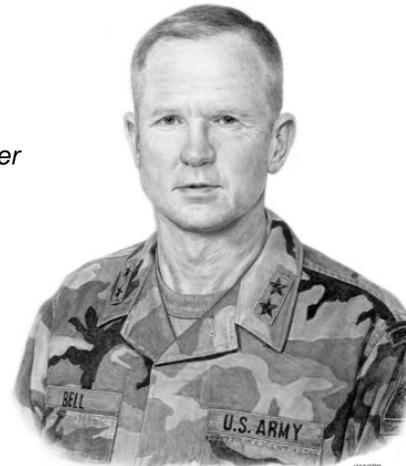


Major General B. B. Bell  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Armor Center



## Planning a New Future for the 2nd ACR

“Preparing now for an uncertain future” is a cornerstone of our National Military Strategy. The Army Transformation Plan is our blueprint to meet this challenge and Fort Knox and the Armor Branch are at the cutting edge. We no longer have the luxury of an Army forward-deployed on a prepared battlefield as we did during the Cold War. Indeed, the missions of shaping the international environment and responding to the full spectrum of crises dictate a mobile, lethal, and survivable force that is quickly deployable and easily sustained. To achieve these aims of transformation, we are taking an aggressive approach towards an Objective Force Goal.

First, we are committed to recapitalizing our current tank/mechanized legacy force to ensure warfighting dominance during transformation. I covered the essential points of this legacy force recapitalization in the July/August issue of *ARMOR* magazine.

Second, we are aggressively forming Initial and Interim Brigade Combat Teams (IBCT's) to meet critical warfighting requirements. Optimized for small-scale contingencies, these units will have utility across the full spectrum of conflict.

As an important adjunct to the IBCT work, we are now turning our force development efforts to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2ACR). TRADOC has recently chartered the Armor

Center to form a blue ribbon panel to examine the roles and missions of 2ACR, develop a concept of employment, define required capabilities, and lay out a modernization plan to increase the Regiment's utility to the Army. We have formed the panel, and it will conduct its work with a goal to deliver an operational and organizational concept by the end of November. Members of the panel will come from across the widest spectrum of expertise in one or more of the following areas: cavalry operations, entry operations, force projection deployment and employment, corps decisive operations, stability and support operations, and sustainment. FORSCOM, XVIII Airborne Corps, and the 2ACR will send representatives to participate as members of the panel to add their expertise and insights to the Regiment's reformation. Although the concept, organization, and equipment are yet to be decided, some key design principles follow:

*Optimize the 2ACR for employment with XVIII Airborne Corps.* This principle aligns the regiment with a corps for equipping, training, and planning. It will also be capable of being employed as part of other Army units or as part of a joint task force. Aligning the regiment with XVIII Corps does not require 2ACR to be airdrop-capable. It does, however, dictate that it must have the capability to rapidly deploy by air.

*The design must be supportable within current Army structure and pro-*

*grams.* Army end strength will not be increased to accommodate a redesigned regiment. Further, funding for a completely new replacement for the HMMWVs is not feasible. Therefore, a replacement system (or systems) must come from existing Army inventory or commercial off-the-shelf items.

*The regiment must be capable of executing within its capabilities all traditional cavalry missions, and must fight as a combined arms organization, both horizontally and vertically.*

Because 2ACR is employed normally by a corps, it must have the capability to conduct reconnaissance, security, and economy of force missions. In order to accomplish this, it must operate as a combined arms team.

*Sustain operations from internal CSS sources over extended areas with exposed lines of communications for up to 72 hours.* The ground cavalry squadrons must be capable of extended operations without resupply, with an objective of 72 hours (+) of supply carried on board squadron vehicles. Within the troop, if not the squadron, all vehicles will share a high degree of chassis commonality. This will reduce the number of supporting mechanics, simplify maintenance operations, and eliminate requirements for large numbers of varied repair parts.

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**HATCH**  
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*Leverage Interim Brigade Combat Team development effort as applicable.* The transition process for the 2ACR will mirror the effort that produced the Interim Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). The design team will examine the platforms, organization structures, and C4ISR architecture that have gone into the IBCT development and decide how they can be incorporated into the Regiment. The goal is to capture the insights and lessons learned from the IBCT development process and use those lessons and insights to accelerate the 2ACR transformation process.

As we develop plans to transform the Army and the Armor Force, 2ACR's role becomes increasingly critical to the success of our strategy. In fact, as a harbinger of change and transformation within our cavalry regiments, I would propose we consider a name change for this great and historical outfit. We'll look at the potential to designate the 2ACR as the 2nd Interim Cavalry Regiment (2ICR), thus designating it as the unit along whose path we will achieve Objective Force Cavalry capability. The 2ACR has a long and distinguished record of service to the Army and the nation. The 2ICR will continue this tradition throughout the 21st century.

**FORGE THE THUNDERBOLT  
AND STRIKE FIRST!**

### **Fort Knox To Host Armor Ball Next Year**

MG B.B. Bell, the Commanding General, U.S. Army Armor Center and Fort Knox, will host the Fort Knox Armor Ball at 1800 hours on February 10, 2001, at the Armor Inn, Fort Knox. The ball is being held to celebrate the proud history and tradition of the Armor Branch. For additional information please contact SGM Lawrence, Office of the Chief of Armor, (502) 624-5155, DSN 464-5155, or via email at:

*lawrencg@emh9.knox.army.mil*