

Commandant's Note

BG PHILLIP J. KINIERY



We look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army, and the Infantry Branch, on 14 June 2025. As we approach the date, it's important to reflect on our history as we continue to focus on preparing for future battlefields. I am extremely honored to lead the Infantry Branch, which is the backbone of all U.S. Army combat operations. Our contributions to this warfighting organization have played a critical role in protecting the United States both domestically and abroad. Our storied lineage is full of examples that demonstrate the American fighting spirit and emphasize the importance of leadership and technological innovation.

Two-hundred-and-fifty years ago, the Continental Congress appointed George Washington as Commander in Chief of the newly founded Continental Army, now known as the U.S. Army. This newly formed Army would stand as a united colonial response against the British threat. Continental Soldiers leveraged cutting-edge guerrilla-style tactics, decisive leadership, courage, and terrain to their advantage. Their efforts proved to be highly successful in defeating the British in combat and helping America earn its independence. Achieving our independence was only the beginning of the challenges our great country would face. Over the past two-and-a-half centuries, we have been relentlessly challenged by global threats, yet we remain steadfast in our strength and readiness.

The U.S. Army relies on the Infantry Branch to produce competent leaders and warrior Soldiers who, as the Queen of Battle, can rise to any occasion. Our comprehensive approach to creating Infantry Soldiers guarantees that they are the toughest fighting unit the Army can deploy. Additionally, we've re-tooled our approach to producing leaders at the Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course (IBOLC) and the Infantry Advanced Leaders Course (11B and 11C ALC), providing the Infantry with junior leaders who are more ready than ever to tackle today's problems. We're doing our part to ensure that the legacy of the Infantry is intact 250 years later, and that we are ready to face any opponent on a global stage.

Our Spring edition of *Infantry* features articles from some of the most experienced and skilled leaders in the Infantry Branch today that cover a spectrum of topics, ranging from discussions on Transformation-in-Contact (TiC) initiatives to ways to improve training for large-scale combat operations. Three articles that I'd like to high-

light are "Move Further, Mask Emissions, Make Explosions" by LTC D. Max Ferguson; "Trailblazers of Tomorrow: The Evolving Legacy of Pathfinder Operations" by LTC Chaveso Cook, LTC Michael Hamilton, and MAJ Jessica Colsia; and "Managing Chaos at the Brigade Combat Team" by MAJ John Tydingco.

LTC Ferguson's article examines how light infantry units at the 10th Mountain Division are preparing to win tomorrow's wars. As TiC units like the 10th Mountain's 3rd Brigade experiment with the latest advancements in technology and force design, "some time-honored light infantry features have renewed advantages in the technologically enhanced battlefield." LTC Ferguson argues that Soldier endurance, deliberate emissions control, and well-placed high explosives will be critical for rifle platoons and squads in the next conflict.

"Trailblazers of Tomorrow" discusses the history of Army pathfinders and how pathfinder operations have evolved over the years. The article also offers a fresh approach to how pathfinders could be utilized in future fights to include multidomain operations. The introduction of technological advancements such as unmanned aerial systems provide pathfinders with enhanced intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities, but they should also be prepared to fight under degraded conditions. Pathfinders' essential skills of navigation, communication, and coordination will always be vital.

Lastly, "Managing Chaos at the Brigade Combat Team" explores various techniques that units can employ to stay at peak readiness and accomplish numerous tasks and no-fail missions effectively. The concepts of "P2P" and fighting product development are spot-on and can benefit any operations team working in a brigade combat team with a high operational tempo.

As you read through this edition, I encourage you to try and adopt some of these shared lessons at your unit. Professional discourse is critical in our branch, and we must continue to learn from one another to stay ahead of the curve. I hope that you enjoy the Spring edition of *Infantry* and take time to celebrate our 250th birthday on 14 June!

I am the Infantry! Follow Me!

