



THE BLACKHORSE

FOURTH QUARTER 2016



67th Colonel of the Regiment

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment welcomes
Col. Joseph D. Clark in Change of Command Ceremony

MEMORIAL DAY

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment honored the memories of our fallen service members during ceremonies in Victorville and Santa Ana

HORSE DETACHMENT SHINES AT FORT ORD

The Regimental Horse Detachment provides a link to the past during visit to Fort Ord Warhorse Day



The Blackhorse

COL Joseph D. Clark
Commander
11th ACR

CSM James T. Gandy
Command Sergeant Major
11th ACR

Ironhorse

LTC Christopher R. Danbeck
Commander

CSM Michael C. Williams
Command Sergeant Major

Eaglehorse

LTC Rodney J. Morgan
Commander

CSM Roy A. Holmes
Command Sergeant Major

Packhorse

LTC Ryan Moses
Commander

CSM Eric J. Vidal
Command Sergeant Major



The Blackhorse newsletter is looking for photos and stories on the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Anyone can submit a story, photo, or both to the 11th ACR Public Affairs Officer at albert.r.jernegan.mil@mail.mil. Photos must contain an accurate description with full name, rank, unit and hometown of the subjects.

For additional information, contact the 11th ACR PAO at (760) 380-5112.

The Blackhorse newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Editorial content is the responsibility of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office. Contents of the publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army.

Publication Staff:

CPT Ryan Jernegan — PAO / Editor
SGT David Edge — Print Journalist
PVT Austin Anyzeski — Photographer

(Cover photo by SPC. Taria Clayton)



#67



Col. Joseph D. Clark
Commander, 11th ACR

Greetings to the Best Damn Regiment! I am beyond excited for the opportunity to once again be a part of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiments' team of teams. As we embark on this journey, I am honored to join together with the best Troopers in the world, as we train the force to fight and win our countries' wars.

The work we do here is challenging, rewarding and extremely important to the long-term security of our Nation. The experience, functional expertise, and professionalism of the Blackhorse Regiment is unmatched and we will continue to forge ahead under those same principles.

We continue to be experts in our craft and masters of maneuver warfare. As disciplined members of a profession of arms, we do what's right and live the Army Values. Finally, we are great teammates to each other, our partners and the U.S. Army.

I challenge each of you to continue to provide the best training to Brigade Combat Teams as well as maintaining our own readiness, both tactically, physically and mentally. Continue to set and maintain the standards and carry on the fine traditions that this storied Regiment has demonstrated for the last 115 years.

I am proud to be back in the Regiment, and Kari and I look forward to the challenging mission we will face together.

This is Blackhorse 6 signing on the net.

ALLONS!



11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT CHANGE OF COMMAND

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted its change of command ceremony as U.S. Army Col. Kevin L. Jacobi relinquished command of the BLACKHORSE Regiment to Col. Joseph D. Clark, in the time-honored ceremony at Fort Irwin's Fritz Field, June 28, 2016.



11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Horse Detachment provides a link to Fort Ord's Historic Past



Story by Capt. Dawne Divine and photos by Spc. Taria Clayton

MONTEREY BAY, CALIF. – For the second consecutive year, friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse welcomed the 11th ACR Horse Detachment back to their pre WWII California stomping grounds to celebrate the history of the U.S. Army Cavalry, May 7, 2016.

Originally founded in 1917, Fort Ord in Monterey County, California was the largest of only 12 Warhorse military venues in the United States. From 1919 to 1940, Fort Ord served as the home base for the 11th “Blackhorse” Cavalry Regiment. Although the base was closed in 1994, the Army equine hospital buildings still remain on the site, now known as the Marina

Equestrian Center.

In 2010, the “Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse,” a civilian organization dedicated to preserving the history, traditions, and artefacts of Fort Ord, established Fort Ord Warhorse Day - a day set aside to celebrate and honor their community’s military and horse cavalry heritage.

