

ARAB-ISRAELI CASE STUDY

Mode: Seminar

Lesson No. 4-08-S

1. Introduction. One of the best ways to learn theater strategy and campaigning is by reviewing and analyzing historical campaigns as case studies. A campaign analysis is more than the study of military history, it is a special type of historical case study. Senior leaders must be problem solvers. They must be able to review situations broadly, isolate facts, determine and compare causes of action, and draw valid conclusions. A way for senior military leaders to practice these skills is to conduct an in-depth study of a historical campaign.

Unlike other case studies, a campaign analysis uses as a framework questions derived from the format of a campaign plan. This format is used as a tool for the ordering, consideration, and interpretation of the strategic and operational facts. It causes us to think not merely in terms of "what happened" but "why" and "what might I learn from that." A generic campaign analysis format is at Appendix II.

The Arab-Israeli War of 1973 offers a complex conflict for our analysis. It provides an opportunity to examine the political, economic, and social forces which influenced strategic decisions on both sides. This campaign allows us to see the relationships among the elements of national power, the strategic art, and the operational level of war, and illustrates how the objectives of national security strategy influence the design of national military strategy and campaign plans. In this campaign, you can analyze the problems inherent in multinational and joint operations, and draw conclusions for future campaigns.

2. Learning Objectives.

a. Evaluate how national security objectives, guidance, and strategic end states were translated into national military objectives, guidance and end state through an analysis of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

b. Demonstrate an understanding of how political, economic, and informational factors impact on the selection of national military objectives through an analysis of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

c. Evaluate how national military objectives, guidance and theater strategies were translated into theater objectives and an operational focus through an analysis of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

d. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals, considerations, and design elements of campaign planning through an analysis of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

e. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship among theater functional areas such as force requirements and readiness, allied relations, C4I, movement and maneuver, firepower, protection and sustainment as determined through an analysis of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks. Read the required readings and review the points to consider. Be prepared to provide your insights during seminar discussion.

b. Required Readings. Except where indicated, all readings are located in the Arab-Israeli War Case Study booklet.

(1) Monroe, Elizabeth and Farrar-Hockley, MG A.H., "II. The October War," Adelphi Papers No. 111, USS, London, 1975, pp. 7-24.

(2) Shazly, Lt. Gen Saad el, "Planning," The Crossing of the Suez, American Mid-East Research, San Francisco, 1980, pp. 25-41.

(3) Cordesman, Anthony H., "The War of Attrition and Israeli Overconfidence: 1968-1972," and "The October War of 1973: New Lessons in the Art of Operations," The Arab-Israeli Military Balance and the Art of Operations, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, D.C., 1987, pp. 43-54.

c. Suggested Readings.

(1) Rodwell, Robert R., "The Middle East War: 'A Damned Close-Run Thing,'" Air Force Magazine, February 1974, pp. 57-61. This reading provides insight on the use of air power in the war.

(2) Miller, Martin J., Jr., "The Israeli Navy: 26 Years of Non-Peace," Proceedings, 1975, pp. 63-67. This is an interesting discussion of the history of the Israeli Navy through a series of wars from 1948 to 1973.

4. Points to Consider

a. The Strategic Level of War

(1) What was the Geo-Strategic situation between Israel and the Arab states in October 1973? What impact did economic, political, and informational factors have?

(2) What were the national security objectives and end states of Israel and the Arab states?

(3) What were the national military objectives of Israel and the Arab states?

(4) What were the strategic centers of gravity and key strategic vulnerabilities for Israel and the Arab states?

(5) How did the Arabs achieve strategic advantage in October 1973?

(6) How did the belligerents organize for war? What were the command relationships? How did allied relations affect operations?

b. Operational Level of War

(1) What limitations affected each side? Was readiness an issue?

(2) What key planning assumptions did each side make?

(3) What were the operational centers of gravity and critical operational vulnerabilities of each side? Did the theater strategic objectives focus on these characteristics.

(4) Did either side gain dimensional superiority or leverage through asymmetrics? Was force protection achieved?

(5) Discuss the operational movement and maneuvers of the opposing ground forces? Why joint firepower integrated with maneuver?

(6) Did either side reach a culminating point or exceed its operational reach? If so, how was it accommodated?

5. Relationship to Professional Joint Education (PJE) Learning Areas.

- a. PJE LA 3.b. Objectives, Case Study (reading)
- b. PJE LA 3.c. Objectives, Case Study (reading)
- c. PJE LA 4.a. Objectives, Case Study (reading)
- d. PJE LA 4.b. Objectives, Case Study (reading)
- e. PJE LA 4.c. Objectives, Case Study (reading)
- f. PJE LA 4.d. Objectives, Case Study (reading)
- g. PJE LA 4.e. Objectives, Case Study (reading)

6. Relationship to USAWC Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs), Enduring and Special Themes.

- a. ILOs: 1, 6, and 7
- b. Enduring Themes: History; Jointness
- c. Special Themes: Coalition warfare