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articles in the magazine
are from the month long
training event.

(Front cover) American Soldiers
train during a mass casualty
scenerio. U.S. Army photo

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An American Soldier
from the 3rd Stryker
Brigade, 2nd Infantry
Regiment peeks around
a corner during a mass
casualty exercise at
ABCA's Cooperative
Spirit 2008. U.S. Army
Photo

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WHAT IS ABCA?

Story by.
Spc. Opal Hood

5th MPAD

“We have eliminated the enemy!” Sounds good right? Everyone knows what that means right? Wrong. For the five ABCA nations that sentence can mean quite a few things. It could mean “We ran the enemy out of town.” It could mean “We have killed the enemy.” Which one though? That is a reason for the ABCA Armies Program. We need to understand each other.

The American, British, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand Armies’ Program is five English-speaking nations who work together to advance battlefield interoperability between them.

“ABCA is five like- minded nations who have been working together for a long time-- working together to work out interoperability issues,” said New Zealand Lt. Col. Mike Shapland, Staff Officer Coalition Operations, an ABCA representative here at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany for the Cooperative Spirit 2008 training event.

ABCA began with the nations of America, Britain and Canada, connected by a common language, culture, and historical experiences. One of the earliest supporters of the ABCA concept was British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, who in 1946 recommended to U.S. Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower that America, Britain, and Canada should “cooperate closely in all defense matters.” He also stated, “Discussions should not only deal with standardization, but should cover the whole field of cooperation and combined action in the event of war.”

Australia joined the partnership in 1963. After that, the Basic Standardization Agreement 1964 was ratified. This agreement between American, British, Canadian, and Australian armies set the framework for what the ABCA program is today.

Sponsored by Australia, New Zealand was granted observer status in 1965. They became an official member of ABCA in March 2006; however, the name did not change.

ABCA began allowing the U.S. Marine Corps to participate in the program in 2004. Then the British allowed their Royal Marines, too. Eventually, ABCA signed an agreement to allow all member nations’ land forces to participate.

The ABCA program has evolved over the years. In the beginning, ABCA only met once or twice a year and took four to five years to see results from their research. Today’s program meets four to five times a year, and they give their data results at the end of each year, keeping in touch more with its member nations.

The Program is owned and guided by the Executive Council and is managed and directed by the National Directors. The Executive Council meets annually to provide strategic guidance and to endorse their Armies’ continuing commitment to and engagement in the Programs’ work. The Executive Council consists of general officers of the member Armies. Usually these positions are held by Chief of Staff of the Army, or equivalent. The National Directors, or the ABCA board, are senior officers from ABCA member armies. These senior officers are usually at the one-star level. They meet annually with the Executive Council as well as three other times a year.



Also the Program is run by the Capability and Support Groups. The Program office and National Coordination Officers manage the ABCA Program. The hands-on work is done by Project Teams. Information exchange is done by Information Teams and Standardization Representatives (STANREPS).

"Interoperability, in my mind, is the ability of all of us to look each other in the eye to make orders and directives, and to understand one another and to go out and complete missions together," said U.S. Army Col. David Funk, commander of the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. "Our Army continues to fight ... and we don't fight it alone."

"The interoperability that I saw was in medicine. Medicine is the same; the terms are just different," said Canadian Cpl. Stacy Cripps, a medic in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

Cripps worked with other nations at the aid station during Cooperative Spirit 2008, an ABCA training mission with the member armies. The medical personnel had meetings to exchange techniques and different ways of doing things between different nations.

ABCA tries to develop the relationships between member nations to develop a common thinking. If the member armies use interoperability to the best of their ability, they can be placed in any environment or any activity as a coalition.

For example, Soldiers on the ground need to be able to distinguish their allies from their enemies, so combat identification between nations needs to be interoperable. Soldiers need to be able to distinguish their allies from their enemies. Having standardization on combat identification will help reduce and hopefully eliminate fratricide. They are working to either use infrared, non- infrared, or some other form of markings for identification of coalition nations.

Another example is that Soldiers of all the nations need to be able to call artillery on close air support that most likely would belong to another nation. One standard would be best agreed on for this situation.

"All of the ABCA nations realize that when we deploy, we will be in a coalition," said Canadian LCol. Jean Larouche, Staff Officer 1 Command and Control, Communications, Computer and Information, a representative here at the JMRC for Cooperative Spirit 2008.

ABCA shares information by holding meetings, forums

and "boots on the ground" training missions. The program shares the information they have accrued throughout the year at an end of year meeting. ABCA is currently holding their first such training mission in more than 20 years: Cooperative Spirit, September through October at the JMRC.

The program's most significant development over the years, said Shapland, is the ABCA handbook. Although the book is not a doctrine, commanders on the ground in a combat zone can use the book to help make a coalition work. There is also a checklist that helps to stand up a coalition force making the book a useful guide. Meetings and training missions lead to changes in the handbook. Every

time something new is determined, a change is made in the next version of the ABCA handbook.

While perhaps unknown in most cases, ABCA does more than people would guess. The program is helping to train Soldiers from five nations to be combat ready and effective when working as a coalition.

"ABCA represents opportunity. It is the opportunity to identify problems and fix them before it's needed," said Lt. Col. Geoff Parker,

Canadian Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment.

"We cannot forever fight last year's war," said Shapland. "We have to look at where technology is taking armies, where human dynamics are taking people, and make sure we incorporate all of those changes to maintain that relevancy."

ABCA will be refining products after this training mission. The long term goal is for the research of the ABCA program to remain relevant to today's battlefield needs, said Shapland.

The ABCA program plans to have a training sessions that focus on the Program's objectives every two years in the even years. The training could be field training, command post training, an experiment, a seminar wargame, or a seminar workshop. Whatever is decided on, the training will be hosted by one of the member nations.

"ABCA gave me the chance to learn something new and gain experience in working with other nations," said U.S. Army Spc. Michael Scharfenberg, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment Combat Readiness team.



For further information on ABCA, visit www.abca-armies.org

"ABCA represents opportunity.

It is the opportunity

to identify problems

and fix them

before it's needed."

