

C.D.E.S



In line with the spirit of the transformation of our review, the reflection on the consequences of battlefield digitalization and on the fielding of new equipment by 2008/2010 carried out since nearly three years by the Army's doctrine community (*in particular the CDES, the Land Forces Command, the Land Logistic Forces Command and the Prospective and Studies Directorates of our branch schools*) fall naturally within the scope of this publication.

This is the reason why this first issue of our new general military review "Doctrine" has to be the one presenting the "future land action" study.

This multi-annual study, a priority for the evolution of the land forces' employment and organization by 2010, contributes to the Army Staff prospective steps carried out within the framework of PP30 (prospective plan for the next thirty years). But its purpose is concrete; the matter is to take into account the effects of digitalization that are already effective. These ones are still starting to provide forces with tools that enable them to maneuver more quickly, i.e. to better combine their actions within space and time, and especially the effects of their weapon systems. It is thus advisable to well prepare the immediate future as soon as possible, while having for the employment and organization of our forces a progressive doctrine adapted to the new overall context and to the new equipment fielded within 2015. But we also have to be able, as upstream as possible, to train and educate military and civilian personnel. All of this has to be carried out in close synergy with the development and testing of battlespace digitalization (NEB).

Thus, through successive steps, the French future land action study (ATF) will describe our vision of the future doctrine for employing and organizing our land forces by

2007/2010. While taking into account our allies' innovative ideas especially the American ones - but adapted to our national policy and therefore to our needs and military culture, the ATF study is set within the prospect for "future land commitments" by 2025/2030, and integrates the first results of our forces' digitalization but also all the known conceptual or doctrinal reflections - official or not - for the employment and organization of our forces such as the test carried out by the CDES/CREDAT in 2000 with the "vector maneuver" or the more and more numerous writings of Army officers as well as all lessons learned from exercises and operations (RETEX).

From now on, this study - with an update included in this issue - is carried out within the framework of the studies agreed during the June 2003 executive management committee for operational studies (CODIROPS), but also within the framework of the work initiated by the experience feedbacks resulting from the last operations (ARTEMIS, UNICORN, IRAQ).

Armed with this important doctrinal reflection carried out by many working groups, this study should cope with a more experimental phase - at technical and tactical levels - in 2004.

Thus a new doctrine - but also a new military culture - is gradually arising from reflection and action, with the participation and support of everyone, implementing the same rules for employment and organization, based on the actual fielded means and equipment.

Major General Gérard BEZACIER
Director of the "Doctrine" review