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Cover: Soldiers from TF Normandy use a SKED to haul equipment to the top of Gun Mountain while conducting mountaineering training in February 2005. Gun Mountain is located in the vicinity of Ghazni, Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of MSG Patrik Viljanen.

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Soldier Input Needed

Helmet and Body Armor Survey

The Army has launched a study on the effectiveness of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To gather information, USAIC, Fort Benning, has developed a helmet and body armor survey. The survey seeks information on incidents involving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Your input will be used by the Department of Defense (DOD) to improve Soldiers' protective equipment. This survey should take 5-8 minutes to complete.

Survey URL: <http://www.infantry.army.mil/surveys/ppe/ppe.htm>

Call for Submissions

Do you have an opinion concerning one of the stories in this issue?

We would like to print your responses in our Letters to the Editor column.

Have you researched a topic that is of interest to Infantry soldiers?

Submit it to us as an article for the *Bugler*. Do you have personal experiences or valuable lessons learned that would benefit other

readers? Let us be your vehicle for delivering those thoughts. Send your submissions to dbennett@infantryassn.com.

From the President and the Executive Director



MG (Ret) Jerry A. White

As we follow media reports and other accounts of the war on terrorism, we are once again reminded of the important role of the Queen of Battle — the Infantry. Our Infantrymen are demonstrating every hour of every day that the “Last One Hundred Yards” of the fight is theirs and theirs alone. Not unlike previous wars during the

past 230 years, it is the grunt on the ground who must strike the final blow on the enemy. This is most often a very violent and personal encounter where there are no accolades for second place.

This war on terrorism is a very difficult fight and requires courage beyond the imagination of most people. To succeed, our soldiers must be well trained and equipped with the very best this nation can provide. Unlike most wars our country has fought, the enemy operates on his own timetable. Telling the “good guys” from the “bad guys” is often impossible, and there are no lines on maps distinguishing friend from foe. For us old soldiers, this war is very reminiscent of Vietnam, except that today’s Infantrymen are better trained, better equipped, and above all else, have the support of our nation’s leadership and the American people. For that I say, HOOAH!!

To win this global war on terrorism will require not only the very best from our soldiers, but for all Americans to stay the course until the final one hundred yards has been fought for and secured.

Organizations like our National Infantry Association and National Infantry Foundation must be ever vigilant in our support for the Infantry and increase our efforts to recognize and reward our soldiers for fighting the tough fight. You can help us make a difference by being a member of the Association, and if you are a member, recruit others to join. The Infantry, both active and retired, are a band of brothers and are joined professionally by the NIA.

So, as we go about our daily business let us remember those soldiers who stand as the vanguard of freedom for all of us, as well as for those who are struggling for democracy around the globe. “One Team-One Fight” must be the cry of every American until the global war on terrorism is won!!



COL (Ret) Richard Nurnberg

Congratulations and thanks to all of you who have helped increase our membership. As I write this column, we finally have passed the 4,000 member level. Although this is a happy milestone for our Association, our goal of 10,000 must be attained in order to bring us into proportion with our sister combat arms associations and to

make our voice more prominent at the national level. As always, we solicit your articles, letters and patronage of our NIA merchandise on our web site.

I also want to welcome our newest active chapter, the 3/505 Parachute Infantry Regiment Chapter that was recently chartered at Fort Bragg. We hope that they will challenge the other 82nd Airborne Division leaders to match their NIA membership accomplishments. In this issue, we proudly highlight the activities of two of our chapters, The Professionals at Fort Knox, and the COL Lewis Millett Chapter of Maine. We would welcome our other chapters to submit articles on their activities. This is a good forum for chapter leaders to glean ideas from their colleagues.

The BRAC recommendations recently announced are going bring change to many of you over the next few years. If the recommendations are approved, the Home of the Infantry will welcome the Armor Center and School to Fort Benning. What a change from a couple of years ago when we were concerned about losing Infantry functions to other branches and of losing Infantry force structure itself. Once again, history has proven to doubters that war and peace are won only by soldiers on the ground — and the Infantry is predominant. We at the NIA are convinced that this is truth, not parochialism, and our members are among those responsible for this turnaround in philosophy at the national leadership level. We sincerely thank you for all you do for our Association and our country.



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Urban Counterinsurgency: Seizing the Opportunity



BG (P) Benjamin C. Freakley, Chief of Infantry

The current level of insurgent activity in Iraq has stimulated a great deal of discussion about how we can best fight and defeat an urban insurgency marked by hit-and-run ambushes, sniping, the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and an enemy's disregard for collateral casualties and damage to the host nation and her people. We closely observe our adversary,

learning his tactics, techniques and procedures, and we employ our own ambushes and innovative methods to seize every opportunity to destroy him before he is ready to strike.

As we train, deploy and fight we are engaged in collecting vital information from warriors in the global war on terror. We glean information from units preparing to deploy, from those engaged in combat and from those recently returned. At the Infantry School we have daily discourse in our classrooms with those who have fought and defeated the urban insurgent in close combat. More than 70 percent of our captains in the career course and 80 percent of our NCOs in the NCO Academy bring firsthand combat experience from either Iraq or Afghanistan, and in some cases both. Concurrent with these internal efforts, the Infantry Traveling Team has been conducting post-combat surveys with returning units and following up with field visits. We have ramped up our exchange with other countries currently fighting their own insurgencies to capture their perspectives. There are some recurring trends echoing from each of these sources.

One such trend is our struggle for certainty in an uncertain, complex and dynamic environment while fighting multiple asymmetric threats. Despite the urban insurgents' inherent advantages of mobility, local knowledge and their own propaganda efforts, we capitalize on our own strengths and exploit weaknesses to enable the host nation to establish and sustain viable democratic systems. Every briefing I have seen on the urban environment lists its challenges, but few if any talk about its advantages. Besides the obvious logistical advantages, the compactness of the urban terrain places families, clans and tribes in close proximity to one another, which facilitates both the dissemination of accurate host nation information and the gathering of intelligence on enemy presence and intentions.

Our own history shows us how GEN George Crook used cultural awareness and his understanding of conflicting interests within the tribal population to gather intelligence and create opportunities during his successful campaigns against the Apaches during the last quarter of the 19th Century. He was able to do this even without the benefit of the clearly delineated religious and tribal lines and relationships we see in Iraq today, by enlisting the aid of groups within the Apaches, much as we are working in close cooperation with Iraqi civil and military authorities. Although the foreign fighters and terrorists whom we face may be bound by greed, desire for political dominance, or simply a mutual hatred of the United States and the stability she implies, to Iraqis they are outsiders. It is these insurgents who are the dissident element, and we need to identify the rivalries, conflicting interests and the differing objectives of these diverse enemies so that we — and our Iraqi allies — can effectively exploit them.

Another recurring trend is the frustration of fighting an asymmetric threat. We must wrest that asymmetric advantage from the enemy by

both forcing him to become more symmetric and by becoming more asymmetric ourselves. During our most recent Infantry Conference, commanders just returning from the fight demonstrated ways to do just that. Our moves away from predictability and our ability to recognize the enemy's patterns and tendencies have led to several foiled enemy ambushes. In fact, our more experienced and savvy commanders have planned and successfully executed counter ambushes based on each enemy's tendencies and predictability. Meanwhile, our leaders at the lowest levels have complemented their doctrinal foundation by demonstrating cunning and ingenuity, and by avoiding predictable patterns of behavior on which the enemy could capitalize. These efforts continue; as the enemy attempts to adapt, we must stay one step ahead of him.

