

# Command In Brief

## JTAGS PAC keeps busy

By Lt. Kent Meyer, USN.

Another fast paced week starts in Korea, the “Land of the Morning Calm.” The week starts off relatively easy, but with the Best Crew competition starting later in the week things are certain to get busy. However, before the competition can start Joint Tactical Ground Station, Pacific (JTAGS PAC) will play host to some visitors and say farewell to a few departing Soldiers and Sailors.

Fast-forward through two days of crew preparation and C Detachment has the arrival of U.S. Strategic Command’s Command Master Chief William N. Nissen. “Fleet,” as FLTCM Nissen is commonly referred to, was traveling in the Pacific theater and made a quick and influential stop to visit the Soldiers and Sailors of JTAGS PAC.

After lunch with the detachment, Nissen observed one of the crews in action as they went through a crew certification exam. While the information was presented in a fast and furious manner Nissen was impressed with the high levels of professionalism and efficiency of the crew.

The next day the detachment said good-bye to friends and co-workers. The company commander and first sergeant oversaw the presentation of Army Achievement Awards to two Soldiers. In addition, two Sailors readying to depart were presented with plaques of appreciation. Now with the fun over and the “Best Crew” evaluators on the ground it was time to kick off some serious competition.

Day one of the competition started as the crews worked to tackle the challenges of academics, trouble shooting and antenna movements. This was the easy day!

Next, the crews prepared both mentally and physically for reaction to engagements, a physical training test, driver evaluation, event processing and the dreaded crew presentation.

As the events unfolded, C Detachment realized that no event or task could be taken for granted and how Soldiers perform after adversity means as much as superior performance. All the tasks and areas that

were being evaluated were serious skill sets that make JTAGS an effective warfighting unit. However, it does not mean there is no room for a little fun. That was true when the crews got to respond to enemy fire and that enemy happened to be the Detachment NCOIC.

SFC Gregory Hatfield while acting as an excellent sniper was still overwhelmed by the crews who eagerly neutralized the “enemy” in their scenario. As the competition came to a close many lessons were learned and areas were found where C Detachment could improve their skills. The detachment also found that all their hard work had paid off and that competitions are an effective tool for improving unit morale and team cohesion.

As the week ended, a little rest was in order after a busy schedule of visitors and examinations, but daily work still continues in Korea and there are no real days off.

## Alpha company FTX builds cohesion, emphasizes Soldier tasks and skills

By SGT Thomas Kepler and 1LT Patrick Smith

Alpha Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, conducted the unit’s second annual Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in April. The exercise was broken down into two separate four-day rotations. First and second squads attended the FTX from April 4 to April 7, while third and fourth squads went from April 25 to April 28.

The purpose of the exercise was to provide realistic and challenging training that emphasized Warrior Tasks and Drills. “The FTX succeeded in building team cohesion and was a great opportunity for the Soldiers of Alpha Company to get outside the operations floor to further develop basic Soldier combat skills,” said CPT Joseph Schaefer, Alpha company commander.

The first day of the exercise focused entirely on basic rifle marksmanship. After zeroing their M-16s, every Soldier qualified on their assigned weapon dur-



Above: During Night Land Navigation, SGT Charles Mercier, center, enthusiastically lectures his team members, from left to right, SPC David Smith, SPC Ericka Melius and SPC Kevin Zedek on how to determine their current location on a military map.



Right: SPC Mark Tucker provides security for his wounded teammate SPC John Campbell as SGT William Strong provides aid. Photos by 1LT Patrick Smith

ing the day range. After all the Soldiers completed firing for qualification, the command, “Gas, Gas, Gas,” was shouted out. They immediately donned their protective masks and conducted a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) range.

Despite the challenge of firing while wearing their protective masks, all Soldiers again qualified with their assigned weapons. The NBC range “allowed us to become more comfortable with wearing our mask and firing our weapons under NBC circumstances,” said SPC Mark Tucker. Day one of the training came to a close with an M-16 night fire range. After the day’s training, only one Soldier, SPC John Campbell, managed to qualify expert at the pop up target range with a score of 39. When asked for advice, Campbell shared the following piece of wisdom, “The targets pop up, you shoot them, and they fall down.”

The second day of the exercise consisted of day and

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night land navigation exercises as well as Common Task Testing (CTT) for all the Soldiers. For land navigation, the Soldiers moved out in buddy teams and traversed the heavily wooded and hilly terrain of Fort AP Hill with maps and compasses. All the Soldiers succeeded in locating the majority, if not all, the points they were supposed to find.

