



# *The Bulgebuster*

75th Division(Training Support)

[www.75div.army.mil](http://www.75div.army.mil)

Summer 2004 Vol.2 No.1

## **Under Fire: Training *the Iraqi Army***



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## The Bulgebuster

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# Stand To

**Major General Perry V. Dalby  
Commander, 75th DIV(TS)**



It's a great day to be a Soldier. I want to express to all of the Soldiers, and their families my profound gratitude and pride in how all of you have rallied to support the division during mobilization for the Global War on Terror. Without great leaders at every level who are committed to our motto 'Make Ready' we would not have succeeded over the past 18 months of mobilization.

When I travel to Army posts and Soldiers see the 75th patch on my sleeve I get many compliments and comments on how professional you have been and what a great job you have done training and mobilizing Soldiers.

From a historical perspective, this is the first time the division has mobilized since World War II. As part of the Army's training base expansion we are one of the key elements in the training and mobilization of Army Reserve and National Guard units for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Sinai mission, and Kosovo.

During the 18 months of mobilization we have trained 937 units and over 40,100 Soldiers at six major locations.

While your mission was here in the States, it is no exaggeration to proclaim that you had an enormous influence in the outcome of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

You were given a tremendous responsibility to prepare, train, and validate Soldiers and their units for deployment into a combat theater. Mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, and children counted on you to prepare their loved ones to win and survive in combat. This training translated into how

Soldiers reacted in combat, under fire, and under pressure.

You can be proud how you trained deploying Soldiers in a physically tough and mentally stressful environment to prepare them for the rigors of combat. You played a key element in the toppling of a dictator and the idea of democracy has flourished in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army has also called upon our Soldiers to deploy and train soldiers of the Afghan National Army and Iraqi Armed Forces.

The crux of the entire idea of democracy in Iraq depends on the ability of this emerging Iraqi army to protect and defend its citizens. What an enormous task our Soldiers are doing in training another country's young army through the veil of an interpreter.

We are professional trainers and it is our mission to train the Iraqi army. Our Soldiers have the right skills, tactics, and techniques to train the Iraqi army to high standards. Our mission relieves the pressure of training a foreign service on the operational Army and allows them to focus on combat operations.

In closing, I want to thank the thousands of Soldiers past and present who have served throughout my tenure as your commander.

I close out my 37 years of military service in May. And in my retirement as the sun dips below Lake Belton and the shadows grow longer, I will hear off in the distance the beautiful cry of a bugle playing taps. And I will say to myself 'I was a Soldier once...and young.' It has been an honor and privilege to command the 75th Division (Training Support). God bless America. **Make Ready!**



# NOTES ... from the Division Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Blair



It has been a busy year since the last time I wrote. The 39th Brigade Combat Team has completed its train-up and along with associated CS and CSS units have deployed to the War. The talented soldier/trainers of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division were instrumental in getting them trained and ready.

I had the opportunity to travel to Kuwait and Iraq to visit with our coalition Military Assistance Training Teams (CMATT) and observe events on the ground in theater. Those 75<sup>th</sup> Division Soldiers are doing a fantastic job training the new Iraqi Army.

Imagine a remote location, say a fort in the middle of the Kansas prairie or a sandy desert if you like, with your 10-person team embedded with a 607-man Iraqi Battalion. Living in similar billets with a common mess hall and training six and half days a week in small unit infantry tactics, cordon and search, convoy operations, etc.

As many of you know, there is nothing like a leader's reconnaissance on the ground to give you a full appreciation of day-to-day reality. The media, as good as it is, just doesn't quite capture it. Unfortunately, I was unable to gain permission to visit our soldiers in Afghanistan. But judging from the soldiers acknowledging the 75<sup>th</sup> Division patch in Iraq, each of you can be proud of your assistance in their training.

In April, I attended the FORSCOM and USARC Commander's Conference, which provided some great discussion on the institutional Army and what we can expect in transformation, particularly in the Reserve Component, over the next two to three years. In May, we bid farewell to the FORSCOM commander, Lt. Gen. Ellis and welcomed in Lt. Gen. McNeill. At the 75<sup>th</sup> Division, we bid

farewell to Maj. Gen. Dalby and welcomed in Brig. Gen. Best. This summer will be busy with the training support of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, and the many associated CS and CSS units. The CMATT missions will continue, as well as some of our tradition Annual Training support to various Reserve units. Our OPTEMPO is not slowing down and I commend the Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the Division for not allowing anyone to go to war under our watch, who is not trained and ready.

Kudos to the winners of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division NCO and Soldier of the Year Boards: Sgt. 1st. Class Hector A. Cruz, 2-381<sup>st</sup> TS Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade won the AC NCO honors; Sgt. 1st. Class Richard Yzaguirre, 1-289<sup>th</sup> TS Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade won the RC NCO honors and went on to also win 5th Army NCO of the Year. Pfc. Christopher M. Travis, Battle Projection Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade won Soldier of the Year.

In the past few months, the Division has had far too many soldiers involved in horrific automobile/motorcycle accidents. No fatalities fortunately; but some severe injuries requiring months to mend. Remember your greatest risk for accidental injury or death is still by motorcycle or car. Boating accidents and drowning are high on the list, too. Fatigue, alcohol, anger, rushing and not paying attention take their toll. Pause to think about your risks. Use your safety equipment. If not for yourself . . . do it for your family; do it for your friends. To the Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division and their families, think about safety and live accident free this summer.

**“MAKE READY!”**

**The Bulgebuster**

# Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (COL) Harland Merriam

75th DIV (TS) Chaplain



## PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST

“Everything is different after that, Chaplain,” he said, telling me about a near-head-on collision that almost took his life. The accident woke him up. As he said, “It has set me to thinking about what is most important in my life.”

I hope it doesn't take a crisis like that to remind you and me that doing what is most important is very important.

Think again about the image of the big rocks and the little rocks and the jar. If you put in the little rocks first, there won't be room for the big rocks. (Try it. Get a jar and some big rocks and some little rocks or some walnuts and some rice or dried beans. Experiment and you will see.) If, in life, you put the big rocks in first, then the little rocks can fill in around them. The big rocks are the things that are most important.

If your life is like my life, there are so many things that compete for our time and our attention.

**STOP RIGHT NOW** and think about what is most important, what are the big rocks for you. Here is a way to help you identify your real priorities. Suppose you were to learn you had just one month to live. Would you spend your time watching TV, staying late at work, playing video games? How would you spend your time? **Big rocks!**

The summertime and early fall is a good time to reset the priorities in our life and make some decisions to put first things first. We can do it

with our Army responsibilities, decide what is most important and do that first. We can do it with our personal lives too put first things first.

If ever you want to talk or need some help thinking about first things, I am hear and ready to assist.

Fondly,

CH (COL) Harland Merriam  
Division Chaplain

## MSG SHELDON BECOMES CHAPLAIN CANDIDATE

Master Sergeant Bill Sheldon, the Division Chaplain Assistant for the past number of years entered the Army's Chaplain Candidate Program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 14 May 2004. MSG Sheldon will move to Illinois to begin a three year seminary graduate program, complete Chaplain Officer Basic Course, and plans to become an Army Chaplain upon graduation.

## CHAPLAINS DO LANES TRAINING, TOO.

# From the JAG Office

Colonel Dwight Lewis  
75th DIV(TS) Judge Advocate General



## What Does USERRA Mean to Me?

If you have been mobilized since the initial call-up of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division last January, you may be thinking about finally getting back to your civilian life, your family and your job. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which directed your employer to let you go on active duty without firing you for your absence, has stuck with you throughout your deployment and is still there to help in your transition back to civilian employment.

The law requires your employer to give you a job when you come back. If you have been gone more than 90 days, it does not have to be the same job you once held, but it must be a job of equal pay, status and responsibility. The “escalator principle” requires that you get back on the employment escalator at the same place you would have been if you had never stepped off. For example, if you would have acquired certain longevity perks or privileges had you stayed at your civilian job, those perks and privileges are yours when you return, just as if you had never taken a military absence.

If you were away for thirty days or less, you must return to work at the first shift after your travel time plus eight hours for sleep. If you were away 31-180 days, you must give your employer written notice of your intent to return to work within 14 days of your return. If you were away for 181 days or more, you must submit that written notice of your intent to return within 90 days. Especially if you have been gone for a long time, you should make sure your written notice states that you worked there before your activation and the position you held.

A service member may only be absent from civilian employment for five years or less to

maintain these protections. However, the many exemptions from the five-year calculation, including IDT, annual training, involuntary active duty extensions, and war or national emergency, ensure most people with the intention of returning to their civilian jobs remain covered by the law. If you are hospitalized or recovering from an illness or injury incurred on active duty, the five-year limit is extended for two more years.

The USERRA cannot protect you against things like company closures, buyouts, or downsizes, though. If your job was legitimately downsized away and the same thing would have happened if you had stayed at your job, the USERRA will not force your former employer to create a job for you. Also, if your job was not a permanent position you will not be protected.

If you encounter legal difficulties in returning to your civilian employment, the first person to contact is your local ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) representative. You can find him or her, as well as legal information and explanations that may be helpful to your employer, at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org). If ESGR is unable to resolve your problem, they may refer you to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL VETS) at [www.doleta.gov](http://www.doleta.gov), which can investigate and potentially refer cases for prosecution.

*If you have questions about USERRA or you are not sure whether one of these exceptions applies to you, contact your nearest Legal Assistance office or the Division OSJA at 713-799-7575, for assistance.*

# Inspector General (IG) Assistance: A Soldier's Guide to the IG



**IGs** are fair and impartial fact-finders and problem-solvers for the Commanding General and the Army. IGs perform four basic functions: **Assistance**, **Investigations**, **Inspections**, and **Teaching & Training**. Leaders at all levels interact with IGs as they perform these four functions. Below are some common misconceptions about IG investigations.

## Misconception #1

**“During an IG investigation, any Soldier involved (especially the complainant) is protected from unfavorable action until the investigation is complete.”**

**Wrong:** The chain-of-command remains the chain-of-command. Leaders are still responsible for taking appropriate actions within their area of responsibility and their authority. An IG Investigation does not change these facts.

**Probable source of the misconception:** There are very specific and stringent prohibitions against leaders retaliating or repriming a Soldier that has brought a complaint to the IG – even if that leader believes that the complaint is “bogus.” This situation sometimes arises when a Soldier who is in trouble with the chain of command complains to the IG, usually against the chain of command, about anticipated adverse action in an effort to block the impending adverse action. The bottom line is that leaders may still take action, but they must remember that ALL communication with an IG is protected by law, and talking to an IG about an issue cannot be grounds for any unfavorable action.

**What this means to leaders:** Proceed as you feel the situation warrants, but be prudent! Be aware that you may be required to defend your actions to prove that you are not taking the action as retaliation or reprisal for the Soldier's talking to an IG. If you can clearly demonstrate the reasons for the unfavorable action (i.e. that it is for specific behavior other than the individual's communication to the IG), you should be fine. A trip to your friendly neighborhood SJA prior to taking any action is always a good idea in situations like this.

## Misconception #2

**“A commander's 15-6 Investigation and an IG investigation are totally separate.”**

Yes and No:

Yes, they are separate, based on who has access to each. Investigating officers conducting a 15-6 Investigation do not have access to IG information, including IG investigations. According to regulation, access to IG investigations is restricted to IGs and the Directing Authority (the Commanding General). AR 20-1 generally prohibits the use of IG investigation results for unfavorable (or favorable) actions. On the other hand, a commander's inquiry or AR 15-6 investigation is intended to afford an appropriate basis upon which a commander may rest his or her decision to take (or not to take) adverse personnel action.

No, they are not separate, in that they can be combined. However, it's a one-way street. An IG has full access to and can use applicable 15-6 Investigations as a part of his/her IG investigation. According to the doctrine governing IG actions, IGs should include copies of any 15-6 Investigations that have relevance to an IG

Investigation. These two separate investigations are connected through AR 20-1 para. 1-9d, which authorizes IGs to have access to all documents and other evidentiary materials needed to discharge their duties, including normally protected data. Examples include 15-6 investigations, classified documents, records of board proceedings, acquisition information, medical records, medical quality assurance records, drug and alcohol records, financial records, evaluation records, back channel messages, security dossiers, criminal investigation reports, copies of personnel restricted fiche (R-fiche), and financial disclosure statements.

Probable source of the misconception: The misunderstanding probably stems from the differences in how the information in an investigation can be used by a commander. IG investigations may not be used for unfavorable actions (unless approved by The Inspector General or the Army, which is rare), while the results of a 15-6 investigation may be used for unfavorable actions or punishment.

What this means to leaders: Sometimes an IG will forward allegations to a commander with a recommendation that he or she initiate a 15-6 investigation. This normally means that the allegations contain misconduct that is clearly a UCMJ violation, or would likely warrant unfavorable action if the allegations prove to be true. In other cases, the IG may conduct an independent investigation into the allegations. As explained above, the IG has access to the results of any 15-6 investigation.

### **IG Investigations: A Dogged Pursuit of the Truth (Based on the Evidence Available)**

IG Investigations are simply a pursuit of the truth, based on the evidence available. In almost every situation, each participant in an event has a different version of the facts, based on his or her own perspective, and the extent of their knowledge of that event. IGs talk to all of them, and then determine where the preponderance of credible evidence lies. It is either a ball or a strike (substantiated or not substantiated), based on the testimony and evidence presented. IG investigations are designed to establish the facts of what happened, so that the allegation(s) can be substantiated against an individual, or so a not substantiated determination can be made, clearing a person's name of the allegation(s).

### **Misconception #3**

**“If one of my Soldiers makes an IG complaint that does not pan out (i.e. is not substantiated), I can discipline him/her for making a false allegation!”**

Wrong: In the first place, that would probably amount to an unlawful act of reprisal. While a person who deliberately makes false allegations or statements to the IG opens them up to harsh disciplinary action (including prosecution under the UCMJ or federal statute), simple non-substantiation of an allegation does not necessarily mean the complaint lied to the IG and should not trigger disciplinary action. It may mean the person was simply mistaken, misinterpreted the facts, or misunderstood someone's actions or words. Likewise, it may also mean that the IG was unable to develop sufficient evidence to establish the allegation. Keep in mind that IGs only substantiate allegations when a preponderance of credible evidence exists. Preponderance is defined as “superiority of weight,” (i.e. majority). AR 20-1 para 8-6 requires that allegations be “not substantiated” when preponderance of credible evidence, as viewed by a reasonable person, does not exist to support the allegation. This means that in the closest of cases, a 50/50 split of the evidence and/or testimony results in a “not substantiated” finding.

Probable source of the misconception: This probably stems from confusion over the issues of a “preponderance of credible evidence” and the protected status of communication with an IG.

What this means to leaders: Respect and protect a Soldier's right to bring allegations to the IG, whether or not you agree with the validity of the allegations. An IG investigation may serve to clear a person's good name of an allegation that has been made or it may substantiate the allegation, if there is a preponderance of credible evidence.

#### **Misconception #4**

**“The IG will open an investigation against you anytime a Soldier complains about you.”**

Wrong: IGs conduct investigations based on allegations that specific conduct by a specific individual has violated a specific standard. IGs analyze the validity of allegations brought to them. When IGs receive a complaint, the first thing they do is conduct a preliminary analysis to ascertain the nature and grounds of the complaint, and determine whether there are issues appropriate for IG action. Preliminary analysis is not an instantaneous process. It takes time and often involves an initial inquiry to clarify the grounds of the complaint and research the appropriate standards. Standards come from many sources, including Federal, state, and local laws, the UCMJ, regulations, policies, ethical standards, and SOPs.

Probable source of the misconception: This may stem from a lack of understanding of the four elements of an allegation: (1) A specific individual... (2) improperly... (3) committed an act or acts... (4) in violation of a specific standard. The part that often prevents an issue from being an allegation is (4). While a complainant thinks that another person's actions are improper, the actions do not violate a specific standard. Another source of the misconception is a lack of understanding of the preliminary analysis that IGs conduct for all potential allegations.

What this means to leaders: Understand that while IGs must deal with all allegations presented to them, they don't necessarily initiate an investigation just because a Soldier complains about his or her leader. Realize that all four elements listed above must be present for an allegation, and also be aware that IGs go through a preliminary analysis of all allegations before taking any action. This preliminary analysis is also conducted for all allegations that are forwarded to commander with a recommendation for a 15-6 investigation.

#### **Four questions the IG will ask a Soldier about an issue:**

1. Have you talked to your chain-of-command about the issue?
2. What supporting documentation do you have?
3. Where else have you requested assistance?
4. What specifically are you asking the IG to do for you?

Office of the Inspector General, 75<sup>th</sup> Division (TS)  
(713) 799-7552/7577 or 1-800-390-1530 @ ext 7552 or 7577

# FAMILY CARE

By Master Sgt. Angela A. Byrd  
75th DIV(TS) Family Program Coordinator



## About TAPS

### The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

**Division Family Readiness Office (800) 390-1530 ext 3492**

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc. (TAPS) provides a wide variety of programs and information to survivors, military and casualty personnel and others. TAPS is a national non-profit organization made up of, and providing services to, all those who have lost a loved one while serving in the Armed Forces. The heart of TAPS is our national military survivor peer support network. We also offer grief counseling referral, case worker assistance and crisis information, all available to help families and survivors cope and recover. We provide these services 24 hours a day free of charge! Please call 1-800-959-TAPS (8277) or e-mail [info@taps.org](mailto:info@taps.org).

Army One Source is designed to help you deal with life's issues. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year you can call in and speak to a master's level consultant or you can go online to access information or email a consultant.

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You can also visit a counselor in person, in your local community. You have access up to six (6) in-person counseling sessions with a licensed counselor at NO COST TO YOU. All you have to do is make the call: 1-800-464-8107. Please note: in-person counseling visits are only available in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. [www.armyonesource.com](http://www.armyonesource.com); (userID: army, password onesource)

### Training Opportunities for Family Readiness Group Personnel

There are numerous ways Family Readiness Liaisons, Group Leaders and Volunteers can receive training.

For more information, please log onto the following websites:

[www.aftb.org](http://www.aftb.org) (AFTB)    [www.myarmylife.com](http://www.myarmylife.com) (SOLD)    [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org) (Operation READY)  
[www.trol.redstone.army.mil/acs](http://www.trol.redstone.army.mil/acs) (AFAP)    [www.usarc-army.mil/familyprog](http://www.usarc-army.mil/familyprog) (FPA)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 289<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT, 2<sup>ND</sup> BRIGADE, 75<sup>th</sup> DIVISION (TRAINING SUPPORT)  
“The 2003 Department of Defense (DOD) Family Readiness Awards Recipients”**

Congratulations are in order for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 289<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 75<sup>th</sup> Division. They were honored in a formal ceremony on February 14, 2004 in Washington, D.C. at the Pentagon’s Hall of the Heroes for winning the 2003 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Awards



**S** **PICE UP FRG MEETINGS WITH A THEME**



January—So much MORE in 2004! Make it a great year & volunteer!

February—We are SWEET on you! Be an FRG Valentine—Volunteer!

March—We are LUCKY to have you. You are worth your weight in GOLD.

“MARCH” into Family Readiness. (Volunteers/Soldiers)

April—“Spring” into action with Family Readiness!

June—Sizzlin’ summer fun with Family Readiness!

July—Start things off with a BANG! Volunteer!

August—Back to School...Back to Family Readiness

October—“FALL”ing for Family Readiness

November—We are BLESSED to have you! We appreciate you! (Volunteers/soldiers)

December—Holiday fun with Family Readiness “SNOW” lie—you are the best!  
(Volunteers/soldiers)

**Family Program Advisory Council (FPAC)**

The Family Program Advisory Council would like to thank **Mrs. Barbara Dalby** for her faithful and dedicated service and for ensuring family readiness received the same priority as the soldier support Council. **Mrs. Carol Zink** has assumed the position of Chairperson, 75<sup>th</sup> Division Family Program Advisory Council.

