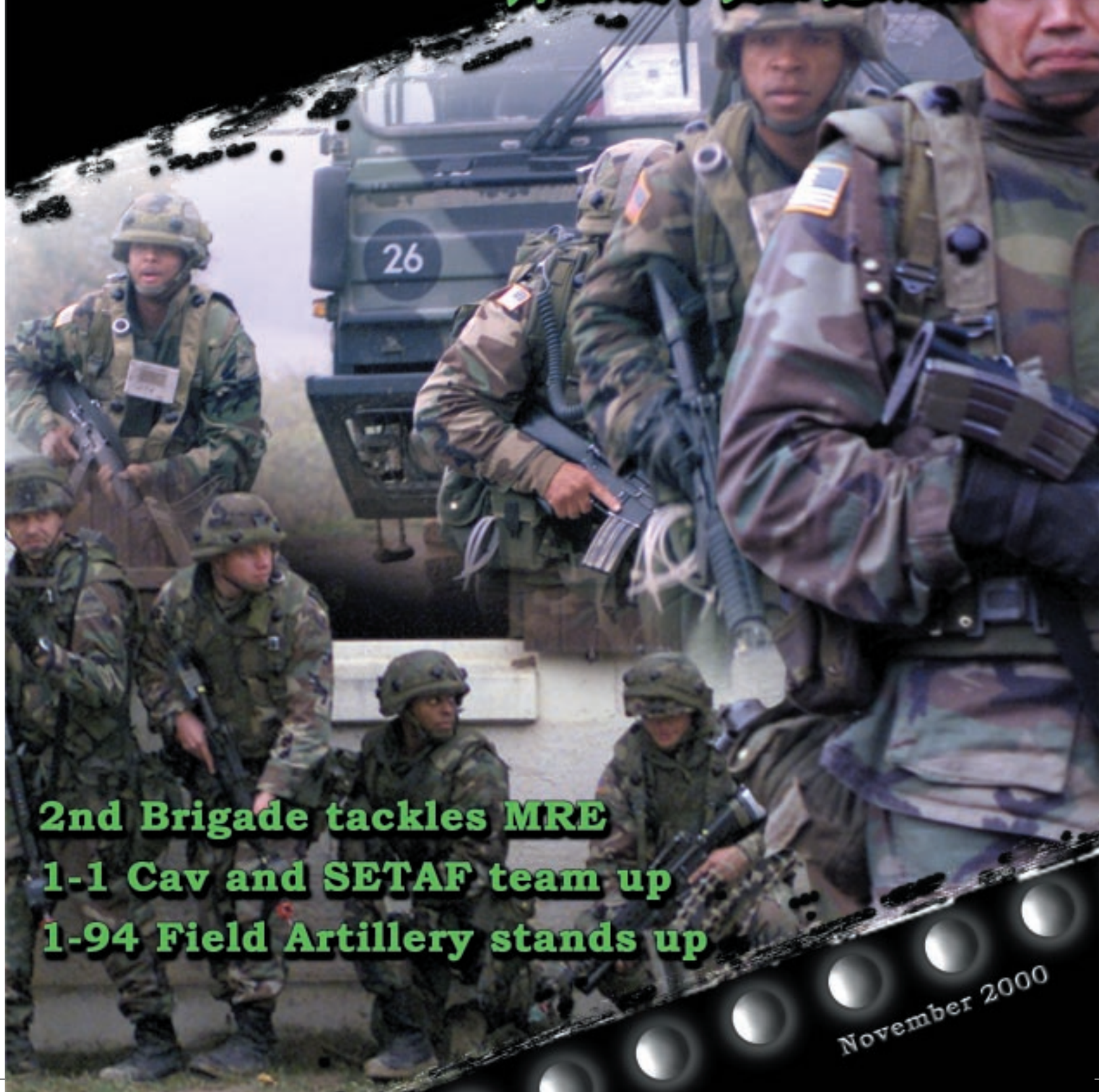
1st Armored Division

IRONSIDE

America's Tank Division



2nd Brigade tackles MRE

1-1 Cav and SETAF team up

1-94 Field Artillery stands up

November 2000

IRON TRAINING WITH 1AD...

