



Indianhead



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www.2id.korea.army.mil

October 23, 2009

Tucker takes Warrior Division reins



Maj. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, the incoming 2nd ID commander, accepts the Division colors from Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr. of 8th Army as Command Sgt. Maj. Peter D. Burrowes and Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III look on during the change of command ceremony conducted Oct. 21 at Indianhead Field on Camp Casey. Pfc. Robert Young

By Master Sgt. Michael Pintagro

2nd ID Public Affairs Chief

Maj. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, who served most recently as International Security Assistance Force deputy chief of staff for operations in Afghanistan, took command of the 2nd Infantry Division during a ceremony replete with traditional music, pageantry, pomp and circumstance the morning of Oct. 21 at Indianhead Field on Camp Casey.

The new Warrior Division commander succeeded Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III, who departed the peninsula after nearly three and a half years with the Division and higher headquarters to serve as chief of staff for U.S. European Command.

Key United States Forces Korea, 8th U.S. Army and Republic of Korea Army as well as 2nd ID leaders and regional political and civic officials joined a large and enthusiastic crowd of Soldiers, Family members and well wishers amid cool, clear autumn weather for the event.

A ceremonial inspection of the troops, invocation and performance of the U.S. and Korean national anthems preceded the passing of the Division colors, which formally marked the change of command.

Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., the 8th Army commander, thanked distinguished guests, Korean leaders and Families, praised the Division and its outgoing commander, and noted the 2nd ID's role in the U.S.-ROK alliance.

"We have outstanding leaders like Major Generals John Morgan and Michael Tucker," Fil said. "We're 'Army Strong' because we have outstanding Soldiers like the Warriors of the 2nd ID and we're 'Army Strong' because we have outstanding Families supporting us, both here in Korea and back in the U.S."

"No one has done more to improve the Warrior Division's combat readiness than John Morgan," Fil said of the outgoing commander. "Through his steadfast leadership (he) has improved the Warrior Division's readiness, strengthened the ROK-U.S. alliance and helped to make Korea the assignment of choice."

The 8th Army leader also welcomed his newest subordinate commander to the fold.

"He brings a wealth of experience to the 2nd ID and I know he'll build on the great legacy of leadership here," Fil said. Directly addressing the incoming commander and his wife, he added that, "we're happy to have you here in Korea. We look forward to serving with you."

Morgan, honored in an awards presentation con-

ducted prior to the ceremony, led the Warrior Division from November 2007 until the change of command. The outgoing commander paid tribute to the Korean alliance, his staff and Division Soldiers during his remarks. He also endorsed his successor in generous terms.

"Warriors," he said, addressing his Soldiers for the final time, "you couldn't be more fortunate in your senior leadership. Maj. Gen. Mike Tucker is a proven battlefield commander with a rare combination of tactical competence and strategic vision. He's served as a private, a drill sergeant, a lieutenant and a general officer. From Kaiserslautern to Kuwait, from Karbala to Kabul and, now, Korea, he's leads from the front. I can honestly say – and mean – you couldn't be in better hands."

In turn, Morgan offered his successor a ringing endorsement of the Soldiers he commanded until the ceremony.

"They're as loyal as they are lethal, as committed to the team and their leaders as to the fight," he said of Division Soldiers. "Lead them well, and I'm sure you will, and they'll follow you anywhere. They'll fight and win tonight if that's what you ask them. They'll take appropriate initiative and serve superbly even in the absence of orders."

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VOICE OF THE WARRIOR:

When was the last time you went trick or treating?



"Last year, I went trick or treating with my daughter."

Sgt. Daricio Reed
E Co., 6-52nd ADA

"Last year, back in the States. I dressed up as a pirate."

Spc. Ramiro Garcia
HSC, 70th BSB



"When I was 14. I took my little sister with me."

Pfc. Robert Osterman
1-72nd Armor

"Four years ago. I dressed up as a firefighter."

Pfc. Jesse Glick
HSC, 1-72nd Armor



"Two years ago. I went as a Canadian. I spoke with a French accent."

Pfc. Elisha Humes
B Co., 1-72nd Armor



"Last year. I wore a big green 'M&M' costume with my kids."

Sgt. Gregory Groff
HHC, DSTB



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Warriors and Families, it is an honor to serve with you!

By Maj. Gen. Michael S. Tucker

2nd ID Commander

Two days ago I became your commander, a job which I do not take lightly. The change of command ceremony and welcome reception were superbly organized, well executed, and very much appreciated. Such events required an enormous effort on part of the division staff and subordinate units and we appreciate the effort. My wife Teresa and I have been warmly received by all those we've encountered, both military and civilian and we are both proud and humbled to become part of the legacy and honor which characterizes the 2nd Infantry Division, "Second to None."

