



# PRESS RELEASE

**2d Cavalry Regiment  
Public Affairs Office  
Vilseck, Germany**

PHONE: DSN: 476-5080 COMMERCIAL (49) 09662-83-5080

E-mail: [gerald.wilson6@us.army.mil](mailto:gerald.wilson6@us.army.mil)

Website: [www.2CR.army.mil](http://www.2CR.army.mil)

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## **Muleskinners Earn their Spurs**

Story and photos by: Sgt. Jerry Wilson

2CR Public Affairs

**VILSECK, Germany** – The Muleskinners of Regimental Service Support Squadron of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment spent 48 gruelling hours recently testing their Soldier skills for a chance to earn their silver spurs and become a member of the coveted Order of the Spur. In the spirit of camaraderie and partnership RSS invited their German counterparts from the 4<sup>th</sup> Logistics Battalion to participate in the Spur ride, an event that was once only open to members of a Cavalry unit.

Participants broke into teams and were given a map and coordinates to 12 different sites set up throughout the Grafenwohr Training Area. After plotting the location of each station, they ruck marched to each site. While some of the events were career specific such as loading a flatbed for a resupply mission, most were designed to test the spur candidates overall leadership abilities and basic Soldier skills.

“We wanted something that was tough physically, but also tested the candidates overall leadership ability and technical competence,” said Capt. Jerome Cole, one of the event organizers. “Each station was designed to demonstrate expertise in their trade as well as basic Soldiering skills and the ability to lead from the front.”

Events throughout the day included such tasks as weapons assembly of the M249 and M2 machine guns, call for fire, performing preventive maintenance, pushing and changing the tire on a Humvee, evacuating a casualty and Stryker vehicle identification. As darkness fell on the training area, participants were also required to conduct dismounted patrols. The final day culminated with a trip to the Leaders Reaction Course. At the LRC, each team was given specific tasks to accomplish within a certain time frame. After the course, each team walked 15-kilometers back to Rose Barracks for the spur presentation ceremony. In a new twist to the old tradition of having recipients receive their spurs on horseback, participants were hoisted up on what was deemed the “workhorse” of the RSS Squadron, a forklift.

Earning your silver spurs in a Cavalry unit is considered an honor amongst most Troopers.

“Being a spur holder snycs you in with the traditions of our nation’s history that goes back to the Cavalry days of the frontier,” Cole said. “It makes you feel like you’re a part of history and something bigger than yourself.”



**Easy does it:** Soldiers from the German, 4<sup>th</sup> Logistic Battalion maneuver through station 2 of the Leaders Reaction Course during the RSS Spur ride Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the Grafenwohr Training Area. In the spirit of camaraderie RSS invited their German partners to take part in the time-honored event.



**All together:** Troopers from RSS work together to transport a casualty across an obstacle during the Leaders Reaction Course portion of their recent Spur Ride held Tuesday, Nov. 8 on the Grafenwohr Training Area.