



DIAMOND CUTTER



**From
Front to Back
'Red
Dragons'
Take No Slack**

Mission Ready Soldier's
sights set
on All-Army Combatives

Commander's Corner

Col. Dominic E. Pompelia



Diamond
Cutter
Vol 1, Issue 6

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Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the 75th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla.

These past few months have been an extremely busy time for everyone here in the 75th Fires Brigade and in the Lawton/Fort Sill Community.

We continue to deploy Soldiers to every CENTCOM contingency mission and prepare others to deploy over the upcoming months.

I know at the same time our Rear Detachment personnel are working hard to address issues that are important to you as Family members.

I'm very pleased and proud of the hard work you've put into our Family Readiness Groups, our Commands and the 75th Fires Brigade.

Doing all this you still find time to contribute additional resources to Soldiers and

Families as volunteers. You are truly heroes for the selfless service you exhibit to the 75th Fires Brigade.

I can't thank you enough for your commitment to our Soldiers and to our Families. Your dedication as volunteers directly reflects upon the Army Values, and I am extremely proud to have you on the Diamond Brigade Team.

Thank you to all of our family members and friends in the 75th Fires Brigade family for your support as we deploy to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. You are in our thoughts as we begin our new mission.

Tough As Diamonds!!

*Col. Dominic and
Helen Pompelia*

Cover: Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, patrol a mock detainment facility during a training exercise at McGregor Range, N.M. (Photo by Maj. Deanna Bague, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office).

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(Back Cover): 75th Fires Bde. (from left to right) volunteers Christie Sandor, Maj. John Sandor, Capt. Daniel Benson and his wife Lisa Benson make small talk prior to the reception. Benson said he and Lisa volunteer at all FRG events, functions and meetings for two batteries because volunteering is all about helping others. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo)



Family Readiness Support Group

By Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo

Volunteers Recognition Reception

More than 250 75th Fires Brigade Family Readiness Group volunteers attended the 75th Fires Brigade Volunteers Recognition Reception at the Fort Sill Patriot's Club here April 8.

"The Army is a volunteer Army, and we need Soldiers and Soldiers need families, and the Army needs families, and that's the cycle that holds us all together right here," said Lt. Col. John Sims, 75th Fires Brigade, brigade commander. "And you volunteers take care of us, and we want to take care of you ... You sacrifice a lot and it's an important sacrifice.

"And the other folks who sacrifice, and are often unsung, are the kids. The moving, leaving their friends and family, lonely nights and scary deployments; When you go home tonight please make sure you give them a big hug and tell them 'thank you' for what they're doing for mom and dad serving our nation—they are our future," he said.

The Soldiers, spouses and volunteers recognized more than 212 volunteers for participating in numerous 75th Fires Brigade activities.

"The Family Readiness Group is not like the previous Family Support Group," said Nicole Haycock, 75th Fires Brigade, brigade Family Readiness Support Assistant. "It's so broad what they do for the Soldiers and spouses in the brigade.

"The FRG could not function without the amazing commitment, talent and willingness to volunteer their time. Some have children with a deployed spouse—it's hard but they succeed by relying on



Thirteen volunteers did a Black Dress Skit adapted from "The Basic Black Dress" poem by an unnamed author. The skit volunteers dressed to portray the "image" of the military wife through various phases of their spouses' military career. The volunteers (from right to left) Michelle "Shower Wife" Van Cleave; (not shown) Pam "Tacky Wife" Kelly; (seated) Dawn "Granny" Van Slam Brook; Cpt. Brandon "Pregnant Wife" Boatwright; Nicole "Golfer Wife" Haycock; (not shown) Cheryl "Housecleaning Wife" Najera; Lorrie "R & R wife" Shelton; (back) Annie "The Bride" Anderson; Hiedi "Moving Wife" Bond; (back) Jamie "Heroine Wife" James; Jill "Volunteer Wife" Clark; Pam "Pantsuit Wife" Williams; Libby "Reveille Wife" Smith.

each other," said Haycock.

