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## U.S. Marines in Lebanon, 1982-1984

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## 134 Naval War College Review

States, among the World War II Allies in regard to Korea, and among the Koreans living in Japan made Korea an area that some wished would go away. Korea did not go away, and the invasion from the North put the Americans into a new arrangement with the Rhee regime. Kaufman covers the pre-1950 scene lightly and concentrates on the decision to intervene and the deepening American involvement. The key element in Kaufman's book is the weaving of the U.S. domestic scene into the setting. The reader is provided with opinions from conservative and liberal leaders at home and from others abroad. Heavy reliance is made on Department of State literature and other Government documents. The author's attempt to provide a comparison of the Korean war with the Vietnam war is limited, and there is only a short examination of the Korean conflict in the context of the larger cold war, although opportunities for such comparisons do exist.

Overall, Kaufman has written an interesting book with added dimensions for viewing the war. The individual observations and viewpoints on the Korean conflict are as varied as the individuals themselves. While this is evident, readers who are not familiar with the actual conflict would provide themselves with a better overall perspective by complementing this knowledge with a book that deals with the ground, naval, and air war.

PETER CHARLES UNSINGER  
San Jose State University

Frank, Benis M. *U.S. Marines in Lebanon, 1982-1984*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1987. 196pp. \$10

This book begins with the bombing of the Battalion Landing Team 1/8 headquarters building on 23 October 1983 at the Beirut International Airport where 241 Americans died. It then moves back in time to the summer of 1982 and the deployment of the 32nd Marine Amphibious Unit. It describes the evacuation of the PLO, and continues with a chronological account of the several units deployed to Lebanon for a "presence" mission. The book closes with the departure of the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit in February 1984, although the operations of other Marine units remaining in Lebanon until July 1984 are also mentioned. Although based primarily on the monthly command chronologies and biweekly situation reports of the Marine units deployed to Lebanon, other official documentation as well as information gathered by the author during 119 interviews with key personnel also has been incorporated.

Mr. Frank has illustrated his book exceptionally well with maps, photographs, and reprints of editorial page cartoons from major U.S. newspapers. General Kelley's remarks to the Senate Armed Services Committee concerning the bombing and the conclusions and recommendations of the Long Commission are also included.

This book does not deal with major high-level political decisions nor with diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

Rather, it is a history of Navy-Marine operations and, as such, draws no conclusions.

DAVID CLARK  
Captain, U.S. Navy

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Kupchan, Charles. *The Persian Gulf and the West: The Dilemmas of Security*. Winchester, Mass.: Allen & Unwin, 1987. 254 pp. \$39.95

Charles Kupchan contends that in the postwar era the most vociferous and divisive debates about national security in the West have focused on the Third World, not on Europe. He points out that it is difficult to identify those geographic areas on the periphery that are worth the effort of doing battle. Here, because of the strategic value of its oil reserves, the author has focused on the Persian Gulf region. Regional anti-Western and anticolonial sentiment, endemic conflict among local states, and the relationship between the Gulf and Arab-Israeli dispute have repeatedly threatened to throw the region into turmoil.

Historically, the interests of the United States were established between the end of World War II and 1973—we sought to contain Soviet advances in the region, we supported the security of Israel, and the oil flowed freely. However, after the 1973 war, the United States and the Western bloc were faced with the possible cutoff of Arab oil. Still, our policy toward the Arab states saw little change until the Iranian

revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Both events raised America's consciousness of the importance of the region and its strategic vulnerability. The Carter Doctrine marked not only a change in U.S. security policy toward the Gulf, but brought the region within our sphere of "vital interests."

The Rapid Deployment Force came into being as a means of fulfilling the deterrence needs of the Gulf. It was an innovative and tailored plan designed to meet emerging needs in the face of an imbalance of forces. It established an American commitment to use force in defense of vital U.S. interests and it forced the Western Allies in Europe to recognize an "out-of-area" problem.

Kupchan concludes that NATO is not prepared to adequately address threats outside the NATO area, but he does point to some measure of success in the Gulf. Despite Washington's preoccupation with global concerns, the United States was able to react to Middle East developments with uncharacteristic sensitivity to interregional considerations. However, he does point out that U.S. and Western interests in the region will remain vulnerable until we are able to eliminate our dependence on Persian Gulf oil, a matter that is not likely to come to pass in an oil-dependent economy.

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