

INFANTRY NEWS



Center Needs Soldiers' Ideas

The Soldier Innovation Initiative (SII) is seeking resourceful equipment ideas from Soldiers who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Natick Soldier Center's (NSC) Operational Forces Interface Group (OFIG) at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center began the effort in January 2004 to capture Soldier-modified equipment in the field as well as identify new equipment made from materials available to Soldiers that they have creatively exploited.

The project's goal is to discover successful field ideas, prototype the best ones for further evaluation, and potentially influence the development process to field new or improved equipment. Ideas are reviewed to determine which technical area within the Natick Soldier Center or Research, Development and Engineering Command can best assess the innovation.

OFIG members, consisting primarily of active-duty and former Soldiers, visit installations throughout the year for the purpose of gathering field feedback, and the Soldier Innovation Initiative piggybacks onto these installation visits to specifically target installations with units returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

OFIG has been in the business of collecting field feedback for 20 years and has three engineering psychologists who specialize in the development of surveys and in interpreting field feedback. The psychologists developed a survey designed to prompt Soldiers to provide their innovations, creative modifications, field solutions, and newly created or improvised items while deployed.

Soldiers are asked not only to provide information on their ideas but also to



provide digital or hard copy photographs to enhance understanding of their ideas. Soldiers are also prompted for contact information so that they can be reached for further clarification.

Project officers conduct a review to determine whether the idea merits further pursuit. They are encouraged to contact the submitter and even invite him to the NSC if this will aid in the prototyping and evaluation process.

After an initial survey round with 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light), and units of the 82nd Airborne Division deployed in Afghanistan, some ideas that have emerged are: map pocket sewn into the inside of a patrol cap, a modified sling that allows the M-4 carbine rifle to hang in a ready position, a commercial earpiece for Soldier Intercom for better integration with helmet, and golf bag straps attached to M-240B assistant machine gunner's bag to carry the weapon in a ruck configuration.

The NSC believes that the Soldier Innovation Initiative features important differences in process and scope from the Army Ideas for Excellence Program because the initiative employs OFIG to actively solicit creative ideas and solutions from returning combat veterans.

Soldiers whose ideas are determined to be fitting within the Army Ideas for Excellence Program also will be encouraged to do so through this process.

OFIG will continue to solicit ideas from returning units, providing continual new ideas for assessment and possible further development and fielding.

For more information about the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, visit <http://www.natick.army.mil>.

USAMU SOLDIER WINS WORLD CUP

SARA GREENLEE,
USA SHOOTING

Sergeant First Class Jason A. Parker of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit started the United States out on the right foot April 10 as he won the Gold Medal and an Olympic Country Quota Slot for



the 2008 Olympics at Beijing, China, with a world record performance in Men's Air Rifle at the World Cup in Changwon, Korea.

Parker went into the finals tied for second place with a score of 598 points out of a possible 600 and hit a tremendous final score of 104.7 out of a possible 109 to tie the final world record and catapult himself to the top of the competition.

In 1998, Parker set two world records in Air Rifle at the World Cup in Munich, Germany, and finished in fifth place in Air Rifle at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. At the World Cup USA in Atlanta in 2002, Parker won the Gold Medal and an Olympic Quota Slot for the 2004 Olympics; he competed in the Olympics last year in Athens and took eighth place in Air Rifle.

Sergeant First Class Thomas A. Tamas, also of the USAMU, walked away with a Silver Medal in the Men's Prone Rifle event at the Korean World Cup April 12. Tamas went into the finals in first place with a score of 597 out of 600, and hit a 101.5 in the final for the Silver.

Tamas, a 2000 and 1992 Olympian, and the Prone Rifle World Record Holder, was the Prone Rifle World Champion in 1998 as well as winning the Gold Medal in Prone at the prestigious World Cup Finals that year.

Center for Army Lessons Learned:

GETTING THE WORD OUT

MAJOR THOMAS GOLDNER

Mission accomplishment, sustainability, survivability; these three elements are fundamental and essential to our profession, and we see them repeated in our doctrinal literature, in articles published in our branch magazines, and in the hard-won lessons being documented by units deployed in the global war on terror. Our Army and Marine Corps have evolved into the world's premier land fighting force by learning what works and what does not, and have drawn upon the lessons of our and other nations' experience to hone our fighting edge. This is a continuing process, and the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) is your link to that accumulated knowledge.



