



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Dragoons conduct FIRES Support Conference**

**Story by: Sgt. Jerry Wilson 2CR Public Affairs**

**VILSECK, Germany** – Troopers from FIRES Squadron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment gathered alongside their counterparts from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Support Squadron and the 19<sup>th</sup> Battlefield Coordination Detachment to discuss lessons learned from their recent deployment to Afghanistan during the first FIRES Support Conference held Tuesday, Sept. 7 at Rose Barracks. Distinguished guests for the event included the Commander of 19<sup>th</sup> BCD, Col. Stephen Maranian, , the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe, Maj. Gen. James C. Boozer and the 76<sup>th</sup> Colonel of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, ,Col. Keith Barclay.

“We figured we would bring all fire supporters together to share lessons learned from the last deployment and carve a path for future training within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment,” said FIRES Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Lugo, during his opening remarks. Lugo went on to stress the focus of the conference which was to bring all the elements involved in fire missions together to discuss their experiences in the field and share ideas that will help build future operations as the squadron prepares to enter their Combined Arms Maneuver training in 2012.

Guest speakers for the afternoon included Lt. Col David Sink, Commander of the Vampire Team from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. The Vampires are the observer controllers which train both Field Artillery units and their multinational partners for deployments. Sink talked about fire support trends and the challenges which units face at a Battery level.

Major Gen. Boozer stressed how important the training phase of artillery operations is to the Regiment's overall mission readiness.

Boozer urged the Dragoons to focus hard on the development of their upcoming training program and pay close attention to the core fundamentals.

"The training blocks you will put in place are very important, take your time and do it right," Boozer said "It's all about move, shoot and communicate, that is the business you are in."

Col. Barclay stated that part of this conference is to help Soldiers refocus on the fire maneuver and combined firing maneuver aspects of the job

"The role of fires is not lost on us intellectually but sometimes there is a danger of losing it in practice," he said.

Barclay also noted the importance of continued training in the fundamental fields of artillery operations in order to maintain a unit's proficiency and effectiveness on the battlefield.



Col. Keith Barclay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regimental Commander addresses the attendees at the FIRE Support Conference held Tuesday, Sept. 7 on Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry Wilson, 2CR Public Affairs)



Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe, Maj. Gen. James Boozer talks about training ideas with the attendees at the FIRE Support Conference, conducted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment held Tuesday, Sept. 7 on Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany. (Photo by Sgt. Jose Ibarra, 2CR Public Affairs)

