

-- SPECIAL EDITION --

Sentinel

49th Military Police Brigade

July 21, 2009

The party begins

Soldiers prep for Iraq mission

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. – A key step in the 49th Military Police Brigade's mobilization process began July 13 as more than 100 Soldiers united here for annual training and a better perspective of things to come.

For months, the 49th has prepped for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Monthly training schedules were geared for the upcoming deployment. But now, majority of deploying Soldiers are present and situated into their respective roles.

At Camp Roberts, Soldiers will undergo battle drills and warrior tasks under Task Force Warrior (TFW), the first testing ground for all deploying California National Guardsmen. Courses such as combat lifesaver, land navigation and combatives are taught. All deploying will get hands-on training in more than three dozen drills and tasks relating to Soldiering.

A section of the 49th completed these requirements in June. Among the drills were troop movement, reacting to indirect fire and entry control point procedures.

The training TFW provides reduces the required deployment tasks at Fort Dix, New Jersey, the 49th's pre-mobilization station.

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IMPRESSIONS OF THE 49TH

Soldiers sound off on their new unit, Page 4

It's HOT!

While at Camp Roberts, all Soldiers are required to hydrate regularly and keep to a steady hydration process.

Water is the best consumption source. However, electrolyte-based drinks, such as Gatorade, provide legitimate water-supplements, but must be taken inconjunction with water. In other words, drink a 16-ounce Gatorade for every two gallons of water to maintain an adequate hydration program.

Our command staff advises all 49th Military Police Brigade Soldiers to enact the Buddy Team system. Not only should you regularly check on your mobilization partner, but the other Soldier next to you as well.

Remember: Heat can kill!



ON THE RANGE -- Spc. Jose Defuentes of the 49th Military Police Brigade waits to fire an M-203 grenade launcher during training at Camp Roberts.



RAPID FIELDING INITIATIVE -- The 49th Military Police Brigade Soldiers open new personal battle gear such as cold weather clothing and Advanced Combat Helmets at Fort Hunter Liggett, marking the initial pre-mobilization step on July 13. More than a hundred of the 49th's "Sentinels" will deploy to the combat zone in a few months.



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Out on the range



First impressions of the 49th Military Police Brigade



PV2 ANTHONY MELO
Rear Detachment

"It's really family oriented. There are a lot of people in their civilian jobs involved in law enforcement and criminal justice. It's good to know people in the same field as you."

STAFF SGT FRANK TSAI
Chaplain's Assistant

"After 11 years in the National Guard, this is the best unit. Leadership is good. A lot of team cohesion. The bonding of Soldiers is really tight."



1LT WILLIAM MARQUEZ
Civil Affairs (S-5)

"It's very professional. A lot of hard-working Soldiers. Everyone is dealt with respect. Everyone's courteous. People take their job seriously."



CAPT THOEUTH DUONG
S-1 Shop

"For the Headquarters unit, it's one of the best organized, especially with schedules. If you need help with anything, they always help."



PFC LISA L. LEE
Rear Detachment

"It's kind of weird going into a unit where everyone's leaving, but everyone's been welcoming."



SGT NICHOLAS EMMERLING
Communications (S-6)

"Overall, teamwork is strong. It seems like everyone, from top to bottom, proves his own weight."

The 49th: Deploying to develop Iraqi Police

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TFW takes care of 37 warrior tasks and 11 battle drills that all Soldiers must complete in compliance with 1st Army Division's standards prior to deployment.

Just recently the 49th had to burden extreme weather conditions and perform weapons qualifications. Despite searing heat – with temperatures just over 100 degrees

– every member had to qualify shooting a new M-4A2 rifle and M-9 pistol.

The 49th will also utilize Camp San Luis Obispo for certain requirements such as Tactical Iraqi Language Training (TILT), driver's training and other mandatory briefings. Days are set for make-up training, if required.

The 49th will deploy to develop the Iraqi Police. It will support

Iraqi law enforcement in areas such as security, law and order, police operations and can involve detainee operations.

Overall, the focus is to assist in creating a self-supporting Iraqi police, fully functional in handling the Iraqi government's effort to protect people.

The 49th deployed in 2005-2006. Just over a dozen Soldiers will return from that mission.