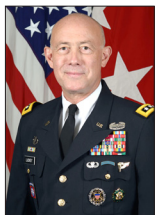


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Senior Leaders Army Combat Fitness Test



"This test gives us a great opportunity to not only get more physically fit, but also replicate the types of tasks that we would have to do in combat. It's a very powerful tool. This is going to build readiness, and it's the future for the United States Army and Army Reserve."

– Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey
Chief of Army Reserve, Commanding General, USARC
Jan. 10, 2019, Austin, Texas

On Point Army Combat Training Centers

The U.S. Army Combat Training Centers Program builds trained and proficient, combat-ready units and leaders to conduct operations as part of the joint force. The Army conducts readiness training for thousands of Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers at four Army Combat Training Centers. U.S. Army Forces Command provides mission command for two of the Combat Training Centers in the U. S. – the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. They provide a highly realistic operational environment with a replicated near-peer Opposing Force (OPFOR).



Soldier Readiness

The U.S. Army is transforming how it attracts, recruits and trains Soldiers to ensure formations are filled with capable and lethal professionals. Through continuous improvement, Soldiers arrive at their first operational assignments with greater readiness and lethality.

2nd SFAB goes through JRTC crucible before deployment



A Guardian Angel from the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Brigade, Wisconsin National Guard, stands watch over a meeting between Afghan National Army members and advisors with the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade during an engagement exercise, Jan. 16, 2019, at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La. (U.S. Army photo by Chuck Cannon)

By Chuck Cannon, Fort Polk Public Affairs

FORT POLK, La. – As the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) goes through its paces at the crucible known as the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, the goal is to prepare Soldiers to handle situations that might - or will - arise during their deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

The SFAB are specialized units with the core mission to conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations.

The 1st SFAB recently redeployed from Afghanistan, to be replaced by the 2nd SFAB.

Lt. Col. Javier Lopez, commander, 353rd Infantry Regiment, commands many of the trainers who have worked to prep the advisors and secu-

rity forces - Guardian Angels - for their mission to provide assistance and guidance to their counterparts in the Afghan National Army.

"We've integrated with and dispersed our expert trainers and instructors within [JRTC] Operations Group," Lopez said. "It's a challenging mission and we're happy to support Operations Group. It helps us beyond this rotation as we develop additional training for SFAB's."

Lopez said there have been improvements in training since the 1st SFAB visited JRTC.

"We always look at how we can do better," he said. "When Operations Group and JRTC looked holistically at how we improved from the 1st SFAB, we connected the highest level of the SFAB brigade all the way down to the lowest advisor teams, improving communication."

FORSCOM in the news

Three of the 1st Infantry Division's five brigades **recently cased their colors prior to deployments to several regions**, at Fort Riley, Kansas.



The 1st Medical Brigade, 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, **recently welcomed a new commander** at Fort Hood, Texas.



The nation's oldest active-duty unit still serving, the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, **recently celebrated its 243rd birthday**.



Paratroopers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, **successfully performed a "wet gap" crossing recently** on Fort Bragg, N.C.



Soldiers from the Field Artillery Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, **recently conducted a gun raid in the Makhmour Mountains, Iraq**.



Meet your Army



Sgt. Alonzo Johnson, religious affairs specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. Wanting to get away from the area he grew up in Atlanta, joined the Army two months after graduating high school. He has the aspiration of being accepted into the Army's Green to Gold program.

TOP SHOTS

Here are the best photos from FORSCOM Public Affairs professionals world-wide. For more photos and information, click these photos or visit army.mil/forscom



Above An M1A2 Abrams tank crew from 2nd Battalion 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, maneuver to position their tank during exercise Combined Resolve XI at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Dec. 10, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Lee)

Right Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston, U.S. Army Forces Command Command Sgt. Maj., conducts training with a prusik climbing rope, Jan. 10, 2019, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Laurie Ellen Schubert)

Below Paratroopers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, with the assistance of the 502nd Multi-Role Bridge Company, 19th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, successfully completed a "wet gap" crossing operation at MacArthur's Lake, Fort Bragg, N.C., Jan. 9, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gin-Sophie De Bellotte)



Above 2nd Lt. Sonia Ortiz, a chemical officer assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, checks the M50/M51 general purpose mask seal of a 1-7 Cav Soldier during chemical defense equipment training at Camp Aachen, Germany, Jan. 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan)

Below Pfc. James Dunn, a mortar man assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, prepares a 35-pound 120 mm mortar round for firing at Camp Aachen, Germany, Jan. 9, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan)



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