

## CRDAMC Congratulates 1LT Maffey, EFMB Winner

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When it comes to the competition for EFMB, or the Expert Field Medical Badge, most try several times throughout their career to earn it while others are always coming up short in one area or another. The EFMB is one of the most coveted badges in the



military and also one of the hardest to attain. Over 250 Soldiers from Fort Hood and 21 from CRDAMC spent countless hours of personal time preparing for the two week competition in hopes of earning the prestigious badge. Not only is the competition physically demanding but also mentally draining as well. Add to that some foul weather and you have the makings of a competition that left many of those attending almost glad to go home to a warm bed and hot shower.

That was not the case for one of CRDAMC's own, 1LT Nick Maffey. 1LT Maffey came to CRDAMC in January 2011 and spends his days on the surgery ward on 3 South. He spent many hours preparing for this latest competition and felt very confident and prepared for what was his second attempt at the EFMB. "The first time I tried for the badge, I didn't know what to expect and went into the competition with a practice attitude. I wanted to get the experience to come back and make sure I was ready for the next time. I got my practice out of the way and this time it was game time."

1LT Maffey remarked, "I knew I was physically able to complete the road march and had studied enough that I felt very confident in the written test. I knew I would be challenged on the CTL's, or Combat Task Lanes, since it's hard to know what to expect." He was able to compete with several other members of the CRDAMC staff as well as two from his own area. "Being able to share experiences and help each other in areas of weakness, while sharing strengths, was key to our successes. We were all put in the same platoon during the competition and it made studying together much easier."

One of the biggest challenges during this competition was the weather. During the two week competition, the competitors were hit with one of the heaviest rains in Central Texas this year. “Many of the Soldiers were walking through mud up to their knees and even the shelters provided were soaked throughout. On the day of the heaviest rain, we were doing our land navigation and it made the course near impossible to navigate due to raising water.”

He added, “One of the most challenging aspects of the competition was not the obstacles or the road march but maintaining a positive attitude throughout the competition. Many of the competitors were beaten even before they failed one of the tasks and had to go home. Keeping a strong mental outlook on everything will keep you going through any challenge.”