The Soldiers and spouses who have not deployed said they not only enjoy volunteering but they understand how important their efforts are to the Soldiers deployed and the families here at Fort Sill.

"We are focused on helping families that are missing key pieces of their usual support and trying to ensure they remain taken care of so that the deployed Soldiers can focus on their mission and return to the family they left behind—It is about helping others," said Capt. Daniel Benson, B Battery, 17th Field Artillery, battery commander and C Btry, 1st Bn. 17th FAR, rear detachment

commander. "Spouses and volunteers help each other out in an uncountable number of ways. They provide rides to appointments, someone to talk to and listen, and sources of information for just about everything.

Benson and his wife Lisa volunteer at all FRG events, functions and meetings for two batteries, but Lisa is also the B Battery FRG leader.

"They send care packages and pictures which build morale of deployed Soldiers. Sponsors help defer costs of events and activities to help now single parents keep their family morale and sanity," Benson said. "In general, the volunteer work helps the quality of life in all aspects."

The highlight of the reception was the Black Dress Skit.

The skit revolved around the poem The Basic Black Dress written by an unknown author. Thirteen volunteers dressed to portray the "image" of the military wife through various phases of their spouses' military career.

"Today is an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' in a very humble way ... it's simple, but it's heartfelt and sincere," said Sims. "We can't thank you enough, and we will never be able to—try as we might ... you are great, giving people. You are bearing the weight and doing it well, so be proud of yourself and thank you."





'Mission Ready' ... for a **FIGHT!!**

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo

Spc. (P) Nathan Nelson, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th "Mission Ready" Field Artillery, TRAP rifleman, sits inside the Fort Sill Combatives "cage" and thinks about the up-coming 2008 All-Army Combatives Tournament. To be so close to a 2007 All-Army victory, only to lose it due to a poor call, only strengthens Nelson's resolve.

When asked "why did you get involved with this" the Army specialist shrugs and responds, "I can't explain the feeling I get from this ... I get a thrill out of it."

During the All-Army Invitational Combatives Tournament, Spc. Nate Nelson, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th "Mission Ready" Field Artillery Brigade, Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel platoon, clinched a second place victory at Fort Benning, Ga., October 13-14, 2007.

"I've been wrestling for eight to nine years but have only been doing combatives for about seven to eight months," Nelson said. "I started off coming to open mat night and started liking it ... I started to learn all the good stuff."

During the Monday and Wednesday 6 to 9 p.m. open mat nights boxers, wrestlers, judo specialists and various other fighting styles get together to spar.

But unlike a "fight club" they take the

time to coach each other on their fighting moves.

Since being assigned to Fort Sill April 2007, Nelson has trained and since certified to Level 2 in the Army combatives program.

Once Nelson became more interested in combatives, Fort Sill combatives instructors began working with him, and have seen a marked improvement.

"Before he just used pure strength and tried to power it out," said Staff Sgt. Bronson Etse, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Bn., 28th FAR, post combatives instructor. "He is more technical now and transitions real well for a lot more submissions."

So if Nelson eight months ago fought Nelson of today, Nelson of today would definitely win because he has grown physically and mentally, Nelson of today said.

"I know when to roll my hips for better positioning and to make transitions," Nelson said. And transitioning faster, or

a “Chain Attack,” means moving from one technique to the next for the purpose of overwhelming your opponent.

“He has a passion for this stuff,” Etse said. “He is a competitor and it shows.”

“I feel you have to train harder and care,” said Nelson.

“If you want to get good at anything you have to put in the time. I don’t care how good you are at it naturally; if you don’t put in the time you’re not going to win,” he said.

And the All-Army Combatives Tournament was another part of his growth process.

“It was a hella’va experience I’ll say that,” he said. “I was nervous because this was my first time—these were the best (fighters) in the Army. I’m not as used to switching fighting styles like they are.”

“I didn’t know what to expect, so I just said ‘if I just go out there and fight hard enough, I can win matches,’” he said. “It showed me where my level of training was at, where I needed to improve and where everyone in the Army is at; if you train harder then the next man, you will always come through.”

