



Commandant's Note

MAJOR GENERAL CARL F. ERNST Chief of Infantry

THE INFANTRY—FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

The Infantry. Queen of Battle. Our mission: to close with the enemy by means of fire and maneuver, to defeat or capture him or to repel his assault by fire, close combat, and counterattack. We've been doing it—and doing it well—for 223 years. Our Army's values, the American Infantryman, and the Infantry culture that toughens him mentally and physically for the rigors of close, personal combat have remained constant ever since the Infantry was organized. This is true for all five types of Infantry: mechanized, Ranger, airborne, air assault, and light. In this Commandant's Note, I want to talk about where the Infantry stands today and where we're headed.

We must continue to provide the Army with clear, current, concise warfighting doctrine to address a wide range of contingencies. We must keep our doctrine current, if we are to remain competitive in the face of ever-changing threats to our national interests. We do this by developing the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) to support new equipment before it is fielded; we assess long-range requirements in order to train our Infantry to meet them; and we draft, staff, and publish the doctrinal manuals—and an array of specialized manuals—for all five types of Infantry. Twenty-five of our manuals are written by the Combined Arms and Tactics Directorate, 22 by the 29th Infantry Regiment, and four by the Ranger Training Brigade, including Ranger and long-range surveillance training and operations literature. The 11th Infantry is the proponent for Airborne doctrine, and the Army Physical Fitness School is responsible for an additional two manuals that institutionalize its own subject matter expertise.

The 29th Infantry Regiment is presently working an initiative to define new, higher marksmanship standards that will capitalize on the new small arms sights and scopes already being fielded. Watch for an article on this important adjunct to our combat power in the next issue of *Infantry*.

Feedback is an essential part of the doctrinal process, and we need your continued help in this area. Through our telephone and e-mail networks, we're linked with every battalion in the Army, and *Infantry Magazine* offers further opportunity for an exchange of information. Additionally, the Assistant Commandant leads the Infantry Traveling Team

during its itinerary to visit every major command having a high density of Infantry units once a year. Our Command Sergeants Major and selected colonels who represent Infantry School directorates accompany the team, and their job is to link up with field commanders and Soldiers to get face-to-face feedback on how we're doing and what we need to do better. Sooner or later, all of your feedback will be reviewed and eventually reflected in the products we distribute to the U.S. Infantry community.

One of these is the new draft Field Manual (FM) 100-5 that we plan to field for review in the immediate future. The strategic and operational material in FM 100-5 has led to the drafting of a new manual, FM 100-40, which is the equivalent of the tactical portion of FM 100-5. The new core leadership manual, FM 22-100, is in final draft, and commanders will need to take a close look at it when we field it for review, because whatever appears in the final product will be taught in the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, and the Infantry Captains Career Course, formerly the Infantry Officer Advanced Course. The Bradley gunnery manual, FM 23-1, has undergone revision, as has FM 90-10-1, the MOUT manual. What we do not yet have, however, is a brigade-level or combined arms MOUT manual, and we're going to get to work on that. We will also coordinate with Leavenworth to develop a MOUT manual for division-level operations. The Infantry Stability and Support Operations document, TC 7-98-1, is in the field, as is antiarmor doctrine that includes the Javelin fielding. Doctrinal changes are coming quickly: the ongoing MOUT Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration, and the gunnery changes that will accompany fielding of the A3 version of the Bradley will be added to existing doctrine.

At Fort Benning, tough, realistic training is the order of the day, seven days a week, 50 weeks a year. We've added Officer Candidate School (OCS) Phase III, the National Guard OCS; this used to be called the State OCS, but now its final phase is being consolidated at Fort Benning to support regional training needs. Machinegun training for Soldiers in one station unit training (OSUT) has been increased to eight hours, and will include both the M-60 and the M-240B. The OSUT FTX is now eight days instead of the previous five,

and includes a 12-mile road march at the outset and a 15-mile forced march on the last night. We plan to add one week to the 13-week OSUT program of instruction to cover training specifically focused on the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and physical courage. The entire course of instruction is intentionally more demanding, to close the gap between the types of Infantry, so that every grunt who leaves Fort Benning is—first and foremost—an Infantryman.