The final recurring trend is our leaders' efforts to balance the need to bring the full effects of our kinetic weapons array to bear on the enemy, while trying to minimize collateral damage to host nation personnel and infrastructure. Workable solutions to these dilemmas can differ widely. Proximity to the conflict, nature of the insurgency, the tenacity of the enemy, the geopolitical forces and national will all factor into the way our leaders approach each tactical dilemma. This is quite a burden we place on some of our most inexperienced young leaders. We need to educate and train our subordinates as well as to trust their judgment. Fortunately for us, these adaptive young leaders typically are making the right decisions. Our after-action reviews are replete with examples of tactical patience, ingenuity and collaboration with the local populace to obtain a surrender — just as Crook so often did during the Indian Wars.

The bottom line is that our leaders understand their responsibilities to their soldiers and the mission. They attempt to protect infrastructure and noncombatants, but they won't risk their soldiers' lives unnecessarily. One of the advantages of the urban environment is that the enemy's plans, preparations and actions are difficult for him to conceal from neighbors and bystanders. Allowing insurgents, terrorists or criminals to operate from one's house, apartment building or neighborhood implies complicity with the enemy, and this carries risk. As the recent election shows, Iraqis want to assume control of their own destiny, and they are providing the intelligence that we and Iraqi forces are using to tighten the noose around the insurgents. We must reward every assistance and discourage aid to our enemy. With that said, we should make every effort to use the appropriate force or tool to accomplish the mission. Moreover, we should attempt restitution for any damage to innocents' property or lives in order to mitigate any propaganda victories for the enemy or inflict undue hardship on the population whose support we are attempting to gain.

These are a few of the recurring trends we discovered during our recent collection efforts, but they offer a change in mind set that is worth sharing with those joining the efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have seen our successes as well as our setbacks, but we are steadily gaining ground and replacing chaos with stability. As combat leaders we must look for opportunities even when it appears that the enemy holds all the good cards. The question is not whether we will prevail in creating stability in the region. That is already underway, and it is only a matter of time until our goals — and those of a democratic Iraq — are met. We are learning a great deal, and we will continue to share these lessons during the Infantry Traveling Team visits, on the Infantry forum site and in future issues of *Infantry Bugler* magazine.

Follow me!

AMWS:

THE NECESSITY OF MOUNTAIN WARFARE SKILLS

By MAJ David T. Manfredi

The U.S. Army does a great job preparing and validating units that deploy overseas through the use of Combined Training Centers (CTC) rotations. CTC training scenarios are based on the experiences of our forces currently conducting operations in the respective theater of operations. With operations in Afghanistan being carried out in mountainous terrain on a daily basis, what do we do to prepare units to operate in a mountainous environment? Units do not have mountaineering Subject Matter Experts in their Modification Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) and no CTC can recreate the effects of mountainous terrain on operations and planning. This is a dimension of our deployment preparation that must be addressed.

The U.S. Army has only one conventional unit whose MTOE is specifically designed to operate in a mountainous environment: the 3/172 IN (MTN) of the Army National Guard. It is a separate battalion of soldiers who train in cold weather and mountain-specific tasks in addition to Infantry tasks. The task organization has been constructed to take advantage of the capabilities that certain weapon systems and individual training can bring to operations in mountainous terrain. How are we preparing those other Infantry forces deploying in support of OEF to operate in the mountains? Would these Infantry units benefit from basic military mountaineering training? Yes. This is the mission of the Army Mountain Warfare School (AMWS).

Unprepared For the Mountains

Recent experience has shown, and continues to show, that U.S. Army units are not fully prepared to operate in a mountainous environment as effectively as a unit trained in basic mountain skills. All unit members need this training, from the newest soldier to senior staff and commanders. During Operation Anaconda there were numerous issues related to a lack of acclimatization, soldier load planning and other logistical issues which lead one to believe the soldiers were not prepared to operate effectively above 8,500 feet in the cold. Soldiers shared MREs when high altitudes required more calories than a normal diet. Soldiers had frozen canteens and camelbacks when simple precautions such as

wearing a camelback inside the Gortex jacket and blowing water out of the drinking tube would prevent freezing. Turning a canteen upside down prevents the narrow opening from freezing first as water freezes from the top down. These simple Tactics Techniques and Procedures prevent injury and make a unit more combat effective as a result of proper training. The high caliber of small unit leadership and the Infantry soldier overcame these obstacles, but the Infantry units on the ground would have been more effective if properly trained and if the planners had more knowledge of the effects of operations at high altitudes.

This winter was the snowiest and coldest winter in Afghanistan in years. Soldiers routinely operated in waist-deep snow and temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero. These conditions affect everything and everyone, regardless of MOS or daily duties. All soldiers, planners and leaders operating in this harsh environment need to have the proper training prior to arrival in theater; yet I have read numerous critiques of senior officers and NCOs enforcing standardized appearance in a cold weather environment rather than enforcing proper wear of the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS) and allowing for individual



Soldiers move through waist-deep snow to the top of Gun Mountain (Feb 2005). A unit properly equipped and trained in snowshoe mobility would have made this slog much easier. Photo by SSG Larry Garner (AMWS).

metabolism.¹ As an Army Mountain Warfare School student, an OEF veteran wrote in an end of course After Action Review, “Someone needs to teach your cold-weather clothing class to the Sergeants Major Academy” to prevent this type of situation. There is no excuse for a cold-weather injury when the current ECWCS is worn properly. It is up to a unit’s leadership to ensure soldiers are trained properly.

AMWS Offers Needed Training

Mountaineering expertise exists within the Army force structure to teach basic mountaineering skills to units; or utilizing a train the trainer approach, units preparing for deployment can send soldiers through the Army Mountain Warfare School’s (AMWS) Program of Instruction. The AMWS in Jericho, Vt., is an Army National Guard (ARNG) school that trains active duty and reserve component soldiers.

The Army Mountain Warfare School (AMWS) was founded in April 1983 and is the executive agent for Military Mountaineering for the U.S. Army Infantry School. In FY 2003, the school received the “School of Excellence” designation during its USAIS accreditation. The AMWS has conducted more than 160 courses in the last 22 years and sent mobile training teams throughout the United States and all over the world to train with dozens of other nations. The school’s main effort is the Basic Military Mountaineer Course (Summer and Winter).

The AMWS conducts multiple Level 1 (Basic Military Mountaineer) and Level 2 (Assault Climber) Courses at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt. annually. The school’s mission, IAW FM 3-97.61 is: to train soldiers in the fundamental travel and climbing skills necessary to move safely and efficiently in mountainous terrain; to train soldiers responsible for the rigging, inspection, use and operation of all basic rope systems; to train soldiers to supervise all high-risk training associated with basic military mountaineering; and to train soldiers to be used as trainers, guides and lead climbers during collective training. The courses focus on mobility and sustainability for soldiers operating in a mountainous and high altitude environment. These skills enable soldiers to overcome hardships associated with cold weather and the rigors of operating in a mountainous and high-altitude environment.

The 15-day courses are an intensive train the trainer program designed to prepare soldiers to assist their units in operating in this harsh environment. It is the only school that is TRADOC approved and accredited to teach the Military Mountaineering Courses and award the



Soldiers train in high-angle shooting skills at mountain vicinity Forward Operations Base Ghazni (Feb 2005). Photo by MSG Patrik Viljanen (AMWS).



Soldiers move equipment up Gun Mountain using a Gun SKED during a field training exercise. Photo by SSG Larry Garner.

SQI “E,” Military Mountaineer. Both Basic Military Mountaineer Courses are required to be eligible for the SQI “E.” Both Level 1 and Level 2 have a 15-day summer and 15-day winter program of instruction (POI).

