



# THE IRONHORSEMAN

1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division



Snapshots  
from abroad:

Ironhorse  
showcases  
European  
journey

Working,  
training,  
downtime,  
fellowship:

Tour  
Combined  
Resolve II  
in pictures

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1st Brigade Combat Team  
1st Cavalry Division  
Fort Hood, Texas



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# Ironhorse trains alongside their partners

Story and Photos by Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO

HOHENFELS, Germany – Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division have spent the past few weeks in Germany honing their combat skills, their military occupational skills and their partnership skills.

First ABCT, 1st CD is currently training with 14 other nations here on Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, during the multi-national exercise, Combined Resolve II. The exercise, which lasts approximately 60 days, includes maneuver training, force-on-force combat training and live fire exercises.

Key to the success of this training is the Ironhorse brigade's ability to partner with the other NATO allies and nations. Tactics, languages, communication systems and culture all play a role in how the Soldiers from different countries work together.

“What we're trying to do, and where we've seen our best results, is putting those groups [of Soldiers] together at the lowest level,” said Col. John DiGiambattista, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “When you put those groups together at the lowest level, Soldiers get to work together, understand each other's equipment, they understand how they talk, how they think, and how they interact.”

Interaction and partnership is crucial, because for many of these Soldiers, this is their first time working with someone who doesn't speak their own language. DiGiambattista, a native of Anaheim, California, said that this type of training in an excellent opportunity, which allows Soldiers to work with other

nations, build cultural awareness, understanding and interoperability.

To better illustrate the benefits of this training, DiGiambattista provided an example about lieutenants who have fewer than two years in the Army.

“So, 10 years from now [when] they're majors, they will have already experienced working with multiple different nations and understand that that's how we fight and that's how we come together. They'll be that much better prepared when they're majors than some of our majors were 10 years ago.”

Several of the young officers in the 1st BCT have not deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan but the experience they gain from the training here in Germany will be invaluable to them in the years to come.

“[Working with other nations] is going to have its frustrations in terms of language barriers, and we have different [tactics, techniques and procedures], and training techniques than they do,” said 1st Lieutenant Harrison Maxwell, the platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, of the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

“When you get together, there's a lot of shared knowledge and you realize that they know how to do things; it may be a different way than you do it, but you pick up on things that they do, they pick up on things we do, so everyone's learning,” said Maxwell, a native of Needham, Massachusetts.

“It should be fun; we can learn off each other and hopefully share some culture as well. It's a good opportunity for all these guys who've never ... worked with other nations,” said Maxwell.

*Maj. Eric Melloh, left, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division operations officer, Capt. Micah Chapman, middle, the 1st BCT operations planner and Maj. Grigolia, right, the 1st Georgian Infantry Brigade operations planner, discuss troop movements in the 1st BCT tactical operations center at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training event, Combined Resolve II.*



*Capt. Christine Connolly, foreground, the Judge Advocate General for the 547th Civil Affairs Battalion, 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, 7th Civil Support Command and Capt. Doug Wells, a military police officer from Division West, Fort Hood, Texas work on products and mission planning in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division tactical operations center at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



# Infantry and aviation working together

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO

*A Soldier from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division scans for targets using a Javelin during combat training operations at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*An AH-64 Apache helicopter from 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment provides aerial support to infantrymen from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team during combat training operations at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*An AH-64 Apache helicopter from 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment provides aerial support to infantrymen from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team during combat training operations at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



# Planning the defense

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



(Above) Col. John DiGiambattista, left, commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks with Col. Raimundas Vaiksnoras, commander of the Lithuanian Iron Wolf brigade at Hohenfels Training Area during Combined Resolve II.



(Above) Col. John DiGiambattista, left, commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks with Col. Raimundas Vaiksnoras, commander of the Lithuanian Iron Wolf brigade at Hohenfels Training Area during Combined Resolve II.



(Above) Col. Raimundas Vaiksnoras, commander of the Lithuanian Iron Wolf brigade receives a battle update from one of his ground forces commanders at Hohenfels Training Area during Combined Resolve II.

(Right) Col. John DiGiambattista, commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, plans combat training operations with Lithuanian, Georgian and American commanders out in Hohenfels Training Area during Combined Resolve II.



