

The Advanced Warfighting Working Group, Exploring the Future

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Co-facilitator

The Advanced Warfighting Working Group (AWWG) was formed in March of this year by the Deputy Commanding General, Brigadier General Maggart. Modeled after virtual management principles, the group has explored various subjects relevant to mounted warfare in a unique fashion. The group is unique in that it is non-hierarchical, and the structure or organization can change with each meeting and topic. Membership is voluntary, with the only prerequisite being a natural curiosity to explore issues that apply to the transition of the Mounted Force to the twenty-first century. Members work on their own time, researching and studying topics in an effort to bring new ideas and fresh perspectives to conventional thinking. Members range in experience from non-commissioned officers to movie producers to Army nurses, and even include

scientists, computer modelers, company commanders, and doctrine writers. The AWWG meets every Wednesday for about two hours. Members select a topic and, based on interest and experience, one or two members will lead or facilitate a discussion on the selected topic. As a group, the members decide what form the product of the discussion will take, be it a paper, research proposal, or simply a briefing. To date, some of the topics have included a research proposal on "Seeing the Battlefield" and the development of a future reader which included a précis of major future works. The group has also produced a number of papers on leadership in the information age, information as the fifth element of combat power, and higher order insights on the Advanced Warfighting Experiment 94-07. Many of the products are influencing the development of future doctrine and are appearing in different papers and manuals that are shaping the focus of the Army of the twenty-first century.

The AWWG has an extended membership which draws from expertise in the private sector; we're also active in the Internet, and have tapped into sources of information across the country. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Gordon R. Sullivan, fully supports the concept and has established a direct link with the group through a computer his office provided. General Sullivan said this about the AWWG in May of this year, "What impressed me most is your language and the fact that you are in being. What you represent is the future — what can and will be Force XXI. Think and grow. Help us change and grow without a loss of effectiveness." The fact that the group exists is a credit to the USAARMC chain of command, and their willingness to lead the Army in Force XXI initiatives and contributions. It's no accident that Fort Knox is credited with making the most significant strides toward the twenty-first century and the Information Age.