

From The Editor

WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

In our March-April 1988 bulletin we offered some tips on writing for INFANTRY. Here are a few more:

- We prefer clear, correct, concise, and consistent wording expressed in the active voice to flowery prose or military jargon. Most of the manuscripts we receive can be improved and shortened by cutting out meaningless and repetitious words and phrases. Be your own copy editor and improve your chances of having your article accepted.
- We edit all manuscripts as needed to conform to our style and standards of expression, and we often change titles. If you do not want us to edit your manuscript, do not send it to us, because we will not be able to accept it for publication.
- Our fully developed main articles are usually between 2,000 and 3,500 words long, but these are not rigid guidelines. Most of our articles are much shorter, and we use those in the Professional Forum and Training Notes sections. If you have only a short comment, suggestion, or training idea, it may fit best in the Letters to the Editor section or as a Swap Shop item.
- Above all else, do not "shotgun" a manuscript—that is, do not send it to more than one publication at a time. For many reasons, this is not an acceptable practice in the writing business. Some authors, unfortunately, feel that if they change a few words in a manuscript they are then justified in sending that "revised" version to other publications. This borders on the unethical.
- Finally, INFANTRY is not copyrighted. Individual authors may protect their works only by special arrangement.

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