

Infantry Letters



Improving Rifle Effectiveness Should Be Priority

I am a retired infantryman and have always believed that shooting proficiency should be a priority. I wrote an article for your magazine that you published back in prehistoric times (1978). I am glad to read in the Commandant's Notes and elsewhere that marksmanship and small arms proficiency are now a priority for the entire Army. In my experience, small arms proficiency was given lip service until about 1984. Some units trained for it, many did not. After 1984, weapons proficiency started to get more command emphasis; I retired in 1993 so I have no idea what happened since then.

From personal experience, I know that the M16A2 rifle is a far superior rifle to the M16A1 of my day. There must be a good reason that most infantrymen are now armed with the M4. I have read that blended metal 55 grain 5.56 bullets cause severe wounds which knock down or quickly kill the enemy. What I don't know is this bullet's ability to penetrate body armor, thin masonry, plywood, car bodies, etc. I have read comments from Army equipment developers and fielding agencies that bullet placement

is the critical part of bullet lethality. This is absolutely true. The problem is that fear and fatigue always degrade marksmanship in a firefight. To me, we have two choices to counteract this. The first is to train so much that the rifleman automatically aims for the brain, but this will take weekly shooting exercises which would not be possible given the multitude of unit training tasks. The second is to increase the caliber of the bullet or at least make the current bullet heavier or change its composition. The ideal would be a new round between 6mm-7mm with a 100 grain or so bullet. This keeps all the advantages of the intermediate caliber round. Bear in mind that modern weapons optics make our small arms much more effective at longer ranges. We now can kill or wound people out to 600 meters. We desperately need a round that matches the new potential of our small arms.

Again, improving rifle effectiveness ought to be a very high priority. It is up to the Army and the Marine Corps to solve this.

— Major Paul Conway
U.S. Army, Retired

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Please consider submitting an article to *Infantry Magazine*. Topics for articles can include information on organization, weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques, and procedures ... just about anything that can be of use to infantrymen today. Articles relating to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are extremely important. We can also use relevant historical articles, with the emphasis on the lessons we can learn from the past. If you're unsure whether a topic is suitable, please feel free to contact our office.

Our fully developed feature articles are usually between 2,000 and 3,500 words, but these are not rigid guidelines. Most of our articles are much shorter, and we use those articles in the Professional Forum and Training Notes sections. If you have only a short comment, suggestion, or training idea, it may fit best in the *Infantry Letters* section or as a Swap Shop item.

Sketches, photographs, maps, or line drawings that support your article are recommended. If you use graphics



in your manuscript, please include either a high quality print or the electronic file. Graphics already imported into Microsoft Word or Powerpoint don't reproduce well; we usually need the original electronic file (jpeg, gif, tiff, bmp, etc.). Also, please remember to include where the graphic originated (author's photo, Web site address, etc.) so we can ensure proper credit is given to the photographer/illustrator and prevent the violation of any copyrights.

A complete Writer's and Photographer's Guide can be found on our Web site at <https://www.infantry.army.mil/magazine>. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

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USAMU CONTINUES SDM CLASSES

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) continues to offer Squad Designated Marksman (SDM) train-the-trainer classes to help Soldiers improve their warfighting marksmanship skills.



During the class, Soldiers are instructed in areas of marksmanship, range estimation, and target detection.

The course is leader training to develop long-range shooting skills, according to Lieutenant Colonel David J. Liwanag, USAMU commander.

“The Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course offers commanders an excellent tool to train Soldiers in combat and advanced marksmanship techniques,” Liwanag said.

“When they complete the course, trainers will have the ability to identify and train Soldiers in their units to hit targets 500 meters out. Targets at 200 and 300 meters won’t be much of a challenge,” Liwanag continued. “Leaders get hands-on training, range practical application and training materials provided by the Army Marksmanship Unit.”

The award-winning shooters of USAMU’s service-rifle team teach the Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course. These shooters specialize in firing small arms that are organic to units within the military, including the M-14, bolt-action rifles, and all variations of the M-16 and M-4 at distances up to 1,000 yards.

The course is available to NCOs in team-leader through platoon-sergeant positions, with priority going to Soldiers in deploying units. (E-4s in leadership positions may also be considered.)

Upcoming dates for SDM classes on Fort Benning are:

* January 23-27 * February 6-10

To get a seat in one of the upcoming classes, the unit S3 must send a request via e-mail with the Soldier’s full name, rank, social security number, MOS, unit, and unit point of contact with phone number. The Soldier’s unit must fund the TDY. USAMU will provide the DM rifles and ammunition, but Soldiers must bring the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight (ACOG) that they will use when deployed.