My intent in this, my first message to you, the Warriors and Families of this great Division, is to introduce myself and allow you to better understand me as your new commander, and as a fellow Soldier. As many of you may know, I joined the Army as a private in 1972 and have been blessed with excellent leadership and challenges in each assignment since. I firmly believe that what you see depends on where you sit, so when I see you during unit visits, ranges, town hall meetings, etc, I'd ask that you share with me your perspective so that I can better appreciate the view from where you see it. Trust that my days as a private in the scout platoon of a tank battalion in Germany, to my days as a noncommissioned officer resonate deep in my heart and have consistently provided me an internal compass to help guide my decisions.

Teresa and I are strong proponents of our normalization, and are excited to see the recent changes offering increased command sponsorship. We are fully aware of the challenges associated with providing support for families, especially in Area I and we promise to work closely with our U.S. Army Garrison staff and Army leadership to provide the required essential support for proper quality of life for our Soldiers and their Families.

Like many of you, I have served across the spectrum of operations to include combat and Cold War environments and have an appreciation for what each requires in terms of training and readiness. As such, I have three priorities: A) training, equipment and personnel readiness; B) strengthening the alliance and preparation for operational control transition; and C) caring for our Warriors and Families.

These priorities are fundamental and nonnegotiable. They are nested with those of the com-



Maj. Gen. Michael S. Tucker became the commander of the Warrior Division Oct. 21 during a ceremony conducted at Camp Casey.

mander of 8th U.S. Army and the commander of U.S. Forces Korea. We're here to defend the American people, our allies and our vital interests here on the peninsula and within the region. Our nation and the Republic of Korea are depending on us through partnership with our other joint services and the alliance to hold the line.

Our alliance is strong and vibrant. Its evolution from the aftermath of the Korean War to the second decade of the 21st Century bears eloquent testimony not only to the development of the Korean nation but to the power of our shared vision. I look forward to working alongside our Republic of Korea Army brothers in arms on behalf of security and stability on the peninsula.

I look eagerly forward to leading this fine team and getting to know you as individuals as well as Warriors. We're going to achieve great things. Let's make our time together, like our great alliance and our legendary Division, "Second to None!"

Indianhead

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2nd Infantry Division

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Tanker presented Silver Star for OIF valor

By Master Sgt. Michael Pintagro

2nd ID Public Affairs Chief

CAMP CASEY, South Korea – A world away from the Baghdad neighborhood where he served last winter and defended an American convoy and brothers in arms against an enemy grenade attack, a Warrior accepted the gratitude and congratulations of his nation and his new military Family.

Spc. Vincent Hoover, now a tanker with 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team received the Silver Star during a ceremony conducted Oct. 20 at Camp Casey's Indianhead Field.

Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III presented the valor award on his last full day as commander of the Warrior Division.

"This very special young man risked an attractive Air Force career and went 'blue to green' in order to serve on the ground in combat against our nation's enemies," the Division commander said after presenting the award. "He sought the opportunity to support and defend his nation to serve side by side with fellow Soldiers. And when called to action he never flinched."

"His actions in combat exemplify the very essence of our Warrior ethos and spirit: never looking to quit; never looking to stop; always looking to aid fellow Soldiers and never letting them down," Morgan added. "He exemplifies what we all aspire to be as Soldiers, regardless of rank. And we are very proud to have that kind of Soldier serving here in the 2nd ID."

Morgan described Hoover's battlefield actions as unique yet consistent with the character of the Warrior Division.

"Spc. Hoover acted with uncommon speed, integrity and valor," he said. "But he is not the only one in the Warrior Division with a (Combat Infantry Badge), a (Combat Action Badge) or a combat patch. Like any other Division we have new guys fresh out of (Advanced Individual Training), but we also have within this great Division a rich supply of combat experience, courage and valor. The 2nd ID is ready and prepared to 'fight tonight' because of great Soldiers like Spc. Vincent Hoover and many others."

A modest and plain-spoken 23-year-old product of a working-class neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Hoover recoils almost physically from the spotlight, instinctively downplaying the gallantry that earned a valor decoration.

Brother infantrymen and tankers who know him as an expert gunner might be surprised to learn Hoover began his military career as an "instrument flight control systems journeyman" at an Air Force guidance and control back shop. After around a year and a half at Hurlburt Field in Florida, he entered the Army through a "blue-to-green" program.

"I just wanted to do something a little more 'hoah,'" he said with a smile. "So I got out of the Air Force one day and joined the Army the next."

After tanker training at Fort Knox, Ky., Hoover received orders for his first permanent duty assignment as a Soldier. The lifelong Steelers fan joined the "Raiders" of 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division just as the main body Soldiers returned from their last deployment. Assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, Hoover did not wait long for the combat assignment he expected. The "Regulars" next deployment followed quickly on the heels of their previous mission; Hoover left Fort Hood, Texas, for a



Maj. Vance Fleming

Maj. John W. Morgan III, the outgoing 2nd ID commander, awards Spc. Vincent Hoover of C Company, 1-72nd Armor a Silver Star during a ceremony conducted Oct. 20 at Camp Casey's Indianhead Field.

