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## Reality hits home Training support brigade prepares National Guard soldiers for homeland security

Story & pictures by SSG Mark Geiger

**FORT JACKSON, S.C.** – Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, set off a chain of events that has impacted the entire world. For the soldiers of the 87th Division's 5th Training Support Brigade at Fort Jackson, it became business as usual when they were called on to mobilize South Carolina National Guardsmen under First U.S. Army's direction.

Fifth Brigade's mission is to ensure that the 230 National Guard infantry soldiers from two mobilized units in Summerville and Moncks Corner, S.C., are prepared for their new active duty life and their new mission of Homeland Security.

The South Carolina citizen soldiers from the 1-118th Infantry Brigade received mobilization orders in early October for at least one year of active duty service in response to increased security requirements on military installations, such as Fort Jackson and Fort Gordon, Ga. This unique mission has required a different type of mobilization and validation process than the normal mobilization associated with an overseas deployment.

"This kind of war is different and therefore this mobilization is different,"



Sgt 1st Class David Torres (top), 5th Brigade assistant, provides some direction to Pvt. 1st Class John Pride, 1-118th Infantry Company, during weapon qualification exercises at Ft. Jackson, SC. Pride is one of 230 South Carolina National Guard soldiers mobilized to provide homeland security support at Fort Jackson and Fort Gordon, Ga.

said Col. Charles Cornwell, 5th Brigade commander. "The good thing is a plan was there. You can always work off a plan and identify what needs to be done differently." The brigade commander also pointed out that many gray areas exist with this type of mobilization. "Identifying the unit's mission, communication, leadership and experience play a key role in success," Cornwell said.

Cornwell also believes that these National Guard units will successfully integrate with their active duty garrison counterparts. "They were focused on fundamentals and had a positive attitude from the first day they arrived here at Fort Jackson. They want to be successful and have pride in what they do. You can see their confidence building each day," Cornwell said. He attributes much of the success so far to his Brigade's 3d Battalion. "I am very proud of the 3d Battalion for the leadership, training, direction and assistance they are providing during this mobilization process," Cornwell added.

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## Lt. Gen. Inge assumes command from Lt. Gen. Riggs

Courtesy 1st Army Public Affairs Office

"... The Army goes rolling along" are the words that end the Army song... and they hold true for commands as well.

On Friday, 26 October at 11 a.m. at Fort McPherson, Ga., General John Hendrix, FORSCOM Commander, accepted the First U.S. Army flag from Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs as he relinquished command of the continental Army that spans 27 states and three territories.

Lt. Gen. Riggs, has been assigned as the director of the task force that will lead the transformation of the Army to the Objective Force, the Army of the future.

Gen. Hendrix passed the flag to First Army's new commander, Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge in the time honored tradition the Army relishes. Lt. Gen. Inge was born in Chase City, Virginia. He



was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Armor and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture upon graduation from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1969. He holds a Master of Arts in Personnel Management and Administration from Central Michigan University. His military education includes the Armor Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

During his career, General Inge has served in a variety of command and staff positions. His overseas assignments include tours in Germany, Japan and Korea. He has commanded at platoon through

theater level, most recently as Commanding General, U.S. Army Japan. He commanded the 1st Brigade in the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Tx, and the 3d Battalion, 64th Armor, 3d Infantry Division in Germany. He has also served as the Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; as the Assistant Division Commander, 33d Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, and as the Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Inge last served as the U.S. Army Deputy The Inspector General.

General Inge's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (three Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (two Bronze Service Stars), Southwest Asia Service Medal (One Bronze Service Star), Overseas Service Ribbon (3), Kuwait Liberation Medal, and Joint Meritorious Unit Award. Qualification badges include the Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab, Army Staff Identification Badge, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

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## Reality hits home (Con't)

A temporary Emergency Operations Center was set up by Lt. Col. Richard Rennebaum, commander

of the 3d Battalion. The EOC staff tracks every aspect of the validation process and identifies potential pitfalls throughout the mobilization cycle. The goal is to ensure that the mobilized units are trained to standard, validated and have the necessary equipment to perform their mission. "We have several trainers who held company command positions and use that knowledge and experience to assist these units to become active component units," Rennebaum said. "My soldiers are action guys. They find solutions to situations that come up," he added.

