

# 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

## Annual Newsletter

### 2021

THE FINEST IN THE LAND



**11th ACR Horse Detachment wins  
National Cavalry Competition for  
third year in a row**

**11th ACR fires first M1A2  
Abrams Tank in Regiment  
history**





## Are you a Photographer or Writer?

### Command Team

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69th Regimental Commander

CSM Anthony Walker  
23rd Regimental Command  
Sergeant Major

LTC John R. Williams  
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Deputy Commander

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Editorial content is the responsibility of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office.

Contents of the publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army.

The Public Affairs Office is looking for photos and stories on 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Anyone can submit a story or photo to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office. Submissions must identify most of the 5 Ws (who, including full name, rank, and unit; what, when, and where). Submissions may also include the hometown of the subject(s), and information about the photographer or writer for attribution. Stories should be about 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Troopers or relate to the Regiment. However, all stories, including travel stories and editorials, will be considered for publication on our periodicals or social media pages.

For additional information or to submit a work, please contact the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office at [blackhorsepao@gmail.com](mailto:blackhorsepao@gmail.com) or (760) 380-5338.



# ALLONS!



## Command Team Greetings



Col. Todd W. Hook  
Commander,  
11th ACR



CSM Anthony Walker  
Command Sergeant Major,  
11th ACR

Take pride in your accomplishments because our mission is incredibly important. Continue to be the yardstick by which the Army measures itself. We are extremely proud to serve alongside you. Your professionalism and honorable service inspire us all. Soldiers, Leaders, and Families... Thank you for what you do.

ALLONS!!!



# The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment celebrated 120 years of dignified service to the Nation!

February 2nd, 2021, marked the 120th year of service to the Nation. Since its establishment, the unit has been known by many names: At the time of establishment, the 11th Cavalry Regiment; the trio of the 11th Tank Battalion, the 11th Cavalry Group (Mechanized), and the 712th Tank Battalion during World War 2; the 11th Constabulary Regiment, while patrolling Germany after the war; and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, from when it served in Europe, Vietnam, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and the National Training Center.

We are credited with participation in eight campaigns: peacekeeping in the Philippine Islands during the Philippine-American War, chasing Pancho Villa in Mexico during the Mexican Punitive Expedition, fighting across Europe in World War 2, opposing the Viet Cong in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, supporting humanitarian efforts in Turkey and Kuwait in Southwest Asia, and conducting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Throughout our history, we have maintained a reputation of being highly mobile, highly trained, and devastatingly lethal.

We are the Pride of the Cavalry, the Finest in the Land.

## Allons!





# The 11th ACR Celebrates Black History Month with Barstow Mayor February 12th, 2021

Dr. Paul Anthony Courtney, Mayor of the city of Barstow, was the guest speaker at the Regimental Support Squadron's Black History Month Celebration at the Sandy Basin Community Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. on February 12th. Dr. Courtney's speech, "If It Does Not Challenge You, It Will Not Change You," discussed greatness being about inspiring someone else and the importance of treating others with respect, kindness, and compassion. Dr. Courtney is the first African-American to hold the position in the city of Barstow. Heritage month celebrations are established by Congress to recognize the contributions of all Americans to American culture and history. African American Heritage Month was enacted by Public Law 99-244 and approved on February 11, 1986.



# Blackhorse Power Outage Sports Day February 26th, 2021

Fort Irwin's first planned semi-annual power outage of the year took place on February 26th. To provide alternate activities for Soldiers and Family that decided to stay on post, the Regiment organized a sports day. 1st Squadron operated Softball and Ultimate Frisbee, 2nd Squadron handled Soccer and Backyard Games, and Regimental Support Squadron managed Basketball, Power Ball Toss, and provided Horse Detachment for a petting zoo. Several food trucks were present for patrons to replenish their energy.



# Blackhorse Triathlon April 3rd, 2021

The first Blackhorse Sprint Triathlon occurred on April 3rd. Over 50 group and individual participants signed up. The event began at 8:00 a.m. with a 200 meter swim at Oasis Park, then a 20 kilometer bike route and a 5 kilometer run route, both starting and ending at Constitution Park. The fastest three finishers all completed the course within 62 minutes, with the fastest surpassing the second by nearly 10 minutes. Plaques celebrating their achievements were given to the top three male and female finishers in each age bracket and the group participants.



