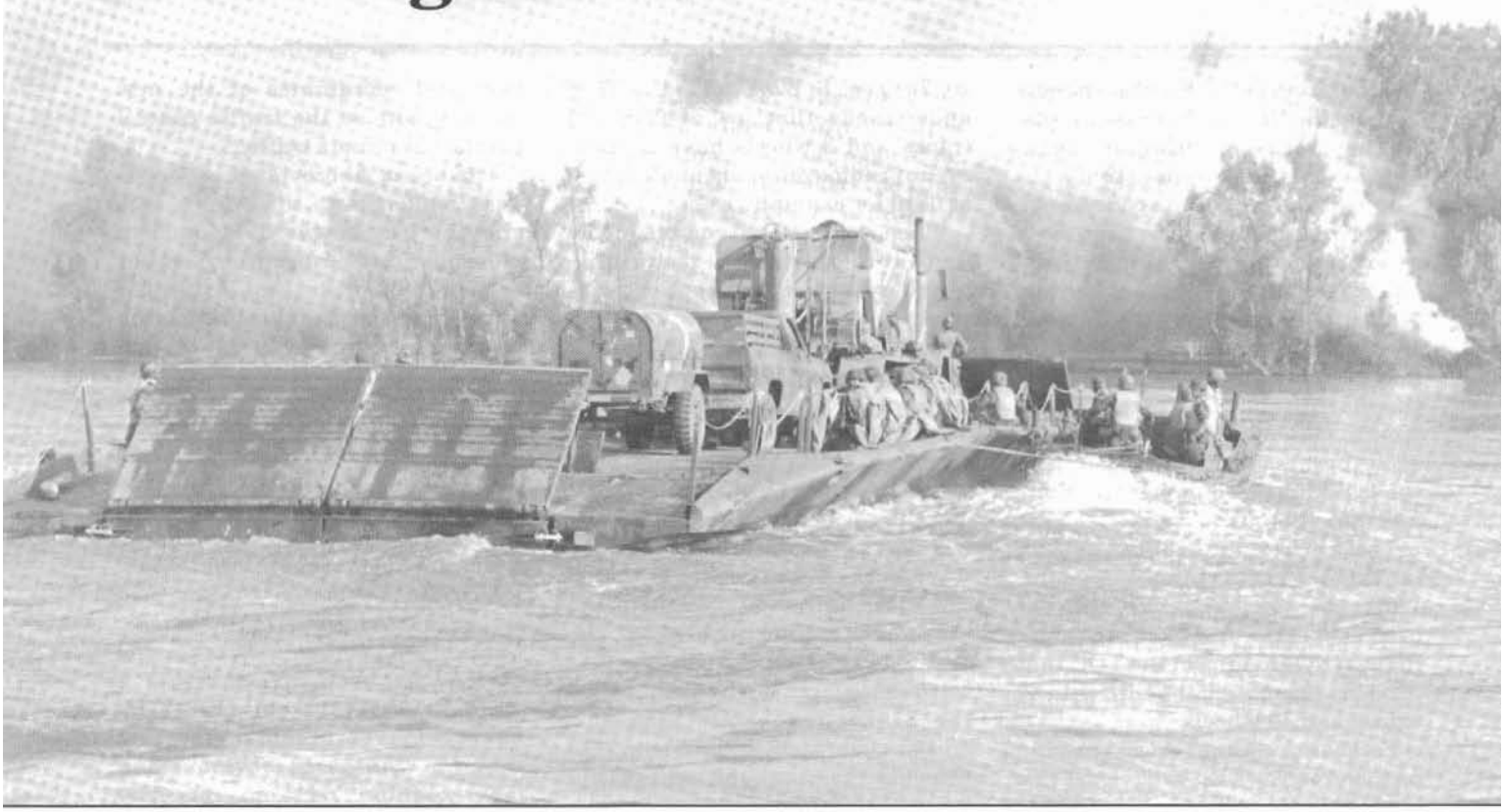
Combined Arms Water Obstacle Training Sites



BY LTC Floyd Elton Byrd

Tactical scenarios that require crossing the Arkansas River will soon enhance combined arms river crossing training. The Engineer School is developing scenarios and operation orders for brigade, task force, and company teams that can be adapted for mechanized infantry heavy or armor heavy units. They will be available to Active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve maneuver units.

Ongoing improvements to the combined arms water obstacle training site (CAWOTS) at Fort Chaffee, AR, are under way. Three crossing sites are complete and another is under development. The extensive road network is being upgraded. Equipment parks and assembly and launch sites are also planned.

The old family of bridging (Bailey, M4T6 and CL60) will be stored and maintained at the CAWOTS site so they are readily available. A Bailey bridge and a timber trestle bridge kit are there now. The M4T6 and CL60 will be delivered when funds are available.

