



# THE BLACKHORSE

Fall Edition 2014

## New Leaders Take the Reins of the Blackhorse Regiment:

*A Unique Combined Change of  
Command Ceremony*

## Vietnam Vets Return to Unit:

*The 11th ACR Welcomes Home Our  
Vietnam and Cambodia Veterans  
and their Family Members*







# THE BLACKHORSE

## The Blackhorse

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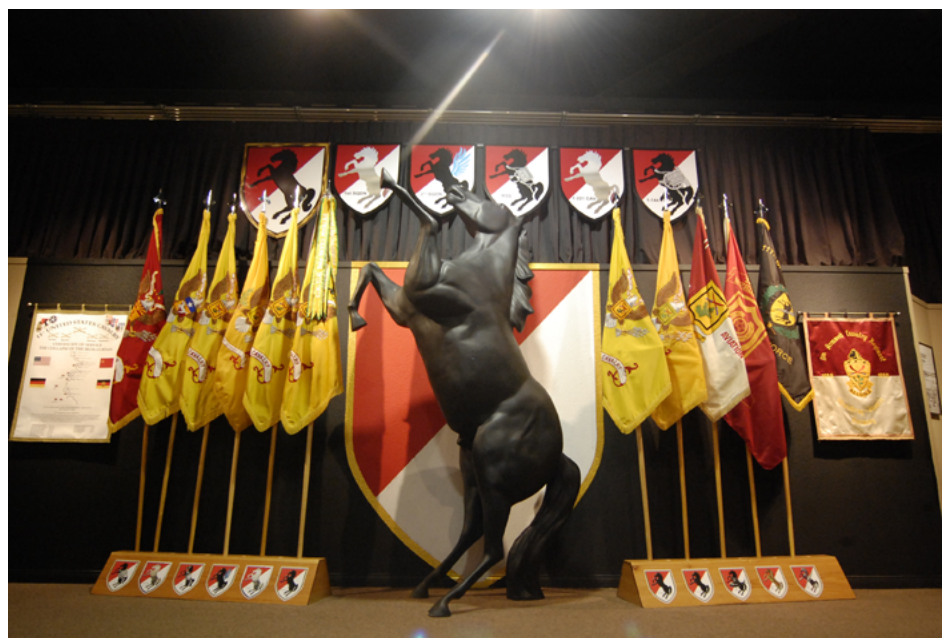
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Anyone can submit a story or photo to 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office at (Christinea.m.wagner.mil@mail.mil). Photos must contain cutlines that identify the following: full name, rank, unit, and hometown. Stories should be on or relate to 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers.

However, travel stories and editorials will be considered. For additional information please contact 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office at (760) 380-8358.



# ALLONS!





## COMMAND TEAM GREETINGS



Col. Kevin L. Jacobi  
Commander  
of 11th ACR



CSM Carl A. Ashmead  
Command Sergeant Major  
of 11th ACR

*Command Sgt. Maj. Ashmead and I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your dedication and continued support to the Blackhorse Regiment. Troopers, past and present, Family members, and DA Civilians make up the core of what are. No equipment or new technology will ever replace the need to have boots on the ground to win a war, the same holds true to maintain a historic Regiment such as ours.*

*It is you, our people, who make the Blackhorse  
“The best damn Regiment that you’ll ever see!” Allons!*





# Blackhorse Regiment Receives Exceptional Organization Safety Awards



Story and photos by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. – The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was presented the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff Army and the Forces Command Exceptional Organization Safety Award for 2013 here, June 30.

The awards were in honor of the Regiment's increase in safety practices between 2010 and the end of 2013.

"This is the toughest place to serve and train," said Maj. Gen. Ted Martin, Commanding General of the National Training Center. "We keep it safe because we have engaged leaders from the top down to our team leaders."

The 11th ACR has decreased the number of workplace safety violations by approximately 70 percent since 2010 and personal injuries by 50 percent in 2013 by keeping leaders informed of safety standards, according to an 11th ACR memorandum for record.

"We proactively give safety information to the Soldiers to augment their lifestyle, not change it," said Salvador Adame, the 11th ACR Safety Officer. "By augmenting rather than changing, we enable leaders to create the safest working environment even when no one is looking."

Safety is the first priority of the 11th ACR in everything it does.

"This award is indicative to what our Troopers do every day," said Col. John L. Ward, 65th Commander of the 11th ACR. "We put more miles on our vehicles every (training) rotation than other units all year, and we do it with great safety, pride, and discipline."

As the 11th ACR continues to be the premier contemporary fighting force and training unit of the Army, the safety of its Troopers will continue to be of the upmost importance.