# BSA 67 May 8th, 2021

The Boy Scouts of America Pack 67, Troop 67 Boys, and Troop 67 Girls conducted various activities throughout the year. The scouts worked with Horse Detachment to earn the Horsemanship Merit Badge on May 8th. Andrew Furtick fund-raised and led an Eagle Scout project to beautify Wickam Park, finishing on June 8th.

On July 31st, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment supported a Merit Badge Workshop at Fort Irwin Middle School. The Troops also worked with other units across the installation: participated in Retreat at garrison's main flagpole on March 7th, held a class with DENTAC on March 9th, and toured Weed Army Community Hospital on April 15th. Scouts supported the Blackhorse Sprint Triathlon and WACH Breast Cancer 5K run by manning a safety station and handing out water.

The Boy Scouts of America is a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to be prepared to be and do their best. It promotes character development, citizenship training, and physical fitness by offering merit badges to signify competence in a particular aspect. Recently rebranding to Scouts BSA, the organization now has dedicated Troops for males, for females, and for younger children.





# Carson Gardner Visits Fort Irwin with the Make-A-Wish Foundation May 24th, 2021

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, along with the 916th Support Brigade and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, was pleased to welcome 8-year-old Carson Gardner to Fort Irwin on May 24, to fulfill his wish to be a U.S. Army Soldier for a day. The day started by meeting with Brig. Gen. Curtis Taylor, who 'commissioned' him. 2nd Lt. Gardner rapidly moved up the ranks as the day progressed through visiting Horse Detachment, riding in tactical and armored vehicles, and viewing and participating in weapons systems drills and simulations. Col. Gardner closed out the day after meeting with Col. Hook. The Make-A-Wish Foundation, founded in 1980, is a nonprofit organization that seeks to realize wishes of children diagnosed with terminal illnesses. The organization operates in nearly 50 countries worldwide. Using funds from public and organizational contributions, returns from investments, and other fundraising activities, the Make-A-Wish Foundation works with public figures, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and other corporations to grant five categories of wishes: 'I wish to go', 'I wish to be', 'I wish to meet', 'I wish to have', or 'I wish to give'. Through its efforts, it aims to give strength and hope to the children, transform their lives for the better, and unite communities in the shared experiences.



# Regimental Spur Ride May 25th-26th, 2021



On the morning of May 25th, Troopers participating in the Spur Ride were present for the opening ceremony at Fritz Field, Fort Irwin, Calif. Immediately following the ceremony, participants conducted a layout of their equipment before departing into the training area.



Participants of the Spur Ride foot marched over 18 miles to 15 stations at Fort Irwin, Calif. from May 25th to May 26th. The stations consisted of traditional Cavalry tasks and Expert Infantryman Badge/Expert Soldier Badge tasks including call for fire, weapons lanes, react to contact, vehicle identification, obstacle reconnaissance, medical evacuation, unit history, and more.





# Blackhorse Association Visits Fort Irwin June 10th, 2021

During Rotation 21-08, several Blackhorse veterans, affiliated with the Blackhorse Association, and their spouses visited the National Training Center and Fort Irwin. Their day began after travelling to an observation point in the training area, where they watched as a small group of friendly armor routed the Rotational Training Unit. After touring Razish, watching a Horse Detachment demonstration, and receiving a guided tour at Robert W. Cone Heritage Center, they ended the day in the Holder Room at Regiment Headquarters.

The Blackhorse Association is one of our two veteran organizations. They hold annual reunions, provide scholarships to children and spouses of Soldiers who have served or are serving with the 11th ACR, distribute a newsletter, and run an online store. You can reach them at <https://www.blackhorse.org/>.



# Guam NG fights alongside 11ACR as Guest Blackhorse July 6th, 2021

During Rotation 21-08, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, of the Guam National Guard, operated in tandem with 11th ACR. Every Decisive Training Rotation, multiple "Guest Blackhorse" units fight alongside the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment as part of the Opposing Force. The arrangement is beneficial to both the National Training Center and the Blackhorse Regiment. The Regiment gains another capability to utilize against the Rotational Training Unit, and the Guest Blackhorse get time in a tough and realistic training environment that they are unaccustomed to as well as insight into how a near-peer real world enemy might operate against them.





