



Civil Military Operations Capabilities Exercise (CMO CAPEX)

1-3 AUG 2008



United States Marine Corps

4th Civil Affairs Group

*Anacostia Naval Annex
Naval District Washington
Washington, DC*



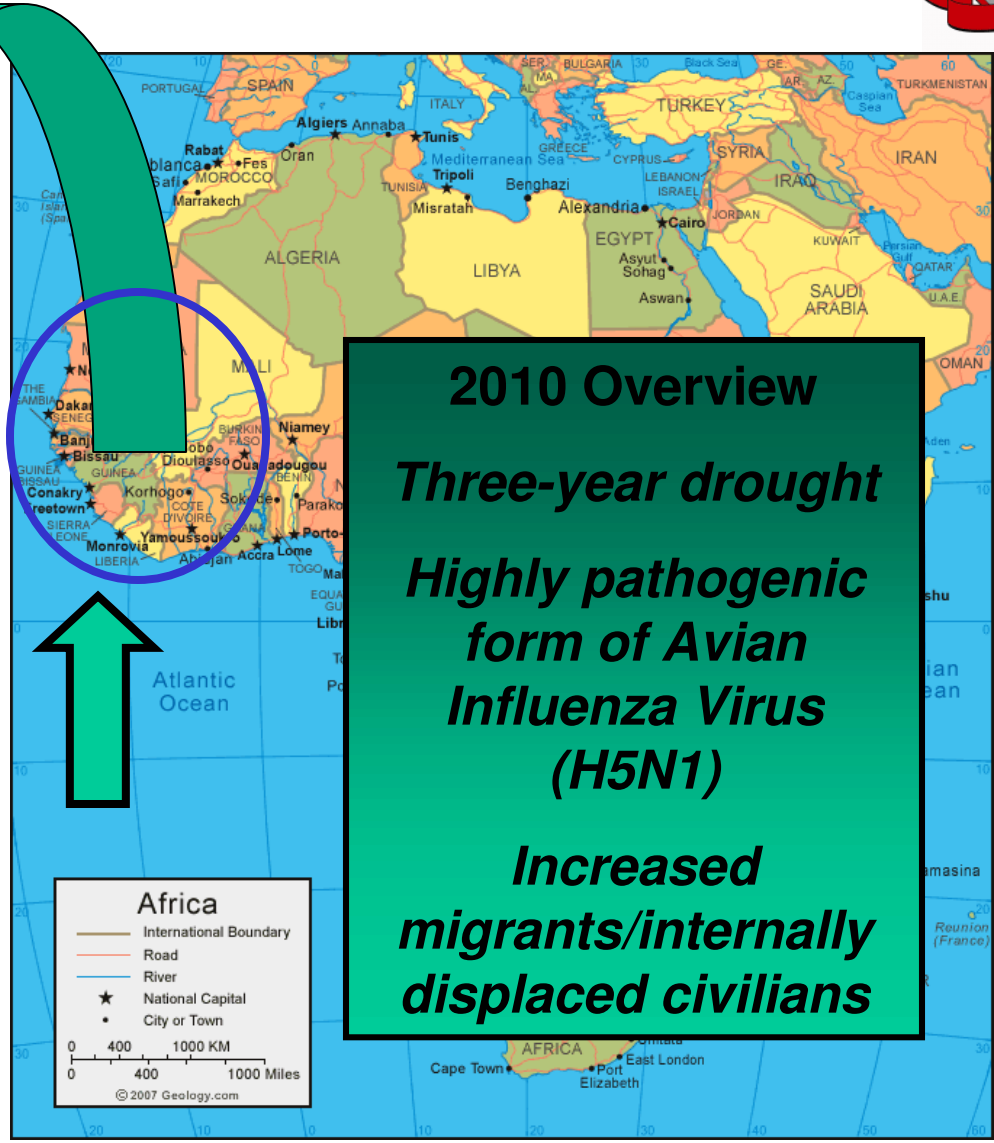
AFTER ACTION ITEMS LESSONS LEARNED



4th CAG AUG 2008 CMO CAPEX



Notional themes based on actual events.





