

The Warrior Preparation Center Training Transformation Defined

The airpower training exercise *Red Flag* at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, enabled generations of Airmen to be battle tested prior to combat. While stationed with U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE), Colonel Richard “Moody” Suter, USAF, the key officer responsible for founding *Red Flag*, established the Warrior Preparation Center (WPC) at Einsiedlerhof Air Station, Germany. The center, which began in 1983 as a computer simulation center, focused initially on air defense and electronic warfare. A year later, the Army joined the simulation effort based on shared concerns over air defense and other joint issues, with the Navy following by assigning personnel from 1996 to 2005. Today, the WPC is a joint Service wargaming facility led by the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Commanding General and the USAFE Commander and tasked to provide realistic environments for senior commanders to train their battlestuffs using computer-assisted simulations for joint forces, multinational headquarters, and Service components.

Presaging the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, the WPC established a joint organization by 1984. The center has operated continuously since then under memoranda of agreement signed by USAFE and USAREUR leaders. This relationship has allowed the center to capitalize more effectively and efficiently on joint training synergy at the operational level by being able to manage resources to the benefit of the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), coalition partners, and USAFE and USAREUR.

The WPC has been recognized as a leader in technical and operational innovation since its inception. In the early 1980s, its pioneers used the research, evaluation, and systems analysis model the Navy formed in 1982 to develop air warfare simulation (AWSIM) for training Air Force and NATO

senior commanders and their battlestuffs in the execution of wartime general defense plans that emphasized joint and conventional operations. By 1988, AWSIM was implemented as a training and education model by the WPC. Today, it is the core model of the Air and Space Constructive Environment Suite used worldwide to train senior battle commanders and their staffs within the Air Force and across the Department of Defense (DOD). It provides the opportunity to train for joint and combined prosecution of war using interactive computer simulations that replicate a realistic battlespace, incorporating various audiences through worldwide distribution. In 1989, the WPC pioneered distributed wargaming in the first NATO-wide computer-assisted exercise for Allied Command Europe. Global distributed wargaming became a reality in 1992, when the WPC began a partnership with the Korean Battle Simulations Center to assist in conducting the annual exercise *Ulchi Focus Lens* for the Korean theater.

Between 1992 and 1999, the center made a rapid switch from facilitating Cold War needs to exercises that prepared joint task force (JTF) commanders, joint force air component commanders (JFACCs), and their staffs for missions ranging from contingency to humanitarian operations. Beginning in 1992, in conjunction with USEUCOM, USAFE implemented JTF and JFACC battle staff training to give real-world contingency commanders and staffs a hands-on understanding of what to do in future conflicts. The *Trailblazer* and *Union Flash* exercises were instrumental in preparing the Third and Sixteenth Air Force commanders and staffs for the missions they were assigned during the 1990s and at the turn of the century in areas such as the Balkans, Africa, and Southwest Asia. Additionally, the WPC blazed new trails in 1995 by providing a real-world mission rehearsal for the Commander, Allied Forces Southern Europe, and his staff for their deployment to Bosnia, a NATO first.

This type of innovative exercise execution and transformation in the 1990s

prepared the center to execute USAFE’s rehearsal for air operations in the Balkans and V Corps’ rehearsal for Task Force Hawk in 1999. Moreover, in April 1999, with conflict ongoing in the Balkans, the center hosted Joint Task Force Shining Hope, the headquarters responsible for humanitarian assistance operations in the region. In November of that year, during the air war over Serbia, the center provided analysts who worked around the clock at the Air Operations Center in Ramstein, Germany, assessing the impact of operations. WPC programmers built a database to record, track, and validate mission reports and provided the primary and most credible source for battle damage assessments. Its information was also crucial in pinpointing unexploded ordnance after the war, allowing a quicker return to normalcy.

A Shift in Focus

The WPC continued its pioneering ways by hosting a senior commander’s seminar in January 2000, so the USEUCOM combatant commander could refine the planning for future operations in the Balkans. This ongoing relationship of supporting USEUCOM training and events, coupled with the WPC’s frequent support of NATO throughout its 22-year history, reveals an organization that actively seeks opportunities to contribute to the warfighter.

The last few years have seen a shift of focus to the war on terror. In 2003, the WPC planned and conducted the exercises *Danger Focus II* and *Freedom Resolve*, the mission rehearsals for preparing the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and III Corps to support Operation *Iraqi Freedom*. During *Iraqi Freedom*, the WPC supported the Air Force A9 (Mission Rehearsal and Analysis) role. The center’s work with the A9 in providing red-team events, operational analysis, and capturing lessons learned with remediation provided key support to U.S. Central Command. Following the practice of taking on nontraditional missions, the WPC work in red-teaming also contributed to security for the NATO Summit

in Prague in 2002, as well as supporting Presidential visits to Europe.