PFC Joshua Reis found the night course particularly challenging. “The level of difficulty was raised during the night course because we had to maintain strict light and noise discipline.”

The common task testing included interacting with news media, evaluating casualties, requesting medical evacuation, weapons assembly and disassembly and functions checks. Having to perform these tasks in a field environment made them both more difficult and more realistic.

On day three the squads engaged in a Situational Training Exercise (STX), which proved to be the most challenging and intense part of the FTX. The two squads were split up and had to execute four missions. The missions revolved around a movement to contact and seize an objective and eliminate any enemy threat. During the different missions the squads were forced to react to a variety of scenarios including an enemy ambush, receiving indirect fire, a sniper attack, a chemical attack and even a news reporter on the battlefield.

One highlight of the STX was the expert insight and guidance offered by Observer/Controllers SSG Samuel Bright and SSG Brandon Rans from the 3rd Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) at Fort Meyer, Va. The two NCOs from the Old Guard provided a wealth of knowledge on infantry tactics throughout the exercise. Their expertise was an invaluable resource to the Soldiers of Alpha Company. “After doing the STX lanes, I have an even greater respect for what the infantry does day in and day out” said SPC Brandi L. Clapp.

The fourth day was the conclusion of the FTX. The Soldiers competed as squads and then individually to traverse the obstacle course. SSG Eugene Bryant II said of his squad, “Second Squad’s motivation was at an all-time high as we worked together and encouraged each other to finish the obstacle course.

I’m very proud of them.”

After the obstacle course the company conducted a tactical road march to the gas chamber. Inside the chamber, every Soldier broke the seal on their mask while the CS riot agent flooded the small room. After a short interval, they resealed their masks, providing a confidence builder for the Soldiers with their protective masks.

As the exercise concluded, Alpha Company conducted a final after action review and then headed back home to Fort Detrick, Md. “Overall, Alpha Company’s Field Training Exercise was a tremendous success. The Soldiers were motivated and conducted realistic and valuable training that sharpened their combat edge,” said Schaefer.

## 193rd Space Battalion team deploys

SGT Jillian Basso  
128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment 1



CPT Matthew Boves and his son at the farewell ceremony for the 193rd Space Battalion’s Commercial Exploitation Team. Photo by SFC Dennis Beebe



Members of the 193rd Space Battalion's Commercial Exploitation Team stand tall at their farewell ceremony in Colorado Springs, Colo., before their departure to Bahrain in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From left to right: CPT Matthew Bowles, CPT Rain Jones, 1LT Matthew Pollock, SFC John Fennern, SSG Brett Mills, SGT Nicole Bogenschutz, SGT Molly Patterson, and PVT Brian Fitzgerald. Photo by SFC Dennis Beebe

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Good-byes are never easy. Just ask the members of the 193rd Space Battalion Commercial Exploitation Team (CET). On March 8, the 193rd CET held a farewell ceremony so family members and fellow Soldiers could properly send off the team before they deployed in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

The CET prepared for the deployment by doing everything from on the job training to live fire exercises to learning what it's like to encounter pepper spray and a tazer. One of the main jobs the team will conduct while deployed is acquiring satellite imagery to help the troops on the ground with their mission. CPT Matthew Bowles, the team leader, says serving others like this is never an easy task but so far his team has performed admirably.

“The Soldiers and families here today have sacrificed time with each other and felt the pain and satisfaction that goes along with doing something that truly matters,” said Bowles in his farewell speech. “They have kept the war on terrorism away from our families doorsteps.”

Members of the chain of command were also at the ceremony to help with any last minute jitters family members were feeling. LTC Scot Cuthbertson, the commander of the 193rd Space Battalion, reassured family members that his staff and his family would be available for any trials

that may arise.

“Our job isn't to just put Soldiers out and wait for them to come back. We're here for the families too,” said Cuthbertson. “There will be problems and we want to help with the headaches.”

PVT Brian Fitzgerald, a topographical analyst, has been with the team for only one year. He will be leaving his wife behind, but feels she is in good hands.

“The unit set up times for all the family members to meet,” said Fitzgerald. “It gives them a support group they can hold onto while we're gone.”

Tracy Fennern, wife of SFC John Fennern, says she also believes the family readiness group will help — especially when someone just needs another person to talk to.

“I'm still in denial about John leaving,” said Tracy. “It will hit me in two weeks. That's when it will be nice to have a contact of someone who is feeling the same emotions I am.”

In one last meeting with the CET and their families, Cuthbertson announced that everyone was extremely proud of the team's accomplishments.

