

Infantry News



Army changes Tattoo policy — The Army has revised its policy on tattoos in an effort to bolster recruitment of highly-qualified individuals who might otherwise have been excluded from joining.

Tattoos are now permitted on the hands and back of the neck if they are not “extremist, indecent, sexist or racist.” Army Regulation 670-1, which was modified via a message released January 25, also now specifies: “Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent makeup.”

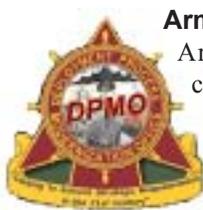
The new policy allows recruits and all Soldiers to sport tattoos on the neck behind an imaginary line straight down and back of the jawbone, provided the tattoos don’t violate good taste.

“The only tattoos acceptable on the neck are those on the back of the neck,” said Hank Minitrez, Army G-1 Human Resources Policy spokesman. “The ‘back’ of the neck is defined as being just under the ear lobe and across the back of the head. Throat tattoos on that portion of the neck considered the front, the ear lobe forward) are prohibited.”

Soldiers who are considering putting tattoos on their hands and necks should consider asking their chain of command prior to being inked.

Should a Soldier not seek advice and have tattoos applied that aren’t in keeping with AR 670-1, the command will counsel the Soldier on medical options, but may not order the Soldier to have the tattoos removed. However, if a Soldier opts not to take the medical option at Army expense, the Soldier may be discharged from service.

If a Soldier’s current command has no issue with his/her tattoos, the Soldier should have personnel files so notated that the Soldier is in line with AR 670-1, officials said. Though not mandatory, having the notation entered serves as backup documentation at a follow-on command which might feel the Soldier’s tattoos don’t meet Army regulation.



Army Deployment Excellence Award — The Army’s 2007 Deployment Excellence Award competition is now open for active, Reserve or National Guard units and installations. To participate in the DEA program, a unit is required to have executed or supported a training or contingency deployment during the competition year. The competition year begins on December 1, 2005, and will run through November 30, 2006. All units and installations are encouraged to plan now to complete in this elite competition. What’s the prize? Two representatives in each winning and runner up units in each category will receive an all expense paid four-day trip to the Washington, D.C. area to accept the unit’s award (trip includes travel, per diem, lodging, ground transportation, time for shopping, tours of Washington area and a photo with the Army’s Chief of Staff).

DEA guidance and evaluation criteria can be found on the Deployment Process Modernization Office Web site at www.deployment.eustis.army.mil.

Upcoming Smoke & Obscurants Conference — The Joint Project Manager NBC Contamination Avoidance, Product Manager for Reconnaissance and Obscuration is organizing the Obscurants 2006 Conference. This year’s conference will consist of four days of presentations, discussions, and exhibits with an afternoon of field demonstrations. It is scheduled for October 2-5 in Destin, Fla.

Conference organizers are seeking presentations and posters on topics including but not limited to: applications of smoke in the field; current and future capabilities/systems; modeling and simulation; environmental issues; toxicology; and dissemination methods.

Visit the conference Web site at www.obscurants2006.com for more information and online registration.

2006 Warfighting Conference

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

Once available, additional conference information will be posted to the Fort Benning Web site at <https://www.benning.army.mil>.

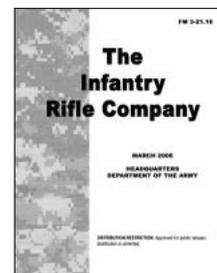
Information about the conference will also appear in upcoming issues of *Infantry Magazine*.

Doctrine Corner

FM 3-21.10 (7-10), *The Infantry Rifle Company*, is approved and can now be found on the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) Web site (www.us.army.mil.)

Once logged in, go to: AKO Files/US Army Organizations/TRADOC/Schools/Infantry/DOT,G-3/Infantry Publications/Approved Final Draft.

For more information, contact the **U.S. Army Infantry School’s Combined Arms and Tactics Directorate** at: DSN: 835-7114, COMM: (706) 545-7114, or e-mail: doctrine@benning.army.mil.



IRAQI EARNS RANGER TAB

BRIDGETT SITER

He calls himself “Capt. Arkan.” Arkan is his first name, and he prefers not to have his picture taken.



More than a year ago, Arkan arrived at Fort Benning, Ga., to attend the Infantry Captains Career Course and Airborne School — the first Iraqi soldier to do so. The first week of May, Arkan also became the first Iraqi to attend Ranger School and earn the coveted Ranger tab.