Etse also attended the tournament with Nelson but he said this fighter did not get a fair shake.

“There was a bad stoppage—the referee D-Qed him. The (referee) said he picked up (his opponent)

and slammed the opponent which if you look in the rules, there is slamming—you can slam your opponent,” Etse said. “The referee came over to us and gave his apologies because he knew he made a mistake. It cost (Nelson) the fight. He could have been the Army’s Champion for 155 (pounds).”

“... they better hope I don’t come back at 140 (pound weight class) ...”

Spc. Nathan Nelson
2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment

Several people went to the judges to discuss the decision, but regardless ...

“Once the call is made it is final—it was too late, Etse said. “There’s always next year.”

Next year’s options are tight due to a pending deployment for Nelson.

But he said he is scheduling his block leave around the 2008 tournament.

“I’m not going to say anything negative to (that opponent) because it wasn’t his fault—we all know that—but I’ll be back ... and they better hope I don’t come back at 140 (pound weight class).



Nelson (top) spars with friend Cpl. Anthony Sheffey, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, TRAP team leader, at the Fort Sill Combatives Training Center. Staff Sgt. Bronson Etse (standing right), HHB, 428th FA, chief instructor, mentors and coaches on the side to help improve the Soldiers fighting techniques.

Artillery Soldiers train to fight terrorism ... with cuffs, *not rockets*

Story
by Maj. Deanna Bague
Fort Bliss Public Affairs

MCGREGOR RANGE, N.M.

Members from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, learned detainee operations under the instruction of observer controller/trainers from Task Force Outlaw, 5th Armored Brigade, Friday.

The 3-13th is a multiple-launch rocket system unit from Fort Sill, Okla. whose core mission is to provide fire support through cannon, missile or rocket, said Capt. Eric Treschl, C Battery commander. But the unit has been designated by U.S. Forces Command to deploy and assume an "in lieu of" mission as military police companies conducting detainee operations in southern Iraq, said Lt. Col. John Kelly, battalion commander.

"Never having done this mission before, (I think) the training here is top

notch," said Kelly. "Task Force Outlaw and the 5th Armored Brigade are doing an outstanding job preparing these Soldiers to take on this mission."

The 3-13th has faced several challenges, said Treschl. The unit was completing their MLRS tasks last summer when they received a warning order to change their mission from field artillery to security force training. Treschl said they complied, but after their third month of training for convoy security protection, they switched back to field artillery. Within 90 days the unit was shooting rockets again, said Treschl.

"We came back from a live fire and they told us we would be doing detainee ops," said Spc. Jason Carter, fire direction control specialist, B Battery, 3-13th FA Regt.

"When they told us we would be supporting detainee operations, I looked at it as a chance to do something different, a chance to do something new," said Sgt. Joshua Jehl, MLRS gunner, also from B Btry.

The unit's struggles weren't over, said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Wolfe, operations sergeant. The all-male field artillery unit was short of Soldiers needed to meet the strength requirement for the detainee operations mission. So they used Soldiers from other units under their higher headquarters, the 75th Fires Bde., to augment the 3-13th.

Wolfe was originally the senior fire control noncommissioned officer for the 1st Bn., 17th FA Regt., before he volunteered to transfer. He said it was a close call, because his request was almost



Spc. Kevin Prueter (front), and Sgt. Dustin Siegert, both from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, hold down a mock detainee who attempted to stab Prueter during a training exercise.

Photo by Maj. Deanna Bague



Photo by Maj. Deanna Bague

With shotguns “on point” members of 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment prepare to search a detainment facility during a training exercise at McGregor Range, N.M.

not granted.

“I volunteered, my chain of command told me no,” said Wolfe. “I ended up sending some of my Soldiers over; a few weeks later, a slot opened up and then I was able to come over. It’s hard to send your Soldiers off to do a mission and you don’t do it. As (a leader), you feel that if you are going to send Soldiers to do it, you need to be willing to do it yourself.”

