



Preparing)

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ا Ist Brigade Combat Team Ist Cavalry Division Fort Hood, Texas



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Soldiers load vehicles, equipment for Atlantic Resolve

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, wasted no time staging, loading and securing several hundred tracked and wheeled vehicles and other pieces of equipment onto railcars Aug. 19 for shipment to locations in Germany, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The movement of the vehicles began just days after the Aug. 13 announcement by the Department of Defense of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a series of military-to-military training exercises requested by host nations in Poland and the Baltics.

"This is a challenge, because this is something that's never been done before," said Warrant Officer 1 Carlton Huguley, mobility officer, 1st BCT. "We're trying to move not an entire brigade set, but a pretty hefty number, to five different countries."

The last major movement of American vehicles and equipment to Europe was in the early '90s, for Exercise Reforger, an exercise intended to ensure that NATO had the ability to quickly deploy forces to West Germany in the event of a conflict.

Beginning this fall, Soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, augmented with additional troops from several other battalions, will participate in Atlantic Resolve as part of 1st BCT's role as the NATO Response Force for 2014.

Unlike the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, who will primarily fall in on vehicles and equipment from the European Activity Set for the Combined Resolve III exercise in Germany, the 2-8 Cav. Soldiers will take their own vehicles from Fort Hood to Atlantic Resolve in Poland and the Baltic states.

The short-notice movement required the efforts of many to accomplish.

"It's definitely a brigade effort," said Capt. A.J. Steinlage, company commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, and railhead operation officer in charge. "It's not just what happens here at the railhead. It's everything that happened before. Each battalion in the brigade is playing an important role."

Ironhorse Soldiers learned many lessons in February 2014 when Soldiers loaded brigade vehicles and equipment for a monthlong training rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.

"One thing we learned was to leapfrog (along the line of vehicles on the railcars) as we tie down the tanks," said Sgt. Allen Carrick, tank commander, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

The process ensures that no vehicles get missed and that Soldiers work together, he said.

"Safety is the main thing," said Carrick, a native of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. "Lots of hazards on the railhead."

For example, the tanks actually overhang the flatbed railcars by more than five inches on each side, and require very precise driving to get them loaded correctly, he said.

Soldiers working on the railhead detail got a better understanding of the complexity of transporting equipment.

"When I was here as a driver for NTC, I was wondering why it was taking forever," said Pfc. Justin Loera, a canon crewmember in Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment. "Now I understand."

Loera, a native of Victorville, California, walked up and down long rows of vehicles and, using a handheld scanner, checked the military shipping labels affixed to all the staged vehicles before they could be driven onto the railcars and chained down.

As Soldiers staged, uploaded and chained down vehicles and equipment onto railcars, civilian rail inspectors and logisticians from the 841st Transportation Battalion oversaw the effort.

"We're looking for safety and at the integrity of the equipment," said Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Ortiz, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command team leader, 841st Trans. Bn. "We're also making sure the equipment has the proper documentation, and ensuring the proper loading and storage of the equipment."

Soldiers from 1st BCT worked very hard to get vehicles staged, documented, loaded and secured in a timely manner, said Ortiz.

"It would have taken us twice the time to do it without the support of 1st BCT," said Ortiz.

In the past, railhead movement operations were conducted primarily by civilians.

"It's all pretty much Soldier-powered now with civilian inspectors," said Steinlage. "It's good experience for Soldiers."

Soldiers from Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division tighten down M1A2 Abrams tanks for eventual shipment to Poland and the Baltic states Aug. 19 at the Fort Hood railhead.

Cav Soldiers, Make-a-Wish collaborate for ill child

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

FORT HOOD, Texas – Whimsical chances to make wishes are plenty. People wish upon a star. They throw pennies into wishing wells. They even make wishes and blow out birthday candles.

One First Team child had an unforgettable wish granted on his birthday July 28.

Antonio Laguna got a special birthday present from the military and Central Texas community – an orchard and automated greenhouse.

Soldiers from the 115th Brigade Support Battalion "Muleskinner," 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, along with Make-A-Wish Central and South Texas, and local businesses were able to grant Antonio's wish with the support of many others in the community.

The 8-year-old had briefly considered asking for a trip when officials from Make-A-Wish originally approached him.

"His first thought was that he wanted to go to the Great Wall of China and eat grasshoppers," said his mother, Candace Laguna. "But then he asked how long trips last and changed his mind. He said, 'Wishes should last."

At the age of 6, Antonio was diagnosed with the rare and life-threatening disease of Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and Autonomic Dysregulation.

ROHHAD affects everything the body is supposed to do naturally – like weight management, eye focus, bowel movements, breathing, temperature regulation and even psychological behaviors, said Candace. There are 75-cases of the condition world-wide.

Because of his rare condition, the family takes Antonio to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, for treatments. Previous attempts at gardening have failed because of the many trips the family must take, which is why this greenhouse is fully-automated to control temperature and water the plants, even if the family is away, said Frank Laguna, Antonio's father.

"It's a learn-as-you-go process," he said. Antonio, who must follow a very careful diet, wants to share the orchard and green-

Supertonio's wish continues on the following page

Antonio, 8, and his father, retired Sgt. Frank Laguna get a guided tour of the automated greenhouse he received through Make-A-Wish Central and South Texas from Jessica Robertson of Backbone Valley Nursery, Marble Falls, Texas.

