

Duty **1** First!

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families

May 2008
www.lid.army.mil

Ranger School

Midnight Flyers

Training for
Success

Cup O'

Joe

Vietnam Veteran
Advisor

The Big Red One Creed

TEAMWORK is the foundation of the Big Red One. I shall never fail my team, for I maintain the standard. My conduct and self-discipline sets the example for others to follow.

HONOR is what I stand for-an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain-of-command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

I have learned to **E**NDURE, to thrive in adversity. The harsh reality of combat gives me the enthusiasm for realistic training. I am physically and mentally strong to meet the demanding situations my unit encounters.

We are one in the Big Red One. Our **B**ROTHERHOOD gives us strength to fight on to any objective and accomplish the mission as our veterans have done before us. I live the legacy of my division.

READINESS is my priority. To be ready for any mission, anytime, anywhere. My business is first-class training and living high standards of care and equipment, weaponry and tactical and technical competence.

My **O**RGANIZATION is my strength. The BRO is bigger than any one individual. It gives me purpose, self-confidence, competitive spirit, intestinal fortitude and the desire to fight with all my heart.



Duty First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.
May 2008 www.lid.army.mil

1st Infantry Division Commander
Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin

Acting 1st Infantry Division CSM
Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski

1st Infantry Division PAD
Lt. Col. Christian Kubik

1st Infantry Division PAD NCOIC
Master Sgt. Amanda Glenn

Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Voss

Assistant Editor
Laura Stroda

Staff Writer
Francisca Vega

Layout and Design
Floyd Hansford M/VISC

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1st Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office
ATTN: Editor
Bldg. 580
RM 135

Fort Riley, Kan. 66442.

Telephone number
785-239-8126 or 785-239-2402
DSN 856-2402 or 856-3616 fax
785-239-2592

or visit Duty First online at
www.lid.army.mil.

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Editor's Comment: In the April issue of Duty First! the Demon Brigade was misidentified as Diamondbacks.



Commanding General Danger 6

Live the Legacy...

Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin

What does it mean to be a Soldier in the Big Red One? When Soldiers and leaders from other Divisions see that bold No. 1 on your shoulder, they don't see just another unit patch. They see "pride," history," and "esprit." They look at you with a great deal of respect because they know you are one of a distinguished team of time-honored and proven professionals.

Why? Because no other unit in the U.S. Army enjoys a longer and more distinguished history than the 1st Infantry Division. We are literally the "First" Division, formed on June 8, 1917 as the First Expeditionary Division, with 28,000 Soldiers. We won the first American victory at the Battle of Cantigny on May 28, 1918.

Since then, the 1st Division has helped shape the history of our great nation, serving with distinction in WWI, WWII, Vietnam, the Cold War, Gulf War, in Bosnia and Kosovo, and most recently with valor and victories in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are one of the most well-known and respected military units, not just in the U.S. Army, but in the world.

You may have already earned this respect with your duty to the Division and nation, or you may be a brand new Soldier straight out of AIT. Regardless, when you stick that shoulder patch on your uniform, you accept an obligation

to uphold the prestige and heritage of this great 1st Division. You have an obligation to honor those many generations of BRO Soldiers who fought before, and who fight now for our nation. You have a commitment to respect the blood shed by our BRO veterans in the last 91 years of wars around the world in the defense of our nation.

By wearing this patch, you say to the world that you understand your heritage and history, and that you eat, sleep, breathe, and live the high standards of your Division.

Life in the Big Red One is one of rigor, of high standards and challenges, of tough tours of duty in foreign lands, prosecuting the military mission of the United States of America.

Life in the Big Red One is one of pride and esprit de corps, borne of those rigors in training and in combat, carried on the shoulders of those Soldiers of yesteryear who forged our identity of valor and distinction.

You are a Soldier in the Big Red One. Wear that bold No. 1 with honor and pride – pride in being a Soldier of the Long Red Line of your proud Fighting First heritage. Ask yourself daily if

you are "living the legacy" of this great Division Make your Division motto your personal creed: *No mission too difficult. No Sacrifice too great. Duty First!*



By wearing this patch, you say to the world that you understand your heritage and history, and that you eat, sleep, breathe, and live the high standards of the 1st Infantry Division.



Command Sergeant Major Danger 7

Do the Right Thing!

Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski (Acting Division CSM)

In the last few *Duty First!* magazines, Danger 6 and I have addressed valuable issues to help you grow as leaders. I'll continue that trend this month by talking about training. However, it's probably not the type of training you're thinking about.

The training I will talk about has nothing to do with firing weapons and squad, platoon or company collective training such as conducting a cordon and search or gunnery. Believe it or not, the training I will talk about is probably the hardest of all the training you will ever do. This has to do with training your Soldiers to "Do the Right Thing!"

It sounds so simple, doesn't it? Just tell your Soldiers not to do something and they obey – right?! The truth of the matter is this is hard. We are all different. We have different values, different views, different ways of coping with situations and different leadership styles.

So how, as a leader, do you train or instill in your Soldiers to 'do the right thing' and to live up to the Army Values? The best way is by your personal example. Like I mentioned before in my previous article your Soldiers are watching you all the time – on and off duty.

An African proverb states: "If you don't know who you are, anyone can name you. And, if anyone can name you, you'll answer to anything." I believe these words are applicable. If you don't know who you are, how can you know your Soldiers? If you don't know your Soldiers, how can you perform the mission properly? In my opinion, you will be unsuccessful, because you will answer to what you think should be said or done and not to what is right thing to do. We must show our Soldiers what "right looks like."

Leaders and Soldiers of strong moral character are the ultimate resource for any military organization and they are by definition Soldiers with integrity – individuals whose actions are consistent with their beliefs. A person of integrity must have the moral courage to take a stand and do what is right. They talk the talk and walk the walk.

This fits right into what Danger 6 says about having

pride in the division also. When our Soldiers see us doing the right thing and leading with a strong moral compass, they know they are in a unit with conviction and will be proud to serve with that unit.

The environment in which we must operate today poses a severe threat to consistent moral behavior. In the Army today, men and women in uniform face a confusing variety of inconsistencies in what is right and wrong. In such an environment, confusion, frustration and doubt multiply rapidly. This is a matter of concern with me. These elements hinder effectiveness, and how effectively your Soldiers perform their primary mission depends on you.

Have you trained your Soldiers to "do the right thing" in the heat of battle or more importantly when all alone. Will they know and do the right thing when faced with the most emotional wrenching conditions with suffering and death around them and against an enemy that doesn't play by all the rules?

Have you trained and talked to your Soldiers about what Army Values really mean? One day in the future, one of your Soldiers will need the personal courage to make moral decisions for which they will have to take responsibility. Will they think back to the training you gave them to make that right ethical and moral decision?

The moral framework within which the Army functions is our Army Values. Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are not just words. They are the fundamental values of our Army and American society. We must shape and apply these moral values throughout our military training and lifestyle. If we are going to expect our Soldiers to live these values, we must show them how to do it.

Bottom line: you must conduct yourselves at all times as Soldiers of honor whose integrity, loyalty, and courage are exemplary. These qualities are necessary and essential in garrison and on the battlefield if our Division is to be No. 1. Lastly, place your Duty First!





A Humvee on a Transition Team convoy is hit with a mock improvised explosive device.



