



## INFANTRY LETTERS

### Communicative Skills Instructors Deserve Recognition

I would like to thank your magazine for the excellent and timely articles from the War on Terror. Deployed Soldiers are learning and developing doctrine on how to fight our enemies, and *Infantry Magazine* does a superb job of capturing those lessons learned and communicating them to its many readers.

Most of the authors of those articles are graduates of the Advanced NCO Course, Officer Candidate School, the Infantry Officer Basic Course, or the Infantry Captains Career Course, where they have received instruction in effective reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills from the Communicative Skills instructors, Judy Sasser and Joan Horton. Judy Sasser retired in October after 20 years as a USAIS instructor and was recognized for her contribution to the communicative skills of the more than 100,000 officers and NCOs who have gone forth from Fort Benning to join units around the world during her tenure.

The Communicative Skills Branch team has also edited more than 100 tactical analysis submissions to the Donovan Library that USAIS students and historians will use for decades to come. On behalf of all students whom Mrs. Sasser has taught, the students of ICCC 04-05 presented her with a plaque of appreciation in December for lasting contributions to the professional development of the Infantry Team.

— **Lieutenant Colonel Steven D. Russell**  
Chief of Tactics, USAIS

### Editor's Note

*The Communicative Skills program at the Infantry School stands as the best remaining example of a program first begun as an initiative of General W.R. Richardson in 1985, during his tenure as Commanding General, Training and Doctrine Command. Recognizing that the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills of many junior officers and NCOs did not meet the needs of today's Army, GEN Richardson directed that each of the branch service schools establish a Communicative Skills Division to teach the Army standard. The ladies recognized in LTC Russell's letter were part of that original instructional group, and hence are part of the history of the United States Army Infantry School.*

## ALL-ARMY SMALL ARMS CHAMPIONSHIPS SET

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit will host the 2006 Army Rifle and Pistol Championships in conjunction with the U.S. Army Infantry Center from March 3-11. The U.S. Army Long-Range Championships will be held March 12-14. Training and competitions are open to all Soldiers of all Army components, of any rank, with of any military occupational specialty, including West Point and college ROTC cadets.



"The All-Army is an advanced combat marksmanship training event and competition," said Lieutenant Colonel David J. Liwanag, USAMU's commander.

All Soldiers will fire both the M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol in helmet and load-bearing equipment (body armor optional) from 25 to 500 yards with the M-16 and 7 to 25 yards with the M-9. Teams from battalion-level compete for unit recognition and team awards. All Soldiers will receive advanced marksmanship instruction and training materials to conduct train-the-trainer clinics on return to their home station. The U.S. Army Long-Range Championships will provide M-14 and M-24 long-range shooting training from 600 to 1,000 yards.

Soldiers will compete in separate Novice, Open and Pro classes based on their competition experience. The USAMU has a limited number of weapons available for Soldiers and cadets without assigned weapons.

"This is an excellent vehicle for those Soldiers and units reorganized into brigade combat teams and reconnaissance battalions who do not hold MOS 11 (Infantry) or 18 (Special Forces) and cannot attend the U.S. Army Sniper School," Liwanag said.

At the matches, coaches and NCOICs of the U.S. Army Rifle and Pistol Teams, Army Reserve, and All-Guard Teams will scout, identify, and invite selected Soldiers to compete at the Interservice Championships and the National Matches. Soldiers selected to represent the active Army are funded by the USAMU.

The All-Army matches consist of Small Arms Firing Schools, the Secretary of the Army matches, Chief of Staff of the Army matches, Sergeant Major of the Army Team matches, Excellence-in-Competition matches and special combat matches.

Champions will be awarded All-Army trophies and Excellence-in-Competition marksmanship badges, which are permanent-wear Army awards as described in Army Regulation 600-22 and are above the standard marksman, sharpshooter, and expert qualification badges.

For additional information, registration and match bulletin, visit the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Web site at [www.usamu.com](http://www.usamu.com) or contact Michael Behnke, the USAMU chief of competitions, at (706) 545-7841 or [michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil](mailto:michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil) or [clarence.fedrick@usaac.army.mil](mailto:clarence.fedrick@usaac.army.mil).

# On Today's Battlefield, Sniper is Hunter and Hunted

BRIDGETT SITER

Call it a snipe hunt. Today's sniper is the hunter and the prey.

In Iraq, Afghanistan or anywhere coalition forces are fighting the war on terrorism, the enemy is often hiding in plain sight. He looks just like his neighbors.

