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For Immediate Release

Individual Ready Reserve Soldier is Back in the Fight

**By Capt. Charles Patterson
188th Infantry Brigade Public Affairs**

Fort Stewart, Ga. – “I’m proud to be back,” said Private First Class Perry Oxendine, under a scorching sun on Monday at the Urban Operations training lane.

As the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team makes its final runs through the training gauntlet provided by First Army and the mobilization team at Fort Stewart, Pfc. Oxendine and other Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers are stepping in to complete the mission that lies ahead.

“He’s very positive, and a great addition,” according to his company commander, Capt. Josh Rapp.

In a few weeks, Pfc. Oxendine’s unit, Company B, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, along with the rest of the 41st IBCT will be in Iraq, using skills practiced on this range.

The realism and interaction with foreign language speakers and cultural role players make this one of the best urban operations training lanes that Capt. Rapp has seen.

“It gives the Squad Leaders a real chance to evaluate the Soldiers,” Capt. Rapp said. It also helps solidify the Standard Operating Procedures that the company has been practicing for months. This, he said, is one of the reasons why it is so important that Pfc. Oxendine join their ranks now and become part of the team.

“These guys are already some of my best friends,” Pfc. Oxendine said after the lane training concluded. He is from North Carolina, and has been deployed before with First Infantry Division, but he is integrating with the Oregon National Guard Soldiers quickly.

The unit has several IRR Soldiers who have joined them recently, and according to Capt. Rapp, they are a great fit.

The urban operations lane is a great chance to enhance their skills, learn from their leaders, and better prepare every Soldier in the unit, new and old, for the mission ahead.



Photo by Capt. Charles Patterson, 188th Public Affairs, June 15, 2009
Private First Class Perry Oxendine, an Individual Ready Reserve Soldier from Pembroke, N.C., Company B, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, pulls security on the Urban Operations training lane at Fort Stewart, Ga., June 15, 2009.



Photo by Capt. Charles Patterson, 188th Public Affairs, June 15, 2009
Private First Class Perry Oxendine, an Individual Ready Reserve Soldier from Pembroke, N.C., Company B, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, exits a building after clearing it with his squad on the Urban Operations training lane at Fort Stewart, Ga., June 15, 2009.



Photo by Capt. Charles Patterson, 188th Public Affairs, June 15, 2009
Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, clear a stairwell in the heat at the Urban Operations training lane at Fort Stewart, Ga., June 15, 2009.



Photo by Capt. Charles Patterson, 188th Public Affairs, June 15, 2009
Capt. Josh Rapp from Medford, Ore., commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, takes notes and observes the training of his squads in action at the Urban Operations training lane at Fort Stewart, Ga., June 15, 2009.

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