“I see great Americans here. I feel confident they will successfully complete their mission,” he concluded.

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### Yama Sakura 47 — Not just another exercise

By Ed White

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Any given military exercise is really a form of rehearsal. Units exercise to test themselves in near-real conditions to see what problems, issues and unforeseen situations might arise. The exercise environment allows them to figure out fixes and work-arounds in a learning environment rather than in the heat of battle where decisions can save, or cost, lives.

Exercise Yama Sakura 47 was no different. “This was the I Corps ramp-up exercise for their big warfighter to be played in 2006,” said MAJ Lawrence Robinson, Army Space Support Team 2 leader. “Our primary function was to go and educate the I Corps staff on how to use us as an asset. We bring a great deal of expertise and experience that requires some

new ways of thinking about things. We knew we had to work as hard at educating the staff we supported as we did at actually producing products they requested.”

Robinson explained that the education process is a constant for the team whenever and wherever they are deployed. As Space experts, they are constantly trying to get their customers to take the support available to the next level. “It really helps to have the FA40s out there too. They are a constant on the staff and they are a key part of this whole education process,” he added.

In preparation for the exercise the team found all the imagery of the exercise area that they could find to bring with them. This was not easy because there’s not a lot of imagery of Japan available. However, the team took off with all they could find and put it to work for themselves and their customers.

The exercise took place at Camp Higashi-Chitose in Hokkaido, Japan. The installation is the largest training area in Japan and is a basic training base



Every exercise offers its own unique challenges. ARSST 2’s challenge during Yama Sakura: setting up their equipment in the snow. *Photo by SGT John Velasquez*

for Japanese army recruits. The players were an interesting mix of the headquarters element of the I Corps and elements of the Japanese Defense Forces.

“One of the primary issues for the play of the problem was that the Japanese military did not have any contractual agreements to license their use of commercial satellite imagery. They could see the imagery but could not receive any hard copies of it,” Robinson said.

The team consisted of Robinson, CPT Tim Dalton, CPT Timmy Johnson, SSG Ben McCoy, SGT Heather Rozyczko and SGT John Velasquez.

“They loved our products,” Robinson said of the team’s performance. However, he emphasized that the real challenge they faced was educating their customers in exactly what Space could do for them.

McCoy, the team’s NCOIC, worked with the G-2 staff and said, “I tried to get them to think about things like the effects of terrestrial weather on the reception capabilities for the Space-based assets. I also tried to inform them that there may be a Space capability on the other side and I tried to help them think about how to avoid being collected against by such an asset.”

Velasquez, team terrain analyst added, “What we gave them opened their minds up. It educated them.”

He built several “fly-throughs” for the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) brigade that were actually a “bad guy’s” look at the friendly positions. This allowed the brigade commander to see what the enemy would see and establish his defenses accordingly. Velasquez was literally able to see and thus think like the enemy.

He also built 14 fly-throughs in six days for the aviation unit involved in the exercise. The aviators used the fly-throughs as rehearsal tools before they went out on actual missions. Velasquez admitted that this was a lot of work but added, “how much work you do is dependent on how good you are. This was lots of work and time consuming too, but knowing the tools and technologies and having worked out some new techniques, I was able to give them what they wanted.”

The ARSST worked directly under and within the I Corps’ G-3. “We processed information at the request of the G-3 and returned the products to them for final dis-

semination,” Robinson said.

Robinson was able to elaborate on one of the challenges faced in this multi-cultural exercise. He was stationed in the J-5 (plans) planning cell and their mission was to put together future plans for stability operations as part of the exercise scenario. This included the unique task of turning the Japanese government back to civilian control at the end of the military emergency.

“The Japanese situation is much different than it is in the U.S.,” Robinson said. “For instance, when working with their civilians, the Japanese forces have no power. They have no police authority. This has been true since the end of World War II. This required us to think about some things differently and make some adaptations to sometimes difficult situations.”

Rozyczko faced her own challenge as the team’s network administrator. She was responsible for keeping the ARSST computers linked to the I Corps system. “I supported the unit domain and tried to maintain total connectivity,” she said. “If the I Corps’ system went down, so did we. When they were up so were we,” she added.

Dalton was the daytime shift officer in charge for current operations. His job was to go to planning meetings, get requests for products and then go back to the team with them so they could be produced.

Dalton’s job was actually more than just going to meetings. He educated the staff about what the team could produce and how it could best be used.

