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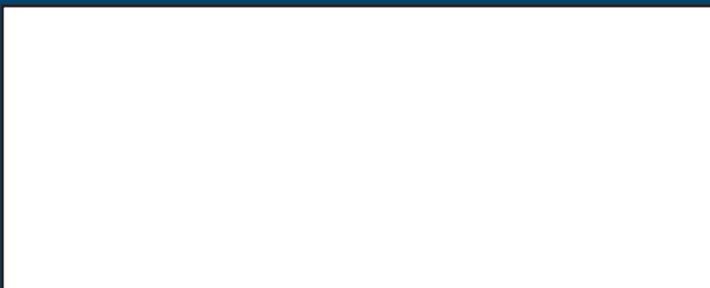
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Cover Photo: SGT 1st Class Richard Palmer, a maneuver advisor with Combat Advisor team 1131, assists his Afghan counterparts before his team observes them conduct a dismounted patrol during an Afghan-led operation near Kabul, Afghanistan, 16 September 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sean Kimmons)

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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 *Infantry 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 bugler@infantryassn.com.

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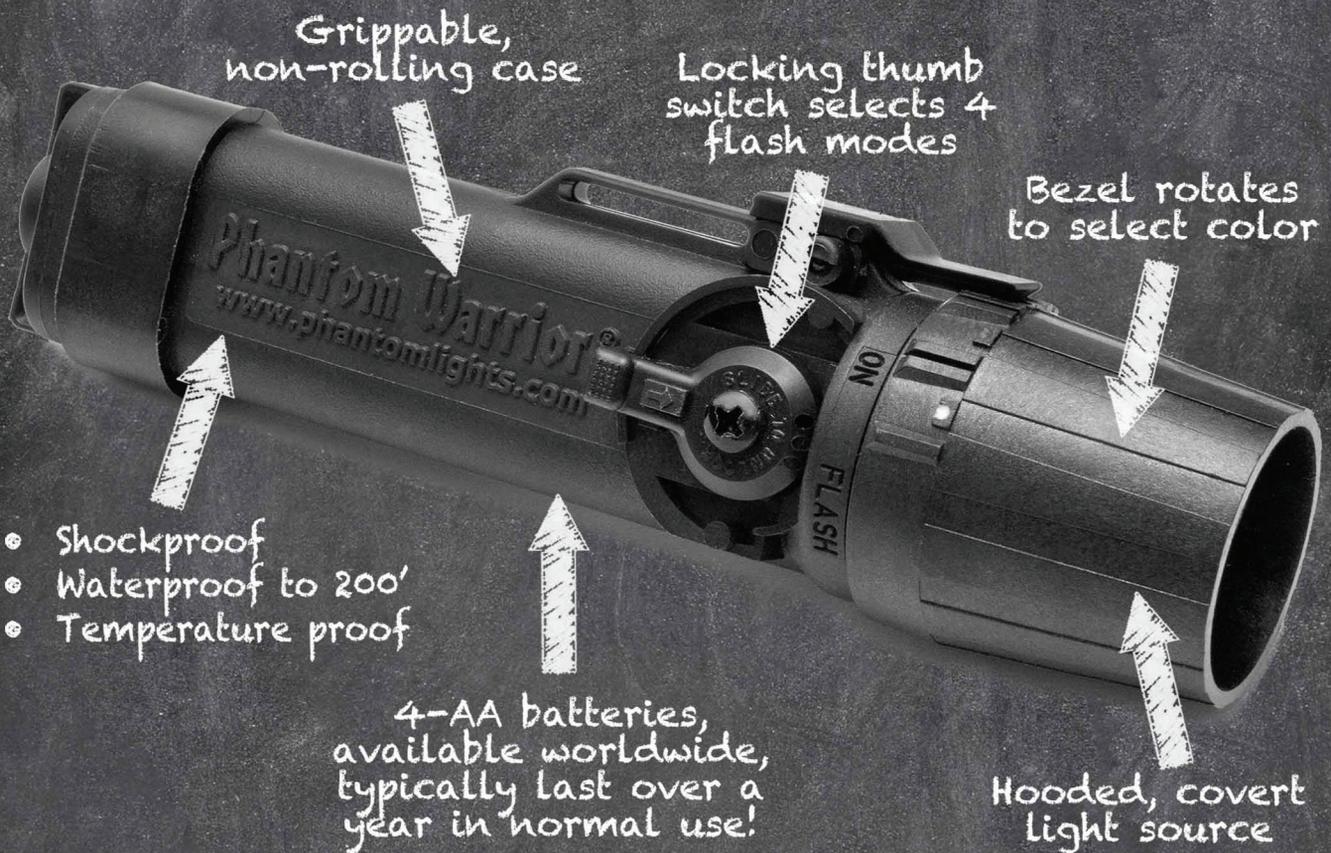
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From the Chairman



LTG (Ret) Thomas F. Metz

Thank you all! Thank you for your current (or prior) Army service, for your commitment to America, and for your courage as Infantrymen!

