

WAR



Air Force airmen attached to the 1st Armored Division help set up satellite and communication equipment outside of the division operations center.

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1st Armored Division PAO

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Soldiers from 1st Armored Division teamed up with other V Corps units, and Reserve and National Guard augmentees to wage war against enemy forces from Northland.

No live ammunition was fired, but the battles were just as real for the soldiers as they fought through multiple simulations and scenarios against the computer-simulated Northland forces as part of the Warfighter Exercise, March 30 – April 4.

“Warfighter provided us with the opportunity to train commanders and soldiers on moving units around on the battlefield to win a war,” said Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Houston of G-3 Training. “It also pro-

vided the soldiers with the opportunity to work together and execute battle tasks to help the commanding general make decisions.”

The exercise scenario was based on the United States and the fictional Blueland joining forces to restore the international boundary of Blueland, after diplomatic efforts had failed with the invading Northland. The coalition forces, using all of their resources, engaged the Northland units in a variety of battle scenarios from both offensive and defensive postures all over the Blueland territory.

Soldiers from 1AD participated in a variety of exercises and training events in the months leading up to Warfighter to better prepare themselves for war. Soldiers from 1AD joined representatives from 17 of the 19 NATO nations to participate in

ARRCADE Fusion last October. The exercise scenario was based on a large-scale regional crisis caused by aggression against a Partnership-for-Peace nation that threatened Europe’s long-term peace, security and stability. Twenty-one units – including 309 soldiers from 1AD – participated in the exercise, interacting with counterparts from throughout Europe.

“Participating in ARRCADE Fusion was very helpful because it was a bigger and larger-scaled exercise than Warfighter,” said Spc. Jeffrey M. Woods, a G-2 intelligence analyst who was responsible for tracking the Northland forces and updating the battle staff during the exercise. “That experience was invaluable during this exercise. Warfighter was also a good experience because it was the first time I had the chance to work with National Guard and Reserve components.”

“ARRCADE Fusion prepared me well for Warfighter because I got the chance to learn how a field exercise really works before coming down for this one,” said Pfc. Juan A.V. Pardo, a G-1 officer management clerk, who tracked 1AD casualties and submitted readiness reports to the battle staff. “I think it went well. I learned a lot from working with and watching the officers and the roles they played.”

Some soldiers took the opportunity to display some of the skills they had acquired while deployed in Kosovo.

“The experience that I gained while being deployed in Kosovo, as well as from previous mission rehearsal exercises

Warfighter

1st Armored Division rolls across the cyber battlefield



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Guy Snodgrass, chief of the 1st Armored Division Terrain Team, discusses the various elements of the battlefield and what effect they might have on the rest of the battle.

and the TOCEX [Tactical Operations Center Exercise] in January really had me prepared to do my job during Warfighter,” said Spc. Marvin W. Mash II a G-2 terrain analyst, who provided maps and other tactical data to the battle planners. “The things I did during Warfighter were nothing that I had not done or trained to do before.”

“At first it was a little frustrating being there for two weeks before the exercise actually got started,” Woods said. “But once it got started, things went pretty smoothly. The communication between all the different sections and cells was excellent. Those two weeks actually helped out a lot with that.”

Overall, the soldiers faced many challenges during the exercise that will better prepare them for whatever future missions they execute.

“Warfighter was more difficult this year because a lot of the soldiers had never been involved in an exercise like this before,” said Sgt. Darryl P. Sapoff, noncommissioned officer in charge for the G-1 Personnel Operations and Actions Division. Sapoff oversaw casualty reporting and requests for personnel reconstitution.

“Even with the three months of training that we went through before the exercise, it was still a challenge at first,” Sapoff said. “But by the end of the exercise the environment was completely different. It seemed that everybody had a much better grasp of their job and what they needed to do.”