4th CAG AUG 2008 CMO CAPEX



LtCol John Church, Operations Officer, 4th CAG explains the beginning of the Civil Military Operations Capabilities Exercise (CAPEX) to the Commanding Officer, Col Gerard Fischer, the command sergeant major, SgtMaj O'Neal Johnson and the "acting" Political Advisor Mr. Justin Goldman of MCIA.



Soldiers from the US Army 354th Civil Affairs Brigade joined forces with 4th CAG Marines in a presence patrol through Hogan's Alley at the FBI Facility in Quantico Va. Below, second from right, LtCol Chris Del Corso leads Det 4-1 during CAPEX.

The "POLAD" makes a point to the maneuver commander





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Left, Anthony Albanese son of Army Major Albanese volunteers to role play at the medical clinic in Hogan's Alley. Below, the Albanese family is thanked by the CO of 4th CAG for their support to CAPEX.



Above and left. Ms. Jill Moss, a volunteer from Voice of America, interacts with Maj Providence Nagy USMC, the Headquarters Det Commander and at left receives Moss thanks from GySgt Fletcher Vietch who "coached" the role players and Marines through CAPEX.





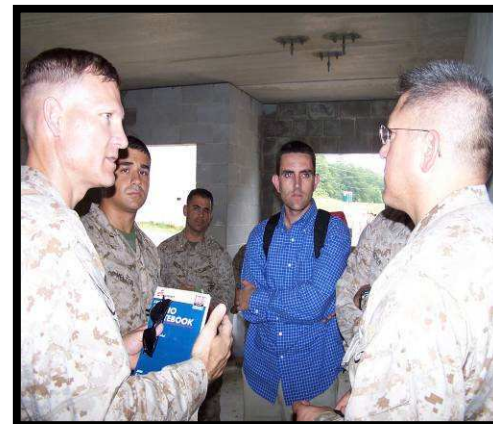
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Above the POLAD and CO 4th CAG confer with LtCol Curtis Lee, (right) commander of Det 4-3. Left, representatives from the US Navy Maritime Civil Affairs Group serve as Tactical Evaluation Teams and observe LtCol Lee and Prof Davis.



Above and left, Professor David Davis of the George Mason University, the Director, Peace Operations Policy Program “role plays” and interacts with LtCol Curtis Lee, (standing) commander of Det 4-3, as representatives from the US Navy Maritime Civil Affairs Group serve as Tactical Evaluation Teams.



LtCol Jim Griffith of 3rd CAG, left, observes and questions CAPEX participants. 3rd CAG will execute its own CAPEX next fall.



4th CAG AUG 2008 CMO CAPEX



Above left, media training, both actual and notional, was a part of the 4th CAG CMO CAPEX. Above, Col Fischer confers with the leadership of the US Army Civil Affairs community who observe soldiers, Marines and sailors participating in CAPEX.

Far left, civil and military role players the 4th CAG CMO CAPEX rest. Near left, Col Fischer confers with the role players, many of whom volunteered to participate in CAPEX.



4th CAG AUG 2008 CMO CAPEX



B6

Quantico Sentry

B7

THE 4TH CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP CONDUCTS ENGAGEMENTS, LEADERSHIP

CAG Marines from page A1

a humongous convoy into the MOUT facility, they were quickly beset by the crowds of role-players who enthusiastically plunged into their roles as nearly local nationals, making the CAG Marines' task of setting up a Civil Military Affairs Center to assess and provide assistance for the various demands of the populace all the more challenging. Adding to the mess were other role-players who acted as budding civilian media, international newscasters, and host-nation security forces. The Marines soon found themselves required to deal with distressed civilians, newscasters begging for economic assistance, claims of rape or even accusations from various investigations that the CAG Marines were there only to exploit the suffering citizens.