Units can also request that a mobile training team (MTT) visit their home station to conduct training.

For more information on the Squad Designated Marksman Instructor Course, contact Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competitions, by e-mail at michael.behnke@usarec.army.mil or phone (706) 545-7841.

OPSEC: Enemy Can Exploit Information From Open Source Media

KRIS GONZALEZ

Operations security (OPSEC) isn’t just a Soldier’s responsibility anymore.

With more Americans using the Internet to communicate, whether by blogging, instant messaging or sending standard e-mails, it’s the responsibility of friends and families of service members to safeguard information that could jeopardize the combat operations and lives of coalition forces abroad.

“The enemy aggressively ‘reads’ our open source and continues to exploit such information for use against our forces,” wrote General Peter Schoomaker, chief of staff of the Army, in a recent Army Knowledge Online newsletter. “Some Soldiers continue to post sensitive information to Internet Web sites and blogs (with) photos depicting weapon system vulnerabilities and tactics, techniques and procedures. Such OPSEC violations needlessly place lives at risk and degrade the effectiveness of our operations.”

Robert Burch, a training specialist in Fort Benning’s Quality Assurance Directorate, said he thinks the growing OPSEC problems are a result of the “blast of technology” in the last decade. Everybody uses cell phones and everybody has access to the World Wide Web, he said, but no one is controlling the information flow and security measures fall to the wayside.

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**THE
ENEMY
IS LISTENING**

**He wants to know
what you know**

**KEEP IT TO
YOURSELF**

Do Not Discuss

Unit Deployment
Present/Future Unit Operations
Unit Course of Action
Unit or Equipment Capabilities
Unit Mission & Strength
Lessons Learned
Personnel Information
Unit Maintenance/Repair Status
Location of Staging Area
Location of Weapons Depots
Unit State of Training
Unit Security Posture/Level
Key Leader/Key Asset Location or Status

Seemingly harmless information, if combined with other supposedly innocent information, can divulge critical data that could endanger lives and impact mission success.

OPSEC

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“The average Soldier doesn’t think anything of sending pictures to his brother, his mother, his wife,” Burch said. “And the Internet is so impersonal, he may think he’s having a conversation with one person, but he doesn’t realize there are so many servers between the sender and receiver and each one of those servers has the eyes and ears of people listening to the conversation.”

“Every time a message drops to a server, it leaves a trail,” Burch said. “It creates a pipeline for hackers. While you’re chatting, somebody else can read your messages and even download cookies that contain your personal information. People use this method for identity theft. The enemy uses the same techniques used for stealing information to find out where a unit is on the battlefield.

“We have a thinking and adaptive enemy,” said Al Harvey, director of Intelligence and Security for the U.S. Army Infantry Center. “They’re well versed in using information that we think is unclassified and globally known to adapt their tactics and techniques. They will change the way they fight based on the information we give them.”

Harvey said all Soldiers and their family members should keep OPSEC in mind when any of the following issues are discussed via telephone or the Internet: current operations, equipment and personnel vulnerabilities, TTPs, and personal data, like social security numbers and even health insurance information.

(Kris Gonzalez writes for the Bayonet newspaper at Fort Benning.)

DO NOT POST PHOTOS OR INFORMATION

PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING:

- o Weapon system and equipment vulnerabilities,
- o Results of IED strikes,
- o Battle scenes and battlefield losses,
- o Intelligence collection efforts and methods, and
- o Information that may have a negative impact on relations with coalition allies or world opinion.

NEWS BRIEFS

ARDEC Lists Stryker Firing Tables

— The Stryker Firing Table is now available online. Thanks to the U.S. Army’s Armaments, Research, Development, and Engineering Center’s (ARDEC) Firing and Tables Ballistics Division (FTaB), FT 120-F-1 for the RMS6L Stryker can be downloaded from the FTaB Mortar Tabular Firing Tables AKO page. The tables can be found online at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/139356>.

Center Needs Soldiers’ Ideas

— The U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center’s Soldier Innovation Initiative is seeking resourceful equipment ideas from Soldiers who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.



The 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.

For more information, visit the center’s Web site at www.natick.army.mil.

Soldiers can also take a survey online to help provide valuable information directly to the engineers and researchers who are responsible for Army products. The survey is available at <http://nsc.natick.army.mil/feedback/survey/index.htm>.

Drill Sergeants Get Trophy at Next Small Arms Championships

— The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has announced that there will be a new trophy awarded at the 2006 All-Army Small Arms Championships to be conducted in March.