In summing up the experience Robinson said, “We learned a lot working with I Corps. They are the first ones to go into the UE(y). The UE(y) is the Corps level and above unit of employment. They have FA40s in the J-5, J-35 (future operations) and the ARSST was in the J-35 cell. This is the first time, in my opinion, that Space support was located just where it was needed to be most effective. Having the FA40s in the planning cells makes for much more focused Space support. It saves time and effort and makes us value added immediately when we enter theater.”

LTC Jeffrey Farnsworth, commander, 1st Space Battalion, was in theater for the exercise to assess the ARSST’s operations and overall Space support to the exercise.

“The team did very well,” he said. “They were well in-

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tegrated into the battle staff in the plans and operations elements. They consistently provided products and services to all the right places. And they were well appreciated by the supported staff elements and units.”

Farnsworth also remarked at the positive value of the strong cross-cultural experience, exemplified by a unique encounter he had on a Japanese subway. To him it shows how the Japanese people really appreciate the American military.

“I was traveling in uniform on a subway and the car was full. It was standing room only. I became engaged in a conversation with a Japanese man in civilian clothes. Through the conversation he realized that I was there for the exercise and he told me he was a reserve officer in the Japanese Defense Forces and also participating in the exercise.

The subway came to our stop and we got off the car, continuing our conversation. In the middle of the subway station this man turned to me and expressed his deep personal respect and thanks to my Soldiers and me. He thanked us for helping to defend his country. He snapped to attention and rendered a salute and I returned the courtesy. The man then turned and walked away. I never saw him again,” Farnsworth said. “I was struck by this event because of the man’s sincerity and by the fact that it is the professional efforts and interpersonal actions of our Soldiers that brought this unique encounter about.”

## Echo company goes warrior at Camp Hansen Combat Town

SGT Stuart Ransom, Unit reporter  
Echo Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion

OKINAWA, Japan — Due to their real world mission requirements, satellite network controllers seldom get the opportunity to implement their warrior tasks and drills, common task testing (CTT) and sergeants’ time training scenarios into one combined hands-on block of instruction. This March, Echo Company had the opportunity to use the Marine Corps’ Com-

bat Town area at Camp Hansen for part of its first-ever realistic field training exercise (FTX).

This FTX was a different experience than normal for all involved. The first day consisted of the quarterly 3-in-1 range, where the Soldiers qualified with M16A2 rifles, endured the nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) gas chamber and tested their knowledge and practical application on CTT. During the NBC portion of the range, they cross-trained with members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force as they provided wartime scenario training and confidence building techniques that over-exceeded our expectations.

Following the rifle range and gas chamber, Echo Company moved to occupy the Combat Town training center on Camp Hansen. The town is a series of buildings that allows units to practice operations in an urban setting. In the morning, Echo Company began its operations by moving to secure the town and set up a base of operations. Individual noncommissioned officers were tasked with training various skills and techniques that would be useful in a real world environment. Many of the Soldiers and NCOs who had recently returned from Southwest Asia were able to provide invaluable knowledge and personal experiences that would save time and lives.

“This two-day exercise was more intense and motivating than any two-week exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga.” said recent arrival SPC Aaron Schneider.

The training continued into the night when the Marines served as opposing forces (OPFOR) and with the aid of night vision goggles kept the Echo Company security forces on their toes. “I slept in full battle rattle waiting for the OPFOR to attack,” said SGT Brandon Lawson. Fortunately prior training gave the Soldiers the edge and they were able to repel all attempts at infiltration.

Echo Company Soldiers demonstrated that not only do they have the intelligence to comprehend and provide satellite communications to the warfighter, but they also have the coordination, desire and training base to effectively use their soldiering skills as well. By the end of the exercise, the consensus from the Soldiers who participated and the Marines who joined in was one of accomplishment, success and



**SPC James Powell, Echo Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, takes the lead for his unit during a recent field training exercise with the III Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Hansen in Okinawa, Japan. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jamaal Beard, USMC**

newfound camaraderie.

Echo Company took from this experience a newfound respect for the Soldiers who are now deployed and a better understanding of the importance of supporting the warfighter. And, although these tactics are not normal for Echo Company Soldiers, it showed they have the spirit, training and skill to adapt to any challenging situation that may come.

## ‘Constant Vigilance’ setting the standard

JTAGS CENTCOM

CAMP AS SALIYAH, Qatar — In their first two months on station, 2nd Section Alpha Detachment (A/2), 1st Space Company, has set a high standard in both physical fitness training and weapons qualification. In addition to the range and Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), an award and promotion ceremony ended the month on a high note.

