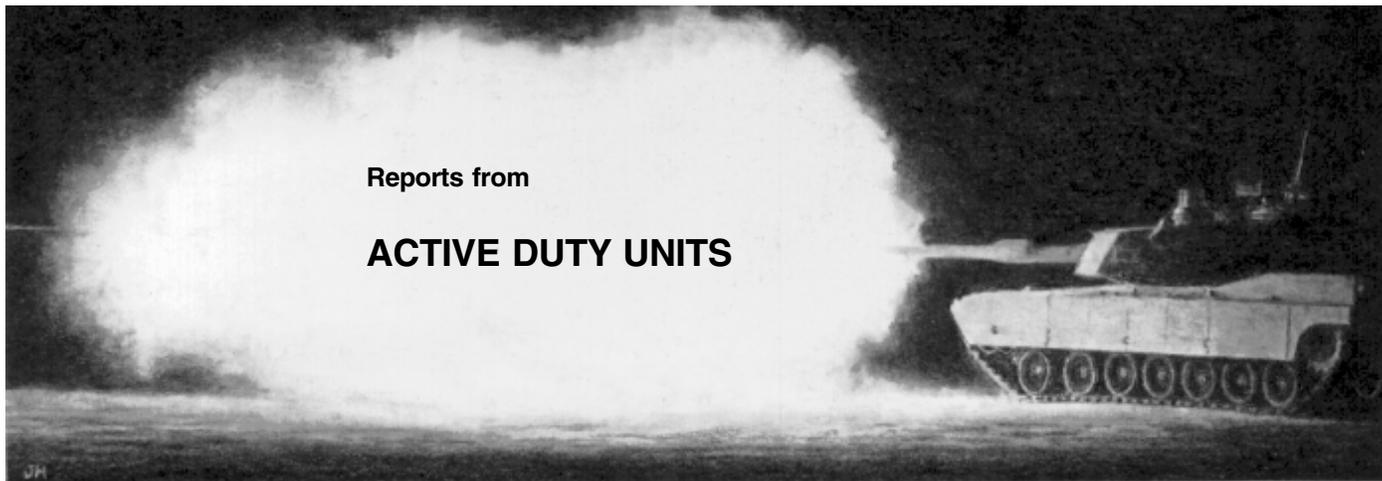


Reports from

ACTIVE DUTY UNITS



3rd ARMORED CAVALRY REGT.

From Bliss to Carson's Canyons

*3rd ACR Trains, Modernizes
And Gets Adjusted
To Its New Home*



At right, a 3rd ACR M1A1 maneuvers in Fort Carson's vast Pinon Canyon Area.

PHOTO: Fort Carson TASC

On order, 3rd ACR deploys by sea, land, and air with its own or prepositioned equipment to a designated area of operations, occupies a staging area, and prepares for combat. On order, the 3rd ACR moves to its assigned mission area and conducts combat operations as part of III (US) Corps, a designated contingency corps, or a joint task force.

That is the mission statement of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the only heavy cavalry regiment left on active duty. Exceptional combat power, provided by a diverse array of organically integrated combined arms, sets the 3rd ACR apart from other units.

The 3rd ACR consists of five squadrons and five separate companies. (See figure, next page.) The three ground squadrons each consist of three cavalry troops with organic mortars, a tank company, a howitzer battery (Paladins), and an HHT. The aviation squadron consists of three air cavalry troops (Cobra and Kiowa hunter-killer teams), two attack troops (Apaches), a lift troop and medevac company (Blackhawks), AVUM troop, AVIM company, and HHT. The support squadron consists of transporta-

tion, medical, and maintenance troops, along with an HHT. The separate companies include engineer, MI, and chemical companies, an ADA battery, and a regimental HHT.

The 3rd ACR moved from Ft. Bliss, Texas to Ft. Carson, Colo. in the 1st quarter of FY96. Since settling in, the regiment has been training, innovating, and modernizing while focusing on the wartime mission and METL.

Training. FY97's many significant events have helped hone the 3rd ACR's sharp readiness posture. The regiment completed full Level I and Level II gunneries during FY97, to include all squadrons and separates. The howitzer batteries fired quarterly, culminating in an externally evaluated "Horse Artillery Shoot." The aviation squadron accomplished two aerial gunneries and trained special munitions targeting with regimental COLTs and elements of the 10th SF Group, also stationed at Ft. Carson. Additionally, CAS/JAAT live-fire week involved the coordination of the aviation squadron, the ground squadrons' FSEs, howitzer batteries, and mortars, and the

13th ASOS (3rd ACR's supporting Air Force liaison element).

