

INFANTRY NEWS



THE FOLLOWING NEWS ITEMS are from the Infantry School's Weapons, Gunnery, and Maintenance Department:

• **Infantry Mortar Platoon Course.** The prerequisites for attendance at the infantry mortar platoon course (IMPC) are listed in DA Pamphlet 351-4. The duty uniform for soldiers attending the course is the BDU or the fatigue uniform. Any needed load-bearing equipment will be issued to the soldiers at Fort Benning.

IMPC is a demanding course, and commanders are invited to give prospective IMPC students the IMPC mathematics diagnostic test. They can get copies of that test by calling AUTOVON 784-1193 or commercial 404/544-1193, or by writing to the Director, WGMD, ATTN: Mortar Division, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905.

• **Requests for Firing Tables.** DA Pamphlet 310-10-2 has the complete instructions for obtaining all mortar firing tables. WGMD, USAIS, does not provide that service.

Mortar firing tables can be obtained from the Baltimore Publications Center. For further information, interested persons are asked to call AUTOVON 584-3521, FTS 922-7246, or commercial 301/962-7246, or they can write to the U.S. Army AG Publication Center, 2800 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21220.

FROM THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM comes the following news item:

The National Infantry Museum supported a recent trade fair of industry and commerce in downtown Columbus by designing and building a booth that detailed Fort Benning's history and gave some highlights

from the history of the United States Army. The exhibit featured 50 foreign decorations that were recently donated to the Museum by General William B. Rosson.

The Museum also prepared a special exhibit honoring the 555th Parachute Battalion as part of its recognition of Black History Month. Former members of that unit are erecting a monument on the Museum grounds that will serve as a permanent reminder of the contribution black soldiers have made to the airborne infantry.

Two historically important flags have been acquired by the Museum and are being restored to a condition that will make their display possible. One is a U.S. standard 35-star flag that was carried during the battle of Gettysburg in 1863, while the other is the regimental flag of the Army's Second Regiment of Colored Troops.

The renovation of the third floor of the Museum, which will add 6,000 square feet of exhibit space, is proceeding on schedule. The new area will house the Museum's extensive foreign infantry collection and will permit the Museum to display many rare infantry fighting weapons. There will also be a visitor's lounge area dedicated to the memory of Brigadier General William Ross Bond, who was killed in action in Vietnam on 1 April 1970. The lounge will provide a pleasant panoramic view of the main post area that is most memorable when seen from the symbolic "high ground."

The National Infantry Museum Society was formed at Fort Benning a number of years ago to assist the Museum with financial and volunteer support. The Society, for example, is giving the Museum the money it needs to furnish the new visitor's lounge area. Membership in the

Society — \$2.00 for one year, \$10.00 for a lifetime membership — is open to anyone who is interested in joining.

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

THE CONDUCT OF FIRE TRAINER (COFT) for the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle (BIFV) can provide basic and sustainment gunnery training for the vehicle's crewmen, because it can be used to simulate a wide variety of situations and tactical engagements.

The COFT consists of three major components — a mock-up BIFV turret, a general purpose computer, and an instructor/operator station (IOS). (See also INFANTRY, January-February 1983, page 4.)

The turret mock-up reproduces the appearance and the functions of the Bradley's operating controls, indicators, and weapon sights. Characteristics such as appropriate diopter adjustment, optical transmission properties, field of view, magnification selection, and sight reticles are all realistically simulated. Sound effects include engine and drive train whine and all the sounds related to gun firing and TOW launching.

The 32-bit computer has a disc memory, a CRT terminal, and a keyboard. Real-time operational software, test and maintenance software, and support software make up the computer program system. This computer system controls the data flow and the moving targets, diagnoses training performance, calculates ballistic equations and aimpoint errors, and monitors crew responses. It

also performs such training management functions as recommending exercise sequences, preparing hard copy performance records, and maintaining complete historical files on each crew.

