

# INFANTRY NEWS



## CHIEF OF INFANTRY UPDATE

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Chief of Infantry Update is intended to keep the field informed of actions that are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their infantry force.*

*Infantrymen are encouraged to comment on the items that appear here*

*and to suggest topics they would like to see covered in the future. Address your suggestions to Commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-TDI, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5593, or call DSN (Defense Switched Network) 835-2350/6951 or commercial (404)*

*545-2350/6951. (Beginning with this issue, INFANTRY will drop the old familiar "AUTOVON" designation for telephone numbers in the Defense Department communication system and use the new "DSN" instead.)*

DESERT BATTLE DRESS uniform (DBDU) design must take into consideration the various types of deserts and climates into which soldiers may be deployed. Each type of desert—mountain, rocky plateau, and sandy—has its own distinctive characteristics and range of temperatures, which can be from -50 to +140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Several major factors influenced the design of the current DBDU:

- Solar loading of the darker colors in the uniform in extreme high temperatures.
- Durability (a severe problem in rocky deserts).
- High winds.
- Extreme cold temperatures.

The challenge of designing one uniform that would fit these environmental extremes required both technical testing and troop testing. This effort resulted in the selection of the current seven-ounce material as the best trade-off between comfort and durability for all desert environments.

The standard DBDU is made of a blend of 50 percent nylon and 50 percent cotton. The uniform has reinforcement patches in several areas—the shoulder area to prevent a possible burn from the solar loading of the darker colors, and the elbows, knees, and crotch for added durability.

Before Operation DESERT STORM, only about five percent of our armed forces were oriented toward desert operations. The onset of this conflict therefore left a severe shortage of all desert items, including DBDUs. More DBDUs were being manufactured. Because the new seven-ounce material was not available, however, 100 percent cotton DBDUs were also being made to meet the requirements. In addition, the basis of issue for Operation DESERT STORM increased from two uniforms per soldier to four, which further increased the requirements.

There is now a third DBDU project under the soldier enhancement program that is unrelated to Operation DESERT STORM. The improved DBDU is another attempt to find a lighter, more durable uniform for the desert. A test with the Sinai peacekeeping force this summer will evaluate three candidate fabrics to meet this need.

As a result of a recent evaluation of alternative desert camouflage patterns by the Belvoir Research, Development, and Engineering Center, the Infantry School decided to change to a three-color camouflage pattern for desert items as the six-color camouflage material is exhausted.

THE BALLISTIC LASER EYE protection spectacles (BLEPS) underwent user testing in late 1988 and early 1989 at Fort Benning, Georgia. The item should be considered an interim fix only. Technological advances available since the end of Fiscal Year 1990 may provide more complete laser protection.

Developmental testing in early 1987 included the first two levels of laser protection. Prototypes are polycarbonate coated plastic, engineered to provide frontal and peripheral protection against low mass, ballistic fragments (less than 300 milligrams) at low- to mid-velocities (less than 1,000 feet per second). Low power, laser hazard protection is provided by a snap-on front insert.

The Army procured 100,000 each for issue as a go-to-war package. Fielding of the interim spectacles began in June 1988 with the 2d and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiments in Germany. An additional 187,000 were purchased and sent directly from the manufacturer to Operation DESERT STORM.

The developmental program for the objective system continues and has been placed under the soldier enhancement program.

A NIGHT SIGHT BRACKET has been developed for the M136 antiarmor

rocket (AT4). The AT4, a replacement for the M72 light antiarmor weapon, was fielded without a capability for engaging targets at night or in reduced light conditions. With the Army's emphasis on night fighting and lessons learned from Operation JUST CAUSE, an operational need was seen for a night engagement capability.

The Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, in cooperation with the Infantry School's Directorate of Combat Developments, has tested several models of the night sight bracket and procured some in support of Operation DESERT STORM.

The night sight bracket clamps onto the AT4 tube and allows the mounting of an AN/PVS-4 night sight or an AN/PAQ-4A aiming light. In operational tests the system has been highly effective in allowing soldiers to engage and destroy threat armor under night and low light conditions.

