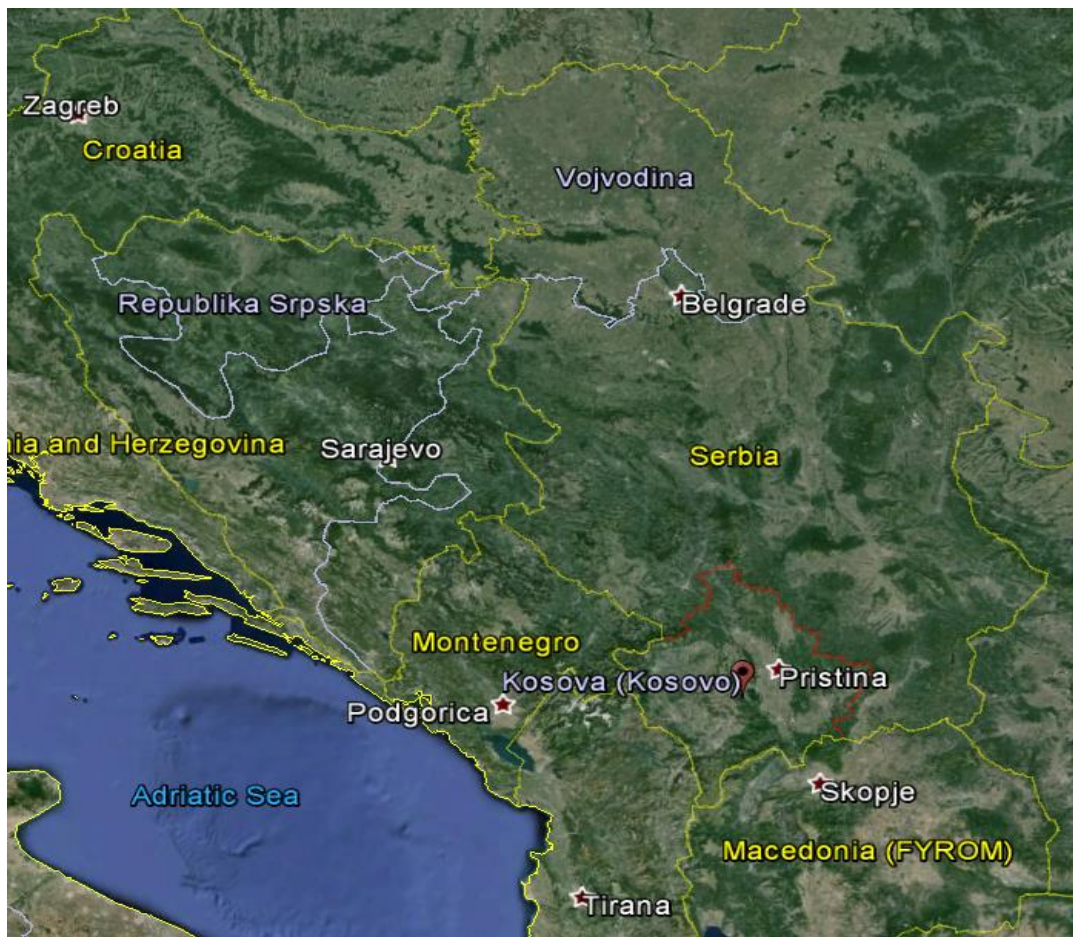


## CHAPTER 6

### Kosovo Force Deployment - Stateside Training

In the early spring of 2015 duty called once again. Major Neil E. Edgar was assigned to HQ, 30th Brigade Combat Team to serve as an intelligence planner in the S2 (intelligence section) deploying to Kosovo for 9 months as part of the ongoing United States peace-keeping mission there. Kosovo Force (KFOR) deployed into Kosovo on 12 June 1999, in the wake of a 78-day air campaign. This air campaign was launched by the Alliance in March 1999 to halt and reverse the humanitarian catastrophe that was then unfolding.



KFOR derives its mandate from United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244 of 10 June 1999 and the Military-Technical Agreement between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia. KFOR operates under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and, as such, is a peace enforcement operation. This would be the twentieth deployment – thus, the designation, KFOR 20.

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throughout Kosovo, KFOR is cooperating and coordinating with the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and other international actors to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo. In April 2013, Belgrade and Pristina reached an Agreement on Normalization, which is helping to improve relations between both parties while giving new momentum to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans. NATO and KFOR stand ready to support the implementation of this agreement within its means and capabilities.



Today, KFOR continues to help maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all people in Kosovo, according to its mandate, which is to:

- deter renewed hostility and threats against Kosovo by Yugoslav and Serb forces;
- establish a secure environment and ensure public safety and order;
- demilitarize the Kosovo Liberation Army;
- support the international humanitarian effort;
- and coordinate with, and support, the international civil presence.

