

TRAINING: Many of Germany's troops are also trained scientists

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chemical weapons, decoy targets were set up. Troops had to navigate their way through, analyzing what they saw and determining whether they needed to come back, or send the information to higher authorities.

Scientists in the Foxhole

As the troops worked, about 20 scientists followed and observed.

"We bring scientists from national laboratories out to training events," said Maj. Donald. "They see what types of stuff we work on, and modify it for real world usage."

The program, called "Scientists in the Foxhole," allows scientists who develop products or medicines used on the battlefield to refine their own skills and knowledge.

"Most people in labs have never been in the military and have never seen what our mission is," said Lt. Col. Mary Miller, who has run the Scientists in the Foxhole program for the last few years. "How do you develop technology for a mission you've never seen? We'll get weird technology where you can understand why they thought it would work, but in application it doesn't make sense."

Lt. Col. Miller herself is a scientist, with a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology. Her doctoral studies focused on the Ebola virus. Before she took on a more technical role in the Army she was a Medivac pilot.

But many military scientists don't have the same opportunity to see what's going on in the field.

"We try to bridge that gap," she said. "The whole point is that when scientists get back to the lab, they can share what they've learned with their peers."

Doug Carasoli was one of the scientists in the program. He works with the Institute of Chemical Defense at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

"Our institute makes medical counter-measures," he said. "If a (chemical) agent gets through to you and you get sick, that's what we do."

While his group only makes medical products that apply "skin and in," some others in the group of scientists make suits, protective outerwear and other gear.

"The point for us is to come out and get a practical vision of all the other parts," he said. "It gives us perspective of what the people in the green suits actually do."



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Soldiers get ready Sunday for simulation exercises at the Umatilla Army Depot.

"If you've seen anything since Kosovo in the 1990s — we just don't fight wars alone anymore. If we need to decontaminate, we're going to call the Germans. That's how good they are."

— Maj. Ryan Donald, 20th CBRNE command

In the bunkers

Over the course of the training, the troops had to analyze several different scenarios. In one bunker, rows of munitions were set up on the ground, one of which was leaking. In another bunker there were booby traps on the ground around the area with potential targets.

"They get thrown lots of curve balls," Miller said. "Something could tell them it's mustard gas, but it's something else. They have a lot to think about, a lot of information to gather."

At another bunker a few minutes away, troops in masks analyzed another scenario, in which people were using spent fuel from a reactor to extract plutonium, which could be used to make a nuclear weapon.

"They've been in once, assessed for chemical and radiological hazards," said Maj. Aaron Ferguson. "Now, they're removing some computers and documents that might provide some intelligence."

Matt Kalfoglou from the

CBRNE Analytical Remediation Activity team was also on hand to explain what happens on a real chemical investigation.

"(It's) a mobile lab. We go out and do analysis," he said. "We help with training and setting up targets so they have more real-world experience."

He walked through a room that was set up with a series of steps in a hypothetical chemical weapon-building process. From the control room and preparation area to a room where the weapon would actually be constructed, he explained the potential steps and conclusions that could be drawn from each area.

"A lot of information you'll be getting will be secondhand," he said. "You have to work with what you've got."

Kalfoglou said his team has been deployed to the Middle East in the last couple of years, and work hand in hand with a forensics unit.

"We focus mainly on explosives," he said. "We've seen a couple of live samples.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A German officer talks to a group of scientists from all over the country who are participating in a program called Scientists in the Foxhole, which includes simulation exercises at the Umatilla Army Depot



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A German soldier takes a breather from simulation exercises at the Umatilla Army Depot. He stands outside a portable shower complex set up for chemical decontamination.

There's some frightening stuff."

Interoperability

Troops from various U.S. Army facilities, including Fort Bliss in Texas and Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, as well as about 20 German troops from the country's decontamination platoon. They had several pieces of equipment they used to demonstrate safety precautions that troops should take after being near chemical agents.

Along with some basic areas set up to clean boots and store contaminated masks, the German troops had a large metal module, "Module 2," which was designed for decontamination in the field.

Each side of the module has a purpose. On one side, troops can put contaminated clothing into a chamber and

close the door. The module steams them, and deposits them out the other side. Another side of the module has a vacuum compartment to clean electronic devices, and another has a grate where weapons can be cleaned.

Unlike the U.S. Army, many of Germany's troops are also trained scientists, said German Lt. Col. Dirk Veeck.

"We try to train them as soldiers and scientists," Lt. Col. Veeck said. "We like to have that expertise with us on our missions."

Overall, Lt. Col. Veeck said, their goal is to be able to operate seamlessly with other NATO forces.

"We build up a training relationship with the U.S.," he said.

Maj. Donald said training and cooperating with other nations' armies has become

crucial. "If you've seen anything since Kosovo in the 1990s — we just don't fight wars alone anymore. If we need to decontaminate, we're going to call the Germans. That's how good they are."

With discussions about nuclear and chemical warfare frequently in national news, Maj. Donald said these types of preparation will likely increase.

"The threat of CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons) and EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) is increasing," he said. "There is a lot more attention to it. We probably will see more trainings."

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PENDLETON: Wants to increase business licenses

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percent (2016: \$912 million)

- Increase airport lease revenues (2016 Fourth Quarter: \$79,196)

- Create an accounting of unfilled jobs at 10 largest employers

- Increase number of jobs in city limits

- Increase "shovel ready" industrial lands by 10 percent within two years

- Increase commercial building permit numbers by 10 percent

- Increase business licenses

- Increase the assessed land value of commercial and industrial land

Housing

- Increase new dwelling unit construction year over year to 50 units per year (2016 housing: 10 units)

Although the goal planning process has now stretched out to a year, there's still more work to be done.

Corbett said the goals and measurables need to include "action items" — the actual concrete actions the city will take to meet the goals.

Corbett said a lack of action items has kept the goals from being implemented sooner.

"I just haven't done it," he said. "I sometimes get distracted with other things in my job."

At the council workshop,

the council seemed amenable to Corbett providing updates on all of the goals in the meeting agenda packets.

Additionally, Corbett said staff could provide more in-depth reports on a singular goal during the council's monthly workshops.

Councilor Dale Primmer, who worked on developing the goals with Turner and councilor Scott Fairley, said the updates are important to determine whether the city was meeting a goal or in need of a course correction.

Primmer said it was also important to communicate these goals to the public rather than have the conversation driven by people only interested in "vitriolic nonsense."

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This special section will be filled with photos of and messages for adorable little darlings from Umatilla County. Families will want to keep this special keepsake for their child and family for years to come.

PUBLISHES:
June 28, 2017

DEADLINES:
June 08, 2017

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