See Reality his home, p.7.

## Command Sergeant Major's Message



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

As we enter the holiday season, I'd like to reflect on my first nine months in the First United States Army. From Georgia to Washington to Guatemala, I've seen thousands of our great soldiers training in dozens of locations, and I am very proud to be a soldier here. The Army continues to draw the very best people, families, civilians and soldiers that our Nation has to offer, and being around the collective group must make anyone near us feel confident and proud.

It is easy to measure the value of the work of our soldiers and civilians. Missions are marked with long hours, many spent away from home, and often in austere and dangerous locations. We have a tremendous team, and in the words of a childhood song, "... and seldom is heard a discouraging word..." Truly, a team effort is ongoing.

At a recent hail, an NCO new to the First Army from the Pentagon reminded us all to never let a day go by that you don't tell those you love and like that you love or like them, that you might not get another chance. We are in a dangerous business and in very dangerous times. Life is fragile, and September 11th of this year should remind us all that we should heed the words of this NCO.

As we all pass through our nation's airports, we should take a moment to acknowledge the sacrifice made by the soldiers standing guard. We called, they came, and now they help make our travel safer. Take a moment to tell them thanks for what they do. Think also about the military policemen who stand watch on our installations, making life for our families and

friends more secure. Think of the soldiers and civilians who come to work with you each day. Each making a difference, each doing their best for our Army family and nation.

We must redouble our efforts to protect the force. Guards, wire, guns and knives are important, but safety in all we do has to be as big a priority as fighting. I heard that five FORSCOM soldiers died this past weekend. That's a fire team which will never again deploy or see their family. As we go about the day-to-day business of our Army, take a few moments to conduct thorough risk assessments, and mitigate risk through training, enforcing standards, and proactive leadership. Have you conducted a POV inspection on your soldiers lately? Checked taillights, turn signals, headlights, brakes? Have you conducted a winter driving refresher? Make sure soldiers get plenty of rest before you allow them to drive? I ask you to take time to look at how your soldiers' safety is ensured.

This is also the time of year when soldiers and others consider that life may not be as valuable as it once was, or that their loved ones are a means to relieve stress. Learn the warning signs of suicide, depression, and domestic abuse. If we know and are involved with our soldiers, we may be able to prevent serious injury or death.

Thousands of mobilized soldiers are at deployment locations, and thousands more will join them. We must renew our efforts and energies to truly ensure that no soldier goes into harm's way untrained. We have done well in the past, but need to do even better now, as we can all see the potential if we fail. We have often stated that you will go to the fight as you are when you complete your last training event. And so it is now - the soldiers deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom had no time to retrain - they went as they were. And so will some of the units which we train, so we must do all we can with our limited time and other resources.

I appreciate the efforts of each of you, and can really see the difference you are making in our soldiers, units, and families. And you are making a difference. Be proud of yourselves, your co-workers, your subordinates, your peers. And don't forget to tell them you are proud of them. I am so proud to be a soldier.

Have a safe, happy holiday season. Thank you for all you do.

CSM Mellinger

## 10th Mountain troops move into Kosovo

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo (Army News Service) - A transition of authority for Task Force Falcon was scheduled for Nov. 21 as 101st Airborne Division troops departed Kosovo after six months of peace-keeping and 10th Mountain Division soldiers move in to take over.

Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, the 10th Mountain's deputy division commander for operations, took command of both Task Force Falcon and Multi-National Brigade (East) at Camp Bondsteel.

Brig. Gen. William David has commanded Task Force Falcon since June after a brigade task force arrived last May consisting of about 5,000 soldiers from Fort Campbell and others from the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga.

