

# Duty 1 First



## Aerial Gunnery



A Soldier from C Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment scans the sector for enemy activity during training conducted four days of training, which was designed to help 1-4 Cav. transition from a heavy to a light regiment.

***On the cover***

Crew chiefs from 2-1 Aviation load machine gun ammunition inside a UH-60 Black Hawk. See story and more photos on page 22-24.

photo by SPC Stephen Baack



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photo by SPC Joe Alger

dismounted patrol training Oct. 19 at Camp Robertson. The unit  
nt.

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# 1ID to transform, return to U.S. in '06

Welcome to the New Year! I hope that all of you found some way to rest and relax over the holidays, recharge your batteries and enjoy the company of your loved ones. I also hope that you have come into the New Year energized and with a renewed sense of purpose.

The year 2006 is going to be one of the most exciting years in the Division's great history. I am not sure there has ever been a time that so many different events have been going on at the same time.

This year the Division will see a combat deployment, transformation and a return of elements of the Division to Fort



Riley. Everything that you do to contribute makes an incredible difference in accomplishing these complex missions.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team will enter into an intense training period this quarter in preparation for their anticipated deployment. The Dagger Brigade will conduct gunnery densities at Grafenwoehr and a world-class Mission Readiness Exercise at Hohenfels. This training will expose our Soldiers to the realities of full-spectrum operations in Iraq and significantly improve their readiness.

While one brigade combat team is preparing for combat, the rest of the Division will be converting to support the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade, inactivating or preparing to return to the continental United States. I am extremely proud of how you all have taken on these complex missions and started to

execute them in the most professional manner.

It is certainly a fascinating time to be in the Army, and we should embrace these changes, which will benefit our Army of the future. Our focus continues to be the Soldier, the centerpiece of our Army. Our Army will continually work to provide our Soldiers at all levels with great leadership, the right equipment and the best training.

As you can see, 2006 is going to be an incredible time in the history of the Big Red One. I appreciate all that you and your families do, each and every day, to make this the greatest Division in the United States Army.

Duty First!  
MG Ken Hunzeker

## *Reflecting back on 2005, looking forward*

As 2005 comes to a close and the New Year begins, we should all pause to reflect on the remarkable contributions that our Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division have made to the nation and similarly, how the ever changing world events affected the Division and her Soldiers. The dawn of 2005 found many of our Big Red One Soldiers ringing in the New Year far away from home in Iraq at places like FOBs Danger, Anaconda, Warhorse and Speicher - just to name a few. Home was beginning to creep into our Soldier's thoughts, and indeed late Winter found our formations redeploying to Germany to rejoin our families and loved ones.

We arrived back in Germany and experienced a series of firsts - a first hug, a first kiss, a first look at newborn babies who stepped into the world while we were away. Of course this was immediately followed by a seven-day bombardment of briefings, lectures and counselings on how to act now that we were back in civilization. We were inspected, poked, prodded and immunized again.

A well deserved leave period followed that gave us a chance to really get to know our partners again and enjoy each others



Spring found us gathered in Victory Park honoring our fallen with the dedication ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> ID OIF II Memorial Statue. This solemn ceremony gave us the opportunity to reflect and remember our comrades in arms who gave their full measure for the cause of freedom. Following the ceremony in Victory Park, participants moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> ID Museum to open the OIF II wing honoring the many accomplishments the Division made to the country of Iraq during our tour of duty.

Summer brought a change in the Division leadership as we welcomed the new Commanding General and his wonderful family. MG Ken Hunzeker hit the ground running and immediately refocused the Division on the many diverse missions that our Army leadership assigned us to accomplish in the coming years.

Fall brought announcements that clearly defined the challenges that lay ahead for the Division. The Division's mission split into three lines of operation - prepare 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT to deploy to combat; transform or inactivate many units in the Division; and support the Global War on Terror. These three lines of operation will guide the Division for the foreseeable future. One of the major changes in direction for the Division was the announcement that the 1<sup>st</sup> ID will redeploy back to Fort Riley, Kansas in 2006, which will end a long, rich period of

history here in Germany.

Now as 2006 begins, our commitment to our nation and our Army remains as strong as ever. Big Red One Soldiers are once again being deployed to Iraq as Special Police Training Teams. These teams are training the Iraqi Security Forces to become self sufficient and assume the security mission and law enforcement duties for their country.

This is going to be one challenging year for the Division. As always, I know that the great Soldiers, families and civilians of this Division are up to the test. We are committed to taking care of Soldiers and families during these turbulent times and making the transitions as smooth as possible. I ask all of you to rely on the chain of command and your FRGs for information that affects your units. Value your wing man and always look out for one another.

Please keep the Big Red One Soldiers and the families of 2-34 Armor and the SPTTs, who are deployed in harms way, in your thoughts and prayers. They wake up each day and live our Division motto.

Again, Welcome to 2006! I'm sure it will be an exciting, challenging and rewarding year for all. I thank each of you for your many contributions to our Army and Nation every day.

Duty First!  
CSM John Fourhman

# Army's oldest ADA battalion ... Cases colors after 211 years

*Story and photos by  
SPC Joe Alger  
Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

An inactivation ceremony was held Sept. 15 at Leighton Barracks for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the oldest Air Defense battalion in the active Army.

During the ceremony, the colors of 4-3 ADA were sheathed for the last time, while the colors of Air and Missile Defense Detachment were unsheathed. With the name change, command also changed from MAJ Clark R. Denman, who commanded 4-3 ADA, to MAJ John E. Labadini, who will command AMD.

"This is a day to reflect on the long and illustrious lineage of 4-3 ADA," said BG James Barclay, 1<sup>st</sup> ID assistant division commander for maneuver. "It's also a day to look forward as we enter this time of transition."

The unit began in 1794 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Corps of Artillerists and Engineers. The

battalion's Soldiers have seen action in almost every major conflict in United States history, most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"The Soldiers of 4-3 ADA have done their nation proud up until the very last day," Barclay said.

AMD was created in order to serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> ID commanding general's advisor on all matters related to air and missile defense, as well as to provide early warning and to perform airspace management functions for the Division.

The detachment will serve as an interim organization until the 1<sup>st</sup> ID converts to a modular division structure.

**(Right) MAJ Clark R. Denman, former 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment commander, and SFC Samuel Addison, acting sergeant major, case the unit colors during an inactivation ceremony Sept. 15 at Leighton Barracks.**



Soldiers of 4-3 ADA render honors during the unit's inactivation ceremony Sept. 15 at Leighton Barracks.

# One Sh On



A heavily camouflaged pre-sniper school student takes steady aim at Camp Robertson Sept. 28. After graduation, student



s left for the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga.



A student in the pre-sniper course camouflages his weapon before the stalking portion of the course at Camp Robertson Sept. 28.

*Story and photos by SPC Joe Alger  
Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

Thirty Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division were given a head start in their quest to become snipers by attending a three week pre-sniper course at Camp Robertson Sept. 21-Oct. 12.

According to SFC Bradley Hardin, 1<sup>st</sup> ID training detachment noncommissioned officer in charge, the course focuses primarily on tasks such as range estimation, target detection, stalking and marksmanship. Once the Soldiers complete the pre-sniper course, they are immediately sent to the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., where they will be further trained on the tasks they learned at Camp Robertson and then tested on their knowledge and proficiency.



