



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
1st United States Army Support Battalion
Multinational Force and Observers
Sinai, Egypt
APO AE 09832

MFO-1SB-CDR

1 April 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR Soldiers Selected for Assignment to the 1st US Army Support Battalion (1SB),
Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), Sinai, Egypt

SUBJECT: Welcome and Assignment Information

1. On behalf of the officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the 1st U.S. Army Support Battalion (1SB), congratulations on your assignment to the Multinational Force and Observers and the 1SB.
2. **MFO Background.** The MFO was established as part of the Camp David Peace Accords. Although the MFO is comprised of 11 nations, it is not a UN mission (a popular misconception). Our mission is to monitor the peace between Israel and Egypt. This is accomplished by constant patrolling of the Sinai and monitoring of activities from the checkpoints and observation points in the Sinai. The actual patrolling is accomplished by members of the US Infantry Battalion (USBATT – normally a National Guard unit on a 6-12 month rotation), located in the Southern Sector and based at South Camp; the Columbian Infantry Battalion (COLBATT), located in Central Sector and based at North Camp; and the Fijian Infantry Battalion (FIJIBATT), located in the Northern Sector and based at North Camp.
The remaining nations (Italy, France, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Hungary, Norway, and Uruguay) participate as part of the Force Commander's staff and MFO special agencies. The 1st US Army Support Battalion is unique in that it provides split-based logistics, aviation, medical, dental, transportation, explosive ordnance disposal, and installation support to the Multinational Force and Observers in support of the peacekeeping mission.
3. **Location.** North Camp is located near El Gorah, Egypt, in the northeastern Sinai near the Egyptian/Israeli border. You probably will not find El Gorah on any map. It was called Eitam Airbase when the Israelis occupied the Sinai. It is about 25 miles east of El Arish and 11 miles south of the Mediterranean Sea. Cairo, Egypt is a five-hour drive and Tel Aviv, Israel is a 3-4 hour drive depending on traffic. Our other camp, South Camp, is located near Sharm-El-Sheikh, at the southern most point of the Sinai on the Red Sea, approximately 250 miles from North Camp.
4. **Passport and Visa Requirements.** A passport is required for this assignment. IMMEDIATELY upon receipt of this memorandum, you must request a RED Official Passport with an Egyptian Visa and MFO Endorsement (DD Form 1056). It will take approximately 6-8 weeks to receive your passport. For this assignment a **blue tourist passport is not sufficient**. You will need one of the following:
 - a. A birth certificate with a raised seal issued by the State or County Court where you were born. A hospital registration of birth or abstract is not acceptable.
 - b. A previously issued United States Passport.
 - c. For a soldier born overseas of American parentage, a previously issued United States Passport or consular copy of birth certificate or a Department of State birth certificate, certified with a seal.
 - d. A Certificate of Naturalization or derivative citizenship.

NOTE: There is an example of how to complete this form on our Battalion Informational Website on AKO. To access this information, log-in to your personal AKO account and select the "files" tab in the upper right area.

Select "AKO Files Home" on the left hand side of the screen. Then select the following options sequentially: "US Army Organizations", "FORSCOM", "1SB MFO". A unit Welcome letter, packing list, and other useful information are located on this website. It is imperative that you use this example as a guide to filling out your 1056. You must report to your Transportation Office, Passport Section. They will assist you in preparing a passport and Egyptian visa application. Once your applications are completed, **remind your Passport Agent that the completed applications (with a total of four pictures) must be forwarded to: 1ST TSC, ATTN: Task Force Sinai Rear Detachment, Bldg MT-2643, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28310-5000.** It is imperative that your application reaches this office at least **90 days** prior to your scheduled departure. If you encounter any problems, contact this office immediately.

