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Convoy live fire: Combat Support and Service Support troops send rounds downrange at Fort Dix

**Photos and Story by Maj. Matt Leonard
78th Division PAO**



78th Div O/C-T Sgt. 1st Class Isiah Diggs coordinates next inject his while 854th Soldiers perform security at the LZ

“Convoys and Traffic Control Points are the two ways that an Engineer can die in Iraq.”

That’s a somber statement but it was the assessment made recently by Capt. Brian Van de Wal, HHD commander of the 854th Engineer Battalion, a mobilized reserve unit out of Kingston NY.

News reports highlight the danger associated with moving Soldiers and material throughout portions of Iraq. Convoys have encountered snipers, improvised explosive devices and deliberate ambushes by insurgents.

Because of this threat the 78th Division developed an innovative convoy exercise which gives Soldiers an opportunity to really “train like we fight”. This training uses live ammunition and was designed for Combat Service and Combat Service Support Soldiers headed for Iraq.

“Firing live-rounds from a moving vehicle is something I’ve never done before,” said small-wheeled mechanic Spc. Jason DeAndrea of the 854th’s Headquarters Detachment.

The training, developed primarily by Maj. Mark Sweeney of 1st Battalion 311th, 4th Brigade and Capt. Christine Borgognoni, 1st Battalion 309th, 2d Brigade evolved from Fort Bragg concept briefs, Smart Cards and Lessons Learned coming out of Iraq. To meet the needs of OIF 2 it had to come together quickly. The Program of Instruction was developed in mid-January, new trails were cut at the ranges, and by the end of the month the first units were running the course.

“The intent was to give CS and CSS units an experience where they’re moving and firing-live ammo at the same time,” said Sweeney, “We expose them to situations they will potentially see in country - snipers, IED, RPG attack, civilians on the battlefield, casualty procedures.”

The course, made by combining 2 tank and 2 small-arms ranges, puts together everything the units have been doing from individual weapons to convoy operations.

See ‘Convoy live fire’, p. 6

Commander's Corner

Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members –

I want to thank you for your hard work during this past quarter. We have completed the Operation Iraqi Freedom II mobilization. Now we are in the process of demobilizing our great Soldiers returning from OIF1.

We must focus on the welfare of Soldiers coming home. I urge each of you to remain sensitive to the needs of our demobilizing Soldiers. Answer their questions. Help them. That is our job. We owe it to these fine Soldiers who answered the call and we owe it to their families.

First Army's greatest strength lies in its professional team and interoperability across component and command lines in our 27-state, District of Columbia and two-territory area. Considering the vast geography involved in accomplishing these challenging missions, I am profoundly struck by the earnest dedication I see on your faces as I travel about our area of operation.

As we approach the season of summer transitions, please pay proper attention to your Soldiers. Be sure to give those leaving the appropriate recognition for all their contributions and hard work. As the new folks arrive, make them feel welcome and teach them what you know.

We have much for which to be grateful. Our finest Americans are serving this nation for the cause of freedom. It is an honor to be among these patriots. I thank you for your caring and hard work, and your families for their support.

Lt. General Joseph R. Inge
First in Deed

OUR ARMY AT WAR
RELEVANT AND READY

First In Deed

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First U.S. Army trains for Military Support to Civil Authorities mission

Karen Bradshaw, First Army Public Affairs



Soldiers in the Joint Task Force - *Forward* operations center are shown hard at work coordinating Defense Department support needed for disaster relief in a First Army homeland defense exercise. More than 450 Soldiers and civilians were involved in the First Army training. The scenario of a simulated earthquake wreaking havoc over Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois sent the First Army team into high gear as they activated the emergency operations center for the expected Military Support to Civil Authorities missions that would stem from the disaster.

A Joint Task Force Forward was launched to Tennessee and Defense Coordinating Officers and their units joined the FEMA teams near the devastated disaster sites. To tax First Army's response and complicate the scenario, trainers launched several simulated Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents in New Jersey triggering First Army to send another Defense Coordinating officer and team to New Jersey. The fast OPTEMPO of the weeklong exercise is a normal part of First Army's training for Homeland Defense.

