Infantry News

Intelligence Center Offers MTTs on Cultural Awareness, Intel Topics

The United States Army Intelligence Center (USAIC) in conjunction with U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Forces Command (FORSCOM) and Department of the Army G2 executes Warfighter Function (WFF)-related mobile training for units preparing for future deployments in support of the global war on terrorism (Operation Iraqi Freedom [OIF], Operation Enduring Freedom [OEF], Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa [HOA], Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay [GTMO]) and transformation.

This effort began in July 2004, and since that time more than 60,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have been trained.

Cultural Awareness Mobile Training Team (MTT)

This training provides a specific overview in Middle Eastern, Central Asian and African cultures, religion, geography and history in the form of train-the-trainer (TTT) and traditional training to warfighters. Intent is to provide the most up-to-date information available that is tailored to the level or intensity desired focusing on OIF/OEF/HOA/GTMO operations.

The Cultural Awareness (CA) MTTs:

Ø Conduct TTT to TRADOC schools in order for the schools to incorporate CA into their institutional training;

Ø Conduct TTT to FORSCOM units in order for the Soldiers to train their own units prior to deployment; and

Ø Conduct cultural awareness training for warfighters. Warfighter training is typically conducted in 16 to 8 hour training rotations.

The curriculum ranges from four to 40 hours and includes overviews on the country and culture as well as tactical application of cultural knowledge (TACK) exercises.

The following country studies are available by special request: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Philippines.

Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Collection Team MTT

The HUMINT Collection Team (HCT) training program objective is to prepare the deploying HCTs for operations in the area where they are getting ready to deploy (either Iraq or Afghanistan).

The HCT training program primary audience is HUMINT Collectors (97E) and Counterintelligence Special Agents (97B) of all ranks who are task organized into HCTs.

The HCT training program uses the lecture and conference methods of training to cover topics including legal parameters, applied culture, basic questioning, deception detection, Debriefing, and reporting.

During the last three days of the training, a culmination practical exercise based on a realistic scenario provides the Soldiers with situations they may encounter while conducting HUMINT operations in a deployed environment. During the culmination training exercise, the Soldiers apply everything they learned during the first six days of the training to real-life situations.

Tactical Questioning MTT

The tactical questioning (TQ) training program's objective is to prepare deploying Soldiers to be passive information collectors consistent with the Every Soldier a Sensor concept. The TQ training program's primary audience is Soldiers of all ranks and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

The TQ training program uses the lecture method of training to cover topics including cultural awareness, questioning techniques and SALUTE report, rapport building, nonverbal communication and detainee handling.

To Set Up an MTT

Units interested in setting up an MTT on any of the topics should contact Art Vigil at (520) 538-4338 or DSN 879-4338 or e-mail arthur.vigil@us.army.mil

2008 Infantry Warfighting Conference Set

Fort Benning will host the 2008 Infantry Warfighting Conference September 15-17. The conference will be held at Fort Benning and the Iron Works Convention Center in Columbus, Georgia. The conference is open to all Infantry and Army leaders. Register at www.benning.army.mil/infantry or www.fbcinc.com/infantry. For more information contact CPT Nicholas Turner or Cliff Davis at DSN 835-0927/9734/8528 or commercial (706) 545-0927/9734/8528

News Briefs

Center for Military History Collecting Historical Documents

The U.S. Army Center for Military History is collecting operational records relating to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. While a tremendous number of records have been collected by deployed U.S. Army Military History Detachments and other military historians, significant gaps still exist. Efforts by historians to chronicle the Total Army's contributions to the global war on terrorism have also been constrained by gaps in available records. This is especially true with regard to the combat experiences of individual Soldiers.

Documents of historical significance required for a narrative account of major events include but are not limited to:

* Command & control (C2)
* Operations plans
* Maps/charts/drawings
* After action reports
* Operations summaries
* Correspondence (e-mails/letters/notes/meeting minutes/messages)
* Senior leader guidance
* Journals
* Intelligence summaries
* Special studies/briefings

For more information or to submit a document, contact LTC Robert Smith at robert.smith38@us.army.mil.

