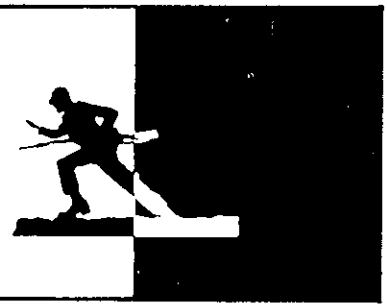
INFANTRY NEWS



RECENTLY, THE INFANTRY SCHOOL completed a comprehensive review of its officer basic and advanced course curricula. Instructors, specialists in training support, and training developers conducted the review, which was aimed at reviewing and updating the curricula. During the review process, students' end-of-course critiques, comments from field commanders, and the most recent changes in tactical doctrine and equipment were considered.

The basic officer course, which all newly commissioned Infantry lieutenants attend, is designed to give those lieutenants confidence in themselves, a mastery of the rudimentary skills and knowledge concerning tactics and equipment, an understanding of their moral and ethical responsibilities, and a high degree of physical and mental toughness.

The 16-week program of instruction is aimed at training the lieutenants in their combat-related skills so that when they arrive at their units they will be motivated to take charge of their first platoons and continue their own training process under the tutelage of their company and battalion commanders.

Accordingly, the first few weeks of the course emphasize basic individual and collective infantry skills at the squad level. The remaining weeks are devoted to collective training at the platoon level with the student-officers participating as members of an infantry platoon in company and team operations.

Leadership training is continuous and demanding. The student-officers are watched closely as they occupy leadership positions in both garrison and field situations. Each student-officer is also graded on his ability to teach and lead physical training and to present instruction.

Overall, more flexibility has been added to the instructional program, 79 percent of which is now field training time; there is more physical training than before; and there has been an increase in the number of field training exercises — there are now five, with the first exercise being conducted in the third week. The course continues to emphasize both mechanized and light infantry training, and the graduates complete most of the weapons and tactics tasks required of the soldiers they will soon be leading.

The officer advanced course curriculum is quite different, of course. Its primary goal is to prepare the officers to command companies and to serve as battalion staff officers, while providing flexibility for individual study and physical training.

The School's overall training strategy for the advanced course is reflected in the course's sequence of instruction. Thus, the subjects that support such instruction as battlefield logistics, chemical and biological warfare, weapons, and fire support are presented before, but are then integrated with, instruction in offensive, defensive, and special operations. The subjects that relate primarily to command and staff functions — such as training management, supply accountability, legal matters, and maintenance — are taught near the end of the course because these functions are the ones a graduate of the course is most likely to perform soon after he takes over a company or begins an assignment as a staff officer.

Where possible, the new program of instruction is based on a six-hour day for all classroom instruction. This has been made possible by doing away with redundant training and by eliminating certain excess time. Programmed and self-study texts have been developed for other instruction.

The major additions to the course's instructional program include an eight-hour tactical exercise without troops, a two-hour hands-on block of instruction with the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle, a fifteen-hour ethics package, and a twelve-hour history program. A new integrated writing program designed to sharpen the student-officers' writing and communication skills is being developed.

The two new curricula that have been developed present the School's student-officers a full schedule of challenging learning events, and they reflect the Infantry School's understanding of where it is going and how it plans to get there.

THREE UNITS OF THE 172d INFANTRY BRIGADE (Alaska) recently became the first Army units to be redesignated under the new regimental system. The 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry, the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry, and the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry were redesignated the 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions, respectively, of the 327th Infantry Regiment during ceremonies on 6 January 1983.

The 327th Infantry Regiment, based at Fort Campbell, is the first of 26 infantry regiments that will be formed eventually under the new system. The Alaskan units are now paired with three sister battalions at Fort Campbell.

The other infantry regiments that will be part of the new system are the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 23d, 41st, 52d, 75th, 187th, 325th, 502d, 504th, 505th, and 5th Cavalry.

Under the regimental concept, whole companies — and eventually

battalions — will move between assignments in the continental U.S. and overseas bases. This should cut down on personnel turbulence and improve combat readiness, unit cohesion, and esprit de corps by keeping soldiers together longer in one unit. In the case of career soldiers, the system's goal will be to keep them associated with one regiment throughout their Army careers.

