

AFSC supports ARDENT Sentry 06

The scenario sounds like something out of a Tom Clancy novel: a terrorist attack, a major earthquake, a deadly virus, and a major hurricane all striking the United States within a two-week period.

That's exactly the scenario the Army Field Support Command and military, state, and federal agencies were facing during an intriguing exercise.

ARDENT Sentry 06 was a Joint Chiefs of Staff and Combatant Commanders exercise to test response capabilities of the U.S. Northern Command and Army under multiple crisis action scenarios (weapon of mass destruction attack in U.S., avian flu outbreak in Europe and U.S., and a Category 3 hurricane striking the Gulf Coast region).

As part of the exercise, which took place May 8-18, the U.S. Army Materiel Command and its major subordinate commands tested their ability to provide logistical and equipment support to commanders and civilian leaders.

AMC's objectives included: successfully executing operational plans, policies, and procedures including command and control functions; defining Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP)'s role and validating AMC's liaison officer plan.

Within the first 48 hours of the exercise, AFSC was monitoring Hurricane Xena as it threatened the country, an improvised explosive device incident in Michigan, and getting briefed on the avian influenza status.

AFSC led the way with LOGCAP by providing support for Soldiers and other service members and, in an actual event, American citizens.

"We had one of our folks, Bob Henry, from Army Field Support Brigade CONUS, in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, providing LOGCAP support," said Lt. Col. Douglas Cooper, a LOGCAP manager at AFSC headquarters in Rock Island, Ill. "He's LOGCAP

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Ammo conference deemed a success



U.S. Army Photo by Darryl Howlett

TA4C participants discuss ammunition requirements with conference co-chairs.

"A Soldier without ammo is just a tourist," said Tim Barnhart, U.S. Army Forces Command training ammunition manager, confirming the importance of the Joint Munitions Command and PEO-Ammo's missions.

Barnhart, a participant in the Total Army Ammunition Authorization and Allocation Conference (TA4C) hosted by JMC and held in Moline, Ill., met with 120 other ammunition managers from throughout the world to discuss ammunition operational and training allocations and authorizations for all the Army major commands (MACOMs).

When dealing with finite resources, prioritizing the ammunition supply is a vital management task. The conference ensures that warfighters' operational and training ammunition requirements are met so they can successfully complete their missions.

For the first time, inventory managers responsible for managing critical training and operational ammunition met at one conference instead of two separate conferences. TA4C combined the Committee for Ammunition Logistics Support (CALs) Conference and the Training Ammunition Authorization

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On the Record: Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, CG AFSC

When the Civil War ended in 1865, many Americans in both the North and the South simply wanted to forget that it had ever happened. This was understandable, given the terrible loss and suffering caused by that conflict, and the human impulse to put the most painful parts of our past behind us as quickly as possible. But forgetting the war meant forgetting the courage and sacrifice of the thousands of Soldiers who had given their lives in battle, and this went against another basic part of our humanity – the part that calls us to be thankful, and to pay respect and honor to those who have earned it.

So, in the spring of 1866, individuals in several communities in the North and the South went to cemeteries where the Civil War dead had been buried. They brought the fresh-cut flowers of spring with them, and they placed these flowers upon the graves, a simple tribute expressing remembrance and gratitude, a visible gesture of undying respect.

The story goes that residents of Columbus, Mississippi, went to decorate the graves of fallen Soldiers on April 25, 1866. The



cemetery was a resting place for both Confederate and Union dead who had fallen in the bloody Battle of Shiloh. Though these Mississippians intended to decorate only the graves of Confederates, some were disturbed by the sight of Union graves, bare of flowers and badly neglected. These graves, too, were spruced up and decorated, an acknowledgement of shared sacrifice and humanity, an act of peace and reconciliation at a time when the bitterness of war still lingered.

From these grass-roots efforts, a national holiday known as Decoration Day was born. Decoration Day later became Memorial Day, and its meaning expanded

beyond the Civil War to include honoring all those who died in all of America's wars and conflicts.

One of the many reasons that Memorial Day is so special is that it truly is a people's holiday. Its origins lie not in grand proclamations by public officials, but in heartfelt deeds by ordinary Americans who were doing what they knew was right and proper. It does not honor a famous individual or a single historic event, but rather many thousands of individuals who gave their lives over the course of America's history – and who, by so doing, kept our nation strong and free.