5. Military Clothing.

a. You are required to bring one set of BDUs, boots, headgear, field jacket, and black gloves (in case you're held over at Ft Benning for any reason). All required TA-50 will be issued to you upon your arrival in the Sinai. RFI will be issued at Ft. Benning. All remaining issue items must accompany you or be shipped as part of your unaccompanied baggage. You will also be issued your desert camouflage fatigues, headgear (dark orange beret), and 2 pair of hot weather boots in the Sinai. The garrison cap is not authorized for wear during assignment in the MFO. The MFO beret is the only authorized headgear. Pilots, crewman and aviation ground support personnel will be issued flight equipment upon arrival. All 77F and aviators must deploy with leather boots. Remaining personnel do not require leather boots.

b. You will need a Class A uniform at various times during this assignment. (Class A uniform consists of: Blouse, long and short sleeve shirt, tie, trousers/skirt, jacket, low quarter shoes/pumps). Personnel in the grades of E-5 through E-9 must have in their possession white shirt with bow tie for wear with the Army Green Uniform for Official functions. Dress blues are mandatory for officers and optional for enlisted personnel.

c. You will need four US Army and nametapes (desert background) for the issued fatigues. There is no military clothing sales store in the Sinai. It is advisable to have at least 12 brown T-shirts, green or black socks, ribbon bar (you will receive the minimum two awards MFO Ribbon and PCS award), and the next grade insignia if you are on a standing promotion list. You will participate in physical training 5 days a week, therefore running shoes and four sets of the Army PT uniform to include two sweat suits, long and short sleeve shirts, PT cap and black gloves with inserts are required.

6. **Documentation.** Certain documents are required for overseas assignment. These documents are:

a. Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Orders.

b. Passports. See paragraph 4.

c. Records. To in-process and be deployable, you must report with your personnel, medical, dental and finance records. Fort Benning will maintain individual personnel records. Medical and dental records will be handcarried by the soldier and maintained in the appropriate facility in the Sinai. Failure to report with your records may result in you being unable to process for deployment and subject you to UCMJ action. Also, be sure to bring all VHA paperwork for inprocessing. This should include lease/rent/mortgage agreement, any current payment books, and proof of marriage/dependents, child support, and divorce papers if needed. A DA photo for all soldiers E-6 and above should be taken prior to reporting to Fort Benning. If you are dual military or single parent please bring a copy of an up-to-date **FAMILY CARE PLAN**.

d. All job qualifying documentation must accompany the soldier to the 1SB (flight records, 348s, etc).

e. Immunizations. All deploying personnel are required to receive certain immunizations before departing for duty in the Sinai. You must ensure these immunizations are completed and properly annotated in your medical records **before** your arrival to Fort Benning. Immunizations must begin early because some are given in series and

MFO-1SB-CDR

SUBJECT: Welcome and Assignment Information

others require returning to the medical facility to determine reactions. All females will be given a pregnancy test prior to leaving Fort Benning for the Sinai. The following immunizations are required for PCS to Sinai:

- 1) PPD - Tine Test - TB Test
- 2) Hepatitis A
- 3) Hepatitis B
- 4) Tetanus - Diphtheria
- 5) Oral Polio Vaccine (if not taken in the last 10 years)
- 6) MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)
- 7) Meningococcal Vaccine
- 8) TYPHOID
- 9) HIV screening

f. Over 40 physical. Soldiers over 40 years of age need to ensure compliance with current physical examination guidelines. Physical readiness is required of each soldier. If you are over 40, have an over 40 physical examination completed.

g. Soldiers who are pregnant are non-deployable to the 1SB. If you are or believe you are pregnant, you must confirm this through your medical facility and immediately notify DA and the Fort Bragg, 1SB Rear Detachment.

h. If you are taking any medication, please advise this office as soon as possible so we can contact the medical unit in Sinai for approval on your deployment.

7. **Corrective eyeglasses.** The medical company assigned to the 1SB does not have the capability to give eye examinations. If you wear prescription eyeglasses, ensure your prescription is current and you have at least one pair of sunglasses and an extra pair of regular glasses to take with you to the Sinai. You may want to bring along the issued pair of glasses that you received from the military.

8. **Identification Tags.** Two sets of Identification tags are required. Personnel requiring medical alert tags must also have one per ID set (2) tags.

