

# FORUM & FEATURES



## RC Exchange Program

CAPTAIN GEORGE B. HUFF, JR.

The United States Army has long participated in exchanges of individual Active Army personnel with other nations to foster professional military relationships between nations. Today, it has more than 100 exchange programs with 18 other countries. Although international personnel exchanges of individual Reserve Component soldiers have not developed on the same routine basis, there is certainly a similar need for them. The mobilization and deployment of soldiers of the National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve will necessitate the same professional military relationships that the Active Army personnel exchanges are designed to achieve.

Last year, as commander of a U.S. Army Reserve training company, I recommended that an exchange of officers take place between the U.S. Army Reserve and its counterpart in Great Britain, the British Territorial Army, to test the concept. As a result, with the help of Lieutenant Colonel Robin Drummond, the British Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, I had the pleasure of attending Annual Camp 1983 with the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The Royal Anglian Regiment is one of three regiments of The Queen's Division, which is one of six divisions in the British Army. The others are

the Guards, King's, Scottish, Prince of Wales', and Light Divisions. Together they contain all the old regiments of the line that have served the British Army and the United Kingdom so well for so many centuries.

These divisions and regiments, like those in our own regimental system, are administrative, not tactical, groupings and should not be confused with the infantry and armored divisions of the Field Army. The regiments now include both Regular and Territorial Army (TA) Infantry Battalions, and the TA is an integral part of the Army's structure. Its manpower and units, in fact, form a large part of the Army's fighting strength.

The main strength of the modern TA lies within its Infantry battalions, but it also has other units ranging from gunner and engineer formations to armored reconnaissance regiments. In addition to the major units, there are also minor units that vary from mapmaking squadrons to specialist signal units. There are even TA SAS units and battalions of TA parachute troops.

These units are made up mainly of part-time soldiers drawn from all walks of civilian life, and their equipment, in most cases, is exactly the same as that of the front line units. For territorial units, however, the accent is on wheeled rather than tracked vehicles. This has the attraction of

lower costs coupled with less demanding maintenance and training requirements. Thus, an Infantry support weapons company would carry its 81mm mortars in Land Rovers rather than in FV 432s, which are comparable to U.S. M113s.

Each member of the TA has to attend about 30 training days a year, of which 15 are at a training camp or establishment on a full-time basis. (Many TA members put in extra hours as well and in return are paid by a system of Regular pay scale rates and tax exempt bounties.) The minimum period of enlistment is three years.

The general standard of training is very high for the simple reason that the members are all volunteers who have joined only because they wanted to. The training is often hard; some weekend training sessions take place in the field under all kinds of conditions. TA soldiers often have to leave work on a Friday evening, travel straight to their training areas, and commence their training exercises immediately. To make the best possible use of the limited time available, the exercises often continue throughout the weekend without a break, and when the soldiers return to work on Monday morning, they often have had little rest.

The annual training camp is a full-time affair, and in many cases it takes

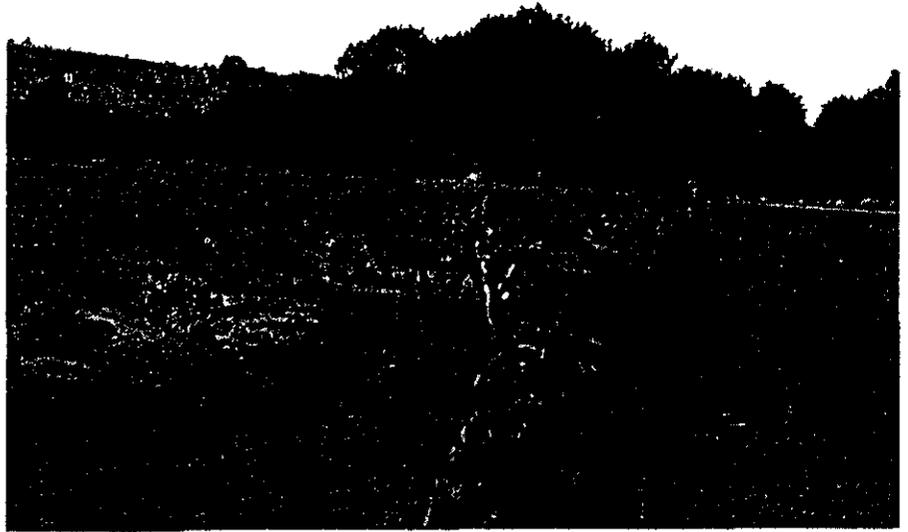
place in locations other than the United Kingdom. Units often travel to West Germany, and a small number of TA soldiers have even made journeys to the United States, Canada, Gibraltar, Cyprus, and other European countries.