(photo by Capt. Vince Mitchell)



Command Sergeant Major's Message



Command Sgt. Maj.
Jeffrey J. Mellinger

Leaders,

Tips of the Trade came from soldiers serving in Viet Nam, and were written down a number of years later. Here is the first of the series, and you will note that you must use current terms and equipment, but some of the lessons are still useful.

PLATOON & SQUAD OPERATIONS

(The discussion is usually short, followed by a series of lesson bullets that are offered for consideration.)

TOPIC: Raids.

DISCUSSION: The jungle terrain provides excellent concealment and good cover. It also reduces visibility and makes movement slow and noisy.

LESSON(S):

- Be patient on the leader's reconnaissance. It will take longer due to the dense jungle foliage and the need for precise navigation.
- Support and assault elements will normally be combined due to a lack of suitable areas for support positions.
- Consider using flechette (buckshot) rounds for the M203.
- Consider employing your 60-mm mortars in the handheld, direct fire mode.
- The leader's reconnaissance should be small, no more than five men. A suggested composition is: platoon leader, assault team leader, weapons squad leader, and the two M60 assistant gunners. They can remain on site as a reconnaissance and surveillance element. When the M60s move forward, the AGs can point out sectors of fire.
- Be prepared to conduct a hasty attack in case of compromise.
- Limit your reconnaissance movement to a minimum to avoid compromise. Most leaders reconnaissance are

compromised when they attempt to get too close to the objective or move too quickly.

- The ORP should be a maximum of 200 meters away.
- Night raids are generally not practical.
- M60s are great for initiating raids.
- The security teams should leap-frog off the objective with the special teams to avoid losing contact.
- The reconnaissance and surveillance elements should carry pre-rigged claymores to cover their withdrawal. Consider taping a baggie filled with powdered CS to the claymore. This technique discourages pursuit.
- Because of the difficulty of adjusting fire quickly, use indirect fire to cover your withdrawal and high speed avenues of approach.

TOPIC: Ambush.

DISCUSSION: Ambushes are a favored tactic in the jungle. The dense vegetation and relatively few roads and trails make them very effective.

LESSON(S):

- Local security must be alert because the enemy can come from any direction, forcing you to re-orient your ambush.
- Always take your camouflage from the area in which you have set up the ambush.
- Remember that the trees and foliage reduce the effective range of your weapons.
- Most of the time, your assault element will be closer to the kill zone than normal.
- Check each individual soldier's field of fire closely.
- Consider using flechette (buckshot) rounds for your M203s.

See platoon & squad, p. 10

U.S. flag insignia to be worn by all

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

All Soldiers can now wear the U.S. flag insignia on the right shoulder of their utility uniform, as a reminder that the Army is engaged in a war at home and abroad.

"The flag has been around for years to identify deploying troops. Now based on the Army's joint expeditionary mindset, the flag represents our commitment to fight the war on terror for the foreseeable future," said Sgt. Maj. Walter Morales, the uniform policy chief for G1. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker approved the uniform change Feb. 11, and all Soldiers throughout the force regardless of deployment status have until Oct. 1, 2005 to get the insignia sewn on their uniforms.

Currently there aren't any flags in the inventory, which is why Soldiers have a substantial amount of time to get the flags sewn on, Morales said. Deploying troops have the priority. Everyone else will have to wait until the Defense Logistics Agency has more in stock, he said. An estimated 30 million flags need to be procured, he added.

Enlisted Soldiers will not have to purchase the flags. They will be issued five flags from their assigned unit, and commanders will make arrangements for getting the insignia sewn on, Morales said. However, if Soldiers purchase the flags on their own, they will not be reimbursed, he added. When purchasing the flag, the only ones authorized for wear on the uniform is the reverse field flag in red, white and blue. Subdued flags and those in other colors are in violation of U.S. code, Morales said. Individuals should comply with Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of the Army Uniform and Insignia.

The regulation still states that Soldiers are not authorized to wear the full-color cloth U.S. flag replica upon their return to home station. However, the latest change will be added to the regulation when it is revised sometime this year, Morales said.

Nothing has changed regarding the placement of the flag, Morales said. It is sewn ½ inch below the shoulder seam. If a combat patch is also placed on the right shoulder, the flag is sewn 1/8 inch below the combat patch. "The flag is worn on the right shoulder to give the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward," Morales said. "This will serve as a vivid reminder that our nation is at war."

