



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFOP-TRO

30 MAR 2004

**MEMORANDUM FOR Chief of Staff, Army, 201 Army Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20310-0201**

SUBJECT: Acceleration of Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) #6

1. On 24 Feb 04, a Course of Action (COA) was approved to move Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for SBCT #6 to FY 08, instead of FY 10. This decision was based on the work completed by a Council of Colonels (COC) and a 2-Star General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) consisting of Army-wide representation. The decision resulted in two separate Courses of Action (COA) being selected for planning and funding purposes:

a. Course of Action #1 (planning and funding) is predicated on a peacetime training concept that would allow the 56th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division (ID) to culminate their training in FY 08 and assume a sustainment training posture, until alerted for an operational requirement.

b. Course of Action #3 (planning only) is predicated on a wartime operational requirement and would require the unit to mobilize during its initial training. I would prefer to execute this COA, but it is too early to identify an operational requirement in the FY 08-09 timeframe.

2. I challenged the FORSCOM staff and National Guard Bureau to find more innovative and dynamic solutions to further accelerate the IOC date and prepare this unit to spearhead any ground action required in the FY 08-09 timeframe.

3. During this process it became evident that even though "we are at war;" some Army members and agencies are still in a peacetime posture, applying peacetime processes and timelines. If our actions limit, constrain or impede our ability to train, equip, or organize our soldiers for combat, then we fail the soldier and our nation.

4. The following outline some of my concerns:

a. Commanders in the field are reporting to me that the Up-Armored High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) is not providing the solution the Army hoped to achieve. It is imperative that the Army accelerates the production of Stryker vehicles to support current operations in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). It is not my position to purchase brigade size sets, but the Stryker vehicle is needed to support

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continuing overseas operations. Based on current information, production could double (for a total of 650 Stryker vehicles a year) for only the cost of the additional vehicles. Thus it is imperative that either funding from Congressional Supplementals be reauthorized or that funding be diverted from the Bradley Refurbishment Program to fund this operational need immediately.

b. The Training and Doctrine Command Training Base needs to be resourced to provide the full range of institutional training. We have advocated the training base have the resources and capacity to provide fully trained soldiers in the time of war. This requires immediate attention and resources. It is only right that our soldiers and leaders have the required training prior to and immediately following operational deployments. It is also important units undergoing transformation or being created be given equal prioritization, with special emphasis being needed for reclassification and leader training (i.e., Doctrine Training Teams, Senior Leaders Course, Tactical Leaders Course).

c. Relocation of Training Support Battalion (TSBn). SBCT #6 requires a TSBn to enhance readiness. The designated TSBn is currently located at Fort Jackson, SC and needs to move to the State of Pennsylvania. Since the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process has been reinitiated, a moratorium on request for permanent unit relocations has been imposed. This process must be modified so that this issue is resolved.

5. Forces Command remains focused on the frontline, with emphasis on units preparing for future rotations to OIF and OEF. Simultaneously, we are transforming divisions and brigades to Units of Employment and Units of Action, while remaining focused on SBCT conversions. Today we associate all SBCTs as the tip of spear, realizing that SBCT #6 will represent the first reserve unit to convert under Transformation and will have many of its own unique problems that were not encountered with SBCTs #1 through #5. It is critical that the entire Army is prepared to address and resolve these issues in an expeditious manner.

6. For more information, contact Mr. David L. Boulden, COMM 404-464-5688, DSN 367-5688, or email: david.boulden@forscom.army.mil.


LARRY R. ELLIS
General, USA
Commanding

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CC:

Vice Chief of Staff, Army

Commander Training and Doctrine Command

Deputy Chief of Staff G-8