



Release #11-04-007
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000
Phone (910) 432-0661/0662

April 7, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FURY Brigade transitions into training cycle

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — “Get After It!” The unofficial slogan of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division is heard throughout the brigade as Fury Brigade Paratroopers jump into their intensive training cycle.

Following a twelve-month deployment to Afghanistan, the 4th BCT took a well deserved break and began maintenance and reset on equipment that had been deployed or left behind. All of the battalion and brigade planners also diligently planned a comprehensive training plan that is beginning to unfold.

“We must look at both building our team of teams and ensuring comprehensive Soldier fitness,” said Col. Brian Mennes, commander of 4th BCT. “The wellness of our Paratroopers and their families is imperative to the success of the unit as a whole.”

Fury brigade is taking numerous steps to ensure that wellness including developing systems to keep Paratroopers healthy and assist those that are recuperating from injuries.

“The fury athlete warrior concept is a holistic, comprehensive approach to fitness, nutrition, reconditioning and wellness,” said Capt. Samuel C. Perlik, the brigade current operations officer.

Events for family members include Strong Bonds retreats aimed at strengthening marriages and families, Perlik added.

All the programs developed for comprehensive soldier fitness are aimed at developing individuals so that the team is as strong as possible.

Beginning Mar. 26, the brigade officially entered Intensive Training Cycle 1 that will involve a myriad of training events at all levels from squad to battalion. The training will include a Brigade Digital Exercise; Battalion Tactical Operating Center Exercises; Company and Platoon Level Squad Tactical Exercises; and numerous jumps, drops, and ranges. All of these events will help the unit get “Back to the Basics,” a primary focus of the Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Jim Huggins.

Beyond the standard training to hone in on its traditional Airborne skills, the unit will remain poised for Counterinsurgency Operations by exploring a host of innovative training opportunities. More than 62 Paratroopers are attending a 16-week course to learn Dari, one of the primary languages spoken in Afghanistan. The course also delves into cultural aspects of tribes in Afghanistan. This is the first time the course, taught by instructors from the Defense Language Institute of Monterey, Calif., is being taught at Ft. Bragg.

Another new training method is called Tactical Approach to Practical Shooting or TAPS.

“It’s outcome based training,” said Perlik. “It is more realistic and based on the attributes required in combat.”

TAPS is a train-the-trainer program taught by retired Sergeant Major Patrick McNamara. It uses marksmanship as a vehicle to teach a more realistic way of reacting in combat situations, he said.

The brigade is continuously taking its training beyond the basics by pushing for tougher standards in all areas.

For example, most Paratroopers are trained as combat lifesavers and possess basic first aid skills. In order to increase the ability to react to battlefield situations, Paratroopers are being trained as emergency medical technicians and will be fully qualified to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician Exam, said Perlik. Not only does this training add to their ability on the battlefield, but it gives Paratroopers additional skills that will last beyond their service.

Through May and June, Fury Brigade will continue to build its teams as new Paratroopers arrive. The BCT experienced a 50 % turnover as part of the deployment cycle, meaning new Paratroopers and new leaders are finding their way and integrating into the Fury brigade.

“Good teams don’t materialize from checking the block,” said Mennes. “As we move into collective skills training we must continue to emphasize the time spent with young leaders, teams and squads to demonstrate the outcome for each training task.”

A second Intensive Training Cycle will complete the quarter in June. The unit will then move into another well deserved break in July that will be followed by more training

at the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif. for Fury Brigade's mission readiness exercise.

"I am tremendously satisfied with the progress and training within our brigade," said Mennes. "Our men and women continue to amaze me in all that they do. We will continue investing in the leadership development of our young Team and Squad leaders."

Editor's Note:

1. For more information or to attend upcoming training events, contact the 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office at (910) 432-0661/0662 or (910) 813-3891.