# Regimental Run July 14th, 2021



The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment executed a Regimental Run on July 14th, at Fort Irwin, Calif., after returning from opportunity leave to build esprit de corps amongst our Troopers. The Regimental Run before rotation is a battle rhythm event. This particular run brought elements of Guest Blackhorse and the Regiment together before Decisive Action Rotation 21-08.5.



# Blackhorse presents the Colors for ACVVC Reunion August 27th-28th, 2021

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment sent the Horse Detachment to support the 36th annual 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Reunion in Dallas, Texas. The color guard was present on August 27th and 28th, for the Fiddler's Green Name Reading and the formal dinner.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia is one of our two veteran organizations. They hold annual reunions, provide scholarships to children and relatives of 11th ACVVC members or 11th ACR killed-in-action in Vietnam, distribute a quarterly newsletter, and run an online store. You can reach them at <https://www.11thcavnam.com>.





# Fort Irwin opens the General Robert W. Cone Heritage Center August 28th, 2021

The General W. Cone Heritage Center officially opened on August 28, after undergoing renovations for slightly over three years, to celebrate the 400th Decisive Action Rotation at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin. Mrs. Jill Cone was invited as a special guest to be at the opening ceremony.

Robert W. Cone served as the 2nd Squadron Operations Officer during Operation Desert Storm, the Regimental Operations Officer in 1991, and the Regimental Executive Officer in 1993. After becoming a General officer, he went to the National Training Center where, under his command, the training scenario began including counterinsurgency operations in urban terrain.

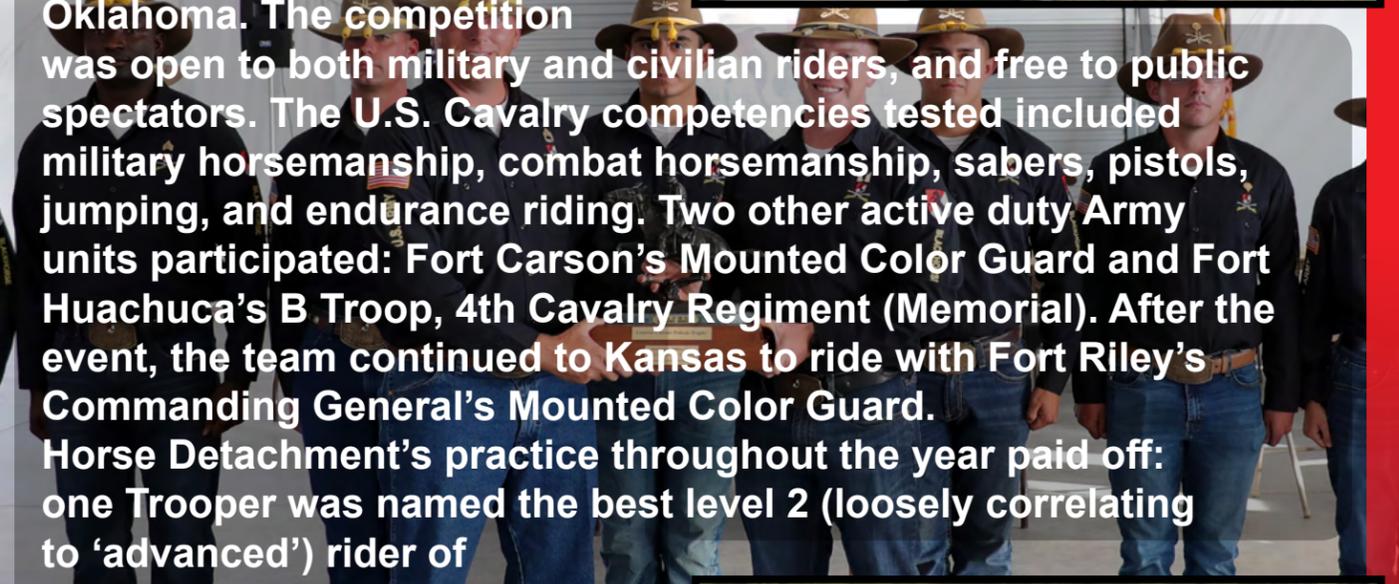
The Military & Civilian Spouses' Club of Fort Irwin operates a gift shop in the building. The center's curator, Mr. Kenneth Drylie, can be reached at <https://www.facebook.com/NTCHertigeCenter>. At the time of publication, the Heritage Center is only open for guided tours.