Supertonio's wish continued

house to share his love of food and to feed others, Candace said. "He wants people to come out and plant and pick fruit and veg-

etables for themselves – community gardening," she said. Soldiers of the 115th BSB installed the siding, reflective roofing and large fan on the greenhouse, and performed many other tasks, including mowing, edging, and preparing for Antonio's big day

Getting everything ready in time came down to the wire.

"I laid awake last night wondering how we would get everything done," said Jessica Robertson of Backbone Valley Nursery, Marble Falls, Texas. "I showed up July25, and there are 20-plus Soldiers, and everyone's working. It's amazing and makes me proud of my country." For Muleskinner Soldiers, volunteering was a way to take care of one of their own. Antonio's fatherserved as the armorer for Company B, 115th BSB until his medical retirement in June 2014.

"We won't forget this family," said Command Sgt. Maj. Rocky Carr, 115th BSB. "He will always be a Muleskinner."

It was a rewarding experience for many of the Soldiers.

"It's been emotional," said Spc. Stephanie Swann, an automated logistics specialist with 115th BSB and a native of Los Angeles, California. "We had a couple of us out here crying, but it's a great feeling overall being able to help this little boy with his wish."

The family has set up a Facebook page for those who want to follow Antonio and the family:

https://www.facebook.com/SuperToniosFight

Antonio (center), 8, with his fa-ther, retired Sgt. Frank Laguna, and Jessica Robertson of Backbone Valley Nursery, Marble Falls, Texas, cuts the ribbon July 28 on the automated greenhouse he received through Make-A-Wish Central and South Texas. At the age of 6, Antonio was diagnosed with the rare and life-threatening disease of Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and Autonomic Dysregulation. ROHHAD affects everything the body is supposed to do naturally - like weight management, eye focus, bowel movements, breathing, temperature regulation and even psychological behaviors, said Candace. There are 75-cases of the condition worldwide. Soldiers from the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, along with many community volun-teers and donors, helped make Antonio's wish a reality.





(Right) Soldiers from the 115th BSB install siding July 25 for a greenhouse project in collaboration with Make-A-Wish Central and South Texas for Antonio, 8, son of retried Syte. Frank and Candace Laguna. Frank retried from the 115th BSB in June 2014.

(left) Antonio Laguna got a special birthday present Suly 28 from the military and Central Texas community — an orchard and automated greenhouse. "Muleskinner" Soldiers from the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, along with the Make-A-Wish Central and South Texas, and other local businesses, were able to grant Antonio's wish with the support of many others in the Community.





Squadron prepares for complex missions ahead

Story and photos by Spc. Paige Behringer *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

FORT HOOD, Texas – Distant popping sounds could be heard from the command tower of Jack

Mountain Multiuse Range throughout the week of Aug. 26. The sight of Bradley Fighting Vehicles on the range below revealed another round of level one gunnery qualification in full swing for the 1st Squadron "Garryowen," 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division.

Some Garryowen crews on the range this time around satisfied a bi-annual certification requirement, while other crews are prepared for series of upcoming missions.

This fall, more than half of the squadron is heading to countries across Europe for Atlantic Resolve and Combined Resolve III.

"We're finishing up the rest of the Blackhawk Troop crews now to go over to Germany to do gunnery there," said Sgt. Jason Olivar, a Garryowen cavalry scout.

Olivar, a San Jose, California, native said he's excited for a change in scenery.

"The guys always like training, but most of them have never been to Europe or Germany," said Command Sgt. Maj. Seann O'Brien, Garryowen's senior noncommissioned officer. "This will be their first encounter with Germany, the cold, the different land (and) training environment, other NATO countries (and) seeing other armies."

Compared to what he has seen in Iraq and parts of Afghanistan, Olivar said Germany is going to be a world of difference.

In the meantime, the rest of Garryowen will be on-call at Fort Hood for wildland firefighting operations. The unit was tasked to help assist during wildfire emergencies across the southwest U.S. from July through October in the event civilian and National Guard resources become exhausted.

Additionally, troopers back in Texas will be running a tactical operations center during two simultaneous training exercises in October. Simulated battle scenarios back at Fort Hood will support CBR III exercises in Germany, linking the scattered squadron across an ocean.

Although O'Brien's troopers have a series of multi-faceted missions ahead between three countries and two continents, he is confident in his Soldiers' abilities to succeed. "We kind of (have) everybody spread out ... but we have good first sergeants and commanders and they're ready for the challenge," said O'Brien, a Miami, Florida, native.



Sgt. Aaron Falk, a Jacksonville, Florida, native and cavalry scout assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, lubricates pieces of an M242 25mm automatic chain-gun in his Bradley Fighting Vehicle during level one gunnery Aug. 26 at Fort Hood, Texas. While some crews on the range this time around satisfied a biannual certification requirement, other crews prepared for a series of upcoming international missions.



In preparation for a series of upcoming missions, Soldiers assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conduct level one gunnery Aug. 26 at Fort Hood, Texas. This fall more than half of the battalion is heading to countries across Europe for Atlantic Resolve and Combined Resolve III. In the meantime, the rest of Garryowen will be at Fort Hood on-call for wildland firefighting operations.



