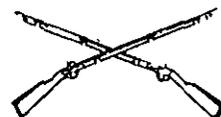




# Commandant's NOTE



**MAJOR GENERAL SAM WETZEL**  
Chief of Infantry

## A REPORT TO THE INFANTRY COMMUNITY

This is my last column as Chief of Infantry.

Historically, Fort Benning's goal has been to turn out the world's finest Infantrymen. Today, more than ever, it cannot do less, for never before in our history has the United States Infantry faced so many changes in its equipment, doctrine, force structure, and training. And as the most flexible, adaptable, and strategically deployable of the combat arms, the Infantry must be prepared to respond to the demands of present and future military operations anywhere in the world.

My predecessors began a number of innovative and far-reaching programs that had a tremendous effect on all Infantrymen. During the past two years, as we continued to build on those programs, we also began developing others to meet our ever-changing needs. Here is a short wrap-up of how we stand today:

### Proponency

- Commandant, USAIS now Chief of Infantry with proponency for all Infantry matters.
- Infantry strategic plan developed.
- CMF 11 being restructured.
- Infantry Professional Development Special Text (7-1) being produced.
- The Infantry Association re-established.

### BIFV

- Bradley fielded at Fort Hood in March, to be fielded in Germany in September.
- IOAC now getting Bradley tactics instruction; IOBC, IPCC, and ANCOB getting hands-on orientation.
- New Equipment Training (NET) for Bradley under way at Fort Hood.
- First Bradley Gunner, Commander, and Master Gunner Courses in session.
- Revised Gunnery Manual, FM 23-1, fielded.
- Bradley crewmen (11M) being trained at USAITC.
- Four dedicated ranges for Bradley operational at Fort Benning.

### Infantry Recruit Training

- Reception station at USAITC operational in August.
- Bayonet training being conducted.
- Pugil stick training introduced.
- More than 36,000 Infantry soldiers to be trained this year.

### USAIS

- Desert phase with live fire added to Ranger training (at Fort Bliss).

- Live fire added to Florida phase of Ranger training.
- Increased emphasis on water operations in Ranger training.
- Combat critical tasks being standardized at USAIS.
- NCO exchange program with Airborne and Ranger units implemented.
- Airborne training consolidated under one battalion.
- Dialogue 82 and 83 TV tapes fielded for transitioning to Bradley and Division 86.
- Division 86 transition manuals fielded for mechanized units.
- MOUT training facility under construction (German village).
- 11H track established in BNCOC; 11M track being established.
- New EIB program fielded.
- Training drills — crew, battle, and situational — ready for field validation.
- Five training texts and an ARTEP (HTLB TEP 7-999B) produced and fielded in support of High Technology Light Division at Fort Lewis.
- Comprehensive communications skills program instituted for IOAC.
- IOBC extended to 16 weeks with 80% of time spent in the field.
- AirLand Battle instruction implemented in IOAC.
- AirLand Battle 2000 concept development initiated.
- Task Force Combat Service Support Operations "How to Support" manual under development.
- Interactive video discs tested for inclusion in land navigation, MOUT, and leadership training.
- Infantry liaison teams visit NTC and divisions to validate, clarify, and develop "How to Fight" doctrine and to get feedback on our products.

We have a good dialogue with the field. Keep it up. Fort Benning continues to turn out a great product — from private soldier on up. The Infantry is, in my opinion, in great shape and getting better every day. We must never forget the noblest of all men — the aggressive and tough fighting Infantryman, with rifle and bayonet. He is what the Soviets fear the most. Never let him down.

Thanks for your help; I hope you will give Major General Jim Lindsay the same great help.

Practice combined arms — Make It Happen.