



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1034th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 734th Regional Support Group, Iowa Army National Guard, set up an individual universal improved combat shelter in a training area at the Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center. (Photo by Spc. Tawny Schmit)



The Sustainment Training Center:

The Army National Guard's Premiere
Sustainment Training Capability

■ By Lt. Col. David E. Babb

FEATURES

The Sustainment Training Center provides tailored, integrated, and scalable sustainment training that aligns with each commander's specific priorities.

The Army National Guard (ARNG) Sustainment Training Center (STC) at Camp Dodge, Iowa, serves as the ARNG's primary training center for sustainment units and provides collective technical and tactical training and evaluations. Field maintenance, multifunctional logistics, and medical training are focused at the section, platoon, and company levels.

The STC, together with Mission Training Complex–Dodge (MTC–Dodge), provides relevant and realistic training that increases individual and collective proficiencies from the tactical level to echelons above brigade. This multiechelon training environment incorporates downtrace organizations, including distribution companies, field maintenance companies, medical companies, and forward support companies (FSCs).

STC Capabilities

The STC campus is on approximately 4 acres and includes 48 heated maintenance bays with heavy overhead lift capability and more than 100,000 square feet of technical maintenance and multifunctional logistics training space. STC subject matter experts (SMEs) evaluate Soldiers according to standard training and evaluation outlines and applicable combined arms training strategies found on the Army Training Network website.

The STC is the leader in logistics collective training, and its staff takes pride in offering relevant and realistic training in a scalable operational environment. STC instructors possess technical and tactical experience that helps them to train and mentor logisticians for future operations.

STC trainers use the latest information from the Center for Army Lessons Learned. The center follows the "train as you fight" principle to establish a solid foundation for Soldiers.

All Soldiers at the STC train with current theater end items and components of the end items and operate

within the Global Combat Support System–Army (GCSS–Army) environment. Training at the STC uses the latest generation of theater-specific equipment, current doctrine, and logistics enabling systems.

The center also includes a live supply support activity that supports current Army force structure.

Training Weeks

The training focus during week one begins with the unit's arrival and the completion of reception, staging, onward movement, and integration requirements.

Units receive GCSS–Army training, conduct property accountability and inventories, learn deliberate risk management procedures, and complete equipment refresher training as necessary. Soldiers conduct their technical training in a tactical environment to ensure their skills are geared toward the unified land operations concept.

At the end of the first week, unit leaders receive an operation order for the culminating training event for week two, which is a three-day field training exercise. This exercise provides trainers and unit leaders an opportunity to evaluate their Soldiers and look for areas that need improvement.

During the second week, training is focused on collective tasks set forth by the commander's mission-essential task list (METL) and key collective tasks. Training aids and devices augment, improve, and enhance the training and facilitate learning in current doctrine, theory, diagnostics, and troubleshooting techniques.

Multifunctional Training

Soldiers in these military occupational specialties (MOSs) are the primary audience for STC multifunctional logistics training:

- Motor transport operator (MOS 88M).
- Ammunition specialist (MOS 89B).



Soldiers from the 700th Brigade Support Battalion, Oklahoma Army National Guard, latch supplies onto a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during their annual training at the Sustainment Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa, in April 2015. (Photo by Spc. Elijah Morlett)

- Automated logistical specialist (MOS 92A).
- Petroleum supply specialist (MOS 92F).
- Water treatment specialist (MOS 92W).

Motor transport operators become proficient in convoy operations on varied terrain and roads while conducting mounted land navigation. They learn how to manage their loads (both cargo and personnel) to ensure safety at all times. STC SMEs integrate the basics of conducting preventive maintenance checks and services and vehicle inventories with “truck rodeo” training to enforce the always-ready approach.

The STC ensures ammunition specialists are trained on storing and handling ammunition, explosives, and their associated components to ensure safety. The STC trains these Soldiers on receiving, storing, and is-

suage conventional munitions, guided missiles, large rockets, explosives, and other ammunition-related items.

Automated logistical specialists participate in field training and also have opportunities for training at the STC’s live supply support activity. They process requests, conduct turn-ins and inventories, perform prescribed load list and shop stock list duties, prepare and annotate shipping documents, conduct operations using radio frequency identification technology, operate the very small-aperture terminal, and operate materials handling equipment.

Petroleum supply specialists gain experience in petroleum distribution, handling, and storage through specific task training. During their annual training period, the 92Fs account for petroleum, operate petroleum distribution equipment, conduct refuel on the move operations, take emergency precautions to prevent accidents,

and possibly conduct air refueling operations.

Water treatment specialists train on the fundamentals of water purification using multiple purification platforms, including the lightweight water purifier and the tactical water purification system. They operate bulk water distribution using load handling system compatible water tank racks (hippos) during logistics package convoy missions.

Maintenance Company Training

The STC trains personnel from both support maintenance companies and field maintenance companies. Soldiers receive hands-on training that enhances the individual technical skills and leadership skills necessary to master the unit’s collective training requirements, regardless of whether the unit is within a brigade combat team or a sustainment brigade.