**--Canadian Lt. Col. Geoff Parker,
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion RCR**



COOPERATIVE SPIRIT 2008 KICKS OFF

Story by
Staff Sgt. Tony White &
Spc. Opal Hood

5th MPAD

American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand ground forces held an opening ceremony for Cooperative Spirit 2008 Friday at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center here.

The ceremony signaled the start to the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies Program's month-long training, which will primarily focus on the interoperability of equipment and the exchanging of tactics and procedures between the five-nation coalition.

"Our Army continues to fight ... and we don't fight it alone," said U.S. Army Col. David Funk, commander 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat team, 2nd Infantry division.

Roughly 1,800 troops are participating in a variety of training situations including cordon and searches, downed aircraft recovery, provincial reconstruction team operations and live-fire scenarios. The training begins with squad and platoon level training, and gradually builds up to multinational integrated brigade-level operations and missions.

The missions will be



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony White

Col. David Funk stands in front of the ABCA Armies' formation at the Cooperative Spirit 2008 opening ceremony.

conducted so as to help troops understand the full spectrum of operations they may encounter.

Cooperative Spirit 2008 is particularly designed to test the interoperability of command and control information systems, working together in a counterinsurgency-based environment.

The U.S. Army has several units taking part in the month-long training exercise, including the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, both from Fort Lewis, Wash. The infantry battalion is an organic element to the Stryker Brigade and they

both have deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers from the Utah Army National Guard are participating in the multinational training. The unit provided security for the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. In addition, the Soldiers supplied humanitarian relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards will participate as representatives from the United Kingdom. During the last five years the unit has deployed to Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Kosovo.

The Canadian Army presence will be shown by the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment from Gagetown, New

Brunswick, Canada.

Since 2004 the unit participated in operational activities in Afghanistan

and Haiti.

Also taking part in the training will be the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, from Townsville, Australia. Within the last decade the unit has seen operational service in East Timor, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Iraq and Afghanistan.

A company of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, from Burnham, New Zealand, will also partake in the coalition training. Since 2000, the New Zealand unit has served in Bosnia, Bougainville, East Timor, Afghanistan, Solomon Islands as well as Tonga.



WELCOME NEW ZEALAND



A New Zealand Army Soldier from 2nd /1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, provides cordon security for his unit during a training mission at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany.

Story and Photos by
Spc. Warren W. Wright, Jr.
5th MPAD

Ngati Tumatauenga, the tribe of the God of War. That's the phrase used in the Maori culture of New Zealand to define their country's Army.

The New Zealand Army's history

spans 150 years, beginning with small units protecting little more than small villages. Its current force of Territorial and Regular units are key to enhancing the safety and security of the South Pacific, according to the New Zealand Army's Web site.

In 1965, the New Zealand Army joined the American, British, Canadian and Australian Armies Program as an observer under the sponsorship of the Australian Army. Now, for the first time

since their induction as a full member of ABCA in 2006, the New Zealand Army is participating in a test of interoperability between ABCA armies. The name of the test is Cooperative Spirit 2008, a multinational combat training center rotation.

New Zealand, along with the other ABCA armies, are at the Joint Multinational Training Center near Hohenfels, Germany, to train and operate together in the execution of assigned missions and tasks.



Working with ABCA will help the New Zealand Army gain knowledge from the other nations' experiences as well as open up the opportunity for more training, said New Zealand Army Sgt. Denton F. Paterson, a platoon sergeant in the 2nd / 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

The 2nd / 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment is currently the only light infantry battalion in the New Zealand Army which can trace its lineage back to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade in the first World War.

At present, the battalion and its sub-units have deployed to operations in multiple regions around the world and have continuously been supporting those operations since 2000.

Now, as a member of ABCA, the unit has the ability to get up to date coalition training and has the opportunity to see how other countries function as well as show those countries how the New Zealand Army operates, said New Zealand Army Sgt. Simon A. Perkins of the 2nd / 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

The 2nd / 1st Battalion has the opportunity to train in a variety



A New Zealand Army Soldier from 2nd /1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, takes cover while participating in a training event during Cooperative Spirit 2008 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany.

of areas, from participating in a live-fire event at the shoothouse compound of the JMRC, to partaking in a full force-on-force exercise while wearing multiple integrated laser engagement system gear. MILES is a detection system worn by Soldiers and their vehicles in a training environment to simulate hits and to perform casualty assessment.

"It's great training, especially for the younger soldiers who normally wouldn't get this type of training

back home," said Paterson.

Participation in the ABCA program and in Cooperative Spirit 2008 "can do nothing but good," he added.

New Zealand will benefit in multiple ways from the training received at the JMRC, said Perkins.

From receiving hands-on training to working with helicopters, the unit has the ability to see what the other armies can provide for them as well as show the other nations what the New Zealand Army can offer ABCA. The New Zealand Army has years of experience in providing peace keeping around the world.

"Kiwi's are very open people and are more then willing to work with other countries," said Perkins.

With Soldiers like Paterson, who has five tours of duty

in various countries, and Perkins, who is a 14-year veteran of the Army, New Zealand's operational experience around the world and their willingness to share those experiences and their training with allied nations makes the New Zealand Army a valuable addition to the ABCA Armies Program's family. This training mission is hopefully the first of many for the Program.



5/20 EQUIPS MILES

Story and Photo by:
Pfc. Joshua Sizemore

5th MPAD

U.S. Soldiers from Company A, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment geared up with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center MILES Distribution facility as part of Cooperative Spirit 2008.

The training event is part of the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies Program's ongoing mission to close interoperability gaps between the nations. One example of ABCA's compatibility is that each of the five nations is using MILES during Cooperative Spirit 2008.

MILES technology is a collection of electronic receivers spread out over the body of a person or vehicle that alerts the user once contact has been made with a laser signal from the other part of MILES, a transmitter attached to a weapon. This minimizes the risk of injury associated with conventional means of battlefield simulation.

"I've heard some pretty good things about it," said Pfc. Skyler Eden, "It's basically a vest that goes around (your body and) your helmet. The head piece is kind of heavy, but we carry heavy stuff anyway."