A student in the pre-sniper course at Camp Robertson dons his gillie suit prior to commencing the stalking portion of the course.

“We obviously know a lot more than when we started the course,” said SGT Ryan Ferre, an A Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion combat engineer. “This school gives you a general outline of what being a sniper is. If you can excel in each of the events here, you’ll be a sniper.”

Hardin said the pre-sniper course sets the Soldiers up for success at sniper school for a number of reasons.

“One thing this course does is take away the mysticism from sniper school because they know what the course is about and what tasks they’re going to be evaluated on. They’re not seeing it for the first time,” Hardin said.

While snipers are traditionally infantry Soldiers, there were also Soldiers from several other job fields who participated. Ferre, and SGT Brandon Sims, an artillery gunner with C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, were two such Soldiers.

“To be a combat engineer and get a chance to go to sniper school is very rare,” Ferre said. “Any opportunity we have to attend a school like this, we try to take full advantage of.”

Sims was also grateful for the opportunity to attend the class because he said it gave him an opportunity to represent his unit and show that field artillery Soldiers can train side by side with infantry Soldiers.

“It’s good the Army is changing, letting everyone be a rifleman and teaching everyone the infantry and sniper tactics,” he said.

Hardin was pleased with the effort put forth in the class by all of the Soldiers, regardless of their jobs.

“They had a little difficulty in the beginning with range estimation, but we hit them with it over and over again until they got it,” Hardin said. “After that, I was really surprised at how much they excelled at the other tasks in the course. The non-infantry





course.

Instructors in the pre-sniper course see if they can detect any movement by students during the stalking portion of training Sept. 28 at Camp Robertson.

Soldiers in the course were just as proficient at completing the tasks as their infantry counterparts, Hardin added.

For Sims, one particularly challenging aspect of the course was stalking.

“Low-crawling and trying to go undetected for 150-200 meters with all your equipment on was difficult. We spent about four or five days doing stalks in different terrain. It was hard but fun,” he said.

While the course wasn’t restricted to infantry Soldiers, Hardin said there are still several requirements Soldiers must meet in order to attend the pre-sniper course and subsequently, the U.S. Army Sniper School.

“They need to be able to consistently score expert on their weapons qualification. They need a GT score of at least 100 and score at least 70 percent in each (APFT event),” Hardin said.

Completing sniper school is good for career advancement and promotion points, but it also helps Soldiers become more valuable to their units.

“Having snipers with you is a really good combat multiplier for any unit and commander,” Hardin said. “The Soldiers’ ability to reduce targets from over 300 meters away without being detected as well as their ability to report battlefield information really enhances any commander’s ability to fight.”



The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Band represents the United States in the fifth International Military Music Festival Nov. 8 in Cologne, Germany. The festival celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German Army.

# 1<sup>st</sup> ID Band represents U.S. at International Music Fest

*Story by CW2 W. Scott MacDonald  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Band*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Band represented the United States at the fifth International Military Music Festival Nov. 8 in Cologne, Germany.

The festival's theme was the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of the German Army. Along with bands from the German military, the 1<sup>st</sup> ID Band performed with bands from Denmark, Russia, the United Kingdom, Poland and Spain. The two-hour show for more than 10,000 audience members also featured the German Police Motorcycle team from Hamburg and the Emerald Isle Irish Dance Team.

The 1<sup>st</sup> ID Band performed an all-American themed show that featured a tribute to the Division, an honor to the victims of hurricane Katrina and a preview of the band's return to Fort Riley, Kansas.

"What a great honor it is to represent the Army and the United States at this event," said SPC Christopher Nichols, a clarinetist.

SSG Steven Spohn, a trombone player, added, "We had a great time interacting with all of the musicians. It's kind of sad we won't be here next year."

Band members said they were energized by the audience's reaction.

"You could feel the excitement from the crowd, especially when we broke into New Orleans-style Dixie land. Everyone was just

going crazy at that point," said SPC Kevin Tagney, a trumpet player.

The closing piece featured all the performers in a massed band formation. Along with the musicians, members of the German Army marched in formation and carried torches in a stirring finale that featured traditional German music.

After the show, the 1<sup>st</sup> ID Band was asked to perform for the other musicians. Soon, the traditional after-show reception turned into a jam session featuring 1<sup>st</sup> ID Band members and musicians from around the world.

# BIG RED

## honors retiring Soldiers



*Story and photo by  
SPC Stephen Baack  
Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

Soldiers, family members and civilians from U.S. Army Garrison Franconia recognized seven Soldiers during the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's Retirement Ceremony at Victory Park Oct 19.

After an invocation by Chaplain (MAJ) Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, Division Support Command chaplain, BG Peter J. Palmer introduced the retiring Soldiers – MSG Terry Shepherd, SFCs Christopher Council, Norman Dick, Rodney Figueroa, Wilton Hobbs, Michael Shephard and Iona Teriipaia – and talked about their contributions to the Army.

“Several years ago, each of these young men took an oath in answer to a profound calling – arguably the most solemn oath a young adult can make – one that changes lives forever,” Palmer told the more than 100 people in attendance. “They swore to support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. They pledged themselves to voluntarily serve their country in ways that so many will never understand.”

During their careers, those Soldiers recognized served well-known units such as the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in addition to the Big Red One.

“You have each epitomized the Army Values and have lived the Warrior Ethos each and every day that you have put on the Army uniform,” continued Palmer. “There is no doubt in my mind that you will do the same for the rest of your lives.”

After his speech, Palmer presented each Soldier with a Meritorious Service Medal, a certificate of retirement, a coin, a cased American flag and a rose for each spouse.

“I’m not ready,” said Shepherd with a grin. “If I could stay, I would stay.”



CSM John D. Fourhman, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division command sergeant major, and BG Peter J. Palmer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID assistant division commander for support, give SFC Iona Teriipaia his certificate of retirement before presenting him with a Meritorious Service Medal.

# Artillery Soldiers get ... back to *Basics*

Story by Mark Heeter  
U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt  
Public Affairs Office

The minutes ticked away without the scheduled sound of a howitzer firing, and the commander patiently gave instructions and asked questions of his Soldiers.

"We're being very deliberate about this. We're not going to rush them to failure," said LTC Michael Griffith, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, which spent several weeks in October and November conducting section certifications in Wildflecken Training Area.

The unit re-familiarized itself with its weapons systems after a pause in live firing of more than two years for many of its Soldiers. Two of the battalion's three firing batteries spent their year in Iraq essentially as motorized infantrymen – not artillerymen.

"If I was a private and I joined this battalion in 2003, and now I'm a senior specialist, I haven't fired my howitzer. This is their opportunity to train at their trade," Griffith said.

"First they were in Kosovo, which was a no-artillery mission; then they went straight to Iraq, which was a non-artillery mission," he said.

Griffith sees three essential tasks for his battalion. The first is mastering basic warrior skills. The second is employing its command-and-control expertise. The third is something only they can provide for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team.

"Only we can shoot artillery and mass artillery for the second brigade, so that's the piece we have to train at, and we haven't done that as a battalion in a long time," he said.

"For this training event, we made it into a multi-echelon training environment," said CPT Lee Showman, commander of the fire supporters watching the rounds land in the impact area.

This involved the inclusion of much more than simply the firing guns, but also the radar, surveyors, logistics and even a German army unit that provided meteorological data throughout the exercise.

Additionally, the Soldiers had two weeks of dry-fire training recently to ensure they were qualified for the next step.

