A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE
An Interview with the Chief of Armor
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**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.
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**From the President**

MG (Ret) Jerry A. White

My chest swells with pride as I see and talk with America’s great soldiers. During a recent visit to Fort Hood, I had the opportunity to spend a day with young soldiers, NCOs and officers of the 1st Cavalry Division. To the man, I found them to be highly motivated, well trained and extremely competent in their role with the War on Terrorism. These soldiers did not reflect the negative attitudes of those who continue to get the attention of our news media; instead, they are clearly on top of their game even in the face of repeated deployments. I left Fort Hood with the feeling that our Army is the best I have ever seen and is fully capable of accomplishing the mission at hand.

As I give credit to the young soldiers who make up our Army, I must also credit the leaders who are on point every day ensuring that training and readiness are the absolute top priorities so that no life is lost because of being ill prepared. From corps commanders to platoon leaders and the world’s best non-commissioned officers’ corps, our leaders are the very best in the history of our Army. It only takes a short discussion with a drill sergeant from Fort Benning to understand their commitment to the soldiers they train and the Warrior Ethos that guides today’s Army.

Over the past 231 years, our Infantry soldiers have fought for, won and protected the freedoms we all enjoy. Today’s Infantrymen are equally prepared to continue in the same great tradition as their brethren from all previous wars. As long as we have young Americans who are willing to accept the challenges and sacrifices of military service, this place we call America—the land of the free and home of the brave—will continue to stand as a beacon of hope in this troubled world.

As the president of your association, I stand proud of our brave soldiers and thank them at every opportunity for their commitment and sacrifice.

Finally, America is engaged in a long and very difficult war. Our soldiers who are fighting this tough fight deserve our total support. The slogan, “ONE TEAM—ONE FIGHT,” applies to every one of us who enjoy the freedoms of this great land.

HOOAH!!

**From the Executive Director**

COL (Ret) Richard Nurnberg

In our winter issue, we featured an interview with MG Walter Wojdakowski, Chief of Infantry, in which he presented his vision of the evolution of the Infantry Center and School towards the Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence. We thought it would be interesting to present the viewpoint of the other major player in this progression, so I contacted LTC Shane Lee, my counterpart at the Armor Association (who also is editor of Armor Magazine) and asked him to approach MG Williams, Chief of Armor, on the subject of an interview. As you can see by our cover, he was very forthcoming and cooperative, and we appreciate the positive responses of both to our request.

The more observant of you will, by now, have noticed that this issue of the Infantry Bugler is larger than any of its predecessors. Beginning with this issue, we have expanded from 24 to 32 pages. Our publisher, SouthComm Publishing Co., Inc., recommended this expansion because of the combination of success in selling advertising, our desire to maintain the primacy of editorial material and a demand for more advertising space. Conversely, the advertising success is a result of the ascending reputation of the Bugler, as evidenced by requests we get for reprints from other publications, and for issues for indexing at service libraries in both the United States and Canada. Those of you who have been members of the Association since its inception will remember that the Bugler began as a four page newsletter in black and white. It progressed to a magazine format, but still relied heavily on reprints from other publications. Now we rarely utilize reprints, and rely almost exclusively on original material. The credit for the continuing success of the publication rests with our editor, Doraine Bennett, who has reached out and procured or produced much of the original material, with Sarah Weikert, SouthComm’s advertising representative who has obtained the material necessary for the financial survival of this venture, and with those of you who have submitted material for publication. In order for us to continue to maintain and improve the level of quality at the increased size of the magazine, we will need more of your interesting, relevant submissions in the future. We are very interested in accounts of activities of chapters and their associated units, as well as opinion and experience articles that may provoke discussion. We also are open to suggestion for subjects on which to report, and to letters suitable for publication. Please continue to provide us with enough material so that we can continue to provide you with a Bugler that we hope is interesting.

On another note, I would like to welcome our two newest chapters, the Nightfighters of the Indiana ARNG, and the Santa Fe Chapter of the 35th Infantry Division, ARNG, at Fort Leavenworth. We know that several of our chapters, both AC and RC, are deployed, and we wish them continued success and safety in accomplishing our national goals. Godspeed!
In this issue of the Infantry Bugler, MG Robert (Bob) Williams, the commander of the US Army Armor Center and School, and my wingman in the development of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, is interviewed. His comments and insights are, I think, a good starting point for all Infantrymen as we begin the process of moving the Armor School and Center to Fort Benning.

An old friend and former CSM of Fort Benning mentioned to me just the other day that “Fort Benning will never be the same if you move the Armor there.” My answer was: “That’s right, it will be even better!” It will be better for all the reasons Williams mentions in his interview. It also will be better because we are leveraging the impact on the Army of the importance of the Maneuver Center of Excellence to improve all our facilities and services. And, none can argue that training together with our Armor brethren isn’t the right thing to do.

So, as we work toward the move over the next five or six years, I ask all Infantrymen to keep an open mind and a positive attitude, and I encourage your ideas and input to Fort Benning on how to make this work in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Follow Me!

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A View from the Other Side: The Chief of Armor on the Maneuver Center

An Interview with MG Robert M. Williams

By Doraine Bennett

The Close Combat Tactical Trainer provides hands-on experience for training the complete tank crew.
Editor’s note: In our Winter issue, MG Walter Wojdakowski gave us his perspective on the upcoming transformation of the Infantry Center into the Maneuver Center of Excellence. We thought it of interest to the Infantry community to hear the Chief of Armor’s point of view on the same subject. MG Robert Williams generously agreed to answer questions from the Infantry Bugler staff. We appreciate his taking the time to speak to us and to you, our members.

Q: In your short time as Chief of Armor, what observations do you have about our soldiers and the state of their training?

A: In 31 years of service, my time observing soldiers goes far beyond my role here as Chief of Armor. However, right now, during this very challenging time, you can’t help but be impressed with the soldiers who are serving today. These young men and women sign up to be a part of something much bigger than themselves at a time when there are many challenges. Some of them complete their individual entry training and often 30 days later, they are in combat. The training throughout TRADOC focuses on preparing them for war. Here at Fort Knox, they are learning a lot about urban operations. Our 19K Armor crewmen are learning to fight both on and off their vehicles because the new environment demands that. Without any reservation, our new soldiers and officers are impressive. I am very proud to be a part of their team.

Q: What are your views and projections concerning the pending establishment of the Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning?

A: Operationally the forces aligned themselves very quickly, and we started to train at the tactical and operational level to a much greater degree in the late ’70s and ’80s. In the ’90s, we saw that alignment pay off with the magnificent performance of the combined arms teams in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and we saw it again in our attack to defeat the Iraqi Army in the early stages of OIF. If I recall correctly, Starry initially attempted to bring the Infantry School and the Armor School together at Fort Bliss, but at that time, it was too expensive and the Army decided to put it off. Intellectually, however, we drove very hard for the next 25 years to conduct our tactical and operational training at the division, brigade and battalion level together. It seems to me that this is the final step. We finally have an opportunity, with the BRAC announcement, to bring these two great schools together at a single location.

MG Robert Williams took command of the Armor Center and Fort Knox in October 2005.
Q: What do you see as the major hurdle on the road to this goal?

