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14 June 2005

LTC Michael Browder takes command of CACTI Battalion

By



The soldiers of 2nd Battalion 35th Infantry (Cacti) welcomed their new commander last month.

Lt. Col. Michael A. Browder assumed command from Lt. Col. Michael S. McBride in a ceremony at Sills Field on 14 June 2005.

Friends and family members of the battalion watched the time-honored tradition from the reviewing stands.

The 3rd Brigade Commanding Officer, Col. Richard Pedersen, presided over the change of command.

The Commander of Troops for the ceremony was MAJ Joseph Walsh, Executive Officer of the Cacti Battalion.

Assisting members of Walsh's staff included the Battalion Adjutant, CPT Brett Kennedy; the S-2, CPT

Rob Bruce; the S-3, MAJ Todd Wilson; and the S-4, CPT Anh Ha.

The 2-35 Infantry Battalion Chaplain, CPT Louis Kruger, issued the invocation.

The Color Guard and soldiers from the Headquarters Company and 2-35 Infantry Battalion's three prestigious rifle companies lined the parade field. They stood at attention under the shadow of the American flag, which furled and snapped under a crisp, cloudless Hawaiian sky.

As the troops assumed parade rest, the 25th Infantry Division Band played the "Tropic Lightning March".

Lt. Col. Browder joins a long line of courageous, talented commanders of the Cacti battalion, and will undoubtedly lead the fine battalion to future success himself.

Browder Browder is a 1986 graduate of Louisiana State University and received his Infantry commission from OCS at Fort Benning, GA.

His military education includes infantry officer basic and advanced courses, CAS3, Command and General Staff College, ranger, airborne, jumpmaster, air assault and pathfinder courses.

Most recently, he was the Executive Officer for 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.