12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2008.

The Regulars operated as a "combined arms battalion" alongside a sister Iraqi battalion from a small patrol base in southwest Baghdad. The men of C Co. conducted patrols, searched for insurgent leaders and weapons caches, conducted raids and engaged the local populace. The Soldiers' mission reflected the versatility required of OIF units. The Regulars patrolled mainly in humvees and dismounted, rarely even entering their tanks.

Around 10 and a half months, three improvised explosive device and around half a dozen small arms attacks into the rotation, Hoover and his platoon faced a searing test of their training and courage. As the four-vehicle convoy proceeded along a paved city street in southwest Baghdad one day in late January, Hoover recalled, a cylindrical metallic device floated into his vehicle like a well-thrown football pass.

"I looked up and saw a grenade coming in and everything sort of slowed down," he said. "In the back of my mind I knew it wasn't good but I watched it the whole way. It hit the receiver of my SAW, then hit me in the chest. It wound up in the bottom of my turret."

Despite the pit in his stomach and the adrenaline coursing through his veins, Hoover maintained his composure, throwing the grenade to the left of the convoy and shouting for his vehicle driver to leave the vicinity. His actions none too soon it's a good thing he did. The device exploded promptly.

"I saw it blow up out of the corner of my eye while I was ducking down," he recalled. "The two on the right saw it too."

They also felt the impact.

"I felt the blast over my head and on my legs," he said. "I felt the shockwave – the overpressure. Everyone in the humvee felt it."

The team reacted promptly to the attack. Hoover credits Sgt. Kyle Lobdel, his teammates and convoy leaders with quick and forceful reaction to the surprise attack.

"As soon as (the event) happened Sgt. Lobdel was already doing what he needed to do," Hoover said. "My SAW had a stoppage. They covered me while I

fixed it. We set up our cordon and raided" suspected hideouts.

A tanker to the core, Hoover left Iraq that March with only one regret.

"It sucks," he said bluntly. "I would've loved to get that guy. I wouldn't mind going back and trying to get him." Encouraged by two close friends who charted the same course, Hoover reenlisted to serve in Korea during his OIF rotation. Those brother tankers, Sgt. Ryan Purdy and Sgt. Jeremy Storre, now serve alongside him at "First Tank."

Hoover seems to fit perfectly with his new teammates. The Warriors embraced him as a --- rock-solid troop, a top-notch gunner and an emerging leader even before word of his pending valor award spread. Leaders like what they've seen during his first few months with the battalion. "He's an awesome Soldier," said 1st Sgt. Ronald Newman, the top NCO of Hoover's company. "We're a better company because of guys like him."

"The other Soldiers look at him and see instant credibility," added Newman, also an OIF veteran recommended for valor awards. "They see he tested his mettle in combat and that means everything. Because of his experience and his background the other Soldiers listen carefully to what he has to say." The feeling is apparently mutual. Impressed by the quality and professionalism of battalion and company leaders as well as brother "First Tank" Soldiers, Hoover said he's already considering extension in Korea.

"I like this unit a lot," Hoover said of his company. "I'm proud to serve with this leadership. This is the proudest I've ever been to serve in a unit."

Long term, the versatile tanker said he's weighing options ranging from another combat role to aviation and medical specialties. A gifted mechanic with significant Air Force and civilian experience, he also ponders a return to maintenance missions.

In the meantime, the low-key and practical young man takes the accolades and honors in stride.

"All I can say is I did my job," he said. "It's an honor. But anybody in the platoon would've done the same thing. Hopefully, anyone in the Army would do the same thing."



Warrior NCO Spotlight

'Manchu' squad leader impacts infantrymen



Story & photo by Pfc. Robert Young

Staff writer

Sgt. Jamin Moore, now a squad leader serving with "Baker" Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, joined the Army three years ago unsure of what to expect from military life or what to do with his own.

The 22-year-old Madison, Ind. native apparently found his calling. Despite his youth and relatively short time in the Army, he has quickly matured into an effective leader.

After joining the Army at the height of the War on Terror, Moore didn't wait long to deploy.

In March 2008, Moore deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. During his rotation in Iraq, Moore was stationed in Balaad. His duties included information gathering and interacting with the local population.

Moore credits the noncommissioned officer leadership he served under in Iraq with his own development as a Soldier and a leader.

"I had a lot of good leadership in Iraq. They didn't treat us like idiots. The NCOs gave us a mission and allowed us to figure out the best way to complete it," he said.

Moore said he adopted a learning strategy that allowed him to adopt the best practices of a wide variety of leaders.