In 2014 just under 5,000 troops from the NATO-led KFOR, provided by 31 countries continue to work towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all citizens and communities in Kosovo.

Over time, as the security situation has improved, NATO has been gradually adjusting KFOR's force posture towards a smaller and more flexible force with fewer static tasks. All adjustments to force posture are decided by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) as the security situation on the ground evolves.

	Albania	14		Lithuania	1
	Armenia	35		Luxembourg	23
	Austria	540		Moldova	42
	Bulgaria	10		Netherlands	5
	Canada	5		Norway	2
	Croatia	22		Poland	246
	Czech Republic	16		Portugal	191
	Denmark	35		Romania	69
	Estonia	2		Slovenia	309
	Finland	21		Sweden	6
	France	2		Switzerland	222
	Germany	787		Turkey	379
	Greece	111		United Kingdom	1
	Hungary	348		United States	674
	Ireland	12		Ukraine	40
	Italy	553		Total	4,723

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
4105 REEDY CREEK ROAD  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27607-6410

ORDERS: 29-086-0019

27 March 2015

EDGAR, NEIL ERIC  
303 KIRKEENAN CIRCLE  
MORRISVILLE, NC 27560

██████████-9012 CPT  
0030 AR HHC HQS HEAVY BRIGA (WVA5AA)  
CLINTON, NC 28328

You are ordered to active duty as a member of your Reserve Component Unit for the period indicated unless sooner released or unless extended. Proceed from your current location in sufficient time to report by the date specified. You enter active duty upon reporting to unit home station.

Report To Home Station: 0030 AR HHC HQS HEAVY BRIGA (WVA5AA), 101 ARMORY RD CLINTON, NC 28328

Report on: 28 April 2015

Report To Mobilization Station: 1733 PLEASANTON ROAD, B1002 FORT BLISS, TX 79916

Report on: 01 May 2015

Period of active duty: 365 days

Purpose: Activation in support of OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN(KFOR)

Mobilization category code: G

Additional instructions:

- (a) Sure pay is mandatory. Soldier must bring the appropriate documentation to support the requirement to authorize sure pay to the bank.
- (b) Early reporting is not authorized.
- (c) Unaccompanied baggage shipment is not authorized.
- (d) Movement of household goods and dependents is not authorized.
- (e) Travel will be paid for one time travel from home duty station to mob station and back and includes travel and per diem from home station/mobilization station or duty location and return to home station as well as non-temporary storage. Individual Soldiers whose duty station is different from the mob station will receive funding for one time travel and return from mob station to the duty station. Govt. transportation will be provided from home of record to assigned MOB station and/or duty location. POV as transportation under JFTR, Para U3310 as not being more advantageous to the Govt. This means total payment of travel will not exceed the Govt cost had the Govt procured transportation been used between the ordered points. In and around mileage is not authorized.
- (f) Rental car is not authorized.
- (g) Special Storage of HHG/POV may be authorized IAW Para U4770
- (h) Excess accompanied baggage is not to exceed 120 pounds.
- (i) Bring with you complete military clothing bag and appropriate personal items.
- (j) Soldier will handcarry (if available) complete MPRJ, health and dental, training, and clothing records.
- (k) Dependents (Family Members) of Reserve Component (Army Reserve and National Guard) Soldiers ordered to active duty for more than 30-days are eligible for the same benefits (e.g., medical care, TRICARE, commissary/exchange benefits, legal assistance, use of morale, welfare and recreation facilities, etc;) as dependents of regular Army Soldiers (but excluding dental, which requires orders to active duty for over 180-days). It is a Soldier responsibility to ensure dependents are issued DD Form 1172, Active Duty dependent ID cards. To locate the nearest ID card facility near your home visit web site [www.dmdc.osd/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd/rsl) (Rapids site locator by state, city, zip code). Dependents are also eligible to use Army One Source, which is a 24-hour resource service (from the US: 1-800-464-8107; En Espanola, llama al 1-888-375-5971 and collect calls (1-484-530-5889) available at no cost.
- (l) Bring copies of family care plan, wills, powers of attorney, and any other documentation affecting the soldiers pay or status.
- (m) Personnel requiring eye correction will bring two pairs of eyeglasses and eye inserts for a protective mask.
- (n) Government quarters and mess will be used if available.
- (o) Call 1-800-336-4590 (National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) or check online at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) if you have questions regarding your employment/reemployment rights.
- (p) National Guard and Army Reserve (RC) Soldiers on Title 10 12304b orders are not authorized use of Tricare Early Eligibility Benefit per 10 USC 1074(d)(2) and 10 USC(a)(13)(B).
- (q) In an effort to share information between soldiers, employers and the Department of

Page 1

• This is an official order generated in DAMPS-OCOTCS •

CHAPTER 6

ORDERS: 29-086-0019

NC ARNG, Raleigh NC 27607-6410

27 March 2015

Defense on their rights, benefits and obligations, mobilized USAR soldiers are strongly encouraged to provide employer information at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/udpdr1/owa/rc.home>.

