unmanned! Seems a little crazy to me.

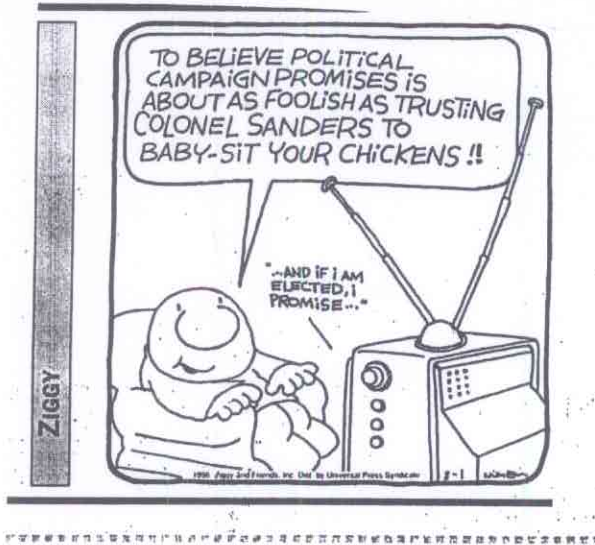
The Ohio river has been muddy all year. We have so much erosion in this country it is unbelievable. Think of all the trees and such that could be planted to correct this. But I don't think the politicians have much interest in water pollution.

We hope to correct Hale's billing before the next fruit season!
Love to you and Lil.

Risking having my credit ruined for life for a box of oranges,
I remain yours truly,

Bill





WASHINGTON

Book: Perot says Gore cheated in '93 debate

A new Ross Perot biography, *Citizen Perot* by Gerald Posner, says Perot thinks Vice President Gore "cheated" in their 1993 debate on *Larry King Live* by receiving electronic prompts from his staff through an earpiece. Among Perot's proof, according to the book: He says there was "something glistening in (Gore's) ear."

By most accounts, Gore trounced Perot in that debate over extending free trade to Mexico and Canada. "Watch the debate, and you'll see that thing twinkle," Perot says in the book. "Maybe it was an earache, who knows (he laughs). All I know is that you can see it twinkle. It was right at the bottom of the ear." Posner in his book says the twinkle appeared to "clearly be just a reflection."

The book also sketches in detail the bitter feud that developed between Perot and then-vice president George Bush over U.S. soldiers missing in action in Vietnam. Overall, the book, for which Perot cooperated, paints the Texas billionaire as a brilliant-but-quirky businessman, at times compassionate and at times driven, but with more than just a touch of paranoia and a taste for revenge against those who cross him. "The Perot I came to know is complex and contradictory," the author writes.

— Richard Benedetto

tem to generate "frag plans" for use when something unexpected happened. At any given time, the team had nine or 10 detailed alternatives ready to go, compared with two or three in a conventional planning cell. "That increases the likelihood of always having the initiative and never having to react," says Maj. David Nadeau, who played the role of chief of plans. "It gives average guys like us a Napoleonic vision."

Nobody disputes the virtues of enhanced information. Elbows fly, however, over how it will change the role of sea, air and ground troops. Gen. Dennis Reimer, Army chief of staff, thinks that even though soldiers will be equipped with advanced weapons and communications gear, "warfare will basically be the same" in 10 to 15 years.

Yet the Army has been criticized even within its own ranks for an interim new division structure—to be the backbone of the "next Army"—that relies on the same number of tanks as the heavy divisions equipped to confront the Soviets in the cold war. "The Army's got to get on with some obvious changes," says one Army planner.

A senior Air Force official predicts, not surprisingly, that precision weapons, many dropped from the air, will destroy enemy forces with little or no need for close-in fighting. "If we do this right, the term 'battlefield' will become archaic—a place where soldiers go to die."

"Punching gas." Marine Corps futurists come down somewhere in between. They foresee troops still trained for traditional amphibious missions but able to operate in small, widely dispersed squads as well. Instead of doing a lot of shooting themselves, the squads would seek out enemy targets and relay coordinates to artillery or missile systems far to the rear, or even to ships. Then they'd quickly move out. The battered enemy would never see its opponents and would have no target for return fire. "It would be like punching gas," says one planner at the Marines' war-fighting lab in Quantico, Va. The risk of massing troops would probably lead to "islands" of fighting, rather than discernable front lines.

Future war-fighting experiments, including an Army exercise next spring featuring 5,000 soldiers—most outfitted with helmet-mounted video displays, computer devices and nearly 100 other futuristic systems—will begin to paint tomorrow more clearly. But whatever the possibilities, an Internet of fighters carries risks that should be familiar to any-

BATTLEFIELD DOMINANCE

New technology, new tactics

In future conflicts, rivals may also have advanced technology, which means U.S. troop formations or bases may be easy targets.

