04-04
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AFCESA
A-GRAM

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TARGET AUDIENCE: Engineering, Maintenance Engineering, and Readiness Flights

Engineering Prime BEEF Equipment and Training

BACKGROUND:

In June 2000, the Civil Engineer Chiefs' Group organized a working group to address concerns voiced by the Engineering (3E5X1) field. Among the concerns were three key points: the lack of a common hardware and software set, the perceived lack of training available to support any standard, and the lack of a dedicated Engineering Career Field Manager (CFM). After a dedicated 3E5X1 CFM was hired, the Chiefs' working group and AFCESA/MAJCOM sub-groups designated a standardized Prime BEEF 4F9EA team hardware and software set for the field. These items are supported in our formal schools to include the Engineering Apprentice and Advanced Surveying Courses at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as well as various contingency and training sites offered by the active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves. To ensure that our troops remain proficient with the standardized hardware and software, engineering superintendents should support these standards as they migrate to new global positioning system (GPS) and optical surveying equipment, and upgrade the software used for design and mapping. This is vital to ensure that the career field can fulfill the tasks required of our Prime BEEF and RED HORSE teams.

ENGINEERING APPRENTICE, 3E531, COURSE ADDITION:

On 17 Nov 03, the Engineering Apprentice course at Fort Leonard Wood added nine days of geographical information system (GIS) instruction. The new lesson plans cover raster and vector data models, map projections, coordinate systems and datums, converting legacy data, developing database structures, and creating and plotting maps, as well as creating and analyzing GIS data. A special emphasis has been placed on the importance of complying with the **Spatial Data Standard for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment**. The first class will graduate on or about March 18, 2004, with specialized GIS knowledge to help them better capitalize on GIS benefits and sustain the USAF GeoBase program. On average, 200 students will graduate from the 74-day Engineering Apprentice course each year.

PRIME BEEF EQUIPMENT ITEMS FOR TRAINING, EXERCISES AND DEPLOYMENTS:

The Prime BEEF equipment and software described in A-grams 04-04 and 04-05 are complex in both operation and capability. While formal training courses can provide initial skills training, regular use in a variety of situations at home station, including training, exercises and support of the GeoBase program, will increase the users' familiarity with the hardware and software. This will help them maintain their proficiency and ensure that they can fully utilize the system during deployments. In addition, the software associated with these Unit Type Codes (UTCs) should be registered and transferred to the local unit's account. Engineering personnel must ensure that the units are in operational condition and that any replacement of components is complete before returning the equipment to the Readiness Flight for incorporation into the team kit prior to deployment.

GIS EQUIPMENT SUPPLY LISTING (ESL) ITEMS:

In Dec 03, HQ AFCESA started shipping the Prime BEEF 4F9EA GIS ESL items. These items are being shipped to civil engineer units tasked with a Prime BEEF 4F9EA commitment. Although this equipment is intended for use by the Engineering (3E5X1) community, it will be delivered to the Readiness Flights for accountability.

A listing of the GIS ESL items can be found on the AFCESA restricted Web site:

https://wwwmil.afcesa.af.mil/