



DIAMOND CUTTER



A 'Tight Group' of Soldiers Head Toward Hotter Spots



75th Fires Brigade
Saint Barbara's Day Ball
2-18th FAR
TRAP Mission

Soldiers, Sailor Relief Act
Don't Leave Home Without It

Commander's Corner

Col. Dominic E. Pompelia



For a multitude of Diamond Troops, congratulations on being selected by the Department of the Army for missions abroad.

As of February I will deploy with the Brigade Headquarters and will delegate 75th Fires Brigade's daily operations while immersing myself with the Headquarters, 75th Force Field Artillery as we prepare the final phase of our deployment.

I salute all Headquarters 75th Fires Brigade, 1st Battalion 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, and 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Soldiers selected to join the fight overseas.

I leave the brigade in the capable hands of Lt. Col. John D. Sims, 75th Fire Bde, deputy commander and Lt. Col. Steven

Good luck and Godspeed ... I'll meet you on the high ground

Butterfield, 75th Fire Bde, executive officer; time and again they have proven their expertise and proficiency.

Diamond Troops be as proud of your deployment as I am of you. Not every American who desires to be a Soldier, can become a Soldier, and not every Soldier is physically capable of being selected to deploy overseas—though they truly want to get in the fight beside their peers!

Years from now we will all look at a democratically free and stable Iraq, and with pride be able to say, "because of my role I helped to establish that." Countless American veterans have the privilege to say that as we look at a free and flourishing Europe, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam and of course America!!

Diamond Troops you were selected because you are physically, technically and tactically proficient. In short you are essentially "Tough as Diamonds!"

The missions you are conducting will protect vital supply routes, coordinate lethal fires in support of Division

Operations, secure and escort vital convoys, and detain terrorists who want to destroy us, our families, and our way of life. Your role is a crucial aspect of security and stability in Iraq!

For those Diamond Troops remaining behind, your job is going to be tough but vital. You will have to maintain Fort Sill's high ideals and standards of the 75th Fires Bde. We once had 2,200 Soldiers for that task but your numbers will be significantly depleted.

Diamond Troops this is by no means a good-bye, but a pause in communication that will resume in the near future. Next year during the Saint Barbara's Ball we will raise our glasses again and salute "the King of Battle" together.

Take care of yourself, physically, mentally and spiritually and your Diamond Buddy, and this union will take care of you. Be smart and be safe, and do NOT violate General Order No. #1 – it's there to protect us!

Good Luck and Godspeed!

DIAMOND CUTTER VOL 1, ISSUE 5

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75th Fires Brigade commander

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75th Fires Brigade
Command Sergeant Major

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Cover Photo: Spc. David Chandler and several other C Btry, 1st Bn., 17th FAR Soldiers board the aircraft slotted to bring them to Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo, 75th FIB PAO).

Back Photo: (Clockwise from far left) Spc. Michael Butterworth, Spc. Frank Dimostra, and Spc. Richard Prokey evacuate Sgt. Bryan Rivera (carried) who simulates a chest wound after a vehicle borne improvised explosive device detonated. The haul to the medical evacuation landing zone was about 350 meters and required detailed coordination for the medical exertion. (Photo by Sgt. Justin Carry, 2-18th FAR).

Command Sergeant's Major Corner

NCOs **YOU** are held responsible

Can a leader delegate RESPONSIBILITY? NO! They can delegate AUTHORITY but once you become an NCO you are always responsible for your actions and the actions of your soldiers.

You are also responsible for their well-being, individual training, and accomplishing of all assigned missions.

YOU are responsible for getting your Soldiers to the proper training, and supervising their performance. Regardless of the situation if you are a leader you are responsible.

NCOs have to communicate frequently with their officer to

ensure they are BOTH working toward the same goal and in tandem.

Training must always be managed and supervised to ensure that it reflects the unit's mission. Especially considering that we are a Nation at War!

As a NCO you must constantly supervise the standards. If you tell a Soldier to go PMCS a vehicle without supervision or without teaching that Soldier HOW to PMCS the vehicle, you have failed that Soldier.

