



ABOUT US!

The Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) leverages live, virtual, constructive, simulation, and gaming technology to provide the war-fighter with a holistic training experience.

All controlled by one headquarters, at Grafenwoehr, the JMTC is training Soldiers for today's operational environment, adapting training and its facilities to prepare Soldiers for future operations.

Commanders should take advantage of the many training resources at their disposal, and offered here. As a result, JMTC will produce this quarterly newsletter to highlight new and emerging technologies and course updates, which are all available to U.S. and multinational forces, and just a phone call away.

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Surge highlights JMTC's facilities, resources

By Denver Makle, JMTC PAO

August marks the beginning of a three-month surge in training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) and Hohenfels Training Area (HTA). The training includes tactics for Counter-Improvised Explosive Device, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Training, and full-spectrum operations, as well as, small-arms qualifications, vehicle gunnery, and live-fire exercises.

Rotational exercises planned bring the 170th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, the 15th and 54th Engineer Battalions, and Soldiers of multiple NATO countries, all preparing for missions in Afghanistan.

"The training in August is a surge because of the confluence of small exercises that came together to create a larger exercise," said Maj. Kevin Broadnax, G3 (Training) plans officer, at the Joint Multinational Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany. "We are using all of the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas to support the training."

Hohenfels Training Area (HTA) is the home of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC). During a typical training scenario a brigade headquarters is at Hohenfels, long-known as the Army's premier maneuver training site in Europe.

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Soldiers of the 3-4th Infantry, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team perform combat-outpost live-fire training on Grafenwoehr's range 201, July 28. The training prepares the troops for an upcoming deployment.

Photo: Christian Marquardt, JMTC Public Affairs

Units train at HTA, while subordinate units are dispersed throughout GTA, well-known for its vast live-fire capabilities, or various other training areas in the region.

"Instrumentation towers at Grafenwoehr allow Soldiers to operate over much larger areas, replicating closer-to-reality distances for commanders and their staffs, said Dan Hoeh, director of instrumentation, training analysis, computer simulations and support at JMRC. "The hardware and antennas at Grafenwoehr are integrated into the JMRC and provide the Commander of the Operations Group and his senior trainers' situational awareness of the two separate training areas."



Engineers construct berm at Graf Army Air Field

By Michael Beaton, JMTC PAO



(Above) A newly constructed berm, a reinforced mound of dirt and gravel, provides additional safety at Grafenwoehr Army Airfield. Col. Michael S. Higginbottom, JMTC's Chief of Staff, as he addressed the Soldiers of the 15th Engineer Battalion and members of the Grafenwoehr Military Community from a podium on the flightline at the airfield, July 22.

Photos: Michael Beaton, JMTC PAO



(Above) Operators from the JMTC's Training Support Activity Europe (TSAE) facilitates a convoy training scenario in the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer (RVTT), the newest virtual simulator in U.S. Army Europe. The TSAE supports tactical units in 17 cities and six countries throughout Europe.

Photo: Christian Marquardt, JMTC PAO

Simulations and Support Centers aid exercises across theater

By Denver Makle, JMTC PAO

As the Joint Multinational Training Command's (JMTC's) Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) prepares to conduct record-breaking training on the ranges, the Directorate of Simulation and Training Support (DOS-TS) supports 15 exercises within the next five months.

These exercises include training in support of U.S. European Command's (EUCOM's) Security Cooperation Programs and Afghanistan surge-mission training and rehearsal exercises for U.S. and coalition forces. The exercises are conducted in Germany at Grafenwoehr, Kaiserslautern, and Hohenfels, as well as in Italy, Belgium, Poland, Ukraine, Israel, Latvia, and Romania.

"These exercises are the nucleus of EUCOM's and U.S. Army Europe's Theater Security Cooperation plans. They not only offer spectacular training opportunities for U.S. forces to train with current and future coalition partners, some are actual mission rehearsal events for coalition units deploying to Afghanistan," said Col. Steve Seitz, DOS-TS Director. "U.S. forces assigned to CONUS rarely have the opportunity for robust training with their coalition partners prior to deployment; it is routine here in Europe."

