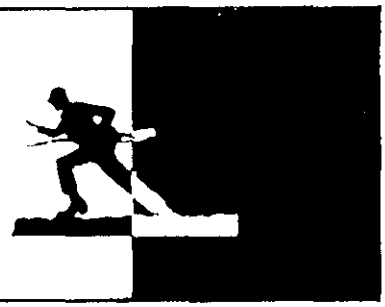
INFANTRY NEWS



THE FIELDING OF THE new Bradley Fighting Vehicle will begin with the issue of vehicles to the 2d Armored Division at Ford Hood early next year. The units that receive the Bradley will then undergo New Equipment Training (NET) that will be conducted by NET teams now being organized and trained at Forts Benning and Knox.

The NET teams have a two-fold mission: to provide individual training through Skill Level 4 for all MOSs that require transition training, and to provide collective training for crews, squads, and platoons. The battalions that will receive this NET training will be organized under the "J" series or Division 86 TOE before the training begins.

The NET teams will train all operator (MOS 11B and 19D) and maintenance (MOS 63T and 45T) personnel. The maintenance personnel will be trained before the operators so that the units can have a portion of their maintenance personnel trained and available to conduct maintenance on the vehicles during the period when the operators are being trained.

The training cycle for maintenance supervision will be 8 weeks, while the organizational mechanics course will run for 3 weeks. The operator training period will consist of an 8-week training cycle for the mechanized infantry companies and a 6-week cycle for the scout platoons and cavalry troops. The training time needed for each mechanized battalion will be about 11 weeks.

A NET team for operator training has five elements: one is assigned to each rifle company and one is responsible for training the scout platoon and the headquarters personnel. The NET team will use a squad trainer concept in which a NET trainer is assigned to each vehicle at the start of the training cycle and will remain with that squad or crew throughout.

All NET training for battalions in the United States will be conducted on-site at the various U.S. installations. When the NET training for a unit has been completed, all 11B personnel who have successfully completed the training will be reclassified 11M, BIFV Infantryman.

After all units of the 2d Armored Division have been trained, the NET teams will move to another CONUS installation.

THE ARMY RECENTLY ANNOUNCED the award of a contract that will seek full-scale engineering development adapting the TOW-2 to the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System.

TOW-2 is a major improvement over the Army's basic TOW; it will be able to counter more sophisticated enemy armor with its new six-inch warhead, new flight motor, and improved guidance system.

The Army's Missile Command (MICOM) also has the Improved TOW program under way. The I-TOW features a redesigned five-inch warhead that will penetrate heavier armor than the basic TOW will.

Both programs use the existing TOW equipment to the fullest extent possible.

THE INFANTRY SCHOOL is making final preparations to field test its newly developed version of the Military Qualification Standards II (MQS II) manual for infantry lieutenants.

The MQS concept developed from the Army's need to tell each of its officers what he needs to know to reach the expected performance levels, and it is intended to provide a means by which each officer can meet those prescribed standards. Because the standards will change as an officer gains experience, the MQS program has been divided into three distinct phases: MQS I addresses the precommissioning years; MQS II addresses an officer's first three years of Army service, normally the years he will spend as a lieutenant; and MQS III addresses the fourth through tenth years of service, generally the years he will serve as a captain.

The Infantry School conducted a major analysis and identified the tasks that are considered most important to successful job performance. Using this information, the School developed MQS manuals for training at Levels I and II. It also developed detailed teaching packages called Training Support Packages (TSPs). The TSPs are designed to help standardize training at the school level and to provide all the items that are needed to teach a particular topic — lesson plans, training aids, lesson narratives, graphic aids, slides, and suggestions for practical exercises. The support packages and supporting manuals for Level I are now being field tested in all of the Army's precommissioning programs.

Another aspect of the MQS program is the MQS professional education component. The proposed MQS education requirement specifies that all officers will have a college degree by their tenth year of service with courses in each of five areas: human behavior, written communication, military history, national security policy, and management.

A third aspect of the MQS program is the professional reading program. The reading requirement will be standard for all lieutenants, regardless of specialty. It will consist of a directed

reading program of required books with a bibliography provided to encourage additional reading. The program will be organized into four subject lists: classical military literature, contemporary military literature, military ethics, and specialty or branch-oriented literature.

The professional education component will not be tested during the MQS pilot test period, and only an abbreviated version of the professional reading program will be tested.

It is planned for the MQS II manual to be fielded for testing by selected units beginning in the fall of 1982. The test period will last about one year and has been programmed to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the manual. During the test period, two methods of certifying completion of the tasks will be tested: command and self-certification.

Officers assigned to units selected to test the new MQS II program will carry an important responsibility because they will provide the test bed for what may result in dramatic changes in the Army's officer education system.

(Note prepared by Officer Design Branch, DTD, USAIS.)

THE NEW SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPON SYSTEM (SAW) has been type classified by the Army and is deemed ready for production. The 5.56mm SAW will be deployed primarily in infantry fire teams in the Army and in the United States Marine Corps.

The SAW system components include the M249 5.56mm machine gun, the M855 5.56mm ball cartridge, the M856 5.56mm tracer cartridge, and the M27 5.56mm metallic belt cartridge link.