New Developmental Counseling Course Available Online

The Combined Arms Center - Center for Army Leadership (CAL) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has recently released a new online course for all Army leaders on developmental counseling. This course consists of three modules, totaling approximately 11 hours of instruction. The modules cover types of counseling, leaders as counselors, and the counseling process.

FM 6-22, *Army Leadership*, the Army's newest leadership doctrine, states that "counseling is one of the most important leadership development responsibilities for Army leaders." This counseling course is one way for leaders to hone their counseling skills and to help prepare for greater responsibility. Since the course is online and accessible through the Internet, Army leaders can work on the course at a time and place that is convenient to them.

"There are two important reasons to improve counseling skills," says SGM Joel Jacobs, Center for Army Leadership. "Counseling is one of the most important ways to develop subordinates. The second reason is that counseling helps the leader and Soldier to come to a common understanding about the mission and how it needs to be accomplished."

The Developmental Counseling Course and FM 6-22, *Army Leadership,* are both available on the Combined Arms Center Web site at http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/digitalpublications.asp.

Media interested in learning more about the Developmental Counseling Course should contact Dr. Jon Fallesen at the Center for Army Leadership, (913) 758-3160.

17th Infantry Regiment Association Reunion Set

The 2008 17th Infantry Regiment Association Reunion is set for August 27-30 in Tacoma, Washington. It will be held at the La Quinta Inn & Suites — (253) 383-0146. This reunion is open to any veteran of the 17th Infantry Regiment — peace time or war — any family member of 17th Infantry Soldiers, or any personnel who were attached to the 17th Regiment at any time.

For more information, contact Don Shook at (724) 367-1096 or visit www.17thinfantry.com.

Army Offers Renewed Incentives for Captains to Stay

In an effort to encourage more mid-grade officers to remain in service, the Army is again offering a "menu of incentives" for active-component captains that includes options for a cash bonus and attendance at graduate school or the Defense Language Institute.

The incentives are available to eligible captains through November 30.

The program is essentially the same as last year, HRC officials said, with minor changes: First, active-component category officers and select Medical Service Corps and Army Nurse Corps officers in basic year group 2005 will now be eligible to participate. Qualifying officers in year groups 1999 through 2004 who did not participate in the first program will still remain eligible. Second, the branch of choice, post of choice and Ranger School options will not be offered.

The menu of options available this year are:

1) The cash option, payable in the same $25,000, $30,000, or $35,000 tiers based on the officer's accessed branch;

2) The Expanded Graduate School Program option, which is fully funded graduate school; or

3) The Defense Language School option, based upon a pre-Defense Language Aptitude Battery score.

An eligible officer will only be able to select one option in exchange for a three-year non-concurrent active-duty service obligation if accepting the cash option, or a 3:1 active-duty service obligation in the case of accepting the expanded graduate school program or attendance at the Defense Language Institute. Human Resources Command estimates that about 8,400 officers will be eligible to participate in this year's program.

Officers must be in the rank of captain in order to participate. Promotable first lieutenants must wait and submit upon promotion to captain, HRC officials said. They said officers in year groups 1999 through 2001 who will become promotable to major during this time frame must submit their request prior to their effective date of promotion.

If the MILPER message does not answer all of an officer's questions, additional questions can be addressed to the branch manager at HRC. Alternate means are to e-mail HRC directly at OPMDRetention@conus.army.mil or visit HRC's Web site at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/Active/opfamdd/LDD_Home.htm.

Soldiers Look to Other Troops to Get Better Understanding of Islamic Cultures

SERGEANT BRANDON LITTLE

Military leaders say that putting faces with the monstrous machines patrolling the roads and skies of Iraq is essential to success for coalition forces. American forces go out of their way to interact with the locals and help them get a better understanding of our missions, our cultures and, ultimately, to gain their confidence.

But the training doesn't stop with the Iraqi people. Knowing that cultural understanding has to work both ways, the military continues to provide its service members with training on Islamic cultures and their way of life. But what happens after all the training and Soldiers still have questions?