Ironhorse knocks out First Team Training

August - October 2014

Story and photos by Spc. Paige Behringer 1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – In the midst of preparing for another round of multinational training exercises overseas, Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, took a Thursday to focus on professional development during "First Team Training," a 1st Cavalry Division initiative to reinforce and reserve time for the Army's traditional "sergeant's time training."

Throughout the morning of Aug. 21, Ironhorse leaders trained Soldiers on a variety of subjects - from basic Soldier tasks like marksmanship to more specific job-related duties such as determining a stream's velocity before crossing a gap.

"We have our junior leaders - this also includes junior officers - training Soldiers down to the small-unit level with the intent of building their skill sets, but more importantly, building a little bit of camaraderie as well as a more confident, resilient Soldier," said Capt. Michael Falls, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer" of the Ironhorse Brigade.

The afternoon hours were set aside for counseling sessions, ensuring individual Soldiers had the opportunity for face-toface time with leaders.

"We have this presupposition that counseling is always negative, but it also ensures

Carryowen Soldiers practice Modern Army Combatives during First Team Training Aug. 21 at Fort Hood, Texas.

that those junior leaders have the available time to recognize and reinforce those good things our Soldiers are doing on a day-today basis," Falls said.

Counseling Soldiers is a means to assist and teach them what they need to improve while helping them understand their responsibilities and duties as Soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class Casey Brown, a fire support specialist assigned to Hammer Company.

"If (you) don't give someone a guideline and tell them specifically what it is they need to do, then they can't improve," Brown said. "If you tell them (when) they're doing a good job, you've established trust (and) communication, and you've established a standard to which you expect your Soldier to adhere."

Brown said the benefit of counseling is the two-way conversation created between leader and subordinate, which can also help create better leaders.

Between training and counseling, Falls said he believes the camaraderie between leaders and Soldiers improves by setting this time aside each Thursday.







Soldiers assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion "Dragon," 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Tronhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, practice "dime and washer" drills during First Team Training, Aug. 21, at Fort Hood, Texas.

Plamming class comes to Cav leaders

Story and Photos by Spc. Paige Behringer 1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – In any Army unit, the ability to plan effectively is a factor that can make or break mission success. To get better understanding of how to develop solid plans, Soldiers of 1st Squadron "Garryowen," 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division attended a three-week long Mobile Training Team Cavalry Leader Course Sept. 2 through 19 here.

"I consider this a high payoff training event, and it's also low cost, because instead of sending nine students to Fort Benning, the unit only has to pay for one instructor to come to them," said Capt. Jared Graham. "I think a unit can get a lot out of the training and the personnel, because now they can understand doctrine and apply it for their unit in a way that's really going to help them be more effective."

Graham, a Cavalry Leader Course instructor assigned to 3rd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment, 316th Cavalry Brigade, said students will leave the course with a new understanding for developing plans in a time condensed environment while synchronizing other elements of planning to accomplish a mission.

"Plans rarely survive a first contact," said Graham, a native of Escondido, California. "That's a phrase that you hear quite a bit in the Army. Going through the process of planning and establishing a level of detail is important, because as the situation changes, it gives us a framework and understanding that we can be reactive, flexible, adaptable and all these other things that we have to be when we're doing missions."

For 1-7 CAV students like Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ruge, this is a real-time planning experience.

During week two, the class had to create a plan of action based on a brigade-level order to provide a flank guard in a battlefield scenario.

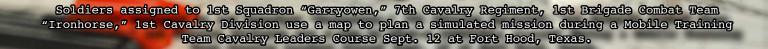
"This is a quick tempo plan," said Ruge, a cavalry scout and native of Boelus, Nebraska. "As (the plan is) progressing, the enemy is moving toward us, so we have minimal time to plan ... where to place our three line troops with the assets we have attached to get the effect on the enemy that we're looking for." Ruge said this experience will come in handy when he transitions into the role of observer-controller-trainer for National Guard units in the future.

"(This class) will definitely give me a step up in showing (units) what they need to be putting in their thought process when they are planning missions," Ruge said.

In addition, 1-7 CAV Soldiers in the class will have a chance to put these sharpened skills into practice this fall during training exercises in three countries and two continents.

While part of the squadron trains with partnered allies in Lithuania during Atlantic Resolve, Soldiers heading to Germany for Combined Resolve III will have support from their own backyard in October. Troopers in Texas are set to run a tactical operations center during two simultaneous training exercises linked to CBRIII.

"I think (the Cavalry Leader Course) brings a lot of different disciplines together," Graham said. "Because this is a (scenario) that's going to involve everybody, we have to understand how we're all going to fit into the big picture and how our small piece influences the echelons above."



Maximizing mission efficiency at the lowest level



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Tronhorse," 1st Cavalry Division prepare for upcoming training exercises across Europe by conducting the classroom portion of military driver's training Sept. 2 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Tronhorse," 1st Cavalry Division inventory vehicle emergency equipment during military driver's training Sept. 4 at Fort Hood, Texas Story and Photos By Spc. Paige Behringer 1BCT, 1CD PAO

> FORT HOOD, Texas – On a given day, an Army intelligence analyst might double as a master fitness trainer or a combat medic may be a road guard.

Because Soldiers are expected to possess a broad spectrum of skills, it is important they conduct routine and specialized training to keep up with the Army's changing needs.

