

SENTINELS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 49TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE
California Army National Guard
Operation Iraqi Freedom August 24, 2009

Our quest begins

This issue:

**A photo collection of our final days
leading to our departure
for Operation Iraqi Freedom**

**Capt. Lionel Nolasco embraces his family prior to
boarding a flight that took the 49th Military Police
Brigade to Fort Dix, N.J.**





Sgt. Trevor Butters, Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald, Spc. Eric Parkhurst and Staff Sgt. Frank Tsai move a loaded Triwall box close to a container.



Pfc. Michael Graham, left, and Sgt. Jefferson Austrie use muscle and might to prepare bags for transfer.



Spc. Eric Lucas logs in a report.

The 49th Military Police Brigade's deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom was set into motion as more than 120 Soldiers left Travis Air Force Base en route to Fort Dix, N.J., to begin their pre-mobilization phase.

The 49th will head to Iraq but not until its pre-mission obligations are complete. It will spend a few weeks in New Jersey undergoing Army warrior task training as well as completing medical and administrative requirements.

Friends and family united Aug. 12 at the Travis Air Force Base theatre to honor the Soldiers during a deployment ceremony. A day later, the unit departed from Travis to its current home at Fort Dix.

Fort Dix provides plenty of training opportunities. Soldiers have engaged in weapon qualifications, tactical vehicle driving, combatives and protective mask preparation, to name a few. Away from classrooms and ranges, the Soldiers are housed in a secured barracks with ample sleeping accommodations. Time is also given to Soldiers to complete financial, medical and other important family-related documentation.

Training and preparation will continue through mid-September.



Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald and Spc. Jakeya French move bags out of the SFC Isaac Lawson Armory to a loading ground.



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Yellow ribbons were abundant for all Soldiers and families at the Travis Air Force Base theatre and Delta Breeze Club, site of the deployment ceremony and Yellow Ribbon luncheon.



Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles encase the 49th Military Police Brigade flag.



Sophie, the brigade's working dog, friend and mascot, was officially introduced to the public.



Kudos extends to the 49th Military Police Brigade and Headquarters and Headquarters Company family readiness leaders: Sandra Bombita, Toni Colip and Teri Currier, who sacrificed many hours and countless efforts into making the deployment ceremony successful.



Capt. Edward Bombita encases the guidon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, to signify the unit's transfer to federal active duty.

1st Sgt Ben Jandreau, Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, 49th Military Police Brigade, Maj. Jeanette Stuart, former commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, and Capt. Edward Bombita, current commander of the Headquarter and Headquarters, Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, display the Governor's Outstanding Unit Citation, for the period of October 2007 to September 2008. The prestigious award was presented during the farewell ceremony.





Spc. Ernesto Soria, guidon bearer, follows fellow Soldiers onto the plane that takes them to Fort Dix, N.J., mobilization site for Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Spc. Jose Defuentes (top left), Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Johnson, Warrant Officer Benjamin Lomboy and Sgt. Cynthia Bell (center photo) display their flying enthusiasm. Staff Sgt. Scott Sikorski and Staff Sgt. Robert Ramirez (right photo) display their seat partners.



TOP: *Capt. Steven Jester and Pfc. Cabral Maturin unload a bus that took them to Building 5912, the 49th's home for the duration.*



RIGHT: *Enjoying dining facility food are Maj. Mario Morales, Chaplain Daniel Viveros, Spc. Ferrell Mapp and Spc. Darnell Sanders.*



Soldiers unload a bus that takes them to the Joint Readiness Center: Here, members of the 49th were medically and administratively in-processed.