Don't blame the Soldiers for damage to equipment for your lack of supervision. They won't know any better, if **YOU** don't teach them what **RIGHT**

looks like. SUPERVISE THEM!

The Army has mandated time to focus on what your Soldiers need-to succeed on the battlefield. (Sergeants Time Training) use it wisely by planning ahead. Don't let Soldiers suffer from YOUR mistakes; train them thoroughly. CTT are basic fundamentals for survival on the battlefield that we all must know commonly. Understand the rank on your chest is good throughout the Army and NOT just your in your squad platoon or unit.

YOU are responsible for the survival of the Army. The **YOUR** is actually **OUR** Soldiers so train them right.



Command Sgt. Maj. Tony O. Smith



BE SMART. DO YOUR PART. VOTE!

As the U.S. Army's Senior Voting Officer, I strongly encourage you to participate and cast your vote in the 2008 Presidential Primaries. Voting is the essence of our democracy and one of our most important Constitutional rights. Our elected officials have tremendously important jobs and the good news is you have a voice in who gets to do them ... if you vote.

The primaries began (January) with the Iowa Caucus and continue through June 2008. You can exercise your right to vote by completing the Federal Post card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) or complying with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which you vote.

The FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed or sent electronically as soon as possible. You should then receive your absentee ballot as you requested it. The Federal Assistance Program has been working with the states to allow ballots to be submitted and received electronically. Check with your Unit Voting Assistance Officer (UVAO) for your state requirements.

It is important that you complete and send in your ballot immediately after receipt to ensure it is received by your hometown local election officials no later than your state's deadline. If you are an overseas voter and have not received your regular absentee ballot 30 – 45 days

prior to your state's deadline, you should complete a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and send it to your local election official.

If you later receive your absentee ballot, you should also complete and send it in. Mailing guidelines differ from state to state; therefore we recommend you check your state's guidelines by contacting your UVAO, or by visiting the Army Voting Assistance Program website at www.vote.army.mil.

REUBEN D. JONES
Brigadier General, USA
The Adjutant General



A photograph of Command Sgt Maj. Phillip Brunwald in a dark military uniform with gold epaulettes and a red sash. He is wearing sunglasses and holding a microphone in his right hand and a bowl of soil in his left hand. He is standing in front of a large, dark, reflective bowl.

Command Sgt Maj. Phillip Brunwald,
1st Bn., 17th FAR, tactically prepares
the "First Charge" of the time honored
Artillery Punch Bowl.

**Respecting Our History
Honoring Our Future
75th Fires Brigade Salutes
'The King of Battle' at the**

Saint Barbara's Day Ball

Story and photos By Sgt 1st Class Kelly McCargo



January 2008



Pamela Kelly, 3rd Bn., 13th FAR, presents Molly Pitcher Award necklaces to Ashley Simpson (red dress) with assistance from husband Cpt. Matt Simpson.

“The theme for our Saint Barbara’s Day Ball was “Respecting Our History; Honoring Our Future. It is the quality of people, our solid traditions, and a deep history that distinguish the field artillery from other branches,” said Lt Col. John Sims, 75th Fires Bde., deputy commander and dual-Ball narrator. “These are the foundations upon which our success and glory are built.”

More than 630 Fort Sill 75th Fires Brigade Soldiers and spouses participated in the 75th Fires Bde. Saint Barbara’s Day Ball at the Fort Sill Patriot’s Club December 21, 2007.

The Diamond Troops enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing, video presentations and skits that profiled the history of the field artillery from its earliest conception.

More than 34 Diamond Troops were inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara for making “a significant contribution to the artillery through an outstanding degree of professional competence and service to the field artillery corps,” said Sims.

Fourteen spouses were also presented the Molly Pitcher Award for devoted and faithful service to the field artillery community.