As we presently have Infantrymen deployed to several missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, we know they are fighting for our freedoms. This is not new. One hundred years ago, America, Canada, Australia, New

Zealand and all of Europe were fighting in the final days of the “War to End All Wars” or “The Great War.” America was finally committed to war in Europe, after holding out for three years, and we were part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (also known as Battles of the Meuse-Argonne and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign) was a major part of the final Allied offensive of World War I. The Hundred Day Offensive stretched along the entire Western Front. It was fought from 26 September 1918 until the Armistice of 11 November 1918, a total of 47 days.

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the largest in U.S. military history, involving 1.2 million American soldiers. It was one of a series of Allied attacks known as the Hundred Days Offensive, which brought the war to an end. The battle cost 28,000 German lives, 26,277 American lives, 98,000 wounded and an unknown number of French lives. It was the largest and bloodiest operation of World War I for the American Expeditionary Force (AEF). In comparison with other battles on the Western Front, its size was limited and the operation itself secondary. The Main Offensive was with the British, French, Canadian and Aussie to the north. It was and continues to be the deadliest battle in American history. U.S. losses were exacerbated by the inexperience of many of the troops, the unproven tactics used during the early phases of the operation. The Meuse-Argonne was the principal engagement of the AEF during World War I.

I hope as you remembered Armistice Day or Veterans Day on 11 November at 11 a.m., you included memories for the fallen Soldiers and all of our fellow Veterans. Finally, please keep all the Doughboys in your thoughts and prayers. This has been a busy quarter.

We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Association of the United States Army, The National Infantry Museum and Foundation and our neighbors at Fort Benning. Nationally, we thank our great sponsor, Phantom Products, all of our corporate members, our Chapters and our advertisers. We thank the citizens of Columbus, Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama for their support of the Gold Star Families that visited our Global War on Terrorism Memorial on 11 September.

Welcome to BG Dave Hodne and his family as well as all of our individual and corporate members from AUSA Convention 2018. Congratulations to our Doughboy Award recipients and to Dick Nurnberg for his 18 years of magnificent leadership as the president of the NIA and now our latest NIA president emeritus.

Finally, we wish all of you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and a Merry Christmas. I look forward to your partnership in 2019.

From the President



COL (Ret) Robert E. Choppa

Greetings, from the National Infantry Association (NIA). We need your support, hard work and dedication and we need it now. We assess Infantry unit readiness by using Green (Ready to Deploy, Fight and Win), Amber (Need training, need resources, can accomplish most missions), Red (Untrained and need resources) and Black (Unfamiliar with requirements and cannot achieve them). My assessment is that we are Amber—we need both resources and training.

The purpose of the NIA is to support the Chief of Infantry and the Infantry Branch; to share the camaraderie of like-minded soldiers and maintain the Infantry spirit (e.g., *Infantry Bugler* magazine); to recognize—through our awards program—outstanding Infantrymen and supporters; and to preserve the Infantry heritage and support of the National Infantry Museum (NIM).

I have had a couple of months to review our missions from organizational, constitutional and financial requirements. We have a small national staff of two full-time, two part-time employees, more than 10 directors, 50-plus chapters, 10,000 followers worldwide, a handful of corporate members and a single strategic partner. Here is my assessment:

1. Support the Chief of Infantry – AMBER. Institutionally we do this with our Infantry Museum and the graduation field—Inouye Field. We support with professional items and sale of advertising in our magazine. Our partnership with AUSA allows us to reach Congress and other governmental agencies. We need to reach out to Infantry Divisions, Brigades, Regiments and Battalions in our active and reserve component forces. We need to communicate their insights back to our Infantry Headquarters.
2. Share Infantry Camaraderie – AMBER. We need more members. We need every one of you to identify two non-members and sign them up. We do a great job with the *Infantry Bugler*. We need more input from our NIA members. Send us your articles for publication. Send us thought-provoking issues, discussions and recommendations. Send us corporate contacts for advertising both online and in our *Bugler*. We need our chapters to become active.
3. Recognize outstanding Infantrymen and Infantry supporters – RED. We do not recognize all of the Infantrymen, who deserve recognition. We do not recognize all of the Infantry supporters who keep us alive in combat and in peacetime. We do not recognize the spouses, who keep our families informed, keep our Soldiers cared for overseas and take care of all of the FRG requirements. So, IDENTIFY and RECOMMEND:
 - (a.) Deserving Infantry leaders (both past and present), put them in for the Order of Saint Maurice (OSM, Legionnaire, Centurion and Primicerius).
 - (b.) Deserving medics, forward observers, chemical officers, cavalrymen, logisticians, aircrews, and joint service members for the OSM (Legionnaire)
 - (c.) Foreign military leaders for the OSM (Peregrinus)
 - (d.) Civilian leaders, non-uniformed military (DoD, HQDA) members/supporters (government, academia, business, NGO, etc.) for the OSM (Civis)
 - (e.) Spouses (include your own) for the Shield of Sparta (SOS) medal.
4. Preserve the Infantry Heritage through support of the National Infantry Museum – GREEN

Please send me your assessments and any recommended adjustments.