A: I like to look at the BRAC process, not as a Fort Benning challenge or a Fort Knox challenge; it is much larger than that. In fact, I refer to it as one giant Rubik’s Cube—the children’s toy that we have all played with at one time or another. If you combine BRAC with Army Transformation and the Integrated Global Presence Basing Strategy (IGPBS), you have a complex challenge for the Army to solve. Like the Rubik’s Cube, each block, or color on the block, has an influence on the rest. In the plan to move to Fort Benning, we must ensure that the parts of the Rubik’s Cube are moved at the right time and with the right resources. Otherwise, the second and third order effects will probably not serve us well. I would say the biggest challenge is to have both posts and all the units ready to move at the right time and have the right facilities on the ground to support those moves. We really have to get this right.

The price of not getting it right will mean that we could lose our tradition of excellence as the best maneuver force in the world today.

Q: What is your take on the facilities that will be available to train Armor soldiers at Fort Benning?

A: Clearly Fort Benning is a great training facility and the community is incredibly supportive of its military and the families that support them. I believe that the training facilities at Fort Benning will be every bit as good as the state-of-the-art training ranges we have at Fort Knox today. Wojdakowski and his team, along with my folks, have committed to make sure the Armor school does not move until we can provide first-class facilities for those Armor and Cavalry soldiers to train. A lot of work needs to be done, and it will take some time, but we are both committed to get it right.

Whole hosts of construction projects are in the works—range upgrades, training facilities, drivers’ training facilities, motor pools and maintenance facilities, wash rack facilities, barracks, headquarters facilities. Wojdakowski and his team, as well as my team, have worked to get these projects into the budget cycle. Building will take place over the next five years, and as they are completed, we will begin our movement to Fort Benning.

Q: What effect will the move to Fort Benning have on the quality of Armor training?

A: None. Wojdakowski and my commitment to the force at large is that we will not lose momentum, and we will not have a situation that leaves soldiers less trained than they are today. We cannot fail in this mission. We have already begun this effort by aligning our programs of instruction (POI) at both our Maneuver Career Course and the Advanced NCO Course. Both the Armor and the Infantry Career Course today will become the Maneuver Career Course. The Advanced NCOES will become the Maneuver NCOES. We are aligning those programs of instruction right now, so that we teach the same courses at both schools. That is starting later this year. It is a big change to the way we have trained leaders in the past, which was solely by branch. There will still be branch specific training in those programs of instruction, but we are going to start from the same sheet of music. It will be one of the most significant changes to training in the short term.

As we head toward 2010 and facilities become available, then we will start moving actual units from Fort Knox. Our goal is to complete this sometime in September 2010. If anything, the move will improve the training. We will be closer together and will certainly glean ideas and methods from our collective efforts in such close proximity and being a part of a larger maneuver center.

Q: Will soldiers lose anything of their heritage in the move?

A: No. Army leadership has told us the move will not take away from the history and traditions of the individual branches. Our heritage and lineage is not tied to any one location. Fort Benning can make as much a claim to being the home of Armor and Cavalry as anyone. GEN George Patton stood up the 2nd Armor Division at Fort Benning, not at Fort Knox. I am looking forward to being a part of the home of Armor, Cavalry and Infantry at Fort Benning. I think that will be on the front gate.

Q: With the pending move of the Armor School to Fort Benning, do you have insight into the future roles of the Infantry and Armor Associations here?

Both Wojdakowski and I have made it known that we are not going to take away from each other’s history or traditions. The Infantry and Armor Associations are important to maintaining that tradition. I know of no reason to change their roles.

Q: What would you like to say to the Infantry and Fort Benning communities regarding the upcoming changes?

Wojdakowski and I have already begun quarterly board of directors meetings with the two schools. We held the first one early this year.
I brought my leadership and a few key spouses down to Fort Benning. He will bring his leadership and some of his key spouses up here in late June to continue that effort. I want to thank the entire Fort Benning community, to include Columbus and Phenix City, for the warm reception they gave us when we came down. I was very impressed. It was incredible and showed great teamwork between the community and the post. We are looking forward to bringing the Armor School to Fort Benning. There is a lot of work to be done, but I think we can do this together and the Army will be better for this change in the end. I just appreciate the cooperation and efforts of the community there.

The Infantry and Armor branches have been working closely together for as long as I have been a soldier. They are the keys to a standard of excellence that has served our country very, very well, especially in the last 30 years that I have been a soldier. We have always worked well together in the operational force, and there is absolutely no reason why we won't be even better now that we will train more closely than we ever have before. Wojdakowski and I have served together in combat twice, in different wars, so we know each other very well, as Infantrymen to Armor/Cavalrymen. He is a great wingman and friend. Most of the force is just like that, because in the operational force the Infantry never goes anywhere without the Armor and vice versa. We are now organized as combined arms battalions, so it makes enormous sense for the Army of the future that we do as GEN Starry said—to “train as we fight” and to begin that effort right at the school house.

My last point is simple—the Armor and Cavalry force is a proud branch. We look forward to adding our colors to those of the Infantry at Fort Benning in the future, and we look forward to working closer than we ever have before. Just as in battle, we cannot do it by ourselves. With the quality of our soldiers, tankers and troopers, we cannot help but succeed.

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For more than 15 years the Army's Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP) has been providing our soldiers with enhanced, commercial, off-the-shelf items that improve their effectiveness, protection and quality of life. Yet many people have never heard of the program. That may be, in part, because of the unique approach SEP takes to getting soldiers gear that protects them; helps them detect, identify, locate and engage the enemy; and prevail at greater ranges with greater accuracy.

SEP's many past successes include the Desert BDU, ration improvements, laser eye protection, the desert combat boot, mini binoculars, a universal bore sighting device, sniper kits, the soldier intercom, protective masks, modular weapons system and stabilized binoculars.

Congress established SEP in 1989 to improve lethality, survivability, command and control, mobility and sustainability for all soldiers. SEP pioneered acquisition reform and was a forerunner to the Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI), which also delivers state-of-the-art technology and gear to soldiers on fast track schedules. Today, PEO Soldier, along with the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), manages SEP for the Army. “What's great about the Soldier Enhancement Program is that anyone can submit a proposal and in three years or less we can provide that capability to our soldiers,” said Ross Guckert, PEO Soldier's Director of System Integration.

A Unique Approach: Enhance What Is Already Available

Unlike many military acquisition programs, SEP relies on commercially available technologies, which are then adapted to meet soldiers' specific requirements more directly. Initially, ideas for the SEP items come from soldiers themselves, from field commanders or units with specific needs, and from industry leaders worldwide. The range of items includes individual weapons, munitions, optics, combat clothing, individual equipment, water supply, shelters, and communication and navigational aids. However, the commercial, off-the-shelf starting point must lend itself to being adapted and provided to soldiers in no more than three years.

Anyone can submit a proposal; more than 100 proposals are received and reviewed every year. SEP selection criteria include the following:

- Is the item commercially available, off-the-shelf, right now?
- Have soldiers spent their own money on this item to improve life in the field?
- Will it provide a mid- to long-term solution that can be fielded to a large segment of the Army?
- Does it duplicate an existing program?
- Will it be worn, carried or consumed by individuals in a tactical environment?

PEO Soldier, in coordination with TRADOC System Manager (TSMS) Soldier, reviews submissions and decides whether to evaluate an item further, buy or produce it, conduct field testing, or standardize and issue it to soldiers in the field. The SEP Executive Council meets in February and August to approve initiatives for the next fiscal year.