"Every time we make a movement, we do a tactical road march with the vehicles, like a combat patrol, like down in Iraq. We assume we face the same dangers as we did down there, with IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and contact," Showman said.

"It's what Soldiers do because we're all warriors. Even though we are fire supporters, we still learn the skills of infantrymen and execute those skills, particularly in this infantry task force," said MAJ Rocky Lobash, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT fire support officer.

"When you're back in the garrison, you can study how the guns fire and all the ins and outs of the guns, but once you get out here on the range and experience the pressure of multiple missions coming at you all at one time – that's when you really get your battlefield training," said SPC Aaron Devries, one of the fire supporters on the hill.

"1-7 FA, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, is preparing for combat – high-intensity combat. That's what we're training to support right now," Griffith said.

Among the reasons the unit leadership selected Wildflecken for the training area

was its availability, close proximity to Schweinfurt and capability of meeting its training objective.

"We can meet our training objective there without having to deploy everyone all the way to Grafenwoehr because we're concerned about our families. We're mindful of the time away from home," Griffith said.

"It is not a large training area. The impact area is small, but to meet the training objective of section certification, we can do it," he added.

"The Soldiers are doing a great job out in the field, moving forward, despite challenges in timing, equipment, despite some limited training space. The Soldiers are getting absolutely the most they can out of this," he said.

Mixing and matching its duties, depending on the next mission they receive, the Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment move closer to fully validating their artillery systems in advance of upcoming battery and battalion certifications.



photo by SSG W. Wayne Marlow

2LT Kamili Williamson, a fire support officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, uses binoculars to get a closer view of the action during a live fire conducted by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Oct. 26 in Wildflecken.

# 4<sup>th</sup> BCT validates TTPs

*Story and photo by Kollin L. Taylor*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team PAO*

FORT RILEY, Kansas - Leaders of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team – the Dragon Brigade – personally validated some of the brigade’s developed tactics, techniques and procedures during Omega training Nov. 9 at Camp Forsyth.

Members of the 610<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion spearheaded the training, teaching potentially life-saving techniques to prepare Soldiers for what they might experience on convoys.

The training covers what Soldiers should do if their convoy was stopped because the road ahead was blocked, what to do if receiving hostile fire, and how to evacuate casualties and disabled vehicles.

After demonstrating the various TTPs, Soldiers of the 610<sup>th</sup> BSB supervised Soldiers from other Dragon Brigade units as they practiced the various battle drills, including a blocked ambush; an attack from the left, right, front and rear; rollover drills; and launching a counter-attack.

Even though the war-time scenarios were simulated, Soldier execution of the TTP actions was not. Just ask the few individuals who were designated as casualties.

Some of the casualties were evacuated on litters while others were literally dragged to safety.

If a vehicle was determined to be disabled, Soldiers drove the recovery vehicle into the engagement area, even while under simulated enemy fire.

They dismounted, as necessary, and expeditiously recovered the vehicle and personnel.

Rather than using a traditional and time-consuming tow bar to

pull the disabled vehicle, Soldiers used a tow rope to expedite the recovery process. Using a tow rope limits Soldiers’ exposure to enemy fire.

However, SFC Delwin M. Ferguson, maintenance control sergeant with D Company, 610<sup>th</sup> BSB, advised the Dragon Brigade leaders about the risks of using a tow rope.

He stressed the importance of first ensuring the recovery vehicle can actually tow the disabled vehicle.

For example, a 2 ½-ton vehicle cannot effectively recover a five-ton vehicle. Additionally, the tow rope must have sufficient tensile strength to bear the weight of the recovered vehicle.

Ferguson recommends a 25,000-pound weight-rated tow rope for vehicles weighing more than five tons.

The recovery of a disabled vehicle is potentially hazardous even when all of the Soldiers remain in the vehicle during the recovery, Ferguson pointed out.

Soldiers must use verbal or nonverbal means to let each other know when they complete their individual tasks, he stressed.

The Dragon Brigade’s battle drills were developed using various references, such as Army regulations and field manuals and lessons learned from Iraq operations.



**CPT Scott Steele of HHB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 32<sup>nd</sup> FA, leads a quick reaction force during Omega training.**

## *BIDS platoons gain certification*

*Story and photo by*  
*SPC Stephen Baack*  
*Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

Two chemical platoons from a newly-formed, multi-component company are set to become the only units in Europe certified to deploy with the new Biological Integrated Detection System.

With the support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division’s 12<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company and the 455<sup>th</sup> Chemical Brigade providing certification support, the two active-component platoons of the 307<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company (Forward) executed a Final Operational Capability Certification exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels Nov. 14-21.

The company was formed during the fall of 2004. Since March, they have been

training on tasks ranging from skill level one training to crew- and platoon-level training, said 1LT David Newhouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon leader, 307<sup>th</sup> Chem. Co.

“The training involved the Warrior Tasks, including react to contact, react to IEDs, react to small-arms ambush, to the BIDS-specific training as well, what our actual mission is – setting up and conducting biological surveillance,” said Newhouse.

The new BIDS system, known as the Joint Biological Point-Detection System, differs from its predecessors because it combines what before were separate work stations into one Humvee-mounted box, said SFC John Welton, noncommissioned officer in charge, 307<sup>th</sup> Chem. Co.

The new system takes samples of the air and processes it to determine whether a

biological agent is present, said Newhouse. Once it does, an assigned processor will process the sample, and the computer in the BIDS will provide a positive or negative reading. Soldiers in the unit can then take the sample and reading, package it up and evacuate it to a laboratory for confirmatory analysis. And if it becomes confirmed, it can be used as evidence in a world court.

According to the exercise scenario, two Middle Eastern countries have decided to support Iraqi insurgents and plan to use “all means” necessary to gain an advantage. EUCOM has directed the deployment of BIDS platoons to Iraq. The platoons will conduct tactical movement to critical nodes for biological detection.

For the platoons, this meant conducting combat patrols, area array surveillance,

—————see *BIDS*, page 27

# D-Day Rememb



D-Day veteran Ray Lambert (center) returns to Omaha Beach and recounts his experiences there to 1<sup>st</sup> ID staff members Oct. 6.

## 1<sup>st</sup> ID leaders visit Normandy

Story by SSG W. Wayne Marlow  
Editor, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO

NORMANDY, France - The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's staff ride Oct. 3-6 went beyond museum pieces and photos, and brought participants face to face with living links to a pivotal moment in world history.

Following an all-night bus ride from Leighton Barracks, participants arrived at the Pegasus Bridge in northern France, in what had been the British First Corps' sector during World War II.

Over breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> ID leaders listened to a narrative by Arlette Gondree-Pritchett, the café owner who, as a young child, survived the Nazi invasion of her hometown.

It was in 1934 that her parents bought the café next to the Pegasus Bridge, and her earliest memories are good ones.

"It was a happy life, but one day our life changed," Gondree-Pritchett said in an emotional but composed voice. "The Germans came. They seized our house, and they used our church tower as a control tower."

What had been an ideal childhood transformed overnight into a fight for survival. On two occasions, Germans came close to killing her mother.

"Our life was under great pressure," Gondree-Pritchett recalled. "The Germans were quite brash."

The invasion sometimes meant Gondree-Pritchett had to be away from her mother, which "was very difficult. I was quite little at the time."

