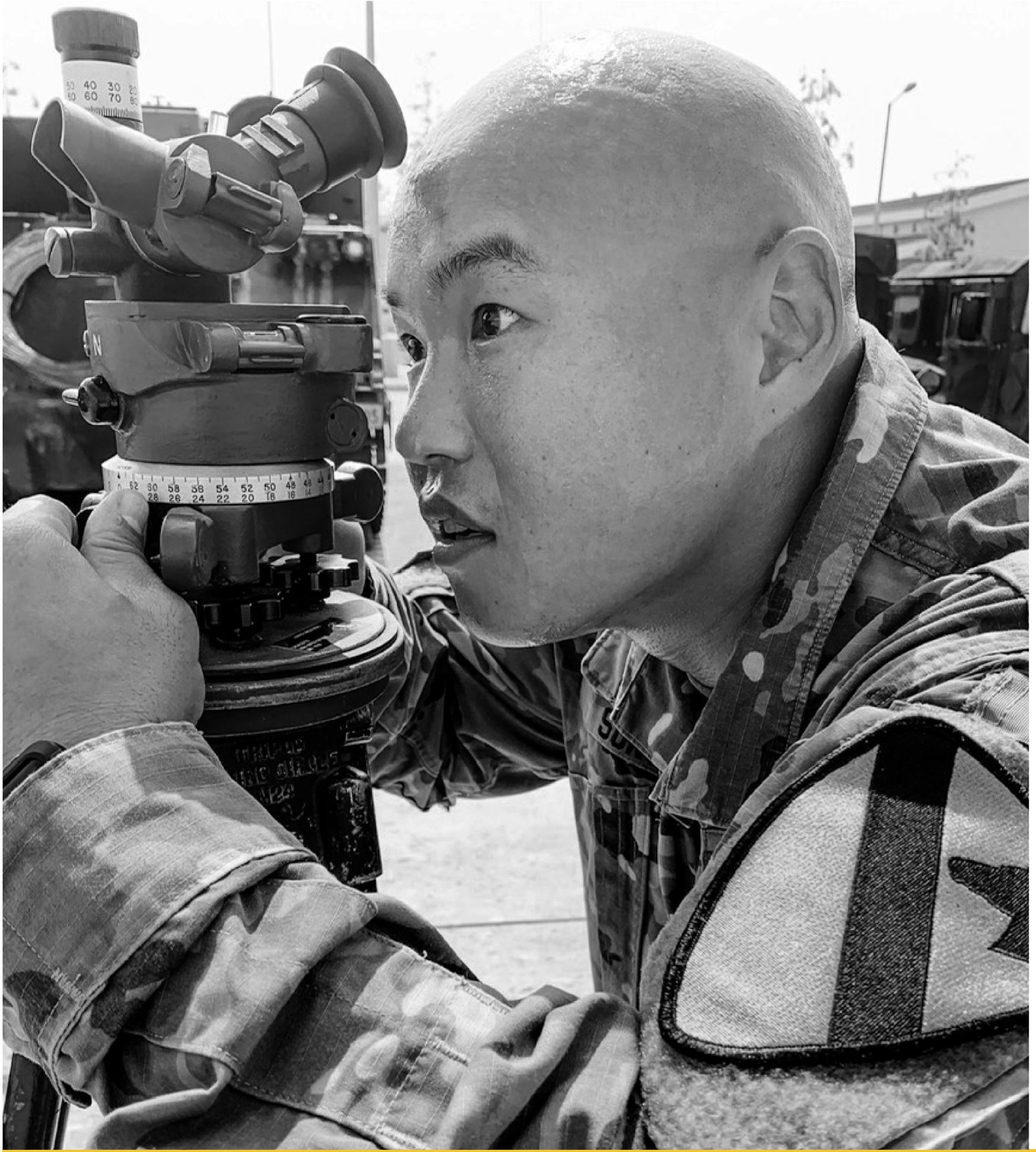


The official publication of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division



Issue 02, August, 2019

Lethal, Ready, Resilient

GREYWOLF

THE MAGAZINE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lethal

GREYWOLF 6 Sends - [Page: 04](#)

WE ARE!- [Page: 05](#)

GREYWOLF conducts live-fire training- [Page: 08](#)

Warhorse Battalion Partner Engagement- [Page: 22](#)

Ready

GREYWOLF 9 Sends - [Page: 06](#)

Walking Blood Bank - [Page: 10](#)

By the Book: Sgt.'s Time Training - [Page: 12](#)

Saber First Responder Course - [Page: 14](#)

Resilient

August in Review - [Page: 17](#)

From the Home Front -[Page: 21](#)

Restoration of Light- [Page: 24](#)

Quote of the Month- [Page: 26](#)

