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8th TSC Soldiers to deploy to the Middle East

By Les Ozawa, U.S. Army Pacific, Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER--A deployment ceremony at Schofield Barracks Aug. 3 marked the beginning of deployment to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan for a human resources command, two MP units, an engineering company of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command. The units will be deploying for Southwest Asia through the rest of this year.

The brief morning ceremony was hosted by Col. Mark MacCarley, Deputy Commanding General, 8th Theater Sustainment Command. He began his remarks by saying, "I believe the only appropriate words that you, in front of me, want to hear this morning are these,

1. Thank you for doing your duty
2. God bless.
2. Take care.
3. Get the job done the best you can.
4. Come home."

MacCarley noted the historic significance of the deploying units, as one of the first units to be organized and trained for deployment under the Army-wide transformation program to enable the Army to quickly mobilize and respond to armed conflict anywhere in the post-Cold War world.

MacCarley explained that when the 8th Human Resources Sustainment Center was formed last September, its leaders began receiving its 83 Soldiers from other Army units around the world. "Within the course of one incredible year," they trained them to work with modern Army communications, command and control systems, "capable of rapid deployment anywhere in the world to provide administrative and personnel assistance to Soldiers and Joint Service members through our [Pacific] Area of Operations and now in Southwest Asia."

While many of the MP Soldiers have already deployed at least once to Iraq and Afghanistan, this will be the first time that they will deploy under the colors of the 728th MP Battalion and its 552nd MP Company, which was restationed from Korea to Schofield Barracks last fall. While in Iraq, the MP battalion will oversee 12 MP companies, including the 552nd, as they provide training and support to local Iraqi police in communities in northern Iraq.

The 82nd Engineer Support Company, which was restationed in Hawaii from Korea in October, 2005, recently returned from four weeks of training at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, where they participated in convoy live fire exercises, route clearance actions, and constructing combat outposts. The engineer company will serve with a Naval Construction Regiment to support U.S. Marine units in Southwest Asia.

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CAPTIONS FOR PHOTOS



Capt. Justin R. Pabis, 82nd Engineer Company Commander (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Howard T. Graham, his First Sergeant, cases the company colors during the deployment ceremony. Photo by Les Ozawa



Guidon bearer's name is SPC Dustin Blain.
1LT Merrill, 1SG Cowart,