

# 2d Cavalry Regiment *THE DRAGOON*



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2nd Cavalry Regiment NCO of the Quarter SGT Elliot Robbins and Soldier of the Quarter SPC Kevin Keith. These Soldiers are both from 2d Squadron Cougars.

### *Highlights in 2d Cavalry History*

February 8, 1837: Now located at Camp Monroe in Florida during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminole War, a force under the command of LTC Alexander C.W. Fanning would defend the camp which had been established in 1836. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, a force of Seminole Indians attacked which lead to the death of CPT Charles Mellon. CPT Mellon was the only casualty that day. On 9 FEB 1837, LTC Fanning renamed the Camp in his honor. This kind of attack was a common occurrence in the hostile Florida swamps during the conflict and Dragoons had to be vigilant even in well defended outposts.

February 11, 1967: The 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron border camp near Kronach ,in Northern Bavaria was re-named Camp Sergeant Patrick Leonard. Sergeant Leonard was a Medal of Honor Recipient while a member of C Company, 2d Cavalry Regiment during the Indian Wars. His actions as a sergeant at the Little Blue River near Little Blue, Nebraska on May 15, 1876 led to him being awarded the Medal of Honor on June 22, 1870. The Regiment named several of the border camps in Germany after valorous members of the 2d Cavalry Regiment.

On May 17, Sergeant Patrick Leonard and four men of Company C, while searching for strayed stock, encountered about sixty Indians near Spring Creek, Nebraska. After a severe fight of one and one-half hours, the enemy was driven off, leaving one dead and seven wounded, while one of the soldiers was wounded. For their conduct on this day, all the men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in action.



# War Eagle Update



Troopers of 1st Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, have been greatly on the move over the course of the past month, and have found themselves on ranges from Mortar Firing Point 255 all the way down to Training Area 2, all on the greater Grafenwoehr Training Area and under varied conditions from flat plains to broken, forested terrain. As part of a training strategy that emphasizes a return to Full Spectrum Operations as the US Military draws down from counter-insurgency in Afghanistan, the War Eagles are certainly at the vanguard of this return to traditional warfare.

After last month's expert execution of vehicle crew qualifications and team live fire exercises, this month focused on the certification of the Fire Supporters and Mortarmen, as well as squad live fire exercises. Utterly vital to confirming that War Eagle Fire Supporters and mortar crews are ready to apply indirect fires to the enemy, both sets of these troopers enjoyed an intense training regimen starting the first day back from block leave and culminating in troop mortar section certifications from 01-03FEB, and squadron mortar certifications 14-16FEB supported by the FISTers.



An Apache Soldier moves on his objective during a squad Situational Training Exercise.

Equally rigorous was the training regimen for Apache, Bull, and Comanche Troops. Using Training Areas 2, 3, and 4, these hardy troopers braved sub-zero Fahrenheit and blizzard conditions to execute squad training exercises from 30JAN-03FEB, and squad live fires from 06-10FEB. Troopers were ecstatic to get the chance to "put rounds down range". Typical of the experience, squad leaders of Comanche Troop had a chance to practice fully integrating many of the weapon systems available to them under arduous conditions, as

the highly mobile infantry used their Stryker vehicles with mounted M2 machine gun and MK 19 grenade machine guns for support and called in for indirect fire support under the supervision of their forward observers.

The training opportunities and experienced gained by War Eagle troopers from these exercises have proven invaluable. With increased fitness, expertise, and available skill sets, 1st Squadron Soldiers are more prepared than ever before to wage war on the enemies of the United States. As War Eagle prepares to move forward into platoon-level exercises beginning 24FEB12, the experience gained by individuals at the team and squad level will assuredly result in a resounding success.