When David took command, he challenged his soldiers to, "leave Kosovo better than you found it." Sgt. 1st Class Wood Saunders was awarded for helping accomplish that.

Saunders, NCOIC for the G-1 section, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., was recognized for his work with the Kosovo Protection Corps. Officials said Saunders saved the United Nations Mission in Kosovo over a million Deutsche Marks.

Saunders was presented multiple awards from both the U.S. Army and the KPC at the Regional Task Group 6 headquarters in Gnjilane, Kosovo. Col. B.R. Fitzgerald, Task Force Falcon chief of staff, pinned on the Army Commendation Medal and the NATO Medal. His orders in part read: "Sergeant First Class Saunders' partnership personnel and finance initiative helped the UNMIK recover over 1.3 DMs in overpayments to non-KPC members this year." In addition, he was awarded the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Saunders also received a commendation from his Kosovar counterparts, the TMK. Xhevat Leci, the equivalent of a lieutenant colonel in U.S. military rank, is the chief of the personnel department for the RTG 6th Zone. Leci presented Saunders with a certificate of commendation, photographs and RTG uniform insignia.

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Before coming to the province of Kosovo in June, Saunders had spent the last four years as a member of the 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Ky. This is his seventh major deployment.

"As a result of the struggle these people went through they had no real operational management systems in place. We worked on writing regulations for the G-1 section to improve this," Saunders said. "They didn't have a lot of experience in staff operations, being such a new organization. I also had a lot of contact with their G-3 and G-5 sections because their organization is so different than ours. It just branched out to training the entire staff."

"Over the course of training (with the KPC staff) we discovered some individuals who were being paid who weren't members of the organization anymore. UNMIK overpaid 1.3 DM this year alone." Saunders said. "UNMIK has recovered the overpayments."

Saunders instituted an accountability method used to track the outgoing funds. "We wrote six different regulations for the Kosovo Protection Corps to follow," he said. In the past, members were paid once a month in cash. Saunders was instrumental in starting a Sure Pay system for their members. Sure Pay electronically deposits funds into the individual's accounts and provides a way to track those payouts.

Kosovars refer to the KPC as the TMK, but the organization is the same.

"I've had the opportunity to work with some good people here from both U.S. KFOR and the TMK," said Saunders. "The people here have been through a lot and I wanted to do something to help them improve Kosovo. The work U.S. KFOR is doing with the TMK has a direct impact on the people of Kosovo and contributes to a safe and secure environment. I have a lot of respect for the TMK and the Kosovo people," he said.

Saunders will leave Kosovo for another duty assignment. Units from the 101st will continue redeploying to Fort Campbell through the first week of December, officials said.

## First Army's Joint Task Force team trains in preparation to support America

Story by Barry Bartley  
First U.S. Army Public Affairs Office

FORT GILLEM, Ga. – Three months ago, Americans weren't living in the world they are now forced to live in. Have you asked yourself this question, "What would I do if my family members and friends were under a bio-terrorist attack?" That threat is real and increasing every day.

The American public may not know what to do, but the civilians and soldiers of the Joint Task Force team from Headquarters, First United States Army are trained and prepared to respond in the event of a national disaster.

Civilian and military members of the team participated in a simulation training exercise on Nov. 7 and Nov. 8, 2001 that involved a hypothetical bio-chemical attack by terrorists on Wolf Trap, America's National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Va., and the Six Flags America amusement park in Baltimore, Md. There were several thousand casualties, both fatalities and injuries.



Lt. Col. Jeffery Cook briefs Lt. Gen. Inge at a recent headquarters training exercise. Photo by Gayle Johnson.

The Joint Task Force command and operation center was located at the Georgia National Guard Armory for the two-day simulation training event.

The exercise was conducted under the direction of Lt. Col. Jeffery Cook, chief of the Joint Task Force.

The training exercise was planned months before the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks. "Our training cycle is intended to maintain a familiarization within the headquarters that supports the First Army mission to provide support during a federally declared disaster. More specifically, to provide a command and control headquarters that controls those Department of Defense assets," said Cook.