As the aide to a three-star Iraqi general, Arkan is aware that divulging too much of himself puts others at risk. But he’s effusive with praise for the Ranger Training Brigade and the training he’ll take back to Iraq’s new army.

“I’ve learned a lot – tactics, teamwork – all that good stuff,” said Arkan, who “saw a lot of war action” as a member of an Iraqi quick-reaction force before becoming the general’s aide. Soon, he said, he’ll be assigned to a tactical or training unit.

“This was a big hit for me. It changed my leadership 100 percent,” he said. “I will apply what I learned on the ground for my new army.”

“My new army” is the army Arkan’s served in since 2003. The 25-year-old graduate of the Baghdad Military Academy was a former member of the “old Iraqi army” under the Hussein regime. That army was one million strong, he said, but he never considered it a career option.

“You had to be close, you know, to Saddam and his people. Now it is very different,” he said. “There are a lot of opportunities. They value the soldier now.

Before, the connection between officers and NCOs was not good,” he noted. “Now they let the NCOs do their jobs and support them 100 percent. Now they value their lives, their worth – it is a different Army.”

And the NCOs value their jobs as well, Arkan said.

“They believe in what they’re doing. It’s a volunteer army, and even though the recruiting stations are being bombed all the time, they still keep coming,” he said. “They still want to serve.”

In spite of what the media would have the public believe, Arkan says morale in the Iraqi army is quite high, and that bodes well for the future of a free Iraq.

“I have a big, huge faith in the future,” he said. “It’s going to be good. It’s just a matter of time.”

Arkan hopes he has paved the way for other Iraqi soldiers to train in the U.S. He’s the first to graduate the ICCC, Ranger School and Airborne School. Another Iraqi started Ranger School this week, he said.

“When I was here before, I saw my classmates had the Ranger tab, and they were different. I knew I wanted it then,” he said. “It is good training to pass on to our units. There will be a big use for what we learn here.”

(Bridgett Siter writes for Fort Benning’s Bayonet newspaper.)

Army Stands by Official CLP Products

J.D. LEIPOLD

The Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) wants to make it clear to all Soldiers that the only two approved CLPs (cleaners, lubricants, protectants) that should be used on a variety of weapons systems are Breakfree and Royal.

In a Pentagon press briefing, Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, RDECOM commander, reiterated that the Army has conducted a battery of tests that concluded the products under recommendation since 2003 were still vastly superior to others.

“When desert ops came up in 2003, the then-director was asked to take a look at the Army’s CLP to see if there was a lubricant with relaxed cleaning and preservation qualities that, in a desert-like environment, would be exceptional in performance to what the Army had at the present time,” Nadeau said.

So the Army took a closer look at its field requirements, and solicited samples from manufacturers for products aimed primarily at lubrication. The Army Test and Evaluation Command tested 21 samples received by manufacturers, as well as the two CLPs already approved at the time, under multiple categories of application and a wide variety of operating environments.

“The tests were on four weapons systems covering handguns, rifles and machine guns ... bottom line, end-state to the tests was that the superior performers in all categories turned out to be those products which were already approved by the Army,” Nadeau said.

Nadeau cautions Soldiers using unauthorized CLPs that the product may work fine on Monday and Tuesday but by the time Friday rolls around the Soldier might have created a scenario he or she didn’t see coming – “weapon failure, not on the range, but in a firefight.”

“We authorize products to Soldiers which have undergone rigorous testing, products we know that will work every time,” Nadeau stressed. “Soldiers don’t have to think about quality performance, the testing has been done ad nauseam and works across a spectrum of operating environments.”

While there are technical manuals and bulletins that tell Soldiers exactly how to use the authorized CLPs, the key to any weapon’s success is up to the individual Soldier’s training and dedication to weapon and cartridge cleaning.

“Even if the manual says you should clean your weapon twice a day, if you’ve got time, clean it four times a day; if you’ve got more time, clean it eight times a day because the one time you didn’t clean it may be the time it jams,” Nadeau said.

CENTER STRESSES COUNTERINSURGENCY MISSION

JIM GARAMONE

The Counterinsurgency Center for Excellence in Iraq was established last year to help units adapt to and train for the war against terror in Iraq as it is fought today, which is much different than it was 2003, 2004, or even 2005.

“There is a different nature of operations now,” said Army Lt. Col. Pete Cafaro, the center’s deputy commandant. “Some of the units were here at the beginning when they were fighting their way to Baghdad. Now that’s not the fight. Now what we’re trying to do is train the Iraqis so they can assume their own battlespace.”