"There is nothing more important than keeping our Soldiers safe," said Adame. "We are protecting our most valuable asset with our safety procedures; our Soldiers."





*Maj. Gen. Theodore D. Martin, Commanding General of the National Training Center, presents the United States Army Forces Command 2013 Exceptional Organization Safety Award - Brigade Level to Col. John L. Ward, 65th Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. This award is in honor of the Regiment's increase in safety practices between 2010 and the end of 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*



*Col. John L. Ward, 65th Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, explains what the 11th ACR has done to earn the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff Army and the Forces Command Exceptional Organization Safety Award for 2013. "This is indicative to what our Troopers do every day," said Ward. "We put more miles on our vehicles every (training) rotation then other units all year, and we do it with great safety, pride, and discipline." (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





## EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

*Candidates of the Expert Infantry Badge competition are plotting points on a map for the night portion of Land Navigation on Fort Irwin, California Aug 5. The EIB tests Infantrymen on their tactical and technical abilities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*

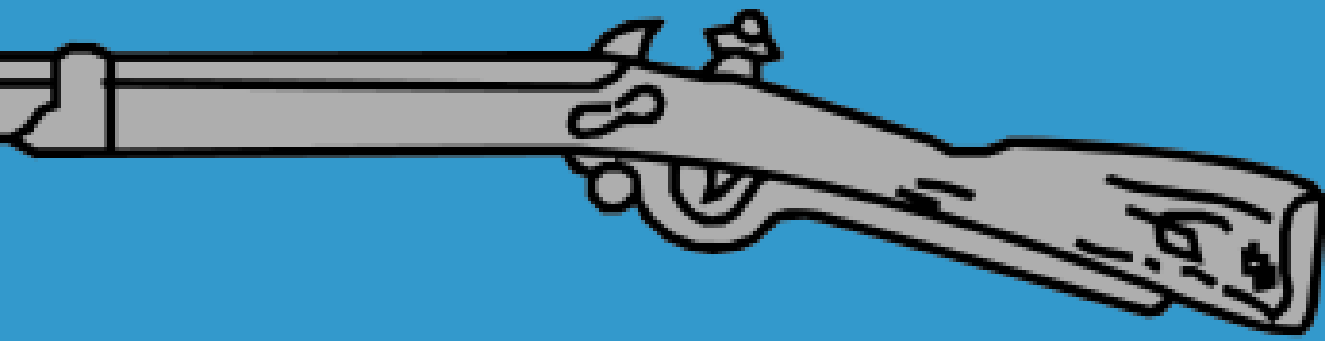


*A Soldier assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment performs a functions test on an M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun during an Expert Infantry Badge competition on Fort Irwin, California Aug. 5. The EIB tests Infantrymen on their tactical and technical abilities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*



*Spc. Bolivard Vadrine, an Infantryman assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, wraps a head wound during the Expert Infantry Badge competition on Fort Irwin, California Aug. 7. The EIB tests Infantrymen on their tactical and technical abilities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





*Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Ashmead, the Regimental Command Sgt. Maj., congratulates 1st Lt. Michael Grubb and Sgt. Jesus Ibarra, Infantrymen assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, for earning the Expert Infantry Badge as True Blue Infantrymen on Fort Irwin, California Aug. 8. True Blue refers to an EIB candidate with zero mistakes at the end of the competition. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*



*Twelve Expert Infantry Badge competitors earned their EIB at the conclusion of the competition with two Soldiers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment who earned the True Blue recognition on Fort Irwin, California Aug. 8. The EIB tests Infantrymen on their tactical and technical abilities and True Blue refers to an EIB candidate with zero mistakes at the end of the competition. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





THE BLACKHORSE

# New Leaders Take Blackhorse



Spc. Keeley George, a Trooper with the Horse Detachment, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, participates in a re-enactment of the mounted Cavalry's last charge against Poncho Villa during a combined Change of Command and Responsibility ceremony, at Fritz Field July 1, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)





# the Reigns of the Regiment







# THE BLACKHORSE

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Erik A. Thurman

the Director of Operations for  
the Combined Joint Task Force,  
Horn of Africa at his previous  
assignment. Ward will become the  
Chief of Staff for the 1st Armored  
Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

“I along with those  
departing this unit love this  
Regiment for its traditions, its rich  
history, but even more so for the  
people past and present associated  
with it,” said Ward during his  
farewell address to the Regiment.  
“I have heard some people say it’s  
all about the stories. And to some  
degree I agree with that. But I will  
go one step further and say it’s all  
about the people, the people who  
create those incredible stories.”