During the first week of September, Soldiers assigned to the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division made time for routine training while continuing preparations for several missions across Europe this fall.

More than 20 Ironhorse Soldiers took to the classroom and the road to earn a basic, yet crucial, certification: a military driver's license.

"(It is) very important that we have Soldiers properly trained and licensed on vehicles that we will be using," said Sgt. Travis Willingham, a master driver assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," of the Ironhorse Brigade. "Without drivers, you don't have any mobility. (Without) mobility, you don't have an operation."

Since the upcoming exercises Combined Resolve III and Atlantic Resolve span several European countries, this particular round of driver's training will prove its value once Soldiers are on the ground.

"We are going to need the vehicles, so we can transport everything from (people to) supplies, weapons and ammunition," said Willingham, a native of Edinburg, Texas.

Licensed drivers are needed to move vehicles from ships and trains for use throughout ongoing training operations with NATO allies.

The mission is more efficient when Soldiers possess multiple certifications, including a military driver's license, said 1st Sgt. James Wichet, Hammer Company senior noncommissioned officer.

"Every person (in) a section should be able to operate every piece of equipment," said Witchet, a Houston, Texas, native.

If a Soldier gets sick and is unable to drive, it can cost time and affect overall mission success, especially if the rest of the team is incapable of filling in, Wichet added.

In addition to basic driver's training, Soldiers will later receive more mission specific instruction before heading to Germany, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland.

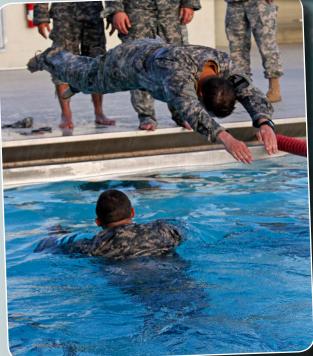
"Some of these Soldiers have never been to Europe, so a lot of intense training is going on to make sure that they understand the rules and regulations for driving in Europe," Wichet said.

August - October 2014

Ridge Runners rock triathlon By Spc. Paige Behringer 1BCT, 1CD PAO



Soldiers assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion "Lancer," 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division competed in a triathalon, Sept. 5, at Fort Hood, Texas. Participants completed a four mile ruck march, a squad collective 600 meter swim and finally ran four miles back to the starting point.





10

Eastern Europe-bound Soldiers get culture training



Retired Army Maj. Gen. James Darden discusses, "The U.S., NATO & Baltic Security & Regional Relations in the 21st Century," with Soldiers and leaders from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Aug. 27, as preparation for the brigade's participation in Atlantic Resolve. Darden, who served as the Director of Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, U.S. European Command until October 2004, said the U.S. has close ties with Europe, including more than \$3 trillion in trade relationships and many common interests like security cooperation, counternarcotics and many others.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson 1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – To better prepare for training with Polish, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian military forces, Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division spent two days hearing from a panel of experts on a range of topics related to working in a multinational environment from Aug. 27-28.

The training focused on socio-economic and cultural overviews of Poland and the Baltic nations, a brief introduction to NATO and the armed forces of the participating countries, and U.S. interests and priorities in the region.

"The class is an opportunity for our Soldiers to better understand the importance of our participation in Atlantic Resolve and to be prepared to work in a multinational environment," said Maj. Keith Schreckengost, information operations officer, 1st BCT.

Schreckengost, who organized the event, said speakers tailored the information to be useful to squad, platoon, and company officers and enlisted leaders.

From different experts, Soldiers were

advised to know NATO tactics, techniques and procedures; to avoid U.S. military jargon, to understand the history of the region and how it contributes to the inherent distrust of Russia, and to teach and to learn from our NATO allies and partners.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. James Darden, who served as the Director of Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, U.S. European Command until October 2004, said the U.S. has close ties with Europe, including more than \$3 trillion in trade relationships and many common interestslike security cooperation, counternarcotics and many others.

Darden, who served as the exercise director/chief controller for the last three major exercises involving movement of U.S. personnel, vehicles and equipment to Europe from 1991-93 known as the REFORGER exercises, emphasized the importance of the brigade's participation in Atlantic Resolve.

"We are there to deter and to reassure (our NATO allies and partners)," said Darden.

The participation of Soldiers from 1st BCT in Atlantic Resolve – a significant movement of U.S. personnel, vehicles and equipment from the continental U.S. to Eastern Europe – is unique and reinforces America's commitment to NATO, said James Hardy, British government Security Sector Reform Advisor.

"It shows that America practices what it preaches, that the U.S. is committed to NATO and the region," said Hardy. "The proof is in the pudding."

For one officer, the training exercise in Poland and the Baltics is a chance to reconnect with his heritage.

"I am very interested in that side of my heritage, because we know so little about it," said Capt. Matthew Krivensky, military intelligence officer, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT. "My sister-in-law has done a lot of research into my family's ancestry and found a passport from who I believe to be my great grandfather traveling from Indiana back to visit his father in Lithuania in 1908."

Krivensky said the region and the people are special to him. "I share a common history with that region, as many of my Polish and Lithuanian ancestors who immigrated to the U.S. settled in and around Chicago," said Krivensky. "To know my history is linked with the Polish and Lithuanian history fosters an immediate connection for me to our allied partners in that area."



