



NEWS RELEASE

30th Medical Command

Public Affairs Office

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557th Medical Company (Area Support)

Medical troops train on new equipment, mission

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WEISBADEN, Germany – Medical Soldiers of U.S. Army Europe’s only area support medical company recently tested their abilities during a field training exercise at the Mainz-Layenhof Training Area, February 14-18.

The 557th Medical Company (Area Support) conducted the unit’s first full-scale training since reorganizing from a ground ambulance company in October. The exercise enabled leaders and Soldiers at all levels to get a feel for the organization’s new equipment, personnel and mission, according to Capt. Adam Davies, commander of the 557th ASMC.

“Seeing everything out here in the field is much different than just talking about it and seeing things on paper. This is a really good start point and is really developing our troop leading procedures,” said Davies.

The 557th ASMC has the capability to provide Level II medical support, while simultaneously sending teams out to provide Level I care. The space at the training area allowed the 557th ASMC to establish their headquarters element on a simulated forward operating base, while also establishing teams at separate command posts. This truly tested their ability to conduct centralized and de-centralized command and control of geographically dispersed elements.

“We’re unique as a company in that we run full-spectrum operations. We run a Level II facility here at the FOB, while also supporting outlying units at command posts with our treatment and evacuation teams. While we’ve been out here, we have been able to identify a lot of things that we can adapt and build on as we move forward” Davies said.

This training not only served as an opportunity to develop junior leaders, it also served as an opportunity to build and refine unit tactics, techniques and procedures as they prepare for an upcoming mission at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels.

“We’re going to be in Hohenfels in March providing medical support to the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade during their mission rehearsal exercise,” Davies explained. “This exercised really helped us identify things and develop our own TTPs moving forward. We’ve really been running through

developing what right should look like on everything from equipment set up, to living spaces and patient care.”

As the only unit of its kind in Europe, the nearly six-month old 557th ASMC must work to be ready for a variety of missions and a variety of locations, according to Davies. Training like this will ensure that these medical Soldiers are prepared.

“We have to be ready and prepared for any contingency mission that may come up, and we’re trying to be ready as quickly as possible,” Davies said.

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Fincham, 30th MEDCOM Public Affairs NCOIC. For more information please contact him at christopher.fincham@us.army.mil.

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CUTLINES:

557thASMC_ftx_17FEB2011_007: Soldiers of the 557th Medical Company (Area Support) arrive on scene to provide first aid to simulated casualties during a field training exercise at the Mainz-Layenhof Training Area, February 17.

557thASMC_ftx_17FEB2011_016: Soldiers of the 557th Medical Company (Area Support) provide first aid to simulated casualties during a field training exercise at the Mainz-Layenhof Training Area, February 17.

557thASMC_ftx_17FEB2011_027: Soldiers of the 557th Medical Company (Area Support) offload a simulated casualty during a field training exercise at the Mainz-Layenhof Training Area, February 17.