Spc. Ralph Willsey has worn MILES during other training, but he has yet to use it attached to a Stryker vehicle.

The Syracuse, N.Y., native said, "(We) simulate combat conditions ... without using actual bullets."

The superiority of an armored personnel carrier belted with modern MILES is that it cannot be triggered by MILES mimicking rounds from an M-16 rifle. APCs are usually equipped

with a belt consisting of modular sensors, which set off an amber light and siren when successfully targeted by the opposing team. A Soldier's helmet and harness detect hits similarly.

"I'm a small and an easy buddy carry, so I die all the time," Willsey joked, "(We) go out in the woods, run around and shoot each other."

MILES irons out unit jitters, making for a well-rehearsed fighting force, he added.

"It increases unit cohesion – within your squad, your platoon – so you know how everybody works. That way, when you get on the ground, you can work together," Willsey said.

MILES equipment can be used in any climate condition, however, inclement weather can interfere with its lasers. Willsey observed that sensors are less effective when a target is hiding behind wet foliage.

The onset of MILES gear throughout the 1980s failed to identify who shot whom during battle enactments. Mock fatalities could cheat by rebooting their device. Perhaps because of this, some Soldiers find MILES' capabilities rather limiting, preferring blank adaptors that fire an encrypted signal in the path of an emitter's bearing.

Simulated Area Weapons Effects in conjunction with radio frequency communication and a Global Positioning Satellite were put into practice at Hohenfels during the early 1990s, marking an evolution in MILES technology. This enabled dismounted soldiers and their APCs to be hit during replicated explosions. These hi-tech modifications now facilitate observers with a definitive view of tactical developments.

"I prefer working without it," Willsey said. "I like to use sim-rounds



Sgt. Matthew Marino from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division attaches a MILES detector belt to a Stryker, Sept. 12, as part of ABCA's Cooperative Spirit 2008 at the JMRC near Hohenfels, Germany.

whenever possible, but they're expensive and you have to use special adapters for weapons to use them."

Paintball-style rounds to replicate combat zone scenarios are also favored by many troops

"They have paint rounds that can actually tell where you got hit," Willsey said. "It works with an M-4 or .50 cal. If you get hit in a sensitive area, you don't get hurt that much, but you know that you're hit, and why you got hit."

Sim-rounds are expensive and paint ball is dangerous, MILES offers safe combat simulations and has even received several upgrades to better enhance the training our soldiers receive.



CANADA'S RAID

JMRC Shoothouse Trains a few of Canada's Newest

Story and Photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Davio

5th MPAD

The Geroldsee Shoothouse here has an echo, but it doesn't work for just one person.

To get the full effect, the building has to be filled with about 20 Soldiers from H Company, 2nd

Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group. As they pour into one room after another in four-man teams, whatever a Soldier says is instantly repeated down the hallways, through other rooms and ultimately out the double-door entrance and into the surrounding yard just as loud as it had begun. Those pulling guard outside the shoothouse can hear sentences such as, "One friendly coming out!" as clearly as those standing next to the section leader doing the shouting from the concrete building's center.

This echo doesn't reverberate off the black-painted walls, steel-plate-reinforced doors, or the mannequins awaiting within though. It is passed on from Soldier to Soldier, each one repeating what he hears as soon as he hears it – sometimes doing it so quickly and so loudly that the syllables overlap with others in the platoon.

There can be no doubt that each and every member of the platoon is fully aware of what is happening with his fellows at any given time ... a key safety feature in the unit's live-



Canadian Army Soldiers, "stack up" as they prepare to clear the final room of the Geroldsee Shoothouse during the live-fire rotation of their MOUT training Sept. 18, as part of Cooperative Spirit 2008 at the JMRC near Hohenfels, Germany.



fire training Thursday, according to Canadian Army Lt. Chad S. Thain, 4th platoon commander, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

“It’s fast and furious in there,” he said. “Personally, I’m trying to filter the communication: what needs to go higher and what I can respond to. If a Soldier needs medical attention, the faster that information gets to higher commands the faster help becomes available.

“The best part is getting to watch my squads in action. They are moving through methodically, demonstrating effective communication, engaging targets and covering each other. It’s a complicated objective,” he added. “Something we’ve not done before as a team.”

Many of the 2nd Bn. RCR are relatively new to the unit. The posting season when they get new troops is from summer to summer, which means many of them only have a few months of experience, according to Maj. Kyle Keffer, officer commanding of the H Company, 2nd RCR Battle Group. As an optimized battle group, Keffer not only leads the infantry company, but also all the attachments they are authorized to be completely ready for battle.

“Coming together as a team has been the biggest challenge,” Keffer said. “We have a lot of new Soldiers who haven’t worked together before. We have 24 activated reservists we’ve added on. They’ve been doing very well though, and I’m quite pleased with what we’ve seen to this point. They’ve progressed through a developed live-fire on a zero-templated range. We set up ranges like this in Canada, but nothing permanent. So it’s quite special to bring the unit up through the tasks to conclude with a live fire.”

The 2nd Bn. RCR’s live-fire Military Operations in Urban Terrain is just one part of a five-nation mission here. The American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies Program has strived for complete interoperability since the days following World War II,



Canadian Army Pte Alex Keightley keeps a steady watch on the Geroldsee Shoothouse from his hatch position on an uparmored HMMWV while the rest of his platoon is inside. Parker’s unit had already conducted two clearing runs of the complex before the final live-fire rotation of their MOUT training Sept. 18, as part of Cooperative Spirit 2008.

and Cooperative Spirit ’08 is the latest in a long line of exercises dedicated to compatible equipment and synchronized battle tactics like those practiced at the shoothouse. U.S. Army observer controllers stationed at the JMRC monitor and supervise the training to provide the Canadian Soldiers with guidance and standard operating procedures they don’t normally get to learn.



Canadian Army Pvt. Nick Parsons, maintains his kneeling position on the corner as other members of his section charge further down the hallway of the Geroldsee Shoothouse during the live-fire rotation of their MOUT training Sept. 18.