CALL is an organization of military and civilian personnel whose primary mission is to help units deploy, strike hard and decisively, and return to home station with minimal losses in Soldiers and equipment. We can make that claim because we spare no time or effort in collecting the information from those at the tip of the spear. As this article goes to print, CALL has embedded liaison personnel with units in Iraq and Afghanistan, meticulously gathering pieces of information the Army — you and I — can use. As required, CALL also periodically deploys subject matter experts to collect focused information as members of a Collection and Analysis Team (CAAT). One recent CAAT focused on the Stryker brigade in Iraq. All this great knowledge would be useless, however, without the means to rapidly disseminate it, and we use the internet to expedite your access to this critical information. You would be hard pressed to find another location that presents the amount and variety of detailed Soldier friendly information that is available at our two websites, <http://call.army.mil> for unclassified information and <http://call.army.smil.mil> for classified material.

However, the most important aspect of CALL is the staff of military

and civilian personnel that exists to support you by gathering information and getting it back to the Army and Joint community through the use of the internet or through print media. These same personnel are currently working on ways to be even more responsive to your needs by establishing collaborative websites and responding to your requests for information. While

CALL personnel and methodology may not yet provide a surefire solution to counter the many existing or emerging threats to our nation, it is a tool we should use to sustain our overmatch against an implacable and resourceful enemy.

As a result of a high OPTEMPO and the urgency with which we must develop and maintain our proficiency, we must figure out ways to be more efficient with our own and our Soldiers' time. We are leveraging the internet to both receive and disseminate information, and as you read this someone in Iraq or Afghanistan is learning something new about the enemy and that information will eventually end up in the Army's repository for observations, insights and lessons learned, the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). And all of that information is available to you and your Soldiers.

Remember, a visit to the CALL websites will give you access to a vast supply of tactics, techniques, and procedures — our own and those of the enemy — relevant to what is happening today. You will see information about improvised explosive devices, combat convoy operations, urban operations, deployment preparation, Army transformation, cultural awareness topics, and family readiness group issues, to name only a fraction of the subjects available to you. When you use CALL in conjunction with other critical tasks you already perform such as physical training, medical training, marksmanship and battle drill proficiency, you can better prepare for the challenges you will face on the battlefield. We are here for you. Use us.

NEW LAW TO AFFECT SGLI PAYMENTS, PREMIUMS

Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers with traumatic injuries, explained Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance. The increased SGLI coverage will take effect September 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit, December 1. Wurtz said the legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to October 7, 2001.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic

injuries as a direct results of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

Servicemembers enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Wurtz said. Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage — \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 - will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Wurtz said.

(This news brief was taken from an article by Donna Miles of the American Forces Press Service. The complete article can be viewed at http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=7346)

Space Support Enhances Division's Planning Efforts

DEBRA VALINE

The last time the 10th Mountain Division (Light) deployed, the plans and operations officer had to rely on terrain maps for battlefield awareness. It was all they had. The next time 10th Mountain deploys, things will be different. Soldiers will have access to space.

In July 2004, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) transitioned a Space Support Element (SSE) to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. The SSE is made up of three space operations officers and one NCO. They are trained in exploiting space-based capabilities to improve battlefield awareness for the warfighter.

"In the past, I kind of bumped around because I did not know where to get this expertise," said Colonel Michael Coss, 10th Mountain Division plans and operations officer. "When the space operations officers first showed up, I had no idea what they would do. Since they've been assigned, we have had four command post exercises and in every case, they have provided me with the kinds of operational capabilities on the battlefield that the UEx Headquarters is charged to do. There is no turning back. We are dependent on technology. It is a tremendous enhancement, but you have to have experts that can keep it up and create workarounds when something is not functional. Our space experts provide us that."

The 10th Mountain SSE includes Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Brozek, Major Joseph Bolton and Major Brian Soldon, all SMDC-trained space operations officers and Staff Sergeant Lee Rawlins, a satellite maintainer/operator. This is the second of three teams SMDC has transitioned into the new units of employment (UEx). The 3rd Infantry Division received the first team in June 2004. That team is now with 3rd ID to Iraq. Plans are to assign SSEs to all the divisions by 2007.

"I was originally assigned to SMDC's G-3 (Plans and Operations) in July 2002, straight out of the Command and General



Specialist Tony White

LTC Dennis Brozek discusses a satellite imagery product with SSG Joseph Szafranski during a recent command post exercise at Fort Drum.

Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas," said Brozek, who had flown attack helicopters for 14 years before being selected to become a space operations officer. He attended the FA40 Space Operations Officer Qualification Course in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"It was like starting from ground zero in a new environment. There was no support, no plan for setting up a new section as part of the UEx," Brozek said. "As we worked through the logistics issues of setting up a new section, I was explaining what the SSE would add to the division.

"We're all watching the 3rd ID SSE to see how they set up," Brozek said. "We will be providing the same support within the theater. It won't be a mirror operation, but it will be the same type of support."

The SSE officers use their expertise to plan, integrate, and coordinate space mission areas into all aspects of the UEx. The team is involved in anything that goes to, through or from space, such as blue force

tracking, satellite imagery, and global positioning systems — position, velocity and navigation of the GPS, Brozek said.

