October 31, 2018

Leaders,

Welcome to the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade. CSM Gunn and I would like to congratulate you on your selection to serve in this unique and rewarding assignment. Selection to this organization is a testament to your past performance and your potential to excel as a part of this exceptional team.

SFABs are a Chief of Staff initiative that support the operational readiness of our Army, his number one priority. The creation of SFABs and their employment in current and future conflicts will provide maneuver space for our brigade combat teams to generate the readiness needed to fight our future wars. SFABs will train, advise, assist, accompany, and enable conventional foreign security force partners so BCTs can prepare for conflict with our near-peer adversaries.

The 1st SFAB is fundamentally based on an infantry BCT down to the company level but without junior enlisted and officer personnel. In our organization, nearly every position is filled by a key and developmentally complete Soldier, to include the brigade commander and command sergeant major. The talent, experience, and maturity found in the 1st SFAB is unlike any other conventional force unit.

We activated in August 2017, underwent an accelerated man, train, and equip period, completed two JRTC rotations, and deployed to Afghanistan in February 2018. An impressive achievement few units could accomplish, made possible by the caliber of Soldier assigned to the 1st SFAB. During our inaugural nine-month deployment, our Combat Advisor Teams performed exceptionally well, improved their Afghan partners, and validated the SFAB concept.

In 2019, the 1st SFAB will reset and conduct an aggressive training program to include individual and team collective training to prepare for our next mission set. We do not yet know how, where, or when the Army will use us next, but we intend for this brigade to be fully prepared for employment by fall 2019.

Our culture is based on developing and employing our primary maneuver element, the Combat Advisor Team (CAT). CATs are led by post-command captains and experienced senior non-commissioned officers. They have the autonomy to plan and execute training, the opportunity to develop creative new ways to train, advise, assist, and the responsibility to represent the 1st SFAB, our Army, and our Nation to our foreign security force partners when deployed.

We all have more questions than answers about the 1st SFAB’s future, but we’re confident this talented team will figure out solutions to our problems and will exceed all expectations.

Please send your PCS questions to your sponsor or new chain of command. You can also contact the S1 at: 706-544-0012 for more information. We look forward to seeing you on Kelley Hill at Fort Benning.

Scott A. Jackson
Brig. Gen., U.S. Army
Commanding

Christopher D. Gunn
Command Sergeant Major
Brigade CSM