

INFANTRY NEWS



THE ATTRITION RATE for the Master Gunner Course has been exceptionally high, and steps must be taken to remedy this situation.

The course, which is run by the Bradley Instructor Detachment of the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry at Fort Benning, is the premier course for Bradley infantrymen and is widely recognized as one of the most difficult courses for infantry soldiers. Neither the prerequisites nor the standards for admission have changed.

The Bradley Gunnery Skills Test (BGST) is administered before the course starts to ensure that the students have mastered the basic Bradley skills upon which the course will build. A review of student records for those who failed this test, or who later washed out of the course academically, reveals that a lack of Bradley experience and inadequate unit preparation are the most common causes for failure.

Commanders and students should know, too, that in accordance with Change 1 to FM 23-1 the students do not have access to field manuals or technical manuals during the BGST. This has caused some confusion in the field. As a result, some inadequately prepared NCOs have failed the test and have been turned away from the course.

Commanders and sergeants major should carefully screen their soldiers looking for sharp and experienced 11M noncommissioned officers to attend the course. The soldiers selected to attend should be notified well in advance of their class dates and should participate in a thorough training program in the unit that will prepare them to pass the BGST. The unit training program for potential students must be well organized and well run. Leaders must also see that the students are trained to standard, because they will be held strictly to the standard at Fort Benning.

Another problem that has arisen is one

of finances. Because the students are not allowed nonavailability for rations while on temporary duty at the Master Gunner Course, it is critical that they receive 100 percent advance TDY payments before leaving their units. (Army Regulation 37-106 authorizes commanders in the rank of colonel and above to waive the policy limiting advance TDY pay to 80 percent.)

Although a message addressing this problem has gone to the field, students continue to arrive with little or no advance pay.

During some recent classes, a full day had to be taken from the program of instruction and dedicated to dealing with students' financial problems. This unprogrammed deviation from the POI required accelerated instruction in other areas to get the classes back on track. Ensuring that the students receive full advance pay will ease the financial hardships on them and their families and will allow them to concentrate on the demanding course requirements.

With the Bradley force maturing, the Master Gunner Course has been examined recently to see if it still meets the needs of the field. A revised, nine-week POI is undergoing staffing at the Infantry School for implementation in Fiscal Year 1991. This new POI will retain all the essential elements of the course and eliminate those that are no longer needed.

The instructor operator (IO) course will become a prerequisite for the Master Gunner Course effective October 1990 and will no longer be taught during the course. In addition, the senior instructor operator (SIO) subcourse will be shortened from 15 days to 11.

The advantages of this new POI will include smaller TDY bills for units, shorter separation periods for students, and up to three additional classes of 50 students each per year.

The point of contact at the Bradley Instructor Detachment is CPT Daniels.

AUTOVON 784-6136 or commercial (404) 544-6136.

THE NATIONAL INFANTRY Museum recently received notice of its recertification from the Center of Military History. As part of its preparation for the recertification inspection and evaluation, the museum staff has improved and updated the museum's story line and redesigned its exhibits, using new display techniques.

Many "new" artifacts are now being shown. The story of the infantryman has been brought up to date with displays relating to Operation Just Cause and current uniforms and weapons used by the United States Infantry.

Among the items shown in the invasion of Panama display is a Panamanian Defense Force flag that was captured 20 December 1989 by the 2d Platoon, Company C, 3d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, at General Manuel Noriega's military command headquarters.

Also shown are a Panamanian battle dress shirt, cap, and combat boots captured the same day and a Panamanian Defense Force machete like those presented to Panamanians who attended rallies in support of General Noriega's anti-U.S. policies.

Another section that has been added is one about the Infantry Board, established in 1903 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and moved to Camp Benning, Georgia, in 1919. The board's sole function has been to consider subjects that are vital to the infantry. A number of pieces of equipment tested are shown as well as photographs of equipment tested and of personnel of the 29th Infantry Regiment using that equipment as part of the testing process. From wool socks, steel helmets, guns, bayonets, and vehicles, the Board tested anything an Infantry soldier

could carry, wear, fire, eat, or otherwise operate.

Still another important addition to the museum is a gift shop called the **Regimental Quartermaster Sales Store**. The need for a gift shop has been recognized for several years, and it has become well established in the short time it has been in operation.