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers in Task Force XII, who practice Islam, are always eager to answer questions about their religion and help fellow Soldiers put a familiar face with an unfamiliar culture.

"I've known the Soldiers I work with for a long time and they don't treat me any different just because I'm from a different culture," said SPC Emadeldeen Elboctorcy, a UH-60 Black Hawk maintainer in Company D, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. "They're pretty considerate of my religion; for example, when some of the Soldiers go to get food for everybody, they always make sure there is a plate without pork."

Elboctorcy, who is now a U.S. citizen, was born and raised as a devout Muslim in Alexandria, Egypt. He moved to the United States in 1995 and has been answering the questions of those curious about his religion ever since.

"When you get cultural awareness training, they only give you so much information, and many of the Soldiers, to include myself, still had questions," said 1SG Ronald Pickens, a native of Abilene, Texas, who serves with Company D. "Instead of asking their question in front of everybody, they felt more comfortable asking Elboctorcy, and he would explain his point of view. He's a very tolerant person and willing to answer those questions."

SPC Asad Khan, a New York City resident for nearly 30 years, was born in a small town near Lahore, Pakistan, and is often asked about his religion and his country's culture.

"Some people think that everyone who is a Muslim is a radical, but that's not the case," said Khan, an air traffic control systems maintainer in Company F, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. "There are a few, just like in every religion, who are extremist, but I was definitely not brought up that way."

Having cultural awareness training and a Soldier in the unit who practices Islam has helped the other Soldiers understand that different doesn't mean good or bad; it just means different, said Pickens.

1SG Ronald Pickens

SPC Emadeldeen Elboctorcy (right) talks about aircraft maintenance with another Soldier. SPC Elboctorcy hails from California but was born in Egypt and is one of the few Soldiers in his task force who practices Islam.

"I joined the Army because I wanted to make a difference in the war using my language. But at that time, there was no military occupational specialty for Arabic linguist," said Elboctorcy, a native of Citrus Heights, California. "I guess in a sense I am making a difference, because even though I'm not out there talking to Iraqis, I'm still providing information to the Soldiers who want to know more about Arabic cultures."

"He doesn't explain how the cultures are different; he explains how the cultures are similar," said Pickens.

Islam, just like most other religions, teaches people they should love and respect one another, said Elboctorcy.

Having been born in the Middle East, Khan and Elboctorcy said they feel a connection to people who live in this region, but living in the U.S. for so many years has made them appreciate both cultures.

"I feel a strong connection to Iraqis who have dual citizenship with a country like the U.S. or Great Britain," said Elboctorcy. "We can share experiences we've had in living in both cultures and speaking both languages."

Although Khan is not yet a U.S. citizen, he has begun the naturalization process and will more than likely become a citizen before the end of his deployment.

Whether it's learning from cultural awareness training, or a Soldier who has lived in a certain region of the world, Task Force XII Soldiers have plenty of options to educate themselves on unfamiliar cultures and ways of life.

"I've never been stereotyped or judged by the Soldiers I work with; they know me and they know I'm from New York," said Khan. "Don't get me wrong, I still love Pakistan, but America has my heart and I will always be an American."

(SGT Brandon Little is a member of the Task Force XII Public Affairs team.)

WWII Unit Honored for Bayonet Attack

COLONEL (RETIRED) DOUG DILLARD

Company A, 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion conducted one of the rare bayonet attacks during World War II on January 4, 1945, against German machine gun positions in the vicinity of Dairomont, Belgium. This unit, its sister units, and their battalion earned recognition for heroism and the heavy casualties they subsequently sustained in Belgium during the closing months of World War II. This is the story of one such action, which — as has all too often been the case — was obscured by the larger and more prominent campaigns of the war.