The High Drill Sergeant Trophy will be awarded to the top scoring drill sergeant (active or Reserve component NCO on drill sergeant status) at the All-Army Championships, on the condition that at least 12 drill sergeants compete.

The trophy will be awarded to the drill sergeant with the high cumulative aggregate total of individual M-16 rifle

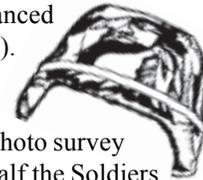
and M-9 pistol scores fired in the All-Army matches. M-16s are fired at distances from 25 to 500 yards and the M-9 pistol is shot from 10 to 25 yards. Shooters fire all matches wearing helmet and load-bearing equipment or vest.

Historically, the high cadet is also recognized as the highest-scoring U.S. Military Academy or ROTC shooter. In 2004, All-Army Cadet Champion Donald Skidmore of Texas Tech University was awarded a Secretary of the Army Trophy M-1 Garand rifle. The cadet award is also conditional on at least 12 cadets shooting in the matches.

For more information on the All-Army Small Arms Championships contact Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competitions, at (706) 545-7841 or michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil. A copy of the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship program/schedule is available on the USAMU Web site at www.usamu.com.

Does Your Helmet Fit?

— Surveys from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have revealed that a significant number of Soldiers are not properly wearing the Personnel Armor System, Ground Troops (PASGT) Helmet (also known as the “Helmet, Ground Troops and Parachutists,” the “K-pot” or the “Kevlar”) or the Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH).



Results of a U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory photo survey indicate that roughly half the Soldiers in the field are wearing the ground combat helmets improperly. In cases where the PASGT or ACH helmets are fitted or worn improperly, the Soldier is exposed to increased risk of injury due to ballistic threats (fragmentation) or concussion. The majority of improperly sized/fitted helmets have been found to be too small.

The Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier Web site lists materials for leaders and Soldiers to help ensure helmets fit properly. For more information, visit www.peosoldier.army.mil

BOLC II PILOT CLASS GRADUATES

DONNA HYATT

Designed to reflect the ever-changing guerrilla tactics now being waged on the battlefield and instill a warrior-first mentality into the Army's future leaders, the pilot class of Basic Officer Leadership Course, Phase II, graduated August 25 at Fort Benning.

Phase I of BOLC focuses on the basic skills and knowledge necessary for officer leadership. BOLC II is a seven-week, initial-entry, branch-immaterial course in small-unit leadership and tactics.

All new officers receive the same training and instruction for BOLC II regardless if the commissioning comes from the U.S. Military Academy, Officer Candidate Schools or the Reserve Officers Training Corps. From here, the 173 young leaders will go on to BOLC III where they will learn their branch-specific tactics and techniques.

Following one more pilot course at Fort Benning next January, officials said Fort Benning and Fort Sill will begin training all new lieutenants in June.

"I'm into small-unit leadership, getting these leaders ready and developed to go," said Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, commanding general of the U.S. Army Accessions Command.

"I have a son in Mosul right now, and he'll tell you it's small-unit leadership. It's the buck sergeants, the staff sergeants, it's the young lieutenants who are taking this war on," he said.

"When I went through officer basic in 1972, we hardly went to the field at all. We never operated in anything that looked like a forward operating base," said Van Antwerp, who trained as an Army engineer.

Devised more as a basic framework than a rigid course, the Training and Doctrine Command structured BOLC II as the common core of the Army, gearing future leaders toward the mission and goals of the Warrior Ethos before releasing them to their branch specific training.

"We're giving them applicable training for today's contemporary operational environment," said Major Kevin Elder, commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment.

"You're looking at the future platoon, company, battalion, and division commanders," he said. "They get this core warrior training, a core knowledge base that they'll all have to use to deal with any situation that arises on the battlefield."

Although Fort Benning is the home of the Infantry and the training focuses on the techniques and tactics taught to Soldiers here every day, the idea of teaching every Army officer core battle skills is relatively new.

"If you were an Infantry Soldier (in 1972), you might've done something similar to this when you went through basic in yesteryear," Van Antwerp said.

"What we're trying to do is make sure everyone has an underpinning of being a warrior first, being able to engage a target, read a map, conduct a convoy. It's a lot different, and it's different for the best," he said.

(Donna Hyatt writes for the Bayonet newspaper at Fort Benning.)



Courtesy photo

A junior officer pulls security during a mission as part of Phase II of the Basic Officer Leadership Course.



Donna Hyatt

Junior officers learn valuable urban assault skills at McKenna MOUT site during the pilot program for the Basic Officer Leadership Course, Phase II.

