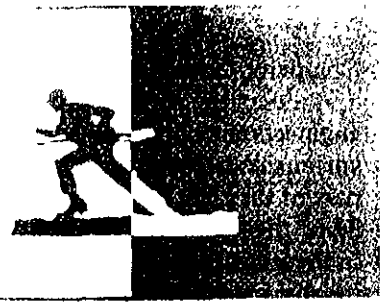
INFANTRY NEWS



A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE videodiscs has been developed by the Army Research Institute (ARI), along with other government agencies and contractors. This project, called VISTA (Videodisc Interpersonal Skills Training and Assessment), includes eleven scenarios covering such difficult situations as insubordination, emergency leave, and NCO performance counseling.

The Infantry School, one of the first training institutions to apply high-technology methods to leadership skills, has been using these videodiscs in Infantry Officer Basic Course (IOBC) training since June 1983.

VISTA has two instructional modes. One mode shows previews of leader alternatives and uses written feedback to inform the officer of the positive and negative aspects of the actions he has chosen. In this mode the officer is never allowed to go more than one step off the "best path."

The second mode is more like a simulation of an interpersonal situation. The officer receives no written feedback and can go as many as three steps off the best path before he either loses or salvages the situation.

The "correct" answers within the VISTA scenarios were determined by Army doctrine, counseling and management principles, and input from subject-matter experts.

The overall evaluation results have shown that this training approach is more effective than role-playing and programmed texts when measured by actual tests of the leadership principles the student has learned. Another advantage is that the training is standardized and open to comment or criticism. It is also potentially less costly than the traditional person-to-person training.

Student and instructor evaluations have also been positive; most students have indicated that a combination of VISTA and classroom role-playing was the best method. Experimental use of VISTA with enlisted personnel has shown that being exposed to an officer's perspective in difficult situations can change their attitudes towards officers.

Several other service schools are now considering implementing VISTA in their own leadership training.

THE FIRST EXPERT BRADLEY Infantry Squad Training Test (EBIST) was recently conducted by the 197th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized)(Separate), which is stationed at Fort Benning. Twelve squads competed during a two-day period.

The first EBIST belonged solely to Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, the Brigade's "Pioneers." That the Pioneers came up with the EBIST is fitting — their unit was the first BIFV unit in the Army.

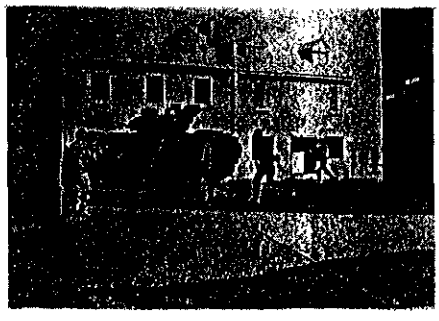
Although the Bradley carries a nine-man squad, for the EBIST the competing squads had only seven men. The EBIST events were determined by the personnel assigned to Company D, and there were 12 all told. Points were awarded on how well the squads placed in each event. The events themselves were geared to squad scoring to encourage teamwork and esprit de corps. In the future, the events can be expanded upon or changed, and it is hoped that BIFV units from throughout the Army will be able to participate.

Additional information on the EBIST and its various events is available from the Commander, Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, Fort Benning, GA 31905.

FORT BENNING'S NEW TRAINING site for military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) was recently completed and formally dedicated. Called Deutschberg, the mock German village was built by members of the 43d Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Group, which is stationed at Fort Benning.

The village consists of 30 buildings — offices, stores, apartment buildings, repair shops, a school, a Gasthaus, a bakery, and a butcher shop, plus individual houses. These buildings are all of concrete block construction, and three of them have flat roofs to allow safe landings for soldiers rappelling from helicopters. The village also has a sewer system obstacle.

To keep wear and tear on the buildings to a minimum, certain features have been built into them. For example, the buildings have "mouseholes" to simulate holes that would be blasted into their walls to gain entry, and all multi-story buildings have grappling hook bars built into the windows.



Over the past two and one-half years, in all kinds of weather, three companies of the battalion have alternated one-month periods of construction with their other duties, while a fourth company provided the heavy equipment they needed. Another company belonging to the 36th Engineer Group — the 586th Engineer

Company — built the sewer system.

