

INFANTRY NEWS



THE 2d ARMORED CAVALRY Regiment was redesignated the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light) on 1 July 1992 at Fort Lewis, Washington. The regiment, previously part of V Corps in Europe, thus became a part of I Corps.

At the same ceremony, the 199th Infantry Brigade (Motorized) was inactivated and its colors cased.

The 2d ACR was first activated 23 May 1836 as the 2d Regiment of Dragoons. It has seen action in the U.S. Civil War, the Indian campaigns, the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, both World Wars, and Operation DESERT STORM.

A NEW LIGHT COMBAT vehicle is being developed to provide a direct-fire punch in support of light infantry formations. The XM8 armored gun system (AGS) is scheduled to replace the M551A1 (TTS) Sheridan and to equip other light armor formations beginning in December 1997.

The AGS will have a 105mm main gun that is capable of firing both U.S. and NATO 105mm tank ammunition. It will also have a 7.62mm coaxial machinegun and a commander's weapon mount that can accept either an M2 or a MK19 machinegun. The AGS will be tactically and strategically air transportable to any area of the world in a ready-to-fight configuration.

Six prototype AGS weapons will be produced by March 1994. If these prototypes meet the system requirements during testing, the contractor will be awarded a contract for low-rate initial production. Procurement is planned for 300 systems.

Fielding will begin with the 3d Battalion, 73d Armor, 82d Airborne Division. The AGS will also go to the light armor platoons and companies of

the newly designated 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light), at Fort Lewis.

The Infantry School point of contact

is CPT Dan Carpenter, Directorate of Combat Developments, DSN 835-1078/1910 or commercial (706) 545-1078/1910.

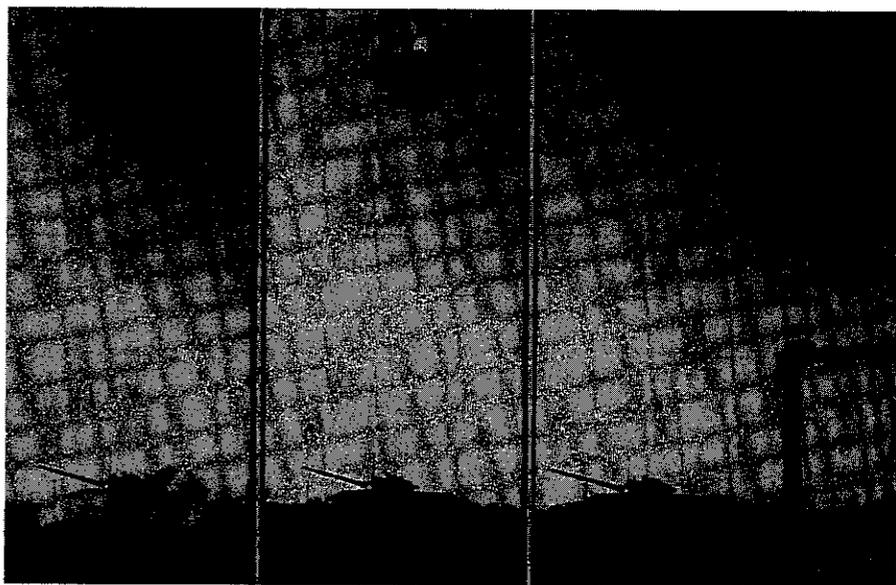
THE ARMY'S NEWEST "SMART" weapon has passed its first stand-alone test against a moving Soviet T-62 tank. The wide-area mine (WAM) used its on-board acoustic and seismic sensors to hear and feel the tank approaching. When the target got within 55 meters (some 165 feet), the mine spun toward the target, tilted 35 degrees to its launch position, and fired. The tank was moving at 15 kilometers per hour, or about nine miles per hour.

The WAM is called a smart munition because, once emplaced and activated, it acts on its own without any direct help. The WAM's memory contains the keys it needs to identify the sound and vibration patterns of most known combat vehicles.

The computer compares what is stored in its memory to the patterns it detects from a vehicle. If what it detects is a target vehicle, the system automatically locks onto the target, turns toward it, and fires a large munition (resembling a hockey puck) over it. When the weapon's downward-looking infrared sensors detect engine heat, a warhead is fired at the top of the target. Since the launch-to-strike time is so short, few moving ground targets can avoid being hit.

Future smart mines are also being designed to attack helicopters, and these will have a multiple emplacement capability.

The first WAMs should be in the hands of troops in five years.



