

# New Soldier's Guide now available

By Sgt. Jimmy Norris

Soldiers seeking information on anything ranging from combat skills to Army programs now have a handy pocket-sized resource to answer their questions.

*The Soldier's Guide*, Field Manual 7-21.13, recently received its first update since 1961.

Initially released on the Internet in October, the hard copy became available Feb. 2. *The Soldier's Guide* differs from the *NCO Guide* because the *NCO Guide* is intended specifically for NCOs, while the *Soldier's Guide* is meant to be a practical guide for all Soldiers, regardless of rank.

"Some of the topics came from [the original Soldier's Guide] but the Army has changed dramatically since 1961," said Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) William Jemison, a training specialist at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy's Directorate of Training and Doctrine. Jemison was a member of the three-person contract team who updated the guide.

The team queried senior NCOs and officers from throughout the Army about what information all Soldiers should know, before determining what information to put in the updated guide.

The guide contains information on leadership, selected tasks, military history, customs and courtesies, training, counseling and more. New additions to the guide include information on selected combat tasks, Internet resources, the Soldier's Creed and the Warrior Ethos.

"The [*Soldier's Guide*] ended up being a ready reference condensed into one book so Soldiers don't always have to search through a bunch of references to find the information they need," said Jemison.

The information in the book is also cross referenced with corresponding field manuals and Army regulations so Soldiers can easily figure out where to find additional information.

*The Soldier's Guide* will be an invaluable resource for Soldiers of every rank and career branch, said Jemison.

"Soldiers will want this book because it contains a lot of good information that will aid them in becoming a total Soldier. We don't [always] tell the Soldiers why things are done a certain way. This book tells Soldiers why they're being counseled, why they need to train and [why] things

are done the way they are," he said. "Whether [a Soldier] decides to get out or decides to make the Army a career and then retire, this book can assist [him or her]. Leaders will want it because it will help them give guidance to the Soldiers and answer their questions."

The new *Soldier's Guide* is being issued to Soldiers during their advanced individual training (AIT). Soldiers who've already graduated AIT may order the book through their unit's normal publication channels or they can download it from [http://www.army.mil/usapa/doctrine/DR\\_pubs/dr\\_a/pdf/fm7\\_21x13.pdf](http://www.army.mil/usapa/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/fm7_21x13.pdf).