**Make it YOUR New Year's resolution to volunteer!**

If you have ideas or suggestions, email them to MSG Byrd @ [angela.byrd@usarc-emh2.army.mil](mailto:angela.byrd@usarc-emh2.army.mil)

# Equal Opportunity Corner

Equal Opportunity news and information for all members of 75th Division (TS)



*MAJ Toni A. Glover*  
Division EO Advisor,  
(713) 795-3498

*SFC Patty Castaneda*  
EO Advisor, (713) 795-7276

## **EO TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**16-20 June 2004**

**Annual EO Conference and Training Workshop**

**7– 25 June 2004**

**Equal Opportunity Advisor Course at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida - for more information contact your Brigade EO Representative.**

## **UPCOMING OBSERVANCES**

May

**Asian-Pacific Heritage Month**

26 August

**Women's Equality Day**

15 September -15 October  
**Hispanic Heritage Month**

October

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

## **Why Are EO Programs Important To The Army?**

A healthy EO environment is a key factor in developing and maintaining unit readiness! DA Pamphlet 350-20 describes it best. Equal opportunity and treatment are given to all soldiers, their families, and Department of the Army (DA) civilians. This is done without regard to race, color, gender, religion, or national origin. To uphold this policy, the chain of command has a continuing challenge; it must provide a command climate that fosters attitudes and behavior about equal opportunity, which lead to cohesion and mission accomplishment.

Values, attitudes, and prejudices gained before enlistment or commissioning do not automatically dissolve or change when someone puts on an Army uniform. Too often these values, attitudes, and prejudices can lead to the misunderstanding, frustration and suspicion of others. Knowing and accepting this will help you to understand the impact of EO Training on command climate.

A positive, proactive EO environment helps units' effectiveness. It promotes morale, teamwork, and results in a high degree of unit cohesion and esprit de corps. People perform most efficiently in an atmosphere free of inter-group friction and discord. Therefore, a healthy EO environment is a key factor in developing and maintaining unit readiness.

## **SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS/ETHNIC OBSERVANCES**

The military is probably the most cultural and racially diverse organization in the country. For the first time soldiers have to adapt to differences in behaviors, speech, dress, etc. The result of this can be culture shock. Resistance to making

November  
**American Indian  
Alaskan Native Heritage  
Month**

**EO WEB SITE(S)**

<http://eo.pentagon.mil>

<https://www.patrick.af.mil/deomi/deomi.htm>

**COMMAND CLIMATE  
SURVEYS**

In accordance with AR 600-20, company commanders will administer the command climate survey within 90 days (active Army) or 180 days (Army Reserve) of assuming command and annually thereafter.

The survey can be obtained at [www.armyg1.army.mil](http://www.armyg1.army.mil)

The EO Advisor's role is to discuss results with the command and assist with developing action plans.

Results are best when the commander takes a proactive role in analyzing data and planning for unit improvement.

**Brigades EO Representatives**

*1<sup>st</sup> BDE, SFC Barbara Spruill  
(713) 795-7246*

*2<sup>nd</sup> BDE, SFC Richard Mathews  
(210) 221-1595*

*3<sup>rd</sup> BDE, SFC Timothy Marable  
(785) 239-3510*

*4<sup>th</sup> BDE, MSG Edwin S. Garlic Jr.  
(580) 442-0791*

adjustments can create problems for soldiers and also for their leaders. It is therefore essential that all soldiers gain an understanding of cultural differences. One-way the Army assists the soldiers in understanding these cultural differences is through Ethnic Observances.

**THE 75TH CELEBRATED PAST  
OBSERVANCES**  
***BLACK HISTORY MONTH***

On February 8, 2004 the 75<sup>th</sup> Division celebrated Black History Month and it was a good time for all. The guest speaker, Ms. Georgia Noone delivered an outstanding message that was motivational and thought provoking. Silent Word Ministry trilled the audience with a praise dance that left a tear in every soldier's eye. This year's Black History Month theme was in honor of the Supreme Court case, Brown vs. The Board of Education.



**“DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE”**

***Victims of the Holocaust.***

On April 4, 2004 the 75<sup>th</sup> Division acknowledged “Days of Remembrance” for Victims of the Holocaust in a special program. Guest speakers, Mr. Dick Grisham, Associate Director of Education Outreach, Holocaust Museum Houston gave the soldiers an overview of the Holocaust. Guest speaker, Mrs. Ruth Steinfeld, a holocaust survivor, who shared her life story with the soldiers, followed him. This year's “Days of Remembrance” theme: For Justice and Humanity.

## Annual General Inspection Best Practices

Kudos to 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade EO office for receiving a “Best Practice” for the *Objective: EO Training Program* during a recent Annual General Inspection conducted by 75<sup>th</sup> Division EO Office. Hats off to MSG Garlic for maintaining outstanding records and for doing a great job as the brigades’ EOR Please keep up the great work!

## DOD Establishes New Sexual Assault Hot line

The Department of Defense has opened a toll-free telephone number for individuals who want to contact or provide information to the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault. The number — **1-800-497-6261** — is staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

The Army has a similar hot line number at **1-800-464-8107** in and outside the Continental U.S. When dialing from outside the U.S., be sure to use the appropriate country access codes. For Spanish speakers, dial Army’s Sexual Assault hot line at **1-888-732-0920**.

See [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil) <<http://www.defenselink.mil/>> for the full news release.

Statistical Report (QNSR) on equal opportunity progress to database is <http://eo.pentagon.mil/>.

### Narrative and Statistical Reports on Equal Opportunity Progress (QNSR)

All Brigades will submit a Quarterly Narrative and the Division Headquarters NLT 20 days following the end of each quarter. Reports will be submitted to the Division EO Office via electronic mail. Units will utilize the automated EO database.

**Brigades Deadlines to the Division EO Office Data from the field needs to be submitted IAW**

**AR 600-20 para 6-16. 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Report 20 April 2004; 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Report 20 July 2004; 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Report 20 Oct 2004**

## “DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE”

### *Victims of the Holocaust.*



▲ CoS present award to Mr. and Mrs. Stienfeld

▲ Holocaust Reception



▼ Dick Grisham talks to the Soldiers of the 75th



# Military Security

By Mr. Alvin Zeno

75th DIV(TS) Intelligenece Security Specialist



**It is up to you—Our customers to assist us in proper completion of the Electronic Personnel Security Questionnaire (EPSQ)**

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the Defense Security Service (DSS). The DSS is responsible for ensuring adequate security investigations are completed as authorized for individuals in the military, Department of Defense (DoD) Civilians, Industrial Contractors and other agency personnel. These investigations are used by the Department of Defense to determine the consistency, of the interests to national security to:

Grant an individual initial access to classified information

Determine if access should be continued

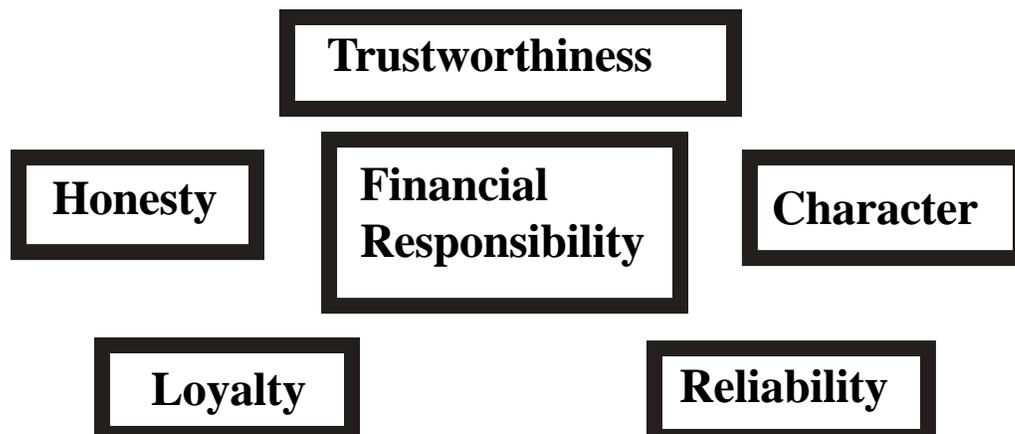
Determine an individual's eligibility for assignment to sensitive duties and

Determine if an individual should be accepted or retained in the U.S. Military.

A personnel security investigation is an inquiry into the following qualities of an individual:

Loyalty, Respect, Integrity, Honesty and Trustworthiness are a few (core values) qualities, which are the foundation of our armed forces, government and nation. These qualities assist DoD adjudicators and DoD officials in presenting a view of an individual's character. To ensure timely completion and accuracy of the EPSQ results, it is imperative that each individual answer each question.

(**Note:** if the question does not apply to you then so state)



## Elements and Types of Personnel Security Investigations

The investigation generally includes inquiries of law enforcement files; a financial check; review of pertinent records; and interviews of your friends, coworkers, employers, neighbors, and other individuals, as appropriate. Again, be very thorough when providing any information involving the above, and you should not have any delays in obtaining your clearance. DSS conducts several different types of personnel security investigations depending on the type of clearance or access the individual requires.

The types of investigations are the following:

**Single-Scope Background Investigation** - the basis for a Top Secret Clearance

- **Periodic Reinvestigations** - the basis for continuing access to information at the following clearance levels: ♦Top Secret ♦Secret ♦Confidential
- **National Agency Check, Local Agency Check (NAC/LAC)** - the basis for a Secret or a Confidential Clearance
- **Special Investigative Inquiry** - conducted when allegations are received about possible unsuitable conduct of a cleared individual
- **Trustworthiness Investigation** - the basis for access to unclassified, but sensitive positions (e.g., on individuals who will handle money)

### **A Personnel Security Investigation Is Initiated When...**

DSS receives the appropriate security forms electronically from us (Security Specialist) in the 75<sup>th</sup> Div (TS) G2, and/or its subordinate Brigade Security Managers. To prevent delays in opening and processing investigations, the security forms should be sent to DSS electronically. To learn more about the electronic version of the security forms used, please visit the Electronic Personnel Security Questionnaire (EPSQ) Web site at <http://www.dss.mil>.

In conclusion, Military Personnel, DoD Civilians, and Government Contractors are reminded that personnel security clearances are the responsibility of the individual and needs to be monitored at all times. Depending on your MOS or Duty position, security clearances can affect your MOS, assignment and schools. With your help and that of your security manager, initial investigations and periodic reinvestigations can be completed with efficiency and minimal work. Also by monitoring your clearance it saves the DoD time and money.

# First Brigade

Headquarters, Houston Texas,  
Col. Jose Vallejo, Commander



In January 2004 the United States of America again looked to the 75<sup>th</sup> Division to meet the Nation's needs in the ongoing Global War on Terror (GWOT). The citizen-soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade had just completed a demanding and unprecedented mobilization of their soldiers for almost a year and had only demobilized a short four months before. First Brigade's soldiers were just beginning to catch back up to their other professions (their civilian jobs), when the President of the United States again turned to the 75<sup>th</sup> Division and ordered them to remobilize for 180 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

First Brigade readily answered the call, with soldiers notifying employers and preparing their families for possible long separations and reporting to the United States Army Reserve Center on Old Spanish Trail in Houston to accept the call of their country.

Shortly after the January 2004 remobilization, Brigadier General-select Jose Vallejo, the First Brigade Commander, called his subordinate commanders together in a conversation that went something like this:

"Gentlemen, I have called you here to inform you that I need forty soldiers ready to deploy to Iraq to provide military assistance training to the Iraqi Army by the first of April."

Colonel Vallejo had risen to his feet to look into the faces of his two subordinate colonels in his office, and to speak more clearly to the one in Oklahoma via a conference call; Colonel Kenneth Starr, Colonel Oscar Greenleaf and Colonel Donald Durant. He was speaking with that fervent fire of a commander with a critical, real-world mission. He wanted to make sure he communicated the conviction and adamant resolve he felt burning in his soul:

"This is my priority mission as of this moment. I know you have TLP [troop leading procedure classes], MDMP [military decision-making process classes], UA [unit assistance missions] and ongoing TS XXI [training support twenty-one simulation exercise] missions to support and make happen, but make no mistake: this Iraqi military assistance training has just become our number one focus. Even if we have to cancel a major exercise to support this new focus, those forty soldiers will be ready to roll on one April."

He paused to let the impact of this sudden shift from so many other ongoing missions settle powerfully into the minds of the assembled colonels, then continued; "Now, tell me what you need from me gentlemen, and let's get out there and make this mission happen."

Colonel Vallejo, like all commanders in the 75<sup>th</sup> Division, was juggling many balls amidst the mobilization

efforts to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. This newest mission was officially called the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT). The mission was to take these small teams of soldiers into Iraq and train the new Iraqi Army to fight and function as an effective defense and stability force in their newly emerging democratic nation.

This CMATT mission was the first time the Brigade had been tasked to send soldiers into the war zone in Iraq. The operational tempo was moving very fast for the First Brigade with so many competing missions. Now they had this newest priority to get trained, capable brigade soldiers into Iraq quickly.

What made this mission more of a challenge was that the brigade was at that moment mobilizing and training five unit assistance teams, six MDMP teams and ten TLP teams.

In the midst of all these newly trained, specializing teams, was the ongoing staple of the brigade's annual mission; to provide large-scale Battle Command and Staff Training (BCST) exercises, Command Post Exercises (CPX) and other battlefield simulations involving hundreds of support soldiers in meetings, planning, coordinating and execution of these large-scale warfare simulations.

For a brigade made up of 98 percent drilling reservists, having just demobilized the entire brigade four months earlier, this new remobilization of critical personnel was a significant challenge to soldiers and leaders.

Then, just when Colonel Vallejo was getting his CMATT soldiers trained and ready to deploy, a new priority mission came slamming down to the First Brigade to assist the Louisiana National Guard to ramp-up, train and deploy to Iraq for combat operations. First Brigade was tasked to provide twelve 3-soldier Forward Assistance Teams (FAST) to go to Louisiana and prepare the 4000 soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team to get to Fort Hood with all equipment and personnel.

On go the missions to the 75<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division in support on the nation's Global War on Terror, and the soldiers of the First Brigade up will rise up and continue to accomplish all missions needed to win this ongoing war against worldwide terrorism.

Colonel Vallejo is proud of all the soldiers of his brigade who continue to make great personal sacrifice to keep America free of terrorist attacks and to defeat terrorist efforts from massing in nations far abroad.

# Third Brigade

Headquarters, Fort Riley, Kansas,  
Col. Gasper Gulotta, Commander



The last 6 months for the brigade have been fast paced. The patriots and heroes from our organization are making a difference as we train and deploy our reserve component soldiers for war. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, this brigade has trained over 7,000 troops in the last 18 months. We expect this workload to continue for the foreseeable future with over 3,500 troops passing through our gates each rotation. As a training support brigade, this unit is an indispensable and unique part of the support base here in the United States.

The brigade has been training deploying soldiers and units that provide logistics support for combat forces overseas. Although most of our units are support units and not combat units, they have been the most likely targets of terrorists in Iraq since they are generally less lethal and more lucrative targets. We have been training these units primarily in force protection skills in three primary areas that are intended to significantly enhance their chances of staying alive and accomplishing their mission. These areas are convoy operations, base camp operations, and urban operations.

This brigade provides the unquestionably finest, most realistic combat training that these units have ever experienced and it directly impacts their chances of survival in a very difficult fight. Not only does our support go beyond the client unit, but we also indirectly support the families and soldiers of our nation that are surviving because they are well trained and ready for a very tough, unconventional war. Without our mobilized reservists, we simply could not provide the same level of force protection training that we think is required.

In line with the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have requested every remaining mobilized reservist to remain on active duty until at least 25 July 2004 and possibly until January 2005. This extension would allow the brigade to train most of the deploying units for the next rotation in 2005. In addition, we will use other reservists in an annual training status to complete the training in February and March of 2005. In order to support the Global War on Terrorism for 2006 and 2007, we will seek a new mobilization of those reservists that have remained in drill status for the last two years. Although we have released some reservists from active duty for personal and compassionate reasons, we cannot afford to fully demobilize at this time. Our training requirements drive the decisions on who stays mobilized and who may leave active duty and return to their home of record.

Our plan to first seek a new mobilization order will bring fresh forces on board by October 2004. If this extension is approved, we will retain only enough reservists to provide a thorough transition to a new force of trainers. Should a new mobilization not be possible, we will renew our request for extension of our current force until April 2005 (under a Contingency Temporary Active Duty (COTTAD) status) at that time we will then stand down the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade.

The following excerpts describe what training mission the battalions have been conducting for the past 6 months:

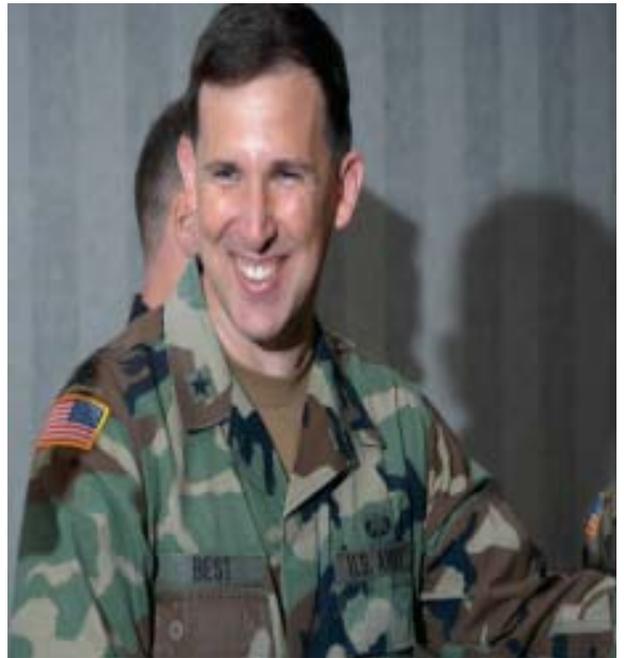
*continued on page 76*

# Best *Comm*

Story by Maj. Wayne Marotto and Staff. Sgt. Dionne Meehan, photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto



▲ Lt. Gen Clark passes the division colors to Brig. Gen. Best as he assumes command of the division.



▲ Brig. Gen Best received a warm welcome from the division soldiers.



▲ Command Sgt. Maj. Blair prepares to pass the division colors.



▲ Brig.Gen. Best and 2nd Lt. Best at the Greater Houston Military Ball.

# nder of 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS)

**T**he 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS) held a change of command ceremony on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby passed the division colors to Brig. Gen. Steven Best.

Dalby had been commanding general since 2000 and had guided the division through its first mobilization since World War II.

In his farewell speech, Dalby told the audience that it was time to pass the leadership torch on to the next generation of leaders. He praised the soldiers of the division for their outstanding efforts during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Best comes from the 85<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS), where he held the position of Assistant Division Commander. In his speech, Best said, "I am glad I have big shoes to fill."

Best said he was eager to continue to build on Dalby's foundation and become part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division alumni. He said he was privileged and honored to be part of the 75<sup>th</sup>.

Best emphasized that the real heroes of the 75<sup>th</sup> were the Soldiers, especially those serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He acknowledged that the families of the Soldiers are also heroes, because they enable the Soldiers to complete the mission knowing they have the love and support of their families.

Best is a 1976 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was commissioned in the Field Artillery and served in various assignments at Fort Sill, Germany, Fort Ord, and Schofield Barracks.

Best left active duty in 1987 and joined the Army Reserve. He served in the 86<sup>th</sup> RSC, 84<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS), and 85<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS) before assuming command of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS).

Best civilian occupation is an independent training consultant and he lives in the Chicago, Illinois area with his wife and children.



▲ Brig. Gen. Best said it was an honor and privilege to be a part of the 75th DIV(TS).



▲ Maj. Gen. Dalby and Brig. Gen. Best at the military ball.

**The Bulgebuster**

# Gig 'em Sir!

## Col. Bob Townsend, CoS, Departs

Story and photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto

Col. Bob Townsend's tenure as 75th DIV(TS) Chief of Staff ended May 15, 2004. Townsend had held that position since August 2002.

Before being selected as division Chief of Staff Townsend served as the 3rd Brigade Commander located at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby awarded Townsend the Legion of Merit Medal citing his outstanding performance during the division's mobilization and increasing mission responsibility in the Global War on Terror. Dalby also presented Mrs. Townsend



▲ The crowd gave Col. Townsend a standing ovation in recognition for an outstanding job done as CoS.



