



Phoenix Team (NTC Live Fire Range Operations)



PHOENIX 01/OIC



CPT John L. Miller

MISSION:

O/O Phoenix Team Executes Target Support, Horizontal Construction, and Vertical Construction Operations ISO of NTC Rotational Unit Live Fire Exercises.

MOTTO:

THE HARDEST WORKING TEAM IN THE DESERT

PHOENIX 04/NCOIS



SFC Justin R. Shifflet

CURRENT OPERATIONS (Unclassified)

- Phoenix Team, ICW JCOE and InScope Solutions, is currently developing a C-IED, task force level, urban live fire objective and three company level objectives with Shock Absorbent Concrete (SACON). The TF Urban facility consists of 16 SACON sub-objectives, one and two story buildings, situated at the west end of Drinkwater Valley that is capable of facilitating a C-IED offensive operation.
- Phoenix Team recently introduced 82 Multi-Purpose Pyrotechnic Trainers (MPT-30), battlefield effect simulators (BES), as the first stage of phasing out the M-17G BES (Hoffman Device). The MPT-30 uses the M-30 cartridge as the replacement pyrotechnic for the M-21 Hoffman. Endstate is that all M-17Gs supporting 1640 targets are replaced by the MPT-30 BES NLT FY12.
- Phoenix Team just completed eight days of live fire support to Rotation 10-02 and is preparing to support 23 days of live fire for Operation Maple Guardian; a Canadian NTC Rotation. Preparation includes restoration of six live fire training lanes, coordination for target and BES maintenance, construction of additional target requirements, and the introduction of new 3-D foam targetry. Specific preparation for Operation Maple Guardian also includes transforming the Live Fire area in to Afghanistan. At the request of the Canadians the Phoenix Team will add seven culvert complexes to supporting C-IED operations, two large grape field complexes supporting mobility operations, two cemeteries, three buildings and the reconfiguration of one platoon level objective. Also, during Operation Maple Guardian, the Phoenix Team ICW JCOE will implement the new FOX/UVIED IED simulators into Live Fire. During Operation Maple Guardian, the Phoenix Team will provide Target

Support Operators (TSOs) to operate the 380+ targets that are currently used throughout live fire, and O/O rapidly repair damaged and or destroyed mission essential targets and buildings within 18 hours.

- Phoenix Team ICW Raytheon is preparing for the first Hybrid Threat Live Fire Scenario to take place in Rotation 10-09. The Hybrid Threat Scenario is similar in concept to a Movement to Contact LFX, which has not been executed since 2005, but with a smaller target density representing a smaller, less organized, "Opposing Force".

TRANSFORMATION – ROAD AHEAD

The Phoenix Team is in the process of expanding the TDA from 38 authorized Soldiers/Civilians to 47 authorized Soldiers/Civilians IOT safely support five con-current LFX lanes and the TF Urban SACON LFX. In addition to increasing the Phoenix Team's work force, the team is also expanding its heavy equipment fleet to meet the increasing demand for more complex and realistic training scenarios that may require extensive terrain shaping between rotations.

HISTORY:

The Phoenix Team was established in the summer of 1983 at NTC as the Lima Team. The Lima Team was an independent section designed to reset the NTC Live Fire Training Scenario between iterations. At the time the Lima Team consisted of three sections: the offense team, the defense team, and the computer team. The Offense/Defense teams were responsible for resetting and maintaining 365 targets spread across 9 km of desert, 10km of TSC obstacles, 6 km of Anti-Tank Ditch Obstacle, emplacing and removing multiple live minefields, and general maintenance/upkeep of the live area. The Computer team was responsible for responsible for operating the 365 targets from the Live Fire Bunker using a smart live fire target array controlled from a central point using FM. Each target raised and returned fire according to a sophisticated computer and algorithm designed to make the target array look like a regimental sized Soviet unit advancing through the desert.

In the spring of 1984 the Lima team was conceived they were merged with the Dragon and Zulu teams creating a single Live Fire Operations organization, the Dragons. Even though the Limas fell up under the Dragons they maintained their identify and continued to improve Live Fire. The summer of 1984 saw the Limas conduct their first expansion of the live fire area. They opened up Bravo Pass, Leach Lake, and McLean Lake by introducing additional target arrays. Plus the team built several km of road to each of the new areas.

For about the next twenty years operations in the Lima Team went basically unchanged. They continued to improve Live Fire by adding more targetry, objectives, and scenarios. At the height of the Live Fire activity in the early 21st century Live Fire consisted of over 1600 targets, 9 km of Anti-Tank Ditch Obstacles, 20 km of TSC, and 10 km of minefields capable of supporting a HCBT Live Fire exercise with multiple offense and defense scenarios. In August 1998 the Lima Team fell up under the Lizard Team at NTC and stayed there until December 2007 when the team returned to the Dragons.

During 2003 NTC began to shift how they trained units and incorporated lessons learned from OIF/OEF and with that shift Lima 01 noticed a shift in how the team was utilized. They were no longer limited to

operations in live fire, but conducted operations throughout the NTC training area constructing towns, caves, and individual Live Fire STX lanes focused at platoon and company operations. Because of the shift in operations the Limas were renamed as the Phoenix. In 2005 the Phoenix team transitioned from an all Soldier unit to a primarily civilian organization. The Offense Team, Defense Team, and Computer Team were replaced by the 53 Team (carpenters), 58 Team (heavy equipment operators), and by the 54/55 Team (target system operators). Also in 2005 NTC conducted the last brigade level live fire exercise and switched to the platoon/company level Live Fire STX lanes consisting of a Mounted Combat Patrol Lane, Urban-Battle Drill 6 Lane, and a Close Combat Air Lane. Throughout 2007 and 2008 the Phoenix Team expanded the Live Fire STX capability from three lanes to seven lanes; adding a two objective rural STX lane, a COP defense lane, a artillery walk and shoot lane, and a Joint Air-Artillery Training (JAAT) lane.