# Take a knee in the shade

By Capt. John Farmer  
IBCT, 1CD PAO



*Georgian infantrymen take a short break from operations during force-on-force combat training at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



# Setting up the defense

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



*Soldiers from Company B, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division set up concertina wire obstacles to prevent enemy forces from attacking during force-on-force combat training at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*Bulldozer crews from the 444th Mobility Augmentation Company, a New York National Guard unit, dig tank ditches to prevent enemy forces from attacking during force-on-force combat training at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*Soldiers from Company B, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division set up concertina wire obstacles to prevent enemy forces from attacking during force-on-force combat training at Hohenfels Training Area during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



# Asking the hard questions

Story and Photo By Spc. Paige Behringer  
IBCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – “My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind – accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers ... I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own.”

These lines from The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer emphasize one major leadership concept Soldiers begin learning upon arrival at Basic Combat Training — looking after each other.

Sometimes ensuring a Soldier’s overall well-being means leaders and battle buddies must go the extra mile and even dive into sensitive subjects headfirst if they sense something may be wrong.

Changes in behavior are a major sign that a Soldier may have a behavioral health issue, said Maj. Paul Weberg, chaplain for the 1st Brigade Combat Team “Ironhorse,” 1st Cavalry Division. Noticing these changes comes from building relationships with Soldiers.

Weberg, a Chicago native, said situational awareness and what he called “invasive leadership” can help detect potential problems in Soldiers.

“It is up to the first-line supervisor to ask the hard questions,” said Weberg. “(Like), ‘Hey how are you making ends meet with all your financial responsibilities? How often do you drink (alcohol)? Do you rely on that to go to bed at

night?’ Just asking the hard, uncomfortable questions, that’s part of invasive leadership.”

When it comes to behavioral health, it’s better to be proactive as opposed to reactive, Weberg added.

The responsibility to look after one another doesn’t start and end with leaders. All Soldiers can play a role when it comes to being there for each other.

“(With) a battle buddy, the number one thing we need to do is get to know them and ... how they involve themselves, especially outside of work,” said Spc. Paul Hirschi, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company “Hammer,” of the Ironhorse Brigade. “(It) can help you know what questions to ask when you notice them acting differently.”

Hirschi, a native of Brigham City, Utah, said behavioral health issues can be hard to talk about with Soldiers.

“Soldiers feel like they need to be tough,” Hirschi said. “They feel like if they go see the behavioral health clinic or something like that, others will perceive them as being kind of weak minded.”

Hirschi said he thinks mental illness is not something that’s uncommon and education can help reduce any stigma associated with it. People can have physical illnesses, like the flu, and people can have mental illnesses, Hirschi continued.

“Knowledge is power,” Hirschi said. “I think the more knowledge we have, the better equipped we’ll be to conquer whatever ailments we have.”





# Take cover for maneuver training

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO

*Soldiers with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fight with enemy combatants during Combined Resolve II at Hohenfels Training Area.*



Story continued on the following page



**Take cover continued**

*Abrams tanks with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hunt for enemy in the Hohenfels Training Area during Combined Resolve II.*



# Prepping for combat

By Capt. John Farmer  
IBCT, 1CD PAO

An Austrian infantryman treats a simulated casualty after taking indirect fire during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.



Austrian infantrymen fight off the OPFOR's advance into the city during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.



Story continued on the following page



Prepping for combat continued



*After destroying an enemy tank, Bulgarian infantrymen move to a new location in the city to fight off the OPFOR during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*Austrian infantrymen fight off the OPFOR's advance into the city during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*

## Behind the goggles at Sierra Beach

*Sgt. Jean Lopez (right), a San Juan, Puerto Rico native, and infantryman assigned to Company B of the 2nd Battalion "Lancer," 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, and Spc. Garrett McAdam, a Portland, Maine native, and geospatial intelligence imagery analyst assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," of the Ironhorse Brigade, practice rescue techniques during weekly refresher training while tasked as lifeguards for Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area, May 28, at Fort Hood Texas.*



**Story and Photos By Spc. Paige Behringer**  
IBCT, ICD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas –A cartoon sun smiles from yellow signs leading the way along North Nolan Road to a Central Texas summertime hangout, Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area. The major attraction at this oasis of fun is the lake itself, featuring a sandy authorized swimming area, Sierra Beach.

In order to provide Soldiers, Families and the community surrounding Fort Hood with a safe place to swim and cool off from May to October, around 30 Soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, are standing watch over Sierra Beach's shore for the summer of 2014.

Lifeguarding is tasked to Fort Hood units instead of hiring civilians, and responsibility of BLORA's beach rotates between units every year.