August - October 2014

Multi-national soccer game builds partnership Story and photos by Spc. Paige Behringer IBCT, ICD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Partnership and international relations are not foreign concepts for Phantom Warrior Week's champion soccer team, the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division.

To celebrate their victory in the recent post-wide competition, 1BCT Soldiers practiced camaraderie through competition Sept. 22 during a friendly soccer match against Royal Netherlands Army soldiers assigned to the 11th Air Mobile Brigade attached to 21st Cavalry Brigade here.

Since the host team's mission this year revolves around multi-national partnership through a series of overseas exercises, it was fitting they play against a European counterpart right in their own backyard. This fall, 1BCT will be training in five European countries alongside NATO allies during Atlantic Resolve and Combined Resolve III.

Sgt. 1st Class Ivan Alvira, a Port Buchanan, Puerto Rico, native assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer" of the Ironhorse Brigade, said the game was a good experience and could be a precursor for similar opportunities to play against European counterparts in Germany later this year.

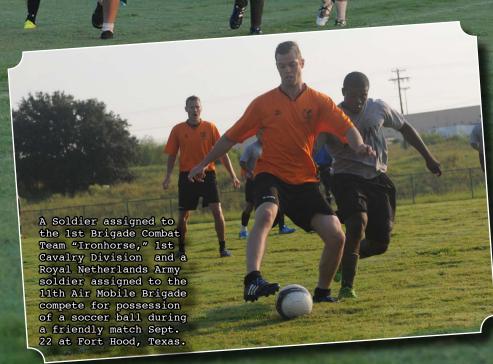
"We got to meet people from other battalions within the brigade, and we also got to make some friendships with other units," said Alvira, 1BCT's assistant coach. "I think overall we did well."

Command Sgt. Maj. James Put, the senior noncommissioned officer of the 11th Air Mobile Brigade, said he enjoyed having the opportunity to build camaraderie not only between the teams but also across Fort Hood units.

"I organized the whole game ... to get our footprint out there, show people (that) Dutch soldiers are over here and show camaraderie between the soldiers after the game," Put said. "It was a good game, a fair game and a fast game."

Although 1BCT ended Phantom Warrior Week as the American soccer champions on post, their Dutch competitors came out on top with a 6 - 2 win.

"It was a (really) good game, and I thank the unit," Put said. "I especially know how busy they are, and its great for (them) coming out over here and helping us to have a good game."



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August - September 2014

A peek at First Team Training

By Spc. Paige Behringer *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

(Above) Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," 1st Brigade Combat Team"Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division practice Modern Army Combatives during First Team Training Sept. 25 at Fort Hood, Texas. While driving through the brigade's footprint or taking a trip to the Kieschnick Physical Fitness Center, it is evident that MAC has become a favorite FTT activity for 1st BCT Soldiers. (Below) Staff Sgt. Jonathon Morales (bottom right), a native of Greenville, Texas; and Sgt. Daniel Felix, a native of Modesto, California, both infantrymen assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrate Modern Army Combatives moves for their platoon during First Team Training Sept. 25 at Fort Hood, Texas. Morales began the training session with warm-ups, then moved to demonstrations followed by paired sparring.

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2-12 tank calibration

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By Capt. John Farmer *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

(top) Soldiers from 2nd Batzalion, 12th Cavaluy Regiment, 1st Brigado Contat Ream, 1st Cavaluy Division conduct calibration fire at Gratanwochr Braining Area, Camany, Oct. 1. (Center) Gpl. William Organy C, 2nd Batzalion, 12th Cavaluy Regiment, 1st Brigado Combat Beam, 1st Company C, 2nd Batzalion, 12th Cavaluy Regiment, 1st Brigado Combat Beam, 1st Camany, 0 stant, 1st Brigado Combat Beam, 1st Camany, 0 stant, 1st Brigado Combat Beam, 1st Brigado Combat Beam, 1st Camany, 1st Cavaluy Soldiers from 2nd Batzalion, 12th Cavaluy Nagiment, 1st Brigado Combat Beam, 1st Cavaluy Division pause for a lunch break from pro-fire checks and celifbration

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Bradleys, Strykers arrive in Rukla for Atlantic Resolve





(Top) Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment; and B Co., 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, unload Strykers from a railcar Oct. 4. The Vilseck, Germany-based Soldiers of the 1st Sqd., 2nd Cav. Reg., brought their Strykers to participate in the U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., the 2nd Cav. Reg., and host nations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., the 2nd Cav. Reg., and host nations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. (Bottom) 1st Lt. John O'Brien, platoon leader, B Co., 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, ground guides Spc. Christopher Barnett, platoon leader's driver, B Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Reg., as he drives the first Bradley Fighting Vehicle from the railcar onto Lithuanian soil. The Fort Hood-based Soldiers of the 1st BCT shipped Bradleys, Armored Personnel Carriers, HEMTT fuelers, Field Liter Ambulances and other tactical vehicles as part of the U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., and host nations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. **Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson** *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

RUKLA, Lithuania – Lithuanian military leaders joined U.S. Soldiers here Oct. 4 to receive the first shipment of U.S. Army tracked and wheeled vehicles from the continental U.S. to the Baltic nation.

Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilsek, Germany; and 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, unloaded Bradleys, Strykers, Humvees, HEMTT fuelers, Field Liter Ambulances and other tactical vehicles from railcars for use in multinational military exercises in Lithuania.

"We've received our equipment with our multinational partners," said Capt. Michael Sims, commander, C Troop, 1st Sq., 2nd Cav. Reg. "It is the first step in building relationships here and establishing a visible presence, reaffirming our dedication to Article 5 of NATO."

Sims, a native of Orangeburg, S.C., said the training accomplishes several objectives.

"The multinational training here not only serves to accomplish our individual unit training objectives, but also improves NATO interoperability and increases its effectiveness and capabilities."

In a successful six-week journey involving trains, cranes, ships and ferries from Texas and Germany, U.S. Army tracked and wheeled vehicles arrived Oct. 4 at their final destination in Rukla, Lithuania.

"Absolutely no issues, the Bradleys arrived safe and sound and cranked when we turned the keys, ready to roll," said 1st Lt. Bradley Anderson, platoon leader, B Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Reg.

The U.S. Soldiers in Lithuania are participating in the U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and host nations, taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to enhance multinational interoperability, to strengthen relationships among allied militaries, to contribute to regional stability and to demonstrate US commitment to NATO.

"We are happy to get U.S. troops in this fourth rotation, because it will open great opportunities for training for Lithuanian troops," said Maj. Gen. Almantas Leika, commander, Lithuanian Land Forces. "Training with U.S. Soldiers has been quite a significant development, and 2CR and 1BCT Soldiers have recent experience in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Leika said the training will also benefit U.S. Soldiers, because it will enable them to train and become accustomed to a different operational environment than the Middle East.



) William Conner, a Company C, 2nd Battalion "Lancer," 5t e during the playing of Reps in honor of fallen Lancer So Fort Hood, Texas. Conner also rang a ceremonial bell after plaier who gave the ultimate scarifice. The memorial was p who served from 1967 to 1972 and afterward, hosted in pa le Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. (Right) Vietnam Vet 5th Cavalry Regiment Veteran, renders a Soldiers during a memorial ceremony Oct ther the recitation of every name of eve e during the play ball after the 3 at Fort Hood any Soldiar W of every Wletnam he Rancer Cog 2nd Ba of Company 5th Cavalry Regiment salute during Retreat durring a memorial Oct. 3 at Fort Hood, Hexas. ceremony₀

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. John Couffer *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

FORT HOOD, Texas – "The 1st Cav. lost over 5,000 men when they went in (to Vietnam), but there's pride in my sadness. There really is," said Spc. (ret.) Kathy Mosher, a Desert Storm veteran whose adopted brother was killed in Vietnam. "It's such an honor to be here with troopers who understand who we are and what we do."

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion "Lancer," 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hosted a reunion of over 100 Veterans who served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972 Oct. 3 at Fort Hood, Texas.

Mosher spoke fondly of her brother, saying he was the best example a baby sister could ever have. She even brought a photo of him taken while he was in theater, dressed in jungle fatigues and shirtless, but with a smile. The photo was taken three days before he was killed in action.

In honor of her brother, Mosher decided to join the Army. She said she had to do it for him, but for herself first.

"I had to pick up that fallen guidon and carry-out and finish the mission," Mosher said.

She said she came to the reunion, not just because of the camaraderie, but because this is the home of the 1st Cav.

During the four-day reunion, the veterans toured Fort Hood, the Lancer Battalion's area, the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment and Museum. On the evening of the third day, the veterans were witnesses to a memorial to Lancer Battalion fallen comrades of Vietnam.

At the memorial, over 100 Lancer Soldiers, a small portion of the unit, stood in formation before the congregation of veterans to pay their respects to the fallen.

"The Soldiers here before you are a representation of the thousands of Soldiers who have born the burden of freedom, paid with the lives of those we honor," said Lt. Col. Carter Price, commander of the Lancer Battalion during his opening remarks at the memorial.

During the ceremony, every name of every Soldier the battalion lost in Vietnam was called and a bell tolled for each name. One identification tag for every name was placed on the memorial which consisted of a pair of boots, a rifle and a helmet. Three currently serving Soldiers and three veterans took part in the ceremonious posting of the tags and saluted as their turn in the ceremony passed.

This particular reunion had been in the works for quite some time.

"We've been planning this for about a year and a half," said 1st Lt. (ret) John McCorkle, a Vietnam veteran and the reunion coordinator. McCorkle said the veterans decided it would be nice to see the current troopers of their old unit, as it is still in service.

McCorkle went on to say the veterans were really excited to see what today's Soldier looks like and that they weren't disappointed.



August - October 2014

Wehicles travel by ship, rail to European missions By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson 1BCT, 1CD PAO



Estonia-bound Bradley Fighting Vehicles await transport via rail at the Port of Klaipeda, Oct. 1. Bradleys, Strykers, Hunvees, Armored Personnel Carriers, HEMTT Fuel trucks, and other U.S. Army tactical vehicles were offloaded here and transferred to rail lines Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 for transport to locations around the Baltic nations as part of joint exercises between the Texas-based 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and the host nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., and host nations, takes place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to enhance multinational interoperability, to strengthen relationships among allied militaries, to contribute to regional stability and to demonstrate US commitment to NATO.



