



More Rainbow Division Units Mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3

Fort Drum, NY -- Across the country, Rainbow Division Soldiers continue to gather and train for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

In late July, remaining units of the 42nd Infantry Division base deployed to their training sites to join more than 3,000 division Soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 and the Global War On Terror.

The 272nd Chemical Company, the 42nd Military Police Company, the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment and members of the 42nd Infantry Division Band arrived here last month. This is first time in 50 years that the band has mobilized for war.

The ongoing mobilizations are part of a process begun in early July, when the Department of Defense announced the organization of the Rainbow Division Task Force for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, the Army's third rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Division Soldiers will provide the command and control, logistics and operational base for the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team, the Tennessee Army National Guard's 278th Regimental Combat Team and the Army's 1st and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams from the Fort Stewart, Georgia-based 3rd Infantry Division.

Army and Army Reserve elements will join the division task force later this year, swelling the Rainbow Division's ranks to nearly 18,000 soldiers from across the country.

"While our task force may not quite reach the same size and composition as the original Rainbow formation back in World War I, it is a reflection of how the Army can build the right force at the right time for the right job," said MG Joseph J. Taluto, the 42nd Infantry Division Commander.



BAND ON THE GUNS: 42nd Infantry Division Band members SPC John Lastella (left), SPC Luis Espinal (center), and SGT Mario Tronti (right) learn basic marksmanship skills at the Engagement Skill Training (EST) Facility at Ft. Drum (photo by SSG Raymond Drumsta).

The 42nd Infantry Division includes National Guard members from New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Delaware, Vermont, Rhode Island and Florida. Other Army Soldiers joining the task force hail from Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Additionally, Soldiers from the Rainbow Division's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, or "Fighting 69th", mobilized to supplement the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Separate Brigade. The battalion is training at Fort Hood, Texas and will be part of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division task force.

Team-building exercises conducted over the summer focus on collective combat skills and command post exercises to provide Soldiers more challenging and complex training events. The division's training plan culminates with a mission readiness exercise in the fall.

Soldier training for the summer includes identification and response to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), convoy live-fire exercises, combat marksmanship or reflexive fire ranges, defensive fire exercises, communications training and other tactical skills necessary for operations with the Multinational Corps - Iraq.

Commanders and their staffs will undergo command post exercises designed to stress the command and control systems of the units and challenge leaders' abilities to gather information and plan and execute mission orders. Division task force leaders and staff members also continue to reconnoiter in Iraq and Kuwait. They will return with information that will better prepare Soldiers for their forward deployment into Iraq later this year.

After completing unit training this fall, the Rainbow Division Task Force will begin deployment preparations. Units will deploy to the Central Command area of operations in sequence, which allows soldiers to train, receive equipment and move into Iraq to relieve Army forces already in place.



SFC Robert Saquet, first sergeant of the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment, briefs his unit before they go to the range. The unit is one of the many Rainbow units mobilized in July (photo by SSG Raymond Drumsta).

Soldiers Help Restore Iraq's Historic Sites

MOSUL, Iraq (Army News Service, Aug. 6, 2004) - Two major historic sites in Mosul dating back to the 8th century B.C. are being restored with help from the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion.

MAJ Wayne Bowen, head of the 416th's Higher Education and Antiquities Team, is working with Ninevah Director of Antiquities, Muzahim Mahmood, to facilitate restoration projects at the Nergal Gate and King Sennacheribe's palace.

"The Nergal Gate is just one of 15 gates that surrounded the ancient Assyrian capitol of Ninevah, but we decided to focus on this one first because it was in the best condition," Bowen explained.

The \$22,000 project, funded by the Commander's Emergency Response Program, includes repaving the ramp leading up to the gate using the authentic Assyrian cobblestone pattern, renovating the gate itself to provide museum displays in both wings and building roofs to protect the various statues and reliefs on the site.

Because most of the structure is still intact and there was historic documentation preserved over the years, the gate will soon look much as it did in ancient times.

"There are reliefs that show the gate at that time so they can fairly accurately recreate the site," said Bowen.