▲ Col. Townsend and Mrs. Townsend at farewell dinner.

◀ Col. Townsend at his farewell luncheon. The hat and aggie slippers were part of the gifts he received from the staff sections.



▲ Maj. Gen. Dalby awarded Col. Townsend the Legion of Merit award. Dably said that Townsend had done an outstanding job as CoS.



▲ Mrs. Townsend was given an award for her contributions. Here she shares a laugh with Maj. Gen. Dalby as she “pins” on the award.

the Outstanding Civilian Service award for her contributions to the Family Support Group.

The award presentation was held a farewell dinner held in honor of Townsend on May 14, 2004.

A farewell luncheon was held at the Wild Cat Golf Club on May 5, 2004 in honor of Townsend. Maj. Gen. Dalby attended along with the primary staff, personal staff, and special staff sections.

The staff sections presented Townsend with numerous gifts, many with a Texas A&M theme.

Townsend departs the 75th to become a professor of Military Science in the Army ROTC at his alma mater Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.



▲ Col. Townsend received a maroon baret befitting his acceptance as a professor of Military Science at Texas AM University.

# Under Fire: Training the Iraqi Armed

*"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today who sheds his blood with me shall be my brother." William Shakespeare*

Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Stone

Sgt. 1st Class David Meyer

Staff Sgt. Russell Cotton

Sgt. 1st. Class Pedro Pena

Master Sgt. Richard Howard

Master Sgt. Steve Ro

Capt. Barry Starr





Story and Photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto

**T**allifar, Iraq-Amidst mortar fire attacks, fire fights at the front gate, drive by shootings, and the ever present danger of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) the first of four teams of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) Advisory Support Teams are training hundreds of soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces as part of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT).

The 75<sup>th</sup> Division is the vanguard of the spearhead that is training and advising the soldiers of the Iraqi Army. The objective is to advise, train, and organize the Iraqi Armed Forces as soon as possible so that Iraqis can defend their own country. This enormous responsibility has been tasked to the 75<sup>th</sup> Division, an active and Reserve component training support division headquartered in Houston, Texas.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Division has been mobilized since January 2003 and its normal wartime mission is to be Observer Controllers to train and mobilize reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the United States. The Army has now tasked the division to deploy hundreds of its' Soldiers as a unit into a combat theater to train foreign soldiers. The majority of the deployed Soldiers volunteered to go to Iraq, the memory of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 still fresh on their minds.

The first team of reserve soldiers led by Maj. Robert Chandler, CMATT Battalion Advisory Support Team Chief, and Master Sgt. Richard Howard, noncommissioned officer in charge is in Tallafar, Iraq doing a mission which would normally be done by Special Forces Soldiers. But because the Special Forces Soldiers are needed for other missions in Iraq and in Afghanistan to hunt down Osama bin Laden the mission went to the reserve training support divisions.

The Reservists are all infantry or combat arms soldiers, the majority has served on active duty, and several experienced combat in Operation Desert Storm. They will spend the next year training the Iraqi soldiers on basic infantry tactics from squad to battalion level.

Tallafar is located in the northern part of Iraq near the Syrian border. The closest major city is Mosul, which is approximately 70 miles to the south.

The city of Mosul has over 1.6 million people and had the second highest death rate (at the



**Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Stone pulls security on a combat patrol in Tallafar, Iraq. Stone is a member of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS), an Army Reserve unit headquarter in Houston, Texas and is part of the Coalition Military Assistance Team training the Iraqi army. Summer 2004**

time of this writing, behind Baghdad) of any Iraqi city for U.S. Soldiers. The U.S. Army camp at Mosul is routinely hit with mortars and the U.S. patrols are fired upon on a daily basis.

The hostility of its residents was apparent by the intimidating stares the Iraqi men gave the Soldiers as they sped in and out of traffic hoping to avert an IED or ambush. The Soldiers had their trigger fingers at the ready of their M-16A2 rifles, which were pointed out of the windows of their SUVs. The Soldiers' anxiety was apparent due to a previous IED explosion, which had narrowly missed their convoy.

When the Soldiers first arrived at Fort Tallafar they found it in severe disrepair. They quickly dubbed the fort 'the Alamo' showing their Texas pride. The fort had been used as a prisoner of war compound for Iranian and Kuwaiti soldiers. Its most recent employment was as a base for the Iraqi army, but was not funded adequately and fell into disrepair. The challenge to improve the fort from Spartan living conditions to adequate was huge. But with typical undaunted American ingenuity the U.S. Soldiers quickly began to repair the plumbing, infrastructure, security. The Soldiers said they are proud of the progress they have made repairing and making improvements in the fort so that they could improve the quality of life for themselves and the Iraqi soldiers to live and train there.

The Soldiers are embedded with over 600 Iraqi soldiers in the fort. Many of the soldiers were in the old Iraqi Army, while others are



new to the military. The U.S. Soldiers live, train, and eat with the Iraqi soldiers. Much to the chagrin of the U.S. Soldiers they are subsisting on an Iraqi diet because the Iraqi battalion commander ordered that no American food would be served at the Fort.

Chandler said the breakfast was a mashed up hard-boiled egg, a white soup like substance, bread, and cream. For lunch and dinner the Soldiers were given the choice of chicken with rice or rice with chicken. The Soldiers did take a liking to the hot sweet tea the Iraqi served with every meal.

The importance of the mission was not lost to the Soldiers. Staff Sgt. James Mitchell of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 381<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade served two years on active duty with an infantry unit. But this is the first time he has been in a combat zone. He said he



**Staff Sgt. Russell Cotton points out the objective to Staff Sgt. James Mitchell while on a combat patrol in Tallafar, Iraq. Cotton and Mitchell are members of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS), an Army Reserve unit headquarter in Houston, Texas and is part of the Coalition Military Assistance Team training the Iraqi army.**

volunteered to be part of the CMATT mission because it was a good opportunity for him to help rebuild the Iraqi army and once the army was rebuilt, the Iraqis could defend themselves. Then they could work on rebuilding their economy.

Mitchell said in the first month of training they have put the Iraqi soldiers through Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training, close quarter combat training, patrolling techniques and formations, tactical checkpoints, and individual movement techniques.

All of this training had been put to use when the Iraqi soldiers and 75<sup>th</sup> Division Soldiers went on combat patrols with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Going on combat patrols with the Iraqi Army is a new part of the mission for the Soldiers. This is not a mission they have when they train reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the United States. The 75<sup>th</sup> Soldiers have accompanied the Iraqi Soldiers on day and night patrols in the local village and terrain around the fort.

Capt. Barry Starr of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 289<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade said he volunteered for the mission because “I believe in my country and I believe in the mission.” His role in the CMATT is as the

teams’ S1 (Personnel) and S4 (Logistics). He coaches, teaches, and mentors his counterparts on how to keep track of personnel and equipment.

One of his first goals was to have the Iraqis sign for equipment (especially the weapons) and to have accountability formations. These are things the U.S. Army has inculcated into its Soldiers, but was a new concept for the Iraqi army.

Starr emphasized that he does not dictate any type of training to the Iraqis but makes suggestions to them. He explained that he was not there to run the Iraqi Army but to assist them in running the Army. He said that he wanted the Iraqi officers and noncommissioned officers to learn on their own how to run their Army. The Iraqi officers were eager to ask Starr questions and get his advice. Starr also trains the Iraqi soldiers on the weapons qualification ranges.

Sgt. First Class Malcolm Stone of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 381<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm when he served with the 643 Air Defense Artillery (Patriot). He said he volunteered to return to a combat zone “To help out the Iraqi nation; the troops and to get our Soldiers home faster to their loved ones.”

Stone said that the difference between the two wars is “[In] The first Gulf War we came over her to kick a tyrant out of a country he



**Sgt. Maj. William Smith, G3, with members of the Iraqi Armed Forces. One of the Iraqi soldiers had trained with U.S. Special Forces in Kurdistan and traded stories with Smith.**

**Command Sgt. Maj. Blair accompanied the 75th Soldiers on a joint patrol. His visit was a morale boost for the troops.**

should never [have] went into. This experience is- I am helping a nation get stronger.”

The CMATT Soldiers said the training and mission are going well. Staff Sgt. Russell Cotton of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 289<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division in Desert Storm. “All of the Iraqi soldiers want to train and defend their country. They are motivated,” he said.

Although the mission is inherently dangerous, all of the Soldiers agreed that this mission was a mission for the 75<sup>th</sup> Division and Army Reserve.

“I believe this is the exact mission we should be doing. We are a training support division. We should not take American Soldiers and pull them out of a unit and say, ‘OK we want you to go train these guys here’. We have been training Soldiers the past two years on active duty. It’s what our mission is –to train Soldiers,” said Chandler.



# Lt. Col. Hildebrand takes Command of 1st Bn 383rd Regiment

Story and photos by Kamelia Russell

A weekend change of command ceremony only seems natural for a reserve unit, and that's what one battalion did Saturday. Officers, family members and soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment sat before the Cavalry Parade field, at Fort Riley to observe the transition of command from Col. George Covert, Jr. to Lt. Col. Jay Hildebrand.

"I heard someone say, the other day, that we do too many ceremonies in the Army," began Col. Gasper Gulotta, Commander of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 75<sup>th</sup> Division. "But, the traditions are important because the soldiers standing before you, only represent a small part of this unit and a small part of the mission."

Covert, who was recently promoted to Colonel, took command of the 1-383 Regiment in July 2001. With an extensive background of achievements, to include being a college instructor and opposing forces controller, Covert hands the battalion to the care of Hildebrand. For the last two years, the battalion won first place in the OPFOR challenges, but this year they won second place in the Division-wide challenge. According to Covert, these OPFOR challenges were made to be realistic as possible through duplicating wartime experiences in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Iraq. This way, the soldiers will be exposed to the environment before going overseas, and be able to revert back and remember the training.

"George Covert is a quiet leader, much like myself," said Gulotta. "But George is a quiet professional, he's confident, and he promotes that confidence in his soldiers and in

his leaders. The confidence and expertise of the unit before you are in large part because of the leadership of George Covert...The team he has built is going to make this transition an easy one."

As Covert advised Hildebrand of the highly skilled and motivated unit he will soon command, Covert mentioned how the unit is filled with outdoorsmen, who can provide for them. Then, between the examples of fishing and turkey cookouts, Covert disrupted the traditional template of military ceremonies and surprised the audience by whipping out an 11 ½ inch turkey beard to Gulotta.

"Soldiers thank you for the opportunity to be the commander of this great unit," said Covert. "It has truly been a pleasure and an opportunity I do not give up lightly... My response to you has been and will always be, you are the living entity of that word; dependable."

Lt. Col. Hildebrand currently works and lives in Iowa. He has served in the reserve component since, August 1992 and in all levels of logistical support from tactical to strategic.

"I'm very proud that this unit will be going from one great leader to another great leader," said Gulotta.

Hildebrand will remain in reserve status, but Gulotta forewarned that the remainder of the unit might

be mobilized, next year.

"Do you remember when the world stopped turning?" asked Hildebrand. "The world has changed, but our mission still continues. Our client units depend on us to provide them with the training support Covert mentioned for we will not send a soldier to war untrained."



The official party passes the colors from old to new commander, which is symbolic of the transition to a new leader.

# Clearing the *Route*

By Capt. Aaron Barta



With tremendous help from 9 Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers from the 3rd Battalion of the 381st Regiment Dallas Texas, set up a Motorized Route Clearance lane consisting of three separate routes. Units are required to clear any IEDs, mines or enemy forces along the route in order for follow on forces to travel along the routes without fear of being attacked. Two

routes located on east Fort Hood use existing dirt roads with several choke points, hazards and high-risk areas of interest. The hilly terrain simulates the operating environment that units deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan may possibly encounter. Like Iraq's Fertile Crescent area, both lanes have both thick vegetation restricting vehicle traffic and creating choke points, as



What's killing coalition soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and being broadcasted every night in the homes of American citizens? IEDs or Improvised Explosive Devices. The 1st of the 395<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, known as the Viper Battalion, is working hard to teach soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan how to recognize, react to and reduce the threat posed by IEDs. Training consists of three parts: classroom instruction on recognizing IEDs, mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and how to react to them; a class on the doctrine of how to plan and execute Route Clearance, and lastly, lane training developed to exercise the leaders and soldiers on how to properly clear a route and maneuver as a company. The end-state for the Route Clearance segment is for the soldiers to be able to deploy overseas fully prepared to protect themselves from IEDs and to kill or capture the enemy while making it safer for Coalition Forces and the Iraqi people.

fighting in an urbanized area. Another ~~additional asset that~~ North Fort Hood provides is that instead of clearing along a generally predetermined route, leaders have an option to clear the route using any single or multiple direction or method that he or she chooses forcing the unit's leaders to use the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP).

well as open plains allowing for platoons and companies to maneuver mounted. The lanes also run through and over several hills and cliffs much like the mountainous Afghanistan region. The third route runs through the hostile city of Al-Betcha, whose inhabitants are loyal to local tribal leaders and Islamic fundamentalists. Located at North Fort Hood, Al-Betcha adds a new dimension to route clearance, moving and

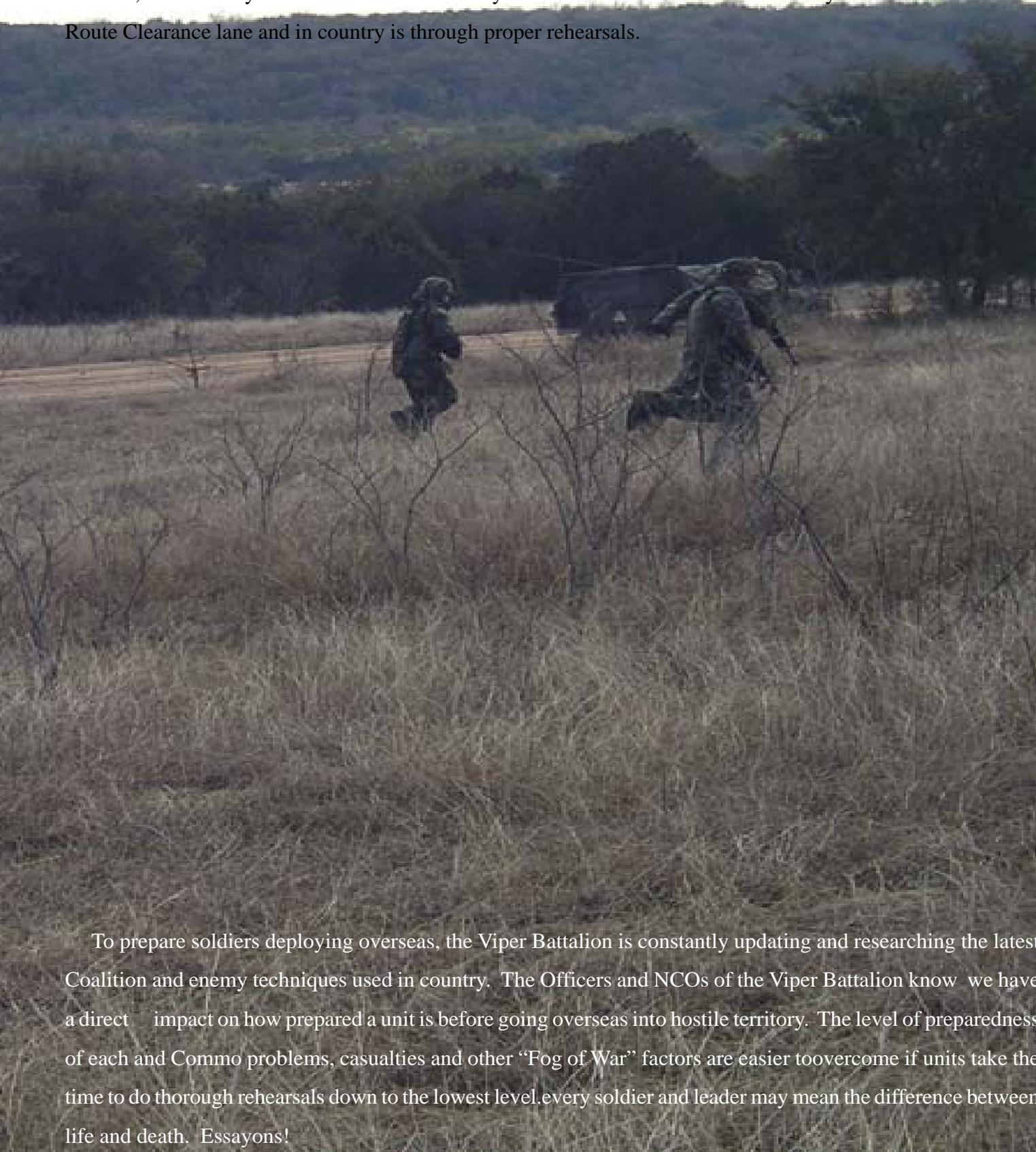
Before a unit has a chance to clear a route, the soldiers and leaders spend the first day learning the doctrine behind clearing a route. They learn the details needed to plan a route clearance mission and lessons learned about how the enemy employs IEDs and ambushes along routes in theatre. The first thing the soldiers learn is that Route Clearance is a company level, combined arms mission. Building on lessons learned from previous lanes run by other training battalions on how to react to IEDs, units learn to not only how to protect themselves from IEDs but



also how to take the fight to the enemy in order to kill them and prevent them from conducting future attacks. They learn to anticipate where the enemy might be and to seize the initiative away from the enemy.

While unit leaders learn about planning for a deliberate route clearance, the soldiers and junior NCOs review basic maneuver skills such as mounted and dismounted movement techniques, and react to contact drills. They also review examples of actual IED attacks in Iraq to learn how the enemy fights. While clearing a route, soldiers soon learn to use the advantages they have over the enemy, primarily

maneuverability and firepower. They also learn how to anticipate the enemy and take away their primary advantage, surprise. The Route Clearance lane is a challenging mission that tests the entire company command. This lane provides company commanders with their first chance to command and maneuver an entire company element, which many leaders learn is not an easy task. Leaders also learn that the key to success both on the Route Clearance lane and in country is through proper rehearsals.



To prepare soldiers deploying overseas, the Viper Battalion is constantly updating and researching the latest Coalition and enemy techniques used in country. The Officers and NCOs of the Viper Battalion know we have a direct impact on how prepared a unit is before going overseas into hostile territory. The level of preparedness of each and Commo problems, casualties and other “Fog of War” factors are easier to overcome if units take the time to do thorough rehearsals down to the lowest level. every soldier and leader may mean the difference between life and death. Essayons!

# *Port Operations*

## *Mission by the Sea*

Story and Photos by Maj. John Pistone

A gentle breeze blows off the water and the sound of seagulls fill the air. The blast of the ship's horn and the roar of the locomotive engine break the calm of the morning and we begin another day at the Port of Beaumont. The Neches River is not the sea but the ships and crew are certainly sea worthy. The USNS Bob Hope has just made its forty-two mile journey up the Neches River to the Port of Beaumont, where it will dock and unload its cargo of track vehicles, trucks, HMMWVs, and containers. On this U.S. Navy ship are the contract crew, the Supercargo (soldier's who have traveled with their equipment) and the Guardian Mariners (the ship security element). The ship has docked, and U.S. Customs, Immigration and the Department of Agriculture have cleared the ship and the discharge process begins.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Division was given the responsibility to provide Port Liaison Officers (LNO) to the Port of Beaumont to monitor and assist in the redeployment process for all Fifth Army equipment. As representatives of Fifth Army, the Port LNOs played a vital role in the equipment demobilization process. The information from the Port LNO worksheets were routed to the Reserve Readiness Commands/National Guard Bureau and the Equipment Demobilization Sites (EDS) to aide in their reconstitution efforts and gave them advance warning that their equipment was in route.