“We get to see the other nations’ drills and SOPs and see how they react,” Thain said. “It may not be what we are used to, but it’s the chance for our Soldiers to adjust to the situation and use their innovation.”

“At higher levels of joint interoperability, the chance to work with the Americans, British, Australians and New Zealanders is the opportunity of a lifetime,” Keffer added. “We train quite a bit with the U.S., and some with the British, but not like this. The only time we operate at this level of Coalition environment is when it’s the real thing -- war. Here, it’s a training venue where we can interact.”

The Canadian Soldiers drove out to the range on one of the many tank trails that the JMRC has to offer, creating a staging point about half a kilometer east of their objective. They then took turns going through the “kill house,” as so many called it, platoon by platoon. The first two runs were with blank ammunition, with the observer controllers picking out people to be casualties in need of evacuation. The third rotation was a live-fire, and a fourth rotation with blank ammunition was held.

Some rooms of the shoothouse were empty, some rooms contained unarmed mannequins to represent civilians and some rooms contained dummies armed with Styrofoam

weapons to indicate their hostile intent. Soldiers had to react quickly while being able to distinguish threats from innocent people, but Keffer said that it would pay off in the long run. The platoon-level training will lead up to company-level training and then battalion-level. The culmination of CS ’08 will be when the entire brigade combat team enters a simulated combat, with local U.S. Soldiers playing opposing forces, a MILES sorting out casualties, and a battalion from each member nation falling under the 3/2 Stryker Brigade.



AUSSIES IN THE “SHOOT” HOUSE

Story and Photo by:
Spc. Warren W. Wright, Jr.

5th MPAD

A quiet still encompasses the room of a remote building. Only the sound of fresh rain water falling from the roof can be heard through the calm. All of a sudden the loud bang of a door being forced open echoes across the remote dwelling.

Soldiers pour into the building one by one with their weapons drawn as they search for hostile targets. The loud pop of blank rounds being shot off reverberates across the room as Australian Soldiers take out their artificial targets.

The Australian Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment spent their day at the range practicing their marksmanship skills prior to arriving at the shoothouse compound of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels (JMRC), Germany to train for military operations in urban terrain. A large percentage of today's operations occur in urban areas and involve employing counter insurgency tactics.

Australia's training did not go unnoticed during their vigorous day. Members of the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, including Col. David E. Funk, the commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Alan D. Bjerke, the command sergeant major, arrived in their signature Stryker combat vehicles during the Australian's training.

During the training, Australian Soldiers from 9 Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment received a 3rd Stryker Brigade coin from Bjerke in recognition of their outstanding performance in clearing the training building of hos-

tile targets and for using exceptional tactics during the training operation, said Australian Army Pvt. Dean Brimmer, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

As a member of the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand

Armies Program, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment will be working alongside the ABCA armies during Cooperative Spirit 2008. This training mission centers on building counter-insurgency tactics and working on systems that are capable of effectively operating alongside friendly nations. The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment is one of the units participating in the multinational training mission at JMRC in an effort to take full advantage of the experiences of other nations as well as share their experiences with the armies of friendly nations. While at JMRC they will be doing their part to ensure all ABCA armies have the ability to train and operate effectively together in the execution of assigned missions and tasks, an idea known as interoperability.

Since World War II the armies of America, Britain, and Canada have been working together to achieve a cohesion necessary for battlefield operations around the world. Now, along with Australia and New Zealand, these countries are working side by side

to ensure that the operations shared by the friendly English speaking nations have the effective integration of forces necessary to ensure victory on the battlefields.

The multinational event is a great way to learn how other nations operate and will give soldiers an opportunity to work with allied nations before going into combat together, said Australian Army Pvt. Brimmer.

"It's a great experience for all involved," said Brimmer of Cooperative Spirit 2008.



(Top) Australian soldiers from 9 Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment prepare to enter and clear a building of simulated hostile enemies during a training mission at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany Friday, Sept. 12.



(left) An Australian soldier provides security on a door before his team enters to clear the building of hostile targets Friday, Sept. 12 during Cooperative Spirit 2008, a multinational training mission at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. Accompanying the Aussie soldiers is an observer responsible for providing feedback.



CORDON AND SEARCHES

Photos by Spc. Warren W. Wright, Jr.

(Left) New Zealand Army Soldier Cpl. Damian Brixton receives feedback from a U.S. Army observer/controller during a cordon and search training mission. (Below) New Zealand Army Soldiers Pte. Keve Tukia and Pte. Marko Lupi assault a building while participating in a cordon and search training mission. (Right) A New Zealand Army Soldier provides cordon security for his unit during a cordon and search training mission.



(Right) New Zealand Army Soldiers LCpl. Shane Anderson and Pte. Jonathon Foster stack up and prepare to assault a building during a cordon and search training mission. (Bottom) New Zealand Army Soldier Pte. Marko Lupi kicks in a door prior to assaulting a building followed by Pte. Keve Tukia while partaking in a cordon and search training mission.



CANADIAN MOUT

Story and Photoz by

Spc. Warren W. Wright, Jr.

5th MPAD

Canadian Soldiers with loaded weapons sit in anticipation and eager looks on their faces behind a large barricade of rocks. The overcast sky and chill in the wind didn't change the Soldiers determined stature.

Given the order to move, with weapons drawn they dash for the shoothouse compound of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. Soldiers stack up on the door to prepare for entry. Canadian Army engineers force the door open and dozens of Soldiers flow into the building like an avalanche.

The sounds of gunfire reverberate through the building. The Soldiers move room by room. They line up their shots and take out their targets. After a couple minutes there is silence. They've completed their task: clearing the building of all hostile targets.

I Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment is at JMRC for a month-long training event called Cooperative Spirit 2008, a coalition training mission involving America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (ABCA). Cooperative Spirit 2008 is designed to test interoperability among friendly nations and to ensure that their forces have the ability to train and operate effectively together.

