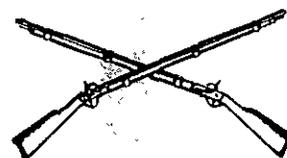




# Commandant's NOTE



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**MAJOR GENERAL SAM WETZEL**

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## INFANTRY PLANNING FOR THE '80s AND '90s

Have you ever stopped and thought of the number of systems we are about to field over the next 20 years? It is impossible to list them here, but suffice it to say that we are talking about more than 35 systems. They range from the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System to the Close Combat Laser Assault Weapon (CCLAW), and every one will have a direct and profound effect on the Army in general and on the Infantry in particular. In every case, the introduction of these systems will require your personal attention to insure their successful fielding.

Those of you in the field, however, should not be expected to anticipate all that will be necessary to meet the challenge. That task properly rests with the Infantry School, and we have tackled the problem head on with the recent formation of the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF). Its charter is simple — to identify and define the issues that the Infantry will face through the year 2000 and beyond.

You will agree that this is a significant undertaking, for the task force's mission will be to serve as the "AWACS" for the Infantry. As new systems and concepts are developed, for instance, the SPTF will provide our community with early warning of the effects those systems and concepts will have on the people who must make them work — the soldiers. Too, our procedures for developing the doctrine, organization, training, and equipment must be properly identified and then orchestrated so that our infantry soldiers will be prepared

to use them when needed.

The task force's purpose, therefore, is to anticipate problems and provide solutions or alternatives to ease the introduction of the new equipment into our inventory. We intend to turn every stone in our effort to examine every aspect and exploit every available source, ranging from personal experience and gut feelings to white papers published by the Army Staff and elements of the Executive Branch. It is a major undertaking that must be done and done right the first time. We can ill afford not to be prepared for the future — whether it is 1984 or 1998.

These are actions that require people with keen minds and good solid "muddy boot time" to look at important matters and then recognize and articulate the effect of those matters on the Infantry community. The Infantry School is squarely in the middle of this effort and welcomes all comers who have keen minds and a wealth of experience. You owe it to the Army and yourself to share your knowledge as we strive to pull it all together.

The professional development and experience of "telling others how it is" provides untold job satisfaction. If you have finished the Advanced Course and believe that your experience will help the Infantry School get the Infantry ready for the 80s and 90s, contact us. Every job is geared to the task.

Think combined arms!