From the Chief of Infantry



BG David M Hodne

LETHAL INFANTRY SOLDIERS

The mission of the Infantry is to close with the enemy by means of fire and maneuver in order to destroy or capture him, or to repel his assault with fire, maneuver, close combat and counterattack.

The oldest branch in the U.S. Army, the Infantry is proud of its mission and proud of our role in defining our nation's history. However, in accomplishing our mission and fighting on to the

objective, the Infantry incurs between 70-90 percent of all casualties sustained in combat. To the uninitiated, the Infantry fight is a close-in, no-holds-barred fight; on the objective, in very close quarters; it is unique in that it is both very personal and impersonal at its core.

In every respect, our Infantry requires a special type of Soldier; one who is willing to perform the tough, hard hitting duties necessary to win on the modern battlefield.

I am incredibly proud and humbled to serve as the Chief of our Infantry. I am also honored to serve as both the U.S. Army Infantry School Commandant and as the Director of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team (SL-CFT). This SL-CFT is directly responsible for modernizing our "close combat" Soldiers. Informed by observations following my first 90 days in position, I offer the following to the field:

1. In all operational environments and under all conditions, our Infantry continues to lead the way while deployed around the world in support of combat operations and deterrence efforts. In accomplishing their mission, our Infantry Soldiers are defeating our adversaries, deterring aggressive competitors, and reassuring our Allies and partners. The demand for our Infantry has also never been higher concurrent with both the recent growth of Security Force Advise and Assist Brigades (SFABs) and the transformation of Infantry One-Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Benning. Both of these efforts require increased numbers of highly experienced and professional Infantry officers and NCOs.

2. The focus of the U.S. Army Infantry School is directly aligned with the Army's modernization strategy. Responsible for one of the Army's eight Cross Functional Teams (CFTs), the Soldier Lethality CFT is the only CFT where a school Commandant

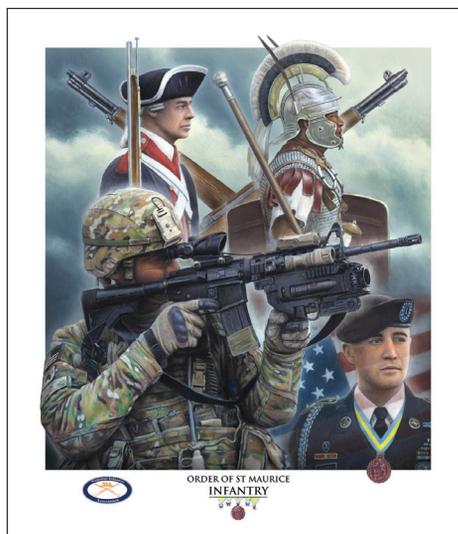
retains responsibility for both the CFT and the branch. In this respect, everything we do at Fort Benning addresses improving the lethality of our Infantry Soldiers and squads. There are clear capability gaps requiring our immediate attention to sustain overmatch against current and future threats. My predecessor, BG Chris "CD" Donahue, first established the CFT a year ago and generated significant momentum on a number of important modernization efforts intended to improve squad and Soldier lethality. Over the next one to three years, we will equip the "Close Combat Force" (Infantry, Cav Scouts and their accompanying forward observers, medics, and engineers) with the Enhanced Night Vision Goggles (Binocular - ENVG-Bs), Next Generation Squad Automatic Rifles and Next Generation Rifles, and improved Small Arms Fire Control.

3. In addition to modernizing equipment, the USAIS intends to enhance lethality in our Infantry Soldiers through training and human performance efforts. This includes the transformation of Infantry One Station Unit Training (OSUT) from 14 weeks to 22 weeks in duration. This is the first major revision to Infantry OSUT since 1971 and delivers new Infantry Soldiers qualified (vs. familiar) on machine guns, combatives and medical combat lifesaving skills. The results from our current pilot effort are positive and we look forward to graduating the first two companies of 22 week OSUT program on 7 December. Much like SFABs, this investment in lethality requires a corresponding investment in quality NCOs to train these initial entry Soldiers.

4. Lastly, in the coming year USAIS will publish the revised Marksmanship Course of Fire. Consistent with our other efforts to produce more lethal Infantry, the new rifle qualification standards improve Soldiers' skill in employing individual weapons in a manner that better replicates realistic firing conditions. Similar to our comprehensive transformation of OSUT, this is the first major revision to small arms weapons qualification in almost five decades.

