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## **CONVOY LIVE FIRE EXERCISE**

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GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Members of the 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, conducted a seven-day Convoy Live Fire Exercise and Situational Training Exercises at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Soldiers from the 16th STB convoyed from Bamberg to Grafenwoehr to set up a battalion tactical operations command and separate company control points, which were provided services such as internet and Voice Over Internet Protocol phones, from Bravo Company's signal shop.

During training events in April, May and June, Soldiers rehearsed individual, squad and platoon-level tasks, mounted convoy training and executed weapons ranges. At the convoy live fire, Soldiers learned the capabilities and requirements for each position in a convoy. They were taught the responsibilities of the driver and the gunner, how to react to small arms fire, ambushes, disabled vehicles, calling for medical evacuation, reporting unexploded ordnance on the roadway and other tasks units in OIF and OEF have to execute every time they leave the wire.

"The purpose of the convoy live fire exercise here was to prepare our Soldiers for the dangers and situations they'll face in Iraq or Afghanistan, in a secure and safe environment," said 2nd Lt. Jason M. Upole, who was the Convoy Commander for one of the iterations. Members participated in two iterations of the STX, which consisted of

many different scenarios, from civilians on the battlefield, to calling up unexploded ordinance reports, or, UXO reports. This training is vital to Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers. Many of these situations prepare them for things they might encounter downrange. After completion of STX lanes, Soldiers participated in dry, blank, live and night convoy operations.

These training opportunities are extremely beneficial to today's servicemember, because they cover aspects of everyday operations while that person is down range in the combat zone. "This training taught us how to work together as a team, ensuring we know what to do if we find ourselves on a convoy when we deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan," said Sgt. Latoya Rice, joint network node switch supervisor, B Company, 16th STB, 16th Sust. Bde.

Each company planned and executed its own training on the side throughout the time in the field.

Bravo Company conducted 24-hour signal operations for each company command post with their JNN team, providing internet services and VoIP phones ensuring every company could stay connected and complete the mission. Bravo Company and HHC also conducted chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training, where they learned how to properly don their M40A1 protective mask. Once their mask was equipped, they went through a few exercises, which were followed by the CS gas chamber to acclimate Soldiers to their protective mask.

106th Financial Management Company was responsible for the validation of each CLFX and STX lane, as well as conducting financial management operations to include cashier, no pay, and deployment entitlements, which are essential to their daily mission not only in garrison, but in combat as well.

HHC held an M16 range for all Soldiers in the Battalion who needed to qualify. Capt. Tony Jenkins, the battalion chaplain, held a mock memorial service to provide Soldiers who have never attended a real ceremony, an opportunity to experience what takes place during an actual memorial service.

He also held a suicide prevention training class to refresh and train Soldiers on how to deal with situations that may arise involving suicide. The training involved detailed role-play, and important blocks of instructions on asking directly, intervening,

and helping your battle buddy. “The mock ceremony was extremely interesting to experience. It helped me realize and grasp the concept of our job,” said Spc. Cameron Adams, multichannel transmissions systems operator, B Co, 16th STB.

Col. Keith Sledd, 16th Sust. Bde. commander, said he feels the Soldiers have made a huge improvement from when they first started this training and now. This training, he added, has helped the Soldiers see the way convoy missions are supposed to be conducted and got them headed in the right direction.



A Soldier with 16th Special Troops Battalion aims his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon down range during a blank fire run in Grafenwoehr, Germany, July 22.



Two Humvees pull into firing points at the Grafenwoehr Training Area during the 16th Special Troops Battalion's convoy live fire exercise July 22.



Soldiers from the 16th Special Troops battalion stage their vehicles on the side of the road at the Grafenwoehr Training Area before starting the blank fire run during the convoy live fire exercise July 22.