

Adaptive Focus Force Protection Exercise

By Sergeant First Class Pam Voss

The 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) and the 501st Sustainment Brigade (SBDE) made history when the 19th Republic of Korea (ROK) Chemical Battalion arrived at the gate of Camp Carroll on 23 May 2007 to participate in an adaptive focus force protection exercise. This event marked the first time that an ROK chemical battalion performed a decontamination exercise on a U.S. Army installation. The exercise was a follow-up event to the agreement signed in November 2003 that transferred decontamination missions from the United States to ROK control.

The idea of a force protection exercise began several months ago when the 19th ESC staff met with the Second ROK Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Chief; his staff; and members of the 19th ROK Chemical Battalion. During the meeting, they discussed tactics and doctrine and mutually agreed to execute a combined exercise. An adaptive-focus exercise provided that opportunity. "This is . . . a first step to turning over operational control on [decontamination] decon operations to the ROK Army," said the assistant CBRN officer for the 19th ESC. Nearly 40 ROK soldiers participated in the exercise, which included the decontamination of vehicles, terrain, and Soldiers. "They brought their own equipment and were really eager to get started," said the 501st SBDE CBRN noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC).

After the group geared up, they proceeded to the water point to fill up three tank-and-pump units that would be used in the operation. "They were able to fill up . . . To provide an additional water source, the fire department was prepared to support the operation with two fire trucks," said the NCOIC. While ROK Soldiers filled their trucks, a team from the 501st was busy conducting a chemical survey to establish the type and extent of the contamination. After battalion members filled their trucks with the necessary water for decontamination, they headed to their designated site. The 501st SBDE CBRN chief explained, "The 19th Chemical Battalion reconnaissance vehicles led the way by conducting an area recon and secured the . . . decontamination site." At



U.S. and ROK Soldiers discuss doctrinal issues and share notes prior to a decontamination exercise. (Photograph by Major Glenn Roper)

the decontamination site, two lanes were operational to handle the first contaminated Soldiers.

While the decontamination site was readied, a team of Soldiers from the 19th ROK Chemical Battalion prepared for another mission—terrain decontamination. The CBRN NCOIC from the 19th ESC described the decontamination site as ideal. "From my experience as a drill sergeant, we were able to accomplish the operation as close to doctrinally correct as the terrain would allow." The Soldiers did not set up all of the stations found at a thorough decontamination site, but that did not hinder the experience.

According to the 19th ESC CBRN chief, "The ROK soldiers demonstrated their skills to fellow Soldiers and company commanders. Since the 23d Chemical Battalion left the peninsula over two years ago, this is the first opportunity for this training to take place and it was a resounding success. Although this is just the beginning as the two commands work toward future training and building stronger habitual supporting relationships." 🎯

Sergeant First Class Voss is the public affairs NCOIC for the 19th ESC.