

INFANTRY ★BUGGLER★

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

MARKSMANSHIP
UNIT TRAINS
LETHALITY

75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF VE DAY

RECONNAISSANCE AND
SURVEILLANCE
LEADERS COURSE



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ON THE COVER: SFC KENNETH ROSE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT INSTRUCTS A SOLDIER FROM THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AT FORT CARSON, COLORADO.

Photo by Michelle Lunato

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 *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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PATENTED AND PATENTS PENDING

From the Chairman



LTG (Ret) Thomas F. Metz

I wrote in previous columns that I have the privilege to mentor Army and Joint flag officer leader development courses. Most recently, I was a mentor for the Senior Leader Development Seminar which included the cohort of active, reserve and National Guard colonels, who should be on the next Brigadier General List once the Senate has approved it. An important takeaway from my week with this cohort is that these officers will continue the superb leadership of our Army well into the 2020 decade.

Another important takeaway was hearing the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA) articulate his vision and priorities. He strongly believes that getting the people domain right is the foundation upon which the best Army in the world will maintain that status. In turn, he clearly laid out the Army's priorities: Readiness, Modernization and Reform.

"This is My Squad" is an initiative to get at People First and Readiness. As I have commented in this column before, we must ensure our squad leaders are ready for combat—educated, trained, properly developed, superbly led and equipped with the confidence that their families are in good hands while they are deployed protecting America.

Another initiative that I think will reap significant benefit is selecting the best battalion commanders possible. The Battalion Commander Assessment Program is currently in its early stages, but upon maturity offers to improve the selection of battalion commanders of the future. For years, I have stressed how important good battalion commanders are for our Army because the largest leadership experience gap in the chain of command is between the company commander and battalion commander—10 to 12 years—whereas only a few years of experience exist between lieutenants and captains, or battalion and brigade commanders. With the possible exceptions of the CSM and maybe a couple first sergeants, the battalion commander is the most experienced leader in the battalion, who must orchestrate the tactical fight while ensuring the battalion operates within the BCT and division commanders' operational intent and supportive of higher level chain of command's strategic intent. These initiatives and ones like the new PT test and 22-week OSUT will certainly get at the Readiness priority.

The modernization and reform priorities are linked. Modernization requires adequate funds, but efficient and timely use of those funds requires reform of our requirements, development, testing and acquisition processes. As we focused on defeating our enemies in counterinsurgency wars, our peers significantly reduced the equipment and technology overmatch we enjoyed for many years. The CSA's priorities will get at reestablishing this gap to our advantage.

Nevertheless, some good news is available. The Chief of Infantry BG David Hodne is very optimistic about many initiatives to improve the lethality, mobility and protection of our Infantry Soldiers. We have a tremendous amount of experience not only in our active, reserve and National Guard units, but also in our Infantry veterans who could be tapped into to help BG Hodne move forward with current and future initiatives to produce for America the very best Infantry Soldiers and Infantry Squads. I challenge the readers of this Bugler to share with our National Infantry Association staff experiences and ideas to get at successful readiness, modernization and reform initiatives. Send your paragraphs or articles to RChoppa@InfantryAssn.com and he'll take it from there! Let's help our Chief of Infantry excel at meeting the CSA's priorities.

From the President



COL (Ret) Robert E. Choppa

I am thrilled to honor our United States Army Infantry Non-Commissioned Officers—the greatest weapon system in our military. Our Infantry NCOs make critical decisions both in peacetime training and in combat. They are the heart of our units and our Army. These Infantry NCOs, who demonstrate initiative

and solve complex problems even under the pressure of combat, are priceless. Our Infantry NCO leaders employ our fire teams, rifle squads and platoons doctrinally, in any environment to accomplish any mission while caring for their Soldiers and fighting to bring them all home alive. Our American love for our way of life and the freedoms we enjoy, set the conditions for our NCOs to have a passion for victory. America loves winners and this internal will to always win—especially in combat—is essential to the success of our NCO Corps.

The majority of the members of the National Infantry Association are our Infantry NCOs. We appreciate all of our members, but especially our NCOs. As we look back on our Christmas and holiday period, we prayed for those Infantrymen who were deployed in harm's way. We hope that all of our members have a successful 2020. We hope all of our members had a wonderful winter (Valentine's Day, Saint Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras) and spring (Easter).

This year is the second Infantry Week, which will be held April 12-20, featuring the Best Mortar Competition, International Sniper Competition, Lacerdo Cup Combative Championship and the Best Ranger Competition. We are excited to feature a pair of new medals. The first, the Champions Medal, will be presented to the winners of the Infantry Week events. This medal can only be authorized for award from the Chief of Infantry, and it is being minted as this issue goes to press. It is special, and will highlight the importance of winning and victory.

