



## HHC sets their sights on successful annual training

Story by *SGT Daryl G. Sanford*  
*1/34th BCT Public Affairs*

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, began their annual training with a bang by achieving 96% rifle qualification rate at Camp Ripley's "A" Range Complex.

The rifle qualification was the first event on the two-week training schedule. In addition to the rifle qualification, the company achieved 100% qualification rate with the night firing and Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical ranges as well. Although the company doesn't train like this often, Capt. Scott Abram, HHC's commanding officer, knew the company would do well.

"It's what I've always expected," he said. "The Soldiers of HHC



Photo by SGT Daryl G. Sanford

An HHC 1 BCT Soldier fires his M4 Carbine at a 25-meter target during night fire Aug. 4, 2010, at A-Range Complex at Camp Ripley, Mn. Headquarters Company Soldiers spent their first day of Annual Training qualifying at the rifle range.

## Headlines

### National

AP Enterprise: Scientists think Gulf can recover

### Local

Two Rochester women charged with aiding Somali terrorists with al-Qaida ties

### Sports

Twins Get Back That Old Dome Magic

## Weather

Today  
August 6, 2010



HI: 77  
Low: 55  
Humidity Ave. 69.5%  
Partly Cloudy

Tomorrow  
August 7, 2010



HI: 81  
Low: 68  
Humidity Ave. 74%  
30% Chance of rain

# Minnesota elections are coming soon!



State Primary:  
August 10

State General  
Election:  
November 2

In order to vote for Minnesota's next Governor and other federal and state offices this year, you must submit an absentee

ballot application. Keep in mind, absentee ballots will only be sent to voters who have applied (or re-applied) since January 1, 2010. Applying is easy. Simply go to: <https://minnesota.>

[overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm](https://overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm) and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply for your absentee ballot.

Voting is easy too since your ballot can be sent to you by email. Vote and exercise the rights that you're fighting to protect!

## Shelter and Strength from God

### Chaplain's Corner

CH (LTC) Grant  
Speece  
HQ 2-136 CAB



God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. - Psalm 46:1

In my years as an Army chaplain, I have deployed three times. I've also been to annual training many times. One scripture which has helped me during the times of preparation and deployment is Psalm 46. I like it because it reminds me that whatever happens, God is in control. Preparation for deployment is a time of excitement. It also can be a time of worry. We worry if we are preparing ourselves enough. When we are preparing for deployment for the first time, it is also a time to wonder what this new experience coming up will be like. There was a time when the biggest focus of annual training was annual training itself. We were preparing for the

possibility of deployment, but no one expected to deploy. Those days are long gone. Today, we know that we are preparing to go to war. We know that we must train to the best of our ability so we are prepared to do our mission and then come home to our families.

Even when we do our best, training can be difficult. We learn new things and are tested under tough conditions. Those times when the days get long and we miss being with family, we can remember the Psalmist's words. Our strength is God. God's shelter will protect us in the days ahead. When we do go to war, not only will our training help us to accomplish the mission. God will continue to be the one to whom we can turn. God loves us all the time. God loves us no matter what we are doing. God loves us no matter where we are.

"Gracious God, help me to learn what I need to learn in preparation for deployment. Help me remember that you are my shelter and strength. Remind me that you are with me now and forever. AMEN."



Photo by PFC Trisha Betz

Spec. Kia Ose adjusts the sights to her M68 Close Combat Optics on Camp Ripley's zeroing range prior to qualification. HHC boasts a 96 percent qualification rate, as well as a perfect qualification rates on NBC and night ranges as well.

Rifle, from page 1 love doing this, and they always impress me."

At the end of the day, HHC boasted 34 rifle marksmen, 28 rifle sharpshooters, and 7 rifle experts. The scores ranged from a qualifying score of 23 to a near perfect score of 38.

"That's what impresses me about this battalion," said Abram. "We don't get out to do stuff like this very often, but when we do, we do it extremely well."

The company will continue to hone their skills in Army Warrior Tasks for the next few days, then shift to working with real-world exercises.

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Infantry Division