A Transition Team convoy responds to an ambush of small arms fire from OPFOR.



Transition Teams:

Training for success on Fort Riley

*Spc. Dustin Roberts
1st BDE PAO*

FORT RILEY, Kan. – As soon as an American convoy leaves its Forward Operating Base in Iraq or Afghanistan, the team is prone to enemy attack.

The same can be said in training at Fort Riley's FOB Army Strong, the home of Transition Team training.

Conducted by the 1st "Devil" Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Transition Teams do an awful lot of Humvee driving at Fort Riley to prepare for mounted combat patrols downrange.

MCP training is composed of three levels: The constructive level, in which Soldiers hone individual skills, complete drivers training, qualify with weapons, learn combat life-saver skills, and develop standard operating procedures.

The team members experience the virtual phase, or participate in simulated mounted combat patrols similar to a video game.

The third level is the live phase, where team members drive real vehicles, combat "enemy" forces and use real weapons.

Team members are trained and tested with five different scenarios on mounted combat patrol operations: insurgent attacks, how team members control their weapons, sniper attacks, ambushes, evacuating casualties, and improvised explosive device attacks.

Teams of opposing forces (the bad guys) can strike a convoy anytime after they leave their headquarters at FOB Army Strong to other areas of Fort Riley.

The OPFOR is equipped with foreign automatic weapons and blank rounds, paintball guns and simulated improvised explosive devices made of carbon dioxide and baby powder.

"We try and catch the convoys off guard and kind of give them a wakeup call," said Sgt. Jacob Long, 1st Bde. OPFOR team. "This really teaches you to keep your eyes open."

TT members are on constant lookout when on the road. The gunner's job is to be in control of the mounted crew-served weapon (machine gun) and is the primary element of observation and direct fire power.

The vehicle/truck commander (in the passenger seat) is responsible for the general performance of the vehicle and crew during operations. The TC's responsibilities include navigation, radio communication and directing fire.

The other passengers' duties may include observation, forming dismounted teams when the time comes to stop and exit the vehicles and direct fire on the enemy.

"Every person involved in a MCP is responsible for something and vital to the mission," said Master Sgt. Curtis Stanley, 1st Bde. training noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "It's important everyone acts as a team and communicates on the road."

Communication goes hand in hand with being attentive when teams conduct their MCP live fire exercise.

"If you're not staying alert, that's when something is going to jump up and bite you and you wish you would have been alert," Stanley added.

While using live rounds in the exercise, the first enemy contact is the complex attack, where the enemy attacks the convoy with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The second is the frontal residual attack, where the enemy repositions themselves from the previous attack site to create an ambush.

The third attack is the complex IED attack, in which the enemy detonates an initial and secondary IED.

After the real IED attack, the fourth step is a planted fake IED, followed by an enemy ambush.

The last step of the convoy can arguably be the hardest, said Stanley: an IED has caused a vehicle to be destroyed or damaged and there are casualties. The team's mission is to recover the vehicle and evacuate the wounded.

"Here is where you make your mistakes," Stanley said. "If you learn here and develop your SOPs here, convoys can go a lot smoother downrange."

By the end of the 60 day training module at Fort Riley, the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who form today's Transition Teams are ready to conduct convoy operations in their host nation of Iraq or Afghanistan. 

New Ride

*Spc. Theresa M Wiersgalla
2nd HBCT, PAO*

Editor's Note: This story was written and submitted prior to the re-flagging of the brigade.

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Soldiers of Company D, 1-41 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division conducted a convoy live-fire exercise with the M1151 up-armored Humvee. The exercise was a first for the brigade on the up-armored system, commonly used in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Today we are conducting convoy live-fire training as a part of the 1-41 CAB transition to becoming motorized,” said Capt. Andrew Chovancek, Co. D., Commander. “All four of our companies are out training with this vehicle.”

1-41 CAB is a part of the modular brigade concept introduced to better equip units with all the assets needed in combat. As a combined arms battalion there are now two infantry companies and two armor companies to a CAB, instead of just infantry or armor companies in each battalion.

“Our brigade passed down four or five 1151s to the battalion – my company was assigned three vehicles to conduct training preparing us for deployment,” said Chovancek.

There are many differences between the 1151 (up-

armored) and the 1025 (basic military issue Humvee), said Chovancek. The main difference is in the armor package that provides extra protection for Soldiers. It can be field-installed or removed by the vehicle crew, rather than requiring a depot retrofit.

There is a public address system built into the internal intercom system so the crew can speak to one another in the vehicle over the noise of the engine. The PA system also allows them to speak outside the vehicle – warning people outside the vehicle to move away from the convoy. One of the benefits of the siren is being able to speak or have a translator use the PA to speak to people outside the vehicle so there is no miscommunication from using hand and arm gestures, said Chovancek.

The units will have an opportunity to put this training to the test during their upcoming rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Training like this not only gets the Soldiers prepared for future missions, it also keeps them motivated to do a great job.

“My Soldiers are excited to have this opportunity to train on this vehicle, it gives them a platform of training on something more realistic than the brand we’ve been training on so far – and they are doing an outstanding job training,” said Chovancek. 



Soldiers of Co. D, 1-41 CAB, mount a 240B machine gun to their up-armored humvee prior to a qualification run on Range 18. The live fire exercise was the first for the Brigade utilizing the M1151 up-armored humvee.

RANGER SCHOOL

*Sgt. Todd Goodman
3rd IBCT, PAO*

Turning Soldiers into Leaders

FORT HOOD, Texas – Ranger school isn’t about learning tactics. It’s about finding a person’s breaking point, then stepping on the gas and producing a leader.

“You learn more about yourself than anything else,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Smith, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. “It pushes you to your limits both physically and mentally and you either keep going or you don’t.”

And it’s during this time of physical and mental anguish that the candidate is expected to lead. It could be in the Appalachian mountains of northern Georgia or the swamps of southern Florida. The point is to do it under harsh conditions.

“I had the worst pain in my entire life during the mountain phase of Ranger school,” Smith said. “My boots got wet, then dried out and shrunk a little bit, which caused rubbing on the back of my heel. I had a blood blister four inches long and two inches wide. I was halfway up the mountain and knew I had to stay three feet from the buddy in front of me. That’s when you find out how much you really can take. I just kept saying over and over, ‘I can’t stop.’”

Ranger school teaches Soldiers to lead troops in the worst possible conditions – terrain wise and while dealing with food and sleep deprivation. During a two-day period of the 62-day school, Soldiers got no sleep and only one meal.

