



READY FIRST REPORT

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FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Special Troops Battalion, provide security on a training route at the National Training Center. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs)

Iron Soldiers, New Iron Pride

By Pfc. Kostandina Tsagaris, of 2-3 FA, 1/1 AD

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- The 1st Armored Brigade, 1st Armored Division sent their Advanced Party to build up the brigade's combat power a week prior to the arrival of the main body. The objective for the ADVON team was to download all the equipment sent by rail and civilian flat bed.

"My main concern was, to make sure we had enough Soldiers, said Capt. Charles G. Roush, officer in charge of 2-3 Field Artillery. "Usually it's a 200 man detail and we did it with 36," he added.

The ADVON teams' work day be-

gan at 6:30 a.m. and ended at 7:00 p.m. with temperatures reaching 90-100 degrees daily.

"Over all we did an excellent job. What the higher ups at brigade projected would take a week, we did in 2 and half days," comments Pfc. Jordan R. Allen of G Co., 2-3FA, "the operation went really smooth and brigade was impressed with the Soldiers chosen for ADVON." Allen along with the help of Pfc. Jacoby J. Frisby of G Co., 2-3FA worked many long hours over three days to ensure each dead vehicle, each flat tire, any vehicle that required maintenance was repaired. Allen and Frisby were assisted by the help of Spc. Brandon J.

Chretien of G Co., 2-3FA and his HMMWV Contact Truck to do the repairs. "We had to make sure they were 100% operational and ready for the convoy back to Ft. Irwin," says Chretien.

"It was pretty easy for us as medics because we didn't have any casualties," Pfc. Jonathan A. Valadez states as he turned to his buddy Spc. Douglas N. Graves who added, "everyone was safe, everyone drank water, we went through [many] water buffalos." The medics of 2-3 FA were happy that none of their battle buddies suffered any heat or bodily injuries while on ADVON.

PRIDE CONT ON PG 7



Dear Family and Friends,
The Ready First Combat Team has deployed for training at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to prepare for our upcoming mission to Iraq. This deployment will prove tough and challenging, but is the best preparation we can do to ensure we are trained and ready for our mission. Despite the hardships of the upcoming training and deployment, our Family Readiness Group stands ready with their continued love and support for our Ready First Soldiers. The Command will continue to keep you as updated as much as possible during the time leading up to our deployment.

CSM Daniels and I would like to give a heartfelt thank you for your support during this time. Ready First!!

Col. Larry Swift
Brigade Commander
1st HBCT, 1st AD



CSM James P. Daniels
Brigade CSM
1st HBCT, 1st AD



Ready First Report

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U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Special Troops Battalion, simulate removing the injured from danger at the National Training Center.

Ready First begins training

By Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs, 1 BCT,
1 AD Public Affairs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. --The 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, arrived at the National Training Center this week. Upon arrival, these Soldiers jumped right into training for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Roughly 4,700 Soldiers are training with the Ready First, most stationed in Fort Bliss and support coming from Louisiana and Washington units.

"The purpose of this training is to establish standard operating procedures and to give the Soldiers a feel of how deployment will be," said Sgt. Major Dana Mason, Jr., the sergeant major of

the STB.

"NTC is good preparation for deployment training," said Pv2 Bryan J. Stabile, a mechanic with STB.

"This will be my first deployment, it is nice to get an idea of what I will be doing while in Iraq." Part of the training Ready First Soldiers will participate in is route clearance, said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Jenschke, a platoon sergeant for STB.

"The route clearance training is very important for the Soldiers and Iraqi civilians, it ensures they both have a safe passage," Jenschke added.

"NTC is unique because it is able to provide every military occupational specialty an opportunity to learn their job and become proficient in it," said Major John

Workman, the brigade fire support officer for 1/1 AD. "They also offer a great number of classes to train the Soldiers for theater."

At another route, a mixture of Soldiers from STB were at the Entry Control Point, learning procedures on conducting searches and simple Iraqi phrases, said Sgt. 1st Class Chescine Sanders, a platoon sergeant with the STB.

"We noticed a few things that could be fixed and notified the Soldiers; overall this is great training for deployment," said Sanders.

The Soldiers will be returning to Fort Bliss at the end of the month. "I have no doubt when the Soldiers finish this training we will be more than ready for deployment," said Mason.





U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Gen. Charles Campbell, the commander of Joint Force Command, met with Col. Larry Swift, the Ready First commander on Wednesday at the National Training Center to discuss the readiness of the unit on Wednesday.

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Gen. Charles Campbell, commander of the Joint Force command met with Col. Larry Swift, commander of the Ready First Brigade Combat Team after meeting on the National Training Center Site to discuss the readiness of 1/1 AD for deployment.



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

Campbell meets with Swift

By Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs, 1 BCT, 1 AD Public Affairs
 FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Gen. Charles Campbell, commander of the Joint Force Command, visited the National Training Center on Wednesday and met with Col. Larry Swift, the commander of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division to review training, readiness strategies and leadership.
 "Ultimately, Soldiers make deci-

sions about their lives based on their leaders," said Campbell. "They want a sense of worth and belonging, then they will conduct their jobs with passion." Campbell and Swift both agreed that in order to be a good leader the Soldier must possess three qualities; intuition, experience and education. With these three qualities the general says the leaders of 1/1 AD will guide the Soldiers through

a successful NTC and deployment. "My personal assessment is the brigade is going in the right direction," said Swift. "They are really starting to come to life and setting a standard." Campbell's final piece of advice before parting was, "Do not tire, it will be good," he added. "You will reap the harvest; you're with a great Army and in a great nation."