"The role-players are going to put some pressure on them," Corve said. "They're going to need fuel and they're going to go to the CMAC and to any Marine they can find and ask them for anything they can think of and the Marines have to go through the prioritization and the allocation process in such a way as to provide the services that they can to relieve the suffering... and at the same time assist in the larger military mission."

According to James Hahn, one of the role-players who volunteered from an unnamed conscience group, all the role-players were given an extensive briefing in the area they were supposed to represent, including both a political and historical briefing. "I just believe in their mission (of civil affairs)," said Hahn. "It's (the training) very valuable to the Marines."

"It keeps us sharp... on the cutting edge," agreed Cpl. Ryan Felt, Civil Affairs noncommissioned officer for 4th CAG. "Obviously you can't perfectly replicate it... it really helps lay that foundation that you build up from. We've got a lot of new people joining the unit, so obviously they're getting up to speed."

As the CAG Marines spent the day establishing and fortifying their CMAC, conducting key-leadership engagements, assisting to sick individuals and exercising civil-information management, they were never far from the watchful eye of their evaluators.

According to Lt. Col. Christopher Kelly, officer-in-charge of the Marine detachment at the Marine Civil Affairs Group, located at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, the evaluations had certain training goals they wanted the Marines to reach, but remained flexible if the Marines needed to spend more time dealing with a particular scenario. After the training exercise not only the CAG Marines but also the role-players were scheduled to receive a detailed after-action report, as well as the opportunity to throw in their own own cents from the most junior rank up, he said.

According to Church, the whole training scenario was based on the 4th CAG's extensive deployment history, including three deployments to Iraq, as well as deployments to Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo.

"We're always deploying," Church said. "Future civil affairs deployments are expected, Church added, because they correspond exactly to the Commandant's Vision and Strategy 2025 document, which calls for more humanitarian assistance to host-nations

across the spectrum of military operations.

"The second role-play is based on that (Commandant's Vision and Strategy 2025)," Church said. "We understand the need for episodic presence, primarily driven by commanding general's understanding of the commander's vision."

According to Vision and Strategy 2025, increasing the security and humanitarian assistance that host-nations will eventually be able to provide for themselves, will prevent such countries, especially those like the training scenario's West Africa nation within the "Arc of Instability," from becoming a breeding ground for extremists.

Fichter added, "Conducting civil affairs operations... that will define the enemy before things go kinetic... to be engaged in places where we can do an all-out effort before they're able to have the opportunity to get inside the minds of the population."

The facilities around Quantico, including MOUT, Camp Upham, and the FBI's Hogan's Alley, proved to be ideal for the "robust training package" that Church said they were looking for.

"This is definitely a more robust, creative, innovative and enhanced approach to civil-military operations at the tactical level and it truly does reflect with great accuracy what our operational experiences have been," Church said.

"This is a big win for us," he continued, referring to all the volunteers and all the in-service assistance in the training that he said replicated the in-service environment that is necessary while conducting civil-military affairs overseas. "We'll definitely do this next year."

Clockwise from right, Marines from the 4th Civil Affairs Group, based at Naval Support Facility, Anacostia, Washington, D.C., work to establish a Civil Military Affairs Center to assess and prioritize the humanitarian needs of urban terrain facility here, which represented a notional West African nation, during a capstone training exercise, Saturday. Below, Cpl. Ryan Felt (right), civil affairs noncommissioned officer for the 4th Civil Affairs Group, addresses the concerns of volunteer role-players acting as non-government humanitarian agencies. Left, Janets Hahn (left) and Sgt. Joshua T. Greenfield (right), volunteer role-players as civilian journalists. Far left, the 4th Civil Affairs Group, interact with volunteer role-players, who are acting as local nationals in need of humanitarian assistance.



Story and photos by 1st Lt. Dietrich Boyce

Press Officer



2ndLt Boyce USMC of the Quantico Sentry supported the CAPEX as a "media role player" and provided actual coverage of the event.