The M249 uses well-tested principles of design, combined in a conventional configuration. The conventional piston-actuated gas system allows for a choice of two power settings, which are achieved by regulating the bleeding of the gas entering the cylinder. This feature provides for a constant cyclic rate of fire of 750 rounds per minute even under adverse firing conditions.

This 15.6-pound weapon fires from the open bolt position, which reduces the likelihood of a cook-off of rounds. Its barrel can be changed within three seconds. The M249 can be both belt-fed from a 200-round container or fed from the 30-round magazine that is used in the M16A1 rifle.

The M855/856 cartridges used in the SAW meet the requirements of the NATO 5.56mm Second Caliber Standardization Agreement (STANAG 4172). The ball cartridge is similar in configuration to that of the M193, which is used in the M16A1 rifle, but it offers significant improvements in extended range effectiveness. Likewise, the tracer cartridge uses the same exterior cartridge configuration as the Army's current standard M196 tracer cartridge, but extends the visibility of the round during the day as much as 50 percent.

A blank firing attachment will be developed for training and for integration with MILES. Newly designed load-carrying pouches also have been extensively tested, and technical data packages will be developed to support their type classification and procurement. These pouches, which will fit on the standard load-carrying belt now in use, will let the gunner carry 600 rounds of ammunition. A weapon storage rack is also being developed so that the SAW weapons can be properly secured.

The current five-year procurement plan calls for the purchase of about

26,000 SAW weapons for the Army and another 9,000 for the Marine Corps. More SAWs will probably be acquired for non-infantry and joint services units.

THE ARMY'S PARACHUTE TEAM, the Golden Knights, will hold tryouts for the 1983 demonstration season at Fort Bragg during the period 27 September to 5 November 1982.

Volunteers who would like to try out for the team must be serving on active duty as corporals, sergeants, or staff sergeants; must have at least 150 free-fall jumps; must be actively jumping a ram-air type canopy; must have at least two years remaining on their current enlistments on 1 January 1983, or must be willing to extend or reenlist; if serving overseas, must have completed five-sixths of their tour by 31 December 1982; and must not currently be on overseas orders or alerted for overseas assignment.

Qualified personnel may request tryout applications by writing or calling the Commander, U.S. Army Parachute Team, ATTN: Tryout NCOIC, PO Box 126, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307, AUTOVON 236-4800/4828, or commercial 919/396-4800/4828.

Those who are selected to try out for the team will be notified through command channels and will be placed on either temporary or special duty for the tryout period. If considered for final selection, the applicants will remain at Fort Bragg until about 17 December for a more complete evaluation.

THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS are also asking for applications from officers who would be interested in being assigned as the team's operations officer. The assignment will be made in either October or November of this year.

Applicants should be captains or first lieutenants, be airborne qualified, have a Class D U.S. Parachute Association License, have experience in air operations scheduling, be even-tempered, have the ability to work in harmony with a wide range of civilian and governmental agencies, and must be able to serve at least two years in the position if selected.

Applicants must present an outstanding personal appearance, must have a good personality, and must have the ability and desire to represent the Army to the general public.

Interested individuals are asked to submit their resumes as soon as possible, with a full length official photograph attached, to the Commander, U.S. Army Parachute Team, PO Box 126, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307.

EVERY THREE MONTHS for the past few years the Army Training Extension Course (TEC) has issued a complete list of all TEC lessons that have been fielded or will soon be fielded. The last issue of the Extension Training Material (ETM) TEC/SPAS Availability List, dated 3d Quarter FY 82, has been sent to all of the 7,300 TEC account holders.

The Availability List has been replaced by the ETM catalog, identified as the 350-series of DA Pamphlets, which have been distributed to the field. For additional information about the catalog, interested personnel can write to the Commander, U.S. Army Training Support Center, ATTN: ATIC-AET-IO, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604, or can call AUTOVON 927-3522/2240, or commercial 804/878-3522/2240.

AN INFORMATIVE NEW SERIES of TEC lessons on "European Orientation" was fielded earlier this year. It was produced especially for soldiers and their families who are scheduled for a permanent assignment in Europe. They are recommended for Active Army personnel and for members of National Guard and Army Reserve units that have Roundout missions in Europe.

The TEC tapes are identified by consecutive numbers from 920-791-0001-F through 920-791-0012-F. Their viewing times range from 15 to 45 minutes, and it takes almost eight hours to view all twelve.

THE COMPANION FIELD JACKET for the camouflage battle dress uniform (BDU) is expected to be in the Army's supply system in March 1983. The BDU field jacket is made of the same material as the Army's present field jacket but has some of the same characteristics as the BDU, including the infrared reflective dyes and the camouflage pattern.

The present plans call for issuing one of the present field jackets and one BDU field jacket to each new recruit beginning 1 March 1983. Beginning 1 October 1983, new soldiers will be issued two BDU field jackets.

Starting 1 March 1983, Army clothing sales stores will be able to order the BDU field jacket for sale to Active Army soldiers, and for sale and issue to members of the Reserve Components.

By 1 October 1983, all Active Army soldiers will be required to have one BDU field jacket, and must have two of the jackets by October 1985. Reserve Component soldiers must have one BDU field jacket by October 1985.

The BDU field jacket does not experience the same shrinkage problems that have been associated with the BDU. In fact, laundering care for the BDU jacket is the same as for the present field jacket, except that it should not be starched.