



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE**



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May 22, 2003



Stryker Brigade Combat Team Open House this Saturday:

FORT POLK, LA – The Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) invites Fort Polk family members and the local community to their open house featuring the Stryker, the Army's newest vehicle, this Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm at the Fort Polk Joint Visitor's Bureau (JVB) by the Warriors Club. The display consists of Stryker Vehicle variants and equipment associated with the SBCT currently conducting a certification exercise on Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). Other items displayed at the JVB included support and maintenance vehicles, signal communications and a flight simulator.

The Stryker, an eight-wheeled medium weight armored vehicle, is the SBCT's primary combat and combat support platform. Significantly lighter and more transportable than existing tanks and armored vehicles, the Stryker fulfills an immediate Army requirement to equip a strategically and tactically deployable brigade, capable of rapid movement worldwide.

The Stryker vehicles began arriving at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center earlier this month to prepare for the certification of the first SBCT; 3d Brigade, 2d Infantry Division out of Fort Lewis, Washington. The capstone training event called Arrowhead Lightning, will validate the SBCT's ability to conduct missions across the range of military operations, from stability and support missions, early entry operations, and low to mid intensity conflict.

The SBCT certification has a direct impact on Fort Polk 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment which is scheduled to be the fourth regiment to begin transformation into an SBCT. The 2d ACR will begin a yearlong Stryker fielding process in February of 2005. Upon completion, the 2d ACR will transform to the 2d Cavalry Regiment (2 CR) in May of 2006, making the 2d ACR one of only 5 Army SBCT's.

People attending the open house will surrender a military ID card, driver's license or other picture identification and receive a Visitors Badge. Upon completion of the tour, identification will be returned to you. People are discouraged from bringing personal bags (backpacks, etc.) Bags will be subject to search at both locations.

Fort Polk Family members and other personnel with a Post decal can load buses at the clothing sales parking lot beginning at 10 am. Buses will shuttle every 15 minutes from clothing sales to the JVB. Parking will be available at Clothing Sales and the Bowling Alley.

For people without a Fort Polk access sticker, buses will be available at Honor Field (off of LA 10) beginning at 10 am and shuttle every 20 minutes to the JVB.

Lunch will be available at the Warrior Club for those people interested in eating from 11:30 to 1:00. Cost is \$6.50 and includes salad bar, grilled pork chop, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, gravy, rolls, drink, and dessert.

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Please contact Major Ron Elliott, (337) 531-1418, Ronald.Elliott@polk.army.mil or Samantha Bingham, (337) 531-4630, Melissa.Bingham@polk.army.mil to coordinate your visit no later than May 5, 2003.

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