Instruction at the school is provided by a highly-trained cadre with many years of experience operating in mountainous and high-altitude terrain. They routinely train soldiers from the United States and many other countries in the special skills and use of equipment associated with operating in the vertical and near-vertical world. The AMWS cadre train with foreign military mountaineering schools annually to ensure that the latest techniques and equipment are being used and to share knowledge and experiences.

With the exception of the 3/172 IN (MTN) there are no SQI “E”-coded slots within Infantry units anywhere in the force structure. Without this additional skill identifier in MTOE-coded positions, there does not exist a requirement for mountaineering training within an Infantry unit that is similar to pathfinder or ranger-coded positions. Therefore no cadre of mountain-skilled soldiers exists in any type of Infantry unit in the force structure (except for the 3/172 IN (MTN)). A rapid deployment unit, or an OEF deploying unit, needs to know how to operate effectively in a mountainous environment upon deployment; therefore, it is incumbent on unit commanders to plan for this type of training for their units.

Cold Winter Training in Afghanistan

Units currently operating in Afghanistan have identified a need for mountaineering training. The AMWS, during the winter and spring of 2005, deployed a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to Afghanistan to conduct mountaineering training for units already in theater (RC East, RC South and CJSOTF). The Mobile Training Team’s experience, as of the writing of this article, has validated that what the AMWS teaches works in a combat zone and at altitude. It has also validated the need for units operating in theater to be trained in those tasks, particularly for those units designated as Quick Reaction Force (QRF) elements. Based on this experience, and feedback provided to the AMWS by students who are OEF veterans, we see a critical need for soldiers to have mountaineering and cold-weather training prior to deployment. Most tasks which require training are mobility and survivability related. They include, but are not limited to, high-angle shooting, water procurement, snow fortifications, field expedient shelters, effects of cold weather on weapons, cold-weather clothing, rough-terrain MEDEVAC, patient packaging, and high altitude illness and prevention.

Battles throughout history further illustrate the need for mountain-trained troops in the U.S. Army. While we may never again see the large-scale operations that the 10th Mountain Division executed in the



Soldiers conduct rough terrain MEDEVAC training at Gun Mountain in the vicinity of Forward Operations Base Ghazni (Feb 2005). Photo by SSG Larry Garner (AMWS).

Apennine Mountains. Their use of mountaineering skills to utilize terrain to their advantage is still a lesson that can be applied to today’s operating environment.

The success of operations in mountainous terrain is in the hands of small unit leaders, due to the compartmentalized nature of the terrain. Units battle the elements as well as the enemy, and it is competent and confident leadership, coupled with well-trained soldiers, that will be able to operate effectively for extended periods of time in the mountains and bring the fight to the insurgent’s goat trail instead of the insurgents bringing the fight to our most-likely avenue of approach. Mountaineering training for OEF deploying units and Rapid Deployment Forces will give commanders the capability to employ more flexibility in planning for operations in a mountainous environment and will save soldiers’ lives.

The AMWS website can be found at <http://www.benning.army.mil/AMWS/>. The school can be reached at (802) 899-7203 or email mwsvt@vt.ngb.army.mil.

MAJ David T. Manfredi was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1989 from OCS. He has served as a rifle platoon leader and mortar platoon leader with 1/87 IN, as Executive Officer and Commander of the 173rd LRSD, S-3 Air of the 26th IN BDE, company XO and S-4 in the 3/172 IN (MTN) and as a Team Chief of an Embedded Training Team and Advisor for the Afghan National Army. He currently is serving as the Chief of the Training Division at the Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vt.

¹ Comments based on end of course critiques filled out by Army Mountain Warfare School students who are OEF veterans.



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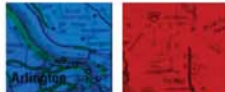
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AMERICA MUST PERSEVERE...

"...for as long as it takes!"

President George W. Bush

by COL (Ret) Ralph Puckett

In early December last year, I completed a 17-day trip to east central Afghanistan; a dusty, extremely dry, barren wasteland nestled among 10,000-foot-high mountains. As the Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment, I wanted to spend some time with "my Rangers" and express to them my pride in and appreciation for what they are doing for us. I also wanted to see firsthand the situation in that country.



Rangers in a Ground Mobility Vehicle (GMV) ford a river during a mission in support of OEF. Courtesy U.S. Army.

First Impressions

We traveled by military air. I had never flown on an aircraft so huge. As soon as we reached our cruising altitude, the crew chief announced that we could remove our safety belts. We quickly opened our carry-on packs,

removed a sleeping pad and poncho liner, and plopped onto the floor for a snooze. When we reached our destination, we filed off the airplane and were whisked to our initial location.

Rusting Russian tanks, wheeled vehicles and aircraft hulks left from the war with the Soviet Union dotted the landscape. Here and there, large tracts of land were bounded by barbed wire and red triangular warning signs inscribed with the menacing word, "Mines." Nearby were flat areas that had been cleared by a Polish mine sweeping company.

Our quarters were nothing fancy but a lot better than what I had in Korea and Vietnam. Latrines with flush toilets and showers with plenty of hot water were nearby. In Korea, I went as much as 30 days without a shower. Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) operated the mess hall — called a dining facility in the modern army. Plenty of fresh fruit, salad, fresh milk (4% — none of that "no fat" blue John stuff), soda, ice cream, cookies and cake — a far cry from the C- and K-rations of earlier days. There were sinks with hot, running water at the entrance to the facility with signs enjoining a person to "WASH YOUR HANDS." These ubiquitous signs were an effort to help us stay healthy. Another building

contained telephones for free calls home and computers for e-mail. This facility was available to all and was a great morale booster. In her first e-mail message to me, my wife exclaimed happily about the great improvement over the "snail mail" of our Vietnam War correspondence. Although the conditions for our troops in Afghanistan are constantly being improved, not all of our soldiers live in the luxury of the camp I experienced. Days and nights of tough, dangerous close combat still confront our soldiers.

I spent several days in some locations and visited others. I had the opportunity to talk at length with soldiers from generals to privates in both special operations and regular units, and with some civilians. I was involved in no combat during the period.

Signs of Progress

The progress made in Afghanistan since the war began in 2001 is significant. Afghanistan has held its first free, national presidential election in which more than 8 million men and women voted (about 80 percent of the registered voters), some risking their lives.¹ They have written and ratified a constitution. Combat operations reflect this improvement. The military is shifting from "direct action" to a "win the hearts and minds" approach. However, since there are still many insurgents in the country, direct military action will continue. A stable government based on a free society that recognizes the rights of the individual, has a satisfactory economic system, and is able to protect itself from internal and outside threats is far from assured.

The most important task for American commanders is to protect the budding Afghan democracy. To this end, the 18,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan have begun a new offensive to eliminate the continuing insurgent threat. The primary goal was to significantly diminish the presence and influence of the insurgents prior to the planned spring elections. The amnesty proffered to militants by the American and Afghan



A Ranger sniper focuses on a target through the scope of his SR-25 weapon. Courtesy U.S. Army.

governments is helping to achieve this goal. Some former members of the Taliban are “coming in.” Approximately 100-150 Taliban leaders and others associated with al-Qauida are excluded from the offer.²

The number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams has been expanded. These small military units support local authorities by engaging in civic action projects, such as building much-needed schools and clinics and digging wells.³ The goal is to obtain more information through improved personal relations with Afghan citizens.⁴ Human intelligence gained from cooperative civilians is invaluable in locating and neutralizing the enemy. To meet the need for establishing good relationships and gaining the trust of Afghan citizens, the Defense Intelligence Agency is enhancing HUMINT capabilities by forming small teams composed of linguists, interrogators and other specialists.⁵ While significant progress has been made in capturing or killing many of the lower level leaders, much remains to be done.