Current SEP programs include:

- XM-110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS)
- Close Combat Mission Capability Kit (CCMCK)
- Close Quarters Battle Kit (CQB Kit)
- XM-26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System (MASS)
- XM-1068 12-Gauge Extended Range Non-Lethal Cartridge
- Family of Small Arms Suppressors
- Fuel Handlers Coveralls
- XM-320 Grenade Launcher Module
- XM-104 Non-Lethal Bursting Hand Grenade
- Family of Flashlights
- XM-1022 .50 Caliber Long Range Sniper Ammo
- Advanced Sniper Accessory Kit (ASAK)
- Improved Water Purification Device
- Sapper Pac
- Sapper Leader Pac
- Parachute Electronic Automatic Activation Device (EAAD)
- New initiatives for FY07 include the 12-Gauge Stand-Off Breaching Round, a Flame Retardant Under-Layer System and the Cockpit Laser Pointer.

With the Army of the 21st century immersed in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, our soldiers need equipment that reflects the latest and best technology our country can offer to help them carry out their missions. And they need it fast. “No other Army acquisition program has been as successful in rapidly getting needed capability to our soldiers,” says COL Ernie Forrest of TSM Soldier. Since long before “transformation” was a part of the Army lexicon, SEP has been promoting transformation with an accelerated acquisition process that gets better weapons and other gear into the hands of the soldier; SEP continues to play a key role in the ongoing effort to meet our soldiers’ needs.

For more information on SEP, see our website at https://peosoldier.army.mil/sep.asp

To submit a SEP proposal use the form on the following Web site: https://peosoldier.army.mil/sepform.asp
Super Sniper Rifles:
XM110 Semi-Automatic On The Way

Soldiers like to exchange stories about the lethality of .50 caliber sniper rifles. One story has it that the M107 Long-Range Sniper Rifle (LRSR) “reached out and touched someone” from 1,400 meters away while the insurgent hid atop a water tower with a rocket propelled grenade.

What really happens in battle we may never know for sure, but the facts about the sniper rifles that Program Executive Office Soldier’s (PEO) Soldier Weapons program provides to soldiers speak for themselves: the rifles are accurate, reliable, sustainable, and the Soldier Weapons program gets them to soldiers in record time. After comprehensive testing, independent evaluation and full material release, the M107 Sniper Rifle was acquired and ready for fielding in less than 36 months, thanks to the accelerated acquisition path offered by the Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP) (see related article on p. 12).

In fact, soldier feedback drove the SEP requirements for the new XM110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) contract. Like the M107, the XM110 is what the Army calls a Non-Developmental Item, Commercial-Off-The-Shelf product. That means that the Army
“militarizes” the designs of small arms already on the market and shortens the acquisition cycle by reducing or eliminating the research and development phase. However, Soldier Weapons representatives are quick to point out that this path does not mean a relaxation of the Army’s high standards.

The SEP approach and the acquisition of these off-the-shelf products enable Soldier Weapons to validate product maturity and readiness by focusing on extensive and comprehensive technical and operational testing prior to the production phase. The test results may reveal needed modifications and enhancements. Once the weapon meets the Army’s performance criteria, it becomes part of the Army’s inventory.

LTC Kevin Stoddard, Product Manager for the Crew Served Weapons component of this program, is confident the combined industry and government team working on the XM110 will come through again for soldiers on the XM110 program. “The gun has actually been performing extremely well,” Stoddard said. “We will have technical and operational testing completed by early summer and begin fielding the first of 4,492 XM110s by January.”

The XM110 is intended to replace the bolt-action, M24 Sniper Weapon System (SWS), but the future of the M24 is still undecided. It will depend upon an upcoming Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) analysis. “Ultimately, snipers will have what they need for increased survivability,” Stoddard said. “For now, we have the XM110, M107 and the M24. All are accurate, reliable and sustainable.”

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<td><strong>Accurate</strong>&lt;br&gt;1,000m&lt;br&gt;Minute of angle: 1&lt;br&gt;Recoil: 8 ft.-lb.</td>
<td>1,500m Personnel&lt;br&gt;2,000m Materiel&lt;br&gt;Minute of angle: 2.5&lt;br&gt;Recoil: 36 ft.-lb.</td>
<td>Day optic scope: 800m&lt;br&gt;Day/night scope (AN/PVS 10) 800m day, 600m night w/ ¼ moon&lt;br&gt;Minute of angle: 1&lt;br&gt;Recoil: 36 ft.-lb.</td>
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<td><strong>Reliable</strong>&lt;br&gt;Barrel life: &gt; 5,000 rounds</td>
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<td><strong>Mission</strong>&lt;br&gt;Target reduction and observation. As part of the Infantry battalion, snipers normally perform some portion of both missions, simultaneously. Occasionally, one mission may take precedence over the other; however, target reduction missions generally facilitate the gathering of valuable intelligence information.</td>
<td>To engage and defeat materiel targets at extended ranges to include parked aircraft; command, control, communications, computers and intelligence sites; radar, ammunition, petroleum, oil and lubricant sites; and various other thin-skinned (lightly armored) materiel targets. Also to be used in a counter-sniper role taking advantage of the longer stand-off ranges and increased terminal effects when opposing snipers are armed with smaller caliber weapons.</td>
<td>To support combat operations by delivering precise long-range fire on selected targets.</td>
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<td><strong>Accessories</strong>&lt;br&gt;20-round magazine&lt;br&gt;Variable power optic sight, 3.5-10x-40mm&lt;br&gt;Spotting scope&lt;br&gt;Transport case&lt;br&gt;Tactical soft case&lt;br&gt;Cleaning / maintenance equipment&lt;br&gt;Detachable bipod&lt;br&gt;Manuals</td>
<td>10-round magazine&lt;br&gt;Variable power optic sight 4.5-14x-50mm&lt;br&gt;Transport case&lt;br&gt;Tactical soft case&lt;br&gt;Cleaning / maintenance equipment&lt;br&gt;Adjustable bipod&lt;br&gt;Manuals&lt;br&gt;Detachable sling</td>
<td>5-round internal magazine&lt;br&gt;Fixed power, 10x, 40mm M3A&lt;br&gt;Spotting scope M144&lt;br&gt;Transport case&lt;br&gt;Sniper Accessory Kit (SAK)&lt;br&gt;Cleaning / maintenance equipment&lt;br&gt;Adjustable bipod&lt;br&gt;Manuals&lt;br&gt;Detachable sling</td>
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On 5 February, this year, the last of the 3rd Infantry Division arrived home from Kuwait.

The division was the first to use a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) Division Level Command Post in Iraq. The large-sized tents were used whenever a division was to be in one place for more than a week. They provided more than 4,000 square feet of climate-controlled space for troops to meet and conduct tactical operations.

The unit's deployment took place shortly after the Army's Medical Health Advisory Teams made a number of recommendations to improve the quality of life of deployed soldiers. The teams that studied both deployments to Iraq found that 72 percent of soldiers in the initial Iraq deployment suffered from "low" or "very low" unit morale, while only 54 percent of soldiers who replaced them suffered from the same.

The team attributes this increased morale, in part, to an overall effort on the part of the Army that resulted in better meals, better communication with overseas family members and better facilities, including air-conditioned shelters. "Being in a facility where it's not 130 or 140 degrees in your tent is a big morale booster. You get a good night's sleep," said COL Virgil J. Patterson who headed both teams.