Her mother knew just enough German that by listening inconspicuously to the invaders, she knew the Nazis were planning on blowing up the bridge that sat adjacent to the café.

"Our home would go with it if they did," Gondree-Pritchett recalled. She displayed a clear memory throughout her story, recalling the smallest detail from decades prior.

One such memory was of being jolted awake by a tremendous noise. With the house still reverberating from the shake, Gondree-Pritchett and her family hustled into their cellar, with only straw mattresses separating them from the cold floor.

More loud noises followed, this time closer to the house. Men in uniform burst through the door, and Gondree-Pritchett thought she and her family were about to be killed. But then she noticed the uniforms were different than those she had seen before. The Allies had arrived.

Instead of a Nazi stomping ground, the café became a makeshift Allied hospital, and the family had reason to hope. Fighting became more intense, but in the end the Nazis were driven out, and the family got to keep the café, which Gondree-Pritchett still runs.

"It was a team effort," she said to the staff ride participants. "Thank you for what your country has done."

Following Gondree-Pritchett's powerful history lesson, MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division commander, laid out the 1<sup>st</sup> ID's D-Day accomplishments, and participants toured the area around the Pegasus Bridge.

# ered

The staff ride afforded 1<sup>st</sup> ID leaders the chance to walk the ground on which their Big Red One predecessors had helped the United States win World War II. Stops on the four-day trip included many battle sites such as Omaha, Utah, Gold and Juno Beaches, plus sites of airborne drops and thick hedgerows.

For many, the third day proved the most moving. After Hunzeker laid a wreath at the 1<sup>st</sup> ID memorial at Omaha Beach, participants got to hear a first-hand account of D-Day from Ray Lambert. Lambert served as a staff sergeant medic with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during the invasion. Following Lambert's emotional talk, participants toured the adjacent U.S. cemetery.

The memorials and battlefields made for a memorable trip, according to CSM Jerry Taylor of 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Artillery.

"The knowledge and information we've received at every site brings it to life," Taylor said. "And having Mr. Lambert stand on



The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's staff ride to France Oct. 3-6 brought participants face to face with living links to a pivotal moment in world history.



The Pegasus Bridge cafe, owned by the same family since 1934, was the first stop on the staff ride. Owner Arlette Gondree-Pritchett recounted her war-time experiences to the staff ride participants.

the beach where he believed he landed and hear him describe his experience, especially with the weather being similar to how it was on D-Day, gave it a feel of realism."

British MG John Riley and military historian Sam Doss provided in-depth narrative histories at each of the stops. They went beyond a recitation of the facts and delved into what battle strategies both sides had and how those strategies were adjusted as necessary once the fighting began.

One example of adjusting on the fly occurred near St. Mere-Eglise, one of the stops. There, paratroopers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne divisions inadvertently got intermingled. "But they knew the commander's intent, so no further guidance was needed," Riley said.

The Soldiers meshed into small groups and began ambushing Germans and cutting their communications lines.

Besides detailing the Allied strategies, Riley also discussed Germany's defensive measures on a site where German World War II fortifications still stand.

The one German on the staff ride, LTC Sascha Blankenburg, said he felt comfortable going along.

"I was asked if Germans going on this ride today would feel offended. Not at all," said Blankenburg, a 13<sup>th</sup> Panzer Grenadier Division communications officer. "This is a totally different time. You should never forget."



LTC Benjamin Everson takes a closer look at a battlefield stop.

# Return to Omaha Beach

*Story by SSG W. Wayne Marlow  
Editor, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

NORMANDY, France - The terrain at Omaha Beach remains as imposing today as it was on June 6, 1944, when the D-Day invasion gave the Allies the momentum necessary to march to victory.

More than 61 years later, under dark gray skies and into a sweeping wind that mimicked D-Day conditions, a veteran of the battle tackles the beach and wins once again.

At 85, Ray Lambert trots quickly up the steep, rocky hills as if he were still a 24-year-old staff sergeant medic serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Neither the Nazis nor time have been able to vanquish him.

Lambert credits his remarkable health to an active lifestyle that includes golf, wood chopping and building fences.

“Every day 1,100 World War II veterans die,” he said. “Every time I look in the mirror, I say, ‘You made it to another day.’”

With his excellent physical and mental health, Lambert was able to lucidly recall the day he was part of the largest military offensive in history. For most participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division’s staff ride to

Normandy Oct. 3-6, Lambert’s first-hand account was the trip’s highlight.



More than 60 years after fighting in D-Day, Ray Lambert comes back to where it all happened - Omaha Beach. Lambert, a staff sergeant medic with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during the invasion, provided a first-hand account of D-Day to 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division leadership during a staff ride to Normandy, France, Oct. 3-6.





Proudly wearing a “D-Day Survivor” hat, Lambert gave a living history lesson to an attentive audience of Big Red One leaders.

He recalled training for the invasion, but he and his men were unaware when or even where it would take place.

When the time finally came, his ship pulled up about 10 miles from the coast, under cover of darkness at 3 a.m. They next dropped into their Higgins boats, which would carry them the rest of the way. This would seem a mundane task, but nothing came easy on D-Day.

“We dropped anchor into very, very rough seas,” Lambert said. “You had to go into the boats just so or your leg would break. The waves were that rough. You had to time it just right. The men already in the boat would tell you when to jump, and you had to be very careful.”

The boats reeked of diesel fuel, and if the waves didn’t make you nauseous, your fellow Soldiers would.

“If you were not sick, some guy would throw up on you, and you would become sick,” Lambert recalled.

The enormity of the invasion meant that Lambert went into the battle with more men than he normally had around him.

“We had beefed up so when we got to the beach we would be able to have as many men as possible,” he recalled. “But plans don’t always go the way you think they will.”

In fact, only seven of the 31 Soldiers in his boat survived the day. The others were killed even before reaching shore.

“We hit the land about 6:30. I can’t tell you the exact place or time. Water was over your head and there was barbed wire and mines,” Lambert said.

Lambert’s voice occasionally faltered from emotion. But after a few breaths and some sips of water from 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Commander MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker, Lambert was ready to continue.

“We learned to have the best chance to live and reach the shore was to go as far under water as you could,” he said.

Lambert was the first of seven men from his boat to reach shore, where he was quickly wounded in the right elbow. But he kept going, helping bring fellow Soldiers in from the waves. He saw horrors such as men in flames jumping overboard and stationary rocks being turned into lethal projectiles by exploding mortars.

And forget body armor - these Soldiers lacked even hearing protection, even though they were subjected to noise 10 times louder than what was portrayed in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*.

Lambert said the Soldiers remained brave despite the brutality, but losses were heavy.

“I never heard one word out there, never,” he said. “I didn’t hear any men crying. They were very good men, and they had experience, but we had lost a lot. Many of them were floating in the water.”

Although he was able to rattle off many specifics of the day, at the time of the invasion it was all a blur.

“Time was meaningless,” Lambert said. “And people ask, ‘What did you see that day?’ Well, it wasn’t a place where you stood up and looked around.”

Lambert was wounded a second time, and he knew if he continued he would bleed to death. He was giving instructions to his replacement when the replacement was gunned down. So he picked another Soldier to take over, only to see that one killed a short while later.

Lambert was eventually sent to an Army hospital where he ran into a Soldier he knew well - his brother.

After the war, Lambert earned a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and started two successful software businesses. He lived in the Boston area for many years before retiring to Fayetteville, N.C.