Building the MOUT site gave these engineers an opportunity to practice various construction skills that are a part of their SQT training, along with 34 of their 149 ARTEP tasks.

Present plans call for the facility to be used by Infantry Officer Basic Course and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course students of the Infantry School and by units of the 197th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) (Separate). Later, soldiers in training at the Infantry Training Center may also use the site.

THE FOLLOWING NEWS ITEMS have been received from the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning:

The museum has received the uniform that Lieutenant Colonel Wesley B. Taylor, Jr., the commander of the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, wore during the combat jump his unit made into Grenada in October 1983. His uniform will become an important part of the exhibit that is now being developed to tell the history of the United States Rangers.

A World War II German *Kubelwagen* has been purchased and will soon be on display. This historic vehicle is a scarce item, and it will add a great deal of interest to the Museum's collection.

Other recent acquisitions include a gift of two World War II German field telephones that had been captured in a bunker near Berlin in 1945; a gift of a scarce Vietnamese Liberation Front Medal in mint condition; and the purchase of the 1851 Colt military revolver and holster of Moses Hannibal Wright, West Point Class of 1859. Colonel Wright commanded the Confederate Arsenal in Atlanta, and later the one in Columbus, Georgia.

The Museum is now making plans for celebrating its 25th Anniversary in October 1984, and for the Fourth Annual National Infantry Museum Five-Mile Run, scheduled for 13 October 1984.

The National Infantry Museum Society was formed at Fort Benning a number of years ago to assist the Museum with financial and volunteer support; it 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, AUTOVON 835-2958, or commercial 404/545-2958.

THE FOLLOWING NEWS item was received from the Infantry Board:

• **Laser Eye Protection Device.** Present battlefield scenarios suggest that the Infantrymen may find themselves confronted by an enemy whose tactics call for using lasers against personnel. This possibility poses a need to protect our Infantry soldiers from eye damage so that they can effectively carry on the fight. It is recognized that laser-protective materials placed in front of the eyes will significantly reduce the threat, but more information is needed about their effect on the performance of the soldiers on the battlefield.

The Infantry Board recently tested eight different materials to see how Infantrymen using the M16A1 rifle performed while wearing the laser-protective materials. Two three-inch squares of each type of protective material were inserted side-by-side in the frames of welder's goggles, thereby providing eight different test items. A ninth pair of goggles with clear glass lenses was used as a control item to obtain baseline data.

The materials have absorption characteristics that lessen the damaging effects of laser beams but have varying levels of spectral and luminous transmission. A neutral density filter with an optical density of 2-4 was used in some test events to simulate low light level conditions.

Nine riflemen fired a modified M16A1 record course nine times each, once while using each pair of test goggles and once while using the control goggles. The test was conducted during bright light and under simulated low light level conditions. Data was collected pertaining to safety, human factors, and the goggles' optical properties.

Letterman Army Institute of Research will use the test results to formulate a decision on the further development of the protective materials.

SOLDIERS WHO NEED special consideration for their handicapped or gifted children or spouses are again being urged to sign up with the Army's Exceptional Family Member Program.

The program, which was started in 1983, attempts to match up a soldier's assignment with the medical or educational facilities the family member needs. Many soldiers who are eligible for the program still have not signed up.

For those who do sign up with the program, a new coding system should increase their chances of getting the right duty assignments.

Soldiers who want to enroll in the program should do so at their nearest medical treatment center.

THE ARMY TRAINING SUPPORT CENTER'S Bulletin Number 84-1, January 1984, contains a brief description of each fielded battle simulation for which the Army's Command and General Staff College is responsible. Also included are future developments in the simulation field and points of contact for obtaining information about simulations. This bulletin supersedes the Center's Bulletin 82-1.

Questions and comments are encouraged by both the Center and the College. They should be directed to the Commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, ATTN: ATZL-SWN, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027, AUTOVON 552-4612/2442, or commercial 913/684-4612/2442.

RESERVE COMPONENT SOLDIERS are now eligible to earn undergraduate college credits without attending classes by taking part in the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) examination and certification program. DANTES was established by Congress in 1974, with its primary mission being to support the voluntary education program of each of the active military services. This is accomplished by making available to military service members independent study programs and a diverse examination program, and by managing educational contracts for the Department of Defense.

