



Saddle Up... Tonight We Ride

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." — Rudyard Kipling

For 112 years, spanning three centuries, mounted warriors have fired salvos across the printed pages of first *The Cavalry Journal*, later *The Armored Cavalry Journal*, and now *ARMOR*. Giants of our branch like Chaffee, Patton, Clark, Abrams, grace the pages of our professional journal. Look hard enough and you'll find an article penned by the "Duke" himself — John Wayne.

Of course, one does not have to be a giant of the branch or a Hollywood legend to contribute to *ARMOR*. In fact, when the giants and legends put thoughts to paper, they were relatively unknown. It's great to boast impressive names as authors, but we know it's the lesser-known tankers and cavalymen with a passion for their calling who provide the words for *ARMOR* to run on. And it's those tankers and cavalymen who will play a pivotal role in the evolution of the mounted force through their critical thinking and writing.

It's an exciting time for the mounted community, a time that demands a professional dialogue, a dialogue marked by critical thinking, creativity, and thought-provoking writing. Journals require a constant flow of insightful articles and reader critique, and given the current evolving state of mounted warfighting, there has never been a better time to join the fray.

Professional writing brings many rewards — but not necessarily monetary ones. In addition to the satisfaction of seeing your words in print, there is the accompanying prestige... and fodder for that sparse support form. I've also heard tales of young lieutenants securing the coveted scout platoon leader job and of company commanders leaping

ahead of their peers based on their publication in the journal. But sharing your knowledge and experience with fellow troopers, making them better soldiers and helping them to accomplish their missions, is the most gratifying reward.

Speaking of professional writing, this issue boasts some fine examples. The following pages include: a compelling speech given by CPT S. Scott Sullivan at the final reunion of the 745th Tank Battalion; COL John Rosenberger gives us "Lessons from a Master of the Science and Art of Warfighting," drawn from Nathan Bedford Forrest's generalship at Brice's Crossroads; and COL Guy Swan III presents an interesting and timely argument for launching a true regimental system. Readers will find words and pictures from the Platform Performance Demonstration held recently at Fort Knox, and several responses to Jon Clemens' article in the Nov-Dec '99 issue, "Armor Movie Classics," which inspired many tank-movie buffs to respond.

On the back cover and inside back cover are the schedule and agenda of this year's Armor Conference, which is looming on the horizon. The theme of Armor Conference 2000 is: "Armor and Cavalry: Building Strategically Responsive Forces for the XXI Century Full Spectrum Army." And while the theme may not come off well emblazoned on a T-shirt or coffee mug, it rightly points out that Knox is shaping the future of mounted warfare. The Armor Center is fully engaged, having just completed the Platform Performance Demonstration and gearing up for an Armor Conference that includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony and demonstration of Knox's new Mounted Urban Combat Training Site. And as MG Bell points out in his column, Knox will remain engaged, developing and refining doctrine, techniques, force structure, et al., for the brigade combat team.

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