It takes a skilled sniper to spot - and yes, kill - an insurgent waiting for the opportunity to kill him first.

Snipers from six countries put their skills to the test October 28 through November 4 during Fort Benning's fifth annual International Sniper Competition. Thirty-one two-man teams took to the sky, the rooftops and the hills to ferret out the enemy before the enemy found them. It's called counter sniping, and it's the focus of sniper training around the world today for good reason.

"This is the best, as far as training goes, we've ever done," said Sergeant James Brown, who came from Fort Lewis, Washington, to compete with his teammate, Sergeant Colin Handy. The two spent a year in Iraq, and they said this week's competition was "combat relevant," because the scenarios, or tasks, mirrored those they faced during their deployment with 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment.

"As far as being realistic, yeah, this is it," Brown said.

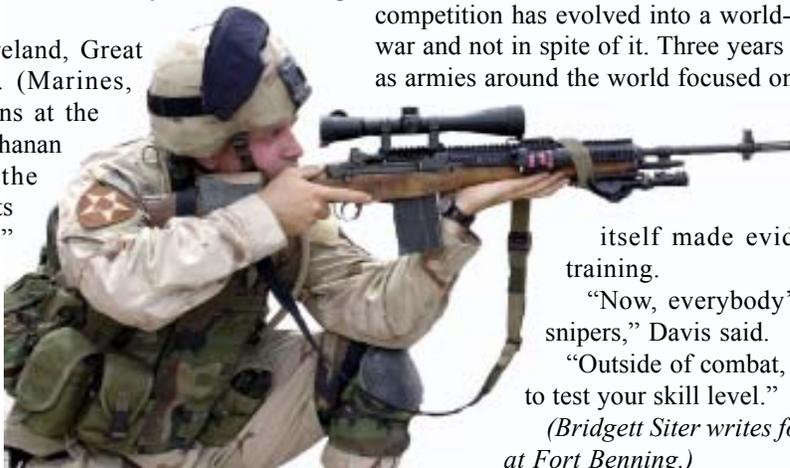
The competition is relevant by design, said Staff Sergeant Larry Davis, and he should know. Davis participated in the first two competitions here. He's helped plan and execute the last three.

"We're not here to test their schoolhouse skills," he said. "We're here to see how they perform in a combat situation under a lot of stress. We throw a scenario at them, and let them figure out the best way to handle it by themselves, just like they'd have to do in combat."

The majority of the school's 25 cadre — Soldiers in C Company, 2nd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment — are combat veterans, and they had a say in designing the competition since planning started in the spring. The competitors completed one or two events each day, nine in all, based on lessons learned by the cadre in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sniper teams from Israel, Ireland, Great Britain, Canada and the U.S. (Marines, Airmen, and Soldiers) took turns at the urban stress shoot event on Buchanan Range October 31. With the cacophony of gunfire, air assaults and mournful "mosque music" blaring from loudspeakers — a "stress enhancer," Davis called it — the snipers were tasked to search a building, top to bottom, and root out hostiles in the area.

Targets dotted the landscape, but it was hard to tell, at first



## 2005 International Sniper Competition Winners

**1st Place — Staff Sergeants Jason Pedro  
and Randy Schnell, National Guard  
Marksmanship Training Unit, Little Rock, Arkansas**

**2nd Place — Staff Sergeant Nicholas Howard and  
Sergeant Sean Clark, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry  
Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light)**

glance, which targets carried guns. That's where the spotter came in. In each team, the spotter, typically the more experienced of the two, used a scope to identify the target and a scientific calculator to gauge distance and trajectory. A slight miscalculation could result in the death of a bystander — a target minding its own business — and the loss of a few precious points.

"This is the best competition I've been to," said Tech Sergeant Todd Reed, who competed with his twin brother Tim. "They knock it dead here. It's fun. But it's not all about the fun. Everybody who competes will leave here a better Soldier, because we share information that will save lives in combat."

That's the dichotomy of the event, said Captain Ray Dillman, the commander of C Company. It's a "gentleman's game" in that the participants traditionally share the kind of insider information that levels the field.

"And that's really the goal. At the end of the day, we want an exchange of ideas," Dillman said. "We're all friendly forces, and we have the same goal."

That goal, Davis said, is to win the war on terrorism. The competition has evolved into a world-class event because of the war and not in spite of it. Three years ago, attendance was down as armies around the world focused on the war at hand.

School officials toyed with the idea of canceling the competition. But the war itself made evident the need for sniper training.

"Now, everybody's trying to improve their snipers," Davis said.

