

From The Editor

INFANTRY IS ALIVE AND WELL

INFANTRY magazine is NOT going out of business. Recent news items announcing the cancellation of the DA periodicals program have led many people to believe the magazine is on its deathbed. But those same news items also say that an alternative program is now being developed under which INFANTRY and the other service school magazines will continue to be published.

Further information concerning the new program will be announced as it becomes available. Meanwhile, the INFANTRY staff appreciates the concern of the magazine's supporters.

READER SURVEY

We recently completed a readership survey and want to thank those of you who participated. We sent two copies each to 600 infantry companies—both Active Army and Reserve Component—selected at random from our free distribution list. An officer in the unit was asked to complete one form and an NCO the other. We also sent surveys to 300 paid subscribers.

Overall, the results were favorable. In the surveys received from units:

- 66% said they regularly read all or most of the magazine; another 17% said they read some of it.
- 90% agreed that the magazine keeps soldiers informed of new developments in doctrine, tactics, weapons, training, and professional development.
- 76% agreed that it offers a forum for the expression of new ideas and individual opinion on issues.
- 66% found it a valuable training reference.
- 80% said it offers a new way for a soldier to acquire military knowledge outside his immediate duty assignment.
- 75% said it permits professional soldiers assigned away from the mainstream of combat arms activity to stay up to date on current developments.
- 88% rated the writing clear and generally easy to understand.
- 76% found the illustrations generally appealing and imaginative.

Of the many subjects you said you wanted to see covered more often, training techniques, tactics, weapons, and equipment, combat developments, leadership and counseling, and NBC warfare and training were rated highest.

Many of you were most kind in your comments about the magazine and the job we're doing. But the things you said you did not like have also given us some things to think about—and some good ideas to follow up on.

Some of the negative comments left us puzzled, though. One reader, for example, said we should "be bold" and publish articles by "young officers" instead of "generals and civilian specialists." Not guilty! In 1985 and 1986, 83 of the 172 authors whose articles appeared in INFANTRY were captains and lieutenants; only 6 were general officers, and only 9 were civilians. (Captains, in fact, were by far the most frequent contributors during that period—41%—followed by majors, lieutenant colonels, and lieutenants, in that order.)

As with previous surveys, some of you expressed opinions that directly contradicted one another: Some said we should publish more "controversial" articles, more opinion; others said opinion articles use space that could be better used for doctrinal material. Some said "how-to-do-it" articles were a big help to them in their jobs; others—one, actually—said such articles were "an insult to the intelligence" of the reader.

Obviously, even in a homogeneously Infantry audience, there is great diversity—officers and enlisted personnel, Active and Reserve Component, light and mechanized (and all the variations), and line and staff orientations—so, it is not surprising that one magazine cannot make everyone happy all the time. But we'll still try.

Finally, to the company commander who said he wished we would send copies of INFANTRY to his company, we can only say: Check your distribution channels to find out why you are not getting mail that is addressed to you. Every infantry unit in the United States Army, down to company level, is on our mailing list—or at least we try to see that it is! So if you, too, are frustrated and thinking your unit has been left out, go bug somebody about it. Or write us to be sure you're supposed to be getting the magazine. We want you to have it.

We pledge to all of you our best efforts in giving you a magazine that will help you do your jobs better, both now and in the future.