

Family priority with INSCOM

by Tina Miles
902nd MI Group

As the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command goes through transformation with the rest of the Army, so too does the 902nd Military Intelligence Group.

The 902nd MI Group faces new missions. Readiness, which has always been a priority, now takes on an even greater importance. In the fight against global terrorism deployments will continue to be a mainstay in the life of soldiers. Under these circumstances, family readiness becomes even more significant.

In keeping with a state of constant readiness, the 902nd MI Group has recently focused its attention on the establishment of a new Family Readiness Group that supports the entire group.

Even though the battalions and companies within the 902nd have historically had their own Family Readiness Groups, a Family Readiness Group for the "Deuce" itself is a new concept.

"Under this new organization, the group's family readiness committee will be able to coordinate activities for the entire 902nd," said Capt. James Howie, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

"Ensuring that lines of communications flow throughout the Group to see that individual needs are met and the commander's intent is properly disseminated," Howie said. "We want to identify what the Group can provide for the battalions to compliment their existing Family Readiness Groups."

The Family Readiness Group is a great source of information for those remaining at home while spouses are deployed, said Capt. Dianna Terpin, Family Readiness Group mem-



courtesy photo

Capt. James Howie, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 902nd MI Group prepares to write a list of Frequently Asked Questions at the Family Readiness Group meeting, as attendees review brochures provided to them.

ber and spouse of Capt. Abelardo D. Terpin, 902nd Military Group.

"It's a good way to tie in with the unit to make sure everyone involved is well informed. My husband and I have comfort knowing the Family Readiness Group is a place to turn to for support. It's nice to know that no one really has to be alone in times like these," she said.

The overall feeling of the spouses who attend the meetings is that even if they are without immediate family, they have a surrogate family within the Family Readiness Group.

Family Readiness Groups play a crucial role in the overall mission of the 902nd MI Group. The new organization is designed to be a support mechanism, as well as to assist in the

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

enhancement of the quality of life for all concerned.

In conjunction with the new Family Readiness Group, the 902nd MI Group has also established a website for public access. Along with information pertaining to the Group, there is a specific area dedicated to family readiness. Within the family readiness portion of the site are helpful references, such as a deployment readiness guide, frequently asked questions, and links to additional resources to assist

Soldiers and family members. Among these valuable links are Army Community Services, Army Emergency Relief and Legal Services.

Family Readiness Groups are an integral component of mission readiness, said Stacey Hale, of the Victim Advocacy Support Team, Army Community Services. They provide a network of communication between family members, the unit and community resources. "In fact, the primary purpose of any Family Readiness Group is to encourage self-sufficiency

among its members by providing information, referral assistance and mutual support," said Hale. The group achieves family readiness by providing an atmosphere and an agenda of activities which build cohesiveness among unit members and their families, she said.

The 902nd MI Group leaders believe the group stands ready at all times to meet the continuing changes in mission and future transformation challenges - as expressed by the Group's motto: "Strength Through Vigilance."