On 1 October 1983, the DANTES examination and certification program was extended to include the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard, as well as the Air Force and Marine Corps Reserve components.

DANTES sponsors two types of examination programs — those that are funded (for which the examinee does not pay), and those that are not funded (for which the examinee does pay). Most DANTES testing is in funded programs.

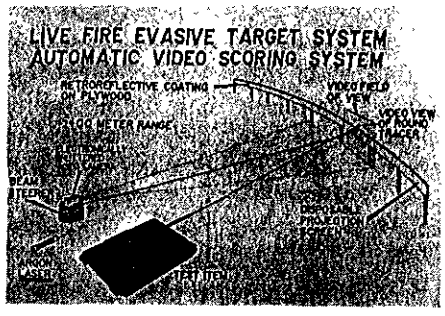
The Active Army has agreed to provide testing for its Reserve Component personnel through its installation education centers and to provide cross-service support to Air Force and Marine Corps reserve personnel. This means that eligible Reserve and National Guard personnel may test at any DANTES testing site.

THE RED THRUST STAR Newsletter 22, October-December 1983, contains some excellent comments on how the OPFOR is used at the National Training Center and gives the details of four operations that were conducted by the OPFOR against an armor task force during a recent rotation.

The newsletter also has an excellent reference guide of available OPFOR and unclassified potential adversary information, literature, training aids, and training devices. The guide can be removed from the newsletter and kept in a separate binder.

COMPUTERS, VIDEO EQUIPMENT, and a laser have combined at Aberdeen Proving Ground to reduce range operation costs and increase testing accuracy and efficiency.

The new development is composed of two systems: the live fire evasive target system (LFETS) — which simulates a moving target by projection techniques so that the system being tested can track, engage, and fire at it on live fire ranges — and the automatic video scoring system (AVSS), which provides the hit coordinates for the LFETS. With LFETS, rounds are fired at a projected moving spot of light and are scored as they pass through an imaginary target plane that



is defined around the spot of light. The target, a bright laser spot on a retroreflective disposable target screen located 2,500 meters down range, is projected by a four-watt argon laser. The green target spot is visible in broad daylight, and precise computer control allows unlimited target motion and exact replication for good statistical analysis.

An electronic circuited video camera is mounted to the LFETS beam steerer, which controls the spot motion. When a round is fired, its tracer is tracked as it appears in the field of view of the bore-sighted video camera. A skyscreen at the target generates a pulse as the round passes through the target plane, and the video and skyscreen pulses are sent to a processing system. Stop action video playback freezes the image to allow hard copying, and a processor calculates the hit coordinates.

Although these new developments are presently used only for testing new weapon systems, it is possible that in the future a similar system will be designed specifically for training applications, including a vehicle tracking training system.

TWO TACTICAL WATER distribution systems are now being fabricated for the rapid deployment forces of the Army's Central Command. Each system will consist of seven 10-mile segments of hoseline, 42 pumps, 14 water storage tanks, and 14 distribution points.

In operation they will be used to deliver potable water to remote locations. Water for drinking, food preparation, personal hygiene, and medical use can be pumped through the six-inch hoseline at 600 gallons per minute. At tank farms, the water will be stored in 20,000- and 50,000-gallon fabric tanks. Hoseline, 500-gallon collapsible drums, and tank trailers can then be used to deliver the water to forward areas.

Delivery of the system's components is scheduled to begin this summer and to be completed early next year.

A RECENT CONTRACT will bring the Army 182 more inertial survey systems that are designed to make field artillery operations more efficient. The systems are called Position and Azimuth Determining Systems (PADS); the Army has already purchased 99 of them.

PADS is a self-contained, inertial survey system that can rapidly provide position, elevation, and azimuth readings to the fire support elements of the combined arms team. It consists of three units: A computer/keyboard display, an inertial measurement, and a power source. The device is compact and can be easily installed on an M151 truck or an OH-58A light observation helicopter. The 82d Airborne Division also plans to install the PADS on the new high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV). PADS is many times faster than the conventional field survey methods and requires less manpower.