U.S. Army Family Life Training Graduates Seven

We are a nation and an Army at war, and most Americans today find themselves touched in varying degrees by the ongoing operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and other hot spots around the world. Army families have long stoically borne the stresses associated with wartime and peacetime separation, but the emotional and marital costs have been high, and in some cases too high, for our Soldiers and their dependents to deal with effectively on their own. For the past decade, Army Chaplains at Fort Benning and Fort Hood have been at the forefront of an initiative to support those on the home front, and to assist our returning warriors in the resumption of their lives. Fort Benning's Family Life Training Program for chaplains and a similar program at Fort Hood, Texas, train comparable numbers of chaplains each year, and in the 10-year life of the program have sent forth approximately 120 chaplains to meet the needs of America's service members and their families.

On August 4, the U.S. Army Chaplain Family Life Training Program welcomed seven members into the ranks of those Chaplains who will join Army and Air Force units from Alaska to Italy, and from Louisiana to Germany. In ceremonies at the U.S. Army Infantry Center (USAIC) Chapel, Chaplain (LTC) Thomas C. Waynick, director of the program, hailed this initiative as a tremendous service, and described how it meets the needs of our warriors and their families. Each of the graduates was awarded a master's degree in community counseling.

Chaplain (MAJ) Jeffrey D. Hawkins, himself a Fort Benning Family Life Chaplain, pointed out that the need for family life chaplains has never been greater than it is today, when America is at war, family members are deployed around the globe, and the moral foundations of our nation are being challenged from many sides. Hawkins cautioned the graduates that they may



Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Chaplain (MAJ) Jimmie Ward, Chaplain (LTC) Thomas C. Waynick, Chaplain (MAJ) Tammie Crews, Chaplain (MAJ) Shon Neyland, Chaplain (MAJ) Juan Crockett, (back row) Chaplain (MAJ) David Spears, Chaplain (MAJ) Rodie Lamb, and Chaplain (MAJ) Jerry Sieg.

sometimes face limited support, even less recognition, and experience frustration, but that they are touching lives and are truly making a difference.

The guest speaker, Chaplain (LTC) Glenn S. Davis, USAIC Command Chaplain and a former Armor officer, had recently served at the Office of the Chief of Chaplains and had been involved in the selection of chaplains for this program. He summarized the intent and requirements of the program which the seven graduates had successfully completed. The 15-month program of study and hands-on instruction included theological integration, demanding academic requirements, and enhancement of therapeutic skills. The participants also completed a total of 3,200 hours of clinical work in addition to their classroom instruction and research projects.

The members of the graduating class of 2005 and their next duty stations are:

- * Chaplain (MAJ) Tammie Crews — Fort Irwin, California
- * Chaplain (MAJ) Juan Crockett — Germany
- * Chaplain (MAJ) Rodie Lamb — Fort Lewis, Washington
- * Chaplain (MAJ) Shon Neyland — Italy
- * Chaplain (MAJ) Jerry Sieg — Fort Richardson, Alaska
- * Chaplain (MAJ) David Spears — Fort Wainwright, Alaska
- * Chaplain (MAJ) Jimmy Ward — Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Army Continues New HMMWV Upgrades

CHUCK SPRAGUE

The Army is responding to Soldiers' requests for new equipment to enhance combat operations and increase safety by installing five upgrades to HMMWVs at forward repair sites in Southwest Asia.

Pentagon officials quickly approved adding: a fire suppression system, improved seat restraints, an intercom system, a gunner's restraint, and single movement door locks for all HMMWVs in Iraq.

Initially, the upgrades will be installed in HMMWVs, but the Army is adapting some of the new equipment to other medium and heavy tactical vehicles.

Adding intercom systems to tactical vehicles with turret gun mounts will improve Soldiers' ability to communicate when under fire, officials said.

The entire tactical fleet will receive the fire suppression system. New gunner restraints will be installed on all vehicles with gun-mounted turrets, and most tactical vehicles will receive the new seat restraints.

"These safety initiatives are being implemented to enhance protection and increase survivability for our soldiers," said Chuck Wentworth, the program manager for tactical wheeled vehicle's liaison office for Southwest Asia.

As more sets of the safety upgrades are received in theater, technical teams from the U.S. Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command will travel to installation sites throughout the theater to train installers and provide technical expertise on these much needed safety improvements for Soldiers in the field.

Vehicles undergoing repairs or receiving up-armor will automatically receive the new safety upgrades, said Colonel Charles Wilson, commander of the Army Materiel Command's Field Support Brigade, Southwest Asia.

(Chuck Sprague is AMC's AFSB-SWA public affairs officer at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.)