

SF teaches scouts

by **Spc. Nick D. Wood**
115th MPAD Staff

As part of Operation Bayonet Thrust II, the 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group instructors trained the scouts and snipers of the 41st Brigade Combat Team.

Soldiers from the 19th SFG came to Orchard Training Area at the request of the 41st BCT to better prepare their Soldiers for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Nearly all of the instructors are veterans of wars in the Middle East. Sergeant 1st Class Thomas Davie, Operational Detachment Alpha NCOIC, 19th SFG, spent two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. The detachment performs high-altitude low-opening jumps, sniper missions and special recon.



Photo by Spc. Nick D. Wood
Shooter Pvt. Trace Watts of the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry acquires his target while spotter Pfc. Lewis Evanoff watches for the bullet "trace."

The 19th SFG will be conducting classes and training on demolitions, Soviet weapons, sniper and scout skills in addition to working as observer/con-

trollers during annual training.

The demolitions class will cover both unexploded ordnance and **See SFG, Page 6**

Innovative range gives taste of new battlefield

by **Spc. Annie Baxter and Spc. April Dustin**
115th MPAD Staff

A new convoy live-fire range, the first of its kind, has popped up on the Orchard Training Area to help Soldiers train for situations they may encounter while deployed overseas.

Convoys on the range negotiate six scenarios. During each iteration they encounter numerous pop-up and moving targets, roadblocks and improvised explosive devices simulated by pyrotechnics and incendiary devices. They also negotiate a kill-zone where the convoys sustain simulated injuries and disabled vehicles.

The intent of the scenarios is to create flexibility for the troops to adapt their convoy standard operating procedures based on mission requirements, said Staff Sgt. John P. Salazar, range NCOIC and member of 1404th Transportation Battalion, Arizona Army National Guard. He said the range pack-

ages together many skills that Soldiers train on including weapons system operation, convoy movement, communications and target identification.

"There are so many different scenarios thrown at them that it gets everyone working; the drivers, the gunners, the leadership and the [communication] is going," said Salazar. "As they're reacting, they are utilizing decision making skills at many different levels of the ranking structure."

Salazar said all the scenarios on the range were examples of situations he and his company encountered while serving in Iraq. He said the concept of the range took six months to develop because many safety precautions and environmental concerns had to be addressed to make the range a realistic and safe live-fire event. Although the range can't compare to experiencing true combat, it is designed to make Soldiers think and react while firing many types of

See RANGE, Page 6



Photo by Spc. Annie Baxter

Sergeant Ian Kraus, squad leader and sniper, tactically moves through a scout lane.

Scouts: Before first contact

by **Spc. Annie Baxter**
115th MPAD Staff

Every move was carefully planned and slowly executed as he inched his way through the sagebrush like living desert terrain. He cautiously maneuvered himself behind a tumbleweed and lifted his head slightly to take position. His counterpart crept up silently behind him and gently raised his binoculars to observe the enemy activity. He was doing what he trained to do as an elite member of a scout platoon.

The scouts are part of a specialized team of forward observers who tactically move at the forefront of a battalion to scope out possible threats and paint a picture of the battlefield.

“Basically what a scout does is be the eyes and ears for the battalion commander,” said 1st Lt. Daniel Fenton, scout platoon leader, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry.

Without scouts, convoys would be blind because they wouldn’t know what threats lay in their path, said Staff Sgt. Michael Blurton, squad leader and sniper for Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry. He explained that their job is important because they have the ability to gather intelligence on enemy forces, find danger zones and assist troop movement, all while remaining undetected and avoiding enemy contact.

The scouts move in two-man sniper teams or three-man reconnaissance elements.

Each sniper team consists of two members — the sniper, who carries an M-24 sniper rifle system which fires 7.62 mm rounds, and a spotter. The spotter traces rounds and performs correction calculations to help the sniper successfully hit a long-distance target.

————— See **SCOUT**, Page 5

Soldiers ask: can you hear me now?

by **Pfc. Micheal S. Gann**
115th MPAD Staff

Army National Guard communications specialists from the 45th Infantry Brigade sharpened their skills and shared their wealth of knowledge with other military personnel at the Orchard Training Area Saturday.

The battle scene has become more net-centric warfare rather than effects-based, said Sgt. Robert White, a signal support systems specialist with 11 years of military service. Net-centric warfare means using the appropriate level of force for the threat at hand, while effects based warfare uses overwhelming firepower, explained White. Transmitting information is vital to the mission success to let advancing troops know what information has been gathered about the enemy, he continued.