9. **Orders.**

a. Your Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders must authorize five days TDY at Fort Benning, North Carolina for inprocessing and orientation prior to your deployment. A TDY advance may be obtained at your losing unit. Soldiers may apply for a Government charge card to defray cost while you are TDY at Fort Benning. Soldiers may inquire about applying for Government charge card through their chain of command. Personnel requiring additional training at Fort Benning may be authorized early arrival. There is no flexibility in the report date for any other reason. **It is imperative that all soldiers contact this headquarters for information prior to reporting in.**

b. Travel from Fort Benning to the Sinai will be via commercial airline, and the processing center at Fort Benning will make all of the necessary travel arrangements. If your port call is other than Fort Benning, your Personnel Service Center (PSC) must amend your orders.

c. Your orders must contain the statement "Service member authorized to ASSIST in movement of dependents" (Reference Joint Federal Travel Regulation) to ensure your ability to relocate your dependents in conjunction with your PCS to the Sinai. This will result in maximum reimbursement when settling your PCS travel voucher and your PCS dependent travel voucher.

d. To avoid delays in settling your PCS travel voucher after arriving in the Sinai your orders must correctly state the following:

MFO-1SB-CDR

SUBJECT: Welcome and Assignment Information

- 1) Report date to Fort Benning.
- 2) Period of TDY at Fort Benning.
- 3) Report date to Sinai, Egypt.

NOTE: Soldiers will not report to Fort Benning earlier than or later than the date on their orders.

e. Any discrepancies with any part of your PCS orders should be corrected at your local Personnel Service Center (PSC) prior to reporting to Fort Benning.

10. **Travel.**

a. Flights to the Sinai only depart once a month so there is no flexibility on your reporting date to Fort Benning. You will not be issued a meal card, but will be reimbursed for meals when you settle your travel voucher. All soldiers will incur reimbursable billeting costs while at Fort Benning. It is imperative that you bring at least \$350.00 to defray your expenses while you are TDY at Fort Benning. Soldiers can expect to pay \$36.00/billeting on-post and \$60.00/billeting off-post per day.

b. Taxi service is reimbursable (up to \$25.00 without a receipt). Any claim exceeding \$25.00 requires a receipt.

c. Your flight to the Sinai will cover a 24-hour period. Ensure you dress comfortably for the flight; shorts and sleeveless shirts are not appropriate attire for the flight to Sinai.

d. You are authorized a free baggage allowance of two checked bags (50 lbs. each) plus one carry-on bag (folding luggage rollers are considered a piece of baggage). Trunks and footlockers are not authorized on the aircraft. You will pay for baggage that exceeds the free baggage allowance. It is not advisable to exceed the allowed baggage authorization because charges assessed by the airlines are very high. At times, you may not be allowed to check a bag that exceeds the 50 lbs weight allowance.

e. It is recommended that seasonal clothing be packed in your baggage suitable for the season that you deploy to the Sinai.

11. **Unaccompanied Baggage.** The provisions of the International Consignment Guide for Tel Aviv, Israel apply: Unaccompanied baggage entitlement is 550 lbs for enlisted soldiers and 600 lbs for officers in the grade of WO1-O5. Unaccompanied colonels are entitled to ship 1500 lbs. Accompanied colonels are entitled to ship 2000 lbs.

12. **Shipment of unaccompanied baggage by air.** Effective 1 October 1994 local transportation officers are directed to transport unaccompanied baggage by air to Tel Aviv, Israel. Use the AMC terminal, Israel as the destination terminal.

Consign to Logistics Supervisor, Multinational Force and Observers, Tel Aviv, 75 Ramot Yam, Herzliya Pituach, 46851. Shipments should be made 4 weeks prior to soldier's reporting date, accompanied by a serial number inventory of each box marked "MFO PERSONAL ITEMS FOR (NAME/RANK/SSN), BOX # OF _____."