Examples of items offered for sale are postcards, T-shirts with various emblems and insignia (such as crossed rifles, Iron Mike, Follow Me, and the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle); mugs with Airborne, Ranger, or Combat Infantryman ~~Badge~~ **decals**; apothecary jars with various emblems and insignia; ~~baseball caps~~; books; posters; prints; canvas tote bags and aprons labeled "Army Wives are Special" and the Follow Me patch; silver letter openers that are replicas of the infantry M-1 bayonet, and pewter, pottery, and glassware. A mail order catalog will soon be available.

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 31905-5723; AUTOVON 835-2958 or commercial (404) 545-2958.

ACTIVE, GUARD AND RESERVE (AGR) soldiers who are not selected for continued service will be released from active duty 90 days after notification. The procedure applies to soldiers considered by the AGR continuation boards that convened in December 1989 and January 1990, and by all future boards.

Before the interim change was made to Army Regulations 635-100 and 635-200 in November, soldiers not retained in the program remained on active duty until they completed their current assignments.

Soldiers must go before a continuation board before the end of their first assign-

ment and then once every five years thereafter. Officer boards convene in January and July; enlisted boards in December and May.

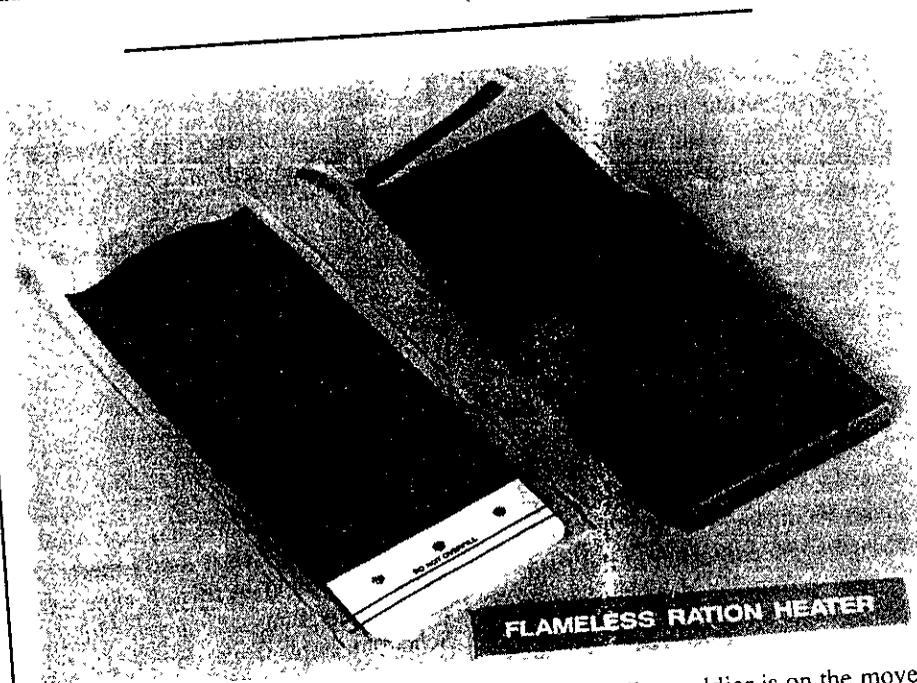
There are two exceptions to the 90-day rule: Soldiers serving their initial AGR assignment will be released at the end of that assignment or 90 days after notification, whichever is later; and any soldier not selected to continue may request earlier release from active duty.

Soldiers who have further questions about the change should contact their personnel management officers.

VETERANS OF OPERATION Just Cause are now authorized, by Army Reg-

ulation 670-1, to wear right shoulder insignia for former wartime service. Soldiers who were in Panama during the period from 20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990, and who participated in or supported wartime operations, may wear the unit patch.

The authorization includes soldiers assigned or attached to: U.S. Army South; U.S. Special Operations Command; XVIII Airborne Corps; 5th and 7th Infantry Divisions; 82d Airborne Division; 1st Special Operations and 1st Corps Support Commands; 193d Infantry, 16th Military Police, 18th Aviation, 470th and 525th Military Intelligence, 44th Medical, 35th and 1109th Signal Brigades; 7th Special Forces Group; 75th Ranger Regi-



A **FLAMELESS HEATER** for rations has been developed by the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development, and Engineering Center. The heater consists of a thin water-activated exothermic chemical heating pad, measuring 4½x3½ inches and weighing 20 grams; it is packaged in a 5x14-inch bag that has been sized to hold an MRE (Meal, Ready To Eat).

The system offers several advantages over the current canteen cup stand and fuel bar method: It takes less time and less water and does not give off a flame or noxious fumes. In addition, it will heat

an MRE while a soldier is on the move, and the meal will stay warm for an extended period inside the bag and carton.

