



First in Deed



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Actor Bill Fichtner practices combative techniques with SSG Tim Burke, 7th Special Forces Group (A) in preparation for the filming of 'Black Hawk Down'. (photo by Maj. Jonathan Withington)

And a group of actors were trained at Fort Bragg, N.C., on an urban combat course that simulated conditions in Mogadishu, Somalia.

On Oct. 3-4, 1993, while deployed to Somalia, U. S. Army Special Operations Command soldiers fought their bloodiest battle in decades. Two Black Hawk helicopters crashed, and 18 USASOC soldiers were killed before it was all over. The events of those two days -- the actions of Task Force Ranger and the Battle of Mogadishu -- are now being made into a movie.

The actors received detailed instruction on the proper handling and operation of weapons used by the soldiers in Somalia. They were trained by Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat course instructors.

At Fort Benning, 1st Sgt. James Hardy, Ranger Training Detachment commandant, has a personal interest in the project. His goal was to ensure the 21 actors playing the Rangers had a good understanding of the Ranger mentality and way of life and how events played out in Mogadishu those two days. Hardy was a team leader there and had been on several missions before being called home on an emergency. Although he didn't fight in the Oct. 3-4 battle, his soldiers did, and several died there. The movie is projected to be released in November 2001. 

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (Army News Service, March 7, 2001) - Actors for the movie "Black Hawk Down" trained at three Army installations before traveling to Morocco to film the battle scenes. Actors Ron Eldard and Jeremy Piven, who portray helicopter pilots in the film, trained on simulations at Fort Campbell, Ky. Twenty-one actors who portray Army Rangers received instruction at Fort Benning, Ga., to add realism to their roles.



Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs
First U.S. Army Commander

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First U.S. Army Commander's Message

To Soldiers, Civilians, Families and Friends of First U.S. Army:

Training to standards will only be as effective as the weakest link in the process. Leaders at all levels must take ownership and responsibility for their units' execution of training to standards to include the process of training management to ensure effective training is conducted.

Senior and junior leaders on the ground must take ownership for ongoing training at all levels to include enforcing standards for individual soldiers....Riggs

Over 80 years ago, when General Pershing, our first commander returned from Europe after World War I, he watched America's huge Army quickly reduced as soldiers traded their uniforms for civilian clothes. Pershing had witnessed first hand the high price of unpreparedness as marked by the acres of white crosses dotting the European landscape. Post World War I America chose to forget the war as prosperity captured everyone's imagination. Pershing's pleas for a well-trained reserve force fell largely on deaf ears. War and preparing for it was not on America's agenda.

In today's dot.com world, we don't wait for America's agenda, we know what we must do. We train to standards. We must not let up in our efforts for solid training, both from our training support side and within our Guard and Reserve units. Unit leadership must be deeply involved with directing quality battle focused training to standards. The entire team, from commanders managing training down, to lieutenants and sergeants actually executing training on the ground, must maximize every moment of the limited training time. Quality training will be focused around

the commander's training objectives which is developed only after an assessment of unit strengths, weaknesses, time and resources. These objectives should be measurable and quantifiable, while at the same time, assisting the unit in the larger sense with meeting the combat readiness goals established by regulatory guidance and direction from the unit's higher chain of command. From yearly training briefs to company training meetings, all must be oriented towards ensuring the critical aspects of the proposed training are identified and resolved for success. Junior leadership should consult their mentors for guidance and how to recognize and conduct quality training to standards. Higher level commanders and NCOs should spend more time mentoring and coaching the juniors to ensure quality development, and execution of training. Leadership presence on the ground during the execution of training is especially critical to ensuring training standards are met. Leaders, it is your training program, execute it, don't let it execute you!

I challenge all levels of unit leadership to get fully engaged in the process of training our soldiers and units for maximum readiness IAW FM 25-101. The Commander's emphasis should be on "training one level down and evaluating two levels down; for example, battalion commanders train company commanders with their companies and evaluate platoon leaders with their platoons. Company commanders train platoon leaders with their platoons and evaluate section, squad, team, and crew leaders with their units." We have a busy time ahead, make every training minute count. As always, I appreciate what you do for your country. I also thank your families and employers for allowing your service to nation. 

