

244th Quartermaster Battalion welcomed to Fort Lee

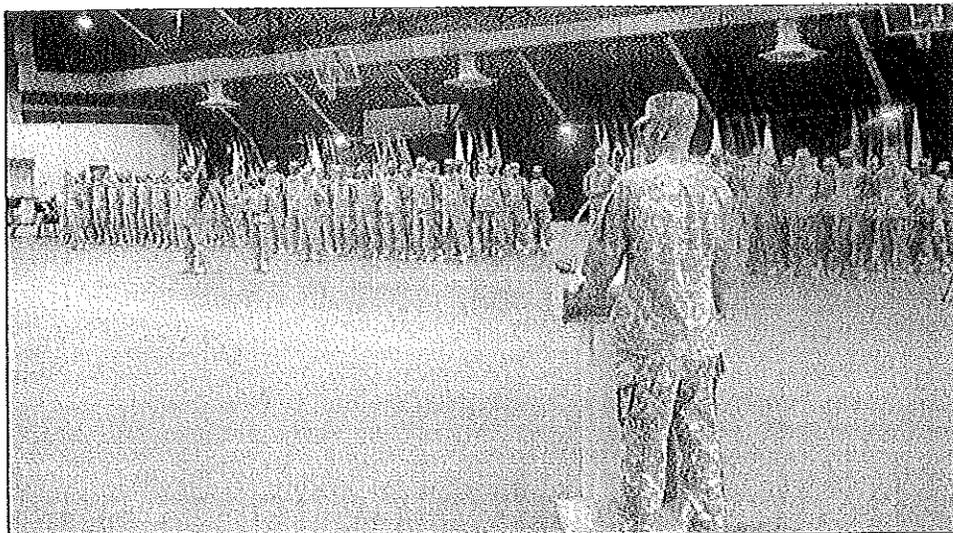


PHOTO BY SARAH STEELE WILSON

Capt. Larris Hutton, who became the first JA to command the Juliet Company, speaks during the activation ceremony.

By SARAH STEELE WILSON

The lawyer jokes were kept under wraps as "America's oldest and largest law firm" arrived at Fort Lee on Monday.

That was how Lt. Col. Derrell Bibbs, commander of the 244th Quartermaster Battalion, referred to Juliet Company, which serves as the Advanced Individual Training Company for the Army's paralegal program, as he welcomed them to their new home at Fort Lee. Their first class here is scheduled to begin on March 26.

The move of the company from Fort Jackson, S.C., and the assumption of command by Captain Larris Hutton, is what Quartermaster General Gwen Bingham referred to as a "historic and momentous occasion" for two reasons: it marks the consolidation of all Army legal training to central Virginia and also marks the first time a judge advocate has commanded the AIT company.

"One of the most monumental achievements of the JAG Corps, and their accomplishments are numerous and far reaching, is the creation of the

Uniform Code of Military Justice," Bingham said as she welcomed the company. "In short, we couldn't do our business without the phenomenal leadership and expertise of the men and women of the Judge Advocate General's Corps."

Major General Clyde "Butch" Tate, the Deputy Judge Advocate General, came from the Pentagon to see the unit activated. The move closer to the rest of the Army's legal training, he said, will provide an opportunity for increased combined training of different specialists within the corps.

The AIT company is located 106 miles from Charlottesville, Va., where the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School is located

"Finally, we can truly say we train as we fight," Tate said. "Judge advocates, legal administrators and paralegals working shoulder to shoulder on a daily basis as one team."

During the ceremony, Captain Larris Hutton became the first judge advocate to command the AIT Company.

"All policies and procedures are now in effect," he joked as the activation ceremony concluded.