To heat an MRE, a soldier places it inside the bag with the pad and adds two ounces of water. If the soldier is moving, he can then slide the bag inside the MRE's paperboard carton and carry it in his BDU pocket while it heats. It takes about 12 minutes to raise the temperature of an 8-ounce entree 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The heaters may be distributed to the field beginning in October 1990.

ment; and 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Veterans assigned to units not listed above and not attached to or under the operational control of any unit listed above will wear the shoulder sleeve insignia of U.S. Army South.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the freedoms of speech, press, and peaceful assembly, as well as the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

To support next year's bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, a newly published 35-page Army essay, "The First Amendment: A Resource Guide," traces the philosophical and political debate that led to the passage of this important amendment. The booklet also traces the historical path freedom of speech has taken since 1798.

Anyone who would like a copy of the booklet may write to Office of Chief of Public Affairs, HQDA (SAPA-LSMS), Washington, DC 20310-1510.

PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS exist for trained Defense Department-certified polygraph examiners who are in a Reserve Troop Program Unit, the Individual Ready Reserve, or the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program.

The Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) is interested in hearing from Reservists who have had prior military polygraph training and would be willing to undergo DOD polygraph training, if needed, to become certified DOD examiners.

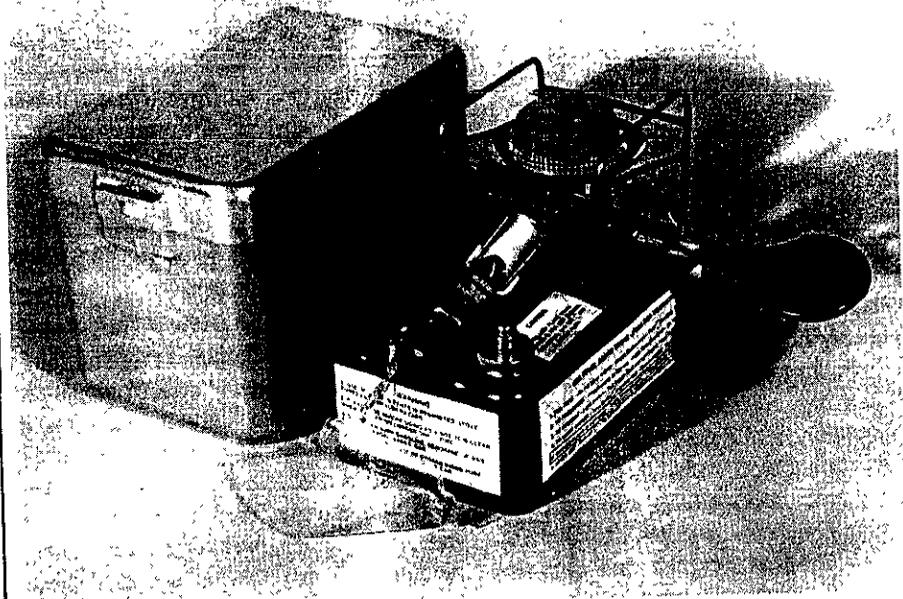
Interested Reservists who are qualified should contact COL Jim Hemenway,

Headquarters INSCOM, AUTOVON 229-1328, or commercial (703) 706-1328.

LOCAL RETIREMENT SERVICE offices conduct mandatory pre-retirement briefings that all soldiers must attend as soon as they have 18 years of active federal service. Then they must attend the briefing once every three years until they retire. Their spouses are also encouraged to attend.

The information provided is invaluable to potential retirees. The topics covered include the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP); the old and new G.I. Bills; disability retirement; terminal leave; allotments; identification cards; Department of Defense retirement; various Veterans Administration benefits; military health care; and retirement physicals.

Eligible soldiers should contact their local Retirement Services Office for details about the next pre-retirement briefing.



A MULTIFUEL INDIVIDUAL/Squad stove (MISS) has been developed by the Natick Research, Development, and Engineering Center. The stove burns any available battlefield fuel, including all grades of diesel and gasoline as well as turbine fuels JP4, JP5, and JP8, and it requires no preheating fuel.

The stove weighs 2¾ pounds, its case

doubles as a pot for heating up to six MREs, and spare parts and tools are included in the pump handle. It produces 8,500 BTUs per hour, burns for 1½ hours per tank, and will melt a caseful of snow or boil a quart of water in five minutes.

The stove replaces the current gasoline-fired M1950 stove.