First in Deed

Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs, Commander



Southwest Asia return

Members of 1-111th Aviation Attack Helicopter Battalion (Jacksonville) returned to Florida earlier in March, following their nine-month tour in Kuwait. The unit performed force protection missions in support of Operation Desert Spring and established a reputation for professional excellence. 



**Command Sergeant Major
Jeffrey J. Mellinger
First U.S. Army**

Command Sergeant Major's Message

Soldier safety

Safety is every leader's business – officer and NCO, from the most junior to the most senior. I'm sure that most of you would recognize and stop an unsafe act or condition and take appropriate corrective measures. But are you passing that knowledge and proactive leadership to your junior leaders? It is the individual team, section and squad leaders – away from your supervision – who most concern me. It is the sergeant sitting as the track commander or truck commander that needs to understand what an unsafe act is.

Most accidents, in my experience, are really violations of established policies, procedures, or standards. In most cases, a noncommissioned officer was present and either failed to recognize the hazard, or failed to take appropriate action in time to prevent the accident, injury or death.

Two recent cases point to violations of safety policies, laws and SOPs. A soldier fell asleep at the wheel and is now dead. In another accident, the driver of a tactical vehicle fell asleep, rolling the vehicle, and injured several soldiers – to include an officer who was ejected and severely hurt because he wasn't wearing his seat belt. Both accidents were entirely preventable by getting proper rest before driving, using assistant drivers and wearing seat belts. The unfortunate result is one dead soldier and another critically injured.

Accident prevention is using the Risk Management principles, identifying hazards, assessing hazards, developing countermeasures or mitigating risks,

implementing the safety plan, and supervising the task. In other words, training to standard! If the task doesn't have conditions and standards or is not an approved procedure or maneuver, don't do it without assessing and managing the risks involved.

We must achieve soldier and equipment safety through accident prevention, not accident investigation. Remain vigilant and take care of yourself, our soldiers, civilians, and family members. I want you to know that I view safety as training and I'm sincerely concerned for the your safety and that of our Army family. I will spare no effort to making our jobs and lives as safe as possible. 

Civil Support Team trains with the 'real deal' (Guard Times Staff)

DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, UT – In a remote training facility in the southern end of Utah's Skull Valley southwest of Salt Lake City, New York's 2nd Civil Support Detachment for Weapons of Mass Destruction took training challenges to new heights. For this deployment, the deadly chemical and biological agents were real. "For civil support teams, this is a unique place to do this kind of training," Lt. Col. Bob Dominicci told local reporters. "The scenarios Dugway puts together are pretty darn realistic." For the training scenarios, the Dugway Proving Ground provides the open space and opportunity to respond to actual detonation of a simulated agent. Using wintergreen to simulate nerve gas, the CST can react to a realistic dispersal of a chemical in the field. In this deployment, the CST members responded to a call from a local fire department who encountered mysteriously blistered and dying cattle. Concerned over potential threats to local residents, the team quickly establishes a survey perimeter and makes recommendations to the local fire chief for hazards to the community. The team then moves in to gather samples and identify the threatening agent. Identifying chemical or biological agents quickly is one the strengths of having Civil Support Teams in the force. At Dugway, the CST was able to test their state-of-the-art scientific equipment by identifying real chemical or biological hazards. Unlike routine training scenarios, using real agents provides unmatched confidence in the team's personnel, training, and equipment. "So far, we have been 100 percent in identifying the agents," said Master Sgt. Jeff Quinn, speaking from the team's mobile analytical laboratory. "In 15 minutes, we can identify what the agent is or if it's a hoax," said Quinn. "That can mean a lot." 

Even the best need practice

Story and photos By CPT Pat McGlynn, HHD CDR, 1/347th IN REGT

The 1/347th Infantry Regiment OPFOR element, located at Ft. Gillem, GA, just spent three days in the field working on their small unit tactical skills. The Opposition Force (OPFOR) conducted a “force-on-force” squad-level field training exercise (FTX).

During the FTX, great effort was expended to make the scenarios as realistic as possible. Troops were issued operations orders (OPORDs) prior to the FTX. OPSEC procedures were used to prevent one side from gaining unfair advantage. Troop leading procedures were exercised and rehearsals were repeatedly performed. MILES devices were worn by both sides. A more than adequate supply of blank ammunition, pyrotechnics, and smoke was also on-hand. To make it all perfect, we even had continuous rain.