GROUND FORCES

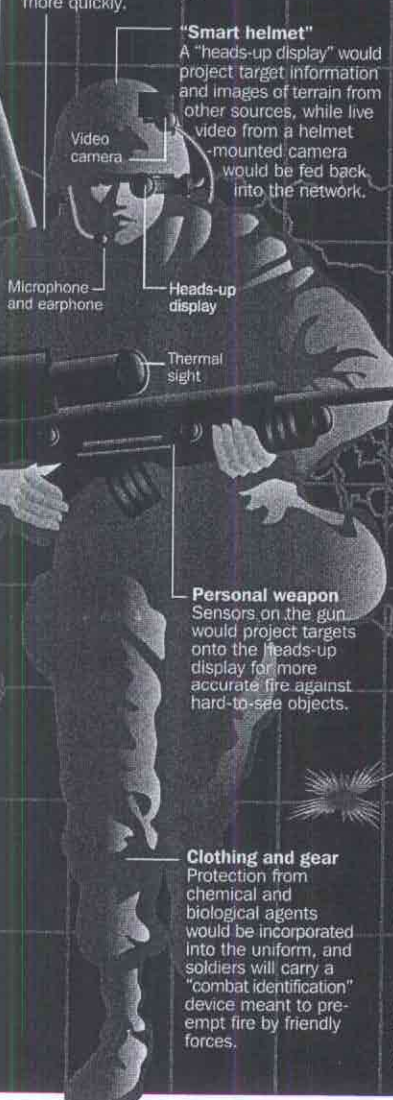
Small squads linked electronically may be able to spread out over a large area in order to stay hidden. Platoons in a rifle company could be several miles apart, in contrast with the 1,000-meter separation typical today.

The soldier of the future

Links to data from numerous sources would give individual soldiers much more information about what's going on around them, letting them act much more quickly.

"Smart helmet"

A "heads-up display" would project target information and images of terrain from other sources, while live video from a helmet-mounted camera would be fed back into the network.



Video camera

Microphone and earphone

Heads-up display

Thermal sight

Personal weapon

Sensors on the gun would project targets onto the heads-up display for more accurate fire against hard-to-see objects.

Clothing and gear

Protection from chemical and biological agents would be incorporated into the uniform, and soldiers will carry a "combat identification" device meant to preempt fire by friendly forces.

NAVAL FORCES

Carries 500 or more missiles



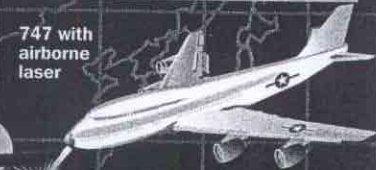
Hull may be stealthy

"Arsenal ships"

New Navy arsenal ships would be packed with 500 or more missiles each, which could be fired remotely by a commander on another ship—or on land. The arsenal ship would be low-floating or submersible, allowing it to sneak close to shore without being detected. Its firepower would be called upon mostly at the start of a conflict.

AIR AND SPACE-BASED FORCES

747 with airborne laser



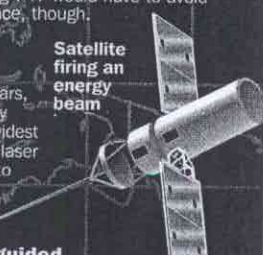
Directed energy weapons

A laser fired from a 747 would target ballistic missiles launched at U.S. forces. The lumbering 747 would have to avoid enemy airspace, though.

Space weapons

Within 30 years, satellites may provide the widest coverage for laser beams able to shoot down missiles.

Satellite firing an energy beam



Precision-guided munitions (PGMs)

By taking out targets on the first or second try, accurate "smart bombs" would dramatically reduce the amount of materiel troops need to bring to battle.

Self-guided anti-tank submunition



"Brilliant" submunitions

Some missiles may release dozens of submunitions that hover like a hawk over enemy territory until they find a tank or other object to home in on and destroy.

body whose PC has ever crashed. "If the network goes down, we could be in worse shape than if we didn't have it," says Daniel Gouré, a defense analyst at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Army planners in particular are ever wary of a foe like the Viet Cong, able to defeat technology with rudimentary tactics and a willingness to sacrifice soldiers. As a hedge, even ambitious future plans envision a high proportion of troops trained to operate conventionally. Still, "you've got to accept an increased risk at present," says Michael Vickers, a future-warfare consultant to the Pentagon.

At the same time, the services will need to address the new demands of the digital world. Computers processing warehouses' worth of new data, for instance, can overload analysts. "There is a case for less imagery, not more," says one intelligence official. One hope is that new software will be able to sort through millions of pictures, say, and discard those that aren't useful.