Comanche Soldiers advance on their objective during a squad Situational Training Exercise

# History Highlights cont...

February 15, 1946: The Regiment began its re-designation from the 2d Cavalry Group into the 2d Constabulary Regiment. The transformation would be complete on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March that year and see the Regiment assume duties in Southern Bavaria. The Constabulary period saw drastic changes to the organization of the Regiment and the TOE. The Regiment at the time then consisted of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 42<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, and the 66<sup>th</sup> Squadron which had just been re-organized from a Field Artillery unit. The Constabulary was considered an elite unit by the US Forces in Europe, and several other cavalry organizations were likewise used for this purpose. The ability for cavalry units to patrol vast areas was key, and would seamlessly transition into the Regiment patrolling vast swaths of the East German and Czechoslovakian border during the Cold War.

February 21, 1862: During the Civil War, the Regiment saw action out West. Company G was assigned defensive duties protecting Union interests in the territory of New Mexico. The Regiment was also assigned a battery of light artillery that previous year, in October. The Battery of six guns, commanded by Captain Alexander McRae, supported Company G, Second Cavalry, and one company of the Third Cavalry which was also present. At the battle of Val Verde, Confederate forces attacked near Fort Craig. The Confederates largely achieved their objectives during the battle and with their force, which included Cavalry from Texas, fought the Union forces around the town of Val Verde and near the river ford. The Confederates charged the Union Formation near the end of the battle, and were met with a cavalry charge by members of the Regiment. Even this was not enough, and the Confederates pushed the US Forces into a retreat. Casualties in G Company were nine men killed, eight wounded, and two missing once the final tally at Fort Craig was complete. This was a high point in the Confederate Campaign in the Western Territories.

February 23, 1991: With heavy coalition air strikes against the Iraqi Army beginning on 17 FEB 1991, the Soldiers of 2 ACR were anxious to be tested in combat. Having honed their skills in Germany, the Regiment had been deployed into Saudi Arabia to help repel Saddam Hussein's Army from Kuwait. Six days later, on 23 FEB 1991 it was artillery fire flying into Iraq over their heads which signaled that the time had come. After allowing the air power and heavy howitzers to prepare the area, the Regiment breached the berm denoting the Saudi/Iraqi border. At that time, no one knew that they would be involved in arguably the last great tank battle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Battle of 73 Easting would take place three days later.

## Graduations

### Electronic Warfare Officer:

1st SQDN- SGT McRae, Hezekiah, 2nd SQDN- SGT Servellon, Elvis, 4th SQDN- SGT Otero, Devin, 5th SQDN- SSG Adkins, Scottie, 6th SQDN- SSG Springle, Nimrod

### Pathfinder:

1st SQDN- SSG Larson, Joseph, 4th SQDN- SFC Berry, Robert, 5th SQDN- SGT Christensen, Robert

# Cougar Update



2nd Cavalry Regiment NCO of the Quarter SGT Elliot Robbins and Soldier of the Quarter SPC Kevin Keith. These Soldiers are both from 2nd Squadron Cougars.

## Cougar Families and Friends,

February has been a challenging but rewarding month for the Cougars. We are definitely starting to hit our stride with training. We successfully completed our Stryker Gunnery Density despite the frigid weather. The Squadron's Companies showed that all their training had paid off with the average scoring being 8 out of 10 engagements, and 8 crews scored a perfect 10 out of 10 engagements on the first run. The Squadron's MGS platoons will execute their Gunnery ranges during the end of the month and we are confident that these Platoons will also exceed the standard.

The Squadron Run for the month of February occurred the afternoon of 16 February. It was a beautiful day for a run and a distinct change from the extremely low temperatures of the previous two weeks. It was an outstanding performance by the entire Squadron. At the end of the run, all eight crews that scored perfectly during gunnery recognized and awarded AAMs for their outstanding achievement. The crews of F42, E24, and

HHC21 were also recognized with Army Commendation Medals for being the best crews in the Squadron on the three main weapons of the Stryker. We also recognized the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter for the Regiment in addition to the ALC Honor Graduate.