“An artillery wife, Mary Hays-McCauly—better known as Molly Pitcher—shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her husband, William Hays,” said Sgt. Denitra McDowell, 100th Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Sill Soldier of the Year and dual-Ball narrator.

McCauly was said to have braved

active battlefields to bring water to Soldiers from battle position to battle position. Then fatefully she witnessed her husband getting injured during a battle, so she quickly took up his artillery gun crew position to rally the remaining crewmen during an entire battle.

“For her heroic actions General (George) Washington himself issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer,” said McDowell. “A flagstaff and a cannon stand at her gravesite at Carlisle, Penn. A sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deed.”

“The Saint Barbara’s Day Ball is not only about honoring our lineage but commemorating Field Artillery Soldiers

and their spouses,” said Col. Dominic Pompelia, 75th Fires Bde., brigade commander. “On this night I salute the Diamond Brigade family and want to thank each of them for their service to our country during this time of war. I’m proud of the Diamond Brigade for all of our accomplishments world wide--Tough As Diamonds!”

Fort Sill’s senior-most leader encouraged all in attendance to be proud of their field artillery lineage and understand how many oppressed people throughout the world are encourage by the prospect of liberation by American forces.

He also took a few minutes to recognize the military spouses in attendance.

“I want to take time to recognize the military spouse as the hub of the military,” said Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, Fort Sill Garrison, commanding general. “To the spouses here tonight, you have my most sincere admiration and respect for your service. All of us in this room and other rooms like it throughout the Army have known for years how valuable you are as military spouses. I hope you will continue to find the Army experience an enriching one for you and your families.

“And congratulations to those of you being inducted into the order of molly pitcher tonight—a great honor and well-deserved recognition,” he said.

As the evening progressed, Sims invited all of the 630 attendees to raise their glasses and salute the field artillery corps with a toast to “the King of Battle.”



Col. Dominic Pompelia Jr., (right center) 75th Fires Bde., brigade commander, presents a toast to the Saint Barbara’s Award recipients. “Awardees stand by ... awardees ... FIRE!!





Photo by Sgt. Justin Carry

The “Mission Ready” TRAP platoon occupy the objective site, a downed Marine unmanned ariel vehicle, but the Marine instructors said the platoon failed to search for improvised explosive “booby-traps” effectively. Simulated casualties are told to lay on their back. The TRAP platoon now had to deal evacuating casualties as well as extracting the damaged UAV.

2-18th conducts US Army’s First USMC TRAP training

Story by Sgt 1st Class
Kelly McCargo

CAMP LEJEUNE, NC - More than 34 C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th “Mission Ready” Field Artillery Soldiers participated in the first ever Joint Marine Corps led Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel training at Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jan 6-12.

The Marine Corps TRAP training instructs Soldiers on techniques to infiltrate enemy held territory to either rescue military personnel, or to extract or destroy immobilized

equipment.

“A Marine captain said ‘we came here with little knowledge of basic infantry tactics and left executing varsity like TRAP platoon missions,’” said 2nd Lt. Timothy Richards, C Btry, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, TRAP platoon leader.

Senior military leaders are focusing on enhancing the military’s warfighting capabilities and the Marines TRAP training is a prime example of how joint integration and training can increase the survivability of one of the military’s

most precious resource—its personnel.

“We have Army units conducting these types of operations (worldwide) but this is the first time an Army unit has ever been certified by the Marine Corps,” said Richards. “It doesn’t matter what service the equipment or pilot belong to, this is an inter-service effort.”

Search and rescue of downed sensitive items and pilots in enemy held territory is a dangerous and indecisive mission. But trained and experience personnel are priceless considering the

amount of training required to replace them ... and a moral violation of our Warriors Ethos: I Will Never Leave A Fallen Comrade.

Also if sensitive equipment falls in to enemy hands it could be used to comprise U.S. military security.

