

INFANTRY NEWS



THE FOLLOWING MANUALS were prepared by the Infantry School and scheduled for publication and distribution by January 1993:

FM 21-26, Map Reading and Land Navigation. Provides a standardized source document that contains guidance on both doctrine and training; discusses orienteering, training materials, and devices to assist the soldier in land navigation.

ARTEP 7-7J-Drill, Bradley Fighting Vehicle Battle Drills. Provides a set of core drills for BFV-equipped crews and platoons. Although the tasks in the drills are standardized, their tactical employment is flexible. The goal of training is to produce a combat-ready unit that responds rapidly to enemy activity and defeats the enemy.

FM 7-92, The Infantry Reconnaissance Platoon and Squad (Airborne, Air Assault, Light Infantry). Describes the doctrinal and tactical employment of the reconnaissance platoon in airborne, air assault, and light infantry battalions. It provides the reconnaissance platoon's leaders with tactics, techniques, and procedures they can use to exploit its capabilities, reduce its vulnerabilities, and enable its parent battalion to obtain the information needed to win on the battlefield.

THE ARMY LONG-RANGE Surveillance Leaders Course is offered by the 4th Ranger Training Battalion, Ranger Training Brigade, at Fort Benning, Georgia. The 35-day course is designed for leaders in the rank of sergeant and above in active or Reserve Component long-range surveillance units.

The 4th Battalion is trying to increase attendance in the course and, at the same time, to make sure the students who are enrolled meet the prerequisites. Those who do not may be turned back

after arriving at Fort Benning.

Commanders and soldiers in these units should be aware of the following information on prerequisites and reporting:

- Prospective students must be either assigned to or en route to long-range surveillance units.
- Students must be airborne qualified and must have their current physical examinations and medical records in their possession when they arrive. Students who do not have these records with them will be dropped immediately from the course.
- Students must be prepared to pass

THREE PROTOTYPE M113/BMP-2 vehicles completed a field test last summer at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, California. The M113/BMP-2 combines parts of the M113 and the Bradley fighting vehicle, along with locally fabricated components.

The prototype vehicles were designed and fabricated at the Red River Army Depot to resemble the BMP-type armored vehicles used in large numbers by the former Warsaw Pact countries and in the armed forces of many other countries throughout the world. The BMP was one of the armored vehicles frequently faced by U.S. and coalition forces during Operation DESERT STORM.

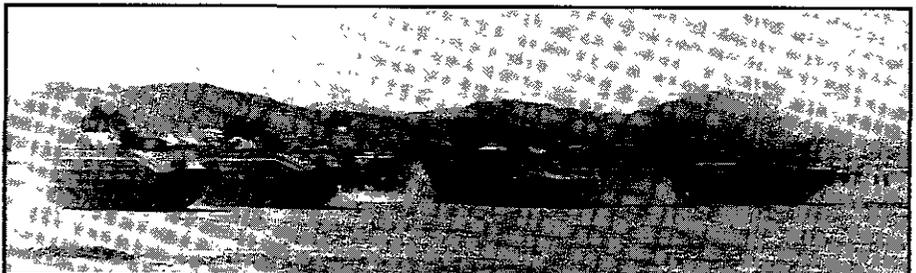
the following tests on the first day of the course: a written test and a day and night practical exercise on land navigation, the Army Physical Fitness Test, and the Combat Water Survival Test.

- Each class has a maximum capacity of 36 students. Interested personnel may secure seats through the Army Training Resources Requirements System (ATRRS).
- Reporting time is 0700 on the first Monday of the course.

Further information, including class dates, is available from SFC Silcox, Company D, 4th Ranger Training Battalion, at DSN 784-6831/6216.

If the vehicle is approved for large-scale production, it will be used at the Army's combat training centers to replicate a generic enemy force, fighting mock battles with the U.S. Army units training there. The vehicle has no real weapons, just a simulated gun barrel and an array of laser tracking equipment that give it an air of reality.

The NTC now uses visually modified M-551 Sheridan tanks to replicate the BMP-type vehicles, but the Sheridans cannot carry infantry dismount elements as the BMP can. The M113/BMP-2 solves this problem. And because it is made from U.S. vehicles now in use, with spare parts readily available, it should be easier to maintain.



The two vehicles on the left are prototype M113/BMP-2s. Second from the right is an M551 Sheridan tank, visually modified to resemble a BMP. At right is an actual BMP.