

REDCATCHER!

Training Brigades Reflag across TRADOC

BASIC COMBAT TRAINING BRIGADE *Col. Chuck Durr*

As the Infantry School at Fort Benning begins its centennial celebration in 2007, four training brigades will redesignate and reflag. The four brigades to reflag at Fort Benning are:

- The Basic Combat Training Brigade to the 192nd Infantry Brigade;
- The Infantry Training Brigade to the 198th Infantry Brigade.
- The 11th Infantry Regiment to the 199th Infantry Brigade.
- The 29th Infantry Regiment to the 197th Infantry Brigade.
- The 11th and 29th Infantry Regiments will “dual flag” and retain their regimental colors and honors.

In all four units, the assigned battalions will retain their current names and heritage.

The units are historic, inactive, separate brigades with honors and lineages reaching back to World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm.

The redesignation of these brigades is part of a TRADOC-wide reflagging of all training brigades linking initial military training to the Army’s transformation and generation of modular brigade combat teams. In TRADOC, the brigade reflag enhances the training and retention of junior leaders and Soldiers by providing bona fi de histories, traditions and veteran alumni as tools to help foster unit cohesion and esprit de corps.

The Army’s new modular basic combat training restructure and renaming initiative affected all active and reserve modular units realigning and reflagging with new brigade, division and corps designations. In that process, the Army deliberately chose to limit regiment and separate brigade designations in the active force, with only a few exceptions, including the 75th Ranger Regiment and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

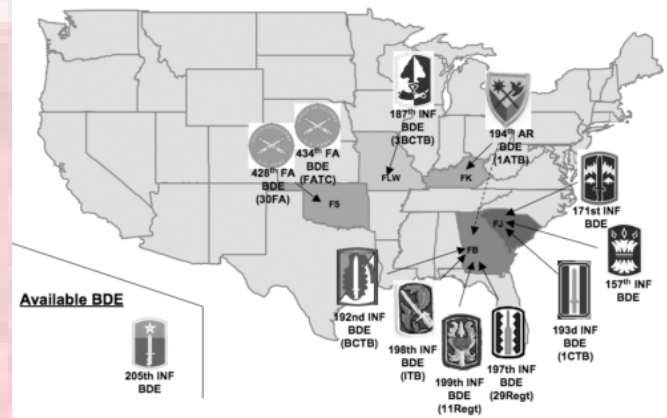


The restructure effort left most of the Infantry brigades available to TRADOC to reflag its training brigades and to retain regimental titles at the battalion level. BCTB will be the first to reflag Thursday, becoming the 192nd Infantry Brigade. The ceremony will be held with basic combat training company graduations. Other brigade reflags are expected during the summer. Some of the reflags are scheduled to correspond with the brigade commander changes of command.

The 192nd Infantry Brigade’s lineage dates to before World War II. Elements of the brigade fought in the Pacific Theater as an armored cavalry squadron as part of the 96th Infantry Division, making amphibious assaults in the Philippines and Okinawa. After the war, the brigade was inactivated and has since remained in a reserve status.

Elements of the “Follow Me” or “Sledgehammer” Brigade, the 197th Infantry Brigade, fought in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II and the entire unit reactivated as a training support unit at Fort Benning in 1962. Later transferred to FORSCOM, the 197th Infantry Brigade deployed to serve in combat as part of the 24th Infantry Division for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Subsequently reflagged as the 3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division and the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, the “Sledgehammer” Brigade is preparing for its third tour in Iraq.

Proposed Separate Brigade Designations TRADOC Training Brigades



The 198th Infantry Brigade traces its lineage to before World War II and elements fought in the Battle of the Bulge as part of the 99th Infantry Division. Deploying to Vietnam, the “Brave and Bold” Brigade earned twelve campaign streamers for service there.

After service in Europe in World War, the 199th Infantry Brigade was recreated at Fort Benning for service as a separate light Infantry brigade in Vietnam. After eleven campaigns, the “Light, Swift, and Accurate” Redcatchers of the 199th returned to Fort Benning to furl their colors in 1970.

Although the brigades will reflag, there is no anticipated impact on regimental affiliation. Fort Benning units will continue to wear the “Follow Me” patch. After the reflag, units will draw their respective heraldry items, colors and memorabilia archived in Anniston, Ala.

This is an historic year as Fort Benning celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Infantry School. It is also an exciting time as we see the reflag of the four training brigades, giving all assigned Soldiers and unit veterans a unique opportunity to relive the rich history and heritage of four of the Army’s most honored combat units!