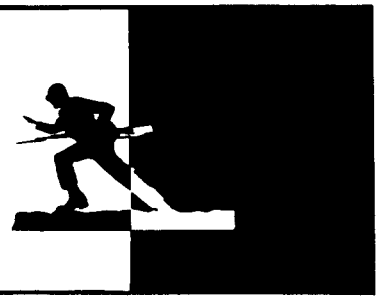
INFANTRY LETTERS



THE 2001 INFANTRY CONFERENCE will be held at Fort Benning, Georgia, 11-14 June 2001.

Specifics on the agenda will be available on the Infantry Center web site beginning 15 March 2001.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY PHYSICAL Fitness School will name its facility at Fort Benning *Koehler Hall*, in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Herman J. Koehler, who is known as the Father of U.S. Army Physical Training.

In 1885, Koehler was appointed Master of the Sword, responsible for physical education, at the United States Military Academy. The Army had been looking for a world-class physical educator, and Koehler was ideally suited for the USMA position. By the time he retired in 1923, he had established a standard for PT that is still second to none.

His first program at West Point included scientific measurements of the body as well as strength tests to monitor progress. He also developed the first Army PT instructors' course and wrote the Army's first PT manual.

During World War I he directed PT in the Officers and Divisional Training Camps of the National Army, often leading an entire brigade of 6,000 men in calisthenics. In addition, Koehler assisted in the physical instruction of the New York and Massachusetts National Guard regiments and helped create the recruit school of the New York Police Department in 1913.

Koehler Hall will stand as a fitting reminder of the contributions Koehler made to the Army's physical readiness.

THE BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE has been modernized in response to emerging Force XXI doctrine. Over the next few years, two upgraded versions of the Bradley will be fielded to all six heavy divisions in the Active Army.

The first phase of the modernization effort is the M2A2 Operation *Desert Storm* (ODS) Bradley. and the second phase is the M2A3 Bradley.

The M2A2 ODS emerged from a plan designed to include needed improvements noted during Operation *Desert Storm* and to implement lessons learned from ten years of experience.

ODS improvements consist of off-the-shelf technology that provides capabilities required for Force XXI operations. They increase system lethality over the M2A2 by providing an eyesafe laser range finder that allows rapid, accurate calls for fire. The vehicle crew is also more survivable because of the improved ability to integrate the battlefield combat identification system (BCIS) and the missile countermeasure device. Finally, each ODS will eventually be equipped with Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below (FBCB2) to support improved command and control and situational awareness.

The M2A3 Bradley emerged as a result of a threat and capabilities assessment, designed to ensure that the Infantry can overmatch the threat on the future battlefield.

The A3 is the first IFV that is technologically equal to the Abrams tank; and it integrates the Army's horizontal technical integration initiatives such as second generation forward looking infrared (FLIR).

The M2A3 insures overmatch by increasing the ability to acquire, identify, and engage over the A2 ODS, in both day and night operations. It allows the crew to acquire more targets faster by adding a second sight for the commander. The improved Bradley acquisition system allows the crew to engage targets faster and more accurately by enabling first burst on target, eliminating the need for a sensing round. The positive navigation system improves the crew's navigational capability.

Fielding of the M2A3 to the 1st Cavalry Division will begin in the summer of 2001, followed by the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and the remainder of the 4th Infantry Division.

THE IMPROVED PHYSICAL FITNESS Uniform (IPFU) is replacing the current physical fitness uniform (PFU) as a clothing bag item. Effective 15 August 2000, the IPFU will be issued from clothing initial issue points (CIIPs) to soldiers undergoing initial entry training (IET), and will be available for purchase in all Army Military Clothing Sales Stores by all other active duty soldiers.

The U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve will begin issue-in-kind in October 2000; and reserve component soldiers undergoing IET will receive the uniforms through the CIIPs.

The IPFU ensemble consists of a gray and black jacket; black pants; black, moisture-wicking trunks; a gray, moisture-wicking short-sleeved T-shirt; and a gray, moisture-wicking, long-sleeved T-shirt.

An IET soldier will receive from the CIIPs three pairs of trunks, two long-sleeved T-shirts, three short-sleeved T-shirts, two gray sweatpants, and two gray sweatshirts (these are different from the current PFU sweatshirts and sweatpants). The sweatpants and sweatshirts will be issued at the CIIPs only and will not be available for purchase. IET soldiers will receive the IPFU jacket and pants from the CIIPs during Phase II of basic combat training.

By 1 October 2003, each soldier must

have one jacket, one pair of pants, two pairs of trunks, two short-sleeved T-shirts, and one long-sleeved T-shirt. The wearout date for the current PFU is 30 September 2003.