Observations by Younger Soldiers

Our Army is operating in a significantly different way, in that many platoons operate jointly with other services and government agencies. Dispersed operations places great responsibility on very junior and noncommissioned officers. They are meeting the challenge successfully.

Young Rangers, 19-21 years old, proffered some interesting and informative observations. Wanting to serve their country, they volunteered after 11 Sept 2001. By enlisting for the Rangers, they knew that they would be involved in ground combat. All were proud of what they were doing and were glad that they were deployed. They want the support of the people back home and wondered if they have it. I assured them that they did.

These soldiers have concluded that most Afghans like Americans because the Afghans waved and smiled as the soldiers passed by. Kids run to the soldiers whenever they appear — something their parents would not have permitted if they feared the Americans.

Much remains to be accomplished. “Sir,” said one young soldier, “we are making progress but we (the U.S.) have to be here a long time, maybe as long as 10 years. If we leave now before Afghanistan can protect itself, the bad guys will come back across the border from Pakistan and things will be as bad as they were when we came.”

The astuteness and sophistication of these soldiers pleased me. Although very young they had grasped the importance of what they were doing and why they had to be prepared to go the distance against the terrorists.

The Challenges That Remain

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf is often criticized for not doing more to combat terrorists who, because of successful military operations in Afghanistan, found sanctuary in Pakistan. However, on 28 Jan 2005, Pakistani police arrested 23 Afghans in a raid near the Pakistani border. These detainees were said to have held important positions in the Taliban in Afghanistan, and some were said to have close links with al-Qauida.⁶ Musharraf is probably doing all that he can without causing severe reactions from warlords and tribal leaders in his country.

There are other major problems in addition to the continuing insurgency. Establishing a viable economy is one. The country is clutched in the seventh year of a debilitating drought. Despite outside help and a good harvest, 40 percent of the population lives below the poverty level.⁷

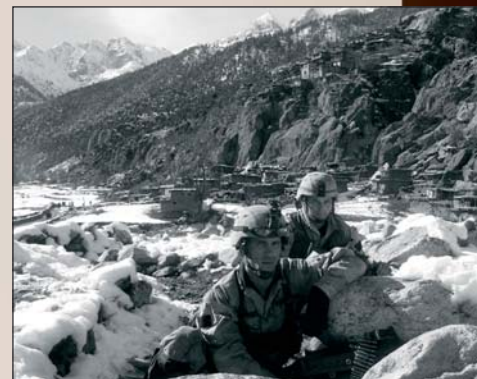
Afghanistan is the world's leading supplier of opium and last year accounted for 87 percent of the world's supply.⁸ In his inaugural speech, President Hamid Karzai, warning of the connection between terrorism and drug trafficking, said that the fight against drugs was second only to

the need to make the country secure from insurgents.⁹ He encouraged his people to fight drug traffickers with the same vigor with which they had fought the Russians.

Afghan officials state that this year opium farming may have declined more than 70 percent in three provinces that account for more than half of Afghanistan's production. Several factors may have contributed to the decline. One is a drop in opium prices after the previous bumper crop. Some farmers who had their crops destroyed last year by police or disease were reluctant to plant opium this year. Afghan officials, however, credit Karzai's rejection of the U.S. recommended spraying program because of possible health consequences. The decline poses a dilemma; what will the farmers use as a replacement crop?¹⁰

Continued Support

My short visit with our soldiers validated the already high opinion I had of them. They are a national treasure and deserve our unstinting support as they continue with the toughest, most dangerous job in the world. I believe that there has been significant progress in Afghanistan. It is moving, albeit slowly, toward a secure, democratic nation that can support itself economically and defend itself against both internal and external threats. Much remains to be done, and it will take years. While many bad things continue to occur in Afghanistan, there are more good days than bad. Unfortunately our citizens do not get the whole story from our media. Our military is doing amazing things. My main concern is that America may see this progress as “success” and withdraw our forces before the task is finished. We must be patient. If we give our soldiers our wholehearted support they will persevere “for as long as it takes.”



Rangers pause for a picture during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Courtesy U.S. Army.

COL (Ret) Ralph Puckett is a highly-decorated Infantryman, still serving as Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

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The New Leader's Notebook

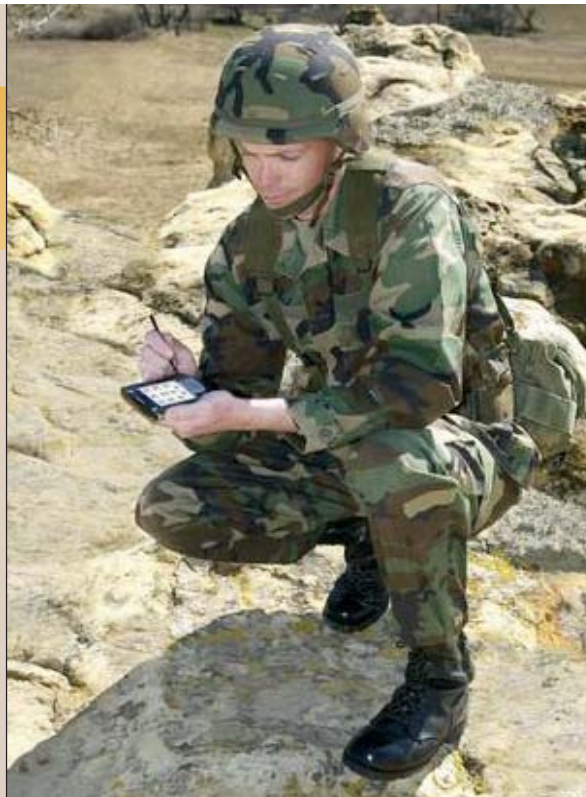
By Oke Johnson

Much has been written about the hardware requirements for Land Warrior and Future Soldier Systems, all of it important and most of it cutting-edge information concerning blue force tracking, passing operational orders or other critical tactical issues. However, the seemingly mundane need for information at the small unit leader level, up to and including Battalion Commanders and their Command Sergeants Major is an all-too-often overlooked topic that is as critical to mission success as any tactical issue. A leader must know everything there is to know about his or her soldiers and be able to rapidly utilize that information to ensure mission success. This most important information is kept in a leader's notebook.

Historically, the leader's notebook has been in hard copy. With the increased need for detailed information, the leader's notebook has grown from pocket-sized pads to three-ring binders weighing several pounds. This mass of information often is only accessible to leaders in garrison since the notebooks are too heavy and bulky to take to the field. During the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, many leaders have left their hardcopy notebooks in their tents or in rear areas, forcing them to rely on often-faulty memories or spend an excessive amount of time tracking down individual soldiers for information the leader already has, but may not be able to access. However, some leaders have discovered the benefit of PDAs and mini-computers and bought software allowing them to keep their leader's notebooks with them at all times. These leaders have gone the extra distance to ensure that their soldiers are cared for and that they can accomplish all their missions in the most expedient fashion.

Digitizing the leader's notebook makes sense. The leader who can immediately get information on tactics, the enemy and the capabilities of his/her own troops will have a significant advantage on the battlefield. The Army recognizes that regardless of military specialty, space and time requirements demand that all information be digitized and immediately shareable, available and transportable. Commanders must have access to many different types of information while in the field to ensure mission success, including tactical information and personal information about their soldiers. Software weighs nothing, and computers are smaller, more durable, more powerful and lighter than ever. In fact, some of the current PDAs are in reality mini-computers with only slightly scaled back capabilities of a home PC. These remarkable advances in computerization allow us to digitize almost all the information a leader needs.