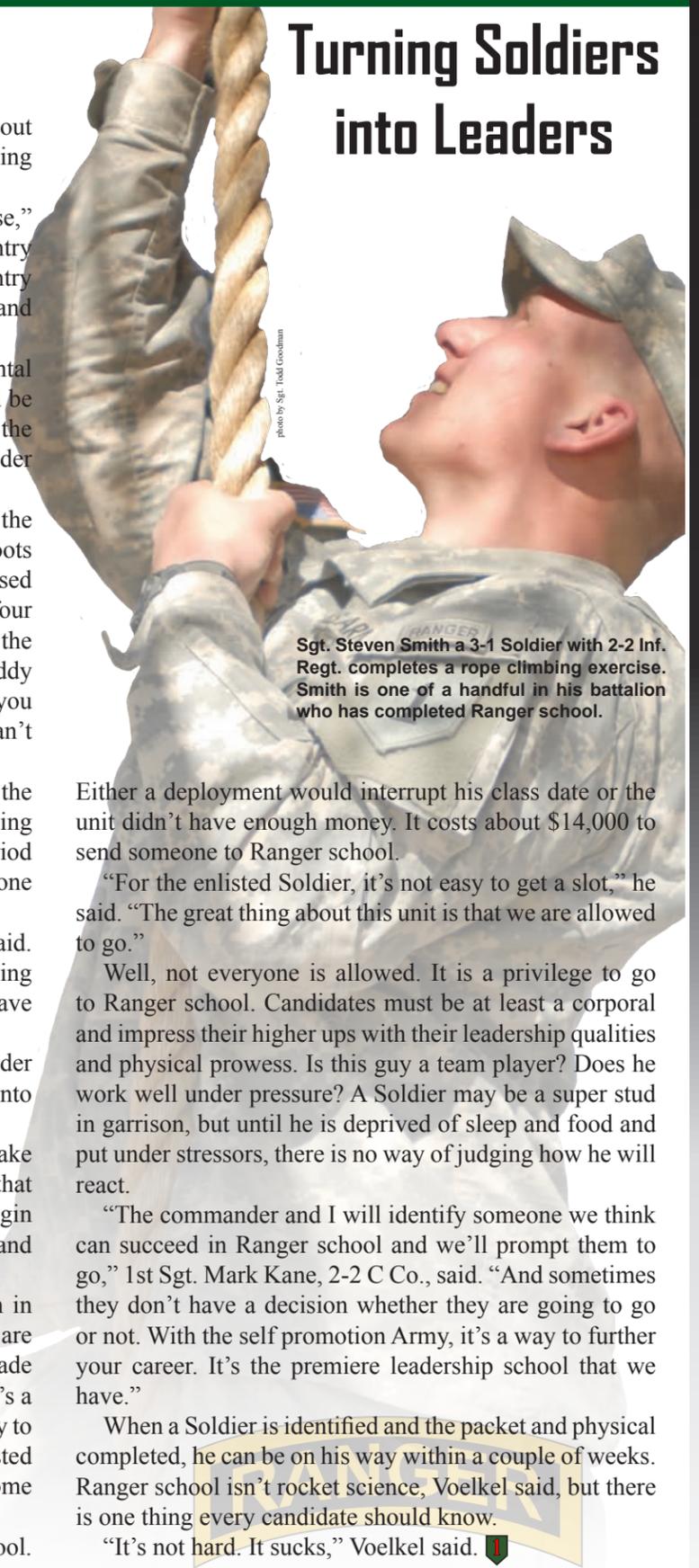
“Everyone’s fuse was about an inch long,” Smith said. “That’s why we only fired blanks during the school. Giving hungry, sleep-deprived Soldiers live rounds wouldn’t have been a good idea.”

Capt. Trevor Voelkel, 2-2 Co. C commander, said under those circumstances a person’s personality can morph into something ugly.

“You may be a nice guy, real friendly, but when I take away your food and your sleep, I don’t want to say that your true self comes out, but your weaknesses can begin to show,” Voelkel said. “I became more nit-picky and irritable.”

2-2 has the most enlisted Rangers of any battalion in the brigade. And it’s not a large number, either. There are 780 Soldiers in 2-2, with seven Rangers below the grade of E-7 and three senior NCO Rangers. With officers, it’s a different story. All infantry officers have the opportunity to go Ranger after the officer basic course. But with enlisted Soldiers, it’s an opportunity that may take a while to come to fruition, if at all.

Smith worked four years to get into Ranger school.



Sgt. Steven Smith a 3-1 Soldier with 2-2 Inf. Regt. completes a rope climbing exercise. Smith is one of a handful in his battalion who has completed Ranger school.

Either a deployment would interrupt his class date or the unit didn’t have enough money. It costs about \$14,000 to send someone to Ranger school.

“For the enlisted Soldier, it’s not easy to get a slot,” he said. “The great thing about this unit is that we are allowed to go.”

Well, not everyone is allowed. It is a privilege to go to Ranger school. Candidates must be at least a corporal and impress their higher ups with their leadership qualities and physical prowess. Is this guy a team player? Does he work well under pressure? A Soldier may be a super stud in garrison, but until he is deprived of sleep and food and put under stressors, there is no way of judging how he will react.

“The commander and I will identify someone we think can succeed in Ranger school and we’ll prompt them to go,” 1st Sgt. Mark Kane, 2-2 C Co., said. “And sometimes they don’t have a decision whether they are going to go or not. With the self promotion Army, it’s a way to further your career. It’s the premiere leadership school that we have.”

When a Soldier is identified and the packet and physical completed, he can be on his way within a couple of weeks. Ranger school isn’t rocket science, Voelkel said, but there is one thing every candidate should know.

“It’s not hard. It sucks,” Voelkel said. 

TECHNIQUES, TACTICS AND PROCEDURES

Pvt. Amanda Tucker
3rd ESC, PAO

FORT Campbell, Ky. – The 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) conducted its first Mission Readiness Exercise at Fort Campbell, Ky., as an expeditionary sustainment command versus a corp support command.

The MRX provided the 3rd ESC the opportunity to serve as the single headquarters for operational level sustainment and command-four of the five sustainment brigades that will actually deploy with them.

The 3rd ESC Soldiers rode chartered busses more than two hours to the Kentucky-Tennessee border for the exercise. The command's Soldiers left behind their homes and Families for two weeks in order to focus on the realism of this crucial training.

“During the MRX it is my intent to thoroughly test the headquarters and staff in an environment that replicates the mission we are scheduled to assume in theater,” said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the Commanding General for the 3rd ESC.

The MRX is a major training event to ensure the staff knows how to work together, set up the Joint Operations Center (JOC) and fusion cell, use information management systems and take command and control of the subordinate brigades.

“The MRX is important because it brings the staff together to practice techniques, tactics, and procedure,” said Lally.

The unit spent the time in training simulating what their mission would be in Iraq.

In the exercise's JOC, they ran through scenarios ranging from Soldier deaths and improvised explosive device attacks to religious protests and fuel spills.

Every so often a loud booming voice would come over the loudspeaker saying, “Attention in the JOC,” with a new simulated mission. After the mission was released, staff sections sprang to life, acting and interacting in the way that they will when they deploy.

The 3rd ESC started preparing for the MRX in November, said Lally, and the unit in December started to talk to subordinate brigades, 10th Sustainment Brigade, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 287th Sustainment Brigade and 371st Sustainment Brigade.

“Usually it takes 18-24 months to set up an exercise this big. The 3rd ESC had it ready in four,” Lally said.

This unit had to work out its own logistics ranging from



Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commander of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), conducts a mock interview. Scenarios like this were performed during a three week Mission Readiness Exercise conducted at Fort Campbell, Ky.

the arrival of the command's Soldiers, to where those Soldiers would eat their meals while on Fort Campbell.

In just four months, the 3rd ESC overcame the significant challenges of getting the people to run the exercise, finding the money to pay for it and convincing the National Guard, U.S. Army Europe and the Reserves to let Soldiers come train with us, said Lally.

