



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wolfpack Troopers receive a different taste of Turkey

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Story by: Sgt. Jerry Wilson

2CR Public Affairs

VILSECK, Germany – Eleven Troopers from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment got a different taste of Turkey this holiday season by participating in U.S. Army Europe’s Theater Security Exchange program. Members of Hawk Company spent Dec. 1 - 13 in the Republic of Turkey learning about the culture and training with the military. The trip proved to be an eye-opening experience for all those involved.

“This is what I joined the military to do,” said 1st Lt. Alexander Frank, Hawk Co. Platoon Leader, “I’ve always wanted to meet Soldiers from other places, train with their military, see what their tactics and techniques are like and just get to know people from other countries.” Frank said he was very impressed in the quiet professionalism he observed among his Turkish hosts.

“Overall they were amazingly disciplined, tough and very motivated when it came to fighting for their country,” Frank said. “They were also extremely friendly like they had known us for a long time. They were always modest and happy to help us.”

For most of the delegation, the trip was a chance to see another side of the Turkish people and to break through their cultural stereotypes. Many said they made very good friends with their Turkish hosts. In addition to learning the lifestyles of the people, the unit also had the opportunity to train alongside their brothers-in arms.

“At first we were told it was a cultural trip,” said Spc. Matthew Molloy, “then we found out we would be training at their commando school and that was an exciting and a rare opportunity.”

The team spent time at the Turkish Mountain Commando School in Egridir where they had the chance to meet and interact with their counterparts. They were surprised to find they had many things in common.

While they did not receive the full training regiment offered by the commando school, they went through several amazing exercises, including a massive obstacle course with a 76-meter high rappelling tower. This proved to be one of the highlights of the trip.

“That was probably three times higher than anything I have been able to do in the U.S. military,” Frank said. “That was awesome!”

According to Frank, one of the biggest differences he saw was the role of officers within the Turkish Army. Officers take a more active role in the training of Soldiers, a role that would be filled by the Noncommissioned Officers in the U.S. Army. Frank said the Turks were quite impressed with the amount of responsibility our NCOs have.

“As we went through the training they saw how I interacted with my NCOs,” Frank said, “and how they interacted with their Soldiers and were quite impressed by that.”

The strong bonds of friendship forged with their Turkish counterparts created a better understanding of the country’s people and its culture.

“This was one of the most valuable experiences I have had in the military. It changed mindsets and was one small step towards improving relations,” said Frank. “This entire exchange exercise was not only interesting but also eye-opening. I am very proud to have been a part of it.”



Ready go: Staff Sgt.

Christopher Pichache from Hawk company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment prepares to repel from the 76-meter tower at the Turkish Mountain Commando School in Egridir Turkey during the U.S. Army Europe's theater exchange program from (Photo by: Sgt. Scott Hahn)



Away: Spc. Justin

Sellers from Hawk company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment free repels from the 76-meter tower at the Turkish Mountain Commando School in Egridir Turkey during the U.S. Army Europe's theater exchange program.(Photo by: Sgt. Scott Hahn).