WE ARE

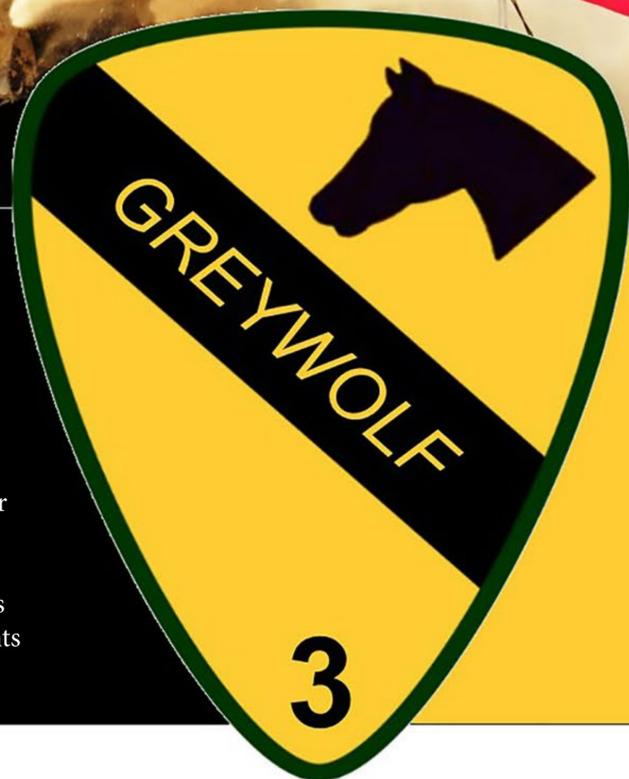
LETHAL READY RESILIENT



Col. Kevin Capra, Commander
CSM Ryan McLane

Capt. Scott Kuhn, Editor

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GREYWOLF 6 SENDS

WE ARE...GREYWOLF!

This simple phrase encapsulates what WE ought to be, what WE aspire to be and what WE will be. It defines the collective character of WHO WE ARE as a Brigade. The words are a rallying call that brings together thousands of Soldiers and Families past and present.

WE ARE comprised of Soldiers and Families committed and proud to serve each other and our nation.

WE ARE made up of men and women of character. WE ARE Soldiers with moral excellence and firmness. Each of us has volunteered to serve our country in a time of protracted conflict.

WE ARE men and women of consequence; what we do for our nation and our allies matters. The consequences of our profession when we commit our formation to action can change the world.

WE ARE the sentinels; guardians of our nation and our allies. We serve as the vanguard of the United States Army on the Korean peninsula. We keep the peace; whether one more year, one more month, one more day or one more hour. If called upon to commit our forces to action our readiness and lethality will ensure it is our adversary's longest and worst day.

Our profession is not for amateurs or individuals; rather it is for teams. WE ARE one impenetrable unit; seven battalions fighting together under one shield. We integrate other units into this proud Brigade as honored members our team.

We carry the legacy of the Proud Legions of the 1st Cavalry Division who came before us. Their story is known to all of us. It is the story of the American soldier who has fought for freedom since the inception of our nation.

We are known as America's First Team because the Division was the first in to Manila and then Tokyo in 1945, the first in to Pyongyang in 1950 and the first Air Mobile Division in 1965. We continue to honor the reputation of those who served and fought for this Brigade and this Division from World War II to Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

A cynic may try to denigrate this phrase, even to the extent of mockery and ridicule. However, we know what it means and what it represents. Our performance, both past and present, proves that we are a great brigade. Whether on the Gunnery ranges, during Situational Training Exercises, at the National Training Center, or our deployment to the Korean Peninsula, this organization has exceeded every expectation.

WE ARE the most powerful combat formation on planet Earth. WE ARE special not because of our equipment, but because of the people who carry the GREYWOLF shield. So, when you say or hear WE ARE...GREYWOLF! Know it is more than just WHAT WE ARE it also represents the collective character of WHO WE ARE.

WE ARE LETHAL!

WE ARE READY!

WE ARE RESILIENT!

WE ARE...GREYWOLF!



“This simple phrase encapsulates what WE ought to be, what WE aspire to be and what WE will be.”

COL. Kevin Capra
GREYWOLF 6

WE ARE

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WE ARE one impenetrable unit; seven
Battalions under one Shield

WE ARE the Sentinels; Guardians of our
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WE ARE the Legacy of the Proud Legions
of the 1st Cavalry Division

WE ARE Living the Legend; honoring
the reputation of the Cavalry
Troopers who came before us

WE ARE LETHAL!
WE ARE READY!
WE ARE RESILIENT!

WE ARE...
GREYWOLF!



GREYWOLF 9 SENDS

WE ARE...GREYWOLF!!

The Soldiers of the GREYWOLF Brigade are hard at work and the last month in Korea proves we are here to train! With that I welcome Soldiers, Family, friends, and former members of the brigade to the second installment of GREYWOLF 9 sends.

Over the course of the last few weeks I've had the opportunity and privilege to travel to training areas across Korea and observe the dedication, commitment, and professionalism of our Soldiers and leaders. They are an awesome sight to behold. It is truly inspiring! The Soldiers of GREYWOLF are training from Camp Humphreys to Camp Casey and Hovey, and all the way up to just south of the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone).

Currently, the brigade serves as part of the famous 2nd Infantry Division whose motto is "Fight Tonight!" GREYWOLF Soldiers are learning quickly what it takes to live up to the "Fight Tonight!" challenge while training on some of the most rugged and unforgiving terrain in the world.

Our Soldiers are being challenged everyday by the environment here. Imagine going from your home town to a place where the land and weather are more extreme than you may have ever faced. That, my friends, is Korea. The summers are extremely hot and the average humidity is between 95 and 100 percent, which makes it feel well above 100 degrees. Don't forget the torrential rainfall, dense vegetation, insects and steep hillsides that cover the vast majority of the country. Now add in our uniform; long pants, long sleeves, T-Shirt, boots, and all the protective equipment we wear while training. This gear can range from 60 pounds to well over 100 pounds depending on what our Soldiers are doing on a given day.

This probably sounds pretty tough, and it is, but our Soldiers are getting the job done every day. This month I have observed them conduct a variety of individual and collective training tasks including maneuver, demolitions, maintenance, rifle qualification, machine gun qualification, logistics operations, land navigation, advanced medical training and much more. GREYWOLF Soldiers are embracing the hardships, showing their mettle and proving why they are the best trained, most lethal force in the United States Army.