First In Deed

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Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

First Army Public Affairs Office
Photo by Sgt. Maj. T. Gittemeier)



"Go to school, study and appear before all boards ... participate in anything that's available to you. Be a part of it. You'll see the benefits in the long run."

On March 18, 2004, Sgt. 1st Class LaTonya McSmith received recognition and became one of the elite to be inducted into the prestigious SGT Audie Murphy Club. McSmith is the East Region scheduling noncommissioned officer of First Army's Training Division.

Use of "Army Reserve Soldier" vice "Reservist"

From Lt. Gen. Helmly, the Chief, Army Reserve:

"As a daily indicator of the gravity of the moment -- Soldiers in an Army at War serving a Nation at War, we will abolish the word "reservist" from our lexicon. In all communications, official or unofficial, use "Army Reserve Soldier." It is a mark of respect and distinction. Whenever the media, external sources or organizations use the word "reservist," step up to the plate and politely ask them to change too. Soldiering is, as our previous Chief of Staff described it, "an affair of the heart". Our Soldiers and their families, and certainly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, know this. The word Soldier distinguishes an individual's service and sacrifice and the continuation of that honorable tradition by those of us still serving. Thank you for your service. God Bless you, your family, and God Bless America."

Army leaders review policy on sexual assault

Senior Army leaders are reviewing policies to ensure that victims of sexual assault continue to receive immediate care and assistance and that all reported allegations are thoroughly investigated.

"Sexual assault has no place in our Army," said Lt. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck, the Army deputy chief of staff, G1, during an interview with Dateline's Stone Phillips that aired March 12.

In the last year, 92 allegations of sexual misconduct were investigated by Army CID personnel in the Central Command area. The complaints were not all made by Soldiers, officials said. And not all of those assaulted were women. Also, the perpetrators were not all Soldiers, officials added. Allegations have been made against local nationals and members of other services and coalition forces.

Of the 92 cases, the Criminal Investigation Command has completed 74 of the investigations so far, officials said.

CID officials said they are committed to conducting thorough and complete criminal investigations into the cases discussed on Dateline and have been doing so since the incidents were reported to CID.

"It would be inappropriate at this point to comment on either of the investigations to protect the integrity of those cases," a CID official said, "and we are as equally committed to protecting the privacy of the victims."

The Army remains committed to taking care of Soldiers and dealing expeditiously with any complaint or allegation of , officials stressed.

"The mere fact that this happens in our Army to me is unconscionable," Hagenbeck said. "We go out and form teams, small groups live together, serve together and sometimes die for each other. The fact that someone in the same uniform could turn around and commit a criminal offense against one of the members of that team is intolerable."

Where appropriate, the Army will prosecute perpetrators who fall under the Uniform Code of Military Justice using full legal authority through all the right channels

while taking care of Soldiers who have been assaulted, Hagenbeck said. At the end of the day, Soldiers need to know that they are still a part of the team, he added.

To ensure that current policies and programs are effective, Les Brownlee, the Acting Secretary of the Army, directed the establishment of a task force to review the effectiveness of the Army's policies on reporting and addressing allegations of sexual assault. This task force will review existing processes, procedures and programs and will make recommendations for improvement. The findings of the task force are scheduled to be reported to the Secretary of the Army in May.

Overall the Army is taking care of its Soldiers from a legal, psychological and medical angle, Hagenbeck said. Victims currently have access to lawyers, chaplains, medical specialists, psychologists and victim witness liaisons. Leaders at every level need to understand their responsibilities in supporting victims, and they also need to create a climate where victims feel free to report allegations, officials said. Ensuring all leaders understand this is another goal of the task force. During Hagenbeck's interview with Phillips, he repeatedly emphasized that the Army is a value-based organization that takes care of its own. "Sexual assault is a criminal offense, and one is too many," Hagenbeck stressed.



Fountain Elementary and First U.S. Army celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday



Ms. Beverly Willis, Chief, Administrative Services Division, Information Management Directorate at First U.S. Army, reads a Dr. Seuss Book to Ms. Danielle Fedrick's first grade class on the 100th anniversary of Ted "Seuss" Geisel's birth. Each year Soldiers and civilians from HQ, First U.S. Army join W. A. Fountain Elementary students in their celebration by participating as guest readers in the two-day event. Fountain Elementary is Partnership-in- Education school with First U.S. Army. (Photo by Gayle Johnson)

Reserve Component Civilian Employment Information Program begins

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, USA
National Guard

A new Defense Department reporting system has begun so members of all seven reserve components can register their employers.

