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Warrior News

<http://www.usarc.army.mil/95thdiv/2bde/3-378th/newsletter.html>



3rd/378th

Upcoming Drill Dates

July

- 10 - 0700 First Formation
Uniform: IPFU
Lunch - Postal Facility
- 11 0700 - First Formation
Uniform: BDU
Lunch - Golden Corral

August 14-15

September 11-12

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Army Gets A New Uniform

In this tech-savvy age, even the uniforms are going digital -- digital camouflage, that is. The Army has unveiled its new combat uniform, complete with some handy improvements.

The Army will be fielding a new combat uniform designed by NCOs and tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq since October.

Three different versions of the ACU have been developed, and more than 10,000 uniforms have been produced and dragged through the sand in Iraq and at Army training centers. Even more are on American production lines to be issued by April 2005 to Soldiers in deploying units. Fielding to the total Army should be complete by December 2007, said officials from the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments that we operate in," Myhre said. "The current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert. The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board."

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said Col. John Norwood, the project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

Every change was made for a reason. The bottom pockets on the jacket were removed and placed on the shoulder sleeves so Soldiers can have access to them while wearing body armor. The pockets were also tilted forward so that they are easily accessible. Buttons were replaced

with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing armor.

Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the Soldier money, Myhre said. Soldiers can take the name-tapes and patches off their uniforms before laundering, which will add to the lifecycle of the patches. Also the cost to get patches sewn on will be eliminated, he added.



Twenty changes were made to the Army's new combat uniform, worn here by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre. Two of the main changes were adapting the digital camouflage print from the new Marine Corps uniform and removing the color black.

The ACU will consist of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and the brown combat boots. It will replace both versions of the BDU and the desert camouflage uniform. The black beret will be the normal headgear for the ACU, but there is a matching patrol cap to be worn at the commander's discretion.

Continued on page 4...

Take A Sip

Fielding New MRE Drink Pouches

It's a common problem: today's on-the-move soldiers aren't drinking their MRE beverage base mix because it's too inconvenient to use their canteen cups. Here comes the possible solution: a resealable beverage pouch.

Pouches that can be resealed may soon change the way troops drink in the field. Drink pouches developed at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., in partnership with packaging companies, allow warfighters to pour water into a package holding a powder mix, shake and consume the beverage from the opening. If they want to save some for a little later, the plastic zipper seal holds it in.

Often they didn't bother preparing a beverage in a separate container. Field data showed that about half of the Soldiers are not consuming the Meal, Ready-to-Eat or MRE beverage base mix because of the inconvenience of using and cleaning the canteen cup, said Lauren Milch, a physical scientist at Combat Feeding who managed package development. Pouring the mix into a canteen full of water is prohibited according to Army doctrine, so the packages are frequently thrown away unopened.

The 12-ounce beverage pouch is the first project of the Individual Combat Ration Team's Improved Packaging for Combat Rations program aimed at reducing packaging and increasing consumption, said Vicki Loveridge, a senior food technologist and project officer for improved packaging.

She said including a resealable plastic bag was a partial solution, but the drink pouch takes care of everything by replacing the current dry mix package with a disposable drinking vessel.

Originally intended to replace the MRE beverage base mix, the beverage pouches could be used for any of the military ration beverages or liquid foods, such as dairy shakes. For hot cappuccino or cocoa, the pouch

was designed to fit into the flameless ration heater.

A rectangular drink pouch with a plastic zipper was evaluated in 1991, but it was shelved because the cost was considered "extravagant" at 25 cents apiece, Loveridge said.

In the last three years researchers developed prototype pouches with a non-reclosable tear-off spout, reclosable sports-type pull cap and a twist-off cap that were studied along with the final package design.

"We wanted something reusable, and they didn't want or need (a pouch) to stand up, just a way to set it down," Loveridge said. "The extra expense of a stand-up pouch was unnecessary, and it's a harder pouch to keep from cracking."

