

# INFANTRY NEWS



FIELD MANUAL 23-1, Bradley Fighting Vehicle Gunnery, has been printed, and field distribution has begun. Distribution is being made by the contractor in accordance with the pinpoint distribution scheme established by the Army Publications Agency in Baltimore.

The manual incorporates a number of new or modified gunnery procedures and techniques, including range estimation, aiming rules, and boresighting.

The manual is complete with 10 chapters and 3 appendixes. Tables IX and X, however, have not been included but are expected to be distributed in Change 1, which will be published this summer. At that time, the tables will become Appendix D of the manual. Meanwhile, units should continue using the old Tables IX and X.

THE NATIONAL INFANTRY Museum recently completed a 100 percent inventory of its historical properties. With a collection of about 25,000 items, this was a monumental undertaking and required the help of all the Museum personnel.

Because the Museum has been favored with so many important donations of artifacts, the backlog of items to be catalogued and processed into the collection has become a major problem. While they have the potential of heightening the interest of the exhibits on display, several man-years will be required to catalogue them properly, in addition to the time that must be spent on conditioning, restoration, conservation, and preparation for display or storage. (A whole new technology for proper storage has developed, and it requires a great deal of time, care, materials, and expense.)

As a result, the Center of Military History has placed a moratorium of at

least three years on additions to the Museum's collection. During that time, the Museum must direct its attention instead toward processing its present artifacts. The Museum now has to regrettably refuse some donations it would like to accept and is steering such offers to other military museums that are considered appropriate for the items being offered. The curatorial staff will now have more time to spend on changing the displays, and

interested patrons can watch for new ones later in the year.

A new color brochure featuring the National Infantry Museum and its exhibits is being sponsored by the Columbus (Georgia) Convention and Visitors Bureau and will be available soon. Tourism officials have long recognized the Museum as a facility worthy of being included on schedules for tourists to the area and in publications that list and recommend attrac-



11th Airborne Division monument

tions for visitors and groups. Numerous photographs of displays will be included in the brochure.

The 11th Airborne Division monument that was mentioned in earlier reports is even more striking and impressive than had been imagined. Located across the street from the Museum, it is an imposing structure of concrete, granite, and bronze set in a grassy field with benches on either side of a walkway leading to the statue and *going around its base*. A large granite slab at the beginning of the walk is engraved with the 11th Airborne Division, paratrooper, and glider insignia.

The granite base on which the 6-foot, 10-inch bronze statue of the paratrooper rests is engraved on all four sides with a dedication statement, campaign credits and decorations, units, and the commanding generals of the division, which was active from November 1942 until July 1958. Completing the complex is a granite wall in eight sections, each engraved with the history of the division's service. It is a fitting memorial.

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.

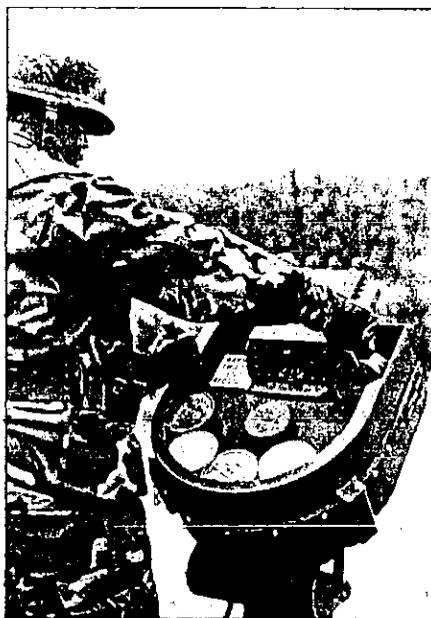
Additional information about the Museum and the Society is available from the Director, National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5273; AUTOVON 835-2958 or commercial (404) 545-2958.

FLIPPER, THE LATEST product in military mine-laying technology, is designed to augment the ground emplaced mine scattering system (GEMSS).

The new mine-layer works from the back of two-and-a-half-ton and larger trucks and tracked vehicles. Two soldiers can install the unit, which comes with its own carrying case, in less than ten minutes.

In operation, FLIPPER is a spinning

tire encased in a metal frame. Once the unit is in place, the driver steers the vehicle through the area to be covered. When the tire attains a predetermined speed, the operator unpacks a sleeve of



M74 antipersonnel or M75 antiarmor mines and places them on the FLIPPER shelf, then manually feeds them, one at a time, into the launcher. The mine falls between the tire and a raceway, is spun, and is given an arming signal. The mines scatter at a rate of about one in ten seconds.

The device is mounted on a vehicle with a clamp assembly and is connected to the vehicle's electrical system by a NATO compatible power cord and connector. The mine dispenser and a dust cover complete the system, which is stored neatly in a packaging box. It can then be shipped or air dropped to a using unit. FLIPPER was designed and built by personnel at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey.

Although FLIPPER is not as fast as the GEMSS, it is a low-cost effective method of laying mines. It also has the potential for use by light infantry units that normally would not have an automated mine-laying capability. The first five are scheduled for testing by the Army in March 1989.

THE U.S. ARMY INFANTRY BOARD reports that the MILAN 2 is

being tested to determine its merits as a supplementary interim medium anti-tank system (SIMATS). SIMATS is to supplement the fielded Dragon systems until the advanced antiarmor weapon system—medium (AAWS-M) is adopted. The test criteria for SIMATS are the same as those stated in the AAWS-M required operational capability document.

