



Umberto Nevarez veteran from the American Legion Post 598, fires paintballs at the target with the M4 carbine rifle during his visit to the 6th Air Defense Artillery training areas Nov. 9.



Pfc. Jason Keenan, A Btry., 3rd Bn., 6th ADA, demonstrates how to clear a barricaded area for the visiting veterans.



Soldiers from A Btry., 3-6 ADA, demonstrate how to pick-up their positions to clear two glass house rooms to visiting veterans.

PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA REZA

Veterans learn WARRIOR TASKS during visit

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Veterans from the El Paso community were invited to tour the 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade training areas Nov. 10.

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, Fort Bliss commanding general, said the purpose for the invite was to spend time with the veterans and honor them for the upcoming Veterans Day. But the number one reason was to show them how the Army around the world trains young Soldiers today.

“Young people today, when they think of joining the Army, they look to people that served. They look to people that are influencers in their lives – parents, teachers, coaches, grandparents, friends of the family – and that is you,” said Lennox.

According to Col. Kendal Cunningham, commander of the 6th ADA, it was very important for the veterans to leave with a positive feeling on how the Army is preparing and training Soldiers before going into theater.

“Our veterans are influencers for potential future Soldiers,” said Cunningham. “We want to show them

we have adjusted the training to make sure it is current and relevant for today’s war.

The veterans learned about the newest training changes that have occurred within the last 18 months. They learned about warrior tasks, battle drills, how to clear a building and how to detect improvised explosive devices. They were also taught insurgent techniques and how the Soldiers train to overcome those obstacles.

Jessie R. Dryer, commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter Borderline 10, said the training Soldiers get now is outstanding. He was most impressed with how the Soldiers cleared and secured the buildings.

“When I was in the military there was no such training,” said Dryer.

Juan Ruiz Jr. from the Disabled American Veterans Organization, Chapter 187, was surprised to see the advancement in technology and weapons systems in the military.

“When you watch the news and see all these kids dying, people think they are not training them well, but from what I saw today, they are being trained properly. I guess it’s just that the bad guys get a little ahead of us sometimes,” said Ruiz.



(From top right) Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, Fort Bliss commanding general, chats with veterans during their visit to the 6th Air Defense Artillery training areas Nov. 9.

Staff Sgt. Phillip Smith, Alpha Battery 2nd Battalion 6th Air Defense Artillery, demonstrates a trip wire victim operated improvised explosive device to the visiting veterans.

Veterans watch as an improvised explosive device explodes in the IED walk-through-course during their visit to the 6th Air Defense Artillery training areas Nov. 9.