DoD decision-makers need to know the civilian employers and government agencies of the department's approximately 1.2 million National Guardsmen and reservists, officials explained. The database will, among other things, give officials a better idea of who should, and should not, be mobilized for national emergencies, they said.

The database is called the Civilian Employment Information Program, and it is the way for all Guard and Reserve members to comply with the law that requires them to inform DoD of who employs them and how they are employed when not performing their military duties.

"This program will make it possible for defense officials, including those responsible for mobilizing our traditional Guard and Reserve members, to know who can be called up for active military duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country," explained David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Members of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Navy Individual Ready Reserve can now enter their employment data on the new Defense Manpower Data Center Web site. Members of the Army Reserve, Navy Selected Reserve, Marine Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve will be able to enter their employment data on their existing personnel reporting systems.

To register their CEI information, reserve component members should go to their respective service's CEI program Web sites, officials said.

Guardsmen and reservists must register 10 specific data fields concerning their civilian employers and job skills to meet three requirements mandated by law.

The law also requires all members of reserve components to notify appropriate defense officials about any changes in their civilian employment.

First In Deed

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Convoy live fire (cont.)

It was a good way for us to check out the training we had," said Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Rayburn, Platoon Sergeant with the 3664th Maintenance Company, "and work out coordination between our Soldiers and our leaders."

"The course exercises their leadership to make decisions quickly and have command and control of their convoy," said Sgt. 1st Class Derward Parker, Observer/Controller-Trainer, 1-311th, "They receive information from their convoy elements and relay it to their higher commander."

"We are a maintenance unit not infantry- but we handled everything pretty well," said Rayburn, "And with live-fire it will increase the confidence of the Soldiers to work as a unit with their weapons 'hot'."

"We're a provisional unit with 80% fill so this is the first time we've worked together," said Van de Wal, "This gave us an opportunity to practice call signs, call checkpoints, work SOPs... now I feel like we're in pretty good shape."

The 78th Division (TS) is a subordinate unit of First United States Army which is comprised of Active Component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers. It is responsible for the mobilization training of all National Guard and Army Reserve units located in the Eastern half of the United States.

The First U.S. Army provides training support, assistance and evaluation for designated priority Reserve and National Guard units during pre and post mobilization. Additional duties include the missions of mobilization training teams, mobilization, and providing military support to civil authorities (MSCA).

The subordinate units of First U.S. Army are the 24 Infantry Division, 78th Training Support Division, 85th Training Support Division and the 87th Training Support Division.

**TOGETHER WE STAND,
AN ARMY OF ONE.**



Commanding General's wife hosts tea for students

*Gayle Johnson
First Army Public Affairs Office
Photos by Phil Manson*

Mrs. Linda Inge, wife of the Commanding General of First U.S. Army, Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, opened her home to students from Forest Park's W. A. Fountain Elementary School. Mrs. Inge hosted teas on March 29 and March 31 for the fifth grade girls from Fountain. Two teas were planned to insure that all of the fifth grade young ladies could attend.

Mrs. Inge welcomed the students with a brief history of her home at Quarters 5 on Fort McPherson. She informed the girls that the home was completed in 1891 at a cost of \$12, 864. This fact impressed the girls because of the high cost of homes being built one hundred and thirteen years later. The home was originally built for field grade officers. Mrs. Inge pointed out the home is an identical twin to one constructed at Fort Riley, Kansas in 1887. It's a three story residence and is the only home on Staff Row with a front upstairs balcony. The residence at Quarters 5 was placed on the National Register of Historical Homes in 1974.

Mrs. Inge encouraged the students to complete their education and to always respect themselves and others.

Assisting Mrs. Inge with the teas were Mrs. Shelly Huber, the wife of First Army's Deputy Command General, Maj. Gen. Keith M. Huber; and Mrs. Patti Galli, wife of First Army's Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Donald Galli.

The students enjoyed the tea which included Traditional Scones, Orange Scones, Raspberry Delight, Petit Fours and other delicious treats. "I would like to give a toast to Mrs. Inge for inviting us into her home", said fifth grader Kieuntae Ector. Fountain Elementary is a Partner-In Education school with First U.S. Army.