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"Dignity and Respect"

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1-1 Cav rides to the rescue!

Photo by Benjamin Z. Etzioni

An M1A1 Abrams tank rolls through the woodline searching for the dreaded OPFOR as 1-1 Cav and SETAF team up to throw back the guardian forces of CMTC in Hohenfels, Germany. See pages eight and nine for more information.

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Cover: Second Brigade soldiers rush to confront mounting tensions in Mountain Guardian IV, a Mission Rehearsal Exercise designed to put soldiers through the rigors of a "worst day in Kosovo." See pages 4 and 5 for more information. Photos by Cpl. Gregory F. Withrow. Image by Kerri Schools.

October was another great month for Iron Soldiers!

On a special note, for those great soldiers who were the target training audience, I want you to remember what you learned to do right in the "replicated" Kosovo at Hohenfels. The training scenarios you underwent were based on past experiences in Kosovo and potential situations you may encounter.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team continued its great work in Kosovo and received visits from the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Shinseki, the FORSCOM commander, Gen. Hendrix and the XVIII Airborne Corps commander, Lt. Gen. McNeill.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team did a magnificent job in a tough Mission Rehearsal Exercise and completed a series of deployment rock drills to prepare for Kosovo. They are well prepared and ready to go.

Fourth Brigade, DIVARTY, DIVENG and the Division Headquarters and separate battalions participated in a demanding, corps-level exercise with the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps – the first since 1994. And the great DISCOM kept us all rolling!

In this issue, you'll read about the Blackhawks' Heavy-Light rotation with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the stand up of the division's newest battalion, 1-94 Field Artillery(MLRS), and the best Mission Rehearsal Exercise that USAREUR has run to date – more stories about how the skilled, fit, and disciplined soldiers and leaders of this great team are sustaining their warfighting skills and preparing for important national missions.

Congratulations to our Army 10-miler team – nine superbly-fit young men and women who took 14th place out of over 600 teams; and to all of our Reenlistment NCOs for the colossal job they did keeping over 1,250 Iron Soldiers in the Army. The division finished the year at 136 percent and 141 percent of mission for first term and career soldiers respectively.

The bombing of the USS Cole is a harsh reminder of the risks that United States service men and women abroad are subject to in serving their country. I ask that you remember the sailors and families of the USS Cole in your thoughts and prayers over the next weeks, particularly those 17 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

IRON SOLDIERS!

Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.

2nd Brigade tackles Mountain Guardian IV

Story by Spc. Joey E. Thompson
Photos by Cpl. Gregory F. Withrow
1st Armored Division PAO

HOHENFELS, Germany–Shots break the silent peace of a small Kosovar town and villagers run for cover. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment react, detain the lone gunman and turn the gunman over to local police. This was just one scenario 1st Armored Division soldiers faced during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise, dubbed Mountain Guardian IV, at Hohenfels Training Area.

"Now we're in the full-swing [company-level] MRE, which represents 24-hour operations, representing daily life in Kosovo. This is what you might call worst-case scenario training. We have a lot more action than might really happen down range," explained 2nd Lt. Jacob Downs, 2-6 IN.

The soldiers faced many challenges to include riots, sniper fire and even murder.

> **"The soldiers are motivated. The leaders are teaching their soldiers about the peace-support mission, IRT and the MRE. A lot of special emphasis was placed on weapon clearing procedures. They received a lot of training and they're ready for their mission down range."**
>
> **2nd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman Fuller**

The soldiers never knew what to expect next. "You'll be going, going, going and then it will slow down for awhile. Then something crazy will happen. It teaches soldiers to react. That way, when they get downrange they'll expect the unexpected," said 2nd Lt. Steven Martin, 793rd Military Police Company.

The realistic training received during the MRE will help prepare the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade to take over the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

"The soldiers are motivated. The leaders are teaching their soldiers about the peace-support mission, IRT [Individual Readiness Training] and the MRE. A lot of special emphasis was placed on weapon clearing procedures. They received a lot of training and they're ready for their mission down range," explained 2nd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman Fuller.

"Second Brigade will be heading to Kosovo in November and all the training they have received will prepare them for a successful rotation in Kosovo," added Fuller.