Today, we are once again gripped by war, and the recent casualties of war lie at rest in our cemeteries. In this, the spring of 2006, let our hearts be filled with the same spirit that came upon those who decorated the graves of the fallen 140 springs ago. Let us go forth in humility and express our deepest appreciation for our honored dead – just as they did.. Let us always preserve the true and original meaning of Memorial Day, and let us always esteem the courage and sacrifice symbolized by this very special day.

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Spotlight: JMC activities on target



A Holston AAP employee operates a propellant dispenser.

Holston Army Ammunition Plant

Ammunition is no good unless it goes boom. That may be an elementary description but the truth is that rounds of ammunition must have functioning explosives and those explosives are produced at installations like Holston Army Ammunition Plant.

Holston is one of many installations around the

United States serving the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command and the critical munitions mission. Nestled in the Appalachian mountains in Tennessee, the Holston plant produces a variety of explosives with the capacity to produce more than 70 compositions.

Holston is the sole domestic source for RDX/HMX formulations and produces other explosives like Composition B and Composition C-4.

Logistically, the plant has the ability to ship its products by road or rail and that includes shipping more than 300,000 pounds of Ammonium Nitrate every month. The plant's workload is handled by civilian and contract employees numbering near 900 in total. According to Lt. Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, commander of Holston AAP, the employees are the heart and soul of their operations.

"Holston Army Ammunition Plant has gone from 111 regular contract employees at the start of the new contract in 1999 to 427 regular contract employees in 2006," Pomeroy said. "All are highly trained and proficient at their jobs. Total plant employment in all personnel categories is now over 900. Production has increased six-fold and is climbing, both military and commercial orders. With the increase in production, the dedication and determination of the men and women at Holston to providing the highest quality explosives has also increased. Both the government and contractor staffs possess that 'can do' attitude that is so necessary in getting the job done right the first time — safely and efficiently."

— Allen Marshall, AFSC Public Affairs

AFSB-SWA's mission in Kyrgystan

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—The Natick liaison to the Army Field Support Brigade Southwest Asia and a four-member reset team from the U.S. Army Soldiers Systems Center, Natick, Mass., completed a difficult mission in April, in one of the most remote regions of the world.

The mission: Move several "Force Provider" sets packed into 193 containers from Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, to a rail yard at Bishkek, 20 miles away for transport to the Caspian Sea, passing through several former Soviet Republics and a long ocean voyage to the Natick Base. This was the first large-scale truck movement ever in the remote Asian region.

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U.S. Army Photo by Capt. Dennis Ford

Kyrgystan workers and the Army forward technical advisory team after completion of its mission.

Photo

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planning with the (Fifth Army). The LOGCAP contract provides base support for dining, food service, billeting, life support, water distribution, sanitation services and petroleum handling. We are there to support Soldiers and other service members, even displaced civilians, using the (Department of Homeland Security) defense plan.”

According to the initial briefing to command leaders, the objective of the exercise was to validate roles and responsibilities of the Department of Defense in the national response plan. The exercise provided practice for integrated local, state, regional and federal response to nationally significant incidents.

Chris Schumacher, Gary Owens, and Dave McKillip – all with the AFSC plans and exercise office, said the command was ready to tackle any situation that came its way during the exercise.

“We’ve deployed people to Fort Sam Houston and Col. Darryl Bradley (407th AFSB) is deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida where he is the liaison and AFSB commander,” Schumacher said. “He monitored requirements, potential LOGCAP requirements, looking at aviation assets. If a hurricane struck (the Gulf Coast region), he determines if we’re to send Logistics Assistance Representatives to the region.”

By the second week of the exercise, AFSC was responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Xena, simulating sending LARs to provide needed assistance.

AFSC received rave reviews from their parent

Mission *Continued from page 3*

A Force Provider set is a “deployable city” for more than 550 personnel and was introduced by the Army in 1991 because of inadequate living conditions for Soldiers deployed to remote areas during Desert Storm/Shield.

Sets are made up of several shipping containers that provide climate controlled billeting, food, dining facilities, laundry facilities, hygiene services and morale, welfare and recreation assets.

