



# Commandant's NOTE

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## WARRIOR FOCUS—TAKING THE LEAD

In today's world, threats to our national interests can materialize quickly and in forms not possible even a decade ago. These threats—both foreign and domestic—can range from loosely organized groups to state-sponsored forces with almost state-of-the-art military equipment and skills. Such challenges cannot be ignored for long; the quick, unmistakable response of the United States and her coalition partners to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait both halted the extent of the Iraqi incursion and prevented their eventual control of much of the Middle East's oil reserves. As we move into the next century, we must retain this capability for rapid, decisive action, not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world as well. In this month's Commandant's Note, I want to discuss WARRIOR FOCUS, an advanced warfighting experiment (AWE) that will help us attain that goal.

The Infantry of the future must be able to deploy before an adversary can react, then mass overwhelming combat power, rapidly accomplish the mission with minimal losses of men and materiel, and redeploy. In order to do this, we must have the latest and most accurate intelligence we can acquire, be able to apply our combat power at the precise time and place it is needed, and achieve immediate, positive target identification to distinguish friend from foe. In short, we must be able to step onto tomorrow's battlefield armed with the best weapons our industrial base can provide, and with the tactics, techniques, and pro-

cedures (TTP) that can best defeat the enemy we are facing; that is what WARRIOR FOCUS is all about.

This AWE is noteworthy for a number of reasons, but two clearly stand out; the synergy between evaluation and training, and the level of analytical focus it will entail. In the past, exercises to evaluate doctrine, training, and equipment have often been executed at the cost of readiness; they were costly in terms of both time and money, and represented distractions in the training cycle of the units tasked to support them. Such is not the case with those units selected to participate in WARRIOR FOCUS; they will take part in this rigorous experiment while still being allowed to train on their Mission Essential Task List (METL). Every effort will be made to retain the training integrity of the exercise force, while still recognizing—and meeting—the pressing need for accurate, timely data collection. This warfighting experiment will include light forces (2d Brigade, 10th Mountain Division), heavy units (Team Cobra/1-41 Infantry (M), 2d Armored Division), and elements of the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 10th Special Forces Group.

The analytical focus of the exercise is at battalion level and below; while some insights relevant to brigade operations and manning will be gained as well, the lion's share of the data collection will be at the lower levels. This is critical, since any force design changes to Army Force XXI—and hence

Infantry Force XXI—will have a more direct impact on battalions and their subordinate units. The participating units will receive close scrutiny, as 59 systems and 74 initiatives from all TRADOC battle labs are tested and examined. WARRIOR FOCUS is an Army-wide effort, and is being supported by the U.S. Army Materiel Command, the Test and Evaluation Command, the Training and Analysis Command, the Advanced Research Projects Agency, Team Monmouth (elements of the U. S. Army's Communications-Electronics Command and the Program Executive Office-Command and Control Systems), and the Army Digitization Office.

WARRIOR FOCUS will enable the Army to determine the extent to which lethality, survivability, and tempo can be enhanced among the existing structures of light, heavy, and special operations forces by using advanced technology and the necessary doctrinal support literature. Should such improvements be impossible given the present force structure, then possible force design alternatives will be examined, although analysis conducted to date does not reveal any need for significant changes to the force structure.

WARRIOR FOCUS is a four-phase warfighting experiment. Phase I began in March of this year and will run through the end of May. In this first phase, the planning and design of the AWE have been finalized and the necessary equipment and the TTPs delivered to the participating units. New equipment training will also take place at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, Fort Polk, and Fort Carson. Phase II will run from 1 July 1995 until 7 October; it is here that unit train-up at squad through battalion level will be conducted. At the same time, baseline and experimental unit data collection will take place, and the digital and Own the Night DTLOMS (doctrine, training, leader development, organization, materiel, and soldier) initiatives will be integrated and employed in a collective training environment. This phase will conclude with an after-action review of Phases I and II.

The third phase will run from 8 October until 22 November, and will include deployment to Fort Polk, a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), and finally the units' redeployment to home station. While the execution of the AWE itself at Fort Polk from 6-18 November will receive

most of the attention, the results of the experimental unit data collection and analysis in Phase II will be closely examined as well, to capture any further information that can be applied toward enhancing force effectiveness.

Phase IV—the post-JRTC mission analysis of data gleaned from WARRIOR FOCUS—will commence on 23 November and run until March of 1996. It will assess the relative contributions of digitization and other improvements in Own the Night technology in the hands of soldiers in the real-world environment of a live training center. A valuable collateral benefit of WARRIOR FOCUS will be the opportunity it gives our soldiers and leaders to see and use the systems that will define the face of combat in the next century. But they are not the only ones who will benefit from this unprecedented event; the information gained from WARRIOR FOCUS—and there will be a lot of it—will be applied to the Army's Joint Venture initiative, which will design and develop Army Force XXI, in which Infantry Force XXI will be a key player.

The Infantry stands to gain a great deal from its support of WARRIOR FOCUS. The Infantryman will possess greater lethality than ever before through his ability to acquire targets and engage them more accurately than has been possible. Digital enhancements will enable commanders to precisely locate every soldier on the battlefield and rapidly transmit information and orders to all battlefield operating systems, and the greater number of first-round target hits will reduce ammunition consumption and enhance our ability to support the soldier. At the same time, survivability will be better than at any time in our history, due to the reduced likelihood of fratricide and the greater range standoff that our weapons permit.

This is what WARRIOR FOCUS will entail, and what we hope to gain from it. As our Nation enters the next century, the Infantryman will continue to be on the point while our Army carries out its responsibilities around the world. This Advanced Warfighting Experiment will ensure that the Infantry will continue to maintain that critical edge in technology, training, and leadership that has given us victory in the past, and that will ensure our country's future as leader among nations.