

## ~ ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL ~



Recently DPW's Real Property Planning Division (RPPD) was tasked to provide support to the III Corps Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) conducted for the upcoming 1st Cavalry Division deployment to Iraq. III Corps G-3 exercise planners took the lead for the event which included sections from HQ III Corps, the 25th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, Special Forces Command, and other elements of Forces Command (FORSCOM).

Early estimates indicated that 1200 bed spaces would be required to support MRX guests with major roles in the exercise. Initially the plan was to house the guest at North Fort Hood and bus them daily from the exercise site to their billets. This plan lost its flavor as planners considered the loss of exercise time and cost of transporting the vast numbers of guest to and from the areas, twice a day!

Just days before the start of the MRX, the 1 CAV Division Engineers and elements of the STB Rear Command Group relinquished the ownership of buildings 31007 and 31009, an A framed barracks complex slated for demolition. Elements within the Real Property Branch and the Furniture Management Office quickly devised a plan to PLUS UP the building with approximately 600 additional beds, perform some much needed minor maintenance, spruced up the place and offered it as an alternate lodging facility for the MRX guests.



III Corps planners were all too happy to accept the offer and requested the DOL to open the Dining Facility next door to the barracks complex to accommodate the MRX personnel. III Corps mission planners were also glad to provide additional funding to DPW for the purchase of cleaning products and hygiene materials for the guests 3 week stay in the building.

DPW personnel from the RPPD Mobilization Billeting Team provided management control for the 1200 guests during the three week exercise which included tasks such as key distribution, maintenance Service Order processing, room inspections, and out processing.

Prior to the initial inspection of facilities by the Deputy Chief of Staff MG Simmons, the order was given to make these accommodations as suitable and comfortable as possible for our distinguished guests. Extra effort was given to life support and comfort needs such as shower room accessories, toilet accommodations, fan and light bulb replacements, door / locker lock

repair and day room television and furniture additions. Real Property elements even provided mower and weed eater support for the MRX facility personnel residing in the building.

Overall the exercise went off without a hitch and our guest at Fort Hood were housed, dined and exercised with such excellence that only the “Great Place” could claim.

Hoorah for the Real Property Planning Division!

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