The Maneuver Support Center Operational Concept

By Lieutenant Colonel John Johnson and Jacqueline Guthrie

Fort Leonard Wood's leaders are paving the way for the installation to transition from the U.S. Army Engineer Center to the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN). Its birth began with Congressional approval of the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendation to close Fort McClellan, Alabama, and move the Chemical and Military Police Schools here. Fort Leonard Wood's Transition Office is facilitating the process so the new MANSCEN will be up and running by late 1999. Its structure and function concepts will mature throughout the transition process.

This new consolidated center fits into the TRADOC commander's vision of the future. General William Hartzog sees TRADOC as eventually becoming an organization of *centers* and *satellites*. A center is an organization responsible for all activities related to an enduring battlefield function such as maneuver, maneuver support, battle command and fires. Each branch of the Army is aligned with a center based on the predominate activities of the branch that relate to an enduring battlefield function. Fort Leonard Wood's Maneuver Support Center will be one of these centers. It will be linked to numerous satellites, which are organizations that conduct functional training for centers.

The MANSCEN will include three Army branch schools—Engineer, Chemical, and Military Police—as well as Fort Leonard Wood. It will also have a consolidated Noncommissioned Officer Academy. A battle lab will be created within the organizational framework of the center. These additions will change the current Engineer Center but will benefit all who train here after the MANSCEN is activated. The primary benefit will be the battlefield synergy derived from the combined training and doctrine development of the three schools.

The operational concept of the new MANSCEN consolidates most nonteaching functions of the three schools and some of the officer and noncommissioned officer education. The commandant of each school will have supervisory control over the development of branch-specific training and warfighting doctrine, materiel, and organizations.

