



# TRAILBLAZERS

JANUARY 2015



## Leschi Town FTX

**Trailblazers mount up | Skills put to test**

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## Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion



# Leschi Town



Soldiers from Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, move a simulated casualty from an open area utilizing the two-man buddy drag during the combat first aid class of HHB's week-long training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Soldiers with I Corps conduct hands-on radio communication training during a field exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sinthia Rosario, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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**On the Cover** Pvt. Yessenia Barajas, a generator mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Trailblazer Battalion, I Corps, conducts a squad attack drill during a field exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Adam C. Keith, 19th Public Affairs Detachment)



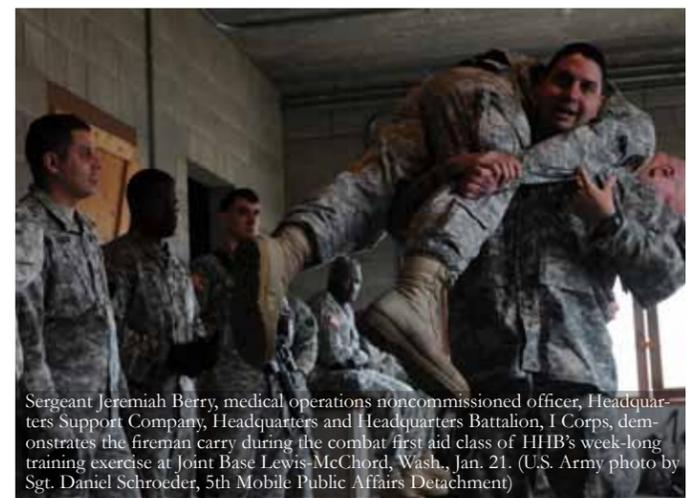
Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, conduct mounted training lanes during a field exercise Jan. 23. The Soldiers had to navigate their way through road blocks, simulated IED's, and a key leader engagement during the training lane. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Steven Peterson, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)



Pfc. Bassheen Doss, human resource specialist, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, looks through a lensatic compass during mounted land navigation training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Leschi Town training area, Jan. 22. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Porch, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, conduct dismounted NVG training lanes during a field exercise Jan. 23. The Soldiers met with a village elder to discuss a simulated event during a key leader engagement. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Steven Peterson, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)



Sergeant Jeremiah Berry, medical operations noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, demonstrates the fireman carry during the combat first aid class of HHB's week-long training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

# Soldiers tune their radio communications skills



Spc. Christopher Harris, a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer, Spc. Samuel Barry, a satellite communication systems operator maintainer, and Spc. Josie M. Delyannis, a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer, all with C Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, conduct hands-on radio communication training during a field exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Synthia Rosario, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

STORY BY SGT. SYNTHIA ROSARIO

Soldiers from C Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, provided hands-on radio communication training to Soldiers from I Corps at Joint Base Lewis – McChord, Jan. 21. This training ensured the Soldiers had the knowledge and skill sets needed to communicate with each other during any mission using their radio communication systems.

The instructors broke down the radio training into different stages of setups for the different communication systems utilized in I Corps. Some of these stages included the fundamentals of ASIP (advanced special improvement program), fundamentals of the MBITRs (multiband inter/intra team radio) and the setup of the OE-254 antenna.

Step by step, the instructors explained how each system functioned and how vital it is to correctly use the radios.

“The intent is for everybody to grasp the communication aspect and learn all the small systems needed to communicate efficiently,” said Sgt. George F. Banks, a signal support specialist with C Co. “It’s mostly small things such as a digit on the frequency that can change the whole dynamic to where you can’t talk to each other.”

Attention to detail, learning and improving the basic skills on the radio systems are some of the key points the instructors wanted to ingrain in the Soldiers.

Banks explained how important it is for the Soldiers to fully understand how essential communication is whether the Soldier is deployed or just on a training mission.

“If you can’t communicate, you can’t fight,” said Banks. “You have to be able to communicate with your battle buddy and your higher echelon at all times no matter where you are or what the situation is.”

Although many of the Soldiers from I Corps are trained to use the different radio systems, this course provided them the opportunity to brush up on their knowledge.

“Personally, I haven’t had much hands-on training with some of the radio systems provided during this training,” said Spc. Caitlyn Quinby, a nodal network systems operator-maintainer with C Co. “I usually work with the secure comms (communication systems) unlike these which are non-secure. This training was a good way for me to refresh skills I haven’t practiced in a while.”

As the training continued, Bank’s constantly repeated himself during his part as an instructor and also provided useful tips and guidance from personal experience.