13. **Housing.** The MFO provides billeting for soldiers assigned to the MFO for duty. Every soldier has a single room. All rooms are air-conditioned and have desks, wall lockers and shelves. Because the rooms are small, some thought should be given to which items to ship as unaccompanied baggage. Soldiers should avoid large items, as they will take up valuable living space. The electrical current is 220 volts, 50-hertz; many US electric appliances will not work (e.g. alarm clocks) even if the current is reduced to 110 volts, 50 hertz with commercial transformer. If you are thinking of buying electrical equipment prior to going, be sure to consider buying items that are dual voltage (110/220 volts).

14. **Camp Services.**

a. **Sports.** There are gyms located on both North and South Camp with weight equipment, basketball, and racquetball and squash courts. There is some type of sporting competition going on year round so bring your gear. There are world-class golf courses in Cairo and in Sharm-El-Sheikh next to South Camp, so bring your clubs. If you would like to SCUBA dive, you are coming to one of the best sites in the world. Certification courses and equipment rentals are available at a reasonable price through civilian instructors. Some opt to order their own gear through the South Camp engineer. A good set can be obtained at a significant discount. South Camp also has an excellent beach with free snorkeling equipment to checkout. The force MWR program is very active, sponsoring fun runs, competitive runs, swim meets, and all types of international sports to include basketball, rugby, soccer, softball, and water polo. Competition is between other contingents and with some American, Egyptian, and Israeli teams.

b. **Laundry/Dry Cleaning.** This service is available at no cost to you. Generally, a two to three day turn around is required before the clothing is ready to pick up.

c. **Sewing Center.** Sewing is free for any items required for military clothing. A small fee is charged for alterations to civilian attire.

d. **Barber Shop.** Civilian contractor ran, male haircuts are \$3.00. There is a Beauty Salon as well; female haircuts start at \$10.00. Other services include haircuts, styling, coloring, highlighting, perms and straightening. Manicure services are also available.

e. **Religious Worship Opportunities.** There are two US Army Chaplains assigned to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO): one Protestant and one Catholic. (General Protestant and Catholic worship services and group bible studies). Jewish literature and some kosher food supplies are available for Jewish personnel. Catholic and Protestant church services are offered on post each week. The 1SB has an outstanding UMT that also leads numerous religious tours such as Mount Sinai, a Holy Land Tour, and the Cairo Christian Tour.

f. **Force Exchange (FX).** Adequate at best. Clothing is extremely expensive in Israel. The FX is closed on MFO Holidays and Fridays. The Force Exchange is a small shoppette sized exchange that carries assorted items such as greeting cards, stationary, clothes (limited – mostly casual/exercise type items), beverages, gifts/souvenirs, cameras, watches, sunglasses electronic equipment, appliances, some CDs, snacks, limited food items, toilet articles (limited selection), and recreational equipment. The selection is limited so if you require a certain item or brand, we recommend that you either ship these items with your Unaccompanied Baggage or arrange for someone in the States to mail these items to you.

g. **Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR).** The MFO provides a variety of MWR programs, they include: soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, racquetball, tennis, squash, weight lifting and swimming. SCUBA diving and snorkeling classes are also available. Bring a camera. You'll take once in a lifetime photographs of the Middle East. The tropical fish are spectacular. There are also Duty tours to various locations in Israel and Egypt (Alexandria, Cairo, Holy Land, Jerusalem, Mount Sinai, Luxor, etc).

h. **Education.** Army Education Centers are located at both North Camp (NC) and South Camp (SC). Three colleges work with these two education centers--University of Maryland (UMD), Central Texas College (CTC) and City College of Chicago (CCC). The University of Maryland provides the general studies/liberal arts courses, CTC provides the vocational-type courses and CCC provides the video-based courses for those unable to attend traditional college classes. Soldiers may also complete college courses through DANTES Independent Study Correspondence Courses. Soldiers decide the best course of action for their needs. Courses are offered at night, at lunchtime, on weekends and on video. Soldiers will find that tuition assistance for college courses is as generous in the Sinai as any assignment a soldier will ever have. Bring copies of your DA Form 669 (Education Record), your college transcripts, and a copy of your 201 file. Soldiers with master's degrees have the opportunity to apply for paid teaching positions through the Education Center and should bring official transcripts if interested. There are also seminars offered on the weekends. There is a computer lab that is open during lunch 1200-1300, 1830-2300, Friday/Saturday 1200-2200. You can bring your own laptop to the computer lab.

i. **Library.** The MFO library is constantly updated with newly released movies. You can checkout books, videos, DVDs, CDs, etc. You are authorized to check out two movies; however, you can check out up to six movies while you are on Staff Duty.