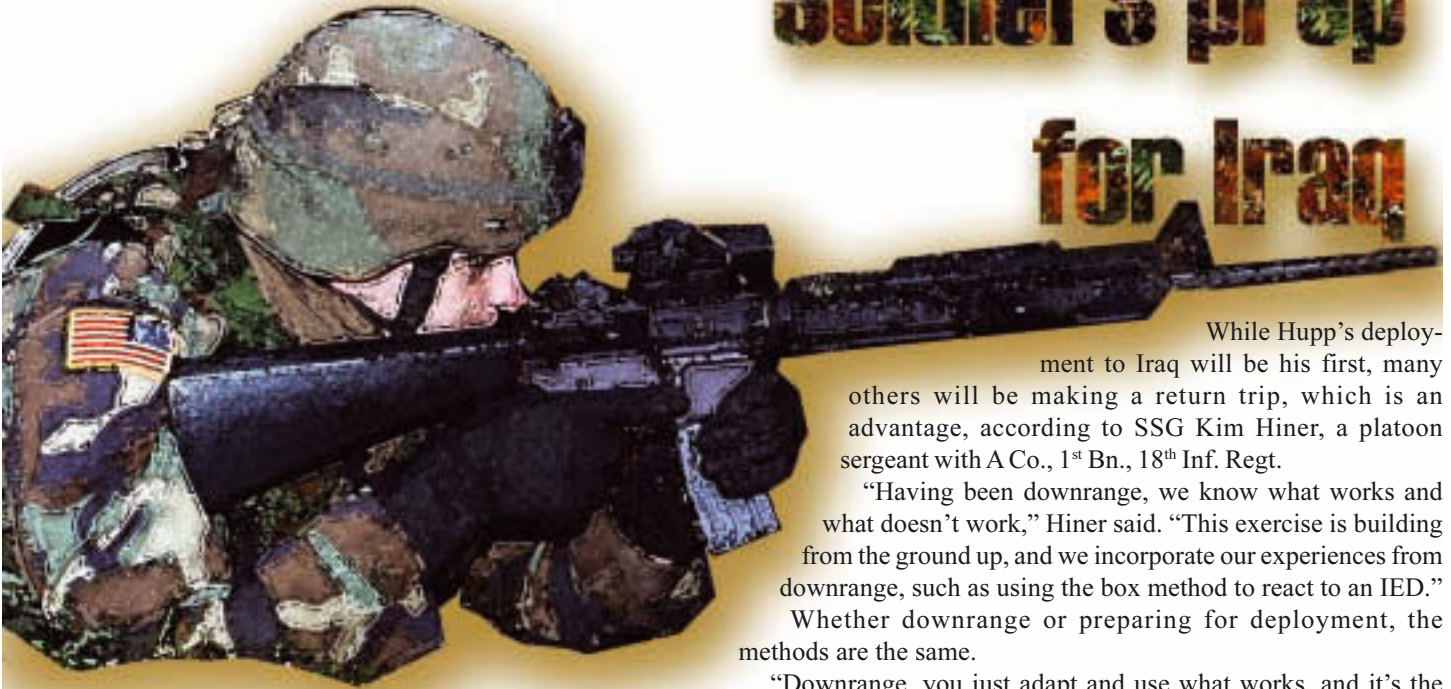
In the days before CNN and the Internet, Lambert said even wounded Soldiers had very little knowledge of how the war was progressing. But the eventual Allied victory is what he expected.

“Good always wins,” Lambert said. “I still believe that.”



# Training exercise helps 2BCT

## Soldiers prep for Iraq



*Story and photos by SSG W. Wayne Marlow  
Editor, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team is headed to Iraq next year, and that sits well with one of its newer Soldiers.

"I feel that I'm ready," said PV2 Joshua Hupp. "I joined to go to war."

To help Hupp and his fellow Soldiers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment prepare for combat, the unit held a situational training exercise Nov. 15-18. Each platoon rotated through and trained on scenarios likely to be seen in Iraq, such as reacting to improvised explosive devices, cordon and search, and dismounted patrols.

On Nov. 15, the focus shifted to troop leading procedures. The scenario required Soldiers with A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 18<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt. to conduct a dismounted patrol from a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and watch for enemy activity.

Laying in the prone unsupported position and hunkered next to a tree, Hupp scanned his position.

"Roads are an avenue of approach for the enemy," he said. "But you don't want to leave any room open so you pull 360-degree security. And you have the Bradley back there as a big part of the security. And you don't let any movement go unnoticed."

Prior to the STX, similar exercises were held at the team and squad levels, and company-level training is scheduled to follow.

"The training doesn't stop here," Hupp said. "It's good. You learn a lot."

Hupp said he considers infantryman to be the best job in the Army.

"I like getting out here and doing my job and doing what I've got to do to serve my country downrange," he said.

While Hupp's deployment to Iraq will be his first, many others will be making a return trip, which is an advantage, according to SSG Kim Hiner, a platoon sergeant with A Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 18<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.

"Having been downrange, we know what works and what doesn't work," Hiner said. "This exercise is building from the ground up, and we incorporate our experiences from downrange, such as using the box method to react to an IED."

Whether downrange or preparing for deployment, the methods are the same.

"Downrange, you just adapt and use what works, and it's the same thing here," Hiner said. "You apply what you know to a particular situation."

For those who haven't been to Iraq, Hiner and other leaders in the company are helping them along.

"Being out here helps build confidence and camaraderie," Hiner said. "It helps us get familiar with each other."

It will also pay off later, according to SSG William Hannon, a squad leader with A Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 18<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.

"We try to train for stuff that doesn't always happen," Hannon said. "We try to be prepared for anything that comes."

With the nation at war, Hannon said Soldiers "take the training a lot more seriously than they would have before 9-11."



Soldiers with A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment take up position during a dismounted patrol as part of a situational training exercise Nov. 15.

# New weapons tested at Grafenwoehr

*Story and photos by  
SSG W. Wayne Marlow  
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

Soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division got a sneak peek at the Army's future Sept. 24 when they fired three experimental weapons at Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The new weapons systems are upgraded versions of a grenade launcher, a machine gun, and a semi-automatic rifle and are produced at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

LTC Kevin Stoddard, project manager for crew-served weapons at Picatinny, said Soldiers were getting a chance to fire "the next generation of Soldier weapons." He said the weapons were built from the ground up with feedback from Soldiers after each step. The final result was the weapons, which were fired Sept. 24.

With optical and thermal sights and little kickback, the weapons proved easy to fire, and most Soldiers hit the targets on their first attempts.

"These weapons allow Soldiers to get their first round on target, quickly engage the enemy and move to the next target," Stoddard said.

SPC Jason Enriquez, an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, was the first Soldier in the area to

fire the XM25, a semi-automatic weapon. He had glowing reports on its capabilities.

"It was totally smooth and light. It shot fantastic," he said. "It moves your head and snaps you back. I never felt a kick like that before, but it was smooth. It wasn't rough."

The XM25 is equipped with a ballistic computer, thermal sights and zoom capabilities.

Like Enriquez, SPC Matthew Krupa also found the weapon easy to use.

"The accuracy was amazing," said Krupa, a tanker with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment. "The site was perfect, very advanced."

Having the XM25 in Iraq would have proven beneficial, Krupa added.

"It would be good for getting people behind walls or ducking behind cars. It would have helped a lot," he said.

