

2-1 Cavalry Reflagging, By Warren Roach and Robert Sparks

On June 1, 2006 at Ft Lewis, WA, a large Army reflagging ceremony occurred. The 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry's colors were cased, the colors of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment were transferred, and the 4th Brigade, 2d Infantry Division colors were uncased. The 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry's colors were uncased as part of this latter ceremony. Our unit is alive once again after a 10 year stand down.

Warren Roach (B Troop) traveled from Washington, DC and Robert Sparks (HHT) from Clarkston, MI to attend this ceremony. We were joined there by John Mavon and Salvatore Huerta (A Troop), Mike Basozki, Bill Truitt, Lloyd Wirkkala (HHT) and Wayne Connell (C Troop). There were also several spouses and children in attendance.

On the morning of the day of the reflagging we had the opportunity to meet and spend time with LTC Marshall Dougherty, commanding officer and CSM Phillip Pandy of the 2-1 Cavalry. We also met Major Jeff Hannon, XO, and Chaplin David Ward plus a number of other key officers and NCOs.

We started the day with breakfast with the 2-1 Cav CO and CSM. Next we witnessed the promotion ceremony of a husband-wife team (last name Born) who were both being promoted from Captain to Major at the same time. Captain Born was the current C Troop commander. Then we had the opportunity to see a manned static equipment display consisting of the new Prophet electronic surveillance system, an Unmanned Aerial recon Vehicle (UAV), the Stryker combat vehicle and some of the current versions of the M-16.

That was followed by a briefing of the unit's mission, capabilities, training schedule etc. The current unit consists of five troops – A, B, C, D and HQ and will have 440 men at full strength. (D Troop is the Surveillance Troop. They are equipped with the Prophets, NBC RVs, and UAVs.) They are scheduled for deployment to Iraq in the next year. Next we were off to the mess hall for lunch. After lunch our hosts vanned us to the Army airfield for the ceremony. Despite the heavy rains, there was a large turnout of military and civilian spectators for the ceremony.

The I Corps commander made a most memorable speech – “We run in the sun. We train in the rain. We fight at night. Hoorah!” and then he sat down. Given that many of the troops had been standing the rain for almost two hours, this was the perfect very brief speech for the occasion. It was met with almost thunderous applause.

We had an outstanding day with our hosts--it was both informative and fun. They were very gracious hosts and we could not have asked for anything more. They really exceeded our expectations and showed us all possible courtesies. We came away from this visit with the knowledge that our former unit is in excellent hands. It was a memorable trip and one that we will long favorably remember.