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Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment makes preparations

NASHVILLE -- Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment participated in a full rehearsal of satellite communications training July 6-12 at the Guard's Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna.

The purpose of the exercise was to develop and hone communications skills and provide hands-on training to prepare the 278th for successful satellite communication in future theater operations anywhere in the world.

Regimental Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Frank McCauler explained that the vast majority of all communications now are digitally based " ... and this equipment is considered a weapons system because it is so critical to our mission."

"The 'digital warriors' are our unsung heroes," he added, "and they're crucial to the 278th ACR's overall success."

Soldiers last week made a thorough inspection of all systems before the initial set-up of the satellites to ensure that the latest revisions of software were in the "go-to-war configuration." The remainder of the week-long operation involved training on all of the systems to ensure they work together to establish communications in garrison and in theater.

Working in unison, the systems provide internet, telephone, and cable TV while in the theater of operations, wherever it might be. The network benefits the unit by enhancing battle readiness and providing Soldiers and their families the ability to communicate.

PHOTO:

A portion of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment's satellite systems.

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