

MCTP's Operations Group Sierra trains the 38th Sustainment Brigade for upcoming Kuwait deployment

Story by Capt. Eileen Hernandez, MCTP Public Affairs

Mission Command Training Program's Operations Group Sierra, the sustainment training team, travelled to North Fort Hood, Texas on Sep. 15 to conduct a Culminating Training Exercise for the 38th Sustainment Brigade, Indiana Army National Guard before they deploy to Kuwait for a nine-month rotation.

The CTE is the 38th Sust. Brigade's last training opportunity to master mission command and improve staff integration and working relationships before deploying to Kuwait. The 38th Sust. Bde. will spend the next nine months providing logistical support in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

As members of the "avenger brigade" they worked through a variety of realistic scenarios they may encounter on their mission. Members of OPSGRP Sierra were there to teach, coach, mentor and train efficient logistical practices.

MCTP specializes in teaching the process of mission command. Mission command is the theory behind how staffs process information in order to give knowledgeable recommendations to their commander.

"We have contracted just about everything else in the Army, except for mission command in the Army, think about that," said Col. J.P. Silverstein, Chief of Observer, Coach Trainers, OPSGRP Sierra, while stressing how critical mission command is to organizations.

"Part of the science of control (a main concept in mission command theory), is data," said Silverstein speaking to the training audience during the mid-After Action Review. "There is no shortage of data, but it's how we process it and act on it that makes that data relevant."

OPSGRP Sierra provided observer/trainers selected for their subject matter expertise and knowledge of doctrine. Throughout the CTE, OC/Ts gave members of the training audience feedback on how they perform tasks and ways they could improve their mission command processes.

“Sometimes it not about whether or not the training audience performs a task perfectly the first time, it’s about the process they take and how they learn from mistakes,” said Maj. Twanna Johnson, OPSGRP Sierra OC/T.

“Our job is ultimately to make them successful, as OC/Ts you want to make sure that they know their jobs,” said Johnson.

“Take the feedback you have received at this mid-AAR and use it to improve your foxhole.” said Col. Deedra Thombleson, 38th Sust. Bde. commander, as she addressed her staff during the mid-AAR.

“You have a great attitude,” said Col. Clay Hatcher to the training audience. “You are learning and evolving and getting better as a staff, keep up the good work.”

The 38th Sust. Bde. had a short pause in the CTE to evaluate and refine their processes before starting again.