'Where did they go?'

Four major unit crests vanished from post this summer; 326th Engineers, 311th MI, DIVARTY and 501st Signal. Here they are.

2nd BCT 1st BCT

326th Engineer Bn., dissolved and blended equally into the four brigades. **The command structure moved to 1st BCT as 326th Brigade Troops Battalion.**

311th Military Intelligence Bn., dissolved and blended equally into the four brigades. **The command structure moved to 2nd BCT to become 311th BTB.**

1st Bn., 320th Field Artillery moved to 2nd BCT. 2nd Bn., 320th FA moved to 1st BCT. 3rd Bn., 320th FA moved to 3rd BCT. 4th formed from slices of the other battalions.

501st Signal Bn., dissolved and blended equally into the four brigades. The command structure moved to HHC, 101st, becoming 501st Special Troops Bn.

3rd BCT 4th BCT

Flight Status

The two aviation brigades have undergone some of the biggest changes.

* 2nd Bn., 101st Aviation moved to Fort Hood, Tx.
* 9th Bn., was reflagged to 4 Bn., 3rd Avn., and assigned to 3rd ID (M).
* New 9th Bn., activated as Aviation Support Bn., for 159th Aviation Bde.
* 1st Sqdn., 17th Cav., (Fort Bragg) assigned to 159th Avn.
* 6th and 7th battalions reorganized as General Support aviation battalions
* 8th Bn., reorganized as ASB

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connected to any of the UAs, but it will provide the leadership capabilities during military operations.

"It's a stand-alone organization," said Lt. Col. Eric Harris, chief, Modularity Coordination Cell. "What it does is supply the higher headquarters functions for the Units of Action."

Harris equates the change to doing yard work.

"When you're going to do yard work you're not going to drag every tool in the garage," he said. "You see what you need and just use those tools."

The restructuring will be the same way.

"You take the tools you need to go fight the battle," Harris said. "The UEx performs the functions of a division headquarters and the functions of Corps headquarters, so it's in between both of them."

The UEx will choose which UAs will be deployed during missions. Since each UEx is not actually connected to any of the UAs, they can pick any Unit of Action they desire for operations.

"It's all plug and play," Turner said.

Each UEx scheduled to be formed throughout the entire Army will be made up of two command posts, one mobility command post and a Plans and Analysis Center. More then 1,000 Soldiers will be in the UEx, making it larger then a typical division headquarters.

With the growth in numbers, the BCTs are expected to grow in efficiency.

From fiscals 2004 to 2007 the Army will increase the number of brigade combat teams from 33 to 43. The final goal is to achieve 48 brigade combat teams.

Already, the 326th Engineer, 501st Signal, and 311th Military Intelligence battalions, as well as several other units at Fort Campbell have been inactivated. Those inactivations -- many which occurred earlier this summer -- were in preparation to realign them under their new positions at BCTs.

In addition, 4th BCT is still in the preliminary stages of creation. Of the current three infantry brigades on post, each has been tasked to give up a full battalion for the new infantry unit.

Each BCT will convert one of its three infantry battalions into a cavalry-like Reconnaissance Surveillance Target Acquisition Squadron. The Army will bring armored/cavalry scouts to Fort Campbell to fill the ranks of the new battalions -- designed to hunt and find the enemy.

Also, each BCT will have its own artillery battalion. Instead of the usual three artillery batteries in each battalion, the new artillery battalion only has two firing batteries, but they will be larger than they are now.

Population Growth

All this change doesn't equate to loss, said Harris.

"The division doesn't lose anything from one day to another," Harris said. "Some colors will change, and some flags will change, but we're actually gaining Soldiers."

The added Soldiers will mean more families in the Fort Campbell community, which in turn will mean more schools, roads and merchants in the area. More buildings will also have to be built. Barracks, dining facilities, classrooms, and other necessities are under construction. Training areas will grow and improve as well.

"The division has led the Army in change many times throughout our history," Turner said. "We're being asked again to lead the Army and particularly light airborne and air assault units in the transformation, and I don't think there is a better place and better unit to be asked to lead us through that."

Lighter Workload

The restructuring should lighten the load on Reserve and Guard units that have been activated in the last three years. It should also allow for more rapid deployments, according to Army officials. A BCT will be capable of deploying in less time than it takes to activate and train a Reserve or Guard unit.

"Our nation's a nation at war and our nation remains at war. That war is being waged globally, not just [in] Afghanistan and Iraq. We're preparing for war right here because our enemies would love to attacks us here," Turner said. "So we will do whatever we're asked to do, whenever we're asked to do it. And the Army wants the 101st to transform."

The changes began with 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga. Then 101st and 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., implemented the transformation.

"[All Soldiers] must be patient," Harris said. "There are more questions than there are answers. All we know is where we want to be in the big picture."

"It'll cause great turmoil, it'll be confusing as we go through this and it'll be hard work," Turner said. "But it will also be very exciting because we will be the ones to figure out what right should look like."

toward a new horizon

The face of Fort Campbell changes

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It has begun.

Today marks the formal confirmation date when the new modular organizations go into effect but informally, the changes began months ago and the effects have already been felt by many on post.

The Army at large will be reformatted; the emphasis will be on creating more brigades. The addition of brigades will allow the Army, which is currently stretched to accomplish missions like Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, to place the proper amount of Soldiers where they need to go.

"My vision is that by 1 March, 2005, this division will be reorganized into four brigade combat teams, two aviation brigade combat teams and a support unit of action," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell. For more from Turner, see page 2 "Those seven organizations will be able to deploy anywhere in the world within 36 hours of notification."

Plug and Play

Besides the infantry and aviation units of action, the 101st transformation over the next six months will also consist of a sustainment unit of action and a unit of employment.

The UEx will take the place of division headquarters. It is not

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'Those seven organizations will be able to deploy within 36 hours of notification.'

Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner
Commanding General, 101st Abn. Div. and Fort Campbell