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Lithuania's top army leader welcomes US forces

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson 1BCT, 1CD PAO

RUKLA, Lithuania – Lithuania's top army leader and members of the public welcomed U.S. Soldiers to the former Soviet-bloc country Oct. 8 in a small ceremony, briefing and public static display of Lithuanian and U.S. military vehicles and arms.

Soldiers of the Vilseck, Germany-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are in Lithuania for Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to enhance multinational interoperability, to strengthen relationships among allied militaries, to contribute to regional stability and to demonstrate US commitment to NATO.

Maj. Gen. Almantas Leika, commander, Lithuanian Land Forces, discussed the importance of Atlantic Resolve, in light of the history of the country, which was invaded by Russia in 1940, then by Germany in 1944, then reoccupied by Russia after WWII. After the Russian occupation, Lithuanians fought a guerrilla-style war for nearly a decade and many were killed or deported to Siberia.

"We fought alone from 1944 to 1953," said Leika. "No one came to assist us in our fight. Today we don't feel alone. We are part of the strongest military alliance. We very much appreciate that you are here."

The senior Lithuanian

Lithuania welcomes continues on the following page



(Top) Maj. Gen. Almantas Leika, commander, Lithuanian Land Forces, wel-Comes U.S. Soldiers to Lithuania Oct. 8 for Atlantic Resolve, multinational combined arms exercise taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, will conduct joint exercises with the Lithuanian Land Forces, and with small contingents from Canada, Hungary, Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg, Czech Republic and others. (Bottom) Lithuanian school children and members of the public check out U.S. and Lithuanian military vehicles and gear at a public static display, and welcomed the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and the Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, to the former Soviet-bloc nation.





Lithmania welcomes continued

Army leader told U.S. Soldiers that interoperability will be an important focus in Atlantic Resolve.

"You came at a very good time," said Leika. "Soon we will have a very large exercise – Iron Sword – and you will be training with many multinational Allies and partners."

Leika said that Canada, Hungary, Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg, Czech Republic and others will participate in the Lithuanian exercise.

After the briefing, Soldiers joined their peers outside and met with members of the Lithuanian public and talked about the US mission and capabilities.

Spc. Patrick Jenkins, mortarman, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, posed for pictures with school children and talked about the Stryker Mortar Carrier Vehicle with curious members of the public.

"It was great, because we got to interact with them and that, in itself, builds a great partnership," said Jenkins, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. "It lets Lithuanians know that we're here to grow together."

Having Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Strykers, and small arms on display is a great way to introduce the U.S. Soldiers to the Lithuanian public, said Capt. Michael Sims, commander, C Troop, 1st Sqd., 2nd Cav. Reg.

"It's another opportunity to display our presence here and to demonstrate our equipment to NATO allies," said Sims. "Our troops are acting as Soldier statesmen, reinforcing the message that we are present and dedicated to our NATO Allies."



(Left) A Mithuanian student does push-ups in U.S. ballistic body armor Oct. 8, during a static display of U.S. and Mithuanian military vehicles and equipment. Staff Sgt. Christopher Dawson, section leader, 1st Platoon, B Co., 2nd Battalion, 3th Gavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Gavalry Division, was demonstrating that movement is possible in the vests. (Below) A Mithuanian school child covers her cars and runs from the sound of the sirens, during a public static display of U.S. and Mithuanian military vehicles and equipment Oct. 3. The Mithuanian military police vehicle was a popular exhibit - children got to turn on the sirens and speak on the loudspeaker.

KARO POLICIJA

Cavalry mechanics serve as Soldier statesmen

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

RUKLA, Lithuania – To build a more robust supply and maintenance program, senior Lithuanian military logisticians visited the U.S. Army motor pool in Rukla Oct. 10 to get a comprehensive look at the U.S. Army maintenance program from the ground up.

Lithuanian logisticians discussed the U.S. Army's maintenance program from operator-level preventative maintenance checks and services, to depot maintenance, to parts ordering systems and processes, to the Army Oil Analysis Program and many other facets of maintenance.

"We're here on the ground to see the company and battalion-level performance of maintenance," said Lt. Col. Valdas Dambrauskas, director, material resources, Lithuanian Ministry of Defense. "[To see] who is doing what, and the amount of maintenance being performed."

Staff Sgt. Christopher Nemier, Bradley Fighting Vehicle maintenance supervisor, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, briefed maintenance processes on the Bradley to the small delegation of

Lithuanian logisticians.

"We are here to train with the Lithuanian combat arms units here, but we are also here to help our NATO allies, and to reassure them we are here to help in any way we can," said Nemier. "Proper use of logistics can be the difference between victory and failure on many levels."

Nemier said that there is sometimes a language gap, but that working with the Lithuanian mechanics has been rewarding and motivating.

"I have been working with them, and they are eager to learn and to improve their current logistical programs," he said. "They are working steadily to be a better, stronger military."

Dambrauskas said the Lithuanian logistical system was similar to the U.S. Army's system.

"The concept is the same, but when it comes to equipment levels, it's not so robust," said Dambrauskas.

The delegation was also interested in the training that Army mechanics receive.

"This is actually to get to know how long to train Soldiers to maintain equipment and how much equipment to maintain," said Capt. Vitalisjus Anisimenko, Training Branch analysis officer, Lithuanian Land Forces.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Nemier, Bradley Fighting Vehicle maintenance supervisor, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, discusses Army technical manuals, preventative maintenance checks and services and other standard procedures during an Oct. 10 site visit from senior Lithuanian logisticians.

