ARTEP DEVELOPMENT

MAJOR RICHARD L. ST. JOHN

The various Army Training and Evaluation Programs (ARTEPs) that have been developed by the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) are undoubtedly the keys to unit training. But some units have special missions for which no formal ARTEP is available. For this reason, there is a place for the development of special ARTEPs by units in the field.

The Berlin Brigade, for example, faced with a mission that requires training in military operations in urban terrain (MOUT), designed, developed, tested, and published its own MOUT ARTEP, one that was specifically suited to its unique mission, organization, and situation. The actual development work, which was divided into six phases, was done by the 3d Battalion, 6th Infantry.

Phase I, the planning phase, was accomplished by the battalion S3. This phase, which took about two weeks, included defining the problem and preparing a detailed plan and schedule that would carry the battalion through the publication of a finished product.

In Phase II the basics of the plan were implemented within the battalion. This entailed publishing the plan, allocating tasks to key members of the chain of command in the companies and staff sections, and setting up a milestone schedule. A reference library of all available MOUT documents was assembled and made available to those working on the project. Then the S2 and S3 prepared a document that contained a comprehensive description of the likely combat environment in Berlin in the event of war. It included a hypothetical description of the city and, generally, how each side would fight, along with some additional considerations that would affect urban military operations.

Phase III, the actual developmental period, began with the identification of all the tasks and missions that would have to be performed by individuals and units, through battalion level, in a MOUT environment. Once this was accomplished, the tasks, conditions, and standards for the ARTEP were developed in the standard ARTEP format.

Next, comprehensive support requirements were developed for each task and mission that included the opposing force, transportation, ammunition, training aids, and the evaluators and controllers needed to conduct the ARTEP. The final step of this phase was the publication of the first draft of the ARTEP.

The battalion was then ready for Phase IV, which was the execution phase. During this six-week period the battalion tested the ARTEP using several training sites in the city, ranging from sewers and subway stations to abandoned buildings, and the brigade's local training areas.

The primary purpose of this phase was to evaluate tasks and not the units that participated in the testing program. Measuring the proficiency of individuals and units in MOUT tasks and missions was secondary to confirming the relevancy of the tasks, conditions, standards, and support requirements that had been identified and published in Phase III.

Once the execution phase was over, a more reflective analysis phase — Phase V — began. While Phase IV required all the battalion's resources and personnel, this fifth phase returned the effort to the selected members of the chain of command who had carried the load through the earlier development phase. For their critique, they solicited comments from everyone from individual soldiers to the leaders at brigade level. Next, all of the valid comments were translated into modifications to the draft ARTEP that had been used in Phase IV.

In the final phase, Phase VI, the completed ARTEP document was published and turned over to the brigade for further publication and implementation.

Many of the tasks and missions in this ARTEP, with little or no modification, are applicable to any unit that is training to operate in a MOUT environment.

In addition, the brigade's experience graphically illustrates that there is a place for ARTEP development in the field.

MAJOR RICHARD L. ST. JOHN, a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, recently completed the Naval Command and Staff College. He holds a master's degree from the University of Arizona and his various assignments include tours as a battalion S3 with the Berlin Brigade and as SGS, U S. Army, Berlin.