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**Photo(s) by Spc. Kyndal Hernandez 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs**

Spc. Ian Wramp, an EOD team member with 8th TSC's 706 EOD control team, operates the computer system that controls the robot designed to diagnose, disable and dispose of IEDs with cameras and tools that are attached.

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## Troops receive advanced training

By Spc. Kyndal Hernandez 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, military and civilian, just completed a new five-week advanced EOD training program called the "Five Week Road to War" at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site.

The Five Week Road to War is a three-part training program where troops from the Army, Navy and Air Force, and the Honolulu Police Department's bomb squad receive classroom and hands-on instruction in electronics, real-world situations, systematic threats and more.

The program was taught by EOD technicians with AT Solutions, an industry leading Anti/Counter Terrorism Training and Consulting firm, and Joint Asymmetric Threat And Counter (JATAC) Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

"We have been training since the end of January," said Sgt. 1st Class Teague Bode, operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command's 706th Ordnance Company (EOD).

"We have had classroom and hands-on training with tools and electronics, and now we are doing real-world situational exercises," Bode added during the training Feb. 13.

The first week of the course focused on electronics, explained Vic Stahl, team leader for the advanced EOD course. "They learned everything from electronic theory, all the way up to building circuits."

During the second and third weeks, troops and police officers were divided into teams and put in realistic scenarios, forcing them to develop a solution and take action to accomplish a mission on their own.

In one scenario, a team used a robot in response to a reported vehicle-born IED, after spotting a suspicious box on the rear end of the vehicle.

The operational tempo really escalated during the second and third weeks of training, Stahl said. During

that phase, he said, "We did a few days of classroom instruction and then we immediately went out and started running very realistic theater-like scenarios. We treat this entire area like it's a real FOB [Forward Operating Base] in Iraq," he added.

Stahl said all scenarios used in the course are drawn from actual incidents that happened in Iraq.

"This is really good training because the troops get to do everything," Bode said. "The EOD technicians just give them the scenarios, and it's all the troops' decisions from there, which helps them to learn better, because they are learning from their own mistakes."

"A war zone is no place to learn your job," Stahl added. "The more they learn here, the better prepared they are actually going to be when they hit the sandbox. We want them to do all their learning and make all their mistakes here where they can set off a buzzer or a siren, instead of a charge. So, they get repetitive action, and they get more prepared."

Stahl said, when the unit deploys, there will still be the shock of war, but some of the other things will become very simple as far as how the unit operates.

During the final phase of the course, troops learned about systematic threats, chemicals, weapons of mass destruction and nuclear bombs. They began that training Tuesday.

"So far this training has been absolutely awesome," said Spc. Ian Wramp, from 706th Ordnance Company (EOD). "We always do a lot of training, but we never get to do training with live explosives. This is the first time I have had the chance to use real explosives since I was in school ... and that was seven months ago."