A soldier from 2-6 IN scans the woodline from his roof-top perch, providing cover while his platoon moves in on a hidden sniper.

After drinking too much alcohol, a member of the local police stirs up trouble in the muddy streets of the mock town of Dobrcane. Reacting to the reckless discharge of a weapon, 2-6 IN moves in and subdues the drunken gunman. After the apprehension, 2-6 IN turns the gunman over to local authorities.

Soldiers from 2-6 IN react to sniper fire and sprint to take up defensive positions in the mock town of Gnjilane in Hohenfels Training Area.

> **"You'll be going, going, going and then it will slow down for a while. Then something crazy will happen. It teaches soldiers to react. That way, when they get down range they'll expect the unexpected."**
>
> **2nd Lt. Steven Martin, 793rd Military Police Company**

DOC works round the clock, keeps 1AD running

Story and photo by
Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany– Imagine working in an office with no windows, where the only decorations on the fading white walls are maps charting the division's troop and vehicle movements, where the shelves are lined with books, manuals and binders containing protocols for every possible situation the division could encounter. Imagine working a 12-hour shift without knowing whether you will battle constant boredom or tackle a major crisis. Imagine having to punch in a security code to open a two-ton steel door just to enter your office. That's an average workday in the 1st Armored Division's Operations Center.

Very little, if anything, happens within the division without the DOC knowing or having something to do with it. The DOC is one of the few sections in the division that operates 24 hours a day.

"Working in the DOC is one of the most stressful, but also critical and challenging jobs a soldier will ever have," said Staff Sgt. Darwin K. Ammons. "It gives [those soldiers] a valuable insight into every facet of the division. We are the eyes and ears of the commanding general and his staff. We face the daily challenge of sustaining almost flawless standards. There is no such thing as a small mistake in the DOC. Every decision we make has an effect on the rest of the division."

The DOC deals with every kind of situation from delivering Red Cross messages to ensuring that soldiers have all the proper clearances in order to deploy to Kosovo, to updating unit alert rosters and keeping the commanding general informed on all that is happening within the division. During deployments they track every unit down to company-size elements, sometimes even smaller.

"Information flow is the most critical thing in the DOC," said Ammons. "It is not necessarily that the information originates from here. This is the central point. This is the hub for the division. Anything that happens in the division goes through here one way or another because anything that happens in the division is initiated by an operations order. Those operations orders are distributed [to the division] from this office. [The commanding general] can do some things that would just astound you, but he needs the proper information to get those things done."

Working in the DOC can be advantageous to a soldier because it gives them a completely different view of how the division operates, according to Ammons.

"It gives you a great overview to how the division runs in relation to unit missions, operations orders, tasking, planning, training and critical message traffic," said Ammons. "Working in the DOC is a great responsibility in that most of the things that happen in our office we are not allowed to talk about with fellow soldiers or our spouses."

Since working in the DOC is not a specific Army career specialty, the staff relies on on-the-job training. The DOC staff uses what little downtime they have for extra training in how to handle the various responsibilities of their jobs.

Working in the DOC also has its disadvantages. The staff works an ever-changing schedule. The soldiers usually work six 12-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., followed by three days off. They then work six 12-hour shifts, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., then have three days off.

Staff Sgt. Darwin K. Ammons punches in the secret code to access the mysterious domain hidden behind the door to the DOC.

"The biggest disadvantage of working in the DOC has to be missing family time on the weekends and at night. I saw my kids for about two and a half hours last night," said Staff Sgt. Dianna L. Santiago, a member of the DOC staff.

"Even though the hours are long, hard and arduous, the guys here can pretty much count on when they are going to get time off," said Ammons. "We treat that as sacred. They work so hard that we try not to touch that time off whenever possible."

The staff works at a fast, and often stressful, pace.

"This is the highest [operational tempo] that I have seen since I was in Albania and Kosovo," said Ammons. "Most units do not have the tempo that we have or can have on a regular basis. We have a saying in the DOC: 'When everything is going great, we never hear anything. Everything is quiet. But when things go wrong there are only nuclear rounds here.'"

The intensity of work and the high op tempo has helped form a strong camaraderie within the DOC staff to the point where many of them consider each other almost family. When one of the soldiers needs to run an errand while they are on shift, they can usually count on a coworker to cover for them.

