

### Enhance Soldier Lethality, Mobility and Survivability With the Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP)

Since 1990 the Army has actively sought common sense solutions from soldiers to enhance their lethality, mobility and survivability on the battlefield through the Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP). The purpose of SEP is to accelerate the acquisition of lighter, more lethal weapons and improved "soldier items of equipment," and get that new equipment in the hands of soldiers in three years or less.

SEP candidates for the FY97 SEP program must meet the following criteria: Must be a soldier system item (an item of equipment that is worn, carried or consumed by the soldier for individual use in a tactical environment); must be commercially available (off-the-shelf with little or no modification for field military use); and must satisfy an operational need or battlefield deficiency. If it makes the soldier more effective or efficient on the battlefield, reduces the soldier's load (in either weight or bulk), enhances lethality, survivability, command and control, sustainment, mobility, safety, training, or quality of life or if soldiers are spending their own money to buy it, then it may well be a strong SEP candidate.

The SEP is not an incentive award program. No monetary awards will be given for proposals that are adopted for use and result in a cost saving to the government.

If you would like to submit a SEP proposal, a submission form can be obtained by contacting the TRADOC System Manager-Soldier, ATTN: ATZB-TS, Ft. Benning, GA 31905-5000, COM (706) 545-1189, DSN 835-1189/6047 or Fax 835-1377. All proposals must be received by the TSM-soldier not later than 1 November 1995 in order to be considered for the FY97 program. ■

### ARPERCEN Updating Soldier Retirement Points Accounts

In a major push to improve customer service, the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) completed a six-month-long validation of over 73,000 soldier retirement points accounts. The data is now ready for input into the automated Retirement Points Accounting System (RPAS).

Conference registration fee is \$5.00 and should be stated on the individual's orders. For more information, call MSG Williams at DSN 978-8633/8011 or COM (915) 568-8633/8011.

The input will be performed by a private contractor for cost effectiveness and to give ARPERCEN personnel the time to continue validating retirement accounts for the 1.8 million reservists served.

A new contract was recently awarded, but it's estimated that it will take four to six months to input all the data for the over 70,000 accounts. During this

time, ARPERCEN will suspend the mailing of RPAS retirement summaries to reservists, allowing the updates to take effect. Otherwise, reservists would receive a yearly retirement points summary showing the outdated or incorrect data. This would cause confusion and not serve the best interests of the soldier.

When new data is inputted into RPAS, reservists will immediately be mailed an updated retirement points summary. Yearly updates will then continue to be mailed on each soldier's retirement year end (RYE) date. ■

Ingrid G. Morgan  
ARPERCEN Public Affairs

### Seeks Soldiers' Somalia Combat Experiences

MAJ Greg Alderete seeks stories, photos, drawings and combat experiences from soldiers who served in Somalia. He says this combat deployment is "...fast becoming a forgotten chapter in military history. I hope to prevent that.

The book will be entitled "Memoirs from the Basement of Hell (Mogadishu)."

Send information to: MAJ Greg Alderete, ATTN: Somalia Stories, 1907 South Idaho Ave., Caldwell, ID, 83605. Phone (208) 459-4911 or DSN: 422-5050/5060. ■

### PERSCOM Joins Information Super Highway

The U.S. Total Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM) established PERSCOM Online, a Homepage on the World Wide Web, to provide soldiers, family members and DA civilians a place to find accurate, pertinent and timely information about Army personnel issues and programs.

PERSCOM Online, offering worldwide access to the Internet, is linked to the Army Homepage "ArmyLink" or can be found under the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) <http://199.209.76.110>. For more information contact PERSCOM Public Affairs: (703) 325-8857, DSN 221-8857. ■

CPT David C. Farlow  
PERSCOM PAO, Alexandria, VA

### Info on Zeroing M16A2 Sought

The 2d Bn, 29th Inf Reg, in conjunction with the Army Research Institute (ARI), has begun a study to determine if the M16A2 zeroing procedures outlined in FM 23-9 need revising.

Preliminary results indicate that when the rifle is zeroed at 25 meters in accordance with FM 23-9 it will shoot high at 300-meter targets when aimed center of mass. The 2-29th would like to receive any information from *The NCO Journal* readers on the following topics:

- Why the 25-meter zero standard was adapted for the M16A2.
- Any modifications to FM 23-9 zeroing procedures being used in the field to address the tendency of a properly zeroed M16A2 to shoot high at the 300-meter target when aimed center of mass.
- Studies concerning the trajectory of the M16A2.
- Studies concerning the most common engagement ranges in recent U.S. combat operations.
- Problems with the M16A2 rear sight.
- Comparisons between U.S. Army and USMC M16A2 zeroing procedures.

