

IRON FOCUS

The Official Magazine for Iron Focus 2015



Iron Focus Magazine

24th Press Camp Headquarters



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What is Iron Focus?

Iron Focus is three brigades from the 1st Armored Division crashing through the ranges: the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the Combat Aviation Brigade and the 15th Sustainment Brigade. It's Strykers, Black-hawks, fuel trucks and thousands of troops, synchronizing, integrating and simulating battle across Fort Bliss' massive range complex.

It's everything you want in training. It's realistic, it's tough, it pushes you to your limits and then keeps going. The dirt of Chihuahuan Desert gets in your nails, your hair and your rifle, but by day five of the exercise you realize that's what you want. The dirt, the sweat, the hardship, because your enemy thrives in these conditions, and you're going to take away his home field advantage and thrive, fight and win that much harder.

It's everything everyone outside of the Fort Bliss gates needs. A standing force not just ready to engage and destroy the enemies of the United States, but a force that knows it's ready to win. It's peace of mind.

Dropping In[f]

Story by Sgt. Alexander Neely



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division assume a fighting position after jumping from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by 3rd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade, during training prior to an air assault outside the village of El Jabar, as part of an Iron Focus training exercise on the Fort Bliss range complex, March 26, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by: Sgt. Alexander Neely)





U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Julia Redding

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, prepare to assault a village after jumping from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by 3rd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade, during training prior to an air assault outside the village of El Jabar, as part of an Iron Focus training exercise on the Fort Bliss range complex, March 26, 2015.

Utilizing all forms of its air assets, the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, along with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade, successfully performed a complex air-assault training mission with a short planning curve March 26 during Iron Focus 15, an annual division-wide exercise held on Fort Bliss' expansive training grounds.

The exercise required quick and synchronized planning by teams from the CAB's 3rd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment and 1-36 to determine the most efficient way to surprise guerrilla fighters who had overrun a village.

Relying on speed and sheer numbers in terms of aircraft and ground Soldiers, the 3-501 and 1-36 surprised the guerrilla forces by swooping in about a kilometer north of the notional village of Shirvan. After off-loading from UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters, ground troops used a bounding entrance into the village.

"Some of the best kind of training is the rare kind of training," said Maj. Donald R. Kirk, operations officer for 3rd Bn. "It is rare we are able to get the ground and air forces together to train, so when we can it's something all Soldiers and leadership appreciate."

Given less than a day to fully plan the mission, Kirk and other 3-501st planners determined that eight Black Hawks and a Chinook would drop the troops a half-mile away from the village. Overhead, Gray Eagle and Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles surveyed the area for air-defense and ground threats.

For security, the CAB enlisted AH-64 Attack helicopters from Company B, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade out of

Fort Carson, Colorado, which prowled ahead of the ground Soldiers to address those threats.

"We want the Soldiers to understand the feeling of a deployed environment," said Maj. James H. Scullion, the CAB's operations officer. "The more efficient we train here, the better we will perform as Soldiers, a unit and an Army down range."

“It is rare we are able to get the ground and air forces together to train...it’s something all Soldiers and leadership appreciate.”

Once safely on the ground, the infantry Soldiers from 1-36 were able to regain control of the village with a variety of tactical maneuvers.

The 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment was available, but ultimately not needed, to provide air medical evacuations for the mission.

While the air assault was considered a success, it was not without its difficulties during the planning stage.

"We normally have 96 hours to plan for an air-assault. However, due to exercise constraints, we were given less than 20," said Scullion. "Yet, the Soldiers here were able to devise an incredible plan, one that gave everyone the best and safest training."

During Iron Focus, the CAB has conducted deliberate attacks, route reconnaissance, resupply, security, VIP and troop transport and 24-hour medevac operations, mostly in support of 1st Stryker Brigade.

The training and combined-arms maneuvers required of the Soldiers are based on situations the military has faced in combat.