The 1/347th IN REGT OPFOR, is made up entirely of infantry soldiers (MOS 11 Series). However, these troops are anything but the average run-of-the-mill group of “grunts”. They wear black BDU uniforms with OPFOR insignia. They are mostly senior sergeants, Expert Infantryman, and/or Ranger Qualified very “Hooah” soldiers, with a few Airborne and combat veterans thrown into the mix. Their mission is to act as the aggressor forces for Combat Service and Support Lanes evaluations. In other words, they are the “bad guys”.

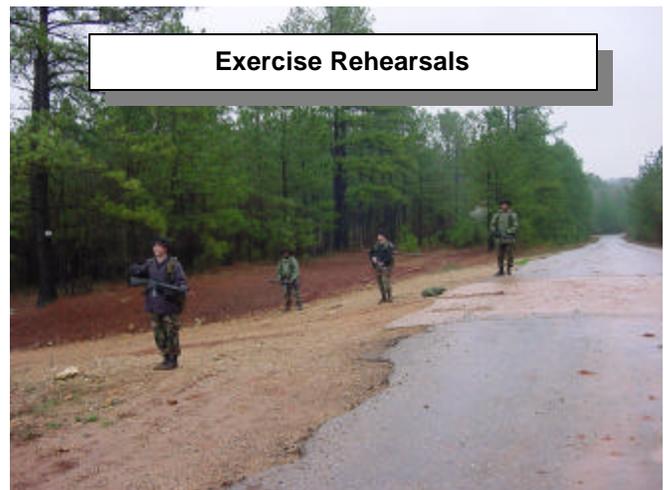
After each training iteration, a full after-action-review (AAR) was conducted. Lessons learned were identified and strengths and weaknesses were defined. Then everybody changed sides, new leadership was chosen, and another scenario was briefed, and the battle began again (but this time with feeling!).

At end of the exercise all the bullets had been shot, smoke and pyro expended, and the “Bad Guys” had won!

If you really, really need something destroyed over night, call the **OPFOR!!!!!** 🇺🇸



OPFOR in Black BDU Uniform



Exercise Rehearsals



“The Bad Guys”

The wheels start turning

By Dennis Steele, Staff Writer, Army Magazine

The U.S. Army plans to reorganize and reequip five brigade combat teams (BCTs) as an interim force, with three of those BCTs possibly going under a division organization, according to Army officials. The two initial BCTs probably will acquire off-the-shelf equipment to become operational as soon as possible and accept platform limitations as a result, but the Army wants to build overmatch capabilities into the equipment that follows.

All of the BCTs are to be equipped with light and medium armored vehicles that can be carried by the full range of U.S. Air Force transport aircraft. "If it doesn't fit into a C-130, it doesn't go into the brigade," an Army official explained. The BCTs are to employ reach-back capabilities for much of their support, such as intelligence. Corresponding logistics and sustainment requirements also will be reduced. The objective is to be able to put a BCT anywhere in the world within 96 hours. The new units primarily are geared for small-scale contingencies and stability and support operations, but they are to have the ability to be augmented with pieces from the Army's full range of capabilities to modify themselves for any mission, including full-scale major theater wars.

The Army sees the new BCTs as best used in urban or complex terrain, such as forested areas, jungles, mountains and the like, and they are to be highly mobile, able to make long road marches to their objectives or areas of operation. Each BCT will have three infantry battalions, and the infantrymen "will not fight mounted," an official said. They will be engaged in "deliberate, dismounted operations," he explained. All systems in the units are to support dismounted operations, and each BCT will have around 3,500 soldiers. The short-term goal is to establish and equip highly deployable units at Fort Lewis, Wash., quickly while constructing the next generation of such units by selecting and acquiring advanced equipment and developing new doctrine, organizational structure and training. 

<http://www.USA.org/armyzine/steele1feb00.html>



Dr. Joseph W. Westphal

Westphal named acting Army secretary

by Staff Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 7, 2001) - Dr. Joseph W. Westphal has been designated the acting secretary of the Army, effective March 5.