Having an embedded SSE helps the unit understand space, and they communicate what space can do across domains such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, geospatial information and services products, and blue force tracking.

"We talk in terms of two capabilities: space support to lethality and space support to force protection," said Lieutenant Colonel Rick Dow, SMDC's command lead for SSE fielding. "Space support to lethality comes from commercial space sources or other sources of targetable information such as ONIR (overhead on-imaging Infrared). Knowing where the targets are and how to get them enhances lethality. Space support for force protection means providing space-based blue-force tracking for situational awareness and understanding."

"Understand that the SSE relies heavily on reach-back to SMDC because that is where the expertise is," Brozek said. "We have a SATURN system for communication so that we can talk to the experts to get the answers we need." SATURN (Space Application Technology User Reachback Node) provides unprecedented global wideband commercial satellite communications to the warfighter.

"I think it is incredibly important for the SSEs to be assigned to the divisions. All the branches of the military — particularly the Army — depend very heavily on space for dependency on satellite communications systems; imagers — both national technical means, government and commercial; and GPS systems," Brozek said. "The amount of receivers is growing so fast it is incredible. The need for bandwidth is growing at a tremendous rate. We need someone at the division who has the knowledge of how it works and knows who to go to to get help. The amount of assets being pushed to the division is growing because space is now down to the muddy

SSE con't

boot level – to the Soldiers. Without someone to translate that expertise, the Soldiers would not be able to get the information.”

Coss said the key is having the SSE as an in-house conduit to all the space-based capabilities available.

“There is a series of space-based products and services that previously I did not know where to get,” Coss said. “I had no conduit; now I do. I used to go to my terrain guys to see if I could get an image or go to someone else about a satellite communication link that wasn’t working. There are so many things linked to space now, such as GPS and other devices. Having trained space operations officers assigned to the division gives me a staff expert in leveraging space-based products, platforms and services.

“This area has become so important to the way we fight,” Coss said. “We have taken risks with some of our systems by reducing capabilities because we thought we could use joint capabilities to fill the gap. The bridge between the services is sustained by space-based products.”

SMDC started having space operations officers in 1998 when the Army started creating functional areas. The first formal FA40 Space Operations Officer Qualification Course was in 2001. To date 128 space operations officers have graduated from the course. The next class is scheduled to begin in June. Each SSE receives an additional three-week refresher course before being assigned to a division.

“Because this was such a new mission and concept for us, it was good for them to get the refresher training and get updated on the equipment. It changes frequently,” said Lieutenant Colonel Michael Powers, chief of SMDC’s Space Proponency Office.

“The biggest reason they were put into the divisions was to provide that continuous planning capability,” Powers said. “Before we started fielding the SSEs to the divisions, we would send in an Army Space Support Team just in time before deployment. The SSE provides continuous integration so that the SSE is part of the team.”

(Debra Valine is a member of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command’s Public Affairs Office.)

MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDED FOR OIF ACTIONS

ERIC W. CRAMER

An American Soldier’s family received the highest military recognition, the first Medal of Honor for Operation Iraqi Freedom, from President George W. Bush on April 4.

Bush presented the Medal of Honor to David Smith, the 11-year-old son of Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith, who was killed April 4, 2003, exactly two years ago, in action outside the then-Saddam Hussein International Airport. Smith manned the .50-caliber machine gun on top of an armored personnel carrier in order to defend a courtyard while his men from the 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, withdrew and evacuated wounded. Late in the action, he died after being struck by enemy fire.

The president quoted a letter Smith wrote to his parents, but never mailed, saying he was willing to “give all that I am” so that his men would return home.

“On this day two years ago, Sergeant Smith gave his all for his men. Five days later, Baghdad fell, and the Iraqi people were liberated,” Bush said. “And today, we bestow upon Sergeant Smith the first Medal of Honor in the war on terror. He’s also the first to be awarded this new Medal of Honor flag, authorized by the United States Congress. We count ourselves blessed to have Soldiers like Sergeant Smith, who put their lives on the line to advance the cause of freedom and protect the American people.”

His Medal of Honor citation and additional information can be found at <http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor>.

(Eric Cramer writes for the Army News Service.)



CULTURAL AWARENESS CORNER

FAMILY AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

— Arab families are often large and strongly influence individuals’ lives. The family is the basic societal unit. A patriarchal system, the father is the head of the family and is considered a role model. Although the mother’s activities may be limited to housework and child-rearing, she generally exercises considerable influence in the home. Few women work outside the home, though the number has increased with urbanization. Each gender is considered its own social subgroup, interacting only in the home. All activities

revolve around family life, and any member’s achievement advances the reputation of the entire family.

