



Coyote Courier

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Golden Coyote training exercise

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Time is running out ...

Photo by 1ST LT. YLIANA RAPHAEL /Army Photographer

Sgt. Silas A. Smith of Detachment 1, 631st Chemical Company Army National Guard unit from Missoula, Mont., positions a barrel while his fellow Soldiers observe the makeshift bridge they will cross as part of a leadership reaction course June 10 at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D.

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

RAPID CITY, S.D. – It's the middle of the night and each paratrooper has the same puzzled look on their face. They only have 20 minutes before the next security patrol passes by.

Their objective – destroy the nearby enemy chemical plant.

The only thing that stands in their way is the 6-foot tall electrical fence that surrounds the compound, which could kill them and

reveal their location. They look at each other for an answer, but at first, nothing comes.

Then one of them speaks up. Within six minutes, all five paratroopers are inside the compound and on their way to completing their mission.

Of course, their mission now is to move to the next station, and not to blow up a chemical plant.

That's because these "paratroopers" are really Soldiers with the Army National Guard, the undisclosed location is Rapid City, S.D., and they are taking part in the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) as part of the Golden Coyote training exercise.

"It's kind of like a confidence course," said Master Sgt. Mary B. Jackson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the LRC lanes, Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters out of Rapid City, S.D. "It just improves their self confidence. Some of these obstacles are a little bit tough."

The obstacles are set up at eight stations, each providing a unique challenge to participants of the course.

"We (have) a Soldier at each station that presents the scenario, tells them what they have to do at the station and (provides) a solution if they don't get it ... then walks them through it," said Jackson.

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First Army expands GC role

Story and photos Sgt. Joseph Bungert
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK, S.D. – Over the past several years, observer controller/trainers (OC/Ts) from 1st Army have been integrated into the annual Golden Coyote training exercise that takes place in the Black Hills of South Dakota every June.

Elements of the 166th Aviation Brigade from Fort Riley, Kan., along with the 1/383rd and 2/383rd Training Support Battalions (TSBN) from Des Moines, Iowa, and Leavenworth, Kan., are providing over 170 OC/Ts to conduct training and evaluate participating units. These training battalions

also have a team evaluating several units in the exercise that are scheduled for mobilization in the near future.

The primary focus for the majority of the OC/Ts at Golden Coyote are the training lanes: operating Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), convoy operations and an entry control point lane for the forward operating bases.

Sgt. 1st Class Neil Horton, from Des Moines, Iowa with 1/383rd TSBN, the lead OC/T for the grasslands convoy lane said, "Our main job is to evaluate units going through the lane and ensure they are properly conducting a convoy."

Immediately upon arriving, every unit gets a safety briefing and is given their mission.

"At that point, we step back and observe how they are conducting their troop leading procedures, issuing warning orders, starting necessary movement, and making a plan," said Horton.

As a unit progresses through the convoy lane they are presented with a number of scenarios. During each scenario the OC/Ts observe to see that the unit is reacting appropriately.

At the end of the lane we conduct a comprehensive after action review.

"We go through each of the scenarios and let them know the things they did very well and the things they need to improve on," Horton said.

"All our observations are consolidated and passed on to the unit, and the next time they come down the convoy lane they can react better, and make sure they are hitting all the key points."

This year a classroom convoy 101 course was added to the list of training events offered at Golden Coyote.

The convoy 101 course is a full-day course for those units that don't feel their Soldiers are totally trained up to meet expectations and complete all the tasks and sub tasks required in the other convoy lanes.

"It's a classroom environment where they sit down and run through in detail each one of the scenarios in the full-convoy lane, along with learning how to set up their



Above: Master Sgt. Michael Burnett, an observer, controller/trainer with the 1/383rd Training Support Battalion from Des Moines, Iowa visits with two of the exercise role players on a convoy-training lane. Wood, a resident of Lakewood, Wash., is participating in the 25th annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black hills of South Dakota 6-20 June.

landing zone and aid-and-litter teams to handle casualties," said Horton. "Once the unit completes the 101 course, they should be to a point they can go through the full lane and be ready to be evaluated."

