INFANTRY NEWS

THE U.S. ARMY INFANTRY Board submitted the following news item:

The Mounted Ration Heating Device (MRHD) underwent user testing and experimentation by the Infantry Board from 2 February through 13 March 1987 at Fort Benning.

The device had demonstrated its potential operational suitability and military utility in October 1982 during the Force Development Test and Experimentation of the combat field feeding system (CFFS). (See INFANTRY, May-June 1985, page 9.) Following these tests, the MRHD was separated from the development of the other CFFS equipment to expedite its fielding.

This lightweight, reusable heating device can be mounted in combat vehicles and used to heat the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) entree and water for instant-type beverages. It has a single continuous heating element contained in a collapsible fabric case with four individual pockets. MRE pouches and individual disposable water pouches, in any combination up to four, can be heated simultaneously.

The device's power cable has an on/off switch and uses an assortment of connectors and plugs that mate with auxiliary and utility power receptacles of combat vehicles. A nylon strap, with hook and loop fasteners, is provided to secure the MRHD to a vehicle. Three magnetic strips are located on the bottom to help secure it to metal surfaces inside a vehicle.

In the recent tests, MRHDs were used to prepare meals by soldiers of the 197th Infantry Brigade during a normally scheduled brigade FTX and during scheduled maintenance in garrison. (The test was designed to cause minimal interference with the units' scheduled training.) One MRHD was provided for each tracked combat vehicle participating in the test.

Data figures were collected regarding the ability of the MRHD to heat water and MREs, the compatibility of its connectors and circuitry with those of wheeled and tracked vehicles, human factors, safety, logistical supportability, reliability, and maintainability.

A separate series of closely controlled exercises was conducted simulating vehicle operation in an NBC environment. The MRHD was operated in one of each type of tracked vehicle available with the vehicle fully loaded with troops and TOE equipment and simulating overpressure operation.

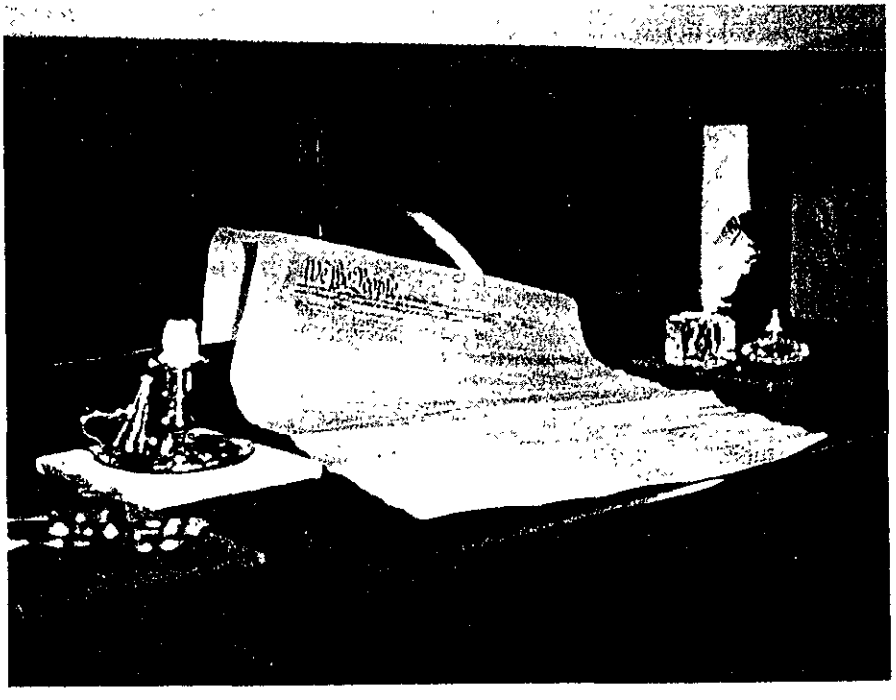
The U.S. Army Quartermaster School will use the test results in making recommendations regarding type classification.

THE NATIONAL INFANTRY Museum, at Fort Benning, has put together several special exhibits recently for special occasions. One titled "Building on Leadership and Education" recognized the 69th anniversary of the Infantry School. Another was in support of Fort Benning's annual West Point Founders Day celebration.

A display was prepared about the 10th Mountain Division, a brigade of which is now stationed at Fort Benning.

The long-term display for the 200th anniversary of the Constitution has been of interest, and parts of it have been shown in other locations on Fort Benning.

One exhibit was taken to the Columbus Convention and Trade Center for the Georgia Red Carpet Tour, which was an effort to attract industry to the area, and a guided tour of the Museum was offered to visitors attending that meeting.



