



America's Defenders

U.S. Army Transformation: Troops Using High-Tech Equipment, Training to Meet New Face of War

(NASPA)—With lessons learned from the Gulf War, Somalia and the recent war in Central Asia, the U.S. Army is challenging soldiers to excel as part of a faster, more effective fighting force built on the strengths of superior training, technology and information networks. This evolution is a keystone of the Army's Transformation plan, an Army-wide focus on how it responds to any threat, anywhere in the world, with speed and stealth.

Transformation centers on preparing the Army to challenge and defeat the new face of warfare, which is increasingly found in small regional conflicts instead of the traditional Cold War style battlefields. Developing new kinds of soldier skills is the key element to the success of this plan.

The central focus of Transformation is the training and preparation of the Army's soldiers to ensure they are the best-equipped and trained Army in the world. The Army's Transformation strengthens this focus on soldiers by continually investing in new technologies, strategies and training.

A critical capability of Transformation will be the deployment of a combat brigade in 96 hours, a combat division within 120 hours and five divisions within 30 days. This quick response time will allow the Army to prevent the escalation of regional skirmishes into full-scale wars.

The primary physical aspect of Transformation is the introduction of advanced equipment. Phase One includes the introduction of the Stryker, a light-armored vehicle that rolls upon eight technologically advanced wheels. With 10 different types of Strykers designed for various missions, Strykers possess ultramodern technology with lighter armor, advanced thermal tracking and protection against unconventional warfare.

"The Stryker is the new vehicle that we're fielding," said Spc. Michael Minutaglio, a vehicle commander based at Fort Lewis,



Wash. "Their mobility and technology really helps us get the infantry into the hot spots quickly and safely. It will be a tremendous asset to have in battle."

A secondary feature of Transformation is enhanced tactical integration among Army units, both on the ground and in the air. Battle-proven helicopters such as Apaches, Black Hawks and Chinooks provide vital support to troops, vehicles and long-range missile systems. As Transformation unfolds, soldiers will increasingly utilize satellite intelligence, robotic weapons and aerial drones.

"Aviation's main role is infantry support, providing air and fire support for their ground operations," said Chief Warrant Officer Lisa Jewett, an Apache copilot based at Fort Hood, Texas. "However, we understand that it's critical for us to work as one team to achieve the mission objective."

In addition to the Army's focus on tactical Transformation, they have also addressed other 21st century demands in terms of soldier care and environmental resources. For example, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) developed the 91W combat medic Military Occupational Specialty, a.k.a. the 91 Whiskey, to operate as a key part of small, mobile medical detachments, able to provide state-of-the-art medical treatment in any battle environment with precision and care. These new medics combine the skills and training of licensed practical nurses and combat medics. As some of AMEDD's core medical assets, 91Ws possess the medical skills to care for today's 21st century soldier.

Likewise, in the environmental world, the Army is forwarding

advancements in areas such as solar and geothermal energy sources, "green" bullets and alternatively-fueled vehicles. These advancements in environmental research allow the Army to be better prepared when it deploys throughout the world on various missions, whether adapting vehicles and soldiers to a foreign terrain or building Army bases on unfamiliar lands.

With these advancements in training and technology, the Army continues to establish itself as the preeminent military force in the world, able to combat enemies anywhere with measured success and resolve. This ability is built upon the strength of the soldiers within the units and the nation behind them.

"Given the world climate these days, I think that my pride for the Army and America has increased because I now know that I joined for a reason," Jewett said. "And if called upon, I will gladly do my job to protect America."

For more information about career opportunities in the U.S. Army, visit the Web site at <http://goarmy.com>.

Quick facts about U.S. Army Transformation

- A 20-year Army vision, led by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army, designed to better meet the demands of 21st century warfare.
- Can have a combat brigade anywhere in the world within 96 hours and a combat division within 120 hours.
- There are 10 different types of Strykers, with uses including engineering, medical evacuation and troop transport.
- Interim Brigade Combat Teams (IBCT), the Transformation Army units, based at Fort Lewis, were the first to begin the Transformation process in 1999.
- Other IBCTs in Alaska, Louisiana, Hawaii and Pennsylvania will soon begin Transformation.
- Additional Information on Transformation can be found at <http://www.army.mil/vision/Transformationinfo.htm>.