Ironhorse Soldiers took charge of the lake as lifeguards, completing the American Red Cross lifeguard certification with an additional certification specific to deep water or lakefront environments.

"It's not a vacation," said Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Cook, the noncommissioned officer in charge BLORA lifeguards, assigned to Company B of the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion "Saber," of the Ironhorse Brigade. "There are opening and closing procedures to make sure everything is ready to provide this service for Soldiers and their

Families. It's important that Soldiers and their Families are provided with these recreational opportunities. We're helping make that happen."

Spc. Rodolfo Echeverria, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the of the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion "Saber," of the Ironhorse Brigade, said he has always loved the water and enjoys being a lifeguard at the lake, but the job at hand is serious.

"The hardest part (of training) was probably the deep water back boarding," said Echeverria, a native of Orange County, California. "It's as if a patient suffered a spinal injury in the water and you have to go in there and put them on a backboard while in the water. It's a pretty tough task."

"When you're talking about the deep water spinal rescue, that's a pretty labor intensive task," added Cook, a native of Mountain Home, Arkansas. "That requires the lifeguards to speak with each other and communicate while performing the task, and it's a life saving measure for that victim."

Cook said the increased communication skills and responsibilities learned during this unique task help younger Soldiers with professional development.

"The skills (Soldiers) learn here translate when they go back to their units," Cook said.

Due to responsibility of lifeguarding, Ironhorse lifeguards were selected based on merit, physical capabilities and their unit's

availability to provide Soldiers amidst current operations and training missions.

"Fit soldiers who can do great things on land in their (physical training) test, (don't) translate well into the water sometimes," said Sgt. Christopher Mamaux, an infantryman assigned to the 2nd Squadron "Sabre," 3rd Cavalry Regiment "Brave Rifles. "The initial prerequisite test we have flushes about 60 to 70 percent of those Soldiers out."

Mamaux, a native of Leavenworth, Kansas became a lifeguard instructor and combat water survival training instructor last summer. He now oversees recurrent, or "in-service," training and administers a 500m swim test to lifeguards every two weeks.

"They're supposed to swim it every day to keep their proficiency and overall lung capacity up, then when we come around for in-service training we time them," Mamaux said. "(The) time standard is 15 minutes per lifeguard. It's basically a PT test for us."

The in-service training reviews cardiopulmonary resuscitation, rescue equipment and water rescue skills to ensure the lifeguards maintain proficiency and maintain capabilities learned and studied in the course.

"It keeps them in shape, it keeps them honest and it keeps them sustaining the skills they need to swim out in the currents (and) pools, to dive deep to rescue whatever victims they may have," Mamaux said.



# Ironhorse shares gunnery with Estonian defence chief

By Spc. Paige Behringer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



Maj. Gen. Riho Terras (second from right), Estonia's chief of defence, speaks with Col. John DiGiambattista (second from left), commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, about gunnery at Crittenger Multi-Purpose Range Complex during Terras' visit to Fort Hood, June 9. Soldiers of 2nd Battalion "Thunderhorse," 12th Cavalry Regiment, Ironhorse Brigade helped Terras gain first hand gunnery experience using Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A2 Abrams tanks. Terras talked with leaders throughout the division about the First Team's regionally aligned forces in Europe. Elements of 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., are currently taking part in a multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II in Europe. More than 4,000 participants from 14 NATO and European partner nations are participating in the exercise.

Maj. Gen. Riho Terras, Estonia's chief of defence, sits in the gunner's hatch of an M1A2 Abrams tank during his visit to Fort Hood, June 9. Part of Terras' visit took him to Sugarloaf Multi-Use Range where Soldiers of 2nd Battalion "Thunderhorse," 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division took him for a ride in the tank and let him fire the main gun.



Maj. Gen. Riho Terras, Estonia's chief of defence, views a static display of various infantry weapons systems demonstrated by Soldiers of 2nd Battalion "Thunderhorse," 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, at Crittenger Multi-Purpose Range Complex during his visit to Fort Hood, June 9. During his visit, Terras visited two live-fire ranges and gained first-hand knowledge about the ins and outs of gunnery.