As Port LNOs, it was essential to understand who performed the many varied functions at the port. A team leader was assigned to each incoming ship and had overall responsibility for vessel discharge and port clearance. Through daily contact with these personnel,





we were able to find out when our equipment was scheduled to clear the port and by what method (rail or commercial truck). We compared the TCNs (Transportation Control Number) on each piece of equipment with the manifest. Daily reports and review of the shipping documents allowed us to track which pieces of equipment departed the port and verify destinations. Although the optempo was very high, the professionalism of the soldiers and the dedication of local contract labor made the mission a success.

Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby traveled to Beaumont to observe the port operations. While there, he received a first-hand tour of the port from Lt. Col. Brian Sundin, Commander of the 842d Transportation Battalion headquartered at the Port of Beaumont. Additionally, Maj. General Dalby met with the captain of the USNS Bob Hope and was given a tour of the ship. The 842d Transportation Battalion is a very small active duty force, so when missions dictate, they receive augmentation by reserve transportation units from around the country. While at the port, Maj. General Dalby recognized several mobilized reservists who had made significant contributions to the ship discharge and port clearance operations with commander's coins.

The next months will be a challenge for the military transportation system as we undergo the largest redeployment effort since World War II. The 75<sup>th</sup> Division stands ready to provide capable officers and non-commissioned officers to staff our assigned ports to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of this redeployment effort.

# Dependable Trainers

Story and photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto



↑ CPT Stephen Cupp (r) of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) discusses a platoon leaders tactics on a convoy lane at Fort Riley during mobilization training. The 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) used lessons learned from Iraq to train mobilized Reservists.

↙ SFC Jon Bowman of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) portrays an injured Iraqi during mobilization training at Fort Riley. The 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) used lessons learned from Iraq to train mobilized Reservists.

FORT RILEY- Mission first, is an old Army saying and this was certainly true for a task force of Soldiers from the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support), Third Brigade, 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment at Fort Riley, Kansas.

A blinding February snowstorm and bitterly cold temperatures did not stop the ‘dependable trainers’ from performing their mission of mobilizing and validating Army Reserve Soldiers for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lt. Col. Mark Asbury, 2-383<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Commander, said that the Army Reserve Soldiers of the Third Brigade are “the dependable trainers who the Army Reserve leadership can turn to, to get right answers and right products through the road of readiness.”

The Third Brigade created a task force from the three battalions of the 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. Their mission was to train, validate, and deploy Army Reserve combat service support Soldiers at the Fort Riley Power Projection Platform from January to March 2004 who would deploy to Iraq for a one-year tour of duty.

One of the lessons learned from the war in Iraq was that combat service support Soldiers offered a softer target to Iraqi terrorists.

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*MSG Cecilia Lynch (r) of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) instructs an Army Reserve Soldier where to place a wounded civilian portrayed by CPT Craig Hickerson during mobilization training at Fort Riley. The 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) used lessons learned from Iraq to train mobilized Reservists.*



# *Citizen-Soldiers Army Trainers*

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said that he wanted training to emphasize that every Soldier must be a rifleman and warrior first. Schoomaker wants to instill into Soldiers what he calls “Warrior Ethos.”

The Third Brigade used lessons learned from Iraq and Gen. Schoomaker’s commander’s guidance to ensure that the Soldiers they mobilized and deployed could fight, survive, and continue the mission in a combat environment.

“We train these Soldiers hard, and we have the best instructors I have ever seen,” said Maj. Marie Ryberg the task force exercise director. “We give them an austere environment, and the most realistic training environment because we are using lessons learned from Iraq.”

One of the new training methods the Third Brigade used was incorporating lessons learned from units, which are presently in Iraq. These lessons are updated weekly from the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) and from the units the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) has deployed to Iraq.

Maj. Rick Aper explained that units the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) had deployed to Iraq were emailing the brigade to say what training they had gone through was successful and what was not successful. This ‘real time’ training has helped the mobilizing units practice and rehearse likely events they may encounter while in Iraq.

The mobilization training was divided into three stages which the task force called gates.

Gate 1 consisted of three days of morning classroom instructions in selected individual and leader tasks. In the afternoon the Soldiers went through practical exercises based on the classroom instructions. All of the instructors at Gate 1 were Military Policemen. This presented “a problem

in tactical techniques,” said Aper, who was in charge of instructions at Gate 1.

Aper gave an example with the cordon and search block of instruction. He explained the difference in tactics between an MP unit and an Infantry unit. “An MP unit will knock on a door [during the cordon and search], whereas an Infantry unit will kick the door down.”

At Gate 2 the Soldiers trained for three days to validate on tasks in base defenses, urban operations, and convoy operations. “Gate two is great training. The base defense is their first opportunity to get in a tactical environment,” said Capt. David Tiedt of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS).

There was a special emphasis on convoy operations. Lessons learned from Iraq had confirmed that combat service support units had presented a soft target. The task force trained the Soldiers to be aggressive when fired upon.

Capt. Stephen Cupp and Sgt. First Class Todd Monson, of the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS), were Observer Controller instructors on the convoy operations. Cupp and Monson rode along side the convoy, which could take up to four hours in the calf-deep snow-covered tank trails.

The convoy route was littered with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) commonly found in Iraq. The convoy commander was validated on his reaction to the IEDs based on the lessons learned from Iraq.

The convoy was subjected to sniper fire and ambushes. Cupp and Monson observed how the Soldiers reacted to these scenarios. After each scenario they would hold an After-Action-Review to discuss with the Soldiers things they had done correctly and things they needed to improve.

The training at Gate 3 consisted of all the training the Soldiers had done over the previous seven days.

The Soldiers went through a Live Fire Exercise with live ammunition in

order to provide a realistic environment. They practiced shooting at targets and fire suppression while traveling in a convoy. This training provided leaders with the opportunity to lead in a realistic situation, and build Soldiers’ confidence in shooting their weapons.

The stress of the long days and cold temperatures were hard on the mobilizing Soldiers. “We put the Soldiers under a lot of stress trying to replicate a combat theater utilizing the convoys, urban operations, base defense, and using an aggressive opposing force,” said Ryberg.

The Soldiers realized that the more they sweated in training, the less they would bleed on the battlefield.

“Thank God the 75<sup>th</sup> is here teaching individual Soldier skills, which many Soldiers are lacking in,” said Sgt. First Class Chad Craft, 1140<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. Craft explained that it was easier to train on these skills at Fort Riley because of the accessible training facilities and equipment. He said that the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) was making sure that the individual soldier skills were getting done.

The Third Brigades watchword was ‘dependable trainers’ during mobilization. The families of the deploying Soldiers can depend on them to ensure their loved ones are trained and ready for combat.

Army Reserve Soldiers during Urban Training at Fort Riley conducted by the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS). The 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) used lessons learned from Iraq to train mobilized Reservists.



# Third Brigade Family Readiness Group Functions

The soldiers, officers, and family members of the 2nd Battalion, 291<sup>st</sup> Regiment have demonstrated over the last quarter that they can play just as hard as they work. During the last two months, with a lull in mobilizations, the battalion has hosted two Family Readiness Group meetings ending with fun filled, rowdy and raucous parties. During each get together, Alma Gutierrez, the battalion FRG leader, provided information to the families of the battalion and recognized volunteers and newcomers alike.

In March, Lt. Col. Gutierrez lead the way by volunteering his house to host a battalion Mardi Gras party. With the help of Sgt. 1st Class Remi Kliebert and his wife, Pat, both New Orleans natives, the festivities were planned out and the house decorated in Bourbon Street fashion to set the conditions for night of camaraderie and fun. The night included Cajun cuisine, a best mask contest, eating of the King Cake to crown the night's king and queen, and ended with a bead-throwing contest. All in all, it was a great night out for the battalion's soldiers and spouses.

In April the battalion held an Easter party at the battalion headquarters. Soldiers and their spouses decorated the building in full Easter regalia to include chocolate eggs, and plenty of rabbits. Sgt. Maj. Balch brought in his grill and cooked up hotdogs and bratwurst for the families. While the meal was being cooked, the spouses and family members constructed Easter hats for the soldiers of the battalion and played games. This event ended an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn of the battalion headquarters. All had fun from soldiers hiding eggs to the children scurrying about searching for the candy prizes. This was a great event to start a four day holiday weekend for the Reaper family.



**MDMP:**

# *Saving Lives in Combat*

Story and photos by Major Wayne Marotto

As a blinding and bitterly cold snowstorm blew through Fort Riley, Kansas in February 2004, the 1st Simulation Exercise Group (SEG) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade conducted a three-day block of instruction on the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP).

The MDMP is a seven-step process that helps the commander and his staff examine a battlefield situation and reach logical decisions, according to FM 101-5 Staff Organization and Operations.

The concept of MDMP is when a commander receives a mission, then goes through a seven-step process and the result is a detailed operation order or operation plan.

The seven steps are receipt of the mission, mission analysis, course of action development, course of action analysis, course of action comparison, course of action approval, and orders production.

The MDMP instructors were Lt. Col. James Hoffman, Lt. Col. John Lister, Maj. Dolores Bellflower-Kesler, and Sgt. Maj. Istvan Burgyan. These Soldiers travel throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> Army area of responsibility giving the MDMP classes to deploying Army Reserve and National Guard units.

During the first day of instructions Hoffman and his team gave classes on several subjects, which included the operation of the Tactical Operations Center, and how to conduct

the Initial Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB). The soldiers learned that the IPB identifies the facts and assumptions that determine likely courses of actions that the enemy may take.

Day two consisted of mission analysis, course of action development and practical exercises facilitated by the instructors. The final day of instructions was all practical exercises where



**Lt. Col. John Lister discusses a map recon with the Soldiers of the 1140th Engineers. Lister gave a block of instructions on the Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield..**

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**Lt. Col. James Hoffman is the OIC of the 1st BDE, 1st SEG, MDMP team.**

the Soldiers war gamed the courses of action analysis, the courses of action comparison and then produced the Operations Order.

Hoffman said that the MDMP is a validation requirement for deployment and that his team is responsible for each Army Reserve unit being MDMP certified before deployment to the combat theater.

The team determines if a unit should be validated based largely on how the Soldiers perform on the practical exercises. "It is based largely on completing tasks and working together as a staff, and not a quantified measure," said Lister. If the team determines a unit is not validated, they will do extra training with the Soldiers to ensure they meet the task, conditions, and standards.

"The reason we do MDMP is because it saves lives in combat," Hoffman said. "With our training the staffs of each Army Reserve unit produces a thorough synchronized operations order for their unit to execute." This allows the commander and his staff to minimize the risk of overlooking a critical aspect of the operation. The mission is war-gamed by including the most likely enemy courses of action. Each possible course of action is thoroughly planned for. This detailed planning helps each Soldier understand the mission and his part of the mission.

At Fort Riley the team was validating the 1140<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, an Army National Guard unit from Missouri. The battalion had been

mobilized January 3, 2004 and was set to deploy to Iraq in February 2004 for a one-year tour of duty.

1st. Lt. Brian Fox, of the 1140<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, had recently graduated from his Officer basic course and had learned the MDMP while there. He said that this was another opportunity to practice the MDMP and the 1<sup>st</sup> SEG team was presenting the MDMP in such a way that he understood it better. "I am excited about going to Iraq and the more we practice here, the less we will sweat and bleed in Iraq."

The Army does not send its Soldiers blindly into a mission. A Soldier knows the commanders intent two levels above his. Each mission is thoroughly researched, planned, and rehearsed through the MDMP. The MDMP is the military's method of ensuring that every aspect of the mission planning process is not overlooked.

And when things in the mission do not go exactly as planned, the U.S. Soldier is trained to use his initiative and sound judgment to accomplish the mission.

"It is critical that our leadership at all levels understand the military decision making process," said Col. Oscar Greenleaf, the 1<sup>st</sup> SEG commander. "The MDMP is the starting point for all operations. If the Soldiers know how to organize and prioritize their decision making process it will facilitate the conduct of the mission."

## Job Number One

By Major Wayne Marotto

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the operational tempo of the Army Reserve has increased dramatically. The nation is at war and its citizen-soldiers have been called to serve.

The Army has called on Army Reserve Soldiers to serve longer tours and in larger numbers than in previous wars over the last 60 years. The 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) itself has been mobilized on active duty since January 27, 2003.

For Citizen-Soldiers normally accustomed to 39 days of training a year, a year or more on active duty has created a lot of stress on Soldiers, families, and civilian employers.

As of February 2004, 182, 664 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers were mobilized on active duty. Reserve component Soldiers presently make up over 40 percent of the rotation for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

There is a growing concern among leaders in the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, and the Army Reserve that this increased operating tempo will lead to a mass exodus of Soldiers from the Army Reserve and National Guard.

Lt.Gen. James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve, recently said that there is a looming retention crisis in the Army Reserve temporarily masked by the Army's stop-loss policy which prevents mobilized Soldiers from leaving the Army Reserve.

Sergeant First Class Gabriel Parra is the Retention and Transition NCO for the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support). His mission is to reenlist or transfer into the Army Reserve qualified Army Soldiers. The cornerstone of Retention's mission is to retain good Soldiers in the division. "The retention of quality soldiers is a responsibility shared by all leaders. What we do could cause a Soldier to remain or depart the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support)," said Parra.

The retention process begins the day the Soldier is assigned to the unit. Each first line supervisor should conduct professional development counseling as a continuing part of the Soldier's career. "This 'Life Cycle' counseling should be used to inform Soldiers, in general, of their career options, establish goals and identify methods to reach those goals," said Parra.

Retaining Soldiers also has a direct affect on mission readiness. The 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) provides training support and assists in the mobilization of the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard units deploying for their wartime mission.

In addition, the Army has called on the division to conduct non-traditional missions such as training West Point cadets, the Afghan National Army, and the Iraqi Armed Forces. These missions were tasked to the division due to the overwhelming operational tempo of the active component Army. It is imperative for the division to retain quality Soldiers in the interest of national security.

One of Maj. Gen. Dalby's top priorities is to retain quality soldiers in the division. "Each commander has a personal responsibility to look every departing Soldier in the eye and thank them for serving their county and ask them to reconsider their decision to leave or stay and serve in what ever capacity which would be most beneficial to them and the Army," said Dalby.

"Soldiers can, for the most part, predict the location they will go to if mobilized in the Continental United States with the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support). The division trains at locations such as Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Sill, OK, and Fort Riley, KS," said Parra.

There is currently no foreseeable problem with retention of division Soldiers, said Parra. The division retention rate for January 2004 was 4.9% with a U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) ceiling of 6.3% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. The USARC target rate for fiscal year 2004 is 22.4%. The division is currently well below the attrition standard ceiling set by USARC leading to the end of fiscal year 2004.

The following are just a few examples that affect retention rates: Soldiers leaving the Army, conditional releases to leave the Army Reserve for active duty, National Guard or other service components, transferring to Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), and Soldiers listed as "no-shows".

There are numerous incentive programs used to maintain Troop Program Unit (TPU) strength. The Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) is one that includes: Reenlistment Bonuses, Affiliation Bonus, Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and Incentive Programs for Drill Sergeants. Other incentives include Space Available Travel, VA Loan and Housing Benefits, Retired Pay and Burial Benefits. There are also increased opportunities for promotion within the division due to the senior ranking positions and make up of the division's structure.

It is the Soldier's personal decision to reenlist or separate from the Army. It should be based on facts and after careful consideration of the advantages and benefits each choice offers. Retention counseling provides them with the necessary information to make an informed decision about opportunities in the Army. For more information contact Sgt. 1st Class Parra at 1-800-390-1530, ext. 7583.



**Soldier of the Year Competition**

# **Facing th**

**Story and photos by Major Wayne Marotto  
Summer 2004**



# me Board

Nine of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) best Soldiers competed in the annual Noncommissioned Office and Soldier of the Year competition held at division headquarters in Houston, Texas.

Three Soldiers (Private to Specialist) from the division competed for the prestigious Soldier of the Year Award, and six Soldiers competed for the Active Component and Reserve Component Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

The two-day event was held from March 4 to March 5, 2004. Division Command Sergeant Major Jerry Blair chaired the board and was joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Villarreal, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Uncangco from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Soto from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Moyer from the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

The first morning of the competition the Soldiers took a written test which consisted of fifty questions on topics such as military customs and courtesy, military bearing, and laws of war.

In the afternoon the Soldiers, dressed in their Class A uniform, faced the grueling questions of the Command Sergeants Major in the military appearance board portion of the competition.

At this board the Soldiers marched in, reported, and saluted the board. Then Command Sgt. Maj. Blair barked out drill and ceremony facing movements which the Soldier performed.

The soldier then sat down and for the next fifteen minutes were asked a series of rapid fire questions from the command Sergeants Major.

**CSM Uncangco peers skeptically at one of the Soldiers before the board.**





**The Reserve Component Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Sgt.1st Class Richard Yzaguirre(L) from the 1-289<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, The Soldier of the Year for 2004 Pfc. Christopher Travis(C), from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and the Active Component Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Sgt. 1st Class Hector Cruz (R)from the 2-381<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.**

The questions the Soldiers fielded were of general military knowledge. The topics included United States Army History and Values, Weapons, Military Awards, and Drill and Ceremony.

Staff Sgt. John Gann, from HHC, said the questioning by the Command Sergeants Major was intense. “I was nervous, and I knew which questions I missed by the CSMs feed back.”

The Command Sergeants Major were all looking for different things in the Soldiers. Soto said he was looking at the Soldiers appearance and confidence. Uncangco said he looked for confidence and how the Soldier portrayed himself as a leader.

Blair said that the board knows the Soldiers have the self-confidence and leadership because they have all competed and won at the battalion and brigade level. “We are looking for the best of the best.”

On day two the Soldiers completed Common Tasks Training in the morning. This portion of the competition consisted of a hands-on evaluation in selected common task subjects from the 2004 Soldiers Manual of Common Tasks.

The Soldiers were evaluated on subjects such as Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical, Medical Aid, weapons familiarization, and maintenance and land navigation.

The competition culminated in Blair’s announcement of the winners. The Soldier of the Year for 2004 is Private First Class Christopher Travis from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, the Reserve Component Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Sergeant First Class Richard Yzaguirre from the 1-289<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and the Active Component Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Sergeant First Class Hector Cruz from the 2-381<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

The winners each received an 1860 Cavalry Trooper Saber, an Army Commendation Medal, and a commanding generals coin. The winners will go on to compete at the 5<sup>th</sup> Army competition.

Sgt. 1st Class Yzaguirre went on to win Soldier of the Year at the 5<sup>th</sup> Army competition. Yzaguirre will now go on to compete at the FORSCOM Soldier of the Year Board.

# Why *we win* wars

## *Troop Leading Procedures:*

Story and photos by Major Wayne Marotto



Maj. Ramon Lluveras explains the Troop Leading Procedure before the practical exercise.

The self-initiative of the U.S. Soldier has confounded our enemies. A German Army Officer remarked during World War II that the problem with U.S. Soldiers was that they did not follow their doctrine. The self-initiative of the U.S. Soldier in the absence of orders or leaders to carry on his mission and prevail in battles is the hallmark feature which distinguishes the U.S. Soldier from other soldiers.

Task Force Alpha, of the 1<sup>st</sup> SEG, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade lays the foundation of this self-initiative with its Troop Leading Procedures (TLPs) block of instructions. Task Force Alpha conducted a three-day block of instructions on the TLPs at Fort Riley in February 2004.

The Troop Leading procedures are an eight step process by which a commander receives a mission, plans it, and executes it. Soldiers use the TLPs as a building block to organize the mission before it is executed. It allows the Soldiers to go through a deliberate thought process and forces them to think about what they are going to do in the mission and not go into the mission blindly.

The eight steps are: receive the mission, issue a warning order, make a tentative plan, initiate movement, conduct reconnaissance, complete the plan, issue the operation order, and supervise.

The sequence of each TLP is not rigid, and can be modified to meet the mission, situation, and available time. The TLPs may also be done concurrently and others may be done continuously throughout the operation.

This process allows the individual Soldiers to know his commanders mission intent, and the commanders mission intent two levels above his unit. This enables Soldiers to use their initiative to carry out the mission when their leaders may be wounded or killed and they have lost communications with their higher headquarters.

The TLP helps the commander go through the thought process of conducting the mission. The commander uses a time schedule starting at mission time and working backwards to the time he received the mission. He generally uses no more than one-third of the available time for planning and issuing his mission operations order. The remaining two-thirds of the time is left to the Soldiers for their planning and preparation.