Once permission was obtained, Soldiers came from as far as Fort Lewis, Wash., Germany and even Iraq to participate in this exercise.

“I think the subordinate brigades are doing very well,” said Lally. “In two of the brigades, this is their first time in an exercise like this. Another two of the brigades have done this before, but they have new people. It is really realistic because they had to deploy to come here, set up their operations center, run the exercise, tear down their operation center, and then deploy back home.”

“This training exercise is fairly accurate to what actually goes on (during) a deployment,” said retired Gen. James T. Hill, a senior mentor for the exercise.

Hill addressed the unit saying, “You belong to the best Army in the world. I say that to you because it was not always that way. Those of us who are past leaders and are now on the outside looking in have a tremendous respect for those who now wear the uniform. I am in awe of the level of success in which you guys do your job.”

1st Infantry Division at War

1st Infantry Division

Oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army. Over 3,000 Soldiers in two brigades and multiple subordinate units deployed.

Primarily located in Fort Riley, Kan.; training responsibility extends to three other states: Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas.

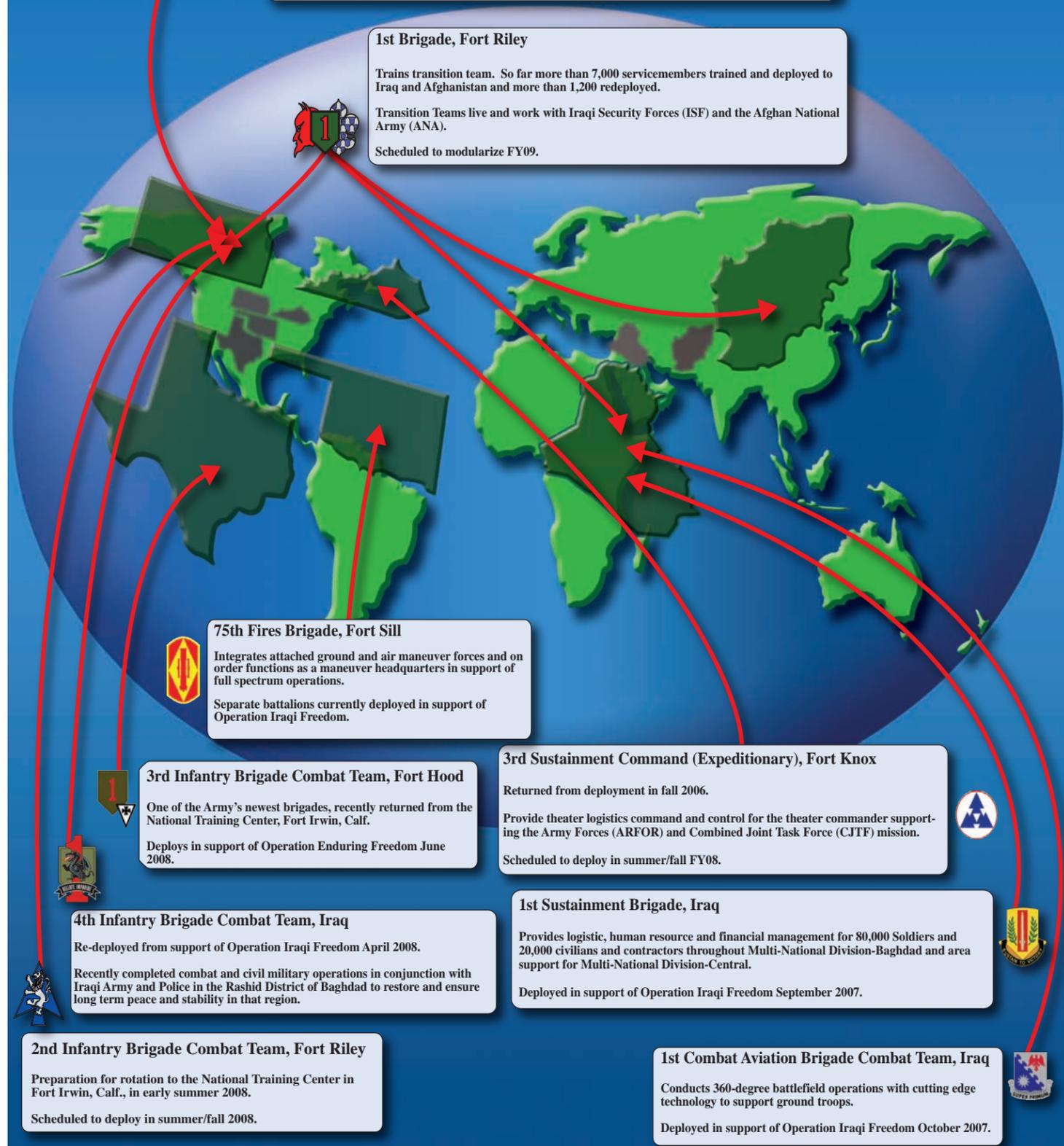
Preparing for modularization in summer/fall FY09, with deployment thereafter.

1st Brigade, Fort Riley

Trains transition team. So far more than 7,000 servicemembers trained and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 1,200 redeployed.

Transition Teams live and work with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Afghan National Army (ANA).

Scheduled to modularize FY09.



75th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill

Integrates attached ground and air maneuver forces and order functions as a maneuver headquarters in support of full spectrum operations.

Separate battalions currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Hood

One of the Army's newest brigades, recently returned from the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

Deploys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom June 2008.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Re-deployed from support of Operation Iraqi Freedom April 2008.

Recently completed combat and civil military operations in conjunction with Iraqi Army and Police in the Rashid District of Baghdad to restore and ensure long term peace and stability in that region.

2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley

Preparation for rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., in early summer 2008.

Scheduled to deploy in summer/fall 2008.

3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Knox

Returned from deployment in fall 2006.

Provide theater logistics command and control for the theater commander supporting the Army Forces (ARFOR) and Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) mission.

Scheduled to deploy in summer/fall FY08.

1st Sustainment Brigade, Iraq

Provides logistic, human resource and financial management for 80,000 Soldiers and 20,000 civilians and contractors throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad and area support for Multi-National Division-Central.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom September 2007.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Conducts 360-degree battlefield operations with cutting edge technology to support ground troops.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom October 2007.

BATTLEMINO FOCUS

Families and friends cheer for members of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, as they file into formation during a redeployment ceremony.



Members of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, are welcomed back to Fort Riley on April 10.



Spc. Mark Schellhase hugs his daughter, Jessica, and his son, Zach, during an April 10 redeployment ceremony at Fort Riley. Schellhase was part of the first main body redeployment of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.



Spc. Francisca Vega 1st Inf. Div., Pao

FORT RILEY, Kan. – “Reunion is not an event, it is a process,” said Jill O’Sullivan, Family Readiness Center coordinator.

For Soldiers and Families of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team redeploying from a 15-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, their reunion is being looked at with a Battlemind Focus.

Many things change for both the Family and Soldier during a long deployment, but to help Families make the reunion process more successful, the “Dragons” have embraced this concept.

“Reintegration helps the Soldier begin the mental transition from ‘Battlemind’ to ‘Home Again’ thinking,” said Capt. Donald Reeves, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Rear Detachment commander.