We will continue to train hard into September, however, there will be some opportunities for the team to get time off over the next few weeks to refit and relax. It is well deserved for all the hard work!

As I wrap this up I would like to express just how proud I am to serve with each and every member of the GREYWOLF Family. Please accept my gratitude for the sacrifice that every Soldier and Family member of OUR team makes every day! Until next time...Keep your powder dry! And I'll see you on the high ground!

CSM Ryan McLane
GREYWOLF 9

I've had the opportunity and privilege to travel to training areas across Korea and observe the dedication, commitment, and professionalism of our Soldiers and leaders.



The use of warm, transfused blood on the battlefield was pioneered during the Korean War. Medics with GREYWOLF are training on the procedure called a Walking Blood Bank .



LETHAL

GREYWOLF CONDUCTS LIVE-FIRE TRAINING

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, (GREYWOLF), 1st Cavalry Division (Rotational), is the ground running. In its first month since the transfer of authority many of the units have conducted small arms ranges all the way through team and squad live-fire training.

Recently, GREYWOLF! The Magazine had the opportunity to observe the training of two infantry companies--A Co. 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment and C Co. 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment.

A Co. was conducting team live-fire utilizing a shoot house while C Co. was working on squad live-fire.

“No matter how you train the fundamentals are the same,” said Capt. Joe Diaz, commander of A/2-7 CAV. “Shoot, move and communicate are the keys, whether you are maneuvering through a confined space such as a shoot house or across open field.”

The shoot house scenario was comprised of multiple rooms and narrow hallways and blind corners. A team of four maneuvered through the house and cleared rooms of “enemy combatants” as necessary.

“Great training and risk mitigation are a result of disciplined rehearsals,” Diaz said. “Young leaders identify what works for their team and which actions and techniques are safe, which increases the team’s confidence before the first live round is fired.”

One way in which A Co. did that was to implement a crawl-walk-run training model. The teams would start with no ammunition and run the scenario multiple times until they had the movement, commands and safety down. They progressed to sim-rounds, which replicate real rounds, but are like paintballs. Once Diaz and his senior NCOs felt confident the team was good-to-go, the live-rounds were loaded and the team did one last run.

For C. Co., 1-12 CAV the scenario may have been different, but the preparation was very much the same.

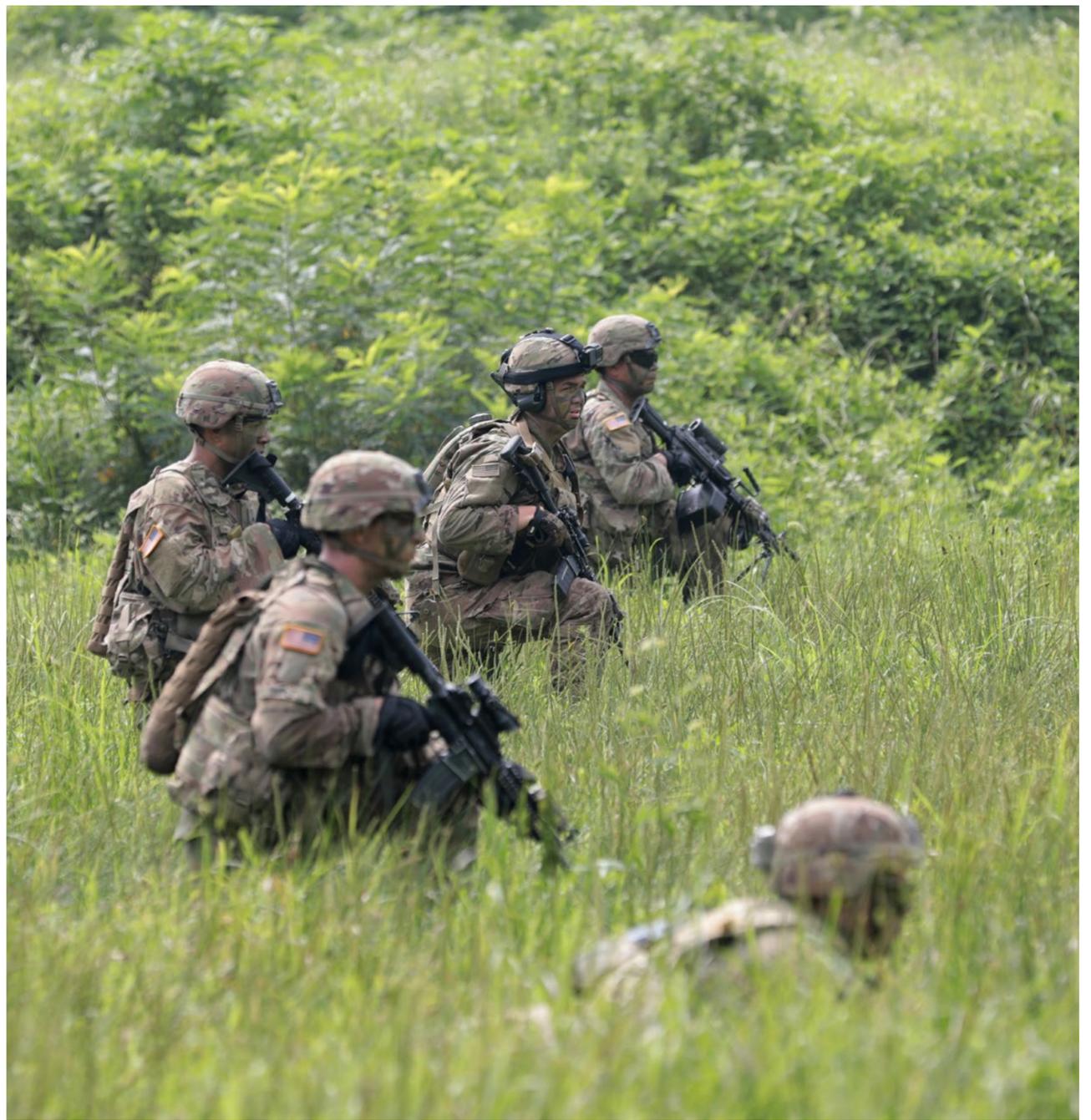
“We conducted a movement to contact and assault on an objective at the squad level,” Capt. John Broderick the commander said. “It was a focus on the fundamentals. Bounding and maneuvering to gain an advantage on the enemy.”