Mrs. Linda Inge, wife of the First Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, welcomes students to Quarters 5 on Fort McPherson with a brief history of the home.



Tea is served. Pictured with Mrs. Inge and students are Mrs. Michelle Caver (left), Fountain Elementary School Counselor and Mrs. Susan Guarnett, Literacy Coach at Fountain.



A group picture is taken after the tea. Pictured on the back row (from left) are Inge, Jacqueline Edwards, First Army Protocol; Caver; Shelly Huber, wife of the First Army Deputy Commander, Maj. Gen. Keith M. Huber; Gayle Johnson, First Army Public Affairs; Guarnett; Patti Galli, wife of the Executive Officer to the Commanding General, Lt. Col. Donald Galli.

Mrs. Shelly Huber watches as Kieuntae Ector say good-bye to Mrs. Inge in the picture below.





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Army announces assignment incentive pay (AIP) for assignment to Korea

The Department of the Army today announced a new incentive program to encourage Soldiers in or enroute to Korea to extend their tours of duty on the peninsula for an additional year.

The program, titled the Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP) program, authorizes service members to collect an additional \$300 per month in their paychecks for an additional 12-month tour in Korea.

The AIP is a one-year program that is being offered to all Soldiers - officer, warrant officer, and enlisted, to promote stability, predictability and improved readiness in Korea while reducing personnel turbulence Army-wide.

“This is an outstanding, unprecedented opportunity for our Soldiers to extend their tours in this great country so they may continue to strengthen the warfighting abilities of their units, and to further experience the cultural opportunities available to them that they might otherwise miss on a shorter, 12-month tour,” said Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell, commander of 8th U.S. Army. “You only have to look at the benefits of this program to see how every Soldier and every unit can benefit.”

“We want to keep more of our extremely well-trained Soldiers on the peninsula,” said Campbell. “Our Soldiers and leaders are the cornerstone of our high readiness posture, and retaining more of that talent in theater for a longer period of time enhances our ability to deter aggression and support peace and stability on the peninsula.”

With limited exceptions, all Soldiers, regardless of rank, currently stationed in Korea or on assignment instructions to Korea, can apply for the program. Soldiers currently serving in Korea will have the opportunity to apply for the program during a 60-day period. All other Soldiers serving outside of Korea will have the opportunity to volunteer for this program.

“I strongly encourage all Soldiers on the peninsula to take a hard look at this program before the opportunity is lost. As leaders, we know with certainty that this program is a benefit to the forces on this peninsula, but only our Soldiers can decide whether this is right for them indi-

vidually and for their families,” Campbell said.

“Eligibility for this program is a sweeping change to the benefits for extension currently available for Korea,” said Col. Rick Mustion, commander of 8th Personnel Command in Korea. “Under the existing programs, the chief beneficiary has historically been enlisted Soldiers. With the AIP, warrant and commissioned officers can also take full advantage of the program with the same extension benefits as our enlisted Soldiers.”

Under the current program, Soldiers who elect to receive a monetary bonus may receive a lump sum or a monthly entitlement during their extension period. Under the AIP, Soldiers will receive an extra \$300 in special pay each month, and this pay will continue until the end of their assignment in Korea. “Soldiers should keep in mind that this incentive pay, like other extension incentives, is taxable income,” said Mustion.

Soldiers can apply for AIP on the 8th Personnel Command web site:

Log on to the 8th PERSCOM web site at <http://www-8perscom.korea.army.mil>. Click on the “AIP” link, enter the Army Knowledge Online user ID and password.

After login is complete, view the pre-populated DA Form 4187, and accept or decline the terms and agreements by clicking on either the “Accept” or “Decline” buttons.

Soldiers can obtain a copy of the documents by clicking on the “Print” button.

Soldiers should contact their unit personnel officers for additional assistance or contact Theater Army Replacement Operations at DSN 724-3150 or via e-mail at Aip@usfk.korea.army.mil for assistance.



Army issues dietary supplement safety message

by Kevin Larson
FORSCOM News Service

U.S. Army medical and safety professionals recently issued a “Safetygram” to inform Soldiers and their family members about the risks of using dietary supplements.

