



Spc. Chester E. Greathouse  
Field Artillery Radar  
Fire Finder  
Battery D,  
1-94 Field Artillery  
Strassburg, Germany



“The practical application of training is the best part of PLDC. The effect of weather conditions on morale is the worst part of PLDC.”



Sgt. Andres Guarnizo  
Senior Remote Access Unit  
Operator  
Company B,  
141st Signal Battalion  
Bad Kreuznach, Germany



“The best part of PLDC is learning from the SGLs. They taught us a lot. The worst part was the cold weather and the cold-weather injuries.”



Spc. Donald K. Carrigan  
Finance Clerk  
Headquarters and  
Headquarters Company,  
1-6 Infantry Battalion  
Baumholder, Germany



“FTX is the best experience. I like being in the woods and in the field. I haven’t had any bad experiences. The SGLs have helped a lot.”

# Man on the street

## What was your best and worst experience at PLDC?

IRONSIDE

Spc. Grisel Ruiz  
Court Reporter  
Headquarters and  
Headquarters Company,  
1st Armored Division  
Bad Kreuznach, Germany



“The SGLs are caring and made it wonderful. The FTX is the worst part.”

Spc. Karie K. Branum  
Division Surgeon  
Treatment Team NCOIC  
Headquarters Company,  
1st Armored Division  
Bad Kreuznach, Germany



“Meeting different people from different MOSs was the best part of PLDC. The classroom time is boring but the SGLs spice it up.”

Sgt. Christopher M. Miller  
Truck Commander  
1st Brigade Recon Team  
Friedberg, Germany



“I met some really good people. Working with females opened my eyes. The worst part of PLDC is the weather. It is so unpredictable.”

# Terrain team kicks Azimuth

Decisive Victory  
cohesive team  
Disciplined

Story by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni  
Photo by Spc. Roderick A. Berry  
1st Armored Division PAO

The team presents the information in the form of maps, written analyses and reports, as well as digital images.



Spc. Ronald W. Hill, a topographic analyst from the 1st Armored Division Terrain Team, prints out a map to give the division’s commander and planners a clear picture of the battlefield.

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany — With every trail a 1st Armored Division soldier patrols down, with every hill a 1AD tank rolls over, with every air space a 1AD helicopter flies through, the 1AD Terrain Team plays a vital role in those missions.

The team provides information for the 1AD soldiers’ mobility on the battlefield, keeping them informed about where they can go to gain the greatest advantage.

“The Terrain Team’s mission is to provide commanders and support units a crystal-clear picture of the battle space,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Guy Snodgrass, the team’s chief. “By providing this analysis we help commanders and planners to be able to make informed decisions.”

In combat, it is essential to know the conditions of the battlefield, the lay of the land and tactical points of interest. Getting that information is the key responsibility for the Terrain Team, according to Snodgrass.

“We assemble vital information from various sources and provide it to tactical commanders for battlefield analysis,” said Spc. Marvin W. Mash, II, a team member. “We process military geographic information from satellite imagery, both digital and by hard copy, and we interpret satellite and intelligence data to determine the effects of terrain and weather on vehicle and troop movements and assess other tactical data.”

The team’s mission is the same whether the division is at war, conducting peacekeeping operations or training, according to Sgt. 1st Class Brad J. Rogers, the team noncommissioned officer in charge.

“Our mission never changes,” said Rogers. “Whether we are at war, training or in Kosovo, we still do the same things. We provide the commander with the information on what the terrain will look like and how that terrain can best be dealt with and used for the mission.”

Terrain analysts gather information that helps determine which avenue of approach the enemy could take and what would be the best route of travel for the unit. They look at elevation, water obstacles, bridge weight-bearing capability and width, railroads, airfields

and road systems. They know the capabilities of the enemy’s equipment, as well as that of their own units because that information is an essential part of the reports they make, according to Mash.

“Things the Terrain Team look at help the commanding general visualize the battle space before he gets there, which helps him make an informed decision,” said Maj. John McCarthy, Executive Officer, 501st MI Bn.

The technology involved in terrain analysis has come a very long way. During the Civil War, both armies used hot air balloons for aerial reconnaissance. The team now has the capability, using a Global Positioning System, to do advanced reconnaissance and locate bridges, tunnels, other man-made features and vegetation. They can also determine whether or not those elements can be used for concealment and by what size and types of units.

The team currently has members working at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. They communicate regularly with the rest of the team by phone and e-mail to disseminate information to the division and for assistance with further analysis.

While the products made by the team are usually only seen by commanders and senior NCOs, they affect the entire division by providing the information necessary to make informed decisions, give them a tactical advantage and save lives in combat.