- (r) If upon reporting for active duty you fail to meet deployment medical standards (whether because of a temporary or permanent medical condition), then you may be released from active duty, returned to your prior reserve status, and returned to your home address, subject to a subsequent order to active duty upon resolution of the disqualifying medical condition. If, upon reporting for active duty, you are found to satisfy medical deployment standards, then you will continue on active duty for a period not to exceed the period specified in this order, such period to include the period (not to exceed 25 days) required for mobilization processing.
- (s) You have been ordered to active duty in a TCS status. (subsequent orders, amendments and revocations may be downloaded from <https://mobcop.army.mil/ORDERS/UI/Security/Login.aspx>).
- (t) Soldier must check with the supporting installation housing office before securing temporary lodging at the duty location and obtain a 1351-5 authorizing the appropriate entitlements for lodging and M&IE. With a SNA, the Soldier is authorized per diem IAW the JTR.
- (u) Demobilization of unit(s) is/are prohibited without approval of HQDA. Individual members of the unit will demobilize with the unit unless provisions of AR 600-8-24 or AR 635-200 apply. UICs will demobilize where it mobilizes, unless diverted per First Army.

FOR ARMY USE

AUTHORITY: Title 10 USC, Section 12304b dated 18 May 2012, DA Order 04514 dated 111645ZSep14/DA Order Amendment 218715 dated 231334ZJan15/1A-15-023-031 (A1) date 28 January 2015

Accounting classification:

OFF PAY/ALW: 215/6 2010.0000 01-1100 P1A100 11\*\*/12\*\* PAMP 5570 01FFKF S12120  
 TVL/PD: 021 202010D15 A2AAB 131034QMIS 21T0 5036463982 10024540 021001  
 Funds are available upon the U.S. Congress Enacting FY15 Defense Appropriation. Funding is authorized only for the fiscal year indicated on this order. Amendments will be required for subsequent fiscal years. Soldiers and authorized Army officials must sign into <https://mobcop.army.mil/ORDERS> to retrieve copies of orders/amendments.  
 SDN: EDG9012T086019

Sex: M  
 MDC: PMOS  
 PMOS/AOC/ASI/LIC: 35D///  
 HOR: MORRISVILLE, NC 27560  
 DOR: 04 June 2010  
 PEBD: 11 March 1997  
 Security Clearance: TOP SECRET WITH SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION, LOCAL FILES  
 CHECK 27 September 2012  
 Comp: ARNG  
 Format: 165

FOR THE COMMANDER:

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* OFFICIAL \*  
 \* \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 BERNARD E. WILLIFORD, JR.  
 COL, GS, NCARNG  
 G3

DISTRIBUTION: 1- Cdr, Ft Bliss  
 1- Cdr, WVA5AA, 0030 AR HHC HQS HEAVY BRIGA, CLINTON

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For Neil, it has been 14 years of service so far and his only regret is that he didn't do it sooner! He believes there is no feeling quite like serving our great country and continuing to carry his family legacy with him, every step of the way.



4 April 2015



It was time for another goodbye as this was Neil's second overseas deployment. The advice his father gave him for his first deployment now graced a cake as a wish of good luck and God speed. Once again his father, now 88 year old Seaman Second Class Howard Donald Edgar, Jr., WWII US Navy Gunboat Veteran (at the upper left in the photo above), hugged him goodbye.



There was time for one last cookie from Dad's cookie jar – and he was gone.

## ON TO KOSOVO

The plan was to ship out on 06 April 2015. The KFOR 20 team would spend three weeks at Ft. Pickett, VA to conduct annual training; then move to Ft Bliss, TX for mobilization training for about a month; then to Hohenfels, Germany for a month to conduct a mobilization readiness exercise; then finally to Kosovo for 9 months starting in mid-summer. At the end of their KFOR rotation they would demobilize through Ft Bliss for a couple of weeks before returning home in April of 2016.

### RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – 9 April 2015

The service men and women's commitment to the task at hand was evident everywhere. More than 1,000 family members, friends and military vets attended the sendoff ceremony at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh for about 320 soldiers of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 252nd Armored Regiment and Alpha Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 252nd Armored Regiment. Major Neil E. Edgar was a part of that group.

Their stories were all different but their purpose and commitment were the same. One of the parents held his 3-year-old grandson in check Thursday as they watched the boy's dad march with the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, readying to deploy to Kosovo.



Family, friends and loved ones wait to bid their goodbyes to departing troops as they listen during a mobilization ceremony that was held for over 300 North Carolina Army National Guard service members at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh on Thursday

This will be his son's fourth deployment overseas. His proud father said his son loves it and probably will not retire until he is forced. The deploying soldier said he's equally proud of his parents who help watch his three children while he's away, the second of which was born during his deployment to Iraq.