Also tested was the XM312, which shoots, handles and maintains like a light



**SPC Jason Enriquez of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, fires the experimental XM25 semi-automatic weapon Sept. 24 at Grafenwoehr Training Area.**

machine gun. SPC Jay Teller and other firers were amazed at both the accuracy and steadiness of the XM312.

"It has a site, and it doesn't move much because there isn't much kick, so you can keep your eye right on the crosshairs," said Teller, who serves as a scout with C Troop, 1-4 Cav. Regt. "It's a very easy weapon to shoot."

The ability to lay the first round on target impressed Teller.

"It would have been very beneficial downrange. There's zero time for the bad guy to see what's going on," he said.

That also means a more optimal use of ammunition, noted SPC Jonathan Calvin, a fueller with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion.

"It conserves a lot of rounds because of the accuracy. You can hit your target every time," Calvin said.

Also tested was the SM320, a low-velocity grenade launcher that either attaches to a host rifle or is fired as a stand-alone weapon. Although none of the Soldiers had used it before, most scored hits on their first try.

Stoddard said he expects the fielding of these advanced weapons to begin in 2008.



**SPC Jonathan Calvin, a fueller with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion, fires the experimental XM312 machine gun Sept. 24 at Grafenwoehr Training Area.**



A Soldier from C Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment searches a suspected insurgent while another

# Cavalry Transformation

## *1-4 Cav moving from heavy to light*

*Story and photos by SPC Joe Alger  
Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

In this time of transition for the Army, many units are changing the way they train in order to change the way they fight. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than with the Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment, who are in the process of turning in their tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles and converting to a lighter, more agile fighting force.

To ease their transition from heavy to light, 1-4 Cav. conducted “Cav Stakes” training at Camp Robertson Oct. 17-20.

“With our transition that’s taking place, we have to focus more on dismounted patrols than the mounted operations in Bradleys and tanks we’re used to,” said CPT Justin Chezem, C Troop, 1-4 Cav. troop commander. “It will take some work. Some of the senior scouts and tankers in our unit have been working with heavy tanks and equipment their whole career so we’ll have to change, not only our tactics, but also our mindset.”

During the training, 1-4 Cav. Soldiers were tested on their ability to conduct dismounted patrols and react



Another Soldier pulls security during dismounted patrol training.



A 1-4 Cav. Soldier takes up a fighting position during "Cav Stakes" training at Camp Robertson Oct. 17-20.

to a number of different situations, which can arise during dismounted patrols.

"We had four checkpoints we had to clear," said SPC Oran Carroll, a C Troop, 1-4 Cav. radio telephone operator. "We hit an obstacle at point three and had security set up on the near and far side and had our breach team breach the obstacle. Once we cleared that obstacle, we were engaged by the enemy. We lost contact with them and continued on to our next checkpoint where we set up an observation post, observed an enemy vehicle, called for indirect mortar fire and destroyed the vehicle. From there we secured the site and captured one enemy POW."

The 1-4 Cav. Soldiers were trained on how to conduct these operations on one day and were evaluated and tested on the training they received the next day. Following the training, they conducted a 12-mile foot march back to Conn Barracks.

According to Chezem, the training was a yardstick to see how well the Soldiers have progressed, and it gave them an idea of what they still need to work on and refine.

"I truly believe we don't get out to the range and the field enough so when we do get the opportunity to get out, we need to maximize it," Chezem said. "All the Soldiers in the Army, especially combat arms, need to know their craft. The training needs to happen to keep their skills fresh in their minds because we never know when we'll have to deploy and put those skills to use."

Chezem said his main training objective was that his Soldiers learn the teamwork and cohesion that's required at squad- and section-level operations.

Another major goal of the training was to help the Soldiers get used to "a different way of scouting," said SSG John Finn, C Troop, a 1-4 Cav. squad leader.

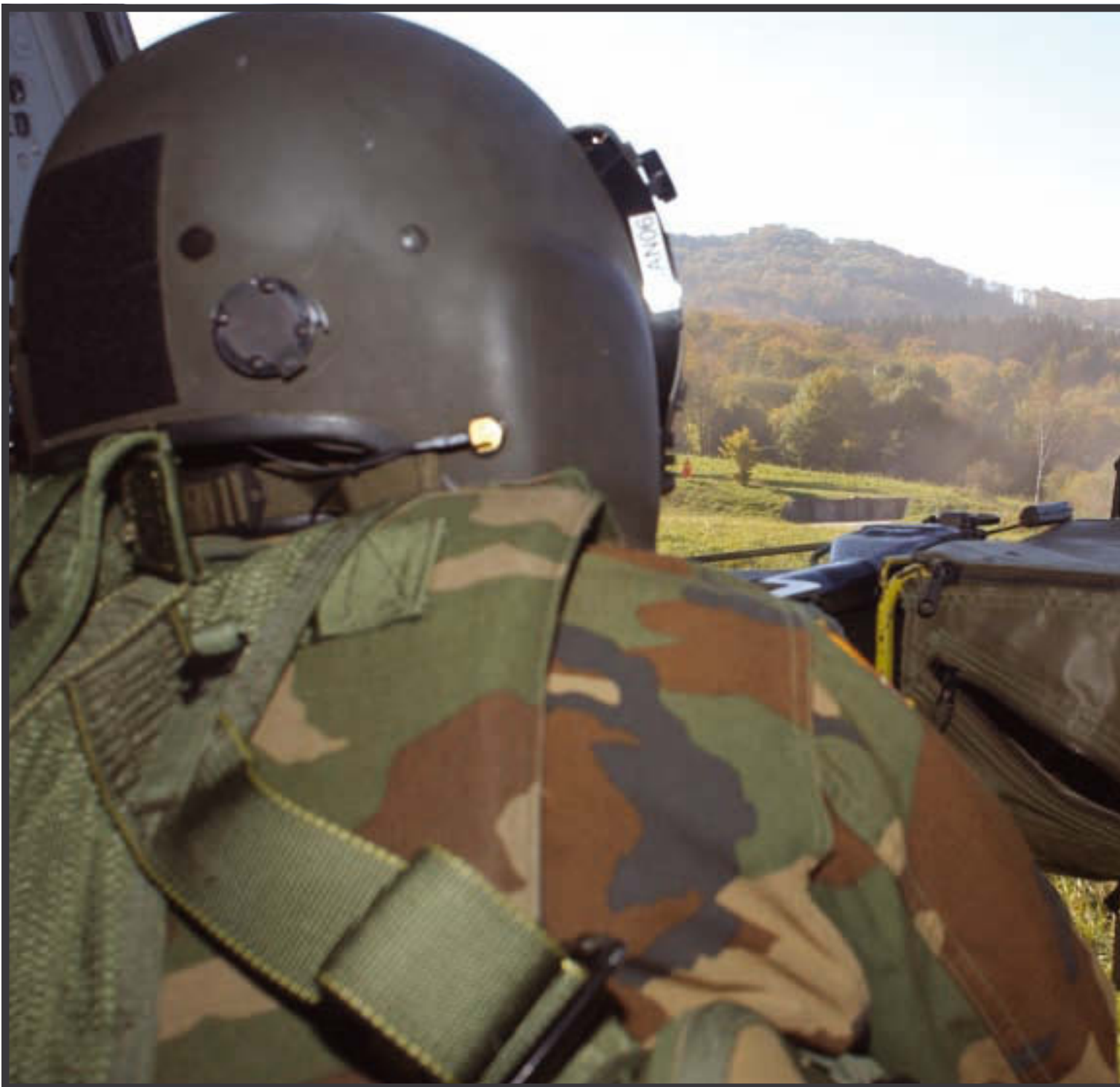
"Scouting in vehicles is quick and precise. It's

a lot slower and stealthier when you're dismounted because all you have is what you're wearing to protect you and what you're carrying to fight with instead of having a Bradley filled up with ammunition," Finn said.