15. **Dining.** There are several avenues for dining on both North and South Camp. North Camp has a large dining facility set up in buffet style as well as a club that offers takeout. South Camp has an excellent dining facility as well as numerous opportunities to dine off post in Sharm such as Thai, Lebanese, Italian, and Chinese cuisine. There is even a Hard Rock Café in Sharm.

a. **Dining Facility.** The main dining facility on North Camp is setup in three sections: the Officer, NCO, and Junior Enlisted sections. All sections have buffet style meals with at least three main dishes, and assorted vegetables, soups, breads, and fruits. There are also healthy choice options and a short order line. The MDF offers an International selection so that every contingent can find a meal from home. The MDF at South Camp is a smaller, consolidated dining facility but offers excellent quality.

b. **Dry Cactus/Sportsman.** The Dry Cactus or Sportsman is one of the clubs on North Camp. It is open in the evening and the Sportsman offers a variety of food and cheap beer. Prices are reasonable and delivery is free.

c. **Cooking.** There is a microwave in the barracks and a small kitchen in the duplexes. Recommend if you are in the hootches – plan on bringing a small microwave. The selection of food to cook is somewhat limited. The FX carries canned foods, crackers, cereal, and snack items. The commissary in Cairo is open to soldiers and has a good selection available; however, Cairo is a 5-hour bus trip away from North Camp. Any food item available in the MDF can be purchased from the Clubs System whether it is raw or cooked (eggs, milk, meat, vegetables, etc). All they require is 48 hours notice minimum for raw produce and five days notice for items that are cooked and orders can be placed through either the Sportsman Bar of the Dry Cactus (North Camp).

16. **Entertainment.** Professional entertainers from the Department of Defense Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Office do performances at both North Camp and South Camp. Films are shown on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the theaters. The MFO receives broadcasts from the Armed Forces Radio and Television Services (AFRTS) via satellite from Vicenza, Italy. AFRTS routinely provides daily commercial news, movies, and live sporting events such as professional baseball, basketball and football. The MFO/1SB club system, supervised by the US Army club management office provides a variety of food, beverages, and entertainment programs for the military and civilian members of the 1SB/MFO at both camps. The force magazine (The Sandpaper), the Stars and Stripes, as well as contingent publications are used to draw attention to important events.

a. **Television and Radio.** The North Camp has 13 television channels (such as CNN, AFN, Discovery, and The Movie Channel) and 10 radio stations (country, rock, NPR, etc). South Camp has 7 television channels and 5 radio stations.

b. **Theater.** North Camp has a post movie theater that shows first run videos before they go into the post library.

c. **Library.** The library has lots of things to offer to include VHS Videos, DVDs, CDs, board games, and a good selection of books for checkout. There are also reference and periodicals to use in the library to include a good selection of U.S. and foreign newspapers.

d. **Night Life.** Each country/contingent has a bar/club. The Officer's Club is open every Monday night for a weekly officer dinner.

e. **Travel.** There are lots of opportunities for travel here in Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. Both the Force and USCON sponsor numerous tours to sites throughout Egypt and Israel. Some MWR sponsored trips include tours of Cairo, the Pyramids, Nile Cruises, and the Holy Land. Petra, Jordan is now open for travel and should not be

missed. There is a Thomas Cooke travel agency located in the FX. Trips and tours can be booked through them at a very reasonable price. SCUBA, snorkeling, and fishing trips are also easily arranged by both Thomas Cooke as well as outside travel and tour agencies.

17. **Driving conditions.** New drivers in the Sinai can expect to be confronted with driving conditions not normally found in the US. By applying good defensive driving practices, you will greatly reduce your chances of being involved in an accident. There is no night driving unless authorized by the Force Commander for duty purposes.