Fort Chaffee—a subpost of Fort Sill, OK—was identified as a combined arms water obstacle training site in 1985. A recent search of 50 other potential CAWOTS locations verified that Fort Chaffee is the best site available for combined arms training.

Good technical and tactical fast water obstacle training is offered on the military reservation and adjoining Corps of Engineers' property. Other advantages include: Fort Chaffee's central location, access to major road and rail networks, and an extensive range and training area.

The Arkansas River is located about 2.5 kilometers north of the Fort Chaffee military cantonment area. There are numerous crossing sites along a 5-kilometer stretch of river just below Lock and Dam 13. Analysis of the flow data indicates the training site would be usable 88% of the time based on river access at a 116-meter surface elevation.

Even at flood stage the average current is 2.5 meters per second (MPS). During low water or drought, sufficient flow can be maintained to allow realistic, challenging bridging and rafting operations. The flow can be modified for short periods by the lockmaster at Lock and Dam 13. The lockmaster can also provide flow data and predictions.

The actual stream varies from 183 to 275 meters wide and 2.5 to 4.25 meters deep. Velocity varies from 1 to 2.5 MPS. The navigation channel is 75 meters wide and 3.75 meters deep.

The maneuver area on the south bank is 2.5 kilometers deep and 5 kilometers wide. The north bank maneuver area is 1 to 2.5 kilometers deep and 2.5 kilometers wide. The maneuver room north of the Arkansas River precludes brigade-



Engineers position a bridge section at one of Fort Chaffee's four training sites on the Arkansas River.



Working against swift current, Arkansas National Guardsmen complete this 800-foot bridge in 36 minutes.

size combined arms river crossings; however, smaller combined arms crossings can be conducted.

Access to both banks is through scrub timber, undergrowth and alluvial sand. Bank conditions on both the north and south shores permit numerous access points. Both sides are well-drained, with the north bank somewhat higher.

Water Obstacle Training Sites

Installation	Width	Minimum Depth	Velocity Per Second	Maneuver Space 1st Shore	Maneuver Space 2nd Shore
Ft Drum NY					
Black River	122m	10m	1-2.5m	10x15km	1x2km
Indian River	46m	1m	1.5m	10x15km	3x8km
Ft A. P. Hill VA					
Lonesome Gulch Lake	122m	3m	0	6x10km	3x2km
Camp Shelby MS					
Lake Janney	135m	2m	0	5x8km	3x7km
Ft Chaffee AR					
Arkansas River	183m	6m	2.5m	2.5x5km	1.5x2.5km
Engineer Lake	152m	3m	0	4x7km	2x2km
CP Ripley MN					
Mississippi River	135m	3m	1-2.5m	6x8km	Drive thru only
Miller Lake	183m	3m	0	3x5km	3x2km

Regional Water Obstacle Training Sites

Four regional water obstacle training sites have also been designated. They are: Fort Drum, NY; Fort A.P. Hill, VA; Camp Ripley, MN; and Camp Shelby, MI. They offer some combined arms potential, but primarily provide active and reserve component engineers:

- The non-TOE equipment necessary to practice wartime and ARTEP bridging tasks.
- Adequate water obstacle training sites at or near home stations.

The chart summarizes the physical characteristics for each of the sites. Units wishing to take advantage of CAWOTS or regional sites should contact the following site coordinators.

Commander
Fort A. P. Hill
ATTN: ATZM-FHI (Mr. Wells)
Building T143
Bowling Green, VA 22427-5000
AV 934-8204
AC (804) 633-8204

Commander
USAG Fort Chaffee
ATTN: ATZR-ZFE (CPT Muehlberg)
Fort Chaffee, AR 72905-5000
AV 962-2777
AC (501) 484-2777

The Adjutant General
Mississippi Army National Guard
ATTN: MSNG-POTO (COL Traxler)
PO Box 5027
Jackson, MS 39216-1027
AV 637-6311
AC (601) 949-6311

The Adjutant General
Minnesota Army National Guard
ATTN: MNAG-POTO (COL Forslund)
Veterans Service Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-2098
AV 825-4675
AC (612) 296-4675

Commander
10th Mountain Division
ATTN: AFZS-PTS-PO-O (Mr. Shaughnessy)
Fort Drum, NY 13602-5000
AV 341-6896
AC (315) 785-6896

LTC Floyd Elton Byrd is the training development coordinator at the Engineer School. He served previously as the TRADOC master trainer for the Leadership Assessment Program at First ROTC Region, Fort Bragg, NC, and as battalion commander of the 527th Engineer Battalion (CBT)(HVY).