



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Lindsey

Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins draws lines in the dirt to show a soldier of the Djiboutian Army's 1st Quick Reaction Regiment his sector of fire during a training scenario at Camp Ali Oune, Djibouti, Feb. 2.

## U.S. Soldiers mentoring elite Djibouti rapid-reaction force

By Maj. Khalid Cannon  
Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

Earlier this year, nearly 200 members of the Djiboutian Army's elite 1st Rapid Action Regiment honed their infantry skills, mentored by members of the U.S. Army National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.

The training included instruction on squad movements, convoy operations, contact drills, camp security and marksmanship, and was part of a one-month course which began Jan. 16 and culminated with a graduation Feb. 10. The instruction included mortar crew training and a combat engineering course, according to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins, mission commander and member of Charlie Company.

"Our mission here is to mentor the Djiboutian military as they prepare for upcoming missions. We're trying to help them so they are capable of preventing conflict, establishing regional stability, and protecting coalition interests here," said Staff Sgt. Travis Elder, an infantry squad leader with the 137th, who is a sheriff's deputy in his hometown located near Topeka, Kan.

"My team and I are out here mentoring the soldiers and helping them along, basically giving them more tools for their toolbox. We're showing them things that have helped us; we want to help them so they can get through their future missions without any problem," he said.

The Djiboutian regiment, which was established in 1991 and is comprised of a number of 20-year combat veterans, is the first unit called to deploy during a contingency. The regiment also provides border security on the Somaliland border located approximately seven miles from the camp.

## Wash.-bound Strykers first get a decontamination bath

By Sgt. Daniel Wallace  
501st Sustainment Brigade

Most businesses are closed and most of the service members occupying Osan Air Base, South Korea, are asleep at 1 a.m. But at Building 1332 in early March, the lights were being turned on, the bay doors were being opened, and Soldiers prepared to complete a task that is an important part of their job.

Soldiers from the 194th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 501st Sustainment Brigade, who specialize in protecting against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, completed decontamination procedures on Stryker armored combat vehicles and other equipment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Staff Sgt. James Masterson, the NCO in charge of the CBRN section at 19th CSSB, said the mission was to decontaminate Strykers and shipping containers that are going back to Joint Base Lewis-McChord with a bleach solution to combat the hoof-and-mouth disease currently plaguing farmers across the Korean peninsula.

Masterson said that practicing decontamination procedures helps CBRN Soldiers maintain proficiency in their profession and ensures they are ready to execute their mission if called upon. For added training value, Masterson and his Soldiers performed the cleaning wearing complete sets of CBRN equipment — gas masks, protective pants, tops and boots. The equipment restricts some movement ability for the Soldiers.

"It gives the Soldiers confidence in their abilities," Masterson said of wearing the extra equipment.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Wallace

Sgt. Cynthia Malone of the 194th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, sprays a bleach-water mix on a Stryker armored fighting vehicle at Osan Air Base, South Korea, Mar. 10.

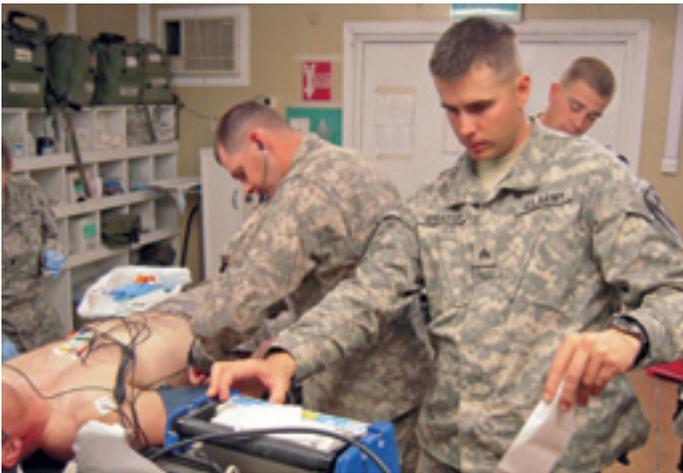


Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlblad

Sgt. Buddy Stratton of 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, operates an electrocardiogram during a level-two care training exercise Mar. 3, at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

## Medics broaden their life-saving skills at Camp Liberty

By 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlblad  
2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division

Some people fear the sight of blood or even the hint of a needle, but not the medics of 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. They jump at every opportunity to improve their medical and life-saving skills.

All the medics of the squadron are trained to level-one care standards, per Army regulations. These level-one skills allow the Soldiers to set up and run an independent aid station at the squadron to treat injuries, especially those that threaten life, limb, or eyesight. However, when a patient comes into the aid station with a condition that requires more advanced skills, the patient must be sent off to a level-two care facility.

Fortunately, for the “Saber” medics, the squadron is advantageously situated next to Witmer Troop Medical Clinic, at Camp Liberty, Iraq, a level-two care facility.

“Being next to this level-two aid station has given us a unique opportunity to cross-train on a new set of skills that will allow us to better treat the troopers of the squadron,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Casto, a treatment NCO.

Troopers took advantage of this opportunity by setting up a level-two training program with the Soldiers of the 546th Area Support Medical Company, who operate the facility. This teaches the Soldiers new medical skills in the areas of lab work, dental, electrocardiogram (EKG) and X-rays.

“It is important to learn these skills because ... we may not always be next to a level-two care facility like this,” said Sgt. Buddy Stratton, a treatment NCO.

## Reservists learn combat lifesaving techniques

By Spc. Glenn M. Anderson  
221st Public Affairs Detachment

As rounds fly overhead and mortars slam into the ground, a Soldier defending his position turns and sees that his battle buddy has been seriously injured. The Soldier screams in a panic into the night, “Medic! Medic!”

Soldiers from the 7th Civil Support Command, Europe’s only Army Reserve command, headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany, attended a combat lifesaver course Feb. 18-21 at Grafenwöhr, Germany, to help Soldiers learn combat lifesaving techniques. Soldiers from the 196th MSU taught the CLS course.

As portrayed in the scenario above, 90 percent of combat deaths occur on the battlefield before the casualties can be transported to a medical treatment facility. However, many conditions — such as bleeding from an extremity, collapsed lung and airway problems — can be treated on the battlefield.

“Soldiers can learn the basics from CLS in case they are going to be in a combat situation, to save a life,” said Staff Sgt. Nieu Tirmoveanu, a CLS instructor with the 196th Medical Support Unit from Mannheim, Germany, and a licensed practicing nurse in his civilian job.

“This CLS class helped me with keeping up with the latest [tactical procedures] that are changing because of the battlefield,” said Staff Sgt. Patrik Ram, a Warrior Leader Course instructor with the 7th Warrior Training Brigade. “I am very confident that this class and the knowledge I have gained ... will ensure I can provide casualty care to my students during [training exercises].”



Photo by Spc. Glenn M. Anderson

Soldiers from the 7th Civil Support Command evaluate and treat a casualty as part of a final exam during a combat lifesaver course Feb. 18-21 at Grafenwoehr, Germany.