The end of the month saw all the Companies in the field for Squad training and live fire exercises. Additionally, the Mortar Crews and the Fire Support Teams conducted training exercises to ensure they can deliver indirect fire at the right time and place on the battlefield. The Scout Platoon is almost at full strength with personnel and began an intensive training cycle for the recon squads and sniper teams. We will put all of these skills together during Platoon Live Fire training at the end of March. It will be great to have everyone apply their skills during one tough and realistic training event. As always, the Soldiers and leaders of the Squadron are consistently performing above the standard and representing the Cougars proudly. Always Ready – Second to None!



# Wolf Pack

During the month of February, 3d Squadron, 2d CR conducted several training exercises to enforce and maintain unit readiness. The training ranged from CLS certification to Stryker Gunnery, skills that are essential for all troopers.

CLS is a 40 hour course covering basic first aid focused on combat situations. TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care) is the primary focus and is defined by three phases of care. All training revolves around these phases of care, revolving around combat situations. Hands-on training is the primary focus and best training aid for the Soldiers. After a written test, the classroom moves outdoors for practical hands-on exercises, such as a mock MASCAL (Mass Casualty). This training not only helps Soldiers in combat operations but CLS can also apply to civilian situations, which include car wrecks, accidents, injuries and immediate first aid, allowing Soldiers to be able to save lives on and off the battlefield.

The Squadron conducted Stryker Gunnery Training to ensure that all their pre-qualifications were properly established in order to archive satisfactory Gunnery Qualification. Stryker Gunnery Training also helped prepared the evaluators and coordinators to set the standard of grading for Gunnery



MSG Kevin Merriweather, an exemplary leader and mentor was inducted into the order of Saint Maurice, a well deserved honor for an outstanding NCO.

Qualification. "The training was excellent; it allowed the gunners to learn the requirements to qualify" said MSG Kevin Merriweather, Squadron Gunnery Coordinator.

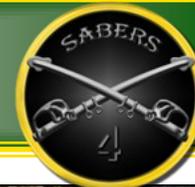
Apart from training, there were other memorable moments in 3rd Squadron, ranging from induction into the order of Saint Maurice, to new leadership changes, and the Squadron dining-in.

Master Sgt. Kevin Merriweather, an exemplary leader and mentor was inducted into the order of Saint Maurice, a well deserved honor for an outstanding NCO. Change of responsibility and Command also took place. Ghost, Hawk and HHC saw their commanders' change in the month of February, CPT Cochrane took the ranks of Ghost Company while CPT Kim, became HHC Commander and CPT Campbell is the new Hawk Commander. Ghost also saw it 1st Sgt. change from 1st Sgt. Cervenka to 1st Sgt. Trowers. The Squadron hosted a Dining-In at the Vilseck Castle on February 16th where together with their German counterparts from the 104<sup>th</sup> Panzer they enjoyed an evening of 3d Squadron traditions and festivities.



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# Saber Update



To honor the contributions of Killer Troop, the Academy invited Killer Troop to send Soldiers to compete for the *Das Abzeichen für Leistungen im Truppendienst*, which translates to "The German Military Proficiency Badge"

Soldiers of Killer Troop, 4/2 CR, spent most of January conducting Warrior Tasks and Drills training in order to refresh their fundamental soldier skills as the Regiment came out of Reset phase. Even though this training was time consuming and strenuous, some Killer Troopers were also able to take the time to train with their partners in the German Bundeswehr. Killer Troopers and the German Non Commissioned Officer Academy in Weiden have engaged in multiple partnership training events since redeployment, ranging from role playing as OPFOR, negotiating the Traffic Control Points, to rappelling off of bridges and conducting assaults on objectives.

