

# INFANTRY LETTERS



## USAIS Reading List Lacks Works on Counterinsurgency

The U.S. Army Infantry School Recommended Reading List, which consists mostly of works on high-intensity, conventional, big unit warfare, signifies an institution still mired in the Fulda Gap. The young infantry leader who makes it through the list will be intellectually superlatively prepared for the type of warfare our nation's enemies are least likely to do us the favor of fighting. Meanwhile, counterinsurgency, the type of war we have proven ourselves least able to wage successfully, and thus the one our enemies are most likely to choose, is ignored.

I know it is unreasonable to expect to find classic counterinsurgency works like David Galula's *Counterinsurgency Warfare*, John McCuen's *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War: The Strategy of Counter-Insurgency*, Sir Robert Thompson's *Defeating Communist Insurgency*, Jean Larteguy's novel *The Centurions* or Frank Kitson's *Low Intensity Operations* on the list. They were all written before most of the serving officers at Fort Benning were even born and are difficult to impossible to find. I believe, however, that if the commanders in Afghanistan and Iraq had read and understood these classics when they were at USAIS we might be much further along in those campaigns and with fewer killed and wounded American Soldiers.

What's wrong with current books, though, like T.X. Hammes' *Slings and Stones* or the Army's own John Nagl's *Eating Soup with a Knife*?

If "Transformation" is to be more than a buzzword for better ways to get cool new gear to the troops or procurement of the next generation platforms, our Infantry leaders must have the intellectual foundation that comes from serious reading and study.

— Lieutenant Colonel Terence J. Daly,  
USAR Retired

### Editor's Note:

David Galula's *Counterinsurgency Warfare*, John McKuen's *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War*, and Sir Robert Thompson's *Defeating Communist Insurgency* are all available in the Amos Library at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning. Frank Kitson's *Low Intensity Operations* is available at Fort Benning's Sayers Memorial Library. T.X. Hammes' *Slings and Stones* and John Nagl's *Eating Soup with a Knife?* are not presently available in the Donovan Research Library, but will be ordered. John McCuen's *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War: The Strategy of Counter-Insurgency* and Jean Larteguy's *The Centurions* are out-of-print.

## Fort Benning — 35 years later

I have just returned from the last of three visits to Fort Benning, Georgia, that have restored my confidence in the future of the Infantry and the long tradition of honorable service and sacrifice.

My wife and I were able to visit our son at the Infantry Training Brigade on Sand Hill for a Memorial Day/Family Day weekend. The presentation of troops in the Infantry OSUT Company was correct, disciplined and a real impact to parents, friends, and family. Most of these Soldiers had only been allowed a few phone privileges in the past eight weeks and fewer still letters. My first impression of the Soldiers in my son's platoon was they did not appear as young as I remember from my experience in a training brigade in 1969. They all appeared very fit and stood tall in their Class B uniform with black berets and nearly shaved heads. Parents and family strained then smiled as they recognized their recent civilian prodigies and the transformation their drill sergeants and the transformation their drill sergeants had performed in a few short weeks. The

platoon sergeants were stoic and their decorations told of many achievements and distinguished service.

We were quickly united with our son for a fast-paced weekend of relaxation, real civilian restaurant food, and air-conditioned movies. I was able to meet several new friends of my son and was impressed with their purpose, maturity, and attitude. While several Soldiers were recent high school graduates, many had some college or were college graduates seeking something more than they could find in the civilian world. The weekend was soon over and we returned him back to his barracks to resume his training cycle.

In July we returned for the graduation ceremony and "Turning Blue" for successfully earning his infantry blue shoulder braid. The ceremony was preceded by a brief demonstration by Bradley fighting vehicles and the infantry squad. The ceremony itself was memorable in the recitation of the Drill Sergeants' Creed and Army Values. The opportunity to pin on the Infantry cord was a much appreciated event for those Soldiers with family and friends to participate. Soon another weekend was over and we returned our Soldier to the Airborne holding area.

The third visit was to the Ranger Memorial near Infantry Hall. This time I was returning to "sign for" a recent graduate of Airborne School and the Ranger Indoctrination Program. The morning was cold for Georgia in October. The transformation to wearing the distinctive tan Ranger beret is no small effort and is well deserved by these young volunteers three times over. I was again proud to be present to pin the 75th Ranger Regiment patch on my Ranger that day. The standards and intensity are reflected in the pride and determination that can be seen in these young Soldiers' eyes and confidence.

