

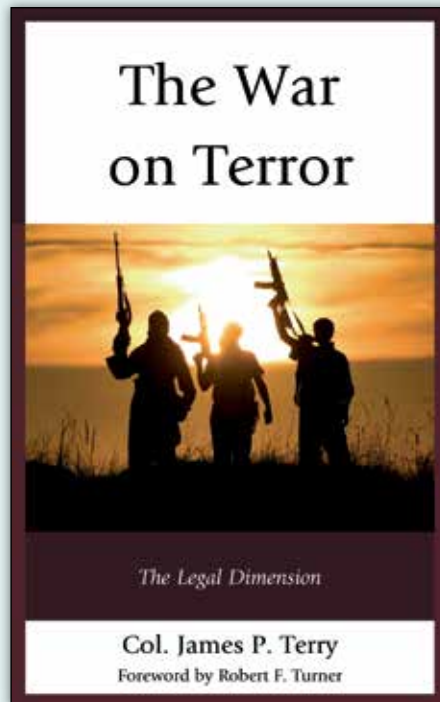
is no explanation of how these capabilities were synchronized and applied, or how his experiences are tied to the greater mission. Green visited much of the province and interacted closely with key political and security officials, and the book highlights his attempts to stabilize a region at serious risk to Taliban infiltration and influence (158–161). Green describes these events in close detail, giving readers a glimpse into the difficult and austere challenges associated with American nation-building efforts in Afghanistan. As a memoir, Green's tale is rich; he captures the exotic and desolate beauty of Afghanistan and relates the complexities of its people as only one who has been there can.

Yet lost in descriptions of the wilds of Uruzgan and the corrupt dealings of colorful Afghan police chiefs and tribal warlords are the lessons Green intends to convey. *The Valley's Edge* is a cautionary tale of 21st-century warfare gone wrong on the fringes of the American empire. Indeed, there is an air of criticism running through the book as leitmotif, calling into question the practices and methods of activities, headquarters, and individuals who may have displeased Green during his time in Afghanistan (9, 143). Sections are prefaced by quotations from famous counterinsurgency theoreticians, ostensibly to indicate lessons the United States and its senior leadership have failed to heed. But the devil escapes in Green's details, so to speak, as he fails to tie his work in Uruzgan and the lessons of the past to America's predicament of the present. A contextual gap exists between Green's experiences in 2005 and the growing insurgency he encountered upon his return to the province. His first-person accounts often sacrifice valuable corroborating details. Without this requisite scene-setting, readers uninitiated in the intricacies and pitfalls of counterinsurgency warfare may be left wondering how Green's experience relates directly to America's current circumstances in Afghanistan.

Despite this oversight, there is still purposeful value in Green's experience, and *The Valley's Edge* becomes more relevant given President Barack Obama's April 2012 declaration of American commitment and partnership with the Afghans. In many ways, the United States is just now beginning to fight the war in Afghanistan, and Green's account is valuable as a glimpse into

the realities on the ground that have brought the United States to this point in its foray into the Hindu Kush. In this light, the book might actually convey the lessons its author suggests. Green's contribution to the literature *and to the fight* lies in his honesty and for that he should be commended. **JFQ**

John O'Ryan Bullock is a U.S. Army Contractor working as a Senior Instructor at 1st Information Operations Command (Land) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.



The War on Terror: The Legal Dimension

By James P. Terry
Rowman & Littlefield, 2013
192 pp. \$60
ISBN: 978-1-4422-2242-7

Reviewed by
ALICE A. BOOHER

Long anticipated and well worth the wait, James Terry's cogent assessment of the legal vagaries and exigencies of the war on terror is both erudite and explicable. By delineating the confines of the traditional law of armed conflict (LOAC) as addressed with varying success by the four U.S. Presidents of the modern era who faced major incidents of terrorist violence (Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush), he serves up a foundation

for both necessities and realities of international antiterrorism as addressed in policy and law. The book is neither tedious nor pedantic, but is written in such a detailed but concise manner as to enlighten a neophyte and expand the grasp of an expert. Each of the specifically targeted chapters commences with a summary of the goals and then proceeds to meet them, whether the topic is piracy or covert action, *habeas corpus* or interrogation and torture. A generous measure is given to the slippery alternative slopes of military versus Federal trials while also addressing unique factors such as environmental terrorism and the implications of media involvement.

Terry brings to the writing table his 27 years experience as a combat Marine, exceptional scholarship, legal practice within government including at the Departments State and Defense, and a lifetime of prodigious writing particularly on coercion control and national security law. As former Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals (2005–2011), he is currently Senior Fellow in the Center for National Law at the University of Virginia. He generously brings this expansive credential to the *War on Terror* and does so with considerable panache.

To paraphrase the book's foreword by esteemed security law scholar Robert F. Turner, issues relating to the legal dimensions of current armed conflict have few clearly agreed-upon answers even among experts, allowing for debates among able and honorable people on both sides. In that spirit, not everyone will agree with Terry's conclusions.

Nonetheless, the book provides a sound basis for understanding the fundamentals and intricacies of the problems, and a solid structure for gaining a modicum of understanding of the mandates and options for resolution. **JFQ**

Alice A. Booher, JD, is a former Foreign Service Officer and Counsel in the Department of Veterans Affairs, Board of Veterans Appeals (1969–2011).