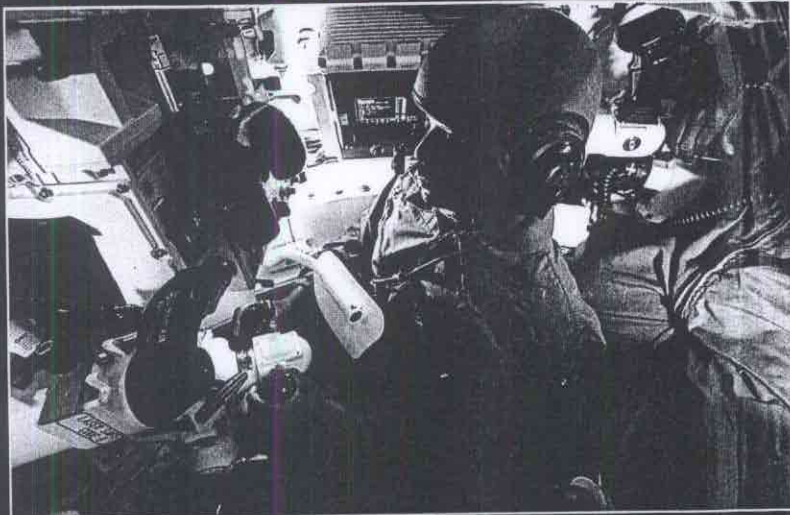
Generals online. Silicon warfare also will demand more training. The handful of young officers selected to run the keyboards during Prairie Warrior were atypically wired, complaining for example that their terminals lacked "video feed routers" and "collaborative planning tools." But for many soldiers, "Windows 95 is some mystical thing out there," says one officer. And, as in the business world, the most mystified soldiers may be the highest ranking.

To coax its leaders online, the Army now issues every new one-star general a laptop along with the customary pistol; Chief of Staff Reimer sends periodic E-mail messages to make sure the machines get a workout. The Marines are trying to expose their troops to computers early in their careers by handing out free copies of "Marine Doom," a leatherneck version of the well-known computer game.

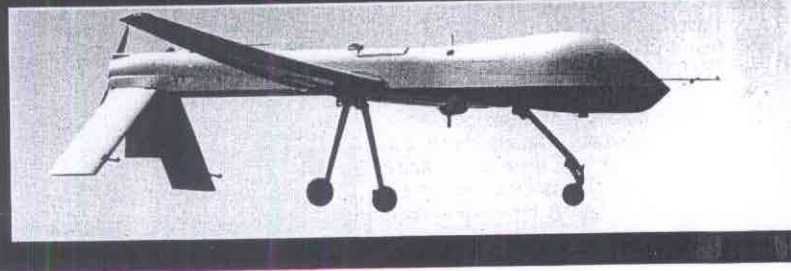
But the latest technology is a fast-moving target, and paying for it may be the toughest problem of all. Military leaders say they are already \$20 billion short of what they need just for routine modernization of trucks, jets and other equipment. And Pentagon budgets are more likely to shrink than to expand.

The costliest items on the Pentagon's shopping list—a new version of the Navy's F/A-18 jet, the stealthy F-22 fighter for the Air Force and a "joint-strike fighter" to be used by the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps—may be a large target for savings. Most analysts agree such weapons—estimated to cost about \$350 billion—would be marvelous in a Desert Storm II. But in many futuristic war games, they figure marginally against

ALREADY IN ACTION



Tank crews, like those training in a simulator, above, will see pictures on their computer screens showing where other U.S. troops are—to reduce friendly fire casualties—and where many of the enemy forces are. The "sensors" contributing images to such an information network will include unmanned aerial vehicles like the Predator (below), now being used to shoot still and moving pictures over Bosnia. The B-2 bomber (right), controversial for its high cost and cold-war heritage, may be well suited for future conflicts. Its stealth will let it penetrate hostile airspace, while its long range means it won't have to fly from air bases close to the theater and vulnerable to enemy attack.



foes with plenty of missiles to blast airfields and aircraft carriers. Improved Patriot and other missile-defense systems—including an "airborne laser" on a 747—could provide some protection. Yet Air Force Col. Jeffery Barnett, in the book *Future War*, predicts "numerous stealthy cruise missiles will almost certainly penetrate even the most robust defenses."

Undersea battleships. Andrew Krepinevich of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments worries that spending on such expensive conventional weapons could crowd out investment in new systems. In a May report on the Navy, he argued for reducing the number of aircraft carriers—each of which

costs about \$4 billion to purchase—from 12 to as few as eight. That would liberate money to convert retired Trident submarines into stealthy troop transports or submersible "battleships" carrying precision munitions, and to experiment with different versions of the missile-packing arsenal ship. The Navy plans to build an arsenal ship, but it may simply retrofit old cruiser hulls instead of trying out submersibles or other stealthy designs, as Krepinevich advocates. Meanwhile, the Navy also is working up plans for a costly new supercarrier.

General Shalikashvili says more military bases need to be closed and more work turned over to private contractors,