At Fort Riley the Task Force Alpha instructors were Major Ramon Lluveras, Major Karl Rosborough, Major Calvin Cobbin, Captain Clayton White, Captain Alex Simon, SFC Ken McIntyre, and

SSG Nile Churchill. The team has taught the TLPs to over fifty mobilized Reserve Component units during the last year.

“We teach units how to methodically receive an order and then accomplish the mission,” said Lluveras.

The Task Force Alpha team curriculum consists of classroom instructions and practical exercises dispersed over a two to three day period.

The block of instructions began with a discussion over the eight step Troop Leading Procedures. At the end of the instruction the Soldiers were given a warning order from the instructor who acted as the Soldiers’ higher headquarters.



**Soldiers from the 1140th Engineer Company listen attentively to the classroom instruction portion.**

**Maj. Karl Rosborough makes a point during the practical exercise portion of the TLP. “This is where we earn our money”, he said.**

The Soldiers broke out into small groups for the practical exercises and then based on the warning order they were given, they developed their own warning order for their groups. The purpose of this is for the students to immediately start using the TLPs. “The practical exercise is where we earn our money,” said Rosborough. “Through the practical exercises the unit has a better understanding of what the commanders intent is by walking through the TLP process.”

One or two instructors stayed with the Soldiers guiding them through the TLPs process highlighting the importance of conducting a reconnaissance and rehearsing the actions of soldiers at the objective. The instructions ended when the Task Force Alpha instructors approved of the Soldiers operations order.

Captain Scott Ratcliff, Charlie Company Commander, 1140<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion said that the TLPs instruction is going to help his company in Iraq because, “It’s going to help us pick out specific and implied tasks in the operations order.”





Captain David Poland, 3-383, 3rd Briagde, conducts an After Action Review with soldiers of the Afghan National Army. The soldiers had trained on vehicle checkpoints and searching an individual.

# **75th DIVISION** *Soldiers Train* Afghan National Army

Story and Photos by Major Wayne Marotto

KABUL, Afghanistan- Soldiers of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support), an Active component/Reserve component training support division headquartered in Houston, Texas, normally are Observer Controller/Trainers who train and mobilize Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the Southwest and Midwest part of the U.S.A.

Because of the high operating tempo of the active Army, a call went out for volunteers to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and train the Afghan National Army (ANA).

More than thirty Soldiers from the 75<sup>th</sup> DIV (TS) volunteered for the initial six-month deployment. The Soldiers would be stationed at Camp Phoenix in the vicinity of Kabul, Afghanistan, which is

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located in the eastern area of the country, near the Pakistan border. The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light Infantry) was the unit in charge of operating the Coalition Joint Task Force 180 in Kabul.

Afghanistan is still a dangerous place even two years after the fall of the Taliban and the escape of Osama bin Laden. The country is still plagued by attacks against coalition Soldiers and Afghan civilians. For many of the divisions Soldiers it would be their first overseas deployment in a combat zone.

Capt. Craig Hickerson from the 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri said that September 11, 2001 deeply affected him. He was mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom in January 2002 and was stationed at Fort Riley mobilizing

reserve units who were being deployed to Iraq.

He wanted to do more to fight the global war on terror and volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan because, “I wanted to do my part on the war against terrorism. I wanted to make sure the people of Afghanistan were safe and were not mistreated.”

Hickerson was assigned to a firebase with the Afghan and U.S. Special Forces Soldiers. His job was to train the Afghan soldiers on light infantry tactics and patrolling so that they could better fight the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

He said his experience at the firebase was his most memorable when the firebase was probed and shot at by rockets through out the night from what the soldiers

at the firebase believed was the Taliban. For his actions in Afghanistan Hickerson was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star.

Hickerson said that he was proud when Afghan people came up to him and thanked him for being in their country. “I am really proud I got to be part of history,” he said.

Capt. David Poland is from the same unit as Hickerson and is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm where he was a tanker. He also was at Fort Riley training and mobilizing reserve soldiers for deployment to Iraq.

But he too wanted to do more and volunteered for his second deployment to a combat zone because, “I felt

like it was my responsibility to do something for the war against terrorism.”

Poland’s parents were angry with him for volunteering to go back to a war zone. He said his mother angrily told him he had already served his country in one war so why would he want to go to another war? “My father quit talking to me for one month,” he said. Poland said that his parents felt that he had survived one war, and were afraid that he would get killed in Afghanistan.

Poland’s role was a mentor to an Afghan Rifle Company Commander. He helped him learn organizational skills by teaching accountability procedures, how to plan training, and helped him prepare for combat missions in Gardyz.

Captain David Poland, 3-383, 3rd Brigade discusses training with an Afghan Army Officer. Poland acted as a mentor for a Rifle Company Commander during his deployment to Afghanistan.



The Soldiers deployed in the summer and upon their arrival they were separated into jobs which they specialized in. The Soldiers were divided into a finance section, light infantry section, and installation operations.

“When we first arrived here, we helped the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain set up finance operations at Camp Phoenix”, said Major Isaac Johnson. Johnson was in charge of the finance section which paid the U.S. Soldiers, the ANA, and the Coalition forces. He explained that he, and Staff Sergeant Karmen San Nicolas, helped out the Soldiers tremendously by setting up the finance section at Camp Phoenix. “The Soldiers were paid in cash and could get paid at Camp Phoenix rather than at Kabul or Bagram which is an hour drive away,” said San Nicolas. She explained that many Soldiers could not get out of Camp Phoenix due to work schedules, transportation, or due to security reasons. “By having pay at Camp Phoenix it was very convenient for the Soldier”, said San Nicolas.

Major Tim Snyder, a member of the divisions 2nd Brigade was the Senior Team Combat advisor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Training Team (BTT). He explained

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that his BTT received several hundred ANA soldiers who had graduated from the Kabul Military Training Center, which is the equivalent to the U.S. Army’s basic training, and then trained them in advance infantry tactics. “We are training them to function as a battalion to perform combat and

with the 75<sup>th</sup> he trained U.S. Soldiers what to do in combat but did not accompany them in combat. However, as combat advisor for the ANA he trained them in combat situations and then went with them on combat missions. Snyder’s typical missions consisted of cache raids, road checkpoints,



**Captain Craig Hickerson, 3-383, 3rd Brigade, with Afghan orphans. Hick phanage during his deployment to Afghanistan bringing goods collected**

stabilization operations,” said Snyder.

Snyder was in a unique position because as an Observer/Controller

and patrols. Coalition forces were assisting the Afghan Army develop an Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer

(NCO) corps. The French forces trained the Officer Corps, the British forces the NCO corps and the U.S. trained the enlisted soldiers.

The Afghan Army does not have an NCO corps and that was one thing the U.S., British, and French soldiers were assisting the Afghan Army develop through the ANA NCO course.

The Afghan Army officers did all the planning and executing. The Afghan Army had adopted the Soviet model of

responsibility. The U.S. Soldiers also were setting examples of how to look and act like professional soldiers. The training helped, as the ANA had dramatically reduced its absent without leave rate.

An important point they wanted to make to the Afghan Officer corps was



**erson regularly visited the or-  
by his church in St. Louis, MO.**

the NCO corps where the NCO's had no responsibility and were degraded.

The NCO's of the U.S. Army were training their counterparts to become leaders, show initiative, and accept



**Poland (center) and Hickerson (far right) present goods to Afghan orphans.**

that they wanted the Afghans to train their own soldiers and not have U.S. Soldiers train them. The U.S. Soldiers were there to train and advise the ANA officers so that they could train their own soldiers.

They also taught organizational skills, wrote NCO policies, and presented themselves as examples of how professional soldiers act and look.

Command Sgt. Maj. George Markham, from the division's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, was one of the soldiers who were helping the ANA identify and develop NCOs. "I help resolve and write



**Maj. Tim Snyder, 2nd Brigade, speaks to an Afghan officer.**



**Sgt. 1st. Class Eric Foster, 1st BDE, at the Afghan soldiers DFAC.**



**Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Ortiz, 1st BDE BPG, at an Afghan vehicle check point.**

the NCO policies with the help of the Kabul Military Training Center, in conjunction with the Ministry of Defense,” Markham said. The soldiers used the skills they had honed in the division and easily transitioned their coaching, teaching, and mentoring philosophy right into the Afghan Army.

Major Bobby Simmons, also from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, and a 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm trains Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers on the Army Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). The seven-step MDMP process is non-existent in the Afghan Army.





**Maj. Bobby Simmons, 1st BDE, 1st SEG, was an advisor to the J2 of the Afghan National Army.**

“I advise the ANA J2 on staff procedures and staff work. We (1<sup>st</sup> BDE) deal with staffs and teach the staffs how to work, and I will be doing the same here with the ANA,” Simmons said. This was important for the ANA to develop an organized manner on how to plan training, order supplies, and do combat operations.

The Soldiers of the division said their experience in Afghanistan would make them better Observer/ Controllers when they are training or mobilizing U.S. Soldiers.

Poland said that being an Observer/ Controller in a combat zone gives him better credibility when he is training an Army Reserve unit on such Mission Essential Task Lists as convoy operations at Fort Riley. He explained that when he is training the Soldiers on how to conduct a convoy under combat conditions and a Soldier questions him on how does he know, he can tell the Soldier that this is how it was done in combat in Afghanistan.

In the coming months the 25th Infantry Division (Light) based in Hawaii is replacing the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) who will return to Fort Drum, New York. The 45<sup>th</sup> enhanced

Separate Brigade, Oklahoma National Guard, and National Guard Soldiers from New England are taking over the mission of training the ANA. Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division are embedded trainers with the Oklahoma National Guard for the next year. Therefore, the division’s presence in Afghanistan will continue.

*This article appeared in the April 2004 issue of Soldiers magazine and the Spring edition of Army Reserve magazine.*



# 75<sup>TH</sup> TEAM COMPETES IN

*Story by Capt. David Russo*

On a brisk Sunday morning the 75<sup>th</sup> Division's 10-Miler team participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Army 10-Miler held in Washington, D.C. in October 2003. The team placed fourth out of fourteen teams in their race division.

This year's race featured 18,463 runners including 660 registered teams. Teams from as far away as Europe and Hawaii participated with runners from 15 countries, including Italy, Israel, and Uzbekistan. The field of runners was diverse: 58% male, 42% female, 33% military, and 62% civilian.

The Office In Charge (OIC) of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division team was Capt. David Russo from Division Headquarters who finished the race in 1 hour 13 minutes and 40 seconds. The Non Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) was Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Leising, also from Division Headquarters, whose time was 1 hour 22 minutes and 13 seconds. Other team members included the Division Chaplain, Col. Harland Merriam (1:22:13) from Division Headquarters, CPT Clayton White (1:08:14) from 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, and SFC Jon Abresch (1:06:45), Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Armstrong (1:25:41), and Alexander Murrell (1:21:08) from 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

The idea of creating a team was the brainchild of Division Chief of Staff, Col. Robert Townsend. After an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) in April 2003, Col. Townsend shared his idea with Chaplain Merriam (both men are experienced marathoners), and the 10-Miler team soon became a reality. After securing the Commanding Generals approval, Col. Townsend

selected Capt. Russo as the OIC, and instructed him to begin recruiting, training, and preparing a team for the October race. Maj. Gen. Dalby, also an experienced runner, fully supported the team, and even drafted an open letter to commanders instructing them to allow team members time to train during the duty day.

Upon being selected, Capt. Russo immediately took steps to get the attention of the Division's top runners. An announcement was placed on the Division web site, certain 10-Miler suspenses were placed on the Division suspense



# ARMY 10-MILER RACE

roster, and Brigade Commanders and Sergeants Major were notified.

Selection began in May with interested soldiers submitting a recent APFT score. From a field of roughly 60, 25 were selected for the next stage. Roughly 30 days later, a 5-mile timed run was held that further reduced the field of potential runners. The number of runners was further reduced through injuries and the demands of the Division's mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The final

members were chosen after a 10-miled timed run held 30 days prior to the Army 10-Miler.

A team uniform was selected, logistical issues were addressed and finalized, and in early October the team converged on Washington, D.C. Team members were placed in starting positions based on their projected finish times.

At the starting line, just west of the Pentagon, a local radio station blared music while the Army Chief of Staff, General Schoomaker, and the Command

Sergeant Major of the Army, Sgt. Maj. Tilly motivated the runners. Several Blackhawk helicopters and at least three military jets roared over just prior to the start. The race began with a volley from a small artillery piece, and the runners were off.

The course was generally flat, and wound through the streets of Washington. Along the course, there were cheering crowds, rest areas, hydrating areas, and photographers from media outlets to numerous to mention. At the finish point, runners were treated to water, and food ranging from bananas to bagels. In addition, numerous organizations set up "hooah tents" in support of their particular teams.

Participating in the Army 10-Miler was a great opportunity for the team members, and the Division as a whole. Team members competed against world-class runners in a nationally recognized race. The Division benefited through receiving Army wide recognition for its team's fourth place finish.



# ▶ Linking *Special*

The man is unassuming. On the outside, 1st Sgt. David R. Powers of the 260th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Florida National Guard in Miami, doesn't seem like the deadly war fighter that he's trained to be. He just seems like the kind of guy preoccupied with taking his son to soccer practice. Powers doesn't show off the years of specialized training that he's been through as a Special Forces Soldier; instead he exudes quiet authority.

"Usually my Soldiers know I'm upset when I raise my voice," he said.

Powers is part of the program that is training guardsmen and reservists in human intelligence collection for rapid deployment at the Military Intelligence Center. The Soldiers are compressing an 18-week course into a 12-week course. He said the training is fast and intensive.

Powers said he hopes to take his training here in forming Tactical Human Intelligence Teams and put it together with his Special Forces training to target insurgent forces in Iraq. He said he wants to use his newly acquired skills and his 20 years of experience in the Army to foster a good tactical relationship between military intelligence and Special Forces.

killing Soldiers every day," he said.

Powers said he loves training and leading Soldiers. He was involved in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Provide Comfort and other assignments he can't discuss. Because he has had so much experience in the Army, Powers said finds himself in a leadership role in the Military Intelligence classes he is taking.

"I try to lead as though they're Special Forces Soldiers," he said. "I try to instill the core values of the Special Forces on these soldiers because that will be the difference between some of them coming back alive. I'm passing on knowledge and combat experience because they're going to get theirs soon."

Powers stays focused on his training because he takes the Global War on Terrorism personally. He said he knows many Special Forces Soldiers that have been killed in action.

"There's plenty of room to make mistakes now. If you make mistakes later, someone's going to get killed," he said.

Although the initiative that he's training under is new, Powers has nothing but positive things to say about the program and training on an active duty post. He said the chain of command at the Military Intelligence Center has been "unbelievably supportive."

"Some of the largest groups of boots on the ground are reservists," he said. "This program helps the Guard and Reserve show active duty Soldiers it's one team,

# Ops. To MI

one fight. We're working, fighting and dying together, it's all the same."

He also said that Guardsmen and Reservists add to the Army because of the real-world experience they bring with them.

"Guard and Reserve Soldiers bring a lot of extra training and skills to the table because we bring civilian skill sets in addition to prior active duty skills," he said. "It's like getting two Soldiers for the price of one. It's a synergistic effect."

Powers said the Reserve and National Guard Soldiers he works and trains with come from varied backgrounds. He said these civilian skill sets contribute to the overall mission.

"It's an extremely diverse group. We have students, police officers, federal agents and business professionals," he said.

Despite the extensive experience Powers has as a Soldier and a leader, there is little on his exterior that shows just how much experience he has. He looks just like any other Soldier, not one who has been through some of the most intense training there is, the training that makes him a Special Forces Soldier.

"It's one of the most physically and mentally challenging courses in the world," he said. "The standards have remained constant since Vietnam. They don't have any quotas. Those who graduate have earned it. They never look for mass numbers; they look for those who can make it."

It's important to take the training seriously because a Special Forces Soldier will find himself in more challenging situations than most other Soldiers.

"They're looking for older, more mature soldiers. An E5 is literally making national security decisions on the ground level," said Powers.

"Most people don't know we're there and that's where maturity and judgment comes in. You have to be self-supportive as an individual and as a team," he said.

The training to become a Special Forces Soldier is extremely challenging and it takes a very dedicated person to succeed at it.

"There are different things [reasons for becoming a Special Forces Soldier], the common thread being that they are true Americans and truly believe in the cause. One of the ultimate challenges is to earn the green beret," said Powers.

Powers said that Special Forces Soldiers don't do what they do for the recognition.

"The Special Forces Soldier is the quiet professional. As individuals, we're seldom recognized for our efforts publicly," he said. "Most people will never know what you do."

Though he will not likely be recognized by very many people as a hero and many of his accomplishments may go un-rewarded, Powers keeps his priorities clear.

"What's most important is the person to the left and right. They risk their life for you every day," he said.

# COMBAT *LIFE*

For the 14 medics of Charlie Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 381<sup>st</sup> Regiment the past year spent mobilized at Fort Hood has been a highly productive one. Week in and week out the medics have churned out trained and ready Combat Lifesavers from their 40 hour class. The Combat Lifesaver course is designed to teach non-medical personnel basic emergency medical procedures that will help save lives throughout the full

spectrum of military operations. Although the focus of the course is on immediate lifesaving steps such as maintaining a casualty's airway, stopping bleeding, and initiating fluids, the course also trains Soldiers on such tasks as purifying drinking water and protecting against environmental conditions.

Inserting an oral airway utilizing the J-Tube, applying a tourniquet, and initiating an intravenous solution are just 3 of 15 hands on tasks that students in each class are required to learn and are ultimately tested on. In addition to the hands on testing students are required to take and pass two written examinations (36/45 points each) in order to pass the course and be presented their CLS certification card. "Our class is not easy. We hold our students to the



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# SAVERS COURSE

## Urgent care training on the battlefield



standards that are published in their student texts and on the testing skill sheets. The information seems easy at first glance, but learning it all to standard by the end of 4 days is difficult for most of our students”, said Staff. Sgt. Audley Logan one of Charlie Company’s 7 primary instructors.

“We have had every enlisted rank, officer ranks through Major, all sorts of MOS’s, and all three components of the Army in our class over the past 12 months. Our typical student regardless of MOS and rank is extremely motivated and by the end of the course can demonstrate a high level of proficiency with the course material”, said Sgt. 1st Class Diann Dansereau who is the class NCOIC.

Although the medics provide deployment-training support primarily for Army National Guard and Reserve units deploying from Fort Hood, they have also trained some of the active duty units assigned to Fort Hood such as the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV DIV. The majority of the CLS certified soldiers have deployed in direct support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. “It feels good that we are able to make a positive impact directly on the OEF and OIF operations. We consistently get positive feedback from both students and commanders that the CLS certification they have received from us has been one of their highlights of their pre deployment training”, said Capt. Mark Stevens the course OIC.

Story by Major Isaac Johnson

# To Afghanistan



Maj. Isaac Johnson with Afghan Soldiers in Kabul.

**O**n June 5, 2003, I was sitting at my computer preparing slides for the daily battle update briefing for the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) Commander. With my eyes glued to the computer screen and in deep thoughts analyzing the Division's budget, a hand slammed down on my shoulder from behind. It was the kind of shoulder slam that indicated you had done something wrong.

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And sure as I expected, it was HHD 1st Sgt William Smith. He said, "Captain Johnson, there is a once in a lifetime opportunity in the war torn country of Afghanistan, and it has your name written all over it." I turned to my finance NCO, Staff Sgt. Karmen San Nicolas, and asked if she was interested in deploying to Afghanistan with me. She responded, "Yes, Sir", without hesitating. Our journey had begun.

# *and Back*



## **Pre-Deployment**

Once I received my deployment orders to Afghanistan I had two days to take care of personal business. I set up automatic payments from my back account, placed many of my items in storage, visited my Church, said good-bye to my colleagues at my law firm, and hugged and kissed by mother goodbye.