Colonel Deborah Kissel, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel (seated) confers with team members during Joint Task Force exercise. Photo by Gayle Johnson

"After the events of Sept. 11th, it is clear that First Army will have this mission for a while. There were rumors that the Response Task Force/Joint Task Force mission was going to disappear from this headquarters. From my seat it appears that the mission will grow and will be an integral part of First Army just as training and mobilization," said Cook.

The Response Task Force/Joint Task Force team conducts some type of training monthly during the months of September through April. The team avoids training during the summer months to provide support to Army reservists during annual training.

This simulation exercise was the first for the newly assigned First Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, since assuming command of the headquarters on Oct. 26, 2001.

"It is important that we do these types of exercises these days. We don't have the ability to project what the next disaster will be. It's important that we work with the lead federal agency, but it's as equally important that we work together as a team. I'm very pleased with what I see here today," said Inge.

The First United States Army Joint Task Force team deploys periodically to different sites in the eastern continental United States to conduct simulated disaster relief training exercises as part of their readiness training. The simulated terrorist attack is the first of its kind for the team.

See Joint Task Force Trains, p6

# Ridge new director of Homeland Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. (American Forces Press Service) - Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge became the nation's first director of the newly created Homeland Security Office (HSO).



Tom Ridge (m), director of new Office of Homeland Security. *Photo: White House*

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas swore Ridge into office at a White House ceremony attended by President Bush and other cabinet members.

Bush signed an executive order creating the cabinet-level organization in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the New York World Trade Center and the Pentagon

Bush remarked that Ridge and his office are "charged with strengthening America's protections" and developing a national strategy against terrorism.

The Homeland Security Office will "take strong precautions aimed at preventing terrorist attacks, and prepare to respond effectively, if they might come again," the president said.

Bush said the HSO will: Obtain and use the best intelligence information available to fight terrorism.

## Joint Task Force trains (Con't.)

One of First Army's missions is acting as the DoD lead agency during a presidentially declared national disaster. First Army has senior active component Army leaders located throughout its area of responsibility (east of the Mississippi River) who are trained and ready to assume the role of Defense Coordinating Officers.

When directed, the Joint Task Force deploys to the vicinity of an incident site to conduct consequence management in support of the designated lead federal agency in order to save lives, prevent further injury and provide temporary critical life support within the incident areas.

"We conduct these training exercises to enhance the capabilities of the team members and to ensure that if called upon to support the American public, we're trained and ready to respond."

Americans' freedom and their every day lives have undergone a tremendous change since the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks. First Army's Task Force team members are committed to preserving and protecting individual dignity and freedom.



One week after winning \$125,000 in New York on ABC's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire," Capt. Travis Sumner discusses his experience with LaSalle Blanks and Brittany Suddith from WVEC Channel 13 in Norfolk, Va. Sumner, a movements officer for the 7th Transportation Group, Fort Eustis, Va, won his prize in a two-part special edition of "Millionaire" Nov. 11-12 in honor of the Armed Forces on Veterans Day. . photo by Patti Bielling

## 1878 military law gets new attention

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - America's military is largely prohibited from acting as a domestic police force, but with the increased fears of terrorism, some experts say it's time to rethink those restrictions.

"Our way of life has forever changed," wrote Sen. John Warner, R-Va., in a letter last month to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "Should this law now be changed to enable our active-duty military to more fully join other domestic assets in this war against terrorism?"

The law, known as the Posse Comitatus Act, was championed by Southern lawmakers in 1878 who were angry about the widespread use of the Army in post-Civil War law enforcement.

It currently bans the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines from participating in arrests, searches, seizure of evidence and other police-type activity on U.S. soil. The Coast Guard and National Guard troops under the control of state governors are excluded from the act.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, testifying in October before the Senate Armed Services Committee, agreed that it might be desirable to give federal troops more of a role in domestic policing to prevent terrorism.