We are also developing a new Cohort Medal. This new award will be a junior level of the Order of Saint Maurice. It will feature a black medallion and the same ribbon as our OSM. This junior level of the Order of Saint Maurice is aimed at our young leaders and will be awarded to Infantry honor graduates, successful Infantry lieutenants, successful Infantry sergeants and those who make a significant impact on behalf of the Infantry. This initiative is based on requests from our Infantry forces.

Thanks to our best supporters including the phenomenal support Phantom Products gives the NIA with their continued sponsorship. We also thank First Command for agreeing to sponsor our Infantry Week.

Congratulations to all of our Infantrymen and God bless those who are deployed.

Follow Me!

Effective Non-Commissioned Officers: Our Source of Overmatch



BG David M. Hodne

If you ask any Army senior leaders about the formative role models who shaped their careers, I'm certain their response will undoubtedly include a good number of their favorite non-commissioned officers (NCOs). If you asked me the same question, I would share tales describing how deeply grateful I am for the wisdom, example, support and advice offered from expert NCOs throughout my career. The outsized impact that NCOs have on the vitality of our Army and the skill and

reputation of our Infantry branch cannot be overstated. Our exceptional NCO corps distinguishes our Army from all others and remains essential to ensuring overmatch continues to revise institutional non-commissioned officer education models necessary to remain relevant for today's contemporary challenges.

Entering this new decade, we remain focused on ensuring today's Infantry leaders (officer and NCO alike) are prepared for their roles in achieving victory in large scale combat operations (LSCO). In 2019, your Infantry School revised the Infantry Advanced Leader Course (I-ALC) in a manner intended to restore core branch expertise in small unit actions. Within I-ALC we seek to develop a cohort of non-commissioned officers, specifically focusing on sergeants and young staff sergeants, who understand current doctrine and how they can better lead squads and sections in a LSCO environment. Echoing LTG (Ret) Metz's comments from previous editions of the Bugler, pursuing expertise in small unit tactics will build confidence, improve leadership and collectively enhance lethality in our formations. For example, acknowledging contemporary concerns about proficiency among weapons squad leaders, the Infantry School refined the machine gun training within the Advanced Leaders Course (ALC) to better cultivate students' abilities to lead, plan, train and incorporate our lethal crew served weapons systems in rifle platoons. In addition, I-ALC students will receive additional training on the operations orders (OPORD) process, conducting rehearsals and effective use of terrain boards. We remain committed to returning NCOs to the operating force in a manner where they will immediately contribute their knowledge and skills to their units.

In addition to our initiatives within Infantry ALC, our newly arriving drill sergeants leading Infantry One Station Unit Training (OSUT) now receive additional training and skills intended to both enhance their effectiveness in training and building lethal Infantry Soldiers, but also to ensure they proceed to their follow-on assignments and increase unit readiness. Most drill sergeants will have opportunities to attend the Master Marksmanship Trainer Course. This course trains NCOs to be the technical experts in marksmanship training and small arms maintenance in accordance with our recently published small arms marksmanship manual, TC 3-20.40. In addition, drill sergeants receive Master Resiliency, Master Fitness and Tactical Combatives credentials. I am very proud of how our drill sergeants transform Infantry trainees into Infantry Soldiers. More importantly, I am proud of these drill sergeants who will lead their future formations with confidence gained from expertise and significant experience in both individual and collective training.

With respect to functional training, the Infantry School also seeks to reinstate the Bradley Transition Course into the USAIS suite of programs of instruction. This course, intended for NCOs assigned to Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) for the first time, trains the technical and tactical duties expected of them in critical duty

positions within ABCTs. Acknowledging degraded proficiency within mechanized Infantry formations following an era of counterinsurgency operations, we will also pursue additional NCO allocations for the Bradley Leaders Course (BLC). Unlike the Bradley Transition Course, this course is intended to achieve technical and tactical competence for leaders at the platoon or company level. Most BLC course seats go to officers assigned to ABCTs; however, increasing course seats for NCOs is critical towards improving readiness in our Infantry formations. Graduates of both the Bradley Transition and Leader courses will help rebuild Infantry competencies necessary for LSCO.