The heat and humidity played a factor in the training, but the Soldiers were able to push through the 45 minute scenario to seize the objective.

“I’m happy with what I saw,” Broderick said. “This is what it takes to be a lethal platoon and a lethal company.”

GREYWOLF will continue with its live-fire training at the platoon-level and into gunnery tables over the next few months.

(Article and Photos by: Capt Scott Kuhn)



Top: Members of C/1-12 Cav prepare for their squad live-fire lane.

Bottom: Soldiers from A/2-7 CAV clear a room during team live-fire training.





WALKING BLOOD BANK CAN SAVE LIVES ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Transfusing warm, whole blood on the battlefield was pioneered on the Korean War battlefield. GREYWOLF medics are learning this life-saving technique

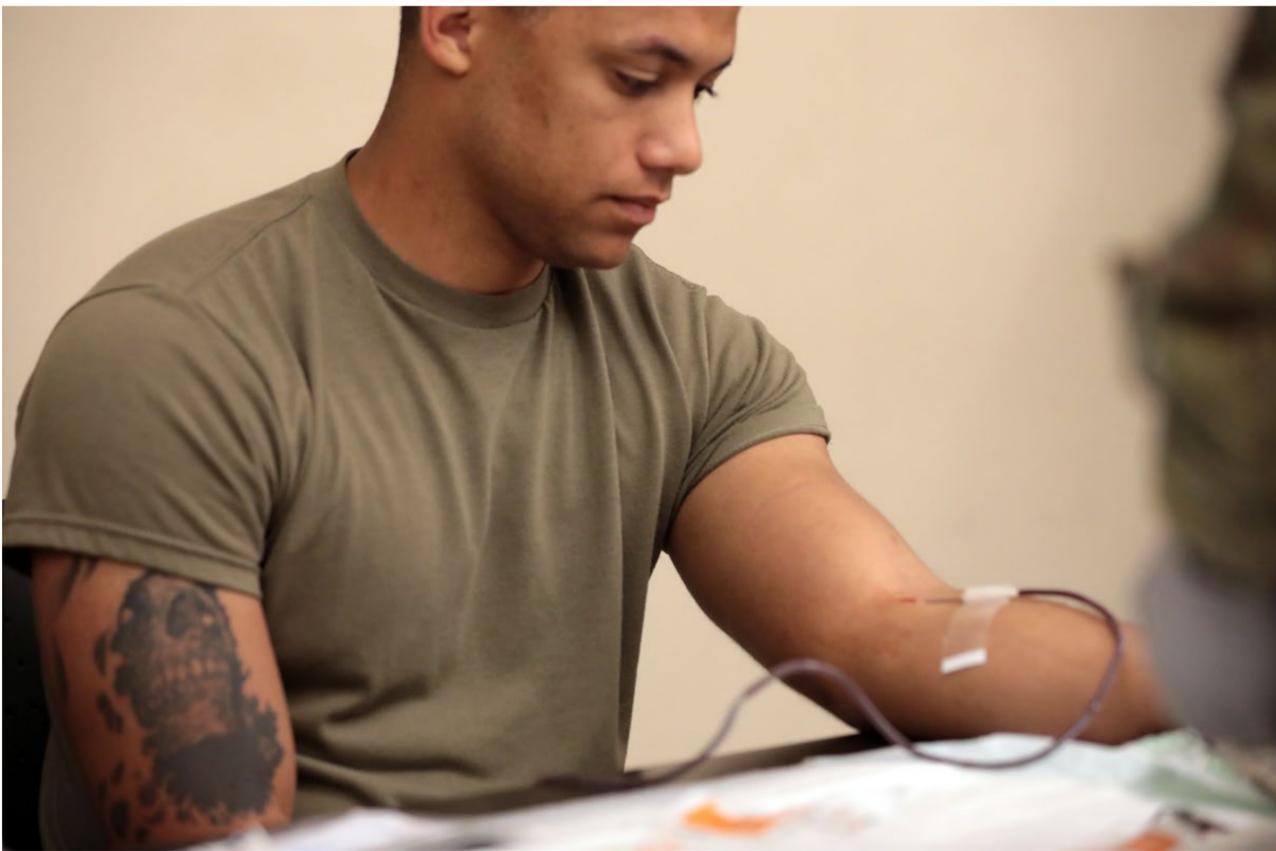
Story and photos by Capt. Scott Kuhn

The medics of 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav. Regt., 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division are learning a life-saving measure that was first used in the Korean War 69 years ago—whole blood transfusion on the battlefield.

Whole blood transfusions are basically the drawing of blood directly from a donor and then transfusing it right into the recipient. The transfusion of warm, whole blood serves two factors, it has the ability to help a patient clot and is able to help warm them at the same time. One of the biggest killers outside of the wound itself is hypothermia.