For more mobile command posts, the division connected the smaller DRASH Model 6XB shelters, which housed up to 15 soldiers in a completely climate-controlled environment and set up anywhere quickly and efficiently. This flexibility was important for the division, as they sometimes moved over 600 kilometers in less than 20 days. However, size also was one of the main limitations of the 6XBs. According to the first 3rd Infantry Division's After Action Report, the shelters "proved challenging during shift changes when space was needed to brief a large number of people."

To fulfill the need for more space, but still allow the unit to be mission-ready within minutes, DRASH manufacturer DHS Systems provided the division with Model M shelters that would connect with other DRASH shelters, allowing them to grow in length while keeping the same width. "The Model M shelter allowed the 3rd ID to keep its existing systems and still provide more space," said DRASH Business Development Manager Jeff Jackson, who also is a retired 3rd ID officer.

To further enhance the division's Command and Control areas, DHS Systems also created a configuration called a Special Troops Battalion (STB) Cluster to support the division's headquarters. "We worked closely with the division to redesign their Division Main Command Post using DRASH shelters and trailers, and upgrading the Biketrack Flooring and Special Ops Command and Control equipment with integrated tables," Jackson said.

Working in tandem seems to have paid off. According to Jackson, the division now has the ability to deploy a larger footprint and use less manpower than was previously used to conduct the same operations with old equipment.

From a leadership perspective, the comfort factor is a big help. Retired Army SGT Brad O. Stobb said, "Providing the Commander with a quality, climate-controlled command post allows him to focus his efforts on taking the fight to the enemy versus focusing on fighting the elements within the command post."

Translation in soldier terms: less work, more comfort, greater morale.

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New Breed of Shelter for Division Soldiers

By Naeran Rubio

3rd ID Command Post, a DRASH shelter—Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter.
Many of the diverse Infantry missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom involve the use of M1114 HMMW-V. One such mission was given to C Co. 2-127 IN, 32nd SIB. We crew the M1114 HMMW-Vs exclusively and were asked to provide convoy security for transportation assets from Kuwait into Iraq. When we arrived in theatre and signed for the vehicles, many soldiers asked for an auxiliary mount for the turret, but competing interests drove their requests. Some soldiers wanted to cover a secondary sector without the need to traverse the main weapon system 180 degrees. Other soldiers were interested in a secondary weapon system that would allow them to cover their primary sector and continue to use the front gunner’s shield for protection. Still others wanted the ability to elevate the secondary system rapidly to cover the back side of bridges as they passed underneath.

Some gunners preferred the mount on the left side and others wanted it on the right, while some wanted it mounted on the front angle of the armor on either side of the gunner’s shield. This last placement would allow soldiers to mount a MK-19 in the main mount and have the direct fire capability of the M249 or M240B covering the same sector of fire. Some soldiers preferred to mount their M249, while others wanted to mount the M240B.

Maintenance mandated that the mount attach to the turret through the existing holes. SFC Nels Brown and I took all of these competing interests and developed a versatile mount that met many of our soldiers’ needs. Since brothers named Brown developed the idea with the help and feedback from men in C Company, we named it the Charlie Brown Mount.

The idea germinated when Medic SGT Robert Schultz found a swivel-arm machine gun mount (NSN 1005-00-406-1493) taken off an M113A3 armored personnel carrier at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) at LSA Anaconda. The machine gun mount has a pivot point that allows a six-inch arm with a pintel lock at the end to rotate the gun 360 degrees. The triangular base attaches with three bolts. We designed a platform that would mount in eight different positions on the turret armor using only the existing holes. We did not have access to the raw materials normally required to manufacture the platforms, so we used the M1114 fuel door that had been removed during an armor upgrade. Cutting all three pieces from the same fuel door made the process efficient. We cut the needed bolt holes using a plasma cutter, and welded a gusset and a triangular platform onto the plate.

What in the World is the Charlie Brown Mount?

By 1LT Lars Brown and SFC Nels Brown
The Charlie Brown Mount secures to the outside of the turret, using the existing holes. The swivel arm rotates just above the top of the armor, allowing the gunner to stay low and utilize the cover of the armor. Additionally, it allows the gun to rotate over the top of the armor, so it can be secured inside the protection of the turret. The swivel-arm also permits the gunner to fire the M249 or the M240B comfortably. By moving the longer M240B out, the gunner can get behind it while maintaining a steady, solid position in the hatch. The M249 will rotate 360 degrees in most positions with the plastic 200-round drum, but our gunners generally prefer the cloth SAW pouch (NSN 1005-01-334-1507) and the nylon M240B nylon ammunition bag (NSN 8465-99-151-3394). Mounted guns can also elevate with ease to cover bridges and overpasses with the Charlie Brown Mount secured in the rearward position on the turret without traversing the main gun mount.

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

1LT Lars Brown has served in C Co. 2-127 IN 32nd SIB in the Wisconsin Army National Guard for 15 years and currently is a Platoon Leader.

SFC Nels Brown has served in C Co. for nearly 18 years and currently is a Platoon Sergeant.

Photographer SSG Joseph Streeter works as a Squad Leader in C Co., serves the Wisconsin Army National Guard Headquarters as a system administrator.

SFC James Krivoshein is a Platoon Sergeant and acting Platoon Leader in the Infantry in C Co., maintains his affiliation with the Cavalry, and used technical and computer skills from the private sector to work up the drawing.

All are currently serving at Camp Navistar, Kuwait and all points north on the convoy security escort mission.

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The Evolution of Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA)

By 1LT Joe Byerly (AR) and 1LT Nick Shallcross (AR)

Editor's note: This article by two Armor officers demonstrates the continued blurring of distinctions between pure Infantry missions and those of brothers in combat.

It is 0200 hours. Scouts in a dismounted observation post located on the outskirts of the city of Ucar take pictures of a high value target (HVT) entering the target building. One of the scouts uploads the pictures onto his Toughbook and sends them back to the tactical operations center (TOC) via HF radio. The pictures arrive within minutes, allowing the higher command to verify the HVT's presence real time; the commander gives the assault element the go ahead to move into the city.

This scenario was not conducted by a Long Range Surveillance Unit, but by a troop assigned to the Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron (RSTA) of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, which is taking part in a squadron level collective training event at the Leschi Town Urban Training Complex at Fort Lewis, Wash. The squadron is incorporating a new set of tools into its arsenal as a result of the Army initiative requiring the Long Range Surveillance community to increase the number of reconnaissance soldiers in ground maneuver battalions. Eighteen troopers from 4th Squadron (RSTA), 2nd Cavalry Regiment attended the Recon Surveillance Leader's Course (RSLC) at Fort Benning, Ga., in January, and the squadron has plans to send many more key leaders in fiscal year 2006.

The 19D, or Cavalry scout, is already trained in reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. Part of RSLC's mission is to train soldiers on surveillance equipment that is widely used by the Long Range Surveillance (LRS) and Special Operations Forces (SOF) communities. Knowledge of these tools enhances the skills of Cavalry scouts so that battlefield commanders can receive real time actionable intelligence.

Operations Beyond Line of Sight

With the Army focusing on enlarging its reconnaissance force, commanders are increasingly asking their soldiers to perform missions beyond the range of the standard communications equipment employed by units, most notably the ASIPs radio and the FBCB2/EPLRS system. This presents two glaring problems for these recon units. First, how can a commander make an informed decision when he cannot see what his men on the ground see? Second, and more importantly, how can those R&S teams...
Communicate when they are operating outside of FM/EPLRS range? Soldiers need a system that can deliver to the company, battalion or brigade commander real time images and actionable intelligence from R&S teams located hundreds of kilometers away. A system does exist that meets both of these requirements—the Harris High Frequency radio (AN/PRC-150) and its tactical chat (TAC CHAT) relayed up the chain of command, allowing the assaulting element to adapt its plan to the constantly changing situation and successfully complete the mission.