— Colonel Glen A. Armstrong  
U.S. Army, Retired  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

# INFANTRY NEWS

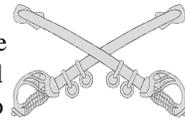


## CLC Now Open to Non-Armor Branch Officers

MAJOR MATTHEW DOOLEY

The challenges of the United States Army's force modular redesign are upon us, and we are addressing the necessary changes with the grim, professional determination of an Army at war. Our Army's efforts to make Units of Action (UA) a reality have demanded some fundamental shifts in our thinking about how brigade combat teams are organized and how they are expected to fight. The role of Cavalry has not been spared this reexamination. One of the latest efforts to ensure the Officer Education System at Fort Knox remains current and relevant is the Armor School's recent redesign of the Cavalry Leaders Course (CLC).

As we change our force structure, so must we also reconfigure our assumptions about who should attend the Cavalry Leaders Course. The combined arms philosophy that underpins the logic behind creating these UAs demands that all officers, regardless of branch, who are assigned to the BCT (UA) planning staffs or assigned to the Reconnaissance Squadrons within these brigades, should understand reconnaissance and security operations. Leaders who attend CLC are provided with the in-depth knowledge



of reconnaissance and security, as applied to the new Reconnaissance Squadrons found in the HBCT, IBCT, and SBCTs. The CLC accomplishes its learning objectives through challenging practical exercises that test and hone the students' understanding of the latest doctrine, TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures), organizations, missions, capabilities and limitations of RSTA and Reconnaissance Squadrons.

The Armor School at Fort Knox encourages CLC enrollment for all Armor officers as well as those leaders serving in Infantry, Field Artillery, Engineers, Aviation, Military Intelligence, and Signal Corps branches, who find themselves assigned as planners or commanders of RSTA/Cavalry organizations within these new UAs. All those in the above categories should seriously consider attending CLC to prepare for their assignments to or in support of RSTA and Cavalry organizations. Attendance at CLC is currently open to graduates of any officer career course with the rank of first lieutenant (promotable) through major. Enrollment is available through ATRRS.

## M-7 Pedestal To Boost Convoy Protection

REBECCA A. MONTGOMERY, U.S. ARMY NEWS SERVICE

A new M-7 pedestal now allows Soldiers to mount machine guns and grenade launchers in the rear of their HMMWV's open cargo bed to improve convoy protection.

The new, sturdier mount provides gunners with a 360-degree range of fire instead of the 180-degree range provided by the M-6 mount in front of the cargo bed.

The Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center at Rock Island Arsenal has been contracted to produce 4,500 of the new M-7 pedestals. A total of 485 have already been produced, and officials there said they are ramping up to produce 500 a month.

The M-7 pedestal allows Soldier to mount the M-249, M-240B, and M2 machine guns and the MK-19 grenade launcher in the rear cargo bed of M998 HMMWV.

With the cargo HMMWV being one of

the most common convoy vehicles, troops in Iraq had been modifying the existing M-6 machine gun pedestal, officials said. Soldiers began moving the pedestal from its designed and tested position in front of the cargo bed to a rear position between the wheel wells.

This allowed them a 360-degree range of fire instead of the 180-degree range in the front, but created safety and structural issues. This prompted the need to change the M-6 design to better meet the requirement, said officials from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

The improved pedestal has a full bed-width base made of an aluminum armor plate with alternate pedestal mounting locations and standard attaching points. The pedestal also has a more rugged column support configuration which officials said reduces the tripping hazard



U.S. Army photo

presented by the M-6 and breaking of the support braces. There is also a depression stop which ensures safe zones of fire when aiming forward, preventing shooting into the cab area.

## SAFETY BRIEF:

A mobilized Alabama National Guard Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident on 12 March in Brundidge, Alabama. The 40-year-old operator (a specialist) was traveling in a residential area. An SUV backed out of a driveway and into the motorcycle's path. Both the motorcycle operator and passenger received fatal injuries. Both riders were wearing helmets. Speed is undetermined at this time.

There have been 152 Class A-C Army motorcycle accidents from the start of FY04 to this accident, resulting in 34 deaths.

Don't let this happen in your formation. Consider these actions to prevent POV accidents:

✓ Prior to operating a motorcycle, ensure Soldiers have completed an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Course (MSC). (Locations can be found at <http://msf-usa.org/>)

✓ Establish an agreement with motorcycle operators regarding responsibilities. Take appropriate action(s) when noncompliance with the agreement is detected or reported.

✓ During POV inspections, verify motorcycle operator's license, MSC card, and appropriate PPE.

The U.S. Army Safety Center offers numerous training materials and other items such as POV checklists and sample motorcycle operator agreements. These can be found on the center's website at [www.safety.army.mil](http://www.safety.army.mil). Look for the POV Risk Management Toolbox.

# USAMU Hosts Small Arms Championships

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) hosted the All-Army Small Arms Championships in conjunction with the U.S. Army Infantry School March 12-23 on Fort Benning, Georgia.