To honor the contributions of Killer Troop, the Academy invited Killer Troop to send Soldiers to compete for the *Das Abzeichen für Leistungen im Truppendienst*, which translates to "The German Military Proficiency Badge", and they got to shoot for the German Marksmanship Badge, or *Schützenschnur*. Ten Troopers from Killer Troop answered the challenge, and reported in to Weiden on a cold, wet and windy morning on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2012. Competitors from both armies conducted the track and field events, which consisted of a 3,000 meter run, a 100 meter sprint, a long jump, and a shot put event. The competitors then completed a 200 meter swim and finished off the physical events with a 12 kilometer road march with a 15 kilogram pack. At the same time, four other Soldiers from Killer Troop had the chance to compete for the *Schützenschnur*.

Before Troopers were able to earn the badge, a final test remained; Troopers must demonstrate military proficiency by qualification on a variety of German weapon systems. Even though it was their first time handling the weapons, most competitors qualified the equivalent of expert. The result of the challenge was nine Troopers earned the Gold Proficiency Badge and one Trooper earned the Silver Proficiency Badge. Additionally, three

Soldiers earned the Silver *Schützenschnur* and one earned the Gold *Schützenschnur*. The leaders of the Weiden NCO Academy were so impressed with the tactical and physical prowess of every single competing American that they decided the awardees should be presented their badges in front of the young NCOs of the Academy to challenge them to accomplish the same. The Commandant of the NCO Academy personally presented the badges to our Troopers in front of a brand new class of 400 *Bundeswehr* NCOs. He remarked that both German and American Soldiers appreciated the chance to learn from each other while competing for the badges, everyone is looking forward to more partnered training in the future.



4th Squadron (Saber) Change of Command

# Fires Hell



The soldiers from 1st PLT – gathered at PA 254 to improve their abilities on their weapon system and increase proficiency on testable material.

**Core Artillery Skills Training and Testing-** Over the last month, Soldiers of the Field Artillery Squadron have spent much of their time in the Grafenwoehr Training Area sharpening their skills as a firing unit for future cannon artillery operations. Each critical aspect of the firing sections underwent rigorous training and testing of their core skill competencies, from the cannon crewmen on the guns to the mission processors in the Fire Direction Center (FDC) as well as their Battery leadership. The gunners were evaluated on their ability to accomplish multiple tasks within a specified time standard, while the FDC personnel focused on perfecting complex fire missions and communicating them clearly and effectively through proper radio procedures. This intense section training will ensure that each firing Battery is fully prepared to support live fire exercises and combined arms maneuver operations come spring and summer.

**Headquarters Battery Support Operations-** While the firing batteries have been busy training for cannon artillery operations, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery focused on numerous essential support tasks to ensure their success in the field. After receiving a software upgrade to allow faster processing and accuracy, Soldiers from the RADAR section conducted preparation and certification to operate their system in a live fire environment. Mechanics from the Support Platoon have expanded their capabilities

beyond routine maintenance to include field troubleshooting through contact trucks and forward repair systems, allowing them to rehearse and train for difficult combat support operations and logistics. Lastly, the Squadron medics provided support to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat team during a training parachute jump into the Grafenwoehr Training Area, treating and evacuating several minor casualties. They also trained and certified numerous Soldiers in the Squadron on combat lifesaving techniques and procedures. No matter the task, the Headquarters Battery is always ready to be the Squadron's anchor during complex field maneuvers and operations.

**Military Intelligence Operations-** Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) analysts from the Military Intelligence Troop, Field Artillery Squadron conducted several classes this month to practice producing detailed intelligence reports and to quickly integrate them into the targeting process. They focused on the procedures and formatting of time-sensitive information that could potentially lead to a high valued target in a combat environment. Additionally, some of the Soldiers conducted long range land navigation training in preparation for employment as Low Level Voice Intercept (LLVI) teams. By training for multiple aspects of SIGINT operations, the Military Intelligence Troop has begun to shape its ability to provide timely and accurate intelligence in conflicts of any intensity.