The ABCA countries have experience in many different areas, and they



Canadian Soldiers from India Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment wait for the order to begin their live fire event Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany.



have useful knowledge that Canada can use, said Canadian Army Cpl. Scott Preeper, the Section 2 second in command for 9 Platoon, I Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

The group was observed and coached by American Soldiers such as Sgt. 1st Class Jason Wright, JMRC. Wright is an observer controller responsible for mentoring the units working in his area.

"He's been showing us things from a different perspective," said Preeper. "We've been picking his brain all we can."

"You can tell every country here knows what they're doing," said Canadian Army Private Lee Penney, 9 Platoon, I Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

The Canadian Company practiced their drills with blank rounds prior to conducting the live fire event. During the blank fire practice, operator controllers sent signals to several Soldiers' multiple integrated laser engagement system sensors to signal to that Soldier that he was injured

or killed. Soldiers then had to act accordingly and practice first aid on the simulated wounds inflicted upon their fellow soldiers.

Members of 9 Platoon learned that it is very important to ensure the building is safe and secure prior to rendering aid to fellow Soldiers, said Preeper. "It is very important to get the combat out of the way before casualty care," he added. Being at JMRC has helped the unit enhance their urban operation proficiency and to learn how to better prioritize their movements, he said.

Various safety measures are taken during any live fire event. The instructors briefed the entire company on a wide range of safety measures prior to beginning the event. The Canadian Soldiers followed the instructions of their American operator controllers with no problems at all, said Sgt. Dan Macintyre, Bravo section commander, 9 Platoon, I Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

"If I deploy with my guys, and everyone comes back safe, that's what I'm looking for," Macintyre added.



Canadian Soldiers, while practicing for a live fire event, evacuate a simulated casualty Wednesday from the shoothouse compound at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany Sept. 17. The Soldiers are from India Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.



BRITISH SOLDIERS TAKE MUD VILLAGE

Story and Photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Davio

5th MPAD

It’s a small town, with just four to seven buildings depending upon your definition of the word, far off the beaten track from anywhere. However, it is a place where you can find an American playing ping pong with an Afghan, or a German sitting down for a game of Backgammon with an Iraqi. They share food and drink. It’s a small town for a small world, where skin color or culture doesn’t matter nearly as much as a friendly smile.

Two words shatter the paradise: “They’re coming!” Suddenly the actors leap into their roles, a startling transition from inter-country harmony to the job that brought them together in the first place. U.S. Soldiers in the roles of insurgents pick up weapons and move to sniper positions. German and Afghan alike go to mock stalls to hawk their wares of broken televisions, year-old magazines and paintings of fruit on the wooden planks of the stalls. Arabic music blares from a stereo that was playing Nelly a mere moment before. Finally, a squad of six British Soldiers marches past, checking the road for traps before radioing an “All clear” for the rest of their platoon.

The training is the kind only the Joint Multinational Readiness Center can provide, which makes it a more than ideal location for the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies’ Program to host the Cooperative Spirit 2008 training event. The goal is interoperability – making sure the nations can not only talk electronically despite different communication systems but also work together tactically.

“It’s the realism – the markets and the Arabic clothes,” said British Army Lance Sgt. David ‘Crash’ Braithwaite, 1 Section commander, 9 Platoon, 3 Company, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, native. “There are loads of assets available to us. It’s also seeing the way other nations do things. Working with Americans has been quite cool.”

the first course of action was to find the police chief of the town and request his help in their mission to find the insurgents reported as hiding there. The translator quickly



A British Soldier charges across the balcony of a two-story compound at Mud Hut Village training facility.

turned the English sentence of “Please keep the people a safe distance, we will be the ones to go after the insurgents” into its Arabic equivalent. The police chief agreed, and the Welsh Guards moved in some Soldiers from the outer cordon to form an inner cordon. Moving in with them was a squad from the U.S. 478th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Miami, Fla., attached to the unit to provide reimbursement vouchers for damage caused, in lieu of a British CA team.

Two-man teams were set to check room-by-room, but before they got past the gate of a walled, two-story complex, a smoke grenade was thrown and gunfire sent infantry-

men and civil affairs alike for cover to return fire.

The U.S. Soldiers stationed here who are playing opposing forces have no interest in making the task easy; several said they know firsthand that the actual terrorists will hold nothing back. They barricaded themselves into concrete rooms by throwing a mattress in front of the door and propping it with furniture. They pulled steel shades down over the windows, opening them just a crack to fire down alleys or into the town square. They hid under beds and around corners. For all their tricks, 9 Platoon Soldiers overcame them one-by-one as their earlier training paid off.


The Soldiers and roleplayers were wearing MILES, which let off a high-pitched electric whine when hit by a laser. A mount sitting on the barrel of a weapon projects a laser when struck, or by the jarring action of a rifle firing a blank round. The first practice

round was punishing for the Welsh Guards as the opposing forces held nothing back. After each of the three platoons had a practice run, and with the help of the JMRC observer controllers, the Welsh Guards spent their lunch break in combat drills and learning from their mistakes. Each platoon returned one at a time in the afternoon for a second go as a harder, tighter, no-nonsense fighting team.

“I’ve learned far more here about fighting in a built theater than I ever have in Britain,” said British Army Guardsmen Ryan Roberts, second in command of the 3 Section, 9 Platoon, 3 Company, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and Holyhead, Wales, native. “Assaulting the positions, searching the houses, finding the enemy ... it’s very intense training. In Britain we’ve only gone through basic ranges. We’ve been doing live-fire lanes, but today is the best training so far. This is something new to me, and it’s much

more realistic. It has made me a better Soldier, and I’m ready for a more aggressive OPFOR.”

Just as the Soldiers began to consider the job done, the roleplayers began to shout protests and threw Styrofoam rocks at the British Land Rovers. Another insurgent appeared from behind the crowd, firing a M-249 squad assault weapon in a steady stream of blank fire that forced the roleplayers to flee and risked setting off the Welsh Guards’ MILES gear.

The Soldiers took cover behind their vehicles and returned fire, downing the opposing forces’ Soldiers within seconds. Another insurgent ran past the gate, spraying fire from a rifle before going into hiding. He must be found, and so the British troops went through each building again. The task is accomplished efficiently. When the British vehicles pulled away, the crowd cheered, they could go back Nelly and ping pong games now. 