Companies of soldiers will complete their basic and advanced individual training together and then will be assigned to the regiment's home base for an 18-month tour. After that a company will be assigned to the overseas base at which the remainder of the regiment is assigned.

At the end of that tour, the company will be dissolved, with first-term soldiers who have not reenlisted being sent home and the remainder being reassigned either within the regiment or to schools, recruiting duty, or a staff or headquarters assignment. In the meantime, another unit will be assigned to the overseas base from the regiment's home base, where a new unit would be trained to replace the departing one.

THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM is currently in the midst of a renovation and expansion project in which the third floor of the museum building is being prepared for use as additional exhibit space. This will add 6,000 square feet to the viewing area, a significant increase.

The present plans call for moving the foreign exhibits and other special collections to the third floor and for expanding the remaining exhibits on the first and second floors. The Museum will then be able to display many interesting artifacts that have been packed away for lack of adequate exhibit space.

Recently, some significant additions have been made to the collection: A Navy dress uniform belonging to President Jimmy Carter was donated for use in the Presidential collection. A mid-19th century Chickering grand piano was also donated, and it fits nicely into the Benning Room display. And at a ceremony held in the Museum's auditorium, the Leslie Clan Society presented a handsome King's Own Scottish Border dress uniform that is in perfect condition.

In remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day last December, the Museum prepared a special exhibit for display in Infantry Hall. The Museum staff makes a special effort to honor special occasions such as this by preparing specially constructed exhibits or by providing support for exhibits that have been prepared by other groups or units.

The National Infantry Museum Society, formed at Fort Benning a number of years ago to assist the Museum with financial and volunteer support, is open to anyone who is interested in joining. The cost is $2.00 for a one-year membership or $10.00 for a lifetime membership.

Additional information about the Museum and the Society is available from the Director, National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905; telephone AUTOVON 835-2958, or commercial 404/545-2958.

THE INFANTRY BOARD HAS FURNISHED the following news items:

• **Long-range Rifles.** Special Forces and Ranger personnel need a sniper weapon system that can hit targets at greater ranges than the present M21, 7.62mm sniper rifle system can reach.

The search for such a weapon is now on, and the Infantry Board recently conducted an evaluation of candidate rifle systems provided by the United States Army Institute for Military Assistance (USAIMA). The objective was to provide accuracy and comparative data on the candidate systems and the M21.

During the test, nine shooters fired four types of rifles, using two interchangeable telescopic sights and appropriate ammunition. The shooters were from the USAIMA, the 7th Special Forces Group, the 10th Special Forces Group, the 2d Battalion, 75th Infantry, and the XVIII Airborne Corps' marksmanship

training unit. They used a 7.62mm semiautomatic rifle, a 7.62mm bolt action rifle, a caliber .338 bolt action rifle, and a standard M21 sniper rifle.

The current standard telescopic sight that the U.S. Marine Corps uses with its sniper rifle system — the UNERTL — and the Army's sniper rifle system's standard telescopic sight — the ART II — completed the systems. The cartridges used were the Match, M118, 7.62mm and the .338 Winchester Magnum.

After zeroing, each test firer fired two three-round groups from each system at 400-, 600-, and 1,000-meter targets from a bench rest with sandbag support. The firers stated their opinions and gave their observations concerning safety and human factors aspects by answering questionnaires and taking part in interviews at the end of the test.

The USAIMA will use the test results as one data source for establishing a near-term acquisition program for the Special Operational Forces Sniper Weapon System.

The test officer for this evaluation was Captain Michael H. Camilletti.

• **Plastic Training Cartridges.** Some foreign armies have been using plastic training cartridges for years. Recently, a number of U.S. Army commanders in Europe decided that they could use these cartridges to advantage in several different training areas. So the Infantry Board was tasked to determine the capability of the .50 caliber plastic training cartridge (PTC) to indicate a hit on standard pasteboard and polyethylene "E" and "F" type silhouette targets and to "kill" those targets mounted on the standard target-holding mechanism.

