

670th Military Police Company “STREET FIGHTERS” Get Combative

By Sergeant Ken Bince

The 670th Military Police Company was originally scheduled to participate in weekend drill training on military operations on urbanized terrain at the Iraqi village training site, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California, on 5 January 2008. However, near-flood conditions in the San Diego area that weekend resulted in some last-minute changes to the training schedule. The military operations on urbanized terrain training was postponed, and the 670th spent the wet weekend performing a home station drill at the National City Armory.

“The bad part was that we had to change our training because of floods and landslides; the good part was that we completed combatives, which could be conducted anywhere,” said the training noncommissioned officer of the 670th.

Field Manual (FM) 3-25.150 defines *combatives*, or hand-to-hand combat, as “an engagement between two or more persons in an empty-handed struggle or with [handheld] weapons such as knives, sticks, or projectile weapons that cannot be fired.”



A Soldier demonstrates the proficient use of the pugil stick.

“We need to train our Soldiers to live up to our motto,” said one of the 670th Soldiers. “They will become ‘street fighters.’”

The combatives training included blocks of instruction on back mounts, front mounts, guarding, body positioning, takedowns, and throws. It also included a block of instruction on flak vests, helmets, and pugil sticks (heavily padded training weapons that are usually color-coded to represent the butt and bayonet of an M16 or M4 weapon). This type of instruction, which was originally designed as practice bayonet training, has been used in the military for more than sixty years. In addition to traditional instruction, the training also consisted of warm-ups, stretches, demonstrations, and intense practical exercises.

The 670th Military Police Company—which consists of Soldiers in various military occupational specialties including cooks, supply specialists, chemical personnel, vehicle mechanics, and military police—is highly motivated and physically fit. The Soldiers rigorously competed in three rounds of two-minute combat, with a one-minute break between rounds. By the end of the matches, all participants were sweaty and exhausted.

“There was a good balance of quality instruction and exercises,” said a 670th cook. “I think it was cool that instructors actually fought too. They definitely were knowledgeable about what they were teaching. I think it’s good that, even though I’m a cook, that they let me do the training.”

The quick thinking and actions of the 670th Military Police Company turned the rainy weekend, which could have been spent entirely in a classroom, into a weekend of valuable instruction and hands-on training.

Reference:

FM 3-25.150, *Combatives*, 18 January 2002.

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One Soldier practices defensive techniques against another.