Reconnaissance and Surveillance in the Urban Environment

In a recent Army Times article, LTG David Petraeus said, “Units are needed to conduct targeting operations as opposed to sweep operations, which are more efficient in capturing and killing the enemy and less disruptive in neighborhoods.” The Army has never had a problem fixing the enemy, but in every conflict in which we have fought an elusive opponent—from the Indian wars to present day Iraq—the Army has been required to learn new lessons, and relearn old ones when it comes to finding the enemy. The key to this problem is the unit’s abilities to conduct passive reconnaissance and surveillance of the enemy’s lines of communications, suspected safe houses, suspected or known war criminals and possible targets of future direct actions. A hunter that blends in and does not disturb the natural environment is more likely to find and kill his prey than one who goes stomping through the woods.

Many environmental considerations that have affected reconnaissance operations in theatre need to be addressed. Children and domestic animals roam freely through the urban areas creating a great risk of compromise for soldiers trying to observe their target. Iraqis are known to sleep on rooftops in order to get relief from the heat. So how do we get a reconnaissance team into a surveillance site without being compromised and with the least amount of disturbance to the urban environment? Multiple insertion/infiltration methods are being developed by reconnaissance units in theatre that go “outside the box” of traditional methods. Platoons in the RSTA squadron are taking these methods and incorporating them into their current training plan and standard operating procedures (SOP).

We are no longer fighting a Cold War Army. Operating beyond LOS at the platoon and section level is a must in today’s operating environment. The Ucar scenario mentioned in the first paragraph is just the beginning of a mesh of new technology and new tactics that will enhance the reconnaissance capabilities of the RSTA squadron and allow commanders to truly See First, Understand First, Act First and Finish Decisively.

Battle Weary Château-Thierry

By David C. Homsher

Château-Thierry is indelibly written into the pages of American World War I military history. In the late spring of 1918, the name blazed in pages of the world press when the defense of the French and American armies barred the road to Paris from German advance. Château-Thierry was an emergency; it had no part in the plans prepared by the general staff of the American Expeditionary Forces or in the original French scheme for the entry of the American forces upon the Western Front.

The German attack on the morning of May 27 was a startling surprise to Allied headquarters. In four days, on the evening of May 30, leading elements of the German troops were at Château-Thierry. On the following day the Boche stated in his communiqué, “We stand on the Marne.” However, on that same day, German troops found a small American fighting unit, the 7th Machine Gun Battalion of the 3rd U.S. Division that had come a distance of 110 miles in 30 hours by motor transport. The Germans failed to cross the Marne.

For 72 hours the 7th Machine Gun Battalion successfully contested the crossing, and by the second day of June, the 3rd U. S. Division was in position along the river from Château-Thierry to the east for a distance of 12 miles. The tide of military fortune turned at that point.

Château-Thierry is so picturesque that its aspect has tempted many travelers to break their journey on the way from Paris to Epernay. Dominated on the north by the ruined towers of its ancient castle, the town nestles in a valley between the wooded sides of the River Marne.

Approaching from the east the Marne bends sharply upon passing the town, as if to avoid a bare knoll known as Hill 204, which bars its direct course to the west. At no point more than 70 meters wide, the river is too deep to ford. The valley slopes ascend from the northern banks of the Marne to a plateau about 500 feet above the river. Four roads leave Château-Thierry: one up the north bank of the Marne, one to Soissons, one to Fere-en-Tardenois, and one to La Ferté and Paris. The position of the city explains its war torn history, for it has ever stood as a citadel in the path of the endless succession of invasions aimed at Paris.

After the first battle of the Marne on 9 September 1914, Château-Thierry remained far behind the lines and in Allied hands until the German advance in May of 1918. Breaking through Allied lines on the Chemin des Dames in their offensive of 27 May 1918, the Germans drove the French rapidly southward. On 30 May, the French rear-guard reached Château-Thierry. On the following day, German GEN Max von Boehn’s vanguard entered the town. During the following weeks, the Germans thoroughly sacked the town.

Château-Thierry is a railway junction of considerable importance in the Marne system of communications. Divided into two sections by the river Marne, with three bridges spanning the stream, Château-Thierry constituted the key point of the Marne barrier against the German advance toward Paris. It was vital to hold the bridgeheads. If Château-Thierry held, it would present a front from which to shatter the German spearhead.
Rushed from their training area in half-ton Ford trucks, the 7th Motorized Machine Gun Battalion of the U.S 3rd Division met the retiring French in the town and took up positions on the northern riverbank. Here they fought the Germans for two days, then withdrew to the south bank to allow the French to blow up the town's bridges. From then on, the Marne was the dividing line between the opposing forces. Neither side attempted to cross the river in Château-Thierry until the Germans evacuated on 19-20 July due to Allied attacks on the east and west of the city.

Château-Thierry itself saw only a few days of active fighting, but a few miles east and west of it and to the north, some of the most bitter struggles of the war occurred. The 2nd U.S. Division fought just outside Château-Thierry in the area of Belleau Wood, Bouresches and Vaux. The 20-day struggle between the Marine Brigade and the Germans for control of Belleau Wood was particularly ferocious. The 3rd U.S Division fought tenaciously in the area of the Jaulgonne Bend of the Marne, east of the city. Despite attacks, Allied lines held, and the morale of the Allies skyrocketed.

On 21 July 1918, U.S. Divisions pushed forward into the wooded hills north of Château-Thierry. Original orders directed American troops to take the city, but the French requested that the honor be given to them.

Most of the 310,000 U.S. soldiers engaged in the battle passed through Château-Thierry. Most of the 67,000 American casualties left from the railroad station in Château-Thierry to be transported to hospitals in the rear areas. To American soldiers, the battles in the Marne salient would forever bear the name “The Battle of Château-Thierry.”

Guides Available
A number of European historians living in France and Belgium are dedicated to preserving the memory of the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) who fought in Europe in 1918 and promote tourism to the AEF battlefields in Europe. These historians possess detailed knowledge that enables them to guide tourists to the foxholes and trenches of AEF units, in many cases, down to the company level. These European citizens, knowing the local people and landowners, have a sort of carte blanche accessibility to the World War I battle areas and the more interesting sites and vestiges de la guerre. These individuals will act as battlefield guides, not only for tour groups, but also for private parties. All are fluent in English and able to advise prospective battlefield visitors on the availability of lodgings, such as bed-and-breakfast establishments, cottages and hotels.

Guides for the Marne Salient of 1918, Belleau Wood and the surrounding area:

Gilles Lugin, 24 Place de la Halle, 02810 Marigny-en-Orxois, France. Tel/Fax: 01 33 323 70 46 54, E-mail: gilles.lugin@wanadoo.fr, Website: http://perso.wanadoo.fr/war_1/.

Gilles is especially knowledgeable concerning the early battles of the U.S. 2nd Division and the Marine Corps at Hill 142, Belleau Wood, Bouresches and the Pas Fini sector.

He is the only historian known in the world who can show travelers exactly where the German machine guns were positioned on Hill 142 and where the command posts of the 30th and 38th Regiments (U.S. 3rd Division) were in the Bois d’Aigremont. He is the owner/operator of the only museum in France devoted solely to the AEF.