Capt. Dennis Ford, Natick Liaison to Southwest Asia, deployed to Camp Arifjan, was required to use all his logistics background and determination to put all of the loose ends together. As no U. S. Customs Inspectors were available, Ford went through customs training and was certified as a Customs Inspector prior to the mission.

command, AMC, on its vital support to the exercise.

“AFSC was the supportive command on behalf of AMC. They provided three liaison officers – two physically deployed to Fort Sam Houston in Texas,” said Col. Hugh Robinson, director of current operations and plans, AMC G-3. “One served as a LOGCAP coordinator supporting the 167th Theater Support Command and the Alabama Army National Guard. The LOGCAP guys did a real good job getting the statement of work completed.”

Robinson noted the hard work and dedication that several AFSC employees provided during the exercise.

“You had two people from your command, Chris Schumacher and Gary Owens, who really knew what was needed and gave briefings to us everyday as the exercise went forward,” Robinson said. “AFSC really stood out in a couple of areas – especially in executing the orders in the hurricane portion of the exercise.”

Schumacher believed the exercise went well. “Overall, (the exercise) solidified some of our plan and control issues with NORTHCOM and ARNORTH,” she said. “It also helped our planning for the upcoming hurricane season.”

More Ardent Sentry-style exercises are planned for the future, but no dates have been set, according to Robinson.

On June 6, the AMC community will review the lessons learned from Ardent Sentry at AFSC headquarters in Rock Island, Ill.

— Darryl Howlett, AFSC Public Affairs

The Natick team flew in to assist the mission, headed by Maj. Joseph Lusk with Master Sgt. Gregory Welch, Brad Volz and Mark Spillane. Each used their specialized technical skills for item inspections. The team, along with 25 local laborers, had to unpack, clean, inventory, prepare for customs inspection, repack and secure the containers prior to shipment. A language barrier also added to the confusion. Documents had to be translated into several languages. “This really was a remarkable feat, considering all of the variables,” Ford said. “A movement of this magnitude has never been attempted from Kyrgyzstan. Now the Army has a blueprint for future retrograde missions in this region of the world.”

-- Charles Sprague, AFSB-SWA Public Affairs

Always a Soldier...answering the call of dedicated veterans



Photo submitted by Brad Barry



U.S. Army Photo by Mike Abrams



U.S. Army Photo by Ted Cavanaugh

Three veterans are participating in the AMC's Always a Soldier program, left to right: Brad Barry, Corey Webb and Tim Frainer, shaking hands with Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center Commander, Col. Bruce Elliott.

"Even though I was wounded, I am still a warrior who desires to continue to serve the nation I pledged to defend," said Tim Frainer, Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center pipe fitter. This is a belief shared by many service members who have been hired under the Always a Soldier employment program; Frainer, Brad Barry, and Corey Webb are no exceptions.

All three Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom veterans were recently hired under the Army Materiel Command's Always a Soldier Program. They've hung up their uniforms, but are still able to serve their country and support their comrades as Army civilians hired under the program.

"I wasn't ready to be away from the military. The Always a Soldier Program filled the gap in my life and is a fantastic opportunity for wounded or disabled vets like me who want to continue to serve," said retired Airman Brad Barry, Army Field Support Command administrative support assistant. "Now I can continue to support the men and women who are defending the nation. I completed four deployments to Afghanistan and feel that with my experience and knowledge I am an Army asset who can make a difference for troops down range."

The Always a Soldier Program helps wounded or injured veterans find jobs within the Army Materiel Command. This program, initiated in 2004, has been implemented at AMC major subordinate commands and activities, such as the Army Field Support Command, Joint Munitions Command and the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, all located on Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Ill., and the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility located on Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala. Under this

program, veterans can now receive continued support beyond active-duty service. The focus of this program is to help the nation's wounded and injured veterans transition from military to civilian employment.

"The program is a great way to reach out to veterans," said AFSC and JMC's Always a Soldier Program Coordinator Denise Brown Winchell. "It provides service-connected disabled veterans opportunities for employment, career advancement, job mobility, family well-being, and financial security. Our mission is to support veterans," she added. "We want them to realize that their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

But it isn't only the veterans who benefit. "The program serves both the Army and the vet," said Brown Winchell. "The Army gets an experienced, dedicated employee while the vet gets an opportunity to continue serving."

