

Visiting troopers horse around at Bliss stables

SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
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Troopers from the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment stopped to rest and exercise their animals here Wednesday on their way back from the 117th Tournament of Roses parade held in Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 2.

Once they arrived at the High Desert Riding Club stable here, protocol required the team to inspect the stalls to ensure there were no sharp or protruding objects or anything that



Cpl. Dominick Anderson, veterinary technician for the 1st Cav. Div. Horse Det., Fort Hood, fills bags with hay to hang in their horse trailer for the ride back home. Anderson is also a swamper for the detachment. He rides atop the mule-driven covered wagon with their dog, Pvt. Buddy, during shows and parades.

would be unsafe for the horses, said Spc. Cody Formedwalt, demonstration rider and boot-maker for the detachment.

The horses, wagon mules and their dog, Pvt. Buddy, were unloaded from their trailers, fed, watered and exercised before the troopers retreated to their hotel rooms for the evening.

This was the sixth time the detachment has participated in the Tournament of Roses parade within the past eight years.

"In a good year, we do about 250 shows," said Cpl. Dominick Anderson, veterinary technician for the detachment.



Sgt. 1st Class Rip Bussell, platoon sergeant and demonstration rider for the 1st Cav. Div. Horse Det. at Fort Hood, leads some of the horses to an exercise pen at the High Desert Riding Club stable.

PHOTOS BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR



Spc. Cody Formedwalt, demonstration rider and boot-maker for the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment watches over the horses as Sgt. JD Nose and their dog, Pvt. Buddy, play a game of fetch. The troopers stopped at the stables Wednesday on their way back from a performance in the 117th Tournament of Roses parade held in Pasadena, Calif. Jan. 2.

Soldiers of Long Knife Brigade sharpen skills

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Twenty-seven cavalry troopers from the Long Knife Brigade recently sharpened their leadership skills by attending the Warrior Leaders Course at the Fort Bliss Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

The month-long course, which began Nov. 14, 2005, produced sever-

al honor graduates for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in a ceremony held Dec. 15.

Among the troopers to receive top honors at the ceremony was Spc. Justin R. Russell, distinguished honor graduate, A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment.

The distinguished honor graduate is awarded to the student with the highest grade point average above a 95

percent. For his accomplishment, Russell received an Army dress blue uniform, a plaque and a certificate of achievement.

Also receiving special recognition by winning the Commandant's Leadership Award and being placed on the Commandant's List was Spc. William E. Donnell, B Company, Special Troops Battalion.

"Spc. Donnell has always shown great leadership and team work when working with others," said 1st Sgt. Gerald Morgan, first sergeant, B Company, STB. "Making the Commandant's List and winning the Leadership Award was nothing less of what was expected of him. I was not surprised when he made it. As a first sergeant, it is always a good feeling when any of your Soldiers do well in an [Noncommissioned Officer Academy] school."

The course, formally known as the Primary Leadership Development Course, was recently renamed to reflect a more accurate description of today's enlisted Army leaders.

The purpose of WLC is to "produce trained and qualified leaders for the modern battlefield," said Staff Sgt.

Dana B. Woodley, WLC operations sergeant. "It is a necessary step in career progression. It serves as a reminder of what the standards are [for noncommissioned officers]."

"It was a necessary learning experience," said Sgt. Andrea C. Myers, medical specialist, STB. "I learned that everything you do as a leader has to set an example as well as have your Soldier's best interest at heart."

"Junior enlisted Soldiers return to their unit bursting with knowledge and wanting to put what they have learned to the test," said Morgan. "They are putting their leadership skills, although fresh, to good use within their platoon. The Warrior Leaders Course has changed since our time, but the same concept still applies: enter to learn, leave to lead. These are our future noncommissioned officers. Giving back what we have learned only makes our military better in every way."

In addition to winning the Distinguished Honor Graduate and the Leadership Award during the first two courses of the year, the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. has had nine troopers graduate on the Commandant's List.



Spc. Maria Kort, left, and Sgt. Andrea Myers, both with the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., secure their protective masks after the "all clear" is given during a training exercise for the Warrior Leaders Course.

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