CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Throughout the research, the author could conclude that the answer to the research question: *Why was the implementation of Special Operation Forces in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom resulted in a different outcome?* can be found in the intensity of transformation applied specifically in terms of technology and network or communication between each subordinate and U.S. Central Command. To compare between the two, it is safe to say that the result of OIF was indeed better and faster compared to what OEF brought back home as a result. And one of the crucial factors that contributed was Donald Rumsfeld's ideas of how to increase military capability during the war. Rumsfeld's revolutionary inputs for the military is then considered as a military doctrine as his ideas assisted the practice of Revolution in Military Affairs (theory) during actual combat in OEF and OIF. The ideas include technologies which could be utilized by the forces be it Navy, Air Force, or Ground Troops, the benefits of conquering air space during combat and focusing attacks using aircraft, and an upgraded flow of communication which could transform into a more comprehensive network between each involved parties during combat. Thus, several key findings could be found from the research, which are:

The 21st Century War, as defined by Donald Rumsfeld. The U.S. shall not be focused on the traditional essence of threats such as military power anymore, and combat shall not be focused on the ground anymore. The widening and deepening

concept of security would increase the vulnerability of a State, even when it is as powerful as the United States in terms of military. Rumsfeld was able to point out the urgency of shifting into modernized warfare for the U.S. to remain as the major power holder and ensuring that there will be no actor—State or non-State—which could go against the U.S. without paying for the price. The 21st Century War is marked by the importance of technology superiority for combat, the increasing potential threats coming from non-State actors or non-military sectors from the international community, and the issue of globalization which could turn the world into a borderless community. The 9/11 attack done by the terrorist group Al Qaeda proved the point that threats are no longer coming from State as they did during the Cold War, but a non-state actor with illegal sponsor given by certain States could endanger the security of a State even when it is within their own territory. Therefore, States shall be able to adapt to the ever-growing expansion of threats coming from expected or unexpected groups within the international community.

Advantages of Space, Technology, and Intelligence during the war. The 'upgraded' weapons utilized by the U.S. forces during both OEF and OIF played a crucial factor that brought them to victory against the enemies. With the technology, the U.S. troops could avoid risking more of their men and women during combat especially to collect intelligence or putting up a surveillance system that requires no actual person to engage directly with the enemies. Not only that, the overwhelming superiority of air space during both OEF and OIF successfully weaken the capability of the enemies to falter and with the intelligence collected by the U.S. and its allies, they were able to determine the most strategic points to bring

down their enemies. During the war, the side with space, technology, and intelligence collection superiority will obviously dominate the war and could even drive themselves to victory with overwhelming power.

The Role of Special Operation Forces, especially in counter-terrorism missions. While the usual army took a lot of personnel within their squads, the Special Operation Forces with limited personnel with specific strength could assist States in conducting a more efficient military operation. Take an example of what happened during OIF. With a clear chain of command between each subordinate with their determined objectives, they were able to achieve exceptional outcomes from their efforts.

The Military's Future after Global War on Terror would still be focused on the technological supremacy of involved actors in wars. Certainly, the concept of security is still growing even after the major combat of OIF ended. However, globalization and the industrial revolution among other factors could be a double-edged sword for States and other international politics actors to take advantage of the existing global growth. Thus, to prevent any possible conflict for said reason, States shall no longer rely heavily on their military capability but also their technology capability and resources.

Thus, from the key findings, this thesis has reached the conclusion that explains why the result between SOF operations in OEF and OIF ended up with unalike results. It is due to **the intensity of technologies utilized during combat and the network of the units themselves.** Rumsfeld Doctrine as a form of execution of the theory Revolution in Military Affairs assisted the U.S. military to achieve a faster

and a stronger attack against their enemies. The intensity of technologies could be found in the number of identical technologies found during combat and the expected technologies applied during the war according to Rumsfeld's QDR 2001. Meanwhile, the more efficient network during OIF such as the establishment of subordinates during OIF which could not be found during OEF.

Although essential key findings could be identified by the author for this thesis, the author also acknowledged certain limitations and weaknesses within this academic research. In-depth data regarding weapons and special operation forces missions are not available or believed to be classified information due to unexpected reasons such as political reasons from the U.S. side. Then, the theory utilized has certain weaknesses where they only acknowledge that applying technologies in military capability shall give States an upper hand during the war but not in other aspects. This made the analysis only focused on the actual direct combat rather than discussing cyber-security related issues or resources sector of States to survive in anarchy. Last, the phenomenon of the Global War on Terror happened more than a decade ago than the present time. Therefore, the limitation of information regarding the timeline is very limited as some websites or some data could no longer be accessed by the author. In addition, the time frame from 2001 to 2003 only focused on the major combat of OEF and OIF and discarded the aspect of rebuilding Afghanistan and Iraq into a friendly democratic partner State for the United States.

Hopefully, for further research, researchers could include the aspect of rebuilding Afghanistan and Iraq into a democratic countries which was one of many

objectives that Bush wanted to achieve during his presidency. Future research could also include the continuity of counter terrorism acts under President Barack Obama which successfully eliminated Osama bin Laden through his own military operations and analyze the intensity and the technology transformation during the attack.

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