Wounded or service-disabled veterans can sign up for the program by submitting a resume to the www.alwaysasoldier.com Web site or to a program manager, such as Brown Winchell. According to Brown Winchell, once she receives a resume, she works with AMC, subordinate installations, the Civilian Personal Advisory Center (CPAC), and other activities on the Rock Island Arsenal to find a job that matches the veteran's skill set and that can accommodate the veteran's special needs.

The success of this program lies in the cooperation between several organizations. Each organization involved is committed to ensuring that no Soldier, Airman, Marine or Sailor is left behind.

Even though Tim Frainer was wounded by an

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Governors visits AFSB-SWA

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait – Four state governors made a surprise visit April 14 to service members stationed in Kuwait as part of a tour of the Middle East.

The governors: Jeb Bush of Florida, Tom Vilsack of Iowa, Mitch Daniels of Indiana and Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, spent April 14 dining with Airmen and Soldiers from their respective states as well as getting an inside view of logistical and training operations conducted here.

“The work done here saves Soldier’s lives,” Maj. Gen. James Kelly told the governors during their tour of Army Materiel Command’s Forward Repair Activity. Kelly is the deputy commanding general for Third U.S. Army.

The Department of Army civilian workers at the facility add improvements such as up-armor and satellite communications systems to military vehicles. Soldiers from the Army’s 37th Transportation Group, who drive the vehicles throughout the dangerous roads of Iraq, were also on hand to share their experiences and answer the governors’ questions.

Also on display during the tour was the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, or HEAT. HEAT is the command’s newest safety training tool that allows servicemembers to “experience” a vehicle roll-over and then practice survival skills to minimize injury.

Seeing the men and women from each of their respective states was the highlight of the day for the

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improvised explosive device while in Iraq, he is still serving in the Illinois Army National Guard and was hired under the Always a Soldier Program since he sustained a service-related injury. Frainer was hired as a result of the teamwork between CPAC, AFSC, JMC, and JMTC, and is happy with the program.

“Always a Soldier is a wonderful program for wounded and disabled vets. The people involved stepped up and helped me. This program has brought me to a better place in my life. I feel like someone does care what I did over there,” said Frainer.

Corey Webb, a retired Marine who works for AFSC as a property management specialist at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, explained that the program exemplifies the fact that the Army looks out not only for Soldiers, but for all service members.



U.S. Army Photo by Charles Sprague

Four governors recently visited the Army’s Forward Repair Activity at Camp Arifjan Kuwait. Pictured left to right are Maj. Gen. James Kelley, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, and Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief National Guard Bureau.

governors as it gave these commanders in chief of National Guard troops the opportunity to visit with their Soldiers and Airmen and relay the support of the folks back home.

The Kuwait stop was part of a multi-day visit of the region arranged by the Department of Defense to familiarize governors with current operations.

-- Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Public Affairs

“Steve Clark, the program coordinator for AMC Always a Soldier, took me under his wing and helped place me,” said Webb. Clark and Brown Winchell worked together to find Webb a job he qualified for and that was accommodating to his special needs caused by the wounds he received while deployed. Webb was injured when the Humvee he was riding in collided with a Marine armored vehicle.

With lives changing forever in the blink of an eye, the Always a Soldier Program offers a new beginning...a way to stay in the fight.

For more information contact the AFSC and JMC Always a Soldier Program at 309-782-0270 or go to www.alwaysasoldier.com or www.afsc.army.mil/hr/veterans/index.htm for application information.

— Angela Hamerlinck, AFSC Public Affairs

MCAAP holds training for National Guard

More than 250 Oklahoma National Guardsmen recently used the wide-open training area of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) to keep their military skills sharp for any possible deployment.

Guardsmen from the 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery Regiment “invaded” the plant April 7-8 towing three-105mm firing batteries with their 5-ton trucks. Dozens of the behemoths and smaller HUMVEEs rolled over the gravel road, kicking up whirls of dust in the cold morning air as semi trucks whizzed by the plant on highway 69.

The contrast was inevitable . . . Oklahoma state guardsmen sacrificing their weekend to maintain combat readiness so the economic engine of the United States can continue to expand.

The convoy took different directions at the bend in the road. Command and control and communication vehicles went one way while the artillery units assembled in the grassy area to prepare their camouflage netting.

Huge mounds of green webbing from each 5-ton truck soon fell to the ground as guardsmen rushed to assemble the tangled weaving into one large piece of netting that would completely cover both the truck and the 105mm howitzer, breaking up the outline of the towed artillery and its massive master.

