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carry out every day as an (Army Medical Department) Soldier," added Lt. Col. Scott Putzier. "This event takes place twice a year and it's done through most installations. Here, the 82nd Airborne Division runs it during the spring and MEDCOM will run it during the fall."

Other than the written tests, the other tasks they must perform include: Army Physical Fitness Test, land navigation courses, weapon qualifications test, litter obstacle course, road march, communication skills, demonstrate survival skills, emergency medical treatment demonstration in a combat situation, evacuating sick and wounded and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Candidates sat around an open pit covered in thick smoke surrounded by random explosions and watched Cpl. Rebecca Waehner of 82nd Airborne Division demonstrate the emergency medical treatment lane.

Many of the candidates said it was an eye-opening experience.

"This is great training for me in that it allows me a good idea of what my medics go through and a better idea of what to expect in a wartime scenario — and also having the badge will set me apart from my peers," said Maj. Bruce McClinton, Womack Army Medical Center. "It's a great opportunity even though this is my first attempt. This is very challenging and I hope to try and live up to the challenge."

On Sept. 29, the last stretch of the EFMB course ended with a 14-mile ruck march.

The candidates had exactly three hours to cross the finish line to earn their badges.

As they neared the third hour candidates ran as fast as they could to cross the finish line before their time was up.

The first to cross the line was 2nd Lt. Sebastian Padron, 2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, who ran most of the way.

"I'm not a medic," Padron said. "I'm a platoon leader so (some of the courses) were difficult but I did it and it feels good."

After a while the others began making their way towards the finish line. A few struggled to keep up while others continued marching even though they didn't make it.

For others it was still a blur until Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, XVIII Abn. Corps deputy commander, pinned the badge on their uniforms and it became real.

"I can't believe I did it," said Sgt. Maryann Sanders, 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion. "It feels awesome."



photo by Lucille Anne Newman/Paraglide

Sgt. Maryann Sanders, 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, takes a quick break after completing the ruck march to earn her Expert Field Medical Badge at the end of the course.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who earned their Expert Field Medical Badge: Pfc. Dwight Cox, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Ks.; Pfc. Jessica Bugbee, Co. C, 407th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Bragg; 1st Lt. Jamie Carmichael, 36th Area Support Medical Company, Fort Bragg; Spc. Anthony Carpenter, Co. B, Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg; Spc. Christopher Couvillion, 2nd Bn., 321st Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg; Capt. Eric Danko, Co. C, 307th Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Bragg; Spc. Nathan Denman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.; Pfc. Bryan Doan, 1st Bn., 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Ks.; 2nd Lt. Johnathan Haller, Co. C, 407th FSB, Fort Bragg; Staff Sgt. Salvador Inez, 36th Area Support Medical Bn., Fort Bragg; 2nd Lt. Mike Jones, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart, Ga.; 2nd Lt. Amber Lohmann, Co. C, 307th BSB, Fort Bragg; Capt. Joseph McCarthy, HHC 82nd Abn. Div., Fort Bragg; Maj. Bruce McClenathan of Co. B, WAMC, Fort Bragg; Spc. Casey McPhail of Winn Army Community Hospital, Fort Stewart, Ga.; 2nd Lt. Andrew Neighbors, 1st Bn., 4th Cav., 1st Inf. Div., Fort Riley, Ks.; 2nd Lt. Sebastian Padron of 2nd Bn., 319th FAR, Fort Bragg; Cpl. Brandon Peer of 528th Medical Detachment, Fort Bragg; Pfc. Troy Ruffin, 2nd Bn., 7th Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Ga.; Spc. Liron Sahar, Co. C, 3rd BSB, Fort Stewart, Ga.; 1st Lt. Raugh Salaam of HQ MEDDAC, Fort Meade, Md.; Sgt. Maryann Sanders, 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, Fort Bragg; Spc. David Stephens, 2nd Bn., 508th PIR, Fort Bragg; Capt. Kelly Still, Southeast Region VETCOM, Fort Gordon, Ga.; and Pfc. Demirel Timur, 1st Bn., 4th Cav, 1st Inf. Div., Fort Bragg.

LOOKING BACK

Taking out the 1st SS Panzers

by **Al Alvarez**
Special correspondent

Our front erupted with tank fire and reported infantry advancing towards us intensifying the artillery fire in our immediate front.

Our first indication was a flying buzzing bomb smashing into the battery area that left three wounded gunners — Cpl. Homer A. Jerome, Tech. Sgt. Raymond Fink and Pfc. Erlo Baton.

We were further alerted by a commotion reported on our eastern outpost which luckily forewarned everyone in town.

Speeding down the only street in Weimes came two military jeeps overloaded with German soldiers, firing madly and careening widely to escape our return fires. They eventually crashed off the road on the west side of the village.

Lt. Col. Henrey Davisson then ordered, "Recon, send a squad to investigate and recover bodies and or the vehicles."

As the recon squad approached the overturned vehicles armed with submachine guns and sprayed the area before righting the jeep. They returned with the wounded in actions spreadeagled on the hood. Another captive

was shoved into the co-pilot's seat with his hands on his head.

As the prisoners were brought into the town square, they immediately caught the attention of other American Soldiers who began crowding the square.

As the German officer demanded medical attention for his men, someone in the crowd belted him with a rifle butt, but he was saved from further harm by noncommissioned officers who held back the provoked Soldiers.

Apparently these were the same soldiers who broke through our outpost hailing in English then fired and killed the surprised guards.

The angry crowd members were buddies of the Soldiers who were killed by this "ruse-de-guerre."

The officer who was captured was actually a courier transporting photographic proof of their successful tactic that allowed them to break through our American lines.

(Editor's note: This is a series of memoirs by Lt. Col. Al Alvarez, who retired from XVIII Airborne Corps and now volunteers at the Airborne Special Operations Museum.)

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