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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bravo Battery Soldiers train in Mississippi

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Unit Public Affairs Representative

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. – Every day of training at Camp Shelby brings new tasks and challenges to the Soldiers of Bravo Battery as they prepare for deployment to Iraq in late December.

Most of the unit training focuses on theater specific situations as the unit prepares for its security force mission that includes the primary task of escorting convoys in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since arriving at Camp Shelby in late October, Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery spent 10 days training and living in a field environment.

Knowing they will face dangers that lurk along the roadsides, Soldiers are learning to look for improvised explosive devices, known as IEDs, and the recognizable signs of such explosives placed along the roads.

During drivers training, Soldiers from the Salem and Sioux Falls based unit got their first chance to drive the updated version of the armored M-1114 HMMWV, better known as the up-armored humvee. This version is equipped with armor plating that weighs down the vehicle significantly. The new model was designed with a larger engine to compensate for the added weight.

“The updated vehicle is very user friendly,” said Spc. Donald Miller of Sioux Falls. “The air conditioning installed will really help out in Iraq, and I think there is more leg room in the back seat.”

On the driver’s course, Soldiers learning the procedures in reacting to a vehicle rollover and negotiate water obstacles with their assigned humvees. The most challenging task was learning to drive with night-vision goggles (NVGs). While wearing the NVGs, a Soldier’s vision is reduced considerably with little to no peripheral vision afforded.

“The drivers’ training was good, but it was really difficult to get comfortable driving with those goggles on,” said Spc. Dusty Mitchell of Highmore, S.D.

The Soldiers were also taught how to fight unarmed as they spent a day learning hand-to-hand combative moves. Everyone learned offensive and defensive techniques and got a chance to practice them on each other in large sawdust pits.

“No pun intended, “combatives” was a great hands-on training exercise,” said Reed Ludwig of Onida, S.D. “It was kind of a refresher from basic training.”

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Photo Cut lines

20071102-A-8653L-004: Staff Sgt. Michael Schwans of Bridgewater, S.D., performs a choke hold on Spc. Larry Sandle of Freeman, S.D., during combative training held on Nov. 11 for Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard at Camp Shelby, Miss. (Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Lamp)(Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20071102-A-8653L-004.JPG>

20071102-A-8653L-005: Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard learn new techniques and practice the moves on each other during unarmed combatives training on Nov. 11 at Camp Shelby, Miss. (Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Lamp)(Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20071102-A-8653L-005.JPG>

20071102-A-8653L-008: Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard learn new techniques and practice the moves on each other during unarmed combatives training on Nov. 11 at Camp Shelby, Miss. (Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Lamp)(Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20071102-A-8653L-008.JPG>