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MEDIA RELEASE: Eight basic training companies to graduate Dec. 12 and 13

DATE: Dec. 10, 2013

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Two of the largest basic training graduations of 2013 are scheduled for noon Dec. 12 and 10 a.m. on Dec. 13 on Soldier Field behind the National Infantry Museum.

Each day four companies assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade will graduate nearly 900 Soldiers during a joint graduation ceremony. Many of the graduates will spend the holidays with their families before reporting to their duty assignments at Army installations around the world.

Nearly 600 Soldiers assigned to the 194th Armored Brigade will also graduate Dec. 18.

Media are invited to cover the last 2013 Infantry One Station Unit Training graduation on Dec 13. A drill instructor and two new Soldiers will be available for a brief media op after the graduation that day.

The keynote speaker on Dec. 13 is the commander of the 198th Infantry Brigade, Col. Jonathan T. Neumann. A native of Montana, Neumann is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Neumann is a veteran of combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has also assisted with disaster relief efforts in Florida following Hurricane Andrew.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Combat Infantryman Badge (second award), Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab.

The 198th Infantry Brigade conducts One Station Unit Training, a 16-week training cycle which combines Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training. Graduates are qualified Infantrymen.

The 194th Armored Brigade trains all Army Cavalry Scouts and Armor Crewmen. The brigade also trains Marine Armor crewmen, as well as Abrams tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanics for the Army and the Marines.

Nearly all of the Soldiers in the midst of basic training on post will travel home on leave Dec. 17 for the holidays and will return to Fort Benning to complete their training Jan. 3.

Media who wish to cover the Dec. 13 graduation are asked to call the Public Affairs Office to confirm their attendance.

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