Kelly said he understands the compelling aspiration to be with one’s Soldiers when they deploy. He will not be deploying with his unit.

“That is not something I’m proud of, but ... this is what the Army has asked us to do,” said Kelly. “My leader philosophy is always (to) recognize that I got to

“When they told us we would be supporting detainee operations, I looked at it as a chance to do something different, a chance to do something new ...”

Sgt. Joshua Jehl
3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment

prepare the team to execute with or without my presence.”

The active-duty unit will be reporting to the 304th MP Bn. under the command of Lt. Col. Carol Haas. The 304th is a Reserve unit based at Nashville, Tenn. Haas said both units crossed trained while they were here training and immersed

into the living conditions they would encounter in theater.

“We are very excited to have the active duty element as part of our mission and as part of our command and control,” said Hass. “Everything is working out very well from comments I have had from both units.”

Treschl said he attributes a lot of credit to the unit’s Family Readiness Group for including all of the additional Soldiers the 3-13th received. He said the FRG is a vital part of the deployment when it comes to taking care of

young Soldiers and family members, and has almost tripled as a result of the augmentation.

“I’ve been blessed with our FRG leader Michelle Moore,” said Treschl. “She is a great asset to this organization and a volunteer in every sense of the word.”

Horn of Africa



2-18th heads for the less charted regions as part of the Joint Task Force Horn of Africa

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class
Kelly McCargo

The temperature fluctuated from 70 degrees to 44 back to 69 then to a bone chilling 25 within the three-week time span.

More than 300 "Mission Ready" 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment Soldiers culminated several months worth of theater specific individual required training during the 2nd Bn., 18th FAR Capstone Field Training Exercise here at Fort Sill.

"It's been pretty good training ... I'm pretty confident with the mission and the Soldiers have been performing well by taking a lot of initiative on their own," said Sgt. Jason Adams, B Battery, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, infantry

team leader. "They have been gathering necessary equipment for the mission without being told, and they are pretty motivated."

The battalion's primary mission is to assist in training the partner nations' militaries throughout the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa area to prevent conflict, promote national and regional security and protect Coalition interests in order to prevail against extremism, according to the CJTF-HOA website.

Partner nations include, but are not limited to, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen, according to the CJTF-HOA website.

"We are going to work with a trained (Djiboutian) army—a friendly force. It's the same as working with Britain or Germany," said Adams.

Interacting with the Djiboutian public and the overall CJTF-HOA mission should be seen as boon for the seemingly off-putting perception of U.S. Forces due to Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Adams.

While assigned to CJTF-HOA, the battalion will focus on military-to-military training, civil-military operations and engagement, according to CJTF-HOA website.

Among other things the battalion may also be required to assist by providing clean water, functional schools, improved roadways and improved medical facilities, according to the CJTF-HOA website.

"It puts us out there to be seen doing good things and makes us look good as a country," Adams said.

Very little information was known about their assignment

so the entire battalion and other Army units pitched in to contribute to a realistic training criteria well before the deployment.

Furthermore, in 2007 several representatives from the command group went to CJTF-HOA headquarters in Djibouti to see first hand what they may be experiencing.

"We based our training on information we received from the 196th Theatre Support Brigade in Hawaii," said Maj. Stephen Mefford, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, operations officer in charge. "They provided us some of the plans they used for the Guam Guard; the last four rotations they went through (in Africa). Additionally we got in contact with personnel from the Old Guard, D (Company) 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry that are currently over there as well as A Company 1st Bn., 16th Bn., out of Fort Riley. So we

took some of the information they gave us and used it as a training plan.”

The battalion used Spanish speaking Soldiers to simulate a “foreign” language barrier which was overcome with a Spanish translator. They also used the actual CJTF-HOA military to military training slides to familiarize themselves with the training criteria.