The 3rd ACR's reserve partnership unit is the 278th ACR from Tennessee. The regiment facilitated the 278th train-up with ADA Stinger live fire, tank and Bradley gunneries, and GSR training. 3rd ACR concluded this year's AC/RC relationship by evaluating the 278th during their Training Assessment Model (TAM).

Ft. Carson's extensive maneuver box was utilized throughout the regiment for platoon, company, battery, and troop FTXs and EXEVALS. Additionally, 25 OPTEMPO miles are given quarterly to troop commanders for their own training. The aviation squadron conducted air cavalry troop evaluations embedded within ground troop EXEVALS to continue training habitual air-ground relationships. The regiment's attack helicopter troops deployed to Ft. Hood for their EXEVALS. One armored cavalry troop deployed to JRTC to train with the 101st Airborne Division. Other maneuver training included regimental COLT and ADA scout certification and aerial insertion, and an engineer BRIDGEX. Spe-

cialty training involved the MI company's ACE and ASAS standardization and integration to improve the regiment's composite intelligence picture. Maneuver training was planned and executed, developing from individual and collective tasks, to squadron and regimental missions, and climaxing with a month-long regimental deployment to the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in southeastern Colorado. PCMS was used to execute troop and squadron lanes in preparation for any deployment contingency, training, or real-world.

At regimental level, numerous command post exercises (CPXs) and fire control exercises (FCXs) were fully developed. 3rd ACR also played a critical role in III Corps' CPX "Phantom Saber," fulfilling a Southwest Asia scenario with Iraqi OPFOR; as well as 1st Cav Division's "Warfighter" CPX and III Corps' "Ulchi Focus Lens" in a North Korean environment.

The NTC's Leadership Training Program (LTP) helped to further develop key personnel in preparation for NTC rotation 98-01. The regiment has been focusing training and resource management to ensure readiness, and constantly reinforcing the Big 5 critical battle tasks at each level that provide the underpinning of all METL. The deployment to NTC Rotation 98-01 will validate the year-long deployment and tactical training methods and serve as a challenging test of our wartime mission focus.

Innovating. The financial squeeze felt across the Army has modified the way the ACR trains. The aggressive use of simulation has helped to overcome budgetary shortcomings. In particular, the increased use of FCXs, CPXs, TSFO, GUARD-FIST, flight simulators, COFTs, and battle simulation exercises have enabled the regiment to continue to prepare for combat.

The requirement for training the individual, crew, section, platoon and up is obviously recognized, and multi-echelon training is the standard whenever possible. We embed comprehensive subordinate units' training within larger-scale exercises as a matter of routine.

Additionally, in order to save on OP-TEMPO miles, HETs transport the tanks and Bradleys to and from the field, as well as between ranges and training events. In spite of tight fiscal limits, 3rd ACR continues to prepare for deployment.

Although the regiment as a whole has not deployed during FY97, the diversity of MOSs within the regiment provides great potential for mission support. The 3rd ACR currently has soldiers deployed all over the world in support of missions in Bosnia, Kuwait, Southwest Asia, Honduras, and Haiti. Pilots, air crews, and linguists are particularly susceptible for overseas taskings like these.

Modernizing. During FY97 the 3rd ACR continued to modernize with numerous acquisitions and improvements in the fleet. All a and b model SINCGARS were replaced with the new c and d models to facilitate data transmission, a step towards Force XXI. The Vietnam-era VIC-1 intercom systems on the M1A1s and Paladins were replaced with the greatly improved AN/VIC-3 systems. The M1A1s also fielded the External Auxiliary Power Unit (EAPU), a bustle rack-mounted generator that conserves fuel and quietly maintains battery charge. The Bradleys received multiple TOW 2 upgrade MWOs. Troop-sized units acquired the Army Field Feeding System (AFFS), a HMMWV-mounted field kitchen to support decentralized operations. The Aviation Mission Planning System (AMPS) was fielded to the aviation squadron, laying the groundwork for



3rd ACR Bradley in the Pinon Canyon maneuver box.

the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior transition planned for FY 98. Additional equipment upgrades which took place include: improved PLGR software and database, new M21 Chemical Alarms, new M969A2 5,000-gallon tankers, M249 SAWs, M4 Carbines, and many others. The regiment modernizes continually, and especially looks forward to fielding the M1A2, starting in FY98.

In a year of changing threats and varying potential deployments, the 3rd ACR has made the most of training and resource opportunities. The regiment looks forward to the challenges and improvements it will encounter at NTC 98-01 and in the future.