A USAMU Soldier triumphed over 123 competitors to take the overall prize in the All-Army Small Arms Championship March 20.

Specialist Sean P. Watson, a USAMU Service Pistol Team member, won the U.S. Army Small Arms Overall Individual Championship, which was an aggregate of the U.S. Army Service Rifle Individual Championship and the U.S. Army Service Pistol Individual Championship. Specialist Craig S. Nelson, a USAMU gunsmith, took second place and Sergeant Robert S. Park II, a USAMU service pistol shooter, came in third.

Other results include:

### Novice Division

1st place — SSG John M. Buol  
2nd place — SSG Russell V. Gerhardt  
3rd place — SFC Kevin W. Bittenbender

### Secretary of the Army Pistol Match

1st place — 1SG Joel Kaczorowski  
2nd place — SPC Sean Watson  
3rd place — SGT Robert Park



### Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) Pistol Match

1st place — SSG Keith Sanderson  
2nd place — SGT Robert Park  
3rd place — SPC Craig Nelson

### Excellence in Competition (EIC) Pistol Match

1st place — SPC Sean Watson  
2nd place — 1SG Joel Kaczorowski  
3rd place — SPC Craig Nelson

### Secretary of the Army Rifle Match

1st place — 1LT Rodney Richmond  
2nd place — SSG Jared Van Aalst  
3rd place — MAJ Rhonda Bright

### CSA Rifle Match

1st place — 1LT Rodney Richmond  
2nd place — SSG Leslie Lewis  
3rd place — SSG Jared Van Aalst

### EIC Rifle Match

1st place — SFC Mark Benson  
2nd place — SSG Jared Van Aalst  
3rd place — SGT Thomas Scott

### Secretary of the Army Rifle Team Match

1st place — Sniper 1, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment  
2nd place — Detachment 3/4, 1st Army  
3rd place — Pennsylvania Army National Guard

More results can be found at [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu).

## CULTURAL AWARENESS CORNER

**GREETINGS** — An Arab will shake hands gently and may pull those he greets toward him and kiss them on either cheek in greeting. Arabs may also hold hands to walk to other locations. If an Arab does not touch someone he greets, he either does not like him or is restraining himself because he perceives the person is unaccustomed to being touched. After shaking hands, the gesture of placing the right hand to the heart is a greeting with respect or sincerity. To kiss a forehead, nose, or right hand of a person denotes extreme respect. Use of appropriate titles such as "Doctor" or "Professor" along with an individual's first name is common.

**TALKING DISTANCE** — Americans usually prefer to keep at least an arm's length between them and others. Arabs, however, prefer less space between themselves and others. They will often maintain 12 inches or less during a conversation. An American will tend to back away when an Arab crowds him, but the Arab will merely step forward. If the American continues to back away, the Arab will continue to step closer or wonder if he offended the American.

(Taken from the Department of Defense's *Iraq Country Handbook*.)

## Army launches PPE study

The Army has launched a study on the effectiveness of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To gather information, the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, has developed a helmet and body armor survey. The survey seeks information on incidents involving PPE. Your input will be used by the Department of Defense to improve Soldiers protective equipment. This survey should take 5-8 minutes to complete.

To take the survey, visit [www.infantry.army.mil/surveys/ppe/ppe.htm](http://www.infantry.army.mil/surveys/ppe/ppe.htm)

# ‘DON’T BE SEEN’

## Infantry Scouts Lead the Way

SPECIALIST CHRIS STEPHENS

**T**WIN BRIDGES TRAINING AREA, Republic of Korea – When on the front lines with the infantry, there are two kinds of people – the quick and the dead.

But for infantry scouts, it’s a different story.

“We’re the ones the enemy aims for,” said Specialist Serrano Brooks, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 2-9, scout. “If they take us out, then we can’t relay their position or tell our headquarters how many soldiers they have.”

Infantry scouts have the thrilling task of getting eyes on the enemy.

“We leave before the rest of the unit to go out and find the enemy,” Brooks said. “We should never be seen by the enemy and we don’t engage the enemy in direct contact.”

For Brooks and his team, the mission puts a lot of pressure on them.

“It’s a big weight on your shoulders,” said Private First Class Daniel Warner. “A team, squad, platoon, company, or battalion could be affected by the decisions you make.”

The scouts then inform headquarters of what they see.

“The SALUTE report is a guideline so we can give an exact report on enemy activity,” Brooks said.

For the most part, scouts carry the same equipment as non-scout Soldiers.

“We take the normal stuff a line Soldier would take,” Brooks said. “The only difference is that when we go out, the only contact we have with headquarters is



Photos by Specialist Chris Stephens

*Above, scouts from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 2-9 prepare their vehicles for an upcoming mission. At right, Private First Class Jesse Boyd, left, looks on as Specialist Serrano Brooks goes over where their night mission will take them at the Twin Bridges Training Area.*



through the radio. Other than that, we’re on our own; so it’s important to ensure we have all of our equipment.”