# Shooting it out for German medal

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



*(Left) A Soldier from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fires a P8 pistol during the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test at Grafenwoehr Army base in Germany. Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and German Soldiers from 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, spent two days interacting and participating in a weapons proficiency test during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*(Right) A Soldier from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gets a lesson on the G36 rifle from a Soldier from 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion during the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test at Grafenwoehr Army base in Germany.*



*(Left) A German Soldier from the 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, fires an M9 pistol during the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test at Grafenwoehr Army base in Germany.*

*(Below) Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and German Soldiers from 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test at Grafenwoehr Army base.*

**Story continued on the following page**



**Pistol shoot continued**

*(Left) German Soldiers from the 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, cook up hamburgers during a barbecue after the first day of the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test, at Grafenwoehr Army base. (Right) Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and German Soldiers from 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, spent two days interacting and participating in a weapons proficiency test during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*(Left) Soldiers from the 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, present tokens of appreciation to Maj. Samuel Shepherd, the battalion operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and to Capt. Dan Davision, the brigade assistant operations officer at the conclusion of the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test at Grafenwoehr Army base.*

*(Right) Maj. Samuel Shepherd, the battalion operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, presents awards Soldiers from the 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, at the conclusion of the schuetzenschnur, a German weapons proficiency test at Grafenwoehr Army base. Soldiers from IABCT and German Soldiers from 4th Company, 467th Logistics Battalion, spent two days interacting and participating in a weapons proficiency test during the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*





# Clean the wheels

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



*Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Squadron, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, wash their tanks at the Hohenfels wash rack after completing the maneuver training portion of the multinational training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



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# Ironhorse rocks out during single Soldier's festival

By Spc. Paige Behringer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



*Pfc. David Wilson, an aviation operations specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, and Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion "Thunderhorse," 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," test their strength in a tug-of-war contest during the Single Soldier's Fest hosted by Fort Hood's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, June 13 at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area. Wilson said he likes the BOSS program because it allows single Soldiers to get together and meet new friends. It turns out that Wilson, a Lompoc, California native, ran into an old friend from high school while playing tug-of-war and had a chance to catch up with him. "It was a nice surprise," Wilson said.*

*Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division, and others from across Fort Hood, attended the Single Soldier's Fest hosted by Fort Hood's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, June 13 at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area. Spc. Molly Brown, a small arms artillery repairer volunteered throughout the day and said she saw nothing but smiles and laughter. "The best thing for resilience is an outlet of some kind," said Brown, a Gilpin County, Colorado native. The annual event gives single Soldiers the outlet they need to relax and also meet new people, Brown added.*



Story continued on the following page



# Downtime takes Soldiers up the Alps

By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



*(Left) Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division hike along a ridge-line coming off the top of the Duerrnbachhorn near the town of Reit im Winkl, Germany. Soldiers from the Ironhorse brigade were given the opportunity to stay in a German Army-owned cottage up in the Alps on the border of Germany and Austria for four days near the town of Reit im Winkl and enjoy the outdoors and mountains during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*

*(Below) Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division pose for a photo at the top of the Sonntagshorn near the town of Reit im Winkl, Germany.*



*Capt. Micah Chapman, the assistant operations officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division poses for a photo at the top of the Sonntagshorn near the town of Reit im Winkl, Germany. Soldiers from the Ironhorse brigade were given the opportunity to stay in a German Army-owned cottage up in the Alps on the border of Germany and Austria for four days near the town of Reit im Winkl and enjoy the outdoors and mountains during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



# Father, son reunite during Combined Resolve II

Story and Photos By Capt. John Farmer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



Spc. Nicholas Rapcan, left, and Sgt. 1st Class David Rapcan, right, show off their 1st Cavalry pride at Hohenfels Army base, May 31 2014. Sgt. 1st Class Rapcan deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom both in 2004 and 2009. The elder Rapcan wore the same 1st Cavalry Division combat patch for both deployments. That patch he then gave to his son, Nick, who wore the patch to Iraq in 2010 and then to Afghanistan in 2012. The Rapcans joke about how that patch, now almost 10 years old, will become a family heirloom someday.



Spc. Nicholas Rapcan, a combat engineer with Company B, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division accepts an award from Brig. Gen. Walter Piatt, the commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command during a small ceremony at Hohenfels Army base.

HOHENFELS, Germany -- Spc. Nicholas Rapcan, a combat engineer with B Company, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, came to Germany in May with his unit to participate in Combined Resolve II.

His expectations were fairly standard: shoot gunnery, emplace obstacles and fight the opposing forces. At the bottom of his list of expectations was spending quality time with his father.