"I learned to take what you like from your leadership. Everybody has something that you like and don't like and you have to focus on the good things that you can learn from each leader," he said.

Moore has been in Korea for a little more than a year now. He was promoted to squad leader during that time. In fact, Moore said he's still getting used to the differences in roles and responsibilities as he assumes greater leadership.

"The change from a team leader to a squad leader took a little getting used to. I wasn't shooting any more. I was telling other Soldiers what to do and watching how they worked together. I have to make sure that they work well as a team," Moore said.

Pvt. Ramon Rodriguez has served under Moore for



Sgt. Jamin Moore, a squad leader with "Baker" company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, stands at the ready during a training event conducted Oct. 7 at the Korean Training Center.

two months and has learned much from the sergeant.

"I really like the real-world experience that he brings to the squad. I think it shows in how he tells us what to do. I think that he stresses what is important in our training," Rodriguez said.

Moore's experience in Iraq has made him aware of what his Soldiers should gain from training exercises. During a recent training exercise conducted at the Korean Training Center, Moore attempted to familiarize his squad with the challenges they would face in actual battle. He emerged pleased with the training and the performance of his Soldiers.

"I thought that today's scenarios were very realistic," he said after the event. "We had to go from house to house to talk with the locals to see what was going on in the town. My squad did very well."

His Soldiers seemed to profit from the training and

Moore's leadership. "His respect of service comes through in our training exercises," Rodriguez said of Moore's leadership. "He keeps high standards and makes sure that we meet them."

Although Moore is not a strict authoritarian, he maintains order through respect and an understanding of his Soldiers' needs.

"In the field I always make sure my Soldiers are doing the right thing," he said. "I am quick to correct any deficiencies. But in the garrison, I am more relaxed."

Moore said he looks forward to a long military career and more travel.

"I would like to go to Germany at some point," he said. "I have time because I plan to retire from the Army. I love the infantry because it has given me a lot of opportunities."

Calling all photographers!

The 2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs office seeks the finest images of 2009 for publication in the *Indianhead*. A distinguished panel of Division PA personnel will judge submissions.

Focus, composition, color and shot selection will weigh heavily in the judges' decisions. The best shots typically highlight action, emotion, facial expressions and/or unique situations. Wide-angle shots showing "ant people," i.e. very small human characters, and posed "grip and grin" shots generally **stink!** Subjects may include anything relevant to Division missions and activities, including Warriors and/or Family members participating in training, 2nd ID programs and community events.

We'll award **first, second and third prizes** in two categories: submissions from Soldiers and submissions from Family members. Prizes include professional development materials and Warrior paraphernalia. The PA shop will also publish winning photos in a future edition of the *Indianhead*. Send all photos as JPGs no greater than 5M in size to robert.t.young@korea.army.mil. Contact Maj. Vance Fleming at vance.fleming@korea.army.mil or 732-8882, or Master Sgt. Michael Pintagro at michael.pintagro@korea.army.mil or 732-8869 for more information. Deadline for entries is **Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26)**. We look forward to your submissions. Good luck!

WARRIOR NEWS BRIEFS

Halloween celebration

A costume parade and trick or treating event is slated for Oct. 30 at the Pear Blossom Cottage on Camp Red Cloud. A Halloween party will be held immediately afterward.

Halloween aerobathon

Wear your favorite costume and challenge yourself to three hours of non-stop hard working fun!

A "Halloween aerobathon" is slated for 9:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Oct. 31 at Camp Casey's Carey Gym. The first 50 people who complete the aerobathon will receive a free T-shirt.

Suicide intervention

A suicide prevention course is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 29-30 at the Camp Casey Education Center.

The course is available to military members of all ranks as well as civilian personnel. This program provides information for first-line caregivers of all backgrounds to assist persons at risk.

For enrollment information or other questions, call 730-4287.

There are currently 20 seats available for the training.

At the end of fiscal 2009, the Army reported 111 confirmed cases of suicides within its ranks with a recent suicide documented two weeks ago within Korea.

Korean musical

Members of the Republic of Korea Army Support Group are pleased to invite all Area 1 Soldiers and their Families to a Korean traditional musical 8 p.m. Oct. 29-31 at the National Theater of Korea, Haeorum Theater. Admission is free for all USFK personnel. For more information, call 732-7802.

Chaplains need your help

Division chaplains need volunteers to serve as piano players, organists, religious education coordinators, parish coordinators and civilian clergy. If you are interested in any of these opportunities to serve, contact your unit chaplain's office or church staff.

Information assurance

All personnel with access to a government owned computer or network are required to complete information assurance Awareness training annually and provide a copy of the training certificate to their maintenance officers or information assurance representatives.

Please ensure that all personnel are enrolled in the Army Training and Certification Tracking System for processing purposes. This is required for managing required IT training and notification of account expiration. To register in ATCTS, navigate to the web site at <https://atc.us.army.mil>.

