



STORY RELEASE



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2CR, Slovenians work together for future deployment

Story and Photos

By Staff Sgt. Mark Albright

HOHENFELS, Germany- Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and members of the Slovenian Armed Forces worked together during 2 CR's Mission Readiness Exercise in Hohenfels, Germany. The exercise is designed to prepare the Regiment for its upcoming deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom.

The teamwork and partnerships are important to the U.S. Army and a valuable asset to the 2 CR. The Slovenian Soldiers enjoyed the camaraderie and the challenge presented by playing the roll of Afghan Security Forces during the event.

"I wanted to see what the OPFOR [Opposing Forces] and the OC's [Observer/Controllers] did so we can replicate it back home," said 2nd Lt. Blaz Marolt, 2nd Motorized Company, 10th Motorized Battalion of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

The Slovenians worked as Afghan National Army Soldiers and participated in joint mission during the training exercise. They also worked with 2CR's Security Forces Assistance Advisory Teams to replicate the SFAAT's future mission in Afghanistan.

"Throughout this exercise working with the Slovenians presented us with a unique opportunity to with some non-US actors," said 1st Lt. Tristan Felchlin, 2nd Squadron, 2 CR SFAAT logistical advisor. "It actually gave the SFAATS the opportunity to work within a system that we are not familiar with."

The SFAAT's will deploy as part of the Regiment to work with the Afghan National Security Forces through the SFAATs to continue to advise and assist the Afghan forces toward managing their own security. The process is designed for the SFAATs to work until their ANSF partners do not need them anymore and can function alone.

"The realism definitely came into play throughout the exercise with the use of interpreters. Having to actually use interpreters, you can see that there is a difference sometimes in what your trying to convey and what comes out, said Felchlin.

The two militaries have a history of working together and the Slovenians have over 500 troops deployed in support of International Security Forces [ISAF] in Afghanistan. This makes for a lasting partnership that both sides enjoy.

“You can definitely see it builds on the experiences. Often, if we were just working with another US force you can have a short cut or even take the easy way, said Felchlin. “Here you’re forced to learn how to work outside your system and in theirs.”

The two nations are prepared to continue their partnership through continued friendships. They met during their last night of training to exchange gifts, talk about their experiences and, something both sides enjoy, watch a movie.

“I think it’s a great thing, we are cooperating between different cultures and different groups which helps everybody,” said Marolt, “Bringing our cultures here teaches how to behave and communicate, which will help the 2 CR in Afghanistan in the next couple of months.”

As the two groups met and began to enjoy the evening they both spoke of lasting relationships.

“Throughout the exercise you could definitely see the relationships and partnerships build. I know there will be some contacts that will continue after the exercise,” said Felchlin.

The Slovenians echoed.

“The friends I’ve made here I will continue to keep into the future, said Marolt.”