

TRAINING:

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20 German troops were present, from Germany's decontamination platoon. They had several pieces of equipment they used to demonstrate safety precautions that troops should take after being around chemical agents.

Maj. Ryan Donald of the 20th CBRNE command in Aberdeen, Maryland, 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."

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

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

The program, called "Scientists in the Foxhole," allows scientists that 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."

With discussions about nuclear and chemical warfare frequently in national news, 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."

A longer version of this story is scheduled to appear in the East Oregonian later this week.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

A group of scientists tour Army chemical contamination simulation exercises at the Umatilla Army Depot, occasionally entering ammunition igloos such as this one, where chemical weapons were once stored. The program is called "Scientists in the Foxhole."

FIESTA:

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Hermiston Hispanic Advisory Committee member Mark Gomolski sent an invitation a few months ago asking Peña to come. Peña, gracious and diplomatic, said accepting provided him the opportunity to build more bridges with the local community.

The consul general handles vital services for around 400,000 Mexicans, from providing official documents, including passports, birth certificates and identification, to offering legal advice. The consulate's headquarters are in Portland, but the service area spans most of Oregon and three counties in southwest Washington (Oregon's most eastern counties fall under the Consulate of Mexico in Boise).

"As you can imagine, there's a lot of work," Peña said.

He talked up the office's "mobile consulate," which he said takes services right to migrant labor camps and rural parts of the state. And he said he is working toward increasing tourism between Oregon and Mexico.

Peña took the main stage at Butte Park and delivered



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Francisco Maass Peña, Mexico's consul general for Oregon, speaks to a crowd gathered Saturday for the Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration at Butte Park.

a short dedication in Spanish. After the events, he addressed the effects of the anti-immigrant climate in the U.S. on the consulate's work. He said there may be a culture of preparation emerging.

"I think this is an excellent moment for people to have their Mexican papers in order," he said, and to seek the consulate for help with "immigration diagnostics."

"I'm sure there are a lot of people with real possibilities for immigration, but they don't know it," Peña said, and the consulate can help them explore those options.

Garcia of the advisory committee said the consulate's services are invaluable to the area's Hispanic population. The office really serves as a "consultant" to the Mexican community, he said, even working with



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Cousins Luciano Silva, 4, Nadine Ortego, 5, and Alexis Silva, 6, pose for a photo before riding in the Kid Car Combo at the carnival during the Hermiston Cinco de Mayo celebration Sunday at Butte Park.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Cinco de Mayo queen Natali Armenta gives the traditional salute during the singing of the Mexican national anthem during the Hermiston Cinco de Mayo event of Butte Park. The United States national anthem was played earlier.

families in distress when loved ones face deportation.

The rest of the weekend celebration was more informal, with carnival rides, bands, dancers and food vendors ongoing in the park.

Saturday night included fireworks, which caused some confusion when they went off before 9 p.m. despite a notice on the city's website that they would begin at 9:30 p.m. Beas Fitzgerald said that the fireworks were started as soon as the sun was setting to out of respect for neigh-

bors with homes around the butte who might have been affected by the noise.

Cinco de Mayo princesses Natali Armenta, Daisy Cardenas and Jaleslie Torres helped represent Hermiston's Latino youth at the celebration after winning a Facebook contest for the title. The three Hermiston High School students posted videos about themselves online and gathered the most likes out of all the contestants.

Armenta is a junior and said being a member of the high school's Key Club has helped her "grow tremen-

dously" as a person. She hopes to be able to create her own line of beauty products and start a business to market them someday, and also plans to create her own YouTube channel this summer.

Cardenas is a senior involved in FCCLA (short for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America). She said she plans to become a dentist or an entrepreneur.

Torres is 17 and plans to pursue a career in either modeling or nursing after she finishes school.

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* Study conducted at the University of Northern Colorado, 2015, examined the effectiveness of the new features of primax by collecting and analyzing ongoing EEG data while subjects performed speech testing. For both primax features SpeechMaster and EchoShield, the objective brain behavior measures revealed a significant reduction in listening effort when the feature was activated.
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