

U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



RELEASE #2009-05-20-1

2009: THE YEAR OF THE NCO

May 20, 2009

Stryker troopers challenge minds, bodies for right to wear coveted cavalry Stetson

By Spc. Jerry Wilson

2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office



SPC JERRY WILSON

Competitors in the Bull Dog Stetson Run competition build a plank bridge during the Leader Reaction Course event of the recent two-day challenge in Vilseck, Germany. The top three scorers in the Bravo Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, competition earned the right to wear the black Stetson that is an icon of Army cavalry Soldiers.

VILSECK, Germany -- It has always been a point of pride among Army cavalry "troopers" to wear the black broad-brimmed Stetson that is an icon of their trade. Troopers in the ranks of specialist and below from Bravo Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment spent two days recently competing for their right to don the coveted headgear during the unit's "Stetson Run."

Contestants for the event were randomly broken down into three-man teams to face a series of tests based on common Soldier tasks designed as a team-building exercises, said 2nd platoon leader Capt. Joseph Shorr.

"We wanted to give our Soldiers the opportunity to feel the esprit de corps and experience the camaraderie that is the cavalry tradition," he said. "The events test their physical skills, teamwork and cavalry knowledge."

Day one consisted of two events, starting with a morning land navigation competition. Each team had to locate and travel to seven grid coordinate points within a designated course. At each site the troopers found a common task that had to be completed before moving on to finding the next point. The tasks included assembling and disassembling an M-4 rifle and .50-caliber machine gun, calling for a medical evacuation and evaluating

and treating a wounded Soldier. The troopers had four hours to complete the course.

In addition to land navigation event, competitors faced a written test on their knowledge of the cavalry, the 2nd SCR's regimental history and field artillery.

That afternoon the teams assembled to compete in the timed obstacle course competition. Each team was required to push a Humvee, low-crawl through a sand pit, perform a litter carry, toss a truck tire and numerous other events designed to test their stamina and endurance.

Day two was spent completing a Leader Reaction Course that presented teams of troopers to tackle a variety of hands-on

problems and obstacles within set time limits. When they weren't overcoming obstacles at the LRC they were testing their marksmanship prowess at the Engagement Skills Trainer, a computerized firing range that allows Soldiers to test their judgment in "shoot, don't shoot" scenarios.

Soldiers earned team and individual points, and at the end of the two days, the top three point holders received their prize -- the right to wear the Stetson.



SPC JERRY WILSON

(Left to right) Spc. Daniel Orvis, Spc. Leonard Abeyta and Spc. Mitchell Griffith of Bravo Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, move a truck tire during the obstacle course event of the unit's recent Bull Dog Stetson Run competition in Vilseck, Germany.



www.hqusareur.army.mil