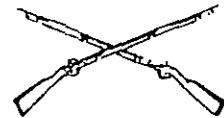




**Major General James J. Lindsay**  
Chief of Infantry

# Commandant's NOTE



## INFANTRY TRAINING CENTER

The Infantry soldiers graduating from today's 13-week Infantry OSUT (one-station unit training) program are the best I have seen in my 32 years in the Army. Making them the best is one of the essential tasks of the United States Army Infantry Training Center.

The professional drill sergeants and other cadre members at the Center see that these soldiers are totally immersed in training. This means constantly supervising them, correcting them on the spot when they need it, counseling, encouraging, motivating, disciplining, and caring for them. In short, it means taking a group of civilians and training them — in 13 weeks — to act, look, and *think* like soldiers so that they will be ready to take their places as Infantrymen in the Army's combat units.

The Center's training is conducted in four phases, with each phase integrating the skills the soldiers have learned in the previous phases. This cumulative process begins with the soldierization phase, employing skills the soldiers need to survive on the battlefield. These include physical training (which begins each training day of the 13 weeks), first aid, probing for mines, NBC tasks, and basic rifle marksmanship.

In the general subjects and individual training phase, the soldiers familiarize themselves with the M203 grenade launcher, the M60 machinegun, and the M72A2 LAW (Light Antitank Weapon). Antiarmor training, which includes the tank rollover course, is designed to instill confidence, and to teach each soldier, acting as part of an armor killer team, the proper techniques of engaging armor targets. Also in this phase, the new soldiers are introduced to camouflage, individual movement techniques, reaction to flares, and how to negotiate obstacles.

During the MOS-specific training phase, the MOS 11B soldiers go into squad tactical training, in which they learn to move as members of a squad. They participate in a squad live fire assault course and in a day and night squad defensive live fire problem. Their tactical training culminates in the Infantry Squad Mission, a series of situational offensive exercises designed to integrate and reinforce individual and squad-level skills.

Meanwhile, the soldiers selected to be 11C mortarmen receive 120 hours of training and gunnery qualification on the 81mm mortar. Later, they are introduced to the 107mm mortar, the fire direction center, and forward observer procedures.

During this training phase, selected soldiers receive additional antiarmor training with the Dragon (11BC2), the TOW (11H), and the Improved TOW Vehicle (11HE9). This particular training ends with a live fire exercise during which some of the soldiers engage targets using these weapon systems.

Toward the end of this final training phase, other 11B soldiers are selected to receive training on the Bradley IFV immediately after their graduation. During this three-week add-on course, conducted by the Infantry Training Group, these soldiers receive instruction primarily in performing operator maintenance and in learning how to drive the vehicle, both during the day and at night. Those soldiers who successfully complete this additional training have their 11B MOS changed to 11M.

The Center's emphasis on tactical realism, its reinforcement and integration of previously learned subjects into subsequent blocks of instruction, and its use of after-action reviews are all designed to improve the overall technical and tactical proficiency of new Infantry soldiers. These methods have proved most effective. At the end of the 13 weeks of training, for example, our average Infantry trainee has scored 268 out of 300 points on a rigidly enforced final APRT, and 92.4 percent on the tough, performance-oriented *Infantry qualification test* (POIQT) of 32 critical Skill Level 1 tasks. (In the future, a mid-cycle test on 20 tasks and an end-of-cycle test on 25 tasks will replace the POIQT.)

In short, by the time these soldiers graduate from Infantry OSUT they have been trained on all the entry-level Skill Level 1 tasks. The rest is up to their field leaders and commanders.

So that these commanders will know as much as possible about their new soldiers, each OSUT graduate is given a packet of information to take to his new commander. One of the things this commander's packet contains is a TRADOC Form 578-R. This form lists the tasks on which the soldier has been trained and shows his score on each of those tasks.

Also in the packet (in addition to vital administrative information) are the soldier's APRT (Advanced Physical Readiness Test) card and a weapons qualification card for each weapon on which he has qualified. (All soldiers, for instance, qualify on the M16 rifle, while MOS 11BC2s qualify on the Dragon, 11Hs on the TOW, and 11Cs on the 81mm mortar.)

Although these new soldiers are well-disciplined and well-motivated, they must be trained on the remaining Skill Level 1 tasks. They must also be integrated into the collective and individual training programs of their units to hone the skills they have already learned; they must be taught higher level skills; and they must be imbued with a team spirit that can only be developed through a challenging unit training program.

With the high standards set by our units and with leaders who lead by example and provide the right motivation, I can assure you that the Infantrymen we graduate will make the best fighting men in the world.