Leaders of American and coalition units attend the weeklong course at the center, which is the brainchild of Army Gen. George Casey, commander of Multinational Force Iraq. Brigade commanders, battalion commanders, company commanders and senior staff — including NCOs — come to the center for counterinsurgency instruction. Each class has about 40 students.

Students attend the course when they come to Iraq for their pre-deployment site survey, Cafaro said. “Then they have more chance to get back to their units and change their training regimen to stress things they will need to do once they move to their area.”

Because the unit leaders know the areas they are going to, the center tailors training to unique requirements they will face. Leaders from units already in place come and discuss challenges they face and tactics, techniques and procedures they have found work. The units can also discuss the personalities of the people involved and cultural aspects of the situation that are important to the new unit.

The course starts with the fundamentals about counterinsurgency, Cafaro, a Special Forces officer, said. “Then we move to discussing foreign internal defense, which is the task of basically helping a country establish security within its own borders. That, of course, is the challenge the Iraqi government has.”

The 31-member instructor/facilitator team then brings on topics unit leaders need to be thinking about to transition from theory to actual exercises, training and operations. Part of this is the relationship among units on the ground, military transition teams, and Iraqi units. Cafaro stressed that training Iraqi army and police units is the top priority for coalition units.

Unit leaders also learn about detainee operations. It is not enough to just say a suspect is a terrorist, Cafaro said. Detainees will end up in court, so the course discusses having the right evidence in the right formats to prosecute suspects.

On the intelligence side, the center stresses getting intelligence analysts into lower levels in a unit. “Most of our information is coming from the bottom up, not the top down,” he said. “The intel analysts need to be closer to that source, so units are learning

that they need to beef up their S-2 (intelligence and security) sections and push them down to company or even platoon level.

The course also encourages units to “get out of the vehicles and walk,” Cafaro said. “That is the best tactic in counterinsurgency warfare.”

The instruction also stresses Iraqi culture and history. “This helps the students understand why things are the way they are,” the colonel said. “It helps them understand some of the different segments of the population and their religion. Finally, it helps them understand that things that are important to us may not be important to the Iraqi culture and vice versa.

“For example, we put a large stock in out identity as Americans,” Cafaro continued. “The Iraqi starts with himself, goes to his immediate family and works out from there. Given what they’ve been through, it’s understandable that they don’t have a lot of love for a national government. When you are dealing with the Iraqis, you have to take that into consideration.”

For each class, senior coalition leaders speak of the campaign plan. “You are hearing it directly from the leaders,” Cafaro said. “It helps the units understand their places in the plan and why what they will do will be important to the overall strategy.”

With the growth of the Iraqi army, the center is sponsoring mobile training teams that provide the instruction to Iraqi army units at their stations.

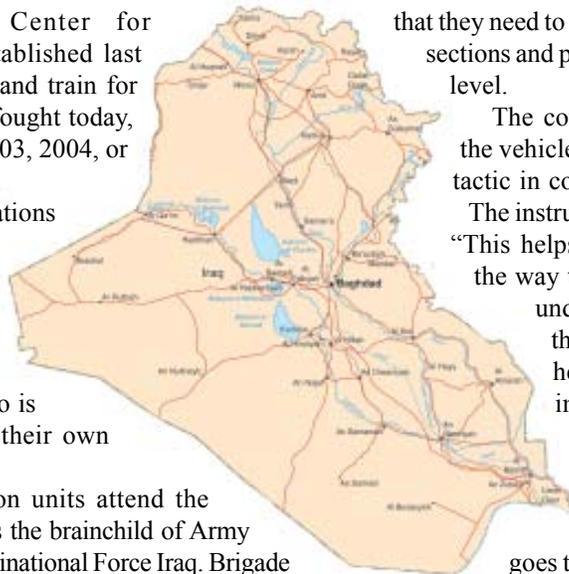
Cafaro said the biggest challenge facing the center is to change the mind-set of the people attending the course. He called the course’s students “hard-charging officers and NCOs” who are the best in the world at applying a traditional military solution to a situation.

“But counterinsurgency is about changing peoples’ perceptions and getting them to buy into a situation,” Cafaro said. A traditional military answer is often the wrong answer in such a situation. “For counterinsurgency to work you have to get the people involved,” he said.

The center strives to get leaders to think “outside the box.” Escalation of force is one example. “We try to get people not to take counterproductive actions,” Cafaro said. “Force protection is very important, don’t get me wrong, but there are certain things you can do that are not helpful, like the escalation of force. Let’s really think about, ‘Do we have to shoot our weapons to warn people?’