THE LIGHT ASSAULT Bridge (LAB) Program underwent user testing and evaluation in June and July 1990. Because of major faults in the electrical and hydraulic systems, it failed to meet requirements, and the program has been terminated.

DA PAMPHLET 600-3 is being completely rewritten to align with major changes in officer management that include the following: The effects of the Leader Development Study and the Leader Development Action Plan; the establishment of the Army Acquisition Corps; the requirements for joint duty experience; and changes to the Military Qualification System (MQS).

The Infantry chapter is being completely rewritten. It will provide a new life cycle model template that shows the career path for Infantry officers who will be part of the Army Acquisition Corps. Templates that deal with Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve infantry officer development are being added.

The pamphlet is used to guide

personnel and career management decisions. It also constitutes the proponent guidance for Department of the Army selection boards.

All Infantry officers should read the revised pamphlet as soon as it is published and discard previous editions. It is expected to be distributed to the field in June 1991.

THE COMBINED ARMS and Tactics Directorate is revising many of the how-to-fight manuals for infantry units. Tactical SOPs are being written that will be included as appendixes in each manual. Several of these manuals have been reviewed by infantrymen in the field and are nearing completion:

**FM 7-7J, The Mechanized Infantry Platoon and Squad (Bradley)**, will be a pocket-size guide for small unit leaders. It will incorporate the 2 x 2 platoon organization and revised squad and platoon battle drills. It is due to be published in the first quarter of FY 1992.

**FM 7-8, The Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad**, is scheduled for publication in the fourth quarter of FY 1991, pending approval by Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). It will supersede FM 7-70, Light Infantry Platoon/Squad, September 1986. This new manual

A TOP SLING ADAPTER kit for the M16 series of rifles is now available through supply channels (NSN 1005-00-406-1570).

The kit provides about 12 inches of extension when used with the current sling, a top carry configuration that keeps the weapon in a ready-for-use position when carried. It also allows a soldier the free use of his hands when necessary without separating himself

covers light, airborne, air assault, ranger, and "straight-leg" infantry units. It will be pocket-size and will include revised platoon and squad battle drills.

**FM 7-10, The Infantry Rifle Company**, was distributed to the field in February 1991. It supersedes FM 7-71, Light Infantry Company, August 1987.

**FM 7-20, The Infantry Battalion**, is being reviewed for approval at Headquarters, TRADOC. It will supersede FM 7-72, Light Infantry Battalion, March 1987. The new manual encompasses the operations of light, airborne, air assault, ranger, and "straight-leg" infantry battalions.

**FM 7-30, The Infantry Brigade**, is being reviewed at TRADOC. The revised FM 7-30 will address light, airborne, air assault, and "straight-leg" brigades as well as ranger regiment operations. (A note in INFANTRY's January-February 1991 issue, page 8, erroneously stated that FM 7-30 would include the operations of heavy brigades. Heavy brigade operations are discussed in FM 71-3, The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Brigade.)

**FM 7-90, Tactical Employment of Mortar Platoons, Sections, and Squads**, has been reviewed by the field and should be in final draft form in the third quarter of FY 91. It includes updated information concerning mortar employment and provides users with a lethality

from his rifle. It has a spring-hook quick-disconnect capability when hooked through the front sight post or the front sling swivel.

Currently, 120,000 kits are available, and an additional 40,000 are being procured. The unit cost of the kit is \$1.87, and it can be requisitioned using standard supply procedures.

The Infantry School's POC is Richard Bicknell, DSN 835-5389/3630.

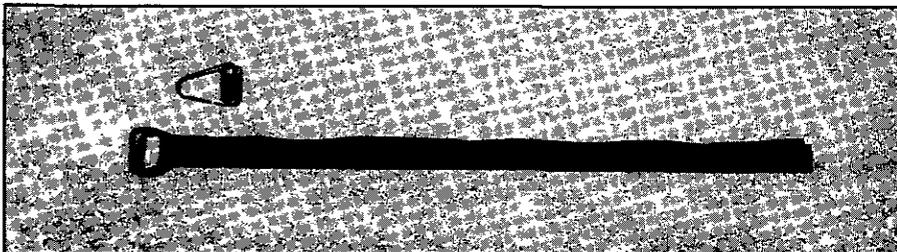


chart that will help them determine how many rounds are needed for the desired effect on a target.

