



Deployment Teambuilding at the Army Management Staff College

FORT BELVOIR, Va. (ARMY MANAGEMENT STAFF COLLEGE) --Fifteen soldiers from the 1st Information Operations Command (1st IO Command) at Fort Belvoir, Va. attended a first ever Deployment Teambuilding session at the Army Management Staff College (AMSC) on Thursday, July 24. These soldiers will soon deploy for six months to multiple locations in Iraq.

Why teambuilding? Ray Griggs, an Information Operations planner at 1st IO Command, was previously deployed to Kosovo and knew the inherent problems that could develop when integrating a small group of subject matter experts into an already existing staff. Griggs was searching for a resource that could provide actionable skills on group dynamics.

“We needed tools to assist the team members in coordinating, synchronizing, and integrating actions in the information environment of a very diverse group, a multi-national coalition, in order to accomplish a common goal,” said Griggs. After finding that there was neither in-house capability for such training nor any comprehensive Army course catalog, Griggs began searching the Fort Belvoir web site. That’s where he found a link to AMSC at www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil.

Griggs contacted Col. John Dolac, Chairman, Department of Leadership and Management, at AMSC. Dolac eagerly worked with the staff to develop a course that met 1st IO Command requirements. Dolac saw a great opportunity to support soldiers on the battlefield; a goal he says is part of the charter of the sustaining base program.

According to Lt. Col. Michael Williams, Chief, 1st IO Command Field Support Division, it was quite unusual for a large Army educational institutional to be flexible enough to react so quickly since the time lapse was a mere ten days from the initial call to the scheduled class.

If all goes well, Williams wants to look into the possibility of adding the AMSC course as a regular part of pre-deployment training for Field Support Teams deploying from Fort Belvoir in support of Land Component Commanders world-wide.