# Horse Detachment brings home the National Cavalry Competition Trophy September 21st-25th, 2021

Nine riders and their horses from Horse Detachment represented the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the Annual Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition, held by the U.S. Cavalry Association from September 21st to 25th at Historic Fort Reno, El Reno, Oklahoma. The competition was open to both military and civilian riders, and free to public spectators. The U.S. Cavalry competencies tested included military horsemanship, combat horsemanship, sabers, pistols, jumping, and endurance riding. Two other active duty Army units participated: Fort Carson's Mounted Color Guard and Fort Huachuca's B Troop, 4th Cavalry Regiment (Memorial). After the event, the team continued to Kansas to ride with Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

Horse Detachment's practice throughout the year paid off: one Trooper was named the best level 2 (loosely correlating to 'advanced') rider of the competition, and the detachment was awarded the General Casimir Pulaski Trophy, given to the "most outstanding military unit", for the 3rd time in a row. Every rider placed in the top 3 of at least one event and many placed in as many as three.





# 11th ACR hosts the Blackhorse Marathon September 25th, 2021

The Blackhorse Marathon, first held in Fulda, Germany, in 1977, returned this year on September 25th! Runners had a choice of the full 26.2 mile marathon route, a half marathon of 13.1 miles, or the option to take on the route with 4 other teammates.

The marathon was sponsored by the Blackhorse Association and held in remembrance of Maj. Gen. Robert J. Sunell. Col. Sunell was promoted to Brig. Gen while commanding the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (48th Colonel of the Regiment) at the Fulda Gap from 1978 to 1980. From there, he commanded the Army Training Support Center in Fort Eustis, VA, until 1983; served as the project manager of the M1 Abrams Tank until 1986; then was the Director of the Armored Family of Vehicles Task Force until 1987. His peers have referred to him as the “father of the modern tank”.



# 58th Combat Engineer Company conducts Live Demolition Range October 13th, 2021

On October 13th, the 58th Combat Engineer Company, 1st Squadron, conducted a live demolition range as part of 22-01 Blackhorse Stakes. 58th Combat Engineers trained on M112 Composition C4 Block Demolition Charges, M1A2 Bangalore Torpedos, 40-pound Composition H6 Cratering Charges, and 40-Pound M3A1 Shaped Demolition Charges. These tools are used to breach and overcome natural and enemy obstacles and fortifications, clear paths through wire and undergrowth obstructions, and assist in creating entrenchments by moving earth and boring holes.





# 11th ACR executes Live Fire Mortar Range October 13th, 2021

On October 13th, the Mortar Platoons assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, and Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, performed tasks relating to the Mortar Training and Evaluation Program as part of 22-01 Blackhorse Stakes. The M121 120mm Mortars are indirect-fire weapons systems outrange small arms and light weapons carried by infantry. The indirect fire assets have more destructive potential by changing the munitions, which in turn make them more versatile.



# 1st Squadron Takes Home Commanders Cup Trophy December 2nd, 2021

On December 2nd, the Regiment conducted the Commander's Cup. This event hosted Troopers from each Squadron to compete in a series of sports and events that included: Basketball, Cornhole, Dodgeball, Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Softball, Weightlifting, a 5k Run, Rower event, Ruck, an Obstacle Course, and the Murph challenge.

1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is the champion of this year's Commander's Cup, 2nd place goes to the Separates, consisting of Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, MICO, and Palehorse, and 3rd place goes to 2/11 Squadron.





# Regiment Holds Tree Lighting Ceremony

## December 2nd, 2021

Col. Todd Hook, Regimental Commander, and Regimental Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Walker, present Troopers a Regimental coin for the hard work and dedication in building and assisting in the Regimental Tree Lighting. Troopers from Maintenance Troop, RSS, 11th ACR dedicated many hours to the completion of the Tree Lighting.



Regimental Commander, Col. Todd Hook, and Regimental Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Walker, pose for a group photo with the Troopers that designed and built the Regimental Tree displayed in Wickam Park, Fort Irwin, Calif., on December 2nd, 2021: (from left to right, top) Spc. Thomas Horsey, Staff Sgt. Andrew Reeves, Spc. Jacob Allen, Spc. Jacob Sarabia, Warrant Officer William Nicely, (from left to right, bottom) Sgt. Smays Jauregui, and Sgt. Cesar Juarez. The Regimental Tree is the centerpiece of Wickam Park's holiday makeover.