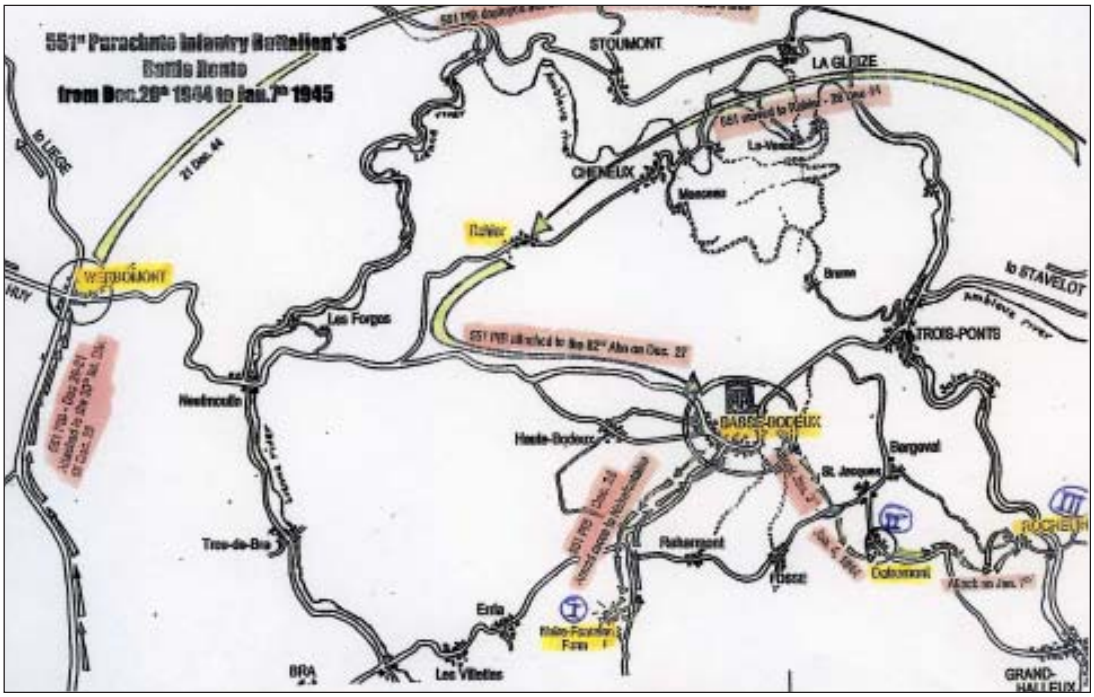


Figure 1 — Battle Route of 551st PIB from December 20, 1944, to January 7, 1945

The story of the 551st began in the state of Georgia. The personnel needed to activate the 551st were mustered at Fort Benning in late November 1942, and then the unit shipped out of Hampton Roads, Virginia, to Fort Kobbe in the Panama Canal Zone. Initially, the mission of the 551st and the 501st Parachute Infantry Battalions was to prepare to make a parachute assault on the French Vichy government controlled island of Martinique, which was being used to support German submarine activities in the south Atlantic. Just before the scheduled airborne assault, however, the island government pledged its allegiance to the Free French government in exile, so the mission was cancelled and the 551st returned to the U.S. for retraining and deployment to the European Theater of Operations. The 551st participated in the airborne assault in southern France in August 1944. The 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion deployed from Panama as a battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment as the regiment passed through the canal to its destination in the Pacific, where the 501st first jumped to secure Lae airfield in New Guinea.

LTC Wood G. Joerg, commander of the 551st, was a unique and energetic figure, very popular with his troopers, and he provided an example of leadership that immediately inspired many of the troopers. Under his leadership the training program in Panama inspired individualism, initiative, and the desire to accomplish the mission. On Thursdays in the Canal Zone, the battalion split into small individual elements for specialized training of their selection, so the battalion could develop any and all capabilities to operate in almost any environment. Such specialized training included light aircraft flight training, small boat handling, mechanics and locomotive operations, communications, and demolitions, all with special emphasis on the skills to sabotage enemy operations within all of these areas. Essentially, the training provided a potential for widespread special type operations, at that time thought to be missions primarily for parachutists.

