



# Cobra Strike

NTC EDITION

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## Cobras ready for NTC

Brigade moves more than 1,000 vehicles, gear to California's premiere training base

by Spc. Creighton Holub  
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – The 4th Infantry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team is busy at the National Training Center preparing for its deployment to Iraq next summer.

NTC rotation number 08-02 will give insight into how operations will be performed during the brigade's future deployment and will teach Cobra Brigade leaders how to fine tune their Soldiers' training.

The 3,000-plus Cobra Brigade Soldiers' training required more than 1,000 vehicles and equipment to be transported from Fort Hood to the training center.

Once the equipment arrived at the U.S. Marine Corps railhead in Yermo, Calif., the brigade's Soldiers were transported from the training center to the rail yard to unload the vehicles.

"If you take care of your Soldiers, the Soldiers will always take care of the mission," said Staff Sgt. Ken Cates, an air defense artillery cell member assigned to the brigade headquarters. Cates was one of the NCOs working at the railhead and pro-



HUMVEEs drive along the "dustbowl's" motor pools at Fort Irwin, Calif., during the preparations for the Cobra Brigade's NTC rotation Nov. 5. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Creighton Holub, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)

vided military leadership to help move the vehicles to NTC. "As long as the sergeants are living the NCO Creed and providing for the Soldiers, the mission is going to get accomplished."

**"If you take care of your Soldiers, the Soldiers will always take care of the mission."**

❖ Staff Sgt. Ken Cates

While the brigade's Soldiers and equipment consolidate at NTC, the personnel are conducting pre-combat checks and inspections for the upcoming week of simulated combat in the California desert.

"I expect to get good training here," said Pvt. John Napier, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Knoxville, Tenn., assigned to Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th

Infantry Regiment. "We are doing this so us new guys can go over to Iraq and be successful."

The realism provides the combat training that seasons junior Soldiers for war.

However, the training center's observer-controllers and the Cobra Brigade's safety officers are on hand to ensure proper procedures are followed during the training.

"You're not able to simulate the bullets cracking over your head," Sgt. Kyle Dorsch, a combat veteran infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment's headquarters company. "But the training scenarios will teach you how to react under pressure and think on your feet. That should get us ready for anything."

# Cobra Commander comments

by Col. Philip Battaglia  
Commander, 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Fellow Cobras: welcome  
to the National  
Training Center!

I am  
extremely proud  
of how you have  
performed thus far  
in getting to  
California and

preparing for our training.

This rotation is an



Battaglia

extremely valuable opportunity  
for us. I urge you to make the  
most of this training to get your  
teams prepared for the year  
ahead.

After this rotation, we are  
scheduled to re-flag in March,  
conduct a rotation at the Joint  
Readiness Training Center in  
April and deploy in summer  
2008.

Nothing we will do during  
this rotation is worth the life or

limb of a Cobra Soldier.

Therefore, I want all of  
you to keep safety to the forefront  
of your minds and take care of  
each other. Safety is everyone's  
responsibility.

I am impressed every day  
by your professionalism and dedi-  
cation. You should be proud of  
your accomplishments and serv-  
ice.

Let's have a great rotation!  
Cobra 6 out!

## Cobra leaders trained to lead at NTC

by Maj. Chad Carroll  
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – The leaders of the 4th Brigade  
Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division kicked off the  
brigade's rotation at the National Training Center  
with their Leader Training Program Oct. 28.

The program is designed to train commanders  
and staffs in appropriate planning procedures before  
Soldiers arrive on the ground at NTC.

The brigade leadership met their coaches – a  
group of military and civilian trainers known as the  
Wrangler Team.

Col. Philip Battaglia, 4th BCT commander,  
addressed the battalion commanders and staff person-  
nel at the onset of the week-long program.

"This is a tremendous training opportunity,"  
Battaglia said. "Allow these great coaches to lead you  
through some other ways to do things; to offer you  
some new ideas."

The commander explained the value of LTP in

terms of the dividends it will pay the brigade when  
they deploy to Iraq in summer 2008.

Intertwined in the brigade's planning cycle  
were several opportunities for Battaglia and his bat-  
talion commanders to interact with the NTC's actors  
for the simulated senior Iraqi leaders.

Key training opportunities during the week  
also included commanders engaging the NTC's Arab  
and international media role players.

"It was a very valuable media session," said  
Lt. Col. Tim Norton, 4th Special Troops Battalion  
commander. "It was good practice with some pretty  
tough questions."

LTP was an intense and useful experience for  
the Cobra Brigade leadership and staffs. It prepared  
them for NTC and more importantly, Iraq, by forcing  
the brigade to execute its planning procedures in a  
short timeline. The Wrangler Team's efforts set the  
conditions for the 4th BCT to come together as a  
team of teams.

### *Cobra Strike - NTC EDITION*

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