



Infantry News



An Alpha Company Publication

APR 2000

Preparation for Deployment

... your continuing checklist!



Sweat shirts or hats? CPL Mason has been kind enough to put together a hat and sweat shirt design for our deployment. The high quality sweat shirts and hats have the unit name and cross rifles in a nice design. The logos are embroidered which combined with the quality of the material are far better than a screen printed t-shirt.

If you are interested in either hats or sweat shirts, bring your money to the 8/9 APR drill.

HATS: \$ 11.50

SWEATSHIRTS:

<u>S, M, L</u>	<u>XL</u>	<u>XXL</u>	<u>XXXL</u>
\$20.95	\$22.95	\$23.95	\$24.95

If you have questions or comments, you can contact CPL John D. Mason at (630) 879-6011 (daytime) or (847) 458-9770 (night)

LOWER YOUR COMMUNICATIONS COSTS

Communicating to the Middle East is very expensive. A collect call can cost upwards of \$10 per minute. This is a whopping \$600 per hour. Many budgets can be easily crushed by this expense.

There are several ways to reduce this cost. The first is to get a better phone rate through either phone cards or an international calling plan. The major phone companies like AT&T and MCI offer international plans that have a low monthly fee of \$3 (three dollars). The plans reduce the per minute rate to a range of \$0.70 (seventy cents) to \$1 (one dollar). These rates also apply to the phone cards that can be obtained for use from Kuwait back to the US. It is recommended that you apply for the phone plans now so that you have them prior to departure. It takes between five to twelve days to get the cards.

Some of the links to major carriers are below. Check with

your favored provider to find a plan that is best for you.



<http://www.att.com/home/>



<http://www.mci.com/international/english/>

Another option is PrePaid Phone Cards. These can be purchased through many magazines, on line or at many stores. This option helps ensure that you do not overspend on any phone call. They limit you to specific time blocks that may help you budget easier. You will want to make sure that the card works internationally.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Another way to cut down on phone costs is to use the Internet to your advantage. E-mail will be a great advantage

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**Electronic
Communication
Continued**

to family and friends. Email can be virtually free. Free computer access is often accessible at your local library or school. Email accounts can be setup free. Major companies like Yahoo!, Juno and Hotmail offer free email as a way of promoting their name and business. Visit their sites for more information:



For those of you with computers that cannot afford an Internet service provider, there are free options for you. Many interned companies are offering FREE dial up Internet service as well. You can now dial a LOCAL number and access the interned for free. This will allow you to use your FREE email in the comfort of your own home. A list of these services will be available at drill. The list was too long to include. Contact 1LT Jeff Butte for more details about free service in your local calling area.

STAYING OVERNIGHT?

In an effort to maximize your time with your families, the SRP (pre mobilization) drill weekends are not overnight drills. However due to long travel distances for some soldiers, you are more than welcome to stay at the armory. Ensure you bring adequate overnight gear. Morning meals are not provided, but there are restaurants in the local area. If you wish to stay at a hotel / motel, that is OK, but it will be at no additional expense to the army.

LEGAL PAPERWORK

The 29-30 APR drill is getting here fast! If you have Will, or Power of Attorney or plan to get one through a civilian attorney please make preparations to get it complete now. The Judge Advocate General (JAG) office will be



Drill Dates

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRAINING EVENT</u>
11-12 MAR	Soldier Readiness Planning (SRP)
25-26 MAR	Soldier Readiness Planning (SRP)
8-9 ARR	Soldier Readiness Planning (SRP)
29-30 APR	Soldier Readiness Planning (SRP)
6-7 MAY	Final Preparation Before Deployment
13 MAY	Report for Deployment
10-11 JUN	RESCHEDULED DUE TO DEPLOYMENT
7 JUL	RESCHEDULED DUE TO DEPLOYMENT
8-23 JUL	RESCHEDULED DUE TO DEPLOYMENT
12-13 AUG	RESCHEDULED DUE TO DEPLOYMENT
16-17 SEP	RESCHEDULED DUE TO DEPLOYMENT

ready to prepare them for soldiers at no expense during the 29-30 APR drill. They will prepare simple Wills. If you have needs for a complex Will, Living Trust, financial planning, etc., it is recommended that you seek a civilian attorney. Due to time constraints the JAG officers will be unable to complete those for you.

MILITARY IDs FOR DEPENDENTS

The 29-30 APR drill has scheduled for military IDs for dependents. IDs will be issued to all dependents over the age of 9 1/2. Dependents must be present to receive the ID. Active Duty IDs cannot be issued more that 15 days prior to deployment so it is very important to that they attend. It will be extremely difficult to coordinate IDs on any other date prior to deployment so please make every effort to make this date available.

In order to ensure that you can attend, military transportation will be provided for family members who report to Armories outside of the 50 mile radius of Woodstock. If you wish to use the military transportation, you must be put on military orders for insurance purposes. Please contact CPT Smith at 708-824-5214 to provide him with the names and social security numbers of all family members that will be traveling.



TRICARE MILITARY HEALTH PLAN

Many questions were raised by the TriCare briefing that was held last drill. If you have any questions, please contact CPT Smith at 708-824-5214 or visit the Tricare Heartland Region 5 web site at: <http://www.anthemalliance.com/>

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