Fort Ord Warhorse Day is a free outdoor event, open to the public, and held at the Marina Equestrian Center. It offers patrons several cavalry era re-enactments, a horse-drawn artillery gun crew with cannon and caisson performing live fire salutes, a military memorabilia exhibit, a petting zoo, a warhorse historian, food vendors, and patriotic music.

Event goers who came early had an opportunity to meet and greet the horses and Soldiers from the 11th ACR. “Interacting with the public creates a positive image of the Regiment,” said 1st Lt. Lucas Sloan, Regimental Horse Detachment commander. “We want people to take pictures and we are happy to answer any questions they may have about our mission.”

When the Master of Ceremonies, Margaret Davis took center stage to greet the public, she officially kicked-off Fort Ord Warhorse Day by playing “I want to be in the Cavalry” over the loud speakers. The song was a cue for the cavalymen to begin leading the opening procession.

The four-horse formation carried the colors, the Army colors, and two sabers. The colors were presented to and posted by the Presidio of Monterey, Defense Language Institute (DLI) joint-service Color Guard. Upon the colors being posted, the DLI choir performed the national anthem followed by Chaplain (Maj.) Rodney Gilliam delivering the invocation.

Davis gave a special and heartfelt thank you to the Regimental Horse Detachment during the closing remarks saying it was both an honor and a pleasure to have the Blackhorse Cavalry represent the horse mounted cavalry of days long gone, but not forgotten. As the ceremony concluded, music once again started to play over the loud speakers, singing “whiskey for my men, beer for my horses.”



ROTATION 16-05

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment battled the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas, during rotation 16-05, at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. NTC rotations were developed to create a common training scenario for use throughout the Army. The Bulldog Brigade faced guerrilla, insurgent, criminal and near-peer conventional forces while at NTC, giving them a unique training experience.



3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division vs. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment





KILLER TROOP HONES SKILLS AT RANGE

Story and Photos by PV2 Austin A. Anyzeski

FORT IRWIN, CALIF. – In the dry, almost burning summer day of June 2, 2016 at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, plumes of smoke could be seen rising out into the sky on range 22. Echoing claps of muffled thunder quickly followed these deformed clouds, before silence fell on the High Desert once more. As the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles crept towards the source of these monstrous giants, a sharp crack and whistle snapped the attention to the firing line. This was Killer Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided missile live-fire exercise.

The TOW missile is an anti-tank missile, which was first utilized by the United States Army during the Vietnam War in 1972 to destroy North Vietnamese tanks. The missile system has remained in service ever since, and is frequently employed for the Army's training and combat operations. The missiles are fired on both mounted and dismounted platforms, currently with the Improved Target Acquisition System.



Pfc. Anthony Avalos has been with the 11th ACR for nearly two years and this would be his first time firing the BGM-71 TOW missile using the ITAS. “I was a gunner for four rotations, and had just missed out on the previous TOW range,” said Avalos, “But I finally got the chance to shoot this time.”

Being the only anti-tank troop in the 11th ACR, Killer Troop plays a uniquely different role than the other troops in the regiment. During training rotations, Killer Troop uses their modified HMMWVs equipped with TOW missiles as an effective tool combatting the larger, and slower Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Killer Troop consistently inflicts large amounts of damage to the rotational units’ armor, and then quickly moving on to their next target.

While the Soldiers were training on these systems, 1st. Lt. Victor Guevara, executive officer for Killer Troop, was happy to see them given the opportunity to fire live TOW missiles on the range. “It’s a very rare occasion when we receive actual missiles, and have our guys fire, and get practice sending live rounds down-range,” said Guevara.

As Killer Troop continued with its iterations, the vehicles and dismounted systems were lined up perfectly against the firing line and began to load their TOW missiles into the launchers. With each startling hiss and flash, the missiles soared across the desert until they met their targets with bursts of smoke and groundbreaking explosions.



Killer Troop’s leadership observed the exercise, each with their own expressions of approval once the targets were struck. “The exercise is going really smooth, I think the Soldiers are enjoying themselves,” said Killer Troop 1st Sgt. Aldo Gonzalez.