“The goal is to rescue a downed pilot. I don’t know how many flight hours it takes to train a pilot but ... it’s a lot,” said Sgt. Brian Rivera, C Btry, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, fire team leader. “Of course I’d be happy if anyone came to get me but if it’s (Special Operations) or someone really proficiently





Photo by Sgt. Justin Carry

“The goal is to get as far way from the aircraft as soon as you exit to draw less attention to your troops,” said Richards. **(Above)** A “Mission Ready” TRAP troop moves toward his fire team after exiting the V-22 Osprey.

trained (in rescue operations) that would be even better.”

The TRAP training is intended to instill another degree of confidence in the pilots with the knowledge that proficiently trained servicemembers have been dedicated to aid them if the need arouse.

“It should give them something less to think about

and it can complement their SERE training,” said Sgt. Justin Carry, C Btry, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, fire team leader.

SERE, or survival, evasion, resistance and escape training are basic and advanced courses that pilots and special operation forces do to hone such skills as wilderness survival, hand-to-hand combat and enemy evasion.

SERE training is designed to mentally and physically condition servicemembers for the potential rigors of being trapped behind enemy lines.

The TRAP training consisted of two days of classroom instruction on subjects like: aviation radios, tactical insertion and extraction, basic trauma care and litter carrying.

Then the Soldiers applied their knowledge and training into four rigorous days of situational training exercises.

“We go in when no one is around and recover the item, and either destroy it or extract it,” said Richards. “We were getting about four to five hours of sleep (a day).”

When pilots go missing, friendly forces must move quickly with low- visibility, said Richards. Two actions that generally conflict each other, but the Marines dedicated their time and expertise to train the Soldiers.

“This was the most professional training I’ve seen

covering all of the leadership dimensions and tailoring it specifically for the Army,” said Richards.

“It was exciting working with the Marines,” said Carry. “They were professional, and they all knew their stuff. Their knowledge was a combination of text book material, applied tasks and real-life scenarios.”

The Marines spared no equipment to add to the training’s realism.

During the training the TRAP Soldiers flew in a Marine Corp V-22 Osprey, a tilt-rotor vertical/short takeoff and landing (VSTOL) aircraft.

“I liked the Osprey,” said Rivera. “It was the first time in one ... the Marines said ‘it was designed to be more passenger friendly.’”

Since the U.S. became a nation at war, U.S. servicemembers are making considerable sacrifices, however in the long run those sacrifices will develop the military into a stronger, versatile fighting force.



Photos by Sgt. Justin Carry

While in the V-22 Osprey, TRAP troops prepare for their impending rescue mission.

Many of the Soldiers said they enjoyed working with the Marines and especially flying in the “passenger friendly” V-22 Osprey. (Below) A different view of North Carolina from the Osprey while in flight.





Lt. Col. Roy Sevalia (center), 1st Bn., 17th FAR, battalion commander, told Pvt. Tony Garner (left), "thank you for your service and be safe now." I'm excited about this mission," Garner said. Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Brunwald (right), 1st Bn., 17th FAR, also congratulates and encourages his Soldiers.

A Co 1/17th Departure Ceremony Story and Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo

A 'Tight Group' to Depend On



Staff Sgt. Sara Seo holds 5-month old Gentry up so he can see his daddy in formation.

Pvt. Tony Garner listened to his brigade commander discuss the first combat mission that Garner was about to embark on.

"Today we are here to bid farewell to 200 Soldiers with mixed emotions who truly live the Army values. It's Soldiers like these that allow us to celebrate our Nation's Freedoms," said Col. Dominic Pompelia Jr., 75th Fires Brigade, brigade commander.

Garner's face was indifferent but the C Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery "Copperheads" Regiment, vehicle gunner, said he was excited about it.

"I feel pretty good about this. We have a tight group of guys to deploy with," he said. "The (National Training Center) rotation was really good for us; it let us know what we're going to be doing in Iraq and it got us proficient on convoy security."

More than 300 friends, family members

and veterans attended the C Btry., 17th FAR departure ceremony at the Fort Sill Rinehart Physical Fitness Center Jan 10.

About 200 C Btry are deploying to Iraq to provide convoy security along coalition supply routes.