“I think it is going to be fantastic. Based on the experiences they learned in

Afghanistan operating in a similar type of role (training the Afghan National Army) that will be beneficial carrying over to us plus the training we just had—we perceived from the feedback that this (deployment) is going to pay off big dividends,” Mefford said.

Unit noncommissioned officers also used their channels to ensure their Soldiers had as much insight as possible into the upcoming mission.

“The best we could do is research the area,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Liptak, C Brty, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel, 2nd squad leader.

The Soldiers took to the training aggressively, Liptak said, and met all of the objectives his leaders established.

A veteran of Kosovo and Iraq, Liptak said the African theater will offer a welcome change for the average deployment.

“I can’t wait to get there,” Liptak said. “Everyone I’ve talked to is excited to get there to see what it is actually like.”

“Morale is very high right now, and we’re all looking forward to this deployment,” Mefford said in agreement.

And once the capstone event was complete the Soldiers gathered together to discuss the lessons learned and implement those changes to their standard operating procedure ... and wait for that final call.

... And on March 7, more than 300 friends and family attended the 2nd Bn., 18th FAR departure ceremony at the Fort Sill Rinehart Gym.



Sgt. Marcos Pagan, HHB, 75th Fires Brigade, “translates” for 2nd Bn., 18th FAR troops with mock Djibutian displaced personnel to negotiate a food transaction. The Mission Ready troops used the Spanish language to simulate potential linguistic barriers they may have while deployed.



Sgt Jason Adams (in uniform right), 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, infantry team leader, simulates training the Djibutian military with the actual troop leading procedure classes that he will use at JTF-HOA.

Sgt. Kenneth Santiago (far left), C Btry, 2nd Bn., 18th FAR, simulates being a Djibutian translator. The Mission Ready Soldiers have already identified the complexities of giving a class in conjunction with a translator.



Staff Sgt. Erick Bunch, fire support NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 75th Fires Brigade calls for fire during training on the Joint Fires Effects Training System here March 11. Bunch participated in the first networked training on the JFETS between centers in Fort Rucker, Ala., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Sill.

Joint Fires Effects Training System

Realistic All-Year Training for Today's Military at a Fraction of the Cost, Challenges

Story and photos by Sgt. Joe Battle

The rock and roll band Cinderella once said, "You don't know what you got 'till it's gone."

For many field artillery Soldiers, this can happen because there are not many opportunities to practice their MOS skills without scheduling ranges, waiting for good weather, coordinating ammunition and many other challenges.

However, for Soldiers here, there is a high-tech alternative to spending countless hours waiting on training opportunities.

Soldiers from the 75th Fires Brigade recently took advantage of the post's Joint Fires Effects Training System to help keep their job skills fresh and learn some new tricks of their trades.

The JFETS is a three-part computer system that replicates situations that Soldiers could run into while deployed, said Lt. Col. Chris Neiderhauser, Chief of Simulations, Fort Sill Fires Battle

Lab. The JFETS authentically produces scenarios that field artillery Soldiers could run into while manning an observation post.

Everything from call for fire to close combat attack can be done with the JFETS, said Neiderhauser.

The three parts of the system represent different posts which Soldiers could be manning, Neiderhauser added. The Urban Terrain Module, Open Terrain Module and the Close Air Support Module all simulate situations that can and do occur when deployed, he said.

The Urban Terrain Module or UTM is a replication of a middle-eastern apartment with three windows, said 2nd Lt. Kevin Wiley, Battalion Liaison Officer, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment. Everything from couches, broken windows and the wallpaper is added to create a realistic environment

where a forward observer would set up an observation post.

In the UTM, Soldiers must scan all three windows for enemy action and take the appropriate action if the enemy is encountered, he added.

The Open Terrain Module, or OTM sets Soldiers in open terrain to take the appropriate actions when encountering enemies, said Neiderhauser. It uses a large, wraparound projection screen where Soldiers have a 115 degree view of the battlefield.

The Close Air Support Module, or CASM helps Soldiers utilize air power to complete a mission, Neiderhauser said. With a 315 degree wraparound screen and a 360 degree overhead projection screen, Soldiers can actually see the air support they call in, see it's effects and "walk it in" if necessary.