“Shoot, move, communicate,” is a phrase commonly used by combat arms units to indicate the vital components of battle operations. Communicate is included, because “These radios save lives,” he said.

Each day, radio operators across the area of operations must “fill,” their radios. Filling a radio involves using an automated net control device to input frequency, “hop set” or frequency changes and time for each radio, explained Pfc. Robert Lee Spanke Jr., a Soldier attending his first annual training.

————— See **COMMO**, Page 5

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Military Intelligence makes most of AT, trains on new software

by **Spc. Nick D. Wood**
115th MPAD Staff

The 241st Military Intelligence Company, an asset of the 41st Brigade Combat Team, is doing this year's annual training at Orchard Training Area in preparation for their approaching deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This year's training involves two new software systems and person-to-person interaction.

The unit began training June 12 for the two software systems: the Counter Human Intelligence Management System and the All Source Analysis System (Light), light meaning it can be transported by vehicle.

"They've got lots of potential," said Staff Sgt. Mark Peterson, NCOIC for the counter-intelligence team for the 241st.

Trainers from Lockheed Martin, the developer of the programs, came from Fort Belvoir, Va., to train intelli-

gence Soldiers from the 241st and the 41st how to use the software.

Second Lt. Donald Nelson, Executive Officer for the Counter-Intelligence and Analysis Control Team sections, said Gowen Field is an excellent opportunity to get together with the 41st and work as a cohesive unit.

The programs are designed to enable Soldiers to make intelligence reports with greater speed and accuracy.

Another major aspect of this year's annual training is person-to-person interaction. Actors, provided by the civilian contractor Blue Canopy and the Oregon State Defense Force, will play key members in the fictional towns around the OTA.

Looking toward the deployment, Nelson said the opportunity to work with the play-actors on the battlefield will be worthwhile.

Peterson said military intelligence is all about dealing with people, and that

working in this environment provides a superior training experience over home station training.

The 241st is composed of approximately 50 counter-intelligence and human-intelligence Soldiers. Missions include force protection, information collection and analysis, advising the commander, physical security of sensitive sites and vetting — the process of evaluating a forward operations base for security issues and information leaks.

"We do war games and get potential outcomes or scenarios to the commanders to make their decisions," said Nelson.

Peterson said that becoming qualified in the intelligence field is a daunting task unto itself. The qualification process is lengthy and very selective.

Through improved technology and better training the 241st makes itself a valuable asset to the Oregon Army National Guard and Operation Enduring Freedom.

NIFC gear bolsters communication

by **Spc. Mary Jane Jacobsen**
115th MPAD Staff

The National Interagency Fire Center, located just outside Gowen Field, is a resource that most may not know about. This multi-agency operation is the communications backbone between forward operations bases and the field in many incidents and disaster recovery operations in the nation and abroad.

For Operation Bayonet Thrust II, the agency has been a tremendous asset as a dependable communications network in every aspect of the operation. During the planning stages of the exercise, communications experts working in the J-6 needed frequencies that could be used for the exercise. NIFC provided the frequencies to the J-6 along with other vital communications tools.

John Moulder, a telecommunications specialist at NIFC's Incident Communications Division, assisted the J-6 with the frequencies they needed. Moulder tracks available frequencies through a sophisticated database and assigns them to users of the equipment.

Once the J-6 team had their frequencies, the agency's telecommunications specialist Mike Tuominen made sure they had the right phone kits.

Tuominen guided the team through selection of various types of kits and trained them on the setup. "NIFC is the

See **NIFC**, Page 4



Photo by Spc. Mary Jane Jacobsen
Mike Tuominen identifies the location of the Joint Service Task Force repeater station at Bennett Mountain on the large interactive flat panel screen that is used to pinpoint incident areas to an exact grid coordinate.

NIFC, from page 3 ————— primary agency to provide state, federal and other local agencies the technical expertise and the right equipment and support for emergency assistance,” said Tuominen.

Search and rescue and fire management teams throughout the country also use their resources. “We also provide private corporations and businesses the support when they are sponsored by a government agency,” he said.

“We have technical training on our equipment about four times a year; a lot of agencies keep several teams trained, so when an incident arises they order our equipment and they have the people in place to work with the equipment.”

After Sept. 11, NIFC provided communication kits and personnel to New York and Washington, D.C. The agency has also provided much needed communications equipment internationally to countries such as Mongolia, Russia and Africa.

