

5-7 CAV Squadron Mid-tour Update

5-7 Cavalry Squadron returned to Europe for a six month rotation as part of Atlantic Resolve in late March 2016. Since their arrival the Warpaint Team has trained in Germany, Poland, and arrived in Hungary. With daily opportunities to make ourselves better, the Squadron has become the best trained Cavalry force in the US Army. The Squadron maintains its focus on building readiness in preparation for its next test at the National Training Center in March of 2017 while simultaneously assuring, deterring and building interoperability with our NATO partners. We encourage everyone to follow our exploits on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/57CAV/timeline>). Some of the key events of the Squadron's first 90 days have been:

The Squadron's European rotation began on 30 March when the first main body flight landed in Nuremberg, Germany. While a small element went straight to Grafenwoehr, most Troopers arrived at Coleman Work Station where they drew a fleet of vehicles. While all the tracked vehicles were loaded onto rail, 5-7



SPC Rice receiving a coin from BG Crissman

CAV Troopers convoyed the wheeled vehicles five hours across Germany to join the rest of the Squadron at Grafenwoehr. Once consolidated in Grafenwoehr, the maintenance teams got to work immediately conducting services and repairs when needed to prepare for gunnery just two days away. During this time, Horseman Troop set up the mission command systems needed for gunnery. SPC Rice distinguished herself by validating all the switches, routers, and modems in the Squadron to ensure we had connectivity, and was awarded a 3ID Coin by BG Crissman, 3ID DCG, for her efforts.



Troopers inventory and conduct maintenance checks on M2A3 Bradleys at equipment draw

The line troops lost no time in getting out to the range and firing the 40 + M2A3 Bradleys the team drew. The troops began with Table III which allows the crews to practice their skills without live ammunition and moved on through Tables V and VI certifying crews on the Bradley weapon system. SSG Robinson and SGT Baldwin both of Crazyhorse Troop tied for the top score in the Squadron with a score of 957 out of 1000. These crews consisting of SGT Baldwin, SPC Stiles, and SPC Miller and SSG Robinson, PFC De Wilde, and PFC Beebe demonstrated the Squadron's resolve to produce lethal crews in preparation for Platoon live fire.



Crazy Horse Bradley crew scans their sector during Gunnery Table XII

The Warpaint team jumped next into platoon live-fire exercises and conducted gunnery Tables X through XII in late April to certify lethal cavalry platoons. These tables began with a troop-level operations order brief and each platoon conducted troop leading procedures before maneuvering as a platoon and engaging multiple targets at both day and night.



While Apache, Bandit, and Crazy Horse Troops were occupied with Bradley gunnery, their mortar sections and the Squadron's forward support troop, Dealer, were qualifying on their own weapons systems. The mortar teams went out to the field for five days to conduct Mortar Training Evaluation Program (MORTEP) which certifies the mortar sections on their 120mm mortars. Over the week, 5-7 CAV's Mortarmen fired over 1,500 rounds of high explosive and illumination rounds training both speed and accuracy. Dealer Troop's distribution platoon joined 3rd

Brigade Sustainment Battalion (3BSB) for unstabilized gunnery to shoot their .50-caliber machine guns. The truck commanded by SGT Nelson, driven by SPC McClellon, and gunned by SPC Otis earned "Top Gun" for the highest unstabilized gunnery score for all of 3BSB.

Simultaneously to Troops qualifying on their weapons systems and becoming lethal, the staff sections of Horseman Troop planned and lead Warpaint Academy, which over the course of two weekends brought platoon leadership and command teams across the Squadron together to review the military decision making process, standard operating procedures, logistics processes, and capabilities of enablers in preparation for Combined

Resolve VI (CbR VI). The Squadron leaders and staff used their last week on Grafenwoehr to participate in the brigade's Command Post Exercise (CPX). This exercise focused on planning and execution at the Squadron level. The Squadron planned, rehearsed, and fought in simulation against a hybrid threat with the outcome being a better trained mission command node for the upcoming CbR VI rotation.



