



PRESS RELEASE

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FIRES continues Spur Ride Tradition

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VILSECK, Germany – Troopers from FIRES Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment put their physical prowess and strength to the test Thursday, Sept. 15 as they participated in the time honored Cavalry tradition known as the Spur Ride. More than 100 spur candidates gathered in the early morning for a chance to earn the coveted silver spurs.

The tradition of having to “earn your spurs” dates back to the earliest days of the Cavalry. Troopers assigned to a unit had to undergo extensive training particularly in the area of swordsmanship atop a horse. To avoid problems, Troopers were not allowed to wear spurs while riding. Once Troopers were able to prove their competence with their horse and saber, they were awarded their spurs. Since horses have been replaced as the Cavalry’s means of transportation, Troopers are put through a series of grueling physical and mental challenges

designed to test their physical conditioning as well as their knowledge of Cavalry history and common Soldier skills. This test is called a Spur Ride.

While some Spur Rides last several days, Fires lasted only one which began at 4 a.m. with a physical training session. From there the candidates broke into teams and were given points to plot on their maps. Once completed, the teams donned approximately 60 lbs. of gear headed out to their first of 12 stations strategically placed throughout Rose Barracks. Each station was designed by members of the Squadron who already completed their Spur Rides and earned the esteemed title of Spur Holder. Spur Holders were given instructions to get creative by the new FIRES Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Lugo. Lugo himself was one of the day's hopeful participants.

Working his way through the tasks of the day with his team, Lugo expressed the importance of this time-honored Cavalry rite of passage.

“For us this day has been about the Regiment, about the tradition and honor,” Lugo said. “At the end of the day, I want every single Soldier to know he has done everything he possibly can to earn his spurs,” Lugo said, “as well as the spur holders to feel we have truly earned our spurs.”

Lugo went on to commend the Spur Holders for their efforts and encouraged candidates to carry on the legacy.

“For me the Spur Holders are part of that tradition,” he said. “They are part of passing on that knowledge to new members of the Regiment and ensuring that that tradition continues.”

“After today, I think every single one of these Spur Holders will take pride in earning their spurs,” he said “and will encourage new members and the guys who have shied away to go out and earn their spurs.”

One station on the map was the obstacle course. The obstacle course consisted of a tire flip, low crawl, litter carry, buddy carry and a tire chain drag. The course was the brain child of Spur Holders like, Sgt. 1st Class Roger Rodriguez, admitted the event was designed to push candidates to dig deep.

“We tried to give them a little shock to the body,” Rodriguez said. “We started with something high intensity like the tire flip then moved to low impact with a low crawl.”

“Then by changing it up again with a litter carry and the chain drag,” he said, “We were hoping to give them one intense smoke session.”

For Rodriguez and the other Spur Holders involved with the events, the day was about team building and honoring the Regiment’s proud heritage.

“Being a Spur Holder is something I hold near and dear to my heart,” said Rodriguez. “Our brothers and sisters have gone through the pain and it’s a very uplifting feeling to know you have accomplished the same feat, to wear the spurs and say I am a Cavalryman.”



All Together: Lt. Col. Anthony Lugo's team work together during the tire flip portion of the obstacle course. The course was one of 12 stations set up as part of the FIRES Squadron Spur Ride held Thursday, Sept 15 on Rose Barracks.



Push: Capt. Timothy Green performs a high crawl while dragging heavy tire chains during the obstacle course part of the FIRES Squadron Spur Ride held Thursday, Sept 15 on Rose Barracks.