A British Army Soldier takes cover from a mortar simulator during 3 Company, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards deliberate attack training at the JMRC, Sept. 20, which is hosting Cooperative Spirit 2008 for the ABCA Program. The goal of the training event is interoperability – making sure the nations can not only talk electronically despite different communication systems but also work together tactically.





MIXING IT UP



(Left) Soldiers from the 209th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and the 4th Platoon, H Company, 2nd RCR "stack up" in preparation to enter a room during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center on Sept. 12.

(Right) Spc. Brooke N. Weikle from the 209th Intelligence Company, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and Pte. Brad A. Lynch from 2nd RCR practice sectioning off a room during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training at JMRC Sept. 12.

Canada Intergrates Neighbors during CS '08

Story and Photos by:
Sgt. B. Wesley Lewis

5th MPAD

The Canadian army began integrating U.S. Soldiers into their units, starting with 4th Platoon, H Company, 2nd Royal Canadian Regiment, Sept. 12 as part of ABCA's process to strengthen the interoperability between the nations involved.

The ABCA Armies' Program is a 60-year-old program involving armies

from America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, focused on the challenges associated with their current operating environment. The American and Canadian armies have taken a new step to meeting these challenges by intermixing Soldiers together during their time at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

Pte. Gerry Ramier, an infantry Soldier from 4th Platoon, H Company, 2nd Royal Canadian Regiment, said, "Our mission statement...is to gain knowledge from all of the other countries that are here...to see how their stuff runs, how they like to get everything done, and vice versa, have

them learn from us and to be able to react to each other."

"Our mission is to be integrated with them (the Canadian army) and assist them in tactical questioning on the spot and gathering intelligence information," said Sgt. Devin J. Hinds, a human intelligence collector with the 209th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Developing new relations is a major goal of the ABCA Program. Everything from relations between Soldiers, all the way up to the relationships between armies of different countries are affected by the training that will



go on while at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

For some Soldiers on both sides, Cooperative Spirit 2008 will be the first time they get to interact with Soldiers from other countries. Cooperative Spirit 2008 is a chance to improve interoperability of different armies.

4th Platoon, H Company, 2nd Royal Canadian Regiment integrated three Soldiers from the 209th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division starting with their Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training.

Hinds said, "It's very rewarding to find out about not only our cultural differences by getting to know them but also it helps knowing how they differ tactically."

Ramier added after conducting

MOUT training, "Being able to watch you guys (American Soldiers) do your entry drills and then you guys watching us do our entry drills, and then integrating both of them together was awesome."

The time the Soldiers of these two armies spend together training is strengthening relations between countries and opens Soldiers up to new cultural experiences. They are able to observe each other, ask questions, and notice similarities and differences.

Hinds said, "They're very inquisitive. We worked together trying to figure out each others' rank structure."

Other Soldiers, like Master Cpl. Tim Brown from 4th Platoon, H Company, 2nd Royal Canadian Army, are able to compare the opportunities of working with American Soldiers during deployments and during Cooperative

Spirit 2008.

After Brown explained his enjoyment from working with American Soldiers during a deployment, he was asked how he thinks the same deployment would have gone if he had received the training he is going through at Cooperative Spirit 2008 prior to working with American Soldiers.

"It would make things effective quicker, because now I'm not sort of blindsided. I wouldn't be hesitant. I know how they work and how they operate. This should go smooth," said Brown.

The bonds of brotherhood in units are quickly stretching out in leaps and bounds to those of different countries.

"I've talked to a couple people about where they live and how far they are from Fort Lewis, Washington," said Hinds. "I definitely see some friendships developing."



BREAK FROM TRAINING

Story and Photo by:
By: Spc. Opal Hood

5th MPAD

Soldiers from the American, Britain, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand armies are at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center here training diligently as part of Cooperative Spirit 2008 to test their interoperability, but some took two hours for an interaction of a different kind.

The rival Australian Wallabies and New Zealand's All Blacks rugby game postponed training for the Australian "Aussie" and New Zealand "Kiwi" participants as well as other rugby fans from America, Britain and Canada to watch the game at the Community Activity Center Saturday Sept. 13.

"There are things important like life and death," said Lt. Col. Keith Kiddie, United Kingdom Standing Representative in Canada. "This is more important to them."

The Aussies inquired about getting the game for their troops to watch in spite of the training here, said Alex Rosado, an Information Technologies Specialist of the U.S. Army's 69th Signal Battalion. As a morale booster, he said his unit went out of their way to make the troops feel at home.

"The match brought everyone together," said Rosado. "The more we do together; the better we become as one team to fight."

Even though the teams participating in the rugby match were Australians and New Zealanders, Soldiers from the other nations present for the training



New Zealand Rugby fans cheer as their team pushes ahead of Australia during the Australian Wallabies and New Zealand All Blacks Bledisloe Cup rugby match at the Community Activities Center Sept 21.

found it interesting to see what the excitement was about and just watch some rugby.

"We are working closely with the Aussies and Kiwis for the training, so we wanted to be more attached to them--a part of them," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brandon Hamlyn, Military Intelligence Company of the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

"They told us about the game, and they were taking a break from the training to watch the game. We felt that we needed to be here and do something that is important to them."

"This game," said British Lance Cpl. Raymond Hill, Reconnaissance 1st Battalion Welsh Guard, "is the American equivalent to the Super bowl."

The troops may have had their fun, but they never forgot the real reason

they are here, according to Australian Pvt. Ryan Pownell, 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

"My objective (at Cooperative Spirit) is to learn how the other countries operate and be able to work with them overseas," said Pownell.

"I think having more situations like this in Cooperative Spirit, the nations would be bonding together a lot better," said Lt. Tane North, 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

While the Soldiers are training hard to better the cohesion of their respective militaries' interoperability, the down time was meant to keep up their morale and share a cultural sport with other nations.

The All Black made a surprising comeback in the 2nd half of the match to beat the Wallabies 28-24.



