

SUBJECT: Local Training

1. PURPOSE: To provide an overview of 3d Armored Division local training area activities.

2. FACTS:

a. Local training areas are the primary training sites for individual, crew, squad, platoon, and (where limited space and facilities permit) company-level training.

b. With the proliferation of increasingly sophisticated weapons and equipment in recent years, commanders need more training time to achieve and sustain skill proficiency. For example, soldier's manuals for MOS 11B, Infantryman, identify 149 individual skills (tasks) for training. Of these 149 skills, 72 (48 percent) can be trained in garrison. However, 67 (45 percent) must be trained in LTA's and 10 (7 percent) must be trained at MTA's. The commander's flexibility to select the training site for these skills is, for the most part, unidirectional. This means that if a commander cannot accomplish skill training in the LTA, he may not have the flexibility to conduct the training in garrison (it may require, for example, a tactical, free maneuver area at an MTA). On the other hand, skills trained at MTA's (primarily those involving live fire of weapons or free maneuver) cannot be performed in LTA's or garrison locations.

c. Commanders are, therefore, handicapped when they receive reductions in LTA time. Not only are they less able to practice their soldiers on skills learned in garrison in a tactical situation, but they do not have time to train all LTA skills to desired levels of proficiency (as prescribed by applicable soldier's manuals). The result is that some LTA skills have to be deferred to MTA periods (or they are not trained at all). This is a poor utilization of MTA time and a severe constraint on improving MOS proficiency. Recent SQT results for MOS 11B, Infantryman, substantiate that individual proficiency of infantrymen is low. This appears to be an Army-wide occurrence. However, a preliminary finding of an analysis of those results in the 3AD indicates that infantry soldiers did particularly poorly on tasks which should be trained in LTA or MTA. Of the 56 tasks in which soldiers performed poorly, only 39 percent were garrison-trained tasks. The majority of deficiencies, 61 percent, were tasks which should be trained in LTA or MTA. The lack of LTA time is a primary cause. Similar comparisons are not yet possible for other combat or combat support MOS's because SQT results are not available. They, too, are expected to reflect shortcomings in field-trained skills.

d. Restrictions on training time at MTA's require increased use of LTA's. For example, armor units must complete Tank Tables I-III and the

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tank crew proficiency course (TCPC) prior to arrival at MTA. This necessitates frequent road marches to specifically designated and equipped LTA's at Friedberg and Buedingen, in addition to mileage accumulated during the actual training. Furthermore, the increased use of simulation devices in LTA (REALTRAIN, day/night firing of tank subcaliber devices at mini-tank ranges, artillery 14.5 subcaliber devices and TOX/Dragon firing simulators) has increased LTA training costs significantly. REALTRAIN, for instance, has provided maneuver units with the means to conduct frequent small unit opposing force maneuvers in LTA's. The 1/60 scale ranges now under construction in LTA's for tank, and perhaps infantry units, will escalate LTA usage, and therefore, further increase costs.

e. Finally, the size of local training areas generally limits their use to smaller-than-company size units when maneuver is required. Maneuver rights areas, particularly those in or near sector (away from heavily populated areas), involve relatively high mileage exercises. These exercises, though they are artificial in that they are restricted to road nets, are the primary means of sustaining maneuver proficiency at company/battalion level. Nevertheless, ARTEP observations indicate deficiencies in command and control of maneuver units which can be corrected only by getting out on the ground with soldiers and vehicles.

f. Under the present funding levels, maneuver battalions are permitted only 32 battalion LTA training days. This permits less than 4 LTA days per month (not even one per week) for a 9-month period. The remaining 3 months are not included because they consist primarily of MTA/ARTEP/ASP days. In FY 79, an estimated 25 battalion LTA days will be funded.

g. SQT and ARTEP results are expected to continue to identify deficiencies in LTA/MTA trained skills. Historical experience and the judgment of the training managers of this Division indicate that, as an absolute minimum the Division needs 40 LTA days for maneuver units. A desirable level of LTA training would be achieved with 60 days.

h. A list of divisional local training area sites is provided at TAB A. The list does not include maneuver rights areas.

1 Incl  
TAB A



3D ARMORED DIVISION TRAINING FACILITIES

1. Subcaliber Tank Ranges (Tables I-III):
  - a. Kirchgoens.
  - b. Bernbach.
  - c. Friedberg (1/60 scale range construction completed April 1978).
2. Rifle and Pistol Ranges:
  - a. Butzbach.
  - b. Bernbach.
  - c. Bad Vilbel.
3. River Crossing Sites:
  - a. Grossauheim.
  - b. Leeheim.
  - c. Lampertheim.
4. Training Areas:
  - a. Butzbach - less than one square kilometer of maneuver area.
  - b. Bernbach - one square kilometer.
  - c. Friedberg - 34 square kilometers. Ranges, forested areas, inhabited areas, and steep slopes limit maneuver to a few square kilometers of off-road terrain.
  - d. Tiergarten - one square kilometer. Configuration in U-shape constrains training use for maneuver.
  - e. Bad Vilbel - less than one fourth of a square kilometer.
  - f. Lamboy - two separate areas, each less than one square kilometer.
  - g. Dornholzhausen - two square kilometers.
  - h. Campo Pond - one and one half square kilometers.

TAB A to Fact Sheet (Inclosure 2)

3AD TRAINING FACILITIES (CONT'D)

1. Roth - one half square kilometer.
5. Bivouac Areas:
  - a. Lang Goens.
  - b. Butzbach.
  - c. Lamboy.
  - d. Roth.
6. Laser Range-Finder Range:
  - a. Friedberg Training Area.
  - b. Butzbach.
7. Combat Training Theater:
  - a. Kirchgoens.
  - b. Buedingen.
8. Tank Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC):
  - a. Friedberg Training Area.
  - b. Tiergarten, Buedingen.
9. LAW Subcaliber Range:
  - a. Friedberg Training Area.
  - b. Bernbach.
10. 14.5MM Tank Subcaliber Range:
  - a. Friedberg Training Area.
  - b. Bernbach.
11. 25MM Mortar Subcaliber Range: Bernbach.
12. Artillery 14.5MM Subcaliber Range: Friedberg Training Area.