In closing, we celebrated the historic 100th Anniversary of both Fort Benning and the U.S. Army Infantry School in October. To all of the Infantry Soldiers and leaders who read this: we are extremely proud of our last century of accomplishments and faithful service to our Nation. We have much to look forward to as we embark on the next 100 years.

I am the Infantry! Follow me!



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U.S. Army photo by Sean Kimmons

Soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Division provide extra security for a 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade advisor mission during an Afghan-led operation near Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 16, 2018.

SFABS PROVIDE CAPABILITY TO THE ARMY

Security Force Assistance (SFA) operations are a necessary and important part of the relationship between the U.S. Army and its foreign partner fighting forces. These operations might not be emphasized the same as major battles but are a large part of almost every major military conflict. The Army has created the Security Force Assistance Brigades (SFABs) to achieve these operations through a dedicated conventional organization with the singular purpose of conducting SFA missions around the world.

SFABs provide highly-skilled Soldiers the opportunity to join a professional, highly-trained organization whose core mission is to train, assist, accompany and enable operations with allied and partner

nations in order to develop their security force capabilities. SFABs are not Special Forces and do not replace or assist them, but they do offer a capability to combatant commanders to help strengthen partner conventional forces.

SFABs are designed to enhance Army readiness by reducing the demand for conventional brigade combat teams for combat advising. This will reduce the demand for brigade combat teams (BCTs) to conduct security force assistance operations, while allowing BCTs to focus on readiness for full-spectrum contingency operations.

The Army has organized this new significant and enduring capability into a brigade-level structure of more than 800 officers and

noncommissioned officers (NCOs) who work with foreign security forces in coordination with joint, interagency and multinational forces. In order to successfully build this type of organization the Army must recruit, assess and train the best for this mission.

The first step in building this capability is recruiting. Volunteering to serve in an SFAB offers many incentives to both officers and NCOs. SFAB battalion commanders are experienced, second-time commanders, which is a rare opportunity at the lieutenant colonel level. Senior Army leadership selects them based on their performance and potential for continued service and most are competitive for colonel-level command. Every SFAB major and



LTC Zachary Miller, left, commander of the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade's 5th Battalion, and team leader CPT Dare O'Ravitz, right, listen to Afghan army Col. Abdul Mobin Mohabati, deputy commander of 1st Brigade, 111th Capital Division—the division that handles security for Kabul Province—during an Afghan-led operation near Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 16, 2018

lieutenant colonel was promoted to lieutenant colonel and colonel, respectively, in 2018. Also, two of the three SFAB commanders have pinned brigadier general rank and one is promotable.

For officers, there is no broader opportunity for a post-key development (KD) captain or major that would provide the amount of training and opportunities to learn your trade while serving in the SFABs. When assessing an officer for acceptance, SFAB brigade commanders normally receive an assessment file from the officer's branch manager for review and ensure they have previously served in KD positions. Selectees are routinely in the top third of their year group.

SFAB recruiters are looking for Soldiers in more than 60 military occupational specialties and 20 career fields. Interested Soldiers are encouraged to attend recruiting

information briefs and meet with the SFAB Recruiting Team who can facilitate accession into the SFABs. There are a number of incentives available to qualified volunteers that include enlistment bonuses, a \$5K Enlisted Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP) and choice of duty station upon successful completion of an SFAB assignment.

After volunteers have met all the eligibility criteria, they move on to the next step in the process—assessments. At the core of the SFAB's mission are the team advisors. These advisors are among the top tactical leaders in the Army who are relied upon to build personal relationships that are the fundamental building blocks to ensure our partner nations' future warfighting successes. To ensure the SFABs are built with the right officers and NCOs, they must recruit, assess and train the best Soldiers who are essential to the success of the organization.

The SFAB mission demands top-performing officers and NCOs. The average acceptance rate of qualified personnel who are required to attend the two-day assessment course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina is around 60 percent. This means that the Soldiers accepted into the SFABs are truly the best of the best.

"Assessment events evaluate a candidate's physical attributes, problem solving, communication and interpersonal skills, as well as their ethical perspectives. Being physically fit and knowing how to maneuver different obstacles is not all there is to the selection process," said SSG Ryan S. Mathes, an Infantryman selected to join the 1st SFAB.

According to Mathes, making it through the assessment process is not only about your internal drive, it is about how well you work as a member of a team.

"To feel success, and not just



U.S. Army photo by Sean Kimmons

LTC Zachary Miller, center left, commander of the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade's 5th Battalion, shakes hands with Afghan National Army leaders during an Afghan-led operation near Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 16, 2018.

achieve it, I had to maintain a [strong] mindset, but remain flexible enough to welcome different ideas from my teammates to achieve victory," said Mathes. "The true victory came from working together."

