

YUDH ABHYAS SPUR REPORT #1

Aloha! The 14th United States Cavalry is in India! The Strykehorse Squadron has arrived and so too has our equipment. We're busy downloading and configuring our equipment for training. We wanted to send a brief note to keep you informed and let you know how your Troopers are doing and what they are experiencing.

Coordinating the convergence of personnel and equipment here in India was not easy; it was truly a team effort including our Troopers and experts from US Army Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and the Garrison transportation offices. As you may know, the vast majority of our Troopers departed Honolulu on a chartered Boeing 767 that stopped in Guam and in Thailand



before landing in Agra, India. All told, the trip took about 17 hours of flight time. Main Body 1 (the first flight of Troopers) experienced a 28-hour weather delay that put Troopers in a large Thai Beach Resort hotel overnight, but the rains and the SCO kept everyone indoors. Once we arrived in Agra, we passed through Indian customs and began a 10 hour bus ride to Babina, the Indian Army installation where we will live and train. The bus ride was rough – lots of very narrow

roads, some of them dirt, crowded with people and animals. For certain, it was a trip our Troopers will not soon forget. Our equipment shipped from Honolulu to the Indian port of Mumbai, where it was downloaded, secured by the Indian Army, and transported over land to Babina.

Our camp is called Camp Bundela, in honor of a warrior caste named the "Bundelas," who used to live where we will train. The Indian Army has invested a lot of time to prepare and expand the camp to accommodate us. Half of the camp has new barracks, which are large tin buildings. Each Soldier has a twin-sized bed and a small wall-locker. The latrines are behind the barracks. The barracks have no air conditioning, but are cooled by swamp coolers in the windows, which help a bit. To say that there are a lot of bugs here is an understatement. Soldiers sweep the floors at least three times a day to remove crickets, grasshoppers, earwigs, and other small creatures. We've seen a few geckos, and they are much larger than those in Hawaii, about 6-8 inches long. The camp includes two volleyball courts, a soccer field, and a basketball court. The Indians even built a small recreation center with a pool table, an LCD television, and a few computers for Internet access. We also have two small dining facilities: one provides western-style food and the other Indian-style food.



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Our training begins in earnest on 12 October. Most days are packed, and will begin with PT (each Trooper will also participate in an Indian-led Yoga workout), transition to field training, and end with professional exchanges and lectures, sporting events, and a few cultural exchanges.

The Troopers are also getting accustomed to the temperature change here in



India, which is in the 90s during the day with high humidity, though we do receive a break with some cool breezes in the shade. The evenings provide a welcome relief with more cool breezes as the temperature drops to the mid-60s.

Our Troopers are looking forward to conducting combined training with the Indian Army and learning from the second largest Army in the world. The Indian Army is equally eager to start training and learning from us. On Monday we will conduct an Opening Ceremony and enjoy an icebreaker banquet before our demanding training begins. The Troopers are sure to enjoy great

relations and a strong friendship with the Indian Army Soldiers. We're extremely fortunate to be in India and representing our country. This is a fantastic privilege and honor and our Troopers are working hard to represent well our country, our unit, and our families.



Strykehorse!

CSM Ruben Torres, Jr.
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