Table VI is the first one that requires a crew to fire the vehicle's 25mm automatic gun and the 7.62mm coaxial machinegun. The table is fired with the vehicle in a stationary position, which permits trainers to coach and instruct a crew on the conduct of full caliber fire.

Tables VII and VIII require Bradley crews to engage realistic tactical target arrays with all the turret-mounted weapons during both day and night from a stationary position and while moving. Table VII is essentially a practice table for Table VIII, which is the first Bradley gunnery qualification table. In it, Bradley crews are evaluated on crew performance and quick, accurate fire.

Both infantry and cavalry scout crews fire these first eight gunnery tables, because they emphasize turret-related skills that are common to both. Tables IX and X, however, are fired only by cavalry scout sections and Tables XI and XII only by infantry platoons. Table IX is the live-fire practice for Table X, which is the scout sections' qualification table; likewise, Table XI is the practice for qualification Table XII for the infantry platoons. Since both scout section and infantry platoon tables are considered tactical gunnery exercises, the scoring has been expanded to include control of fires, reporting procedures, movement techniques, and command and control.

As a result of a Bradley gunnery conference in May of last year, Bradley gunnery was expanded to include exercises specifically designed for the infantry squad and its rifle team as well as for the infantry platoon and its dismount element. These new exercises have been incorporated into Tables VIII and XII.

Tables VIII-C and XII-C, for the first time, give the dismounted Bradley infantry an opportunity to be tested during gunnery exercises. Both tables can be conducted as either live-fire or MILES evaluations on ranges in local or major training areas, either separate from or in conjunction with crew gunnery.

Table VIII-C, which is conducted from prepared defensive positions during daylight, consists of two exercises that require a rifle team to conduct simultaneous engagements at near and far dismounted infantry and vehicle targets. Table XII-C includes similar but more numerous target opportunities. This table is conducted during a daylight offensive scenario and during both day and night defensive scenarios. Both dismounted tables are scored on accuracy, firing position selection, and fire distribution and control.

Tables VIII-D and XII-D combine all of the Bradley infantry training into a squad and platoon qualification. Table VIII-D consists of three daylight exercises — dismounted engagements, firing-port-weapon engagements, and vehicle crew engagements. Table XII-D also offers both day and night dismounted and mounted target engagements. Each of these tables may be fired on a separate range dedicated to these tasks or fired as part of VIII-A for squad qualification and XII-A and -B for platoon qualification. For further flexibility, units also have the option of shooting these as live-fire or as MILES exercises. The two major scoring standards for squad and platoon qualification include fire distribution and control within the dismounted and mounted elements and fire coordination between these same two elements.

Today's Bradley gunnery program tests the combat readiness of Bradley soldiers and their fighting vehicles through tables that are progressive in nature and through demanding, realistic standards.

Bradley gunnery provides a training challenge to all Bradley infantrymen and cavalrymen to train to fight and win.

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Master Gunner Course

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RUSSELL K. BUTTS

For the past three years, the 12-week Master Gunner Course at Fort Benning has been training master gunners to serve in Bradley battalions and companies — both Active Army and Reserve Component. Recently, as a result of a decision to place them at platoon level as well, the demand for master gunners has grown considerably. And the course has changed in response to changing needs.

What do unit master gunners do? In brief, they are primarily training managers for and system advisors to their commanders. They plan training for Bradley gunnery, forecast ammunition needs, and coordinate necessary training resources to support the gunnery training program.

More specifically, master gunners assist their subordinate units in the conduct of gunnery and crew drills for integrating and certifying newly assigned personnel. They are well versed in the organizational maintenance of the unit's fire control, electrical, and weapon systems, and are prepared to help maintenance personnel troubleshoot these systems, they are especially familiar with turret mainte-

nance. They supervise live-fire gunnery and monitor crew or squad proficiency. They are trained to assess their units' posture and to implement gunnery programs that are designed to sustain skills and correct deficiencies.