The maintenance of family honor is one of the highest values in Arab society. Since misbehavior by women can do more damage to family honor than misbehavior by men, clearly defined patterns of behavior have been developed to protect women and help them avoid situations that may give rise to false impressions or unfounded gossip. Westerners must be aware of the restrictions that pertain to contact between men and women. Arabs quickly gain a

negative impression of those who behave with too much familiarity toward people of the opposite sex. A Western male should never approach an Arab woman with the intent of pursuing a personal relationship.

The public display of intimacy between men and women is strictly forbidden by Arab social code, including holding hands or linking arms, or any gesture of affection such as kissing or prolonged touching. Such actions, even between husband and wife, are highly embarrassing to Arab observers.

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



RANGER NOTES



RTB CROWNS 2005 BEST RANGERS

The 22nd annual David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition was held April 22-24 at Fort Benning with two 4th Ranger Training Battalion Soldiers claiming the top spot.

After 60 hours of physically and mentally challenging events, Captain Corbett McCallum and Sergeant First Class Gerald Nelson beat out 22 other teams for the coveted title.

This year's competition focused more on combat-related skills than any in recent history. Thirty-three of the 46 Rangers who started the competition were combat veterans.

Besides traditional events such as the helocast, water confidence course, spot jump and Darby Queen obstacle course, competitors also had to complete a room clearing exercise, casualty evacuation event, run-swim-run event, as well as demonstrate proficiency on an array of weapons. Overall, the competitors had to complete roughly 23 various events. Only 11 teams finished the competition, with a majority of those falling victim to the 21-mile roadmarch at the end of Day 1.

The final results include:

1st place — CPT Corbett McCallum and SFC Gerald Nelson, 4th Ranger Training Battalion

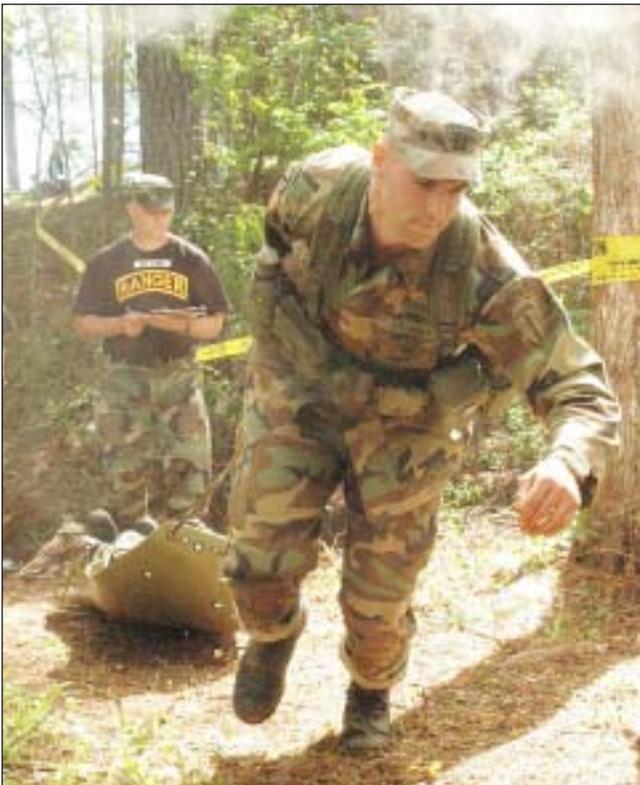
2nd place — CPT Rick Ahern and CPT Marc Messerschmitt, 4th Ranger Training Battalion

3rd place — MSG James Moran and SFC Walter Zajkowski, U.S. Army Special Operations Command

4th place — MAJ Liam Collins and MAJ Frank Sobchak, Command and General Staff College

For more coverage of the Best Ranger competition, visit www.infantry.army.mil/bestrangercompetition.

Top, Captain Corbett McCallum, half of the winning team, evacuates a casualty during the Day Stakes medevac event. In the center photo, Sergeants Neal Jacobson and Jason Noffske carry their raft ashore following the helocast event. Below, Staff Sergeant Travis May (left) and Sergeant First Class Johnny Craver finish the swim portion of Day 1's run-swim-run event.



Specialist Nikki St. Amant



Tawny Archibald Campbell



Tawny Archibald Campbell



Tawny Archibald Campbell



David K. Dismukes



David K. Dismukes

Clockwise from top — Sergeant First Class Brent Myers takes a stab at the tomahawk throw event of the Day Stakes during Day 2. Staff Sergeant Justin Conner crawls under barbed wire while tackling the Bayonet Assault Course. At right, a competitor floats the ground during the spot jump on Day 1. Above, Sergeant First Class Gerald Nelson finished up the swim portion of the run-swim-run event on Day 1. Nelson, along with Captain Corbett McCallum, took first place in the three-day competition. The two are from the Ranger Training Brigade's 4th Ranger Training Battalion.