"Outside of combat, this is really the only way to test your skill level."

*(Bridgett Siter writes for The Bayonet newspaper at Fort Benning.)*

# NEWS BRIEFS

**More Soldiers Now Eligible for eArmyU** — Changes in reenlistment criteria effective October 1 broaden eligibility for Soldiers to participate in the eArmyU laptop enrollment option, officials said, and extend the program's no-laptop option to all officers.

Under the new requirements, the majority of active-component Soldiers in the rank of private first class and higher may be eligible to sign up for online college courses and receive a laptop computer to use in the program, officials said. Laptop enrollees will be required to successfully complete at least 12 semester hours of coursework in three years.

The eArmyU "no laptop" enrollment, now called "eCourse enrollment," will also be extended to all officers beginning this month, officials said.

More extensive eligibility information is located on the eArmyU Web site at [www.eArmyU.com](http://www.eArmyU.com). (*Adapted from an Army News Service release.*)

**Soldiers Can Get Reimbursed for Purchased Gear** — Some service members who bought their own protective gear will get reimbursed for the purchase under a new policy approved October 4.

David S. C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, approved the directive that allows military personnel to be reimbursed "for privately purchased protective, safety or health equipment."

The order covers the period between September 10, 2001, and August 1, 2004. Pentagon officials said "relatively few" service members are affected by the order.

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price — plus shipping — of the equipment and service members must have the receipts. Under the legislation, those claiming reimbursement must turn in their privately purchased gear. The services will destroy the equipment, as it may not meet government standards. Under the policy, reimbursement cannot exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment.

The services can request to add items to the list. The list includes: the complete outer tactical vest or equivalent commercial ballistic vests. The components of the vest — groin protector, throat protector, yoke and collar assembly, collar protector, ballistics inserts and small arms protective inserts — are covered individually. The list also includes the Kevlar helmet, ballistic eye protection and hydration systems. (*Adapted from an Army News Service release written by Jim Garamone.*)

**Be Aware of ACU Knockoffs** — Army officials are warning Soldiers against buying imitation Army Combat Uniforms in lieu of waiting for Army-approved ACUs to arrive in stores.

AAFES military clothing sales stores are scheduled to get ACUs in April, but a spokesman said they may appear sooner.

Some Soldiers, anxious to get the new uniforms, have bought imitation ACUs from unauthorized vendors. Authorized uniforms made to Army specifications are produced only by government-

contracted companies and will be sold through Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores, officials said.

To tell if an ACU is authorized, Soldiers should look for two tags sewn into the uniform. One tag near the collar is printed with the size and the second tag located elsewhere on the uniform gives the government contract number identifying what company made the uniform, and care instructions, according to Program Executive Office Soldier's Web site. Some uniforms being made offshore at present do not contain the Identification of Friend or Foe tag, a tag which allows Soldiers to identify friendly forces at night.

For more information, see the PEO Soldier Web site: [www.peosoldier.army.mil/pmequipment](http://www.peosoldier.army.mil/pmequipment). (*Adapted from an Army News Service release written by Annette M. Fournier.*)

## **Soldiers Get Traumatic Injury Insurance Protection**

— The Department of Defense has enacted a traumatic injury protection insurance under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, or SGLI program. On December 1, all service members eligible for SGLI became insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they declined SGLI coverage. The program, which will be known as TSGLI, is designed to provide financial assistance to service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury. A flat monthly premium of \$1 will be added to the monthly SGLI deduction, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage that the member has elected, officials said.

A retroactive provision of the law provides that any service member, who suffered a qualifying loss between October 7, 2001, and December 1, 2005, will receive a benefit under the TSGLI program, if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Administered by the Army Wounded Warrior Program, or AW2, on behalf of the Army, the mission of TSGLI is to ensure eligible Soldiers receive the monetary payments they are entitled to while providing them with the necessary information and assistance to complete and submit their TSGLI claims, officials said. If a Soldier is unable to complete a claim due to incapacitation or death, family members with an appropriate Power of Attorney or letter of guardianship may apply for TSGLI benefits on behalf of a Soldier, officials said.

Additional information on the traumatic injury protection benefit, as well as a listing on qualifying injuries, can be obtained by calling 1-800-237-1336 or going to [www.aw2.army.mil/TSGLI](http://www.aw2.army.mil/TSGLI) for application and contact information. (*Adapted from an Army News Service release.*)

**The 2006 Infantry Conference is tentatively scheduled for September 11-14.**

**Additional information will be posted in upcoming issues of *Infantry Magazine*.**