Sgt. 1st Class David Rapcan bid farewell to his son, Nick, last June after only a few days of block leave and figured he would see him at some point in the future.

He never thought, however, it would be almost a year later in Germany during a massive, multinational training exercise involving 15 countries and more than 4,500 Soldiers.

"I knew I was going to Hohenfels and Nick was under the impression he was going to Grafenwoehr ... and then he came to Hohenfels and called and said, 'hey, I'm in Hohenfels ... and about three minutes later he was standing in front of me,'" said Sgt. 1st Class Rapcan.

It has been almost a year since father and son have seen each other. Spc. Rapcan had returned from a deployment to Afghanistan in 2013 and was spending time with family on block leave last June.

Their conflicting schedules allowed them only a few days together since the elder Rapcan, a predeployment training noncommissioned officer for the state of Tennessee, was busy training a unit in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.

"We've actually had more time here ... to catch up and see how the family's doing," said Spc. Rapcan.

The Rapcan duo is thrilled about the training opportunities here in Germany, especially Spc. Rapcan, who loves being a combat engineer.

"I think it's awesome to be in the Bradley ... because we've never actually done conventional warfare scenarios, we've always trained for route clearance and (counter improvised explosive device) ... and going back to the meat and potatoes of actually being in the Army, tank on tank, is really cool," said Spc. Rapcan.

Not only have these two enjoyed the opportunity to hang out, but there's some generational cross-training going on, as well.

Many years ago, David Rapcan worked on Bradleys, the same Bradleys on which his son is now training. During their times together, the younger Rapcan sought out tips, tricks and old-school advice from his father, all of which aided him during the training.

Spc. Rapcan, along with a handful of others, was honored at a small ceremony as the Hero of Hohenfels for his outstanding performance during the force-on-force fight portion of the exercise.

For his father, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness his son accept the award. With tears of pride welling up in his eyes, Sgt. 1st Class Rapcan had trouble putting into words how honored he felt to have the chance to be present for the ceremony.

"Of all the experiences I've had in the military, this is by far the best," said Sgt. 1st Class Rapcan. "I mean, it's a one-in-a-million chance that we end up six barracks away and be able to spend some time and train together. I've always loved the military, still do, and this is one of the perks, spending time with your family in a different way."



# Seeing through the boresight of a tank

By Capt. John Farmer and Sgt. Fred Brown  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



*Photo by Sgt. Fred Brown  
Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Squadron, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division calibrate their tanks prior to conducting gunnery at Grafenwoehr Army base during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*Photo by Capt. John Farmer  
Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Squadron, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conduct gunnery at Grafenwoehr Army base during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



*Photo by Sgt. Fred Brown  
Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division boresight their tanks prior to conducting gunnery at Grafenwoehr Army base during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II.*



# Ironhorse live fire exercise

Story and photos by Capt. John Farmer

IBCT, 1CD PAO

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Artillery rounds pounded the impact zone while Apache attack helicopters and tanks engaged targets down range. Dismounted infantry maneuvered through the wood line as their Bradleys provided covering fire. The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, along with partnered forces from Georgia and Romania, conducted a combined arms live fire exercise at the Grafenwoehr live fire training complex, here, June 27.

“The [combined arms live fire exercise] is a dangerous event so synchronization is absolutely critical to ensure all our soldiers are safe,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ivan Alvira, the provost marshal non-commissioned officer in charge for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

With so many moving pieces on the ground, Alvira said there were several keys to success for a safe day of training while on the range. First and foremost is solid communication. With multiple units conducting multiple missions simultaneously it was critical that training observers checked in with the range safeties and officers-in-charge on a regular basis. Also important was maintaining accurate reporting throughout the course of the live fire to ensure every soldier was physically accounted for, especially considering the fact that they were moving so close to huge combat vehicles like tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

“We’ve got to make sure it’s all phased correctly... to make sure everything is coordinated,” said Maj. Rasheed Muwwakil, the brigade engineer officer for 1st BCT, 1st CD. Muwwakil is the officer-in-charge for two of the largest ranges during the CALFEX, encompassing tank main gun fire, Apache gun engagements, and TOW missile engagements.

Muwwakil wasn’t alone as he labored tirelessly to ensure safety for the soldiers. Observer / Control teams from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center and range safety officers added an



Staff Sgt. Jay Hocker, the operations noncommissioned officer for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, left, and Capt. Ron Youngblood, right, the assistant fire support officer for 1st BCT, 1st CD put up a map in preparation for the combined arms live fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Army Base, Germany, June 26.

additional level of safety to ensure soldiers weren’t unknowingly putting each other into harm’s way.