The Warrior Preparation Center has changed from a Cold War, garrison-based posture to an organization in transition that exemplifies the DOD training transformation. The center was recently named by USEUCOM as the Joint National Training Capability Center of Excellence for Europe, taking on the tasks of fielding and integrating new battlestaff training techniques and technologies. Additionally, it was named the USAFE Distributed Mission Operations (DMO) center of excellence and charged with planning for and building a DMO command and control capability. The goal of the WPC for both programs is to prepare and conduct command and staff training within the live, virtual, and constructive (LVC) training domains. Traditionally, units have had to train individually at echelon, with higher and lower units acting as response

cells. Today, linked multiechelon training with the LVC domains is possible through robust distributed networks, allowing units to train at home stations or at expeditionary locations.

Suter's legacy means much more than innovation. At the end of the day, the WPC exists so Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines can train together at the operational level of war. It also exists so they can blend their doctrine and tactics in the art of decisionmaking to command and control troops in contact. Moreover, it is at this operational level, which by definition is joint, that we either plan and fight as a team or approach the battlefield in an unsynergistic, disconnected path. Further, WPC exists so the Nation and coalition partners can avoid unnecessary loss in places like Kasserine Pass in North Africa in 1943, or those during Operation *Anaconda* in Afghanistan. It exists so that effective air-ground teams can take the fight to the enemy

with swift victory in places such as the breakout of St. Lo in World War II or on the road to Baghdad in *Iraqi Freedom*.

The Warrior Preparation Center allows commanders and their staffs to work out the decisionmaking process, refine it, and prepare for the known or suspected, but more importantly to approach the battlespace with confidence in their ability to handle the fog and friction of real war. The bottom line for the WPC is to prepare commanders to get the job done with less blood and treasure. As the global security environment continues to transform, Moody Suter's Warrior Preparation Center will remain an innovator, dedicated to excellence in training, and living up to its motto, *Prepare to Win*. The WPC standard is that no one can do more, and no one should expect less. **JFQ**

Foundation Announces Establishment of the Colin L. Powell Chair at NDU

The National Defense University Foundation (NDUF) recently announced the establishment of the Colin L. Powell Chair for National Security Leadership, Character, and Ethics at the National Defense University.

The Chair is named for Colin L. Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State. General Powell's extraordinary life of military, government, and private service to his nation exemplifies the ideals the Chair is established to uphold. General Powell is a graduate of the National War College and a recipient of the NDUF American Patriot Award.

"At the initiative of Nash Broaddus, Chairman Emeritus of the NDU Foundation, and as a direct result of his generosity, we are pleased to be able to establish such a fundamentally important program for the National Defense University," said NDUF President, General Charles D. Link, USAF (Ret.). "Nash Broaddus, founder of Prodesco, Inc., in 1975, served as a Naval officer in two wars (World War II and the Korean War). During World War II, he earned the distinction of being

the youngest Destroyer Escort Commander in the U.S. Navy. In 1993, he received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. He is a patriot and a tremendous supporter of the National Defense University.

"Mr. Broaddus and the other members of the Board of Directors are especially pleased that General Richard B. Myers, USAF (Ret), 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be the first incumbent of the Powell Chair," according to General Link.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, General Myers entered the Air Force in 1965 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. His career includes operational command and leadership positions in a variety of Air Force and joint assignments. General Myers became the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2001, and he retired on September 30, 2005.

General Powell conveyed his approval, "General Myers is a distinguished leader and patriot. I am very pleased that he will be bringing his talents and experience to inaugurate this new chair. I also express my appreciation

to Mr. Nash Broaddus for his generosity in creating this new opportunity for learning at the National Defense University."

Reaction from members of Congress was equally positive: Congressman Ike Skelton, a strong advocate of professional military education, stated, "General Myers has served our country with uncommon distinction and integrity, applying common sense to the challenges of his position as Chairman. . . . He has also provided stellar stewardship of joint professional military education and sound and thoughtful advice to me and my colleagues."

The Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Duncan Hunter, added, "I have personally witnessed General Myers in the middle of the arena that we call Washington, DC, under enormous political pressure that attends most major security decisions. Never was a national leader more courageous. General Myers exemplifies integrity and loyalty to his oath of services that will be well reflected in his new role molding American military leaders." **JFQ**