



Combined Arms Battalion works on Weapons Familiarization

by Spc. Thomas Keeler
1/34th BCT Public Affairs

Four companies of the 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion took to the ranges Wednesday to train and qualify on crew-served weapons systems.

Weapons qualification is the Army's bread and butter, and this year, the training takes on a sharper importance with a possible Brigade deployment in 2011. An Export Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program tests the capability of battalions on integrated battlefield tasks.

Proficiency on crew-served weapons is a small but important piece of the XCTC exercise.

The XCTC will train units as closely as possible on what to expect on a deployment, said Capt. Erik Wilson, commander for C Company of the 2-136 CAB.

"It's going to put platoons and



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler, 1/34 BCT Public Affairs

'A' gunners Sgt. Travis Mattson and Spc. Dan Krump (near the rounds) assist firer Spc. Brian Fischer on the tripod-mounted .50 caliber machine gun at Center Range, Camp Ripley, Minn., Aug. 11, 2010. The Soldiers are with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Scouts" of the 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, and are training for a possible mobilization and deployment in 2011.

platoon sergeants in a position where they're going to be able to take these crews and move down range," said Wilson.

Other companies besides

Charlie on the firing ranges were Delta Company, Forward Support Company, and the Headquarters and Headquarter Company.

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Weather

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat



High 88

Low 65

Chance of T-storms

High 83

Low 63

Chance of T-storms

High 77

Low 56

Chance of T-storms

Weather provided by
Weather Underground at
www.wunderground.com

~ National headlines ~

Colombian Ex-president to Teach at Georgetown U

BOGOTA, Colombia (A.P.) - Former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe is taking his political expertise to Georgetown University in Washington, where he has been named a distinguished scholar.

~ State headlines ~

Storm floods Twin Cities streets; 9,000 lose power

Over an inch of rain fell in a half hour Tuesday night, flooding streets in Minneapolis and Roseville. An evening rain storm left flash floods throughout metro-area streets Tuesday night and knocked out power to about 9,000 Xcel Energy customers.

~ Sports headlines ~

NFL Player to Fast for 30 Days in Summer Heat

As a practicing Muslim, Husain Abdullah will not eat or drink at all during daylight hours for the 30-day period.

Strength & Character in Life

Chaplain's
Devotional

CH (CPT)
Scott Gustafson
HQ 2-135 INF



“Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.” – Frank Outlaw

SFC Jared Monti on 17SEP09 was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Afghanistan. Listening to his parents describe his life and reading accounts of some of his past exploits with his Battle Buddies, one will realize that Medal of Honor recipients are not determined by how they die, but how they live. Though SFC Monti was mortally wounded when he refused to leave a fallen soldier do not make the mistake

of believing that, that is simply how he died. Rather believe, that is how he lived. His life was a life of selfless service in honor to his country, friends, and family. This AT, in anticipation of deployment early next year, the soldiers of the 1st BCT report to CRTCC to become trained and proficient in our warrior tasks and drills. Preparation will include firing a weapon, reading maps, and for many of us SRP (Soldier Readiness Processing). Through it all we must remember, as important as the ability to accurately put rounds down range may be, the best soldier readiness comes not from shots or record keeping or even being able to fire a weapon. Rather, it's a personal dedication to that which we hold dear: Loyalty. Duty. Respect. Selfless Service. Honor. Integrity. Personal Courage. Let these not be found just in our passing, but in our daily lives. Pray that the Lord powers you with the strength to live a life worthy of your high calling.

And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say on more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. – Philippians 4:8

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Photo by Pfc. Trisha Betz

Lt. Col. Scott Sauver, Camp Ripley post commander, gives a speech during the 10th annual commanders' breakfast Aug. 11 to show his gratitude toward the commanders of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. Soldiers of Camp Ripley's Personnel and Community Activities Office hosted the breakfast at Camp Ripley's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) building. The commanders' breakfast was designed to allow Camp Ripley's command to interact with the command of 1st BCT, facilitate their needs, while delivering CRC's appreciation.

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Qualification on the M240B Wednesday consisted of shooting at targets ranging from 400 to 800 meters with a tripod and a spotter. Mobile gun platforms on trucks will come later in the training.

“First time in a long time we've fired with a tripod,” said Spc. Dan Krump of HHC, 2-136 CAB.



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler, 1/34 BCT Public Affairs

Pfc. George Mattson, a truck driver with Forward Support Company of the 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, fires the 240B machine gun while 'A' gunner Spc. Kyle Hartigan, also of FSC, spots him at North Range, Camp Ripley, Minn., Aug. 11, 2010.