



2nd STB activates 'Havoc' FSC



Lt. Col. Patrick Stevenson, commander, 2nd Special Troops Battalion and Capt. Brian Johnson, commander, Company H, lead the activation ceremony after the uncasing of the company's colors.

Story by 1st Lt. Bonnie Hutchinson

*photos by Staff Sgt. Dennis Hines
2nd Special Troops Battalion*

Company H, a forward support company, was activated into the 2nd Special Troops Battalion at Fort Carson on Jan. 20.

"Today was not just the passing of a guidon from one commander to the next, but the start of a new entity to support the wartime mission in Afghanistan" said Capt. Brian Johnson, commander of Company H.

Special Troops Battalions do not traditionally include FSCs, but the logistical expectations for the unit's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan were greater than the Soldiers of the battalion could be expected to support, said 1st Lt. Timothy Green, the executive officer of

Company H.

The company will be pushed hard as they posture themselves for deployment, said Green.

Their first training event with the battalion



Lt. Col. Patrick Stevenson, commander, 2nd Special Troops Battalion and Capt. Brian Johnson, commander, Company H present the colors as Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Kienath, First Sergeant, Company H uncases their new colors.

will be the Mission Readiness Exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center. Soldiers from Company H are scheduled in realistic training events at JRTC to ensure they are able to transfer their capabilities to the wartime mission in Afghanistan.

"We are excited to continue to support the Special Troops Battalion," said Green. "I see this activation as the perfect opportunity to expand our resources and capabilities in order to accomplish our mission and ensure the Special Troops Battalion has the resources to accomplish theirs," he said.

Commander's Column



Maj. James Wiles, Rear Detachment Commander
2nd Brigade Combat Team

In December, the brigade formally established both the bridge and battalion rear detachment command teams. I would like to introduce myself and 1st Sgt. Skinner. I come to this position following 18 months serving as the 1-10 CAV S3 and a previous stint as a company commander in 2-8 IN. Skinner joins the brigade from 4th BCT, 4 Inf. Div. where he served as an infantry company first sergeant for four years.

We feel that the keys to the rear detachment's success are

the early formation of teams and development / rehearsal of key mission essential tasks. These tasks revolve around taking care of Soldiers and Families; we are using the combined experience and resources of the brigade to develop a clear path toward and beyond the deployment.

During winter block leave we served as the command structure for the brigade and were able to rehearse for deployment. During the upcoming Joint Readiness Training Center rotation the rear detachment will again be in charge of brigade operations here at Fort Carson and will use this time to rehearse several battle

drills and Standard Operating Procedures. The rear detachment along with the Family Readiness Groups are committed to the preparation of our family teams for this deployment; several battalions have already started education and training utilizing Army Community Services programs. We encourage the use of these training opportunities as a base for strengthening the team and to familiarize Families with the training / services available on post. The rear detachment is working on both the Deployment Hand

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Staffs plan at Fort Polk, Louisiana

Story by Maj. Kevin Toner

photo by Sgt. Seth Barham

2nd Brigade Combat Team PAO

Brigade and battalion commanders and staff deployed to Fort Polk, La. to test their planning processes Jan. 5 – 12, 2011.

The 7 day Leader's Training Program was designed to allow the staffs to verify their planning processes and develop the base plan from which the brigade will operate when at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Feb. 2011.

"The brigade and battalion staffs gelled. We found ways to communicate better and plan in parallel," said Maj. Dana Stowell, brigade executive officer.

The week away from Fort Carson allowed the staffs to focus longer and more intently on mission and campaign planning than they could while here.

"LTP gave me the chance to understand



Members of the brigade's logistical planning team analyze the mission to determine how best to support.

and develop how the brigade will operate while deployed," said Maj. Rhett Taylor, brigade fire support coordinator.

Finally, the event allowed new members of the staffs to become experts in their field and build cohesion.

"I am new to the brigade staff and was impressed by how well the team works together," said Maj. Rich Fierro, brigade operations planner.

Book and Deployment Fair, and will be finalized in the coming weeks.

I'm thoroughly encouraged by the strides that we have made as an organization during the past weeks and confident that the detachment will be resourced and poised to tackle any circumstance that the Brigade encounters. Finally, we believe that the rear detachment mission is vital to the success of our deployment and stand ready to assist our team in the preparation, deployment and re-integration of our Soldiers and Families.

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Combating Terrorism Center at West Point



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Lincoln Hall
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Combating Terrorism Center helps Warhorse prepare

Story by Maj. Kevin Toner

2nd Brigade Combat Team PAO

Members of the Combating Terrorism Center from West Point shared their insight with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Jan. 24 and 25 to help the brigade mentally prepare for its Afghanistan deployment.

Commanders and staff from company through brigade attended a series of seminars during the two day visit.

The CTC provided a strategic and operational overview of Afghanistan and the region. In addition to the briefings by the CTC members, the CTC coordinated a video tele-conference with Brig. Gen. H.R. McMaster to gain a better understanding of how Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Forces are fighting corruption.

A second VTC introduced the brigade to two civilian researchers who have spent 4 years in Afghanistan talking directly to Taliban commanders. The CTC also brought journalist Gretchen Peters, author of "Seeds of Terror: Heroin is Bankrolling the Taliban and al Qaeda" to share her research about how the Taliban is using the illegal drug trade to fund its insurgency.

"The CTC gave the brigade insights and perspectives on how to think about insurgencies and how best to neutralize insurgent effects," said Col. John Kolasheski, 2nd BCT commander.

"Members of the CTC regularly deploy to Afghanistan to provide commanders analysis and to gather data to better understand the nature of insurgencies," said Lt. Col Reid Sawyer,

CTC director.

The relationship between the CTC and 2nd BCT began this past summer when 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment deployed to West Point to support Cadet Field Training, said Maj. Vinnie Garbarino, their executive officer.

The CTC, a center of excellence in the Department of Social Sciences at West Point, was formed in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001 to contribute relevant scholarly perspectives through education, research and policy analysis to combat terrorist threats to the United States, said Maj. Bryan Groves, CTC executive officer.

"The CTC provided an invaluable opportunity for leaders in our brigade to discuss the challenges and opportunities that we might face during our deployment to Afghanistan," said Kolasheski.

Warhorse Pride



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