# Muleskinner



## “Chili Bowls and the Super Bowl: RSS’s First Annual Chili Bowl Cook-Off”

Story and photos by 2LT John W. Hayes

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012, Soldiers and Officers of the Regimental Support Squadron gathered in Rose Barracks Chapel Annex to celebrate the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Super Bowl with family, friends, fellow soldiers, and a wide assortment of homemade chilies. The festivities began at 1800, after the 16 varieties of chilies had been laid out and ready to be sampled by the soldiers and their families who would later decide on their top three favorite dishes.

With all different types of chilies ranging from SPC Jeffrey Barnier’s “Nice ‘N’ Spicy” to SGT Robert Broughton’s “Lazy Dog Chili” the soldiers/judges had plenty of unique samples to choose from.

As the night progressed, it was clear to all that the Cook-off was a very heated competition, with first place changing three times in two hours as the votes were tallied up. However, even as soldiers and family members were voting for their favorite chili,



PFC Liddell hands 1LT Deem a sample of his chili, “Emotional Outburst, Jr.” at the RSS Cook-Off on 2 Feb 2012.



CPT Forlenza (left) of HHT congratulates his trooper, SGT Toba (right), on winning first place in the 2012 RSS Chili Bowl cook-off with his “Chippewa” chili.

everyone at the cook-off was having a good time and enjoying all the great homemade cooking. As evident from 2LT Brittany Blaska’s statement, “This was a lot of fun. You can really tell that everyone put in a lot of work. It’s going to be hard to pick a favorite.” With all the original and tasty recipes, first place would definitely be difficult to decide. By the end of the cook-off (and with nearly every bowl of chili devoured) a winner was finally chosen; SGT Toba of HHT with his Native American themed “Chippewa” Chili that included bison and turkey meat amongst other ingredients. Overall, the RSS Chili Bowl Cook-Off was a great success, with judges leaving with full stomachs and cooks proud to have a chance to show off their chili cooking skills.

## Dragoons practice Treaty Compliance



Welcome: 1st Lt. Joseph Van Dusen explains the zeroing process for the Stryker Mobile Gun System to the inspection team during the motor pool portion of their visit to Rose Barracks Thursday, Jan. 25.

### Story and photos by Sgt. Jerry Wilson

Dragoons of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in cooperation with the Combined Arms Training Center and the 172nd Infantry Brigade participated in a treaty compliance rehearsal exercise Thursday, Jan. 25.

This is a semi-annual U.S. Army Europe training and evaluation program called UTEP. The exercise was designed to prepare units for the demand of inspections by foreign dignitaries as outlined in the Vienna Document of 1999.

The Vienna Document was an agreement signed in 1999 by the 56 members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It is a confidence and security building measure in which members agree to inspections and data exchanges in order to increase transparency of their conventional forces.

During the exercise evaluators from USAREUR acted as the visiting OSCE inspection team and were given a guided tour of the Soldiers' quality of life facilities and mission operation centers.

The visit began with an overall briefing about the Regiment's mission and its assets. Following the briefing the

visitors were taken to Rose Barracks and given a guided tour which included the Regimental Emergency Operations Center, a troop level orderly room, the Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters troop arms room.