Constitution display

The 11th Airborne Division has presented the Museum with an extremely fine bronze bust of General Joseph Swing, 11th Airborne commander during World War II. Also given was a stained glass panel depicting the 11th Air-

borne Division shoulder patch. Both items were presented in conjunction with the dedication of the Airborne Walk at Eubanks Field recently.

Some other recent acquisitions are:

• A complete general officer uniform of the Army of the Federal Republic of Germany, donated by Brigadier General (Retired) Peter Pichler, who wore it during his career.

• A fur-lined white leather jacket made in Italy for use by German forces in World War II, which was brought back by an officer of the 88th Infantry Division and donated by his family.

• Viet Cong equipment, including stick grenades, captured by the 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during Operation Attleboro.

• A pair of World War II mountain boots worn by a member of the 86th Mountain Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, in the North Apennines and Po Valley campaigns.

• A War of 1812 linsey woolsey enlisted coatee restored to excellent condition.

• A painting by Jo Karl of American soldiers in Italy during World War II.

• A number of good reference books and periodicals.

• A large, signed photograph of General George C. Marshall.

• A hardtack-style ration of Spanish-American War vintage, unique in that consumables are rarely kept as war memorabilia, especially from that time period. (The ration measures three inches square by one-half inch thick and is marked with penned handwriting: *Cuba must be free, Remember the Maine, sunk in Havana Harbor Feb 15 98*, and *From Co. "A" 6th Regt, Sept 7th/98.)*

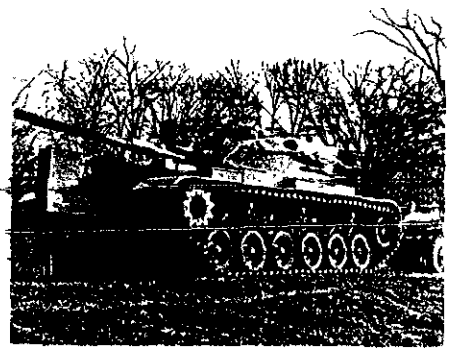
The M4A2 Sherman tank shown on the Museum's grounds has been painted in the camouflage pattern used during the Italian Campaign in World War II. The M41 Walker tank has also been repainted, standard as for the Korean War.

The National Infantry Museum Society, formed at Fort Benning a number of years ago to assist the Museum with financial and volunteer support, is open to anyone who is interested in joining. The cost is $2.00 for a one-year membership or $10.00 for a lifetime membership.

Additional information about the Museum and the Society is available from the Director, National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5273; AUTOVON 835-2958 or commercial (404) 545-2958.

CLAMS, THE ARMY'S NEW cleared lane marking system, which is now in production, will be used to help vehicle drivers follow safe paths cleared through minefields.

Mounted on the rear of a lead minefield breaching vehicle, it dispenses markers fitted with colored flags that the drivers of the following vehicles can easily see and follow during the day. Chemolumi-



nescent lightsticks are also provided for night operations.

A device attached to the lead vehicle's odometer controls the dispenser and drops the markers at constant intervals.

The procurement of CLAMS will provide a key component of the Armor countermine system. Initial CLAMS units are scheduled for delivery between November 1987 and February 1988.

THE U.S. ARMY PARACHUTE Team, The Golden Knights, is accepting applications for this year's tryout program for the 1988 demonstration season. The tryouts will be conducted from 2 October through 12 November 1987.

Applicants must be active duty enlisted soldiers with perfect military and civilian records. An applicant must have at least 150 free-fall parachute jumps and be willing to attend the Basic Airborne Course if not already jump qualified.

Finally, applicants must meet current PCS requirements and have at least three years remaining on active duty status, or be willing to extend or re-enlist to meet this requirement if selected to the team. Soldiers who do not meet these requirements will not be considered for the tryout program.

Any soldier, male or female, who is interested in trying out for the team may obtain an application by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Commander, U.S. Army Parachute Team, ATTN: Operations (Tryouts), P.O. Box 70126, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-0126; or by calling (919) 396-2036/1539 or AUTOVON 236-2036/1539; MSG Tom Bennion or 1SG Fred Patterson.

Applications, when completed, should be mailed to the same address to arrive no later than 17 August 1987. Anyone selected will be placed in either a TDY or a special duty status.

MORE HMMWVs (High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles) will be built and some existing vehicles will be modified under a recently awarded addition to an existing contract.

The addition calls for the modification of 14,980 HMMWV armament carriers to add brackets that will enable soldiers to stow equipment and weapons inside the vehicles.

The original HMMWV contract called for the production of 55,000 vehicles in five basic models and 15 different configurations. It also contained an option to increase the number purchased by 100 percent during each of the option years.