Lt. Col. Frederick R.  
Snyder served as the 1st Squadron  
Commander for the past two  
years. He will become the Enlisted  
Personnel Directorate Chief for  
Military Occupational Specialties  
19K (M1 Armor Crewmember) and  
19D (Cavalry Scout) at Fort Knox,  
Ky. Snyder passed the squadron  
guidon to Lt. Col. Paul J. Wilcox.

Wilcox is joining the Regiment  
from his most recent assignment  
as an instructor in the Department  
of Tactics at the Command and  
General Staff Officers Course.

Lt. Col Jeffrey G. Bramlett  
served as the 2nd Squadron  
Commander for the past two years  
and relinquished his command to  
Lt. Col. Shane D. Celeen. Celeen  
joins the Regiment from his most  
recent assignment as a Professor of  
Military Science at Colorado State  
University.

Lt. Col. Scott M.  
McFarland served as the  
Commander of the Regimental  
Sustainment and Support Squadron  
(RSS), 11th ACR for the past two  
years. McFarland will become the  
the Personnel Directorate Office  
Chief of the Ordnance Corps, Fort  
Lee, Va.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gary  
D. Shine served as the RSS, senior  
enlisted advisor for the past two  
years. After more than 30 years  
of honorable service Shine will  
retire from the Army. He passed

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. –  
Troopers of the 11th Armored  
Cavalry Regiment conducted a rare  
combined Change of Command  
and Responsibility ceremony on  
Fritz Field, July 1.

During the ceremony,  
the Regiment Commander, three  
squadron commanders and a  
Squadron Command Sergeant  
Major relinquished their duties to  
new leaders.

Combining ceremonies to  
mark changes in leadership is not  
uncommon for many units in the  
Army, but to do it on such a large  
scale is. Since all five outgoing  
leaders received orders to their next  
assignments at nearly the exact  
same time, the ceremonies were  
consolidated into one event.

Col. John L. Ward, the  
65th Colonel of the Regiment,  
passed the unit colors to Col.  
Kevin L. Jacobi who is joining  
the Blackhorse. Jacobi served as



# THE BLACKHORSE



*Maj. Gen. Theodore D. Martin, Commanding General of the National Training Center, Col John L. Ward, 65th Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, 66th Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, troop the line during a combined Change of Command and Responsibility ceremony, at Fritz Field July 1, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*



*Col John L. Ward, 65th Commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, 66th Commander of the 11th ACR, switch places as they and Maj. Gen. Theodore D. Martin, Commanding General of the National Training Center, return to their positions within the formation after passing of the 11th ACRs guidon during a combined Change of Command and Responsibility ceremony, at Fritz Field July 1, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





# THE BLACKHORSE

the noncommissioned officer's saber to

Command Sgt. Maj.

Kenneth L. Reynolds, who joins

the Blackhorse from the 45th

Sustainment Brigade, Fort Shafter

and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

“Having been in this Army for 31 years, I know that it takes strong and inspired leadership to set the conditions that; not only does a unit accomplish its missions but also truly takes care of its families,” said Maj. Gen. Theodore

D. Martin, Commanding General of the National Training Center.

“The Blackhorse command team did just that.”

Ward spoke of the leaders taking command of the Regiment, reminding them that they are not members of a new team rather; they are new members of a team that has been present since 1901.

“Believe me; our veterans won’t let you forget that. I along with those others departing today are honored to say that with you, we rode with

the Blackhorse; the best damn Regiment that you will ever see.”

Following Ward’s address, he and Jacobi shook hands before Jacobi took to the podium.

“To the Soldiers and Families, and the friends of the Blackhorse; Cathy (spouse) and I are deeply humbled to be joining the ranks of the most professional, disciplined and formidable outfits on the earth. To you I pledge my service and devotion to duty every day.”



*Maj. Gen. Theodore Martin, commanding general of Fort Irwin, California, talks about the achievements of Col. John L. Ward, 65th commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and welcomes Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, 66th Commander of the 11th ACR, during a combined Change of Command on Fort Irwin, California July 1. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





## *MG Barrye Price, G-1 FORSCOM, Honorary Roll Induction*



*In the Cavalry Tradition, newly arrived Troopers would sign a roll, indicating that they have arrived at their post. Over the years the tradition has evolved as an Honor for those who have "left their mark" on the regiment. As a Captain, Maj. Gen. Price served as the Regimental Adjutant for the 11th ACR in both Doha, Kuwait, and Fulda, Germany. The 11TH ACR leadership deemed MG Price's contributions as significant and honorable, therefore elected MG Price into the Regiment's Honorary Rolls.*





# Resiliency Week



*Herschel Walker addresses 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Troopers at Freedom Gym, during Fort Irwin's Resiliency Week, July 30. (Photo by Sgt. Erik Thurman, Public Affairs, 11th ACR.)*

Story and Photos by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman

**F**ort Irwin, Calif. – Troopers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse) participated in a week-long training event July 28 to Aug. 1, as part of Fort Irwin's focus on resiliency.