Several Soldier and leaders from the Copperheads battalion have been to Iraq before and said they are also confident in their mission.

"I am proud to stand in the ranks for these great Soldiers and consider myself lucky to be in command of such a great unit," said Cpt. Darren Haught, C Btry, 1st Bn., 17th FAR, battery commander. "Many of these Soldiers are combat veterans and some have even conducted this mission before. We're extremely fortunate to have this wealth of experience."

"This is a new type of mission for me but it should be fun because we'll be getting a lot of action," said Sgt. Allen





“Bubba” Broadbent, C Btry., 17th FAR, lead vehicle commander. A veteran of Kosovo and two tours already completed in Iraq, Bubba said he feels secure with the “plethora of experience and leadership” he will be deploying with.

“There are some new Soldiers (here) but we have a lot of two and three timers going this time around—we have a LOT of experience here,” he said.

Of the friends and families watching in the bleachers, Staff Sgt. Sara Seo, 40th Military Police Detachment, lifted her five month old son, Gentry, so he could catch a glimpse of his daddy standing in formation.

“I have been there twice, and I know where he’s going ... I know he’s ready for it, and he says his unit is ready,” she said.

This is her husband Pfc. Goalie Seo’s first combat deployment which she said she is comfortable with though it will be difficult without him to help with their newborn son, she said.

By accomplishing their mission, the copperhead battalion will greatly assist the Iraqi people in stabilizing supply routes.

“I believe in our mission in Iraq, and while I don’t like leaving my family I would deploy a thousand times to save my children from deploying once 10 to 15 years from now,” said Haught.

(Right) Col. Dominic Pompelia uses the flight attendants intercom to tell the Soldiers how proud he is of them, and they should expect to see him soon ...



(From top left) Spc. Claude Lipscomb and his wife Rebeca watch 11-month Briana as she studies daddy’s M16A2 Assault Rifle.

Pvt. Nigel Walker, shows his friend’s son how the combat ear plugs work.

The Copperhead Unit Ministry Team presents holy reading materiel as the Soldiers board the bus.