For the scouts, it doesn’t matter what the Korean weather is like, the mission still has to be completed.

“Rain, sleet, snow or a clear night, we have to do our job, so the rest of the unit can do theirs,” Brooks said. He said the best part of being a scout is the camaraderie he builds with the three other members of his team. “We spend a lot of time together, so we get

to know all about each other,” he said. “And that’s important, because you want to know the guy next to you is someone you can trust. And after spending enough time with them, I know they have my back, and they

know I have theirs.”

When asked what the most important thing to remember while out on patrol, Brooks had an immediate response.

“Don’t be seen,” he said.

# Army Approves Full Fielding of M-107 Sniper Rifle

KATHY ROA

The Army has approved its new long-range .50-caliber sniper rifle, the M-107, for full materiel release to Soldiers in the field.

The M-107 program is managed at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, by the Project Manager Soldier Weapons (PMSW) with engineering support provided by Picatinny's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The term "full materiel release" signifies that the Army has rigorously tested and evaluated the item and determined that it is completely safe, operationally suitable and logistically supportable for use by Soldiers, officials said.

Product Manager for Crew Served Weapons Lieutenant Colonel Kevin P. Stoddard said that PMSW previously equipped combat units in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as other units supporting the Global War on Terrorism, with the M-107 under an urgent materiel release.

The Army expects to complete fielding of the M-107 in 2008, Stoddard said. The M107 was funded as a Soldier Enhancement Program to type classify a semiautomatic .50 caliber rifle for the Army and other military services. It underwent standard type classification in August 2003. A production contract was awarded to Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the following month.

Compared to the M24 7.62mm sniper rifle, Stoddard said, the M107 has more powerful optics and fires a variety of .50 caliber munitions. "This provides sniper teams greater capability to identify and defeat multiple targets at increased ranges," he said.



The M-107 is based on the Marine Corps special application scoped rifle, the M82A3. The M-107 enables Army snipers to accurately engage personnel and material targets out to a distance of 1,500 to 2,000 meters respectively, he said. The weapon is designed to effectively engage and defeat materiel targets at extended ranges including parked aircraft, computers, intelligence sites, radar sites, ammunition, petroleum, oil and lubricant sites, various lightly armored targets and command, control and communications.

In a counter-sniper role, the system offers longer stand-off ranges and increased terminal effects against snipers using smaller-caliber weapons. The complete system includes the rifle itself, a detachable 10-round magazine, a variable-power day-optic sight, a transport case, a tactical soft case, cleaning and maintenance equipment, a detachable sling, an adjustable bipod and manuals.

The Army plans to modify the M107 by adding a suppressor to greatly reduce flash, noise and blast signatures.

## CROWS Arrive in Iraq to Keep Gunners Out of Sight

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JEROME BISHOP, ARMY NEWS SERVICE

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The first group of 35 remotely-operated weapons for mounting on top of Humvees arrived in Iraq recently and the systems were divided among military police, Special Forces, infantry and transportation units.

The Common Remotely Operated Weapon Stations (CROWS) provide crews the ability to locate, identify, and engage targets with better accuracy and improved range, while keeping the gunner inside, protected by the vehicle's up-armor.

The technology used on the CROWS is a variation of the remote-controlled crew-served weapons system already used on combat vehicles like the Bradley fighting vehicle and the M-1A1 Abrams tank.

"We will be fielding, in the next two

years, over 300 systems," said Major Frank Lozano, the program manager for the CROWS project on LSA Anaconda.

At LSA Anaconda, four CROWS were issued to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Ar Ramadi and the 155th Brigade Combat Team on FOB Kalsu. Prototypes were installed on vehicles belonging to the 42nd Military Police Brigade in December, Lozano said. Since then, more CROWS have been installed, bringing the total up to nine systems serving troops at LSA Anaconda.

Presently in Iraq, CROWS are only assembled and fielded at LSA Anaconda. Crews are issued the system there and receive training on how to operate it, said Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Januchowski,

the project's training developer.

The nearly \$200,000 system is designed to replace the turret gunner on Humvees to improve combat effectiveness, Lozano said. CROWS allows Soldiers to operate successfully from within the safety of the Humvee's armor, without being exposed to the threat of improvised explosive devices and small-arms fire.

The system incorporates a 15-inch color monitor with live video from cameras in the daytime and thermal imaging cameras in darkness.

Both cameras use a laser range finder, which allows the gunner to zoom on targets, lock onto them and maintain that lock accurately while the vehicle is in motion.