Troopers received presentations on Master Resiliency Training (MRT), financial management, and participated in several sports competitions throughout the week. The events

gave Servicemembers a chance to recharge, refocus and sharpen resiliency techniques that can be applied to one's professional and personal lives.

"No one is born with resiliency," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Flagg, an MRT trainer with the 11th ACR. "It is something that is taught."

Master Resiliency Training is a program that aims to promote positive psychological tools for Servicemembers and their Families to cope with bouncing

back from adversity. MRT is part of a broader Army concept known as Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness.

Famed NFL star Herschel Walker visited with Troopers July 30, to talk about his own experiences with resiliency.

"You can't be ashamed of what you are going through," Walker told an auditorium full of Blackhorse Troopers. "Because there (are) other people going through it as well."

Walker then took the time to visit with Fort Irwin Servicemembers





*Major General Theodore D. Martin, Commanding General, National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif. and NTC Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen J. Travers present a trophy to 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Commander, Lt. Col. LTC Shane D. Celeen. And 2/11 ACR Command Sgt. Maj., James T. Gandy, who accept the award on behalf of their squadron for their overall victory in a series of sporting competitions that took place during Fort Irwin's Resiliency Week, July 28 through Aug 1. (Left) (Photo by Guy Volb, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.) Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment compete in a basketball match against other units, during Fort Irwin's Resiliency Week, July 30. (Right) (Photo by Sgt. Erik Thurman, Public Affairs, 11th ACR.)*

throughout the installation, speaking with many of them about the importance of taking care of oneself and reaching out to others when in need of help.

During Resiliency Week, Troopers competed in basketball, flag-football, tug-of-war, swimming a relay races, which served as platforms for Troopers to the apply resiliency strategies. The sporting activities also gave Troopers a break from their duties while promoting camaraderie and physical fitness. The 2nd Squadron,

11th ACR took the first place trophy for an overall victory in the competition.

Troopers can face adversity in their personal lives, whether it is a death in the Family or long periods of separation from home, explained Flagg. The key to resiliency training is that it broadens a Trooper's outlook to help them better avoid thinking traps that can lead to a downward spiral, he said.

By applying lessons learned through MRT – Troopers can not

only maintain control of their thoughts and actions, but better understand the tendency people have to respond with knee-jerk reactions. By better understanding this tendency, Troopers can keep their sights set on the big picture. With the hardships Troopers face today, applying resiliency techniques in their personal and professional lives is more important than ever. It builds a stronger and more resilient Soldier and a better Army as a whole, said Flagg.





# THE BLACKHORSE

## FREIGHT FOR THE MILITARY



*A Soldier assigned to the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division guides a Humvee across freight cars at the Yermo Annex of the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Yermo, California, Sept. 11. (U.S. Marine photo by Carlos Guerra, Marine Corps Logistic Base Barstow / Released)*



*Army Staff Sgt. Jason Simonek, the rail operations non-commissioned officer assigned to the 171st Movement Control Company, 1916th Sustainment Battalion, 916 Sustainment Brigade, (middle) on an Army train with Marines from the 17th Combat Logistics Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group. (U.S. Marine photo by Carlos Guerra, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow / Released)*



*"The Army has about 130 trains and the four here are actively used by the Military for freight operations," said Sgt. Michael A. Davis, the rail operations non-commissioned officer assigned to the 171st Movement Control Company. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





Story by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom  
Photos by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom and  
Calros Guerra

**Y**ERMO, Calif. – The sound of a locomotive horn echoing across the rail yard is a common occurrence at the Marine Corps Logistics Base here.

MCLB is the largest military train depot in the continental United States. More than 50 million pounds of equipment and vehicle freight transfer through MCLB every month in support of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

“Our main mission in support of NTC is to facilitate the rotational training units that come here each month,” said Master Sgt. Logan M. McKenzie, the Brigade S-3 Sgt. Maj. for the 916th Sustainment Brigade. “All their equipment rolls in to the Yermo Annex of MCLB to get transferred on to [semi truck equivalent] and then brought up to Fort Irwin and back again at the end of the rotation.”

The equipment arrives at the Yermo Annex via civilian train systems operated by Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific Railroad.

“After the freight arrives here, we use the four trains, which are owned by the United States Army, to push them around the railhead in preparations for download,” said Sgt. Michael A. Davis, the rail operations non-commissioned officer assigned to the 171st Movement Control Company. “The Army has about 130 trains and the four here are actively used by the Military for freight operations.”

