The Rainbow’s Eye in the Sky

Story by SPC Christopher Connelly, 42nd ID

Ft. Drum, NY -- Soldiers from the 42nd Aviation Brigade have been steadfast in their training. From Fort Dix to Fort Rucker to Fort Drum, these aviators are training to do their part.

Brigade Aviation responsibilities in Iraq will encompass a full spectrum of combat, combat support and combat service support operations for the division. From transporting the Commanding General, Soldiers and supplies to reconnaissance and security missions, as well as direct combat operations with attack helicopters.

The Rainbow Aviation Brigade began their individual Army certification training at Fort Dix, NJ in June and moved on to the Aviation training exercise at Fort Rucker, Alabama. “This is where the Aviation Brigade staff exercises the military decision making process, utilizes simulation training and carries out those commands”, said CPT Todd Bookless, Rainbow Aviation Brigade, S-3 Air. The Aviation was able to receive hands-on training with the most advanced system the Army can offer through new simulators. This advanced technology is the closest thing Aviators and armor personnel can train on for actual battle. “The simulators were amazing”, said Bookless. During the after action reviews the Aviators were able to watch their mission and discuss lessons learned.

“I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Aviation Brigade”, said LTC (P) Mark Burke, Aviation Brigade Commander, “Their hard work and continued sacrifice is the backbone of the Rainbow Aviation team” Burke added.

One of the aircraft the aviation brigade has in its arsenal is the AH-64A Apache Helicopter which provides day, night and all-weather attack helicopter capabilities. The Apache is the Army’s primary attack helicopter. It is a quick-reacting, airborne weapon system that can fight close and deep to destroy, disrupt or delay enemy forces.

Airborne Ranger Runs Again

President George Bush accompanies former 82nd Airborne Ranger Mike McNaughton on a 1 mile run. McNaughton lost his leg when he stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan in late 2002. During a visit to Walter Reed Medical Center, Pres. Bush told McNaughton they would run together when he recovered.

82nd Kiowas to join Rainbow Soldiers in Iraq

Ft. Bragg, NC -- Rainbow Soldiers will be welcoming approximately 300 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division when they deploy to Iraq at the end of the year.

The soldiers, assigned to the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry will deploy its three OH-58D Kiowa Warrior observation helicopter troops, along with its maintenance and headquarters troop. Its ground reconnaissance troop will not deploy. The unit will be in Iraq for a year to support the 42nd Infantry Division task force.

This is the third time the 17th Cavalry has deployed in Iraq, and the paratroopers said they were looking forward to returning. “We sit at home watching the news and we are anxious to get back in the fight,” said SSG Eric Stewart. He works in the squadron’s intelligence shop. Stewart said he did not mind going for a year. He deployed to Afghanistan for eight months last year and has been to Korea. “It is just like going to Korea, except you have a real mission,” he said.

LTG John R. Vines, commanding general of the 18th Airborne Corps, said last week that the corps headquarters would deploy to Iraq around the first of the year. The headquarters will assume the mission of the MNC-I.

This is not the first time Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division have served in combat with the Rainbow. “We welcome 82nd Airborne Soldiers back into the fold”, said MG Joseph J. Taluto, Division Commander.

“A number of 42nd Rainbow Division veterans from World War II were initially members of the 82nd before coming to the Rainbow Division as replacements in 1945,” he said.
Command of First U.S. Army Passed from Inge to Honoré

On July 15, 2004, the staff of command of First U.S. Army passed from LTG Joseph R. Inge to MG (Promotable) Russell L. Honoré.

LTG Inge assumed command of First U.S. Army thirty-four months ago, only weeks after 9/11. The events of that fateful day would influence his command of First U.S. Army profoundly. First Army would mobilize, train, deploy and demobilize more than 260,000 Soldiers for Global War on Terrorism missions.

General Inge's organization included senior commanders and Soldiers of three divisions (training support) and one integrated division for a total of more than 10,000 soldiers and civilians, whose jobs were to train and provide mobilization support to more than 2,300 Reserve Component units, comprised of 340,000 National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers in twenty-seven states and three U.S. territories. During General Inge's tenure, First U.S. Army mobilized and trained thousands of Reserve Component Soldiers for peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Kosovo and the Multi-National Force mission in the Sinai while at the same time preparing many more troops for combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In an historic first, First Army mobilized and deployed the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade, marking the first deployment of an enhanced separate brigade to a theater of war.

At this moment, the famed 42d Infantry “Rainbow” Division has been mobilized and is training intensely for its pending deployment to a theater of war. This is the first National Guard infantry division since the Second World War to be mobilized.