For all the work the DOC staff does, few within the division see what they do, or know that they are there. A secret security clearance is required just to enter the vault they call an office.

While the DOC staff does a lot of work to help the commanding general and his staff run the division, they are also there for the soldiers. Whether it is on a weekend or a holiday, during a deployment or during a temporary duty assignment the DOC is the one place in the 1st Armored Division that a soldier can call at any time of the day and know that they will get an answer. They maintain a toll-free number for soldiers to call in the case of emergency.

"Our soldiers get little to no credit for what they do but they do an outstanding job everyday," said Ammons. "We are like the shadow warriors of the division. We are always here but never seen."

Uncle Sam wants you...

The 1st Armored Division's Public Affairs Office has reinstated a program to ensure that all units throughout the division footprint receive the recognition they deserve. The Public Affairs Office cannot do this alone, so we are asking for your assistance.

All units are encouraged to participate in the Unit Writers Program. This program depends on the active participation from the brigades, separate battalions, companies and family support groups.

Just send the stories and photos of the events you would like to see featured in the "Ironside" for publication or posting on the website for worldwide viewing.

All stories submitted should be timely and focused on people accomplishing the mission or contributing to quality of life. Stories about family support groups are also acceptable for publication.

Some people like to write while others enjoy photography. The Ironside always has room for outstanding photos.

These photos need to be a minimum of 200dpi; optimal size is 300dpi. The magazine can accept color and black and white photos.

Keeping people informed not only boosts morale, but also keeps everyone informed on what's going on throughout the communities.

Here are some basic guidelines for unit writers and photographers:

- All stories submitted need to include the name, rank and unit of the person writing the story. You should also include a phone number and e-mail address, if available, so we can contact you if we have questions.
- Keep everything simple and direct.
- Use short sentences.
- A sentence that runs longer than 25 words is probably too long. Paragraphs run no more than for each soldier mentioned in the story.
- All stories need quotes and every quote should include the complete name of those attributed.
- Photos should include both eyes and the hands of the subject(s).
- The action should be easily identified.
- If possible, the division patch or other unit identifier should be easy to see.
- All photos require a caption with a full name (who), unit, what is taking place, where it's happening, date (when) and for what reason, if applicable

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Stories and photos can be mailed to the 1st AD Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AETV-THE-A, Ironside Editor, Unit 24309, APO AE 09252.

Stories can also be e-mailed to the Ironside Editor, Cpl. G. Withrow at withrowg@hq.1ad.army.mil or faxed to DSN 490-6379, or commercial at 0671-609-6379.

1-1 Cav, SETAF

team up for CMTC rotation

69th Chemical Company soldiers ride high in the saddle on their way to support 1-1 Cav and SETAF.

SETAF soldiers provide light and highly-mobile support and security for the heavier forces of 1st Armored Division's 1-1 Cav (Above and below).

Story and photos by
Pvt. Benjamin Etzioni
1st Armored Division PAO

HOHENFELS, Germany– The 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry combined with units from the Southern European Task Force, stationed in Italy, to complete a rotation at the Combat Maneuver Training Center, in Hohenfels, early September.

SETAF provided light forces while 1-1 Cav supplied heavy-mechanized vehicles for the rotation.

The two units went through a variety of exercises during their combined rotation that involved simulated combat situations at the platoon-, troop-, and squadron-level. The final exercise was a day-long simulated battle against an operational force consisting of Army National Guard units from Pennsylvania, California and New Jersey.

"I thought the battle went pretty well today," said Lt. Col. Michael A. Bills, 1-1 Cav squadron commander. "The defense that we put together was a tough one to build and execute. But I felt that we did accomplish everything that we were supposed to do."

"It was a great experience," said Cpt. James E. Turly, 1-1 Cav adjutant. "We had two [units] who usually don't play together — light forces and heavy forces. We put them together and they complimented each other. It was a great training opportunity."

"Working with SETAF was a tremendous experience," said Bills. "Learning the light side of the Army and, conversely, for the light side to learn about the heavy side of the Army, and to put our tools together on the battlefield showed great dividends in terms of destroying the enemy, as well."