"It's important because it teaches the guys that we have to rely on each other and not just the equipment."



# 2-1 AVN crew chiefs c



SPC James E. Lambus, a crew chief from 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment, fires the M-60 machine gun from a grounded

# Conduct aerial gunnery training



*Story and photos by  
SPC Stephen Baack  
Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

Staying in garrison is far from what the crew chiefs of A Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment signed up for upon joining the Army, and their recent training only reinforces that point.

During the unit's two week semi-annual gunnery, its Soldiers executed individual and crew-served weapons training at various ranges across the Wildflecken Training Area. Additionally, four new UH-60 Black Hawk crew chiefs from A Co. familiarized themselves with and qualified on the M-60 machine gun.

This training is important because on a fundamental level Soldiers need to be experts with their assigned weapons, whether they're part of an air crew or whether they're firing their crew-served or individual weapons in combat operations, said LTC Guy M. Zero, 2-1 Avn. Regt. commander.

With the close supervision and coaching of a flight instructor, four new crew chiefs learned how to properly mount the M-60 machine gun to the aircraft, how to load the mount can and brass bag, and learned how to load the weapon and fire from a grounded Black Hawk.

Next was the aerial gunnery component – with a twist – as crew chiefs donned their M-40 protective masks before firing. The Black Hawk steadily made its way across the rear range line as each crew chief fired at targets more than 800 meters away.

“Shooting from the air and on the move is much, much different than sitting on the ground and trying to hit one single target,” said SPC Aaron M. Ferguson, Black Hawk crew chief and flight instructor from A Co., 2-1 Avn. Regt. “So what we're doing is moving around, back and forth, left and right trying to hit different targets, and these are very, very far away targets – 800, 900 meters. It presents more of a challenge than just sitting on the ground.”

Ferguson had been doing his job for about four years when he became a crew chief during his tour in Iraq. His unit was short two flight



UH-60 Black Hawk Oct. 19 at Wildflecken.

# 2-1 AVN gunnery

instructors, so he volunteered for one of the slots.

“If we don’t have a gunnery, and we don’t do this all the time, people will lose their skills,” said Ferguson. “It’s just like any other small arms range. This is just done from the air.”

“This is the smallest range that I’ve seen just because the way the range is set up,” Ferguson added. “It’s set up like a valley. We didn’t have a lot of maneuverability room. Comparing it back to Iraq, there we were flying around 130, 140 miles an hour. Here, we’re doing walking speed – maybe running. It’s apples and

oranges here – can’t really compare. So what we really need to do is go to the range more often. We need more realistic ranges.”

But new crew chief SPC James E. Lambus is confident.

“We’ve got good flight instructors ... They’re able to steer the guys in the right direction and make sure we get the job done, get some good hits – just familiarization.”



SPC Aaron M. Ferguson, crew chief and flight instructor from A Co., 2-1 Avn. Regt., shows fellow Soldiers how to load the M-60 machine gun.

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# 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers use system of pre-checks to ensure mission success



Soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, C Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion follow behind an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier as they move to clear an insurgent hideout during training.

*Story and photo by Debra Gosinski  
U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt  
Public Affairs Office*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is training to adapt and overcome any situation it encounters. Whether it is a broken down vehicle or power outage, simulated enemy fire or building cordon and search, the engineers are proving they are fit to fight.

Camp Robertson was the engineers' training ground Dec. 4-10, and the mission was clear — to certify each engineer platoon in its Warrior Task — combat engineer support to combat, combat support and combat service support units in 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> ID.

"We're working in and around local training Area Mike along with (the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment). (This provides) us the opportunity to do cross-unit coordination. As they move in the central portion of the local training area where they can maneuver tanks, we're operating primarily on the external areas in

the more heavily wooded regions with smaller vehicles because of the multitude of missions that engineer forces do" said MAJ David Ray, the 9<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. operations officer.

The December training at Camp Robertson is thorough and intense.

"Each platoon goes through a 36-hour battle run during which they conduct three distinct engineer-type missions that are somewhat unique to the field environment," said Ray.

During that time period Soldiers from the battalion conducted an area reconnaissance and clearing mission, and a route reconnaissance with the additional task of setting up traffic control points, Ray said. Additionally, the engineers were required to report all hazards, such as suspected explosive devices and IEDs. When a hazard was encountered, the engineers were required to call in a situational report to higher as well as move

and mark the lane through that hazard in order to enable freedom of movement along the route, Ray added.

To ensure each mission is executed properly, the Soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. use a system called "The Dagger Big Nine."

The steps of the Dagger Big Nine include developing a solid operations order; taking full advantage of all available terrain maps, models and graphics; carrying out pre-combat checks and inspections; conducting rehearsals; maintaining security and implementing force protection requirements according to current threat levels; conducting thorough reconnaissance and surveillance missions; practicing good time management; following proper risk management procedures; and

developing a good resupply and medical evacuation plan.

"The Dagger Big Nine is a series of steps leaders go through to ensure that they cover all the bases before they execute a mission," said LTC Glen Masset, the 9<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. commander. "It's not necessarily the scenario in the lane where we learn the big lessons, it's the forgetting to do something before you left — or how you reacted in an unplanned event — where the lessons are learned."

"We stress safety. If we do it out here, and we say this is what right looks like, then that's the way we're always going to do business. We won't accept what right looks like until it's right," Masset added.

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*'Each platoon goes through a 36-hour battle run during which they conduct three distinct engineer-type missions ...'*

- MAJ David Ray, 9<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. S-3

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# Steel Tigers

*Story and photos by SPC Joe Alger  
Staff writer, 1<sup>st</sup> ID PAO*

One important aspect of Soldiering is making sure your equipment is running smoothly so when it comes time to use it, there's nothing to worry about. But when your equipment includes more than 40 M1A1 Abrams tanks, like it does for the Soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, making sure your equipment runs smoothly involves more than a simple service check. So instead, 1-77 Armor Soldiers conducted a gunnery at Grafenwoehr Training Area Oct. 31-Nov. 10.

The Soldiers first conducted three days of tests on their tanks to identify deficiencies and also to brush up on their tanker skills.

The battalion hasn't conducted a gunnery since April 2003, and since the battalion will be conducting a level one gunnery next February, the command team wanted to identify any deficiencies with the tanks now, said MAJ Kevin Jacobi, 1-77 Armor operations officer.

"We have three different kinds of tanks in our battalion right now," Jacobi said. "Tanks that went to Iraq with us, tanks that stayed here in Germany while we were in Iraq and tanks we acquired from other places since we returned from Iraq." The goal of the gunnery was to make sure all three categories of tanks were operating on the same level, Jacobi said.

"You can do all sorts of checks on your tank, but the only way to know for sure if it's working right is to shoot a big bullet through it," he said.