Role players from Cooperative Spirit 2008 watch as Soldiers from 1st Battalion Welsh Guards clear abandoned cars from the streets of Nuristan using a Light Wheeled Tractor at the JMRC Sept. 26.

NEED A LIFT?

Story and Photo by
Sgt. B. Wesley Lewis

5th MPAD

Nuristan, Afghanistan – The 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards worked with the leaders here to help clear the streets of abandoned cars Sept. 26. The UK forces' first approach was to persuade the locals and leaders of the town to support the coalition forces instead of being influenced by anti-Afghanistan forces.

"It's important that the people of the country that we're in understand that it's their country. It's their way and we are here to help them. As part of that, we need to gain their trust and their support to work with them, and together we will rebuild their country," said British Lt. Col. Richard Stanford, the battalion commander.

British Lt. Will P. Taylor, troop commander from the Royal Engineers, met with the police chief of Nuristan and an agreement was made to help remove all the abandoned cars from

the town streets.

"The police chief wanted the vehicles removed from the town so that it would please the locals. There's a lot of mess made from vehicles that had been abandoned down the streets," said Taylor.

Clearing the streets of abandoned cars also eliminates obstacles that military vehicles would have to maneuver around. It also takes away the chance of opposing forces using them as improvised explosive devices.

The Welsh Guards' civil affairs and engineer sections worked together to organize the resources needed to complete the task. A light wheeled tractor and military dump truck were escorted by an infantry platoon into the city.

Due to the leaders and citizens of Nuristan being in a neutral state prior to removing the abandoned cars, infantry Soldiers escorted the engineer vehicles into the city. This was a necessary precaution to protect the Soldiers working in case of any aggressive situation arose.

"It was important to have the

infantry support there. It's important to have that protection. There could be opposing forces there. We are doing things for them as well as protecting ourselves," said Lance Cpl Chris D. J. Smith, the dump truck driver.

The police chief came out to meet with Taylor and explain which cars needed to be moved and where to take them. Once the instructions were given, Sapper Mark D. English, a plant operator mechanic with the engineers, quickly got to work moving the abandoned cars with the tractor. Locals outside immediately began smiling, cheering and clapping when the tractor passed by with the first car lifted in its grasp. It was a clear sign that the plan to gain the support of the city was working.

English maneuvered through the city with the help of his ground guides, picking up cars and moving them to an open area outside the city. He placed the cars into two neat rows.

Editors Note: This story is fictional. It is based off of a senerio in the Cooperative Spirit 2008.



BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

Story and Photo

Spc. Matthew A.

Thompson

5th MPAD

The purpose of the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies Program interoperability test is to bridge gaps. The Royal Engineers with 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards took that idea literally and built a physical bridge at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Germany, Sept. 23 during Cooperative Spirit 2008.

The Soldiers competed to beat their best times. Cheering spectators on the side motivated the Soldiers to build faster and beat their record.

The sappers tested their skills with timed runs for setting up a medium girder bridge. Their first time out they erected it to a standard training time of less than thirty minutes.

By their second time, they knocked the time down to less than sixteen minutes.

As a challenge to themselves, the Brits pushed it hard, and by their third time out they put the bridge together in less than fifteen minutes. Lt. Will Taylor, the troop commander with 3 Troop



A squad with 3 Troop, 11 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers runs with pieces of a bridge they are completing during training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany, Sept. 23 during Cooperative Spirit 2008.

Royal Engineers, 11 Field Squadron said, "If we're called upon to do this task, we can do it really efficiently and perform well for the battle group."

Taylor said this was an excellent training opportunity for everyone as it gave the section commander a good chance to represent his command and each engineer had his own goal to reach.

The section commander with 11 Field Squadron, 3 Royal Engineer Regiment, Cpl. Calum Moson, shouted encouragement to his troops as they ran back and forth from the

stacks of material to the assembled pieces.

"As the section commander, I have to pay attention to both sides of the bridge and watch for any health concerns," Moson said.

All of the ABCA nations represented here use the medium girder bridge during missions while deployed and for training. The medium girder bridge serves many purposes on the battlefield whether it is bridging ravines, battle group crossings or reinforcing roads that may not be able to support heavy military vehicles.

The single story bridge spans a distance of nine meters long and can be assembled by a group of 9-17 Soldiers.

"We're looking forward to working with the other nations here, providing our engineer close support during the field training exercise," Taylor said.

Exhausted with sweat pouring off their brows, the team of British engineers stumbled to get some water and juice to drink. After a short break, the ten teammates and the other ten sappers began to disassemble the bridge.



MOTOR POOL SOLDIERS: KEEPING THE INFANTRY FIGHTING

Story and Photo by
Spc. Warren W. Wright, Jr.

5th MPAD

Stryker Soldiers are patrolling a potentially hostile area in their signature combat vehicles. The team receives hostile contact and the infantrymen pile out the back and take cover while the Stryker's mounted weapons system puts rounds on target.

The infantrymen's job is to train for situations like this, but if it wasn't for the Soldiers who operate behind the scenes, the infantrymen would have no armored vehicles to ride into combat or a weapons system capable of providing devastating cover fire.

Soldiers like Spc. Michael P. Scharfenberg, a small arms repairer, and Spc. Charles C. Magill, a mechanic, both from Company B, 296th Brigade Support Battalion "Black Knights," are responsible for keeping the vehicles running and the weapons firing so that the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division can complete their missions and bring their Soldiers home safe.

Scharfenberg and Magill are supporting the training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany, during Cooperative Spirit 2008, which is a multinational combat training center rotation intended to test interoperability among the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand armies.

Magill is able to work on a variety of vehicles due to the Army's use of

interchangeable parts that can be swapped out with any number of various vehicles, he said. Mechanics can work on anything from high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles to wreckers or the brigade's signature Stryker combat vehicles.

A mechanic's job is extremely important, added Magill. If it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of the mechanics in the motor pool, the Strykers and all the other vehicles operated by the Stryker brigade wouldn't be able to function.

Also working with the "Black Knights" are the weapons repairers. The Strykers have a vast arrangement of weapons systems and subsystems that must be maintained, said Scharfenberg.