Such individual attention to development of the troopers' special talents would prove critical in their subsequent combat operations. Additionally, since many of the original paratroopers of the 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion were cadre for the 551st, a great many original developments and concepts came from the troopers jumping with the light machine gun, breaking down the 60mm mortar into sections not in bundles that could be jumped with the mortar squad personnel, use of the tether line for release and control of individual troopers' bags that could be lowered before the trooper hit the ground, and jumping of radio equipment by individuals rather than in a bundle. Finally, the unit spent lots of time in the field on squad, platoon, company and battalion exercises; the troopers were more at home in the field than in the base camp performing garrison type duties. The rigors of living in the field had become an accepted part of the battalion's normal routine.

Once on the ground in southern France, the battalion conducted a nighttime infiltration five kilometers through German lines to secure the city of Draguignan, 45 kilometers west of Cannes, the largest city in the region. This event was triggered by French Resistance reports that the German forces were planning to retaliate against the citizens of Draguignan because they had begun displaying Free French flags and initiating actions against the Germans. The 551st was ordered to immediately move into Draguignan to prevent such actions against the citizens. The 551st successfully completed the infiltration, capturing German

MG Ludwig Bieringer in his command post in Draguignan and surrounding the bunker of LTG Ferdinand Neuling, the corps commander, forcing him to surrender along with his staff, thereby dismantling the German command and control of the corps area. The capture of these key personnel facilitated the U.S. Seventh Army moving swiftly from the beaches of southern France northward for linkup with U.S. forces in northern France. For its action the 551st was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.

The 551st operated along the coast of southern France and in the Maritime Alps along the Franco/Italian border from September to November of 1944. The battalion then moved via train to northern France and was assigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps. History records the attachment of the 551st to the 82nd Airborne Division in the Battle of the Bulge. The 551st personnel who were reassigned to regiments of the 82nd Airborne Division performed outstandingly, many becoming NCOs or promoted in enlisted grade to platoon sergeant or first sergeant positions. Even though in their hearts the 551st remained their first love, the 551st troopers immediately pledged their loyalty to the new unit.

On December 27, 1944, General James M.Gavin, commanding general of the 82nd, ordered the 551st to infiltrate 4,000 meters through German lines to attack a command post, capture prisoners and collect intelligence on German opposing forces and their defenses. This information would later aid in launching the U.S. counterattack on January 3, 1945. The 551st's bayonet attack against German positions and other heroic actions undertaken in the course of the operation are best outlined in the Presidential Unit Citation shown at Figure 2.

Today, in the area of the Battle of the Bulge where the 551st fought, there are monuments located in the towns and villages of Trois Ponts, Rochelinval, Noirfontaine, Dairomont, La Chappell and Leighnon.

Local Belgian citizens, supported by the city of Vielsam, Belgium, erected and dedicated a monument with a bronze plate attached to a granite base on February 23, 2008, at Dairomont, Belgium, the place of the attack. About 1,200 attendees from Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and England were present for the dedication. Many were WWII re-enactors who have adopted the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion as their unit, wearing the steel helmet with the 551st's distinctive symbol of a white palm tree on the helmet. The palm tree represents the unit's place of activation in the Panama Canal Zone in 1942. The dedication of the bayonet monument was related to the annual march "In the Footsteps of the 82nd Airborne Division" in the battle of the bulge. Each year, the Belgian chapter of the C-47 Club (An association of the 82nd Airborne Division Association) sponsors the march that follows the battle route of a selected regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. This year the route of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was selected for the march as shown in Figure 1 with battle highlights of the 551st reflected.

A monument dedicated to the 551st PIB was erected in Dairomont, Belgium, the site of the unit's bayonet attack in January 1945.

The following inscription best describes the bayonet action by Company A on January 4, 1945:

Dairomont, Belgium — "Company A of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion American under the command of LT Richard Durkee conducted one of the rare bayonet attacks of World War II. The American parachutists neutralized German machine gun positions and inflicted great losses on the enemy who greatly outnumbered them. (We shall never forget their courage.)"