CHAPTER 6



The 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team is comprised of units from North Carolina and West Virginia and nicknamed the “Old Hickory,” in honor of President Andrew Jackson.



Left: Soldiers listen to speakers at the Raleigh mobilization ceremony.

Below: Soldiers march out to rousing applause at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Left: Colonel Vernon Simpson, Commander of the 30<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team.

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The unit's commander, Col. Vernon Simpson Jr., told the audience about the importance of the mission in Kosovo and the unique nature of the team assembled for the task.

"Our mission is to provide a safe and secure environment to protect the United States' vital interests in the Balkans," Simpson said. "That's primarily the prevention of foreign influence and violent extremism in a somewhat lawless region, which in turn will push public sentiment toward things that threaten our security and stability in the Balkans and can quickly spill over into other areas."

Another element of the mission is to prevent more human suffering caused by years of genocide. The unit is deploying as part of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led mission of international peacekeepers that have been in the Balkans since Serbia's campaign of ethnic cleansing in the late 1990s.

"The security environment in Kosovo is complex, with numerous actors all with competing interests on the future of an independent Kosovo," Simpson said.

The colonel noted that the unit's members have special skills from their civilian lives as engineers, lawyers, police officers and other professions to work with various levels of local government in Kosovo.

Army Brigadier General James Ernst, N.C. National Guard assistant adjutant general-maneuver, offered words of encouragement to the soldiers and their families.

"The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our soldier. The strength of the soldier is the family," Ernst said. "We are one team and interdependent."

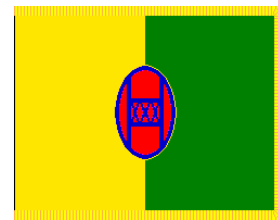
Often, families left at home have a more difficult time than the soldiers deployed, Ernst said. He urged them to seek any form of help from North Carolina's National Guard State Family Programs.

N.C. Secretary of Public Safety Frank Perry told the soldiers they have answered a higher calling to protect the human rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"The pursuit of happiness is not the pursuit of pleasure, but it's the pursuit of moral excellence," Perry said. "That is your calling, and that is why we honor you."

### **30th ARMORED (HEAVY) BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, NORTH CAROLINA ARNG**

The 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team ("Old Hickory") has an organizational flag and guidon of the standard pattern for separate armored brigades: vertical stripes of yellow and green, the Armor branch colors, with the brigade shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI) centered.



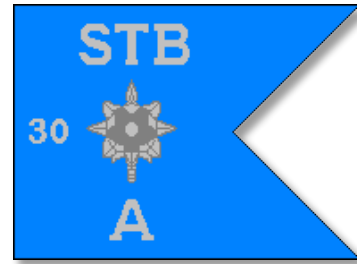
*The insignia contains the letters "O" and "H" for Old Hickory and the Roman Numeral 30 on a field of red.*

Heavy brigade combat teams (HBCTs) of the Army National Guard were organizationally identical to their Regular Army counterparts and were subordinate to division headquarters, but many of them retained their identity as separate brigades so as to preserve the lineage and honors of previous organizations.

The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, for example, descended from the former 30th Infantry Division and used the old divisional shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI). The brigade's peacetime higher headquarters was the 29th Infantry Division (Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Florida).



As originally conceived, the US Army's heavy brigade combat team (HBCT) was built around two combined arms battalions, each with a headquarters company, two mechanized infantry companies (A and B) and two armor companies (C and D). Guidons for these companies were of the standard, traditional pattern for the Infantry, Cavalry and Armor branches. HQ companies of combined arms battalions belonging to infantry or armor regiments had either an Infantry or Armor guidon. The mechanized infantry companies had Infantry guidons and the armor companies had Armor guidons. For combined arms battalions belonging to cavalry regiments, all companies had Cavalry guidons. Military intelligence, signal and combat engineer companies were grouped under a brigade special troops battalion (BSTB).



**FORT PICKETT, VIRGINIA**



Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team completed three weeks of pre-deployment training at Fort Pickett<sup>1</sup>, Virginia, on 23 April 2015, where they completed a variety of physical and mental training requirements in preparation for their mobilization later this month.



After working long hours on Army training milestones including tactical patrol scenarios, land navigation, combatives and a staff planning exercises, the 30th ABCT Soldiers would be one step closer to their mid-summer deployment to Kosovo in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission in the region, known as Kosovo Force or KFOR.

"The goal for this Annual Training was to complete all the pre-deployment tasks, both Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills and theater-specific training tasks, required to validate to go into the area of operations," said Col. Vernon Simpson, the 30th ABCT commander.