Whether entering the National Infantry Museum or our headquarters on Fort Benning, I cannot help but pause every time I see the statue of the Infantryman. Boldly charging forward and gesturing others to follow, I always envision this Infantryman as the quintessential Infantry sergeant. When coaching young Infantry officers, I point to "their sergeant" as the one they will learn their craft from . . . the one who will teach them the standard . . . and the one who won't let them, or their Soldiers, down. I also remind them "their sergeant" is also the one who these young officers must lead and inspire. This powerful relationship between officers and NCOs inspires us to be better. As the product of so many incredible NCOs over the years, I am grateful for the opportunity to give back in rededicating our efforts to teach, train and support future generations of NCOs at the Infantry School.

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Instructors SSG Brad Balsley (left) and SFC Chris Broussard (right) talk to future Battalion and Brigade Command teams attending the Maneuver Pre-Command Course.

The United States Army Marksmanship Unit TRAINS LETHALITY

The United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) Instructor Training Group (ITG) consists of experienced and combat-proven non-commissioned officers who focus on training fundamentals to complex engagements. Using lessons learned from competition and combat experience, the ITG focuses on the execution of fundamental marksmanship training before advancing into more complex tasks. Each year, ITG instructors train thousands of Soldiers across the force. The units with the highest level of marksmanship proficiency do three things very well. First, they focus on the fundamentals of marksmanship. Second, they seek to maximize lethality. Finally, the most successful units conduct dry fire training and rehearsals.

Proven Record and Diverse Customer Base

For the past two years, ITG instructors achieved the following results while conducting one to two weeks training courses. In that time, 350–500 rounds are fired per Soldier,

per week for fundamental rifle training, and double that for Short Range Marksmanship training. In most cases, a written and shooting assessment is conducted at the beginning of training to determine measurable improvements. Units that train with the ITG for one to two weeks typically increase their written marksmanship exam scores by 30 percent, increase their known distance qualification scores by 40-50 percent, and achieve a lethality rating of 70-90 percent. From training Special Operations units to Army Cadets, our highest averages were shot by an Infantry unit in Fort Stewart, Georgia, scoring 39.17 out of 40 with a 93 percent lethal hit rate. Soldiers who complete two weeks of training with the ITG are also prepared to act as primary marksmanship instructors for their units.

Fundamental Marksmanship

In order to accurately engage a target, a Soldier must perform two primary tasks. The first fundamental is to point the weapon at the target gaining proper sight alignment and

sight picture. The second is to fire the weapons without disturbing the sights with proper trigger control. These two fundamentals combined are the integrated act of firing. They apply to all shooting, regardless of the event or type of weapon used. As Soldiers practice and study shooting, they will notice there are many techniques used successfully to accomplish a given task. The fundamentals, however, are the same for everyone, every time. The most common operational engagement is against a moving target, at an unknown distance from an alternate or less than stable firing position.



Soldiers engage targets from a proper kneeling position at 100 meters.

Before these engagements can be made successfully, Soldiers must have an intimate knowledge of basic fundamental skills. Units that master the fundamentals of marksmanship excel during qualifications and achieve higher levels of proficiency during complex engagement.

Increasing Lethality

The Army is a Profession of Arms. Because of this, Soldiers must focus on not only hitting their target, but hitting it precisely where that round will cause the most damage. A key element to marksmanship that USAMU works to redefine is the accountability for each round and a new perception of accuracy, through the understanding of external ballistics. Simply hitting a 20" x 40" E-Type target may not be sufficient enough to eliminate a threat. Lethality must be a priority. Soldiers must be taught to place rounds in the upper chest or "lethal" area of a target. Rounds placed in this area have the highest probability to neutralize a threat as well as a lower probability of causing collateral damage. This can be achieved by using scorable targets or targets that specifically depict the internal organs of the body. There are several targets that accomplish this but are not necessarily needed for training. The same affect can be created by using existing targets in the inventory. Targets like the M9 pistol silhouette can be modified to meet the desired training outcome. Units that focus on lethality in addition to accuracy achieve higher overall levels of marksmanship.

Dry Firing and Rehearsals

Dry firing and rehearsals, are often overlooked as an aspect of training. Dry fire is the act of manipulating or firing the weapon without the use of live ammunition. This could encompass building stable or alternate firing positions, loading, unloading, correcting malfunctions or refining trigger control. Learning these techniques takes place in three phases. They are cognitive, associative and autonomous. Most Soldiers will take upwards of 10,000 correct repetitions to commit an individual skill to the autonomous stage. If we



SFC Daniel Crody adjusts the optics for SSG Johnson of the 194th Armored Brigade at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

look at this in terms of live rounds, that far exceeds what each Soldier is provided each year for training. This gap between live rounds and additional repetitions is closed through dry fire.