The proper hardware is key to digitizing the leader's notebook. The Army has been steadily working to deliver computing capacity to commanders and has recently deployed the Commanders Digital Assistant (CDA) for testing in Iraq. The CDA is a robust tool that incorporates a mini-computer with operational software, allowing commanders to pass orders within their staff and down the chain of command. It has proven itself as a time-saver for individual commanders, and has ensured that they are more efficient on the battlefield. In addition to knowing every soldier's location and having voice and digital communications with each subordinate, commanders must maintain information about their troops in order to resupply them in the field, provide basic medical information to doctors in the case of a MEDEVAC, and be able to identify soldiers with unique capabilities for specialized



A unit commander refers to his CDA.

missions. The ability to rapidly task organize a unit for a specific mission is critical in today's quickly changing battlefield. The Army recognizes this need and plans to integrate additional software programs as new requirements and capabilities are discovered. The Army also recognizes that it is almost impossible to develop the perfect system or software, and has therefore adopted the policy of spiral development. This means that computer systems and software that are not necessarily cutting-edge will be fielded, but these systems quickly can be improved to meet the needs of the users in the field who are the experts in what they need.

Knowing how to effectively use a computer and its software is achieved through training and trial and error. The time to learn a new system is not in a combat situation, but in everyday life in garrison and in training exercises. There are numerous examples of new high-tech gear being introduced to soldiers in the field, and then the gear not performing as expected simply because the soldiers could not take the time to learn it well. The M16 was introduced to soldiers and Marines in Vietnam without adequate training. They treated the new M16 like their old M14 and it jammed in battle, sometimes with disastrous results. In a previous test of the CDA in Iraq, users thought the concept was good and some of the software excellent in theory, but they could not fairly evaluate the system because their attention was focused on their immediate battles. Currently, Marines in Iraq are testing a non-lethal weapon that is supposed to incapacitate the enemy, but instead they are using it as a loud speaker, because circumstances do not allow them the luxury of learning how to fully exploit the capabilities of the new system.

Mini-computers and software must be treated like personal weapons and other battle gear. Leaders must have them with them at all times, in garrison and in the field, in order to get intimately familiar with them and know how to use them as

effectively as their personal weapon. Not doing so will render them useless. Leaders will not take the time to learn how to use the new system when they are in the midst of a combat situation. The result will be that leaders will not use the system and another technical advantage will be lost. The important message here is to get the hardware and software into the hands of the users as soon as possible, let them keep the equipment with them at all times and ensure they use it in the course of their normal workday.

A digitized leader's notebook must be easy to use. It should be secure so that personal information is safeguarded. It should run on the same platforms (mini-computers, PDAs and PCs) as operational software. The user should be able to enter and transfer information in any of these platforms. It should be networkable. It also should generate customized and standard reports. The user should be able to add other

A soldier data screen from Commander's Digital Assistant.

digitized documents as needed.

The Army's desire to purchase off-the-shelf software capitalizes on the software industry's creative talents, and acknowledges that individual leaders have been purchasing and effectively using commercial software in their military duties for many years. Programs

purchased by leaders are typically low-to-moderately priced and easy to run. Some reside only on the PDA while others utilize the capabilities of both PCs and PDAs. The more advanced programs permit sharing of information either through the PDA's beaming function or other wireless ability, in addition to sharing data by copying PC files. There are several digitized leaders notebooks currently on the market.

MAJ Rob Dalton, Commander of the Oklahoma City Military Entrance Processing Station, comments on his experience with a digitized leader's notebook. "I said goodbye to my three-ring binder and pocket notebook when I discovered Warrior Solutions Leader's eBook. The software is extremely affordable and is versatile enough to adapt to any leadership environment. Instead of having to run to the personnel office for information on my soldiers, I simply pull it from my pocket. I have led troops for the past 20 years, at all levels of responsibility and have found that the software allows me to have an incredible amount of information pertaining to my soldiers at my fingertips. It is like carrying around the personnel file for each of the soldiers in my command. The flexible databases allow me to account for every piece of equipment that I am responsible for and to manage and track inventories. The in-depth personnel databases allow me to help guide and mentor my soldiers in their careers."

The digitization of the Army is progressing rapidly. The CDA is a significant step forward and an important part of the Future Force Warrior concept. Development so far has focused primarily on operational issues. It is imperative that leadership issues be quickly addressed. The Army needs to adopt software *now* that enables leaders to more effectively perform their basic leadership function of caring for their soldiers. The solution quickly can be developed in conjunction with the Army and the users of the software — our leaders.

Oke Johnson is the Vice President of Operations for Warrior Solutions and a retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel.



What information may be contained in a digitized leader's notebook?

Reference material, such as the Combat Leaders Guide, as ready reference material for combat

Leadership information – Army Core Values, Soldiers Creed, etc.

Military-specific information such as DOR, EAS, combat experience, oversea tours, NTC rotation, etc.

Personal and family information – next-of-kin contact information, dependents' names, ages, etc.

Basic medical information – dates of vaccines, physicals and other deployment-related information

Uniform sizes

Common Task Training results

Education – both military and civilian

Certifications

Qualifications – languages, weapons, etc.

Licenses – military and civilian

Awards – received and recommended

Equipment assigned, including serial numbers and hand receipts

Personally owned vehicles – license numbers and insurance data

Personally owned weapons with serial numbers and location of storage

APFT – automatically calculates scores

Weight control – automatically calculates body fat percentage per Army regulations and then tracks performance on the weight control program.

Form letters – APFT, Weight Control, etc.

Counseling sessions

Discipline

Battle Sight Zero information for each personal weapon assigned to an individual

Miscellaneous fields that the user or unit can modify to track what is important to their specific needs.

The Professionals:

A New NIA Chapter in the Home of Armor



Members of the Professionals Chapter gather for a group photo.

By 1LT Hank Hamblin

Fort Knox has long been proud of its heritage as “Home of Cavalry and Armor.” Now it has something new to be proud of — the National Infantry Association. In this bastion of Armor, the fellowship of like-minded individuals is important to Infantrymen, both past and present, who have been yearning for the camaraderie and brotherhood of their Infantry brethren.

When members of the 46th Infantry researched the possibility of forming a National Infantry Association Chapter in the home of Armor, they discovered that two chapters already existed on Fort Knox, but were inactive due to low membership numbers. Battalion commanders, LTC James Larsen (1-46 Infantry) and LTC Jerry Cashion (2-46 Infantry), assembled all Infantrymen from the regiment into one room and briefed them on the matter. By the end of the meeting, they had agreed to dissolve the two existing chapters and combine them into one. With that decision, The 46th Infantry and Fort Knox Chapter of the National Infantry Association, nicknamed “The Professionals,” was formed.

Membership includes Infantrymen from units such as the 46th Infantry, the Unit of Action Maneuver Battle Lab (UAMBL), U.S. Army

Recruiting Command (USAREC) Detailed Recruiters in the area, local Infantry retirees and veterans, one former Marine Infantrymen and two retired General Officers.

The chapter’s vision includes developing future Infantrymen through work with ROTC cadets and potential Infantry recruits, recognizing and rewarding excellence through the Order of Saint Maurice award and maintaining contact with the past by encouraging area veterans to become involved with the chapter.