The Incident Communications Division is a full-service agency which in-

cludes 10 support branches, all of which have many experts in the communications and electronics fields.

At first glance, NIFC looks like just another warehouse full of crates, boxes and equipment. There can be 8,000 to 10,000 hand-held radios in the communications building at any given time, according to Tuominen.

Kits can be sent out quickly depending on the incident and the needs of the operation. Each kit consists of 10 boxes, each box is water and dust proof, highly durable and secure with padding for safe transport of the communications equipment.

Each kit includes a communications system that has a command tactical repeater, logistics repeater, 48 command tactical radios, 16 logistics radios, an aircraft link kit and a satellite kit. Operation Bayonet Thrust II is using three such kits.

All this equipment needs a lot of maintenance. The agency’s team thoroughly checks each unit before packing and shipping. When the team recovers its equipment from an incident, it

spends time cleaning the equipment, repairing it if necessary, and maintaining enough inventory in a ready-to-issue state to support requests for deployment to the field, whether for a wildfire dispatch or other man-made or natural incident.

“Our main focus is wildland fire suppression,” said Tuominen. “Our equipment and personnel have been dispatched on hurricane and earthquake recovery, floods and anywhere federal assistance is required.”

Since this is the first time that the NIFC has been utilized by the National Guard for training purposes, it appears the equipment is adaptable to most any situation according to Tuominen.

“We have radios with encryption capabilities that are used for drug interdiction,” said Tuominen. “This type of radio would be ideal for combat-type situations.”

With the helping hand of the NIFC to provide communications assistance, units are able to use this new resource to complete missions while staying connected with others in the operation.



Photo by Sgt. John Glover

Private First Class Rex Meyer checks out an approaching van during a bilateral negotiations mission. The Military Police company of the 41st Brigade Combat Team participated in the the training which simulated the kind of talks between military and civil authorities in Afghanistan and Iraq.

COMMO, from page 2

Communications specialists transfer messages over radio, wire and wireless data. This information can range from satellite photographs transmitted over computers to information from military intelligence or weather forecasts, White explained.

Being aware of the weather is important to let pilots know what type of conditions await them in an area and give ground troops time to prepare for their combat environment, explained Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Michael Peticord, a meteorologist with 30 years of military service.

To improve inter service communication, White will give classes on operating equipment, radio procedure and network etiquette to meteorologists from the 123rd Air Weather Flight, Idaho Air National Guard.

The equipment used includes radios, laptops, TA-312 phones and switchboards. With the variety of equip-



Photo by Pfc. Micheal S. Gann

Sergeant Robert White, a signal support system specialist for the 45th Infantry Brigade, inspects an automated net control device used to fill radios.

ment used in this line of work, about 90 percent of their time is spent on maintenance and training, explained White.

This year's training will cover using the equipment in a real-world situa-

tion, giving Soldiers hands-on experience and helping everyone to improve their skills to ensure success in future missions, concluded White.

SCOUT, from page 2

Reconnaissance teams consist of a sniper and spotter, as well as a point man, who plots map points and does the required land navigation to align the team toward their required destination, said Blurton.

"We can always do more as a team," he said. "One person cannot do what we do."

But missions are not always set in stone; Fenton said the scouts often encounter fragment orders, which are orders that deviate a team from its original mission. The adjunct missions require a team to plan, prepare and resource to effectively complete their new field mission before returning to their original assignment.

"We [need to] be prepared for anything the mission dictates," said Sgt. Cory Patterson, sniper for Delta Company, 1-186th Infantry.

Another important mission of the scouts is a call-for-fire. Any time a scout

team comes across threats which cannot be eliminated by direct fire, the team can call for mortar support to eliminate the threats, said Blurton.

While scout teams do not travel with the company they work with, they require certain battalion assets. Each scout element also contains its own medic.

Not only does the individual have to meet the combat medic requirements, these Soldiers also train and perform to scout standards, said Spc. Scott Vigil, platoon medic for the 1-162nd Infantry scouts.

A scout team does not accept walk-ons. Scouts must be sharp and have the ability to move beyond simply following orders to develop situations and meet demands way above their pay grade, said Fenton.

Each Soldier wishing to become a scout must go through a rigorous series of events to earn a position as a member of the elite scout team.