When beginning a dry fire program, it is best to start small and focus on the quality of the repetitions, not the number of repetitions. For example, 10–15 minutes of dry fire, three days a week is a much better plan than trying to complete 1,000 repetitions in a week. Practice only makes permanent, only perfect practice makes perfect. Dry fire should be specific, measurable and repeatable and focused on two to three tasks executed one at a time. Units that conduct dry fire exercises as part of their marksmanship training score considerably higher on lethality and qualifications.

Conclusion

These techniques and best practices are used throughout the USAMU and the Army with great success. Most of the tasks we train are skill level one tasks. However, mastery of the fundamentals is an ever-evolving, ever-improving pursuit. To create a knowledgeable, successful and lethal marksman takes time and effort. There are no short cuts to building marksmanship proficiency.

SFC Kenneth Rose is an experienced Non-Commissioned Officer with 19 years of service in the Infantry and is currently serving as the Team Chief for the Instructor Training Group at USAMU. ★

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Back to Basics

The Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course



An instructor facilitates an AAR during Cadre-Led Land Navigation.

The Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course (RSLC) is a highly relevant course that trains leaders to operate in a degraded environment and enable success within the realm of Multi Domain Operations (MDO). It is a demanding course both physically and mentally where each block of instruction builds on the previous culminating in field training exercises (FTX), for which students operate in woodland as well as urban environments. The RSLC Program of Instruction (POI) provides fundamental skills applicable from tactical to strategic level organizations that perform reconnaissance and surveillance. It includes training on land navigation, communication, collection and reporting, small unit tactics, detailed mission planning, survival/evasion/recovery and various insertion/extraction methods.

Land Navigation

Students are required to navigate with only a map and compass both day and night where they must find five points taking them between 12K and 15K. Within FY18-FY19 RSLC grew from a 29-day course to a 33-day course to address the recent degradation in land navigation across the Army. This change results in several more days of instruction focused on route planning and route selection as well as acclimation to Fort Benning's terrain prior to the land navigation tests. Thus far, the course has noticed a 10-15 percent increase in land navigation pass rates, potentially due to the additional training.

Communication

Students receive an array of communication instruction beginning with radio wave propagation and antenna construction. Once students have a grasp on the basics, they receive instruction on the radio systems required to execute graded patrols. They are then tested on the capabilities and application of

the AN/PRC-148 (FM), AN/PRC-117F (TACSAT) and AN/PRC-150 (High Frequency). In addition, students are required to utilize the TACSAT and HF radios in conjunction with a CF-21 Panasonic Toughbook to send digital messages.

At the conclusion of the course students understand the basics of radio wave propagation and effects of radio wave emissions. By adjusting power and direction of the transmission as well as the utilization of communications windows, they reduce signature thereby reducing enemy collection capabilities in the future MDO fight.

Collection and Reporting

Instructors ensure that students understand the necessity of the rapid and accurate reporting of information. RSLC utilizes the NATO reporting format to train and evaluate the student's ability to identify then construct accurate, detailed and relevant reports in support of the maneuver commander's Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIR). Students must memorize assigned information collection tasks or indicators that assist the maneuver commander's decision-making process, and then properly identify those tasks and accurately report all within a challenging time standard.



Students counter track during the FTX .



Students emplace a claymore mine during the FTX.

Small Unit Tactics

RSLC focuses on the dismounted method of reconnaissance, using a scout squad or team structure. These small elements are trained to operate beyond the direct fire supporting range and distance of vehicle mounted weapon systems. The method that they're taught is scalable. They must understand the importance of stealth, counter tracking and local security, which enables them to operate dismounted, whether 2KM or 20KM, from direct fire support. Students are taught the art of camouflage and concealment and shown the proper construction of observation posts or surveillance sites (both surface and sub-surface) as well as Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for displacement in the event of compromise.

Detailed Mission Planning

Students learn how to plan in detail following the steps of the military decision-making process (MDMP) as well as lead, utilizing the troop leading procedures (TLPs). In the scenario, the students plan and execute operations as a 6-8-man element within an Infantry scout platoon. Their time spent during this planning process enables the development of essential contingency plans—an essential key to success within MDO.

Survival, Evasion and Recovery

Students learn the basics of survival training which provides them with a framework for a contingency plans, so they are best prepared for an emergency. Graduates understand that if they meet displacement criteria near their assigned objective and are beyond direct fire supporting range, they have the confidence to survive with the knowledge gained at RSLC.