"In certain cases we can do more than anyone else in the country because of the special capabilities that we have," he said.

But the issue of expanding the military's domestic reach sharply divides lawyers who have spent years studying Posse Comitatus, Latin for "power of the county."

Dennis Corrigan, a retired colonel who taught the law at the Army's Judge Advocate General's school, says legislators should resist the urge to change it.

The military isn't trained to be a police force, he says, so it should stick to the skills for which it is trained: surveillance, information gathering, logistical support. All of these activities are allowable under Posse Comitatus.

"Jeffrey Addicott, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army JAG Corps, wrote that the law handcuffs the nation when it comes to responding to terrorist attacks.

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## Reality hits home (Con't)

In order to guarantee the National Guard unit's success, the 5th Brigade assigned full-time trainers to assist the mobilized units down to the platoon level. Each training support assister will teach, demonstrate, rehearse, observe and assess the soldiers on everything from conducting proper promotion ceremonies to preparing training schedules. The assisters also make maximum use of After Action Reports to learn new ways of conducting better training.

Rennebaum and 3d Battalion Sgt. Maj. Armando Yturria stressed the importance of training the two infantry companies to standard for assumption of their installation security mission. They also pointed out that unit leaders must understand their responsibilities and training management requirements. Additionally, the units must understand the command and control relationships at the installations where they will work.

Yturria indicated that NCOs must learn how to take care of their soldiers 24 hours a day. "Day-to-day training and working together is the key," said Yturria. The sergeant major also touched on the fact that the infantry company soldiers are working and living together. "They are learning how to help each other and become a team."

Much of the mobilized soldiers' day is spent training and developing skills that will be required to perform their homeland defense mission. Fifth Brigade trainers prepare and conduct blocks of instruction on many different facets surrounding security.

Special emphasis is placed on nuclear, biological and chemical training, vehicle search, reaction to a bomb threat and preparing antiterrorism force protection plans.

"Adapting to a new way of life and standards can be challenging," said Capt. Greg Farley, commander of the 1-118th's B Company. "We've been challenged along the way. Our unit morale and motivation is high and we made it happen," said Farley. Farley attributed much of his unit's early success to the training support brigade.

See Reality hits home, p. 8

# Army will continue to track PERSTEMPO

by Joe Burlas

The Army will continue to track individual deployment days, even though special high-deployment per diem has been suspended. An Oct. 8 Department of Defense memorandum directed the services to continue tracking deployment days when it suspended the requirement to pay \$100 a day to soldiers deployed more than 400 days in a rolling 730-day window.

The high Personnel Tempo payments were suspended due to the national emergency declared by President George W. Bush following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Had the high-PERSTEMPO per diem not been suspended, the first payment might have been due Nov. 5.

"I want to dispel the misconception that the Army will no longer track PERSTEMPO deployment days," said Maj. Denise McCann, PERSTEMPO action officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. "That misconception is out there because of the incorrect wording of a newspaper article that stated the services are no longer required to track deployment days with PERSTEMPO. While we have suspended tracking deployment days for payment purposes, we will continue to track deployment days for management purposes."

Required by the 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, the services initially began tracking deployment days Oct. 1, 2000. The law said service members deployed more than 400 days in a rolling 730-day window would receive \$100 for each day beyond the 400-day threshold. However, the law also allowed PERSTEMPO requirements to be modified in the event of a declared national emergency.

In addition to the suspension of the requirement to track accumulation of individual deployment days for the purpose of determining high-deployment per-diem eligibility and the per diem itself, general officers are no longer required to personally manage soldiers approaching the high deployment threshold within their command.

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## Reality hits home (Con't)

"The 5th Brigade is a big resource of information and has been very helpful in enabling us to stand alone."

