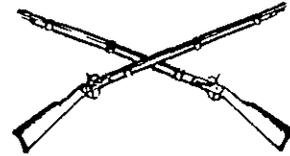




Commandant's NOTE



MAJOR GENERAL SAM WETZEL

STANDARDIZATION — PHASE II

The Army Standardization Program, directed by the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), strives to abolish the modification of basic tasks that can be performed to the same standard in like units regardless of geographic locations. In a wider sense, the objective of the program is to standardize within the Army those procedures used to maintain, operate, and fight with major systems. This program includes two phases. Phase I focused on standardizing combat unit crew vehicle preoperational checks, and training management. Phase II is a continuing effort to improve Phase I actions and to add crew drills for new weapon systems, support procedures, and training management.

The Infantry School's goal in the Army Standardization Program is to ensure that no obstacles exist that will prevent coordination among unit commanders, MACOMs, and other service schools. The program also seeks to obtain the greatest possible economy in the use of combined resources and efforts.

The USAIS Standardization Committee (which is composed of subject matter experts and points of contact for each USAIS Directorate and Department) aids all commanders by eliminating time wasted relearning local modifications to basic tasks that can and should be conducted the same way throughout the Army.

The Standardization Committee has reviewed the revised load plan for the M113A1, the M106A1 and M125A1 mortar carriers, and the M220 TOW missile carrier. These revised supplemental load plans were finalized

and approved at TRADOC in mid-February 1982.

Currently, as a means of "checking the system," a Standardization Studies Program is studying specific standardization topics and identifying those actions necessary to achieve the standardization of certain basic soldier tasks. The initial standardization study topics are the construction of M60 machinegun range cards; FDC procedures for the 4.2-inch mortar; battlesight zeroing the M16A1 rifle; and engaging targets with M203 grenade launchers (hold of weapon).

An updated list of references for these Phase I topics was identified as having standardized procedures and crew drills for the following major weapon systems:

- Mortars.
- TOWs (except ITVs).
- Recoilless rifles.
- Machineguns.
- Dragons.

Since Phase II is a continuation of Phase I, it is "open-ended," and it is ensuring that standardized procedures are incorporated into the ITV crew drills (six separate functional areas). This is also true for the BIFV (38 separate functional areas).

USAIS and the Army Training Board (ATB) are also developing a series of light and mechanized infantry battle drills. These fire team and squad level drills are designed to form a bridge between Soldier's Manual (i

dividual) and ARTEP (collective) training. When published, these drills will support the standardization of training and evaluation in the Army.

Finally, to further employ the Army Standardization Program and reduce personnel turbulence, the Infantry Liaison Team (ILT) will seek feedback from all the units it visits to determine what procedures and tasks require standardization emphasis.

Our standardization efforts must evaluate and develop the full use of various ideas and concepts and should not impede unit abilities. Some officials advocate different standardization programs to provide for the needs of different major commands and geographical areas. However, the advantages of different programs for different needs must be set against the difficulty of coordinating the many such programs for the entire Army. As an example, selected procedures may be standardized within a unit in Europe, but when the soldiers from that unit are redeployed to stateside they may not be familiar with the procedures that are SOP to their new units. This is confusing to the soldier and inefficient to the unit mission.

The bottom line in accomplishing these standardization goals is for each of us to use the manuals and references already published and currently in the field. The greatest detriment to the standardization effort is the popular practice of locally modifying some procedures or adding others that often duplicate the more efficient standard that is already available and practicable. The Army Standardization Program, Phase II, will provide the necessary uniformity to enhance our potential combat power through heightened flexibility and readiness. Think Combined Arms!