Even though the technology is



Pfc. Cody McClure, fire support specialist, C/26 Target Acquisition Battery, 75th Fires Brigade and 2nd Lt. Kevin Wiley, battalion liaison officer, 1st Bn, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th FiB plot points on a map during the Urban Terrain Module of the Joint Fires Effects Training System here March 11.

advanced, the Soldiers say that the best advice comes from the staff, who are primarily made up of retired field artillery Soldiers.

However, for anyone who thinks that the training sounds easy, Troy Piirainen, JFETS operator may beg to differ.

“We can throw anything from sniper fire to an entire Soviet regiment into the scenario to see how the Soldiers who are training will react,” he said. “If they start off well, we will throw a little more difficulty at them to see how they do. If they do well after that, then we throw in a little more.”

The JFETS staff wants them to know how to work well under the stress of the battlefield, said Piirainen.

“It is better to mess up here, where we can reset the computer, than it would be to mess up on a range or while deployed,” he added.

Although the training on the JFETS can not replace actual field training, it compliments it very well, said Neiderhauser.

“The biggest difference is that it is not weather or system dependant – we don’t

have Soldiers waiting on a storm to pass or for a helicopter that may be broken down somewhere at a fuel point,” he said.

“Another advantage is that when we have Soldiers come in to train, for example the Soldiers from the 75th (FiB), and they find that something is not realistic, we can change it,” Neiderhauser said. “Anything from the scenarios to the way that buttons work on the equipment can be changed to replicate the way that they would work in the real world.”

“(The JFETS) is a great training device,” said Pfc. Cody McClure, fire support specialist, C/26 Target Acquisition Battery. “It is the closest thing to real fire I have seen.”

“I have been to the range one time since AIT, but I have gotten to use the JFETS a few times in the past month,” added McClure. “I do have

to say that the staff has been awesome – even if you make a mistake, they tactfully tell you what you did wrong and how you can correct it.”

“Without being in the field, the JFETS very accurately depicts real world situations,” said Pfc. Chris Hansen, fire support specialist, C/26 TAB. “With the amount

of information available and the short time it takes to set up, this is a very useful tool that we can use.”

“I do have to say that the staff here has been very helpful,” said Hansen. “They bring their prior experience to the sessions and help show us what went wrong and how to fix it.”

Staff Sgt. Erick Bunch, fire support NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 75th FiB felt that the JFETS helped keep him and those training with him sharp on the MOS skills that can deteriorate if not used.

“If you don’t use it, you lose it,” he stated. “That’s what this is for—we can perform our MOS without having to actually coordinate field time.”

“This way, we can get in more great training, with less time and manpower used in the setup,” added Bunch. “We can do things in here that we couldn’t do out in the field - This is the place to mess up. Better here than out there!”



Operators of the Joint Fires Effects Training System monitor a scenario during the Urban Terrain Module of the first ever networked JFETS training event here March 11.

FACTOID:

Diamond Bde. History In the Making!!

by Sgt. Joe M. Battle

75th Fires Brigade Soldiers recently had the opportunity to make history here by participating in the first-ever combined Joint Fires Effects Training System combined training between JFETS centers in Fort Sill, Fort Rucker, Ala. and Fort Benning, Ga., March 12.

"Through the JFETS, we have networked in aviation assets from Fort Rucker, infantry assets from Fort Benning and fires assets from Fort Sill and combined them into scenarios so they and Soldiers from the 75th FiB can train together," said Lt Col. Chris Neiderhauser, Chief of Simulations, Fort Sill Fires Battle Lab.

"This is the first time that we have ever had this type of event between the centers," Neiderhauser added.

The training will help train everyone to work together whether it is calling for fire or a close combat attack.

The week-long training event has been progressing through a "crawl-walk-run" phase, he said.

"During the 'crawl' step we had to do an integration test to see if we could see each other," added Neiderhauser.