DCC renovation

The Camp Casey Digital Conference Center is currently undergoing renovation. The DCC will be converted into Community Activity Center. The renovation is scheduled for completion at the end of March 2010. All current reservations are being cancelled to accommodate the renovation. DCC officials apologize for the inconvenience. For more information, call 730-3342.

IMCOM survey

Division leaders request Warriors to complete the 2009 U.S. Army Installation Management Command customer service assessment. The survey asks Soldiers' input on the quality and priority of installation services.

The feedback provided by Division personnel will help IMCOM determine how to best serve Warriors and Family members. Visit the Web site at <http://www.myarmyvoice.org> in order to complete the 15-minute survey.

Bicycles in the subway

Good news for cyclists: you can now bring your two-wheelers onto participating Seoul subways on Sundays and holidays.

The subway stations include the Seoul City Hall (Line 1), Seoul National University of Education (Line 2), Apgujeong (Line 3), Sadang (Line 4), Yeouido (Line 5) station.

Movies

Camp Casey

Show times: Fri.-Sun. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.,
Mon.-Thur. 7:30 p.m.

October 23...Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, Post Grad, Zombieland
October 24...The Time Traveler's Wife, Zombieland
October 25...Post Grad, The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
October 26...Zombieland
October 27...No Showing
October 28...Shorts
October 29...No Showing
October 30...Where the Wild Things Are, The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
October 31...Where the Wild Things Are, District 9

Camp Red Cloud

Show times: Fri. 7 & 9 p.m.,
Sat.-Thu. 7 p.m.

October 23...Surrogates, G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra
October 24...District 9
October 25...A Perfect Getaway
October 26...Shorts
October 27...The Time Traveler's Wife
October 28...No Showing
October 29...Zombieland
October 30...Zombieland, The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
October 31...Post Grad
November 1...The Final Destination
November 2...Julie & Julia
November 3...Gamer

Camp Hovey

Show times: Mon.-Sun. 7 p.m.

October 23...The Time Traveler's Wife
October 24...Post Grad
October 25...Zombieland
October 26...No Showing
October 27...The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
October 28...No Showing
October 29...Where the Wild Things Are
October 30...District 9
October 31...Shorts
November 1...Surrogates
November 2...Shorts

Camp Stanley

Show times: Sun.-Mon. & Thu. 7 p.m.,
Sat., Wed. & Fri. 7 & 9 p.m.

October 23...The Time Traveler's Wife Truth
October 24...Behind Enemy Lines, Surrogates, The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
October 25...Surrogates
October 26...Shorts
October 27...No Showing
October 28...Where the Wild Things Are
October 29...District 9
October 30...The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard, Post Grad
October 31...Zombieland, District 9
November 1...Zombieland
November 2...The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard

Camp Humphreys

Show times: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 & 9 p.m.,
Sat.-Sun. 3:30, 6:30 & 9 p.m.

October 23...Zombieland
October 24...Shorts, Zombieland
October 25...Shorts, Zombieland
October 26...Funny People
October 27...Funny People
October 28...District 9
October 29...District 9
October 30...Where the Wild Things Are, The Hurt Locker
October 31...Where the Wild Things Are, The Hurt Locker
November 1...Bandslam, Surrogates
November 2...Post Grad
November 3...Bandslam, Surrogates
November 4...The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard

CHAPEL SERVICE TIMES

Camp Red Cloud

Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
9 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
7 p.m. Sunday
COGIC:
12:30 p.m. Sunday

Camp Casey

Stone Chapel
Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday

Memorial Chapel
Gospel:
11 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday

West Casey Chapel

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
Noon Sunday
11:45 a.m. Tuesdays
and Thursdays
Jewish:
6:30 p.m. Friday

Camp Hovey

Hovey Chapel
Catholic:
9:30 a.m. Sunday
Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday

Old Hovey Chapel
Bldg. 3592
Orthodox:
10 a.m. 3rd Sundays

Crusader Chapel

Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday

Camp Stanley
Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
Gospel:
12:30 p.m. Sunday
Catholic:
12:30 p.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
7 p.m. Tuesday

Camp Castle

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday

Castle Chapel

KATUSA:
6 p.m. Wednesday
Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday

Points of contact

USAG-Red Cloud:
732-6073/6706
CRC Catholic:
732-6016
Hovey Chapel:
730-5119
Memorial Chapel:
730-2594
West Casey:
730-3014
Stanley:
732-5238
Humphreys:
753-7952
Castle:
730-6889
LDS chaplain:
010-5337-0872

ADA Soldiers certify, select superior Stingers

By Master Sgt. Michael Pintagro

2nd ID Public Affairs Chief

Platoons, sections and individual Warriors from E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 210th Fires Brigade competed for battery bragging rights during a “Best Stinger” competition held Oct. 5-9 at Camp Casey.

