

From The Editor

PASS IT ON

Our Army and its leadership often look to the lessons of history to guide their efforts. The experiences and reactions of men under fire have been captured from every American war since the Revolution, and today we can retrieve and apply that information as we design and field our doctrinal, materiel and training products. In short, we can now draw upon the lessons of the past as we attempt to field the types of support the Army will need as we enter the 21st Century; this is absolutely essential if we are to conserve lives and wring the most value from our ever-diminishing dollars.

Operations at the National Training Center and the Joint Readiness Training Center are likewise getting higher visibility in recent months, as we attempt to hone the fighting edge of a shrinking force. We have come a long way toward overcoming the logistical, training, and materiel shortcomings that doomed Task Force Smith in 1950, but we cannot let our guard down as we prepare to deal with future adversaries. Today we have a force that can hit the ground, deliver the decisive blow, and return with minimal losses in men and materiel. Our readers continue to send us articles on their experiences in Haiti, Bosnia, Somalia, Macedonia, and other regions that were not even in our range fan a decade ago. We have also learned many valuable lessons that need to be remembered and shared.

Those lessons can be of tremendous benefit to other Soldiers and leaders, and you can help us pass that information along. Your experience and perceptions are unique, and we always need articles ranging from tactics and administration to such logistical subjects as refueling on the move, field maintenance, and rear area security. Logistical operations—for example—continue to present problems for units at the National Training Center, and a unit that cannot secure its CSS assets, refuel and rearm itself, and maintain its vehicles will be no more effective than one that has been overrun by the OPFOR.

So how do you submit your articles? As a minimum, send us a typewritten, double-spaced draft. If you can provide a disk in Microsoft Word, DisplayWrite 4, or ASCII, so much the better. Please do not send articles by e-mail; the system is overburdened, and it will not get you published any sooner.

What about art? Along with your draft, send only those maps, sketches, or tables that are needed to clarify the text. The text is—after all—the heart of the article, and art work should be used only when absolutely necessary. Please use standard FM 101-5-1 terms and symbols, and submit black-on-white camera-ready maps, charts, or diagrams.

Finally, please explain any acronyms that you use. In just the past two years, many new terms have come into the Army vocabulary, and many of our readers will not have seen terms in common use in your division or theater. (We spend more time than you'd believe trying to track down homegrown acronyms, only to find that a standard one already exists.)

In the past, I have tried to let authors know within 30 to 60 days whether or not we have accepted an article, but the present workload has rendered this turn-around time unrealistic. If you really need an answer, call me and inquire as to the status of your submission if you have not received a response within two months.

A final note, and one that applies to all publications: Please do not submit an article to more than one magazine at a time. While I understand that an inexperienced author may do this to improve the chances of getting published, we—like the staffs of the other branch magazines—must reject such multiple submissions.

We are headed for some exciting times, and the United States Army of the next century will have a big job to do. Deploying units may not still have the luxury of making mistakes, learning from them, and bouncing back. We will have to do it right the first time, because that is what our people and our allies expect of our nation's forces, and because we cannot afford to do otherwise. Send us your ideas and we'll help you share them with the entire Infantry force.

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