

INFANTRY NEWS



QUALIFICATION STANDARDS for the squad automatic weapon (SAW) have changed with the addition of point targets at 600 meters and area targets at 800 meters.

FM 23-14, Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) M249, which was distributed throughout the Army in December 1985, incorporates the extended range tables and standards.

The qualification scores and ratings are as follows:

Expert	27-24
First Class Gunner	23-20
Second Class Gunner	19-15
Unqualified	14 and below

Units that have not received their copies of FM 23-14 should check to make sure they are scheduled to receive them through pinpoint distribution.

IDEAS ON TACTICS and training are being solicited from the field by the U.S. Army Infantry School in an effort to find better ways of fighting.

The School's Research and Analysis Directorate will conduct an initial evaluation of the ideas to determine the feasibility of adopting and implementing them into its doctrinal literature. Promising ideas will then be presented to the responsible agencies for deeper analysis.

Anyone who has ideas that may improve the Army's ability to fight may write to Commander, USAIS, ATTN: ATSH-RA, Ft. Benning, GA 31905-5000 or call AUTOVON 835-4673/3731.

MORE NONCOMMISSIONED officers should be attending the Infantry Mortar Platoon Course (IMPC) at Fort Benning. Historically, three times as many commissioned as noncommissioned officers have attended the course. A review of mortar unit TOEs shows,

however, that a reverse ratio is now needed to fill the units' needs.

The six-week IMPC, conducted by the U.S. Army Infantry School, is designed to prepare officers and NCOs to supervise and direct the fire of a mortar platoon in support of infantry combat operations.

The course is broken down as follows: Mechanical training (32 hours), fire direction center procedures (96 hours), fire planning and forward observer procedures (9 hours), field firing exercise (24 hours), tactical employment of mortars (18 hours), and student examinations (30 hours).

During Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987, the School will conduct 12 IMPC classes per year with 79 students programmed for each. To meet the new officer to NCO ratio of 1:3, each of these classes should contain about 19 officers and 60 NCOs.

Field unit commanders are asked to help the School meet this goal.

Commissioned officers must be first or second lieutenants, either assigned to or on orders for assignment to infantry mortar units (Active Army or Reserve Component). Those assigned to units in CONUS must have served for one year as infantry or armor/cavalry platoon leaders and must attend IMPC in a TDY and return status. Lieutenants assigned to units overseas may attend in a TDY enroute or a TDY and return status.

Noncommissioned officers must be in the ranks of sergeant through sergeant first class/platoon sergeant. Active duty NCOs must have nine months or more of active service time remaining after

INFANTRY HOTLINE

To get answers to Infantry-related questions or to pass on information of an immediate nature, call AUTOVON 835-7693, commercial 404/545-7693.

For lengthy questions or comments, send in writing to Commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ES, Fort Benning, GA 31905.

completion of the course. NCOs may attend in TDY and return or TDY enroute status.

Both officers and NCOs must have minimum physical profiles of 111221. No security clearances are required.

Further information and assistance are available from Captain Kim, AUTOVON 784-2513/4308 or commercial 404-544-2513/4308.

A **USER'S HOTLINE** has been established at the U.S. Army's Natick Research, Development, and Engineering Center. The Natick Center is The Army's proponent for food, clothing, shelters, and air-drop systems.

After Natick's duty hours, a recording device will be available to take the caller's message, and his call will be returned the next business day.

Army issue and supply personnel are encouraged to use the hotline to report, discuss, or resolve problems with centrally procured and issued food, clothing, individual equipment, aerial delivery equipment, tentage, and rigid wall shelters.

The hotline number is AUTOVON 256-5341.

THE DIRECTORATE of Combat Developments has provided the following news items:

• **The Battlefield Management System (BMS).** The BMS, which is intended to improve the command and control capabilities of maneuver unit commanders, is being studied by the Infantry School.

As part of this effort, DCD project officers will be visiting these commanders in the field over the next few months to determine how the system can best serve the units' needs.

BMS will use automated and digital data information processing with existing

communications systems for the close combat maneuver force at levels from individual combat leader through battalion. The system will be able to process plans and orders (both graphically and digitally), provide navigational and terrain data, and transmit real time intelligence data and routine administrative and logistics reports and requests. Many of these functions will be automated.

The BMS will be integrated into the automated Maneuver Control System (MCS), now being fielded at brigade level and higher. (See *INFANTRY*, November-December 1985, p. 8.)

