WARFIGHTER TRAINING ON MRTFB RANGES
A SUCCESS STORY

Presented by
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Special Operations Maritime Training & Readiness
U.S. ARMY ABERDEEN TEST CENTER
U.S. Army Developmental Test Command
U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command
WARFIGHTER TRAINING AT ATC

- Background on Aberdeen Test Center
- A New Initiative for Aberdeen Test Center
- Early Warfighter Training Efforts
- Current Warfighter Training Focus
- Lessons Learned
ATTRIBUTES

Open Air Ranges w/ Modular Instrumentation Suites

Traditional Laboratories w/ Advanced Tools

Controlled Airspace

Controlled Water Area

Domestic & Foreign Land / Sea-based Targets & Threats

Isolated / Secure / Hardened Surface & Sub-surface Opportunities

Temperate Zone

>52K Ground Acres

Water Depths 2-14’

Up to 150’ in Pond

103 Miles of Shoreline With 60 Miles Adjacent to Live Fire Ranges

C5 Airfield w/ Drop Zones

Real-Time MET
ATC Core Competencies

Compliance
- Environment • Safety • Security

Systems Test & Training
- Auto • Wpns / Ammo • Live Fire
- Life Cycle Assessment / Logistics

Technology Development
- Hardware / Software • Range Upgrades
  • Live, Constructed, Virtual

Army’s Center of Excellence for Live Fire Testing

Army Transformation Foundations / Principles

Lead DoD Test Center for Land Systems Testing

Lead DoD Test Center for Direct Fire Testing
Training capabilities must be advertised and supported. Likewise, use of our facilities for field training or weapons firing must be supported to the fullest extent possible.

GEN JOHNNIE E. WILSON
July 1996
Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command
A NEW INITIATIVE

CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL RANGES COOPERATIVE

Objective:
To Provide Readiness and Training Support to the Warfighter through use of the Resources and Capabilities of the MRTFB & Training Facilities located within the Chesapeake Bay Region
CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL RANGES COOPERATIVE

Aberdeen Test Center
Aberdeen PG, MD

Maryland National Guard

Joint Interoperability Test Center (JITC)
Indian Head, MD

Fort A. P. Hill
Bowling Green, VA

CINCLANTFLT
Norfolk, VA

NAVAIR
Pax River, MD

NASA Wallops
Wallops, VA

NAVSEA CDSA
Dam Neck, VA
A NEW INITIATIVE
The Challenge

• New Training Mission Must Not Adversely Impact on Existing Missions or Customers
• Warfighter Training Must Ultimately Be Cost Neutral
• Training Must be Meaningful to the Warfighter
• It Must Be Worth The Effort
EARLY WARFIGHTER TRAINING EFFORTS

JTFEX 97-3

U.S. Navy VC-6 Pioneer UAV DET trained at Phillips Army Airfield July 97 supporting SEAL TEAM mission at ATC
Exercise Blue Crab 99/00

- Joint Training Exercise, June 1999 & July 2000
- Conducted at Aberdeen Test Center
- Launderick Creek Training Area
- Combined Land, Sea, Air Task Force
  - Up to 1000 Personnel from 37 Active duty, Reserve & National Guard Units: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, & Coast Guard

- No Injuries or Mishaps
- Exceptional Training Value was Gained
EARLY WARFIGHTER TRAINING EFFORTS

Operation Charlie Rock 2000

- Dismounted ground maneuvers
- Live Firing Exercises of 60-MM mortars
- Javelin missile firing

- July 17-21 - 82nd Airborne
- 114 personnel para-drop into Phillips AAF
- Airfield Seizure Exercise

Phillips Army Airfield
CURRENT WARFIGHTER TRAINING FOCUS

Special Operations
Maritime Training & Readiness

Joint Sea/Air/Land
Mission Scenarios

• Live Close Air Support
• HOT Extractions & Inserts
• Live-Fire Boat Unit Exercises
• Live-Fire Ground Assault
Special Operations
Maritime Training & Readiness

Military Units Participating in Current Joint Exercises

• SPECWARCOM Units - SBU 20 & 22, SEAL Teams 2, 4 & 8
• Air National Guard (A-10s) 103rd & 104th Flight Squadron
• USAF SOC 16th Special Operations Squadron (AC-130)
• USMC Reserve HMLA 775 (UH-1 & AH-1)
• US Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (A-6)
• US Navy Helicopter Composite Squadron-4 (SH-60)
Special Operations
Maritime Training & Readiness

Training Ranges
• Ballistics Range
• Black Point
• 9600 Impact Range
• Cod Creek/NBF
• Abby Field
• Phillips Army Airfield
• CQB Range
• Carroll Island
• Bush River
• Chesapeake Bay

Ordnance Expended
Small Arms
• 5.56 & 7.62mm
• 20 & 25mm
• 50cal
• 30mm
• 40mm
• 105mm

BDU-33 Training Bombs
• 2.75” Rockets
Various Pyrotechnics
Advantages to the Warfighter

- Unfamiliar deployment site (repeating same sites decreases training value)
- Location / proximity to Mid-Atlantic Warfighter Units
- Airfield and drop zones that can support joint operations
- Early (just-in-time) warfighter exposure to developmental equipment
- Link with acquisition community
Advantages to the Warfighter

• Instrumented ranges document results
  – Video / photographic support
  – Automated scoring
• Live fire ranges
  – Individual soldier through platoon level
  – All weapon systems available to corps units
• Combat efficiency through simulation
  – Moving target simulator
  – Evasive targets
  – Near real-time after action reviews
• Unique training opportunities
Advantages to the MRTFB

- Field data for realistic models
- “Just-in-time” real world environment
- Focus integrated test and training instrumentation
- “Greening” of test personnel
- Test cases for Advanced Warfighting Experiments
- Build Test and Training Operations Procedures (combining TOPs and TTPs)
- Validate developmental testing assumptions
- “Piggy-backing” with on-going tests
- Source for Soldier Enhanced Program tests
- Maximize Facility Utilization
The Training Mission Must Fit The Facility Capabilities
The Training Mission Must be The Priority Once it is Scheduled
Training Missions Can be Accomplished Without Adversely Impacting Testing Customers
Warfighters Will Fund Training on MRTFB if the Value is There
MRTFB Can Have a Significant Impact on Warfighter Training & Readiness
Its Worth The Effort!!
Chow Time!