

# Mission: Developing Armor Training

You're in the TOC eating one of those m-m-m-good Meals Ready to Eat, and you're looking for something to read. You pick up a field manual. And you wonder, who wrote this thing? You might even say, "Hey, whomever wrote this did a pretty good job; wish I had read it before." Then, maybe you wondered how to get in touch with the people who write your armored force doctrine and develop the strategies for the training you were conducting. After reading this short piece you will know who that group is, how to get in touch with them, and some of projects that currently occupy most of their time.

Even though it is a fairly new directorate here at Fort Knox, the Directorate of Training and Doctrine Development (DTDD) nevertheless encompasses activities familiar to anyone involved in armored force planning and training. It was created about 1½ years ago to address a training and doctrine shortcoming identified by schoolhouse and field people alike — namely, that the two needed to be more closely linked. DTDD today performs this service by accomplishing the following mission:

*Lead the United States Army in Armor/Cavalry training development, doctrine development, publication of ARMOR magazine, and the Force XXI Training Program, while improving synchronization of training and doctrine for combined arms units in the Total U. S. Army.*

Of the various projects currently underway, one of the most important is the formulation of course of action training strategies by the **Training Development Division**. These DA civilians and green-suiters have created a coherent tool for commanders that, for the first time, intelligently links training aids, other resources, and time. Commanders at many levels within the Army should find the tools useful as aids to their own training synchronization and helpful in readiness reporting.

The Automated Systems Approach to Training (ASAT) is a database application fielded to proponent service schools for managing tasks, developing task-based training materials, developing doctrine, and managing resources. The Armor Center has used ASAT to develop

training products, such as the Scout Platoon ARTEP Mission Training Plan, the Tank Crew Training Plan, and the forthcoming 19K Soldier's Manuals. The Army Training Support Center (ATSC) developed ASAT and continues to add enhancements. For example, ATSC will field an ASAT module for developing Combined Arms Training Strategies (CATS) in February 1998. ASAT is fully compatible with the Standard Army Training System (SATS) 4.0 and 4.1.

The Standard Army Training System (SATS) is a database application fielded to units for analyzing training, determining unit training strengths and weaknesses, verifying unit resource allocations and consumption, projecting future requirements, producing after-action reviews, and scheduling training. ATSC developed SATS and plans to field the latest version, 4.1, in November 1997. Units can load MTPs and Soldier's Manuals into SATS by accessing a DA Internet web site called the TRADOC Executive Management Information System (TEXMIS). For further information on SATS, contact ATSC at 1-800-201-SATS.

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The **Force XXI Training Program (FXXITP)** was designed to create an environment of integrated virtual and constructive simulations in which the mounted units of the heavy force could train using structured training programs to achieve and sustain combat readiness with minimum reliance on live field training. Current FXXITP products are focused on enhancing brigade and battalion staff training by developing methodologies to produce structured staff training support packages. TSP development is broken into three areas: individual staff officers, staff groups, and complex staff exercises.

The products that have been developed are: Battle Staff Training System (BSTS); brigade staff vignettes (COBRAS Vignettes); and brigade staff exercises (COBRAS Staff Exercises). Staff Group Trainer (SGT) is still under development as are desktop reconfigurable simulators.

BSTS provides a structured training package made up of paper based products and computer based instruction and allows individual staff officers to learn individual skills and staff responsibilities. The brigade staff vignettes were designed to provide command and control training to selected members of the brigade staff. They are a series of independent, controlled exercises that allow brigade staffs to isolate a small group from the staff in order to practice integration and synchronization processes in the context of a single mission event.

Most are paper based and can be executed anywhere. Two exercises use Janus and BBS. The brigade staff exercises were designed to provide command and control training to selected members of the brigade staffs, but unlike vignettes, these exercises involved the entire battle staff. They are structured, simulation-based, scenario embedded program that requires integration, and synchronization among the members of the staff in order to accomplish the mission. It provides all materials, from BBS tapes and associated documentation to scenarios and orders. This part of the program is being expanded to include multi-echelons and staff training in the constructive and virtual environment (STOW).

The Staff Group Trainer is being developed to link individual skills developed in BSTS to staff skills in battalion and brigade staff groups and command post staff.

DTDD's **Doctrine Division** is grille-door deep in working on FM 71-1, *Tank*

*and Mechanized Infantry Company Team*, (which has recently undergone a successful Doctrinal Review Advisory Group (DRAG) process). It will shortly be fielded to units throughout the world. The author's draft of Field Manual 71-3, *The Armor and Mechanized Infantry Brigade*, is currently being written and is expected to be ready for distribution around April 1998. The Doctrine Division is also looking at future doctrine and grappling with the following question: if the M1A2, with its revolutionary capabilities, has wrought changes on the battlefield, how do we best capture these changes in our tactics? We are also looking at the issue of brigades. How do they fit on the current battlefield? The future battlefield? What is their role now, and what should it be?

The Doctrine Division is working on tactical doctrine for the Future Scout and Cavalry System (FSCS), and a great deal of energy is going into an examination of the cavalry and reconnaissance framework to show how units can have a coherent, executable plan. The Armor School and DTDD are also cooperating on an effort to further define and refine opportunity tactics, sometimes called the "recon pull" approach. And the directorate has a joint effort underway with the Mounted Maneuver Battlespace Battle Lab to examine the next tactical operations center—everything is on the table and up for review.

The **ARMOR Magazine Division** continues to do what it has been doing since 1888, provide the cavalry and armor force with a forum for professional discourse on all aspects of warfighting. You should have noticed by now, that you are holding the biggest issue ever, as we have expanded the number of pages. The reason? Because so many people have been writing great articles during this revolutionary period in our branch's history. If you have any comments on this issue please send them via email or regular surface mail to the people listed on page two.

In short, you can see that the manual you have in your hand, the software you are using to manage your training, the branch magazine you are reading at this moment, and the staff training tools you are implementing as part of your CTC train-up, all result from the hard work of a small group of dedicated soldiers and Department of the Army civilians who comprise DTDD. Enjoy your apple-sauce!