Cavalry Soldiers visit Kaunas Fortress

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

KAUNAS, Lithuania - U.S. Soldiers got the opportunity to learn a little about the history of Lithuania Oct. 11 during a cultural exchange tour of the Kaunas Fortress, a site used as a Russian military fortress in WWI, a Nazi extermination camp in WWII and a Russian prison and deportation center after WWII.

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, visited the site as part of cultural exchanges set up by the Lithuanian Land Forces.

"It was a good opportunity for Soldiers to experience some Lithuanian history and to see why we are here and the importance of our participation within NATO before we begin major exercises as part of Atlantic Resolve," said Sgt. 1st Class Robby Burns, first sergeant, C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 2nd Cav. Reg.

U.S. Cavalry Soldiers are in Lithuania as part of the U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and host nations, taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The Kaunas Fortress is composed of nine forts, begun in 1882, in addition to later additions of a prison yard a large monument in remembrance of the 50,000 people executed at the site during WWII, including 30,000 Jewish people.

"To walk down the tunnels that Soldiers have fought through, to see the 'punishment' rooms prisoners were in and the monument at the execution site – it definitely made a lot of us think," said Sgt. Michael Schoonover, team leader and armorer, C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 2nd Cav. Reg.

In the first of several cultural exchange outlings, U.S. Cavalry Soldiers visited the Kaunas Fortress and museum Oct. 11 to learn about the horrific history of the site that has served as Russian military fortifications in WMI, Nazi extermination camp in WMMI, and Russian prison and deportation center after WMII. U.S. Cavalry Soldiers are in Lithuania as part of the U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and host nations, taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

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Lithuanian and U.S. Soldiers show capabilities



Spc. Kevin Glibrech, team leader, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and native of Martinez, California, fires a Javelin Portable Anti-tank missile Oct. 16 during a demonstration for Lithuanian and international observers. Soldiers from the Fort Hood, Texas-based 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Reg., and the Vilseck, Germany-based 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, participated in the weeklong Hunter 2014 anti-tank exercise with Lithuanian Soldiers.

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson *1BCT, 1CD PAO*

PABRADES, Lithuania – In a joint U.S.-Lithuanian demonstration, anti-tank Soldiers 'destroyed' a mechanized infantry battalion Oct. 16 at the Pabrades training area for an international audience.

Soldiers from the Fort Hood, Texas-based 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and from the Vilseck, Germany-based 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, fired Javelin Portable Anti-tank missiles and AT4 Light Anti-Armor Weapons at the husks of distant armored personnel carriers to demonstrate the U.S. and Lithuanian weapons systems.

Military representatives from the Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden, France, Denmark and China witnessed the demonstration, along with Lithuanian civilian leaders and media. The demonstration was the culmination of Hunter 2014, a two-week anti-tank field training exercise involving nearly 200 U.S. and Lithuanian Soldiers.

"The exercise was very useful for all the soldiers," said Lt. Col. Aleksiejus Gaiževskis, exercise director and commander of the Land Force Juozas Lukša Training Center. "Within two weeks they were able to try a variety of guns and ammunition, as well as to find out the damage caused. Our soldiers are specially trained to destroy the expensive armored vehicles by using variety of anti-tank weapons. In this area, they really are professionals and we can see it be results of these exercises"

For Sgt. Henry Oforidankwah, team leader, B Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Reg., the exercise was a special experience.

"I was awarded a Lithuanian commander's cup for successfully firing a Javelin at a cold target, and for being the first American to fire a Javelin in Lithuania," said Oforidankwah, a native of Kumasi, Ghana, and resident of Virginia. "It was the first time for me to shoot a live AT4 or Javelin."

Working with the Lithuanians was a good experience for U.S. Soldiers, and the exercise was interesting.

"The Lithuanian Soldiers were friendly and cooperative," said Spc. Clinton Evans, rifleman, B Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Reg., and native of Peru, Indiana. "I was in a bunker – I fired a Javelin out of it. It was really loud."

U.S. Soldiers are in Lithuania as part of the U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and host nations, taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to enhance multinational interoperability, to strengthen relationships among allied militaries, to contribute to regional stability and to demonstrate US commitment to NATO.



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Troopers train at the gas chamber By Spc. Paige Behringer IBCT, ICD PAO

Spc. Kyle Reininger (right), a cavalry scout, assigned to 1st Squadron "Garryowen," 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, exits the gas chamber with eyes streaming and arms flapping as fellow Soldiers prepare to enter, Oct. 16, at Fort Hood, Texas. Troopers conducted training at the gas chamber for their weekly First Team Training event.

(Above) Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron "Garryowen," 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Tronhorse," 1st Cavalry Division took a trip through the gas chamber for First Team Training, Oct. 16, at Fort Hood, Texas. Troopers participated in four stations of refresher chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear training before braving the foggy chamber. (Right) Sgt. Jeremy Morris, a Garryowen fire support prepares gas capsules at a gas chamber during First Team Training, Oct. 16, at Fort Hood, Texas. Inside the chamber, troopers breached their protective mask seals before stating their name, hometown and favorite football team.



