

Second Security Force Assistance Brigade Stands Up

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec 8, 2017)- The Department of the Army announced today the activation of the second Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in Jan. 2018. SFABs are specialized units whose core mission is to conduct advise-and-assist operations with allied and partner nations.

This is the second of six planned units. SFAB Soldiers are highly trained and are among the top tactical leaders in the Army. Their work will strengthen our allies and partners while supporting this nation's security objectives and the combatant commanders' warfighting needs.

"It is my assessment, and the assessment of the secretary and the assessment of the Army staff, that we are likely to be involved in train, advise, and assist operations for many years to come," said Gen. Mark A. Milley, chief of staff of the Army.

The decision to station the second SFAB at Fort Bragg was based on strategic considerations including projected time to activate and train an SFAB, presence of senior grade personnel to man the unit, and required facility costs.

SFABs are designed on the brigade combat team

(BCT) model and consist of approximately 800 senior officers and noncommissioned officers who have proven expertise in training and advising foreign security forces.

Soldiers in the SFAB are screened based on qualifications and experience. The unit will receive the best, most advanced military equipment available. SFAB soldiers receive special training through the Military Advisor Training Academy to include language, foreign weapons and the Joint Fires Observer course.

Commanders and leaders in the SFAB will have previously commanded and led similar BCT units at the same echelon. Enlisted advisors will hold the rank of sergeant and above. The Army is starting to formalize policies and regulations that will help SFAB soldiers with promotion rates and boards, selection boards, and special pay.

Editor's Note: For more information, please contact MAJ Christopher Ophardt at: 703-693-6356 or christopher.d.ophardt.mil@mail.mil.

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What skills can Field Artillerymen bring to the new SFAB?

Maneuver commanders have relied on and will continue to rely upon the presence and knowledge of the Field Artillery to provide "firepower insurance." However, the Field Artillery has proven over the years it can provide more than just "firepower." The Field Artillery can bring so much more to the SFAB. FA NCOs, warrant officers and commissioned officers are highly-trained and analytical-minded people who can think in the abstract, and are able to deliver concrete results. They are experts in coordination, synchronization and integration. They are imaginative, agile, and adaptive leaders and motivators who understand how to build teams and collaborate with others. They are –

multi-functional.

FA NCOs, warrant officers and commissioned officers can synchronize the Maneuver commander's objective and intent to achieve the end state. Through the careful integration of multiple stakeholders and team members, they are able to guide the employment of resources and assets in a way that delivers results at the right time and right place.

Editor's Note: To read more go to the Nov-Dec 2017 Redleg Update @ <http://sill-www.army.mil/USAFAS/redleg/page.html> The complete article starts on Page 8.

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