



From left: Spc. Ryan Jennings, Spc. Renee Maramonte and Sgt. Noel Del Real detach an I-beam from an unloaded missile.

Launcher Dogs complete Table VII training

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A group of Air Defense Artillery Soldiers completed their Table VII requirements Jan. 23 at McGregor Range.

The Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 2nd ADA, conducted a missile reload with a Patriot launcher station during their training. The training is being conducted to prepare the Soldiers for their Table VIII evaluation in February.

Staff Sgt. Ernesto Castaneda said the training his 20 Soldiers conducted will prepare them for their upcoming battalion evaluation.

"This training will depend on the Soldiers' survivability in combat. This is what they do, and if they are not proficient other people will get hurt," said Castaneda.

During the missile reload drill, the Soldiers were allowed 90 minutes to accomplish the task.

"A good crew can get it done in about 60 minutes," said Spc. Renee Maramonte, C Btry., 3-2 ADA.

During the training, Maramonte and her crew broke the record for the missile reload drill with a time of 42 minutes, versus the old record of 49 minutes.

When asked why her team was able to break the record, Maramonte said it was because they had been working together for a few years.

"The battery has been working together for a long time, and when you work

together for a long enough [you] get into a rhythm," said Maramonte.

While completing the reload drill, the Launcher Dogs did not encounter any major obstacles. They were able to develop teamwork through repetition.

After the Soldiers were day certified, they had to night certify. They also had to certify with their mission oriented protective posture suits at level four.



Spc. Jamie Lindsey gives the "cable down" signal to the crane operator.

"Soldiers go through walk phase ... Table VII is walk phase. In February, the Soldiers will go through Table VIII. They will be evaluated by the battalion on their combat readiness," said Castaneda.

As a noncommissioned officer, Castaneda said it is his job to ensure his Soldiers are properly trained to do their mission in combat. He has trained four crews, which have all received their certification, and this week the missile reload crew will receive their certification.

Castaneda said the Soldiers will have to complete both their Patriot mission and their force protection mission. He said it helps to train at McGregor because the terrain is similar to the terrain in Iraq.

"The Soldiers are well rounded ... they are ready to 'rock and roll,'" said Castaneda.



Spc. Renee Maramonte guides a missile onto the launching station.



Spc. Renee Maramonte performs final stages and minute adjustments to the missile.



Spc. Ryan Jennings and Spc. Renee Maramonte of C Battery, 3-2 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, torque down bolts that hold the missile in place.