Sgt. Barbara Allen, the treatment non-commissioned officer-in-charge for 2-7 Cav, attended 8th Army's Walking Blood Bank and transfusion train the trainer class. The course breaks down the intricacies of how to blood type and screen donors as well as the particulars of the Korean Peninsula program called STUD-K.

“This isn't something that, as a medic, you are typically trained in, but I can see the importance of knowing how to do this,” said Spc. Tyler Hackworth, a medic with Charlie Med. “Especially across a major battlefield where you may be all that is standing between whether a Soldier lives or dies.”



Spc. Mekimbe Patterson, a medic for 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav. Regt. watches his blood being drawn.

“The class was informative and comprehensive,” she said. “I was given all I needed to be able to come back and teach my medics and my staff personnel and my 11 Bravos (infantrymen) how to type the blood and then draw and transfuse it.”

To help facilitate the process, the screening starts with the STUD-K program, which will type and screen the blood for everything necessary to limit any possible reactions by a recipient. The donor is then given a card which the medic can then use to ensure compatibility and suitability.

“My goal is to have everyone in 2-7 typed and screened and then add their information to a spreadsheet,” Allen said. “That will enable us to be able to look at the casualty and identify blood type and find a good match quickly.”

Allen has taught two classes on the procedures, all of them to medics. It starts with a comprehensive overview of the program and how it works, followed by a demonstration of the process. During the demonstration a class participant draws the blood from the donor and

then returns it via transfusion to the same person.

For Spc. Ian Truitt, a medic with Charlie Med, 215th Brigade Support Battalion this class is one more tool in his tool bag. “We’re in Charlie Med, and we consider ourselves among some of the best and we are going to go back and teach our soldiers in the company as well as those in the unit who are not medics about the walking blood bank program.”

Although the walking blood bank is primarily a tool for the battlefield, it can also be used in emergency situations following a training accident or mass casualty situation where time is of the essence. According to Allen it could mean the difference between losing a foot or losing an entire leg.

“This isn’t something that, as a medic, you are typically trained in, but I can see the importance of knowing how to do this,” said Spc. Tyler Hackworth, a medic with Charlie Med. “Especially across a major battlefield where you may be all that is standing between whether a Soldier lives or dies.”

It takes about 10-12 minutes to draw the blood from the donor and then the medic can just turn and hook up the bag directly to the IV of the patient and start the transfusion. “So in less than 15 minutes the casualty can be receiving the fresh whole blood,” said Allen. “I can collect and transfuse the blood right in the back of a Bradley if necessary.”



Col. John Osborne, battalion surgeon for 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav. Regt., shows the needle used to draw blood during a class on field blood transfusions.



BY THE BOOK: GREYWOLF BRIGADE CONDUCTS SERGEANT'S TIME TRAINING

Article and Photos by: Capt. Scott Kuhn

Staff Sgt. Dakota Sullivan, section leader in C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "GREYWOLF", 1st Cavalry Division sits in a camping chair next to the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled Howitzer. A binder is open on his lap and gathered around him are five junior Soldiers. All are in full body armor and they listen intently as he briefs the day's training.

This is Sergeant's Time Training. It's when noncommissioned officers get back to the basics and teach, through repetition, individual skills required of each Soldier to function as a team.

According to the Army Noncommissioned Officer's Guide, "Sergeant's Time Training is hands-on, practical training for Soldiers given by their NCOs. It provides our NCOs with resources and the authority to bring training publications or Technical Manuals to life and to develop the trust between leaders and led to ensure success in combat."

For NCOs in the GREYWOLF Brigade, it also provides opportunities that platoon or company-level training does not.

"It gives me a chance to get one-on-one with my section," Sullivan said.

Once his briefing is complete, Sullivan pulls out the Technical Manual for the Paladin and hands it to a Soldier. The Soldier begins to read the step-by-step process for disassembling the breach as two other Soldiers inside the Paladin execute the process.



Staff Sgt. Dakota Sullivan, section leader, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, briefs Soldiers on the day's Sergeant's Time Training.

“If there were more people trying to train on this in a round robin type of setting, like how I’ve seen Sergeant’s Time Training done at other units, not all of these guys would get the chance to do it,” Sullivan said. “This way each one of my team will get to do it maybe three or four times.”

That repetition is key to executing collective tasks required of a unit according to Capt. Wayland Griffin, commander of B Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment.

“At every level, no matter how complex the Mission Essential Task List (METL) or collective task is, it all boils down to a series of individual tasks executed to standard, said Griffin.”

Sergeant’s Time Training also helps the NCO understand how to develop effective training management by using the Eight Step Training Model. Each NCO in the brigade is expected to identify the training they want to conduct and then plan it using Army doctrine. The NCO will then execute the training for the command team who will either validate it or provide additional guidance.

“It gives the chief of the section an opportunity to organize training so that Soldiers are getting precise training using task, conditions and standards,” said Sgt. 1st Class Manning Hilton, platoon sergeant for 1st platoon, C Battery. “It is actually the standard and not a hip shoot of ‘what I know and what my experience has been.’ It is actually by the book and the Soldiers know that it’s going to be the same across the board.”

It’s also a good refresher for a lot of the NCOs.

“There’s lots of moving parts to being on a gun crew, whether the vehicle or the crew itself,” Sullivan said. “Anytime we can actually go back to doctrine and bring it into the training, it just makes me better at my job.”

For Sgt. Anthony Robbins, B Troop, Sergeants Time Training has another positive effect during operations.

“I can teach my Soldiers these tasks that help get the command post up and running, which frees me to accomplish the tasks I need to do or to support something the commander might need,” he said.

For the NCOs of the GREYWOLF Brigade it’s about mastering the fundamentals, and that starts with not just picking up the book, but doing it by the book.