The COFT uses computer-generated images to produce the scenes the crew members view, including full color daylight and nighttime scenes with various terrain and topographical backgrounds, man-made structures, moving targets, shell trajectories, tracers, and other special effects. Together, these images and effects allow fighting vehicle crews to develop their gunnery proficiency across a broad range of simulated battle conditions. Correct visual perspectives are instantaneously computed and maintained.

The simulated Bradley can move freely in an exercise area that covers 10,000 by 7,000 meters, thus allowing for countless different engagement scenarios. During these exercises, the computer can simulate the BIFV's 25mm cannon, its 240C machinegun, and its TOW missile system.

The third major component, the IOS, provides full color video displays that allow an instructor to see the same scenes that are being presented to the track commander and the gunner. It not only incorporates a keyboard terminal and display system to initiate, control, and monitor the activities of the crew, it also measures and displays crew performance, principally the crew's accuracy and response time. In addition, an intercom system allows the instructor to simulate radio transmissions to the crew.

A library of programmed exercises can be loaded into the system. There are now more than 200 such exercises, some in as many as four different versions. The exercises are ranked in order of difficulty and are scored for difficulty of target acquisition, systems management, and reticle aiming.

The COFT now comes in two configurations — the unit or U-COFT, and the institutional or I-COFT. The principal difference between them is

the shelter system for the U-COFT, which makes it self-contained, requiring only the addition of a concrete pad and an electrical power source.

The U-COFT will be used to provide sustainment training for field units equipped with the Bradley. The I-COFT, which will be housed in a building at each installation where it is located, will be used in resident course training at the Infantry School for the gunners course, the vehicle commanders course, and the master gunners course.

When compared to live fire training with full caliber weapons, these devices allow frequent firing at significantly less cost. When it is used in conjunction with unit live fire gunnery programs, the COFT can help give the Bradley gunner and track commander the confidence they will need to match any enemy force in any future war.

THE DIRECTORATE OF TRAINING DEVELOPMENTS, USAIS, has given us the following items of information that should be of interest to the Infantry community:

- **Simulated Tank and Antiarmor Gunnery System (STAGS).** A contract was recently let for the building of a STAGS prototype, which will be sent to the Infantry School for testing during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 1984.

STAGS meets the Army and Marine Corps requirement for a training system that can be readily adapted to a variety of weapons. It was originally designed for Dragon training, and some of its original features included realistic Dragon launch effects and target engagement from the initial target sighting to striking that target, real-time training effectiveness feedback on two interchangeable instructor monitors, government-proved software, and packaging into eight, rugged, two-man portable modules designed for rapid set-up and operation.

- **M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW).** The SAW is a lightweight,

one-man portable automatic weapon (5.56mm machinegun) that is capable of delivering a large volume of sustained, accurate, and lethal fire on a target. It is scheduled to replace the automatic rifleman's M16 weapon, and will provide additional support for typical infantry squad and platoon missions. (See also INFANTRY, July-August 1982, pages 4-5.)

The SAW will be sent to the field sometime during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 1984. Before that time, two video tapes will be distributed. One will discuss the maintenance, care, cleaning, and assembly and disassembly of the weapon, the other will discuss institution and unit programs of instruction and will incorporate such subjects as zeroing techniques, transition firing, and field firing.

In addition to the video tapes, a field manual in test format will be provided.

Collective training requirements during force-on-force scenarios will be accomplished using the MILES device. Both the MILES transmitter and the blank fire adapter will be fielded with the system. The MILES used with the SAW is the first in the MILES family that will be zeroed to the individual's zero on his weapon.

Other items of equipment that will be fielded with the system are load-carrying pouches for SAW ammunition, and new zero (10-meter) transition fire targets. Weapon racks for the SAW are under development and will be fielded about 18 months after they have been funded.

THE ARMY'S Mobility Equipment Research and Development Command (MERADCOM) recently let a contract for the design and fabrication of a prototype microclimate cooling system for crews of the Bradley infantry and cavalry fighting vehicles.

