



TCM-ABCT & Reconnaissance
Fort Benning, Georgia

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TCM-Recon Newsletter

Director's Message

By COL William T. Nuckols
Director, TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance

BFSB and Reconnaissance Community,

As we move into the holiday season, I want to extend my best wishes to the members of the Army's Reconnaissance Community and their families.

The changing focus of reconnaissance efforts in support of the Army of 2020 has generated discussions and ideas across all echelons and formations. To support this growing diversity, we have decided to rename the monthly BFSB Newsletter. It will now be the TCM-Recon Newsletter. In conjunction with the ABCT monthly newsletter, TCM- ABCT/Recon now has two forums with which to reach a larger community. Our goal is now to cross publish information in both forums to reach that community addressing topics and issues that apply to both. The TCM-Recon Newsletter's primary focus will remain the Army's Battlefield Surveillance Brigades but will also expand into areas pertinent to all formations.

The development of Courses of Action supporting the R&S BCT continues. TCM-Recon is now working closely with FORSCOM and the Army G3/5/7 War Plans Office to develop the way ahead on the three proposed Reconnaissance and Security Brigade Combat Teams. Initial mission analysis has revealed some significant challenges to the construct to include the availability of BCTs, enablers, force multipliers and unit locations. TCM-Recon's focus is on developing a training strategy to support the unit and the team is working closely with the MCoE Doctrine & Training Division to create viable training plans for the whole formation.

TCM-Recon continues to execute the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment. The team has completed the Functional Needs Analysis (FNA) and is currently analyzing the data that came from those workshops and is conducting capability gap analysis and assessment. The team will consolidate that information and begin writing the FNA Product which will confirm the capability gaps of our recon formations. We expect to have the FNA completed to include staffing and revision in early January. The next event will be the Functional Solutions Analysis Workshops where the team will begin developing DOMLPF solutions to address the capability gaps in the formations.

Finally, I want to recognize the 163rd and 303rd Military Intelligence Battalions, currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's headquarters and 2-38th Cavalry Squadron deployed to Kosovo. We wish them continued success and pray for their safe return.

As always, TCM ABCT/Recon is here to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact me or my team for assistance.

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525 BFSB and multinational soldiers test readiness at Silver Saber

*Story and photo by SSG Cory Harding,
Kosovo Force (KFOR)*

CAMP VRELO, Kosovo – U.S. Soldiers from Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, quickly unload their helicopters and with shields and batons in hand, rush towards their staging area.

Just up the road, members from the Kosovo Police and the European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) are attempting to calm a growing group of demonstrators. The crowd is becoming increasingly violent and EULEX's capabilities to disperse the crowd are quickly exceeded.

To help control the escalating situation, EULEX requests assistance from Kosovo Forces and the U.S. soldiers waiting up the road quickly move forward to conduct a relief-in-place with their EULEX counterparts.

Thankfully, the demonstrators here are simply role-players for a training exercise called Silver Saber held at Camp Vrelo Oct. 16. Members from the Kosovo Police, EULEX and KFOR took part in the three-day exercise to help improve the coordination between the different security elements in Kosovo and to test their crowd and riot control capabilities.

The soldiers from the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade make up part of KFOR's Multinational Battle Group-East: a multinational task force made up of Soldiers from nine different countries as well as National Guardsmen from five states.

Silver Saber brought a number of these KFOR Soldiers together with their Kosovo Police and EULEX counterparts to train on crowd and riot control, relieving a multinational unit currently engaged in CRC, breaching various obstacles and medically evacuating a casualty.

U.S. Army COL David Woods, the MNBG-E and 525th BFSB commander, said this exercise was important because it gave KFOR, who operates as a third responder, the opportunity to work with the other security elements in Kosovo.

"We [KFOR] are in a role as a third responder and that's not typical for us," said COL Woods, a Denbo, PA, native. "We are typically the lead and that's hard for us sometimes to wrap our heads around."

U.S. Army SSG Robert Musil, the noncommissioned officer in charge for Detachment 3,

Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, said another challenge the U.S. Soldiers faced was their inexperience in performing CRC as a part of peace support operations.

"Nine months ago, none of us had done anything like this [CRC] before," said SSG Musil, a Chicago, IL, native. "We're traditionally a light infantry or recon element, so CRC isn't something we're used to."



Photo: Soldiers from Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment prepare to block a group of demonstrators during the annual Silver Saber training exercise at Camp Vrelo, Kosovo on October 16.

COL Woods said that though the battle group has been conducting CRC training over the past several months, the biggest thing they have learned since arriving in Kosovo is how to peacefully deescalate the situation.

"[Upon arriving to Kosovo] we lacked the understanding of escalation. We put equipment on and went straight to shield and baton, stomp and drag; right to a physical competition with our competitor," said COL Woods. "Now our goal is not to engage you in CRC; our goal is just to move you without ever touching you, to deescalate the situation."

To help learn escalation the soldiers from the 525th BFSB leveraged the experience and expertise of their multinational partners.

[Read more](#)



Soldiers with the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, work to contain other soldiers representing a crowd in a mock riot situation during training Oct. 9 at Fort Hood. BELOW: Soldiers run in formations during riot and crowd control training.

Role players help troops train for riot control

Story by Rose L. Thayer, Fort Hood Herald

After a dozen years of training to go into combat zones filled with enemy combatants, some soldiers are now training to manage themselves in peaceful situations involving civilians.

Troopers with Charlie Company, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, underwent crowd and riot control training last week at Fort Hood's Elijah urban training site.

"A lot of the training we are doing now, Army-wide, is full-spectrum operations," said 1LT Steven Shaw, the officer-in-charge of the three-day training event, which ended Thursday in an exercise using role players as rioters.