“That’s one of the brigade commander’s priorities: platoons executing battle drills builds lethality at every echelon,” Griffin said. “In order to do that, this is where we make our money—here—the individual tasks. We have to keep working at them until they become habit.”



Staff Sgt. Jeremia Cunningham, Bandit Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, teaches a class about route reconnaissance.

SABER SQUADRON CONDUCTS FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

“We had every Soldier tell us it was by far the best medical training they have received during their time in the military.”



A Soldier with 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division provides medical care to a Republic of Korea Army Soldier as part of the Saber First Responder Course testing on August 16.

The patrol from 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat team, 1st Cavalry Division was moving slowly through the tree line when they began to receive small arms fire from a well concealed enemy. The squad returned fire and suppressed the enemy. A soldier is hit and calls out for help, but the nearest medic cannot reach him, so it is up to his battle buddies to provide care until he can be evacuated. This is the premise behind the Saber Squadron's First Responder Course.

The weeklong course teaches Soldiers how to provide extended care to the wounded in austere environments. A requirement for a unit such as 6-9 CAV, a

reconnaissance squadron that typically operates far in front of the brigade.

“Having graduates of Saber First Responder in the formation contributes to our ability to do what scouts need to do—stay alive to keep reporting,” said Lt. Col. Nate Crow, the squadron's commander. “Our Saber First Responders allow our medics to be more effective and contribute to our lethality by giving Troopers confidence that we can take care of them if they are wounded, allowing them to focus on the mission at hand.”

Cavalry Scouts often operate in small elements performing reconnaissance and security operations

outside of normal supporting distances from higher echelon medical care. Saber First Responder gives Scout Sections the medical training they need to treat casualties more effectively at the point of injury when immediate evacuation is not an option.

There were 24 Troopers from 6-9 Cav along with one Joint Tactical Air Controller Air Force Airman, and five Republic of Korea Soldiers. All but one met the standards and passed the final day of lane testing.

According to Sgt. First Class, Marcos Cruz, platoon Sgt. Of the squadron's medical platoon, the course is more detailed than the standard combat lifesaver course that most Soldiers learn. "We focus heavily on the MARCH acronym that the medical professions utilize. This acronym stands for Massive Hemorrhage, Airway, Respiratory, Circulation, and Hypothermia," he said.

Following four days of didactic and hands-on training, the Soldiers had to complete lane evaluations. The evaluations incorporated stressors to bring as much realism to the training as possible. They had to provide care while under fire, during a chemical attack and in near blackout conditions.

"The lanes were tough and the Soldiers walked away feeling not only more confident in their ability to save a life, but more importantly with more knowledge of the medication that they will carry if we were to go to war tonight," said Cruz. "We had every Soldier tell us it was by far the best medical training they have received during their time in the military."



A Soldier with 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division dons his protective mask as part of the Saber First Responder Course testing on August 16.



A ROK Army Soldier provides security during a simulated attack while other Soldiers conduct first aid as part of the Saber First Responder Course testing on August 16.

In addition to normal medical treatment for wounds and burns the Soldiers received thorough training in identifying and treating symptoms of chemical, biological and radiological attacks. They received instructions in how to use the diazepam, Canna, tranexamic acid (TXA) and other medications and when to administer it.

“Saber First Responder is significant because it provides the Squadron with a capability that directly contributes to our readiness,” said Crow. “Troopers who graduate from this course can not only employ the basic lifesaving techniques taught in CLS, they are trained to conduct delayed evacuation casualty care to keep wounded Troopers alive for hours or days. That makes them much more useful to our medics, allowing our medics to focus on the Troopers who are the worst wounded.”



A Soldier with 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division provides medical care to a simulated casualty in near black out conditions as part of the Saber First Responder Course testing on August 16.

August in Review

August was an extremely busy month for the GREYWOLF Brigade. In addition to continuing maintenance on our vehicles in order to keep them at the highest readiness standard, we have conducted various individual and collective training including small arms ranges, live-fire training, medical training and preparations for gunnery. Here is just a small snapshot of what our battalions have been up to. Follow us on Facebook to see more.



TAKING THE HORSES FOR A RIDE

Our tankers were itching to get their tanks out and maneuvering and August, 1-12 Cav got to do just that. Along with individual training, the battalion conducted situational training exercises in preparation for larger company-level training as well as gunnery.

ENGINEERS LOVE TO BLOW STUFF UP.

Our engineers from 3 BEB have been in the field recently conducting demolitions training. In this picture they are training on breaching doors. In addition they have practiced breaching obstacles using bangalore torpedoes, an explosive charge placed within one or several connected tubes. It is used by combat engineers to clear obstacles that would otherwise require them to approach directly, possibly under fire.



2-82 IS FIRST IN THE CHUTE FOR GUNNERY LIVE-FIRE TABLES

When you are an armored brigade combat team, you like big guns and none are bigger than the 155mm Paladin self-propelled Howitzer. 2-82 has been eager to get out and fire these bad boys here in Korea, but there is always those steps to making sure all crews are qualified and ready for firing. Here they are conducting table IV, one of the Fire Direction Center's and Paladin Crews' last chance to train together before they qualify as a crew on Artillery Table V and VI.



KATUSAS FIGHT ALONGSIDE US, SO THEY TRAIN ALONGSIDE US

Members of 215th BSB are seen here conducting training on fuel operations. The Soldiers in the foreground are actually Korean Augmentation to US Army, or KATUSAs. These Korean Soldiers volunteer to serve alongside US Soldiers in US units. Our Soldiers have developed friendships with our KATUSAs and are always eager to learn from them just as much as we are to teach them.



