

# 2-37 Armor feels the effects of... Gas! Gas! Gas!

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FRIEDBERG, Germany—Gas! Gas! Gas! Words of warning rang through the wooded hills of Friedberg Training Area in Germany's Taunus Mountains, as Company B, 2-37<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment maneuvered their M1A1 Abrams tanks into billowing clouds of CS gas (tear gas) which rolled from the refurbished nuclear, biological and chemical tank training chambers, March 6 — the first time the chambers have been used since the Gulf War.

The NBC chambers sat idle for years, according to Staff Sgt. Stephen Turnacki, 2-37 AR's NBC noncommissioned officer in charge. "[The enclosed personnel chamber] was in complete disarray. There were no lights, paint was peeling the walls and there was graffiti everywhere," said Turnacki.

Civilian contractors restored the facilities and improved the training site. During the renovation, the contractors themselves received some unexpected training. The residual CS gas, which coated the interior of the facility, activated due to heat from lights, producing a cloud of gas. The contract workers did not hesitate leaving the building, said Turnacki. Work resumed after the gas dissipated and 2-37 AR took advantage of the training opportunity within days of the facility's completion.

Preparing for an April tank gunnery qualification, Company B



Pvt. Joshua Shytle, Co. B, 2-37 AR, receives aid from a masked soldier after exiting the personnel NBC chamber in Friedberg Training Area.