

Current operations subject of new AHEC exhibit

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Soldiers from the 385th Engineer Company from New Cumberland, Pa., work on the newest addition to the Army Heritage Trail, a replica of a highway checkpoint typically used by troops in Iraq and Afghanistan on Oct. 13. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the barriers enable troops to rapidly assemble a temporary checkpoint in a hostile area, aiding Soldiers in their primary mission to provide security quickly and efficiently. Photo by Lt. Col. John Warsinske.

Oct. 15, 2008 - Army engineers spent the weekend building a new exhibit reflecting U.S. Military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan accurately depict the typical highway checkpoint erected by Soldiers along roads in both countries.

To ensure the checkpoints accuracy, Soldiers of the 385th Engineer Company from New Cumberland, Pa., built the exhibit using the same materials and resources as overseas. Visitors had the opportunity to observe the Army engineers build the checkpoint just as they would in Iraq and Afghanistan in the effort to protect Soldiers.

"It will not only be a great addition to the Army Heritage Trail, but it will also be a great opportunity for our new Soldiers in the 385th Engineer Company to have hands on experience dealing with HESCO barriers, and prepare them for how it is done overseas," said Lt. Jerod Dalton, of the 385th Engineer Company.

HESCO Bastion products are utilized throughout the world by the U.S. Military to provide security protection for the troops. The materials for this current exhibit have all been donated by HESCO, who will also join the engineer company in assembling the checkpoint.

In Afghanistan and Iraq, the HESCO barriers enable troops to rapidly assemble a temporary checkpoint in a hostile area, aiding Soldiers in their primary mission to provide security quickly and efficiently.

The new exhibit consists of a "chicane", a feature that requires approaching vehicles to slow down prior to reaching the checkpoint, a restricted barrier where vehicles are contained while being checked, a protective barrier for an over-watch vehicle (HUMMV), and a bunker for protecting the Soldiers.

For more information call (717)245-3971 or visit AHEC on-line at www.USAHEC.org

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 16 October 2008