



Captains Roger and Brooke Maynulet are married in a military ceremony. Since then their jobs have kept them apart for 23 of the 53 months they have been married, but they both say they support and understand their spouse's profession.

Upon graduation, Capt. Carrie Harryman was assigned to Germany while Capt. John Harryman was assigned to the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific. They continued to date and met back up in the States less than a year later to get married. After enrolling in the Army Married Couples Program, they were reunited in Germany a year later. But a month afterwards, they both deployed to Bosnia.

"Unfortunately, six weeks before we deployed, they had changed the policy that would have allowed us to live together while we were down there," said Capt. John Harryman. "So it was not until after we got back from Bosnia, two and a half years after we were married, that we got to live together as a regular married couple."

Working together in the same office has presented the Harrymans some unique opportunities. Shortly after their return from Bosnia, they went together to a training program in the Ukraine where they taught at a peacekeeping training center.

"We talked a lot about what we did in Bosnia," said Carrie Harryman. "It was originally only supposed to be my husband going, but when they heard that we were a

couple, they thought it would be a good idea for us both to go so that we could be an example of what an Army married couple is like. They do not have many females in their [the Ukrainian] Army, so they found us very interesting."

While the Army's Married Couples Program tries to assign couples less than 50 miles apart, the Army makes no promises. Even when couples do get stationed close together, training exercises and missions can place them thousands of miles apart. Capt. Brooke J. Maynulet, battle captain for the 1st Battalion of the 501st Aviation Regiment, and Capt. Roger Maynulet, the S-3 for 1st Brigade, have been married for 53 months. They have been apart for 23 of those months.

"With both of us being in combat arms [units], the most difficult thing is planning family time together," said Roger Maynulet. "I was in Bosnia for seven months then she was in Kosovo for six months. Throughout our careers, it always seems that when one of us is leaving a gunnery or a [National Training Center] rotation with their unit, the other one is going in with theirs. But I've got a wife that understands my job and duty. I am proud of

what she does and what she has accomplished. I even brag about her [physical training] scores to the people I work with."

Inevitably, most couples face the decision of how to balance two careers with having a family. Sometimes that decision involves delaying having a child until later on in their careers. Sometimes it even involves one or both of them getting out of the Army.

"Right now we are both focused on becoming company commanders," said Roger Maynulet. "We are both supporting the other in that regard. For now, we are putting off having a child. You have to give the Army a large chunk of your time. You have to give your spouse a large chunk of your time, as well. Adding a child to that equation at the wrong time can knock things off balance."

The Harrymans had their first child in August. Carrie Harryman has made the decision to get out of the Army.

"She wants to be a stay-at-home mom," said John Harryman. "It is easier for us, as officers, for her to get out because we can live off of a captain's salary where it might not be as feasible for enlisted soldiers."

Army married couples say the key to having a successful marriage is being flexible and working together. From splitting up the household chores to supporting each other's careers, they play vital roles in each other's lives.

While the stress of both spouses going to work in BDUs can be daunting, they usually learn to appreciate the little things.

"Riding the work shuttle bus from Wiesbaden to Bad Kreuznach and back is actually really nice," said Christina Wright. "That is 'our time.' That is one of the few times in the day when we can be alone together and just talk and be a married couple. Sometimes the little things like that can make all the difference."

3rd Brigade preps for NTC

Story and photo by
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The 'King of Battle' reigned over Fort Riley's training ranges this week in preparation for a National Training Center rotation in the California desert.

Before reaching that summit as a battalion, batteries from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, trained in battery-level crew drills to hone their skills in anticipation of Gauntlet.

They will rotate to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin this fall.

"Our training is battery commander-driven," said Capt. Ciceron Soriano, assistant operations officer for 4th Bn., 1st FA. "The commander analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of his battery and looks to improve the trouble areas."

Soriano said that some of the drills the crews are working on include how well they can move from one area to another and the time it takes them to prepare to fire.

"You always want to be able to call up the battalion commander and say we are ready to fire," said Soriano.

"We've been training soldiers on occupation and [NBC] training, as well as survivability," said Sgt. Jason Carthon, crew chief Battery C, 4th Bn., 1st FA.



Pfc. Lamont Lyons, a gunner in Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, rams home a round during battery-level training. Behind him, Staff Sgt. John McKenzie, fire chief, evaluates Lyons' speed and technique.

"We are working on improving crew drills," said 1st Lt. Dan Dinicoli, fire direction officer for Battery B, 4th Bn., 1st FA. During the course of training, crews rehearsed each action of their battle drills.

Dinicoli said crews practiced casualty evacuation drills as well as emergency fire missions.

Behind the roar of the Paladins, fire direction teams fed information to artillery vehicles, helping them track down the enemy and lead the way.

"We train up on our LCU, a computer which processes fire missions and sends it to the guns," said Pfc. Jesse Fergurgur, Battery B. "Without us, the guns can't fire their mission."

In each Paladin, the crew learned how to work together to send rounds downrange.

"Teamwork is really important," said Viet Do, a gunner in Battery A. "If one guy doesn't load his round in time, it slows me down and it takes me longer to

load my charge and get us ready to fire."

Further down the line, long-range "red bag" charges launched rounds into the artillery impact areas, rattling the countryside.

"Today each battery was given 36 red bag propellant charges which are extended range charges," said Soriano. Soriano said training with these charges is training in preparation for Gauntlet and NTC in which one of their roles will be providing fire suppression.

For the soldiers, it boiled down to the opportunity to put rounds downrange.

"Out here in the field, our main focus is on training," said Do. "In garrison, there are lots of other things that can get us sidetracked. But here it is all about training."

"Every time you go to the field it feels like a refresher course," said Fergurgur. "In garrison, you forget some of the details, but once you come out here, it all comes back to you."