The Military utilizes civilian transportation infrastructures which are already in place to ensure equipment is moved in a timely manner.

“We load and unload freight for the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, and even the Coast Guard,” said Chad C. Hildebrandt, the rail operations supervisor at MCLB. “We service all of the branches of the DOD because of all the access routes into and out of here.”

As the Military downsizes and changes its focus to force sustainment, the

Yermo Annex will continue to see an increase of use.

“A year ago we moved about 35 million pounds of freight in any given month, but this last month alone we moved more than 95 million pounds in support of NTC and other Military bases around the west coast,” said Hildebrandt.

The 171st MCC has a meticulous system in place to track freight and will work 18 hour days to ensure the freight gets to its destination.

“The freight companies that are ran by civilians use programs to calculate how much freight and how many cars can be pulled at a time, but since we use paper calculations and are out there with the cars we can see that there are still spaces available to load more equipment,” said Davis. “On average we save the RTU and the Army several thousands of dollars each rotation because we do not use as many cars. After the 14-09 rotation we saved them a whole train compared to what they used when they came here.”

With the capabilities they have shown in the past, the 171st MCC sets an example for other movement operations centers to follow.

“We started a training class for Soldiers and Marines here to ensure other railhead operators understand how to properly accomplish their missions, because we move the same amount of freight that the training units do in about one-third the time,” said Davis.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, a sister unit to 916th Sustainment Brigade, uses M1A1 Abrams tanks and M88 A1 Recovery Vehicles in support of operation at Fort Irwin, California. When the 11th ACR deploys with this equipment, it utilizes the Yermo railhead for transportation.

The 916th Sustainment Brigade supports NTC’s mission by transporting the Rotational Training Units equipment to Fort Irwin, California where they face the 11th ACR and become ready to deploy world wide at a moments notice.





# 11th ACR and NTC Celebrate

## *Diversity*

Story and photos by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. – The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment hosted a Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Heritage Observance on behalf of Fort Irwin at the Sandy Basin Community Center, July 30.

The event celebrated diversity within the Army, and the world, by highlighting individual contributions made by some of the Soldiers from those regions. They talked about what they do in the Army and why they do it.

“I joined the Military to prove that I can do what only one percent of the American population is doing,” said Spc. Elia Dalirian, a Soldier with the 51st Tactical Interpreter Company, Regimental Sustainment Squadron, 11th ACR. “The cultural and language skills that I have allow us to better understand our allies and enemies; it helps us succeed in our mission even more.”

The MENA observance focused on the cultural heritage of its countries in an effort to inform on common misconceptions.

“I wanted this event to be about the cultures without any biases,” said Sgt. Hamlet Zadoorian, a Soldier assigned to the 51st TICO, RSS, 11th ACR and a coordinator of the event. “I wanted to show what these cultures, people, and Soldiers bring to the Army and the world.”

Striving to make the world a better place by accepting people’s differences was the main theme of the event.

“Everybody has a history and they are all fascinating,” said Col. Eric Sabety, an orthopedic surgeon assigned to Fort Irwin and the event’s guest speaker. “I wanted to show where I came from and my past, to show that the people from where I come from can do great things.”

The Army celebrates diversity each month by highlighting people and cultures from the different backgrounds that make up our society.

“We celebrate our diversity - it is our greatest strength,” said Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, the Commander of the 11th ACR. “Other organizations don’t do that. But we do; brothers and sisters in arms.”



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Sgt. Hamlet Zadoorian, a coordinator for the Middle Eastern and North African Heritage Event, Col. Erik Sabety, the guest speaker, Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, Commander of 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Lt. Col. James Stephens, Commander of the Regimental Sustainment Squadron, 11th ACR, pose for a photo at the end of the event. The event celebrated unity through diversity. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)



A cultural display from the Middle Eastern and North African Heritage Event held on Fort Irwin, Calif., July 30. The event promoted unity through diversity. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)





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*Jack Swagger, a professional wrestler, waves a U.S. flag in front of a Color Guard made up of Troopers from the Horse Detachment, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the beginning of World Wrestling Entertainment Summer Slam in Los Angeles, Aug. 18. (Photo by World Wrestling Entertainment Incorporated)*



*K. Troop, 2nd Squadron conducted a TOW missile live fire, 4 Sept. at range 22. Troopers maximized all available time for training during and between Decisive Action Training Rotations to maintain proficiency with the TOW weapons system; enhancing readiness and lethality in both simulated and real world combat. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