18. **Sinai MFO Drivers License.** You must possess a MFO Driver's License to operate a MFO vehicle. To obtain a MFO Driver's License you must pass both a written test and practical application test, administered by the 1SB and New Zealand contingent. It is also mandatory to have a civilian driver's license.

19. **POVs.** You are NOT authorized shipment of a POV to the Sinai. If you own a POV that you intend to dispose of, do so prior to reporting to Fort Benning. You will not be afforded the time or opportunity to dispose of or store a POV at Fort Benning.

20. **End of Month/Mid Month Pay.** Check to bank pay option (SURE PAY) will be utilized to the maximum extent possible. SURE PAY is mandatory for soldiers entering active duty on or after 1 October 1985. Should an individual write one dishonored check, the individual will be placed on the dishonored checklist and check-cashing privileges will be revoked. There is no other means to cash checks or receive large amounts of cash in the Sinai. If the returned check was due to bank error, upon receipt of a letter from the bank, the individual will be taken off the list and check cashing privileges will be reinstated. It can take up to one month for a check to clear.

21. **Finance Services in the Sinai.** Keep your checking account in the States. All purchases on both North and South Camp are in US dollars. There is a US Finance office located at both North and South camp for check cashing purposes. There are also ATM's machine located closes it to the FX that issues both Egyptian pounds and US currency. You will qualify for both Foreign Duty Pay (\$50) and Hazardous Duty Pay (\$225) during your tour here, although the Army must renew these amounts for CY05 or they could be reduced on 1 January 2005. The Sinai does not qualify as Combat Zone Tax Exclusion unless your mission here requires you to visit Tiran Island (EOD and Aviators).

22. **Pay and Allowances.**

a. If you have dependents living with you prior to your PCS here, you will receive Family Separation Allowance (FSA) in the amount of \$2.00 per day, \$250.00 per month.

b. Enlisted soldiers will receive Save Pay in the amount of \$50.00 a month.

c. Individuals without dependents will have their BAH stopped for the duration of their tour in the Sinai. Soldiers will receive a rebate of \$6.00 - \$38.00 per month, depending on rank.

d. Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) for enlisted soldiers will be terminated when departing their old duty station. Upon arrival in the Sinai, separate rations for SFCs and above will be started when in-processing at finance.

e. A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is not authorized for your tour in the Sinai.

f. Hazardous Danger Pay in the amount of \$225.00 per month is authorized for soldiers in the Sinai.

23. **Processing and Travel Uniform.** Civilian clothing will be worn during all phases of in-processing at Fort Benning and during travel from the US to the Sinai.

MFO-1SB-CDR

SUBJECT: Welcome and Assignment Information

24. **Mail.** You should take the necessary action to have your mail forwarded directly to Sinai. Do not have your mail forwarded to Fort Benning since you will be there only a short time. Have your unit mail clerk assist you to ensure your mail is forwarded correctly. Your new mailing address will depend on your company and location.

If located at North Camp: **Rank, Name, HSC/MEDCO/EOD/AV, Unit #31520, APO AE 09832.** If located at South Camp: Rank, Name, HSC/MEDCO/EOD/AV, Unit #31520, APO, AE 09833. The 1SB has a fully functional APO for the convenience of soldiers stationed in the Sinai. On average, mail takes approximately 14 days to travel from the United States to North Camp.

25. **Wills/Power of Attorney.** A Will and Power of Attorney should be prepared and secured prior to movement to Fort Benning and the Sinai.

26. **Leaves.** Authorized leave may be taken if approved by your Commander. All leave is chargeable and will be administered IAW AR 600-8-10. Current policy suggests mid-tour leave be taken in the 4 – 8 month time frame.

27. **Promotion packets.** Promotable soldiers should ensure all points are added to their records prior to departing their losing duty station. Soldiers in the grades of E-4 through E-5 need to ensure they bring all documents that can or will grant them promotion points. All promotion packets will be maintained at Fort Bragg. All promotable E-4s and E-5s who have not attended PLDC/BNCOC should inquire through their chain of command prior to PCSing to the Sinai. Make sure you take a copy of your promotion packet with you.