In the first evaluation with a twist-off cap pouch in 2001, 91 percent of the troops consumed their beverages, but the twist-off cap was too bulky and expensive. The latest prototype has a tear-off portion just above a resealable interlocking plastic zipper on top and slight hourglass shape for easy holding.

"What's very different from what you see at the grocery store is the zipper with a multi-laminate foil and three-year shelf life requirement," Loveridge said. "It's difficult to incorporate a zipper without compromising the foil."

With four studies already showing substantial percentage increases in the number of troops using the beverage pouch, another field test is scheduled to determine how warfighter performance improves with increased hydration.

An order of 7,000 beverage pouches has been placed for two Combat Feeding developmental products, the Remote Unit Self Heated Meal and First Strike Ration, according to Loveridge. An electrolyte-based drink powder beverage pouch was approved for four varieties of the 2004 MRE menu and could be fielded as soon as September.

"The drink pouch is something they really need, and it's designed to add

minimal cost," Milch said. "We hope it takes off in popularity like the mini bottles of Tabasco sauce and flameless ration heater."

Birthdays - July

Happy Birthday to the members of the 378th and their families.

- Andrew May – July 3
- Sabrina Obregon – July 7
- SFC Tyoga Luther – July 9
- Gloria Obregon – July 10
- Ariel Pierce – July 11
- Dylan Roller – July 12
- Natasha Bunch – July 15
- SFC John Holten – July 16
- Thomas Cornell – July 17
- William Knight – July 17
- Willis Knight – July 17
- Melinda Gouge – July 22
- Kimberly Luther – July 22
- Atlanta Williams – July 23
- Joshua Jeter – July 28

Send Online Video to Troops

SharedVideoMoments.com

The WISHES FROM HOME campaign allows families of deployed servicepersons to send up to 10 minutes of video online for FREE. Graduation, birthdays, general greetings, whatever the reason, your deployed loved one doesn't have to miss it or only get pictures! We want to help bridge the miles for soldiers and their families. Visit SharedVideoMoments.com for details. ITS FREE to military families and EASY for everyone!

Battalion Computer Lab

Have you seen the new computer lab, located *in what used to be* Maj. May's office?

There are four computers for use by the companies, with a time schedule to avoid conflicts. See your first-line supervisor for a log-in and password and check the schedule on the door for your company's time slot.

Have fun and please follow the rules.

Errors Delay Military Mail

Something as simple as adding the name of the destination country to an address can delay the delivery of mail to service members overseas. It is a problem that the military postal system encounters daily. To alleviate this situation, help is needed from the family and friends of deployed service members. Senders stateside are actually slowing the delivery of the mail by not properly addressing letters and packages. The sender needs to know that the name of the country and the name of the base camp where a service member is stationed are incompatible with regulated military addresses. By writing Kuwait or Iraq on a letter or package it is routed through civilian mail channels rather than military ones. When that happens, the mail can be delayed significantly. This is attributable to the sorting machine's inability to discern whether or not the letter is intended to reach an Army or Fleet Post Office address.

Senate Okays Military Pay Raise

The Senate passed a massive defense spending bill that, at \$447 billion, still only covers a fraction of war costs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The vote Wednesday night capped weeks of wrangling over missile defense, the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal and numerous other proposed amendments.

The bill, which now must be reconciled with a similar House bill passed a month ago, includes a military pay raise, an increase in the size of the Army and billions of dollars for weapons systems.

Lawmakers voted 97-0 shortly before midnight on the bill, which authorizes Pentagon and Energy Department defense programs for the budget year that begins in October.

The measure includes \$25 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the Bush administration plans to submit a supplemental budget at the

start of the next calendar year, after November's election, that is expected to seek at least an additional \$25 billion for the two ongoing military campaigns.

Defying the White House and Pentagon, senators also included a provision to add 20,000 troops to an Army stretched thin by the war in Iraq, the global war on terror and other commitments around the world.

Lawmakers have for months heard complaints from families of service men and women who have served repeated deployments or been forced to remain on duty after their obligation has ended under a Pentagon device called "stop-loss."