Being the first APFT taken by the section as a whole, no one knew exactly what to expect. Whatever the expectations might have been, the section now boasts a 275

average, a feat that sets a high standard for everyone in 2nd Section, Alpha Detachment and 1st Space Company.

“I enjoyed the PT test. The environment here is nice and the test was conducted very professionally,” said SSG Tracey Rosser.

Along with the APFT, A/2 section also hosted an M-16/M-9 range for its Soldiers and Sailors. “We only had a little time on the range, but it was good to go out and get a chance to shoot our M-16s,” said SGT Darrell Jones, one of the Soldiers who qualified at the range.

With only two short hours not everyone was able to qualify. SPC Joshua Williams set the standard with a perfect 40 out of 40. The average for those who did qualify was 35 out of 40 targets hit.

To top off the month two individuals were honored. SPC Nicolas Carpenter was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for earning the distinction of Distinguished Honor Graduate in the Joint Tactical Ground Station Initial Qualification Course. His crew chief SSG Jeffrey Crane said



**Members of 2nd Section Alpha Detachment, 1st Space Company, qualify at an M-16 range in Qatar. Photo by SGT Alexander Appleby**

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“It’s a good thing when Soldiers get recognized for doing a good job. The fact that Specialist Carpenter was able to distinguish himself while simultaneously preparing for deployment says a lot about him as a Soldier.”

Also, Frank Serio was promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class (Surface Warfare) in the U.S. Navy. “I owe it to everyone I have ever served with. The people around me make me who I am by pushing me to be the best,” said Serio who returned to his post in Germany at the end of March.

A/2 section continues to strive and achieve success. By living their section motto of “Constant Vigilance!” they continue to set the standard for others to follow.

## Charlie Company continues retention excellence

SGT Adrian Duran

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Beneath the shadow of the historic tower, Bismark Turm, that overlooks the Ramstein and Landstuhl area of Germany’s Rhineland-Pfalz region, three Soldiers once again raised their hands to continue their service with the U.S. Army. SGT James Garnett, SPC James DeBroeck and SPC Henry Eye from Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, re-enlisted on a perfect spring day March 18. Each of them had their various reasons for re-enlisting and, despite popular belief, the selective re-enlistment bonus was not on the top of the list.

CPT Christopher Conway, commander of Charlie Company, has re-enlisted dozens of

Soldiers, but was equally proud to see these Soldiers re-enlisted under his command. Garnett chose the location; but unfortunately, the Space on top of the tower was not suitable for everyone attending to fit. The ceremony was held at the base and pictures were later taken individually at the top with a scenic view in the background.

Garnett, having already re-enlisted once in Charlie Company, has bigger and better plans for this enlistment. He was recently promoted to sergeant and is now looking to become an Army officer in the United States Army. “I want to retire as an officer, whether as a warrant or not,” said Garnett.

This is just one step to help him achieve this goal. His pride and willingness to succeed is exactly what the Army needs.

Eye and DeBroeck, friends since Advanced Individual Training, both re-enlisted for station of choice at the Wideband Satellite Operations Center at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan. DeBroeck was not concerned with the amount of his bonus. “I don’t even know how much of a bonus I’m getting,” Debroeck said. “I just wanted to go to Japan.” Eye followed suit by commenting, “I’ve always wanted to



From left to right, SGT James Garnett, SPC James DeBroeck and SPC Henry Eye all raise their right hands in front of the historic Bismark Turm landmark just outside the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center’s gate and repeat the oath of re-enlistment after CPT Christopher Conway, commander, Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion. Photo by SFC Kevin Newman

go to some place exotic, and why not go while I'm in the Army?"

Garnett re-enlisted for six years and received a \$25,000 bonus and one-year stabilization in Charlie Company. Eye re-enlisted for three years and will later have to extend for four months to fulfill Army requirements. He will receive approximately a \$6,000 bonus. DeBroeck re-enlisted for four years and will also receive a bonus, about \$5,000. The re-enlistment of these Soldiers continues a long-standing successful retention program for the unit. SSG Franklin Barrett, the unit retention NCO, commented saying, "I've had the opportunity to counsel and subsequently re-enlist over 15 Soldiers. Seeing the troops get what they want, while continuing their service, is a fulfilling responsibility."