*Blackhorse Troops made up over 90% of the Soldiers representing NTC at the San Diego Padres Military Appreciation Game last month. The Regiment's own Specialist Shikira Berks and 1st. Lt. Derrick Bishop respectively sang the National Anthem and God Bless America.*



*Family members of the outgoing command teams present carrots to the horses of the Horse Detachment during a combined Change of Command at Fort Irwin, California July 1. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





## THE BLACKHORSE

### Motorcycle Mentors Ensure Safety for Riders



*Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Ashmead, the 21st Command Sgt. Maj. of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is talking with some of the motorcycle riders from Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th ACR about why the Motorcycle Mentorship Program is important. "The Army could say that while you are in the service you cannot ride a motorcycle, but instead they have created a training program to ensure your safety," said Ashmead. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Denitra T. Halford, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*

Story by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom  
Photos by Spc. Denitra T. Halford

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. – The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted a Motorcycle Safety Ride Aug. 1.

The ride started at the Motorcycle Training Range for inspections and riding drills before heading to Victorville, Calif. This allowed mentors to assess each motorcycle for street legality, its mechanical integrity, and the competency of the riders.

"I think that the check ride was fun and helpful, because it made sure that my bike and I were ready to ride," said Spc. Keely George, a motorcycle

rider with the Horse Detachment, Regimental Sustainment Squadron, 11th ACR. "The inspections that we did today made sure that my bike is in working order and that I will not be a danger to other riders or motorists around me."

Army regulations mandate that motorcycle inspections be conducted every quarter. The ride is voluntary but encouraged.

"I want to stress the importance of attending at least one check ride per quarter," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carl J. Schimpf, a Squadron level Motorcycle Mentor with RSS, 11th ACR. "It is important, because some people who have just gotten





bikes or haven't ridden for a while might not be as comfortable with riding in a group or by themselves. These check rides give them the chance to get that experience in a safe environment."

As Troopers consider purchasing motorcycles, the Army also mandates that Soldiers complete riding courses within the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The MSF is a non-profit organization that 'makes motorcycling safer and more enjoyable by ensuring access to lifelong quality education and training for current and prospective riders, and by advocating a safer riding environment,' the mission statement of the MSF program.

I strongly suggest going to the Basic Riders Course through the MSF program before you buy

the bike, said Sgt. Alexander Etesami, a rider with the 51st Tactical Interpreter Company, RSS, 11th ACR. By learning and applying the things taught in that class, you become a safer rider.

To register for one of these classes, go to <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/AIRS> and schedule a class.

"The Army could say that no Soldier will ride a motorcycle while they are in the service," said Command Sgt. Maj. Carl A. Ashmead, the 21st Command Sgt. Maj. of the 11th ACR. "Instead, they have setup the MMP training program for Soldiers to get the practice and knowledge they need to be safe riders."



*Spc. Kyle Gayle, a Soldier with Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, conducts a Quick Stop during the training adriill stopping in a Curve. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Denitra T. Halford, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*



*Sgt. Jared Kent (Right), a Soldier with the Horse Detachment, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and a Troop level Motorcycle Mentor, inspects Staff Sgt. Christopher Stewart's, a Soldier with the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, motorcycle. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Denitra T. Halford, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





# Female to Female Mentorship Program



*Sgt. Meriem Ettiouitioui, 51st Translator and Interpreter Company, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, talks with Spc. Farida Alvi and Spc. Maryam Mahfeli, also from 51st Translator and Interpreter Company, about her deployment experience. Sgt. Ettiouitioui was deployed to Kuwait with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in 2013. (Photo by Capt. Jessica Cook, 51st Translator Interpreter Company Commander, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment)*

Story by 1st Lt. Aurelia Goloborodko

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. – The tough and isolating environment of the National Training Center (NTC) and Fort Irwin has long enabled dedicated Soldiers and Civilians to deliver a demanding training experience to mobilizing units from all over the world. Female Soldiers are particularly at risk to feel the effects of this isolation. To reduce this risk, leaders have created the Fort Irwin Female to Female Mentorship Program.

“This interaction is intended to increase the confidence of these junior Soldiers to overcome future challenges they may encounter here at Fort Irwin and in the Army,” said Capt. Robyn Boehringer, the NTC and Fort Irwin SHARP Program Manager and a senior female mentor.

The female population at Fort Irwin is a skewed one; women make up less than 15 percent of

the total working population. These kinds of numbers exist throughout the Army, where women make up just 15.7 percent of active duty Army and 14.5 percent of active duty military overall, according to Army.mil and CNN.com respectively. According to the 2014-2015 Fort Irwin Mentorship Program Handbook, “Sensing sessions conducted at Fort Irwin consistently indicate a female sense of social isolation. These sessions have also uncovered an overwhelming desire for female mentorship and camaraderie among female Soldiers and Officers stationed at Fort Irwin.”