Although current Army regulations do not prohibit Soldiers from using them, Soldiers need to be aware of the health effects and impacts on performance caused by dietary supplements.

Some dietary supplements’ effects are well understood, while the effects of others are largely unknown, said U.S. Army Forces Command Surgeon Col. Gerald Cross.

“Loads of supplements are available in stores ranging from caffeine to ginseng, and many more,” Cross said. “Caffeine is found in ordinary coffee. A cup or two of coffee containing caffeine may delay fatigue, but in large amounts it can cause nervousness and increased pulse rate. Ginseng is added to some beverages to promote energy. While it may be safe in small doses, little benefit has been established scientifically.”

The bottom line, according to Army medical and safety professionals, is that dietary supplements are not a safe choice for Soldiers or their families. The lack of government oversight on dietary supplements is one reason to be cautious about supplements, Cross said.

“Supplements do not receive the same level of oversight from the Food and Drug Administration that prescription medicines receive,” Cross said. “There is little scientific research about some supplements so their side effects, interactions with other drugs, and long-term effects are not established. Also, quality control has been a problem with some companies – leading to concerns about the ingredients in some products.”

If Soldiers are taking dietary supplements, they should tell their health care provider what they are taking, Cross said. While a dietary supplement may not be unsafe for everyone, it could be unsafe for specific people.

“This important information may help the doctor explain some laboratory variations and might be used to prevent interactions with prescribed medication,” he said.

For more information on dietary supplements, visit <http://www.usuhs.mil/mim/ergopam.pdf> or <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Wellness/dietary.aspx>.

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More than half of the population of the U.S. uses dietary supplements, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Vitamins, minerals, amino acids, proteins, herbal supplements, glandular extracts and other animal products are all considered dietary supplements.

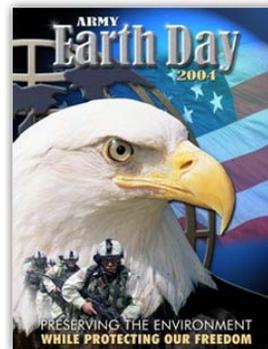
The FDA does not regulate dietary supplements. Advertising and labelling are also unregulated, so the supplements may not necessarily match the claims or contents.

However, the FDA can ban a dietary supplement that is a significant and unreasonable risk to a person’s health. Ephedra was banned last month by the FDA in the United States because of safety issues.

The FDA put the ban into effect after conducting an “exhaustive and highly resource intensive process” required by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994.

Army Earth Day Preserving the Environment While Protecting Our Freedom

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. Last year, the US Army celebrated Earth Day at approximately 200 major commands, installations and organizations in the continental United States, Hawaii, Korea, Japan, Italy and Germany. Every April 22, our Nation celebrates Earth Day. Our Army Earth Day theme this year is “Preserving the Environment While Protecting Our Freedom.” This twofold message recognizes the value of our environment and reminds us that we are the guardians of freedom.



The Soldiers Creed exhorts Soldiers’ dedication to maintaining their arms, equipment, and themselves. Similarly, each of us must dedicate ourselves to maintaining the environment; it is an extension of our professionalism. Sound environmental stewardship helps keep the Army relevant and ready.



Your 19-year-old daughter is moving out of your house to be closer to the university, where she'll be attending school full-time. Now what?

A student's healthcare needs may be covered under several TRICARE options: TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Extra, TRICARE Standard. Dental care may also be covered, depending on the sponsor's status (active duty versus retired), meaning a college student may participate in either the TRICARE Dental Program or the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. TRICARE covers eligible children until age 21. For TRICARE coverage beyond the age of 21, your college student must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution of higher education *and* the sponsor must provide more than 50 percent of the student's financial support. To extend benefits for your college student beyond his or her 21st birthday, call the nearest uniformed services ID card issuing facility for further assistance. They will be able to advise you about necessary documentation for DEERS registration. To locate the nearest ID card facility, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/.

1775-2004 Our Army at War... Relevant and Ready

THE SOLDIER

**Atlanta Celebrates 229th Army Birthday
Army Birthday Week, June 5-19, 2004**

The Army in Atlanta invites you to celebrate a variety of Army birthday events. Go to www.forscom.army.mil for detailed information about the events to include pricing information.

platoon & squad (Cont.)