The Professionals held their first meeting on 15 Oct 2004. During the meeting two members, SFC Richard Stepanek and SSG Jernardo Marmo, were presented with the Order of Saint Maurice and a cake was cut to celebrate the activation of the chapter. Since that first meeting, membership has quickly risen from the original 12. Members have jumped into the task of promoting their chapter with fervor consistent with Infantry standards. An Order of Saint Maurice Luncheon was held on 14 Dec 2004 at the Fort Knox Leaders Club. The chapter co-sponsored an Infantry Ball, the first of its kind on Fort Knox, in conjunction with the 46th Infantry Regimental Ball on 26 Feb 2005, where Infantrymen of the 46th Infantry — both past and present — rendezvoused at Fort Knox.

In January, The Professionals conducted its first annual Endurathon. The original concept for this competition was developed by the CPT William A. Snyder and 1LT Henry (Hank) Hamblin, to determine the best two-person buddy team in the Fort Knox Area. The Endurathon was constructed in a manner to allow participation by anyone, whether Infantrymen, civilian, foreign allies or sister service personnel. The intent was to promote cohesion and partnership between members of the U.S. Infantry and other military personnel, as well as the community and local business establishments.

The one-day competition consisted of physical and mental tasks undertaken with no rest between events. Selected events were required to be completed to a preset standard in order to remain in the competition. The attrition rate was approximately 58 percent. Competitors were not aware of the test sequence until the Endurathon brief.

Thirty two-man teams from the Fort Knox region, including 10 teams from the 101st Airborne, took a physical fitness test at 0400 hours and were briefed on the sequence of events. The teams then headed out on a three-hour land navigation course that carried over into a 16 kilometer road march. During the course of the road march, competitors

FIRST ANNUAL ENDURATHON



were challenged with an air rifle competition and an obstacle course, which was the only the turnaround point for the competitors as they humped their 35-pound ruck sacks back through Fort Knox to Camp Carlson. There they executed the culminating event of the day, the canoe race on Carlson Lake. Each event was named in honor of a historic campaign in which the U.S. Infantry was the key to victory. SSG Andre Betancourt and SGT Matthew Loheide, with Fort Campbell's 327th Infantry, were the first pair to finish the entire course, but 2LT Grant Speakes and 2LT Nate Wilson accrued the most points and took the winners cup.

The Endurathon is just one in a long-standing history of Infantry challenge-type events. Infantry units have held unit-level competitions to increase unit readiness and esprit de corps since the branch's founding. Chapter president Hank Hamblin hopes that the event set the standard for annual Endurathons. "This has been the most arduous and mentally-demanding undertaking I have been involved with, at least since OCS," said Hamblin, "but it was worth it just to give everyone on post a taste of the Infantry and promote our chapter." The NIA's hopes are that this Endurathon will grow over the years to be one of the annual highlights for Fort Knox, with multi-media coverage, outstanding guest speakers and spectators.



GEN Carl Stiner (right), former commander of 82nd Airborne Division, 18th Airborne Corps, and Special Operations Command, received the OSM at the ROTC Ball at Fort Knox. Stiner planned the Panama Invasion of 1989 and is the current Senior Mentor for the CAPSTONE Program in which retired General Officers mentor newly promoted General Officers. Also pictured are 1LT Hank Hamblin (center) and LTC Knud Salvesson (left), guest speakers at the event.

The Professionals aim to build cohesion and working relationships between units stationed on Fort Knox while promoting the Infantry. They already are well on their way to making NIA history. If you are located in the Fort Knox area and would like information on becoming a member of this great new NIA chapter, please contact CPT Al Snyder at (502) 624-3262 or 1LT Hank Hamblin at (502) 624-3523.

Lead to Victory, Professionals!



BG John W. Libby and COL Millett unveil the plaque on the Colonel Lewis Millett Ready Building.

Notes from COL Lewis Millett Chapter, Maine

On 1 Oct 2004, the chapter assisted in bringing COL (Ret) Lewis Millett, a distinguished Medal of Honor recipient and native son of Maine, to Waterville, Maine in order to be present for the dedication in his honor of the newest building in the Maine Army National Guard. Members of Millett's family were in the audience as he and BG John W. Libby, the Adjutant General of Maine, unveiled the plaque naming the Colonel Lewis Millett Ready Building, home of the MEARNG's 11th Civil Support Team (WMD).



COL (Ret) Lewis Millett, Medal of Honor recipient and chapter namesake, received the OSM on 2 Oct 2004.

On 2 Oct 2004, following the Change of Command ceremony of B/3-172 IN (Mountain), MEARNG, the chapter held its annual dinner and recognized the 20th Anniversary of the formation of New England's 3-172 IN, the only Mountain Infantry battalion in the Army's force structure. Attending the dinner were several members of Task Force Mountain, members of 3-172 IN who had recently returned from a year's deployment to Afghanistan where they served as imbedded trainers and advisors to the Afghan National Army. The dinner was presided over by LTC J.D. Campbell, the president of the chapter, and distinguished guests included Libby and the MEARNG CSM, CSM Gregory Small. Millett was the Guest of Honor. At the dinner the chapter presented the Order of St. Maurice to 1SG David Bernard, Campbell and to Millet, the chapter's namesake.



Lessons Learned

Cannibalization to Keep the Fleet Fighting: Class IX Resupply During OIF

By CPT William Marm

The logistical train that followed the 3rd Infantry Division's march to Baghdad was austere equipped with Class IX repair parts. Maneuver battalion maintenance teams could seldom rely on the Forward Support Battalions (FSB) for support. Much worse, the Main Support Battalions (MSB), with their repair parts support, were almost nonexistent. For the most part, we were on our own; what the maintenance teams carried on PLL was their first and last line of maintenance defense. Thus, to fill the void in repair parts support, each unit was forced to strip every disabled vehicle of all salvageable parts. This cannibalization was absolutely necessary, thorough and immediate because of the Class IX resupply shortfalls during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In general, the battalion maintenance teams worked well together to share disabled vehicles. Crosstalk between battalion maintenance teams, facilitated by the FSB, enabled the sharing of disabled vehicles throughout the brigade and was absolutely critical to rebuilding combat power and vehicle serviceability. The most valuable parts were engines, transmissions, tires, belts and hoses.

Battalions towed disabled vehicles for as long as possible and until there were no known needed parts remaining. Periodically along the route, Brigade Maintenance Collections Points (MCP) were established. In reality, these MCPs became brigade junkyards where battalions dropped off vehicles they could no longer tow. Once dropped off at the

MCP, the disabled vehicles became a parts bin for every unit following. Maintenance sections would send teams of mechanics to these "junkyards" to cannibalize the vehicles for parts that were needed.

Once stationary in Baghdad, vehicle cannibalization spread from brigade-internal to division-wide. Teamwork between battalion maintenance sections allowed battalion maintenance officers/technicians (BMO/ BMT) from other brigades to share "parts bins." Without hesitation, cannibalization became the standard operating procedure among every unit.

Vehicle cannibalization raises many issues. First and foremost is the impact on the soldier and the unit. Mechanics were forced to more than double their work because they had to take the good part from of a disabled vehicle and replace it with the bad part from the vehicle being repaired. Such extra maintenance efforts expose the vehicle to additional complications that can break surrounding parts. Combine these efforts with natural acts of God, like blood-red sandstorms after four days of nonstop movement, and the effects on the mechanics is terrible. The mechanics worked continuously through some of the most horrendous conditions to maximize combat power, using cannibalization as the primary repair parts resupply.

