

COMMANDER'S HATCH

MG George H. Harmeyer
Commanding General
U.S. Army Armor Center



Vision for the Armored Force and Fort Knox

We in the United States Armor and Cavalry Force will face many challenges and changes in the future. The volatile world situation, the revolutionary changes in military technology, and political and economic realities force us here at the Center of Armor and Cavalry to put a great deal of effort toward strategic planning. Any strategic plan must have a vision, and *the vision of the Armor and Cavalry Center is to forge the finest mounted combat force in the world capable of winning decisively throughout the spectrum of conflict by:*

- Achieving excellence in training the total armor and cavalry force.
- Designing and integrating the total mounted force.
- Being the Army's leader in quality of life, community relations, and infrastructure efficiency.

With this vision and guidance from the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Commanding General of TRADOC, we at Fort Knox are developing new doctrine, organizations, equipment, and new training strategies. These strategies and implementing goals, objectives, and tasks are being captured in the Fort Knox strategic action plan entitled, "The Future of Armor: Decisive Mounted Maneuver XXI." This strategic action plan reflects an evolutionary shift in our core competencies as a result of the current political and economic environment and the ongoing Force XXI effort. The fielding of the new systems to support Force XXI, like the M1A2, demands that we develop organizations, doctrine, tactics,

techniques, and procedures that optimize new technologies.

These new systems require us to develop training programs for armor/cavalry soldiers, maintainers, and leaders here at the Armor School. Further, new classroom and laboratory technologies provide the Armor School with improved methods to conduct training, including virtual and constructive simulations, along with other distance learning techniques.

In future articles of the "Commander's Hatch," I will give you more specific information on the various initiatives we are working here at the home of Cavalry and Armor. In the meantime, we need your help. We realize that Fort Knox's long-term future is in the hands of the Congress, Joint Staff, TRADOC, CAC, and the world situation.

It is also clear that actions being worked today in the Unified Combatant Commands J3 and the Corps and Division G3 shops will be tomorrow's action here at Fort Knox. Unfortunately, we often do not hear about these requirements until the day after tomorrow because of the time it takes to transfer the action through the various headquarters. This is where all you great Armor and Cavalry soldiers come in. Many of you are assigned to key positions throughout our Army and many of you are working actions that will affect the future of the mounted force. **We need to hear from you.** We can give you more information and you can give us additional planning time to come up with solutions and op-

tions to cope with future actions. To do this we are initiating an Armor Network to contact armor and cavalymen. We want to get a current job title, phone number, and E-mail address and subsequently give you a point of contact here at Fort Knox. We also plan to devote the November-December issue of *ARMOR Magazine* to include an *Army Magazine - Green Book*-like format with information about what is going on here at Fort Knox and in the brigade/regimental size forces in the field. More details will follow in future issues of *Armor* and will be addressed at the Armor Conference.

The theme of this year's Armor Conference is "The Armored Force: A *FULL SPECTRUM FORCE* of Decision." This conference promises to be one of our best and most important ever. The theme ties in directly with our vision for the fully capable armored force of today and tomorrow. We want to show during the conference how our armor force, fighting as part of the joint combined arms team, is *DECISIVE*, and *SUITABLE* throughout the full range of conflict.

The upcoming armor conference and all the other efforts towards improving communications between Fort Knox, armor soldiers in the field, and the rest of the Army will only make the branch stronger. Better communication will yield better information which, in turn, will give us the time and knowledge to develop and refine an Armor and Cavalry strategic plan that ensures that the mounted force remains viable as the decisive maneuver force for our Army, and our nation, today and into the future.