

INFANTRY NEWS



THE ARMY'S NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER EDUCATION SYSTEM (NCOES) is undergoing some changes.

For one thing, the Primary Leadership Course (PLC) and the Primary Noncommissioned Officer Course (PNCOC) are being combined. The new course, called the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), has been validated and will be implemented in the near future.

Another change involves the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC). In the past, each of the ANCOCs at different locations included tasks that met only the needs of the particular MOSs at those locations. But the Department of the Army wanted to develop a set of core tasks that would be taught to all of the ANCOCs.

This idea has been adopted, and the core curriculum will include six major categories: Leadership and human relations, effective communications, training management, resource management, professional skills, and military studies. The specific subjects that fall into these categories include, for example, the duties, responsibilities, and authority of the NCO; the NCOES and the NCODP; maintenance and supply management and the EPMS; safety; field sanitation; survival as a POW; land navigation; and NBC and tactical skills.

Since many of these tasks were already a part of the Infantry ANCOC, imposing the core curriculum on the course at Fort Benning caused only a few changes. The few tasks that were not being taught are now being phased into the curriculum.

Also being phased into the Infantry ANCOC curriculum is another change: The platoon sergeants and operations sergeants (or student NCOs about to take over these jobs in

a unit) will no longer be taught Skill Level 1 and 2 tasks as they have been in the past. They will be given instruction, however, in how to teach those tasks more effectively to the soldiers in their units.

Too, the new Army Regulation 351-1, Individual Military Education and Training, 15 January 1984, with an effective date of 15 February 1984, has recently been distributed to the field. This new regulation updates the policy that governs the qualifications for attendance at the various NCOES courses, adds information about the PLDC, and includes the adoption of the term "individual training and evaluation programs" (formerly known as skill qualification training). Several paragraphs have been added to cover Reserve Component NCOES training.

Battalion commanders and command sergeants major will be particularly interested in the Regulation's Paragraph 6-15, which tells them how to select the right soldier at the right time to receive the right training. It requires them to set up an Order of Merit list at battalion level (or equivalent) for courses for which they have the selection authority — PNCOC, PLC, BNCOC, and, when it is implemented, PLDC. And it tells them the qualifications their soldiers must have before they can be put on such a list.

The regulation also spells out their responsibilities toward their NCOs who are selected to attend an advanced NCO course, and specifically states that "soldiers who are not qualified will not be sent simply to fill a quota."

THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM has given us the following items of interest:

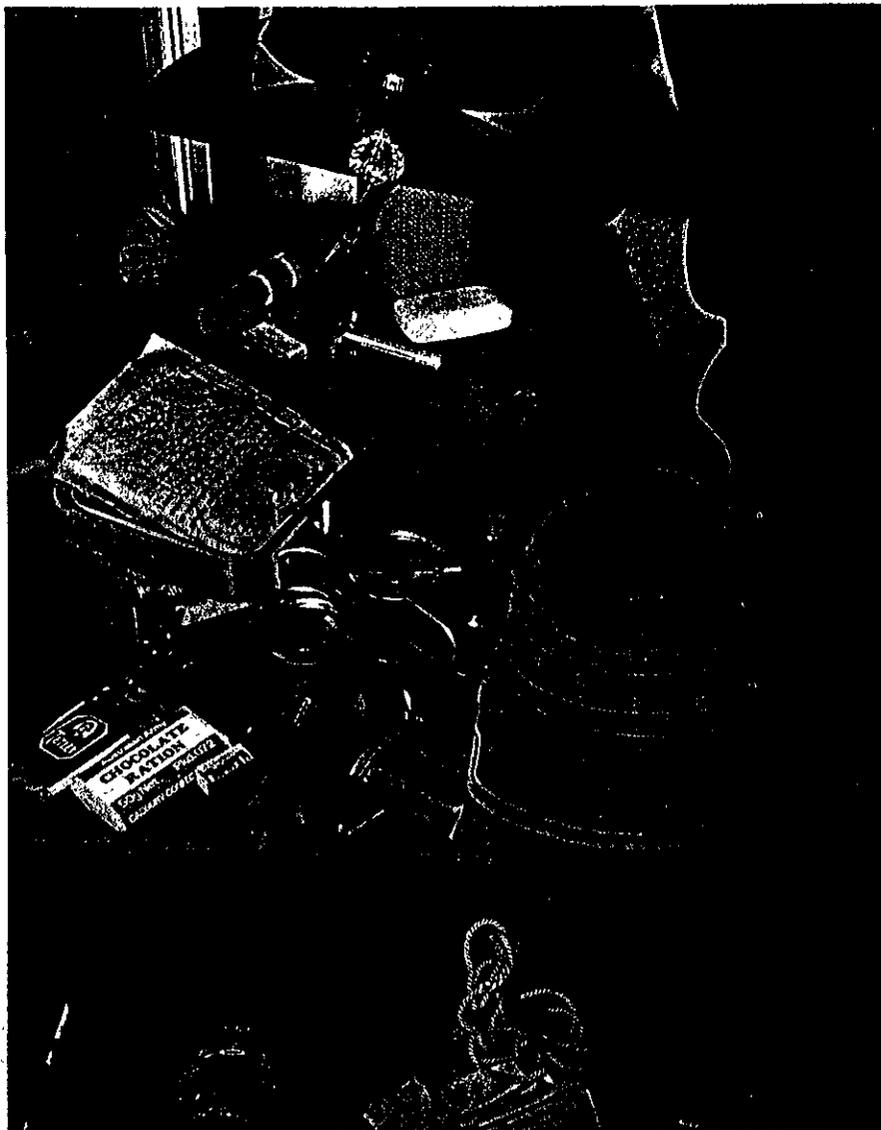
A number of items of historical property have been transferred from the Ranger Department at Fort Benning to the National Infantry Museum. Some of these will be used in a Ranger display that is being planned for a later date.

