

# U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army

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## 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldier become first in Europe to fire Army's new lightweight howitzer

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**GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA, Germany** -- Soldiers from the Fires Squadron of U.S. Army Europe's 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment became the first in Europe to fire the Army's new M777 howitzers, July 24.



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Soldiers of U.S. Army Europe's 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment prepare to fire the Army's new M777 howitzer during an exercise at the Grafenwoehr (Germany) Training Area, July 24. The exercise made the 2nd SCR troops the first in Europe to fire the weapon.

“Being the first unit in Europe to fire this new weapon is an amazing honor,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Jarvis, a section chief with the 2nd SCR. “This is the high point in my career. This is a big deal for an artillery Soldier and something to remember for a long time.”

The M777 replaces the M198 howitzer as the primary weapons system for Army field artillery. Field artillery officials say the new weapon is lighter, more accurate and requires fewer crew members than the M198.

“The lightweight M777 howitzer will increase the capabilities of our artillery batteries because it

is more versatile and can be transported to any location much faster than its predecessor, the M198 howitzer,” Jarvis said.

“The M198 only has three points of contact and weighs 16,000 pounds, while the M777 maintains five points of contact to the ground for better stability, and weighs only 10,000 pounds.”

“Stability increases the weapon's accuracy, which will increase our success in Iraq and Afghanistan,” added Jarvis.

The Soldiers of the unit will continue to train at Grafenwoehr with the new M777 Howitzer. The training facilities here, operated by USAREUR's Joint Multinational Training Command, help the 2nd SCR train while facilitating Army modernization and testing of new equipment and weaponry in Europe.

"The Joint Multinational Training Command provides the greatest training in the Army," Jarvis said. "This training area is the only area in Europe (where) units can do live-fire missions with large weapons, which prepares us for contingency operations downrange."



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