"The next step we had to do was see if we could kill each other – just to keep a fair battle space," he said jokingly.

"During the 'walk' phase, we increase the difficulty of the missions. We add some enemy actions that weren't in the crawl phase," said Neiderhauser.

The "run" phase brings in a new level of difficulty for the Soldiers with more enemy actions and more difficult scenarios added to the picture, he said.

"(75th FiB Soldiers) have made this training more valuable – they gave us unbiased feedback by letting us know what they feel is right and wrong compared to real world situations," said Neiderhauser.

"We really appreciate the help from the 75th FiB for providing Soldiers and their time," he added. It has been extremely valuable because they have got to learn new techniques and they have helped teach us new things as well.

"What the Soldiers from the 75th (FiB) have taught us helps us provide training to the rest of the troops participating in this exercise."

By Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo

Medical Communication for Combat Casualty Care

Diamond Medics get state-of-the art medical technology

In many medical TV shows the doctor walks up to the foot of a patients' bed, removes a clipboard then asks, "How are we doing today ..."

But in this day and age, U.S. Military medical personnel will have the ability to evaluate ANY servicemembers medical history with a palm pilot like device that can attach to their body armor or rigger belt.

More than 16 Fort Sill combat medical Soldiers trained on the Medical Communication for Combat Casualty Care here March 25-27.

"It's basically a computer system maintained on a Soldier in a tactical situation," said 2nd Lt. Crystal Wilks, 75th Fires Brigade, brigade medical officer. "(The computer) allows the Soldier access to comprehensive medical information."

The MC4 field system is basically comprised of a laptop with a personal digital assistant. However, it's the state of the art software, or Battlefield Medical Information System Telemedicine, that will distinguish the MC4 as an integral part in today's medical field.

"The whole system is a 'semi-secure' data base, with the PDA's that come with the system, frontline medics can send information to a doctor at a clinic or hospital in almost real time speed,"

said Sgt 1st Class Rene Chassaigne, 75th Fires Bde., brigade medical NCOIC.

"The system that is kept at the clinics or hospitals is a giant data base that stores all this information. It's a giant 'patient tracker.'"

With this system, U.S. military physicians will be able to have complete read-only access to servicemembers medical history anywhere in the world; a service that a majority of civilians do not even have.

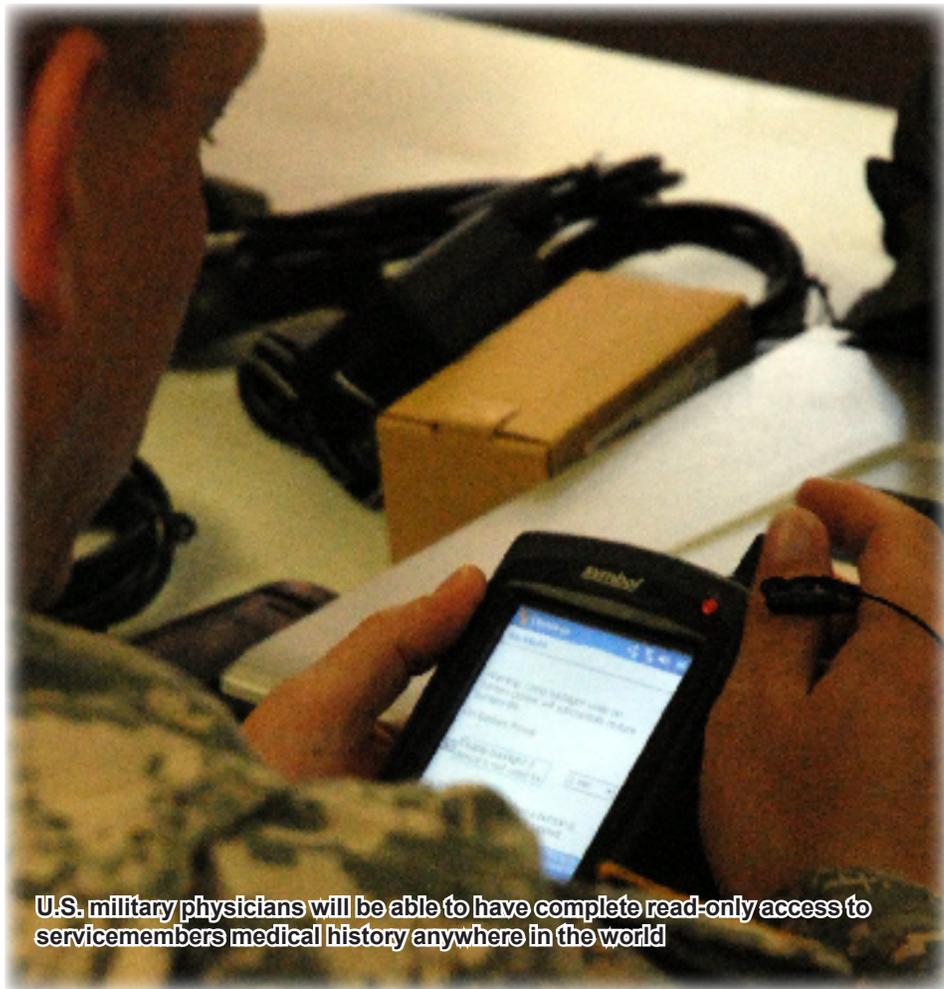
"After the first round of Desert Storm people came down with the Gulf War Syndrome ... we had to track down their records and find out what and how they were treated," said Troy Callaway, MC4 trainer. Many "hard copies" of Soldiers' medical records had been lost or locked away for several years and of the records found there were several issues with discerning some physicians' handwriting, Callaway said.

