



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
AND FORT POLK  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
*News Release***



7073 RADIO ROAD  
FORT POLK LA 71459-5342  
Voice: (337) 531-1418  
Fax: (337) 531-2403

---

**Release Number: 040504**

**April 8, 2004**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION*

*Contact: Maj. Ron Elliott*

*337-531-1418*

***Fort Polk Deployed Units to be Extended in Iraq***

Fort Polk, LA— Due to a major troop rotation, there is a planned increase in the number of U.S. troops in the Central Command area of responsibility and in Iraq. The military is taking advantage of that increase and will likely manage the pace of redeployments to allow seasoned troops with relationships with local populations to see the current situation through.

As a result, elements from 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment and Warrior Brigade currently deployed in the Central Command area of responsibility will remain in theater longer than initially announced. This decision is made to support the efforts of Combatant Commander, Gen. John Abizaid, who as commander on the ground in Iraq knows exactly what he needs to see the current situation through.

“We are being called to end the fight against Muqtada Sadr’s Mahdi Army, and we will. This will require the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Dragoons to remain in Iraq to accomplish the mission,” said Col. Bradley W. May, Commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment.

“We have accomplished too much and worked too hard during the past year to allow a common thug to dictate the direction of power in Iraq.”

It is unknown at this time how long these units will remain in theater.