

# News from the Library of Congress

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## **U.S. Army and Federal Research Division Publish History of Battle Command Training Program**

Since its formation in 1987, the U.S. Army's Battle Command Training Program (BCTP) at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., has used battle simulation to train commanders and their staff, drawing from the echelon above the corps through the brigade level. By exploring a variety of mid- to high-intensity worldwide scenarios, the program seeks to improve battlefield command and control by providing stressful and realistic combined-arms training in a rigorous combat environment.

Published by the U.S. Army and co-authored by Priscilla Offenhauer and David L. Osborne of the Library of Congress's Federal Research Division (FRD), the new "History of the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, 1986–2003" explains the development of this program and its role in U.S. military operations over the past two decades. This organizational history of the BCTP also describes the basic components and methodology of the battle simulation, discussing significant changes to the program since its inception.

Offenhauer and Osborne began research for the book in late September 2001, traveling to BCTP headquarters at Fort Leavenworth to examine historical documents; observing a war fighter exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga.; and interviewing veteran BCTP commanders, including retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, current commander of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, describes the book as "enormously rich in detail and written with a novelist's style." Petraeus, who is quoted on the back cover of the book, notes that the authors have succeeded in writing "a significant contribution to the history of the United States Army."

The 198-page history includes black-and-white illustrations. The book is available for \$17 from the Government Printing Office. Order by telephone: 1-866-512-1800 (toll free); by fax: 202-512-2104; or by visiting the online Government Printing Office bookstore at: <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/actions/>

[GetPublication?stocknumber=008-020-01566-1](http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/?stocknumber=008-020-01566-1).

An interagency agreement between the Federal Research Division and the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command funded the research, writing and editing of the history. FRD provides customized research and analytical services on a fee-for-service basis to agencies of the U.S. Government and authorized federal contractors, covering both domestic and international subjects. For more information about the FRD, visit [www.loc.gov/rr/frd/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/).

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