The second project involves restoring the site of King Sennacheribe's palace, which is strategically located high on a hill overlooking the Tigris River and was the seat of government in Ninevah during his reign in the early 8th century B.C.

According to Bowen, the site had remained relatively unchanged for nearly 3,000 years, but in April of 2003 it was extensively looted and damaged.

"It's heartbreaking to see this palace," Bowen said, "but the multinational forces are committed to working with the Iraqi government to restore the site and recover the artifacts that were stolen."

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known as UNESCO, had already certified the site as a cultural treasure prior to the war, and preliminary work such as building roofs over the reliefs and erecting a temporary fence has already been completed by UNESCO archaeologists.

Security guards were also added for the first time in history.

The 416th is working with UNESCO to complete the second phase of the project, which will provide additional security with an improved fence and lighting, improve the road for better access and remove a large oil tank that was installed on the property during the Second World War.

Bowen hopes that once the site is restored and protected it will again be an important site for tourism, along with the renovated Nergal Gate.

"They are a part of the cultural heritage of Iraq and they belong to the people of Iraq, but they are also an essential part of the history of mankind," he said. "So much of what we know about the beginnings of civilization, culture and technology came directly from this region of the world."



Local workers painstakingly recreate the ramp leading up to the Nergal Gate using the authentic Assyrian cobblestone pattern.

Rainbow Division: History, Now and Then

Operation Iraqi Freedom marks the third time in the division's history that Soldiers of the Rainbow have mobilized for war. The 42nd Infantry Division served with distinction in both World Wars and was an instrumental part of the Army's strategic reserve throughout the Cold War.

MG Joseph Taluto spoke about 42nd Infantry Division Soldiers' devotion at the Rainbow Division Veterans' Memorial Foundation annual reunion on July 17th. Addressing veterans and their descendants at the Memphis, Tenn. reunion by telephone, Taluto compared the training of the Rainbow Division for war in 1944 with Soldiers today in 2004.

"The commitment of our Rainbow Soldiers is as great today in our nation's Global War on Terrorism as it was some 60 years ago," Taluto told the assembled Rainbow WWII veterans.

Rainbow Division base units mobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom consist of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, the Aviation and Engineer Brigade Headquarters, the Division Artillery Headquarters, the Division Support Command Headquarters, the 1st Battalion, 150th General Aviation Support Battalion, the 50th Main Support Battalion, the 642nd Division Aviation Support Battalion, the 250th Signal Battalion, the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion, the 42nd Military Police Company, the 272nd Chemical Company, 42nd Division Band, Battery E (Target Acquisition), 101st Field Artillery, the 42nd Rear Operations Cell and the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment.

In his 1984 inaugural address, President Ronald Reagan commented on the role of the Rainbow Soldier in preserving and defending liberty:

"Under a marker in Arlington National Cemetery lies a young man, Martin Treptow, a citizen-soldier who left his job in a small-town in 1917 to go to France with the Rainbow Division. There, on the Western front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy fire. We're told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, "My Pledge," he had written these words:

"America must win this war. Therefore, I will work; I will save; I will sacrifice; I will endure; I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

First Army Commander Receives Third Star

HQ, First U.S. Army (Fort Gillem, Ga.) -- LTG Russel L. Honoré, Commanding General First U.S. Army, was pinned with his third star by FORSCOM Commander, GEN Dan K. McNeill at First Army headquarters on July 26.

Honoré, who took command of First Army on July 15, 2004, is a "warrior who understands the...fight, and is the right person at the right time for First U.S. Army," said McNeill, FORSCOM's top general. McNeill went on to say, "...we are changing the paradigm from active component to reserve component in our missions and Russ Honoré brings great leadership, coaching and mentoring to this fast-paced command."

Honoré acknowledged and thanked his wife for the many military moves she has made with him over the years in supporting his service to the nation. He praised the great work done by First Army Soldiers and declared his great pride in leading the First U.S. Army during these critical times. Pledging to get Soldiers and units as ready as possible, Honoré said, "we will do whatever the nation requires."

RAINBOW READY NEWS is a Command Information product of the 42nd ID (M) PAO for division's post-mobilization training program.

MG Joseph Taluto

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