A VISIT FROM THE FIRST TEAM DIVISION COMMANDER AND A FINAL FAREWELL

In October, the 1st Cavalry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Paul Calvert will hand over the reins of the First Team following 2 years of successful and dedicated leadership to the Division. He recently visited GREYWOLF in Korea in order to recognize deserving Soldiers and receive updates on the progress of the Brigade since our arrival. He also took the opportunity to say his final goodbyes to the Brigade and its leaders. Thank you, sir, for your leadership and support.



WINNING IN KOREA IS BUILDING RELATION- SHIPS WITH OUR ROK PARTNERS

Winning is building partnerships. Here 2-7 CAV visited 3-23 ROKA IN Battalion, commanded by LTC Heon-Kyun, Shin to solidify a relationship between our units. Their new friends were nothing short of amazing in welcoming 2-7 leadership to their base and showing them a great time at their annual Hanmaum-Festival, that is put on for Soldiers and local civilians.

INDIVIDUAL SKILLS IS ABOUT MASTERING THE FUNDAMENTALS

Collective tasks are really just a series of individual skills combined to achieve an objective. GREYWOLF Soldiers have been mastering the fundamentals to prepare larger collective training further down the road. Here a 6-9 Cav Soldier dismantles a 25mm canon from the Bradley Fighting Vehicle



THURSDAYS ARE FOR COMBAT-FOCUSED PT

If you follow our Facebook or Twitter pages you have probably seen a lot of pictures like this one of 3-8 CAV Soldiers. Every Thursday, GREYWOLF conducts combat focused PT.

What does that mean? Well, it means that whatever physical training you do that day, it is going to suck 10x more because you are going to have to do it in the Army combat uniform and maybe even while wearing a protective mask, and oh yeah, you will probably have to lift some heavy equipment, or crawl through mud, or ruck a high incline. But whatever the PT for the day is, you can be sure it is getting us ready to FIGHT TONIGHT.



FROM THE HOME FRONT: GREYWOLF FAMILIES “WALK” TO KOREA

Story by Sgt. Jessica DuVernay

FORT HOOD, TX – The GREYWOLF brigade has kicked off an event inspiring families to get up and move and “Walk” to Korea.

The event was organized by Soldier Family Readiness Group advisor Kim Black, SFRG leader for 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

“I actually got the idea from the brigade that was in Korea prior to us, the Bulldogs” Black said. “I thought it would be something fun and a way for the families to get together and get moving.”

The walk to Korea is approximately 6,519 miles to Camp Hovey from Fort Hood. Any activity can be logged as miles to get families one step closer to making it to Korea. Participating members can log their own miles to see how close they are getting to their loved one.

“It can be walking, biking, running or any type of exercises that can be logged onto the conversion chart in miles,” Black said. “Every little step get us closer to our loved ones.”

While the GREYWOLF brigade is deployed forward in the Republic of Korea, Black mentioned that sometimes may be hard for the active lifestyle to be maintained while your Soldier is deployed.

“You are so focused on keeping the household running, it’s easy to get caught up in things; it’s also a good way for those families who maybe don’t have

children and are here alone, to get out and meet other members.”

Even though the Warhorse SFRG plans activities for the families, it does not distract from the main priority which is making sure families are informed and being taken care of, regardless of the situation.

“Our focus is to keep the families informed,” said Black. “We want to build a family and make sure those families feel connected.

“We don’t want them to feel alone when the Soldiers are gone and we want them to know there is still someone here, someone that cares about them and any information, any problems, we want them to know we are there for them.”

Despite being Warhorse organized event, Black said opening up the event to the entire brigade has made it for some friendly competition between battalions.

“It is a fun way to meet other SFRG groups and see how motivated families are to be involved.” She said “When we can lean on one another, it really brings the whole brigade together and embodies that ‘We Are’ spirit.”

The walk to Korea will continue until all 6,519 miles are logged. Families are encouraged to get all members of their family involved, to meet their Soldier in Korea. Once they “reach” Korea, they are invited to “walk back” as a way to signify they are bringing their Soldier home.



WARHORSE BATTALION CONDUCTS PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

STORY BY CAPT. PETER A. SULZONA

HONGCHEON, Republic of Korea – U.S. Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Warhorse), of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (Rotational), visited the Republic of Korea Army Soldiers of the 80th Armor Battalion in the unit’s first steps towards future combined training exercises.

The visit was the first opportunity for the unit to get its Company grade leaders out with their partners to see the types of vehicle platforms the Korean Army has in its arsenal and who the Korean leaders are in their partnered unit.

According to First Lt. Johnathan Cojocar, scout platoon leader, the ability to operate with your partner forces, especially in Korea, is extremely important to the leaders of the Warhorse Battalion. “This Battalion is well known for being fast paced and taking the fight

to the enemy in all training events,” Cojocar said. “I am looking forward to seeing what our partners have available to fight with and the leaders I will be partnering with,”

The first thing the members of Warhorse noticed when they stepped off the bus was the line of Korean Armored vehicles. Although most ROK Army units use American made weapons, the 80th is the only one to have T-80U main battle tanks and BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicles, both Russian designs.

“I have spent most of my career training to fight an enemy that is both able to maneuver mounted and dismounted. It is one thing to get a brief on enemy vehicles and see pictures, it is something else to get eyes on a system and actually get to look inside it,” said First Sgt. Jihad Franklin, “I never thought I would

get the opportunity to finally get my eyes on a T-80 tank or a BMP infantry vehicle.”

