

489th trains in Iowa

204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Story by [Staff Sgt. Daleanne Maxwell](#)

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SALT LAKE CITY — Members of the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment and A Co., 489th Brigade Support Battalion return home from Camp Dodge, Iowa, April 2. The 489th BSB were in Iowa for their two week annual training.

During the two week stay both HHD and A. Company were training on various tasks and missions both together and as separate companies.



"HHD had two goals; first to learn the military decision making process, training with it and practicing it," said Lt. Col. Thomas C. Fischer, the Battalion Commander for the 489th BSB. "Second, was to conduct a three day exercise using the MDMP process within our tactical operations center and build an operations order."

"The staff section was running an exercise showing how they will function during a war fight," added the 489th BSB Command Sgt. Major Derek Dimond. "They went through training each day, working through the mission, utilizing MDMP, and the development of an operations order. The operations order was then executed in a simulated exercise, so essentially it was like they were really fighting a fight, added Dimond.

Training at the National Maintenance Training Center proved to not only have great training ability but they also had all of the equipment that the Soldiers would need to complete their missions while at Camp Dodge.

The mission for A Company was to utilize the opportunity to use equipment at the NMTC and train for both peace-keeping and war time missions.

"Because we haven't been fielded our equipment yet this training gave the Soldiers the opportunity to fall in on the equipment they would be using in a war and actually seeing how it is everything is supposed to take work," said Dimond.

"It's the first time as a company to see how everything comes together and how their roles really play out," said 1st Sgt. Rene H. Criswell, the 1 Sgt. for A Company, 489th BSB. "This was the first chance for the truck drivers to get out and have their own vehicles, and for the water guys to use real water equipment."

Besides practicing new skills Soldiers were able to practice their basic Soldier skills, such as zeroing and qualifying on the M16, convoy training, how to react to IED's and how to interact with locals in different situations.

Members of the 489th were able to cumulate their training with live sling load training where they were able to hook up pallets and even a Humvee to a Chinook helicopter.

After the sling load training everyone that wanted to went for a ride in the helicopter and enjoyed the farmland views surrounding Camp Dodge.

Overall members of the 489th enjoyed their training; they accomplished goals and were able to work together as a unit for the first time.