Photo by Sgt. John Glover

Specialist Richard E. Milnes, an ammunition bearer in Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, mortar platoon, hangs a round during the live fire exercise held on the Orchard Training Area as part of Operation Bayonet Thrust II. Though hanging rounds is normally the assistant gunner's job, Milnes is taking the opportunity to fire rounds as the gun team structure is shifted to give Soldiers an opportunity to train on other gun positions. See the full story in the next issue.

SFG, from page 1

improvised explosive devices.

The Soviet weapons classes are designed to prepare Soldiers for what type of ordnance they might encounter in Afghanistan. They are being given to approximately 50 Soldiers at a time as the 19th SFG rotates through the battalions.

Davie said there are eight weapon systems students will become familiar with, from the AK-47 — owned in nearly every Afghani household — to the Stinger missile.

However, students will further study how to assemble, disassemble and troubleshoot four weapon systems, the AK-47, the RPK, a Soviet equivalent of the M-249 machine gun, the RPG-2 and RPG-7.

Davie said, “It’s good for them to know how to fix and clear the weapon at least.”

Further instruction will be given on recognition of Soviet landmines, munitions and surface-to-air missiles.

Scout Pvt. Trace Watts,

Reconnaissance Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, said that this year, there seems to be more focus on scouts and reconnaissance Soldiers.

Three scout platoons from the 1st Battalion — 186th, 162nd and 180th Infantry Regiments — engaged in a multi-day competition. The competition culminated in an exercise where the scouts performed intelligence-gathering and recon.

In addition to the competition, Soldiers performed live-fire exercises with the M-24 Sniper Weapon System, the Special Purpose Rifle and the M-107 Barret Sniper Rifle.

The goal of these exercises is to review skills for those with sniper experience and to impart some knowledge to the Soldiers who have yet to go to sniper school.

“We have some really young Soldiers out here that have had no sniper experience. They’ve stayed positive and motivated,” Davie said. “Everybody is taking something out of this.”



Photo by Spc. Nick D. Wood
Master Sgt. Thomas Davie of the 19th Special Forces Group reviews the logging of firing data with shooter Pvt. Trace Watts.

The continuous training also allows for more in-depth coverage of subjects than is possible at home station.

“We’ve touched on all the subjects on drill weekends,” Watts said, “[but] the trainers here went into more detail.”

RANGE, from page 1

small arms, he explained.

“Many Soldiers have never seen anything like this before, so we are teaching it to them at a crawl, walk phase,” said Salazar.

He said he would like to make the course longer and a bit more chaotic by incorporating tactics insurgents are increasingly using such as, threats on both sides of the convoy and daisy-chained IEDs.

“There are a lot more things I would like to throw at them out there, but due to safety on the range we are limited to how much we are able to do,” said Salazar.

Due to the complexity of the range, each convoy went through three iterations on the live-fire range to first familiarize, then practice and finally experience the whole range at full combat force.

One advantage of the range is the confidence it builds and the importance it places on muzzle awareness, said Salazar. It also gives Soldiers the experience of carrying live ammunition and practicing shooting at moving and stationary targets while the convoy is in transit.

“If the unit comes out here and does everything per-

fectly and all they walk out of here with is nothing more than confidence in their weapons, their drivers and their buddies, then we have done our jobs,” said Salazar.

According to Soldiers participating in the live-fire range, it is the most realistic training the units have seen.

“(The range) is set up really nice here. It’s as realistic as you can get with the live rounds,” said Cpl. Nathan Kimzey, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry. “The Army doesn’t use [pyrotechnics] that much anymore, so anytime we get to use that, it helps add so much more to the realism.”

The course added new threats for Soldiers to deal with which caused them to learn to react to the situations, said Capt. Kelby McCrae, commander of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry. He said the training helps prepare Soldiers for contact with insurgents and the expanded use of commonplace objects as IEDs.

“This is one step closer to realism than anything we’ve done before,” said McCrae. “For my guys, I know they loved having the opportunity to do a live-fire in a moving convoy while the targets are moving because that’s exactly what they will be asked to do when they are deployed.”

The MPAD mission

compiled by the
115th MPAD Staff

Mobile Public Affairs Detachments are deployable units and usually augment a Joint Information Bureau, which is a combination of all military branches involved in an operation. Public affairs detachments have many missions including acquisition (obtaining information), media verification, identification and escort and preparation of Soldiers who get in front of the cameras to do press conferences and speak to the media.

