

## Badge

Continued from Page 5

ground up.

After two months of construction, B Company created an LOC that could simulate realistic combat conditions. This is a critical part of evaluation for performance-oriented testing.

King, who earned her EFMB in 1997 at Fort Campbell, Ky., said her goal was to make training as realistic as possible, ensuring her team trained to meet and exceed EFMB standards. Training included pyrotechnics, smoke and an opposing force.

Sgt. 1st Class Dillard Remines, medical platoon sergeant, divided Soldiers into four-person litter-bearers and sent them out training. Soldiers were instructed how to complete a task, given a chance to practice the task and allowed to transverse the course. Tasks that comprised the litter obstacle course include: surmount a low and high wall, cross a trench, transport a casualty through a narrow obstacle and over rough terrain, trans-



MASTER SGT. GERALDINE RONAN

**Spc. Catrice Yancy adjusts her Kevlar helmet as she low-crawls through a barbed wire obstacle.**

port the casualty through a barbed wire obstacle uphill and downhill.

Participation was open to all Soldiers assigned to B Company, 10th Medical Detachment, and the 745th

Forward Surgical Team. The realistic EFMB training provided during the LOC is invaluable because the 31st CSH is preparing for a rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center and

possible deployment.

LOC is only a small portion of the overall EFMB testing. Successful EFMB candidates must first pass a 100-question written test. This was followed by a series of hands-on field exercises, which test how to properly evacuate the sick and wounded from the battlefield, and how to perform emergency medical treatment.

Candidates must also complete an obstacle course while carrying a litter, and a day and night land-navigation course. Finally, they face a grueling 12-mile road march.

Due to the extensive support requirements and the strict testing standards dictated by the Army Health Services Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, opportunities for Soldiers to take the EFMB test are rare. In 2005, only six sites conducted an EFMB, with an overall pass rate of only 18 percent, and only 180 EFMBs awarded.

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