

MISSION REHEARSAL EXERCISES

Ready Army for 21st Century Operations



cluding weaponry, shelters and other support equipment, that they will use once deployed.

As the 21st Century sees the Army perform operations to help stabilize such turbulent countries as Iraq and Afghanistan, mission rehearsal exercises have also become increasingly reliant on the use of simulators to help soldiers understand the environment they'll soon be facing.

Simulators allow personnel to preview and familiarize themselves with the terrain, conditions and scenarios they

will experience during their operation. Utilizing databases, simulators provide realistic images based on a soldier's future deployment site throughout the exercise.

With the military depending heavily on mission rehearsal exercises to fully ready troops for their missions, simulators need to provide the most current, accurate information possible during the training. New, updated intelligence, no matter how seemingly trivial, needs to be constantly added to these databases and easily accessible to units as they complete their mock mission.

Several organizations have introduced technology designed to meet this need for up-to-date data in recent years. The U.S. Special Opera-

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Mission rehearsal exercises play a crucial role in the final training of U.S. Army personnel, including members of the Reserve, before deployment. These exercises, held at training centers both in the U.S. and overseas, are designed to replicate the harsh conditions units will face on the battlefield.

During a mission rehearsal exercise, units experience many of the same challenges they would normally experience while on a real-life mission. Troops often work alongside foreign military, police, government officials and civilians in staged villages and warzones.

Units work with equipment, in-



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tions Command (USSOCOM) has developed the command database (CDB), a run-time database that portrays a single depiction of the world and can be accessed by multiple users simultaneously to gain pertinent information for each of their unique exercises. The CDB can also be updated quickly to ensure that the latest information is available.

Companies have also developed simulation technology that can create customized scenarios and images, including foreign road systems and town layouts, based on users' future missions. Other technology, such as the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES 2000) developed by Cubic Defense Applications, simulates weapons and their effects on both personnel and their equipment.

In February, the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division (5/2 SBCT) took part in a mission rehearsal exercise at the Army's National Training Center (NTC) in California before deploying to Af-

ghanistan. Using MILES, personnel at the Training Center were able to create a simulated battle situation while members of the 5/2 SBCT traveled across the desert.

The unit was also given the task of setting up and striking several Standard Integrated Command Post System (SICPS) Trailer Mounted Support Systems (TMSS) at multiple locations. With representatives from TMSS manufacturer DHS Systems on hand to provide assistance throughout the exercise, members of the 5/2 SBCT were able to learn to properly operate the command centers from which they would be working once deployed.

As both the military and private companies work to not only provide the Army with the latest, most advanced technology, but to ensure that soldiers are prepared to utilize this equipment for their future operations as well, it seems that mission rehearsal exercises will only become more crucial in units' preparation for deployment.

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