Simpson, a 27-year U.S. Army veteran, has spent his military career as an Army National Guard Soldier assigned to the 30th ABCT, to include nine years as an enlisted cannon crew member and forward

observer. After joining the officer ranks, he completed a combat deployment to Iraq in 2004, and later spent time as a battalion commander and brigade deputy commander before assuming command of the 30th in 2013.

<sup>1</sup> Fort Pickett, is a Virginia Army National Guard installation, located near the town of Blackstone, Virginia. Home of the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center, Fort Pickett is named for the United States Army officer and Confederate General George Pickett.

"Everything about this training exceeded my expectations. This team was brought together late in the game as we formed the staff from across the North Carolina National Guard, and then conducted a Command Post Exercise (CPX) based on the mission in Kosovo," Simpson said. "None of us really knew what to expect, and the staff performed just especially well. ... I think we're ready for the mission."



Operations, intelligence, sustainment and other special staff leaders showed their mental agility during the four-day Command Post Exercise, or CPX, which replicated scenarios based on the operating environment in Kosovo. Using the 30th ABCT's tactical field tents as a command center, staff officers and NCOs combined their subject-matter expertise to react to crisis scenarios and recommend courses of action to the commander.

Major Neil E. Edgar



*Col. Vernon Simpson (right), the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team commander, addresses his staff and subordinate unit leaders during a Command Post Exercise rehearsal April 14, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. The 30th ABCT, part of the North Carolina National Guard, is preparing to deploy to Kosovo in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission in the region. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. David McLean, 30th ABCT)*

While Simpson's goal for the CPX was to familiarize the staff with KFOR terminology, task organization and reporting chains, he said the staff quickly caught on to the structure, which allowed them to hone in on the exercise's scenarios.

"I didn't intend to get into more complex issues like the Administrative Boundary Line, or complex riot control situations, but we were able to get through the basics so quickly that we were able to take it to the next level, and really understand our role in the environment," Simpson said. "The CPX exceeded my expectations."

While the CPX kept most headquarters staff members surrounded by the command post's lights, generators and radios, the event was followed by a week of sun, mud and pollen on Fort Pickett's training ranges. There, each Soldier regardless of rank or specialty revisited the basic warrior skills necessary to anyone wearing a U.S. Army uniform. These lessons included rendering combat medical aid, assaulting as a unit through an objective, planning and executing convoy operations, and identifying and marking dangerous ordnance.

On the final day of training, the brigade's NCOs and junior officers led their teams through a tactical culmination exercise, where the Soldiers were collectively tested in shooting, moving and communicating as a team under pressure. On foot and as a vehicle convoy, the groups were required to identify unexploded ordnance, establish traffic control points and interact with role-players.

Lane training is a systematic, battle-focused, performance-oriented training process used to plan, execute, and assess unit training to achieve maximum training results with limited time and resources. The rigor of the



**Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. David McLean**  
 First Lt. Casey McKinley (right) and Capt. Neil Edgar (left), both members of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team headquarters, address staff and subordinate unit leaders during a Command Post Exercise rehearsal April 14, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. The 30th ABCT, part of the North Carolina National Guard, is preparing to deploy to Kosovo in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission in the region. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. David McLean, 30th ABCT)



**Photo Credit: Capt. David Chace**  
 North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team Headquarters pull security outside their vehicle during a tactical training exercise April 21, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. Leaders and staff from the 30th ABCT headquarters are preparing to deploy to Kosovo this summer, where they'll work with multinational allies to support the NATO peacekeeping mission in the region. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 2nd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment)



**Photo Credit: Capt. David Chace**  
 North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team Headquarters drive a convoy into a Fort Pickett, Va., training area during an April 21, 2015, tactical training exercise. The 30th ABCT headquarters leaders and staff conducted the exercise to validate their ability to move and communicate in a tactical environment, in preparation for the unit's upcoming deployment in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 2nd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment)

lane training process enables units to quickly and efficiently attain proficiency in tactical and technical tasks while training in a simulated military operation's environment (e.g., war, peace operations, humanitarian assistance, and operations in aid of civil authorities). It enables training to be effectively structured, administered, supported, and assessed by limiting the number of tasks, time, terrain, facilities, or other resources involved. Lane training provides a path to mission proficiency.

"The thing that got us through the collective training lanes was really the overall cooperation and motivation from our junior enlisted leaders and noncommissioned officers," Simpson said. "Through more than 10 years of war, these Soldiers really understand what it means to take charge of a combat patrol and move a force onto an objective." "We've proven ourselves in two combat deployments [in 2004 and 2009], and right now we're globally engaged," he said.