The unit consists of a freon air conditioning system that cools water, which is then pumped through vests worn by the crew members. Designed to protect soldiers from heat exhaus-

tion even when temperatures inside the vehicle reach as high as 140 degrees Fahrenheit, it will be worn under the soldiers' protective clothing. The prototype unit is scheduled for delivery in late 1983.

ARMY RESERVE COMMANDERS should insure that any active component or Active Duty Guard-Reserve (AGR) full-time personnel who join their units get the training they need to perform their jobs.

The U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC) at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, is the Army's only school that provides formal instruction for the Army Reserve's full-time unit support (FTUS) force. It offers 26 courses that are tailored to meet management, administrative, logistic, or training needs at every level in the Army Reserve structure.

The complete ARRTC program of instruction and the Fiscal Year 1983 course schedule may be found in FORSCOM Circular 140-82-3. The circular also contains descriptions and prerequisites for each course.

Anyone who wants to attend classes at the ARRTC should apply through normal command channels. Personnel who would like more information should call AUTOVON 280-4147 or commercial 608/388-4147.

AMONG ARMY RESERVISTS, there have been some misconceptions about the participation of unit members who are more than 40 years old in physical fitness programs.

Although Reservists who are over 40 are not required to take part in organized periods of unit physical training, they must participate in a personal fitness program. AR 600-9, The Army Physical Fitness and Weight Control Program, requires this.

Even if a Reservist is over 40 years of age, he is held responsible for maintaining his fitness at a level that would enable him to perform his

assigned duties effectively in a combat environment.

PLANS ARE UNDER WAY to increase the number of Army Reserve units in Europe whose members are paid for attending monthly meetings.

The three inactive duty training (IDT) Reserve units now in Europe will be increased to eight. The number of drilling Army Reservists in Germany will increase to about 300, up from the present 125.

Reservists for the new units will come from Americans who are employed either by the U.S. Government or by civilian companies in Europe. They will be authorized 48 periods of IDT each year plus two weeks of annual training.

ARMY RESERVE UNIT COMMANDERS are cautioned that stress testing should not be conducted during inactive duty for training (IDT). Such testing is permitted only during Annual Training (AT) or Active Duty for Training (ADT).

The reason for this is a simple one: Reservists who suffer cardiac emergencies while undergoing stress testing or as a result of such testing while on IDT are not entitled to military hospitalization. And if death occurs, their survivors would not be entitled to benefits.

Stress testing can be hazardous, especially for Reservists who are more than 40 years old.

APPROXIMATELY 1,500 Active Duty Guard-Reserve (AGR) soldiers will join the Army Reserve full-time unit support (FTUS) force during Fiscal Year 1983.

The Army also has assigned more than 500 active component USAR advisors to FTUS positions. The additional AGR and active component full-timers will increase the FTUS force to more than 11,000. This will include 3,588 AGR members, more than 1,200 active component full-timers, and more than 6,700 civilians

serving in Army Reserve technician positions.

ARMY RESERVE aviation units should look for changes in some aviation standardization evaluations.

The Army's evaluations will now involve a scenario with the unit operations officer being given a mission for tactical employment. The operations officer then will be expected to plan the mission, conduct the mission briefing, and select the crews.

The DES evaluator, who will ride along as co-pilot, will check pilot performance and look for other factors such as the availability and use of mission equipment.

THE ARMY RECENTLY CONTRACTED for 21 tactical water distribution sets for the U.S. Central Command.

Each set consists of a ten-mile segment of six-inch hose, a 600-gallon per minute pump, and fabric tanks that can store up to 20,000 gallons of water. In operation, they will be used to deliver potable water to remote locations.

Delivery of the first set is scheduled for March 1983.

THE NBC TRAINING PACKET published by the Readiness Group, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, is no longer being published. The packet was originally published in 1980 and is no longer valid. The NBC NCO at the Readiness Group is available to assist in answering any question that might arise in the NBC area, or questions may be directed to the NBC School at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