Soldiers forward deployed are required to go through Battlemind Training prior to their unit’s transfer of authority, he added. Once Soldiers return, within the first 10 days of being home they attend Family Reunification Training that their spouses are encouraged to attend with them.

Not only can this process bring short-term joy to the Family units, but it is also being looked at as preventative medicine as well.

“If you reintegrate properly you spell out success for the Soldiers,” said 1st Sgt. Sean Polwort, 1st Sgt. for 4th IBCCT’s Rear Detachment. “If you just shake a leg at it and check the box, you’re bound to have systemic problems down the road.”

Conducting the training also allows the unit to identify high risk personnel who may need additional help making the transition, said Reeves. After they are identified, the unit can fulfill its obligation to the Soldier and take the necessary actions to ensure those Soldiers are taken care of.

“Rear detachment commanders have scheduled Battlemind Training for all the spouses in the rear,” said Reeves. “Spouses that are unable to attend will get the Battlemind Training resource packet sent to their address.”

The training is geared to helping both halves understand the changes that have occurred during the separation, and how to reunite with their spouse and Family smoothly.

“The Family dynamic has changed,” said O’Sullivan. “There may be a power struggle, communication issues, and confused Family roles. Kids, especially adolescents,

can be very resistant to change.”

But issues are not always apparent right away.

“Most problems start popping up after what we call the ‘honeymoon phase’ has passed,” O’Sullivan said. “Every Family is different, so I can’t really say how long the reintegration process takes. Some spouses give the Soldier 30 days to get with the program, but there is no set time.”

After communication, O’Sullivan added, both sides have to remember to be patient, flexible and compromising because a lot of things have changed. Expectations also need to be realistic.

Some issues or conflict with in the Family units may require more attention or help. In this case it is important to know that there are several resources the Army offers to Soldiers.

Soldiers can go to Military One Source, Mental Health Services, or even the Family Life Consultants on base, said O’Sullivan.

Army Community Service also offers many services to Family members, Soldiers and dependents. 



A Short History of the

Big Red One

The Division's history began in 1917 when General John "Blackjack" Pershing arrived in France with the First American Expeditionary Force. The "Fighting First" led the way for American troops in World War I. Names like Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Argonne Forest tell the story of the gallantry of the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division, now wearing the famous "Big Red One" patch on their left shoulder.

During World War II, the 1st Infantry Division was the first to reach England, the first to fight the enemy in North Africa and Sicily, the first on the beaches of Normandy in D-Day and the first to capture a major German City – Aachen.

The D-Day landings on June 6, 1944, provided the supreme test. In five days, the division drove inland and cleared a beachhead for supplies and troops. Driving eastward across France against fanatical resistance, the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division spent nearly six months in continuous action with the enemy.

After capturing Aachen, the 1st Infantry Division still faced months of bitter fighting at places like the Hurtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge. When the War ended, the Big Red One had rolled through Germany and into Czechoslovakia.

The 1st Infantry Division remained in Germany until 1955, first as occupation troops, then as

partners with the new Germany in NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In 1955, the Big Red One redeployed to Fort Riley Kansas.

In the summer of 1965, the Big Red One was the first division called to fight in Vietnam. For nearly five years, its Soldiers battled the enemy while carrying out programs to aid the people of South Vietnam. In April 1970, the colors of the 1st Infantry Division returned to Fort Riley. Home again, the Big Red One became a dual based division with its 3rd Brigade in West Germany.

Another first was credited to the Division when it embarked on the beginning of a long series of Return of Forces to Germany exercises. These exercises demonstrated our nation's determination and capability to defend, with our NATO allies, Western Europe.

On Nov. 8, 1990, the 1st Infantry Division was alerted and over the next two months, deployed more than 12,000 soldiers and 7,000 pieces of equipment to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Another first, the Big Red One led the charge into Iraq. After spearheading the armored attack into Iraq, by February 27, 1991 the division broke the enemy's defense along the Kuwait border and cut off the path of retreat for the fleeing Iraq Army.

During the next 100 hours, the Division raced across southern Iraq into Kuwait, engaging and destroying all or part of 11 enemy divisions. The Division fought its way through 260 kilometers of enemy-held

territory, and destroyed more than 500 enemy tanks and 480 armored personnel carriers. In addition, the Division captured more than 11,400 enemy prisoners of war – twice as many as any other unit.

On April 10, 1996, the colors of the 1st Infantry Division moved to the German city of Würzburg. Shortly after their arrival, the Big Red One Soldiers assumed peace enforcement responsibilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operations Joint Endeavor/Guard. The Division deployed to the Balkans twice in 1999, first as part of Task Force Sabre in Macedonia, then in Kosovo with NATO's Task Force Falcon on 10 June. This contingent patrolled the streets and countryside of Kosovo until June 2000, when it turned the mission over to the 1st Armored Division.

In November 2002, the 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment joined NATO's Task Force Falcon in support of Operation Joint Guardian for a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. The 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment enforced peace agreements in the Multi-National Brigade East Sector. The 2-63 helped create a more secure environment and assisted in transition to civilian control.

In January 2003, the division primed itself for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Big Red One soldiers formed Headquarters, Armed Forces-Turkey and prepared the way for the 4th Infantry Division to enter Iraq through Turkey. When the Turkish Government denied access through their border, ARFOR-T collapsed the lines of communication it had built and the 4th ID deployed to Iraq via Kuwait.

The division took a more direct role in Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, when the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment deployed to Northern Iraq. Operating in the Sunni Triangle, Task Force 1-63 conducted combat operations while simultaneously helping bring stability to the region.

As Task Force 1-63 returned home to Germany in February 2004, the rest of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger deployed to Northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Infantry Division's Task Force Danger consists of Germany-based 1st Infantry Division units along with the 30th Brigade Combat Team "Old Hickory" based in North

Carolina, and the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team from Hawaii.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in the fall of 2003 and returned to Fort Riley in September 2004.

The 1st Inf. Div. conducted a transfer of authority with the 24th Inf. Div. on Aug. 1, 2006, assuming command and control of Fort Riley.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team deployed from Germany in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

Due to changes in the war strategy, 1st Brigade took the lead for the U.S. Army, Airforce and Navy in training Transition Teams.

The 4th Inf. Bde. Combat Team, which stood up Jan. 16, 2005, deployed from Fort Riley to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2007.

The Division's 1st Combat Aviation Bde., which uncased its colors Aug. 1, 2006, and 1st Sustainment Bde. (formerly known as DISCOM)

deployed in 2007 in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division uncased its colors at Fort Hood, Texas, in April 2007.

In March 2008, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division, re-flagged and became 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT,
NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT"
"DUTY FIRST"

Midnight Flyers

Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez
1st CAB, PAO

Two CH-47 Chinook pilots assigned to Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, conduct pre-flight checks.

Photos by U.S. Army Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez



Sgt. Gregory Moseley, CH-47 Chinook flight engineer assigned to Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, conducts pre-flight checks.



TIKRIT, Iraq – From air assaults to passenger transport, the Army's biggest helicopters dominate the skies of northern Iraq. The CH-47 Chinooks belonging to 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, "Fighting Eagles" transport troops into battle along with mail, passengers and cargo between bases within Multi-National Division-North.