(COL (RET) Doug Dillard received a direct commission in the Infantry in 1948 and retired in 1977. He currently lives in Bowie, Maryland.)

Figure 2 — The 551st's Presidential Unit Citation

The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion is cited for exceptional heroism in performance of duty in combat operations against the enemy at the beginning of the American counteroffensive in the Ardennes, Belgium, culminating in the heroic attack and seizure of the critical, heavily fortified, regimental German position of Rochelinval on the Salm River. A separate battalion attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, the 551st began its grueling days as the division's spearhead by successfully executing a raid on advanced German positions at Noirefontaine on 27 and 28 December 1944, delivering to XVIII Airborne Corps vital intelligence for the Allied counteroffensive soon to come. On 3 January 1945, the 551st from the division's line of departure at Basse Bodeaux attacked against great odds and secured the imposing ridges of Herispehe. Punished by artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire as it moved across the open, up slope terrain, the battalion lost its forward artillery observers, causing an acute lack of artillery support for its week-long push against two German regiments. On January 4, the battalion conducted a rare fixed bayonet attack of machine gun nests that killed 64 Germans. On 5 and 6 January, the 551st captured the towns of Dairomont and Quartiers, parrying the German counterattacks while often fighting hand-to-hand combat. At less than half strength, on 7 January the battalion confronted its final critical objective: Rochelinval on the Salm River. Initially repelled into a hailstorm of artillery and machine gun fire toward a high ridge of entrenched enemy, the 551st finally overwhelmed the defenders and captured Rochelinval, shutting off the last bridge of escape to the Germans in a 10-mile sector of the Salm River. The next day, January 8, Hitler ordered the German Army's first pullback from the Battle of the Bulge. In fighting a numerically superior foe with dominant high ground advantage, the 551st lost over four-fifths of its men, including the death of its inspirational commander Lieutenant Colonel Wood Joerg, as he led the last attack. Disbanded a month later, the battalion accounted for 400 German dead and took over 300 prisoners. The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion fought with a tenacity and fervor that was extraordinary. In what United States historian Charles MacDonald called "the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army," the 551st demonstrated the very best of the Army tradition of performance of duty in spite of great sacrifice and against all odds.

Six USAMU Soldiers Qualify for Olympic Team

PAULA J. RANDALL

Six Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia, won seven slots on the 2008 U.S. Olympic Shooting Team and will compete at the Olympic Games this summer.

MAJ Michael E. Anti, SFC Daryl L. Szarenski, SPC Walton Glenn Eller III, SPC Jeffrey G. Holguin and PFC Vincent C. Hancock each won a spot on the Olympic Team and SFC Jason A. Parker won two slots. The Soldiers will be competing in Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun events.

The 2008 Olympic Trials for Shotgun were conducted August 8-19 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and March 8-16 in Kerrville, Texas. During these selection matches, Eller and Holguin each won a slot in Double Trap and Hancock got a slot in Skeet.

International Rifle and Pistol Olympic Selections were held March 1-3 in Colorado Springs and May 12-22 at Fort Benning. Anti was selected for Prone Rifle, and Parker won slots in both Air Rifle and Three Position Rifle. Szarenski took a slot in Free Pistol.

Eller beat 13 competitors to make the Olympic Team in Double Trap. Eller, 26, also competed in the 2004 and 2000 Olympics. He joined the Army in September 2006. Holguin, 29, joined the Army in September 2006 along with his friend Eller. Holguin defeated 12 competitors to get on the Double Trap Olympic Team.

In Double Trap, competitors fire their shotguns at two clay targets thrown simultaneously from an underground bunker at speeds up to 50 mph; competitors get one shot per target.

"I had the advantage of having already been a member of two Olympic Teams," Eller said.