The PTC, both ball and tracer, is about the same size and shape as a corresponding service round. The base of the cartridge, which encloses the primer, is made of aluminum while the rest of the case is blue plastic. The tip of the projectile is red. The cartridges are linked with M9-type metallic links for use with the Browning machinegun (BMG). Although the PTC's initial muzzle velocity is over 4,000 feet per second, its velocity drops rapidly because of the projectile's light weight (about 50 grains) and its low sectional density.

A special recoil amplifier barrel is used with the BMG for firing the PTC and is assembled to the gun like a standard barrel. Extra support is provided by clamps secured to the gun barrel, and these also hold the barrel firmly in place. Gas ports in the barrel bleed off some of the gases that are generated by firing into a special recoil amplifier chamber located near the center of the barrel. Enough forces are generated to cause the barrel to recoil and the gun to function.

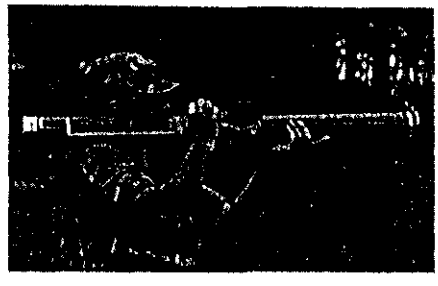
A special plastic round discriminator, or stop, made of blue plastic allows the proper feeding of the cartridges and prevents the feeding of standard service rounds, which are slightly longer.

Seven test soldiers used the PTCs and the specified targets during firing exercises. A round-by-round record was kept of the functioning, target hits, target marking, and target mechanism activations.

The Army's Test and Evaluation Command will use the test data in a technical feasibility test it is conducting on the PTC.

The test officer was Sergeant First Class Alphonso Millender.

• **Viper Subcaliber Rocket Trainer.** In 1981, the Infantry Board conducted an Operational Test II of the Viper lightweight antitank and assault weapon system. During that test, two kinds of Viper training devices were evaluated: a subcaliber rocket trainer (SRT) and a subcaliber tracer bullet trainer (STBT).



Viper SRT.

The SRT failed several times during gunnery training and was removed from the test. The STBT was type classified standard as part of the Viper system, although it did not provide the launch effects — noise, smoke, backblast, overpressure — that simulate or even approximate those of the actual Viper. Consequently, it is not completely satisfactory for Viper training, and major field commanders have indicated a preference for a rocket trainer.

The Infantry Board recently evaluated another proposed Viper SRT that consists of two components. The first is a launcher that uses an expended Viper tactical round, modified to accept a mechanical rather than an electrical firing mechanism, and a 25-inch inner steel tube through which a 35mm rocket is fired. The second component is the rocket, a modification of the standard M73 35mm subcaliber rocket, which is used as a training device with the M72A2 LAW system; this rocket, which is designed to match the launch and flight characteristics of the Viper's tactical round, provides a visible smoke trace to the target and a flash and smoke signature effect when it hits the target.

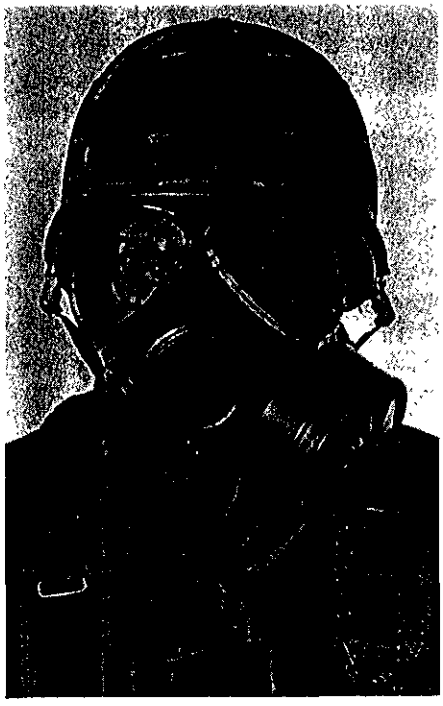
Ten test soldiers received training on the operation and use of the SRT. They were then tested on their ability to perform such tasks as conducting a prefire inspection, placing the system in operation, assuming the correct firing position, taking the SRT out of operation, applying misfire procedures, and demonstrating correct sight pictures using sighting training devices. After those exercises, each test soldier engaged stationary and moving targets with the SRT according to the established tables of fire.

