

US, ROMANIA PARTICIPATE IN JOINT EXERCISE ROMEX 05

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As the sun rises over the hills of the Babadag Training Area in Romania, the early morning stillness is shattered by the roar of a M2 Bradley fighting vehicle and a Romanian TAB-77 armored personnel carrier. The vehicles were participating in ROMEX '05, the first joint U.S. Army and Romanian Ministry of Defense exercise to take place on Romanian soil. From July 19-31, 2005, elements from the 36th Infantry Division (Texas Army National Guard), U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), and the Romanian Army conducted platoon-level training on the hills of the Babadag Training Area. For 12 days, the Red Scorpions motorized Romanian infantry battalion and the 71st Brigade of the 36th Infantry Division fought against the "Altunan Liberation Front." Before it was all said and done, both units would learn important lessons concerning the execution of coalition operations.

In early July of 2005, elements of the Joint Maneuver Readiness Center (JMTC) deployed to Romania in support of ROMEX '05. This training event gave the JMRC an opportunity to validate its expeditionary capability by deploying a training support package to a remote location while continuing to provide the same capabilities at its home station in Hohenfels and Grafenwoer, Germany. The training support package consisted of the Warhog Maneuver Task Force Observer/Controller (OC) Team, members of Grafenwoehr Range Control, and elements of the Deployable Instrumental Systems in Europe (DISE) team.

The Warhog OC team provided subject matter experts to teach, coach, and mentor the training platoons. They observed the platoons as they planned, prepared, and executed each training event. Upon completion of each iteration of training, the OCs provided feedback in the form of after action reviews (AARs). These AARs were designed to allow the units, through the process of self discovery, to determine their strengths and identify their weaknesses. The OCs also provided doctrinally correct tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) to increase the training unit's ability to execute their missions.

The Range Control team provided subject matter experts in gunnery and marksmanship. This team of trained NCOs was responsible for establishing safe and challenging live fire ranges in accordance with current U.S. Army guidelines. One live-fire event consisted of advanced marksmanship with weapons ranging from the M16 rifle to the Mk19 40mm grenade machine gun. Another portion of the live-fire training consisted of a convoy live-fire range in which platoons were presented with instrumented



Courtesy photos

Romanian "Red Scorpions" assault off of a TAB-77 armored personnel carrier.

pop-up targets that simulated an ambush of their convoy. All of these live-fire events were established and executed by the training unit in an expeditionary training environment.

DISE is a multifaceted system designed to provide state-of-the-art training feedback to equipped units. It is composed of a vest with imbedded global positioning system (GPS) and laser sensor, a laser transmitter on each weapon, an antenna that collects the battle field data, and a computer system that collates and presents the data to a viewer. All individuals operating in each training scenario were equipped with DISE. During an engagement, a blue force (BLUFOR) soldier fires his weapon at an opposing force (OPFOR) insurgent. The firing of the weapon triggers the BLUFOR laser, which in turn is registered as a "hit" on the OPFOR soldier's vest. A signal is sent by the vest to a satellite, which relays the data to the ground based computer system. The system then converts the data to a near real-time display of the events taking place on the ground. Upon completion of the exercise, the entire scenario can be played back during the AAR to emphasize key points on how the unit executed the mission.

The platoons of the 71st Brigade were given three platoon-level missions to execute during the course of their training during ROMEX. These were:

- Conduct Convoy Security,
- Conduct an Urban Combat Patrol, and
- Conduct a Combat Patrol Live Fire.

Each platoon was given sufficient time to conduct their troop



During the Urban Combat Patrol exercise, an OPFOR soldier targets forces as they approach his building.

tasks. Their motivation and demonstrated ability to learn allowed the soldiers and leaders, at all echelons, to better prepare themselves for potential deployments in the future. The JMRC also demonstrated the capability to deploy to a remote site with an effective training package. In the future, as we continue to further develop our expeditionary capability, we will be able to deploy anywhere to support any unit's training objectives. ROMEX '05 proved that we could train effectively with our new NATO ally, Romania. JMRC demonstrated its ability to support the European Command's Security Cooperation strategy with individual through collective training for NATO and emerging partners.

leading procedures prior to the execution of their lanes. Each platoon was also required to execute multiple iterations of each mission at increasing levels of difficulty with respect to OPFOR strength and capabilities in order to increase their level of proficiency at each of the tasks. Every platoon of the 71st BDE was task organized with a squad of Romanian Soldiers. During the Convoy Security and Combat Patrol Live Fire lanes, the platoons were also task organized with a Romanian TAB-77, an eight-wheeled 14.5mm machine gun-equipped armored car similar to a Stryker.

During the Convoy Security lane, the platoons were tasked to escort a mission-essential HEMTT (heavy expanded mobility tactical truck) fueler along a main supply route (MSR). In the course of their mission, the OPFOR would ambush this element and the platoons were forced to react appropriately in order to protect the fueler. During the Urban Combat Patrol mission, the platoons conducted a dismounted patrol of an urban area. The platoons were presented with an enemy that forced them to assault and clear buildings within the village. During the Combat

Patrol Live Fire, the platoons conducted a mounted patrol with live ammunition. During this lane, targets were lifted in order to present a threat that caused the platoons to return fire and destroy the enemy.

ROMEX '05 was resounding success. Every platoon within the 71st Brigade increased their proficiency in all trained

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A Romanian soldier assists a wounded U.S. Army Soldier.