Westphal had been serving as the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, a position he had held since June 1998. As the assistant secretary, he was charged with civilian oversight and leadership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and administration of Arlington National Cemetery. The departure of the previous acting secretary -- who was also the under secretary of the Army -- Gregory Dahlberg, left a vacancy at the service's top civilian post. Since Westphal had already been through the "presidential appointment and senate approval" process, he was eligible to move into the job, officials said.

Westphal has a long history of Capitol Hill and other government experience, officials said. Westphal has served on both House of Representative and Senate committee staffs over the years. Immediately prior to coming to the Pentagon in 1998, Westphal had been the senior policy advisor for water at the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. As such, he worked on issues relating to the Clean Water Act, Mississippi River water quality and international agreements. He had also worked on the House Committee on the Budget and was the executive director of the Sunbelt Caucus, a bipartisan organization of members of both the House and Senate. In addition, he had served as the special assistant to Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.). Westphal has a doctorate in political science from the University of Missouri. He taught political science for 12 years at Oklahoma State University, eventually becoming head of the political science department at OSU. He has also been an adjunct professor of government at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. 

Change improves customer security, convenience

DeCA to eliminate Social Security Numbers on checks

By Kevin Hennelly

FORT LEE, Va. - Starting in May, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) will no longer require customers to put their Social Security Numbers (SSN) on checks when paying for their groceries. It's another example of how the commissary is listening to customers and giving them what they want.

"Our customers are telling us they are increasingly concerned about disclosing personal information on their checks that may result in 'identity theft,' violations of personal privacy, fraud or personal financial loss. We are listening to our patrons and are taking the steps needed to reduce their exposure to these risks," said Air Force Colonel Ed Jones, DeCA's comptroller.

DeCA's strategic plan directs employees to listen to customers and make it easier for them to use their commissary benefit. Commissary managers have opened stores earlier, closed them later and offered new services in response to customer suggestions. But sometimes customer concerns go beyond store hours and product selection. As national anxiety over identify theft mounted and various civilian retailers stopped asking for SSN's, military shoppers began asking DeCA to change too. As a result, customers will have extra security and the convenience of not having to write their SSN on a check when shopping at the commissary.

DeCA is taking these positive steps even though there was little or no risk in DeCA's current requirement for SSN's on checks. "There is a very low probability of customers having their identities stolen or their Social Security Numbers misappropriated at a DeCA commissary," said Fred Stein, DeCA's security officer. "Our customers' checks are safeguarded like cash and remain under positive control of appropriate commissary personnel until they are deposited in the bank."

But just to be sure, DeCA worked hard to change its systems. This means that by May, commissary patrons will no longer be required to show a SSN on the front of their personal check. It also means that the agency is modifying its cash register system to stop printing SSN's on the back of checks. Most importantly

it means that DeCA has succeeded in developing a closed system to safely retain the SSN to comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines for collecting bad check information. The cashier will enter this information when the customer's identification is checked at the register.

"The results of this re-engineered business process will ensure transaction confidentiality and appropriate audit trails are maintained with the assurance that individual identity is protected," said John Goodman, DeCA's program manager for the cash register system.

The Defense Commissary Agency's vision statement is: "The Commissary Benefit - cornerstone of Military Quality of Life. It is our goal to deliver the premier quality of life benefit for our military efficiently and effectively." With headquarters at Fort Lee, Virginia, the agency operates a worldwide chain of nearly 300 commissaries to provide groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families. Commissary patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which covers the construction of new commissaries and the modernization of existing stores. Patrons enjoy substantial savings on their purchases. These savings enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families. A valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries help the United States recruit and keep the best and the brightest men and women in the service of their country. 

First In Deed Links

To further assist and inform you we have added the following links to important First Army web pages and others.

[First Army Phone Directory](#)
[FORSCOM Home Page](#)
[US Army Home Page](#)
[US Army Reserve Home Page](#)
[-US Army Reserve Command](#)
[National Guard Homepage](#)
[TRICARE](#)



www.tricare.osd.mil

TRICARE eliminates prime co-payments for family members

Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers. Currently, family members of active duty members in pay grades E-1 to E-4 and pay grades E-5 and above pay \$6 and \$12, respectively, for such visits. In addition, family members' \$11 per day civilian inpatient charge is being eliminated, as is the \$11.45 per day family member rate for enrollees admitted to a military treatment facility. It is anticipated that this benefit will become available in April 2001. 