Insertion and Extraction Methods

Students are taught multiple methods of insertion prior to conducting infiltration or extraction including vehicle drop off and pick up (friendly forces or partisan), static line airborne, military free fall, fast rope insertion and extraction system (FRIES) and special patrol insertion and extraction system (SPIES).

Field Training Exercises (FTX)

The FTXs are graded patrols that evaluate students on their application of land navigation, communication, collection and reporting, small unit tactics, detailed mission planning, evasion and recovery and insertion/extraction methods. Each team is required to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance in woodland and urban environments.



A student conducts an urban observation post/surveillance site during the FTX.

RSLC is the Army's premier dismounted reconnaissance course that teaches leaders to find, collect and report in support of the commander's information collection plan and reconnaissance guidance. The breadth and depth of instruction received while at RSLC provides maneuver commanders with leaders who are force multipliers on the future MDO battlefield.

CPT (P) Anthony Capozzi is currently a student at the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom (2011) and Operation Inherent Resolve (2015). ★



Students conduct SPIES during the FTX.



Students construct a field expedient antenna during FTX.

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The Infantry and Victory in Europe in World War II

The United States Army Infantry fought valiantly for six weeks to halt the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and push its enemy back against the Rhine River inside Germany. By the end of January 1945, the Americans joined their Allies in a continuous line of attack from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps eastward into Germany. While everyone knew that it was a question of time before Germany was crushed in a vise between the Western Allies in the west and the Soviets in the east, the Germans refused to give up as they fought to defend their fatherland to the last.

Operation Varsity

Shortly after crossing the German border and piercing the Siegfried Line, the Allies planned an assault across the Rhine River into the main portion of Germany. Named Operation Plunder by the planner, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, the object was to get across the Rhine in the face of heavy fire from the other side. To prevent the paratroopers on the drop zone from being overwhelmed before ground troop support arrived, an amphibious assault began behind a smokescreen on 24 March 1945. Thirteen hours after the smoke and assault boats began to cross, paratroopers and gliders began landing on the far shore. The British 6th Airborne Division and the American 17th Airborne Division arrived in adjacent drop zones as part of the largest single day airborne operation in history, Operation Varsity. It required several thousand aircraft and gliders to drop over 16,000 troops and their weapons. By capturing a number of bridges and clearing forests of last-ditch defenders, the British and American airborne troops opened a path for ground troops to pour into the German heartland.

The Bridge at Remagen

Before the major planned crossing of the Rhine took place, an opportunity was seized by a small group of United States Army Infantry to steal a march on everyone else. Ahead of the 9th Armored Division, Combat Command B arrived on the west bank of the Rhine and discovered an intact bridge at Remagen. Led by a newly appointed Infantry company commander 2LT Karl H. Timmerman, a mixed group of Infantrymen and combat engineers bounded across the Ludendorf Bridge under heavy fire, cutting fuses and kicking explosive charges into the river. Infantry squad leader Staff Sergeant Alexander A. Drabik was the first American across the bridge, becoming the first invader to enter Germany since the Napoleonic Wars. Disobeying orders, American leaders rerouted forces to cross the river and form a bridgehead on the other side, while engineers struggled to save the damaged bridge. When more than 25,000 troops



The Bridge at Remagen

had crossed to the other side, an encircling attack was ordered to trap German defenders attempting to hold the river line.

After hundreds of artillery shells, aerial bombs, floating mines, frogmen and even 11 V2 rockets were used in a desperate attempt to drop the bridge, it finally collapsed 10 days after its capture. But it was too late. Three other bridges were in use carrying heavy traffic of American forces supporting the stroke of good fortune caused by the failure of the Germans to destroy the bridge and brave American Infantry, engineers and tankers who risked their lives crossing and holding the bridge at Remagen.

Driving across Germany

As Allied troops poured across the Rhine River from the Remagen bridgehead and the Operation Plunder combined river and airborne assault, large German units were surrounded along the eastern bank of the river. Known as the Ruhr Pocket, a large portion of the industrial and coal resources of Germany were cut off from the rest of the nation. As the defenders ran out of ammunition, fuel and food, they began to surrender, or just dropped their weapons and headed home. By the first week of April, 317,000 troops, including 24 generals, surrendered to American forces. Organized resistance began to collapse.

American Infantry fighting in Germany

Since there were few reserves of combat troops available between the Ruhr and Berlin, scattered resistance was offered by SS and Gestapo units, Luftwaffe antiaircraft gun crews and Volksturm—groups of old men and boys with obsolete

Hall of Fame Inducts 53



The Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame Induction Board convened in December and elected 53 new members into the OCS Hall Of Fame. The board of seven voting members consisted of five active officers and two retired officers.

