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## The Military and the Media

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Asencio puts it, there is not a little difference between the intellectual concept of fighting terrorism and the visceral reality of being its victim as a hostage.

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Hooper, Alan. *The Military and the Media*. Brookfield, Vt.: Gower Publishing Company, 1982. 247pp. \$34

The military and the media: if ever there were enemies, these two professions are it! How many reporters do you know who are happy with the information provided by the Defense Department? How many military officers do you know who are satisfied with the media coverage? Yet in certain respects, as Alan Hooper demonstrates in this splendid book, there are many similarities in the two professions, and often there are, or can be, similar objectives.

For all the similarities, the practitioners of these two professions know remarkably little about one another. Certainly there is often a deep suspicion about, and little sustained knowledge of, the media in military circles, even though we know from experience the considerable effect of the press and television on the soldiering and sailing business. So perhaps we ought to take Winston Churchill's advice about the media: "Learn to get used to it. Eels get used to skinning."

This is a book, written by a military officer (Royal Marines), that will help military officers—or any-

one else—understand the media. It is a superb book, and explores what most serving officers never have time to explore for themselves—the inner workings of the press and the professional motivations of reporters and others in the press "chain of command," and their effect on military operations. In the process of exploring media-military relations, the author examines the particular circumstances of media coverage of Vietnam, Northern Ireland, the Iranian hostage case, and the Falklands episode. These case studies, although briefer than one would like (each is worthy of book-length treatment in itself), contain especially valuable insights for the military officer who, for good or ill, will be living with the media throughout his or her career. There are very few books on this subject. Here is a book, written by a military officer, that ought to be required reading for all officers in all armed forces—or at least all officers in democratic societies.

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Dixon, Joe C., ed. *The American Military and the Far East*. Washington, D.C.: Office of US Air Force History, 1980. 318pp. \$7

The focus of this volume, the proceedings of the Ninth Military History Symposium held at the United States Air Force Academy in October 1980, is on American military involvement in the East and Southeast Asia. Within the space of