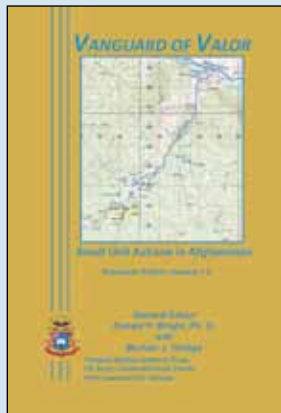# Infantry News

CSI RELEASES INTERACTIVE HISTORICAL STUDY

NANCY PLATT

The Combat Studies Institute (CSI) has released its first multimedia interactive historical study titled *Vanguard of Valor: Small Unit Actions in Afghanistan, Enhanced Edition,* which is now available in the Apple iBooks format. By taking advantage of the latest technology, the new iBook offers eight immersive accounts of combat actions in Afghanistan. This iBook is CSI's first book that tells the Army's story in a fully interactive manner. The chapters in the book include interactive features such as:

• 3D digital terrain views
• Video from combat actions
• Interactive digital models of weapon systems and vehicles
• Interactive maps and charts

Over the last decade, CSI has offered both the Army and the public historical accounts of contemporary operations. This enhanced edition of *Vanguard of Valor* serves to document the combat experiences of Soldiers at the platoon and company levels in Afghanistan. Because of its immersive features, the book is ideally suited for use in the Army leader development system where the interactive elements will lead to enhanced understanding of tactics, leadership, and the raw courage often displayed by U.S. Soldiers in the heat of battle.

Other Recent CSI Releases Include:

16 Cases of Mission Command — Edited by Donald P. Wright, Ph.D.

Art of War Papers - Lansdale, Magsaysay, America, and the Philippines: A Case Study on Limited Intervention — MAJ Andrew E. Lembke

Great Commanders — Edited by Christopher R. Gabel, Ph.D., and James H. Willbanks, Ph.D.

A list of publications is available online at http://usacac.army.mil/CAC2/csi/csipubs.asp.

The Combat Studies Institute provides a wide range of military historical and educational support to the Combined Arms Center, Training and Doctrine Command, and the U.S. Army. CSI researches, writes, and publishes (via the CSI Press) original interpretive works on issues of relevance to our Army and the defense of our nation. The institute conducts an oral history program that collects experiences from contemporary operations. CSI also conducts leader development opportunities in the form of virtual and live battlefield staff rides for the Army.

For more information on CSI, visit the CSI website at http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/CSI/.

IBOLC UPDATES, RETOOLS POI

NICK DUKE

Soldiers currently working their way through the Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course (IBOLC) are being taught a program of instruction (POI) that few have seen before.

In January, IBOLC rolled out its new counterinsurgency and stability operations class. The program shares some similarities with the previous program, but is mostly new material.

"We took a comprehensive look and basically retooled our entire program," said CPT Paul Cheval, a senior platoon trainer for D Company, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment. "We've refined our cultural instruction and also provided the students with some models that allow them to see what units are currently doing that are allowing them to be successful. It gives them something a little more concrete and in-depth."

The process of updating the course began in October 2012, and was completed in December before rolling out after the start of 2013. Cheval said one of the reasons for the update was feedback from past IBOLC graduates.

"A lot of it was actually coming from students wanting better instruction on how to conduct operations," Cheval said. "We were teaching a lot of theory and concepts and big picture stuff. We weren't focusing on how a lieutenant could be successful in conducting counterinsurgency operations."

CPT Timothy Downing, D Company's commander, said the updated course is a hybrid class that uses material taken from a combination of revised Army doctrine and lessons learned during the war on terrorism.

"We've continue to develop this program and improve the program, and we're always looking for new ways to take lessons learned and make ourselves better," Downing said.

Downing said this new program will be key in preparing future officers for the evolution of