

Cavalry General Explains Timeline

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high confidence in the accuracy of the outlines given to Soldiers and their familymembers earlier this month.

He urged the more than 1,500 people in attendance to use this relatively accurate depiction of the division units' redeployment timeline as windows to when they should be expecting their Soldiers to come home, but warned that specific dates and flights are things that must be protected to make sure the Soldiers can safely return.

With the additional three months added to this tour in Iraq, many people are asking "Will my Soldier be home for Christmas?" which Brooks deemed the "famous, historical question" for all Soldiers serving in a combat zone.

"As we get closer, I'd say probably around the 45-day window before redeployment, we'll be able to get more specific on what flights are going to come," Brooks said. "It all depends on what flights are going to move and on what dates."

In addition to dismissing the rumors of further extending troops on the ground, the general also explained the reasoning behind the three-month extension to the deployment.

The Department of Defense's logic behind the 15-

month deployment and increasing Soldiers' time in country was to provide more time at home and that 15 months was calculated as about the right time to provide that extra dwell time, Brooks said.

"(However,) we are still in an Army that has to be responsive to whatever our nation calls us to do," Brooks added.

The deputy commanding general reached out by adding how much he appreciated the patience, the understanding, and the many sacrifices that have been made by the families back home and the Soldiers here in Iraq.

"The nature of a deployment beyond 12 months means that everybody will miss two of 'something special' dates, and I know that, for many of you, this is yet another in a lengthening series of missing something special dates," Brooks said.

"This stage in a long deployment can be very challenging, and the uncertainty associated with extended deployments adds to that," he said.

"You've been very strong and we appreciate that, and we still have a little bit further to go, but we're confident that you're going to make it with flying colors, just like the units here are," he added.

For the next town hall meeting, the 1st Cavalry Divisions rear detachment plans on having a live visual shot of Fort Bliss making interaction that much more real for the participants.



(Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

From Baghdad, Brig. Gen. (promotable) Vincent K. Brooks, the MND-B deputy commanding general for support gives an update on the current situation for 1st Cavalry Division troops deployed in Iraq and their families back home during a live town hall meeting June 26.



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

With standing room only, hundreds of First Team Soldiers and family members piled into the Ball Room at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center June 25 as Brig. Gen. (promotable) Vincent K. Brooks, the 1st Cavalry Division deputy commanding general - support, answered questions from family members and discussed the redeployment dates for First Team Soldiers via satellite from Baghdad, Iraq.