**FM 7-91, Tactical Employment of Antiarmor Battalions, Companies, and Platoons**, will be distributed as a coordinating draft to infantrymen in the field soon.

**FM 7-92, The Infantry Scout Platoon**, is a new manual that covers the operations of scouts in light, airborne, air assault, and "straight-leg" infantry battalions. A final draft is expected in the first quarter of FY 1992.

These manuals will provide doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures that will guide our infantry forces for several years. The review of drafts by infantrymen in the field is critical to ensuring that the best products are published.

Questions or comments regarding these manuals should be addressed to the Doctrine Division, Combined Arms and Tactics Directorate, DSN 835-7114/4704.

**THE NEW SELF DEVELOPMENT Tests (SDTs) for soldiers in Career Management Field (CMF) 11, Skill Levels 2 through 4 (sergeant through sergeant first class/platoon sergeant), will be fielded for the first time during the 1992 test window. Soldiers in these skill levels took their last Skill Qualification Tests (SQTs) during the March-May 1991 test window. Skill Level 1 soldiers (private through corporal/specialist) will not be tested in 1991, and an SDT is not being developed for them.**

The SDT will consist of approximately 100 questions. Sixty percent of the test will be MOS-related, and soldiers should study their Soldier's Manuals for that portion of the test. The remaining 40 percent will be leadership and training questions. These questions will be drawn from the "SDT Packet" (FM 22-100, Military Leadership; FM 22-101, Leadership Counseling; FM 22-102, Soldier Team Development; and FM 25-101, Battle Focused Training).

Like the written SQT, the SDT will play a key role in determining NCO promotions, assignments, school selec-

tions, and retention.

The Infantry School POC is MAJ Quigley, DSN 835-1700, commercial (404) 545-1700.

THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS are scheduled to be fielded by the beginning of July 1991:

**FM 23-65, Browning Machine Gun Caliber .50**, provides technical information, training techniques, and guidance on this weapon. Unit leaders and designated gunners can use this information to integrate this weapon into their combat operations.

**TC 23-5, Bradley Fighting Vehicle Training Devices**, provides a general system description of the various training devices, simulators, and simulations that have been developed for use with both the M2 and M3 models of the Bradley vehicle. It also contains suggestions as to how the various items can be used for training purposes.

**Change 1, ARTEP 7-10-MTP, Mission Training Plan for the Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad**, adds training and evaluation outline "Breach an Obstacle" to Chapter 5.

In addition, the following coordinating draft was fielded in April 1991:

**FM 7-91, Tactical Employment of Antiarmor Platoons, Companies, and Battalions**, is the doctrine reference for the employment of TOW platoons, companies, and battalions. It provides tactics, techniques, and practices for TOW units to use in combat operations.

**ASSIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES** are available in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment—DELTA. DELTA is the Army's special operations unit that has been organized to conduct missions that combine rapid response with the surgical application of a wide variety of unique skills and the flexibility to maintain the lowest possible profile of U.S. involvement. DELTA's soldiers are therefore carefully selected and specially trained.

DELTA gives commissioned and non-commissioned officers unique opportunities for professional development.

Officers and NCOs undergo the same assessment, selection, and training process. After successfully completing this process, they are assigned to operational positions within the unit.

Commissioned officers will have added opportunities to command at the ranks of captain, major, and lieutenant colonel and to serve as executive officers and operations officers. Because of this training and experience, these officers also have a wide variety of staff positions available to them at the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. SOCOM, and other joint headquarters, as well as interagency postings.

There are also many opportunities for noncommissioned officers to serve in the unit in leadership positions and otherwise through the rank of sergeant major and to serve on senior staffs as resident experts and advisors on unique special operations. They will also be given increased levels of responsibility and the authority to complete their assigned missions. They will routinely operate throughout the world either individually or in small, NCO-led teams.

