

Commandant's Note



BG MONTÉ L. RONE

On behalf of the Infantry Enterprise, I want to express my most sincere gratitude for Mr. Russ Eno who retired in January 2024 after 32 years as the editor of *Infantry* and a combined 56 years of exemplary Federal Service to our Nation! Russ served for 24 years on active duty as an Infantry officer. After commissioning in 1967, Russ graduated the Infantry Officer Basic Course before deploying to Vietnam where he served as an advisor with Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV) in the Mekong Delta. His distinguished career included multiple assignments to Germany, assistant professor at West Point, chief of Communicative Skills Division at Fort Moore, and as chief of Logistics Plans in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon retiring in December 1991, Russ immediately took over as editor of *Infantry* in January 1992. During his 32 years as editor, Russ mentored hundreds of Soldier-writers that contributed to the conversation around the Profession of Arms and our beloved Infantry. We are incredibly thankful for his lifelong service to the branch and the profound impacts he made through the ideas shared in this magazine!

During the Maneuver Center of Excellence's (MCoE) Maneuver Transformation Week held in February 2024, we unveiled Infantry 2030, our campaign plan to unite and guide the education, training, and development of Infantry leaders and Soldiers while transforming the Infantry force to WIN on any battlefield in the world. In support of MCoE's role as the Army's proponent for Maneuver Force Modernization at Brigade and Below, Infantry 2030 establishes three lines of effort (LOEs) to synchronize across the Infantry Enterprise: 1) Train and Develop Infantry Soldiers and Leaders, 2) Forecast and Transform the Infantry Force of 2030 and Beyond, and 3) Manage Infantry Talent and the Health of the Branch.

A key initiative of Infantry 2030 is the Squad as a System (SaaS) framework. Infantry Soldiers do not fight as individuals, but as members of a squad. The squad is the most important, complex, and variable weapon system on the battlefield made more complex by the various physical differences and performance capabilities of each member. We must take a different approach to how we resource and modernize the squad, focusing on delivery of a formation versus separate individual programs. As both the Infantry Commandant and Director of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team, our team remains focused on synchronizing efforts, aligning resources, and prioritizing initiatives of the Infantry Enterprise alongside our teammates in Training and Doctrine Command, Army Futures Command, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology to enable transformation across the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy (DOTMLPF-P) spectrum. Our squads deserve this because they are the formation who must have the training, education, equipment, and right people to accomplish the mission and win the last 100 yards of the close fight.

The Spring issue of *Infantry* contains a variety of articles across the Infantry 2030 LOEs with multiple pieces discussing

implementation of small unmanned aerial systems (SUAS) within our formations, addressing the threat of enemy UAS, as well as a truly innovative “How-To” guide by CPT Kendall Hamm and SSG Ryan Macleod on increasing the utility of SUAS in mounted formations. Despite the Army’s recent announced force structure change that reduces cavalry squadrons within U.S.-based infantry and Stryker brigade combat teams, reconnaissance remains a critical enabling operation. COL Teddy Kleisner’s “Infantry and Reconnaissance: Why Bush Hill is the Most Attacked but Least Reconnoitered Piece of Terrain on Earth” argues Infantry leaders must understand and value reconnaissance to succeed in large-scale combat operations (LSCO).

I also want to highlight LTC Tom Dull, commander of 2-11 Infantry, and his team’s series on modernizing the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC). CPT Michael Martino’s “Weapons Maintenance: How IBOLC Keeps Students Fit to Fight” argues leaders should build the same positive culture around maintaining Soldiers and leaders that we do for maintaining equipment. MAJ Barkef Osigian writes an inspiring letter to future IBOLC platoon trainers stressing the critical importance of a platoon trainer’s role not only in the near-term development of 2LTs at IBOLC but on the long-lasting impact leaders have on the careers of officers.

Thank you to all the contributors and readers of *Infantry*! The discourse found here is profoundly impactful on our profession and development as leaders and the branch. We continue to look over the horizon, aggressively investing in our people and our formations to maintain pace and tempo across our transformation efforts and stay on glide-path to deliver Infantry 2030. As a WARNO for the Summer edition, we want to focus on the Army’s Continuous Transformation effort and solicit articles on LOE2: Forecast and Transform the Infantry Force of 2030 and Beyond. Finally, we look forward to hosting the competitors, their families, and visitors during Infantry Week occurring 5-15 April at Fort Moore.

I am the Infantry! Follow me!

Infantry Week