During the after action review the unit gets to see where they are and what they need to improve on, so they can go home with that knowledge and develop standard operating procedures for the unit, or create plans for additional training. "The after action review is the most important part of being an OC/T," said Horton.

Being an OC/T is very rewarding, Horton said. "It's good knowing when a unit leaves the lane you've helped them learn about convoy operations and all the tasks involved."

"You also know they are better trained and educated and about their jobs than when they came to the lane," added Horton.

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LEADER: COURSE HELPS BUILD CONFIDENCE

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Servicemembers at one of the stations have 20 minutes to get through two wooden fences that represent the electrical fence. Spc. Victor R. Carrillo, a medic with the 7230th Medical Support Unit out of March Air Force Base, in Riverside, Calif., oversees the first station and ensures every participant gets a briefing about the lane.

"You only have a certain amount of time to navigate the obstacle, so you don't have much time to discuss it, you have to come up

with a plan quickly and then implement it," said Carrillo.

The servicemembers are given three hours to complete all the stations. "It's training that not only teaches them how to get through these obstacles and different types of things, it's relaxed, it's not graded," said Jackson.

"It builds teamwork and it makes you use your brain a little bit more," said Spc. Derrick R. Bessy, chemical operations specialist, Reconnaissance Detachment, 631st Chemical Company from Anaconda, Mont. Derrick said he enjoyed the training, as well as the

weather.

"I was hoping for this activity, that we would get muddy somewhere," Derrick added with a smile on his face.

At the end of the day, Jackson, Carrillo and the other trainers hope all the participants not only enjoy the training, but take something from it.

"To take back teamwork and critical thinking skills and how to work together as a team to accomplish a task out in the field is the overall importance," Sgt. Austin Davis, a medic with the 6252nd out of San Diego.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie P. Abdullah/Army Photographer

Pvt. 1st Class Joshua McNeal is seen here making his way across the makeshift bridge on West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. as his teammates all of the 631st Chemical Company, Montana Army National Guard Capt. Bryan Baldwin (assisting), Spc. Tyler Newell, Pvt. 1st Class Adam Grill, and Cadet David Kelbourne (left) steady the bridge. Warrant Officer Candidate Scott Wilson of the South Dakota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters is also assisting with steadying the bridge.

This is how we rodeo

*By Spc. Nicole Harvieux
Unit Public Affairs Representative,
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RAPID CITY, S.D. – The 615th Transportation Battalion of Springer, N.M., is hosting the truck rodeo from June 9-16 at the alert pad on Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

Soldiers test their skills on vehicle maintenance and driving in an obstacle course competition in which the participants drive heavy military vehicles through constricted areas.

“The training is performed to ensure Soldiers, civilians and equipment stay safe during operations,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joe Sanchez, 615th Transportation Battalion, Springer, N.M.

Throughout the next week, these Soldiers will be training different National Guard units from all over the United States.

The course tests drivers on basic driving skills, and maneuvering through constricted areas, which shows the Soldiers how to get around possibly disabled or wrecked vehicles that are partially blocking the highway or moving through heavy traffic.

“The experienced driver is paired with a Soldier of less experience. These trucks do not maneuver or stop that easily and the wet conditions may be good training for them,” said Sanchez.

“Soldiers are scored at the end of the day for each event. If a Soldier does not pass, they will do remedial training until they do.”

Driver Pfc. Michael Connelly, 553rd Transportation Company, Reno, Nev., is a truck driver in his civilian job and under-



Sgt. Matt Gjernes, Sgt. Roger Rose and Spc. Mat Roy of the Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, Miller, S.D., change a tire getting ready to start the truck rodeo June 10, at the Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills of S.D. Inset: Rose using impact wrench on lug nuts.

stands the importance of driver's training.