The Royal Anglian Regiment became a regiment of infantry in 1964 as a result of a series of reorganizations and amalgamations of former county regiments that had been raised between 1685 and 1759. The regiment is an administrative grouping of three Regular Army infantry battalions and three Territorial Army infantry battalions. The Regiment's recruiting area is limited to East Anglia, a nine-county area made up of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire.

The Regular battalions are presently stationed just outside the university town of Cambridge (1st Battalion); in the ancient garrison town of Colchester (2d Battalion); and in Germany (3d Battalion, which is a mechanized battalion of the 1st British Corps). In the past two years, the 1st and 3d Battalions have carried out operational tours in Belize in Central America.

The Territorial Army battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment are situated in East Anglia with their headquarters in Peterborough (No. 5), Bury St. Edmunds (No. 6), and Leicester (No. 7). The 5th (V) Battalion and the 7th (V) Battalion, both wheeled infantry, have NATO roles, while the 6th (V) Battalion has a home defense role.

The 5th Battalion, to which I was attached on my visit, consists of a headquarters and headquarters company at Peterborough and four rifle companies — at Ipswich, Wellingborough, Chelmsford, and Hertford. In addition, five detachments of the battalion maintain separate drill halls in other locations for their platoons. The battalion headquarters and headquarters company is separated from the four rifle companies by distances of from 35 to 90 miles. The strength of the battalion is approximately 700 men.



Range firing with individual weapons (SLRs).

For its 1983 annual camp, the 5th Battalion concentrated at Prince Maurice Barracks, Devizes, Wiltshire from 3-17 September 1983, for training in the Salisbury Plains Training Area. The camp was staged to prepare the battalion for its NATO role exercises in West Germany in 1984. As a Territorial Army infantry battalion, the 5th is a part of the 49th Infantry Brigade, a TA brigade assigned for mobilization to the rear area defense of the 1st British Corps in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). Present were 324 officers and men. The rest had completed or would complete their annual training requirements by alternative or concurrent training at other sites.

The battalion training program was carefully planned, closely followed, and aggressively executed. Battalion officers met daily for afternoon conferences with the Battalion Training Major, who provided prompt support and training assistance.

The first week of the camp was devoted to battalion training "cadres," which actually are training courses for recruits, potential NCOs, radio users, machinegun operators, and drivers, and the second week to company and battalion field training exercises.

The 49th Infantry Brigade operated separate training cadres for Milan

(MAW) gunners, radio users, machinegun operators, and assault pioneers (combat engineers) to which soldiers of the subordinate infantry units were attached for training and administration. In addition to these activities, the 5th Battalion scheduled a march and shoot competition and fitness test and participated in the rugged Cambrian March Patrol Competition.

The march and shoot competition, held on the morning of the first training day, was a company-level tactical forced march to a live fire range. The four rifle companies were scored on an inspection of individual equipment, on their bogey march times to the live fire range, and on the number of hits on targets at 250 meters with individual rifles and machineguns. The competition established a momentum that was maintained by the battalion leaders throughout the annual camp. In the afternoon of that first day, with spirits high, the battalion training cadres began. My own schedule included participating in the battalion and brigade training cadres during the first week.