28. **Senior NCOs Promotions.** All SSGs and above must take a DA Photo prior to reporting to Fort Benning.

29. **Civilian Clothing in the Sinai.** Civilian clothing is authorized during off duty hours. Remember the Sinai has four seasons, so bring clothing for all types of weather. However, some articles of clothing are considered inappropriate for wear in the Sinai, to include: cutoffs with frayed edges, T-shirts with obscene slogans and shirts that reveal underarms. Officers and NCOs should bring a suit (coat and tie) for social functions. There are opportunities for all to “dress up”. Slacks, dresses, skirts and blouses are appropriate for females to wear to social functions. The exchange does stock adequate numbers of female related items. The selection is particularly limited in the following products: non-aerosol hair care items such as permanents, sprays and conditioners; panties, bras, hosiery and hygienic items. Some of our soldiers order items through catalog stores such as: J.C. Penney’s, Sears, Montgomery Wards, etc. The summers in North Camp are hot and somewhat humid with temperatures running in the nineties and into the low hundreds. South Camp is always 10 to 15 degrees hotter than North Camp. Winters can get chilly and rainy with temperatures running from 35 – 55 degrees from December to early March. Bring lots of casual clothing for social events on camp. You will not need a heavy winter coat but bring several heavy sweaters and light jackets. Bring some dress clothes for special gatherings. Appropriate attire off post is long pants, shirt with sleeves (either short sleeves or long) and closed toe shoes or dress sandals. The Force Exchange (FX – not an AAFES establishment) has a limited selection of clothing, some sports gear, and limited athletic shoes. So bring what you’ll need or plan on ordering from catalogs or from the Internet. Sunglasses are essential here. The FX has a large assortment but they are pricey. You may wish to bring extra pairs. Don’t forget to pack a swimsuit. North Camp has an outstanding pool and South Camp is located directly on the Red Sea and has its own private beach.

30. **Duty Week.** The official duty week is Sunday through Thursday, 0800 – 1700 hours with Friday and Saturday serving as the weekend. There is a separate list of holidays observed by the MFO. The only official US holidays observed are 1 January (New Years Day), Easter, 4th of July (Independence Day), November 9 (Veterans Day) and 25 December (Christmas Day).

31. Immediately, upon receiving notification of your assignment to the 1st US Army Support Battalion, Sinai, Egypt, you must contact the 1st TSC, Task Force Sinai, Rear Detachment, COMM: (910) 396-9163/3530/1930 or DSN: 236-9163/3530/1930. The Rear Detachment office will inform you where you will be staying upon arrival at Fort Benning. If you are flying into the Fayetteville airport get a limousine or taxi and ensure you get a receipt. Upon arrival at the Columbus Airport, report to the Military Liaison NCO located near the baggage claim area. If

MFO-1SB-CDR

SUBJECT: Welcome and Assignment Information

you arrive after 1500 Saturday, report to the staff duty NCO at BLDG 4713, Fort Benning. After duty hours call staff duty at (706) 544-6500.

32. The phone number for the Sinai, 1SB Staff Duty NCO is COMM: 011-972-8628-1801, Extension 2912 or 2983. If anyone should need to contact you, they can use the above numbers. Someone is always available to answer the phone and provide assistance. While you are deployed, remind your family members to contact the Red Cross for emergencies. For further assistance contact 1st U.S. Army Support Battalion Rear Detachment, Fort Bragg at DSN: 236-9163/3530/1930 or COMM: 910-396- 9163/3530/1930.

33. **Conclusion.** This memorandum should prepare you for deployment overseas to the Sinai. As soon as you receive your orders contact 1st U.S. Army Support Battalion Rear Detachment, Fort Bragg at DSN: 236-9163/3530/1930 or COMM: 910-396- 9163/3530/1930. To contact the 1SB, please email either the Adjutant at sbs1@mfo.org or the Senior Personnel NCO at sbs1eval@mfo.org.

“SUPPORT THE FORCE”

ZANDRA D. PARKER
SFC, USA
Adjutant