"Before there were trucks, there were guns," Scharfenberg said proudly. If the small arms repairers like Scharfenberg do not maintain and repair the weapons systems on the Stryker, the Soldiers inside the vehicle would lose invaluable tools

needed for the fight.

Interoperability, is the main reason for coming together during Cooperative Spirit 2008, however, none of this would be possible without the support of Soldiers like Scharfenberg and Magill.

"If something breaks, you have to have someone available to fix it," said Spc. Frank J. Nehs, a rifleman from Company A, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment. "I just fight, and without them (the support element), I can't fight."



Spc. Charles C. Magill, a mechanic from B Company, 296th Brigade Support Battalion, performs preventative maintenance checks and services on a High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle during Cooperative Spirit 2008 at the JMRC near Hohenfels, Germany Sept. 25.



FUN PAGES

ABCA WORD SEARCH

Can you find the 8 letter Mystery word?

G H C A R V X T U I C W A J L M N E T C	JMRC
T A R A R F T I J H M O P L A W D H U B	COOPERATIVE SPIRIT
U M J T N U D R K Y A N K S C E K C O M	AMERICA
T E Z R M R G J G X B E S M K I P O C H	BRITAIN
U R E A T H C B A H C T V E T K B O A S	CANADA
O I N I I F D P Y O A C I F M Y U P N Q	AUSTRALIANS
T C S N W N R V B U M A R R O W H E A D	NEW ZEALAND
M A C I V N T J U S A S E R J K M R D P	INTEROPERABILITY
T Z E N E W Z E A L A N D S B X Q A A T	ABCA
D G K G P K U Q R A C T Y P I O L T K Y	AUSIE
E I T Y C J K S R O Y J S Q N C M I I F	KIWIS
W N C D G M P R N I P K G T B M R V O W	YANKS
N F E C N H W R B N O E U T R A X E K X	BLOKES
K A K I W I S M R L V E R R I U N S X T	TRAINING
P N T R C J A C I U O Y S A V S R P Y E	ARROWHEAD
P T M E S L J M T W V K B P B S M I P I	GERMANY
F R Y U E W M C A W T N E M K I Q R D P	INFANTRY
W Y A U S T R A I L I A N S U E L I K L	RUGBY
I Y T V K L C O N P C Z W F W B K T U T	
P K Y J S E W H G V E P G E R M A N Y W	

By Spc. Warren W. Wright, Jr.

Fun Facts about our Nations

America Facts:

California is home of “General Sherman,” a 3,500-year-old tree, and a stand of bristlecone pines 4,000 years old are the world’s oldest living things
Kentucky is home of the largest underground cave in the world: 300 miles long, the Mammoth-Flint Cave system
Oregon is home of the world’s smallest park, totaling 452 inches, created in Portland on St. Patrick’s Day for leprechauns and snail races.
The U.S dollar bill is made of cotton and linen.

Britain Facts:

The English policemen (or “bobbies” as they have also been called) are almost never armed. Even during large demonstrations, they are expected to use their minds, not a lethal weapon, to keep order.
Britain ranks 2nd in the world behind Ireland for tea-drinking per year. The Irish consume an average of 1,390 cups per person each year, whereas the average Brit consumes 1,113 cups per year. The average American drinks 150 cups per year.

Canada Facts:

Canada has the world’s longest coastline: 202,080 kilometers.
Canada is the second largest country in the world, with 9,971,000 square kilometres of land.
According to the United Nations Human Development Index, Canada has the highest quality of life in the world.

Australia Facts:

Australia is known as the largest island and smalled continent in the world.
The average Australian will consume 18 beef cattle and 90 sheep in his or her lifetime.
At an estimated population of 40 million, there are more than twice as many kangaroos as people in Australia.
Of the 250 existing species of marsupials in the world, about 170 of them live in Australia or its immediate surroundings.
Until they were imported into the country, Australia did not have any members of the cat family, hoofed animals, apes, or monkeys.

New Zealand Facts:

Bungee jumping was invented in New Zealand.
New Zealand is home to the largest flightless parrot (kakapo), oldest reptile (tuatara), biggest earthworms, smallest bats, heaviest insect, some of the oldest trees and many of the rarest species of birds, insects, and plants, in the world.
New Zealand has won the most Olympic gold medals, per capita, amongst all the participant countries.



Interesting Laws of our Nations

American Laws:

In Alabama bear wrestling matches are prohibited.

In New York the penalty for jumping off a building is death.

In New Jersey and Oregon drivers cannot pump their own gas.

In Florida, hunting and killing a deer while swimming is illegal.

In Florida, illegal for single, divorced, or widowed women to parachute on Sunday afternoons.

British Laws:

Placing a postage stamp that bears the Queen (or King) upside down is considered treason.

All English males over the age 14 are to carry out 2 or so hours of longbow practice a week supervised by the local clergy.

It is illegal to stand within one hundred yards of the reigning monarch when not wearing socks

Any person found breaking a boiled egg at the sharp end will be sentenced to 24 hours in the village stocks (enacted by Edward VI).

Canadian Laws:

In Alberta Provincial It is illegal to set fire to the wooden leg of a wooden legged man

In British Columbia Provincial, It is illegal to kill a Sasquatch.

In Guelph, The city is classified as a no-pee zone.

It is illegal to kill a sick person by frightening them.

In Toronto, you can't drag a dead horse down Yonge St. on a Sunday

Australian Laws:

It is illegal to roam the streets wearing black clothes, felt shoes and black shoe polish on your face as these items are the tools of a cat burglar.

Children may not purchase cigarettes, but they may smoke them.

It is illegal to wear hot pink pants after midday Sunday.

Section 165-55 of the Australian Tax System Act says: For the purpose of making a declaration under this subdivision, the Commissioner may treat a particular event that happened as not having happend.

New Zealand Laws:

The legal drinking age is 20, but if you're married and you're in the pub with your spouse, you can drink at 18; in other words, if you don't have your spouse with you, you have to be 20 to drink, but with you can drink at 18.

