

## 1st Army MTT

A first of its kind, two-week public affairs training course, developed by the Defense Information School and 1<sup>st</sup> Army (East), Fort Meade, Md., kicked off Mar. 8 at Fort Dix, N.J.

The 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Los Alamitos, Calif., was the first of 10 units slated to receive the training this year.

“As the first unit to experience this training, I look forward to the opportunity to test the new instructional material, work with the instructors and offer a sounding board for further improvements in PA mobile team training,” said Maj. Kristen Carle, 302<sup>nd</sup> MPAD commander.

“Over 50 percent of the unit was reassigned for this mission and this training gives us an opportunity to not only work together as a collective whole, but to hone on our public affairs individual tasks as well,” she said.

The instructor team, led by Air Force Capt. Jeremy Eggers, DINFOS master instructor, consists of combat veterans who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the course.

“The course focuses on advanced public affairs skills the Soldiers will encounter in the combat zone,” said Eggers. “It also gives those who may need it, an opportunity to brush up on basic public affairs skills,” he added.”

First Army’s mission is to train, mobilize and deploy National Guard and Reserve units in the continental United States as well as those supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Because the OIF and OEF requirement for public affairs units and personnel has grown steadily since the start of operations, 1<sup>st</sup> Army created a public affairs mobile training team to prepare the Soldiers for deployment.

For support, 1st Army turned to DINFOS to coach, train and mentor their public affairs Soldiers in order for them to continue this training on their own.

The instructors selected from 1<sup>st</sup> Army received course development training and attended the Instructor Training Course at DINFOS.

“The training we received was instrumental in preparing us to perform platform training in a short period of time. DINFOS bent over backwards to assist the team in everything we needed,” said Master Sgt. Vanessa Peeden, 1<sup>st</sup> Army Public Affairs Mobile Training Team noncommissioned officer in charge. “The outstanding DINFOS instructors who were on the MTT mentored the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Soldiers and set the standard for our team to achieve,” said Peeden