

Joint Training for Joint and Coalition Forces



THE SPECIAL EVENT PANEL AT THE 2005 I/ITSEC EVENT INCLUDED THE KEY GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR JOINT AND MULTINATIONAL TRAINING IN THE U.S., ALLIED COMMAND TRANSFORMATION, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BY MARTY KAUCHAK
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An early morning panel event brought together leaders from five important military organizations. Each presented a unique national or alliance perspective on transforming training to better enable joint and multinational operations.

In introducing the panel, Dan Gardner, director of readiness and training, for policy and programs within the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Readiness, recalled that during Hurricane Katrina relief operations, Operation Iraqi Freedom and other recent missions, the U.S. and its allies “operated as an international team,” and he concluded, “so, we must train as one.”

Gardner reports to Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Readiness Dr. Paul Mayberry, who has the policy lead for the department’s Training Transformation program.

His four panel members selectively described their evolving joint programs to the near-capacity gathering.

Kicking-off the panel was U.S. Army Reserve Brigadier General Steve Hashem, president of the Joint Special Operations University, who provided the U.S.

Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) perspective.

USSOCOM continues to work with U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) and other combatant commands to more effectively train with U.S. allies and friends in a live, virtual and constructive environment. The command is also developing programs, including the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Common Data Base (CDB), which may have applicability for other joint conventional and coalition training.

The CDB will solve one long-standing and costly, in terms of dollars and time, SOF community issue: numerous uncorrelated and usually proprietary databases are being used for mission training preparation.

“CDB aims to replace all of these database formats with one government, unrestricted rights, database format, that contains all of the information required



for the full use of all SOF live, virtual and constructive systems,” said Hashem.

The program is being developed in collaboration with USJFCOM.

Brigadier Bob Brown, the director of operations for Australia’s Joint Combined Training Centre (JCTC), said his project will strengthen bilateral Australian and U.S. training and expand opportunities with the two nations other coalition partners.

JCTC will provide Australia with a persistent national training network which would conceptually be linked to the Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) infrastructure, once technical and policy issues are resolved.

Opportunities to develop the capability await industry. “Already, a number of companies here at the conference are involved in helping us scope this project,” said Brown.

In November 2005, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Australian Minister of Defense Robert Hill signed a memorandum of understanding on joint and combined training, which in part, bolsters the embryonic JCTC.

Program initial operational capability will occur at exercise Talisman Saber 07.

Latvian Army Brigadier General Gundars Abols, the deputy assistant chief of staff of joint education and training, at Allied Command Transformation, said one of his command’s visions for future alliance training resides in the conceptual NATO Distributed Simulation and Training Network.

“Most would agree that the potential of distributed learning and simulation to support NATO training and education remains largely untapped today in NATO,” Abols reflected.

Such a network would integrate existing facilities, including the Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway, and evolving organizations, such as the Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center. It would also provide the framework to achieve that training.

“The follow-on use of technology would undoubtedly allow us to improve the quality and standards of training delivery during exercises to NATO components and other NATO partner forces through the successful mix of live training and virtual and constructive simulation,” he added.

Allied Command Transformation’s long-term training horizon also includes integrating NATO’s training program into

JNTC’s expanding global reach.

U.S. Marine Corps Major General Jon Gallinetti, is both director of joint training at USJFCOM and commander of the Joint Warfighting Center. As the panel’s final speaker, Gallinetti described his command’s broad areas of joint training collaboration. In particular, he pointed out the evolution of JNTC to a true joint global training capability, citing recent events such as Unified Endeavor 05-3 mission rehearsal exercise.

Unified Endeavor’s 5th Corps training audience completed its deployment preparations with live forces, and virtual and constructive assets located at five U.S. venues and three sites in Germany: Grafenwohr Training Area, Ramstein Air Force Base and Warrior Preparation Center.

Six long-time coalition partners participated in the exercise as did senior Iraqi civilians and military representatives. Senior Iraqi military personnel included the commanding general of the Iraqi Armed Forces—the equivalent of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—and the commander of the Iraqi Army—equivalent to the commanding general of the U.S. V Corps. This increased joint context better prepared the training audience to train as it will fight.

“The senior Iraqis who were part of the joint exercise control group very much interacted with the training community, very much wanted to do this, and were very, very good,” Gallinetti said. ★

