



2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team
Information Bureau
Camp Bundela, India



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE No. 101209-05

Hawaii Strykers roll into India for Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie
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CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – The first mechanized Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09, an annual bilateral battalion-level field training exercise between the Indian and U.S. Armies, kicked off with a ceremony at the Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12.

Soldiers from the Indian Army's 7th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 94th Armored Brigade, 31st Armored Division, is the 2009 host of the exercise. They are joined by Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army's 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

"Today, as we stand here, at the Babina ranges, this is the first time in the history of these Armies together where two mechanized forces join for this exercise, both 2-14 Cavalry and 7th Mechanized Infantry," said keynote speaker Indian Army Maj. Gen. Anil Malik, general officer commanding, 31st Armored Division. "Today is a meeting point and an historical occasion, a meeting point of the two greatest democracies of the world."

YA09 consists of two weeks of Peace Keeping Operations, along with the exchange of staff organizational tactics related to peace operations at various levels. Participants will be engaged in a

variety of missions, from joint planning and executing, a variety of artillery ranges both in and out of vehicles, to cordon and search operations as well as search and rescue training.

“The United States and India have historical ties, and over the last few years, these ties have graduated onto cooperation in the military, wherein both of us; as partners in peace and prosperity in the world, join hands to understand each other, to synchronize with each other, adopt an interoperability, so that we can understand how we can best utilize the resources of each other towards achieving the overall aim,” said Malik.

The 17 Strykers, which are now in India, represent the largest deployment of Strykers outside of Iraq and Afghanistan for Pacific Rim Forces, and will play a vital role in the exercise as the U.S. Soldiers show off one of the Armies newest vehicles.

Armored vehicles the Indian Army will use during the exercise include the Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty, or BMP, a Russian tank similar to the Bradley Tank, and the T-90, a Russian Main Battle Tank, which is similar to the U.S. M1 Abrams tank.

“The size and scope of this combined exercise is unparalleled and will be characterized not only by realistic and challenging training, but by regular athletic, academic and cultural exchanges,” said Lt. Col. Jim Isenhower, commander, 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt. “Our Soldiers are excited to engage in the exercise during the upcoming two weeks and feel a distinct sense of privilege as participants in Yudh Abhyas.”

After the ceremony, Soldiers and commanders from both armies began their exchange by showing off their various weapons systems, vehicles and other equipment used by each force.

“Before today, I didn’t know the Indians had a mechanized force of this magnitude with so much of a rich tradition,” said Sgt. Logan Anderson, Personal Security Detail Non-Commissioned

Officer, 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt. “Since this unit of the Indian Army is mechanized and we’re a Stryker unit, I’m really looking forward to how we’re going to maneuver together.”

Malik expressed a similar sentiment, stating a desire for all training and endeavors of participants to be successful.

“I wish you all that the aims set forth by both the armies are fully achieved, and we are in a position to carry forward the lessons learned,” said Malik. “I wish you all the very best, a comfortable stay here, and that the training that you receive here will bring you all to greater glory.”



20091012-A-0199Y-011

CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – Squadron color guard members, Sgt. David Wolfe, Spc. David Swan and Cpl. Arthur Fread, all from the 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment “Strykehorse,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, stand at attention during the opening ceremony of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09 at the Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12. YA09 is a bilateral exercise involving the Armies of India and the United States. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs)



20091012-A-0199Y-042

CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – Lt. Col. Jim Isenhower, commander, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, leads his squadron during the opening ceremony for Exercise Yudh Abyas 09 at Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12. YA09 is an annual bilateral exercise in India. This is the first year the battalion-level exercise which engages mechanized units. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs)



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CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – Indian Army Maj. Gen. Anil Malik, general officer

commanding, 31st Armored Division and keynote speaker at the opening ceremony for Exercise Yudh Abyas 09, addresses participants in the bilateral annual exercise. YA09 opened with a ceremony at the Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12. Participants this year are Soldiers from the Indian Army's 94th Armored Brigade command, 7th Mechanized Brigade and U.S. Army's 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs)



20091012-A-0199Y-081

CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – Indian Army Maj. Gen. Anil Malik, general officer commanding, 31st Armored Division and keynote speaker at the opening ceremony for Exercise Yudh Abyas 09, greets U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Isenhower, commander, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, at the opening ceremony for exercise Yudh Abhyas, at the Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12. YA09 is an annual bilateral exercise between the armies of India and the U.S. This year marks the first time in the history of

the exercise in which two mechanized units participate. (photo by U. S. Army Staff Sgt Crista Yazzie, USARPAC Public Affairs)



20091012-A-0199Y-081

CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – An Indian Army officer explores the inside of a Stryker vehicle belonging to 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment “Strykehorse,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, during the static display portion of the opening ceremony for Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09 at the Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12. YA09 is an annual bilateral exercise, the U.S. Army and Indian Army have an opportunity to exchange staff and organizational tactics, techniques and procedures. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs)



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CAMP BUNDELA, India (Oct. 12, 2009) – A Soldier from the Indian Army shows Sgt. Luke Hoffman, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment “Strykehorse,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the 5.56 Insas Sniper Rifle during the static display portion of the opening ceremony for Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09 at the Babina Indian Army base, Oct. 12. YA09 is an annual bilateral exercise; the U.S. Army and Indian Army have an opportunity to exchange staff and organizational tactics, techniques and procedures. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs)

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