The Senate bill would increase the Army by about 4 percent, to 502,400. The House version would add 30,000 Army soldiers and 9,000 Marines over three years.

The House also would delay for two years the next round of military base closures, set to take place next year. But, generally, the Senate authorization bill mirrors the House version, for instance also including an across-the-board 3.5 percent pay raise for military personnel and higher danger pay.

It authorizes \$10.2 billion for a missile defense system and billions more for such programs as the F/A-22 Raptor aircraft, Joint Strike Fighter and DD(X) destroyer program.

Senators passed an amendment earlier Wednesday requiring President Bush to report to the Republican-controlled Congress on his efforts to stabilize Iraq. But they rejected one that would have forced him to give an estimate of how many American troops will remain in the violence-plagued country a year from now.

Drawing out the deliberations Wednesday was a heated debate over the growing Iraq prisoner abuse scandal, as Democrats pushed for an amendment requiring the administration to hand over memos on prisoner treatment and interrogations.

In the end, Republicans defeated a

measure that would have declared all U.S. officials bound by anti-torture laws and required Pentagon reports on interrogation techniques, the number of detainees denied POW status, Red Cross findings on U.S. military prisons and a schedule for trying terror suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

While Wednesday's action authorized the defense programs, senators now must approve an appropriations bill to actually give the administration the money.

The House on Tuesday approved a \$417 billion defense appropriations bill covering only the Defense Department programs. The Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday approved a similar \$416 billion defense spending measure.

TSP Toll-Free Number

A toll-free telephone service for Thrift Savings Plan participants and beneficiaries begins July 1.

Callers will be able to receive TSP account or transaction information via the service daily around the clock. They will also be able to speak to a participant service representative at one of two call centers 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.

The retirement savings plan is for federal employees and similar to the 401(k) plans offered by many private employers. As of May 31, TSP assets totaled more than \$135 billion, and retirement savings accounts were being maintained for nearly 3.3 million participants. Participants include federal civilian employees in all branches of Government, employees of the U.S. Postal Service, and members of the uniformed services.

For calls from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the primary toll-free number will be (877) 968-3778 and the TDD number for the hearing impaired will be (877) 847-4385. The current number (504) 255-8777 can be used for all other international calls.

New Army Uniform

Continued from page 1

At \$88 per uniform, about \$30 more than the BDU, Soldiers will eventually reap gains in money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

"We have not made a major change to our uniforms since the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) were introduced in the early 1980s," Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston said. "This new uniform performs well in multiple environments. Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change."



The Army says suggestions from combat soldiers led to the shoulder pockets with Velcro closure. The redesign also allows for more shoulder movement.



Left and right bellowed calf- storage pockets and no-shine desert boots are new additions to the ACU.



A zipper replaces the buttons on the front of the uniform blouse.

The New Uniform: Top 20 List

Major changes for the new Army combat uniform include:

1. Mandarin collar that can be worn up or down
2. Rank insignia centered on the front of the blouse
3. Velcro for wearing unit patch, skill tabs and recognition devices
4. Zippered front closure
5. Elbow pouch for internal elbow pad inserts
6. Knee pouch for internal knee pad inserts
7. Draw string leg cuff
8. Tilted chest pockets with Velcro closure
9. Three-slot pen pocket on bottom of sleeve
10. Velcro sleeve cuff closure
11. Shoulder pockets with Velcro
12. Forward tilted cargo pockets
13. Integrated blouse bellows for increased upper body mobility
14. Integrated Friend or Foe Identification Square on both left and right shoulder pocket flap.
15. Bellowed calf storage pocket on left and right leg
16. Moisture-wicking desert tan t-shirt
17. Patrol Cap with double thick bill and internal pocket
18. Improved hot-weather desert boot or temperate-weather desert boot
19. Two-inch, black nylon web belt
20. Moisture-wicking socks

FTX Pics



LTC Crabtree overlooking the qualification range.



Chow Time, Yum Yum! MREs



Nappy Time, sweet dreams 1SG

To see more pics from the FTX, visit
<http://www.snapfish.com/share/p=588101086899513807/l=28390541>