DELTA conducts world-wide recruiting twice a year preceding its fall and spring assessment and selection courses. Recruiting for the fall course began in Europe in March 1991. All other locations will be recruited from May to July 1991.

The general prerequisites for either an officer or an NCO are the following:

- Male, volunteer, at least 22 years of age, U.S. citizen, with no limiting physical profile.
- Active Army, U.S. Army Reserve, or U.S. Army National Guard.
- No history of recurring disciplinary action.
- Airborne qualified or volunteer for airborne training.
- Pass a HALO/SCUBA physical and eye examination.
- Pass a background security investigation and have at least a Secret clearance.
- Pass the five-event physical fitness qualification test (inverted crawl; run, dodge, and jump; pushup; situp; and

two-mile run) and 100-meter swim, all while wearing fatigues or BDUs and boots.

- A minimum two-year commitment upon selection to DELTA.

In addition to these general criteria, NCOs must be in the rank of sergeant through sergeant first class and have at least four years time in service, a minimum GT score of 110, and a passing SQT score in primary MOS (MOS immaterial).

Officers must be in the ranks of captain and major (branch immaterial), advanced course graduates, college graduates (BA or BS), with at least 12 months of successful command (company, battery, troop, Special Forces Operational Detachment-A, or aviation platoon).

Anyone who wants additional information may call DELTA's recruiters at DSN 236-0689/0649; or call (collect) commercial (919) 396-0689/0649.

DELTA is also interested in soldiers in the following MOSs for support roles: 33T3P/4P, 43E3P, 45Z4P, 55R3P, 62B3P, 71L3P, 75D3P, 96B4P/5P. For information on support prerequisites and assignment opportunities, NCOs who are interested may call DELTA's support recruiter, MSG Fred Johnson, at DSN 236-0960/0610 or commercial (collect) (919) 396-0960/0610.

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THE NATIONAL INFANTRY Museum was honored to receive the Governor's Award in the Humanities from the State of Georgia. Of the seven awards given, the museum was the only

institution to be recognized.

The purpose of the award is to recognize efforts to improve the quality of life in Georgia and to commend exemplary achievements that have fostered an understanding of cultural traditions and values in the state. A sterling silver medallion was given in honor of this recognition.

The number of visitors to the museum has increased greatly, probably due to the additional troops being trained and processed at Fort Benning during Operation DESERT STORM. The museum is happy to provide a facility that is both recreational and educational for these citizen soldiers and their families to enjoy. The museum also prepared a special display on Operation DESERT STORM that was shown at the Infantry School.

A portion of the museum building has been cleaned to reveal original sandstone architectural features, giving the building a much improved appearance. New carpeting has been installed inside. This \$30,000 project was paid for with nontax dollars, some of which were donations.

A recent donation to the weapon collection is a Swiss Vetterle bolt-action repeating rifle, Model 1881. It was captured on 7 December 1901 during the Philippine Insurrection, a period for which artifacts are somewhat scarce.

The gift shop has a number of items related to Operation DESERT STORM. The items offered for sale include *The Desert Shield Fact Book*, tee-shirts, posters, and coins.

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; telephone DSN 835-2958 or commercial (404) 545-2958.

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M-17 SERIES PROTECTIVE field masks were the subject of a message issued by the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command (AMCCOM). (See Maintenance Advisory Message 90-18, dated 311400Z August 1990.)

Subsequently, an AMCCOM memorandum (SUBJECT: Maintenance Advisory Message 90-18 Inspection Procedure Clarification, 7 January 1991) was also widely distributed. The memorandum contains detailed instructions for inspecting both the voicemitter housing and the drink tube lever shaft assembly, along with diagrams.

AMCCOM emphasizes that masks in the M-17 series will protect soldiers, if they are handled and maintained properly and not abused. Any soldiers and maintenance personnel who have not seen the message and the memorandum should find them and read them carefully.