Nominees may qualify for election by meeting various eligibility criteria and falling into one of five categories. The five categories are:

Superior Valorous Combat Leadership:

includes recipients of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

Superior Meritorious Service:

includes successfully completing a battalion/brigade command (or the equivalent to) from which their service was recognized as superior and meritorious and they were awarded the Legion of Merit or Defense Superior Service Medal and have served in the rank of colonel or above.

Distinguished Public Service:

includes holding the position as a member of Congress, governor of a state, cabinet secretary, U.S. ambassador, mayor of a large city and federal judge.

Superior Public Service:

includes high-ranking career civil servants (GS-15/SES), high-ranking state officials, members of state legislatures, mayors, sheriffs, police chiefs, city managers and CEOs of philanthropies.

Lifelong Service:

includes individuals who have a life of service to the nation and to their communities that starts with Valorous Combat Leadership and/or Meritorious Service and then continued with outstanding public service through volunteerism; especially in support of military service members and their families as well as military veterans.

The newly elected members of 2020:

LTG Roger Schultz
 BG Robert Cocroft
 BG Glenn Goddard
 BG Gerald Griffin
 BG Jeth Rey
 COL Shelley Balderson
 COL Stephanie Batten
 COL William Bayha
 COL Phillip Bender
 COL Lucious Delk
 COL William Dickens
 COL Kenneth Harding

COL Ernest Hepler
 COL Richard Hoerner
 COL Ronald Hyatte
 COL Ronny Johnson
 COL Christopher Kennedy
 COL Carolyn Kleiner
 COL George Lind
 COL Robert Moore
 COL Craig Smith
 COL Ciro Stefano
 COL John Suggs Jr.
 COL Jerrold Scharninghausen
 COL Thomas Staadt
 COL Richard Surowiec
 COL David Tool
 COL Robert Ulin
 COL Donald Venn II
 COL Edward Vogelsang
 COL Daniel White
 LTC James Pasqualini
 LTC Neal Whetsel
 LTC Richard Wood
 MAJ John Brown
 MAJ Ronald Markiewicz
 MAJ Arthur Minnefield
 MAJ Ralph Northrop
 CPT Norman Baldwin
 CPT Stanley Blunt
 CPT Thomas Burke Jr.
 CPT Joseph Donner
 CPT Ronald Highland
 CPT Mark Holbrook
 CPT Walter Lee
 CPT Robert Walker
 1LT Blake Clark
 1LT William Cody
 1LT Loren Hagen
 1LT Barry Mawn
 1LT Raymond Parker
 1LT Nicholas Snider
 1LT Joseph Snyder

The Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on 4 May at 4 p.m. at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center. Visit OCSalumni.org for more details and to register for the 2020 annual reunion. ★

History As It's Happening

Imagine the challenge of chronicling the history of an event that's still unfolding. That's what historians at the National Infantry Museum have been tackling as they lay out plans for a major renovation.

When the museum's exhibit designers laid out the so-called current operations gallery, the War on Terrorism was just a few years old. Having closed out Desert Storm in just 43 days, there was a widespread belief this war would also end quickly.

But 18 years later, the Global War on Terrorism is still being waged, and experts will now tell you there's no end in sight. So the museum's historians set about redesigning the current operations gallery to reflect not only all the major events since the start of the war, but to be prepared for what may come next.

Come summer of 2021, visitors to the National Infantry Museum will enjoy a completely overhauled gallery. The timeline will take us from Panama and Somalia through Iraq and Afghanistan, but there'll be added themes and elements. Especially important to the young soldiers who visit the museum during their training will be the theme of Army Values threaded throughout the displays.

One prime example will be the story of Rick Rescorla, hailed as a hero on 9/11. Most Americans know him as the Morgan Stanley security officer who perished in the south tower of the World Trade Center while saving the lives of thousands of workers. Many may not know that Rescorla was a legend as a U.S. Army officer in Vietnam, too. During his service he learned The Soldier's Creed, which includes the promise to "never leave a fallen comrade." That value was clearly ingrained in him when terrorist-controlled planes struck the offices in his charge. New display cases at the museum will include pieces of marble taken from the rubble of each tower of the World Trade Center and personal effects from the Pentagon left unclaimed years after the attacks.

Visitors will traverse an Iraqi streetscape, passing market stalls, rubble heaps and foreboding Jersey barriers. They'll sense the potential for danger, with snipers on rooftops and IEDs hidden in piles of debris. Noise from honking horns and bartering vendors fills the air.