The battery’s air defense artillerymen, who operate Avenger Stinger Missile systems, met individual, section and team training goals and attained required certification status as they sought superior Stinger honors.

The weeklong competition, conducted at the Seung Ji Gol Village facility and battery training areas, provided the most comprehensive imaginable test of an ADA Soldier’s mettle. Events included an Army Physical Fitness Test and written examinations testing general career field knowledge and recognition of aircraft and armored vehicles. The ADA Soldiers participated in a mounted land navigation course as well as radio operations, missile upload and reload, and nuclear, biological and chemical defense drills. The event culminated in a tactical road march followed by an awards ceremony and battery barbecue.

Ultimately, “Ruff Ryders” of 3rd Pltn. captured top platoon honors, while “E24” – Staff Sgt. Trent Hill and Pfc. Frank Harrington of 2nd Pltn. – claimed the top team title. More importantly, the battery emerged from the event more cohesive, motivated and proficient.

The event not only inspired intense concentration and motivation through friendly competition and certification through Table VI but developed unit confidence and esprit de corps. The competitive training, moreover, selected teams and Soldiers to conduct a missile live fire during Operation Sea Strike, slated for November.

“The competition is designed to instill some motivation in the Soldiers and at the same time introduce some friendly competition and determine which teams will be able to fire the Stinger missiles during Table X,” Sgt. 1st Class Booker Metcalf of 4th Pltn. said in a concise summary of the event. “This competition also certifies us through Table VI.” ADA Soldiers certify annually in 10 tables, culminating in live fire.

“All of the drills and competition are based on what they need to do in terms of shoot, move and communicate,” Metcalf added. “The crew drills are all about shooting. The mounted land nav and even the APFT are about moving. And the radio task is about communicating.”

Metcalf, his officers and subordinate noncommissioned officers all agreed on the unique character of the Avenger



Pvt. Paul Holston

Pfc. Mitchell Huntington and Pfc. Brandon Hale from E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, work together to load a Stinger missile Oct. 7 at the Seung Ji Gol Village training area in Camp Casey.

mission.

“The Avenger is a line-of-site weapons system,” Metcalf noted. “We protect convoys, radars and also the battalion tactical operations center.”

“We’re more forward-deployed,” added Staff Sgt. Trent Hill of 2nd Pltn. “We have to know enemy vehicle criteria at all times. We have to know exactly what’s around us to the left and the right. We’re combat multipliers – not only are we pulling air defense, but we’re pulling local ground security as well.”

“This gives them confidence in their equipment and themselves as they prepare to fire live missiles next month,” said 1st Sgt. Richard Pyles, the battery’s top enlisted man. “Each Soldier will come out of this more confident he can do his job. That’s important going into the live fire.”

“It raises morale for us,” agreed 2nd Lt. Brandon Thompson, the Sentinel Pltn. leader. “It allows us to do something beyond the daily grind.”

“We want everyone to get certified in their crew drills,” the Oklahoma City native added. “This will pay big dividends when we get to Chulmae,” the site of the live fire.

The Soldiers apparently embraced their leaders’ vision for the event.

“I’m more confident in what I do,” said Pfc. Cesar Pulido of 3rd Pltn., a native of Tulare, Calif. “From the drills to the classroom environment, I’m more confident in every part of my job. I’m more confident I can ‘fight tonight.’”

Many said the competition provided added incentive to the training.

“This was good experience and practice in case I ever have to use these skills in a real-world mission,” said Pfc. Nicholas Bunn of 3rd Pltn., a native of Montpelier, Idaho. “The competitive aspect really built us up and helped us come together as a platoon. Hopefully, we’ll get top platoon again this year.”

“You just want to be on top of the platoon so you put forth the best effort you can and do everything you can to help the team,” added Pfc. Andrew House of Signal Pltn.

The Soldiers described several training events as particularly valuable.

“I’d have to say the emplacement drill was the most challenging,” said Pfc. Malcolm Darden of 3rd Pltn. “It’s by far the most physical out of all the drills – 50 meters of hell when you run with that thing.”

The drill, added the Georgetown, S.C. native added that the drill posed daunting mental as well as physical challenges. “The gunner has to think through everything and make sure he gets everything just right in order for the system to be integrated – to get a ‘go’ at the station,” Darden pointed out.

“I thought the general knowledge test was the hardest part,” said Pfc. Mitchell Huntington of 3rd Pltn., a native of Davenport, Iowa. “The tests covered a large body of information. There’s a lot to know.”

“The vehicle land nav was good training and kind of fun,” House said. “We had to use our equipment to search for the points. If they show me a map and tell me I need to be somewhere I’ll definitely know how to get there.”

Whatever challenged them the most, the Soldiers emerged from the competition certified and enthusiastic.