Iron Focus, led by 1st Armored Division, is a notional operation where over 7,500 Soldiers participate in a high-paced schedule of realistic situational training and live-fire exercises.

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Quotes from Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty



U.S. Army photo by: Sgt. Maricris C. Cosejo

Infantrymen of 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, engages opposing forces during a simulated air assault raid at El Jabar village, Fort Bliss, Texas, Mar. 26, 2015.

“ An Iron Soldier is an **IRON** S

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U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Julia Redding

Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, clear buildings in a village, Mar. 27, 2015, McCorgor Range, N.M., during Exercise Iron Focus.

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U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Julia Redding

An opposing forces Soldier from 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, watches for approaching Soldier elements clearing the village, March 27, 2015 at McGregor Range, NM, during Exercise Iron Focus.

“ Focused on the **Hybrid** Threat ”

“Fight and Win”



U.S. Army photo by: Sgt. Maricris C. Cosejo

Infantrymen of 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, pull security during a simulated air assault raid at El Jabar village, Fort Bliss, Texas, Mar. 26, 2015.

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REFUEL ON THE MOVE

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. George Gutierrez



Soldiers assigned to 504th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Brigade Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Armored Division and the Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants platoon, Alpha Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division conduct a "refuel on the move" during Iron Focus on the Fort Bliss training area March 30, 2015.

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Water, food, fuel and ammunition are the primary needs of any Army.

For Soldiers trained in the military occupational specialty of 92F or petroleum supply specialist, fuel is their bread and butter.

Recently, Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division conducted a "Refuel on the Move" mission for about 200 military vehicles during Iron Focus.

"We are providing fuel for the force, for the maneuver elements and for the [Soldiers] to get realistic training in an austere environment," said Warrant Officer One Terrance Avila, a petroleum system technician with the 504th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Brigade Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

According to Army doctrine, ROM for ground vehicles is synonymous with rapid or hot refueling for aircraft.

"The ROM is not a top-off point," said Spc. Arnaldo Robles, a petroleum supply specialist assigned to the 504th QMC.

"Refuel on the Move" is accomplished as far forward on the battlefield as the situation permits prior to the tactical assembly area. The purpose of ROM is to extend the time ground forces can spend on their mission, although ROM can be made to suit other situations as well.

When military vehicles enter a ROM site for refueling, they receive a predetermined amount of fuel (usually timed) and then return to their convoy.

"We know that if we push fuel on an eight point ROM, each [fuel] point pumps 30 to 35 gallons per minute, so that means that with 30 seconds of fuel, most military



U.S. Army photo by: Staff Sgt. George Gutierrez

Spc. Arnaldo Robles, a petroleum supply specialist assigned to 504th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Brigade Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Armored Division prepares to fuel military vehicles while conducting a 'Refuel on the Move' during Iron Focus on the Fort Bliss training area March 30, 2015.

vehicles are three-quarters full," said Avila.

"What we usually do is a hasty ROM, which is pull out a couple of nozzles out of a M978 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, something quick and efficient," said Avila. "Refuel on the Move' is an ancient art, you don't see this anymore."

Avila stressed that petroleum supply specialist are effective combat multipliers as they sustain the vehicles moving from point A to point B.

"We are going back to the basics, so if we have to go into an austere environment this is the type of [training] that we need to be proficient at in order for the ground forces to

be efficient on their objective," said Avila. "This concept and doctrine is not only being taught within the 1st Armored Division, as we move forward and write the Standard Operation Procedures, but it is also going out to the Quartermaster school to train new Soldiers."

“Refuel on the Move is an ancient art, you don’t see this anymore.”



U.S. Army photo by: Staff Sgt. George Gutierrez

Pvt. Alonzo Reyes, a petroleum supply specialist assigned to 504th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Brigade Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Armored Division fuels a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, while conducting a 'Refuel on the Move' during Iron Focus on the Fort Bliss training area March 30, 2015.



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