"This teaches them how to react to a situation in a different way," he said. "They are keeping themselves safe and mitigating any danger for the people on the other side."

The potential use for crowd control ranges from peaceful protesters to full on riots to a scenario such as Hurricane Katrina, where thousands of people were being relocated.

SFC Nicholas Ford, a platoon sergeant, said his unit was sent to New Orleans, LA, in 2005 for hurricane relief, and this sort of training would have been helpful.

"I had never dealt with civilian areas where people live," he said. "We were not there to break in doors, we were there to help. How can we help while still accomplishing our mission?"

Beginning at the team level, soldiers learned formations and verbal and hand signals used to unify themselves against a crowd from 89th Military Police Brigade soldiers. Eventually the formations grew to platoon-sized shapes. Soldiers learned to chant, "Get back," while stepping forward in unison with their left feet toward the crowd.

This sends a clear, concise message that's not demeaning or harmful to the crowd, SFC Ford said.

SGT Tyler Holt, a team leader, said the training was easy to grasp, because it built off what Soldiers already do.

[Read more](#)

Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- [AWfF \(OCT 2013\)](#)
- [IWfF \(OCT 2013\)](#)
- [SWfF \(13 OCT 2013\)](#)

TCM-Recon & BFSB Warfighter Forum Links

- [BFSB WfF Homepage](#) (Includes links to BFSB unit homepages)
- [BFSB Collaboration Site](#)
- [BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook](#)
- [AWfF](#)
- [IWfF](#)
- [StrykerNet](#)



MCoE Doctrine and Training Division,
Reconnaissance Branch



Dutch pilots provide lift as Hood Soldiers train in sling-load procedures

By SSG Gregory Sanders,
504th BFSB Public Affairs

The rhythmic beating of rotor blades filled the night air as a cigar-shaped silhouette made its way to hover over three Soldiers waiting to connect a small load to the hook dangling from the shadow during sling-load training at Fort Hood, Oct. 10.

More than 20 Soldiers from the 504th BFSB, together with CH-47 Chinook pilots of the Joint Netherlands Training Detachment (JNTD), took part in sling-load training over the past two weeks.

"The purpose is to get us out and re-familiarize ourselves with sling-load operations. While we are out here getting our training, we are providing support for their training," said 1LT Greg Sheffler, an operations officer with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment.

New pilots assigned to the JNTD were training on flight proficiency during sling load operations.

The Dutch have been training Fort Hood since 1996 under the 21st Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat) and starting last November, the Netherlands' pilot training program expanded from AH-64 Apache helicopters to include training on the CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Read more

Combat soldiers perform swimmingly

Story by SGT LaToya Nemes,
20th Public Affairs Detachment

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA - Soldiers endure multiple training courses throughout their careers to maintain the standard and keep up with basic and advanced skills.

However, specific specialized training is conducted depending on their job.

Combat water survival is a specialized training that allows soldiers to test their swimming capabilities during uncomfortable situations.

Soldiers with 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, 7th Infantry Division participated in the rigorous training at the Keeler Pool Oct. 8 at JBLM.

Before beginning the training, lifeguards at the pool divided the soldiers into two groups.

One group consisted of soldiers who were considered strong swimmers and the second group consisted of weak swimmers and nonswimmers, said Bruce Antonowicz, a training instructor at Keeler Pool.

Each soldier had to complete three stations in order to pass the test. They started at one station and were not allowed to go to the next station until they successfully executed the task given to them.

They started with a 15-meter swim where soldiers jumped backward into the water with their weapon and had to swim the entire 15-meters without dropping it.

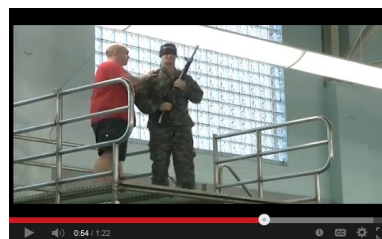
Antonowicz said this station simulated a soldier having to carry their weapon out in the middle of nowhere.

Soldiers dreadfully filed up the ladder to the 3-meter tower drop. After being blind-folded, spun around and led to the edge of the tower to jump into the water with their weapon, soldiers had to swim to safety without dropping their weapon.

Antonowicz said this task simulates a soldier falling into water accidentally, possibly becoming disoriented and finally being able to swim to safety in the dark.

Soldiers fell backward into the pool wearing a vest and holding their weapon out in front of them. They must allow themselves to sink down far enough to release their weapon and take off their vest before coming to the water's surface. Antonowicz said this was a simulation for a Soldier who might find himself in a giant body of water. Regardless of how well they could swim, the Soldiers would have to ditch their gear in order to swim to safety.

"The biggest thing Soldiers can take away from this training is to know how to swim enough to get to safety," he said.



Click on the image above to watch a video of the Training conducted by 3-38 CAV.

SPC Daniel Bauser, a cavalry scout, with 3-38th Cavalry, considers himself a strong swimmer, but during the combat water survival training, his nerves overcame him when he attempted the 3-meter tower drop.

"It's an unnatural feeling being blind-folded and told to jump off something. I knew the water was down below but at the same time it freaked me out," he said.

SPC Bauser said the overall experience of the Combat Water Survival training was definitely an eye-opener and made him more aware.

"It's like overcoming your fear of being able to swim when you're in an uncomfortable situation where it's not natural," he said. "If you're in a bird and it went down and you had to jump out in the middle of the night, you're not going to be able to see where the water is. You have to still maintain your weapon.

SPC Bauser said the training definitely translates well into actual situations they could encounter in combat.