“If we have to, then fine. But the nature of what you are doing is not winning you any friends,” he said. “The idea is to try not to create more enemies. If we do escalation of force and it results in some needless casualties, then you haven’t created a lot of support for what we’re trying to do.”

(Jim Garamone writes for the American Forces Press Service.)



SWAP SHOP

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE CHARLIE BROWN MOUNT?

FIRST LIEUTENANT LARS BROWN AND SERGEANT FIRST CLASS NELS BROWN

Infantry missions conducted as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom are vast and diverse, and many involve the use of the M1114 high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV). Our unit has been assigned such missions, to include providing convoy security for transportation assets from Kuwait into Iraq. We crew M1114 HMMWVs exclusively. When we arrived in theater and signed for the vehicles, many of our Soldiers were asking for an auxiliary mount for the turret, but their requests were driven by competing interests. Some Soldiers wanted to be able to cover a secondary sector without the need to traverse the main weapon system 180 degrees. Other Soldiers were interested in a secondary weapon system that would allow them to cover their primary sector and continue to use the front gunner's shield for protection. Still others wanted the ability to elevate the secondary system rapidly to cover the back side of bridges as they passed underneath them.

Some gunners preferred the mount on the left side and others wanted it on the right, while some wanted it mounted on the front angle of the armor on either side of the gunner's shield. This placement would allow them to mount a MK-19 in the main mount and have the direct fire capability of the M249 or M240B covering the same sector of fire. Some Soldiers preferred to mount the M249, while others wanted to be able to mount the M240B. Maintenance also mandated that the mount attach to the turret through the existing holes.

We took all of these competing interests and developed a versatile mount that met many of our Soldiers' needs. Since the idea was developed by brothers named Brown (the authors - 1LT Lars and SFC Nels Brown) with the help and feedback of many of the men in C Company, the Charlie Brown Mount was born.

The idea started when Sergeant Robert Schultz found a swivel-arm machine gun mount (NSN 1005-00-406-1493) taken off



Courtesy photo

The Charlie Brown Mount

an M113A3 armored personnel carrier at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office at Logistics Support Area (LSA) Anaconda. The machine gun mount has a pivot point that allows a six-inch arm with a pintle lock at the end to rotate the gun 360 degrees. The triangular base attaches with three bolts. We then designed a platform that would mount in eight different positions on the turret armor using only the existing holes. We did not have access to raw materials that would normally be required to manufacture the platforms, so we used the M1114 fuel door that had been removed during an armor upgrade. It turned out that we were able to get all three pieces cut from the same fuel door, making it a very efficient process. We cut the bolt holes that we needed using a plasma cutter and welded a gusset and a triangular platform onto the plate, and we had the Charlie Brown Mount.

The Charlie Brown Mount secures to the outside of the turret, using the existing holes. The swivel arm rotates just above the top of the armor, allowing the gunner to stay low and utilize the cover of the armor, but also allows the gun to rotate over the top of the armor so it can be secured inside the protection of the turret. The swivel-arm also allows the gunner to comfortably fire the M249 or the M240B,

because it moves the longer M240B out so the gunner can get behind it while maintaining a steady, solid position in the hatch. The M249 will rotate 360 degrees in most positions with the plastic 200-round drum, but our gunners generally prefer the cloth SAW pouch (NSN 1005-01-334-1507) and the nylon M240B nylon ammunition bag (NSN 8465-99-151-3394). Mounted guns can also be elevated with ease to cover bridges and overpasses when the Charlie Brown Mount is secured in the most rearward position on the turret without traversing the main gun mount.

The Charlie Brown mount has satisfied several different competing interests for an auxiliary weapons mount for the M1114 turret. The swivel-arm machine gun mount already existed in the parts inventory, so we didn't have to redesign the wheel. The swivel arm allows for excellent fields of fire including traversing and elevation, weapons retention with a pintle lock that does not require a pin, and weapons security because it can be secured inside of the turret. The welding and cutting for the platform were fairly easy, as long as some type of welder and torch or plasma cutter are available. It is the simplest design that we could develop for maximum versatility. Both M249s and M240Bs have been fired from the Charlie Brown Mount at the range, and the M249 has been fired in a combat action and has functioned very effectively. Anyone interested in additional information or would like to see additional pictures, contact 1LT Brown via e-mail lars.brown@us.army.mil or contact C Co. operations at DSN 318-844-1025.

Do you have an innovative idea or training suggestion that you would like to share with the infantry community? Send it, along with any photos or sketches, to:
Inf.MagazineDep@benning.army.mil