

## C O M M O N R E M O T E L Y O P E R A T E D W E A P O N S T A T I O N

By: Brandi Cotton-Sincere, Executive Assistant

While meeting their goal of safely and efficiently getting CROWS systems into the hands of the soldiers,

CROWS continues to remain a critical piece of our Battalion pie. "The Common Remotely Operated Weapon

Station will eventually change the way the Army fights by applying new technology to the basic war fighting techniques," stated John Lowe, *CROWS Site Lead*.

Every ten days John Lowe and his crew of dedicated workers, take soldiers to the range with the goal of familiarizing the soldier with the weapon system, thus providing them the knowledge required to react if/when they are



faced with an actual combat situation. The range is the final phase in the new equipment training.

One word to describe the CROWS team and their dedication to the mission is "courageous". They have been attacked multiple times while going to and from the range, as it is outside of our LSA Anaconda's perimeter.

I had the pleasure of meeting with John Lowe to discuss the amazing things they do for our Battalion. When asked the steps one takes while being fired upon in a combat situation

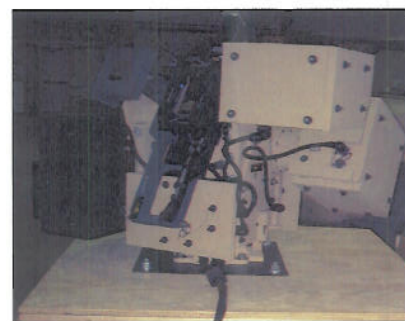
John calmly responded, "First assess the situation, second determine the best course of action and third execute." The "A matter of fact" tone in his voice told me that he was no amateur.

Kevin Collins, *Chief Installer*, spoke of how rewarding it is to actually work first hand with the soldiers, listening to their stories of working with the CROWS systems on



the battle field. It was evident that the excitement of working in their field comes from the impact the new equipment has on the soldiers.

Seeing first-hand the commitment, dedication and selfless service CROWS team members, John Lowe, Kevin Collins, Steve Knee-



land, Chris Harvey, Michael Dupras, Eddie Renta-Ortiz, James Buck, SFC Horace Mitchell, Wilfredo Tor-

res, Brian Dibella, David Riley and Greg Burzinski put into not only installing the systems, but actually training the soldiers on the systems, made me feel exceptionally comfortable and confident in the soldiers fighting our battle today.