Photo Credit: Capt. David Chace  
 Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment and 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, relax in "Beasley Village," a training village at Fort Pickett, Va., where they served as role-players for a 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team training event April 21, 2015. Together, the units will deploy to Kosovo this summer, where they'll work with multinational allies to support the NATO peacekeeping mission in the region. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 2nd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment)



Photo Credit: Capt. David Chace  
 North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team Headquarters, based out of Clinton, N.C., speak with role players while participating in a tactical training exercise April 21, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. Leaders and staff from the 30th ABCT headquarters are preparing to deploy to Kosovo this summer, where they'll work with multinational allies to support the NATO peacekeeping mission in the region. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 2nd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment)

Following its mobilization ceremony on April 30 at Fort Pickett, the NCSG Soldiers deploying with the 30th ABCT headquarters and 1-252 Armor Regiment traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, to continue their mobilization training.

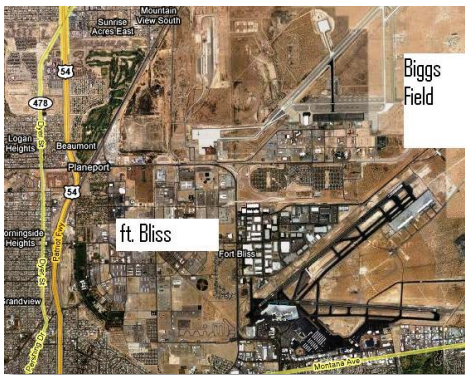
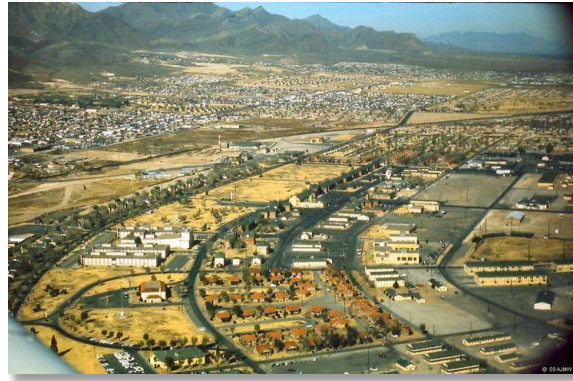
### FORT BLISS, TEXAS

After the first three weeks of activities in spring weather in the foothills of Virginia, Major Neil Edgar moved to the desert of Ft. Bliss, TX and continued mobilization training. They spent approximately five weeks in Texas and their focus was to complete warrior task validation, achieve administrative readiness, and medical/dental readiness. The climate was distinctly different and they also needed to adjust to the altitude at Ft. Bliss. The Staff also conducted another Mission Analysis exercise and again reacted to simulated events that may occur during the upcoming peace-keeping mission in Kosovo.



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Fort Bliss is a United States Army post in the U.S. states of New Mexico and Texas, with its headquarters located in El Paso, Texas. With an area of about 1,700 square miles, it is the Army's second-largest installation, behind the adjacent White Sands Missile Range. It is FORSCOM's (United States Army Forces Command) largest installation, and has the Army's largest Maneuver Area (992,000 acres) ahead of the National Training Center, (642,000 acres). Fort Bliss provides the largest contiguous tract (1,500 sq mi) of restricted airspace in the Continental United States. The airspace is used for missile and artillery training and testing.



The fort is named for Mexican-American War soldier William Wallace Smith Bliss.

Training missions are supported by the McGregor Range Complex, located some 25 miles (40 km) to the northeast of the main post, in New Mexico. Most of Fort Bliss lies in the state of New Mexico, stretching northeastward along U.S. Route 54 from El Paso County, Texas to the southern boundary of the Lincoln National Forest in Otero County, New Mexico; in addition, much of the northwestward side of Highway 54 is part of the Fort Bliss Military Reservation, ranging from the northern side of Chaparral, New Mexico to the southern boundary of White Sands Missile Range.

### CAMP MCGREGOR RANGE TRAINING COMPLEX, NEW MEXICO





McGregor Range, New Mexico, is an integral part of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss (USAADACENFB).



McGregor Ranges include McGregor Range, Meyer Small Arms Range, SHORAD Range, and Orogrande Range. Each of the ranges has an appropriate complement of range support facilities. McGregor Range Base Camp is the home of the USA CAS Battalion. In addition to housing the battalion, organizational support facilities, and all range control functions, McGregor Range Base Camp can billet and mess over 700 personnel. Orogrande Base Camp has 2 dining facilities, a single maintenance facility, and the ability to billet 800 personnel.

McGregor Range Complex contains 26 air defense missile firing sites (both static and field) which support training, annual service practice (ASP) and tactical missile firings for U.S. and allied units. Within the McGregor Range complex, there is the capability to support the extended range firings of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). In the northern area of McGregor Range is Wilde Benton air strip. Wilde Benton is a 7,800 foot hard-packed surfaced airstrip capable of handling aircraft up to and including C-130 and C-17. There are six Nap-Of-the-Earth (NOE) helicopter training courses that are used to train pilots on low-level tactical flying under varying tactical conditions. The Cane Cholla helicopter gunnery range provides helicopter pilots the capability to conduct realistic tactical gunnery and flight training.