Then I was on a plane with two full duffle bags on my way to the Combat Replacement Center (CRC) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Upon my arrival at Fort Benning, I felt like a new recruit on his way to war, but I walked proudly with my captain's bars as if I had been through this before in my 16 years of service. We had formations, two person rooms and open bay showers. I was beginning to feel like a warrior again, a throw back

to my basic training days at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. But, there was something different; unlike basic training where you were expected to know nothing about the military, at the CRC, you were expected to know almost everything about the military.

On day one, we drew our gear, and were fitted for our protective masks, had in country briefings, and literally ran around town trying to get patches sewn on our uniforms. On day two, we qualified with the M-16A2 rifles we were taking into combat and started going through our medical screening.

Once we completed the CRC process the time had come to deploy to Afghanistan. We were flying on an American Airline flight, which is the only way to go to war. We flew from Atlanta to Frankfurt, Germany; then to Incik, Italy; then to Manus, Kyrgyzstan where we changed over to a C-130.

From Manus, we flew to Uzbekistan. Thus far, sleep was little to none and we had been flying over 24 hours. The trip was taking a toll on the troops. I took advantage of each stop by meeting or coordinating with finance personnel, which later



became invaluable to the accomplishment of the finance mission.

## Action in Afghanistan

We flew on a C-130 from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan. When I stepped off of the plane, I felt as if I had stepped back in time. Bagram Airfield, where the largest population of U.S. troops were

located in Afghanistan, looked like a hastily made airbase with several brown clay buildings and tents that seemed to stretch for miles. Next, we were on the back of a 5-ton truck, locked and loaded in full battle rattle, on our way to Camp Phoenix, which is located 5 miles outside the capital city of Kabul.

The 45-minute ride from Bagram to Camp Phoenix was along an old, torn highway. Along the way I saw evidence of bombed buildings and the occasional destroyed tank or armored personnel carrier. I saw red, white, and blue rocks each color depicting whether mines were present (red); mines had been cleared, but use caution (blue); or the area was clear (white). I saw those rocks along the entire trip.

Our mission was to train and mentor the Afghan National Army (ANA). We were assigned to Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix (CJTF Phoenix), which was comprised of troops from around the world. The following countries were represented: Great Britain, Mongolia, Canada, Poland, Hungary, Australia, Germany and Italy. The major U.S. force was 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, which also served as the primary staff for CJTF Phoenix. I was assigned to the commander's special staff.

Within an hour of arriving at Camp Phoenix, I received my orders from the task force commander who said, "Captain Johnson, your primary mission is to set-up a functional finance office within three weeks and pay the Afghan troops."

The CJTF Phoenix Finance Office cashed checks, processed casual payments, AFFES deposits, military pay inquires, vendor pay, and disbursed funds for the monthly Afghan National Army payroll. Also, the finance Soldiers' mission was to conduct the mobile pay missions in and around Kabul.

The ANA paydays were challenging and tested everyone's patience. Our attention to detail and taking very unpopular positions at times, lead to our finance office being the only one in theater not to lose any funds. The finance office was later recognized for its accomplishments in a war zone.

The average day of a Soldier at Camp Phoenix consisted of a 5:30 wake-up, and individual P.T. After that we did personal hygiene in latrines located inside a transformed connex. The water was clean enough to brush your teeth, but not to drink.



### **Maj. Johnson visited a Special Forces camp.**

Meals were prepared by Brown and Root and eaten inside a mess tent. Brown and Root also did laundry service which you could drop off every morning. Then you went to your tent or if you were fortunate you had a building and did your job for the next twelve hours or so. At times during the day you could visit the AAFES tent and purchase drinks and snacks.

Life was much rougher for the troops deployed with the ANA soldiers. They did not have any running water, there was no Brown and Root to provide meals and laundry services, and there were no generators to produce electricity. It was truly the life of an infantryman-down and dirty.

Finally, there were the bi-weekly bazaars. Local merchants would setup shop outside Camp Phoenix to sell various merchandise. A Soldier could buy anything from a 100-year-old rifle, knives, to fine silk carpets. I purchased two silk carpets at a fraction of the price you would pay for one in the states. You could also buy tailor made, 100% worsted wool suits for \$45.00.

I remember several events that were particularly dangerous while I was in Afghanistan and I will not soon forget.

On the two-year anniversary of 9-11, nine rockets were launched against Camp Phoenix making us scurry to bomb shelters to seek cover.

I also traveled on unpaved roads in the mountains which were as wide as my Humvee. The tires would sometimes cause part of the road to fall off, thus making the road even narrower.

But, the most terrifying moments in Afghanistan were my trips into the city of Kabul. In short, there were no traffic laws, and cars sped up and down the torn up roads in every direction. It was chaos and so different from the regimented and organized way we drive back in the states. And to add to the terror the Taliban was out in the crowd to boot.

The economy began to thrive, and the guys with larger vehicles that had mounted weapons systems usually won the traffic battles. The traffic jams topped LA or NYC any day. Imagine having no speed limits or traffic lights, and all types of vehicles including horses, oxen, and entire families on bicycles, all traveling on the same road in all different directions. Not to forget the bad guy that is attempting to place an explosive device on your vehicle. It was just flat crazy!

### **Redeployment**

The time came when we received notice that the 45<sup>th</sup> eSB of the Oklahoma National Guard were our replacements. They came in on four airplanes, and before we knew it, Camp Phoenix was bursting at the seams.

I credit the 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE, 10<sup>th</sup> MTN Commander for demanding that each staff section develop a sound left seat-right seat plan, which allowed for a smoother transition. As for the finance team, we trained our replacements, transferred accountability, led them through the ANA pay cycle, and monitored their progress to make sure they were comfortable with various transactions. Once I briefed the commander that the left seat-right seat training was over and no concerns developed, we were officially relieved of duty and waited anxiously for our flight back to the states.

The flight back home to the states was long and arduous. But we didn't mind, because guess what? We were going home! I thank God for helping us get back safely.

*(Editors note; Johnson was promoted to Major while deployed and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan. He has returned to his civilian employment as a banking and real estate attorney.)*

# 3-289th FRG Honored In Pentagon Ceremony



*Sergeant 1st Class Mary Jackson, Ms Charlene Brown, Lt. Col. Dale Egger, Mrs. Michelle Starr, and Command Sgt. Major Vivian Bright accept the 2003 DOD Family Readiness Group Award in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon. Also pictured are Maj. Cogburn, Brig. Gen. Profit, and Master Sgt. Angela Byrd.*

Recently, a Family Readiness Group from 2d Brigade, 75<sup>th</sup> Division (TS) was honored as the best in the Army Reserve.

The 3d Battalion, 289<sup>th</sup> Regiment (TS)(CS/CSS) Family Readiness Group from Beaumont, Texas was honored as one of the top programs in the Department of Defense for 2003 on February 13, 2004 in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

The ceremony featured top Family Readiness Groups from the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve.

Master of Ceremonies Marine Lt. Col. Ian Ferguson, of the DOD's Reserve Affairs Office said that the award was established in 2000 "to

recognize the top unit in each reserve component that demonstrates outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness." He pointed out that the award winners reflect the best of many noteworthy units, and each reserve component carefully selected its winner from among a large nominee pool.

Noting that the battalion was mobilized to



far-flung locations in support of operation enduring freedom, Lt. Col. Ferguson said, “their success in mission accomplishment is directly related to the strong and effective contributions of the family readiness group. This is exemplified by the battalion having a 100 percent rate of executable family care plans and all family members having ID cards.”

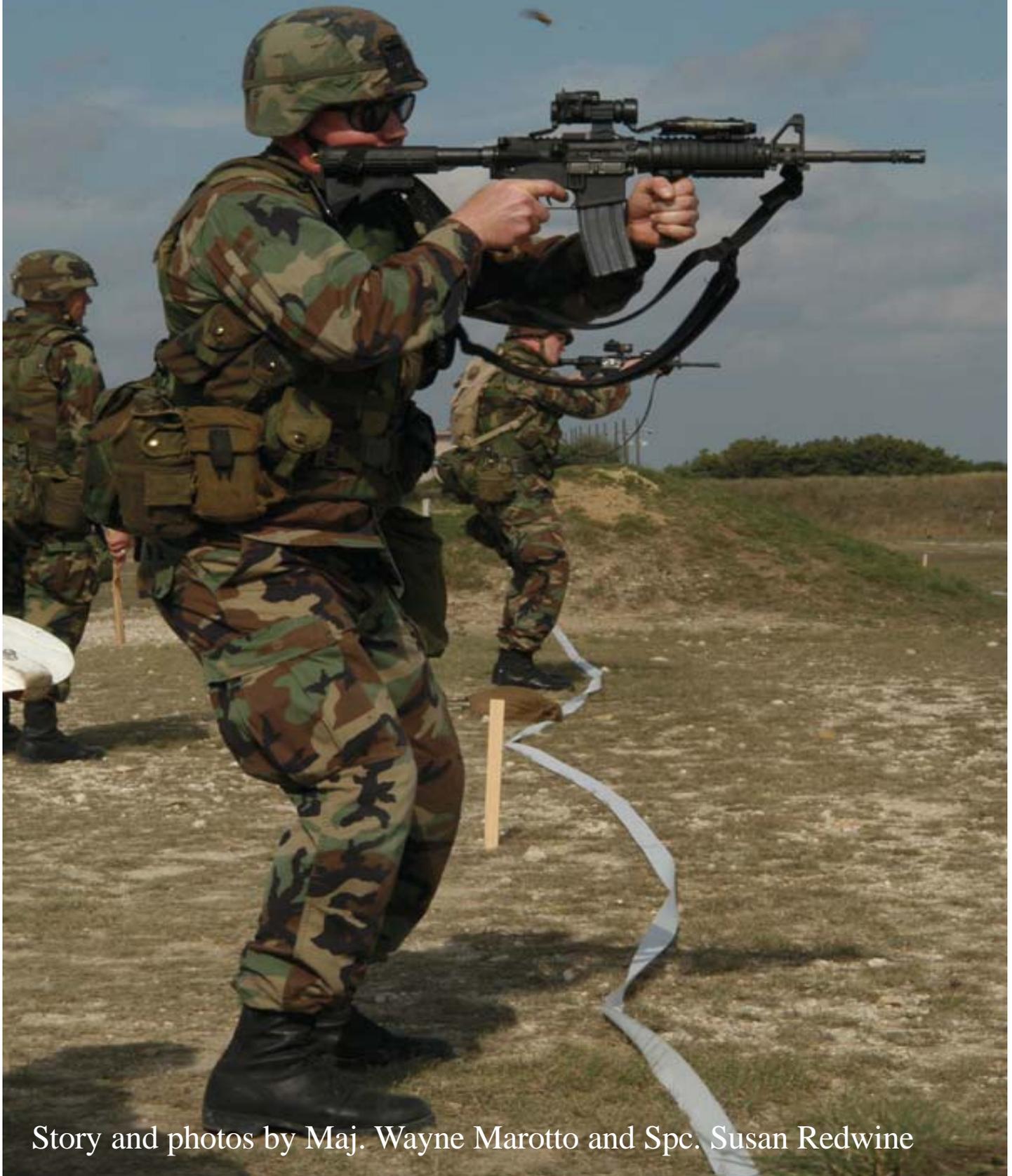
Lt. Col. Dale N. Egger accepted the award from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall and Brig. Gen. Gary Profit, Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, Representing the FRG at the ceremony were Command Sgt. Maj. Vivian Bright, Sgt. 1st Class Mary Jackson, Mrs. Michelle Starr and Ms. Charlene Brown.

Sergeant 1st Class Jackson, the 3-289th FRG Liaison was asked to speak at the ceremony, and expressed the sentiments of all award winners, saying “the award is a wonderful accomplishment, not for the unit, but for all the volunteers who have put forth so much effort to help others. The award is for those who have stepped up and said, “What can I do.””

The FRG was presented with an engraved commemorative plaque and a signed certificate of appreciation. Thomas F. Hall, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, presented the award.

*(Editors note: Rudi Williams of the American Forces Press Service contributed to this story).*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Completes Historic Mission



Story and photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto and Spc. Susan Redwine

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▲ The 2nd Brigade hired contractors to portray Iraqi civilians on the battlefield

► 2nd Brigade Trainer assists with technical proficiency.



◀ Rifle marksmanship was stressed. Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade demonstrate the proper use of this weapon.



# Largest National Guard Mobilization since World War II

FORT HOOD- Col. Al Dochnal's 2nd Brigade wrapped up its historic mobilization of the 39th Enhanced Separate Brigade (eSB) Arkansas National Guard in February 2004. The brigade began mobilizing the Soldiers from Arkansas in October 2003 at Fort Hood, Texas.

The culmination of training occurred when the 39th was validated ready for combat after completing its mission rehearsal exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, LA. The unit then deployed to Baghdad, Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division in March 2004.

The months of training at the Fort Hood power projection platform stressed rifle marksmanship, **Summer 2004**

short-range marksmanship, and close quarters combat. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) identification and tactics, techniques, and procedures for dealing with IEDs were also taught.

Capt. Randy Bartlett, company commander of C Company, 1st Battalion of the 153rd Infantry Regiment said the state of Arkansas was supporting the Soldiers. "The whole town of Booneville turned out for our send off."

Bartlett said the six months of mobilization training and the one-year tour of duty had affected the Soldiers in his company. "I can see the seriousness in the eyes of my Soldiers when they watch the news from Iraq."

During the early phases of mobilization 2nd Lt. Cole De Rosa, of Dallas, Texas, a rifle platoon leader for C Company said, "I am very excited about leading the caliber of Soldier we have. They are motivated and dedicated to their job, and it makes my job easier."

The 2nd Brigade took the 39th through several phases of training during the mobilization. The brigade used forward operating bases to get Soldiers used to the tactical environment of Iraq and civilians on the battlefield. The COBs portrayed Iraqi citizens and the 39th interacted with them on a daily basis just as they would have to in Iraq.

One of the most important techniques the 2nd Brigade trained the 39th on was close quarters combat.

This is what the Soldiers would use when they patrol the streets of Baghdad.

Close quarters combat (CQC) is probably the most important thing that deploying soldiers will learn before going to Iraq, said Lt. Col. Paul L. Mahoney III, commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 393<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment of the 75<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support), the unit training soldiers in CQC.

The training consists of three phases. During Phase One, soldiers are taught the fundamentals of short-range marksmanship. Using M-4 rifles, a new weapon for most soldiers, they shoot at targets from five to 25 meters away. “Really what we’re doing is building the soldiers’ confidence to use new weapons in an advanced marksmanship manner,” said Mahoney.

Phase Two drills the soldiers in reflexive firing so the physical techniques

**Cpt. Allen demonstrated to the 39th which way the 2nd Brigade was training them. Always Forward.**



of handling a loaded weapon becomes instinctive. During this phase, soldiers start out turned away from the target and quickly pivot to face the target squarely before firing.

“They’re different types of shooting techniques to simulate if you’re walking and you catch someone out of the corner of your eye. You learn the correct pivot technique,” said Spc. Jason Rich of Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, a unit going through CQC training.

Soldiers practice target discrimination in Phase Three, firing at specific colors and shapes so that they learn discipline in choosing targets before firing. The soldiers identify a target, turn and fire at the target in a controlled manner.

CQC training encompasses a skill set that is new to most of the soldiers and is not traditional for infantrymen – it prepares the unit for deployment to an urban environment. “No one else doing it in the Army except ranger school,” said Mahoney. “It’s not difficult, just different... We emphasize basics so you can trust them with weapons. They’re building different skills,” said Capt. Steven J. Olsen, a CQC Observer Controller/Trainer from the 3-393<sup>rd</sup>.

Mahoney said the CQC range is considered an advanced range – one that does not require the soldiers to maintain their weapons facing up and down range. This is why the soldiers must wear flak jackets during training. Working on an advanced weapons range teaches the soldiers to handle their rifles safely and to build confidence, Mahoney said.

The training is important for the mission because the unit could be called on to clear

➤ A soldier from Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 162<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard practices the fundamentals of close quarters combat at Fort Hood, Texas. Soldiers use M4 rifles at a range of five to 25 meters, which is essential training for the unit. The 2-162<sup>nd</sup> deployed to Iraq in March with the 39<sup>th</sup> Enhanced Separate Brigade as part of the largest National Guard mobilization since World War II. The first time an eSB has been mobilized (the entire brigade) for combat.



➤ Col. Al Dochnal (r) 2nd Brigade Commander, and Lt. Col. Bob DeLeon listen to Soldier on the qualification range.



# Hooah!

Iraq here I Come



buildings of hostile or non-hostile threats and to engage and eliminate threats at short distances, said Olsen.

“This is the basic building block that leads to combat at fire squad level. They do this before collective training,” Mahoney said. “After they finish this training, they are then ready to transition to force protection, collective lane and urban ops collective lane training.”

“Everything out of Baghdad – no matter what your duty position is – everyone is going to be using this weapon. Mail clerks, mechanics will be part of a team,” Mahoney said.

“It’s extremely important. It’s not always fun, but it’s probably the most important thing when you go to someplace like Baghdad,” said Spc. Jason Rich of Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, a unit doing CQC training.

Rich said that the range cadre, NCOs and officers are all serious and that helps show the lower enlisted that this is the real deal. “The training is going really well. It’s hard sometimes, we’re always on the go – downtime is few and far between.

Training every day is something we have to do. There’s probably not much downtime in Baghdad,” said Rich.

“Whatever I can do to come back home, I’m going to do,” said Rich.

*(Editors note: At press time the 39<sup>th</sup> eSB had suffered 5 KIAs in Iraq.)*



Soldiers from the 39eSB, Arkansas National Guard, as the sun sets at Fort Hood, Texas. conduct combat and support and stability operations (SOSO) in support of Operation



The 2nd Brigade put the 39eSB through long days of training to ensure they could Iraqi Freedom 3.

# SHOOTING

Story by Kamelia Russell

## COLD TURKEY

Shots echoed the valley of Fort Riley, as sharpshooters held their rifles close, aimed at a turkey's head and gave their triggers a squeeze. Outdoorsmen from the community brought their family and children to the annual Turkey Shoot, at Outdoor Recreation, where they braved the cold November weather to get a chance at winning a prize, Saturday.

A turkey awaited winner, Timothy Malone, of the turkey shoot, and an 8.35, 12-gauge shotgun for master gunner winner, Don Sheffield. A junior division also existed for children 16 years and under. A turkey also went to winner, John Malone, in the turkey shoot and a Moss berg 500, 20-gauge shotgun for the junior master gunner winner, Calvin Boston.

A skeet competition between the units on post, took place beside the turkey shoot. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 75<sup>th</sup> Division team won the traveling trophy, for the second time. The team, Gasper Gulotta, Ernest Hicks, Michael Adams, Brian Patton, and Paul

Graves, will have their picture and names placed on the plaque of the trophy.

This four-year tradition is open to civilian and military members to come out and enjoy the outdoors. They can get acquainted with weapons such as shotguns, archery and laser guns, which remained popular among the youths. Additionally, people can mingle and get to know each other, as units let out their

competitive spirits and have fun.

"Everybody seems to be having a good time and having fun," said Maj. Paul Graves, officer-in-charge, who spent the last two months preparing for the event. "We want to give people, who are interested in being outdoors, an opportunity to get out and have fun through the many Fort Riley facilities."

With approximately 200 participants, the place seemed packed. However, according to Christopher Billings, a participant and State of Kansas employee, this was

nothing compared to the earlier days.

"With the troops deployed, there's not enough competition," he said. "I like to see



**Col. Gasper Gullotta presents 20-gauge shotgun for winning the Junior Master Gunner Competition to Calvin Boston.**

who's out there and what I'm up against because, if you're shooting then you're a hunter, too."

Billings has participated in the turkey shoot since it began in 1999. He said it was a great way for soldiers and civilians to forget their occupations and combine their skills as hunters and form a group.

Similarly, Chief Warrant Brian Patton, safety officer for 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde, 75<sup>th</sup> Div., believed participation has decreased to one-third of the usual amount, since he has been involved. "It's been cold and wet every time, but there would normally be four to five people behind the firing lanes," he said.

