

Group Tour Dates

NTC Group Tours are currently being offered on:

11 & 12 Sept 09	16 & 17 Apr 10
09 & 10 Oct 09	21 & 22 May 10
06 & 07 Nov 09	9 & 10 July 10
12 & 13 Mar 10	6 & 7 Aug 10

NTC group tours are offered twice a month, based on training schedules. Training schedules are subject to change so tours must be booked and paid in advance and are based on availability. Reservations are required.

Tours may include a visit to the NTC Museum, Painted Rocks, and the NTC town of Medina Wasl. Depending on the desired tour time, the group may arrange for a lunch break.



"Hi Jolly" the camel is on display at the museum. There are many fascinating military items in the museum collection as well as historical Army memorabilia.

Group Tour Requirements

- ◆ Tour Groups must be US citizens and have a government issued picture I.D. (i.e. drivers license, passport, etc.) for proof of US residence
- ◆ Closed toe shoes, long pants, and eye protection must be worn.
- ◆ Tour members must carry water at all times.

Tours Based on Availability

Please note that due to the purpose & location of Medina Wasl, this part of the group tour is not handicapped accessible. (Tour members must climb one flight of stairs.)

What to Bring:

- Eye Protection (sunglasses)*
- Water Bottle (filled)*
- Sunscreen & Hat
- Camera
- Sturdy Walking Shoes for Uneven Terrain* (must be closed toed shoes—no sandals allowed)

*Required items for tour

Map of the National Training Center



For more information or to book a group tour at the NTC, please call FMWR Marketing at (760)380-9275. NTC group tours are based on training schedules, dates are subject to change. Group tour reservations must be booked in advance.



Tour of Fort Irwin & National Training Center Training Area



National Training Center Mission



Fort Irwin is the National Training Center (NTC) for the Army. The NTC is a world class training center for America's Soldiers.

The mission of the NTC is to provide tough, realistic, joint and combined arms training in multi-national venues across the full

spectrum of conflict set in an up-to-date operating environment to assist commanders in developing trained, competent leaders and Soldiers.

The NTC prides itself by presenting Soldiers with current problem sets to improve the force and prepare for success in the Global War on Terrorism and future joint battlefields.



HOOAH



Each month several thousand Soldiers and role players simulate training exercises to prepare for deployment in the Middle East. The first week of training in "The Box" consists of specially designed "Situational Training Exercises" to expose Soldiers to typical situations they will encounter in the field. The second week of training is called *free play* where everything is unpredictable.

Why Iraqi Villages?

Training for Real

Playing for real in 'The Box'
By Robert Abrams, Editor, *High Desert Warrior*



The sight must have been startling even if the Soldiers had already been to Iraq.



Following a bomb blast, their comrade was motionless in the street with his legs blown off. As the Soldiers carried him away on a stretcher, he screamed and writhed in pain. Blood and strands of flesh remained where his legs once were.

The bomb blast was simulated, a loud noise but no real damage. The Soldiers carrying the stretcher were training. They were in the Iraq-like town of Medina Wasl in the National Training Center's training area, known as "The Box."



The Soldier without legs was really a double-amputee hired to play the role of a wounded Soldier. The blood and strands of flesh were applied by a make-up artist. In Iraq, of course, a blast like this one, and the blood that went with it, would be real.



'Combat-focused Broadway play'
"What we're really doing is an interactive, combat-focused Broadway play," said Brig. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, (former) Commanding General of NTC and Fort Irwin.

HISTORY OF FORT IRWIN



In 1844, CPT John C. Fremont, with Kit Carson, was the first U.S. Army member to visit the Fort Irwin area. In 1846, the Army patrolled the Fort Irwin area to control the raiding and horse stealing from the prosperous Gold Rush. During the Indian Wars the Army constructed a small stone fort overlooking Bitter Springs .

In the 1880's the discovery of borax at Death Valley brought growth. From the late 1800's to the early 1900's, the area's new growth led to the establishment of the nearby town of Barstow.

In 1942, the Mojave Anti-Aircraft Range was renamed Camp Irwin, in honor of MG George LeRoy Irwin, commander of the 57th Field Artillery Brigade during World War I. The post was designated a permanent installation on August 1, 1961 and renamed Fort Irwin.

On August 9, 1979, the Department of the Army announced that Fort Irwin had been selected as the site for the National Training Center. The National Training Center (NTC) was officially activated October 16, 1980.



Soldiers undergo cultural training

Today, Fort Irwin, is also home to thirteen villages designed to train troops for desert warfare.

The villages are Medina Wasl, Al Jaff, Wadi Al Ra'id, Al Khalouwa Hogg, Mutahaya Kukh, Ain Ghar, Bahira Quda, Dara Tihan, Medina Ma'aki, Al Sharq, Medina Jabal, Mezra'a Madik Ahmar, and Abar Layla.



"Downtown" Medina Wasl