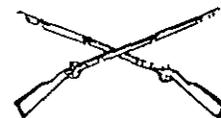


Commandant's NOTE



Major General James J. Lindsay

Chief of Infantry

It is a genuine honor and privilege to be your new Chief of Infantry and Commandant of the Infantry School.

In my first few days here at Benning I have been struck by the multiplicity of missions and issues with which the Infantry Center must deal. Obviously, to ensure that we resolve the real gut issues we will have to establish some priorities. At this point, I see our major priorities as these:

- **The Infantry soldier.** The Infantry soldier produced by Fort Benning over the past two years is the best I have ever seen. That must continue — recognizing that based on feedback from you, we will fine-tune his training as we move ahead.

- **The Infantry leader.** The greatest force multiplier in the history of our profession is the smart and tough leader who knows how to think on his feet (or while moving 40 mph in a Bradley) and make smart and timely decisions. Thus, the Infantry School must continue to produce officer and NCO leaders who fit that mold. Equally important, these leaders must know how to train, maintain, and prepare their units in the face of ever-present distractions and diversions. Just as we expect them to fight outnumbered and win, they must also know how to train in the face of the sometimes overwhelming distractions to training.

- **Weapons and equipment.** The best soldiers and leaders in the world deserve the best in weapons and equipment that our advanced technology can produce. In some cases, we have done a very good job of providing the best weapons and equipment: the Bradley, the TOW II, the squad automatic weapon, and the improved M16. In other areas much remains to be done: we must come up with a better short and medium range tank killer, we need to lighten the load of the infantry soldier, and we need to provide more reliable means of communications. And finally,

we must see that new equipment and systems arrive in a unit in complete, ready-to-fight packages.

- **Tactics and doctrine.** We must ensure that our tactics and doctrine fully exploit the total capability of our new weapons, our C³ systems, and our improved mobility. And because we will be in a transition period with mixes of equipment (Bradley/M113, M1/M60, M151/HMMWV) for the foreseeable future, we must be capable of fighting these units as integrated teams. In the same vein, strategic deployment limitations dictate that we get the most out of the combat capability of our light forces. We will work closely with the 9th Infantry Division in this effort.

- **Standardization.** We will never have all the resources we need, especially *time*. One area that more than any other offers us the opportunity to make more time available is standardization. We waste an inordinate amount of time training soldiers in "the way we do things here." There are wide variances in procedures even within the same battalion, brigade, or division. We can and must standardize drills, combat loads, and field operating procedures.

The team on board here at Fort Benning is most impressive. I am especially pleased to have BG Ed Burba with us. He brings with him an Army-wide reputation as a thinker and a trainer. We will work closely with the other members of the combined arms team.

Finally, we need your ideas, suggestions, and feedback if we are to successfully meet the above challenges. Knowing that those of you "in the trenches" have more than enough to do in handling the daily training and maintenance in your units, I realize that it is sometimes difficult to take time to worry about the challenges facing our branch as a whole. But, if we are to be successful, we must have input from those of you who know the situation and accordingly can offer the best ideas and feedback.