SETAF deployed to Hohenfels because they do not have any training areas in Italy as large as CMTC, according to 1st Lt. Jason A. Henderson, a platoon leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Combat Team.

"The terrain is also diverse enough that we get a mix of different areas to work in," said Henderson. "Working with 1-1 Cav has been great. It gave us assets that we normally wouldn't have when going through this kind of exercise."

From the commanders to the tankers, most of those involved learned a lot from working with soldiers from a different kind of unit, according to Spc. Robert W. Cummings, a driver with Bandit Troop, 1-1 Cav.

"This was a good experience because if we go to war we are going to be working side by side with all kinds of different units," said Cummings. "This exercise gave us a good taste of how two different units can support each other in accomplishing one mission."

Girded in the full armor of an M1A1 Abrams tank, 1-1 Cav tankers scan the terrain of Hohenfels, seeking an opponent for the joust.

> "We had two [units] who usually don't play together — light forces and heavy forces. We put them together and they complimented each other."
>
> Cpt. James E. Turly, 1-1 Cav adjutant

SETAF soldiers build a barricade of concertina wire in preparation for OPFOR's onslaught.

1AD dons new weapons

M-4 Carbine lightens Force XXI load

Story and photos by
Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni
1st Armored Division PAO

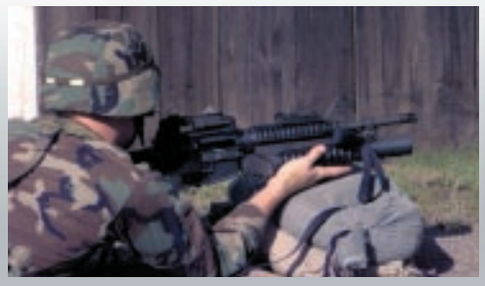
BAD KREUZNACH, Germany– Many soldiers from the 1st Armored Division are carrying a lighter load as the division completes the transition from using the M-16A2 rifle to the M-4 Carbine.

The 1st Armored Division, along with the rest of United States Army Europe, is among the last units in the Army to receive the new rifles. Ranger units were the first to field the M-4s in 1995.

"We just got the M-4s quite recently," said Spc. Arnold R. Johnson, of 2nd Platoon, 501st Military Police Company, 1st Armored Division. "They are a lot lighter than the M-16s. They have a shorter stock and are more efficient and convenient."

"One of the reasons for the switch is that most of the M-16A2s have been in use for several years and are wearing out," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert B. Hazell, fielding noncommissioned officer for G-3 Force Modernization. "The soldiers using the M-4s will also now be capable of mounting various optics, grenade launcher, shotgun, laser pointer lights and MILES (Multi Integrated Laser Engagement System) gear. This capability will allow a commander to configure the weapon with the various accessories as determined by mission need."

The M-4 Carbine is a more compact version of the M-16A2 rifle, with a collapsible stock. The upper receiver incorporates an accessory-mounting rail with a removable carrying handle, and provides range settings up to 600 meters. The accessory rail facilitates the mounting of day and night sights. The M-4 will replace all .45-caliber M-3 submachine guns, selected M-9 pistols and M-16 series rifles.



A soldier from the 501st Military Police Company takes aim with his new M-4 Carbine which is also equiped with grenade launcher.

"The biggest advantage of the M-4 is that it is smaller than the M-16A2 and it has the shorter folding stock," said Hazell. "The main disadvantage is that it is a little bit more difficult to zero and qualify with because the site adjustments are different than those on the M-16A2s."

The soldiers currently deployed to Kosovo are using both the M-16 and the M-4. The exchange will not switch out all M-16A2s for M-4s. All units that do not trade in for the M-4s will receive M16A4 rifles by March 2002, according to Hazell.

Most of the M-16A2s are being turned in to the Kaiserslautern Industrial Center for redistribution to U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve units.

Since the M-4 Carbine weighs about a pound less than the M-16A2, most of the soldiers who have made the switch have been pleased with the change, according to Hazell.

Soldiers from 501st Military Police Company zero the new M-4 Carbine during a weapon-qualification range.

