

1184th

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lization process for each unit based on downrange/theater feedback and begin engaging leaders several months prior to their return, ensuring everyone understands requirements and resourcing specific issues and needs.

Soldiers do not leave Camp Shelby until their needs have been satisfactorily addressed and validated explained Col. Dale Kuehl, 177th Armored Brigade, First Army Division East commander. In addition to individual-focused medical, dental and behavioral health support, Soldiers receive information and resources on benefits, programs, and access to care to assist them as they transition back home, including TRICARE, Veteran's Health Administration information and assistance, and employment information and resources. Soldiers who wish to apply for benefits and jobs can do so with assistance from representatives on-site.

"We know Soldiers want to depart the demob site as quickly as possible. However, they should understand that it's important the medical team here, working with them and their chain of command, identify the path of care they need for the long term. In some cases, the nearest VA hospital is hundreds of miles away," Kuehl emphasized.

A Welcome Home ceremony was held for the returning Soldiers Saturday, Feb. 9, on Camp Shelby's Parade Field.



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny Hatten, CSJFTC Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 1184th DDSB, above, line up to receive packages which included Warrior Citizen awards featuring commemorative American flags during the welcome home ceremony at CSJFTC. At right, Lt. Col. Shackelford thanks Family members of the 1184th for attending the ceremony and for their outstanding support during the unit's deployment in support of overseas contingency operations.

The Soldiers of the combined units came together at Camp Shelby last April to train for their mission. After a short two weeks of training, the newly formed teams deployed all over the Middle East. Once there, the 1184th, 541st, 455th, 334th and the 530th forged vital links in the supply chain that keeps America's military moving.

After 10 long months every Soldier of the combined unit

has returned to Camp Shelby to begin demobilization. "Demobing" is the two week process designed to ease reintegration back into civilian life. "This is the cool down after a long run" said Staff Sgt. John Murphy, a Pensacola resident and member of the 1184th DDSB. While at Camp Shelby, returning Soldiers are evaluated and treated for health issues, and counseled on benefits and aid

available to them.

Saturday's ceremony included an awards presentation and welcome home package for each Soldier. "The Welcome Home ceremony is our chance to say thanks to our Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Lowell Shackelford, the 1184th DDSB Commander. "We want them to know we are grateful that everyone is back home safe and sound."



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