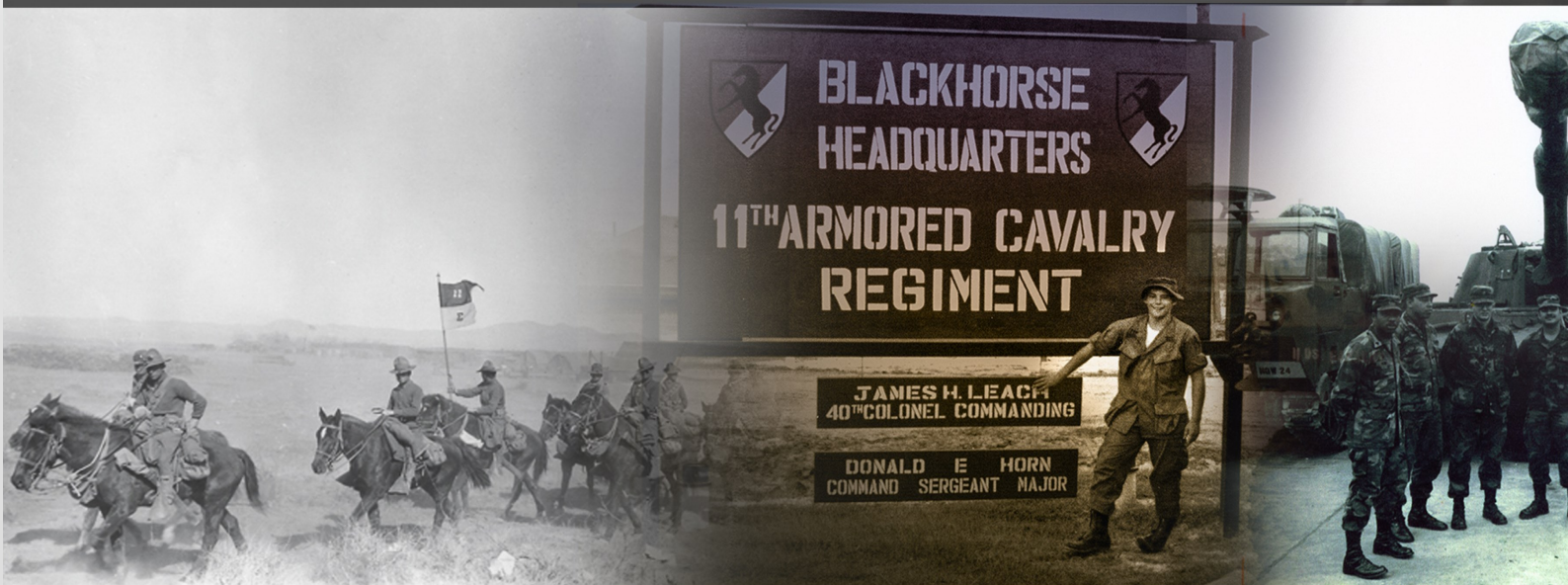
The long, hot day was concluded with a troop photo, upon completion of demonstrating their proficiency on firing the TOW missile on the range.





11TH ARMORED CAVALRY

"THE PRIDE OF



ACCOUNTABILITY

- ... FOR OUR TROOPERS, OUR EQUIPMENT, AND OUR ACTIONS.
- TRAINING THE FORCE.
- INTEGRITY.

LOYALTY

- TAKE PRIDE IN THE BLACKHORSE.
- MISSION FIRST.
- SACRIFICE FOR THE TEAM.

LOGISTICS

- SUSTAIN THE FORCE.
- GENERATE COMBAT POWER.
- EXTEND OPERATIONAL REACH.

THE BEST DAY

CAVALRY REGIMENT



"THE CAVALRY"



O

RDERS

- CREATE A SHARED UNDERSTANDING.
- MISSION-READY TROOPERS.
- DISCIPLINED STEWARDS OF OUR PROFESSIONS.

N

CO EMPOWERMENT

- OWNERSHIP OF STANDARDS AND DISCIPLINE.
- EMPOWERING THE TRUE STRENGTH OF THE CAVALRY.
- DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS.