## Marksmanship is key element of Soldier skill set

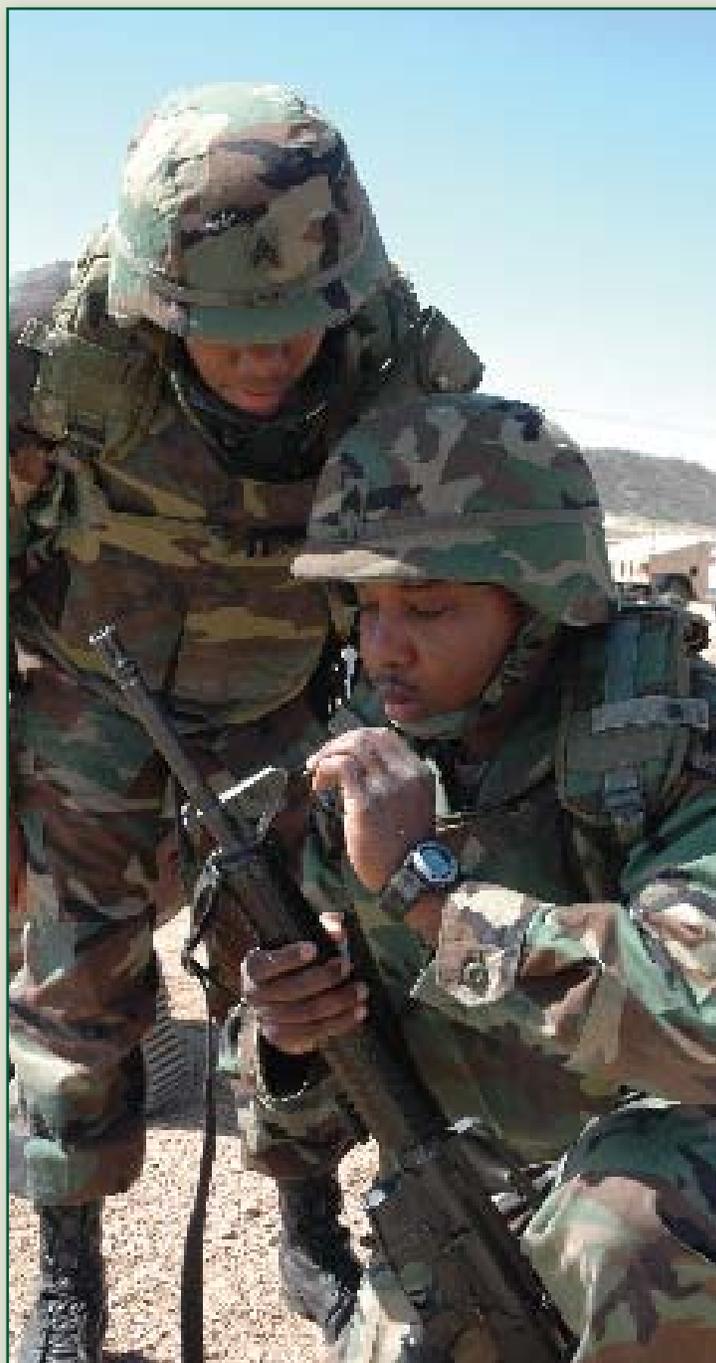
SFC Dennis Beebe

At the heart of all Soldier skills is the ability to shoot well. Recently members of the 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, had the chance to practice this basic competency with the M16A2. Nine members of the company went to the range at Fort Carson, Colo., and worked with elements of the 4th Infantry Division's 43rd Support Group who had scheduled the range for the day.

"I prefer the long rifle over the M-9 pistol or the M-4 because of the rifle's range and versatility," said acting 1SG Timothy Drye. "The range of the M-9 allows the enemy to get too close to me before it becomes marginally effective, and the M-4 jumps around too much to keep on target effectively. I am still an infantryman at heart."

The morning was spent with familiarization fire and zeroing weapons on the 25-meter paper target range. Next the Soldiers broke for lunch and then moved to Range 57 for the final portion where they fired at pop-up targets for record. The pop-up targets at the range were located between 50 and 300 meters and popped up either singly or in groups of two for the firing order to shoot and knock down. A computer in the tower at range control kept track of the hits and printed out a scorecard for each Soldier.

Forty targets were exposed for each Soldier to fire on at the record fire range. The number of hits required for the



**SGT Tamika Lane, left, watches SGT Kedrick Lanier as he adjusts his rifle to attain his battle sight zero at the rifle zero range at Fort Carson, Colo. Photo by SFC Dennis Beebe**

different rifleman skill categories are as follows:

23-28 hits on target for Marksman; 29 –36 hits on target for Sharpshooter; 37 to 40 hits on target for Expert.