During their field visits, DCD personnel will actively seek the assistance of infantry commanders from platoon leader to battalion commander and will observe field exercises to determine the specific BMS needs for the infantry battalion. Some of the key issues to be discussed will be the critical tasks recommended for automation, levels of automation, and hardware/software requirements.

• **Small Unit Radio (SUR), AN/PRC-126.** The SUR, a handheld, more practical version of the present AN/PRC-68 small unit transceiver (SUT), will soon be in the hands of infantry leaders. (See *INFANTRY*, September-October 1985, p. 7.)

The SUR will allow communications between the platoon leader, the platoon sergeant, and the squad leaders during dismounted operations. It will have a frequency selection between 30.00 and 87.95 megahertz and a range of three kilometers.

The new radio will be compatible with the AN/VRC-12, and AN/PRC-77, and the SINCGARS family of infantry radios. It will weigh less than three pounds and will be attached to a soldier's load-bearing equipment by means of a carrying case.

This issue of radios will be restricted to infantry and Special Forces units.

• **NBC Protective Mask, XM40.** The new NBC protective mask, scheduled for fielding during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 1986, is a hybrid of the current M17 and M9 protective masks. (See *INFANTRY*, September-October 1985, p. 11.)

The mask is equipped with an external NATO standard filter canister, which

can be mounted on either the left or the right side of the mask to accommodate firing weapons from either side; dual voicemitters for better communications; and a drinking tube for water similar to that on the M17 mask.

Some other significant features include larger eye lenses for greater visibility, a larger carrying case with velcro closures, and a filter that can be changed in 10 seconds.

• **Light-Fighter Chemical Protective Ensemble (Lite-Protector).** A need has been identified for an extremely lightweight "risk-taking" NBC overgarment that will offer a 30 percent reduction in heat stress and a 40 to 50 percent reduction in weight over the present garment. A key feature of this developmental item will be its low initial pack volume (100 cubic inches), which will allow the Lite-Protector to fit inside a BDU pocket.

This new garment would be used primarily by light infantry divisions and special operations forces during low NBC threat operations. Development should begin in Fiscal Year 1987, with a projected initial operational capability of Fiscal Year 1988-89.

THE PRESIDENT of the U.S. Army Infantry Board has submitted the following news items:

• **Mortar Ballistic Computer (M23).** The MBC is a small, hand-portable computer (7.2x10.5x2.3 inches) weighing 6.6 pounds. It is designed to be able to calculate all the fire control information needed to lay and fire 60mm, 81mm, and 107mm mortars with all the types of rounds designed for those systems.

It is a solid-state electronic computing device with a waterproof membrane switch keyboard and panel switches, circuit boards, display elements, and power supply. The MBC is powered either by self-contained throw-away or rechargeable batteries or by external power sources (AC or DC). It has two batteries—an operational battery, which provides the voltage for the control panel, display, microprocessor, and modems, and a "keep-alive" battery, which is incorporated into the circuitry to power the memory. The MBC is designed to accept

fire requests from forward observers through the digital message device (DMD), AN/PSG-2, over tactical radio or wire communications.

The MBC, formerly called the Mortar Fire Control Calculator (MFCC), was tested by the Infantry Board in late 1980. (See *INFANTRY*, May-June 1981, p. 7.) From these and other tests, the Army concluded in July 1981 that the MBC would be acceptable after specified improvements had been incorporated into it.

In March 1985 the 197th Infantry Brigade was designated to be the first unit equipped with the MBC. From October through December 1985, the Infantry Board conducted tests using the TOE 107mm mortar platoons from the brigade.

The functional performance of the MBC was tested during both nonfiring and live-fire exercises. During the nonfiring exercises, the MBC operators performed some representative tasks required of FDC personnel during mortar platoon tactical exercises. These tasks included computing firing data for 60mm, 81mm, and 107mm mortars, with the MBC operators computing data for their respective platoons.

During both types of exercise, the mortar platoons were supported by FIST personnel (forward observers) who transmitted requests for fire and other information to the FDC over normal communications lines using both voice and the DMD.

To determine whether deficiencies and shortcomings detected during previous testing had been corrected, specific test events required the MBC operators to compute the firing data not obtained during the normal nonfiring or live-fire exercises.

During all testing, data was collected on reliability, availability, and maintainability; logistics supportability; human factors; and safety.