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Tilley gives update on black berets

by Gary Sheftick

WASHINGTON - A test on the Army's history is a "rite of passage" soldiers will be required to undergo in the future before donning their black berets, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley.

In an interview Feb. 8, Tilley answered a number of questions about the beret that he said soldiers across the Army have been asking him as they prepare to adopt the headgear June 14.

Tilley said the BDU cap will continue to be worn in the field after June, but its name will change to "patrol cap." He said in order to have 1.3 million berets ready by the Army birthday June 14, the military had to contract with several overseas firms -- but he emphasized the Army went through the proper channels to obtain approval. And he said units across the Army will soon begin classes on proper wear of the beret.

Many of the Army's general officers attended a one-hour block of instruction about wear of the beret as part of the Army Commander's Conference in Washington, D.C. The commanders also discussed specific "rites of passage" that might be required before new soldiers don the beret, Tilley said.

"You know, a lot of people ask me about this rite of passage," Tilley said.

He explained that the Army leadership is still working to determine exactly what new soldiers will be required to do in order to earn the privilege of being issued a beret. But he said one thing is certain:

"We're going to have a test; an undetermined amount of questions right now, but we're going to have a test that talks about the history of our Army."

The test might be given when a trainee reports to his or her first permanent duty station, Tilley said, but added the Army leadership hasn't decided for sure. 

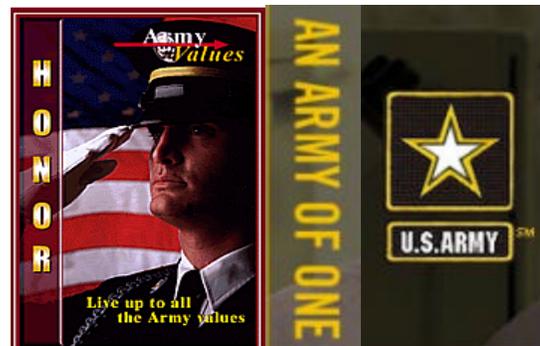


JAG debuts legal services Web page

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 21, 2001) -- The U. S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps has launched a legal services Web site, designed as a portal of legal information for military members and their families.

The site, [<http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal>], creates a "virtual" legal information and resource knowledge center, said officials. It includes information on personal legal assistance, claims, trial defense, and victim/witness information for the Army. It provides preventive law information and helps users find the nearest Legal Assistance Office - of any military branch.

The JAG Corps legal site aims to provide soldiers and spouses with information to make informed decisions on personal legal affairs, maintain legal well-being, readiness, avoid consumer scams, and otherwise minimize "legal" distractions. 





A short history of the use of berets in the U.S. Army

Green Beret. During World War II, US Army Special Forces personnel wore a variety of headgear during their operations as members of special operations units. Those who served with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Europe often adopted whatever headgear their French or Belgian Resistance compatriots wore. This was often a beret, since many of the OSS teams served in France. The beret, worn in a variety of styles and colors, showed even up on OSS personnel in the Far East. Many of the first members of the US Army 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), formed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in June 1952, were veterans of the OSS. Berets of various types and colors began being worn unofficially as early as 1954 on the unit's field exercises in Germany and at Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall, North Carolina. The color green was favored because it was reminiscent of the World War II British Commando-type beret that had been adopted by the Commandos on 24 October 1942. After testing in 1955, the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg specified, still unofficially, that its soldiers wear a beret of Canadian Army design in rifle green. Special Forces personnel in Europe in the 10th Special Forces Group (A) simultaneously adopted a green beret, even wearing it publicly with the Army class A uniform, despite the lack of official approval. Special Forces troopers first wore the green beret publicly at Fort Bragg during a retirement parade in 1955. In 1957, however, the Fort Bragg post commander banned the wearing of the beret. This ban was reversed on 25 September 1961 by DA Message 578636, which authorized the green beret as the official Army headgear to be worn by Special Forces. The first official wearing of the newly authorized green beret was at a Special Forces demonstration staged for President John F. Kennedy at Fort Bragg on 12 October 1961. President Kennedy was instrumental in the approval by DA of the green beret for US Special Forces. Currently, all Special Forces-qualified soldiers wear the green beret with the authorized flash of their Special Forces Group.