S

TANDARDS

- THE FOUNDATION OF DISCIPLINED EXECUTION.
- DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR OUR TROOPERS, OUR REGIMENT, AND OUR NATION.

MN REGIMENT

Rotation 16-06





The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment battled the 1ST Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., during NTC rotation 16-06, at The National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. On foot, in tanks, and in High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, the Blackhorse troopers engaged the larger, faster Strykers to gain a decisive edge to see who would rule the Mojave Desert. As with every brigade that came before them, the Ghost Brigade learned that “Death Rides a Blackhorse.” ALLONS!!



Cold Steel Compet

The Sullivan Cup is the preeminent tank crew competition in which tank crews are rigorously challenged, both physically and mentally with this year's competition taking place at Fort Benning, Ga., May 2-6, 2016. A crew from Company C, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment demonstrated their abilities during this year's competition, finishing in the top four, validating the proficiency and tenacity of the Blackhorse regiment.

The Troopers, led by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Suh, tank commander, worked together to represent the 11th ACR to the best of their ability throughout the

competition. "We worked hard to develop ourselves in a short time to represent the regiment the best we could," said Suh.

Suh was joined by Spc. Andrew Ahern, gunner, Spc. Omar Maldonado, loader, and Spc. Richard Allen, driver, competing against the best tank crews from across the Army, Marines, National Guard and international partners.

The competition spanned five days with difficult trials that challenged the tank crews in crew maneuver, sustainment and gunnery skills. The Cold Steel crew came together to score well enough to place in the top four, and participate in the final



es in Sullivan Cup

shoot-off to determine the Sullivan Cup winner.

Although the team did not take home the cup, they did take home the experience of competing against the best tankers in the world, and the pride of knowing that all of their hard work led to them representing Fort Irwin and the 11th ACR.

The Regiment had eyes on the team throughout the competition and upon their return, the crew was proudly received after their outstanding effort. The competition brought out the best in this team which enabled them to perform well under pressure, together as a team.

Representing the 11th ACR was a motivating factor for the team and they did not let us down. Widely known as the premiere opposition force in the Army, the Blackhorse crew also displayed their ability to support combat missions as exhibited by their tactical proficiency during the competition.

“The support of our master gunner and from the organization enabled us to succeed,” said Suh.

And succeed they did in demonstrating their abilities and representing the Blackhorse regiment.



Story by Capt. Ryan Jernegan
Photos by Spc. Taria Clayton

Maintenance Troop Soldiers Help Train the Force

Story by CW2 Bradford Tyler

These are not the Soldiers you were expecting. Trading in their uniforms for civilian clothes, their HMMWVs for pick-ups, they pose as friendly cell tower workers, until you let your guard down. It is at that moment, when you least expect it, that these “Atropian” workers reveal their true intentions. These are Donovanian fighters from the Bilasuvar Freedom Brigade (BFB), and they are not here to play nice.

In actuality, these are regular U.S. Army Soldiers from Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, providing support to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to deliver a complex and dynamic training scenario for the Rotational Training Units (RTU) here at the National Training Center.

Warrant Officer Jovalyne Rafael, a native of Saipan, and Staff Sgt. Alan Velasco from Cordova, Ala., both assigned to Maintenance Troop’s Armament Section, lead a group of 20 Soldiers, all maintainers, as they provide disruption operations to the RTU Soldiers.

These maintainers are provided a unique opportunity to work outside of their normal duties and get inside the mind of the enemy, learn a few things, and have a little fun. While the main effort from the 11th ACR focuses on force on force tactics with the RTU, the BFB is a combat multiplier, focusing on disrupting the logistical capabilities of the RTU. This added aspect is designed to give RTU commanders more responsibilities to juggle, as well as a more realistic training environment to operate in.

Sgt. Andrew Sula operates a Man-portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST) which replicates a ground-to-air missile system. Sula, a native of Decatur, Ga., is a computer-detection



systems repairer from Maintenance Troop’s Communications & Electronics Section and has made air operations for the RTU a very difficult task. “The MAST is an awesome training aid for the pilots,” said Sula.

