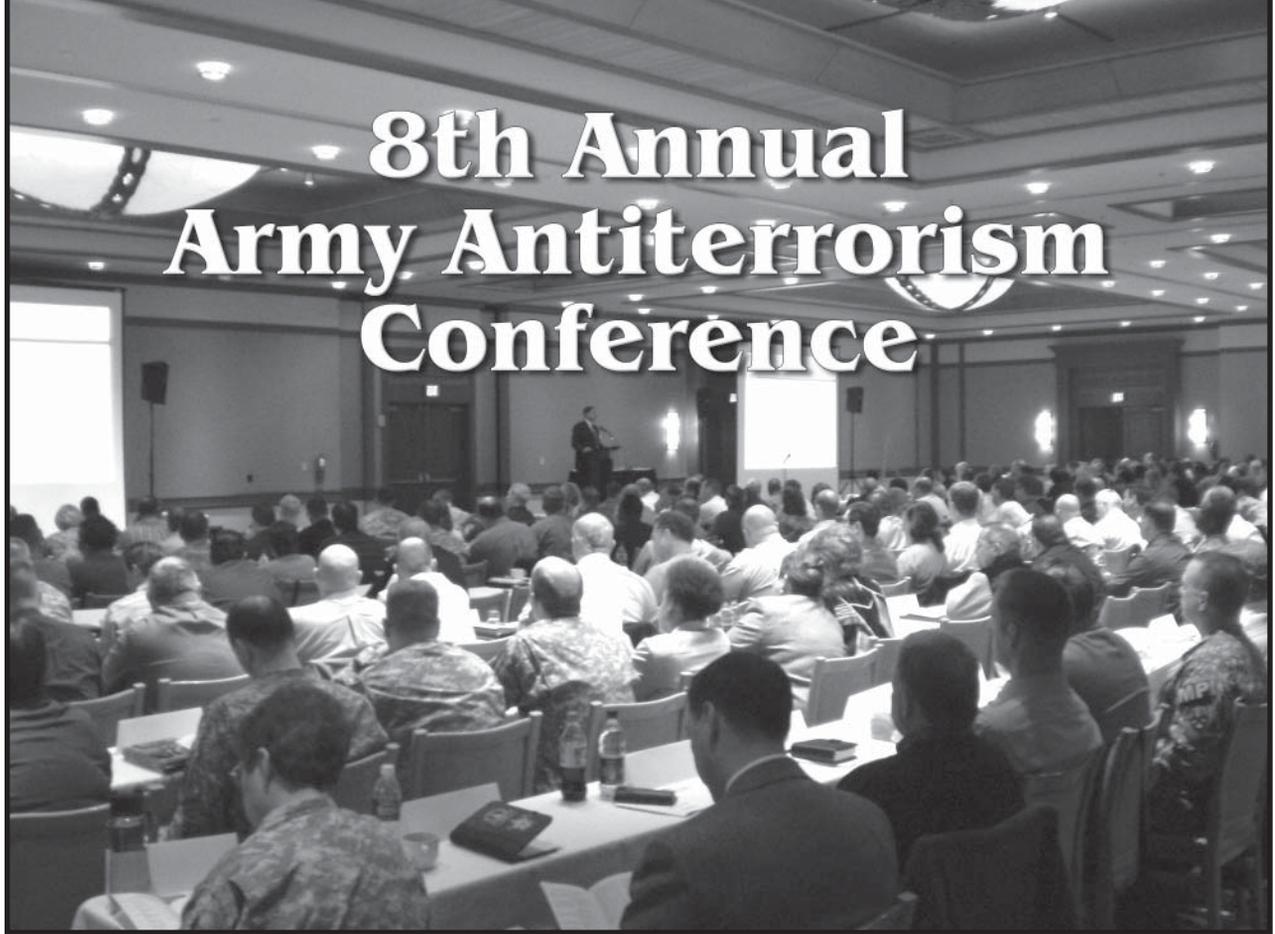


# 8th Annual Army Antiterrorism Conference



*By Mr. Ron Francis*

*The 8th annual Army Antiterrorism (AT) Conference was held 28 January–1 February 2008 at Shades of Green, the Armed Forces Recreation Center resort at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. More than 320 military and civilian personnel from the AT and force protection (FP) communities attended the conference. The conference theme of “Emerging Roles of Army Antiterrorism” was selected to reflect the recent reorganization of Army commands and the broadened focus of Army AT policy with increased emphasis on tactical units and stand-alone activities.*

Conference highlights included presentations by Mr. Mark Lewis, U.S. Army Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) for Operations, G-3/5/7; Brigadier General Rodney Johnson, Provost Marshal General of the Army; Brigadier General Robert Holmes, Deputy Director of Operations, U.S. Central Command; Brigadier General Anthony Rock, Deputy Director of Operations, U.S. Northern Command; and Mr. Wade Ishimoto, special assistant to the Under Secretary of the Navy. Other AT-related presentations were made by senior level members of the Army staff; the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; Joint Staff, Joint Operations Department (J-33); geographic combatant commands; and senior representatives of select Army commands and direct reporting units.