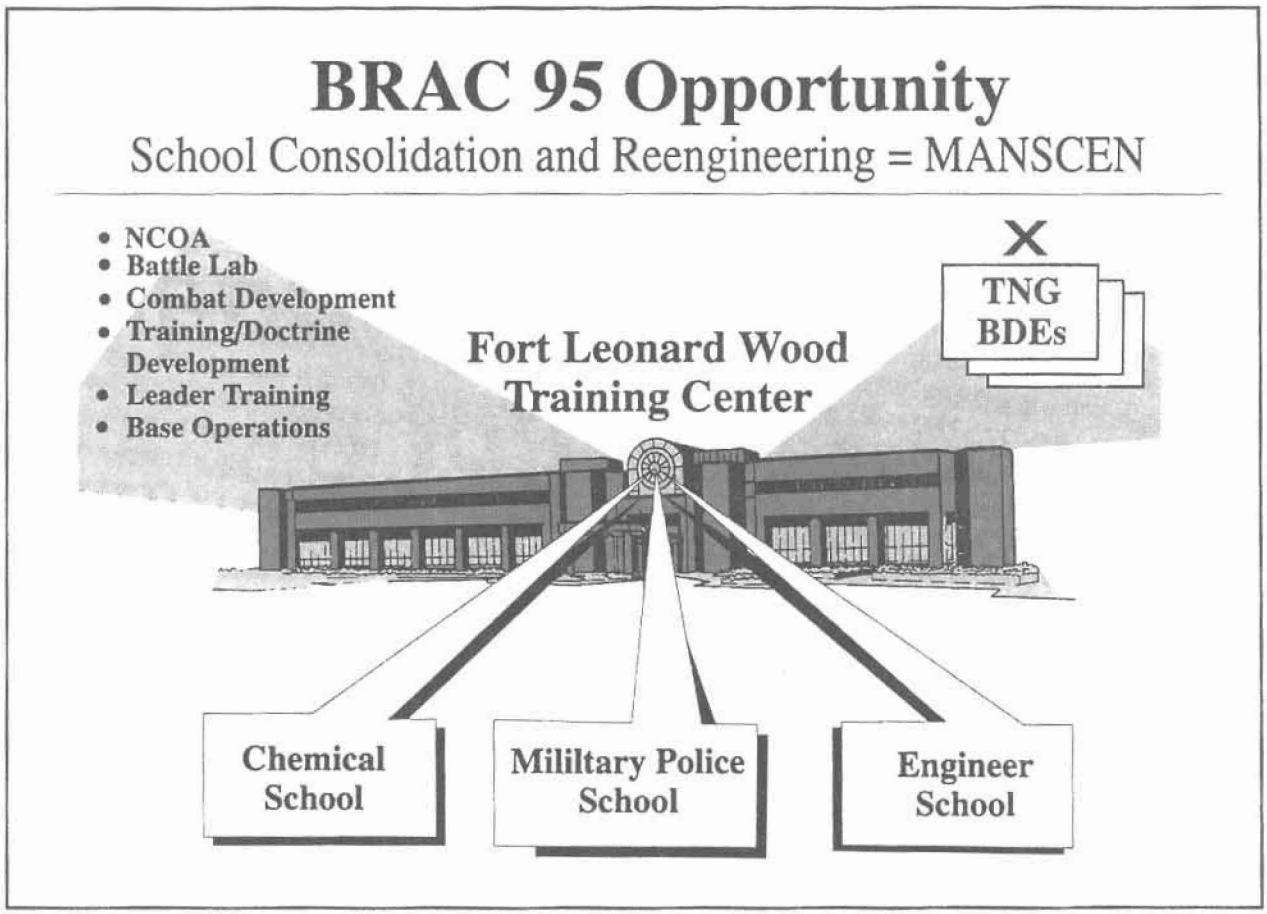
New Missions

The Military Police School currently trains more than 14,000 law enforcement officials annually. A joint service operation, it trains soldiers of all ranks. The Chemical School is the only one of its kind in the world. Each year, it trains more than 6,000 U.S. and foreign students, both military and civilian. The schools are similar to the Engineer School in that their personnel also develop doctrine, force structure, and material requirements for their corps. The three branches also have similar officer and noncommissioned officer courses and train their entry-level soldiers in much the same way—through one-station unit training (OSUT). All classroom training will be conducted in the school complex.

Military Police School

In addition to basic training, military police personnel receive specialized instruction in weapons, communications, and security procedures. They train in four main areas:

- Managing battlefield circulation.



- Providing area security.
- Processing enemy prisoners of war.
- Maintaining law and order.

Military police are responsible for battlefield circulation, which is managing the order of troops on the battlefield. They maintain area security by preventing the enemy from entering U.S. areas of operation. Military police process enemy prisoners of war by managing the confinement facilities. They maintain law and order in much the same way as their civilian counterparts.

Military police receive special-purpose training in fraud investigation, combating terrorism, hostage negotiation, and protective services. They also support the growing mission area of counter-narcotics for the Department of Defense. In that arena, they assist many local, state, and national law enforcement organizations such as state police; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Some military police training is conducted at a military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) facility. On Fort Leonard Wood, this training will take place in a 16-building complex where soldiers can practice fighting in an urban environment. MOUT training enables military police to perform their jobs with confidence in built-up areas.

The MOUT site will benefit all soldiers on post. For example, engineers often create or destroy obstacles in an urban environment. Soldiers use different techniques when fighting among buildings, and the MOUT village will provide a training site with both intact and bombed-out structures. Soldiers will learn to take advantage of the terrain, to know where to look for snipers, and to secure their areas.

Chemical School

Chemical OSUT training includes a basic training segment; however, chemical corps soldiers continue their training by learning about—

- Smoke obscurants.
- Flame operations.
- Chemical defense.

These topics are not only an important part of training for new recruits but for the higher ranks also.

Chemical corps soldiers learn to use smoke obscurants to camouflage operations and strategic targets from enemy forces. They

create smoke screens with generators that atomize a clean, lightweight substance called fog oil, which is similar to mineral oil. Smoke helps decrease our casualties on the battlefield and lessens the effectiveness of modern enemy weapons such as optically-guided systems and certain infrared systems.

Another area of chemical corps training is flame operations, which is similar to expedient flame explosive training for engineers. In the field, existing firepower may be augmented with exploding and illuminating flame field-expedient devices such as fougasses, flame mines, flame trenches, and husch flares.

Chemical defense training for chemical corps soldiers refers to the Department of Defense requirement to train soldiers to survive on a battlefield with nuclear, biological, or chemical contamination. The training teaches them how to use protective gear and to decontaminate their equipment.

Soldiers learn chemical detection and decontamination with simulated agents and decontamination materials. Training includes lectures, films, demonstrations, and practical exercises. After they become proficient, soldiers participate in a final training exercise in a specially designed facility with stringent safety and environmental controls.

New Facilities

Although some of the missions coming with the Military Police and Chemical Schools will be accommodated with existing, excess facilities on Fort Leonard Wood, BRAC actions have generated a construction requirement totaling more than $200 million. Specialized training facilities constitute the bulk of the construction, with enlisted personnel housing, general-purpose administrative space, and some range modifications making up the balance. Construction planned for the new MANSCEN will be discussed in more detail in a follow-up article in the next issue of *ENGINEER*.

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One of the most challenging projects is the Chemical Defense Training Facility. Contractors will construct this facility under strict environmental and safety controls, and it will be operated under the same strict guidelines.

Environmental Stewardship

To protect the economic, natural, and social environments that moving the Military Police and Chemical Schools to Fort Leonard Wood could disrupt, post officials are working with a contract agency to develop an environmental impact statement. It is part of the legal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which federal agencies must complete when they conduct a large operation that affects the environment. NEPA is an informational tool to ensure that federal agencies consider potential environmental impacts when making decisions. It also provides communities an opportunity to participate in the planning.

To meet this requirement, Fort Leonard Wood held an open house in November 1995 to gather community opinions, suggestions, and concerns. Post officials had already developed tentative plans for training sites. However, they wanted community members to offer their proposals in case there were aspects that the post had not considered. Public comments are an integral part of the environmental statement.

The entire NEPA process and environmental impact statement preparation take from 12 to 18 months. Once this document is complete, it must be approved up through the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Then, in January 1997, contractors will break ground to begin building and modifying facilities and training areas in preparation for the new MANSCEN missions coming to Fort Leonard Wood.

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