The Security Force Assistance Command (SFAC), located at Fort Bragg is responsible for running the recruiting and assessment process for the SFABs. Assessment allows leadership the chance to evaluate and select Soldiers that they want within their organization. During the two-day process, volunteers are required to conduct an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), leader reaction course, Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and tactical proficiency exams, an ethical dilemma essay, peer evaluation, ruck march and evaluation

board. At the end of the assessment, volunteers are notified if they have been selected to serve in the SFABs.

The final step in building an SFAB is training to become an advisor. Advisors attend the Combat Advisor Training Course (CATC) at the Military Advisor Training Academy (MATA) at Fort Benning, Georgia. The CATC focuses on foundational level training for the advisor teams. The MATA provides realistic training to foreign security force advisors whose mission is to train, advise, assist, accompany and enable allied and partner forces. Throughout the course, Soldiers engage in security cooperation planning and assessment considerations including theater campaign and campaign support planning, mission analysis, host nation support, multi-nation support,

sustainment and country support plans and assessments.

Advisors also have the opportunity to attend additional training to include foreign weapons training and Air Assault and Pathfinder schools. For many officers and NCOs, it's a chance to receive training that some career timelines might not have allowed.

"The skills learned while at MATA are the basis for becoming an Advisor," said SFC Kenneth Rolle, 2nd SFAB Senior Operations Advisor. "These skills that we acquire in these courses are directly tied to our advisor role and are the reason our missions are successful."

Rolle has also attended the Air Force's Evasion and Conduct After-Capture course and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare



SSG Cody Couch and SSG Andres Sanchez, both assigned to 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Company, Team 3, conduct machine gun training on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, September 25, 2018. The training will support the Soldiers of the 2nd SFAB on their mission to train, advise and assist foreign security forces.

Center and School's Foreign Weapons Course.

1st SFAB, located at Fort Benning was the first SFAB to send advisors to the MATA. In addition, the brigade completed a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The unique training proved critical during the unit's first deployment.

For example, SSG Bobby Cook, a medic assigned to 6th Battalion, saved the life of an Afghan soldier by using the advanced medical training he received to treat the soldier's gunshot wound.

"All of our advisors received advanced medical training," said BG Scott Jackson, 1st SFAB commander. "Advisors went through brigade combat team trauma training and our medics and providers traveled to Fort

Sam Houston, Texas for advanced medical training so everyone got training at least one level higher than in a typical brigade."

The cultural awareness, negotiation and language familiarization training at the MATA and at JRTC are practiced every day across Afghanistan.

"Although it took a few encounters to earn their trust, I feel like we have a good relationship with our partner force," said CPT Dave Zak, a combat advisor team leader with 3rd Squadron. "Each time we go to their base we are welcomed with hugs and hospitality."

Recruiting, training and assessing the right volunteers proved critical to 1st SFAB as they prepared for a deployment to Afghanistan. The brigade was activated in August 2017

and deployed a year ahead of schedule due to strategy changes.

"In less than a year we recruited 800 Soldiers, became a team, equipped ourselves for combat, completed two combat training center rotations and deployed to Afghanistan," said Jackson. "Without the right combination of talented people and Army support, that would not have happened."

Serving in an SFAB is a unique opportunity that allows experienced officers and NCOs to work with partner nations to develop their security force capabilities. This is accomplished by recruiting, training and assessing the right individuals, who have the necessary skills to build relationships that can affect positively change.

There currently are three active



U.S. Army photo by CPT Jonathan Camire, 2nd SFAB Public Affairs

SSG Andres Sanchez, 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Company, Team 3, engages targets during machine gun training on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, September 25, 2018.

SFABs—1st SFAB at Fort Benning, 2nd SFAB at Fort Bragg, 3rd SFAB at Fort Hood—and two additional SFABs are scheduled to be activated in 2019—4th SFAB at Fort Carson, Colorado and the 5th SFAB at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. One SFAB will be in the National Guard Component. The 54th SFAB will be headquartered in Indiana with battalions in Indiana, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Ohio and Illinois. For more information on how to join the SFABs visit GoArmy.com/SFAB.

★ *Article submitted by Security Forces Assistance Command Public Affairs.*



U.S. Army photo by CPT David Ong, 2nd SFAB, Brigade Medical Team

Soldiers of 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB), perform prolonged field care as part of the Advanced Advisor First Responder Course (AAFRC) at Taylor Sandri Medical Training Center on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, September 28, 2018. SFAB soldiers are graded in a cumulative exercise after the week-long AAFRC, which trains non-medical personnel to assist medics with trauma care and prolonged field care.

The Story of the Squad Power Manager: *The Power to Prevail*



The evolution of the Power Manager - "Fat Bastard" in the back, current generation SPM-622 in the front

In recent years there has been a lot of press about soldier protection, lethality and even uniforms and berets. Not so widely known are the stories about advancements in the area of portable power for military units operating in remote or undeveloped areas.