Black Beret. The tradition of wearing black berets began with armored units. In 1924 the British Royal Tank Regiment adopted the first modern military beret, based on the Scottish highland bonnet and French Bretonne beret. The regiment selected the headgear for its practicality--brimless for use with armored vehicle fire control sights and black to hide grease stains. In the US Army, HQDA policy from 1973 through 1979 permitted local commanders to encourage morale-enhancing distinctions, and Armor and Armored Cavalry personnel wore black berets as distinctive headgear until CSA Bernard W. Rogers banned all such unofficial headgear in 1979. Rangers received authorization through AR 670-5, Uniform and Insignia, 30 January 1975, to wear black berets. Previously, locally authorized black berets had been worn briefly by the 10th Ranger Company (Airborne), 45th Infantry Division, during the Korean War before their movement to Korea; Company F (LRP), 52d Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, in 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam; Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry, 1st Cavalry Division, in 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam; and Company N (Ranger), 75th Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade, in 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam.

Maroon Beret. The maroon beret has been the international symbol of airborne forces since its selection for use by the British Parachute Regiment in 1942. The color reportedly was chosen by novelist Daphne Du Maurier, the wife of the British airborne commander, MG Frederick Browning. In 1943 MG Browning granted a battalion of the US Army's 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment honorary membership in the British Parachute Regiment and authorized them to wear British maroon berets. US Army advisers to Vietnamese airborne forces wore the Vietnamese maroon beret during the Vietnam War. In addition, after HQDA encouraged the unofficial use of morale-enhancing headgear in 1973, airborne forces chose to wear the maroon international parachute beret until CSA Rogers' ban of all such unofficial headgear in 1979. On 28 November 1980, however, HQDA revised its ban on berets to authorize airborne organizations to wear the maroon beret.

Brown Beret. While HQDA's morale-enhancing order was in force from 1973 to 1979, there was a proliferation of berets, in a rainbow of hues. In Alaska the 172d Infantry Brigade adopted an olive or brown beret. Members of the brigades 1/60th Infantry wore their brown beret with a light blue flash insignia. It was soon dropped when the Army standardized headgear policy in 1979 to limit beret wear to Special Forces, Airborne, and Ranger units.

New Horizons

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Reserve Component soldiers, airmen, sailors and U.S. Marines are building schools, clinics, drilling wells and providing medical care in isolated areas of Honduras and Guatemala as part of the New Horizons humanitarian/civic assistance exercises. Held yearly throughout Central and South America, the exercises are conducted from January through May. First U.S. Army observer/controllers from 2nd Bde/87th Div. (TS) are providing training assessment and evaluation to each task force in Honduras and Guatemala.



J5 brief



LaCampa job site



CPT Martinez pinned by LTG Riggs



LaLima job site



LaCampa site brief

Virtual trainer helps troops in Bosnia maintain skills

By Marni McEntee
European Stars and Stripes

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia and Herzegovina — In a darkened room at Eagle Base, the Army is queuing up the latest in computerized weapons training for its peacekeeping troops.

To the casual observer, soldiers using this virtual trainer look a lot like people shooting a fake gun at a video game parlor.

Army officials say, however, that this virtual trainer can actually keep soldiers' heads in the war-fighting game, even if the training does look and sound like a whole lot of fun.

"It is a big game, but that's not a bad thing," said Sgt. Michael Hallman, who loads the computer discs into the system, then coaxes the training troops through the exercises. "Without realizing it, they are learning. You can still learn, even if you are having fun," Hallman said.

True, troops waiting their turn lounge about while other platoon members are lying on a carpeted deck with weapons blazing at a movie screen. When one virtual scene rolls, showing no fighting or enemy troops — only green rolling hills dotted with trees, one soldier yells out: "This must be the peacekeeping scene."

The trainer uses exact replicas of Army-issue M-16s and M-249s, along with an anti-tank AT-4. The weapons have 75 percent of the recoil of actual weapons. Some of the scenarios are computerized, such as those where troops must help clear enemy bunkers and stop an enemy advance of ground troops.