Another problem that cannibalization creates is the disturbing reality that our modern Army was attacking deep into enemy territory without the necessary support. In essence, each unit was on its own to support their own maintenance program. Indeed, the situation is serious when a U. S. Army battalion maintenance team is forced to cannibalize parts of a destroyed Iraqi M113 because of lack of repair parts support. As that dysfunctional reality set in, the organizational mechanics absorbed the pressure to make something out of nothing. Without a doubt, the 3rd Infantry Division arrived to Baghdad on the backs of the mechanics.

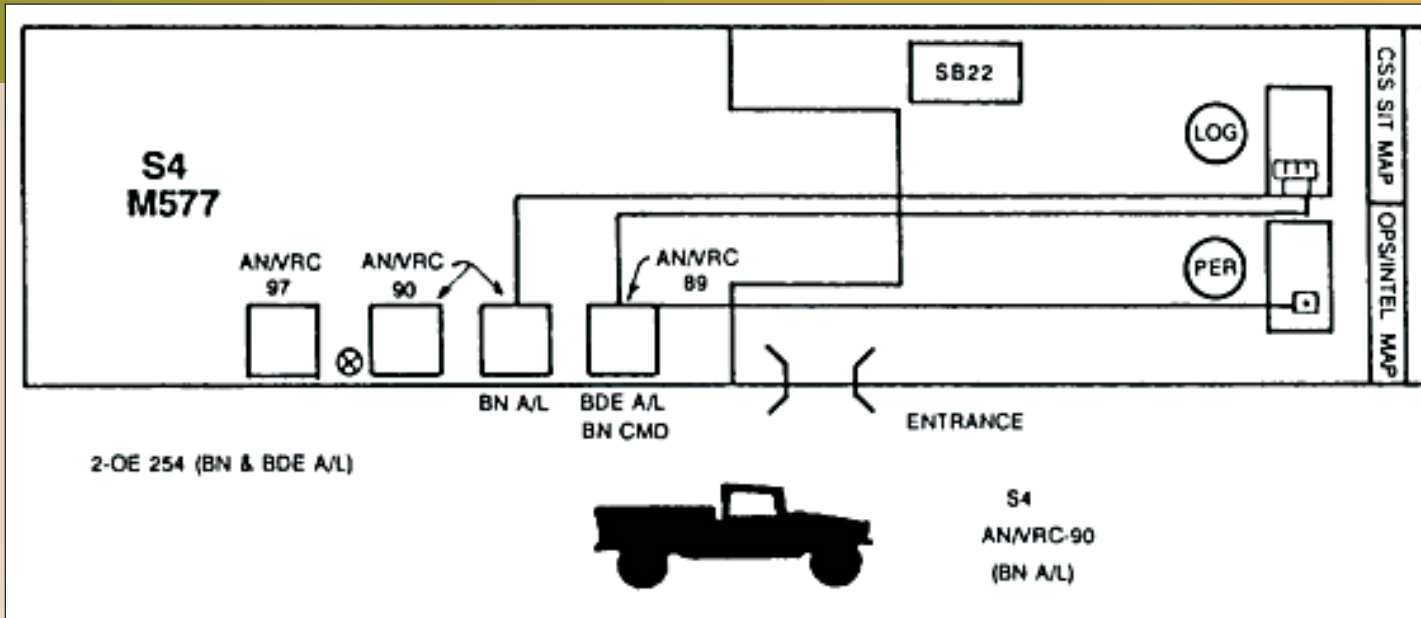
In conclusion, without a functioning resupply system in place, vehicle cannibalization becomes the standard operation procedure. We absolutely must correct the logistical shortfall that occurred during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our next deep attack must not repeat the same mistakes. Just as we are studying our past operations, our future enemy is also studying and learning in order to capitalize on our shortcomings.

CPT William Marm served as TF 3-15 IN Battalion Maintenance Officer during O.I.F.



Cannibalization of an uparmored HMMWV for tires and engine parts.





Battalion task force Combat Trains Command Post. Courtesy of GlobalSecurity.org.

Exercising the Combat Trains Command Post

CPT Mark Battjes

Days prior to my unit crossing the border into Iraq, I assumed duties as the battalion S-4. In the rush of preparing the unit for the long convoy into Iraq, I did not spend time thinking about the set-up and operation of the Combat Trains Command Post (CTCP). The unit had not spent much time thinking about it either. The last time the CTCP had been established and operated was at a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in October 2001. This is an all too common problem for many units. However, it has a fairly simple solution. The first part of the solution is to set up and operate the CTCP at every available opportunity during training. The second part of the solution is to write a simple, executable standard operating procedure (SOP). Finally, the staff officers and soldiers who operate the CTCP must put the SOP into practice.

After crossing the border into Iraq and reaching our initial destination, the battalion S-1 and I attempted to establish the CTCP. We discovered we did not have all the equipment needed to make the CTCP functional. It was not until we received this equipment, several days later, that it became functional. The initial problem was that no one in our CTCP had ever established or operated one. During training at Fort Campbell, the CTCP was never set up. The unit always established and ran logistical support from combined field and combat trains. This is convenient during training because it reduces the amount of travel between locations and centralizes the logistics operations of the battalion. However, it does not facilitate the unit's preparation for combat operations, and it fails to prepare the logistics personnel for their role in keeping the battalion fighting during combat. Therefore, every time the battalion deploys to the field to conduct training, the unit should establish and operate the CTCP. This will allow all the battalion logistics personnel to practice and learn their roles in the CTCP, preparing them for future combat operations.

When the battalion concluded its training at the JRTC in October 2001, the CTCP had operated continuously for several days. Many valuable lessons were probably learned the hard way. However, none of

those lessons could be applied in Iraq, because no one who was at the JRTC rotation was in the same position when we crossed the border into Iraq. Since none of the lessons had been written down or recorded, we had to relearn all of those lessons during combat.

A simple fix would have to be to establish an SOP. I do not mean a 40- to 50-page document that requires hours of reading to understand and interpret. A simple document, filled mostly with diagrams, would be sufficient. It should describe the basics of CTCP operation, such as which vehicles and equipment are to be included, which personnel are to be assigned to it, and what responsibilities each has. These basic building blocks will allow anyone who assumes responsibility for the CTCP to quickly prepare for combat. It also will give him the foundation he needs to effectively operate the CTCP to support the battalion.

Finally, the battalion logisticians need to operate the CTCP during training using the SOP that has been established. This will allow each member of the CTCP to learn his duties and responsibilities. It will also allow adjustments in the manning and equipping of the CTCP during peacetime. We found that our CTCP was short of the number of radios it needed to effectively operate. Had the CTCP been operated during training, this shortcoming could have been discovered and corrected prior to the battalion ever deploying. The natural problems that will arise during combat operations will be complicated if the battalion logistics system does not operate smoothly. If the CTCP does not have an SOP that has been executed recently, the CTCP will not be functional during combat, adding to the natural chaos of combat.

The CTCP can be a tremendous combat multiplier for a battalion conducting combat operations. However, if the CTCP has not been exercised recently, it will be a drain on the battalion. A battalion can constantly prepare its logisticians for combat by forcing them to operate the CTCP during all training exercises in accordance with its SOP. By doing so, the battalion can be confident that when it deploys to conduct combat operations, its CTCP will ensure that the rifle companies are supplied with everything they need.



WWII Wood Moved to New Infantry Museum Site

By Cyndy Cerbin

In the late 1930s and early '40s, U.S. Army posts enjoyed a building boom. In just a few short years, some 16 million Americans signed up to help the war effort, and they needed to be fed, housed and trained. There was not enough time or money to make these buildings last a lifetime. But countless truckloads of lumber and white paint, and one set of design plans used nationwide, would suffice. After all, the buildings were meant to be temporary.