Due to some of these shortcomings in Soldiers treatment, a 2004 Presidential mandate was issued to have all Soldiers' records electronically tracked, said Callaway.

With the MC4, U.S. medical personnel will be able to accurately report ongoing treatment and extent of the patients' injuries prior to evacuating the patient to



Pfc. Brandon Melrose, 2nd Bn., 18th Field Artillery Regiment, field medic, learns to adjust the MC4 PDA's settings during the MC4 training at Fort Sill March 26.



U.S. military physicians will be able to have complete read-only access to servicemembers medical history anywhere in the world

physicians at a nearby coalition medical facility.

The information is not only transmitted to the proper medical staff—giving them adequate time to prepare to treat the Soldier—but it is also records a legible treatment log for future reference.

So if a Soldier is injured by an improvised explosive device and evacuated to a combat support hospital, medical personnel will be able to log all of the servicemembers treatment into a neat and accurate package. That medic will then transmit that servicemembers patient information into a vast server system called the Theatre Medical Data Store which is also sent to the Clinic Data Repository at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Once secured at the CDR, all U.S. military medical staff worldwide are able to access that precise treatment at anytime.

Furthermore, years after the Soldier is released from duty his or her medical record will still be accessible on a secure server. DoD is still working to ensure pertinent state (non-military) agencies, like the Department of Veteran's Affairs,

have the necessary access to treat former servicemembers.

"This is a lifelong record," he said. "If an 18 year-old Soldier out in the field who gets injured ... when he's 80 years-old VISTA will still be able to see what happened."

VISTA, or the Veterans Health Information Services and Technology Architecture, enables VA clinicians to view and edit electronic health records, and provides access to images such as x-rays, photos, or documents, throughout VA's 1,400 site system. Veterans increasingly have access to their records and more opportunity to successfully manage their own health because of personalized electronic health records, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs website.

So if a servicemember is evacuated to Landstuhl Army Medical Center, Germany, and then forwarded to Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, an Army physician will walk up to the servicemember's bed, access the MC4 and say, "So, I see you received ..."

CONTACT YOUR RETENTION NCO TODAY!

**75th Fires Brigade
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SSG Lara / SSG Eadie
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SSG Jefferson – 442-3493**

**1-17 FA Battalion
SSG Reyes – 442-6452**

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