The turkey shoot was filled with volunteers from 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade because 18 months ago, Col. Gasper Gulotta, brigade commander, took control of the event with a goal to promote a renewed interest in the post facilities. Gulotta shoots trap along with some of his soldiers, so hosting a

turkey shoot to bring awareness and funds back into Outdoor Recreation seemed only natural.

So from 10am to 2pm, these soldiers kept the event rolling with signing up shooters, maintaining safety on the lanes, measuring their shots, and announcing the winners. The cold weather may have been something to put up with at first, but in the end each soldier found something special to keep them going.

"I like seeing parents interacting with their kids here," said Patton.

"I noticed how the adults had a silent competition going," said Spec. Elizabeth Lacey. "One of the kids was nervous, but he did the best I've seen in my lane."

"It's great to see the kids get all excited," said Staff Sgt. John Williams. "We're making sure that they're safe and it keeps us on top of our game, too."

The next turkey shoot will take place in the spring.



Sgt. 1st. Class Benjamin Meek teaches Katie Perry how to shoot an arrow at the archery range.

# Mission Essentials

Submitted by Maj. Brian R. Cook, Battalion XO, and Captain Nancy Torres, Battalion S-1

The 3-382d Logistical Support Battalion (LSB) has continued to provide innovative support to the 3d Brigade over the winter. Beginning in November 2003, the LSB linked up with Task Force Dependable to provide support for the train-up of Reserve units for Operation Enduring Freedom II and Operation Noble Eagle. For the better part of five months the 26 mobilized personnel from the LSB provided continuous support to the Task Force.

With the Lanes concept used by the Task Force, innovative resourcing was required to provide all of the necessary vehicles; radios, phones, wire, and accessories that the Task Force needed to accomplish the task of preparing the units for deployment to Iraq. Vehicles were acquired through almost every conceivable resource (24 through DRMO, 4 from HHD 24<sup>th</sup> ID, 1 from HHD 75<sup>th</sup> Division, 27 through ECS 33) and other equipment was acquired from as far away as Okinawa, Japan (Blank adapters). When all was said and done, equipment was received from Rock Island Arsenal, various National Guard and Reserve units within the four state area, contractors in St. Louis, two ECS locations, Nevada, Connecticut, Japan, and Germany.

Additionally, there were several modifications made to some of the vehicles to provide more realistic training. Utilizing the DRMO vehicles, M2 mounts and outward seating for passengers were added. M6 mounts were added to some of the HMMWV's to provide a firing platform similar to what the soldiers would use in country. The OPFOR modified a Dodge van, complete with explosives, to provide a more realistic enemy vehicle.

The highlight for the families was the Christmas Party held during the December

drill. There were over 30 family members present for the event that included Family Readiness training, movies for the kids, lunch, a visit from Santa, and a white elephant gift exchange. We were all thankful for the time together, as most of the soldiers didn't get a chance to go home again until the end of February.

The future again shows a full schedule of supporting the Task Force for the summer AT Missions and then OEF 3 in the fall/winter. The soldiers of the 3-382d continue to give their best in ensuring that the soldiers going overseas have everything available for training for their mission.

## Task Force Dependable

Submitted by Captain Aaron C. Wellman, Battalion S-1

The 2nd Battalion, 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment has performed a series of difficult and challenging missions under extraordinary circumstances. In September 2003, the 2nd Battalion took the lead in planning and preparing to stand up 3d Brigade, 75<sup>th</sup> Division Task Force Dependable in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Based on lessons learned in a Contemporary Operating Environment, experience from mobilization for OIF I, and theater specific requirements, a new nine-day gate based Force Protection training plan was developed and implemented starting on 15 December 2003. Gate 1 is three days and consists of Individual and Leader training. After the mobilizing unit successfully completes Gate 1 it progresses to Gate 2 that is a four-day collective training STX concentrating on day/night Convoy Operations, Urban Operations, Cordon and Search Operations, and Base Defense. Gate 3 is a culminating Live Fire Exercise that consists of approximately 7-mile long convoy with four enemy engagement areas. Task Force Dependable trained a total of 40 mobilized CS/CSS units with over 3,000 soldiers. The Force Protection

training earned high praise from 89th RRC Commander and Deputy Commander, Fifth Army, 24th ID Commander, and the National Guard Assistant Adjutant General.

The first weekend in April was very busy for Task Force Dependable. The Super Saturday exercise trained the 174<sup>th</sup> Ordinance Battalion on Force Protection procedures within a situational training exercise. The battalion rolled their vehicles and encountered Improvised Explosive Devices and was ambushed. A staff exercise in a simulated tactical training environment occurred simultaneously, which trained the staff elements on how to maintain positive control over a convoy in enemy territory. Later in April, the Task Force sent eight soldiers to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to be a part of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team. The CMATT team will train to perfect their skills and then travel to Southwest Asia to impart that knowledge upon the military forces in the region. Their mission is to train tactics to foreign soldiers in the area. The Task Force considers this a great honor to be asked to make hands on contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later in the month of April, the Task Force sent 45 soldiers to Fort Hood, Texas to assist 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in training the 256<sup>th</sup> Enhanced Separate Brigade. The mission varies in length and scope but will undoubtedly prepare over 2500 forces for their rotation to Southwest Asia and participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. As word of the outstanding training at Fort Riley emerges, Task Force Dependable stands ready to assist anywhere the mission dictates.

The future training events for Task Force Dependable and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion will provide a high optempo for the coming months. In May, the Task Force will provide Force Protection training to nearly 100 medical troops preparing to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3. Their training will be challenging and to standard in order to prepare the force for the missions that lay ahead. In June 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and Task Force Dependable will spearhead Dependable Focus '04. This two week training exercise will provide over 500 soldiers with realistic Force Protection training along with the opportunity to test their technical skills in a tactical environment. With Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as continuous missions, Task Force Dependable and 2nd Battalion 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment stands ready to meet any mission, anytime, anywhere. ***“One unit, second to none!”***

# Validation Exercise Demands Attention

Submitted by Major Carl R. Coffman Jr.,  
Battalion XO

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 291<sup>st</sup> Aviation (ATK)(TSBn) has closed out another year of providing unit assistance under the congressionally mandated Training Support XXI Program. However, the mission of mobilizing Reserve Component Units for deployment has consumed a majority of the Battalion's efforts. These missions were accomplished autonomously by each subordinate company as well as consolidated efforts by the entire Battalion. From providing training guidance for drill weekends and annual training to planning and executing Validation Exercises prior to deployment in support of OEF and OIF, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion continues providing world class training support to RC and AC attack battalions.

The battalion mobilized M/158 AVIM at Ft. Hood, Texas beginning January 6, 2004. M/158 is a CORPS Level Aviation Maintenance Company with a mobilization cap of 269 personnel. The unit deployed with III CORPS and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in March 2004. The mobilization created many challenges for our Unit Assisters (UA's), and many lessons were learned regarding the mobilization and simultaneous deployment of a battalion sized Maintenance Company. Personnel and equipment shortages plagued M/158, as the Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) and our UA's worked to provide the unit with quality training. In addition, the unit was required to prepare and deploy its equipment within two weeks of mobilization. Three days were scheduled for the actual equipment deployment, but the unit needed much more time to inventory and prepare the equipment. The task required significant manpower, which detracted from the many other training requirements during the first two weeks of mobilization. The training schedule became a true living document.

Significant lessons were learned in the areas of training, property accountability, and troop leading. The mobilized unit had been back filled with such large numbers of new personnel, and more importantly with new key leaders, that weaknesses in property accountability and troop leading were not immediately apparent. In retrospect, it was natural for the above areas to need attention. Training is no surprise, but the last two resulted in significant

**The Bulgebuster**

training and unit assistance challenges. For future deployments, we will place equal and immediate emphasis on these two areas.

Through hard work from our UA's, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade MAT, Fort Hood, and the soldiers of M/158, the unit deployed in theater trained and on time.

Headquarter Company, has been working diligently with primary units to ensure that training levels are adequate for the pending high intensity conflict deployments. Primary focus has centered on two attack battalions, 1-149 ATKHB of the Texas Army National Guard at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, and 1-135<sup>th</sup> ATKHB of the Missouri Army National Guard at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

After a successful deployment to the Bosnian Theater, 1-149 Attack Helicopter Battalion of the Texas Army National Guard, a primary unit for 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn, returned having completed a rotation flying more hours than the last three Stabilization Force headquarters. The task force commander, LTC Guy Schultz, hailed the training support validation exercise in preparation for the deployment as the single most effective event in setting the task force up for success. In review of the deployment, the training support battalion created very similar situations to prepare the task force for the demanding missions of the SFOR 14 rotation. Now that the entire attack battalion is reunited, the training has started focusing on high intensity conflict to make ready the unit for a possible deployment to the Middle East. The first



▲ ID NG AH-64A executing FARP operations during aerial gunnery.

## Summer 2004

major event is aerial gunnery for the unit's Annual Training 1-15 May with the TSBn validating the tables through Table VIII crew qualifications. The unit expects to qualify over 15 crews in the two-week period. Another first event for the 1-149<sup>th</sup> will be Joint Air Attack Team operations during their gunnery exercise with the 147<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Texas Air National Guard to begin a habitual relationship with the two Ellington Field units. The JAAT exercise is also an event that the TSBn are the primary planners.

A new unit to the TSBn is 1-135<sup>th</sup> Attack Helicopter Battalion at Whiteman AFB. 1-135<sup>th</sup> has received the first seven aircraft in transformation to an AH-64A Apache battalion. LTC William Thomas, the 1-135<sup>th</sup> ATKHB commander, is leaning forward with the guidance of the TSBn and will complete the battalion's first aerial gunnery aircraft qualifications this summer during the unit's Annual Training 1-19 June. The attack battalion expects to gain the complement of aircraft to fill the battalion to 100 percent and conduct a complete aerial gunnery through Table VIII crew qualifications during the next training year. Upon receipt of the additional aircraft, the TSBn will initiate an extensive transformation-training plan for 1-135<sup>th</sup> ATKHB to become combat ready.

In addition to the training of the two attack battalions, HHC has also worked with several units to validate training for both Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The HHC maintenance test pilot, traveled to Phoenix, Arizona and validated the fix wing unit,

▼ A CO. TSBn CW4 Stanislaw observes live hellfire engagements upon completion of aerial gunnery.

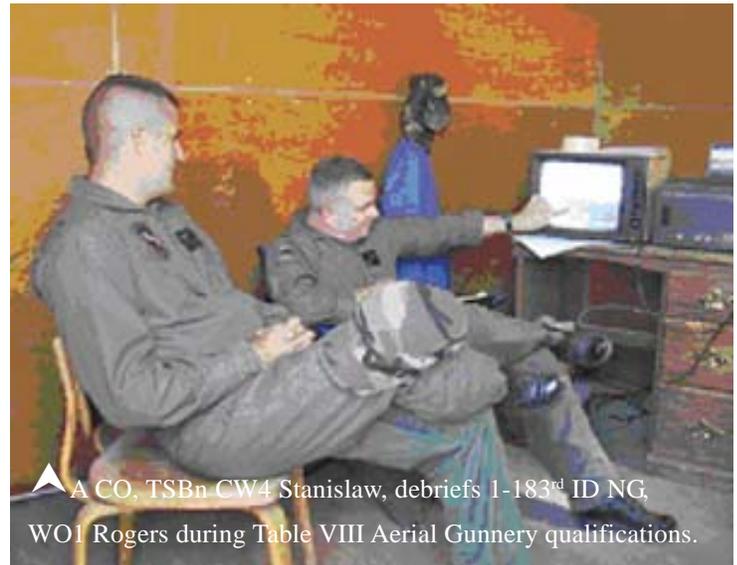


DET 31 OSAA, and expedited deployment of 11 personnel in less than 21 days to support OIF. The commander, and NCOIC, will also be conducting an assessment on an Oklahoma Army National Guard Air Traffic Control unit, 1-245<sup>th</sup> ATC, in preparation for future to a Middle East theater. Another unit validated by HHC was the 49<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic Control company of the Texas Army National Guard at San Antonio, Texas where MSG Kenneth Louviere validated the 21 personnel and ensured all issues were resolved in the unit's deployment in support of OEF.

A Company continues to match the optempo of the 1-183<sup>rd</sup> ATKHB that is currently greater than any the State of Idaho has experienced in the recent past. Alerted for SFOR 10 and SFOR 12 rotations to the Balkans, and mobilized for SFOR 12, the unit spent the greater part of 2003 supporting the NATO mission at Camp Eagle, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A Company, 1-291<sup>st</sup> Unit Assistors accompanied the unit thru home station mobilization IRT, TSIRT, and then on to Ft. Rucker, AL where an Aviation Training Exercise (ATX) commenced leading to validation of the unit Stateside. The unit moved on to Hohenfels Training Area, Hohenfels, Germany, for the final Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) before self-deploying into the Balkans for their Change Of Authority and assumption of operations in MND North.

Wasting no time upon their return to the Gowan Field, ID, the 1-183<sup>rd</sup> executed demobilization just in time to commence with Aerial Gunnery preparation beginning with intense Combat Mission Simulator Table V evaluations. TSBn personnel were involved with the validation of unit performance certifying crewmembers for advancement to live fire table VII and VIII engagements. Qualifying 18.5 crews of 18.5 required, the unit was able to meet their training goals only through diligence and commitment to training standards. The unit was rewarded with 36 live hellfires that were fired by the aircrews in conjunction with a tactical scenario developed by TSBn personnel.

October 2003 saw A Co, 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn and the 1-183<sup>rd</sup> ID NG begin a series of mandated inspections. Assembling a team out of the TSBn, A CO, executed a pre ARMS inspection to assess the unit's strengths and weakness and provide valuable feedback allowing the 1-183<sup>rd</sup> to focus on preparation for a pending ARMS inspection. The results from the



▲ A CO, TSBn CW4 Stanislaw, debriefs 1-183<sup>rd</sup> ID NG, WO1 Rogers during Table VIII Aerial Gunnery qualifications.

pre ARMS were utilized most effectively and the unit received commendable remarks during the FORSCOM ARMS visit. This inspection was followed shortly thereafter with a visit from the Directorate of Evaluations, Ft. Rucker, AL to assess the unit's aviators in their base and advanced knowledge with a focus on current CONOPS in South West Asia. Always an intense week, DES's visit was productive and enlightening to the aviators and certainly worth the preparation that the TSBn personnel were able to provide the 1-183<sup>rd</sup>.

In the meantime, A Co, was able to provide assistance to many more Traditional and Priority units that the TSBn oversees beginning with a Mobilization of D CO 140<sup>th</sup> AVIM, Fresno, CA NG. Initially existing on paper only, the 140<sup>th</sup> AVIM was assembled on short order and assessed of its personnel and equipment shortages. A Co OC's were then able to develop a training plan to prepare the unit for Mobilization at Ft. McCoy, WI.

One of the biggest challenges of the year was preparing 1-211<sup>th</sup> ATHB from the Utah Guard for deployment in support of OEF-Afghanistan. 1-211<sup>th</sup> Attack Helicopter Battalion was ready for any challenges they might face in the upcoming year and had proven they would be up to the task when called upon by their country. During their summer Annual Training (AT), 1-211<sup>th</sup> executed an aggressive and demanding AT training plan stretching and testing the unit's command and logistical assets. AT was divided into three major

training events; individual training, collective training and aerial gunnery. Individual training stressed the basic soldier skills to include small arms ranges, TY03 CTT and NBC training. B Co, 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn provided technical expertise and experience assisting the unit and validating the training. After completing the individual training phase of AT with flying colors and the unit was now focused to hone their collective skills during “Operation Mountain Strike”.

“Operation Mountain Strike” was a five day 24 hour Field Training Exercise (FTX) developed to tax the unit staff and commanders providing a rewarding and realistic training event for the soldiers preparing them for a possible Afghanistan deployment. B Co, 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn developed the FTX using the “Operation Enduring Freedom” mission scenario and incorporated 1-211<sup>th</sup>’s Mission Essential Task List (METL) to validate them on all of their war fighting skills. 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn’s support of “Operation Mountain Strike” included developing the scenario and base order; providing the higher headquarters to include daily INSUMS, FRAGOs and OPFOR NCOIC; and provide OC/Ts for the company size elements. The unit successfully completed “Operation Mountain Strike”, refined their unit SOPs and was now poised to execute their aerial gunnery program. During the execution of the units aerial gunnery, 1-211<sup>th</sup> fired all three of their weapon systems; 30mm cannon, 2.75" rockets and the Hellfire laser guided missile.

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The pilots also training on the new gunnery skill incorporated in the war in Afghanistan; running and diving fire. The pilots executed flawlessly qualifying 25 crews. Once again, 1-211<sup>th</sup> had successfully completed its training requirements above Army standard and was ready to conduct its wartime mission.

Then on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2003, 1-211<sup>th</sup> received an Alert order for a possible deployment to Afghanistan. The unit began preparing for the deployment identifying personnel, equipment and training shortfalls. The unit was leaning forward and on 16 December 2003, 1-211<sup>th</sup> received a mobilization order to report to FT Carson, Colorado on 5 January 2004 for a deployment to Afghanistan in support of OEF V. Once the mobilization was official, 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn conducted a leader’s reconnaissance to ensure the reception of 1-211<sup>th</sup> would be flawless and the post mobilization-training plan would incorporate the training needs of the unit. During pre-mobilization training, the unit conducted a pre-SRP and trained the mandatory Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training required. B Co, 1-291<sup>st</sup> again provided the technical and tactical expertise providing assistance and validating the training. Then on 5 January 2004, 1-211<sup>th</sup> deployed to FT Carson, Colorado to begin its three month post-mobilization training plan. With B Company as the lead, 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn deployed to FT Carson, Co to provide Unit Assistors and to validate the mandatory training requirements prior to deployment..

The post-mobilization training plan was vigorous and demanding to all. It included SRP, small arms ranges (day, night and NBC), base camp operations, theater specific leader’s training, convoy operations, convoy live fire, combat lifesaver training, MDMP seminar, aerial gunnery, short range marksmanship, a 10 day EXEVAL and a 6 day Aviation Training Exercise (ATX). B Co, 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn developed the EXEVAL scenario by contacting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in Afghanistan and doing research on the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) website. 1-291<sup>st</sup> TSBn’s support of the EXEVAL included developing the scenario and base order, providing the higher headquarters to include daily INSUMS and FRAGOs, providing over 25 OC/Ts for the evaluated elements and coordinate for additional training aids (MILEs, SMODUMs, OPFOR, CTESS, Class V, JRTC OC augmentation). 1-291<sup>st</sup> also provided 8 OC/Ts to coach, train and mentor the unit during the ATX at FT Rucker, Alabama. Using CAVSIM and SIMNET the Air Pirates became familiar with the demanding flight profiles in their future area of operations as well as learned the challenges associated with operating as a multi-functional aviation task force. After all the training was completed the unit was now ready to successfully conduct its wartime mission. On 12 April 2004, the validation documents were signed and on 16 April 2004, 1-211<sup>th</sup> Attack Helicopter Battalion (Air Pirates) deployed to Afghanistan in

support of Operation Enduring Freedom V.

C Company is assigned the task of primarily supporting 7-6 Cavalry in Texas, and 1-113th Cavalry Squadron in Missouri. The detachment continues to provide METL based training, pre and post mobilization assistance, aerial gunnery assistance, and aviation functional expertise focused at the Company and Staff level. The company is directly responsible for Lane Training, TESS Evaluation, Mobilization readiness and aerial gunnery support for 2 Priority Units and 4 Traditional Units. Throughout the year C Company provided Observer Controller/Trainer support for 10 Priority Units geographically dispersed between 4 states. The company provided quality and functional support to 7-6 CAV during IDT weekends and a JRTC, AT rotation as well as multiple AARs after training events. C Company assisted and provided training guidance recommendations to 7-6 CAV, 1-113th in developing yearly training plans AUDEL, DEL, Mobilization Planning Assisted and provided guidance recommendations to 7-6 CAV, in developing a METL applicable with current mission/doctrine. C Company assisted JRTC in development and execution of 7-6 Troop Lane Training with 1st BCT, 25th ID, OIF MRE. The company provided mobilization planning assistance, URV and assessment for 7-6 Cav, 1-113th & TUs. C Company strived to maintain currency on latest TTPs through updates with OIF and OEF initial impression reports, CALL, JRTC, DES, ARMS team, professional journals and OIF returning units. C Company enforced maintained all Army standards through credibility /leading by example as the AC standard bearer. The company coached 7-6 in maintenance management and forecasting of inspections to meet operational requirements.