Giles coordinates his battlefield guide activities with the officials at the American Embassy in Paris and with the superintendent at the Aisne-Marne American Military Cemetery, Belleau, France. Given basic information on an AEF soldier, he will prepare a folder of maps and descriptions of the service of a member of the AEF in the Marne salient of France, including photographs of where the soldier served, was wounded or where he is buried.

COL William Anderson, USMC. Tel.: 703-524-9629, E-mail: binche57@yahoo.com.

Anderson offers expertise in the battle from the Marine perspective. He began leading USMC staff rides and tours of Belleau Wood in 1988 when he was serving at SHAPE, the NATO military headquarters in Belgium. He focuses on the Marine perspective, letting travelers experience the terrain as they walk the battlefield and listen to the personal stories Anderson has collected over many years. He also discusses weapons, tactics and the German opponents.


David C. Homsher, a veteran of U.S. Army service during the Korean War, is a historian and author of the American soldier of World War I and his battlefields. Dave has recently published the first of a series of guidebooks to the American battlefields of World War I.
ROC-V Training Saves Lives

“Fratricide is the employment of friendly weapons and munitions with the intent to kill the enemy or destroy his equipment, or facilities, which results in unforeseen and unintentional death or injury to friendly personnel.”
— U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Fratricide Action Plan

The first reported ground fratricide incident during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) occurred shortly after midnight on 25 March 2005, when a British Challenger II tank fired on another near Basra. The tanks were engaging pockets of Iraqi soldiers near a bridge over the Qanat Shat Al Basra canal, which runs along the western edge of the city. In a nearby sector, a troop of Challenger IIs was tracking, through their thermal sights, a group of enemy personnel that had been reported by the battle group Headquarters (HQ). The “target” was reported as an enemy bunker position. The targeted Challenger was unfortunately in turret-down position, its crew working on the turret top and was misidentified by the second Challenger crew as the reported “enemy” troops. The tank commander requested clearance to shoot, which was granted. Firing two shots of High Explosive Shell (HESH) at 4,000 yards blew the turret off the Challenger, killing two of the crew and seriously wounding two others. Both tanks were fitted with visual and thermal Combat Identification Panels (CIPs) in working order, but the second Challenger crew could not obtain a clear visual view due to the hull-down position of the tank.  1

This dramatic and costly incident, and several others with similar fratricidal results during OIF, amplifies the continuing need for not only a viable technical solution to Combat Vehicle Identification (CVI) but also the imperative to improve our overall Combat Identification (CID) training. As of 31 January 2006 in OIF, there were 27 U.S. Army fratricides, 26 from direct fire and one from indirect fire. Two of those incidents were ground-to-air engagements, and one was an air-to-ground strike. Fourteen incidents occurred during daylight hours and 13 at night, resulting in 11 U.S. Army soldiers killed in action and 10 other military fatalities. As these statistics verify, CID is still an unresolved problem on the modern battlefield for the U.S. Army, even during stability and support operations.  2

Tiered Training
CID is made up of a multitude of facets. Situational awareness and target identification within specified rules of engagement are the cornerstones. Individual and collective training is the glue that binds these aspects together. To help prepare our forces to prevent or reduce the potential for fratricide and simultaneously increase combat effectiveness, U.S. Army TRADOC is currently implementing a 5-tiered training approach for CID. This training will provide “trigger pullers,” a graduated and increasingly robust training program to meet current and projected CID challenges. Regardless of the technology, or the ability of the command and control architecture to provide near perfect situational awareness, once the vehicle commander or individual shooter reconfirms the target is hostile before firing, the final decision to engage a target by direct fire is and will always be relegated to the shooter—the gunner with his finger on the trigger.

The basis and foundation of the TRADOC 5-tiered CID training plan is CVI training within a graduated training model (see table below). The primary CVI training aid of choice is the Recognition of Combat Vehicles (ROC-V) and Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations (TADSS) with embedded imagery from the ROC-V program. ROC-V is a thermal sight training program that runs on any computer with the Windows operating system. ROC-V helps soldiers learn to identify the thermal signatures of combat vehicles through the use of an interactive curriculum that teaches the unique patterns and shapes of vehicle “hotspots” and overall vehicle shapes. ROC-V also provides soldiers with practical experience in the use of their individual weapon thermal-sensor image controls. Through the use of virtual sight controls, soldiers learn to effectively adjust their thermal optics to find targets and reveal their thermal identification cues. ROC-V includes

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TRADOC Combat Identification Tiered Training Model  3

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<th>TIER LEVEL</th>
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Editor’s note: This article was received from the Ground Combat Division of the Joint Fires Integration and Interoperability Team at Elgin AFB with a request for widest and timely dissemination in conjunction with TRADOC program training.
training and testing to support the U.S. Army Soldiers Manual Common Task (SMCT) Skill Level 1 for visual vehicle identification.

Download this Training Program

ROC-V is currently the standard ground CVI training tool within the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. HQ TRADOC has directed implementation of ROC-V across multiple mission area specialties for both soldier common skills and specialty CVI training. The training program includes paper trainer versions for reference without a computer. The instructor control module permits individual and collective training, testing, and tracking of scores. ROC-V is the only training aid available for currently fielded JCIMS devices. ROC-V is available via web site download at https://rocv.army.mil.

A recent survey of sample ROC-V users that accessed the ROC-V Web site in 2005 indicated 79 percent stated ROC-V program improved their individual CVI skills, and 87 percent rated the ROC-V program as an effective CVI training aid. The survey also provided specific recommendations to improve the program to better meet the needs of the warfighter. Feedback from instructors and graduating students at master gunner schools also indicates user satisfaction with the training program. Many recommendations from these users have been incorporated into the current version of ROC-V.

Representatives from the four armed services are involved in direct consultation with the ROC-V development team to produce the next generation of ROC-V to meet other specific mission area applications. The ROC-V team has already produced a look-down aspect angle version for the air-to-ground mission areas such as fixed-wing close air support, attack and reconnaissance rotary-wing platforms, and AC-130 gunships. It is currently in use by USMC light attack helicopter squadrons. This same product improvement has potential utility for tactical Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) sensor analysts. Army Training Support Center (ATSC) has assumed responsibility for distribution of compact disc versions of ROC-V through the Joint Visual Information Activity, Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania at http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil. ATSC designed these compact discs as a supplemental distribution method to the web-based, online download method for those soldiers that cannot access the web site. TRADOC, in partnership with Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), is working towards embedding ROC-V imagery within combat vehicle tactical trainers and adoption into TADSS and future combat system trainers. Future efforts also include the development of a web-based SCORM conformant course that can be hosted by the individual services.

Leaders must ensure they have a plan to reduce the risk of fratricide. Along with improving situational awareness during operations, the key is tough, realistic CVI training before operations. ROC-V meets that training requirement. The ROC-V Computer-Based Training (CBT) is exponentially ahead of traditional training methods. Bottom line—ROC-V training saves lives.


3 CID tiered training model developed by TRADOC Capabilities Manager for Platform Battle Command and Combat Identification (TCM PB/CID).

4 Army-Marine Corps Board – CID, 27 Aug 04, directed ROC-V image sets be established as the Joint standard for CVI training. AMCB principals requested that JFCOM lead an effort to Develop and publish Joint Policy establishing ROC-V as the Joint Training System/Standard for Ground Platform Visual/Thermal Recognition Training. Joint Requirements Oversight Council Memorandum (JROCM) 076-05, OIF Major Combat Operations Lessons Learned—Fratricide, 14 Apr 05, directed DOD to institutionalize ROC-V as a CVI training standard.

