



# Paraglide

## **Contract Security Guards Maintain Fort Bragg Safety**

*by Lucille Anne Newman*

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On Nov. 10 the access control points across Fort Bragg were fully manned by contracted security guards from Alutiiq-Wackenhut Security Services.

Many of the guards are veteran military and civilian police officers, said Capt Richard McKinney of Alutiiq-Wackenhut Security Services.

“What we have provided to Fort Bragg is a more mature workforce,” McKinney said. “I’m a retired military police officer and I’m still providing a security service for the Fort Bragg community, which I have been a part of for roughly 14 years. It’s really no change except for the uniform.”

Staff Sgt John C. Mattson, 42nd Military Police Detachment access control point noncommissioned officer in charge said because most of the guards are veterans the training process was easier.

“Because they are already familiar with Fort Bragg and its policies, they are able to perform their duties at the gate just as we normally did,” he said. “If future (force protection conditions) go into effect or we have to go into an elevated security level, a plan is already in place for that. (These guards) went through in-depth training sponsored by our office, (as well as training) already received from Alutiiq-Wackenhut.”

Mattson said having the contracted guards at the gates allows the active-duty Soldiers to return to their units and participate in what their units are tasked to do.

“Basically its still the same policies and procedures already in place,” Mattson said. “Force protection levels remain the same, (the guards) are still armed and can still react to any situations that may transpire at the gates.”

According to McKinney, each guard has received 88 hours of training in security and law enforcement-related tasks, law classes from the Staff Judge Advocates Office and first aid as well as training in unarmed self-defense and an Asp Baton, which McKinney said is used for handling any irate individuals the guards may encounter.

“They have received a gamut of instructions to insure they are providing a high standard of service to the community,” McKinney said.

Mattson said Fort Bragg is not the only installation that is using contracted guards.

“That was something dictated from higher above,” said Mattson. “The general public was curious as to why we are using civilian contract guards, but civilian guards are being used at numerous installations and not just Fort Bragg. (Overall) the general public is satisfied because it was not much of a change for them.”

McKinney agreed, “I have received nothing but praise from the contracting officer representatives and several members of the community.

“It’s like the overall community has accepted us.

“And although there will be a few people who will challenge us, we will always try to provide a high standard of service.”