- Consider emplacing claymores in the trees above the trail. However, make sure they are secured to sturdy branches that do not sway in the wind.
- Do not use insect repellent, scented soap, Avon Skin So Soft, and other non-organic smelling substances when on ambush. The enemy can smell you before he hits the kill zone. To repel insects, take garlic pills or eat garlic for a week prior to going on an ambush in the jungle. To provide further security, try to eat indigenous rations for one week prior to going on ambush. This will keep from alerting the enemy by your smell.
- Minimize movement in the ambush area, especially at night. The dense vegetation and lack of ambient light can cause you to make a lot of noise.
- Have each soldier make field expedient aiming stakes for the ambush site. This will keep the distribution of fire even throughout the kill zone.
- Lay a "handrail" of 550 cord from the assault line to the ORP. Use it to speed movement away from the ambush site. The platoon sergeant can police it up as the platoon withdraws.
- Reconnoiter your ambush site and, if time allows, set your troops in during daylight hours.
- Use the maximum number of NODs possible. Ambushes normally take place along trails where there is enough ambient light to use them.
- Use thermal imagers, such as the AN-PAS 7, whenever possible. They work well anywhere in the jungle. Allocate NODs in the following priority: M60s, SAWs, platoon leader, left and right security.
- When clearing the kill zone at night, drop chemlites by KIAs/WIAs. Use different colored chemlites for different halves of the kill zone. An example would be left side green, right side blue.
- Use TA1s for control of security elements. To avoid carrying bulky items through the jungle, have the special teams work the kill zone with empty rucksacks. Pyrotechnics generally do not work well in the jungle. Ground flares are better.



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Army News Service

DoD Announces Korean Defense Service Medal
The Defense Department announced the creation of the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM). The KDSM is a service medal to give special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea. Public Law 107-314 legislated the creation of a new medal to recognize military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters. Members of the Armed Forces authorized the KDSM must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas. The

KDSM period of eligibility is July 28, 1954, to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense. Service members must have been assigned, attached, or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility and have been physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria: * Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility. * Is wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility. * While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement. * Personnel who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are considered eligible for the award as long as the basic time criteria is met. Due to the extensive time period for KDSM eligibility, the nonconsecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period. The KDSM may be awarded posthumously, and only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual. Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding and wearing of the KDSM and ribbon for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin. More than 40,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces have served in the Republic of Korea or the waters adjacent thereto each year since the signing of the cease-fire agreement in July 1953, which established the Demilitarized Zone. For more than 50 years, U.S. Armed Forces' efforts to deter and defend the Korean Peninsula have helped maintain democracy and preserve the indomitable spirit of freedom.

The Army has a new look to its official Web site, www.army.mil, exactly one year after operations to disarm Iraq began. Featured in the new look and improved content delivery of the Army Home Page is a special photo presentation called, "A Year in Iraq."

The changes were a significant leap ahead in the site's capacity to deliver information to its global audience, said Lt. Col. Mark H. Wiggins of the Army's Strategic Communications office and director of www.army.mil.

"We took particular care when we were developing the approach to "refreshing" Army.mil by focusing on the capabilities of delivering more content, improving technical platforms, and continuing to carry the Army brand," Wiggins said. "We have taken what was already a winning approach to strategic Web communications and made it even better. Like all good Soldiers do, we have improved our fighting position."

The most noticeable change comes in the form of colors and the overall brand approach. The last time Army.mil underwent major changes was on the Army's birthday, June 14, 2001, the same year the "Army of One" brand was rolled out.

"The changes are more than just a branding exercise or coat of paint," said Wiggins, "we certainly wanted to bring the look and feel of Army.mil more in line with the brand, but the greatest effort over the past several months was to improve content delivery, organization and navigation throughout the site to better accomplish our mission of enhancing understanding of the Army's strategic vision, missions and roles in support of the nation." Beyond the first glance at Army.mil, viewers will notice many improvements, particularly the new "Operations" page. This page showcases Soldiers' actions in operations and exercises around the world and includes a "clickable" map that provides basic information about some of those missions.

According to, Chuck Jenks, the Army.mil Web manager, the improvements are based on viewer feedback, general Web communications research, practices and principles, and the need to provide the best strategic Web presence possible for an Army at war.

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Photos by SGM Thomas Gittemeier



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