5 ROC-V Online User Survey, 13 March 2005, conducted by USJFCOM/JFIIT.

Dr. William M. Rierson is a retired Field Artillery officer with 23 years active duty service. He provided significant contributions to eight major CID assessments over the past 10 years as a systems analyst with the Joint Combat Identification Evaluation Team (JCIET). Rierson presently serves as the lead analyst for the Ground Combat Division of the Joint Fires Integration and Interoperability Team (JFIIT) located at Eglin AFB, Fla. JFIIT is a subordinate command of United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM).

Mr. David A. Ahrens is a retired Field Artillery officer with 28 years active duty experience. He continues to serve the U.S. Army as a military analyst working CID issues for TRADOC’s Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations and Training located at Fort Monroe, Va.
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Schwarzkopf Urges Support For New Infantry Museum

By Cyndy Cerbin

Retired GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf was part hero, part promoter during a recent appearance at the Georgia Legislature. He was there to make sure Gov. Sonny Perdue and members of the House and Senate understood the worthiness of the National Infantry Museum project. But there was no getting around the fact that the Desert Storm icon is still a celebrity.

The General Assembly presented Schwarzkopf with a joint resolution honoring his service to the nation and his command of allied forces during the first Gulf War. Both houses greeted him with standing ovations, and the line to have a picture taken with the General emptied the chambers’ floors. State Rep. Calvin Smyre, who has been a lawmaker for 32 years, said he had never seen such enthusiasm for a guest to the Capitol.

“I was momentarily overpowered,” Schwarzkopf said later. “They sure swept me off my feet. But they need to remember it’s not me, it’s the troops. I just happened to be lucky enough to be their leader.”

Schwarzkopf and National Infantry Foundation leaders met privately with Perdue. Schwarzkopf described the National Infantry Museum as a national treasure that deserves financial support from the state. The Governor expressed enthusiastic support for the project, and told a reporter he was glad to see a man of Schwarzkopf’s stature lending his support to the project.

In thanking members of the House and Senate for their warm welcome, Schwarzkopf talked about the need to honor all Infantrymen by creating a place where Americans can learn about the price they have paid for our freedoms.

“The Infantry is not glamorous,” Schwarzkopf said. “They’re not waving flags, saying, ‘Look at me.’ They’re in harm’s way every day. The monument you’re putting up is long overdue.” Schwarzkopf compared the new Infantry museum to the Vietnam Wall. “The naysayers said nobody’s going to come see it,” he said. “But look at what happened. The same thing will happen at this museum.”

Schwarzkopf praised the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who served under him in Iraq as the real heroes, and said today’s soldiers fighting another war in the Gulf also deserve the nation’s support. He was encouraged by the reception he received in Atlanta. “I’m very proud of the state of Georgia for recognizing the need to honor Infantrymen.”

Between appearances in the House and Senate, Schwarzkopf traded hunting stories and childhood memories with visitors.

Schwarzkopf said he revered his father, who held two careers as an Army officer and as chief of the New Jersey State Police. He recalled his father’s reaction to his choice of careers. “Out of West Point, I could have gone anywhere,” Schwarzkopf said. “My dad thought my future was in high-tech. He was appalled when I picked the Infantry, ‘passing up my chance at greatness.’ I wish he were alive today.”

Fifteen years into retirement, Schwarzkopf’s passion for Infantrymen is as strong as ever. That passion led to his decision to become national campaign co-chair and spokesperson for the National Infantry Museum.

“We have a great Army,” he said. “It’s a glorious history that’s being told.”

Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue (left) and GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf talk about the National Infantry Museum project in the governor’s office. In the background are NIF Board Chairman MG Jerry White and Executive Director Ben Williams.
Rockets were exploding outside Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman as Apache Company prepared to return counter fire with their artillery. The engagement ended successfully and was only one event of many conducted by Catamount soldiers across an area of operation larger than the state of Vermont. Catamount soldiers have conducted full spectrum operations that include multiple combat operations, vehicle checkpoints, humanitarian and civil assistance, joint patrols with the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, negotiations with local elders, and medical civil assistance projects.

Team Comanche spent the first stop of its patrol in the district of Gelan handing out school supplies, t-shirts and radios to the children and leaders of the village of Basa Khel. The children clutched their highly prized new possessions close to their chest until they reached home. At their next stop, Comanche leaders coached the local Afghan police chief through methods of fighting suspected Taliban in the area. They showed the mayor how to manage projects, such as trash cleanup for his district. That night they coordinated a joint vehicle checkpoint (VCP) with the local police chief and worked together to ensure no enemy passed through the area. After distributing more school supplies in the village of Shinkay and inspecting a potential location for a civil assistance project, they returned to their home FOB.

First Platoon, C Company, spent the beginning of the week patrolling with the Afghan Border Police along the southern border between Paktika province and Pakistan. The patrols, meant to prevent the infiltration of the enemy, were also an opportunity for U.S. soldiers to train the Afghan Border Police in the best ways to set ambushes, clear ground and patrol their area of responsibility. The patrol that day was uneventful, and after conducting an engagement with the elders of the village of Baza Kalay, the soldiers returned to the Afghan Border Police Station to prepare for the next day.

On Tuesday morning, the Battalion TAC moved to Forward Operating Base Tillman by helicopter for a meeting with the Pakistan military along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. LTC Chris Toner and CPT Chris Nunn conducted the meeting with the 13th PUNJAB Rifles Commander, LTC Kaukab. They worked through the necessary coordination to corner the enemy from both sides of the border. After exchanging operational graphics and other coordination measures, leaders from both militaries cemented the relationship by breaking bread together on the dividing line of the Afghan/Pakistan border.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, Blackhawk moved a platoon from FOB Orgun-E for a medical civil assistance project to the people of the small district of Charbaron. Upon arrival, they immediately set up security and began work with the medical platoon from 5-1 Kandak, an Afghan National Army Battalion, to provide medical treatment to the local population of Charbaron. By the end of the day, the two platoons had treated more than 180 patients. The commander of Blackhawk had also finished rehearsals with the local leaders and security forces for the visit of the governor of Paktika the next day. While Blackhawk focused on the medical support mission, battalion cooks prepared for a dinner hosted by the battalion for the governor of Paktika Province and the elders of Orgun. When the guests were gathered, the governor...
spoke on issues of concern for the elders of Orgun. After dinner, he met with LTC Toner to discuss coalition operations within his province. That evening, as Blackhawk focused on the governor's dinner, Apache sent an urgent report of rockets impacting near Observation Point-4. This was followed some time later by 10 rockets impacting outside FOB Tillman. Apache Company responded with illumination and high explosive rounds directed at the origination site of the incoming rockets. The rest of the evening passed uneventfully.

The next morning the battalion leadership walked down the street of Charbaron with the governor of Paktika. They were cheered by several hundred villagers singing and dancing in celebration of the opening of a new school built by coalition forces. The governor walked to the soccer fields for a ceremony where all the local elders gave speeches in thanks and support of the Afghan government and the governor cut the ribbon, officially opening the school. When the convoy departed, after two days of engagement and humanitarian assistance with the community of Charbaron, the soldiers of TF Catamount left a small community with a better standard of living and increased confidence in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Team Headhunter was actively finishing a week filled with ambush patrols, medical civilian assistance projects and engagements with local elders. LT Torres had driven up and down their area of operation working with the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army to ensure the continued security of the seat of government for the province. On the final day of the week, he worked with the leaders of all the districts in the area of operation, to bring them together in one meeting, to emphasize the importance of their cooperation with the Afghan Security Forces in order to maintain the peace. He placed special emphasis on the fact that without security, the government would be unable to bring continued civil assistance to their area.