“My goal is to get the Soldiers to know the basics, to really understand the course given,” said Banks. “That way I know that the next time around when they have to go through their trouble shoot system, they know it, they have it and they will be able to communicate with each other, their higher echelon and most importantly, be mission ready.”

# Out of the kitchen, into the fire



Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Trailblazer Battalion, I Corps, prepare to conduct a squad attack drill during a field exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Adam C. Keith, 19th Public Affairs Detachment)

STORY BY Staff Sgt. Adam C. Keith

As a food service specialist, Spc. Cierra Hemphill’s daily duties usually revolve around a military dining facility, but during a field training exercise on JBLM, Jan. 21 she got a taste of something new.

The Army cook, part of I Corps’ Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, practiced basic skill level one infantry tasks during the four-day training event.

“It’s definitely something that I needed,” said Hemphill. “As a cook, we don’t really come out and do stuff like this a lot. Having the opportunity to get a refresher and actually doing it in the field is great.”

During a squad attack drill, Hemphill performed the duties of an infantry squad leader, a job usually held by

noncommissioned officers two ranks above her own.

“As specialist trying to get promoted, I’m going to have to step up and lead,” said Hemphill. “One day I’m going to have to be in charge. Being in a leadership position here lets me know that I can be successful when that day comes.”

Sgt. First Class Richard Gatley, an infantryman with four combat deployments, said he instructed the class with junior soldiers in mind.

“Putting junior soldiers into those positions gives them the sense of what it’s like to be a leader, because your not going to know what it’s like unless you’ve been there,” said Gatley. “It broadens their horizons and gives them an idea of what is required a leader.”

Maneuvering soldiers, calling up reports, controlling fires, all while possi-

bly in contact with an enemy are some of the challenges Gatley said leaders might face in a deployed environment.

He said recreating some of these challenges during the exercise was one of his main goals, because no matter what job a soldier has there is always a chance they will end up in combat.

“All of the units [I deployed with] took non-infantry soldiers on missions to augment Soldiers who went on leave,” said Gatley. “We also wanted to teach them our standard operating procedures and refresh their memories on what they learned in basic training.”

Gatley said the biggest thing he wanted the soldiers attending the training to walk away with was a foundation of basic skills.

“If you know the basics, you’ve established a foundation that you can build off of in the future,” he said.

# Trailblazers put skills to test



STORY BY Sgt. Steven Peterson

Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, trained on different Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills during a week-long field training exercise that concluded with a day and night simulated convoy, key leader engagement, and react-to-contact skills test Jan 23.

before finishing the field training exercise.

“I feel that I learned a lot during this training, it really showed me what to expect if I ever had to do something like this while deployed,” said Pfc. Bassheen Doss, human resource specialist, HSC, HHB, I Corps. “We learned mounted land navigation as well as how to use night vision goggles.” Soldiers mounted up in the vehicles and rolled to Leschi

**It felt good to be able to test skills we don't get to use at work; we got to train on Soldier skills and put them to the test”**

The Soldiers conducted the drills, which focused on the concepts of shoot, move, communicate and survive, and used them as they traveled a road with simulated enemies at every turn.

“The training we are giving the younger Soldiers will be very important,” Staff Sgt. Mike Sonnenberg, ammunition specialist, Headquarters Support Company, HHB. “They will use the navigation they learn during this exercise throughout their military career.”

After being attacked and hit with a roadblock, they moved onto a small city to have a key leader engagement to test Soldiers on pulling security and how junior leaders would react to talking to village elders.

The Soldiers finished the day portion of the training, received a break and were briefed on the night portion of the operational training lane that they would have to complete

Town, under the cover of darkness and utilized NVGs, the Soldiers drove into town and were ambushed by simulated sniper fire.

The team cleared the sniper and continued into town dismounted to meet up with a village elder to discuss a simulated key leader engagement. The Soldiers secured the area around the KLE and completed their objective.

