



An NCO from 2-43 AMD practices reflexive fire at Tobin Wells.



“Strength in Honor” NCOs navigate the paintball course at the Urban Operations Center.



NCOs from 2-43 AMD practice CQM techniques at the Urban Operation Center’s “glass houses.”

2-43 AMD NCOs learn CQM techniques

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The noncommissioned officers of 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air and Missile Defense, invaded the Fort Bliss Urban Operations Center last week to learn the basics of close-quarters marksmanship during a noncommissioned officer professional development. The

NCOs are training for a convoy live-fire exercise the battalion will participate in later this month.

At the Urban Operations Center, the Soldiers learned how to clear rooms in teams of four. They also went through a two-man walking course and used paintball rifles to fire at potential threats. The paintball

course had obstacles such as barrels, walls and cars. The NCOs had to use the obstacle to navigate and use as cover.

1st Sgt. Charles George, the first sergeant for E Btry., 2-43 AMD, was the NCO in charge of the training.

“This is kind of a crawl, walk, run training method,” George said. He added the CQM training is “train the trainer” as the NCOs will need to train their Soldiers on what they learned at the NCOPD prior to the CLFX.

Although most of the NCOs are air defenders, George said it’s important for all Soldiers to learn infantry skills.

“This is an Army warrior task; you’ve got to be a warrior first. Every Soldier needs to know the basics of being a warrior.”

“A lot of what we do [if we get deployed] is basic infantry skills,” said Sgt. Richard Motley, E Btry. 2-43. “This is very important for everybody. We need to be ready with these [CQM] skills.”

The NCOs who took part in the NCOPD also like the hands on approach to the training. A lot of times NCOPD sessions take place in a classroom setting.

“This adds excitement to the training; it’s a lot better than just looking at a PowerPoint slide,” George said.

“This is better than just sitting and talking,” said Sgt. George Apodaco, D Btry. 2-43 AMD.

“No matter what your military occupation specialty you need to know this stuff,” Apodaco said.

Learning the CQM basics also teaches safety. Some of the NCOs said the more practice there is with a weapon the safer it will be when the time comes to fire live rounds.

“This helps you with muzzle awareness. We can tell our Soldiers that this is the way we were trained so this is how we’re going to train them,” Apodaco said.

In addition to the CQM that took place at the Urban Operations Center, the NCOs in 2-43 AMD did CQM reflexive fire marksmanship at Tobin Wells.

The CQM reflexive fire is learning the basics of engaging targets at close range, sometimes as close as a meter.

“We’re teaching methods that are geared toward realistic situations in Iraq,” said Sgt. 1st Class Damian Torres, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 2-43 AM.

In the days before the battalion conducts the CLFX, the NCOs who took part in the training will train their Soldiers on what they learned during NCOPD.



PHOTOS BY SGT. JASON STADEL

Paintball guns are used at the Urban Operations Center. Here an NCO used a damaged car as cover.