



A thinking man's game

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Telling the Fort Bragg story™

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Vines talks on corps issues

by Sgt. David Foley

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The Fort Bragg and XVIII Airborne Corps commander sat down Friday for an informal breakfast with local media to talk about the XVIII Abn. Corps' plans for the near future.

Much of the corps' near future is already mapped out by the Department of Defense, and there are many challenges ahead.

"There are three large things in play within the Army and DoD right now: the Global War on Terror, Base Closure and Realignment and the repositioning globally of our force structure and transformation," said Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, XVIII Abn. Corps and Fort Bragg commander. "Fifteen years ago any one of these would have been our main effort ... the reality is we are doing all of them simultaneously."

Vines said the corps will be transformed in a lot of ways. It will have a focus that is primarily on deploying and supporting our national security strategy abroad.

"We will have to adjust our systems to accommodate that, and we are doing that, but it is a challenge," Vines added.

With an Army-wide transformation, Fort Bragg is becoming a major player in the BRAC. The BRAC Act offers the greater Fort Bragg, Fayetteville and the Sandhills region an opportunity to grow and prosper as U.S. Forces Command moves to the region.

"There is enormous opportunity for this region, but to take advantage of this opportunity, the region has to be postured to do that," he said.

Vines used the Research Triangle Park in Raleigh and Huntsville, Ala. (Redstone Arsenal), as examples of where industry has prospered because of transformations like the one Sandhills is facing.

"I believe the same can be true for the Sandhills region," Vines said.

Fort Bragg officials have been working with the outside community to ensure the businesses associated with FORSCOM find the area to be a hospitable environment.

"To take advantage of this opportunity we need to be postured with the right infrastructure, schools and tax policy ... an integrated approach so that we make the region a place that industry wants to be close to," he said.

While Fort Bragg becomes a much larger projection

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JOINT PATROL



photos by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden/3rd BCT PAO

Spc. Dustin Hardy, left, and Staff Sgt. Jason W. Walker, right, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, search the property of an insurgent's home with Iraqi army soldiers during Operation Portland Oct. 28, in Abu Ajil, Iraq, just east of Tikrit.

Iraqi soldiers, U.S. paratroopers conduct joint operation near Tikrit

by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden
3rd BCT PAO

OPERATION PORTLAND ABU AJIL, Iraq — The Iraqi soldiers and U.S. paratroopers spent the afternoon hours before their mission double-checking radios and performing last-minute inspections of their vehicles and weapons. Despite the language barrier and cultural differences, they shared conversations accentuated with cigarette smoke and laughter.

Soon, the cheerful mood would shift to a more serious and mission-focused one. The sun would set, and the illumination of the quarter-moon would be all that was left of light in the town of Abu Ajil.

The rural farming area is about four kilometers, east of Tikrit, and was the setting for Operation Portland, a joint-cordon and search mission with Iraqi soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, and paratroopers from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Oct. 28.

The target was an insurgent cell responsible for numerous indirect fire and roadside bomb attacks

against U.S. and Iraqi forces throughout Tikrit and its surrounding villages and towns. At least six houses were suspected of harboring the insurgents.

Several times during the pressing hours until the mission, voices called out, "FRAGO!," which is a military acronym for fragmentary order, which means there is a change to the mission.

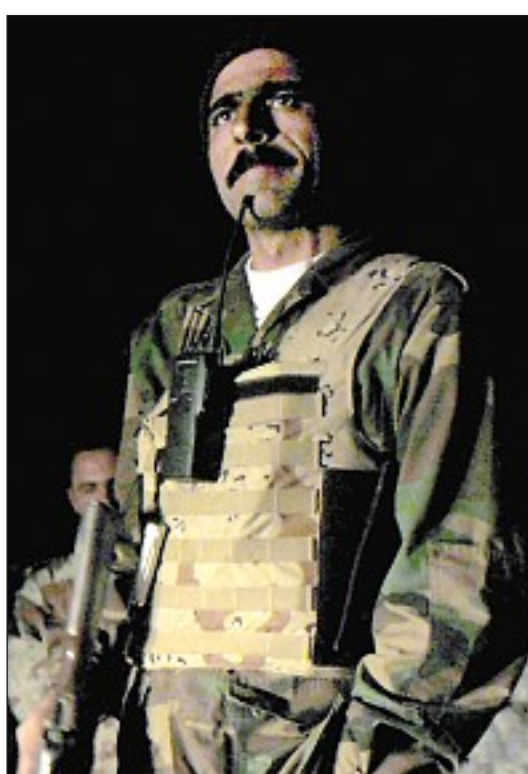
This could happen for many reasons. There could be a change in the location of the target, how many or which homes are going to be searched, the route that will be driven, or the time the mission will begin, said 1st Lt. Brett Popp, 3rd Platoon leader, Battery A.

The troops had to regroup and make sure everyone in every platoon and squad — including the Iraqi soldiers — knew what adjustments to make because additional houses were added to the search list.

"Things are never going to go as planned," Popp said. "Sometimes

we receive new intelligence on a mission up until the moment we roll out the gate, but we've done a great job making last-minute

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An Iraqi army soldier listens to a mission brief given by his coalition counterparts from the 82nd Airborne Division, just before kicking off Operation Portland near Tikrit, Iraq.

Two Bragg Soldiers killed in Iraq, Afghanistan

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An Army Special Operations Support Soldier died in the Oruzgan province in southern Afghanistan and an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper was killed during operations near Bayji, Iraq, Oct. 28.



Chay



Knier

Staff Sgt. Kyu H. Chay, 34, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee while deployed in support of combat operations. He was a cryptologic linguist assigned to the Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, where he served as a Special Operations Team-Alpha assistant team leader until his death.

A native of South Korea, Chay was a resident of New York City. He enlisted in the Army Jan. 10, 2001, as a cryptologic linguist. After completing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Advance Individual Training at the Presidio, Monterey, Calif., he was assigned to the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as a team and squad leader.

He deployed with 3rd SFG in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in August.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and Parachutist Badge.

Chay is survived by his wife Cathy, son Jason, and daughter Kelly.

Sgt. 1st Class Tony Knier, 31, a native Sabinsville, Pa., was killed during combat operations. He was a platoon sergeant with Company D, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Abn. Div. He enlisted in the Army in July 1995 and attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantryman.

"Sergeant First Class Tony Knier was an outstanding paratrooper and leader," said Lt. Col. Scott Harris, commander, 1st Battalion,

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Spooky sprint

A Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) dressed as The Fantastic Four's "The Thing" heads the Tuesday morning physical training formation with the company guidon during the unit's annual Halloween Fun Run.



photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop/1st TSC PAO