Iron achievers earn division titles

Story by Spc. Rebecca F. Deuel
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany– Two Iron soldiers are leading the pack in the 1st Armored Division and have done their part in pushing the division to the front of V Corps in retention for the year. The soldiers proved their retention savvy in the Career Counselor and Reenlistment Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Board held in Bad Kreuznach in September. Both soldiers beat competitors from two other brigades and will move on to represent the division at the United States Army Europe Competition in November.

Staff Sgt. James T. Burke of HHC, 1st Brigade in Friedberg earned the title of Career Counselor of the Year at the division competition. "He took on the board despite overwhelming missions and being new to the brigade," stated Task Force Falcon Command Sgt. Maj. Peter E. Pacyao, who chose Burke to represent 1st Brigade. "He gave 110 percent on that board … right then and there."

Staff Sgt. James P. Nolan won Reenlistment NCO of the Year at the division's board. Assigned to HHC, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade in Baumholder, Nolan impressed the board members and his superiors. "We [2nd Brigade] chose him based on his high standard of professionalism and his management of the retention program for 1-35 Armor," said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Crespo, senior career counselor, 2nd Brigade.

Burke stated his knowledge comes from the double effort he and other career counselors have put forth in recent years. "The biggest reason for the tough retention mission is a booming civilian economy," explained Burke. "We are selling a way of life … trying to give the soldiers something more attractive with better benefits than what they can get on the outside."

Staff Sgt. James Burke
Career Counselor of the Year

Staff Sgt. James Nolan
Reenlistment NCO of the Year

Nolan agreed with Burke about the ever-increasing mission demands of retention. "We try to present the best image that we can [to the soldiers]. We sell the Army. I just try to do the best I can and keep the soldiers informed at all times."

"Everyone is doing more with less," Burke continued. "Retention starts the day that the soldier arrives in the unit. Everyone in every unit is responsible for the retention of the soldiers. We need all the leaders and soldiers in a unit to think about [retention] — as much as the leaders need us working in [retention]."

Nolan and Burke were chosen by their brigades for the division competition. At the board, they were expected to give a two-to-three-minute dissertation on a book of military history. Following their presentations, Nolan and Burke answered questions from the board members ranging from regular and Reserve army retention program regulations to situational questions on such topics as equal opportunity and military education programs. Board members graded them on professionalism, military bearing, presentation of the answer and creativity of solutions within regulations.

Sgt. Maj. George W. Stapleton, Jr., command career counselor for the 1st Armored Division and senior board member summed up his observations. "It has to be good for the Army and good for the soldier. And that's what we need to be doing [in retention]. Anything less is just unprofessional."

While the upcoming USAREUR competition is the final level for reenlistment representative Staff Sgt. Nolan, it is only another step up the ladder for career counselor Burke. If Burke wins the USAREUR board, he will go on to Washington, D.C. where he will represent the division in the Secretary of the Army's Career Counselor board later this year.

2nd Brigade previews Kosovo operations

Story and photos by
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd BSB Public Affairs Office

BAUMHOLDER, Germany– Protestors yelling, "KFOR go home! We don't want you here! Go away! Go back where you came from!" brazenly wave cardboard signs bearing anti-U.S. slogans in front of soldiers carefully observing the scene.

Moments later a squad of soldiers clad in riot gear appears on the scene and faces off against the protestors. On command, the squad begins tapping their batons against their shields and stomping their boots as they advance toward the protestors. The ominous rhythmic cadence forces the crowd back momentarily but they continue their taunting. A rock is suddenly hurled at the soldiers from within the crowd of protestors, then another and another.

The squad holds its formation and continues to advance amidst a hail of rocks that bounce off their shields. Realizing the fruitlessness of their efforts, the protestors give up and retreat. The squad withdraws and reforms at a safe distance. Calm is restored.

A voice breaks the silence. "As you can see, the protestors have left the scene so the squad has regrouped at a safe distance. Are there any questions?"

The soldiers were real, their equipment was real and the rocks were real, but the protestors and the confrontation were only part of a brief scenario presented to soldiers from 2nd Brigade during a recent riot and civil disturbance demonstration. The scenario was part of several equally realistic demonstrations of operational techniques that will prepare soldiers for their mission during the upcoming Kosovo deployment.