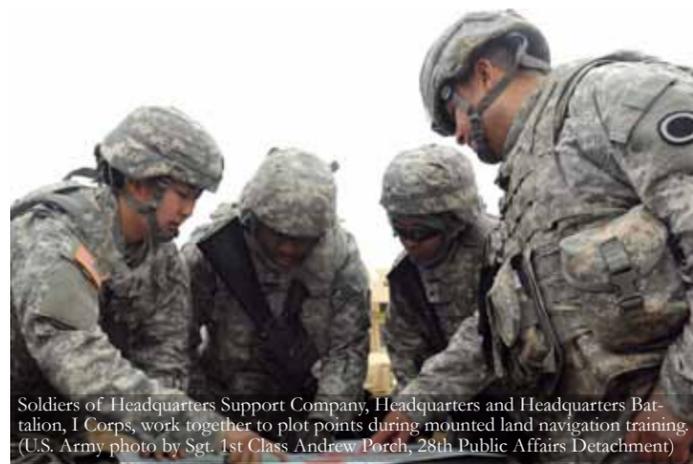
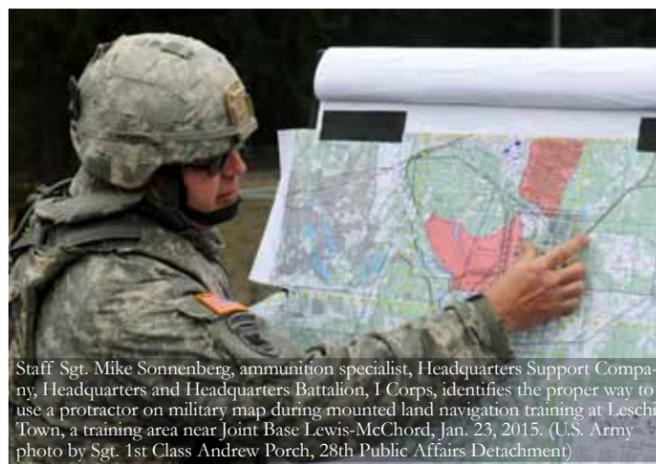
“All of the training we conducted this week really helped with the final training we did on Friday,” Pfc. Allah Jackson, human resources specialist, assigned to HSC. “It felt good to be able to test skills we don't get to use at work; we got to train on Soldier skills and put them to the test.”

For the “Trailblazers”, this training exercise was the crawl portion with the walk portion coming this March, as they will take to the field again to increase their overall knowledge and Soldier skills.



Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, conduct mounted training lanes during a field exercise Jan 23. The Soldiers had to navigate their way through road blocks, simulated IED's, and a key leader engagement during the training lane. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Steven Peterson)

# Trailblazers Mount up



Staff Sgt. Mike Sonnenberg, ammunition specialist, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, identifies the proper way to use a protractor on military map during mounted land navigation training at Leschi Town, a training area near Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Jan. 23, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Porch, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)

Soldiers of Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, work together to plot points during mounted land navigation training. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Porch, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)

**“You want to make sure you have as much accuracy as possible so that way you know you will never get lost”**

STORY BY Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Porch

With today’s technology, getting from one point to another is as easy as typing in an address or printing out directions, but Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, went back to basics to navigate a six-mile course as part of a week-long battalion training exercise.

The “Trailblazers” received training on how to plot points on a map, measure out the distance and create a route during mounted land navigation training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord’s Leschi Town training area, Jan 20 – 22.

The training led to something much more as it was used at the end of the week in a large-scale situation training exercise.

“I learned a lot today about reading

a map and making sure you properly plot the points,” said Pfc. Bassheen Doss, human resource specialist, Headquarters Support Company, HHB. “I’m sure it will help me at the end of the week.”

Using a military map and performing mounted land navigation is a perishable skill that Soldiers train on routinely.

“In today’s Army, we hardly walk anywhere anymore,” said Staff Sgt. Mike Sonnenberg, instructor of the class and an ammunition specialist assigned to HSC. “They need to know how to be in a vehicle and get from point A to point B.”

Sonnenberg, a native of Tacoma, Washington, spoke about why he wanted to teach the class.

“It has helped me greatly in the past,” said Sonnenberg. “I got lost when I

was in Kuwait and over there all you have to look at are the dead roads with nothing in sight. Using land navigation, we were able to find out where we were and get back on point.”

For Doss, this was his first time conducting the training and he knew he had to pay attention.

“It is important to learn mounted land navigation so you can always know where you are going,” said Doss, a native of Chicago, Illinois. “Sometimes you might not be able to use your electronics to find a location so it is on you to be able to navigate properly.”

The most important thing Doss took away from the training?

“You want to make sure you have as much accuracy as possible so that way you know you will never get lost,” he said.

# Learning critical care

STORY BY Sgt. Daniel Schroeder

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion recently conducted a combat first aid class during a field training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Jan. 21.

The class focused on hemorrhage control for when Soldiers first encounter wounded on the battlefield.

Sergeant Jeremiah Berry, medical operations noncommissioned officer for Company B, HHB, I Corps, began the block of instruction with how to apply a hasty tourniquet.