The 5th Battalion's recruit cadre picked up their recruit training where it had left off in the drill halls back home. The tasks required of the recruits at the camp were equivalent to the U.S. Army's 11B MOS tasks at Skill Levels 1 through 3.

(The first-term infantry soldier in the Territorial Army is ordinarily trained by a Regular Army drill sergeant during annual camp in a recruit cadre conducted by the battalion with which he enlisted, while the Regular first-term infantry soldier is trained at a division depot. Each division operates its own depot, and first-term infantry training may vary accordingly between regiments. A TA recruit may also attend a Regular training cadre at a division depot, but most are unable to be away from their civilian employment long enough to do this. Although there is not a British statute that protects a TA recruit from employment discrimination during an extended absence for military duty, most employers encourage their men to participate in TA training.)

The cadre for potential NCOs at the camp was designed to train selected private soldiers of limited experience to become effective Lance Corporals. The two-week course was tightly controlled using 12-hour training days, progressive physical conditioning, live fire ranges, and battle drills. The program of instruction was the equivalent of an 11B military occupational specialty (MOS) course including tasks at Skill Levels 1 through 5.

This cadre began with a timed three-mile physical fitness run in combat boots over a marked road course. The test, an annual requirement, is very similar to the running requirement in our Army Physical Readiness Test (APRT) in that the qualifying times are scaled according to a soldier's age. There was much competition among all the ranks for good scores, and the soldiers of the 5th Battalion scored excellent times. The remainder of the cadre day was devoted to close-order drill and ceremonies, methods of instruction, individual weapon training, and map reading.

The entire cadre was supervised by a Regular Army WO2, or drill sergeant. The results were remarkable. At the end of the cadre the students, including a TA officer candidate, were physically and mentally tough-

ened, were confident of their infantry skills, and had developed a noticeable enthusiasm. The battalion commander recognized individual excellence by presenting appropriate awards.

The aim of the radio-user cadre was to qualify the soldiers in radio/telephone procedures. The cadre began with classroom instruction on the message format and on sending and receiving. Later, the soldiers used the buddy team system for the field training of the radio users.

As mentioned earlier, the battalion also sent soldiers to an assault pioneer cadre operated by the 49th Infantry Brigade. Assault pioneer sections, similar to our combat engineers, are responsible for laying and clearing minefields and for the use of demolitions. The instruction I observed consisted of the clearing of a friendly minefield using electric mine detectors. A Regular Army sergeant also delivered a class and a practical exercise on the emplacement and removal of antipersonnel and antivehicular mines.

## TRAINING EVENTS

During the second week of the camp, the 5th Battalion staged company and battalion field training exercises. The commander of the No. 4 rifle company, to which I was assigned, prepared a map and aerial video-tape reconnaissance of the ground and presented a detailed operations order using the video-tape of the routes. The company's mission was to establish patrol and listening posts during daylight and darkness, and the video-tape technique was an interesting one. The execution of the company's mission included air-mobile movement by RAF Puma helicopters.

The combat patrols were led very much like United States Army light infantry patrols are, the principal difference being in equipment and terminology. A patrol leader controlled two team leaders with hand signals and voice commands; the team

leaders reacted aggressively and led their men by example. For tactical references, a patrol leader relied on the *Aide Memoire*, a pocket manual similar in content to a Ranger Handbook.

The battalion field training exercises were a two-day operation with the 7th Battalion. The 5th Battalion acted as the enemy force for the 7th, which was being evaluated for combat readiness on its annual report. The exercise, which did not include NBC clothing, was made up of defensive and attack operations, patrols, and listening posts. Umpires watched the events closely and awarded casualties and prisoners of war.

Support units provided troop-carrying and reconnaissance helicopters and a radio net. I accompanied a movement to contact and an assault in which the effective use of pyrotechnic devices, smoke screens, radio communication, and aggressive soldiers produced a coordinated battalion effort.

