

Training Warriors and Leaders for the Force

1ST ARMOR TRAINING BRIGADE

Commander
COL James K. Greer

To better inform the armor force on how we are training warriors and leaders at Fort Knox, *ARMOR* has granted the 1st Armor Training Brigade space to provide an update in each issue. Just as important as informing you how we are training soldiers is the *feedback* you provide us regarding the update. We are trying to improve the communication, understanding, and crosstalk between the training base and the operational force.

For those not entirely familiar with the 1st Armor Training Brigade, in this update we will focus on the organization, mission, and general information about the brigade.

Organization. The 1st Armor Training Brigade is organized into seven battalions: a reception/retraining battalion (46 AG); two basic combat training battalions (1-46 IN and 2-46 IN); a 63A/M Abrams/Bradley Mechanics One Station Unit Training (OSUT) battalion (1-81 AR); a 19K tanker OSUT battalion (2-81 AR); a training support battalion (3-81 AR); and a 19D scout OSUT squadron (5-15 CAV).

Due to mobilization missions at Fort Knox and personnel shortages because of the global war on terrorism, we also currently have a Reserve Component task force attached to the brigade from the 100th Division (institutional training). They help augment instruction and support across the brigade, and we routinely integrate Reserve Component Division (individual training) support into our instruction and training during training base expansion (TBE) each summer and during their annual training (AT) and weekend drills throughout the year.

Our one U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) unit is the 233d Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport) whose mission in garrison is to haul vehicles to and from training, but who recently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They also train all U.S. Marine Corps tankers and tank mechanics, run 63A/M Basic Noncommissioned Officer's Course, and help train U.S. Military Academy and Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets during the summer. Each year, we train over 7,500 soldiers in basic combat training, and more than 2,500 tankers, 2,000 scouts, 500 mechanics, and 300 Marines.

Command Sergeant Major
CSM James L. Green



Mission. The 1st Armor Training Brigade provides initial military training to standard to soldiers who are technically and tactically competent, focused on teamwork, infused with the warrior ethos, and ready to take their place in a values-based Army at war.

We are committed to producing quality soldiers and warriors who are ready to immediately contribute to their first operational unit. Our focus is on the skill-level 10 tasks that they will need to fight and survive if they deploy with their first operational unit to combat. Our soldiers must be warriors who understand Army Values and can work as part of a team. Our core documents are U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Regulation 350-6, *Enlisted Initial Entry Training (IET) Policies and Administration*, the program of instruction (POI), and training support packages for each course and lesson. We follow the POI for our training, but are always reviewing tasks and updating conditions to train soldiers to these standards.

The heart and soul of the brigade are our drill sergeants, instructors, junior officers, and senior NCOs who are with soldiers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as role models to infuse the Warrior Ethos and Army Values and supervise the daily care and training for our soldiers. They take civilians who arrive in the reception station and turn them into soldiers/warriors ready to serve in the force. We rely on their professionalism, dedication, commitment, and expertise to care for and train the soldier/warriors and future leaders of our Army. We also rely on our civilian support staff and instructors to sustain the diverse and persistent pace of training in the brigade.

Motivated, professional cadre and time are our most critical resources. As committed as we are to providing quality soldiers to the field, we are limited by the time we have to train soldiers — 9 weeks

to get ready for advanced individual training (AIT), 15 weeks for tankers, 16 weeks for scouts, 21 to 23 weeks to train mechanics on all the basic, technical, and tactical skills they need as soldiers and warriors. Our cadre trains soldiers 6 days a week, including holidays, to accomplish as much training as possible within a limited time.

The companies in the basic combat training battalions typically run four to five 9-week missions annually. The companies/troops in the OSUT battalions/squadrons run about three missions annually. In between missions, the units recover from previous missions and prepare for future missions. With the amount of time our cadre spend focused on training soldiers, cadre wellness, family activities, cadre certification, MOS training, and updating our initial entry training tactics, techniques, and procedures are a lot to pack into the few weeks. The only lull in training during the year is for 2 weeks over the winter holidays when we deploy and redeploy over 2,000 new soldiers home so they and our cadre can spend the holidays with their families.

We are also committed to providing a developmental experience for our cadre, so that they are better-trained soldiers by having served in the brigade. They must also be ready to return to the operational force and contribute to their unit. They should have a better understanding of the core skills they trained here in the brigade and be effective leaders because of their experiences training initial entry soldiers.

We will be conducting a visit to 3d Infantry Division to gather feedback on how our soldiers performed in combat, and to update our tasks, conditions and standards. While we conduct a survey of the field every year, we tremendously value feedback on how we are doing. It is difficult for us to completely assess the quality of our soldiers here at Fort Knox because the ultimate test of their qualities is how they perform in their first operational unit.

In the next issue of *ARMOR*, we will further discuss some of the ongoing initiatives in the brigade and respond to your questions/feedback.

Please provide questions/feedback to Mr. Joe Pena at Jose.Pena@knox.army.mil.