

Commandant's Note

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The evolving global security landscape — marked by the ongoing war in Ukraine, China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, and the volatile complexities of Israel's recent conflicts — demands a rapid and fundamental transformation of the U.S. Army. These recent and ongoing conflicts have starkly underscored the urgent need to deliver warfighting capabilities at speed and scale, keeping pace with the relentless technological advancements revolutionizing modern warfare. It's about proactively shaping a force capable of deterring aggression and decisively prevailing in a contested, multidomain environment. The era of predictable, linear battlefields is over.

Recent engagements demonstrate the inadequacy of traditional, lengthy acquisition timelines and rigid training methodologies. Waiting years for new equipment or updated doctrine is no longer viable. Army leaders recognize a need for a paradigm shift to maintain a competitive edge against near-peer and peer adversaries. The Army's forthcoming Army Warfighting Concept will drive this transformation, and one of its primary notions, expanded maneuver, will ensure our maneuver forces consider time and space to engage adversaries across all domains. The Transformation in Contact (TiC) initiative is already underway across the force to increase our Army's adaptability and lethality. In addition to brigade combat team transformation, the U.S. Army Infantry School (USAIS) is also transforming through doctrine, training, and leader development, and you can read about some of these initiatives within the pages of this edition.

Our branch plays a critical role in advancing the Army's ability to dominate in large-scale combat operations. We aren't simply responding to change — we are leading it, driving transformation across doctrine, training, and leadership development. We're reshaping how we prepare formations for the close fight. These efforts aren't purely conceptual, they are happening now — in our classrooms, in the field, and at our training centers. We understand what's at stake; our Soldiers must be prepared to win the close fight — anywhere, anytime.

The first article of this issue introduces the new Infantry Master Trainer Strategy (IMTS), which will govern and standardize institutional training for weapons and systems-based Infantry functional training across the force. MAJ Richard Chandler provides an overview of the strategy and discusses three new programs of instruction — the Rifle Squad Weapons Master Trainer Course, Rifle Platoon Weapons Master Trainer Course, and Stryker Master Trainer Course. This initiative increases the number of NCO subject matter experts within units who can assist leadership with planning and executing a training strategy for organic weapons and unmanned aerial systems (UAS),

ultimately creating more lethal and ready formations.

We are also addressing gaps in the Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP). The program has been a valuable tool for commanders over the past 30 years, but changes in the operational environment and threat call for updates to better prepare Infantry Soldiers for the realities of large-scale combat. Future improvements include refining the technical curriculum to introduce other techniques, prioritizing weaponized fighting, and enhancing combat scenario-based training. The changes will not only increase our Soldiers' skillsets but ensure they maintain the decisive edge in close quarters combat on the modern battlefield.

Leader development also continues to be a top priority. Updates to the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) and the Infantry Advanced Leader Course (ALC) emphasize adaptability and lethality, ensuring we produce combat-ready officers and NCOs who are ready to lead in uncertain environments. Ultimately, the Infantry's success hinges on the physical toughness, mental resilience, and grit of its Soldiers and leaders. Cultivating these qualities requires a commitment to rigorous, realistic training, and we must continue to prioritize increasing the number of Ranger Course graduates across the operational force. It remains a demanding crucible for forging leaders capable of operating with initiative, resilience, and a warrior spirit.

This issue also includes a handful of articles that discuss new formations brought about through TiC. CPT Preston Wiley, an instructor with the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course, shares observations his team made while observing a Multi-Functional Reconnaissance Company (MFRC) during its Joint Readiness Training Center rotation. His insights highlight the importance of understanding and effectively employing these evolving reconnaissance assets.

In another article about the MFRC's multi-domain effects platoon (MDEP), 1LT Parker Mitchell shares how the 2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) executed the new concept to bring multidomain effects to the brigade fight, leveraging electromagnetic spectrum and robotic systems to enhance lethality and survivability. Mirroring some multi-domain task force principles on a smaller scale, the platoon, alongside two hunter-killer platoons (HKPs), provided the brigade commander with a multi-functional reconnaissance asset, harnessing effects usually only available at higher echelons.

I am the Infantry! Follow me!