The MPADs work with information operation cells to help control the collateral damage of psychological operations by telling the truth through timely, accurate release of information. Information operation cells feed the detachments information so they can counter misinformation with the truth. Mobile public affairs detachments paint an accurate picture while protecting the integrity and mission security of the United States military.

The 115th MPAD is based in Salem, Ore. At full strength, the MPAD is 20 strong, with four officers and 16 enlisted soldiers. Unit members are trained as broadcast or print journalists and public affairs specialists while handling the many aspects of public affairs operations.

Copies of *The Observation Post* are available online at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml>

For training material or to see your Soldiers in print please e-mail the first sergeant.

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Photo by Sgt. John Glover

Staff Sgt. Rick Holding, a military policeman in the British Territorial Army, keeps a careful watch during bilateral negotiations between host unit's platoon leader and a local police commander. Holding is one of six soldiers from the United Kingdoms participating in the UK non-commissioned officer exchange program during this year's annual training. The British Territorial Army is the equivalent of our National Guard.

NBA and College baseball update

by **Sgt. Clayton Jones**
115th MPAD Staff

After losing the first two games of the NBA Finals, the Detroit Pistons looked to be dead on the side of the road, but then returned home to beat a suddenly cold San Antonio Spurs team Tuesday and Thursday to tie the series at two games apiece.

Detroit's 102-71 Game 4 thumping of the Spurs Thursday night was a team effort with seven Pistons scoring in double figures, led by Chauncey Billups' 17 points. Ben Wallace for the second game in a row played well for the Pistons. He scored 11 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, three blocks and three steals.

San Antonio's offense has struggled mightily in the last two games, including eight-time all-star Tim Duncan. He has shot 10 of 32 and has scored only 30 points in the last two games. As a team, San Antonio shot 37.1 percent from the field and only 58.3 percent from the free-throw line Thursday.

OSU loses CWS opener

A late rally by top-ranked Tulane ruined a great pitching performance by Jonah Nickerson as the Green Wave beat the Beavers 3-1 in the opening game of the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., Saturday.

A seventh-inning two-out, two-run double by Tulane (56-10) pinch-hitter Scott Madden off of Nickerson ruined Oregon State's first game in the CWS in over 50 years. Nickerson went seven innings for the Beavers (46-11) and gave up seven hits and two earned runs while striking out four. It was only his second loss of the season.

Oregon State's lone run came in the first inning when Andy Jenkins grounded out to second and scored Jacoby Ellsbury from third base. The Beavers couldn't muster anything after that off of Tulane hurler Micah Owings, who went seven innings and gave up four hits while striking out four.

The Beavers play today against Baylor with the loser eliminated.

Afghanistan's history and language

Afghanistan's recent history is a story of war and civil unrest. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979, but was forced to withdraw 10 years later by anti-Communist mujahidin forces. The Communist regime in Kabul collapsed in 1992.

Fighting that subsequently erupted among the various mujahidin factions eventually helped to spawn the Taliban, a hardline Pakistani-sponsored movement that fought to end the "warlordism" and civil war that gripped the country.

The Taliban seized Kabul in 1996 and were able to capture most of the country outside of Northern Alliance strongholds primarily in the northeast.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, US, Allied, and Northern Alliance military action toppled the Taliban for sheltering Osama Bin

Ladin. In late 2001, a conference in Bonn, Germany, established a process for political reconstruction that resulted in the adoption of a new constitution and presidential election.

On Oct. 9, 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan.

Coalition and Pakistani forces continue to patrol remote tribal areas to control the borders and stem organized terrorist and other illegal cross-border activities

Afghanistan has two major languages — the official languages are Afghan Persian, or Dari, spoken by 50 percent of the population and Pashtu which is spoken by 35 percent of the population; another 30 languages are spoken throughout the country.

- Compiled from the CIA
world factbook

Commonly used terms in Dari:

equipment edition

AK-47 —	Kalishnakov
belt —	cummerbund
boots —	boots
bullets —	mar-me
green beret —	col-eye sabs
helmet —	col-eye-ah-knee
magazine —	char-kur
mortars —	how-an
pants —	zer-tun-bahn
shirt —	der-a-she
sleeping bag —	cheer-o-kee
soft cap —	col-eye pic-door
web gear —	taj-e-zot

time measurements

hour —	so-at
minute —	de-ka
month —	maw
year —	sat
yesterday —	de-ruz



Photo by Spc. Johnny R. Aragon
A Soldier from the Afghanistan National Army patrols the Shah Wali Ko District, while U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters provide support.