“The thing that impressed me the most was the motivation of the Soldiers,” Pyles said. “They’re out here for long hours training, but everyone’s motivated. You see a lot of positive attitudes and even smiles. You don’t hear anyone complaining. How rare is that for Soldiers?”

DSTB event honors Hispanic heritage



Sgt. Josue Ten and Spc. Ione Barrera of Headquarters Company, Division Special Troops Battalion perform a Latin dance Oct. 9 at the Commanding General's Mess on Camp Red Cloud.

Story & photo by Cpl. Bu Yong Han

Editor

Around 60 guests and 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers had an opportunity to experience various aspects of Hispanic culture during an Hispanic Heritage Month observance held Oct. 9 in the Commanding General's Mess on Camp Red Cloud.

Latino food, music and entertainment highlighted the 2009 version of this annual celebration.

"We're here to highlight the contribution and achievement of Hispanic culture through various activities like food sampling and entertainment," said

Sgt. 1st Class Rocky Marsh, the organizer of this event.

According to Marsh, the event was designed to encourage cultural awareness and teach participants about Hispanic culture.

"We expect Soldiers to gain more awareness of the Hispanic culture through different programs of today's event," he said.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Michael Turrieta, Area I program manager for Hispanic and Native American heritage programs as well as a training support specialist with Installation Management Command, delivered opening remarks describing more details about Hispanic Heritage Month observances and the importance of the celebrations.

"In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month long celebration," he said. "This year's theme, 'embracing the fierce urgency of now' presents us with an opportunity to reflect upon the numerous and varied accomplishments of many extraordinary Hispanic-Americans."

Then he discussed the manifold contributions of Hispanic Americans have contributed in the history of the U.S. Army. "Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have shown their devotion to our country in their military service. Citizens of Hispanic descent have fought in every war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as heroes in our nation's history," he said.

"Americans of Hispanic descents still today are serving in our armed forces with courage and honor, and their efforts are helping make America more secure and bringing freedom to people around the world," he said in conclusion.

Following the remarks, Brig. Gen. Walter M. Golden, the assistant Division commander for maneuver, and Lt. Col. Miguel A. Martinez, the commander of the 70th Brigade Support Battalion and the guest speaker of the event, participated in a cake-cutting ceremony. Participants then joined in a feast featuring a variety of Hispanic foods.

After everyone enjoyed their meals, some passion-

ate Latin dances and a poem were introduced to them. Sgt. Josue Ten and Spc. Ione Barrera of the DSTB were on the front stage dancing rhythmically as Latin music flowed. Then Cpl. Sung Oh Yoon, the 2nd ID commanding general's Republic of Korea Army administrative assistant, read a poem entitled "I Remember You as You Were." Yoon read the poem in Spanish as well as English.

When all the entertainment was over, Martinez was properly introduced as guest speaker.

"I am proud to say that our armed forces are the nation's best model of strength in diversity. Our volunteer forces have certainly set the standard for integration, as we see ourselves as one Army family, one institution," the guest speaker said.

Martinez continued by mentioning of brave Hispanic American Soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor, including the first recipient. "Forty three Hispanic Soldiers, Sailors and Marines have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, from the Civil War to Korea and Vietnam; many Hispanic Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice to our nation," he said.

"Pvt. David Barkley, from Texas, who in the first World War volunteered with another Soldier to swim across the icy and dangerous Meuse River and crawled 400 yards behind enemy lines, to verify key German Artillery position and made maps that, would later on enable a successful attack against the enemy. As he swam back to friendly lines under enemy fire, he drowned but his fellow Soldier completed the mission. Seventy one years later, he was recognized as the Army's first Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient," he added.

Martinez concluded his remarks by re-stating the purpose and aims of the observance.

"We 'Hispanos and Latinos' use this annual celebration to educate our amigos (friends), colegas (peers), and compatriotas (fellow countrymen), not only on our 'Latin thing,' but rather what we are truly about – citizens able, willing and committed to the continued growth of our country and diverse way of life," he said. "This is 'vamos juntos' (we go together)."

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"They can defeat armored columns and they can teach English classes to children," he continued. "They can deter aggression and they can build alliances. They can make friends and they can destroy enemies. I've had no higher honor in my career than to lead these Warrior Soldiers. You're getting Warriors who are confident, competent, committed and courageous. You're getting a team and a group of young men and women that are truly 'Second to None.'"

The incoming commander followed his predecessor to the podium. He thanked the assembled leaders, guests and friends of his Division for a warm welcome and pledged to build on the achievements of Warriors and previous commanders.

Tucker said he and his wife "are honored and humbled by the opportunity to be assigned to such a great Division, built on the tremendous achievements of so many distinguished Soldiers and predecessors who have fought for and led this magnificent organization. Your reputation far exceeds the shores of the peninsula and your unique partnership with the Republic of Korea Army is truly 'Second to None' as well."

