

Petraeus speaks to Soldiers about making Army 'Engine of Change'

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Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus

In an officer professional development address here Tuesday, Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, spoke extensively about the Army as the "Engine of Change."

These changes, he said, include leader development, collective training, lessons learned and contingency operations, which all impact on the doctrine to be developed when these other areas are changed and completed.

Petraeus challenged the young officers to embrace change and not be constrained by the old way of doing things.

"If you know a better way, change it. This is the digital revolution; I want you to feel empowered," he said.

While running with troops here, most agreed the military decision process was OK, but according to Petraeus, it is still based on Cold War strategy.

A good example he gave, citing the performance of 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery in Iraq, was when one platoon was hot, others were out doing patrol, training Iraqis and nation-building. This was not cold war strategy.

He encouraged Soldiers to show initiative, like the NCO who thought a boxing smoker event was a good idea and wrote a letter inviting Don King, who attended the event.

Petraeus said before another deployment to southwest Asia, Soldiers will be going to the National Training Center, where there is no longer the old concept of an opposing force facing an enemy. Instead, it is tailored to meet the needs of today's Army. There, he said, the Soldiers will be involved in counter-insurgent operations.

Modularity concepts and humanitarian missions are to be used in changing the doctrine currently being taught. Each commander, leader, NCO and Soldier should have "a learning organization" as their goal. A leader, he said, should analyze an operation and determine the cost.

Civil affairs are not just one unit's responsibility, according to Petraeus, who said it requires the entire organization's involvement. In May 2003, the 101st was in Iraq and had been asked what the most important task at hand was. One of the primary leaders at Mosul University said to reopen university so students could complete their education.

"I had two aviation brigades and one was lucky they got the job. They had aircraft, a staff, battalion commanders, company commanders and contractors." Said Petraeus.

Petraeus said Soldiers must learn the cultural differences, the history of the country, the ethnic and political groups and how they are aligned before deploying. They must build relationships and move out of their cloistered existence. He also said leaders must set the right tone, be ethical and practice patience versus a full range of emotions.

"You are important, you matter. Each Soldier has self-worth, and on any given day you can be an Army of One," said Petraeus.

Several questions from the audience touched on the ongoing effort in SWA. Petraeus gave a short update on Iraq citing in 2004 there were zero trained security forces. As of January 2006, there are 227,000 trained and equipped and 13,000 in training.

In closing, he again reiterated how important each leader is in the Army of One. Petraeus told them to lead by example, with energy and to mentor their Soldiers.

"Soldiers matter, and the penalty is irrevocable and could be a matter of life and death," he said.



VIRGINIA REZA

From left: Lt. Col. Joe Gaines, 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, battalion commander, Capt. Edgar Otero, transportation officer, 1-56 ADA, Col. Kendal Cunningham, 6th ADA Bde., Col. Heidi Brown, Fort Bliss deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, Fort Bliss commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. C.C. Jenkins Jr., Transportation Core regimental sergeant major, cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Army Transporter Simulations Bldg. 5865 located in Abernathy Park Feb. 2.

Bliss Motor Transportation School makes history

VIRGINIA REZA

Monitor Staff

The 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Motor Transportation School celebrated the grand opening of the Army Transporter Simulations Bldg. 5865 located in Abernathy Park Feb. 2.

"We are making history here today. I am so proud of the accomplishments of this battalion and company and how they are training Soldiers for the future. The state-of-the-art simulators we are unveiling here today are going to take our training to the next level," said Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, Fort Bliss commanding general.

Lt. Col. Joe Gaines, Battalion commander of 1-56 ADA, said the simulation building was important because the weather here is always favorable and the 15 new simulators have the capability of replicating rain, snow, fog and adverse weather conditions the Soldiers may never experience while in El Paso.

"The simulator's system can also reproduce load handling systems, heavy equipment tactical transporters, family of medium tactical vehicles and M915 tractor trailers," said Capt. Edgar Otero, transportation officer, 1-56 ADA.

According to Gaines, there are two primary transportation schools Army-wide. Fort Bliss was originally established as an overflow facility for Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Now, the Fort Bliss Motor Transportation School has a full training role, where

35 percent of the U.S. Army's motor transporters are trained.

"What's unique about this school is we are known as an air defense center, we train air defenders, but more than half of the people we train here are motor transporters," said Gaines.

Otero said students with numerous military occupational specialties and from all over the nation train here. He said Soldiers come from Reserve and National Guard units. Others come after basic training and some just out of High School. Otero said the transport operator's course challenges the Soldier's mental and physical capabilities as they are trained to endure long hours behind the wheel, vehicle maintenance, first aid, marksmanship and convoy live fire.

"Safety and excellence is our motto," said Otero.

According to Otero, the motor transporter military occupational specialty is in high demand in Iraq and Afghanistan. The school's priorities are to ensure Soldiers leave not only with motor operator's skills, but also with warrior and Soldier skills because approximately 60 percent of them will be deployed to the Middle East right after graduation.

"Training and Doctrine Command and Fort Bliss understand motor transporter operators are the first ones to hit ground in support of combat units. Therefore, the Air Defense School is assisting us with part of their budget to make this mission possible," said Otero.

Lennox signs updated off-limits list

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Detrimental situations to the health and welfare of Soldiers and their family members are a major concern of the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board.

The board is comprised of numerous panel members from the Provost Marshal Office, the Judge Advocate General, Army Community Service, Equal Opportunity, Morale Welfare and Recreation, William Beaumont Army Medical Center and other agencies. They meet on a quarterly basis to present and discuss evidence collected by the various members that can be harmful to servicemembers.

"It's not just about clubs; it could also pertain to a place that is basically not conducive to servicemem-

bers. For example, if they are ripping the Soldier off or taking advantage of them in any way, the information is presented and the board adjudicates by a vote whether or not they think the information is substantial in nature," said Capt. Daniel Wilt, Provost Marshal's office.

Wilt said many times the El Paso Police Department brings their vice squad, gang and homicide units and present information to the board who

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Notice

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