The U.S. Army Missile Command (MICOM) conducted technical testing of the MILAN 2 in the summer of 1986, and the Infantry School conducted a limited assessment of its operational portability at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. This testing was followed by an initial operational test and evaluation (IOTE) conducted by the Infantry Board at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The MILAN 2 is a man-portable (81.6 pounds), medium-range (25-2,000 meters) antitank weapon composed of a firing post and a wire-guided, spin-stabilized missile. The firing post includes the launch and control unit mounted on a tripod. The control unit contains a periscope, which permits the gunner to maintain a low silhouette while firing and tracking the missile. Each missile is housed in a separate container that serves as the launch tube for the missile. The MILAN 2 also has a battery-powered, air bottle-cooled, thermal imaging night sight.

The Infantry Board conducted its IOTE (1 October through 20 November 1987) to assess the operational effectiveness and suitability of the MILAN 2 as a SIMATS. Nine antiarmor crews, each consisting of a gunner and an assistant gunner from the 2d Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, participated in the test. Both crew members were qualified Dragon gunners and both served as gunners during the test.

After receiving instruction on the MILAN system from a British new equipment training team, the gunners fired a total of 80 missiles against moving and stationary targets during daylight and darkness to determine the system's hit probability. At the conclusion of the hit probability firing program, additional missiles were fired to assess the MILAN 2's performance in regard to multiple engagements, coun-

termesures, mission-oriented protective posture, and continuous operations. Three maintenance personnel in MOS 27E performed intermediate direct support and intermediate general support maintenance for the test systems.

Test data regarding transportability; portability; detectability; reliability; availability, and maintainability; human factors; and safety were collected throughout the testing. The test results will be used to support a Department of the Army decision on whether the system is suitable for use in high-priority units.

**THE NEW SCOUT PLATOON Leader's Course**, now being offered at the U.S. Army Armor School, will provide valuable training in scout platoon operations.

Although the initial fill of the classes will come primarily from the Armor Officer Basic Course classes, lieutenants from mechanized infantry battalions who have been selected to lead scout platoons may also attend on a temporary duty and return basis. They should attend just before taking over their platoons or as soon as possible thereafter.

The three-week resident course is designed to prepare lieutenants for planning, directing, and employing a scout platoon. The program of instruction includes basic reconnaissance skills, threat operations, planning and using indirect fire support, and advanced reconnaissance and security operations.

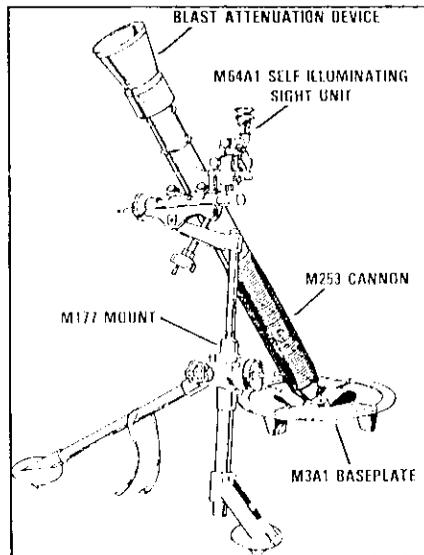
The course is structured to allow a low student-to-instructor ratio with classes of 24 students or less. The training will include two weeks of intensified classroom instruction and a difficult one-week field training exercise (FTX) that will reinforce what has been taught. Four examinations will be required—two written exams in the classroom and two performance-oriented exams at the conclusion of the FTX.

The pilot class was taught 16 Febru-

ary to 7 March, and nine more classes are scheduled for 1988. Beginning dates for these classes are 28 March, 25 April, 23 May, 16 June, 1 August, 29 August, 26 September, 24 October, and 21 November.

TOE units that are interested in sending designated scout platoon leaders to this course should contact Major Bob Wilson or Captain Paul Jussel, Cavalry Branch, Armor/Cavalry Tactics Division, U.S. Army Armor School, AUTOVON 484-6783/6235.

**THE NEW IMPROVED 81mm mortar system (I81)** was recently completed with the type classification of two new cartridges—the M819 red phosphorus smoke round and the M853A1 illumination round.



This family of munitions, intended to replace the current M29A1 mortar system, also includes two high explosive cartridges and two practice rounds.

The 81mm mortar began as a co-development effort with the United Kingdom that led to an improvement in the British 81mm smooth-bore,

#### 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.

muzzle-loaded mortar and its HE cartridge. The new mortar, later designated the M252 by the U.S. armed forces, has a stronger tube than the old one and also uses a blast attenuation device that diverts the muzzle blast and noise up and away from the gun crew.

The point detonating fuze on the British HE cartridge was replaced with the U.S. multi-option fuze. This fuze has a multiple-setting capability for either proximity (3-13 feet above the target), near surface burst (0-3 feet above the target), point detonating (function on impact), or delay (for penetration of bunkers, roofs, and the like) after impact.

The British cartridge's propelling charges were replaced with a charge system that is waterproof and more durable under severe handling and transportation conditions. The improved HE cartridge was designated the M821 by the U.S. armed forces.

A companion HE round, the M889, is identical except that it uses a less expensive point detonating fuze, the M935. This cartridge and fuze allow reversible selection between the point detonating and delay modes.

The current stockpile of 81mm ammunition can be used with the new system, and the improved ammunition can also be used with the old system at reduced ranges. All the fire control data for this improved family of ammunition will be incorporated into the recently fielded mortar ballistic computer (MBC).

In addition, a lightweight self-illuminating sight unit and self-illuminating aiming post lights make the night placement of the mortar easier. The new system also upgrades the current NATO-standard M3 series baseplate to the stronger M3A1 baseplate.

The 81mm mortar system, through the combined efforts of the United Kingdom and the United States, will strengthen the U.S. Army's airborne, air assault and light infantry battalions and the Marine Corps' fighting forces as well.