Ranger School has always been tough, but it's going to get tougher. More PT. More combatives: boxing, bayonet training, pugil stick training. Two airborne operations in the Camp Darby phase. A 16-mile forced road march, squad evaluations, and a buddy run. Rangers will get 18 hours of advanced land navigation, including orienteering, and will learn to use both the traditional map/compass and global positioning system technology. The mountain phase will begin with a deep air assault into Dahlongega and includes two patrol-based FTXs, with mountaineering in between. They leave the mountains in an airborne operation into the Florida Ranger training area. Coastal operations are once again part of the Florida phase, with more water operations than ever before. At the end of that phase, Rangers return to Fort Benning in another airborne operation and complete a 30-mile shuttle march before they graduate.

Building leaders is another important mission of the Infantry School. Power projection missions demand leaders who understand rules of engagement, the implications and demands of rapid deployments, and attaining and sustaining the OPTEMPO of units called upon for such missions. The professional military education of our captains is the cornerstone of success for deploying units, and we are focusing the Infantry Captains Career Course to better prepare our young warfighters for the challenges they will face. The course still teaches operations from company through brigade—with most of the emphasis on company and battalion operations—in a combined arms context, and students train using both tactical exercises without troops and simulations, and will soon have access to a new close combat tactical training facility.

Most Infantry officers can still expect to alternate between light and mechanized assignments, and we have the Bradley Leaders' Course for those going to Bradley units. The Ranger Training Brigade is drafting a new POI for a light leaders' course lasting approximately two weeks. Both of these courses will considerably reduce the learning curve for Infantry officers who will need to join a unit ready to deploy and do the job expected of them.

Noncommissioned Officer Academy courses are being restructured to close the gap between what NCOs in the 11B and 11M career fields are learning. This includes some add-on Bradley instruction for career field 11M NCOs. Mortar-men, career management field 11C, will also be getting improved technical certification, similar to what officers earn in the Infantry Mortar Leader Course. We're also making it easier for Infantrymen of any MOS to attend Ranger School, including making it possible for a Soldier to enter the Ranger course as soon as he completes the Basic Noncommissioned

Officer Course, which is now consolidated at Fort Benning.

The organizational structure of our Infantry will drive the way we do business, and the Infantry can only retain its resiliency through robust organizations that are manned, trained, and equipped to do the job right the first time. We have recognized that the small size of squads and platoons means that any casualties would degrade combat power to an unacceptably high degree, and your comments from the field have confirmed our concerns. We're taking a hard look at the future design of the Mechanized Infantry and the Force XXI Division, and the impact of constant personnel turbulence on readiness. The bottom line is that you cannot train a platoon to standard if you have squads that are zeroed-out or otherwise understrength. Our message to the decision-makers at Department of the Army is that we need full-size platoons and squads. We will continue to solicit your input on these and other issues of equal relevance to the force, and hope that you will continue to use *Infantry Magazine* as the channel for communicating your thoughts.

Airborne Soldiers will be interested in the Advanced Tactical Parachute System (ATPS), the proposed next-replacement for the T-10. The canopy is smaller than that of the T-10 and is about the same size as the current reserve parachute canopy. The T-10 currently in use lands a trooper—with equipment—at 22 feet per second. The new parachute employs the counterforce principle to slow the rate of descent to 15 feet per second immediately before landing. This will reduce jump injuries and ensure that the unit has its maximum combat power available once it is on the ground. The ATPS has been a four and one-half year research and development task, and the end product will be a parachute with a reliability factor as good as or better than the already superb track record of the T-10C model.

Modernization upgrades of the Bradley are on track, and over 6,700 of the fighting vehicles in various configurations are protecting U.S. interests around the world. In addition to the TOW-2 antiarmor system, restowage of ammunition and gear, final drive, and other improvements to the A2 models, later model upgrades include the laser range finder, driver's thermal viewer, a combat identification system, digital compass, and applique armor. The Bradley A3s we are now testing will have imbedded digitization, onboard diagnostic systems, second-generation forward looking infrared for the driver, and displays to the squad leader in the rear of the vehicle, the gunner, and the Bradley commander. When you add the autotracking capability that enhances the vehicle's target acquisition and first-round hit probability, it is easy to see why the Bradley will truly be a technology partner with the Abrams main battle tank.

We live in exciting times, and the Infantry will continue to be the point of the spear as the Army prepares to execute and win the close, personal, brutal fight on our own terms. Our five types of Infantry are better trained, equipped, and supported than at any time in our nation's history, and Fort Benning is where it all begins. I welcome your comments on the quality of the Infantrymen we're sending you.

Hooah!