Overhead, a tangle of power lines looped in every direction reflects the chaotic atmosphere of a land at war.

Exhibit designers are keeping some elements of the new gallery secret for now. But they did let us look at one fascinating addition to the collection. It's called a Leader Board—an 8" by 8.5" board that a ground combat commander can carry in the pocket of his cargo pants. With an erasable pen, he can sketch an objective area and all the assigned battle positions of nearby friendly forces. On the other side he might draw close-ups of all the buildings in the area, along with assigned target numbers. The Leader Board that will be displayed in the new gallery is the one carried by now-LTC Kirby "Bo" Dennis during 2003's Operation Barracuda. As a platoon leader in the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Dennis used the board to execute the highly publicized rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch. It was the first successful rescue of an American prisoner of war since World War II and the first-ever of a female soldier.

These two displays provide just a taste of what's to come. An Afghan mountainside, a dictator's sword, a Raven drone, a Somali flag, night vision goggles that detect heat signatures ... dozens of artifacts and exhibits will be carefully curated to both educate visitors and inspire young soldiers.

Museum Senior Curator Jefferson Reed says the existence of so much living memory can make the job of gallery design harder. It puts real pressure on the storytellers to get it right. They also have to take into account the possibility of igniting bad memories among veterans of the War on Terrorism. "You don't want to send every Iraq veteran into a tailspin, but at the same time, it can't be a spit-and-polish parade throughout the museum. We have to find that balance of authenticity without upsetting everyone who's lived it," Reed said.

Some of the gallery's displays are still being firmed up, like the one that illustrates a deployed soldier's down time. Reed has collected some Marvel comic books, puzzle books and a portable DVD player, but he's looking for more. Can you put your hands on a short aluminum can of Rip It? If so—or if you have other items of special interest—be sure to let him know.

For gallery information, contact Senior Curator Jeff Reed at 706-545-2958 or jefferson.c.reed.civ@mail.mil.

For progress reports on the new gallery, sign up for the museum's newsletter at NationalInfantryMuseum.org. ★



Museum visitors will go from Iraqi streetscape to Afghan hillside in their exploration of the new current operations gallery at the National Infantry Museum.

Bennie Adkins is Still Giving Back



“I have to be honest,” President Barack Obama said. “Bennie performed so many acts of bravery, we actually don’t have time to list them all. Bennie ran into enemy fire again and again.”

Those are just a few of the remarks made in 2014 when CSM Bennie Adkins was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. Adkins was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), but 48 years later the president approved the upgrade of Adkins’ DSC to the Medal of Honor.

Drafted into the Army in 1956, with initial training at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was assigned as an Administrative Clerk-Typist to a garrison unit in Giessen, Germany with a follow-on assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, Georgia. After attending Airborne School, he volunteered for Special Forces in 1961. He served in Special Forces for more than 13 years with the 7th, 3rd, 6th and 5th Special Forces Groups (Airborne).

While in the Special Forces, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam for three non-consecutive tours. It was for actions during the second tour that he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Adkins retired from the military in 1978. He earned a college degree and two masters degrees from Troy State University and ran his own accounting firm in Auburn, Alabama. He also taught night classes at Alabama’s Southern Union Junior College for 10 years and at Auburn University for six years.

He established the Bennie G. Adkins Foundation, which raises funds for scholarships for enlisted Special Forces troops transitioning to civilian life. The proceeds from his book, *A Tiger Among Us: A Story of Valor in Vietnam’s A Chau Valley*, fund that cause.

Adkins was married to his wife Mary for more than 50 years until her death in 2019. They had five children. ★

★ MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION ★

Sergeant First Class Bennie G. Adkins distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Camp A Chau, Republic of Vietnam from March 9 to 12, 1966. When the camp was attacked by a large North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in the early morning hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position continually adjusting fire for the camp, despite incurring wounds as the mortar pit received several direct hits from enemy mortars. Upon learning that several soldiers were wounded near the center of camp, he temporarily turned the mortar over to another soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, Sergeant First Class Adkins exposed himself to sporadic sniper fire while carrying his wounded comrades to the camp dispensary. When Sergeant First Class Adkins and his group of defenders came under heavy small arms fire from members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group that had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese, he maneuvered outside the camp to evacuate a seriously wounded American and draw fire all the while successfully covering the rescue. When a resupply airdrop landed outside of the camp perimeter, Sergeant First Class Adkins, again, moved outside of the camp walls to retrieve the much-needed supplies. During the early morning hours of March 10, 1966 enemy forces launched their main attack and within two hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins was the only man firing a mortar weapon. When all mortar rounds were expended, Sergeant First Class Adkins began placing effective recoilless rifle fire upon enemy positions. Despite receiving additional wounds from enemy rounds exploding on his position, Sergeant First Class Adkins fought off intense waves of attacking Viet Cong. Sergeant First Class Adkins eliminated numerous insurgents with small arms fire after withdrawing to a communications bunker with several soldiers. Running extremely low on ammunition, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered vital ammunition and ran through intense fire back to the bunker. After being ordered to evacuate the camp, Sergeant First Class Adkins and a small group of soldiers destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, dug their way out of the rear of the bunker and fought their way out of the camp. While carrying a wounded soldier to the extraction point he learned that the last helicopter had already departed. Sergeant First Class Adkins led the group while evading the enemy until they were rescued by helicopter on March 12, 1966. During the thirty eight hour battle and forty eight hours of escape and evasion, fighting with mortars, machine guns, recoilless rifles, small arms, and hand grenades, it was estimated that Sergeant First Class Adkins killed between one hundred thirty five and one hundred seventy five of the enemy while sustaining eighteen different wounds to his body. Sergeant First Class Adkins’ extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces and the United States Army.



On 17 December 2019, Medal of Honor recipient SSG David Bellavia received the Order of St. Maurice after he spoke at A Company, 2-47 Infantry Regiment's graduation, (left to right) President of the National Infantry Museum Foundation BG (Ret) Pete Jones, Bellavia, COL (Ret) Rob Choppa and Vice President of the National Infantry Museum Foundation Andy Redmond.



On 8 February 2020, LTC Mathew D. Kilgore (left) and CSM Daniel C. Markle (right) presented the Order of St. Maurice to SSG Thomas C. Carpenter at the 2-108 IN, Blood & Iron Dining In event in Utica, New York.



MAJ Tyson K. Erdman (center) of the 35th ID received the Order of St. Maurice-Centurion from LTC Thomas Pickle (left) the BC of 1-138th IN and SGM Wes Blanscet the Operations Sergeant Major of the 1-138th IN. The presentation followed the Mission Analysis Brief of MDMP.



SFC Charles Elder presented SFC Anthony Fletcher with the Order of St. Maurice. On hand for the presentation were (left to right): Elder, BG Knight, Mrs. Fletcher, SFC Fletcher and CSM Chipman.



On 21 September 2019, SSG Michael T Lennon of Headquarters Company was presented the Order of St. Maurice, Legionnaire by CSM Charles Deal at the 38th Annual Military Ball of the 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry.



On 30 Nov 2019, LTC Ernest Jackson (left) presented the Order of St. Maurice to Army medic on D-Day and the Battle of Bulge Ziggy Mell on his 95th birthday celebration at VFW Post 3282, Port Orange, Florida.



On 23 January 2020, Director of Academic Affairs COL Paul Berg (left) and Chief of Professional Military Education LTC Matthew Thom (right) presented SFC Robert Lovell—currently assigned to Army University's Faculty and Staff Development Division—the Order of St. Maurice at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



On 19 November 2019, Andrew Clements was presented the Order of Saint Maurice at Fort Belvoir, Virginia by COL Stephen Thomas. Clements was given the award for exemplary service while assigned as the Deputy Project Manager, Project Manager Soldier Survivability (PM SSV).



On 20 December 2019, BG (Ret) Pete Jones (left) and CSM (Ret) Jeff Mellinger (right) presented SGT Marshall Huckaby the Order of St. Maurice at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.



On 15 November 2019, CSM (Ret) Vincent Myers, Honorary CSM 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was presented the Order of Saint Maurice by COL Andrew Saslav and CSM Bryan Otero the 1st BCT Command Team 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg NC.



On 31 JAN 2020, COL (Ret) Rob Choppa (left) was the guest of the West Point Chapter of the NIA at the United States Military Academy (USMA) Infantry Ball held at Eisenhower Hall, West Point. (Left-right): Choppa, Mr. Vincent Smarjesse, Mr. Wade Jost, Mr. Scott Jerald, Mrs. Martha Espinoza, CPT Alexander Kearns, Mrs. Carly McNary, CPT Charles Dvorak, Mrs. Amanda Dvorak, LTC Hank Keirse, Mrs. Alice Arroyo and COL Gene Lesinski.



On 1 November 2019, 1SG William Bailey presented SSG Devon Ratliff with the Order of St. Maurice at Delta 2/19.

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