Meyer Range Complex consists of 18 firing ranges for small arms familiarization and qualification. Two of the ranges are equipped with the Remote Electronic Target System (RETS). Meyer Range Complex also contains grenade ranges, an NBC chamber, a light anti-tank range, an individual tactical training (ITT) range, and a pistol qualification range. SHORAD Range has 16 firing points for forward area air defense and laser weapons systems. This range also supports combined arms operational testing.



The area encompassed by the current boundary of McGregor Range includes approximately 608,385 acres of withdrawn public lands and 71,083 acres of Army fee-owned lands within Otero County, New Mexico . McGregor Range also includes 18,004 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands, which are used by the Army in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USFS and the Department of the Army (DA) Fort Bliss. There are also Army fee-owned in-holdings within the Lincoln National Forest. The USFS lands are not part of the withdrawal application. The range is surrounded by lands administered

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primarily by the BLM and USFS to the north and west, with pockets of privately owned lands to the east which are used for ranching. To the south and west, are withdrawn and Army fee-owned lands in El Paso County, Texas, and Otero and Doña Ana counties in New Mexico.

McGregor Range is located in Otero County, New Mexico. The exterior boundaries of the McGregor Range land withdrawal encompass 678,108.15 acres. On October 4, 1999, President Clinton signed the Defense Authorization Bill, which included the renewal of the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal from public use. This encompassed 608,384.87 net acres of public lands. The withdrawal of McGregor Range was deemed necessary for national security purposes. U.S. military strategy requires armed forces that are trained, equipped, and ready. The McGregor Range, an integral part of the Fort Bliss Range Complex, supports the training of Fort Bliss units. The withdrawn lands of McGregor Range are needed to provide sufficient space to conduct realistic and challenging military training for our nation's military forces; develop and test future concepts for fighting wars; and support allied military education and training programs.

Mission activities conducted on McGregor Range include training to maintain the operational readiness of active duty, reserve, and National Guard units through various training, operations and field exercises, and testing.



While some training land is located within the Main Cantonment Area to support unit and classroom training near the administrative and maintenance facilities, the majority of the FTXs associated with readiness training is conducted on the Fort Bliss Training Complex. Field exercises include various combinations of training, field operations, communications, command and control, simulated enemy

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contact, camouflage, smoke generation, and weapons firings. With five air defense brigades assigned to Fort Bliss, use of McGregor Range training areas is paramount to maintaining combat readiness. This includes use for tactical deployment, air defense operations, and air defense firing sites for missile firings. Other typical use of the Fort Bliss Training Complex includes the Mobilization Army Training Center (MATC) for 5 to 10 weeks per year to support training of reserve and National Guard units. U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Hawk training also is conducted on the range complex. Throughout the year, FTXs installations.





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4 Jun 2015 – El Paso, Texas

With embarkation a few days away there was time for a little last stateside R&R. The only game in town, in fact the only town around was El Paso – so El Paso it was.