“I thought the training was great and exactly what a newer driver needs to learn,” said Connelly. “It is about safety when you're on the road.”

Safety tips and warnings for drivers near military vehicles

- Military vehicles have many blind spots, give plenty of room; especially when the vehicle is changing lanes

- Be patient; military vehicles are slow-moving and cannot accelerate quickly

- Military vehicles are usually wider than the average truck; leave plenty of space when passing

- Large military vehicles need more time and distance when stopping; be careful when passing or stopping ahead of them

- Military vehicles have limited maneuverability; especially in poor weather conditions

- A military convoy can be three trucks or more, stretching more than a mile; avoid becoming part of a convoy by passing safely.

Community service at its Army best

Forest service collaboration brings SD ARNG to fill quarry with earth from explosion

*Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

BLACK HILLS, S.D. – Even during mandatory training, the National Guard still finds time to help the community. Of course, it's hard to say "no" when helping provides the opportunity to blow stuff up.

That's exactly what Guardsmen from Headquarters Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion of Huron, S.D., had the opportunity to do June 11, during the Golden Coyote training exercise.

Utilizing 1,250 pounds of explosives, engineers of the 153rd were tasked with taking an area of Copper Mountain Quarry with a sheer-face cliff and turning it into a softer angle.

The U.S. Forest Service requests help from the South Dakota National Guard to keep the quarry workers safe from falling rocks. An added bonus for the city is that the ground rock taken from the cliff is used on area roads.

"We tried to help the forest service out," said Sgt. 1st Class Chris D. Schimke, assistant operations noncommissioned officer, HSC, 153rd. "It gives our Soldiers the opportunity to do some demolition training during Golden Coyote."

Utilizing shape and cratering charges, 153rd Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Robert R. Cole, HSC, 153rd, placed five 40-pound shape charges at the top of the cliff, several feet from the edge.

"When that blasting cap goes off, it will hit that C4 inside the charge and send a



A large black plume of smoke rises above the tree line shortly after 225 pounds of charges detonate in the Black Hills of South Dakota June 11. Soldiers from the Headquarters Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion out of Huron, S.D., utilized 1,250 pounds of explosives to remove the face of a cliff at Copper Mountain Quarry in the Black Hills. The mission was part of the yearly Golden Coyote training exercise held in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

molten-hot ball of metal into the ground and create a hole," said Spc. Shawn M. Baye, combat engineer, HSC, 153rd.

Those holes, created by the 40-pound shape charges, were used to bury crater charges into the ground. This last explosive, primed with one-and-a-half pounds of C4, is the main ground mover, removing the face of the cliff and creating a softer slope.

No more than 250 pounds at a time were used during the training, said Schimke. This process was repeated several times during the day in order to move all the dirt and provide every Soldier the opportunity to practice.

"The main intent is to sustain skills that Soldiers learned," said Schimke, "and make sure it stays fresh in their minds."

At all times, safety dictated the training pace, and was key in its successful completion. After every explosion, Schimke and some of his NCOs inspected the detonation site for any unexploded ordnance.

This was done prior to the other Soldiers arriving and placing the charges for the next detonation.

At the end of the day, Soldiers of the 153rd were able to conduct a real-world mission, use their job skills, and the forest service received the help they needed.

Hammer too legit to quit

Rap star gives America a peek at his new life



TRACY, Calif. (MCT) – MC Hammer's home in rural Tracy is certainly nothing to sneeze at, even though it pales in comparison to the spectacular Xanadu-like monstrosity he occupied in the Fremont, Calif., foothills just before his very public financial free fall. It doesn't have two swimming pools, or parking space for 17 cars, wondrous waterfalls, or even a gold-plated gate emblazoned with his name.

But what it does have is plenty of room for a more grounded life with the woman who has stood by him for 23 years, six loving children and a collection of sparkling mementos that stand as testament to incredible showbiz achievements.

