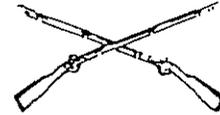




Commandant's NOTE



MAJOR GENERAL SAM WETZEL

1982 INFANTRY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

As Chief of Infantry and Commandant of the Infantry School, I had the pleasure of hosting the 1982 Infantry Association Conference at Fort Benning this past December. It was a resounding success. Nearly 200 Active Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and senior retired officers and non-commissioned officers from around the world attended. I believe they left with the distinct feeling that today's Infantry is, indeed, a robust and vigorous force.

The conference had three main purposes: to bring those who attended up to date on the latest in Infantry tactics and in training and combat developments; to develop mutually agreed-on positions on certain issues of importance to the Infantry community resulting from the proponent role that was recently assigned to me as Chief of Infantry; and to reestablish the Infantry Association.

The conference also gave those in attendance a chance to witness at first hand the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and our real pride and joy — the new Infantrymen who are now training at our Infantry Training Center.

We are extremely proud of the Bradley, and this was an excellent opportunity for us to demonstrate its maneuverability and awesome firepower capabilities to our senior Infantry leaders.

Our new soldiers are different from the soldiers we were getting just a few years ago. On the average, they are older, more mature, more responsible, and better educated, and they know what they want and what to expect.

We had a number of excellent individual presentations at the conference. For example, at the opening night's dinner General Richard E. Cavazos, Commander of the U.S. Forces Command, provided very moving remarks about his belief in the *spirit of America and the treasures we all share and protect in this free land*. He then highlighted the American soldier as one of these treasures.

General William B. Rosson, U.S. Army (Retired), speaking on behalf of the retired members of the Association and as the senior infantryman present, presented eloquent remarks that made us aware of the importance of the conference and of the necessity to forge ahead with the issues formulated during the session.

Lieutenant General William Livsey, who commands the VII Corps in Europe, gave us a personal account of the status of training in Europe and expressed his pride in the quality of to-

day's soldier.

Major General John Galvin, who commands the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, highlighted the unique aspects of the heavy and light mix and the effects it will have on the Army during the Division 86 transition period.

Major General Carl McNair, the Commandant of the Aviation School, gave us some insights into the ongoing developments in Army Aviation.

Brigadier General William S. Carpenter, a 9th Infantry Division assistant division commander, outlined what has been done and what is being done by the High Technology Test Bed at Fort Lewis. (By the way, General Carpenter was recently inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.)

And Brigadier General Colin Powell, from the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, explained the Army 86 initiatives that are key to the evolution of force modernization.

Then we divided the conferees into four panels, each of which addressed itself to specific issues: officer personnel; enlisted personnel; doctrine, training, equipment, and organization; and the Infantry Association.

The results of the panel discussions were presented by panel spokesmen to all of the attendees on the final day of the conference. (A fuller discussion of the reestablishment of the Infantry Association is contained in the editor's note, which can be found on the inside back cover of this issue.)

The mixture of Active Army, Reserve Component, and retired Infantrymen gave the conference considerable depth. It also provided an excellent opportunity for our Active Army and Reserve Component people to discuss more fully such important subjects as the CAPSTONE program, which aligns Active Army and Reserve Component units; all agreed that CAPSTONE needs increased emphasis.

The Reserve Component attendees, with their collective years of distinguished service, were also able to enlighten the other conferees on many topics of importance to mobilization, force modernization, and the readiness of the total force.

In terming the conference a success, we must now work to develop the issues that the conferees addressed. As Chief of Infantry, I ask your help so that we at Fort Benning can continue to provide the leadership all Infantrymen have come to expect from their "home."

PRACTICE COMBINED ARMS!