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16th STB plays vital role in multinational exercise

By 2nd Lt. Jen Brouillette
16th Special Troops Battalion

BAMBERG, Germany- Serving in U.S. Army Europe often involves supporting numerous joint and multinational exercises.

During Austere Challenge '11 at Camp Aachen in the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Soldiers of the 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, led by 2nd Lt. Jen Brouillette, a medical services officer and medical platoon leader from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Hudgens, a transportation management coordinator with the 16th Sust. Bde. Headquarters, played key roles during the joint operation.

AC11 involved many different nations including Poland, France and Great Britain, both Army active and reserve units along with other branches of the U.S. Military.

Maj. William Stogner and his team, including Warrant Officer Nicholas Rimmer and Staff Sgt. Larry Mack from 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., were part of the Response Cell as they supported the Coalition Joint Forces Logistical Component Command.

“We were involved in the war gaming and provided notional support for the exercise such as convoy security support and any type of class support,” said Mack.

Warrant Officer Percy Lono, the 16th Sust. Bde. assistant communications officer, led two Soldiers in providing signal support for two signal units.

“We mitigated six zones for help desk tickets throughout the exercise,” said Lono. “Out of the 5,000 tickets created, we closed out over 3,000 in addition to countless other on the spot corrections.”

Brouillette, Hudgens and Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Edwards, a missile systems maintainer with the 16th Sust. Bde. headquarters, served as the Mayor Cell until Soldiers from the 301st Troop Command, 194th Engineer Bde., out of Columbia, Tenn., arrived and assumed the responsibilities.

After beginning Mayor Cell operations, the detachment opened and operated two dining facilities. Sgt. Dirk Hennigan, a food services specialist with HHC, 16th STB, 16th Sust. Bde., served as the noncommissioned officer in charge for both dining facilities that combined in feeding more than 1,600 exercise participants each day.

Although the food was prepared by local contractors, planning for rations was no easy task for Hennigan. The amount of \$75,000 seems substantial, but with the help and guidance of Grafenwoehr's Troop Issue Subsistence Allowance, Hennigan was able to use his assets wisely and spend the least amount of money on food compared to any previous Austere Challenge exercise.

Beyond running two dining facilities and opening the Mayor's Cell, the detachment successfully coordinated for fuel, forklift and equipment movement support for all participating units.

"The 30 days at Austere Challenge 11 was well spent, we accomplished all missions, and everyone learned a lot," concluded Edwards.

CUTLINES

110411-A-ZZ123-001: Spc. Aaron Humphries, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade and Spc. Aaron McPeak a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 240th Quartermaster Supply Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Bn., 16th Sust. Bde., unload rations from a tactical vehicle during Austere Challenge 11 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area in Grafenwoehr, Germany April 11. Rations were picked up every other day in order to successfully feed more than 1,600 participants during the exercise. (U.S. Army photo)

110411-A-ZZ123-002: Sgt. Brandon Koutilidas, a radio and communications security repairer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, gives an informational inprocessing brief to 301st Troop Command, 194th Engineer Bde. personnel, from Columbia, Tenn during exercise Austere Challenge 11 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area in Grafenwoehr, Germany April 11. The 16th Sustainment Brigade Mayor Cell

inprocessed all advanced personnel and closed out the operation. (U.S. Army photo)