



Soldiers of Co. B, 2-37 AR aid each other in exchanging MOPP suits.

conducted a Tank Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC). The refurbished NBC chamber provided the stage for mission-oriented protective posture level 4 (MOPP 4) training. The training consists of performing normal combat operations on and around a tank for four hours in a complete chemical suit, performing decontamination procedures, and entering the personnel gas chamber.

“The purpose of this type of training is to give a soldier confidence in the protective mask. But, when you are a member of a tank crew, you also have to have confidence in your tank and its systems. That is the whole concept behind using the chamber. If a crew has no confidence in its equipment then they can't perform their job,” explained Turnacki.

After donning MOPP 4 and performing communications checks, one at a time, each Company B tank moved into position inside the NBC chamber, shut its hatches and waited



(Above) Sgt. Victor Charvez, Co. B, 2-37 AR, NBC NCO explains proper protective mask fitting procedures. (Right) Spc. Jack Sanderson feels the effects of CS gas. (Bottom right) An M1A1 Abrams tank rolls into the refurbished gas chamber in Friedberg Training Area.

for the CS gas assault. M1A1 diesel-turbine engines whined as the NBC pressurization system filtered the gas and provided tank crews with safe, breathable air.

“I could not see anything outside [the tank]. I just broke the seal of my mask to see if I could reseal it.”

Sgt. 1st Class Edward Buckner
Co. B, 2-37 AR

“They leave their masks on when they are in the tank, but they have the option to take it off,” said Sgt. Victor Charvez, Co. B, 2-37 AR, NBC NCO.

The tanks NBC pressurization system is designed to allow crewmembers to operate within the confines of the tank without wearing a protective mask.

“I could not see anything outside [the tank],” said Sgt. 1st Class Edward Buckner, third platoon, tank commander. “I just broke the seal of my mask to see if I could reseal it.”

Company B's soldiers dismounted their tanks and moved into the personnel NBC chamber. Breaking their protective mask seals, the soldiers practiced resealing their masks under the stressful conditions of a gas attack.

“I had no doubt that [the NBC pressurization system] would work,” Sgt. John Weber, Co. B, tank gunner. “We just finished services, so I knew it would work.”



69th Chem. upgrades detection equipment



Pvt. Jacklyn Gorsha, 69th Chem. Co., tests her new NBC detection equipment.

HANAU, Germany—The 69th Chemical Company received upgraded M93A1 Foxes. The Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance System (NBCRS) Fox has been fitted with radiation detection equipment, chemical detection and sampling equipment, marking equipment and vehicle orientation equipment.

The radiation detections system (AN/VDR-2) is a gamma dose rate meter that measures detects and alerts the crew of deadly gamma radiation.

The chemical detection system consists of a surface sampler, the M43A1 chemical agent detector, the chemical agent monitor, a sample collection and retention system, the M21 remote sensing chemical agent alarm, a meteorological system (MET) and a multipurpose integrated chemical agent alarm (MICAD).

The M21 is the first standoff chemical agent detector approved for use in the field. It detects both nerve and blister agents at line-of-sight distances up to 5 kilometers.

With the new upgrades to the M93A1, the crew was reduced from four to three members including a driver, commander and an operator.

The operator (OP1), located in the rear of the Fox, is responsible for all detection systems operations. The Operator (OP1) is located in the rear of the Fox NBCRS.

“This job is a lot of responsibility,” said Pfc. Erik Schierer, OP1, 69th Chem. Co.

“The acquisition of this new equipment helps us [1AD] become part of Force XXI. We can now immediately alert the battlefield about the contamination,” said 1st Lt. Bill Maltbie, reconnaissance platoon leader, 69th Chem.