An example of an upcoming exercise is BAGRAM VIII, which trains U.S. and Polish forces for their International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. Both active and National Guard Soldiers of the U.S. Army train with Polish forces in Poland prior to deployment and provides both live-and-simulated training events, during the exercise.

The JMTC supports small unit training with their easily deployable Virtual Battlespace 2 (VBS2) game-based simulation. The VBS2 allows Soldiers to simulate maneuvers on graphically depicted "geospecific" terrain that replicates real-world locations, where units train or deploy.

The 15th Engineer Battalion recently completed a de-arm safety berm at the Grafenwoehr Army Airfield (GAAP) in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The troop construction saved the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) more than \$51 thousand dollars in construction costs, while the Engineers completed pre-deployment training, using skills that required both vertical and horizontal construction.

"We had to stay flexible, and be resourceful to tackle the problems that came up during the project," said 1st Lt. Eric Sears of the 15th Engineer Battalion's, 500th Engineer Company.

"The Grafenwoehr Training Area is really huge, and it was built by the Germans, over a swamp. The terrain and drainage at this site, and all around the Grafenwoehr Training Area is especially difficult to gauge for this kind of project."

A berm is a mound of earth with sloping sides. After some changes in the initial plan, the slope and shape of the clay layer was adjusted to ensure the drainage was sufficient for this area before the topsoil layer was added, he said.

"If we have a situation for example where a Apache AH-64 tries to fire a rocket, while training over Graf, and that rocket doesn't respond, said Steve Shaw, airfield manager. "We need to be ready to help them to disarm, quickly and effectively. The berm acts as a safety clearing barrel for any weapons that are not doing what they should on a helicopter."

The newly completed berm will contain a 30m round, and stop a Hell-fire missile in the event of negligent discharge. It won't allow a Hell-fire missile to travel to arming distance.

The relocation of the de-arm berm has enhanced the safety of the airfield. The newly designed pad provides a safer working environment for disarmament crews. The cement pad is smooth and flat, as opposed to the uneven grassy area that was part of the old de arm area.

Route clearance training for deployment

By Pvt. Alexandria Robinson,
126th Press Camp Headquarters,
Michigan Army National Guard

The chill in the air is quickly removed as the sun appears to warm the Army Soldiers as they ready for their route clearance mission at a range in Grafenwoehr Training Area in Grafenwoehr, Germany, May 22, 2010.

The 1st platoon, filled with a mixture of heavy equipment operators, plumbers and carpenters, with the 535th Engineering Support Company, 54th Engineering Battalion stationed in Bamberg, Germany, stand in formation under the direction of Sgt. 1st Class Rodrick Carter, a heavy construction equipment supervisor in the unit.

Sgt. Daniel Martin, a heavy equipment operator in 535th Engineering Support Company, said route clearing included training routes, finding improvised explosive device (IEDs), dismount patrols and interrogating the enemy.

Each member, in the platoon of approximately 25 to 30 soldiers, is checked for proper equipment and battery life on the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear they wear. The agony of sitting and waiting overwhelms the motor pool occupants.

1st Lt. James Puddicombe, platoon leader of first platoon, gives a small briefing of what the Soldiers will do and what to expect from the training.

After the briefing, the Soldiers are dispersed into seven vehicles for travel to the range.

Pfc. Mathew Schuh, a heavy equipment operator, drives a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), at a speed of 20 mph, keeping a 100 meter distance between the vehicles in front of him as directed by Puddicombe.

"Keeping a 100 meter distance between vehicles is a tactic, in case an IED hits," said Puddicombe. "Being close to that vehicle, two cars could get taken out."

Upon arrival, the Soldiers were sent out to do their first training exercise in route clearing.

The seven vehicles drove on the rocky path of the training course of simulated scenarios that could occur in Afghanistan's cities.

Gunners sat at the top of two convoys, watchful of suspicious activity, while the radios in the vehicles transmitted messages from Puddicombe to the other members of the platoon.



A Soldier imitates a townspeople, who may pose a threat, during simulated route clearance patrol training
Photo: Pvt. Alexandria Robinson

Each path the vehicles take creates a new challenge for the platoon, as Soldiers transmit messages like noticing cylindrical cans that could be possible IEDs or possibly coming across insurgents.

In four hours, 1st platoon completed route clearing procedures without a single incident.

