

Commandant's Note



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Since our last issue, the U.S. Army Infantry School held one of our most important events of the year — Infantry Week. Providing an opportunity to showcase the readiness, lethality, and resiliency of service members from across the force during four separate competitions cultivates a competitive energy that is unmatched across the Army. As we look back over the jam-packed schedule of events that occurred from 10-17 April, we are reminded of the fundamental lesson that winning matters. It is as simple as that.

The profession of arms in which we have chosen to serve represents the highest stakes imaginable for those whom we are sworn to defend. Our nation's message to the world at large is that America and her coalition partners stand ever ready to take up the sword once again when we, those we defend, and our stalwart allies are alerted to distant drums or smoke on the horizon. Infantry Week saw teams of our own warriors and our allies engaged in four rigorous competitions: the International Sniper Competition, Lacerda Cup All Army Combatives Championship, Best Mortar Competition, and Best Ranger Competition. The results demonstrated the preparation and commitment of those warriors who came to Georgia intending to seriously compete with their peers. Within the first few pages of this issue, we highlight these competitions and offer our sincerest congratulations to the winners (Best Ranger — CPT Luke Ebeling and SPC Justin Rein, 75th Ranger Regiment; Lacerda Cup — XVIII Airborne Corps, Team Champion; Best Mortar — Team 18, 75th Ranger Regiment; and International Sniper — Team 7, Army National Guard). We also would like to thank all the competitors, cadre, staff, and supporters who made this week a success.

The U.S. Army Infantry School trains warriors and ensures the warrior spirit is instilled in each one of our Soldiers. We need to train to consistent and demonstrable high standards to anticipate or respond to emerging threats. This enables us to deploy quickly, strike decisively, and return to home station to refit, re-arm, and prepare for the next contingency. This imperative to update training and sustain proficiency has always kept our Army and those of our allies at the cutting edge — no matter where our aggressors seek vulnerabilities to exploit. We cannot — and must not — be tempted to rest on our laurels. This Commandant's Note has addressed the payoff for much of our technological success and the commitment that has long assured our dominance of a playing field that our adversaries will find it, at best, difficult to survive, let alone to surpass.

Winning matters. We win by developing cohesive teams that are highly trained, fit, and disciplined. **Proper** training management, a topic that often receives a lot of attention with sometimes little-to-no instruction, is vital to ensuring our Soldiers continue to receive valuable training and enable them to close with and destroy the enemy. In this issue of *Infantry*, we highlight this key function.

In this edition's first article, LTC Michael A. Hamilton discusses four key pitfalls in unit training management that can degrade a unit's readiness and proposes solutions for each pitfall. He stresses the importance of developing foundational knowledge before training, unlearning bad habits, establishing SOPs, and focusing on training that has clearly defined tasks and standards and builds task mastery.

We feature three articles from the Combined Arms Center-Training Management Directorate (TMD) that provide guidance for conducting company training meetings, leveraging the three basic training environments to maximize benefits, and using new features found in the Digital Training Management System. TMD is the Army lead for training management capabilities and develops the doctrine, processes, products, and systems that enable units to train. Its [Unit Training Management page](#) on the Army Training Network offers excellent resources for leaders planning training, and units can even request a mobile training team seminar that is tailored to their specific needs.

Among the other offerings in this issue is another article by LTC Hamilton, along with CPT Christopher J. Egan, that discusses considerations for improving small unmanned aircraft systems (SUAS) for light Infantry Battalions during decisive-action operations in restrictive terrain. After providing a comprehensive look at SUAS requirements and capabilities, the authors list recommendations for on-going and future SUAS modernization efforts.

SFC Leyton M. Summerlin's article "Standardizing Excellence" reminds us of the value in choosing the hard-right path over the easy-wrong as we evaluate the daily decisions that confront us. His insights reveal what a Soldier is all about when nobody is looking because that's the way the game is supposed to be played. In the ideal, unvarnished Army, a service member does what is right because it meets the Army standards we espouse with terms of our health, fitness, and marksmanship — and we expect others to accept our assertions at face value. In short, excellence is the standard and to offer anything less will be done at the cost of our reputation and hence our immutable credibility.

I am the Infantry! Follow me!