

Commandant's Note

MAJOR GENERAL WALTER WOJDAKOWSKI

THE INFANTRY: Training Now, Winning Tomorrow

Returning to Fort Benning is great for all infantrymen, and I am pleased to once again serve at the home of the Infantry. It is here that our weapons, equipment, and concepts are developed and tested; it is both the origin and the repository of our doctrine; and it is where today's Soldiers and young leaders become imbued with the Warrior Ethos. We are an Army and a nation at war, and Fort Benning's contribution to the global war on terror is reflected in the aggressive, lethal Soldiers and units and the adaptive, confident leaders who take the fight to the enemy every day.



Our enemies in Iraq and Afghanistan have learned they cannot survive — let alone win — in a direct confrontation against American Army and Marine infantry. They have had to continually modify their tactics. But, we have adapted our own tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) as well, and are beating the enemy on his own turf. Fighting alongside America and her allies are the confident, competent units of the Iraqi Army, well trained and led, who are showing they are prepared to assume an ever-increasing role in the defense of their own nation.

One of my first duties as Chief of Infantry was to host the September 2005 Warfighting Seminar and conduct face-to-face discussions with leaders throughout the force. These warriors have fought the close, personal infantry fight at all levels, and the seminar was a unique chance to get their impressions on Fort Benning's role in training and equipping the force. We are committed to do our job better, and your input is needed. Direct, candid feedback from the field is our stock in trade, and we will continue to encourage it. Digital communications have made possible real-time information transfer between units and the Infantry School. Results of this exchange can be seen in the flow of information from the field to our doctrine writers and tactics instructors.

The hard-earned experience of infantrymen is passed along to

other units in articles published in *Infantry Magazine* and is reflected in changes to our doctrinal literature and instruction. Their experience with ambushes, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), enemy initiatives in information warfare, and the challenges of fighting an enemy attempting to hide in a no longer entirely supportive civilian population are real-world and relevant, and we can share these invaluable lessons with other branches and our sister services. Every Soldier is an infantryman, and we will make sure all Soldiers are prepared to fight as infantry when the need arises.

This month's issue of *Infantry Magazine* is focused on marksmanship. We have made considerable progress in the past few years on improving the Army's marksmanship standards, training enablers, and execution. The Infantry School, as the proponent for individual marksmanship, has been intimately involved in soliciting good ideas from the field Army in incorporating lessons learned from the GWOT. I am extremely proud of the work we have done, especially in Initial Entry Training, in improving our training techniques and in resourcing marksmanship as a key task for all Soldiers in all courses of instruction at Fort Benning. Hopefully, this month's magazine will inspire our readers to give us their good ideas concerning this important subject.

We look forward to a continuing dialog with you, our customers, in the future.

Fort Benning faces many challenges in the coming years, but one thing is certain, the Infantry Center and School will continue to serve this great nation as she has since October 19, 1918, by training and deploying the world's best-trained, best-equipped, and best-supported infantrymen. The Infantry has fought in all of America's wars, has suffered the greatest losses in her defense, and has never let America down. It is up to us to sustain the momentum, support the force, and defeat terrorism.

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