Each training support assister understands that he is throwing a lot of new information, protocol and standards at these new full-time soldiers. "We are giving them the tools that they must have once they are integrated into the installations," said Maj. William Kunding, the 3d Battalion executive officer. "Overall, I believe these soldiers will do an outstanding job because their motivation is high and they are so eager to perform this mission. There was an astronomical number of soldiers who specifically reenlisted to do this mission," Kunding said. He also pointed out that once these units are in place at their new duty assignments, the 3d Battalion plans to maintain contact and provide support where they can.

"This is what it's all about. This mission is for training support brigades to do what needs to be done to be successful," Cornwell told his staff at the conclusion of a daily update briefing. "This is a time where Army values and experience come together. I believe the NCOs are the keys to success. We are way ahead of where I thought we would be and that says a lot about the soldiers we are training and the assisters from the 5th Brigade," Cornwell concluded.

The two mobilized National Guard units should be fully integrated and performing their security mission at their new duty stations at Fort Jackson and Fort Gordon by late November.

Mobilizations are ongoing in First U.S. Army's 27-states, two-territories and the District of Columbia in support of Homeland Security and other missions.

## Soldiers pause to remember Sept. 11 attack

From Texas to Germany, soldiers paused for a moment of silence on December 11 to remember those killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

<http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/Dec2001/a20011211pentagonmem.html>

## Revised NCO-ER to hit field in January

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs  
Army News Service

A revised regulation on the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report is scheduled to be fielded Jan. 2. One of the changes will be less time required for complete-the-record reports. Two optional reports are also being added to the regulation: the senior rater option report and 60-day short tour option report.

NCOs in the zone of consideration for promotion, who have been in their current assignment at least 90 days, will be able to get a complete-the-record report for promotion-board members to see. Instead of having to wait six months to submit a complete-the-record report, as required under the current regulation, the allotted time will be cut in half.

A major change to the NCO-ER is that the values under Part V of the form now reflect the seven Army core values. Both the new NCO-ER and Counseling Checklist are currently available online at <http://www.usapa.army.mil/forms/forms3.html>

The regulation changes are also outlined on the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command Website at <http://www-perscom.army.mil/> under MILPER messages.

The revised regulation shows a continuous effort to support the advancement of the NCO corps. The new regulation will allow "greater flexibility within the rating scheme."

All NCOs and raters are encouraged to become familiar with the changes so that they are applying the most current policies and procedures.

<http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/Nov2001/a20011128ncoregulation2.html>

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## Service Members eligible for wartime pay, benefits

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

Some Active Duty and Reserve Component troops may qualify under federal law for extra duty pays and benefits for their contributions in the war on terrorism.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2001/n10232001>

## Schofield soldiers headed to Bosnia Associated Press

HONOLULU — About 1,200 Schofield Barracks soldiers are preparing for deployment to Bosnia next March for a peacekeeping mission.

The Army held an activation ceremony Tuesday at Schofield for the soldiers who will participate in Task Force Eagle with other brigades from the United States.

The Task Force Eagle personnel will join military units from Turkey, Russia and Baltic countries.

The mission is scheduled to end next October.

This is the first time a group from the 25th Infantry Division will be sent to Europe.

"It's important to keep the peace around the world, where our interests and the interests of all our allies are at stake. And Bosnia is one more representation of that," said Maj. Gen. James Dubik, the division commander



## TRICARE explains health care benefits for guard and reserve; announces new demonstration project enhancing family member benefits

Members of the Reserves and National Guard who are called to active duty under Executive Order 13223, in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks are eligible for the same health care and dental benefits under TRICARE as other active duty service members. Moreover, for their eligible family members, TRICARE is offering newly enhanced health benefits under the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project. The demonstration supports continuity of health care for Reserve and Guard family members. The demonstration applies to all covered health care services provided on or after Sept. 14, 2001, and before Nov. 1, 2003.

[http://www.tricare.osd.mil/NewsReleases/news2001\\_27\\_11.htm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/NewsReleases/news2001_27_11.htm)

## 85th Training Support Division mobilizes National Guardsmen at Ft. Knox

by Major Jacqueline Hillian-Craig

*Fort Knox, Ky--*Members of the 85th Training Support Division recently completed mobilization training for nearly 780 National Guard soldiers from Kentucky and Ohio.



