

Credit

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Credit Union has and continues to support activities that serve as a positive influence to children and Kids AT provides the credit union an excellent outlet for that support," said Director of

Personnel and Community Activities Senior Noncommissioned Officer Sgt. Maj. Bobby Patrick, who also sits on the credit union Board of Directors. "The Summer Youth Program and Kids AT provide a unique Annual Training experience to children and grandchildren of Mississippi

National Guard members and retirees," said Patrick. "This donation will assist them with purchasing supplies for the camp and keeping the registration cost to a minimum." Children of Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and airmen, age 9-12, who attend the summer youth program

will benefit from the donation, said Patrick. "From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the credit union for their generosity and willingness to help us," said Reeves. "This allows us to help us to do more things for the youth and that's important. It's all about the youth."

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signments." The ARFORGEN cycle program establishes a basis of preparation for scheduling both Active and Reserve unit's deployments. "Demobilization is either the last act of mobilization or the first act of reset. I think it is equal parts of both efforts," Slack said. "If we fail in reset, we will make the rebuilding of our unit take longer and deny our state and our country the availability of this crucial Army asset."

"The biggest issue for a Soldier's return is medical processing," said Johnson. Soldiers with injuries or illness must enter a Warrior Transition Unit or agree to an alternate path of care prior to being sent back home, said Johnson.

The largest group of Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat arrived at CSJFTC during the holidays, said Maj. Judi McKee-Sanders, Medical Readiness Officer for the 27th IBCT.

Throughout the demobilization, McKee-Sanders ensured accountability of Soldiers and monitored the brigade's overall medical readiness.

"I think it all went pretty well considering the holiday stresses," she said.

Six months prior to the unit's rede-

ployment, 27th IBCT leaders began planning the demobilization, said McKee-Sanders.

"What we are looking at is Soldiers who have developed any injuries or illness down-range that didn't warrant being sent home. Identifying those Soldiers so when they arrive at the demobilization site they are handled as priority," is key, she said.

"We express our appreciation for all the support that Camp Shelby's Medical Task Force, the 177th, and all of the people here that helped this demobilization process," said McKee-Sanders.

"The Warrior Transition Units were so receptive and worked around-the-clock to help the Soldiers get to where they needed to be so they could return for the holidays," she said.

The 177th and CSJFTC had the resources and are able to facilitate Soldiers quickly due to their leadership being able to identify Soldiers who needed medical attention, said Johnson.

"The success is a conjoined effort with the staff here at Camp Shelby installation, the personnel with 177th, including the mission command and leadership from the 27th IBCT contributed in getting the Soldiers safely home for the holidays," said Johnson.

"We will be transitioning about 500 more Soldiers through the month of January," he said.

The 27th IBCT mobilized in January 2012 at Camp Shelby. The unit de-

ployed in support of more than 25 different missions and locations throughout the Middle East.

"Our deployment was abundantly successful because we did what we get paid to do – with honor and selfless sacrifice – and succeeded in every mission we were assigned... Our team rose to the demands placed ... and can return to their families, homes, and civilian careers in the firm knowledge they did their jobs as genuine American patriots," said Slack.

First Army Division East planners worked hard to ensure that, as missions changed, they had the correct trainers and situational exercises. One element of 27th IBCT deployed to Bahrain to provide security at the Bahrain Airport. First Army planners worked with officials at the Hattiesburg Airport to arrange for the unit to train there. Slack credited this level of detail with ensuring his Soldiers were prepared for every mission.

"I firmly believe we were provided world class training and support while at Camp Shelby and without that care, attention to detail, and the unyielding demand placed upon us to achieve – and at time exceed the standard – our price in casualties would have been far higher than it was. First Army-East served the 27th IBCT well, and we must all consider ourselves in debt to them for their splendid assistance," Slack said.



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