Col. Todd Hook, Regimental Commander, speaks prior to lighting the Regimental Tree at Wickam Park, Fort Irwin, Calif., on December 2, 2021. The Regimental Tree Lighting was held in conjunction with the award ceremony for the Commander's Cup tournament, held earlier in the day.



# Cold Steel, 1/11 conducts first M1A2 Abrams live fire range

## December 9th, 2021



On Thursday, December 9, Troopers assigned to Cold Steel, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Calif. fired the first main battle tank round out of the M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Program (SEP) V2 in the Regiment's history.



Troopers that conducted 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's first M1A2 SEP V2 remote live fire were:

- Pfc. Jacob Blundell
- Pfc. Kyle Bossard
- Spc. Edwin Lopez
- Spc. Henry Williams

Remote fire was conducted under the direct supervision of Staff Sgt. Stephen Holtzclaw, Troop Master Gunner.





# The Regiment conducts EIB/ESB week December 13th-17th, 2021



On December 17, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment concluded EIB/ESB Week with an awards ceremony on Fritz Field, Fort Irwin, Calif. The EIB/ESB test measures a Soldier's physical fitness and ability to perform to standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of critical skills. 28 Soldiers successfully completed the EIB/ESB testing week to standard. EIB candidates can be distinguished as "True Blue" for completing all tasks without a single "No-Go," ESB candidates can be distinguished as "Perfect Edge" for the same accomplishment. Six Troopers earned "True Blue," two Troopers earned "Perfect Edge."



# Capt. Gabriella Katz and Capt. Amanda Wheat Make Regimental History



Capt. Gabriella R. Katz took command of Hawg Company, 2/11 Squadron, from Capt. Christopher W. Abdul on May 24, 2021, at Fritz Field, Fort Irwin, Calif. Capt. Katz is the first female Armor company commander in 11th ACR history.



Capt. Amanda Wheat took command of 58th Combat Engineer Company, 1/11 Squadron, from Capt. Pierce Wasdahl on April 8th, 2021, at Fritz Field, Fort Irwin, Calif. Capt. Wheat is the first female Combat Engineer company commander in 11th ACR history.



# Decisive Action Rotation 21-02 Electronic Warfare



Troopers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment scan the electromagnetic spectrum for signals such as radio, infrared, or radar in effort to disrupt or deny the Rotational Training Unit's capability.



Troopers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment provide electronic support to track electromagnetic energy sources to recognize threats, collect targeting and signals intelligence data, and inform future operational planning.



Troopers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment prepare to conduct an electronic attack using electromagnetic energy to degrade or deny the Rotational training Unit's use of the spectrum.



# Decisive Action Rotation 21-05



A Trooper assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment operating an Opposing Force Surrogate Vehicles (OSV) scans the surrounding environment for signs of the Rotational Training Units. OSV's are used to replicate vehicles of modern near-peer adversaries.



Regimental Support Squadron, 11th ACR, Chaplain, Daniel Kim, assist Troopers with setting up their Field Feeding Site during Decisive Actions Rotation 21-05. Chaplains have a vital role with the morale and Esprit De Corps within the Military.



An Opposing Force Surrogate Vehicles (OSV's) scans the surrounding environment for signs of the Rotational Training Units.





# Decisive Action Rotation



21-06



Troopers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment engage the Rotational Training Unit from the rooftop of a building in Razish, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. These engagements test the RTU's ability to secure and control an urban environment.



Oposing Force Surrogate Vehicles (OSV's) advance toward the Rotational Training Unit.



Troopers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment attempt to eliminate an M2 Bradley in the city of Razish, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. These engagements test the RTU's ability to secure and control an urban environment.



# Decisive Action Rotation



21-08

A Trooper assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment throws an MRE Grenade toward the Rotational Training Unit. MRE Grenades are used to simulate a Frag Grenade and would have the same effect as a live Grenade during training events.



Oposing Force Surrogate Vehicles (OSV's) scan the surrounding environment for signs of the Rotational Training Units. OSV's are used to replicate vehicles of modern near-peer adversaries.