The Fighting Eagles are part of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., flying in support of Task Force Iron. Since the start of their deployment last fall the 2-1 GSAB has moved 2,400 plus tons of cargo, transported more than 30,000 passengers and flown in excess of 400 combat missions.

The Chinook is the favorite mode of travel for ground unit commanders. Since the Chinook can carry 30 plus combat troops and all their equipment, it is the preferred rotary-wing aircraft for moving large amounts of cargo and Soldiers in northern Iraq.

"Chinooks are often favored by ground forces, because of their ability to move large numbers of Soldiers along with their gear and small vehicles," said Maj. Scott Bovee, 2-1 GSAB operations officer.

Moving troops and cargo by CH-47 Chinook takes the talents of several crewmembers working together to ensure the mission is accomplished in a safe manner.

"The crew is made up of two pilots, one crew chief, one flight engineer and one gunner," said Sgt. Joshua Velsor, Company B, 2-1 GSAB, Chinook crew chief. "The crew chief makes sure the aircraft is ready to fly and that passengers and cargo are loaded safely."

A typical day for a CH-47 crew starts early. Crews come in and check the Chinook from top to bottom making sure the aircraft are safe and flyable.

"I normally wake up in the morning like around four, then after breakfast I come out check the technical manuals, get the bird ready," said Spc. Raymond Sauseda, Co. B, 2-1 GSAB Chinook crew chief. "I and the other crewmembers then get with the pilots and start our run-ups and conduct pre-flight checks to make sure there are no problems with the birds."

"We look at the mission plans and check the routes being flown and go over where we will be going and load any equipment in preparation for our mission."

Crews not only prepare the Chinooks for flight, but also prepare the cargo being moved during the mission.

"As we receive cargo we load it onto the aircraft. Sometimes we receive pallets of mail, ammo and anything the Soldiers need moved. We also move Humvees and Gator carts, we just have to put the seats up and make sure the units prepare the vehicles properly," said Velsor.

A Chinook not only carries cargo inside the aircraft, but it can also sling load cargo to the bottom of the helicopter. Cargo hooks located on the bottom of the

aircraft facilitate sling load operations.

"You can either use a tandem load or a center-of-cargo sling load to move cargo. The tandem load takes a forward and aft line hooked and secured to the cargo, while the center-of-cargo sling load is just a sling connected to the center cargo hook of the helicopter," said Saucedo.

Chinook crews load passengers along with any equipment they may have. With hundreds of Soldiers and civilian contractors requiring transportation in Iraq, the Chinook is the mode of travel many are using instead of moving by ground.

"I enjoy the service the helicopters provide. It's really convenient, because I do a lot of flying between Tikrit, Mosul and Kirkuk. The service makes my job a whole lot easier," said Staff Sergeant Valentine Smith, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

Chinook air crews recognize the positive impact they have on the remote bases in northern Iraq.

"It makes me feel good to see Soldiers ride with us because it keeps them off the roads. By riding on a Chinook, Soldiers are kept from facing improvised explosive devices," said Velsor. 🇮🇶



A CH-47 Chinook belonging to 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, sits loaded with passengers and cargo before a mission on March 5.

Train Runs Through Taji

Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude
1st SB, PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Waving to spectators and honking the horn of his bright green and yellow locomotive, Mustapha the train conductor was the first Iraqi Republic Railways worker to make the journey along the old tracks between the central Baghdad rail yard in Baghdad and Camp Taji in many years.

This historical journey was part of a proof-of-purpose designed to rebuild the tattered railway and stimulate the young economy; it was one small step in that direction for sure.

“An increased use of the rail infrastructure will translate to big dinars for the Iraqi economy,” said Maj. Ira Baldwin, Laurinburg, N.C., native and mobility chief for the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

As far as coalition forces are concerned, the new train will enable large movements of cargo between the port at Um Qasar and Camp Taji, creating greater logistical economies-of-scale.

“Since Taji is the closest secured location nearest Logistics Support Area Anaconda, the trains will allow a faster movement between the two,” stated Baldwin. “This will reduce the costs of moving cargo as compared to over the road, but the greater benefit is that trains will take a great number of Soldiers off the road which



Maj. Ira Baldwin, Laurinburg, N.C. native, and mobility chief for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, looks on as Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment opened the rail gates at Camp Taji, and let a train enter for the first time in several years. “I am very lucky to be a part of history in the making by helping to make a train run through,” stated Baldwin.



translates to lives saved.”

This concern for safety translated to a heavy presence of security forces on Camp Taji. Soldiers from Macedonia were on hand to inspect, Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment opened the rail gates, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Detachment 1, 143rd Field Artillery, 1st Sustainment Brigade, Soldiers provided over watch.

“We are on the lookout for any suspicious activities along the route line,” stated Spc. Justin Cox, a native of Visalia, Calif., and artilleryman with HHB, Det. 1, 143rd FA.

Although there was no call for security intervention, like all things in life, this exercise did not come without challenges.

“There were at least two attempts prior to the successful engine proof of purpose,” said Baldwin. “The conductor’s house was raided and his son was arrested the night prior to the first scheduled POP; then later, there was another train carrying petroleum originating from Bajyi that was hijacked.”

In spite of the challenges, the train movement was a success – especially compared to what occurred repeatedly back in 2004 at the height of the insurgency where seemingly every train was a moving target.



A giant train is an odd site to see on Camp Taji, Iraq, where trucks are the king of transport. This Iraqi Republic Railways train is part of a proof-of-purpose designed to rebuild the tattered railway and stimulate the young economy; it was one small step in that direction for sure. “An increased use of the rail infrastructure will translate to big dinars for the Iraqi economy,” said Maj. Ira Baldwin

“The Multi-National Corps-Iraq future operation cell, the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, the Taji Base Defense Operations Cell and the Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Brigade came together and proved that joint efforts do work with close coordination and rehearsals,” stated Baldwin. “I am very proud of what the Iraqi people want to reestablish in regards to improving their lives.”

This increased use of the IRR will equate to increased income generated by local, national, and eventually international trade; overall, the rail industry will provide solid jobs for the Iraqi people as exemplified by the conductor Mustapha who has been employed by the IRR for over 27 years.

“I am very lucky to be a part of history in the making by helping to make a train run through,” stated Baldwin.



Waving to spectators and honking the horn of his bright, green and yellow, locomotive, Mustapha the train conductor is the first Iraqi Republic Railways worker to make the journey along the old tracks between the central Baghdad rail yard in Baghdad and Camp Taji, in many years.



Ensuring security along the train route Spc. Justin Cox, a native of Visalia, Cal., and artilleryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Detachment 1, 143rd Field Artillery, 1st Sustainment Brigade and Spc. Steven Copestick, a mechanic and Clemson, N.J. native, with the 536th Maintenance Company, get eyes on the train as it makes its approach to Camp Taji, Iraq.

Training to Fight Terrorism with Cuffs, Not Rockets

Maj. Deanna Bague
Fort Bliss, PAO

MCGREGOR RANGE, N.M. – Members from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, recently learned detainee operations under the instruction of observer controller/trainers from Task Force Outlaw, 5th Armored Brigade.