“The Fort Irwin Female to Female Mentorship Program was created in order to help generate a culture change here at Fort Irwin focused on establishing a professional environment where junior servicewomen, both enlisted and officers, are able to learn from the experiences and knowledge of more senior female Soldiers,” said Boehringer.

Female Soldiers who want to participate in a





mentorship group can sign up during in-processing or see their unit's female mentorship representative for more information. Unit mentors also meet monthly in order to discuss lessons learned and compare the progress of activities affiliated with their mentorship groups.

"It would be nice to talk to leadership without worrying about rank or chain of command. For example, I had questions about becoming an officer but I wasn't sure who to talk to because I didn't want to skip my chain of command," said Spc. Shafaq Yuhanna, a Soldier in the 51st Tactical Interpreter Company, Regimental Sustainment Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

While a primary goal of the Female to Female Mentorship Program is the professional development of female Soldiers, it does not prohibit male Soldiers from participating. Showing support for the program,

leading open-minded discussions, or engaging in mentor-mentee relationships are good ways for any soldier, male or female to contribute. Mentorship has always been a cornerstone of Army as it transcends gender, age, job, and rank.

"While the Female to Female Mentorship Program was developed to address a particular demographic, I am a firm believer that mentorship is not restricted or limited to a certain program, gender, or rank structure" said Boehringer. "Any time an individual encounters a person of lesser experience and there is a relationship that is built on mutual trust and respect, mentorship can occur."

For more information about the Female to Female Mentorship program please contact Capt. Robyn E. Boehringer at 760-380-2290.



*Staff Sgt. Tarig Hassan, the Company SHARP Representative for 51st Translator Interpreter Company, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, talks with his NCOs about the importance of Army mentorship and informs them about the Female to Female Mentorship Program so they will be prepared to discuss it with Soldiers who may be interested in participating.*

*(Photo by 1st Lt. Aurelia Goloborodko, 51st Translator Interpreter Company Platoon Leader, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Jul. 2, 2015)*





# TRAINING THE TRAINER: Center for the Army Profession and Ethics Training for the 11th ACR

Story by 1st Lt. Evan FitzGerald

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. – The importance of leader professional development (LPD) and ethics training are an essential part of life for many military organizations. For the Regimental Sustainment Squadron (RSS) of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (11th ACR), training is a way of life. The RSS, known as the Packhorse, is the sustainment element for the Opposing Force (OPFOR) at the National Training Center, a role that keeps the Squadron busy by training Army units from across the nation.

“Ethics training is like mission command,” said the RSS Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth J. Reynolds. “It is a shared understanding of all the Army values and a trust that they are being maintained as the mission is executed.”

While new to the RSS, both the Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. James M. Stephens and Reynolds incorporated Center for the Army Profession and Ethics (CAPE) training into their first briefing with the senior leaders of the Squadron. The theme of the training was trust; not just trust in unit leadership but also in the Army values. For members of the Packhorse, trust is just one important facet of everyday life in fulfilling their unique mission.

“Having a good ethical base makes life much easier for Soldiers to come together for one common cause at the NTC,” said Warrant Officer Kari A. Gibbs, the Regimental Ammunition Technician. “Without ethical ground rules there is havoc.”

In the austere environment of the Mojave Desert, the RSS is tasked to undertake numerous missions outside the traditional scope of a modular unit. In addition to providing sustainment to the OPFOR, the Squadron also operates towns in the training area and provides translators for visiting units training at the NTC. Soldiers often develop a rapport with their leaders because they work in close proximity for extended periods of time. This aids in team building and creating trust.

“We lead by example,” said 2nd Lt. Arthur Tyson, a platoon leader from the Supply & Transportation Troop. “If you are of poor character it will rub off on those around you and poison the working environment.”

The NTC’s mission to train Army units for war will continue in the foreseeable future. The Packhorse, utilizing tenants and products from CAPE, have set the groundwork for its leadership for years to come. Focusing on the importance of ethical development in its leaders, the RSS and the 11th ACR continue to lean forward in the foxhole.