Squadron Leadership conducts a rehearsal on a large terrain model during CPX

May had the Squadron moving from Grafenwoehr to Hohenfels Germany to conduct Combined Resolve VI. Combined Resolve VI was a Squadron focused event that allowed the Squadron in conjunction with 8 leaders from Kosovo to conduct reconnaissance and security operations against a fictitious hybrid threat in the restrictive terrain of Bavaria. The Squadron executed Platoon and Troop enhanced maneuver lanes that lead into a 10 day force on force battle with the OPFOR stressing the Squadron systems and making the Squadron better. During the rotation the Squadron integrated enablers from the Brigade Engineer Battalion to include the Unmanned Aerial System platoon, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Reconnaissance Platoon, an Engineer Sapper Platoon, and a Signals Intelligence Team. Once complete the Squadron began preparing for Operation Anakonda 2016 as well as other administrative actions, the highlight of which was the long overdue promotion of SFC Pelham to 1SG.



*Squadron Leadership following CBR VI at the famous Halloween Church in the Hohenfels Training Area. Leaders are:
 Back Row (L to R): CPT Erickson (WP3L), CPT Olsen (H6), 1SG Williams(H7), SFC Yates(A7), CPT Benson(A6), SFC Pelham(B7), CPT Witherspoon (B6), MAJ Denney (WP3), CSM Bolyard (WP7), LTC Mahaffey (WP6), MAJ Murray (WP5), CPT Jerke (C6), SFC Elsey (C7), 1SG Arbuckle (D7), and CPT Barnett (D6).
 Front Row (L to R): 1LT N. Hulm (H5), 1LT V. Hulm (WP2A), 1LT Wood (WP1), CPT Bane (WP2), CPT Tighe (WP4), MSG Eaton (WP37), CPT Kelley (WP3A), 1LT McKinley (WP9), CH (CPT) Porter (WP Shepard), and 1LT Johnson (WP Archangel).*

In late May, the Squadron loaded trains and moved to Orzysz, Poland. While in Poland, the Squadron participated in Operation Anakonda 2016, one of the largest exercises in the history of Poland and NATO. Warpaint Squadron became the international Squadron and assumed mission command over a Lithuanian Infantry Company, a Croatian Infantry Company, and Polish Artillery and Engineers. The exercise consisted of Situational Training lanes and live-fire and culminated with Troop LFXs. Highlights of this exercise included opening and closing ceremonies, a full decontamination of US, Lithuanian, and Croatian equipment, a relief in place with 1-17 Polish Cavalry, multiple outreaches to the local Polish communities, and visits from LTG Rozanski, Chief of Polish Land Forces, MG Gonsalves, CG of 4ID, and the Honorable Eric Fanning, Secretary of the Army.

Following Anakonda 2016, the Squadron conducted some quick MWR Trips to check out Hitler's Wolf's Lair Command Post Complex before loading up and moving to Hungary. Today the Squadron sits ready to enjoy Independence Day in Hungary and begin training with the Hungarians. The Squadron leadership was lucky enough to be invited to the Ambassador's house to celebrate with the Embassy team and the Squadron has planned multiple activities for the Troopers on July 4th. Although we are at the halfway point we are not done yet and look forward to multiple LFXs and training opportunities here in Hungary as we strive to get better every day.



Picture on the left: SFC Gamble talks with a Lithuanian NCO.

Picture on the Right: Secretary of the Army Fanning talks about the Bradley with SGT Baldwin.



Picture on the left: LTC Mahaffey briefs the LFX to MG Gonsalves (4ID CDR) and COL Malinovsky (17th BDE CDR).

Picture on the Right: Troopers pose with children in Elk, Poland during an outreach event.



LTC Mahaffey, CSM Bolyard, and 1LT Matt Trail take a selfie with the US Ambassador to Hungary, Coleen Bell.