



Teaching Soldiers Skills on the Water

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When a soldier enters the two watercraft simulation rooms at Fort Eustis, Va., **Chief Warrant Officer 3 Terry Josleyn** said they are entering the basic bridge of a ship that can range in size from mike boats to ferries to the new high-speed theater support vessel.

But that's only the start: "We can simulate aircraft carriers, container ships, Army pre-positioned vessels, LPD (floating docks)" for the Navy and the Coast Guard.

Josleyn said that the two simulators can create scenarios where enlisted and commissioned masters cope with man overboard situations to icebergs, avoiding submarines and landing helicopters on deck.

And the scenarios can take place in waters as close as 3rd Port off the James River in southeastern Virginia to the Persian Gulf.

"The why of simulation is simple. Safety, cost effectiveness, multiple ports, multiple scenarios and it's environmentally friendly."

Josleyn said the focus is on team training and especially in rehearsing a mission.

For example, in the new small craft simulator (cost \$1.9 million and a year to build), "you can still pass lines. You can do beaches with LCUs and do recovery."

He said that simulation plays an even more important role in training now that so many of the Army's, Navy's and Coast Guard's vessels are engaged in operations.

"Once they're put into a scenario, then they lose the sense of the video game," he said. "I'll transit into those ports [where he has been] and I still see the same buildings that I saw" in reality.

If a crew is in for pre-deployment training, "we'll set them in a port they're familiar with. If they're going to do an exercise, then we'll let them do a run. The difference is that they're doing in virtual reality."

That virtual reality includes "heavy fogs, rising and falling sea states, and all kinds of storms, thunderstorms, good visibility, low visibility."

The Crescent City, Fla., native has been in the Army for 23 years and has been deployed to Haiti, Rwanda and Desert Storm.

What hooked him was a recruiter's videotape on landing craft. "I enlisted on a split option, going to basic after 11th grade, then graduating and heading off to AIT."

Once he became an E-5, he applied for and was accepted into the warrant officer program. He now holds a master mariner's license.

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