



# Shooting the Messenger: The Political Impact of War Reporting

*Philip M. Taylor, Paul L Moorcraft*

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As the literature on military-media relations grows, it is informed by antagonism either from journalists who report on wars or from ex-soldiers in their memoirs. Academics who attempt more judicious accounts rarely have any professional military or media experience.

A working knowledge of the operational constraints of both professions underscores *Shooting the Messenger*. A veteran war correspondent and think tank director, Paul L. Moorcraft has served in the British Ministry of Defence, while historian-by-training Philip M. Taylor is a professor of international communications who has lectured widely to the U.S. military and at NATO institutions. Some of the topics they examine in this wide-ranging history of military-media relations are:

- the interface between soldiers and civilian reporters covering conflicts
- the sometimes grey area between reporters' right or need to know and the operational security constraints imposed by the military
- the military's manipulation of journalists who accept it as a trade-off for safer battlefield access
- the resultant gap between images of war and their reality
- the evolving nature of media technology and the difficulties—and opportunities—this poses to the military
- journalistic performance in reporting conflict as an observer or a participant

Moorcraft and Taylor provide a bridge over which each side can pass and a path to mutual understanding.

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