Right photo: WAM (lower right corner) fires sublet munition at moving T-62 tank. Center: Munition is fired as sublet reaches optimum launch position. Left: Tank's fuel tanks explode from impact.

THE RESERVE COMPONENT Infantry Officer Advanced Course (RC-OAC) is changing from a three-phase course to a two-phase course, effective 1 October 1992.

Phase I, taken by correspondence, will consist of 19 hours of common-core material and 101 hours of Infantry-specific material. Phase II, a two-week resident phase, will consist of 111 hours of leadership, combined arms, and tactics instruction.

An officer will have to complete the correspondence phase before attending the resident phase. The time requirement for completing the two-phase course is two years from the date of enrollment.

For officers now working on Phase IIB of the three-phase course (the correspondence portion, branch specific) the original cut-off date was 30 September 1992. This date has been extended to 30 September 1993 for students who have completed Phases I, IIA, and III. Students who fail to meet this completion date will be disenrolled.

Students may apply for the new two-phase Reserve Component Infantry Officer Advanced Course beginning in October 1992.

THE FOLLOWING MANUALS, being prepared by the Infantry School, are scheduled for publication and distribution by November 1992:

FM 7-90, Tactical Employment of Mortars. This manual serves as the doctrinal reference for the employment of mortar squads, sections, and platoons. It contains guidance on tactics, techniques, and procedures, and guidance on how the mortar unit's fires and displacements are best planned and employed to sustain the commander's intent.

FM 21-150, Combatives. This manual contains information and guidance pertaining to rifle-bayonet fighting and hand-to-hand combat, which is divided into basic and advanced training.

FM 7-98, Operations in a Low-Intensity Conflict. This publication

provides tactical-level guidance to brigade and battalion commanders and staff officers for planning, controlling, and coordinating combined arms operations in a low intensity conflict environment.

A RIFLEMAN'S BREACHING munition (RBM) program candidate has been selected by the U.S. Marine Corps—the HESH-RAW (high-explosive squash head-rifleman's assault weapon).

The RBM is intended for use in all aspects of military operations in urban terrain (MOUT). Requirements for the munition include the ability to fire it from an unmodified M16A2 rifle and an M4 carbine, to use regular ammunition, and to fire from the cover of small enclosures and from every rifle firing position. The Marines also require that the munition be as light and mobile as possible while still providing enough power to breach urban barriers.

BRADLEY CORNER

BRADLEY INFANTRY AND CAVALRY fighting vehicles (M2 and M3) in their A1 models are being converted to A2 models. The updated versions began rolling off the assembly line at the Red River Army Depot in May 1992. All of the 1,100 A1 models now in the Army inventory are scheduled for upgrading and conversion during the next five years.

Improvements to the A1 vehicle include a special Kevlar interior liner (to reduce the shrapnel effect of exploding rounds), additional bolt-on armor, a new engine, new final drives, a new swim curtain, a modified transmission, hull stiffening, and devices to attach reactive armor tiles.

With these additions, the refurbished Bradleys are considered far more survivable in a combat environment than the earlier models, as demonstrated during Operation DESERT STORM in early 1991.

In the conversion process, the A1

vehicles are disassembled until only the bare metal hull remains. The hull and turret then go through a process called "burn out" in which brackets, studs, and other unneeded items are removed. Then excess holes are plugged or welded closed, and the hull and turret are converted by machining and drilling. New brackets, studs, hull stiffeners, and loops are welded in place. The remodeled hulls and turrets then go to the assembly lines where the component parts are installed.

The combat weight of the A2 model Bradley is about 64,000 pounds, compared to the A1's weight of about 49,500 pounds. Even with this added weight, though, the A2 Bradley can travel faster—approximately 40 to 50 miles an hour—because of its new 600-horsepower engine and improved transmission.

CHANGE 1 TO FM 23-1, Bradley

Fighting Vehicle Gunnery, has been sent to major commands for field review. The commands were asked to review it and disseminate it to their subordinate units for feedback.

The change contains the new proposed scoring method, Point Calculation Worksheets (PCWs). These worksheets are in the testing stage and not for full implementation. Units are encouraged to use the PCWs and provide their input and test results for tabulation to the Bradley Propensity Office, ATTN: CPT Barger, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, Fort Benning, GA 31905. The results of unit PCW scoring will be accepted as the unit's complete gunnery.

Personnel in the Bradley Propensity Office are available to answer any questions or provide assistance on the manual. Write to the above address or call DSN 784-6201 or commercial (706) 544-6201.