Guardsman from the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade, located in Barbourville, Kentucky and the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Brigade, from Lima, Ohio, spent more than a week undergoing intense, mission-focused training under the watchful eye of the 85th Division trainers in preparation for their mission to provide Military Support to Civilian Authorities as part of Homeland Security efforts.

The trainers, usually referred to as *Observer Controller/Trainers* or “*OC/Ts*”, from the 4th Cavalry Brigade of the 85th Division played an integral part in mobilizing and training these units. “Our primary mission is to mobilize and validate Army National Guard units in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Supporting that effort, the [4th] Cavalry Brigade provides focused training through the development and execution of both Homeland Security Individual Readiness Training (HSIRT) and Stability and Support Operations (SASO) Lanes,” explained the Brigade Commander, Colonel David R. Apt.

Validation of unit readiness for the Homeland Security mission consisted of successful completion of two phases: HSIRT and SASO.

The first phase, HSIRT, focused primarily on honing individual soldier skills. In this phase the Guardsmen trained on force protection measures such as how to conduct a vehicle search, how to engage members of the media in a professional manner, how to efficiently evacuate the ill or wounded, how to conduct checkpoint operations in order to ensure unauthorized personnel are not given access to military installations.

The second phase, SASO, was a 2-day exercise conducted at the Fort Knox Mounted Urban Combat Training Center, which simulated a federal installation that has been infiltrated by terrorists. This portion of the training was designed to evaluate how each unit incorporated the skills it learned during phase one in a collective environment.

Training was complete for the Ohio and Kentucky guardsmen when their 4th Cavalry Brigade trainers certified they were proficient in the skills needed to assume their Homeland Security duties.



After a final brief on the readiness of the respective units to Major General Steven Whitcomb, the two National Guard battalions deployed to conduct homeland defense measures at various federal installations within the continental United States.

## Fifth-grader wins White House recycling poster contest

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

An 11-year-old environmental ambassador for the Army was one of 14 students honored at the nation's capital last week for creatively expressing how to preserve the earth.

Jatia Thomas, daughter of Staff Sgt. Jerome Thomas of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., was recognized Nov. 15 for her recycling poster entered in the America Recycles Poster Contest. The contest was open to children of federal employees only. Thomas was the only winner from the Army. More than 100 posters were entered in the contest from children in grades kindergarten through 12th. The poster contest, which was started two years ago, was initiated under the assumption that if students started seriously thinking about preserving the environment and recycling waste early, they would grow up concerned about the environment, said key speaker John Howard, senior associate director for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

A picture of a rainbow gleaming over a playground, grass, trees, children and recycle bins were Thomas' way of saying that recycling makes the world a better place.

"The rainbow means that everybody is happy because the park is clean," Thomas said in a whisper. "If we don't recycle, the world will be one mess."

Thousands more will get the chance to interpret Thomas' art, when it is featured in a 2002 federal calendar. In January about 10,000 calendars will be distributed to federal agencies and all 50 America Recycles Day state coordinators, said Juan Lopez, White House Task Force on Recycling chief of staff.

Along with having their artwork appear in the calendar, the winners were also presented with a plaque that depicts how their poster will look in the calendar. Thomas, the youngest of four children, and the only girl in the bunch, competed against children from 16 states and overseas locations. Drawing has been a love of the fifth-grader since she was in the first grade, said James, her father and a field artilleryman with Company B, 3rd 320th Field Artillery.



**First In Deed is an electronic publication published bi-monthly by the First Army Public Affairs Office. FID encourages submission of articles and photos with detailed cut-lines. Contact Ms Gayle Johnson at DSN 797-7327 for more information. Deadline for submission for the February edition is 18 January 2002.**

[Send us your stories or story ideas.](#)

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Published by First U.S. Army Public Affairs Office  
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