These test results will be used by the Infantry School to ensure that the system is ready to be fielded.

• **Mini Eyesafe Laser Infrared Observation Set (MELIOS).** Two prototype mini laser rangefinders were tested at Fort Benning in 1979. (See *INFANTRY*, May-June 1980, p. 8.) In 1982, a decision was made to develop an eyesafe

system, now called the MELIOS, AN/PVS-6.

A small, lightweight, handheld device, the MELIOS was designed to meet ranging needs out to the maximum range of infantry weapon systems with a required accuracy of plus or minus five meters. It has a monocular optical sighting telescope with 5X to 7X magnification and a seven-degree field of view. The range is displayed digitally when the read-out switch is activated. Prototypes from two contractors were recently provided to the Infantry Board for testing.

Fifty-four combat arms soldiers (MOS series 11 and 19) from the 197th Infantry Brigade and the 29th Infantry Regiment participated in the first operational test of the MELIOS, conducted by the Board last fall. These test soldiers included small unit leaders, vehicle commanders, direct fire and indirect fire weapon gunners, and reconnaissance personnel. All of them were proficient in map reading and in the current range estimation techniques (visual range estimation aided by binoculars, compass, and map).

Side-by-side comparative tests of the two prototypes and the current range estimation techniques were conducted. Ranging exercises against single and multiple target arrays at ranges out to 4,000 meters were conducted from a mounted position in the commander's hatch of the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, from a building, and from a dismounted position on the ground using the prone, kneeling, and foxhole body positions.

Reliability, availability, and maintainability; logistical supportability; human factors; and safety data was collected throughout the tests. Night signature and ranging under illumination were also tested.

These test results will be used by the Infantry School in developing the validation In-Process Review position for MELIOS.

THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM has provided the following news items:

A large prisoner-of-war exhibit was opened at the Museum following the

rededication of a prisoner-of-war monument that was transferred to Fort Benning from the City of Columbus, Georgia, in November 1985. (See *INFANTRY*, January-February 1986, pp. 8-9.) The monument had been erected following World War II in remembrance of all the soldiers who died while imprisoned. The father-in-law of such a soldier had originated the idea and led the drive for the monument. Members of the family of that prisoner were present for the rededication ceremony and, as previously reported, Dr. Brooks Kleber, himself a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II, was the speaker for the occasion.



The POW exhibit includes a large number of artifacts that belonged to Colonel Ray M. O'Day, donated by his son, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Nat O'Day.

Colonel O'Day survived the Bataan death march in 1942 and spent the remainder of the war a prisoner of the Japanese. In the camp he earned the nickname "Colonel Fix-It" and a camp saying arose, "Don't throw it away, give it to O'Day." He learned early to keep as busy as possible so that time would pass more quickly. With a crude selection of homemade tools and scraps of anything he could get, he made a wide variety of items that the prisoners badly needed. He was also able to repair shoes and to mend and patch clothing, which was in short supply.

This exhibit shows items made or used by prisoners of war from the Civil War through the Vietnam War. Among these items are hand and leg irons used in Civil

War prisons, articles of clothing worn by American prisoners and those of other nationalities held prisoner by the United States, and personal articles such as letters, identification papers, and a Bible.

Also displayed are articles made by prisoners, such as playing cards, hammocks, underwear, clothespins, and various carved objects. One object, a large American flag made by prisoners at a German POW camp, was assembled from scraps of cloth and crudely hand sewn with the stars glued on. This flag was raised above the camp on 6 April 1945, just after its liberation by the 95th Infantry Division.

The prisoner-of-war exhibit, a moving tribute to U.S. prisoners of war, serves as a reminder of the sacrifices they made. The accompanying photographs show some of the items in the exhibit.

The Museum continues to receive donations of articles that improve its collection. A number of unit histories have been donated recently, as well as regimental crests and historical photographs. The Lizzie Rutherford Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy donated a copy of the book *City of Progress, A History of Columbus, Georgia, 1828-1978*, an important reference source on the area and its people.

Other items donated include World War II brown leather boots worn by the donor's father throughout the war; an 1808 booklet entitled *Military Companion* and an 1825 epaulet, both of which were used by an ancestor of the donor; and a U.S. Army Medical Department flight service chest.

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, 31905-5273, AUTOVON 835-2958, or commercial 404/545-2958.