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## **Logistics Soldiers complete capstone convoy live fire exercise**

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By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson, 16<sup>th</sup> SB Public Affairs

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Deploying logistics Soldiers — some of them fresh out of advanced individual training — from the 16<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, Bamberg, were put to a final test before their upcoming deployment to northern Iraq in a culminating convoy live fire exercise at Range 305, Grafenwoehr, May 13.

“The purpose of the convoy live fire exercise here was to prepare our Soldiers for the dangers and situations they’ll face in Iraq, in a secure and safe environment,” said Capt. Charles Ausman, operations and training officer-in-charge, 16<sup>th</sup> STB, and range officer-in-charge. “It’s a capstone to the training we’ve been doing for the last month.”

During training events in April and May Soldiers rehearsed individual, squad and platoon-level tasks, mounted convoy training and weapons ranges. At the convoy live fire, Soldiers learned the capabilities and requirements for each position in a convoy, such as the responsibilities the driver and the gunner have, and how to react to small arms fire, ambushes, disabled vehicles, calling for medical evacuation, reporting unexploded ordnance on the roadway and other tasks units in Iraq have to be able to do

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every time they leave the wire.

But maybe the most important part of the training was learning to communicate and work as a team.

“You have to pay attention to what’s going on around you and communicate it,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Chun, commander, 16<sup>th</sup> STB, to the Soldiers going through the convoy training.

He stressed that every member of the convoy team is important, and critical to the success of the convoy operation.

Pfc. Roody Mamouzette, all-wheel vehicle mechanic, HHC, 16<sup>th</sup> STB, was proud of his contribution to the convoy.

“I was the first one to spot unexploded ordnance,” Mamouzette said. “When we got there we had no choice but to push forward.”

The 25-year-old from Boston, Mass., originally from Haiti, who has two brothers and a sister in Haiti and two sisters in Boston, said he didn’t want to be a gunner at first.

“When I first got to the unit they told me I was going to carry a M249,” Mamouzette said. “I said ‘oh no’ because I thought a gunner was a dangerous position. But that’s what I did today, making sure to keep my head low, clear my sector and look for improvised explosive devices, and now I feel more confident.”

Mamouzette, who has been in the unit for about a month, said he was ready to deploy.

“It’s the main reason why I joined,” Mamouzette said. “I want to make a difference; I want to do my part.”

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For another new Soldier, Pvt. Stephanie Parks, quartermaster and chemical equipment repairer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16<sup>th</sup> STB, the training was essential.

“I’m training to go downrange so I don’t die, so I can keep myself and my team members protected while we’re in Iraq,” Parks said.

The 19-year-old from Covington, Tenn., who arrived at the unit March 4 from AIT at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., said she learned a lot from the training, and that it was exciting.

“I learned how to call in a casualty report over the radio, and many other things,” Parks said. “The training was an adrenaline rush.”

Parks, who has six brothers and sisters, said the Army is a family affair. Her brothers Justin Parks and Anthony Cothrane are both active-duty combat medics, and her brother Joshua Cothrane is a water treatment specialist in the Army Reserves. Her father, Sgt. Louis Parks, is in the Tennessee National Guard.

“I want to defend my country and make my dad proud,” Parks said.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, will deploy to northern Iraq for 15 months to provide logistical support to U.S., coalition and Iraqi security forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom VIII.



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Pvt. Stephanie Parks (front left), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade; Capt. Mireya Lumpkin (front right), HHC, 16<sup>th</sup> STB, and others evacuate a "casualty," Spc. Maggie Tidwell, HHC, 16<sup>th</sup> STB, during a convoy live fire exercise at Range 305, Grafenwoehr, May 13. Soldiers learned the capabilities and requirements for each position in a convoy, such as the responsibilities the driver and the gunner have, and how to react to small arms fire, ambushes, disabled vehicles, calling for medical evacuation, reporting unexploded ordnance on the roadway and other tasks units in Iraq have to be able to do every time they leave the wire. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)



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