Napoleon is alleged to have once said "An Army marches on its stomach" – meaning that without a steady supply of food and water even a great military

force would be stopped in its tracks. Fast-forward a couple of centuries and Infantry units are now virtually as dependent upon batteries as they are on beans and bullets.

For example, on a typical long patrol mission in Afghanistan, an Airborne Infantryman could carry as many as seven different types of batteries for 12 electronic devices—adding up to as much as 16 pounds of

battery weight alone. For comparison, that weighs more than a dozen fully loaded 30-round M4 magazines. Looking across an entire Infantry Squad that adds up to a lot of weight devoted to batteries. But it's not just the load burden. From the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom, it also became obvious that limited battery life and the need to swap out batteries on the move was causing disruption to



A Power Manager system delivering power to the communications gear of a Special Operations team on an extended patrol in the jungle

operational and mission success.

So how do you keep troops at the small unit level powered up and in the fight, while also relieving them of as much of this battery pain as possible? One thought was to develop a small, portable, hydrogen fuel cell that could take the place of small internal-combustion-engine powered generators. But this would only be useful at the forward operating base/combat outpost (FOB/COP) level. Troops would still need to carry a lot of batteries when out on patrols, and there are a whole host of logistical challenges of safely storing, transporting and supplying

hydrogen gas to deployed units. However, that development work did create a sophisticated embedded power conversion and control software platform, which formed the basis for the next phase of solving the small unit power dilemma—the portable power manager.

In 2005 the first portable power manager prototype was developed. Nicknamed “Fat Bastard,” it was not very ergonomic, not very small and not very user friendly. It did prove the concept and it did demonstrate the possibilities and capabilities that could be achieved with further effort. So the

second phase of development was launched. This led to the significantly improved “Battlefield Power Manager” (BPM).

The BPM was a dramatic improvement on “Fat Bastard” but still required a high level of user training and manual configuration. And although it was less than half the size of its predecessor, it was still considered too large and too heavy for practicality.

In 2010, the third generation, and first truly practical, lightweight power manager was developed in response to the Army’s requirements. This device



A Squad Power Manager system charging batteries with power scavenged from a vehicle battery

became known as the “Squad Power Manager” and the SPM-612 from Protonex Technology Corporation was selected for field trials. One significant advantage of the SPM-612 over its predecessors was that was “smart.” The device would automatically determine what type of power source was plugged in, what type of end-user device or storage battery was connected, what

type of power output was required and convert, balance and deliver that power automatically—no programming or configuring was required by the user.

The SPM-612 was immediately and enthusiastically greeted with positive end-user feedback. Dismounted Infantry and Special Operations teams appreciated the dramatic weight savings that the SPM

brought by enabling them to reduce the number and variety of batteries they needed to take into the field, to repurpose the batteries they did take for running other devices and to recharge their batteries whenever and wherever there was a power source available (such as a vehicle outlet or battery, a solar blanket or panel, A/C outlet, etc.). Although the SPM-612 was



Infantry Squad Power Management Kit with SPM-622 and a variety of adapters and cables for scavenging power, running equipment and recharging batteries

well received by end-users—and it now had the right form factor, weight and ease-of-use—it was not completely ready for use in all operational situations.

In 2015, the fourth generation of the Squad Power Manager was ready for action. Once again the product of Protonex Technology Corporation, the SPM-622 offered several key advantages over the SPM-612. The SPM-622 Squad Power Manager is protected by a rugged housing of machined aircraft-grade aluminum, it is fully waterproof (and can even operate fully submerged), weighs less than a pound and functions perfectly in temperatures ranging from -20° to +60° C. This improved version of the Squad Power Manager was also selected as the Power Management accessory within the Nett Warrior program. The Nett Warrior Power Management Kit provides both basic combat training (BCT) and special operations forces (SOF) units the necessary accessories to make continuous use of the full capability of their organic radios and end-user devices.

The SPM-622 Squad Power Manager packs a tremendous amount of capability and flexibility into each pocket-sized device:

- It is a power “universalizer” that can run any device from any battery and charge any battery from any source.
- It has full built-in system intelligence requiring no

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NIA Affiliation with AUSA

As part of our continuous commitment to the strength of the National Infantry Association, NIA's expanded relationship with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) provides us with an expanded audience in telling the Infantrymen's story in support of the Chief of Infantry and the Infantry Branch. NIA, as an Association Member in AUSA, extends this partnership to

our members in the form of a 1-year membership.