The conference opened with a keynote address by Mr. Mark Lewis. In his motivational presentation, Mr.

Lewis reminded attendees that terrorism is an integral part of a persistent conflict that can be expected to continue into the future. He encouraged everyone to become involved in the effort to recognize the threat of terrorism and to learn what must be done to combat it. The AT endeavor must not be limited to Army installations or units, he said, but must include every facet of the Army—from dams to tank factories. For the AT effort to be successful, every leader must become involved. In conclusion, Mr. Lewis summarized the conference goal of expanding AT to every function, organization, and individual in the U.S. Army.

Brigadier General Johnson then addressed conference attendees. He provided an overview of U.S. Army military police activities conducted in support of the War on Terrorism and other worldwide contingencies and described the great demands placed on Active Army and Reserve Component

military police units and personnel. He also discussed several initiatives designed to assist commanders in the War on Terrorism—including initiatives on forensics, specialized search dogs, standardized civilian security guard requirements, and automated installation access control.

A number of speakers focused on the issues of threat information sharing and the fusion of AT threat information. Mr. David Lewis of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, provided an excellent overview of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website, and fusion centers for the National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center. Mr. Jay Redmond, Federal Bureau of Investigation Tampa Division, Orlando Resident Agency, described how the Federal Bureau of Investigation interacts with local law enforcement agencies through fusion centers and other mechanisms to fight terrorism within the United States. Mr. Jeff Cartwright, Central Florida Intelligence Exchange, provided a detailed synopsis of the difficulties his organization experienced when operating an intelligence fusion center for the coordination of threat information between federal, state, and local governments and law enforcement agencies. These outstanding presentations illustrated the challenge the Army faces in optimizing working relationships with civilian and—according to appropriate laws and regulations—military intelligence and law enforcement agencies in this important arena.

The development of an Army AT strategic plan and the ongoing evolution toward a more inclusive AT program mean that AT roles are emerging across the board. Nowhere is that adjustment more apparent than in Army command programs. Shifting the focus to accommodate a broader approach results in significant changes in the way AT business is done. During the conference, senior level representatives from the U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and U.S. Army Installation Management Command reviewed the progress of ongoing command AT strategic plans. These reviews reminded conference attendees of the Army AT vision, which includes coverage of every asset, activity, and person associated with the Army.

Army staff presentations focused on emerging AT roles within the Headquarters, Department of the Army. Colonel Eugene Smith, Chief, Military Police Policy Division, Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG), briefed on ongoing law

enforcement and physical security actions supporting the War on Terrorism. Colonel Richard Vanderlinden, Deputy Director, Army Asymmetric Warfare Office, Office of the DCS for Operations, G-3/5/7, provided an overview of current Army operations. His presentation outlined worldwide deployments in support of the War on Terrorism. He also described how the Army Asymmetric Warfare Office integrates military and civilian disciplines to rapidly organize, train, and equip Soldiers to defeat asymmetric threats. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Corson and Mr. Mike Blaine from the FP Division, Office of the DCS for Operations, G-3/5/7, discussed the development and long-term strategy of the Army's Protection Program. The purpose of the program is to coordinate and synchronize various other Army programs under a protection umbrella. Related protection policies, programs, and resources are to be integrated into a single, coherent effort across the Army. Mr. Alex Mascelli, Chief, Antiterrorism Branch, OPMG, reported on the current status of Army AT strategy, policy, doctrine, requirements, and training.

Representatives of unified combatant commands and the Joint Staff also gave outstanding presentations. Brigadier General Holmes provided an overview of current U.S. Central Command operations and described many of the AT challenges faced by the command. Brigadier General Rock spoke about complex issues that the U.S. Northern Command encountered when establishing the combatant command AT and FP programs and the coordination that was necessary to ensure the effective management of those programs. The Combined Joint Task Force—82 FP officer detailed lessons learned and provided insight into Army AT efforts in Afghanistan.

Copies of conference presentations have been posted on the Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal at <https://atep.dtic.mil>. The presentations can be found on the Army Restricted Community Page under the Conference Folder icon.

Planning has begun for next year's conference, which is tentatively scheduled for the same time frame (late January–early February). Next year's conference will also be held at Shades of Green.

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