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July 8, 2004

## V CORPS SIGNAL SOLDIERS KEEP UP THE TRAINING IN IRAQ EVEN AS THEY PREPARE TO HEAD HOME

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**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Even with redeployment quickly approaching and the scorching Iraqi sun pushing temperatures well over 115 degrees Fahrenheit, the 141st Signal Battalion of V Corps' 1st Armored Division has continued training to keep its Soldiers' warfighting skills sharp.



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Soldiers from the 141st Signal Battalion of V Corps' 1st Armored Division hone their marksmanship skills on the M16 rifle and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon on a range in Iraq.

The battalion recently conducted four M-16A2 rifle and M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon firing ranges. Soldiers also took part in took on convoy reaction drills, driver training and common task training in addition to the marksmanship qualifications and refresher training.

The primary focus of the training was to prepare approximately 30 Soldiers who had recently arrived from Germany for the rigors of patrolling through central Iraq and convoy operations to Kuwait. Other Soldiers underwent sustainment training to keep their skills sharp.

To keep the training rolling, the battalion's NCOs had to get creative to find ways to fight the heat.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wood of the battalion's A Company, who was in charge of the range for the training, devised a plan to shade the entire firing line using a solar shield. This technique not only helped Soldiers qualifying, but also made the range safety and control tower NCOs' jobs much easier. Wood also brought a freezer to the range stocked with ice, to ensure the training Soldiers had cold water. The sergeant's initiatives were implemented across the battalion.

The training, though difficult in the heat, helped build the confidence of the new Soldiers and has left them prepared for what lies outside of the safety of the Baghdad International Airport.

"Arriving in Baghdad, I had a lot of worries," said Pfc. Broderick Punch of the battalion's Bravo Company, "but with all the training and the soldiers and NCOs really bringing me into the team, I feel pretty calm about heading down to Kuwait. And if something does happen, I'll know how to handle it."