This new offer gives you additional member benefits, such as a digital subscription to AUSA's professional development publications, like ARMY Magazine and AUSA News. The full range of AUSA member benefits is on their website at www.ausa.org/benefits-services. If you are already a member of AUSA, your current AUSA membership will remain

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★ Article submitted by *Protonex Technology Corporation*

SGT Kyle J. White: Living Legend



SGT Kyle J. White with Pres. Barack Obama

Kyle White was born in 1987 and grew up in Seattle, Washington. He enlisted in the Army in 2006 and his military career began in Georgia, where he went through basic training, advanced individual training and U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning. White's military education includes the Combat Life Saver Course, U.S. Army Air Assault School, the Infantryman Course (One-Station Unit Training), the Primary Leadership Development Course and the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course.

From 2006 to 2008, White was assigned to 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade and in early 2007 he was deployed to Aranas, Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He served as a platoon radio telephone operator. It was his actions on 9 November 2007 that were the basis of his receiving the Medal of Honor that was presented by President Barack Obama on 13 May of 2014. The following day, we was inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes by Deputy Defense Secretary Robert O. Work.

His citation reads: *Specialist Kyle J. White distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a radio telephone operator with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade, during combat*

operations against an armed enemy in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan on November 9, 2007. On that day, Specialist White and his comrades were returning to Bella Outpost from a shura with Aranas Village elders. As the soldiers traversed a narrow path surrounded by mountainous, rocky terrain, they were ambushed by enemy forces from elevated positions. Pinned against a steep mountain face, Specialist White and his fellow soldiers were completely exposed to enemy fire. Specialist White returned fire and was briefly knocked unconscious when a rocket-propelled grenade impacted near him. When he regained consciousness, another round impacted near him, embedding small pieces of shrapnel in his face. Shaking off his wounds, Specialist White noticed one of his comrades lying wounded nearby. Without hesitation, Specialist White exposed himself to enemy fire in order to reach the soldier and provide medical aid. After applying a tourniquet, Specialist White moved to an injured Marine, similarly providing aid and comfort until the Marine succumbed to his wounds. Specialist White then returned to the soldier and discovered that he had been wounded again. Applying his own belt as an additional tourniquet, Specialist White was able to stem the flow of blood and save the soldier's life. Noticing that his and the other soldier's radios were inoperative, Specialist White exposed himself to enemy fire yet again in order to secure a radio from a deceased comrade. He then provided information and updates to friendly forces, allowing precision airstrikes to stifle the enemy's attack and ultimately permitting medical

evacuation aircraft to rescue him, his fellow soldiers, Marines and Afghan Army soldiers. Specialist Kyle J. White's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade and the United States Army.

Upon his return to the U.S., White was assigned to the 4th Ranger Training Battalion, at Fort Benning—2008 to 2010—before departing active duty in May 2011.

Speaking of that November day, White said, "I just was literally doing the job I was trained to do. And I know that any of those guys there that day, they would have done the exact same thing." Today, he wears a stainless steel bracelet around his wrist that was given to him by another soldier who survived that night. Etched into the bracelet are the names of the six members of his team that died in the fight. White said their sacrifice motivates him.

White was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder following that fatal incident in Afghanistan. He received professional help and has become a vocal advocate of receiving mental health assistance to fellow warriors.

After leaving the Army, White used his post-9/11 G.I. Bill to get a degree in finance from the University of North Carolina and today he works in banking as an investment analyst in Charlotte.

He's a big believer in education, especially for returning servicemembers. "I really want to ... help educate servicemembers that are thinking about leaving the service and going back into the civilian world ... about the post-9/11 G.I. Bill and the importance of an education and how necessary it is for certain jobs out there," White said.

White is the seventh living recipient of the Medal of Honor for combat actions in Afghanistan or Iraq.

GWOT Rededication



Britt Harris invited Soldiers who served with her husband in Afghanistan—some of whom survived the explosion that killed Christopher Harris—to take part in baby Christian's first professional photo shoot. She wants Christian to always remember how supportive the Soldiers have been throughout the family's ordeal.

Britt Harris was at the top of the world when she told her husband—deployed to Afghanistan—that she was pregnant with their first child. Just one week later, her life plunged to the darkest depths when SPC Christopher Harris was killed in a suicide bomb attack. But over the past year she has been climbing back to the top, determined to make the most out of her new life with little Christian, named in her daddy's honor. Britt's journey now is one of managing her grief, raising her baby girl and advocating for fellow Gold Star family members.

Britt, just 27 years old, trembled a bit on stage as she addressed hundreds of people attending events surrounding the rededication of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial at the National Infantry Museum in September. She said she's not used to public speaking, but she could not refuse an opportunity to "pay it forward" to other Gold Star family members.

"Last year I had just become a Gold Star spouse, so I really didn't know what to do," Britt said. "Coming here, I met so many other Gold Star families, and they gave me advice, programs to get involved in. People who have been in my shoes before me and have been doing it for

years... for me to see how well they were doing, it gave me strength and hope to know I could get through it, too."