*The Regimental Support Squadron (RSS) Commander, Lt. Col. James M. Stephens briefs the senior leaders of the RSS on CAPE and its importance to leadership in the U.S. Army. (Photo by 1st Lt. Evan FitzGerald, Regimental Support Squadron Unit Public Affairs Representative, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, Jul. 31, 2014)*



*Two HMMWVs encounter an IED in a training town at the National Training Center. (Photo by 1st Lt. Evan FitzGerald, Regimental Support Squadron Unit Public Affairs Representative, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, Aug. 9, 2014)*





THE BLACKHORSE

*Vietnam*







# *Vets Return to Their Unit*



*Veterans and family members of the Vietnam era walk to a mounted Cavalry demonstration by the Horse Detachment of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on Fort Irwin, California, Sept. 5 as part of the event for the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia's Annual Reunion in Las Vegas Sept. 6. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Denitra T. Halford, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





# THE BLACKHORSE



*Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, addresses the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia during an event on Fort Irwin, California, Sept. 5 as part of the 11th ACVVC's Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Sept. 6. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*

Story by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom

**F**ORT IRWIN, Calif. – The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia association reunited with its old unit, here, Sept. 5 as a special destination of this year's get together.

"As we served together in Vietnam, we had great pride in our unit," said Allen Hathaway, the president of the 11th ACVVC association. "We also formed tight bonds during our time with the Regiment, because of the dangers which we faced each day. We wanted to come here and see what the Regiment looks like now, because we feel that we have never really left the Regiment."

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment hosted its Vietnam veterans and their family members as a way to honor them for their service.

"Today is all about you, the veterans of this great Regiment," said Col. Kevin Jacobi, the commander of the 11th ACR. "The sacrifices that you made for our Country and this Regiment will always be remembered and we thank you."

The 11th ACR displayed historic vehicles from the Vietnam era alongside the modern tanks that the Army uses today.

"When I got off the bus and saw my old helicopter sitting next to the other vics [vehicles] we used, I got a little choked up," said John Finnerty, a former helicopter pilot with the Air Cavalry Troop.

For Fred Sheetz, a veteran of the 11th ACR, this was not just a time of memories from the artifacts, it was a time of re-acquaintance.

"I haven't seen some of these guys since I left Vietnam, yet it seems just like yesterday," said Sheetz. "But I know that we can have a great bond





*Veterans and family members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment tour a display of historic tanks and vehicles from the Vietnam era on Fort Irwin, California, Sept. 5. The display is part of the event for the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia's Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Sept. 6. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Denitra T. Halford, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*

by staying in touch with each other and I am proud to have this occasion and event to do so because 'Once Blackhorse, Always Blackhorse.'"

To facilitate this re-acquaintance, the 11th ACR provided a tour of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and Fort Irwin's Museum, where the veterans could reminisce about their days with the Regiment.

"There are a lot of [times] that you remember one thing and [someone else] remembers a different thing, but it comes together and you remember what you did," said Jim Dittmer, a veteran of the Blackhorse Regiment.

The 11th ARC's Horse Detachment performed a Cavalry demonstration by showcasing how pistols, sabers, and lances were used during the time of mounted Cavalry. Allowing the veterans to kick back and relive another era of the Regiment's history.

Although the event was for the veterans,

current Soldiers of the Regiment also gained much from the visit.

"I really enjoyed being able to talk to the vets," said Sgt. Gary Williams, a Soldier with K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th ACR. "Listening to the stories they had while they were in the Regiment made me have greater understanding of what they went through. It also gave me a chance to learn from their experiences; enabling me to become a better leader."

The 11th ACR has a rich history dating back to 1901 and will continue as the Regiment trains the Army for future endeavors. The bonds formed in this Regiment continue to thrive as the veterans have proudly proven.

After the former Troopers left Fort Irwin, California they went to Las Vegas for the formal part of their Annual Reunion held at the Rio Hotel and Casino's Grand Ballroom Sept. 6.





# THE BLACKHORSE



A Vietnam era veteran of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment stands next to Cody and his rider Spc. Tucker Willis, a Soldier assigned to the Horse Detachment, 11th ACR on Fort Irwin, California, Sept. 5 as part of the event for the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia's Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Sept. 6. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Denitra T. Halford, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)







*Allen Hathaway, President of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, greets Col. Kevin L. Jacobi, the commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, as he takes the stage to give a speech during the 11th ACVVC's Annual Reunion in Las Vegas Sept. 6. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Erik A. Thurman, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*



*Veterans and family members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment tour a display of historic vehicles from the Vietnam era alongside the modern tanks that the Army uses today on Fort Irwin, California, Sept. 5. The display is part of the event for the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia's Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Sept. 6. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David N. Beckstrom, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs / Released)*





THE BLACKHORSE

# *Blackhorse Troopers and the Veterans*



*Fort Irwin Sept*





# *the Vietnam and Cambodia Veterans*



*September 5, 2014*



THE BLACKHORSE REGIMENT  
WELCOMES  
THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S  
VETERANS OF  
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA



**BLACKHORSE**  
1966-1972