If you have information of value to this study, contact the 2-29th at DSN 784-6922 or (706) 544-6922. Ask for MSG Sump or MAJ Dougherty.

LTC Michael A. Phillips  
HQ, 2-29th Inf Reg, Ft. Benning, GA

## Families Facing Medical Crises Receive 'Caring Environment'

By the end of this year there will be 24 Fisher Houses on the grounds of major military hospitals and VA medical centers across the United States, built as a gift. Annually, these comfort homes offer more than 140,000 days of lodging in a caring environment that allows military and veterans' families to face a medical crisis together. They can focus on the healing process, free from the financial worry of finding a place to stay in an unfamiliar city, while a loved one is hospitalized.

For more information on Fisher Houses and to locate the one nearest you, contact Fisher House Foundation, Inc. at 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. Phone (301) 294-8560 or FAX: (301) 294-8562. ■

Fisher House Foundation, Inc.  
Rockville, MD

## TRADOC Uses Reinvention Authority to Shape Force XXI

Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) has been made a Reinvention Center to give it more power to shape the Army of the 21st Century—Force XXI.

"Reinvention Center authority provides us an opportunity to change the way we change by eliminating barriers," said GEN William W. Hartzog, TRADOC commander.

Among the "barriers" that Hartzog said stand in the way of meeting objectives are outmoded regulations. As a Reinvention Center, TRADOC will have the authority to waive most Army and DoD regulations, except those which affect individuals' rights, equal opportunity and those based on federal law.

Hartzog has designated four reinvention laboratories under the Reinvention Center umbrella. They are the organizations of the TRADOC deputy chiefs of

staff for training, doctrine, combat development and base operations support.

"The lab commanders are charged to follow the Strategic Plan and change the way we change by taking informed risks where appropriate, cutting red tape, listening to customers, empowering employees and getting back to basics," Hartzog said. ■

TRADOC Public Affairs Office  
Ft. Monroe, VA

## TRADOC Approves PLDC Equivalent Course Credit for Reserve Component

Personnel Service Centers or PSC commanders will grant AC Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) equivalency to soldiers who successfully complete any of the following training:

- Reserve Component PLDC
- Primary Noncommissioned Officer Course.
- Soldiers completing RC PLDC through either Inactive or Active Training must provide documentation of successful training for both.
- RC Phase I Basic or Advance NCO Course taught through Inactive Duty Training of Active Training.
- United States Marine Corps NCO Course.
- USMC Leadership Course
- USMC NCO Basic Course
- USMC NCO Advance Course (taught only at Quantico, VA)
- USMC Resident Staff NCO Career Course (taught only at Quantico, VA)
- AC or RC U.S. Army or USMC Warrant Officer Candidate School

Corresponding study programs are not equivalent to AC PLDC resident training. Courses taught at USMC Institute in Washington, DC, are not equivalent to AC PLDC. Presently, no Air Force or Navy NCO training is equivalent to AC PLDC.

Requests for exceptional cases or foreign service school equivalency must be approved through the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, ATTN: ATSS-DC, Ft. Bliss, TX 78818-1270, (DSN 978-8659) by HQ TRADOC, ATTN: ATTG-ILN, Ft. Monroe,

VA 23651-5000, (DSN 680-5678/5672).

Soldiers must provide valid documentation before PSC's can process actions to select soldiers for promotions, schools and other Enlisted Personnel Management System (EPMS) matters. Valid documentation includes:

- DA Form 1059 (Academic Evaluation Report) and
- Diploma required for USMC courses

Effective date of promotion points will be the date the PSC commander approves the request. Promotion points will be awarded in accordance with AR 600-8-19. Promotion Points will not be awarded retroactively. PERSCOM POC is Junior Enlisted Promotions, DSN 221-9020. ■

TRADOC  
Ft. Monroe, VA

## Detailed Guide to Army Relationships With Private Organizations Now Available

The laws and regulations regarding official and personal relationships with private organizations (i.e. Noncommissioned Officers Association or NCOA, Association of the United States Army or AUSA, Field Artillery Association or FAA, Judge Advocates Association or JAA, etc.) are complex and extensive.

Changes in the relationships between POs and the Army and Army personnel seem infinite. To assist Army personnel, the director of the Army Staff directed the publication of a *Private Organizations Guide*, published in January 1995.

This guide was provided to all general officers, members of the Senior Executive Services, installation commanders as well as all MACOM ethics counselors. The entire reference guide is available on the JAG electronic bulletin board system (LAAWS BBS).

In addition, officials acting in their official or personal capacities in matters involving private organizations should actively seek legal advice from their ethics counselors to ensure they are acting properly. ■

Department of the Army, Office of the  
Chief of Staff, Washington, DC