Other demonstrations included techniques used to conduct searches in homes, manning and controlling checkpoints, responding to civil disturbances, and conducting mounted and dismounted patrols.

Scouts undergo an equipment inspection during a demonstration for 2nd Brigade soldiers.

The real training came the following week when soldiers from 2nd Brigade began their Individual Readiness Training, exercising all the techniques demonstrated to them the week before.

As the demonstrations came to a close, Maj. Gen. George Casey, 1st Armored Division commander, dropped in on the more than 500 soldiers assembled at the airfield. Casey looked over the formation momentarily before ordering them to break ranks and fall in around him. In this more approachable and informal setting, Casey emphasized the importance of their readiness and training and talked about what 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery may expect in Kosovo.

He explained that the strategy for preparations in support of peace operations is "To validate that every unit, every soldier can fight." He added that every soldier should be able to do his job under demanding conditions and still be able to fight while being confident in their equipment, their weapons systems and in their fellow soldiers.

He continued by pointing out that "Our most precious commodity here in Germany, given we've got the Kosovo mission, is the time that we spend training soldiers and leaders to fight." Casey said it was his commitment not to send any untrained soldier into harm's way. "So we've got to use the majority of our time in Europe on war -ighting training."

"We have developed what we call Task Force Falcon FARS, Flat Ass Rules. Every sergeant and every leader in this brigade combat team needs to get a copy of them and needs to internalize them. They are the keys to being good soldiers every day." He added that these FARS are also a key element for being successful in Kosovo. They are:

- Security and safety are your first priority of work.
- Iron discipline by every soldier, every day, no complacency.
- Enforcement is always ROE based, even ended and impartial.
- Apply the golden rule, treat everybody with dignity and respect.
- Maintain awareness of your surroundings at all times.
- Patience. Don't rush to failure.
- Every operation is deliberately planned, risk assessed, well coordinated, documented, rehearsed, executed and debriefed.
- Maintain and secure your equipment. It'll take care of you.
- Task Force Falcon soldiers take care of each other. That's what this is all about. Everybody looking out for their buddy's back.

The second element of success in Kosovo, said Casey, is to "Advance civil implementation. That's our job, a safe and secure environment. Let me tell you just by being there you will advance civil implementation. You don't even have to try. Our natural aggressive nature will carry us forward. You will leave your sector in Kosovo better than you found it because that's the way you are. You're American soldiers and you're aggressive and you're proud of what you do and you know that you can make a difference and you will."

"The last thing is bring everybody home. I'm not someone who believes that the American people won't tolerate casualties. I've sat in a meeting behind the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs when he looked the President in the eye and he said, 'We're going to get casualties in this air war, Mr. President.' Mr. President gulped and said, 'I understand'."

A soldier demonstrates a thrusting technique with a riot baton to soldiers from 2nd Brigade.

So the American people don't understand and shouldn't understand needless casualties." He paused before continuing to address this sensitive issue. "There's been several American soldiers killed there. Two of them were killed in a speeding 113 (armored personnel carrier). It turned over. The soldiers weren't wearing seatbelts. They could've lived. One soldier was killed when his vehicle struck a land mine. He didn't have his protective vest on. He didn't have his Kevlar on. I've seen HUMVEEs sustain a mine strike and people survive. The American people don't and shouldn't have to accept needless casualties."

"So be good soldiers everyday, advance civil implementation, bring everybody home. Pretty simple."

1-94 Field Artillery stands up at Strassburg

Story and photo by
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd BSB Public Affairs Office

BAUMHOLDER, Germany–The skies over Strassburg Kaserne were exceptionally clear Sept. 15 as German and American dignitaries settled in their seats under shady canopies to witness the induction of the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery into the ranks of the 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery. The guests listened politely as Col. Daniel Nolan, III, Division Artillery commander, addressed them and the five batteries of soldiers assembled on the grassy field next to Rudy's on Strassburg Kaserne.

The occasion marked the official activation of 1-94 FA and placed the battalion one step closer to full integration into America's Tank Division.