"Route clearance usually is an all day task ... could last for 18 hours or more, so this is nothing," Carter said.

Carter said the training course was a short, timed exercise representing an actual day long procedure when the unit has to do this during deployment.

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Russell, the intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge in the 54th Engineering Battalion, said this would be an evaluation of the platoon conducting route-clearance operations.

"This is 535's first time doing Route Clearing Procedures (RCP), because they're used to construction and working," said Russell.

"There are no RCPs that are 100 percent," said Martin. "It is what works best, and when the enemy changes we have to change our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs)."

Russell said he has confidence in the patrol elements, dismounted procedures and troop leading procedures for upcoming deployments. Russell returned from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom about eight months ago, and soon will be deploying back to Afghanistan with the 54th Engineering Battalion.



GTA
Celebrates
100-years
of training,



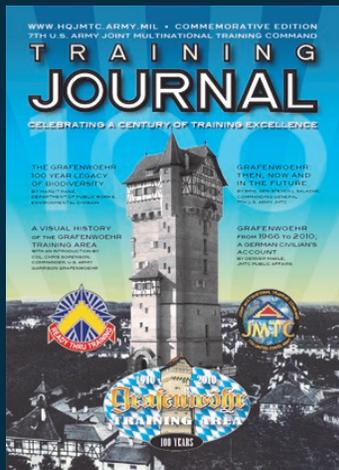
hjmte.army.mil/grafenwoehr100.html



Happening Now!

Grafenwoehr Training Area hosts Allied Strike, an annual U.S. and NATO, Joint and combined close-air support exercise that provides realistic training for Service members, and builds partnership capacity among allied nations and the joint services.

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www.hqjmtc.army.mil

Surge (Continued from page 1)

Soldiers move from one training area to the other, and are monitored at all times. The infrastructure allows the operations group to collect more training-feedback, data, execute better command and control, and provide better feedback to the training unit commanders and Soldiers, said Hoeh.

“The training prepares the units for deployment. We’ve requested observer/controller augmentation and enabler support from other units in U.S. Army Europe to execute the rotation,” Broadnax said “We have multinational forces either training with U.S Soldiers, or supporting the rotational training units.”

Soldiers from the Republic of Georgia are participating in a mission rehearsal exercise this month. Likewise, during OMLT XVI, NATO is planning for training with US, French, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian, Italian Spanish, Slovakian, Slovenian, Finnish, Polish, British, German, & Afghan participation.

Currently, on-going mission support to the International Security Assistance Force involves Soldiers from about 44-different Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs). The JMTC provides training to 39 of 44 TCNs. The multinational participation replicates the current operating environment in Afghanistan.

“NATO sends their Soldiers here to train. It’s a readiness exercise,” said Capt. Ron Gevry. “They don’t have a dedicated opposing force, instrumentation and training Aids to improve their capacity, and they get immediate feedback on their staff processes.”

Berm (Continued from page 2)

“Today, through the efforts of these Soldiers, the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) scored a triple win.” said Col. Michael S. Higginbottom, JMTC’s Chief of Staff, as he addressed the Soldiers of the 15th Engineer Battalion and members of the Grafenwoehr Military Community from a podium on the flightline of the GAAF.

“First and foremost the construction of this berm makes the airfield a safer place to deal with helicopter emergencies and weapons contingencies, second it allows for wider Mission Essential Task List training possibilities, and third it was constructed at significant savings to the U.S. Army; that’s a triple win.” said Higginbottom.

Grafenwoehr’s Department of Public works originally estimated the construction costs of the berm by a private contractor at more than \$60,000 euros.



Soldiers of the 3-4th Infantry, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team perform combat-outpost live-fire training on Grafenwoehr’s range 201, July 28.

Exercises (Continued from page 2)

The Soldiers walk, run, fire weapons, and execute mounted and dismounted missions to develop collective skills.

“The 54th Engineers trained on VBS2, which required intensive over-the-shoulder training at their home station in Bamberg,” said Lt. Col. Bill Jones.

“The VBS2 Improved Explosive Device-Defeat capability walks the unit through a virtual scenario, which is helpful before they attempt it on downrange with bullets and boots-on-the-ground.”