Plans are proceeding for the ceremony to honor the holders of three Combat Infantry Badges. A good deal of interest has been expressed and planners hope that a number of the recipients will be present when the plaque honoring the three-time badge holders is unveiled. When the plans have been completed, an advance notice will be sent to those concerned. Lieutenant General David Grange is the only three-time badge holder still on active duty.

Eleven World War I etchings by Lester G. Hornby have been added to the Museum's growing collection of military art. These valuable pieces were donated by Bernard J. Sandler, and will join those of such other important artists as Jo Davidson, Charles McBarron, W. Gilbert Gaul, Henry Gasser, and Aaron Bohrod.

Another valuable donation was a collection of original documents, news clippings, and photographs concerning the efforts made by John A. Betjeman in getting and keeping Fort Benning established during its early days. These were donated by Jack A. Bell of Columbus.

An important recent acquisition is a collection of Australian Infantry equipment of the kind used by Australian soldiers during the Vietnam War. Among the pieces are a small cookstove, 24-hour rations, machete, bayonet, and one of the famous 9mm Owen machineguns, which was adopted by the Australian Army in 1941 and used by Australian Infantrymen in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The Owen was used for



Portion of Australian exhibit at the National Infantry Museum.

the last time in combat by Australian forces attached to the U.S. Army's 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. The collection was presented by the Australian Exchange Officer at Fort Benning, Major Philip J. McNamara.

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 ARMY/AMERICAN Council on Education (ACE) has established an automated transcript system called AARTS to provide active duty service members, soldiers separating from the service, and veterans with a

document that itemizes their military training and educational achievements during their service in the Army.

The output is a hard copy transcript that will consist of, but not be limited

to, a description of a soldier's military training courses, MOSs, college level tests, and his other achievements, along with the associated ACE credit recommendations. The transcripts will be produced by a Department of the Army data processing activity.

The production and distribution of these transcripts will support colleges and universities that receive applications for admission and requests for credit from soldiers or veterans; civilian employers who might be considering hiring a veteran; the Army's pre-separation counseling program; and Army Education Centers that provide in-service counseling. The transcript system will also produce management and statistical reports that will support the Education Directorate, the major Army commands, and education service officers.

Since the transcript will be certified by ACE, its use should significantly increase the amount of college credit awarded to soldiers for their military experience. The descriptions and recommendations developed by ACE should also make it easier for potential employers to evaluate the applicability of veterans' military experience.

AARTS is currently under development with the first transcripts planned for the spring of 1984. The system will be operated for The Adjutant General's Office, Education Directorate, by the Army's Training and Doctrine Command at its Fort Leavenworth computer facility.

THE 25th INFANTRY DIVISION recently opened a new training site at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. It is the Bayonet Assault Course, officially opened on 29 November 1983.

The soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, with help from Company B, 65th Combat Engineer Battalion, developed the bayonet training program and built the course.