The combined arms live fire exercise was the culminating training event for the Ironhorse brigade during the multi-national training exercise, Combined Resolve II. The CALFEX involved synchronizing multiple weapons platforms as they engaged different targets either in conjunction with or separate from each other. Tanks, both U.S. and Romanian, Bradleys, artillery, attack helicopters, engineer breaching equipment, dismounted infantry, mortars and small arms all played a role in the massive six hour live fire.

The brigade staff, with input from the subordinate units, has been planning and preparing for the CALFEX for weeks. The staff managed the live fire on the ground as well as an additional

**Story continued on the following page**



Combat engineers with Company B, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division fire a mine clearing line charge during the combined arms live fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Army Base, Germany, June 27.



**Ironhorse live fire exercise continued**

portion of the exercise, which was virtually designed utilizing the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation Enhancements, a software program which constructs battlefield simulations. JCATS allowed Ironhorse to fight a much larger fight, adding to the overall value of the live fire exercise.

The complexity of the exercise was further increased by the fact that there were several units participating in the live fire that aren't part of the Ironhorse brigade like the Apache attack helicopters from 2nd Battalion, 159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, a unit out of Illesheim, Germany.

"We made a pretty big effort, initially, in the planning process where we sent [liaisons] to Task Force Lancer (2-5 Cav) and Task Force Spartan (Romanians) and...having us involved in the planning process early made that a lot easier so we have all types of fire control measures to make sure that everyone is on the same page," said Capt. Brian Haley, the assistant operations officer for

2nd BN, 159th ARB.

Haley, along with others from his battalion, played a key role during the live fire, providing Ironhorse soldiers a solid understanding of how we as an Army maneuver together in a combined arms fight.

"The way all the pieces work together is pretty cool," said Pvt. Brandon Tyree, an infantryman with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "It shows you how great our Army is and lets you see the capabilities that we actually have."

Tyree was one of many Soldiers training here in Germany who have been in the Army a short time. He, like others, will benefit greatly from the experience he's gained since being here.

"I haven't been in that long myself, so being able to do this, and all the experience I've gained, and all the knowledge I've gained will help me in the future," said Tyree, a native of Pittsburgh.

*(Right) A soldier with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division engages targets while a Bradley Fighting Vehicle provides overwatch during the combined arms live fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Army Base, Germany, June 27.*



*(Left) Combat engineers with Company B, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division prepare to detonate a bangalore during the combined arms live fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Army Base, Germany, June 27.*



*Combat engineers with Company B, 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division detonate a mine clearing line charge during the combined arms live fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Army Base, Germany, June 27.*

# Ironhorse Soldiers return from European journey

By Spc. Paige Behringer  
1BCT, 1CD PAO



(Above) Duffel bags lay ready for their owners as buses bring Ironhorse Soldiers back to Fort Hood following the multinational training exercise Combined Resolve II, hosted in Germany, June 30. Soldiers from several Ironhorse battalions departed in April and May to conduct training with their NATO allies.



(Right) Spc. Walter Agati (left), an Ironhorse air defense battle management system operator, hugs his wife after returning to Fort Hood following the multinational training exercise Combined Resolve II, June 30.

## CONTACT US

Have an interesting story idea? Know an interesting Soldier?  
Feel free to contact our office via phone, email or social media. We would love to hear from you!

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# Ironhorse EO News

## Your BDE EOA

## Women's Equality Day

1ABCT Equal Opportunity Advisor



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## Monthly Observance

Guest Speaker:

Col. Julie Lomax

Former Consultant to Surgeon  
General for Women's Advanced  
Nursing Practice

26 August 2014

Club Hood Grande Ballroom

1330-1430

## SQDN/BN EOLs

HHT, 1BCT

SFC Brass / 287-0929

1-7 CAV

SSG Puntillo / 618-7162

2-5 CAV

SSG Mouring / 288-1417

2-8 CAV

SFC Boyer / 288-6000

2-12 CAV

SSG Mosley / 287-0467

1-82 FA

SSG Grabowski / 288-7851

115th BSB

SFC McLeod / 287-0812

91st BEB

SSG Shane-Travota / 288- 2130



## What is Women's Equality Day?

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities.

Source: <http://www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/equalityday.php>

**Maximizing Potential Through Leadership and Equality**