

Commandant's Note

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As we continue to celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army and our Infantry Branch, we proudly honor our past as we strengthen our readiness and transform into a more lethal fighting force.

In April, we recognized the dedication, warrior spirit, and sacrifice of those who came before us as well as those who currently serve during our annual Infantry Week at Fort Benning, GA, which featured four world-class competitions (International Sniper Competition, Best Mortar Competition, Lacerda Cup, and Best Ranger Competition). Infantry Week embodies the lethality of the Infantry and our relentless pursuit of excellence. The challenges presented during these demanding events forge stronger, more capable Soldiers and reinforce the fundamental skills necessary to fight, survive, and win in the hardest days of combat.

This year's events included 127 teams, totaling more than 400 competitors from across the Army and our sister services as well as eight allied forces. A full recap of all four competitions is included in the subsequent pages of this issue, but I want to congratulate those winning teams from the 75th Ranger Regiment who topped the Best Mortar Competition, Lacerda Cup, and Best Ranger Competition, and the team from the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) who won the International Sniper Competition. I also want to thank the cadre, staff, and other supporters whose hard work ensured the success of these events and recognize all the competitors for exemplifying the strength, perseverance, and teamwork that are at the core of the Infantry.

The Infantry Branch continues to play a vital role in the Army's mission to remain the world's most combat-credible force capable of defeating any adversary. In this issue of *Infantry*, we include a range of articles that focus on our efforts to ensure the Army can deliver trained, lethal, and cohesive teams to meet future challenges in complex operational environments.

In their article "Harnessing SIGINT and EW for Tactical Dominance," MG Rick Appelhans and MG Ryan Janovic provide platoon and company-level combat arms leaders with a primer on how the intelligence and cyber communities can enable them to dominate the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS). In future fights, controlling the EMS will be just as important as holding key terrain. Leaders must integrate signals intelligence (SIGINT) and electromagnetic warfare (EW) considerations into battle drills, mission rehearsals, and after action reviews to gain a decisive advantage on future battlefields. As the authors succinctly point out, "Superiority in the EMS is not an option — it is a

necessity." We need to ensure our leaders and Soldiers are educated on SIGINT and EW capabilities, know how to integrate them to counter enemy threats in the EMS, and then incorporate these capabilities into tough, realistic training.

In another article titled "Light Infantry Lethality," LTC D. Max Ferguson discusses how one of the Infantry's least understood systems, the M3A1 Multi-Role Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapon System (MAAWS), provides rifle platoons with a powerful tool that "defeats armor, illuminates, obscures, and neutralizes threats behind defilade." The Carl Gustaf's power and versatility exponentially increase the lethality of infantry brigade combat teams, and LTC Ferguson offers ways infantry units can improve proficiency and leader familiarity with this important weapon system.

In addition to lethality, infantry units also need to build survivability. In his article, 1SG Philip J. Piennette discusses the importance of engaged leadership during large-scale combat operations and why "trooping the line" is essential to unit readiness. NCOs must inspect their Soldiers at every opportunity to rectify deficiencies. "Through repetition, uncomfortable situations become comfortable," he notes. Enforcing these standards will build grit and physical toughness as well as reduce confusion, contributing to a more lethal fighting force.

The final articles I want to highlight come from the Army's newest division, the 11th Airborne. The Alaska-based Arctic Angels have the difficult dual focus to not only master combat operations in extreme cold weather, mountainous, and high-latitude environments but also be poised to conduct expeditionary operations across another priority region that encompasses vastly different terrain and temperatures — the Indo-Pacific. In three articles, leaders from the 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne) discuss how the division pursues these two lines of efforts and the unique challenges their Soldiers' face as they pioneer innovative solutions.

As you read through the pages of this issue, we welcome your feedback. Let us know what articles you have found valuable or what you would like to see in future issues. We encourage all Infantry Soldiers to consider contributing to our branch's professional bulletin and thank all those who have submitted their works for publication.

I am the Infantry! Follow me!