The Bayonet Assault Course contains two major training areas. In one, the soldiers are trained in the primary bayonet techniques, and includes practice targets and a hand-to-hand combat pit. When a unit completes its



25th Division soldiers demonstrate basic bayonet maneuvers.

preliminary training — usually about six or eight hours — it moves on to the actual assault course.

The course, set in a wooded area, has eight targets and ten obstacles, including log cribs, barbed wire, and hurdles. Smoke grenades, artillery simulators, and an M60 machinegun firing blanks are used to add realism to the training.

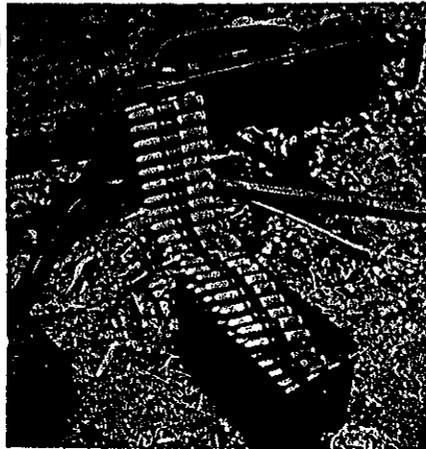
THE U.S. ARMY AVIATION LOGISTICS SCHOOL (USAALS) was established at Fort Eustis on 1 October 1983 as part of the Aviation Branch implementation. Its resources were furnished by the Army's Transportation School, which was formerly responsible for aviation logistics development and training.

The new school signifies the emerging prominence of aviation as a combat arm. It is dedicated to supporting the new branch and to coordinating aviation logistics with the Army's overall logistics program. The School is responsible for all career management field (CMF) 67 and officer specialty code (OSC) 71 training development, combat development, and resident and nonresident instruction.

The Aviation Maintenance Officer Course is being redesigned to establish an Aviation Logistics Officer Course (AVLOC) for OSC 71 officers. The revised officer course and a "how to support" seminar to be conducted this spring are among the School's highest priorities.

PICTATINNY ARSENAL in Dover, New Jersey, has developed .50 caliber plastic practice ammunition. The ammunition — M858 ball and M860 tracer cartridges — was type classified on 24 May 1983 and is expected to be in the hands of the troops by September 1984. Units in West Germany will be the first recipients.

The ammunition was developed by the Arsenal's Fire Control and Small Caliber Weapon Systems Laboratory (FSL) under the auspices of the International Material Evaluation Program. The rounds originally were to be standard off-the-shelf commercial items made by Dynamint Nobel AG in West Germany. But because of performance and safety problems, the Laboratory recommended that certain modifications be made to the materials in and configuration of the plastic cartridges. The improved cartridges were tested and met the Training and Doctrine Command's requirements.



Plastic training cartridges are fed into an M2 .50 caliber heavy-barrel machinegun. Every fifth round is a tracer.

The rounds consist of a metal cartridge head and primer that are press-fitted into a plastic outer case, which is integrated into one piece with the projectile and a plastic inner case with propellant. The tracer round also contains trace materials that exhibit a bright trace for more than 200 meters during flight.

The average muzzle velocity of the cartridges is 830 meters per second. The accuracy of the plastic practice

round at 150 meters is the same as that for the service-grade .50 caliber M33 ball and M17 tracer rounds at 600 meters.

The maximum range in terms of range safety for the plastic practice round is 700 meters. The round tip of the plastic projectile aids in keeping it within a short range by increasing drag, which causes a rapid drop off in velocity.

To use the rounds in the M2 heavy barrel .50 caliber machinegun, the weapon must be fitted with the XM3 recoil amplifier barrel assembly. This is assembled to the gun in much the same way as the standard barrel, the only difference being the use of three toggle-type bolts to secure the recoil amplifier chamber to the barrel support. The recoil amplifier barrel has gas ports that bleed some of the gases generated by firing into the recoil amplifier chamber, which provides a gas assist to the recoil operation of the machinegun. The force generated by the bled gases causes the barrel to recoil and the gun to function. Without the recoil amplifier barrel, the weapon could not be fired automatically with the plastic practice ammunition.

A special discriminator must also be added at the front of the feed tray. This device prevents the feeding of service rounds, which are slightly longer than the plastic rounds. Thus, it allows the feeding of the plastic rounds into the weapon and it serves as a safety feature.

The .50 caliber plastic practice ammunition will be used to support reduced-range gunnery training on tank and infantry weapon systems including target zeroing techniques, target engagement techniques, reaction to direct fire, and burst on target training.

