

Changing of the guard

Security force team trains Soldiers to take over base protection mission

By Master Sgt. Andrew Gates

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Airmen from the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron have found themselves performing a unique mission in the last month – providing training to 164 Army Soldiers.

“It wasn’t so much training as refreshing their skills, and letting them know some specifics about protecting Ali Base and the people on it,” said Tech. Sgt. Scott Morris, 407th ESFS and lead trainer.

The 164 Soldiers from the 528 Quartermaster Company are assuming the Ali protection mission currently held by the 407th ESFS – in July, the Soldiers will begin patrolling the base perimeter as well as outside the base to look for possible attacks and protect the surrounding area. This training gave the Soldiers the tools, and techniques, they need to do this mission safely, said Sergeant Morris.

The Soldiers started with 12 days of “classroom” training, developed by a team of four security forces experts. The classroom – more accurately various structures and open fields – connected 20 Soldiers with experts in a number of force protection areas.

“I had the training background to map out



Staff Sgt. Alexander Foryan, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron instructor, center, goes over individual and team tactics with Soldiers from the 528 Quartermaster Company. (Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates)

the course, and we had 12 high-quality instructors training the Soldiers,” said Sergeant Morris.

One of those instructors is a member of the Vermont Air National Guard and a teacher in his civilian life.

“This was a very welcome opportunity,” said Staff Sgt. Alexander Foryan, during a recent training session. “I am very proud and honored to be a part of this – these elements have great squad leaders and excellent Soldiers. I am really enjoying myself.”

The first six days of the 12 days of training were the basic information, said Sergeant Morris, giv-



Sergeant Foryan discusses expected actions with Army Private Shanel Harrell and Sgt. Donte Bunn.

ing the Soldiers the basic information they need to do the mission.

“We were refreshing the Soldier’s memories on challenging, entry control procedures, area search-

es, medevac reports and the like, while letting them know the tools and techniques that worked for us while we have been as-

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signed to Ali,” said Sergeant Morris. “For the most part, we are allowing the team leaders and flight sergeants to do the training – they train themselves and we assist them by telling them Ali-specific information.”

Each of the 12 instructors has different information to provide – for example, Staff Sgt. Jason Stetz had significantly improved the entry control procedures during his stint at the visitor control center, said Sergeant Morris. Sergeant Stetz shared that information with the Soldiers during his time with them.

The next two days of training focused on the weapons and processes that the Soldiers will need as patrollers. The last days of training focused on battle drills.

“During a battle drill, we present the Soldier with a specific issue – say an improvised explosive device, or someone attempting to run the gate – and see how they react,” said Sergeant Morris.

“Over the whole process, we take every precaution to make sure these Soldiers stay safe,” adds Sergeant Foryan.

The instruction was quite helpful to the Soldiers, according to Army Staff Sgt. Tusi Leuluai.

“This training has helped us a lot to prepare for our upcoming mission,” he said. “These guys are very knowledgeable about training and are making the transition very smooth. This is the third time I have worked with Air Force security forces – they know their stuff and they are always on the top of their game. It is reassuring to know that we were getting trained by them.”

He enjoyed the individual and team tactics of the training.

“That benefits both the Air Force and the Army – especially the Soldiers who are carrying on the mission,” he said.

After the classroom training, the 164 Soldiers spend two weeks getting ‘right-seat’ rides with experienced patrollers for the next two



The Soldiers cover each other in a tactical move to pinpoint and attack an aggressor.



Spec. Michael Bowers keeps an eye out for potential aggressors during a drill.

Army Spec. Philip Nebree, prone, protects Private Shanel Harrell and Spec. John Conn during individual and team tactics.



A team heads out on patrol.



Airman 1st Class Shasta Williams and Army Sgt. Jonathan Roberson inventory equipment before heading out.

weeks and watching what happens – basically a ride-along mission, said Sergeant Morris. At the end of that month of refresher training, the Soldiers will be fully prepared to take over the base patrol mission.

The 407th ESFS weren’t the only ones who significantly assisted with the training – both the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and the 407th Expeditionary Com-

munication Squadron helped, said Sergeant Morris.

“We got a lot of support from the civil engineers,” he said. “They built our facilities and some training materials for us. We also got a lot of help from the communications squadron who got us our telephone and network connections out here. We appreciate everything they did for us.”