Christopher Harris is one of 6,943 names etched in the memorial's black granite pavers. They are the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who have given their lives in the fight against terrorism since 9/11. The memorial was first dedicated in October 2017; the September rededication was held to pay special tribute to the 28 names added this year. Rededication ceremonies will be held each year until the war is over.

"As long as there is one KIA due to the Global War on Terror, we will gather here on the first Saturday after Labor Day to rededicate this magnificent memorial," National Infantry Museum Foundation Chairman LTG Tom Metz told the audience. "It is our responsibility, those of us safely at home, to honor their service with the compassion and dignity rightfully due those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Other speakers included CSM (Ret) Joe Gainey, the first senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Maneuver Center of Excellence Commanding General MG Gary Brito; National Infantry Museum Foundation President BG (Ret) Pete

Jones; and MCoE Chaplain COL Robert Hart. The ceremony began with a Presentation of Colors by members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The MCoE band played each service's song as the flag was raised on the memorial. CSM Scott Brzak read the names of the 28 service members whose names have been added to the memorial.

More than 100 Gold Star family members attended the event, many traveling great distances for the opportunity to honor a loved one and to find comfort among those with shared experiences. The families were special guests at a reception held the night before the rededication, and at a breakfast preceding it.

Britt Harris thanked the museum for embracing Gold Star families. "They pay so much respect and honor to our fallen soldiers, and to their families.



Relatives, friends and comrades can take home a reminder of the memorial by making rubbings of the names etched in granite.

They make such a big deal to make sure that you're shown respect and your Soldier is shown respect. And then they put the Soldiers' names in stone so that they're forever remembered. I love that they do that because that way, they're never forgotten."

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will again be rededicated—not only in honor of those whose names will be added to the memorial, but in honor of all who have served in our nation's longest war—on September 7, 2019. ★

2018 Doughboy Awards Presented In September

The 2018 Doughboy Awards were held at the National Infantry Museum in conjunction with the Maneuver Warfighter Conference. Honored at the dinner were LTG (Ret) Robert L. “Sam” Wetzel, CSM (Ret) Autrall Cobb and Gary L. Fox.



(1) BG David Hodne, LTG Tom Metz and CSM Martin Celestine presented the Doughboy Order of St. Maurice to LTG (Ret) Robert L. “Sam” Wetzel. **(2)** Eilene Wetzel received the Shield of Sparta. **(3)** BG David Hodne and CSM Martin Celestine presented the Doughboy Award to CSM (Ret) Autrall Cobb. **(4)** Carmen Cobb received the Shield of Sparta. **(5)** BG David Hodne and CSM Martin Celestine presented the Doughboy Award to Gary L. Fox. **(6)** Judy Fox received the Shield of Sparta.



On 13 October 2018, Ashley Bailey received the Shield of Sparta for her support of the Infantry. Shown with her are her husband, Brook, daughter, Aubrey and son, Zarek.



On 29 November 2017, MAJ Joshua Keatts was presented the Order of St. Maurice by LTC Perry Tangen in Amman.



On 17 August 2018, LTC Jason Benson presented the Order of St. Maurice (Legionnaire) to MAJ Jeremy Pedersen at his promotion ceremony.



On 25 October 2018, members of the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade CPT Justin Alexander (left) and SFC Ned Healy (right) were presented the Order of St. Maurice at TB Gamberi, Afghanistan.



On 12 October 2018, MSG Norris Cowles and MSG James Dokken were presented the Order of St. Maurice by COL Nick Ducich and CSM Andrew McKindley at Camp Bonsteel, Kosovo.



On 27 July 2018, Michelle Carty received the Shield of Sparta during her husband's retirement ceremony.



MAJ Heston Russell was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice, Peregrinus level, during his exchange post serving with 75th Ranger Regiment.



On 1 September 2018, CSM Carlos Lopes (left) and SGM Johnny McPeek (right) presented the Order of St. Maurice to MSG Bryan Beeler at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The award was made in conjunction with Beeler's promotion to Master Sergeant.



COL (Ret) Richard "Dick" Nurnberg shares a photo with one of the NIA's oldest supporters. Nurnberg was honored with a reception held at the National Infantry Museum in October. He is the longest-serving president of the NIA and during his leadership the organization grew from fewer than 1,000 members to nearly 10,000 members.



On 31 May 2018, St. Mark Chapter President SFC Michael Atchison and SMA Daniel Dailey attended the 1/503rd BN Ball 173rd ABN BDE CBT, in Vicenza, Italy.



On 30 June 2018, Vice President of the West Point NIA Chapter COL Greg Boylan presented Natalie Ryan with the Shield of Sparta for more than 11 years of service to the Infantry. A 2008 graduate of the United States Military Academy, Ryan has supported the Army and Soldiers in several positions from Family Readiness Groups, roles within the USMA Association of Graduates, and currently with the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund.



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