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Defense Orientation Conference Association



Fort Hood, Texas Program Overview

February 2015

Thirty four DOCA members recently returned from a two-day visit to Fort Hood, Texas. Six members and one prospective member were welcomed on their first DOCA program: Ken Boyda from Austin, Texas; Lou Daugherty from Zionsville, Indiana; Mark Dundee from Los Angeles, California; Patti Mickey from Irvine, California; Rick Phillipp from Austin, Texas; Marshall Wallach from Denver, Colorado; and Tom Arthur from Tampa, Florida.

Known throughout the Army as "The Great Place," Fort Hood certainly lived up to its moniker during our stay there.

The program began with a special demonstration by a unique and historic unit of the U.S. Army: The 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment. The HCD, as it is known, honors the cavalry's heritage while educating members of the public. Its members wear the traditional blue cavalry uniforms while demonstrating horsemanship and tactics. The troopers ride every day, either practicing or appearing at public events, and come from almost every specialty within the Army. (The current commander, Captain Elizabeth Rascon, is a Transportation Officer).

After this inspiring start we proceeded to the III Corps Headquarters for an in-depth briefing on their missions, capabilities and equipment, meeting with Major General Kendall Cox, the III Corps Deputy Commander and Mr. Ron Perry, III Corps Mission Support Element Director. This was followed by lunch in the chow hall, "Dining Facility or DFAC" in current parlance, where we were joined by several Soldiers. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a visit to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and hands-on training at the Weapons Simulator and Engagement Simulator facilities. We wrapped up the day with a reception and buffet dinner at Club Hood where we had the opportunity to engage in follow up discussions with many of the senior officials from the installation.



Thursday morning started with a briefing on the garrison itself and we learned that III Corps is but one of many units that call Fort Hood home. The Warrior Transition Unit then provided us with details about their dedicated efforts to support our Wounded Warriors and provide a smooth transition back into the active Army or into a civilian career.

The program concluded with a visit to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade where DOCA members boarded Apache helicopters and met one-on-one with the pilots and aircrewmembers of these formidable machines.