After the netting was put in its proper configuration, the spider web of camouflage netting was neatly rolled and placed on top of the 5-ton cabs where they could be quickly rolled out to perform the job it was created to do.

While the guardsmen prepared to practice the role of a combat artillery unit, the officers and senior non-commissioned officers were in a separate area, inside a hastily assembled tactical area operations center, plotting the locations of their units and the route to get there.

Maj. Jimmy Thomas, operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery Regiment, said that his unit normally conducts exercises like this one three to four times a year but this was their first field exercise in two-and-a-half years.

They were busy with real-world contingencies: deploying to New Orleans in response to Hurricane Katrina; units of their battalion were spread throughout Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and they are being



U.S. Army Photo by Mark Hughes

Fire Mission—Joining his fellow Guardsmen as they shout out “fire mission” is Spec. Derek Bradley (kneeling) of ‘A’ Battery who lives in Oklahoma City.

used as the National Guard Quick Reaction Force for the state of Oklahoma, ready to respond to any terrorist incident or disaster.

“With this dry fire field exercise, we are getting back to the basics of being an artillery unit,” said Thomas, a native of Oklahoma City.

After a quick lunch of meals-ready-to-eat, the signal was given to mount up and the exercise began as convoys of artillery units, being covered in dust by the truck in front of them, easily rumbled down the road, soon turning into an overgrown pasture.

The dust dwindled to nothing as the convoy followed a two-wheeled path beaten down by previous vehicular intruders. Firing batteries were strategically placed in three separate locations. The more experienced non-commissioned officers ensured their

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Conference (TAAC). During the six days of this new-approach conference, participants reviewed 650 requests for ammunition, ranging from small caliber ammunition to missiles.

Judy Bexfield, National Guard Bureau logistics ammunition manager, has attended over 30 ammunition conferences during her career. Bexfield has seen dramatic changes in the ammunition authorization and allocation process and is pleased with the progress that has been made.

“When ammunition was managed 15 years ago, MACOMs had control of their own ammunition and didn’t look at the ‘big picture’,” said Bexfield. “Now that the Army has full control of all munitions, the big picture of serving the warfighter better is at the forefront. The Army headquarters can push, redistribute, and manage the stockpile so warfighters get what they need and the entire process now runs more smoothly,” said Bexfield.

Barnhart, who has attended ammunition conferences for six years, agrees. The Army has matured the entire process and on the whole, the system is very reliable, according to Barnhart. Better decisions to use money and other resources more wisely are being made and everyone is working together to meet the requirements. The Army is delivering munitions on target; the Soldiers are prepared to complete their missions, said Barnhart.

Barnhart has also heard first-hand how commanders feel about the process. According to

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young trainees were ready for the start of the exercise.

At a designated time, the guardsmen, with a motivational roar, jumped out of the back of their 5-ton trucks and quickly took their positions around the gun. Sledgehammers swung furiously as huge stakes were driven through large eyelets located at the base of the gun, ensuring stability during firing.

Sgt. Christopher St. John, gunner, said the two main types of mission the gun crews receive are adjust fire and fire for effect. The guns can also be turned from 90 degrees to 360 degrees to meet any



U.S. Army Photo by Darryl Howlett

The TA4C Conference participants review ammunition requirements during a morning session.

Barnhart, commanders of the two biggest divisions that have been deployed, said at an annual training brief that they didn’t have any ammunition problems.

Conference organizer, Sharon Myers, JMC Planning and Execution Division chief noted, “The demand is high and is continuing to grow, and this conference is a method to impartially distribute ammunition. We are allocating the supply so every warfighter can complete their missions effectively.”

Overall the first TA4C was a success, according to Sue Carlson, chief of equipment readiness for Army G4. “The conference enabled us to look at authorization across the spectrum and better balance our resources.”

-- Angela Hamerlinck, AFSC Public Affairs

challenge coming from any direction, said the Lawton resident who has been with his unit since 1997.

Their next training will be the real thing—a live fire exercise conducted at Ft. Chaffee, Ark. in May.

Thomas said their battalion forecasts training ammunition requirements two years in advance of the exercise and Ft. Chaffee ensures they have it on hand—delivered straight from McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.

-- Mark Hughes, MCAAP Public Affairs