"Not only has the leadership of the battalion created this excellent organization, they moved it from Baumholder out here to Idar-Oberstein — no easy task in itself. Their impact in the community is evident. The Division Artillery is proud to be able to continue the U.S. Army's presence in this great community. I know that you sometimes feel isolated out here, but I want you to know that you and your families are never far from our thoughts," said Nolan.

The day's ceremony was mostly a symbolic gesture because, according to Nolan, "This battalion is already on the road to success. Their crews are certified and we are moving smartly into platoon and battery certification, which will culminate next February with the battalion external evaluation and certification during Rolling Steel 2001." Rolling Steel is the annual DIVARTY exercise that mobilizes most of its assets out into the German countryside for realistic training, and as Nolan noted, for unit certification.

Soldiers from the newly activated 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery uncase the unit's colors during the official activation ceremony.

During the months, weeks and days leading up to the day's ceremony, "Our objective was focused on equipping the man, not manning the equipment," said Nolan. "We invested heavily in putting the leadership in place early and activating the battalion, provisionally, 90 days ahead of schedule."

Alluding to the many taskings which have come down the pike for the unit, Nolan said, "If the unit's numerical designation, 1-94, had not had such a historic significance, I would have been tempted to number this battalion 911. I've called on them time and again to pick up critical national and training missions, and they've never missed a beat.

"I gave them the responsibility for the salute battery and they were magnificent. I dragged the leadership to Warfighter to replace a DIVARTY staff decimated by support of Task Force Falcon in Kosovo. Delta 1-94, the target acquisition battery, has supported numerous training events and is currently committed [to] a national contingency mission.

"Even as I continue to send them fire missions, there has never been a moment when they've flinched. Despite the crushing load of just standing up the battalion, they've executed each of these missions flawlessly. This is a testament to the adaptability of the leaders and the dedication of the soldiers.

"Artillery is, of course, the argument of kings and this is the battalion you want on your side in a debate. The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery represents not merely a doubling of the division surface-to-surface fire power, but the means by which we would compel an adversary to see the wisdom of our will."

Lt. Col. Walter R. Cheshire, a veteran field artillery officer that was previously assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery in Baumholder, will lead the battalion through its formative years.

"What a day. The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery rocket radar battalion has been activated," proclaimed Cheshire. "The Division, DIVARTY and this battalion have waited in anticipation of this milestone to mark a commencement of our further integration into America's Tank Division," he said.

"The 94th FA has a proud and colorful background and the 1st Battalion looks forward to continuing that tradition," he said.

Just like Army philosophy stresses the need to function as a team, Cheshire stressed that this event represented significant effort on the part of many people.

He first noted the efforts of the leadership of the division. "With great resolve, our commanding general has placed emphasis on the activation of this battalion and the division staff has followed suit," he said.

Taking aim closer to home, Cheshire said, "The Division Artillery commander and staff assumed significant risk and made great sacrifices in order to make this unit successful and strong."

The third leg of his attribution for the successful activation of the unit went to the Baumholder community and the 222nd Base Support Battalion, who, according to Cheshire, gave "...outstanding support to ensure that 1-94 received a priority in allocation of precious resources."

The final compliment went to the backbone of the unit, the Iron Soldiers and their families. "Having been summoned locally and from around the world, to come together and make this a great combat team, these folks are here, standing ready to be certified as a combat capable asset for the division.

"The battalion has yet a road to travel, which will lead to combat certification and integrate them into the division, and today we stand ready to meet the challenge," Cheshire said.

Man on the street ?

What are the best and worst things about being stationed in Germany?

Pfc. Valerie Oberdorf

Bad Krueznach – Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division

"Seeing and learning about the culture and history is the best part of being stationed in Germany."

"I don't dislike anything. Germany is a great place to be stationed."

Sgt. Saladin Aracelis

Bad Kreuznach – Company C, 141st Signal Battalion

"Learning about another culture and seeing a beautiful country is what I like best about being stationed in Germany."

"Not being able to go to a Chinese restaurant on Sunday night is the worst part about being stationed in Germany."

1st Lt. Brian Witcher

Bad Krueznach – Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division

"You can see the whole country in a matter of six hours and see different countries that are also close by."

"It is difficult to communicate if you do not know the German language."

Who's Who in

TASK FORCE FALCON