

LTG Mixon
25th Infantry Division Association 60th Annual Banquet
19 September 2009

Let me begin by saying thank you for allowing me to participate in such a historic event. As a former commander of the 25th Infantry Division, it is truly an honor to celebrate with members of the Division's association.

As the Army's mission evolved to include Full Spectrum Operations, the US Army Pacific transformed in order to meet worldwide, emerging requirements. The conversion resulted in the USARPAC Headquarters transitioning into a Main Command Post with a deployable Contingency Command Post. By 2012, in conjunction with The Army Campaign Plan, USARPAC will become the single ASCC in the Pacific with Title 10 responsibilities extending to the Korean Peninsula.

USARPAC's full complement of functionally oriented commands include 94th Army Air & Missile Defense Command, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 311th Signal Command, and 18th Medical Command. These Theater Enabling Commands are agile and robust enough to respond rapidly and effectively to a variety of small scale contingencies, while providing reliable and responsive Title 10 support.

As part of the continuing transformation, US Army Alaska will become a TDA organization focused on training, readiness and oversight of combat

forces and will continue to meet its Homeland Defense requirements in support of Alaska Command.

The 25th ID is no stranger to transformation. In 2005, as part of the Army's program to transition to a more versatile, agile force, the Division's brigades were restructured to include the transformation of the 1st and 2nd Brigades into Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. Because of these changes, the 25th Infantry Division officially dropped its "Light" designation on 1 January 2006.

25th ID's significant contributions to recent historical events in the Middle East include support for the first democratic elections in Afghanistan. The October 2004 election was the first ever in the history of that country. In 2005, other elements of 25th ID supported the first free elections in Iraq held in over 50 years.

The division's most recent returning unit is the 1/25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. With a combined deployed strength of well over 5,000 service members, the "Arctic Wolves" achieved several remarkable accomplishments during their tour. The 1/25th defeated over 80 members of the Al Qaeda terrorist organization which contributed to the increase in quality of life for many residents of the province. They had a key role in enabling the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in January of 2009.

To facilitate security and stability for the elections, the brigade managed to align Arab Iraqi Security Forces with their Kurdish counterparts. This was the first time these two groups worked together since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

In years past, the Al-Aruba Suq had been renowned throughout the country of Iraq as a destination for fine shopping and employed well over 10,000 people. Following the defeat of Al Qaeda in Iraq in late 2008, the suq was reduced to only one vendor. After investing to rebuild and renovate the suq, the market once again hosts well over 1,000 vendors and is an icon of resurging prosperity throughout the previously troubled region of Diyala.

To facilitate the capability of the local government, the brigade task force organized over 500 reconstruction contracts worth over \$35 million to provide essential services, build infrastructure and develop small businesses to boost the economy. Committed to the well-being of the population, the Task Force oversaw 54 Humanitarian Assistance drops worth over 5 million dollars in their Area of Operation.

The 1/25 SBCT Detainee Holding Area was recognized by MND-North and earned commendable ratings on two separate division inspections.

They processed over 1,000 detainees, over 50 Brigade high value targets and released over 1,000 detainees.

The 4/25 IBCT is currently assigned to RC-East, overseen by CJTF 82. They deployed to Afghanistan last February and are expected to return about the same time in 2010. The Brigade of approximately 3,500 Soldiers evolved into a Task Force of approximately 5,000 strong with attached units. Their Area of Operation includes three provinces along the Afghanistan / Pakistan border. They have been designated a Counter Insurgency Brigade Combat Team responsible for facilitating security and stability in the area by separating the enemy from the local population and connecting the people with their Government.

Over 400 projects valued at over \$210M includes construction and rebuilding of roads, schools, clinics, government infrastructure, vocational training, and agriculture development. Partnered with over 9,000 Afghanistan Security Forces consisting of Army, Police, and Border Police, the Soldiers of the 4/25th assisted with the security of over 1,000 polling sites, provided logistical support to preposition Afghanistan security, and a Quick Reaction Force on election day. I ask that you continue to pray for the safety and well being of these Soldiers and Family Members of the 4/25th IBCT.

As we reflect on the history of the Division, it is appropriate to acknowledge the contribution, accomplishments, and continued effort of our Noncommissioned Officers. In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, the Secretary of the Army established 2009 as Year of the NCO. Many continue to deploy and engage threats throughout the world.

In closing I would like to thank you for your service and contributions to the support, stability, and security of our nation. It is your continued involvement with our young leaders, communities, and families that provides the experience and mentorship necessary to maximize our combined effort. Again, thank you for the invitation and allowing me to participate in this historic event.

One Team!

Army Strong!