The 3-13th is a multiple-launch rocket system unit from Fort Sill, Okla. whose core mission is to provide fire support through cannon, missile or rocket, said Capt. Eric Treschl, Battery C commander. But the unit has been designated by U.S. Forces Command to deploy and assume an “in lieu of” mission as military police companies conducting detainee operations in southern Iraq, said Lt. Col. John Kelly, battalion commander.

“Never having done this mission before, (I think) the training here is top notch,” said Kelly. “Task Force Outlaw

and the 5th Armored Brigade are doing an outstanding job preparing these Soldiers to take on this mission.”

The 3-13th has faced several challenges, said Treschl. The unit was completing their MLRS tasks last summer when they received a warning order to change their mission from field artillery to security force training. Treschl said they complied, but after their third month of training for convoy security protection, they switched back to field artillery. Within 90 days the unit was shooting rockets again, said Treschl.

“We came back from a live fire and they told us we would be doing detainee ops,” said Spc. Jason Carter, fire direction control specialist, Battery B, 3-13th FA Regt.

“When they told us we would be supporting detainee operations, I looked at it as a chance to do something

different, a chance to do something new,” said Sgt. Joshua Jehl, MLRS gunner, also from Btry B.

The unit’s struggles weren’t over, said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Wolfe, operations sergeant. The all-male field artillery unit was short of Soldiers needed to meet the strength requirement for the detainee operations mission. So they used Soldiers from other units under their higher headquarters, the 75th Fires Bde., to augment the 3-13th.

Wolfe was originally the senior fire control noncommissioned officer for the 1st Bn., 17th FA Regt., before he volunteered to transfer. He said it was a close call, because his request was almost not granted.

“I volunteered, my chain of command told me no,” said Wolfe. “I ended up sending some of my Soldiers over; a few weeks later, a slot opened up and I was able to come over. It’s hard to send your Soldiers off to do a mission and you don’t do it. As (a leader), you feel that if you are going to send Soldiers to do it, you need to be willing to do it yourself.”

Kelly said he understands the compelling aspiration to be with one’s Soldiers when they deploy. He will not be deploying with his unit.

“That is not something I’m proud of, but ... this is what the Army has asked us to do,” said Kelly. “My leader philosophy is always (to) recognize that I got to prepare the team to execute with or without my presence.”

The active-duty unit will be reporting to the 304th MP Bn. under the command of Lt. Col. Carol Haas. The 304th is a Reserve unit based at Nashville, Tenn. Haas said both units cross trained while they were here training and immersed into the living conditions they would encounter in theater.

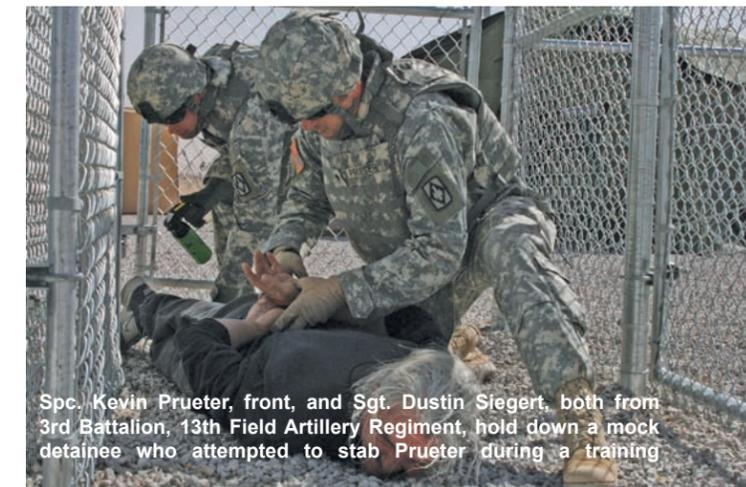
“We are very excited to have the active duty element as part of our mission and as part of our command and control,” said Haas. “Everything is working out very well from comments I have had from both units.”

Treschl said he attributes a lot of credit to the unit’s Family Readiness Group for including all of the additional Soldiers the 3-13th received. He said the FRG is a vital part of the deployment when it comes to taking care of young Soldiers and Family members, and has almost tripled as a result of the augmentation.

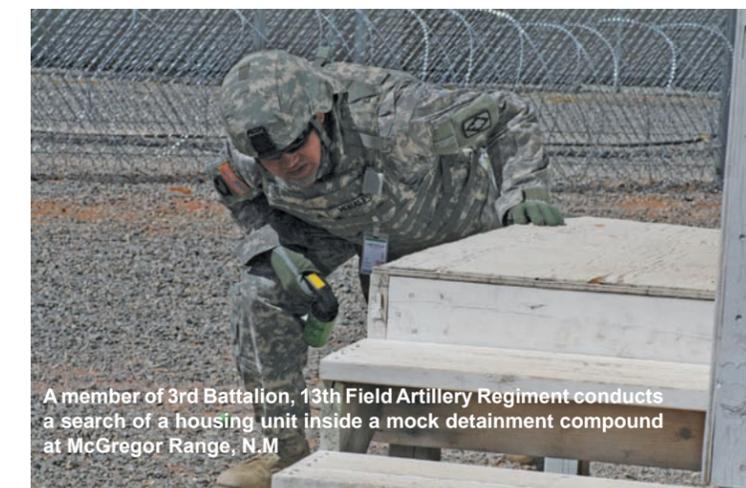
“I’ve been blessed with our FRG leader Michelle Moore,” said Treschl. “She is a great asset to this organization and a volunteer in every sense of the word.”



Spc. Kevin Prueter, B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, searches a mock detainee during a training exercise.



Spc. Kevin Prueter, front, and Sgt. Dustin Siegert, both from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, hold down a mock detainee who attempted to stab Prueter during a training exercise.



A member of 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment conducts a search of a housing unit inside a mock detainment compound at McGregor Range, N.M.



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, patrol a mock detainment facility during a training exercise at McGregor Range, N.M.



Members of 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment prepare to search a detainment facility during a training exercise at McGregor Range, N.M.



*Spc. Francisca Vega
1st Inf. Div., PAO*

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The Army conducts ceremonies to give thanks, pay tribute and celebrate events ... but some people pay tribute in their own way.

A Marine veteran is offering his thanks to the local armed forces servicemembers and Families by making a unique blend of coffee called "Duty First."

"I know that when we (the creators of 'Duty First' coffee) were making 'Duty First' I wanted a coffee that was fuller bodied and less acidic. When we were picking the beans we were trying to pick some that were more diverse, from around the world, so we could add that side, because the Soldiers on Fort Riley have been around the world," said Wade Radina, maker of the blend.

The home-roasted coffee blend boasts three different types of beans from Indonesia, Africa and South America. Each type is roasted separately, but later combined to be pleasing to the palate.

Making the coffee for the servicemembers cannot only be a good act performed for others, but it can also be a rewarding act to take part in.

"I'm very proud," said Ryan McCants, who has been roasting coffee professionally for two years. "It's the best way I can do it. It's a really unique thing to be apart of."

Servicemember, coffee roaster or neither – anyone can enjoy the coffee.

"It definitely has its following," Radina said. "I think it's one of our best blends."

The coffee is sold in a trendy, little internet café in the Aggieville business district of Manhattan, Kan. Some of the proceeds go to support wounded Soldiers through the Association of the United States Army.