## CHAPTER 6



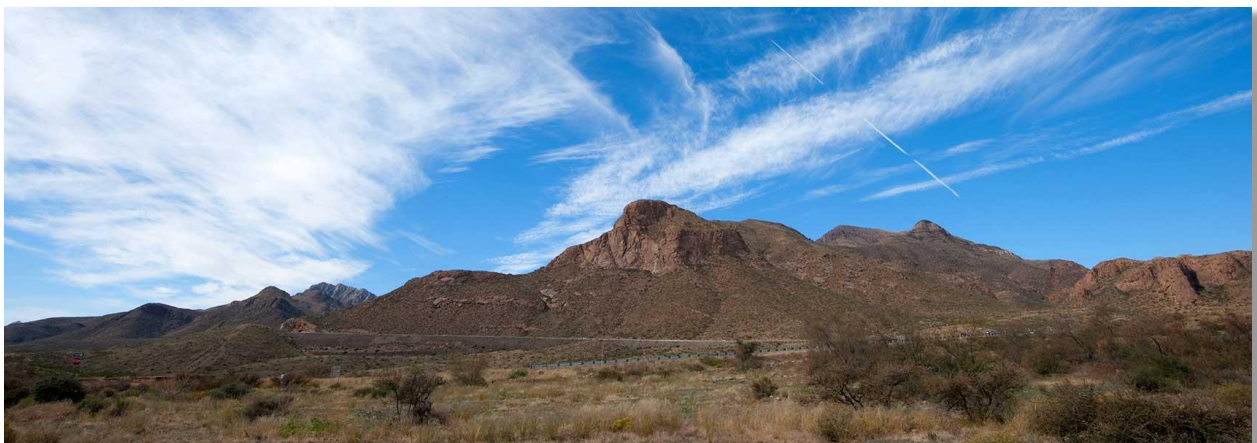
**WWII P-47D Fighter**

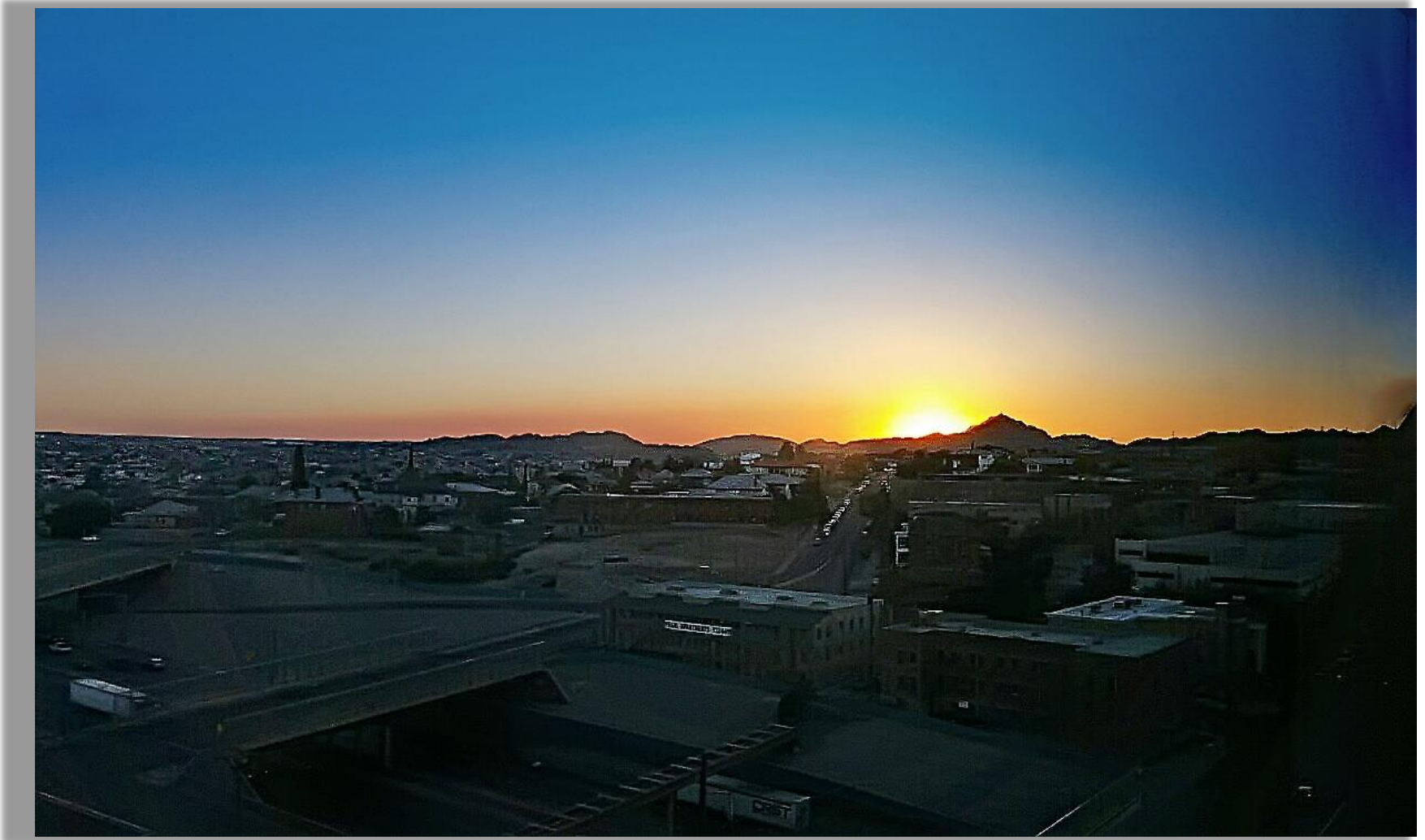


The Stearman (Boeing) Model 75 is a biplane used as a military trainer aircraft, of which at least 10,626 were built in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s. It was a popular trainer used by WWII fighter pilots.



The Piper J-3 Cub was originally intended as a trainer. Due to its performance, it was well suited a variety of military uses such as reconnaissance, liaison and ground control, and was produced in large numbers during the WWII as the L-4 Grasshopper.





Last sunset in America....

## CHAPTER 6



Stateside training and validation completed, the 30th Armor Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Kosovo by way of Hohenfels, Germany, 9 June 2015, and a series of more intense readiness exercises. In Germany, they got their first glimpse of the Multi-National training environment, training side-by-side for their NATO peacekeeping mission with Albanian, Croatian, and Romanian Soldiers.