With the close of another year providing first class training support the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion is preparing for the next year. With mobilizations of National Guard and Army Reserve likely to increase in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and upcoming Army Aviation Transformation, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion is preparing for another year increased OPTEMPO. As we begin a new year, the Battalion remains dedicated to exceeding the Training Support XXI requirements and setting the standard in Reserve Component mobilization training.

# Mobilization Validation Training

Story by Maj. James S. Perry, Battalion XO

## Mobilization operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Traditions endure when traditions are followed. 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion (Training Support)(Aviation), 291<sup>st</sup> Regiment continues to hold tightly to their tradition of training excellence with the mobilization validation lane of the 1022<sup>nd</sup> Air Ambulance Company of the Wyoming National Guard. Fighting severe winter weather, shifting resources, and a shortened timeline, 2-291<sup>st</sup> Avn put the crunch on the unit as they mobilized out of Fort Carson in support of



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Operation Iraqi Freedom. The TSBn developed a detailed tactical scenario that had the aircraft fly different medical evacuation missions including NVG operations and high-altitude hoist operations. With the severe weather, every aspect of training received observer/controller/trainer scrutiny. OC/Ts cautioned soldiers to pay attention to their extremities, to be cautious with their weapons, and to be especially cautious with the “patients”. Training also included instruction and practical exercise with new communications systems, body armor, and the latest in emergency medical equipment. This training allowed not only the TSBn to evaluate the unit’s proficiency, but also demonstrated to the unit themselves how well crew members communicated, how skilled they are in locating a victim, how steady the pilot keeps the aircraft while hovering in strong winds, and how well the medic responds to the patient’s needs.

## **Junction City High School Static Display**

The rotors of the UH-60 Blackhawk whipped the air and pounded the silence in the cool morning as it landed in the field outside Junction City High School (JCHS) on March 31<sup>st</sup>. As the crew chiefs exited the helicopter, a formation of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Cadets looked on in anticipation for the day’s events. Lt. Col. Eduardo Gutierrez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (TS)(AV), 291<sup>st</sup> Regiment Commander, and Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Ragland flew the helicopter from Topeka to Junction City to serve as a static display in support of the JCHS JROTC Program directed by Lt. Col. Bob Kennedy. Additionally, officers from 2-291<sup>st</sup> Regiment presented various briefings throughout the day to the JROTC classes. Topics of discussion included the Army Aviation Branch, flight school, officer advancement, and the capabilities and use of several Army helicopters. As part of the static display, cadets were encouraged to explore inside and outside of the UH-60 and visit with the crew. Cadets took the opportunity to sit in the pilots’ seats and even put on flight helmets. Soldiers and crewmembers from 2-291<sup>st</sup> Regiment were available during the event to talk one-on-one with cadets and share their Army experiences and answer questions about the military, ROTC programs, college opportunities, and Army Aviation.

# AWARDS

## Legion of Merit



COL	GARDENHIRE, GARY	HHC
LTC	MAHONEY, PAUL	2ND
LTC	RICHEY, ELTON	HHC
COL	WILLIAMS, ROBERT	HHC
COL	TOWNSEND, ROBERT	HHC

## Meritorious Service Medal



SSG	ABRAHAM, SAMPSON	2ND
SFC	ARNESON, JASON	2ND
SFC	ASPLUND, STEVEN	4TH
SFC	BALLOU, COURTLAND	4TH
MAJ	BOUMA, ANDREW	2ND
SFC	BRASSFIELD, REGINALD	2ND
MSG	BROWN, JAMES	3RD
MSG	BURKE, STEVEN	2ND
1LT	CARUTHERS, YANCY	3RD
CW4	CHRISTIANSON, MARK	3RD
SFC	CORLEY, LONNIE	4TH
LTC	DENNIS, ROBERT	1ST
MAJ	DUFF, JOANNIE	HHC
CPT	DYER, STEVEN	4TH
CPT	EDMONDS, JAMES	2ND
CPT	FIELDS, SHANNON	2ND
MSG	FLETCHER, MILES	HHC
MAJ	FLOYD, JAMES	3RD
MAJ	FORTEZZO, ALFRED	2ND
SFC	GORDON, DONALD	2ND
SFC	HENRY, WILLIAM	2ND
SFC	HESTER, JAMES	3RD
SFC	KENDRICK, CHARLES	2ND
SFC	KISINGER, MARK	4TH

SFC	LUNDY, STEPHEN	3RD
SSG	MALONE, TIMOTHY	3RD
MAJ	MARBY, WENDY	2ND
SFC	MATHEWS, WILLIAM	2ND
SFC	MATTSON, WILLIAM	3RD
MSG	MCCORMICK, RICHARD	1ST
SFC	MCGAN, DAVID	2ND
CPT	MEHARG, JASON L.	2ND
CW4	MILLER, RETSAE	3RD
LTC	MORALES, JAMES	4TH
MAJ	MOSHER, ROY	2ND
MAJ	NEASBITT, TROY	2ND
SSG	NEWBAUER, MICHAEL	2ND
CPT	OLSON, DAVID	2ND
SFC	PLATT, RALPH	2ND
CPT	SHARP, SALEM	2ND
SFC	SHUTE, THOMAS	3RD
SSG	SNYDER, STEPHEN	4TH
SFC	WEEKLEY, GREGORY	4TH
CW2	WILLIAMS, ANGELA	HHC
SFC	WILLIAMS, RANDOLPH	2ND
SFC	WINSTON, DENNIS	2ND
SFC	CHUA, VINCENT	2ND
SFC	SCHOENBERGER, CONCHA	2ND
MSG	UPTON, CHRISTINA	4TH
MAJ	ADAMS, MARK	4TH
SFC	ALLEN, LEE	4TH
SFC	BROCKWAY, JAMES	3RD
SFC	BRYANT, ORLANDO	2ND
SFC	BURCIAGA, MARTIN	2ND
SFC	BURT, CALVIN	2ND
SFC	CINTRON, LEONADO	2ND
CPT	CRAFT, AINSLIE	2ND
CPT	CREAMER, SHAWN	2ND
SSG	CREASON, THOMAS	2ND
SFC	DA PONTE, JOSE	2ND
MSG	EVANS, LAMAR	2ND
CPT	FARMER, TIMOTHY	2ND
SFC	FRANZEN, TROY	4TH
SFC	GALLOWAY, JAMES	3RD
CW3	GEORGE, PAUL	3RD
MAJ	GOGLIA, ADAM	2ND
CW3	HACK, BARBARA K.	HHC
CW3	HENSLEY, TODD	3RD
CPT	JOHNSON, WILLIAM	4TH
MAJ	JONES, BENJAMIN	3RD
SFC	JORDON, DAVID	2ND
SFC	KEENER, CHRISTOPHER	3RD
SFC	LAIRD, EDWARD	4TH
SFC	MCKINLEY, FORREST	HHC
LTC	MELZER, ALETHA	1ST
CSM	MURPHY, JOHN	3RD
SFC	ONDERKO, TIMOTHY	4TH
MAJ	PERRY, JAMES	3RD
SFC	PETERS, JEFFREY	4TH
SFC	RUTLEDGE, MICHAEL	4TH
MAJ	SIMONS, THOMAS	2ND
SFC	SIMPSON, TIMOTHY	HHC
MAJ	VAUGHN, KENNETH	4TH
SFC	WATKINS, JAMES	2ND

CPT GORNTO, SIDNEY	2ND	2ND	OLC
CPT HINMAN, BILL	2ND	2ND	OLC
SFC SIULEPA, ISELI	2ND	2ND	OLC
SFC SPAGHT, DAVID	2ND	2ND	OLC
CW4 RAGLAND, JOHNNY	3RD	2ND	OLC
SFC CLIFF, STEVEN	4TH	2ND	OLC
SFC KIRKLAND, KENNETH	4TH	2ND	OLC
MSG LOCKHART, ROSE	4TH	2ND	OLC
SFC MILLER, THOMAS	4TH	2ND	OLC
MAJ STORER, KARL	4TH	2ND	OLC
CSM BLAIR, JERRY	HHC	2ND	OLC
BG ZINK, WALTER E. II	HHC	2ND	OLC
LTC HITZEMANN, JOHN	1ST	2ND	OLC
LTC BROWN, REGINALD	1ST	3RD	OLC
LTC BUNCH, DAVID	1ST	3RD	OLC
LTC CURTIS, JOHN	1ST	3RD	OLC
COL GULOTTA, GASPER	3RD	3RD	OLC
MSG GAMMILL, WILLIAM	4TH	3RD	OLC
SFC DRINGMAN, KALEN D.	HHC	3RD	OLC
SGM SMITH, WILLIAM	HHC	3RD	OLC
COL TOWNSEND, ROBERT	HHC	3RD	OLC
LTC WRIGHT, THOMAS	2ND	4TH	OLC
CSM CHRISMER, RALPH	3RD	4TH	OLC
MAJ NELSON, BRUCE	3RD	4TH	OLC
LTC CURRY, RANDALL	4TH	4TH	OLC
COL EWING, JEFFERSON	4TH	5TH	OLC
COL DOCHNAL, ALFRED	2ND	6TH	OLC

CPT GOMEZ, ELLIOTT	2ND
SSG MACKEY, LEGINA	2ND
SSG MATTHEWS, JOE	HHC
MAJ QUENGA, MARK	2nd
SGM BEARD, THEODORE	HHC
SGM BROWN, TERRY	2ND
SFC CYR, RACHEL	HHC
SFC LEAL, MACARIO	2ND
SFC LEINGANG, BRYAN	2ND
SSG HAYCRAFT, MICHAEL	4TH
SFC GONZALEZ, JAVIER	HHC
SFC SOSA, JAVIER	2ND

## Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



SSG BOCKENKAMP, LINDA G.	HHC
SFC BUECHLER, JEFFREY	4TH
2LT ELLINGSON, EDWARD	HHC
SGT FLORES, ALMA N.	HHC
CPT MCGILLIVRAY, JOHN	HHC
SFC REYNA, JENNIFER	HHC

## Army Commendation Medal



SSG BAGADION, RUBEN	HHC
SFC CRUZ, HECTOR	4TH
SSG DUFF, MATTHEW	2ND
SSG GREEN, LISA	3RD
SFC KNOTTS, LAWRENCE	2ND
CW3 PARADIS, PAUL	HHC
PFC TRAVIS, CHRISTOPHER	1ST
SGT WATTS, CHRISTINA	2ND
CW2 WINGERT, DARRELL	HHC
SFC YZAGURRIE, RICHARD	4TH
2LT ELLINGSON, EDWARD	HHC
CW2 LENAMOND, KEVIN	HHC
SFC MCCRACKEN, ROBERT	HHC
SGT SHEPARD, DAVID	HHC
SSG TERRELL, SHELA	HHC
MAJ BURKETT, RONALD	HHC
SSG CARTER, CHARLOTTE	HHC



# PROMOTIONS

## OFFICERS



1ST BDE MILLER SCOTT ALAN	COL
1ST BDE MRSNY REID KEVIN	COL
3RD BDE OLEARY ROBERT CHARLES	COL



4TH BDE HART DERRICK T	CPT
3RD BDE HOUSHMANDI THERESA LYNN	CPT
4TH BDE LUU TAN MINH	CPT
2ND BDE PEREZWILLS DAISY M	CPT
4TH BDE SANCHEZ MATTHEW GABRIEL	CPT
4TH BDE SLATE DENNIS MARSTON	CPT



1ST BDE BALDWIN CAROLYN LYNN	LTC
2ND BDE BOUMA ANDREW FREDERICK	LTC
1ST BDE COOPER CARLSON CHRISTOPHER	LTC
1ST BDE COTTER CRAIG DONALD	LTC
1ST BDE CROWLEY ALLEN	LTC
3RD BDE FARMER SAMUEL JR	LTC
4TH BDE GILMORE MICHAEL EARL	LTC
1ST BDE HATTON WILLIAM FRANKLIN	LTC
1ST BDE JENINGS JOHN K	LTC
1ST BDE JULIANO MICHAEL VINCENT	LTC
1ST BDE LLUVERAS RAMON	LTC
1ST BDE PHILLIPS LARRY GENE	LTC
3RD BDE RIDEAUX GERARD	LTC
1ST BDE ROSBOROUGH KARL EDWARD	LTC
3RD BDE RYBERG MARIE JERLINE	LTC
2ND BDE SMITH MELVIN	LTC
4TH BDE THOMPSON GEORGE R	LTC
4TH BDE VAUGHN KENNETH J	LTC



3RD BDE BRIDGEWATER GORDON
2ND BDE SPARROW JOSHUA T



3RD BDE GEORGE PAUL B
3RD BDE KAPSA DAVID



2ND BDE STEVENS MARK A



1ST BDE CHAVEZ BETHZABET	CPT
3RD BDE GIERSTORF SHANE DENNIS	CPT
4TH BDE GRAYS LINDA JEAN	CPT
4TH BDE HAMMOND MARK ANTHO	CPT

## ENLISTED



EDDIN, JERRY L.	DIV HQ
MARCOTT, TERRY L.	2/381/4
MONTGOMERY, DONALD R.	1/289TH
PIZZITOLA, SUSAN R.	2/382/2



HINKLE, MARK A. 3/383RD



BENEDICT, THOMAS J. 1/289/4  
 CARTHEY, BRADLEY 1/383RD  
 DIEPENBROCK, KIRK A. 2/381/4  
 ENGLISH, FRANK D. II 2/381/4  
 FOSTER, ERIC C. 1/1SEG  
 HARRIS, GARY R. 2/381/4  
 HECKART, SCOTT 1/383RD  
 JAMES, LOLITA P. DIV HQ  
 MARKS, MICHAEL W. 3/290/2  
 MEEK, BENJAMIN 2/383RD  
 MINCKS, MARC D. 1/1SEG  
 MOORE, TIMOTHY W. 2/290/4  
 PEEL, KEVIN 1/383RD  
 RAMIREZ, RALPH HQ/4  
 ROBINSON, MARCUS L. 3/383/3  
 STANDIFORD, STEVEN R. DIV HQ  
 STINEMETZ, DOUGLAS L. 3/383/3  
 THOMAS, ROBERT E. 3/289/2  
 TILLERY, CYNTHIA L. 3/381/2  
 WALL, KARLHEINZ E. 3/290/2  
 WILBORN, RICHARD 1BDE 2SEG



GUIN, DAVID 3/381ST  
 BOHN, KEVIN 1/383RD  
 BOLEYN, TIMOTHY P. 2/381ST  
 DOZIER, GREGORY B. 2/381ST

DRAKE, ATRION O. 2/381ST  
 EZELL, LINDA L. HQ DIV  
 FLEMING, RONNIE D. 3/289TH  
 GORDON, GREGORY S. 3/289TH  
 GRABBE, JERONE 2/383RD  
 HOCKER, RICKY W. 3/290TH  
 JOHNSON, MELVIN R. 1/289TH  
 LACY, SHELLEY L. 3/289TH  
 LADDIE, KARL M. 1/289TH  
 MARTIN, MARCEL T. JR. 1/382ND  
 MILLER, MARSHA 3/382ND  
 NAVARRO, JOHNNIE 3/289TH  
 OWEN, DAVID W. 1/289TH  
 RAMIREZ, ALFRED 3/381ST  
 REAL, LAER S. 1/289TH  
 THIGPEN, RICHARD E. 1/289TH  
 THOMPSON, LAWRENCE 3/382ND  
 WEST, JESSIE J. JR. 2/382ND  
 WHEELER, LARRY 1/383RD  
 WHITECOMB, BRIAN R. 2/382ND  
 WHITEFORD, JAMES HQ DIV  
 WILLIAMS, JOHN 1/383RD  
 WILLIS, STEPHAN L. 1/289TH



ROBERTS, TIA 3/290TH  
 ALEXANDER, NOVAL A. HQ HHC  
 ANDERSON, ELIZABETH A. 3/382ND  
 BOCCHINO, MICHAEL A. JR. 3/381ST  
 BREAUX, JOHN 2/381ST  
 BROWN, ALFRED L. 3/382ND  
 BUTLER, MICHAEL 2/381ST  
 CARBREY, SARAH 3/383RD  
 CLAUDIO, IVAN L. 3/381ST  
 DESKEY, ANTHONY 3/383RD  
 EVES, PATRICK 3/383RD  
 FLETCHER, GUY M. 2/290TH  
 FLORES, ALMA N. HQ HHC  
 GANN, JOHN T. HQ DIV  
 GARZA, RAUL 2/381ST  
 GOMAR, EDDY R. BPG  
 HOWELL, VICTOR 2/382ND  
 IDLEMAN, JOHNNIE 3/290TH  
 KELLUM, JIMMIE 2/381ST  
 MARTINEZ, ROGELIO 1/382ND  
 MITCHELL, JAMES S. 3/381ST  
 REEVES, AMANDA R. 3/382ND

ROBBINS, JOHN	2/381ST
SHEFFIELD, MARCIE L.	3/381ST
SLOAN, YVETTE A.	2/382ND
SMITH, ANGELA D.	BPG
STAHL, PAUL D.	3/383RD
THOMAS, TRACEY T.	HQ DIV
THOMPSON, MICHAEL A.	3/383RD
TREVINO, VALDEZ M.	1/289TH



CUNEY, CHAMBALA	2/382ND
AARON, MARK G.	3/383RD
BESTER, CELIA M.	3/383RD
BOLTON, CHARLES	2/381ST
BYRD, DENISE Y.	BPG
CUNEY, CHAMBALA	2/382ND
DILLARD, RENEE P.	3/382ND
FINLEY, ADAM E.	3/382ND
GHATE, RAJEEV M.	BPG
HARDY, JACQUELINE	1/289TH
HERNANDEZ, RAYMOND	2/382ND
HERRERA, DOMINGO S.	BPG
JAEGER, DUSTIN J.	HQ DIV
LATTANZI, MARTY L.	2SEG
MAYS, CLIFTON D.	3/383RD
MILLER, CHRISTOPHER	3/383RD
NEATHERY, KEVIN	3/381ST
PEREZ, ANGELA M.	2SEG
PRICE, JAMES	1/382ND
RUSSELL, KAMELIA	HQ (3RD)
SHEPHERD, GREGORY L.	BPG
WILLIAMS, LAKELAND D.	BPG



Sgt. Rhodes becomes part of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps

***Congratulations to all of the soldiers who were awarded medals and were promoted.***



# 75th Infantry Division

## 'The Bulgebusters'

### History



#### *April, 1943- Activation*

The 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was activated by the War Department as an Army Infantry Division on April 15, 1943, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Soldiers from other Army forts and posts in the United States were sent to Fort Leonard Wood and a cadre supplied by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, the 28<sup>th</sup>



Infantry Division and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry became its Officers and Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs). Major General Willard S. Paul was the first commander until his departure on August 18, 1943. The division was immediately nicknamed the "teen-age" division since nearly half of its soldiers were eighteen and nineteen years old, recruited from all parts of the United States. The Division had the distinction of being the youngest in average age (twenty-one years, nine months) in the Army of the United States, and the first division to be at full strength on its activation day (the division even had more men than it needed and was thus "over strengthed" according to the Army). Most of the soldiers were sent to Fort Leonard Wood after only three or four days at Army reception stations.

The Bulge buster magazine takes its name from the nickname the 75th Infantry Division earned during the Battle of the Bulge (December, 1944-January, 1945). This battle was the largest land battle the U.S. Army fought in Western Europe during World War II and helped secure the defeat of Germany and Nazism. We honor those Soldiers of the 'greatest generation' who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice so that their progeny would enjoy the fruits of freedom.



**75th DIV(TS)  
Public Affairs Office  
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Houston, Texas 77054-2025  
1-800-390-1530 ext 7591**

*Capt. David Poland, of  
3rd Brigade in Afghanistan*