"I have a strong conviction that locally-owned businesses should be involved in their community," Radina said. "It's a small way to be supporting the troops, but of course, I'm a veteran. I don't think most people get the sacrifice."

A sacrifice the 1st Infantry Division knows all too well with its motto often shortened to "Duty First!"

"I love the slogan and what it represents. So it's nice to tie in my passion, which is coffee with what I believe in," said Radina. 

Cup O' Joe



Careless Keystrokes Can Kill

Don't let your emails or blogs make someone a target



Operation Security (OPSEC)

Designed by Fort Riley M/VISSC, printed by DAPS

"Devils" Glean from Vietnam Experience

*Spc. Francisca Vega
1st Inf. Div., PAO*

FORT RILEY, Kan. – People change as they grow up. Some people change and grow with the Army. Most of the population does not, but like many 1st Infantry Division Soldiers before him, Louis Voyer, a master sergeant currently training on Fort Riley's Camp Funston with a Military Transition Team has made the choice to place duty first.

"I joined in 1966 when I was 17 (because) I was getting into trouble like you wouldn't believe," said Voyer, also a National Guardsman from Massachusetts. "So I had to get off the streets.

"It made me grow up and stop being a punk," he added

But the Army didn't begin as part-time for this Soldier.

"I started off as a truck driver in the Active Army," said Voyer. "I was with a couple of units, three or four as a matter of fact. I volunteered for infantry down there in 1969."

After he finished his tours in Vietnam, he came home and left the Army.

"I had a bad taste in my mouth back in '71 when I got out of the Army, and that was because of the way they treated Vietnam vets back then," Voyer said. "It was almost like whatever we tried to bring to the table to help things go along a lot smoother, a lot better as far as training, we were totally ignored and pushed off, so it left me with a bad taste."

Time went by, and though memories are not forgotten, the call to country could not be shaken off.

"I look at it this way. There is God, your country and your Family. Those are my loyalties right there," Voyer said. "When I put this uniform on, whether I'm

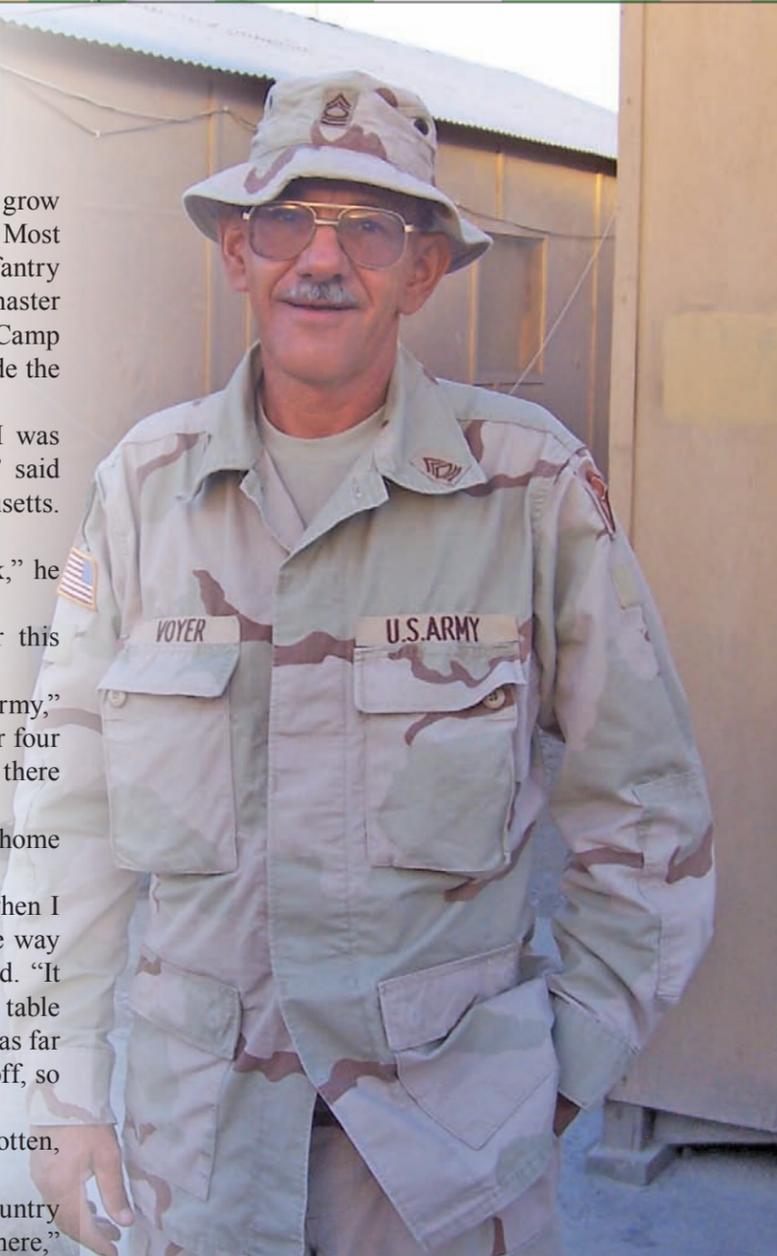
a reservist or whether I'm full time, it makes no difference. I put it on, I do what needs to be done. It's just the way I look at it. I put this uniform on and if I have to go three, five or six tours of duty, then that's what I have to do.

"Stand in the mirror and look at yourself wearing this uniform," he added. "Ask yourself, what is my job? What is my function? Why did I put this uniform on? When you put this on there's one thing first. It's duty first."

With that mentality, Voyer is gearing up once again to go back to Afghanistan for his second voluntary deployment.

"I think there will be a big difference," he said. "If there isn't a big difference then somebody messed up between the last time I was there and now.

In his previous deployment he was training company



units in the Afghan National Army in everything from individual Soldier skills to company level maneuver tactics and some counterinsurgency.

"They were just forming up a lot of their younger units," Voyer recalls. "They really didn't get any training as far as how to act as team members, squad members, platoon members or companies, and that is what we were doing."

During this deployment Voyer expects to function more as a mentor than a trainer.

"They should be more confident," he said. "Their leadership should be better trained and better able to perform their duties. If I was going to be company level mentor again I would expect to go out more, to interact with the population of the villages and towns that are within the AO (area of operation) that they're working in.

"Basically it is an ANA mission," he added. "They have to take the lead. Especially in the counterinsurgency."



It's been 37 plus years since first joining the Army and throughout the break in service, the hardships and growing pain he is proud of his commitment to the Army and to duty he says, "It's the best thing I ever did." 🇺🇸



TT MISSION

“As the Iraqis stand up, we’ll stand down.”
- George W. Bush, United States President

Transition Teams advise, teach, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces and the Afghan National Army

Transition Teams provide direct access to Coalition capabilities such as air support, artillery, medical evacuation, and intelligence gathering.

Transition Teams are critical to the transfer of security responsibility to the Iraqi and Afghan governments.

Dedicating the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and one of the Division’s Brigades to the Transition Team mission demonstrates full commitment by the US Army.

The consolidation of training at Fort Riley provides standardization of high quality training and effective use of resources.



Soldier's Creed

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
 I serve the people of the United States and
 live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.
 I will never accept defeat.
 I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.
 I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and
 proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
 I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the
 United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
 I am an American Soldier.

1





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