In other words, the iconic rap star, also known as Stanley Burrell, isn't complaining.

"Just look at this neighborhood," he says, surveying his surroundings while standing in front of his ranch-style abode situated on a two-acre corner lot.

Hammer, 47, arrived in Tracy 12 years ago to, as he puts it, "reorganize and refocus" his life after tumbling from the top of the music

charts and declaring bankruptcy. Since then, he has become entrenched in the community. He fishes and pumps iron at a local gym. And now he's ready to open up that private life for public view via a new A&E reality series called "Hammertime." A 10-episode run kicks off on Sunday, introducing viewers to not only the modern-day Hammer and wife, Stephanie, but their five kids, A'Keiba, 21, Sarah, 15, Stanley Jr., 13, Jeremiah, 11, and Samuel, 4, along with their nephew Jamaris, 18.

"This show reflects who I really am," Hammer says. "You see the real father, the husband, the uncle, the businessman and then the entertainer — not some figment of someone's imagination derived from a five-minute music video."

But can a series built around the easygoing Hammer and his charming brood find ratings traction during an era of reality TV teeming with conflict, controversy and outrageous drama? There's a spring-cleaning session (Hammer puts the house on lockdown), a smile-inducing "Take Your Dad to School

Day," a trip to a high school track meet and some fun times at an open-mic night.

In one sequence, Hammer is forced to gently scold son Jeremiah for a disappointing report card. In another, he and a misty-eyed Stephanie are seen rummaging through some long-lost photos of the rapper in all his parachute-pants, "U Can't Touch This" glory.

"I wouldn't want to change anything or do it with anybody else," Hammer says of the woman he met during a revival in East Palo Alto. "My best friend is my wife."

This is reality TV in a mostly genial, G-rated mode and its star makes no apologies.

"I have no interest in what has become of reality TV — all the nonsense," says Hammer.

"There's a big part of American life missing from the genre," he adds. "A lot of people out there get up at 6 in the morning and work hard to send their kids to college and guide them through life. That's real American family life."

In other news

INTERNATIONAL

WHO declares H1N1 flu pandemic

BOSTON – The World Health Organization on Thursday declared the H1N1 flu a pandemic, the first official pandemic declaration in 41 years.

At a news conference Thursday afternoon, WHO announced it is raising its pandemic alert level to 6, its highest level.

"Further spread of the disease is inevitable," WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan told reporters at a media briefing.

An official pandemic means that the agency has observed sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus, also referred to as the swine flu, in more than one major geographical region. The last pandemic was declared in 1968 for the Hong Kong flu, which is believed to have caused about 1 million deaths worldwide.

NATIONAL

Senate OKs FDA tobacco regulation

WASHINGTON – Government would have broad new authority to regulate tobacco products, slash nicotine content and restrict advertising under historic legislation approved overwhelmingly Thursday afternoon by the Senate. Health advocates cheered the 79-17 passage of the bill, saying it could prevent thousands of deaths in the future. One of every five Americans uses tobacco, and smoking-related disease kills nearly half a million a year — more than any other preventable cause of death.

Tobacco allies, however, said new regulation would cost jobs, hurt farmers and maintain the market dominance of tobacco giant Philip Morris, the maker of Marlboros. The bill would allow the agency to alter the chemical makeup to affect the taste and the addictive qualities.

LOCAL

Gov. calls for youth to stay in state

ABERDEEN (MCT) – The main goal police officers and advocates need to consider when responding to a domestic violence situation is the victim's safety, a regional expert told a group on Wednesday.

And one thing that's included in that is to make sure the victim doesn't get blamed, said Marcus Bruning, supervising deputy for the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office in St. Louis County, Minn. The victim isn't treated that way with any other crime, he said. "We don't go to a burglary and say, 'What the hell are you doing living in this neighborhood?'" Bruning conducted a roundtable discussion on Wednesday in Aberdeen about domestic violence and how law enforcement and other officials should work to change the way response process is done.