Each item of the IPFU ensemble is identified by a national stock number (NSN) and a Defense Logistics Agency contract number printed on a label sewn into the garment. If the label does not contain this information, the garment is not the one authorized.

The following is the Army's wear policy for the IPFU:

Authorized Accessories:

- Black knit cap.
- Commanders may authorize the wear of commercial running shoes; calf-length or ankle-length plain white socks (with no logos); gloves; reflective belts or vests; long underwear; and other items appropriate to the weather conditions and type of activity. If soldiers wear long underwear or similar items, jacket and pants must conceal them.
- Soldiers may not mix or match IPFU and PFU items. When wearing the IPFU as a complete uniform, soldiers will keep the jacket sleeves rolled down, the pants legs down, and the shirt tucked inside the trunks. Standards of wear and appearance specified in Paragraphs 1-7 and 1-8 of AR 670-1 apply at all times when wearing the IPFU as a complete uniform.

Occasions for wear:

- The IPFU is authorized for wear on and off duty, on and off the installation, when authorized by the commander.
- The IPFU is authorized for wear in transit between an individual's quarters and duty station.
- Soldiers may wear all or parts of the IPFU, on or off the installation, when authorized by the commander.
- The only insignia authorized for wear on the IPFU is the Physical Fitness Badge. When the badge is worn, it is sewn on the upper left front side of the IPFU T-shirt and jacket. (See AR 600-8-22 for criteria for the wear of the Physical Fitness Badge.)
- Commanders should expect to see both uniforms (the PFU and the IPFU) in their formations until all soldiers acquire the IPFU by the mandatory possession date of 1 October 2003 (FY 04).

This information will be incorporated into the revision of AR 670-1.

THE IMPROVED TOXICOLOGICAL AGENT Protective ensemble (known as ITAP) offers better protection against toxic chemicals and is more comfortable to wear. The ITAP will replace the M3 Toxicological Agents Protective suit, which has been the standard protection for almost 40 years.

The one-piece suit is composed of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), a personal ice cooling system (PICS), and a compact air supply system (CASS) when a filtered mode is required. One major improvement is the one-piece garment with integral boots, front fastener closure, and glove assembly. It has a splash-proof zipper with closure in the upper portion of the body, a splash hood, and an over-vest to cover the breathing system.

The suit is a modified commercial item made of five alternating layers of Nomex and Teflon. The second layer of the encapsulating suit is orange, so the users can visually tell if the suit is deteriorating. The material provides up to one hour of protection against chemical warfare agents, industrial chemicals, petroleum, oils, and lubricants. It dissipates static charges, is self-extinguishing and flame resistant, and its light gray color reduces its solar load for improved user comfort.

The PICS removes heat from the user's body with a closed-loop cooling system that uses ice water as a coolant. It consists of a pump unit, plastic bottle, connecting hose and tubing, suit pass-through, and a shirt with tubing running throughout.

The CASS is a small, lightweight unit that provides a continuous flow of clean, filtered air for breathing. The system is designed for use with the standard M40 NBC.

The SCBA is used when the suit is configured for Level B assignments. Approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the apparatus is used by Army and Air Force firefighters. It consists of a 60-minute air cylinder, breathing valve, pressure gauge, connective hose and tubing, shoulder harness, and waist belt. It is worn over the ITAP suit and weighs about 35 pounds. It will be used as an alternative to the CASS when a higher level of respiratory protection is required than an air mode can provide.

THE BARE BASE COMMAND and Control Module is a shelter complex designed in response to the demand for a rapidly deployable command post for logistics support elements. The module then developed into a highly mobile command post for various field purposes.

The command and control module is made up of type-classified components integrated into an advanced full-service system. It uses the modular general purpose tent system, which will replace the old general purpose tents. These tents, combined with components, serve as the primary building blocks of the command module.

The complex comprises five medium modular tents, each consisting of two end caps and an intermediate section, 18 feet by 36 feet. The tents can be constructed in various arrangements to adapt to various types of terrain.

The arrangement of five medium modular tents provides 3,400 square feet of work and living space and accommodates up to 32 soldiers. To ensure quick setup and minimal footprint, the command and control module is designed for complete assembly by eight soldiers in less than four hours.

The program was expanded to a forward operating base sysetm with various reach-back modules. These are available through the "commander's menu" concept, which consists of a number of module designs available with the base system program to improve the quality of soldier living conditions, efficiency, and productivity.

The commander's menu is composed of the command and control module, shower and ration modules, winter and summer modules, a "plus up" billeting module, marge area maintenance shelters, and a deployment team. All components of the commander's menu are currently available except for the shower and ration modules, which have already reached prototyping stages.