

Putting out the flames

by **Lucille Anne Newman**
Paraglide

Training is important to all units to maintain proficiency at all times. Like their civilian counterparts, Soldiers of 513th Firefighter Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Battalion, learned that to be efficient they must work together on Oct. 26.

To train for possible deployments, who better to train with than a firefighting unit that has already deployed and returned earlier this year.

"We have a mobile training team from New York who has deployed several times helping us train in homeland and combat situations," said 1st Lt. Karen Obeng-Dompreh, 513th Firefighter Detachment, HHC, 30th Eng. Bn. "This particular training is on structural fires. This will help us keep our skills honed and to prepare us for possible deployments."

As flames roared inside a three story structure of the fire simulation training facility on Pope Air Force Base, the Soldiers leapt from the truck and unraveled the hoses as they moved quickly to form their teams and entered the structure to put the fire out.

"There's a new firefighting detachment here on Fort Bragg so we're here

to train up these Soldiers," said Sgt. Allen Weaver, 520th Firefighting Detachment, 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum, N.Y. "They haven't had a lot of experience with their new tactical firefighting truck and we've already had ours for a year."

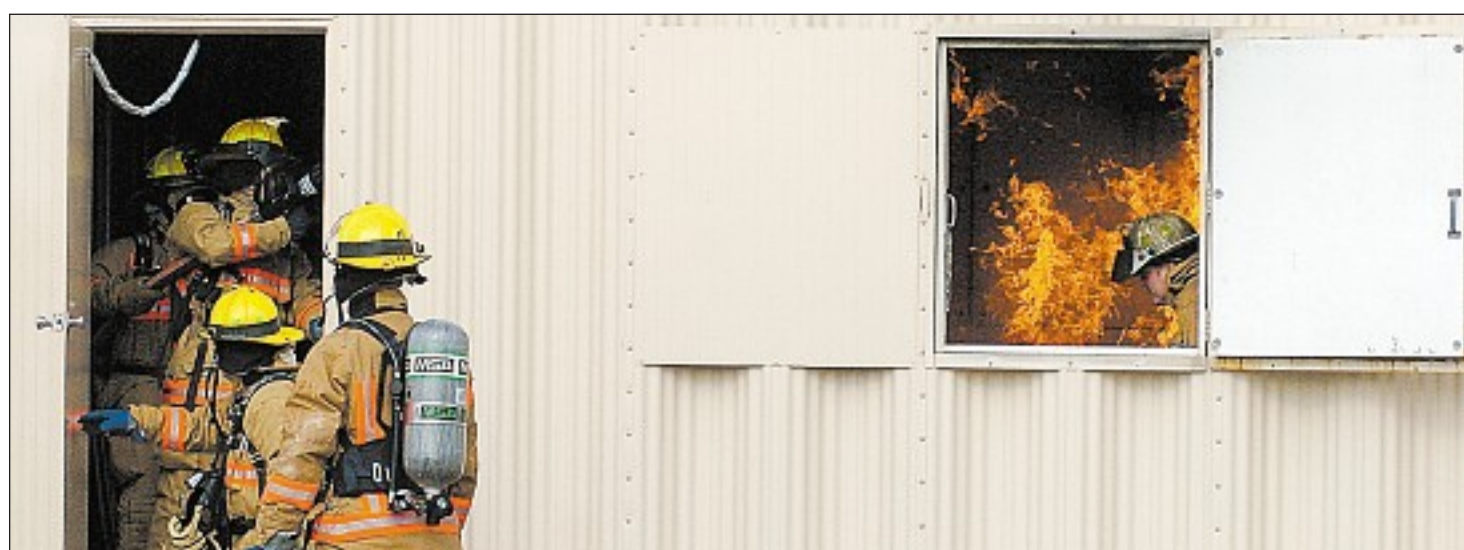
Weaver said the first day of training was a little hectic because they had never worked together.

However, everyone was able to progress quickly through the training and the Soldiers learned many valuable skills in the process.

"We're not only teaching them about the truck, but how to work together as a team with this truck," Weaver said. "As a firefighter, if you don't train every day or at least every week, you'll definitely lose a lot of valuable skills. Firefighting is an ever-changing job and everything changes from day to day. It's important that they train like this."

Many of the Soldiers participating in the training agreed.

"A lot of us work side-by-side with civilian firefighters," said Spc. William Green, 513th Firefighter Detachment. "This (training) helps us build our teamwork and confidence in each other which is important because you have to rely on your buddy being behind you."



Firefighters from 513th Firefighter Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Battalion, quickly lead a hose towards the flames just inside the door of a burning building as part of their training at Pope Air Force Base Oct. 26.



photos by Lucille Anne Newman/Paraglide

Firefighters of 513th Firefighter Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Battalion, move inside a burning building to put out a fire during their training session at the Fire Simulation Training Center on Pope Air Force Base last Oct. 26 while a trainer, right, looks on.



Spc. Chester Jenkins III, 513th Firefighter Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Battalion, pulls his hood back after successfully putting out a structure fire Oct. 26.



Spc. Jeffery Catlett, left, and Angel Molina, right, 513th Firefighter Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Engineer Battalion, quickly pull the hoses from their tactical firefighting truck towards a fire hydrant nearby during their training session at the Fire Simulation Training Center Oct. 26.

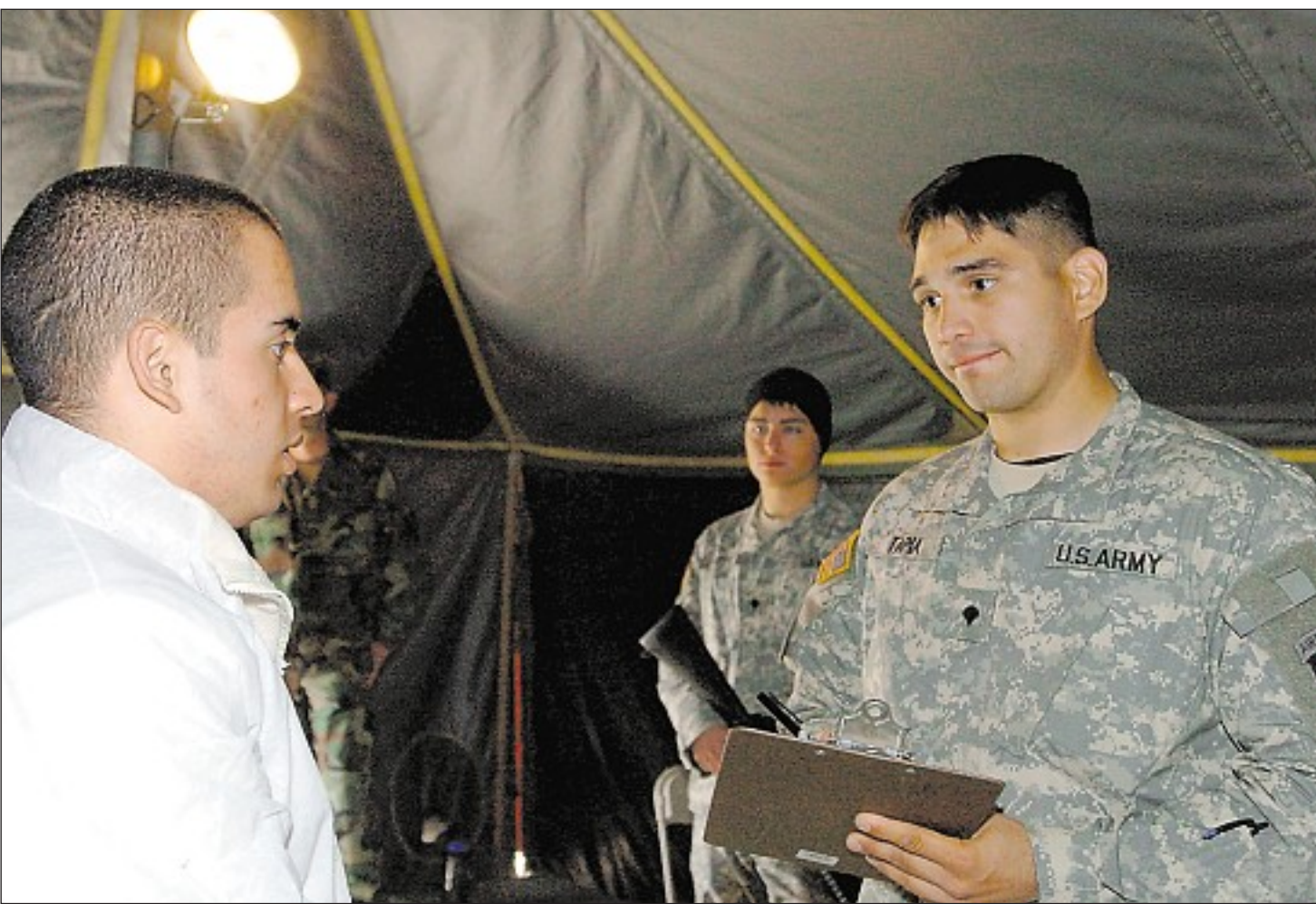


photo by Lucille Anne Newman/Paraglide

Spc. Manuel Tapia, 36th Area Support Hospital, 44th Medical Command, right, questions, Pfc. Guillermo Mercado, 528th Stress Control Detachment, 44th MEDCOM, a detainee roleplayer, about any illnesses and injuries he may have during his examination of a detainee Oct. 26, during the testing phase of his detainee training.

Medics train to deal with obstacles, care for detainees

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As Pvt. Steven Sodor, 36th Area Support Medical Center (Airborne), 44th Medical Command, tries to ask a detainee questions about any aches and pains he may be experiencing, a news reporter barges in and begins asking questions while a photographer snaps away. As if that wasn't enough, a Red Cross medic and a civilian security officer show up to demand information on the detainee.

And to top it all off, a film crew shows up and begins asking the detainee questions. In another tent a riot breaks out when more than one detainee is brought in at the same time and begins fighting the Military Police escorting them in an

attempt to escape. And in a third tent a detainee is thrown on the floor.

It's a circus at this point, but Sodor and the other medics training for an upcoming deployment know they must gain control of the situation in order to complete their tasks as well as protect the detainee's privacy.

"MPs, please get the media out of here," said Sodor as the MPs began escorting the media out of the tent.

"They have to not only learn how to deal with civilian agencies, news media and Red Cross (representatives), they also have to perform their medical tasks. They have to identify any signs of abuse and how to

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