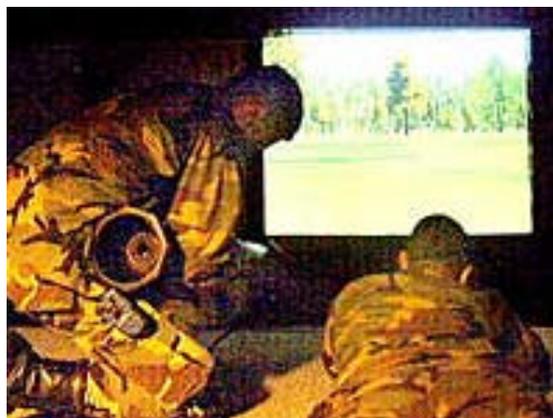
Others are actual videotapes of training exercises in Grafenwöhr, Germany, where real soldiers encounter hostile people as they search vehicles or pull gate guard duty.

Soldiers pepper the screen with virtual bullets when a search goes awry.

Spc. Tysonn Shivers, who had his turn with an anti-tank AT-4, said: "It's kind of like a Super Nintendo game. You are seeing a real scene and actually firing the same size weapon we actually use. You get a little bit of hands-on experience in here," said Shivers, of 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment.

2nd Lt. Alejandro Sante agreed: "I think it's pretty good, to tell the truth. It's a good change of pace for the guys. It gets their minds back in the game. It's so much calmer here than what we trained for, so this gets them thinking again."

Troops at Eagle Base have been using the trainer for two months. It replaced an older version that used a slower laser-disc system. While Hallman and others say this machine isn't going to replace other essential readiness training using real weapons and live fire, the virtual trainer is one way to maintain at least somewhat of an edge. 



Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion of the 64th Armor Regiment work on their skills by shooting at targets projected on a big screen. The latest technology enables them to keep up their warfighting skills while serving as peacekeepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo by Ivana Avramovic/Stars and Stripes)

DOD verification of military service

This is great info for all officers and soldiers, especially if you are looking to retire or transition to the civilian workforce one day. This web-site will verify and give you a synopsis of all your military training and experience.

<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet>

Bosnia, dangers remain

Story and photos by Staff Sgt Bob Jordan, 382d MPAD, NCARNG

Camp Dobol, Bosnia-Herzegovina-- Capt. Robert Bruderer, Commander of Co A, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, North Carolina National Guard, from Jacksonville and Morehead City, NC, is awakened at 3:00 a.m. by his sergeant of the guard at the unit's Camp Dobol base camp, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and told that there had been a car bombing on a small farm about ten miles from the town of Bratunac, Bosnia.

Even though local police investigated the incident, Bruderer must also send a patrol to the site because it's part of the unit's peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. The North Carolina Guardsmen have been in Bosnia since September on a six-month deployment to help ensure that the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords are followed.

No one was hurt in the bombing, but neither the local police or Bruderer's troops can come to a conclusion on who was responsible.

Bruderer said, "This is just one of the many things we do as part of our mission here in Bosnia and we will continue to run presence patrols in this area to keep it from happening again, and reassure these folks that they are safe."

Bruderer and 1st Lt. Thomas Barley talked personally to the family through an interpreter to calm their fears and let them know that a military patrol would be in their area every day until authorities solved the case. 



Mrs. Vladimir, right, a Serb woman whose family car was destroyed by a car bomb, gives details of the incident to 1st Lt. Thomas Bailey, left, and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Evans, next to Bailey, through their interpreter Dejan Omasta, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2001, on the Vladimir farm near Bratunac, Bosnia.

Volunteers to be recognized with cash award

WASHINGTON - The National Military Family Association's "Very Important Patriot" program will recognize volunteers who have contributed to improving the quality of life in their community with trips to Washington, D.C., and cash awards up to \$1,000.

All Army Community Services offices, Guard and Reserve headquarters and reserve-component Family Readiness offices can nominate up to two individuals for consideration, officials said. The nominations are due by April 18 and the winners will be notified in May.