Fifty years later, many of these buildings are still in use, testament to the craftsmanship and work ethic that defined the time. But in an effort to move forward, the Army began demolishing this piece of its past. Taking their place are modern brick and concrete structures that very well may last a lifetime.

When the demolition began at Fort Benning, Ga., in the mid-1990s, then-Commanding General MG Jerry White could not completely let go. He, and others, had a vision of creating a new National Infantry Museum, and he knew World War II wood would have to have a place in it.

White tagged seven buildings for safe-keeping. He would figure out what to do with them later.

Today, those seven buildings have a new home and will soon be renovated to provide visitors to the new National Infantry Museum and Heritage Park a peek into the past.

All seven — a chapel, barracks, day room, supply room, mess hall, and the headquarters and sleeping quarters used by GEN George Patton prior to his deployment to north Africa in 1942 — were moved on a sunny weekend in February. All of them arrived at the new museum site linking Fort Benning with Columbus, Ga., no worse for wear.

The move required a mix of precision engineering and brute strength. It took dozens of crews to rig the trucks, trim tree limbs, lift power lines, take down light poles, direct traffic and record the event. Soldiers' families spilled out of their homes on an early Sunday morning to watch the procession.

A convoy of trucks carried the buildings at one time, inching their way across post at about 2 miles per hour. Turning corners was a challenge, but an easy one compared to crossing the bridge over Upatoi Creek. The house movers already knew the chapel was too big to fit; it would have to be jacked up so that it passed over the bridge railings. But they had to put

House movers keep an expert eye on the WWII barracks, making sure they will clear the railings on the Upatoi Creek bridge.

the brakes on the 2-story barracks, too, and maneuver it until it could cross with just inches to spare.

The new World War II Company Street is not finished, but it is a tangible and impressive reminder of what is to come. Veterans who visit Fort Benning drive by and reminisce, and look forward to seeing the



When completed, the WWII Company Street will give museum visitors a taste of life on an Army post during the 1940s.

new museum where their lives of selfless service will be remembered and honored.

The National Infantry Foundation is more than halfway toward its \$75 million project fund raising goal. Work will soon begin on other portions of the project to include a seven-acre parade field for graduations and change-of-command ceremonies, and a memorial walk of honor paying tribute to dozens of Infantry units. As additional funds are raised, construction will begin on the museum building itself. When it is complete, organizers promise it will be one of the finest military museums in the world.

Please visit nationalinfantryfoundation.com to learn more about the museum project. Donations can be securely made online, or you may write the National Infantry Foundation at P.O. Box 2823, Columbus, Georgia, 31901 or call (706) 653-9234.



Georgia's Governor Gets OSM, Tours New Museum Site



Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue received the Order of St. Maurice on 22 April 2005 from BG (P) Benjamin Freakley, Chief of Infantry.

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue received the Order of St. Maurice for his exceptional support of Infantrymen from Chief of Infantry BG (P) Benjamin Freakley and MG (Ret) Jerry White, the Chairman of the National Infantry Foundation during a recent visit to Fort Benning, Ga.

The presentation followed lunch with 50 Georgia soldiers at the Follow Me Dining Facility. Perdue went through the chow line just like everyone else, and noshed on pork loin, mashed potatoes and green beans.

Perdue, a former Air Force officer, said he was touched by the award. "I may be a blue-suiter, but I have an Infantryman's heart."

Later, the Governor joined Freakley and White for a briefing on the new National Infantry Museum project, followed by a tour of the museum site. Perdue called the plans "inspirational."

"This is the right place to honor these soldiers and it's the right time to do it," Perdue said, as he walked among the buildings of World War II Company Street. "Preserving these buildings represents a significant contribution to our nation's history — and there is no place more fitting than Fort Benning, the home of America's Infantry."



The National Infantry Association would like to give special thanks to:

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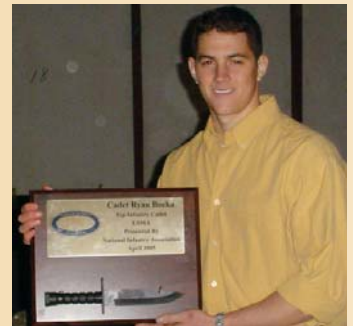
★ News and Awards ★



BG Leo Brooks, Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, presents Cadet Joe Wells the NIA's 2004 Top Infantry Cadet Award, May 2004.



Fort Benning Chief of Staff COL Charles D. Cornwell presented the OSM to MAJ Michael E. Anti of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit on 24 Feb 2005 at Infantry Hall. Anti, an Infantry officer, won a Silver Medal in Three Position Free Rifle at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.



CDT Ryan Boeka received the NIA's 2005 Top Infantry Cadet Award, with bayonet donated by Ranger Joe's, on 22 April at the U.S. Military Academy.



BG James Yarbrough, Assistant Commandant, USAIS, presented the OSM to former Secretary of the Army Bo Callaway on 5 April 2005 at Callaway Gardens near Pine Mountain, Ga.



CSM Joaquin Diaz, CSM 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), was presented the OSM on 21 April 2005 at Cole Park Commons during Diaz's farewell. He is pictured with his wife Cherrienne and daughter.



CSM Ty Typolt, 95th Troop Command, Montana National Guard and an OSM recipient, presented the OSM to COL Commodore Mann on 3 Oct 2004 in a ceremony at Fort Harrison on his return from deployment to South Korea where he was with the USFK J34 Force Protection Division.



OSM Awardees from the Iowa National Guard Officer Recognition Dinner held in Des Moines, Iowa on 9 April 2005. From left to right: COL Timothy Orr, Cdr, 2d Brigade Combat Team; CPT Shannon Richardson; COL David Lindberg; MAJ Corey Snitker; MAJ Donnie Atchison; MAJ Stephen Osborn; and BG Michael Beaman, President of the 1st Iowa Chapter, NIA.



SFC Luis Torres (middle) and SFC Roger Schneider (right) received the OSM on 22 Feb 2005 at a ceremony at C Company 2/54 IN, Fort Benning, Ga. 1SG Rick Pugalee (left) was the presenter.

Reunions

The 4th Infantry Division Association's National Reunion will be held on 17-23 July 2005. For more information, please contact Gregory Rollinger, 8891 Aviary Path R-27, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 or www.4thinfantry.org.

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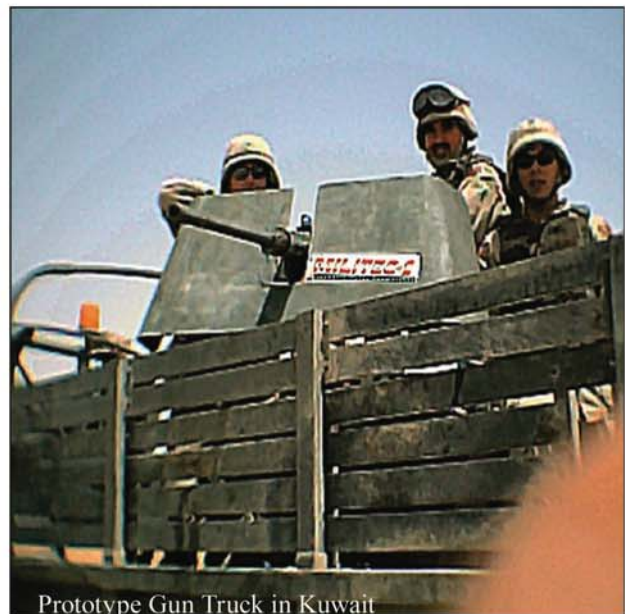
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