



# MEDIA ADVISORY

**XVIII Airborne Corps Public Affairs Office  
Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000  
(910) 396-5600 / 2920**

October 16, 2003

## **FORT BRAGG TO CONDUCT FORCE PROTECTION READINESS EXERCISE**

**FORT BRAGG, N.C.** – Beginning Monday, Oct. 20, Fort Bragg will conduct Orbit Comet, the installation’s semi-annual force protection exercise to validate its force protection readiness and emergency management systems. The exercise is scheduled to end Friday, Oct. 24.

“There will be no impact on normal morning rush hour traffic, said Lt. Col. Billy J. Buckner, XVIII Airborne Corps public affairs officer. “However motorists should plan for delays in traffic after 9 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.”

The installation terrorist-force protection conditions will change throughout the week based on the training scenario. Military police and gate guards at access control points may conduct a variety of security checks to include full inspections of vehicles entering the checkpoint including inspecting driver’s identification, license, registration and proof of insurance.

“There will be gate closures based upon the threat level, which will increase as the exercise progresses,” said Michael Cains, XVIII Airborne Corps security specialist.

Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Fayetteville Police Department and other county and state emergency management agencies will also participate in Orbit Comet, demonstrating the high level of involvement, integration and cooperation between Fort Bragg and its response partners.

Patients with appointments at Womack and/or outlying clinics should allow ample time to access the installation after 9 a.m. If you are a patient and would like to reschedule your appointment, please contact your primary care clinic.

Clark Health Clinic	907-2575
Joel Health and Dental Clinic	907-5635
Robinson Health Clinic	907-8282
Womack Family Practice Clinic	907-6451
Pope Air Force Base	1-800-931-9501



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School buses will be unaffected by the exercise. Additionally, all facilities will operate on normal business hours.

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**Editor's note: Monday's tabletop exercise will be open for media coverage. If interested, call the Corps Public Affairs Office at 910.396.5600 or 5620. Media should be at Stryker Golf Course parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Updates on Orbit Comet and coverage opportunities will be provided throughout the exercise.**