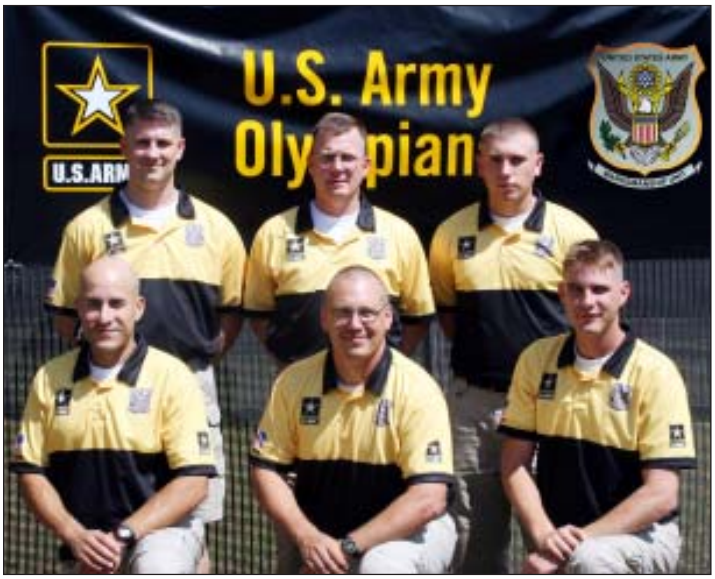
"I also had been training with the three best Double Trap shooters in the country. I was very confident but I was completely nervous the entire time. No matter how much you prepare, it is still nerve-wracking while trying out for the Olympic Team," he said.

Hancock joined the Army Reserves in June 2006. As a junior in high school, he went through Basic Training and then returned to finish his senior year. After he graduated, Hancock went to his advanced individual training and then joined the USAMU.

The 19-year-old triumphed over 65 competitors to make the Skeet Olympic Team. In Skeet, competitors fire their shotguns at clay targets thrown from high and low houses at speeds of 55 mph.

"I had an advantage because I was preparing myself for months ahead of time," Hancock said. "I was determined to do the best I could and come out on top. I felt both confident and anxious as I was competing because it was for what I had been dreaming of since I was 12 years old."

Anti, 43, was a 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist as well a 2000 and 1992 Olympian. Anti, who joined the Army in January 1988, is attached to the USAMU through the World Class Athlete Program. The infantry officer out-shot 48 competitors to make the Olympic Team in Prone Rifle. Competitors in Prone Rifle lie on their stomachs and shoot .22-caliber rifles at targets 50 meters away. The bull's eye is 10.4 millimeters wide, much smaller than a dime.



Paula J. Randall

Front row: SPC Jeffrey G. Holguin, SFC Daryl L. Szarenski, and SPC Walton Glenn Eller III; Back row: SFC Jason A. Parker, MAJ Michael E. Anti, PFC Vincent C. Hancock.

Parker, 33, is a 2008, 2004, and 2000 Olympian. He joined the Army in January 1997. Parker defeated 34 competitors to make the Olympic Team in Men's Air Rifle in which competitors shoot lead pellets from .177 caliber guns at targets 10 meters away. The bull's eye is 1/2 millimeter wide, the size of the period at the end of this sentence.

Parker also made the Olympic Team in Men's Three-Position Rifle in which competitors shoot the same rifles at the same targets as in Prone Rifle, except they shoot in three positions - standing, kneeling and prone.

Szarenski, 40, also competed in the 2004 and 2000 Olympics in Free Pistol. In Free Pistol, competitors shoot .22-caliber pistols from 50 meters away at bull's eye targets with an approximate 50-mm center.

Szarenski joined the Army in October 1991. After three days and 200 shots of grueling competition, it came down to the last shot, but he prevailed to beat 25 competitors and make the Olympic Team. Going into the last two shots, John Zurek was on the verge of upsetting Szarenski. However, Zurek scored 7.8 on his ninth shot in the 10-shot finals while Szarenski finished with 10.7 out of a possible 10.9 on his last shot, leaving Szarenski 1.4 points ahead of Zurek.

The Soldier-athletes are now preparing for their competitions at the upcoming Olympic Games, which will take place in Beijing, China, August 8-17.

(Paula J. Randall works for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Accessions Support Brigade.)