The commander sets training priorities by identifying unit goals and objectives upon arrival at the center. The STC staff orients the training to support the maintenance-related METL. The STC staff trains all maintenance platoons, sections, and teams in the field maintenance arena, regardless of configuration or specialty.

The STC Maintenance Control Section takes over the unit's entire maintenance activity from the first day the advance party arrives. This section is responsible for managing, leading, and directing all maintenance activities while using GCSS-Army.

Maintenance platoons quickly recognize the maintenance shop as a place to refine the individual tasks maintenance Soldiers require. Training is accomplished through a hands-on concept with over-the-shoulder training by the STC staff or in a classroom environment, whichever

is more appropriate to the task being taught to the Soldiers.

Medical Company Training

The STC staff members work with commanders to personalize medical training based on their assessments of the unit. During the first training week, the focus is on individual tasks for each MOS. While health care specialists (MOS 68W) go through the 48-hour sustainment training at Camp Dodge's Medical Simulation Training Center, the remaining medical personnel perform individual tasks at a civilian medical treatment facility.

Medical unit leaders participate in staff training and a military decision-making process (MDMP) seminar to learn their roles as leaders. During the second training week, the entire medical company reunites at Camp Dodge and functions in a fixed role 2 medical treatment facility, complete with equipment provided by the

STC. The second week's focus is the commander's METL and key collective tasks.

The training evaluation encompasses the spectrum of point-of-injury and role 1 tactical combat casualty care through evacuation and stabilization at the role 2 medical treatment facility. Soldiers perform hands-on medical training using very realistic mannequins that react to the medical treatment being performed. SMEs at the STC evaluate Soldiers according to the training and evaluation outlines and applicable combined arms training strategies found on the Army Training Network.

FSC Training

While training at the STC, FSC maintenance platoons and distribution platoons encounter a realistic training environment and receive the same high level of training provided to distribution and field maintenance companies.



Iowa National Guard Soldiers help position a humvee onto a flatrack as then Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning maneuvers the vehicle using a mine-resistant ambush-protected wrecker. Fanning visited the Sustainment Training Center at the Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnston, Iowa, on July 14, 2016. (Photo by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden)

The unit commander establishes goals and objectives 210 days prior to arrival, and the STC staff members serve as enablers, assisting the unit in recognizing key tasks and developing a glide path to accomplish those objectives. The FSC focuses on training to standard while supporting a notional maneuver commander instead of just meeting mission support requirements.

Mission Command Training

The STC's partnership with the ARNG Mission Command Training Support Program (MCTSP), through MTC-Dodge, provides mission command training and simulation exercises focused on the MDMP for staffs at the battalion level and above. This is a unique multiechelon, integrated sustainment training environment not found at any other location.

Battalion and above staff training through the MCTSP instructs commanders and their staffs in the MDMP and operation order production. The training culminates in a digital command post exercise focused on operations across the range of intensity, including offense, defense, and stability operations.

The program accommodates all levels of staff proficiency, from a newly organized staff to one that has experienced operators. MTC-Dodge can conduct digital exercises employing various Army Battle Command Systems. The sustainment simulation exercise can be run on a variety of drivers, including the Entity Resolution Federation driver, the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation, and the Joint Deployment Logistics Model.

Units training at the STC focus on developing the concept of support and its role in the operations process. They also produce a logistics common operational picture.

Individual Diagnostic Training

The STC currently hosts 15 individual training opportunities for full-time ARNG maintenance tech-



Capt. Douglas Castleberry sets up his personal area inside a universal improved combat shelter at the Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center. (Photo by Spc. Tawny Schmit)

nicians. These courses involve the M1 Abrams family of vehicles, the M2A2 and M2A3 Bradley fighting vehicles, the tactical water purification system, the M88A1 and M88A2 recovery vehicles, and the rough-terrain cargo handler.

The STC also has four-wheel vehicle training that includes courses on maintenance support device diagnostics, electrical troubleshooting and diagnostics, hydraulic and fuel systems, and brakes and axles. Technicians who work at various state maintenance and equipment training sites, unit training equipment sites, combined support maintenance sites, and field maintenance shops are eligible to attend these courses at the STC.

None of the above courses are MOS qualifying or MOS producing, but all technician instruction includes the most current repair procedures using approved manuals as guides.

The STC's collective and individual training focuses on leadership, logistics enablers, diagnostics and troubleshooting, and medical skills within a

live GCSS-Army environment. This unique training center provides the best place for sustainment commanders to objectively assess Soldiers and unit readiness. Building sustainment readiness for the total force is the STC's only priority.

Contact STC Operations at (515) 727-3522 and STC Technician Training at (515) 727-3579 for further information on how to schedule a unit for these exceptional training opportunities. For questions about the MCTSP and MTC-Dodge, contact MTC-Dodge Operations at (515) 331-5720/5760.

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