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 1st Combat team carry a fellow Soldier away from danger at the National Training Center this week.



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers with 1-37 Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, check their marksmanship after firing their M-4's at a range on September 9, 2009. The Ready First Soldiers are at the National Training Center until the end of the month for deployment training.

Spartans prepare for deployment

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, also known as the "Spartans", began their deployment preparations at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California on Monday.

The NTC is an Army training site that allows Soldiers to prepare for an upcoming deployment in a simulated battlefield.

The Soldiers will be participating in different routes that simulate insurgent fire, medical emergencies,

engagements with Iraqis and other skills needed for deployment.

The mission for the Spartan Bat-

"I fully expect us to be combat ready once we leave the NTC."

-Connelly

talion is to support Iraqi Security Forces as they begin to promote security for the local populous.

"We came together as a team during this past summer, and because of that I expect to see a high level of proficiency while we train here

at the National Training Center," said Lt. Col. Christopher Connelly, the commander of the battalion.

"The NTC that we will be able to utilize during our training that we wouldn't have available anywhere else," said Connelly.

The Spartans will this training operation throughout September in preparation for a deployment along with the rest of the Ready First brigade later this year to Iraq.

"I fully expect us to be combat ready once we leave the NTC," said Connelly.



The Ready First Soldiers Around Post



FORT IRWIN, Calif.
-- Soldiers with 1-37 Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, check their marksmanship at a range on September 9, 2009.

U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Special Troops Battalion, simulate removing the injured from danger at the National Training Center on September 12, 2009.



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- A Soldier with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, pulls security during a training mission at the National Training Center on September 13, .



The Ready First Soldiers Around Post



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- A Soldier with the 1/1 AD, Special Troops Battalion, calls out for assistance on a training route at the National Training Center. The Soldiers are preparing for a year-long deployment and conducting missions to help prepare.



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif -- Col. Larry Swift talks to his Soldiers before meeting with the Iraqi Army.



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. --Soldiers with the STB of the Ready First Combat Team run through a lane at the National Training Center.



U.S. Army photo by: Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs

FORT IRWIN, Calif.-- Col. Larry Swift, the brigade commander of 1/1 AD, with the Iraqi key leaders at the National Training Center.



PRIDE

Although the heat was the main concern of nearly every Soldier, that didn't stop the 1/1 AD's ADVON party from completing their mission.

"It was our job, Capt. Roush was in charge, we did what he needed, no questions asked. We did as we were told," says Allen. Chretien continues, "We were told we had 7 days to complete the mission and we got it done in 3 days, so I think we did exceptionally well." Graves adds, "They threw a bunch of Soldiers from different units and

nobody knew each other, but they all worked great together."

The main body began to arrive on September 4th and lasted through September 6th.

Upon arrival, everything was in place. Tactical Operation Center was ready to be utilized, cots in the living quarters set up and vacant, the dining facility was up and running and vehicles were ready for pick up from the draw yard.

"The ADVON parties are the 1st boots on the ground. They receive the equipment and stage the equipment.

So when the main body arrived

here, they are able to focus on getting transitioned in and then later falling in on the equipment that was already set up and ready to go," sates a very enlightened Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony D. Cortez of 2-3FA.

"They did an awesome job and it was a very enlightening experience because we only had a hand full of soldiers do this and it's just a true testament to what Soldiers can do when put in a tough situation," said Corbiz

The 1/1 AD Ready First Brigade truly was ready first.

Move to Social Networking

By Pfc. Jessica R. Luhrs, 1 BCT, 1 AD Public Affairs

Almost everyone in the Ready First Combat Team either has a page on Facebook or they know what Facebook is. What most of the Soldiers and their families do not know is the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division is also moving towards social networking as communication and also has a Facebook fan page.

"On this page Soldiers, family and friends can see what is going on with 1/1 AD, view the pictures and

see any news on the brigade," said Sgt. Kevin P. McCulley, the brigade Facebook manager.

"I know most Soldiers and their families think the brigade will be able to view their page and see their personal information," said McCulley. "But this is not true, with the Ready First page being a only 'fan page' not a 'profile page' there is no way we can view the Soldiers activities on Facebook."

The main purpose of the page is not to invade the Soldiers privacy but

to inform them, family and friends of the activities of the Ready First Combat Team.

It is easy to join the Ready First page, said McCulley. Go to the 'search' tab on your Facebook page and enter 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, click be a fan and you're done.

"Facebook is a great tool for us to keep our Soldiers, family and friends informed and really helps us get our message out," said McCulley. "It is the way of the future."

How do you feel about the upcoming deployment?

"Slowly but surely I feel we are building confidence as a team and I'm ready to go to combat with these guys."

-Sgt. Robert Lugo

"I'm excited and ready to go do something different, this is my first deployment and I'm really looking forward to it."

-Spc. Deryck Featherston

"This is what I signed-up in the military for and I'm more than ready to be deployed and assist the Iraqi Soldiers and people."

-Spc. Daniel Snow