The Cambrian March Patrol Competition, an annual event that attracts the keen interest of Regular, Territorial Army, and other British and Allied units, was considered the climax or the final test exercise of a soldier's or a squad's annual training. The purpose of the competition was to test foot patrols of nine men in long movements over the rugged, mountainous terrain near Sennybridge Training Camp at Brecon, Wales. The competition was aimed at giving the fit, well-trained, and well-led soldier a chance to compare his standards against those of similar units. A patrol from the 5th Battalion completed this challenging event.

In addition to observing the training of the 5th Battalion, I also visited two Regular Army installations. These visits were particularly interesting to me because of my position as an infantry training company commander. The first visit, to the School of Infantry based at Warminster, included an afternoon stop at the Support Weapons Wing situated at nearby Netheravon.

The second visit was to the Queen's

Division Depot at Bassingbourn, which is an old RAF station in East Anglia. The Depot provides first term infantry training for Regular Army recruits of the Division's three regiments — The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The training cycle at Bassingbourn is 18 weeks in length, and there potential infantrymen learn about the history and tradition of their regiments and are awarded their cap badges. The program of instruction is somewhat similar to that given at the United States Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning, but it also includes swimming, football, basketball, and other team sports. The Regular Army recruit cadres consist of between 35 and 40 soldiers per cycle, and the rate of attrition is ordinarily near 30 percent.

As a follow-up to my visit in late

1983, Major N.H. Kelsey of the 5th Battalion, visited the Army Training Center at Fort Benning. Since then, 18 other exchange officer slots have been identified.

A continuing program of routine individual personnel exchanges between the Reserve Components of the United States Army and their counterparts in other countries could do much to foster professional military relationships among the participating armies. The cost would not be significant because the exchanges could be accomplished in lieu of the members' annual camps with their own organizations. Existing military air transportation could be made available for exchange personnel.

The benefits of such a program to the participants and their units as well would be significant — both personally and professionally. Their exposure to new approaches to training,

doctrine, and techniques could do much to stimulate their professional growth. And the exposure to officers and soldiers of another country would develop relationships between the countries on a personal level. Finally, the exchange of part-time soldiers who could also share their civilian life experiences would be a natural way to demonstrate a commitment to peace through strength and mutual support in the Free World.



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## The BTR: Ivan's Other Carrier

CAPTAIN SCOTT R. GOURLEY

The BMP, the Soviet's tracked infantry fighting vehicle — in its various versions — has received considerable attention in the West since its introduction in 1967. [See "Evolution of the BMP," by CPT David F. McDermott and CPT Scott R. Gourley, *INFANTRY*, November-December 1983, pages 19-22.] Meanwhile, the BTR, Ivan's "other" carrier, has been too often neglected or overlooked. Yet the BTR — *Brone-transporter* (literally "armored transporter") — has been an integral part of the Soviet Army since the end of World War II. United States forces have encountered the BTR all over the globe and probably will continue

to do so. (Most recently, for example, some of the first threat equipment photos out of Grenada showed two BTR-60s that had been neutralized by U.S. firepower.)

The Soviets have introduced several major families of infantry BTRs during the past 40 years — BTR-152, BTR-40, BTR-50, BTR-60, and BTR-70 — each with several major variations.

The first Soviet-built armored personnel carrier (aside from the BA-64 wheeled scout car) was the BTR-152. Although prototype development on this vehicle began immediately after World War II, it was not seriously introduced until 1950. With some

resemblance to a wheeled version of the U.S. Army's M3 half-track and (in its armor layout) to a World War II German half-track, the original BTR-152s were based on the ZIL-151 truck chassis. The truck's rear dual tires had been replaced by larger single tires, and the vehicle was powered by a 110-horsepower 6-cylinder ZIL-123 gasoline engine. The normal armament for the vehicle was a 7.62mm machinegun, but some versions were known to mount either a 12.7mm or a 14.5mm weapon. The BTR-152 could carry a crew of two and up to 17 passengers; it was not amphibious.

The Soviets, seeking to improve