

# Commentary

Editor: Dustin Perry [dustin.perry@bliss.army.mil](mailto:dustin.perry@bliss.army.mil)

## Troop Talk

I had the opportunity to speak with the members of the new Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course June 15 and received the following questions.

**What does the future look like for the 14S MOS?** At the moment, 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade has not established the last day for training any MOSs here. The brigade staff will conduct planning (mission analysis) on this during July and August and will have an estimated date after the planning session.

**How does the current plan for Patriot rotations to South Korea affect 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas?** The 4-5 will eventually integrate into the South Korea rotations, but not for the next couple of years.

**Will Sentinel Radars be organic to all ADAM Cells and C-RAM Units in the future?** The Directorate of Combat



Developments has paperwork in for approval to add two Sentinel Radars and crews to each Division (both active and National Guard), but not for every ADAM Cell. The C-RAM Battery also has the organizational paperwork in for approval that would include three Sentinel Radars per battery.

**One of the lessons learned from OIF, which was reinforced during the first ever Patriot rotation to JRTC, was the need for more crew-served weapons in Patriot units.**

**Are there any plans to adjust the MTOE for Patriot units to add more crew served weapons, i.e. M2 and MK-19?** The actual Patriot TOEs have not changed, but each battalion can submit MTOE changes as the commander of 2-43 ADA did to add the additional weapons and radio requirements.

**I have seen a lot of taskings for officers to deploy as part of a MTT or SPTT. Are there any opportunities for enlisted Soldiers to**

**join and deploy with these teams?** Some teams are comprised of one officer and seven noncommissioned officers. Currently, I am not aware of any other MTT/SPTT taskings for this mission in the FORSCOM ADA units, but I believe more opportunities for participation will come in the future.

**The intersection at Ricker Road near the TMC is a dangerous intersection because the cross traffic does not stop and it is often times difficult to see the cross traffic. Are there any plans to make this a four-way stop?**

Currently there is no plan to make this intersection a four-way stop. The traffic section will continue to monitor this intersection and observe traffic flow.

Maj. Gen. Robert P. Lennox Fort Bliss  
Commanding General

## Tough times; great opportunity

BRIG. GEN.  
**JOHN A. MACDONALD**  
IMA Director

In the month I've been privileged to serve as the Director of IMA, I've become acutely aware of what you're all going through on our great installations as we work through some truly daunting funding challenges. It may not help much, you need to know we understand and appreciate the sacrifices you make, and the really hard decisions your leaders make every day in the interest of providing the most critical services to our customers. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter J. Schoemaker, has declared, "Our installations are our Flagships." This drives home the tremendous importance of our installations to Army readiness. The IMA stands on point to support this effort through SERVICE: Stewardship, Efficiency, Respect, Vision, Integrity, Consistency and Empowerment.

It would be great to tell you the situation will get better now that the long-awaited supplemental appropriation is approved and distributed. Quite simply, we still have a hard road ahead of us. The funding IMA received from the supplemental was reimbursement for the OMA dollars we contributed this year in support of the Global War on Terror.

As we've said very publicly, we are still more than \$500 million short of successfully completing the fiscal year at our current rate of expenditure. There is no more money coming to us, so we have to spend less to get through the fiscal year. Garrison commanders and staffs still have hard

decisions to make, and we anticipate a level of austerity for the foreseeable future that is unprecedented in memory.

The shortfall in funding for installations will not be resolved by finding extra millions or billions of dollars each year to rescue us from insolvency - the trend is very much in the other direction. The situation will only be resolved by strategically changing our fundamental notion of what installations are and the services they provide. Next year's projected funding picture looks very much like this year-only we may get somewhat less. That trend means our only recourse is to plan for it and try to increase the level of predictability.

The Army leadership is very aware  
See **TOUGH TIMES**, Page 5



## Letter To the Editor

### Article enjoyed

Dear Editor,

I found Spc. Jason Stadel's article on Army English (*The Monitor*, June 8) amusing and interesting. As a technical editor here at Fort Bliss, I work with acronyms and military brevity codes and abbreviations a lot. Therefore, I am very familiar with everything in the article. I also have a sister who was married to a Soldier for more than 20 years. She remarked to me that sometimes she had no idea what her husband was telling her, because he used a lot of acronyms in his conversations.

One tidbit of information along those lines that I wanted to share is about the Patriot weapon system. Many are probably not aware that it started out as an acronym –

Phased Array Tracking Radar Intercept On Target. As Stadel pointed out, "An acronym is ... a word formed from the initial letters ... in a set phrase..." Acronyms are usually pronounceable as a word. Sometimes, through normal usage, an acronym gets converted to a word, which is what happened with Patriot. As such, only the "P" should be capitalized as a proper noun, but it still shows up in all caps, PATRIOT, a lot of times.

Two more examples of everyday words which were once acronyms are scuba, Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus, and radar, Radio Detecting And Ranging. Many people do not know that.

Jane G. Vance  
Technical Editor  
USAADASCH

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