“General Inge has been a tremendous comfort to me personally and professionally”, said 42d Division Commander MG Joseph J. Taluto. “He has been instrumental in preparing the Rainbow for this momentous deployment. He is a great Soldier and a great man” said Taluto.

Simultaneously, First Army is mobilizing such major units as the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 155th Infantry Brigade, and the 86th Armored Bde. for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Over 25,000 Soldiers and 200,000 vehicles and items of equipment are employed in this operation.

General Inge exercised operational control over all mobilization stations in the eastern United States and directed the establishment of two new mobilization stations at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

To further support the fight, General Inge and First U.S. Army were given the mission to provide command and control of a 10,000 Soldier mobilized force that performed force protection missions at hundreds of sensitive Department of Defense facilities throughout the United States under Operation Noble Eagle. As he turns the command of First Army over to General Honoré, General Inge will become the Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command/Vice Commander, at the U. S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Incoming commander, MG (P) Russell L. Honoré has served most recently as Commander, Standing Joint Force Headquarters-Homeland Security, U.S. Northern Command until June 1, 2004. His wide variety of assignments include tours in Korea and Germany.

“We look forward to working with General Honoré and are confident his leadership will enhance the Rainbow deployment,” said General Taluto.

Story and Photo by: SPC Christopher Connelly, 42nd ID

Have no fear...a CLS is here

According to the Academy of Health Sciences, Ft. Sam Houston, TX, administering an IV is one of the most important tasks a combat lifesaver can learn, since this will help to control shock caused by blood loss, severe burns or severe heat injury.

Additionally, Soldiers learn mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, inserting an artificial airway in an unconscious soldier, immobilizing fractures, transporting wounded Soldiers and identifying and treating combat stress.

CLS training builds a Soldier’s confidence so they can care for themselves as well as another Soldier if they have to. “The training was good,” said PFC Kwadwo Kyeremateng, 250th Signal Battalion. “We can shoot, we can fight, but if you can’t save a life what is the use? And now I feel I can.”

PFC Claudia Branco, 250th Signal Battalion was nervous about taking the course, but after the second day, she was glad she did. “This was the best training we have had so far,” Branco said. “The trainers seemed to have a lot of knowledge to share with us”.

SSG Paul Newhook, a Senior Medical Trainer for the course with the 2nd Bde, 78th Division has been in the military for 15 years and is the 2004 recipient of the Forces Command’s prestigious SGT Audie Murphy Award. Newhook stressed the importance of the course is saving Soldiers lives. “Things are constantly changing in Iraq,” he said. “Keep your heads up and be prepared.”
Better Training Aids Make for Better Training Opportunities

By Dennis Haynes,
42nd ID Training Aids, Devices and Simulations Facilitator

Laser Marksmanship Training System or LMTS is a unit level marksmanship trainer. It gives the company Soldiers a method of conducting individual marksmanship training without the need to draw a range, ammo or transportation.

The LMTS training can be conducted anywhere that you can get at least 15 meters distance. This means right in your company area or armory.

The LMTS consists of a laser that is inserted into the barrel of the Soldiers weapon, reflective targets, laser sensing targets, scoring device, and either a mini-rets (pop up targets), or the alternate course C laser sensing target. This system allows the Soldier to get direct feedback from downrange through observing the strike of the laser beam, or hearing the buzzer on the target. With this device it allows us to train on the 4 fundamentals of marksmanship: steady position, breathing, aiming and trigger pull. We can conduct this training for both the M16 series rifles and the M9 pistol, and soon, for the M249 SAW. The training program for the SAW requires a different type of laser that doesn’t come standard and would have to be ordered separately. One of the other advantages to this system is that it is very portable. The system with the Alt C target is in 3 cases, and the Mini-rets version is in 5. This means the First Sergeant could carry at least 2 complete sets in the back of his HMMV.

These systems are also one of the training devices that deploy with you. The only requirement for a company is that they have a trained operator for the system. Dennis Haynes, the Divisions TADSS Fac, can train and certify the necessary instructors for the unit. Each company should have at least 2 instructors trained and ready. If your unit would like further information on this and other Training Aids available to enhance your unit training, contact the 42nd Infantry Division’s Training Aids, Devices and Simulations Facilitator at DMHaynes@Anteon.com or dennis.haynes@us.army.mil or by cell phone at (518) 859-6231.

Drive-by ‘shootings’

Army leaders meet with Rainbow Soldiers

Members of the 173rd LRSD, 42nd ID recently met with Acting Secretary of the Army, Mr. Les Brownlee during Sniper training at Ft. Benning, GA.

MG Joseph Taluto, 42nd ID Commander and Army Chief of Staff Schoomaker meet during Schoomaker’s recent visit to the Ft. Drum Battle Simulation Center.

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

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