Thus far, the Army has ordered an additional 5,000 vehicles, bringing the total buy to 60,000. More than 25,000 HMMWVs are now in use by U.S. armed forces units at 250 locations around the world.

SPECIAL FORCES is being established as a separate career branch as part of the Army's efforts to strengthen the capabilities of its special operations forces.

The activation of the new officer career branch, which is represented by crossed arrows insignia, is expected some time before October.

Although Special Forces units have existed since 1952, today's doctrine calls

for their employment in a broad range of unique missions. The new branch will also insure that highly trained and qualified officers are available in sufficient number for competitive assignment to Special Forces jobs.

Special Forces branch will be open to male volunteers of all Army branches, and upon successful completion of the initial Special Forces qualifying course, soldiers will be permanently designated as members of the Special Forces branch.

The Special Forces branch will consist of all commissioned, warrant, and noncommissioned officers who hold the Special Forces designator. Rangers, psychological operations, and civil affairs soldiers will not be included in the Special Forces branch but will be managed separately.

The responsibility for Special Forces doctrine and training will continue to rest with the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg.

THE SCHOOL OF CADET Command has moved from its temporary home at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, to Fort Monroe, Virginia, home of its parent organization—the U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command.

The move is expected to improve the school's ability to coordinate and interact with the Cadet Command and to streamline the ROTC system to be more responsive to the needs of the Army.

The mission of the school is to train the men and women who teach and train the future officer leadership of the Army; more than 70 percent of newly-commissioned second lieutenants are products of the ROTC system. Among the "user-unique" skills taught at the school are recruiting, marketing, retention, training, and teaching.

Students at the school include newly assigned ROTC Cadet Command brigade and battalion commanders as well as assistant professors of military science and senior noncommissioned officers. Battalion commanders also serve as professors of military science.

During the fiscal year, 17 classes of 40 students each will be trained at the School of Cadet Command. Next fiscal year, the number of classes will be expanded to 20 sessions of 40 students each. The course consists of eight days of hands-on instruction

The plan of instruction allows the ROTC Cadet Command to train about one-third of its teaching and administrative staff each year. As most personnel spend three years with the ROTC Cadet Command, this cycle allows for the systematic training of incoming personnel.

THE DISTRIBUTION AND Illumination System, Electrical (DISE), now being developed, has been delivered to the Aberdeen Proving Ground for initial production testing and to Fort Hood for operational evaluation as part of the Army's Commercial Generator Sets and Assemblages Program.

DISE consists of five man-portable end items: three-phase 100 amp/phase and 200 amp/phase feeder systems; three-phase 40 amp/phase and single phase 60 amp distribution systems; and a utility assembly consisting of extension cables and branch circuits with receptacles and

lights. Additional components are also available for special requirements.

This arrangement allows the user to select only the equipment that is essential for use with generator sets producing from 5 to 100 kilowatts of power. Depending on their size, tactical units will be able to establish operations one-half hour to four hours after arriving at a site.

To transmit power in the field, troop units are now using a 25-outlet 1.5-kilowatt light set and a 15-kilowatt illumination set, equipment that falls far short of meeting the Army's power distribution requirements.

THE U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS Command went into operation as a new unified command 16 April 1987. It consists of all special operations forces stationed in the United States, with the exception of Naval Special Warfare Groups, which are already assigned to work with other unified commands. USSOC forces include the Army's Rangers, Special Forces, psychological operations units, and civil affairs units, plus the Navy's Special Warfare Command and the Air Force's First Special Operations Wing.

The U.S. Readiness Command (REDCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, will later be disestablished, making facilities available to the new command.

Other plans call for a formal USSOC activation ceremony later this year and for the designation of the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) at Fort McPherson, Georgia, as a specified command, to which most of REDCOM's missions and functions will be transferred. The remainder of REDCOM's missions will be transferred to other unified commands and to the joint staff, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

WESTCOM (U.S. ARMY Western Command), headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, is being redesignated the U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC).

U.S. Army, Japan (USARJ), which has been a separate major Army command in the Pacific, will be subordinate to USARPAC.

The reorganization is designed to improve unity of command and command readiness, and to improve operational planning capabilities. The change is being accomplished within present Army manpower and funding ceilings and with minimal relocation of personnel.

In addition to USARJ, USARPAC will command the U.S. Army Support Command, Hawaii; 45th Support Group; 25th Infantry Division (Light); U.S. Army Readiness Group, USARPAC; IX Corps (Augmentation), all headquartered in Hawaii; and the U.S. Army Chemical Activity on Johnson Atoll. USARPAC will also have operational control of the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group on Okinawa.