If you ask Velasco if the BFB might be fighting too hard, or if he is discouraging the RTU, he will just give you a grin and say, “It’s not supposed to be easy...”

Spc. Chong Yun Kim, a power-generation equipment repairer in Maintenance Troop’s General Support Equipment section, destroyed an RTU gun truck with a rocket-propelled grenade during a raid on the RTU’s Combat Sustainment Support Battalion compound. Normally, Kim would be working on generators, however, during this rotation, he is helping to train other maintainers by harassing them and disrupting their operations.

“At the end of the day, we’re all Soldiers serving the same organization,” said Kim, a native of Los Angeles. “I just want to provide the best possible training.”

RSS, 11th ACR Trooper Earns Fort Irwin & NTC SOQ

Story/Photo by
Sgt. David L. Edge

The National Training Center and Fort Irwin held its Soldier of the Quarter board June 8, 2016. Four of Fort Irwin's major commands sent their best and brightest Soldiers to compete for this coveted honor.

Anyone that has ever competed in a Soldier of the Quarter board knows that it is a lot of hard work. It takes a personal commitment to push yourself physically, and countless hours of studying dry and boring Army regulations, as well as memorizing several different weapons systems.

The winner of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin's Soldier of the Quarter, 3rd quarter board, was U.S. Army Pfc. Kaitlyn Robertson, Service and Recovery specialist, Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"The competition was incredibly humbling. It was a fun experience because I got to test my knowledge and skill sets," said Robertson. "All of the competitors were phenomenal Soldiers. I can say that it was a true test of intestinal fortitude just to get to the finish line."

The testing for the board lasted most of the day consisting of five major events. Participants started the day with weapons qualifications and agility drills, then went straight into the KIMS or keep in memory event. The third event for the Soldiers was the physical challenges held at the NTC running track, followed by a formal board, and last but not least, was the ruck march, carrying at least 35 pounds of equipment.

"Winning the Soldier of the Quarter is a testament to all the NCOs that trained me. They did everything they could to make sure I was prepared for this competition," said Robertson. "They worked with me every day on weapons maintenance, extra PT, and my sergeant studied with me every day before and after lunch. They are the reason I was able to take it above and beyond."

It takes tremendous time and dedication to win the Soldier of the Quarter and Soldiers need to be committed to being the very best that they can be.

"I think that every Soldier should attempt to push themselves and try to exceed the standards. It takes some of your personal time, but it is incredibly rewarding," said Robertson. "It will make you a better Soldier in the end."





ROTATION 16-07

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment battled the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, for dominance of the High Desert at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

During NTC rotation 16-07, the guardsmen faced a number of training scenarios, from brigade level operations to being pitted against irregular forces in an urban setting, all designed to give the guardsmen a world class and unique training experience.



The Blackhorse Regiment Pays it's Respect on Memorial Day



RSS Participates in the Annual Tri-City Memorial Day Observance

The Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment participated in the Annual Tri-City Memorial Day Observance in Santa Ana, California, May 30, 2016. They performed the Presentation of the Colors, and the 21 Gun Salute during the ceremony honoring those who have fallen in defense of our great nation.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Desert View Memorial Park

Desert View Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory hosted a Memorial Day ceremony May 30, 2016. Easy Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment participated in this ceremony by conducting the Presentation of Colors, 21 Gun Salute, and Retiring of the Colors. U.S. Army Chaplain, Lt. Col. Charles Kuhlmann, delivered the Invocation and Benediction while Maj. David Panian was the Keynote Speaker during the ceremony.



Remembering those who have passed on to

Fiddlers Green

To join the ranks of the

Best Damned Troopers you will ever see

RORY J. HOWARD

Medical Troop, CSS, 11th ACR

1992

DUANE MCLAUGHLIN

RHHT , 11th ACR

1989-1990

LESLIE K. SMITH

E Troop, 2/11 ACR

1969-1971

TOMAS J. SPRAGUE

M Company, 3/11 ACR

1989-1991

RICHARD B. MOELLER

3/11 ACR

1976-1979