The 80th AR pulled out all the stops in an effort to demonstrate just how capable its vehicles and Soldiers are if and when it came time to execute any given mission. The demonstration began with a K1A1 Main Battle Tank, the work horse of Korean Armored units, and ended with a smoke screen provided by the BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle. Each vehicle performed basic maneuvers that the 80th ensured was both seen and understood by its partners throughout the demonstration.

The Warhorse Battalion made sure to have its Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, or KATUSAs, on hand to assist in translations between the ROKA and U.S. Soldiers.

“Many of the leaders took time to ask about the ROKA systems and made time to ask the Korean Soldiers about their daily activities and training conducted leading up to gunnery,” said CPL H.S. Lee, Scout

Platoon KATUSA. “It was cool to be a part of the conversation and assist in translations.”

In addition to the vehicle demonstration, US Soldiers got a chance to see the T-80 and BMP simulators. Warhorse Leaders had the chance to get their hands on them and see firsthand how similar the ROKA simulators are to the versions used by U.S. armored units.

The last demonstration the ROKA provided for Warhorse was a hands on ride with the T-80U, BMP-3, and K1A1 tank. Each leader sat in the loaders seat and took a 10 minute ride around the compound.

As the bulk of the Warhorse Battalion departed, with a number of high fives and U.S. Soldiers wearing the 80th AR patch and the ROKA wearing the 1st Cavalry Division patch, many Warhorse Soldiers began conversations on the future training available with their partners, the similarities and differences in U.S. and ROKA vehicles and just how much more interesting their rotation had just become.

The visit was the first opportunity for the unit to get its Company grade leaders out with their partners to see the types of vehicle platforms the Korean Army has in its arsenal and who the Korean leaders are in their partnered unit.





SOUTH KOREANS CELEBRATE THE 'RESTORATION OF LIGHT'

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Corey Baltos, 2ID/RUCD
Public Affairs

Seventy-four years ago, on a hot humid summer day the Korean people stepped into the light for the first time in over a generation and celebrated the end of brutality and the beginning of new found freedom and unity.

That day, Aug. 15, 1945, is known in South Korea as Gwangbokjeol (The Day the Light Returned) and as Chogukhaebangŭi nal (Liberation of the Fatherland Day) in North Korea.

The national holiday commemorates Victory over Japan Day, when Japanese Emperor Hirohito announced that his country would unconditionally surrender, thus ending both World War II and decades of occupation and influence in Korea.

It is the only Korean public holiday celebrated by both North and South Korea.

In South Korea Gwangbokjeol is celebrated much the same way Americans celebrate their independence day. The national flag, or Tae-guk-gi, is prominently displayed in front of homes and communities throughout the country host parades, festivals and patriotic fanfare.

While some of the celebrations are joyous, for many Koreans it is a solemn reverent holiday spent honoring those who sacrificed for the country.

Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSA)
Pvt. 1st Class Chang, Han Kyeol, a division chaplain's

assistant with 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, said that as a child his family would visit the Seodaemun Prison History Hall on Liberation Day.

“It was not far from my house,” said Chang. “During the Japanese colonial period Korean liberation activists were held there. We went to remember them; and what they did for our country.”

Although it bears some similarities to the United States’ Fourth of July, it would be wrong to refer to Gwangbokjeol as Korean Independence Day. It is a liberation day. Independence Day implies that Korea became an independent nation for the first time, which ignores the long history of Korean nationhood which began over 4,000 years ago in 2,333 B.C. Liberation, or restoration, celebrates the return of the Korean state to the Korean people after thirty-five years of occupation.

Japanese Influence

Japan began their 70 plus years of influence over the Korean peninsula in the 1870’s. In 1895 Japanese agents assassinated Korean Empress Myeongseong. Throughout the ensuing decades more and more Japanese troops came to Korea. This culminated with Korea being forced to sign the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty in 1910 officially making Korea a part of the Japanese Empire.

Japanese occupation of Korea was brutal. Many Koreans were forced to take Japanese last names, and the Korean language was suppressed. During World War II over five million Korean men were forced into labor gangs where they endured horrific working conditions supporting the Japanese war effort. Approximately

200,000 Korean girls and women were forced to become “comfort women” for Japanese soldiers.

However, the Korean people resisted the occupation and the destruction of their national identity.

Division

While the Korean people united as a whole to celebrate their liberation on April 15, 1945, that unity would be short lived. Almost as soon as WWII ended the Cold War began. This “war” pitted the United States and the Soviet Union, former allies, against each other as they raced to shore up their spheres of influence around the world.

In 1945, the newly formed United Nations divided Korea in half along the 38th parallel, with the Soviet Union administering the northern half of the peninsula and the United States administering the south.

On Aug. 15, 1948, the third anniversary of Korea’s liberation, the newly formed Republic of Korea was born. Its first president was Syngman Rhee. Three weeks later, on Sept. 9, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was established in the northern half of the peninsula. Kim Il-Sung became its first leader. He would hold that post until his death on July 8, 1994.

Other South Korean “independence” holidays

South Korea has a number of national holidays of significance to the liberation of Korea.

Samil Day (Independence Movement Day or 3-1 Festival Day) is celebrated every March 1. On March 1, 1919, protest organizers read the Korean Declaration of Independence out loud and over 2 million Koreans

participated in over 1,500 non-violent independence demonstrations nationwide.

On October 3, South Koreans celebrate National Foundation Day, also known as the “Festival of the Opening of Heaven” to commemorate the founding of the Go-Joseon (Choson) kingdom in 2,333 B.C.

RESILIENT

**“SUCCESS IS
HOW HIGH YOU
BOUNCE WHEN
YOU HIT BOTTOM.”
-GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON-**