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Research Guide Series

Friendly Fire

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Friendly Fire

Also known as accidental amicide, fratricide or blue on blue, friendly fire is a term commonly used when combatants are killed in error by their own colleagues or allies. Historically friendly fire has squandered the lives of many thousands of men. As technology has offered us even more refined and sophisticated ways of remote killing, we have discovered that the problem of friendly fire appears to be increasing. Military personnel distinguish friend from foe during operations through combat identification, with failures resulting in death and injury from friendly fire. The main reasons for friendly fire appear to be technical factors, failures in communication, and procedures and issues related to doctrine and training. There is no simple solution to this problem and commanders and politicians alike must consider ways in which the incidence of friendly fire can be reduced.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on Friendly Fire. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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