“Often times when you are under fire, you don’t have the time to assess how bad a wound is,” Berry said. “In order to prevent bleeding out, a hasty tourniquet can be applied to stop the bleeding until the firing has stopped.”

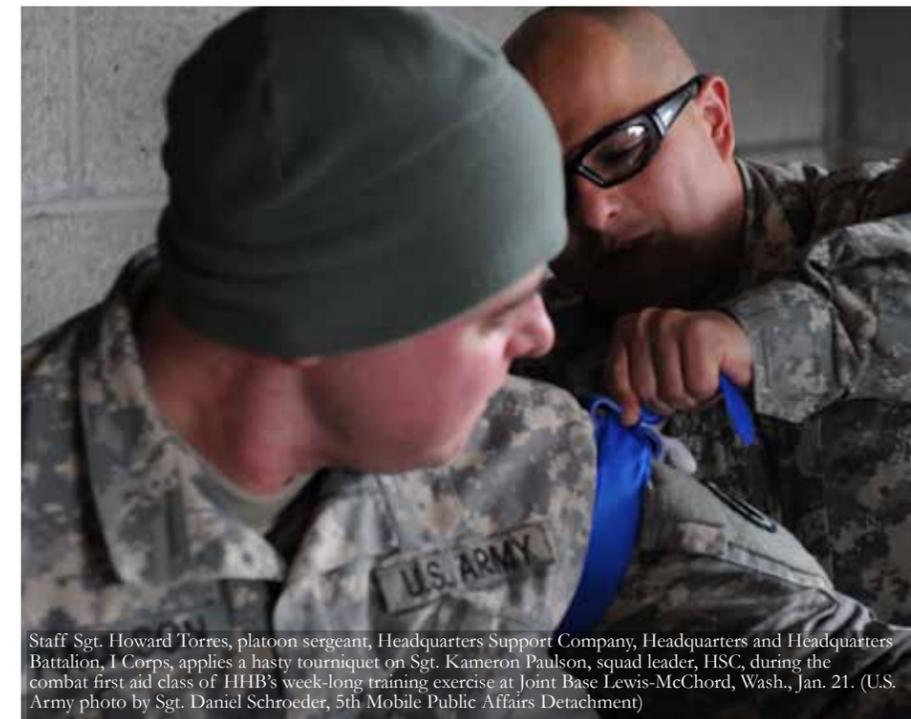
He demonstrated the easiest way to stop the bleeding on an extremity by applying a tourniquet, either by the wounded or battle buddy, at the top of the limb and then focus on returning fire and getting out of the danger area.

The next area covered was how to evacuate the wounded to a safe area for transport. This consisted of a variety of carries and drags executed by one or two people.

“If you are under fire, you are going to start a drag keeping your body low as to not get injured yourself,” said Berry. “Some carries are useful when a bigger person has gone down at the top of some stairs when a drag will not work.”

Private First Class Juan Cabrera, a wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Headquarters Support Company, HHB, utilized a two-man drag on the open area extraction and a seated carry to move the casualty from the second floor down to the first during the hands-on exercise.

“This is the first time I have conducted this training in gear and using the stairs,” said Cabrera. “The gear made it more believable to how difficult it would be to move someone



Staff Sgt. Howard Torres, platoon sergeant, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, applies a hasty tourniquet on Sgt. Kameron Paulson, squad leader, HSC, during the combat first aid class of HHB’s week-long training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

across an open space and down a flight of stairs.”

Berry then informed the Soldiers

easily. This is the first time I have incorporated this in the training because it is a common wound they

**Too many Soldiers lose their lives on the battlefield due to bleeding out from a wound that could have been stopped by a hasty tourniquet.”**

about other possible injuries they may encounter. He covered a collapsed lung injury, opening the airway, sealing an open chest wound, and possible burns or other injuries.

Berry continued the class with how to treat an armpit and groin wound.

“When you notice that your battle buddy is wounded in the groin or armpit, a tourniquet will not work,” said Berry. “You would have to use the pressure dressing and wrap it around in a way that keeps pressure on the wound but will not come off

might see.”

After demonstrating how to treat those wounds, Berry covered how to request aerial medical evacuation. Soldiers broke off into groups and practiced calling in the request.

“The thing I wanted to stress the most of this training was hemorrhage control,” Berry said. “Too many Soldiers lose their lives on the battlefield due to bleeding out from a wound that could have been stopped by a hasty tourniquet.”



Sergeant Karl Kostuch, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, provides security while his squad rescues a simulated casualty from the second story of a building during the combat first aid class of HHB's week-long training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)