Day one of the gunnery was a live fire accuracy screening test for the tanks, which is a step-by-step process that ensures the systems are working properly and the tanks are firing correctly, according to CPT Derrick Daniels, 1-77 Armor personnel officer. The Soldiers attempted to

correct any deficiencies in their tanks, and if they found a problem the maintenance team can't fix, new parts were ordered.

"Some of these tanks haven't been fired in almost two years so we've got a couple tanks in the maintenance bay," said SFC Curtis E. Wooley, C Co., 1-77 Armor first platoon sergeant. "Hopefully it's a simple component swap and not a major fix."

But even if the tanks do have problems, Jacobi said he'd rather they were identified and fixed now.

"We've had a few fire control system problems, but we're able to fix them and place parts on order now and get them in time," Jacobi said. "If the Army wants to commit tank battalions to go to Iraq, they have to put in the time, training and resources to do it."

Once the fire control systems were operational, the second day featured a live fire test of the tanks' machine guns and main guns.

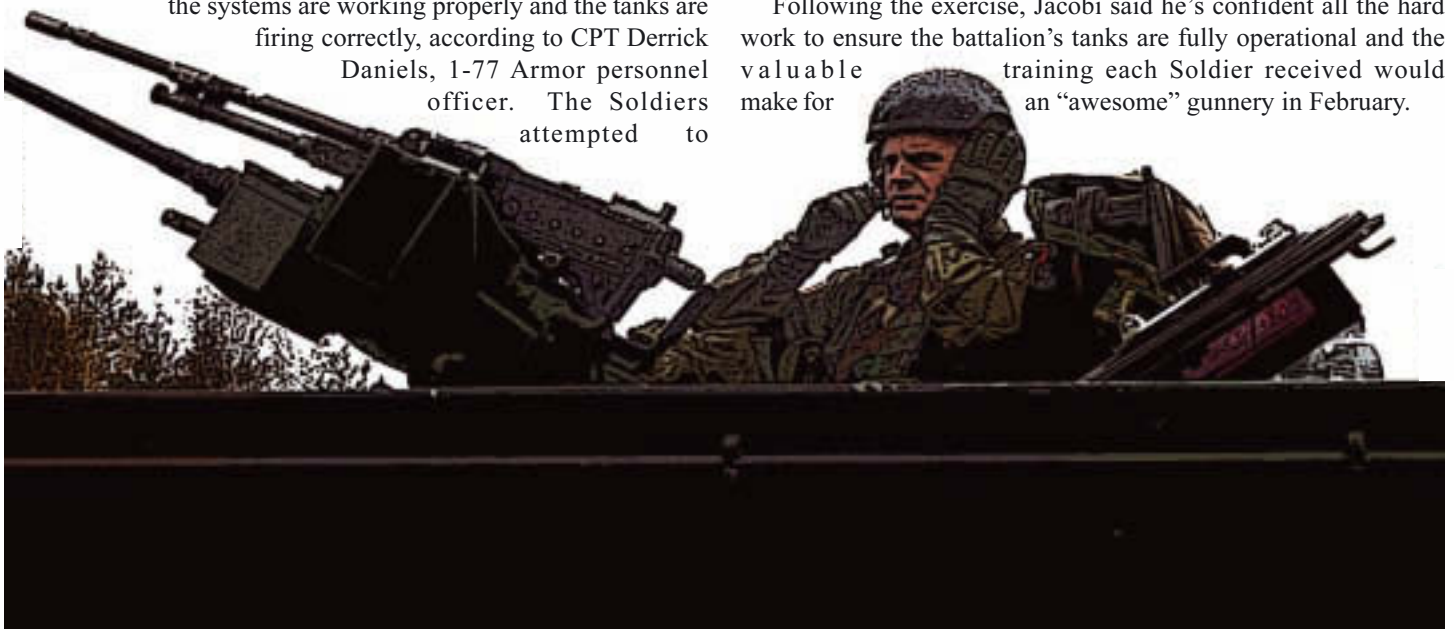
On day three Soldiers moved the tanks into an open field and conducted maneuvers and tank formations. This part of the gunnery helps Soldiers brush up on their basic tanker skills, which many of them hadn't practiced recently.

Many of the 1-77 Soldiers conducted infantry tasks and tactics during their deployment to Iraq, Jacobi said, so some of them hadn't been in a tank for a long time and in some cases hadn't been in a tank at all.

"The war on terrorism has caused us to be a lot more diversified in our skills. In some cases we have some young sergeants who have never gunned on a tank before because we haven't given them the opportunity to tank, so a lot of them have to re-learn the basics," Jacobi said.

Following the maneuver exercise, Soldiers had a recovery day to clean the tanks and equipment and ship them back to Schweinfurt.

Following the exercise, Jacobi said he's confident all the hard work to ensure the battalion's tanks are fully operational and the valuable training each Soldier received would make for an "awesome" gunnery in February.



SFC Curtis E. Wooley, a platoon sergeant with C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, talks through his headset prior to a live fire accuracy screening test for an M1A1 Abrams tank at Grafenwoehr Training Area Nov. 4.



Soldiers from 1-77 Armor conducted three days of tests on their M1A1 Abrams tanks prior to conducting a gunnery at Grafenwoehr Training Area Oct. 31-Nov. 10.

## **BIDS, from page 13**

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military operations on urbanized terrain and executing the Warrior Tasks within the rules of engagement against opposition forces – all while performing detection procedures.

“The certification is the most important (part of the FOCC) because we are the only two platoons here in Europe and because we are a (European Command) asset,” said Newhouse. “It is vital we become certified as quickly as possible so we are available for EUCOM and (U.S. Army Europe) for use for future combat operations.

“Overall (the Soldiers) performed awesome,” said Newhouse. “I couldn’t ask for a better group of Soldiers. Despite the weather conditions, the morale is high and they’ve performed extremely well.”

“It’s basically a brand new unit,” said LTC George Frank, commander, 479<sup>th</sup> Chemical Battalion, a Reserve unit based in New York. “They’ve come together from scratch. They’ve come a long way in a little over 12 months to get to this point, and this is their big confidence builder. They’ve been mostly training on squad-level tasks and this, I believe, is their first collective, platoon-level training exercise that they’ve had. They’ve been doing great so far. The key thing here is that they’re learning along the way. We’ve got resident (observer/controllers) here from Hohenfels and experts from back in the states from the school house who have been certified at the school house.

“They’ve come over here, come together,” said Frank. “They’re teaching, coaching, mentoring the Soldiers, conducting hot washes, AARs, and Soldiers are learning a lot. They’re taking those lessons and applying them to each sequential mission as they go forward and improve over time. And that’s what we’re looking for. They’re improving. And they’re gaining confidence in that. And they’re going to be ready to do whatever Big Army has them doing in the future.”



1LT David Newhouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon leader, 307<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company (Forward), briefs his squad leaders during an operations order at a Biological Integrated Detection System certification exercise in Hohenfels Nov. 14-21.



## **1<sup>st</sup> ID Medal of Honor recipient CPL Henry F. Warner**

Serving as a 57-mm antitank gunner with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, CPL Henry F. Warner made major contributions to stopping the enemy tanks during heavy attacks near Dom Butgenbach, Belgium, Dec. 20-21, 1944. Ignoring the cannon, machine gun and tank fire bearing down on him, he destroyed two of the tanks. He then took out the commander of a third tank with small arms fire. Early the next day, Warner took out a fourth tank and was reloading when he was killed by machine guns.