**Correspondence**

**Military “Misadventure”**

To the Editor—I take great issue with Deresinski’s [1] term “military misadventure” in his review of an article about visceral leishmaniasis by Myles et al. [2]. The statement is both inaccurate and inappropriate. Elected political leaders decide when to use force. Military leaders defer to civilians on the choice of war. The military merely does—arguably very successfully—what civilians task it. Imbuing technical reviews with political undertones or opinions reflects poorly on your journal. Furthermore, it is an affront to the military service and their family members who have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice enormously.

**Acknowledgments**

Potential conflicts of interest. E.P.L.: no conflicts.

Emil P. Lesho
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**References**


Let Us Keep the Medical Literature Free of Perjorative Language and Political Bias

To the Editor—Although we welcome Deresinski’s [1] review of the article about visceral leishmaniasis by Myles et al. [2], we were surprised and disappointed by his reference to the US military mission in Southwest Asia as “the latest military misadventure.” The mission statement of Clinical Infectious Diseases, as stated on the publisher’s Web site, is to publish articles on “diverse topics in infectious diseases, with a focus on clinical practice” [3]. Nowhere is it stated that the journal’s purpose is to espouse political views or to deride the Armed Forces (there are abundant appropriate forums for those endeavors). As a matter of fact, a recent article cowritten by one of us [4] elicited a reviewer’s request to strike the term “Global War on Terror” from the title because of the “polarizing nature of the expression.” We urge Clinical Infectious Diseases to be more evenhanded in its approach to articles submitted for publication and to refrain from irrelevant editorial comments.

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References


Replies to Lesho and to Zapor et al.

To the Editor—My description of the war in Iraq as a military misadventure [1] is indisputably accurate. Lesho [2] is correct in his statement that the war is the result of decisions made by elected political leaders, not the military, who only carry out the orders of those political leaders. As a consequence, I am baffled by his conclusion that my description is an affront to the military—this is clearly a non-sequitur. For the same reason, I am unable to grasp how Zapor et al. [3] can come to the conclusion that I was deriding the military with my description. As a former Battalion Surgeon stationed in Phu Tai, Viet Nam, I am fully aware of the hardships and difficulties faced by the military in a war zone and the fact that the decision to create or enter a war zone is not that of the military leadership and certainly not that of the soldiers performing the sacrifice.

**Editor’s note.** Henceforth, Clinical Infectious Diseases will refrain from publishing political comments in a scientific article, unless such comments are deemed appropriate and necessary in the context of the article.

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