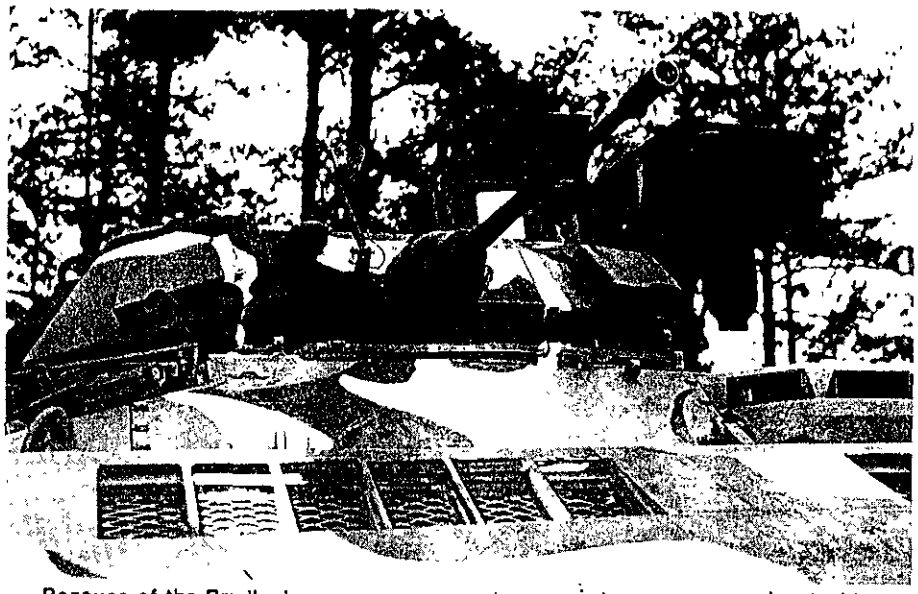
Because of the scope and difficulty of these duties, only the best qualified noncommissioned officers should be selected to attend the Master Gunner Course. To be selected, an NCO must:

- Be 11M/19D Bradley qualified.
- Be a staff sergeant or platoon sergeant, or, in MOS 11M, a sergeant.
- Have a minimum GT score of 100. (Reading and comprehension skills are critical.)
- Be assigned to a Bradley unit and have 12 months retainability in that unit.
- Meet the Army's height and weight standards. (Students are weighed during processing.)
- Be physically fit. (Students must pass the APRT administered before graduation.)
- Be selected by his battalion or squadron commander.

The instructors assume that the students are already proficient in *all* 11M Skill Level 3 tasks, and the POI is designed for that level. Previously, because of the lack of experienced noncommissioned officers in CMF 11M, the course taught Skill Level 1 and 2 tasks as well. Now, however, the students are given the Bradley Commander/Gunner Certification Test (BCGC) on the second day of training. Only those students who achieve a passing score of 70 percent (and 100 percent on all missed tasks on a retest) are allowed to continue in the course.

The Master Gunner Course concentrates on the functional duties of a master gunner — gunnery, maintenance, training management, range preparation, and tactics. The students spend many hours on organizational preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) on the hull, turret, and weapon systems, with most of the maintenance instruction focusing on the turret and the weapon systems.

Classroom instruction is reinforced with practical exercises using test equipment that is introduced during the instruction. System troubleshooting is also taught so the students will be able to identify turret problems accurately.



Because of the Bradley's many weapon systems, master gunners are invaluable to their commanders in developing and implementing unit gunnery programs.

Another topic that the course covers in depth is gunnery techniques. Gunnery is divided into two categories — prefire gunnery and target engagement, with most of the instruction on the latter. Prefire gunnery consists of instruction in target acquisition, range determination, fire commands and methods of engagement, and manipulation training.

Bradley Tables I through XII, the Unit Conduct-of-Fire Trainer (U-COFT), and other gunnery training devices are taught so the students will become thoroughly familiar with the execution and evaluation phase of the master gunner's duties.

The training management instruction in the course is designed to teach the students techniques for assessing unit skills and shortcomings to help their commanders develop productive gunnery programs. This instruction shows the students how to tailor programs to fit their units' needs and then how to support those programs with timely requests for resources.

The course also provides instruction on preparing ranges, using ballistic firing tables and scaled ranges, and setting up, operating and breaking down ranges. For live-fire ranges, the students are taught how to prepare surface danger area diagrams to make sure the live fire exercises are conducted safely.

To put the technical aspects of the BFV in perspective, students are now given 20 hours of tactical instruction.

Throughout the 12 weeks of the course, the students are evaluated on their proficiency in master gunner skills. To graduate, a student must pass the APRT, receive a "GO" on all hands-on tests, and maintain an academic average of 80 percent. Each student receives an academic evaluation report for the course.

Although the Bradley Master Gunner Course has defined objectives, it is an evolving course. Comments from students and from units in the field help the Bradley instructors tailor the course to fit the needs of the Army. In fact, recent responses from the field have brought about some changes in the focus of instruction — more time is now spent on unit assessment, ammunition management, conduct-of-fire training, and subcaliber training.

Master gunners have proved invaluable at all levels in helping commanders develop and implement unit gunnery programs. Through competitive unit selection processes, the responsiveness of the Master Gunner Course, and the commanders' effective use of their master gunners, the Army can now train highly competent crews capable of turning a Bradley fighting vehicle into an impressive fighting machine.

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