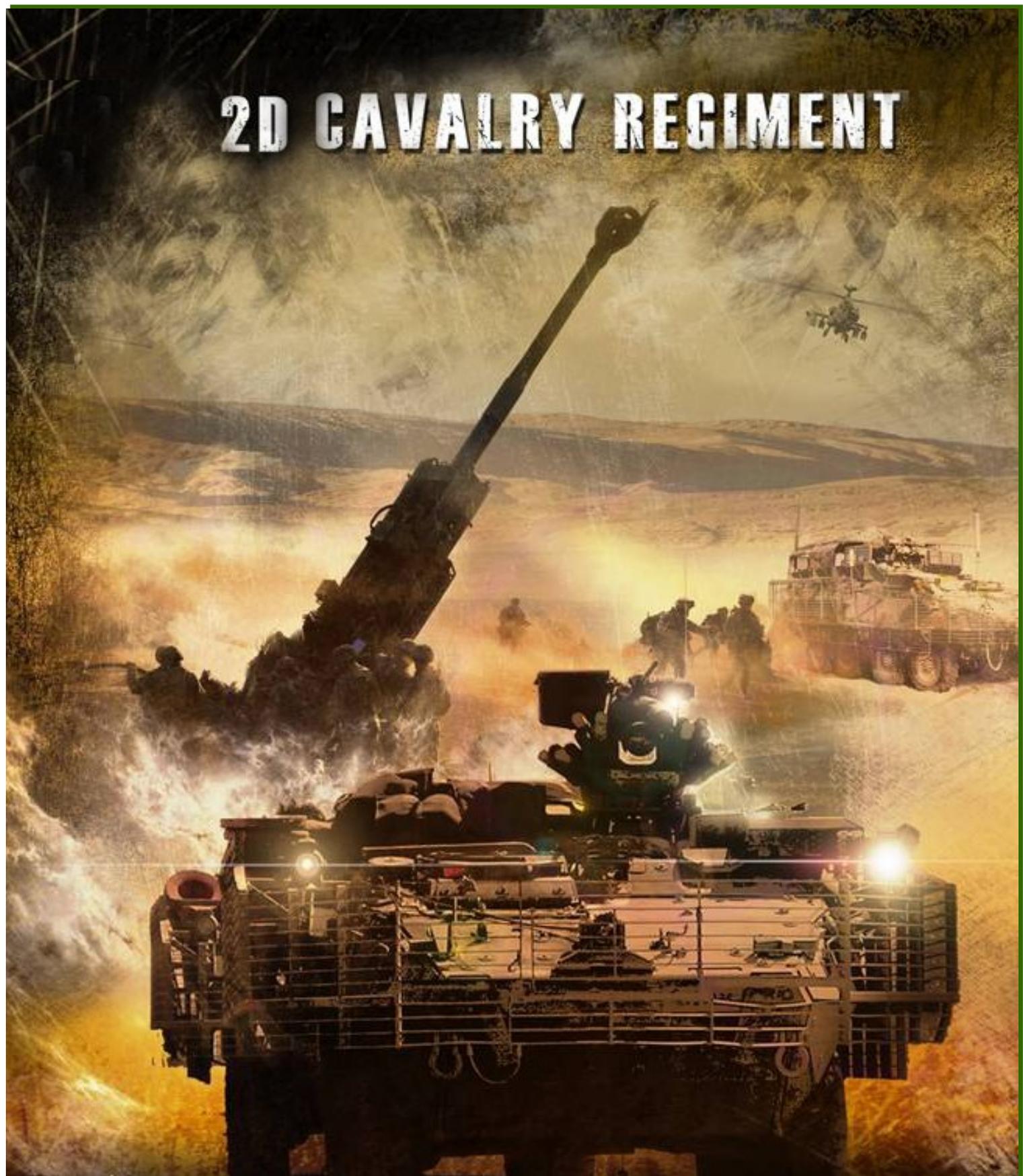
The delegation also visited the Single Soldiers living quarters and the 3rd Squadron motor pool where they had the opportunity to watch and interact with Troopers engaged in weapons familiarization training. Another highlight of the trip was a tour of the Reed Museum. The museum displays historical memorabilia collected by the Dragoons over the years, highlighting the history of the Regiment.

According to Maj. Melvin Juan, the Regimental Treaty Compliance Officer, the inspectors were very pleased with their visit and commended 2CR for the professionalism displayed by the unit and its members.

"They were very impressed with the NCOs and Soldiers they talked to," Juan said, "They found everyone very knowledgeable about their jobs and proud of what they do."

The official treaty compliance inspection is slated to occur later this year.

# 2D CAVALRY REGIMENT



# DRAGONS FOR LIFE

SINCE 1836



U.S. ARMY