



Text by Lance Morgan
Photos courtesy of Oklahoma Mustang Club

Ford Motor Company has always supported our military and their newest program, Operation Drive One, is another example. On Saturday, April 24, 2010, Ford held the first of 10 events for Military families. This first location was at Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma. Operation Drive One will be held on military bases around the country to give our military and their families the chance to see and drive the new Ford cars. There are numerous activities going on at each event, for adults as well as children.



When you first walk through the entrance, a 2010 Grabber Blue Mustang GT is first to get your attention. After registering, a wristband is issued, which allows participation in various activities.

A special activity area was set up to allow the little ones an opportunity to drive radio-controlled Monster Fords on a small track layout.

On a display stage, a scanner was set up for participants to have wristbands scanned for a chance to win a myriad of door prizes. In front of the stage was the host for the event, Bill Goldberg, and his 1970 Lawman Boss 429 Mustang that

was campaigned in 1970 in Viet Nam to give the troops a little bit of home during their tours of duty. Bill was happily giving out autographs and having his picture taken with anyone who wanted one. The local television station, KSWO, brought a crew out to interview him and give the TV audience a glimpse all of the exciting activities that were going on.



One large area of the parking lot was set up with pylons, creating a miniature road course. Here participants could drive either a Mustang GT, Mustang V6, or Ford Fiesta around the track for a timed event. Soldiers and civilians took their turns for some fun on the tarmac.

A specially prepared Mustang GT with a Cobra Jet engine was driven by a Ford test-driver, doing burnouts for excited passengers. On the outer



perimeter of the venue, there were two new Mustangs, a new Fiesta, F150, Edge, Taurus, and Fusion that were available for a test drive. A local dealership, Billingsley Ford, supplied the cars. A dealership representative would ride along explaining all of the features of the new Fords. For each test drive, Ford donates \$20 to the National Military Families Association. An F150, specially outfitted with football training poles, was driven



in a "Truck Push" for participants to see how quickly they could push the truck to the "goal line." Ford representatives were on hand to answer any questions or give guidance for all of the different events.

Mark McCracken, co-ordinator for Operation Drive One, worked with the MCA, contacting clubs in the vicinity of each venue. He put the word out that he would like to see some local clubs bring their Mustangs to the event to add to the festivities. The Oklahoma Mustang Club was the only club to arrive and had more than 30 cars and members to help out with the event. Mark was ecstatic to see the club's response, and felt that we had helped make the event even more successful. He expressed his hope that he can get the same turnout with other local clubs from the other event locations.

There were three rows of OMC Mustangs taking up almost half of the public area of the event. Most were owned by club members, but there were a couple of Mustangs that were owned by soldiers on the base. Soldiers and civilians both loved seeing and taking pictures of all different years and colors

of Mustangs. A high point for us was when OMC member, Luke Lucas, received the Favorite Mustang trophy for his 1966 Mustang convertible. His trophy was presented by Bill "Lawman" Goldberg. After the event, we all went to nearby Medicine Park for a great meal at Old Plantation Restaurant.



The opportunity to meet the soldiers on the base and take pictures of them next to the Mustangs was as much fun as any of the other activities taking place. It's an event that all who participated will remember for a long time.

This was the first of Ford's Operation Drive One events. It was a complete success and the next events have a great example to follow. Our military troops will appreciate Ford's efforts, without a doubt.

As the webmaster for the Oklahoma Mustang Club, I can truthfully say that the members were honored to have the opportunity to be a part of Ford's military support.



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