Throughout all these operations, the soldiers of Fox Company worked tirelessly, seven days a week, sometimes all night long, to repair vehicles, weapons and other critical equipment. They also put creative energy to use by developing new ways to serve “home cooked” meals. On special occasions, platoon leadership asked the cooks for something special, and got huge cakes made with frosting and strawberries, or some other special treat to commemorate promotions, reenlistments or selection of one of their own as Catamount Soldier or Non-commissioned Officer of the Month.

The Catamount medics and the Forward Surgical Team (FST) at FOB Orgun-E stand ready at all hours. While treating critically wounded Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers injured in a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device incident, the doctors performed surgery on one ANA Soldier while medics simultaneously worked on stabilizing two others until the first surgery was complete. In the midst of this, the FST received an Afghan fuel truck driver who was in a roll-over accident and suffered life threatening injuries. Working through the night, the doctors and medics gave every bit of effort to help the injured and wounded. Although one ANA did not survive the night, the ANA Sergeant Major thanked them for helping his soldiers.

This is one week of many. The soldiers of TF Catamount continue to work hard throughout the province of Paktika to ensure the peace and growth of the Afghan government.

CPT Jared Wilson stands next to villagers in Gelan who have just received humanitarian assistance items from Comanche Company.

Photos provided by TF Catamount.

New Leadership for Bayou Chapter

Fort Polk is revitalizing its Bayou chapter with regularly held meetings and events focusing on camaraderie and sharing knowledge of the Infantry. The chapter has recently elected new executive members:

- President: LTC Marcus F. Deolivera
- Vice President (Senior): MAJ Christopher C. Bresko
- Vice President (Membership): CPT Gabriel W. Barton
- Treasurer: MAJ Adam J. Carson
- Secretary: CPT Sang-Min Sok

On 2 March 2006, LTC Marc D. Axelberg and COL Wayne L. Detwiler from JRTC Operations group received the Order of Saint Maurice, presented by COL Michael E. Rounds, Commander Operations Group, JRTC.
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**Combat Infantrymen’s Association Convention**

The 13th annual Combat Infantrymen’s Association convention will be held in Columbus, Ga.—adjacent to Fort Benning—home of the Infantry, 12-15 October 2006. The host hotel will be the Holiday Inn North located at 2800 Manchester Expressway in Columbus. The property is an upper mid-scale hotel with all the amenities needed for a successful convention.

For more information, please visit www.cibassoc.com or contact:

MAJ Daniel R. Sankoff  
C.I.A. National Membership Officer  
236 Danby Rd., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7531  
E-mail: silverfox236@aol.com

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**Old Guard Reunion**

The 2006 reunion of The Old Guard Association (3d Infantry Regiment — The Old Guard) will be held 20-24 September 2006 at Fort Myer, Va. For more information, please contact:

CW4(R) Pete McDermott at petermcd1@comcast.net or  
CSM(R) Bob Phifer at rphifer8@comcast.net

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**11th Special Forces Group Reunion**

The 11th Special Forces Group (Abn), USAR, will hold its 2006 reunion on 12 August 2006 at Fort Meade, Md. For more information, please contact:

CW4(R) Pete McDermott  
1195 Old County Rd., Arnold, MD 21012  
(410) 544-3083  
petermcd1@comcast.net

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**Third to Hold Reunion**

The Third Infantry Division Society and attached units in war and in peacetime will hold their 87th reunion from 5-10 September 2006 in Nashville, Tenn. Hotel accommodations will be at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, 623 Union St., Nashville, TN 37219. Phone numbers: (615) 259-2000 or (800) 325-3535. Room rates are $89 per night plus tax. This includes breakfast. Parking is $5 per day.

For additional reunion information, please contact:  
John Shirley ...........................................(925) 447-2256  
e-mail: ........................................... jbshirley@comcast.net  
Linda Irvine .......................................(360) 663-2521  
e-mail: ............................................info@theReunionBrat.com

The Society of the Third Infantry division is seeking those who served in the 3rd and attached units in war, peacetime, or special interest to join the society. Contact Dick Gallmeyer at (800) 523-4715, e-mail msg1gal@aol.com. Please visit the society's website at www.3rdiv.org.

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Annual Dues: All applicants other than those listed below:

[ ] 1 yr. - $20  [ ] 2 yrs. - $38  [ ] 3 yrs. - $55

Trainees, Enlisted E-2/E-6; Officer Candidates, 2LT in IOBC, GS-8, DACS and below, Wage Board 12 DAC and below:

[ ] OSUT 1yr. - $10  [ ] 1 yr. - $14  [ ] 2 yrs. - $25  [ ] 3 yrs. $36

Corporate Membership – Annual Dues:

[ ] Corporation - $300  [ ] Small Business - $100

Life Membership:

[ ] Up to age 65 - $300 (Payable in full or in $25.00 Monthly Installments by credit card.)  
[ ] Check here to pay in $25 monthly installments  
[ ] 65 & Older - $100 (Payable in full)

Professional Qualifications:

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[ ] Army Retired | [ ] Other Military Branch | [ ] Infantry Veteran  
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News and Awards

BG Jerry G. Beck (left) with presenter MAJ Sam Hayes, President of the Bloody Bucket Chapter, following the presentation of his OSM in Lewistown, Pa. at the 28th Infantry Division Dining Out on 11 March 2006.

SSG Clifford Cassity (left) of A Co, 1-11th IN Regiment (BOLC II), was awarded the Legionnaire OSM by SFC (P) Blaine Huston on 13 April 2006 at the National Infantry Museum.

MG Walter Wojdakowski presented the OSM to LTC Herbert Sladek, German Army Liaison Officer to the Infantry Center, and the Shield of Sparta to Mrs. Krista Sladek. The Sladeks were stationed at Fort Benning from 2003-2006. They returned to Germany in April 2006.

MG William G. Webster Jr., Commander, 3rd Infantry Division, and his wife Kimberly, were awarded the OSM and Shield of Sparta during the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Military Ball 30 March 2006 at the Riverfront Marriott in Savannah, Ga. Photo by SPC James Green, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs.

Cadet Jonathan Bate received the National Infantry Association’s Top Infantry Cadet Award on 21 April 2006 at the United States Military Academy, West Point. The annual award consists of a plaque with a mounted M-9 knife, courtesy of Ranger Joe’s.

CSM Edgardo Coronado received the OSM on 1 April 2006 from LTC Knapp at the 4th Brigade, 3d ID Ball at Fort Stewart, Ga., upon their return from Iraq. (l to r): Gloria Coronado; CSM Coronado, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment; LTC Denton Knapp; Heather Knapp

SFC Joseph Smith received the OSM at Fort Benning, Ga. on 16 February 2006 from COL Robert W. Radcliffe, Director of Combat Developments, United States Army Infantry Center.

1SG Michael G. Worthy, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st BCT, 1st ID, received the OSM on 13 April 2006 from Battalion Commander, LTC Frank Zachar.
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