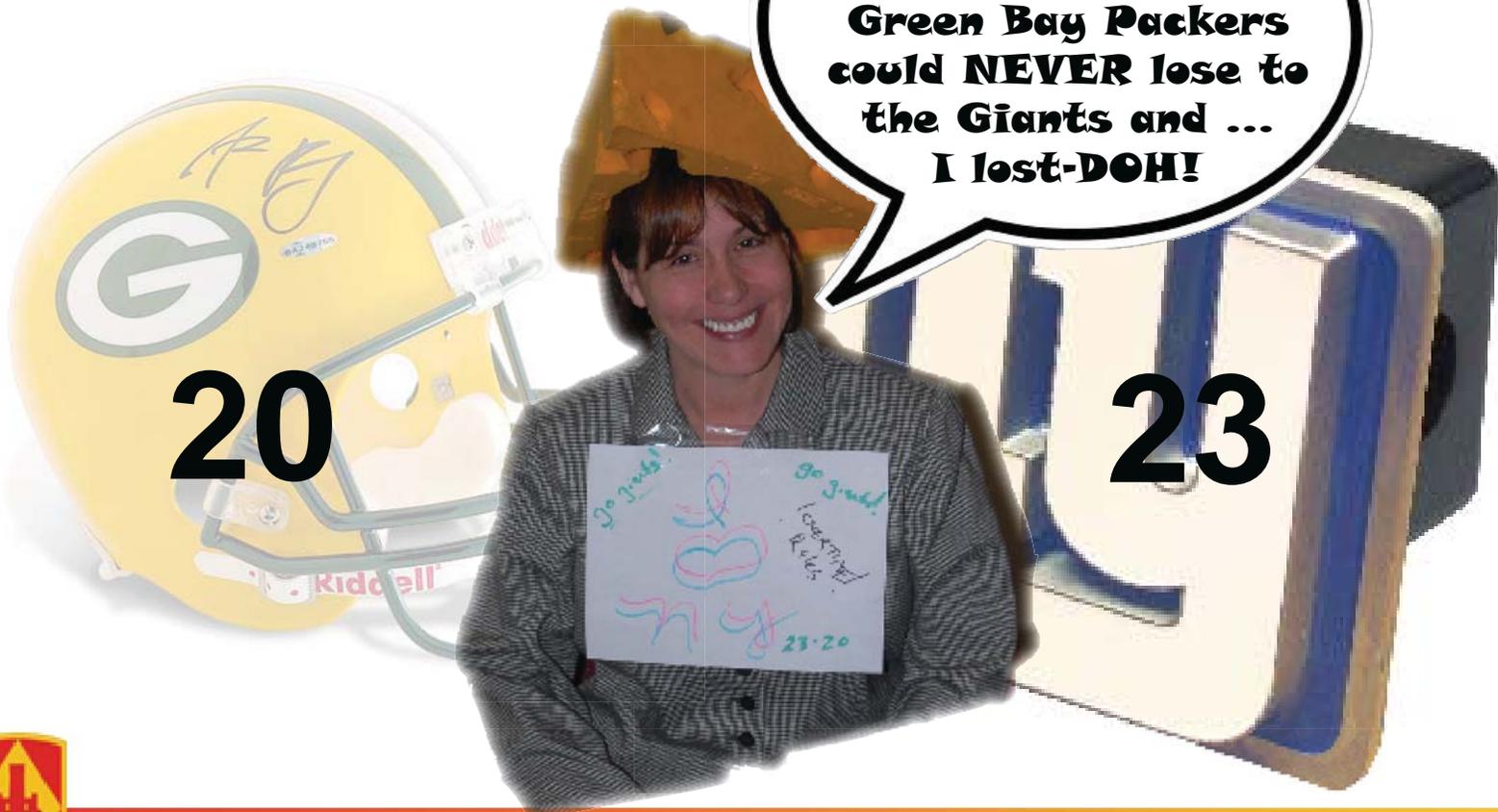


10-6 **SUPER BOWL** 16-0
XLIII



**Have a SAFE and fun
 Super Bowl!!**

**I made a bet with
 CSM Smith that my
 Green Bay Packers
 could NEVER lose to
 the Giants and ...
 I lost-DOH!**



Don't DEPLOY without it!!

Service Members' Civil Relief Act Signed Into Law

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, January 7, 2004 -- A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 provides servicemembers greater protections to handle personal financial and legal obligations, officials said.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19 2003.

"The focus of the (new act) is the same as under the SSCRA: To provide protections to servicemembers who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

This is significant, because it clarifies and updates SSCRA provisions and adds some protections.

"Servicemembers on long-term deployments, or called to active duty, should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections, or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use,

or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment," he said.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that servicemembers are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he said.

An automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the servicemember is what Lindemann called "a significant change" in the new act. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. Previously, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The new relief act also makes it clear the 6-percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, servicemembers and their family who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. This amount is increased to \$2,400 and added an annual inflation adjustment. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465, significantly increasing the number of

servicemembers entitled to this protection, Lindemann said.

The new relief act also gives the servicemember who has received permanent change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for 90 days or more the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Before, servicemembers could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant new provisions is an added protection for motor-vehicle leases. Any active-duty servicemember who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for 180 days or more, may terminate a motor-vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges.

"Now, servicemembers won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," Lindemann said.

"Servicemembers may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If servicemembers have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

**REENLIST
STAY
ARMY
STRONG**

75th Fires Brigade Career Counselor
MSG Glenn – 442-9395
MSG Englert – 442-9369

3-13 FA Battalion
SSG Lara / SSG Eadie- 442-0518

2-18 FA Battalion
SSG Jefferson – 442-3493

1-17 FA Battalion
SSG Reyes – 442-6452

100 BSB
SGT Clark / SGT Lockhart – 442-6297

HCB, 75th Fires

**CONTACT
YOUR
RETENTION
NCO
TODAY!**