Data was collected on the effectiveness of the SRT training program, on safety and human factor aspects of the SRT, and on the system's reliability and maintainability. The test results will be used by the Infantry School in deciding whether the SRT has the potential for meeting the requirements of a rocket trainer.

The test officer was Major Randy C. Gallatin.

• **Protective Mask.** The Army needs a new protective mask that provides increased protection against field concentrations of chemical and biological agents. The new mask, which would replace all types of field masks now in use, must also reduce the logistical burden and have improved storage characteristics.

Different models of masks have been tested during the past few years, but none have been an improvement over the masks they were intended to replace. The Army's Chemical Systems Laboratory recently designed and fabricated a prototype Minimum Change/Minimum Risk (MC/MR) mask design concept that combined the desirable features of previously tested masks.



MC/MR mask.

The Infantry Board tested this design to provide data to the Chemical Systems Laboratory on the compatibility of the mask with infantry equipment, on the optical properties of the mask, and on the design and safety considerations of the mask. The MC/MR masks that were tested had been fabricated with a green silicone faceblank and nose cup assembly with integrally molded harness tabs and an adjustable head harness. A natural rubber panel was bonded over the faceblank, which contained a side-mounted filter canister, outlet valve and cover, and two voice transmitters. The M17 and M25A1 field protective masks were used as control items during the test.

Test soldiers were riflemen, machinegunners, mortar crewmen (including fire direction center personnel), TOW gunners, and armored vehicle crewmen. Each fired his assigned weapon three times according to published qualification or familiarization tables — once wearing the test mask. The crew-served weapons gunners also fired a night familiarization course using night sights while wearing the test and control masks.

Drivers alternated the use of the test and control masks with night vision goggles and their vehicles' night vision periscopes. Combat spectacles with uncorrected lenses were worn by selected test soldiers to determine whether the masks provided enough face relief.

The Chemical Systems Laboratory will use the test results to formulate decisions concerning the full-scale development of the MC/MR masks.

The test officer was Captain Tim F. Prouty.

• **Museum.** When an infantryman pulls on his socks, laces his boots, and reaches for his weapon he probably does not give a passing thought to the fact that everything he wears or uses has been throroughly tested before it is issued to him.

The Infantry Board at Fort Benning has been in the testing business for almost 80 years, always trying to provide ONLY THE BEST FOR THE FINEST. It has tested everything from back packs for mules to the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle, and from wrap-around leggings to athletic shoes.

Today, the Board is organizing a museum that will contain, among other things, a collection of test reports dating as far back as 1921, photographs of different items and equipment that the Board has tested, and actual test items. A large room on the second floor of the Board's headquarters building is being renovated to accommodate the collection.

Contributions — news items, photographs, test items, or any other related material — are being solicited. Anyone who wishes to donate to the Board's museum is asked to contact the Sergeant Major of the Board by calling him at AUTOVON 835-1519 or commercial 404/545-1519 or by writing to: President, U.S. Army Infantry Board, ATTN: Sergeant Major, Fort Benning, GA 31905.

THE ARMY PLANS to activate its first fighting force trained in mountain warfare since World War II.

The unit — 100 strong — is Company A, 1st Mountain Battalion, 72d Infantry, assigned as an adjunct to the Vermont Army National Guard.

The unit was approved in May 1982. Vermont was chosen as its permanent home because of the state's hilly terrain and harsh winters, and because the Army holds its annual biathlon training there.

THE U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND (USCENTCOM) was formally established on 1 January 1983. With headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base, USCENTCOM is the country's sixth unified command.

As an outgrowth of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, the new command is committed to military cooperation with friendly governments in the region from Egypt to Pakistan and from Jordan south to Kenya.

MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED to Fairbanks, Alaska, will now serve 36 months instead of the former 30 months if they have their dependents with them. All other personnel will serve 24 months, up from the previous 18 months. This change also includes Fort Wainwright.