



**18th Engineer Brigade  
United States Army  
Unit 29060  
APO AE 09081**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## 18th Engineer Brigade prepares for upcoming deployment

Story by Spc. Aislinn Amig, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, participated in a convoy live fire exercise from March 7-11 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Using the Army's tried and true crawl, walk, run phases, the Soldiers began the five-day exercise by maneuvering through a dry run on the convoy live fire course. A dry run is when Soldiers execute the course without ammunition.

Once Soldiers were comfortable with their responsibilities in the convoy, they moved on to the live fire range. Each vehicle had a crew served weapon mounted within a turret, which allowed Soldiers to gain experience firing from a mounted position.

"As a mechanic, I don't usually get to shoot the (crew served) weapons, outside of just typical weapons qualification," said Pfc. Kevin Marberry, an 18th Eng. Bde. wheeled vehicle mechanic from San Antonio, Texas. "It was nice to work outside of my usual job for a while."

Throughout the exercise, vehicles were sometimes disabled by roadside improvised explosive devices. Once a vehicle was deemed inoperable, a team of dismounted Soldiers were called upon to assist in the recovery phase of the operation.

Two Soldiers were tasked with retrieving the tow bar and hooking it up to the disabled vehicle, while the rest of the dismounts maintained security with the help of the gunners. Often times dismounted teams sustained casualties throughout their mission and Soldiers were required to perform combat lifesaving techniques.

Soldiers from the unit's personal security detachment also gained experience by conducting a convoy live fire exercise at night.

"It was more challenging using night vision devices," said Spc. Justin Palmer, an 18th Eng. Bde. combat engineer from Fayetteville, N.C. "It was harder to see and manipulate around the battle space."

Soldiers who participated in the event explained how getting to work with others outside of their duty section was beneficial to them.

“It helped to build a bond with everyone and gain trust among all of us,” said Marberry.

Following the convoy live fire training, 18th Eng. Bde. Soldiers spent time practicing their rollover drills and egress procedures from a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle as well as qualifying on their individually assigned weapons.



2nd Lt. Thomas Malejko, an assistant to the chief of staff for the 18th Engineer Brigade, from Allamuchy, New Jersey, gives a convoy brief to truck commanders, March 9, at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. During the five-day exercise from March 7-11, Soldiers practiced convoy live fire operations, mine resistant ambush protected vehicle egress procedures and sharpened their warrior skills. (Photo by Spc. Aislinn M. Amig, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)



Sgt. Allan Bonello, a technical engineer sergeant for the 18th Engineer Brigade, from Newport, Wales, United Kingdom, ground guides a vehicle as Chief Warrant Officer 2 Felix SanMiguel, a prime power systems technician from Dededo, Guam, and Spc. Lucas Vorous, a technical engineer from Redding, Calif. hook up a tow bar to a disabled vehicle at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, March 9. Soldiers from the 18th Eng. Bde. spent a week in Grafenwoehr training on convoy live fire operations, vehicle egress procedures and weapons qualification. (Photo by Spc. Aislinn M. Amig, 18th Eng. Bde Public Affairs)



Sgt. Allan Bonello, a technical engineer sergeant for 18th Engineer Brigade from Newport, Wales, United Kingdom, egresses from a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle during a rollover drill at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, March 10. Soldiers from the 18th Eng. Bde. spent a week in Grafenwoehr training on convoy live fire operations, vehicle egress procedures and weapons qualification. (Photo by Spc. Aislinn Amig, 18th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs)