

Digital Courseware Offers New Opportunities For Training and Self-Development

by Captain Dan Dwyer

Major John Doe served with distinction as a foreign area officer in a remote country for two years and was recently assigned as the XO of an armor battalion. Having been away from troops for a while, he recognized a need to develop or fine-tune his doctrinal skills. He also aspires to implement an effective Battle Staff training program in his organization that uses innovative techniques and leverages today's technology. How can MAJ Doe get up to speed fast?

By accessing the Internet, MAJ Doe can explore cutting-edge, distance-learning courseware, offered by the Armor School, which uses a full range of multimedia technology, including streaming audio and video, that dramatically illustrates the key concepts of the military decision-making process (MDMP), Army operations, and other staff actions.

Captain Jones, a recent Armor Captains Career Course (AC³) graduate, serving as an S3 Air or company commander, has been tasked by his battalion commander to give an officer professional development (OPD) session on direct fire planning to the other officers in his battalion. How can CPT Jones deliver this OPD using materials found in the FM 71-series doctrinal publications and other references that have broached this topic in the past?

Available to CPT Jones is web-based, visually animated courseware that demonstrates tactics, techniques and procedures of such fundamentals with greater fidelity and effectiveness than a whiteboard could. By using Fort Knox-based instruction, CPT Jones can prepare his brief in less time than it would take to create a PowerPoint presentation. The

work has been done for him and is available anytime, anywhere.

Your unit is preparing for a Combat Training Center (CTC) rotation or real world deployment and is being challenged with finding enough time to train its staff well. How can a brigade/battalion XO or S3 use existing technology to train highly proficient battle staffs and battle captains?

By using Internet-delivered, performance-oriented training that focuses specifically on training battle captains — a topic that has been given cursory mention, at best, in our doctrinal publications. The Armor School has Internet-based instruction that addresses a scope of different learning styles (visual, kinesthetic, and auditory) and a wide variety of subject matter (for example, intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB), combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) integration).

An Allied international military student finds out that he has been hand-picked to attend AC³ during the next year at Fort Knox, and he wants to show up at the course well prepared. How can he prepare himself for the unknown?

In the foreseeable future, international officers from countries who routinely send their best officers to Fort Knox for world-class training may have access to our distance-learning courseware to gain a familiarization with our doctrine and staff processes prior to arriving at Fort Knox.

The U.S. Army Armor School has made groundbreaking advancements in information technology by pairing proven educational techniques with a revolu-

tionary approach towards delivering its courseware. Its distance learning (DL) program utilizes customized, web-enabled software platforms that are available to be incorporated into a unit's training program or your own professional development. The principal DL course being delivered from Fort Knox is the Armor Captains Career Course-Distance Learning (AC³-DL). This course delivers complex cognitive instruction to geographically dispersed students in a way that has never before been possible.

The Armor School is committed to sharing its distance learning courses with other TRADOC schools, Active Component units, individual soldiers, and allied International Military Officers. Our vision is that in the near future, active duty soldiers and units with .mil addresses will have access to this courseware much like accessing the Reimer Army Digital Training Library (ADTL) and other military educational sites.

For more information on AC³-DL or the Armor School's Distance Learning Program, contact:

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The More Things Change...

"A recent survey of a tank battalion at Fort Hood showed that only 17 percent of the crews had been together more than six months. That fact is not unusual. Personnel turbulence is so bad we don't really have crew training — it's more like individual training with hasty assembly for the gunnery season. For years, we blamed this on the Vietnam War. We are now three years into a peacetime Army, yet the problem still exists — it's time to correct the problem..."

-LTC (later BG) John C. Bahnsen, *ARMOR* Jan-Feb 1976

Captain Daniel Dwyer has served as a tank platoon leader, tank company XO, scout platoon leader, and battalion maintenance officer with 2nd Battalion, 35th Armor, 4ID (M); as S4, 3rd Brigade, 11ID, and company commander of both A Company and HHC, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor, Vilseck, Germany. He recently served as a Small Group Instructor in 3rd Squadron, 16th Cavalry at Fort Knox, Ky.