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The Relationship between Cohesion and Casualty Rates: The 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division at Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir.

Accession Number : ADA429076

Title : The Relationship between Cohesion and Casualty Rates: The 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division at Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir

Descriptive Note : Master's thesis

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Full Text : <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a429076.pdf>

Report Date : 18 Jun 2004

Pagination or Media Count : 133

Abstract : The 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions fought two campaigns in Korea between September and December 1950. These divisions' levels of unit cohesion prior to and during their deployment affected the number of men who became casualties during the 3 1/2 months of combat. Casualty rates can be affected by friendly enemy force ratios and tactical advantages, but this historical analysis shows that units opposing similar enemies in similar tactical situations still have markedly different casualty rates that are not attributable to enemy numbers and disposition. Programs such as the Selective Service and the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA), originally designed to help combat units, ultimately destroyed any hope for cohesion that the 7th Infantry Division might have had. Comparing the performances of the 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division, after highlighting the myriad of circumstances impacting those performances, defines a relationship between their levels of cohesion and the numbers of casualties they suffered. It is clear that the 1st Marine Division was more cohesive than the 7th Infantry Division and suffered fewer casualties as a result. (6 tables, 7 figures, 34 refs.)

Descriptors : *CASUALTIES , *INFANTRY PERSONNEL , *MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL , *TACTICAL WARFARE , *COHESION , *KOREAN WAR , MILITARY FORCES(UNITED STATES) , MILITARY RESERVES , MILITARY HISTORY , GROUP DYNAMICS , MILITARY FORCES(FOREIGN) , THESES , DIVISION LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS , MILITARY FORCE LEVELS , COMBAT FORCES

Subject Categories : Humanities and History

Weapons Effects(biological)

Military Operations, Strategy and Tactics

Distribution Statement : APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

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