"I am enormously proud to be selected to be your commander, a job which I accept with pride and humble resolve to serve each of you," the North Carolina native added. "You truly are 'Second to None.'" The event concluded with a traditional pass in review, during which units marched past the command group as the Division band performed a rousing repertoire of patriotic airs. A reception honoring the incoming Warrior Division commander followed the change of

command.

Tucker enlisted in the Army in 1972, serving as a cavalry scout with 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment in Erlangen, Germany. The incoming commander rose through the enlisted ranks to staff sergeant and served as a drill sergeant prior to earning his commission as an armor officer through officer's candidate school. The former private ultimately assumed leadership positions at every echelon from platoon to division. He served extensively in Europe, including a long and distinguished tenure with the 1st Armored Division. Prior to his deployment with ISAF, Tucker served as assistant surgeon general for warrior care transition, playing a key role in Army efforts to confront challenges in veterans' care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The incoming commander brings a wealth of combat and operational leadership experience to the Warrior Division. Tucker served as an operations officer during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and a brigade commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom in addition to his senior leadership during OEF. He also commanded a battalion during Intrinsic Action in Kuwait.

The incoming commander holds academic degrees from the University of Maryland, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and Shippensburg University. His military education includes tenures at a variety of institutions including the Armed Forces Staff College and U.S. Army War College.

Tucker's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters). The incoming commander earned the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Drill Sergeant Identification Badge and the German Ranger Badge.

'Manchu Hammer' drives combined training



Maj. Michael Nicholson

Republic of Korea Army leaders survey "Manchu" training during a visit to the 2-9th Infantry gunnery conducted Oct. 7 at the Korean Training Center.

By Pfc. Robert Young

Staff writer

KOREAN TRAINING CENTER, South Korea – "Manchus" from 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team concluded a 30-day field training exercise among very special guests.

A delegation of battalion-level leaders from several Republic of Korea Army armor organizations joined the Manchus Oct. 7 for the final stages of "Manchu Hammer."

Leaders from the 25th, 81st and 82nd ROK armor battalions came to KTC to observe Manchu training techniques during the latter stages of the battalion training event, which focused primarily on gunnery and urban operations.

"This is another great example of the strength of the ROK-U.S. alliance," said Maj. Mike Nicholson, the 1st HBCT public affairs officer. "These are tactical units coming together to learn from each other. There are great exchanges taking place today, not only at the unit level but between individual Soldiers as well."

"The ROK army leadership was very interested in observing the urban engagement aspect of the training in order to refine how they train," said Lt. Col. Milford Beagle, the 2-9th Infantry commander. "I think that the leaders will notice how smoothly our platoons can make the transition between urban

ops and range fire."

"Manchu Hammer" tested the 2-9th Infantry platoon leaders' ability to integrate different capabilities and systems into an effective fighting force in diverse environments. The exercise also tested the command, control and planning assets of the entire battalion in support of each platoon.

"There are a lot of moving pieces for the platoon leader to handle, but the way that we constructed the exercise breaks it into manageable bits," said Beagle.

One difference noted by many of the ROK leaders was the effective integration by American Soldiers of newer urban warfare tactics and techniques emerging from current Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom practices. ROK battalions contrasted this more comprehensive and integrated training strategy with the more traditional focus on high intensity gunnery operations in open terrain and wood lines.

"What we're bringing to the table is our experience from Iraq and Afghanistan, where the urban landscape negates any weapon system's advantage because of the risk of collateral damage," Beagle said.

The month-long "Manchu Hammer" exercise tested the entire battalion from the individual Soldier with rifle qualification to platoon level live fire exercises. Each platoon comprised two Bradley fighting vehicles, two M-1 tanks and a dismounted element that the platoon leaders had to effectively command and

operate as a cohesive unit. The training event put to task the robust capability of each platoon as they moved from urban engagements to live fire in the field.

"We came here to observe U.S. tactical operations to develop ROKA tactics," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kim Ki-Oon of the 81st ROKA Tank Battalion. "One difference I noticed is that the U.S. tank commander is focused mainly on his tank and his troops where (we) focus more on commands coming from above. I think that a U.S. tank commander has more flexibility to make decisions."

The dismounted, lighter operations also posed a challenge to the leadership

from the armor battalions.

"This is great training for my battalion," said Beagle. "The platoon leaders will be stressed out, and they should be, because this is not a simple operation. It should also give the ROKA leadership a lot to think about as we continue to improve our integration together."

"We were very pleased to host our Korean counterparts, and I'm sure today was mutually beneficial," Nicholson added. "Events like these are what leaders throughout the peninsula have emphasized and we look forward to further alliance participation in training events like these."



Maj. Michael Nicholson

A Republic of Korea Army officer discusses training with a 2-9th Infantry KATUSA during a gunnery held Oct. 7 at the Korean Training Center.