Oposing Force Surrogate Vehicles (OSV's) advances toward the Rotational Training Unit during Decisive Actions Rotation 21-05. Attacks like this examine the RTU's ability to quickly mobilize and defend vital terrain environments.





# Decisive Action Rotation

21-08.5



Trooper assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment applies covering fire for Troopers advancing toward the Rotational Training Unit. These Urban battles are vital to the success and mission of the training environment.



Trooper assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment fires a simulated Rocket Propelled Grenade at the Rotational Training Unit.



Trooper assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment engages the advancing Rotational Training Unit during the Battle of Ujen.



# Decisive Action Rotation

21-09



A Main Battle Tank (MBT) assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment advances toward the Rotational Training Unit's defenses. 11th ACR fields a lethal and professional opposition force to train U.S. Brigade Combat Teams.



Troopers assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment position themselves against a wall during the battle of Razish. Simulated battles in an urban environment are vital to the success of training during Decisive Actions Rotations.



Opposing Force Surrogate Vehicles (OSV's) counter attacks toward the Rotational Training Unit during Decisive Actions Rotation 21-09. Attacks like this examine the RTU's ability to quickly mobilize and defend vital terrain environments.



# Decisive Action Rotation



21-10



A Opposing Force Surrogate Vehicle (OSV) assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment scans the surrounding for signs of the Rotational Training Unit's defenses. 11th ACR fields a lethal and professional opposition force to train U.S. Brigade Combat Teams.



A Guest Blackhorse Trooper provides overwatch for his fellow Troopers during a mounted attack toward the Hidden Valley, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. These mounted attacks help assess the Rotational Training Units ability to quickly



A Guest Blackhorse Trooper sprints through screening smoke and covering fire toward the Rotational Training Unit.



# Decisive Action Rotation



22-02



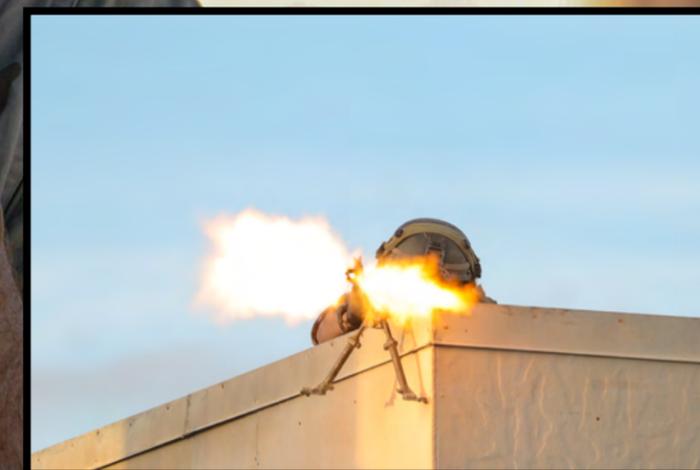
A Opposing Force Surrogate Vehicle (OSV) assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment advances toward the Rotational Training Unit's defenses. The 11th ACR is home to advanced mechanized tactics and training.



A Blackhorse Trooper provides overwatch for the city of Barasu during an attack by the Rotational Training Unit.



A Trooper assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment suppresses the Rotation Training Unit with a M240 machine gun. Urban battles are vital to the improvement of battle drills of tactics of the Rotation Training Units.





The Blackhorse

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# THE FINEST IN THE LAND!



**Free Blackhorse Association Membership for Active Duty Soldiers!**

Visit the following to sign up now!  
<https://www.blackhorse.org/join2/>

**Spouse Scholarship Opportunities!**

In 2022, the Blackhorse Association will have opportunities for Spouses of 11th ACR Active Duty Soldiers to apply for either a full-time or part-time scholarship. The scholarship is intended to support them as they continue their education while their Soldier serves training America's Army at the National Training Center.

Visit the following for more information and to apply:  
<https://www.blackhorse.org/scholarships/>



# WANTED

— 2500 ELITE TROOPERS —



## "PRIDE OF THE CAVALRY"

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

**Anthony Walker**  
23rd Regimental Command Sergeant Major



**Todd W. Hook**  
69th Colonel of the Regiment



IN SERVICE TO THE NATION SINCE 1901