There will be 15 winners in all, and they will come from a pool of nominations from all military branches. The top five recipients and a guest will be flown to Washington, D.C., in November to meet with the senior leaders of their respective services, their elected officials on Capitol Hill and attend the NMFA annual meeting. They will also receive \$1,000.

Monetary awards will be given to the other 10 recipients also. Five winners will be named Award of Honors and will receive \$250 and the others will be named Award of Merit winners and will receive \$100.

Nominations may be made by mail or through the NMFA web site, www.nmfa.org.

The VIP program is sponsored by the Kellogg Company, Minute Maid Corporation, Clorox Company, Tyson Foods and H.J. Heinz Company.

(Editor's note: This information came from the National Military Family Association Public Relations Department.) 

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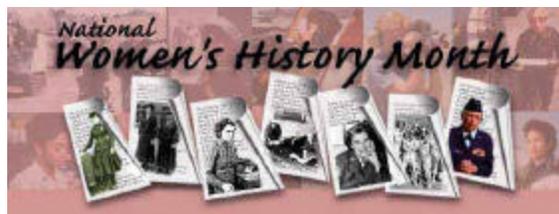
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More firsts for Army Reserve women

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate

Office of the Chief, Army Reserve



Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy

WASHINGTON (March 16, 2001) -- A number of "firsts" for Army Reserve women will soon occur as a result of the release of the 2001 General Officer Assignment Advisory Board list March 14.

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy has been selected to take command of the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC), Oakdale, Pa., a major general assignment. She will become the first woman to command a RSC, a major Army Reserve command. There are 12 RSCs in the continental United States, Puerto Rico and Hawaii and one Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), an equivalent organization, in Europe. The 99th RSC commands Army Reserve units in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Brig. Gen. Donna F. Barbisch has been selected to become the Military Assistant (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Washington, DC, a major general assignment. She will become the first Army Reserve nurse to serve in a major general position and also the first Army Reserve nurse to serve in a non-Army Medical Department major general assignment.

Col. Paulette M. Risher has been selected to take command of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, Bronx, N.Y., a brigadier general assignment. She will become the first Army Reserve woman to serve in a brigadier general Civil Affairs (CA) position. Civil Affairs is a key Army Reserve specialty. All but one CA unit, the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., are in the Army Reserve. There are four Army Reserve CA Commands in the Army, which fall under the command of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

These assignments are scheduled to take effect in early May. 



Army Reserve officer selected as Rhodes Scholar

By Maj. John Dahms,
Public Affairs and
Liaison Directorate,
Office of the Chief, Army
Reserve

An Army Reserve officer currently attending Johns

Hopkins University in Baltimore was recently selected as a Rhodes Scholar for 2001.

1st Lt. Westley W. Moore of Pasadena, Md., was among an elite group of 32 American college students given the opportunity of a lifetime -- a chance to study abroad tuition- and expense-free at the prestigious University of Oxford in England. The Rhodes scholarship, created in 1902 from the will of British philanthropist and colonialist Cecil Rhodes, is the oldest international study award available to American students. This year's class of U.S. scholars was chosen from 950 applicants endorsed by 327 colleges and universities across the nation. About 95 scholars are selected worldwide each year. The newly selected Rhodes scholar is scheduled to begin active duty with the Army Reserve this summer when he attends the Military Police Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Moore is a graduate of the Early Commissioning Program at the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pa. Valley Forge is the only college in the northeastern United States and one of only five colleges in the country offering this program. 

4th ID begins high-tech NTC exercise

by Spc. Johnny A. Thompson



A Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle with soldiers of the 4th ID rolls into the desert to begin the Division Capstone Exercise. (photo by Spc. Johnny A. Thompson.)

The 4th Infantry Division was designated as an experimental force in 1995 by the Army to develop the power of digital communications and adapt doctrine to take advantage of it. Since that time, 4th ID has developed and experimented with digitized systems, and officials said DCX is the transition stage from experiment to execution.

"The exercise is designed for the division to thrust the mechanized brigade into complex threat and terrain environments expected on 21st Century battlefields. Additionally, the Aviation Brigade Task Force will fight in the division's air battle space employing enhanced battle command and control systems," Bell said. "That is the purpose of this monumental undertaking by the Army." 

See Article at <http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/Apr2001/a20010403dcxbegins.html>



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