

Exercise Talisman Saber 2007 and Joint Rapid Airfield Construction (JRAC) Demonstration



The Talisman Saber 2007 (TS07) Exercise

The Talisman Saber Exercise is a U.S. and Australian combined and joint forces training exercise based upon a short warning, power projection, forcible entry scenario using training areas in Australia. TS07 will be conducted over a period of six weeks, commencing in May 2007 and concluding on 2 July 2007. The exercise is scheduled to involve approximately 12,400 Australian personnel and 13,700 U.S. personnel located at both Australian Defence training areas and support sites in Australia, offshore and overseas.

Training is based on fictional scenarios, with proposed activities varying according to location between ground, air and marine activities in conjunction with simulated computer generated exercises. Training activities will involve combined Special Forces activities, parachute drops, amphibious landings, artillery, armour and infantry manoeuvres, air combat training and advanced maritime operations. Key exercise components will include:

- **Command Post Exercises (CPX)** are the high level 'simulated' wargame component of TS07. Simulated exercises are those undertaken in an artificial situation or environment, created through computer versions of 'real life' activities or exercises
- **Field Training Exercises (FTX)** include the range of traditional military exercise activities, and will be undertaken at Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Defence Practice Area (Maritime), and in the Coral Sea.
- **Live Fire Exercises (LFX)** include dedicated areas for firing approved small calibre weapons and other dedicated areas where high explosive (HE) use is permitted, such as at Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Townsville Field Training Area and Delamere Range Facility.

Other training exercises will include:

- The demonstration of the operating capability of the Joint Combined Training Capability concept, including within the Shoalwater Bay Training Area for simulated training.
- Rapid construction of an airfield at the Bradshaw Field Training Area will be demonstrated. This training will provide practice in the mobilisation of engineering forces to establish in rapid time, an operable airfield to enable the landing, takeoff and operation of C-17 and C-130 aircraft.



Exercise Talisman Saber 2007 and Joint Rapid Airfield Construction (JRAC) Demonstration



The Joint Rapid Airfield Construction (JRAC) Program

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) began a six-year comprehensive research, development, and demonstration program in 2002 known as the Joint Rapid Airfield Construction (JRAC) program. The JRAC program is focused on providing engineering tools and systems that will dramatically increase the U.S. military's contingency airfield upgrade and construction capabilities. These revolutionary new capabilities will allow the warfighter to meet future force deployment requirements, such as deploying a brigade combat team to a distant theater in four to seven days. This will happen through advancements in site selection technologies, enhanced construction methodologies, and new materials and techniques for rapid soil stabilization. All of these technologies, used either separately or as part of an integrated system, will focus on: reducing the engineering timeline, reducing the manpower requirements, reducing the logistical footprint, and increasing system reliability. JRAC provides the joint commander a capability to rapidly open new airfields and runways, or to upgrade existing facilities to meet joint task force needs.

The JRAC program includes the following technologies:

- * Airfield site selection software and field kits that provide design and analysis outputs
- * Global position satellite (GPS)-based earthmoving systems
- * Rapid-curing and low-dosage soil stabilizer materials and methodologies

In July 2004, a successful demonstration of JRAC technologies was conducted at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This mid-term demonstration validated the JRAC technologies and overall concept as a platoon of Army Soldiers surveyed, designed and constructed two 40,000 sq-ft. parking aprons for C-130 transport aircraft within 72 hours.

The final demonstration of virtually all JRAC technologies will take place during June 2007 in Australia's remote Northern Territory. The Bradshaw Field Training Area is currently being developed by the Australian Department of Defence to provide a valuable training range for military forces. An airfield is required at this new range facility to support future training operations, and the JRAC program will provide the best technologies available for rapid construction of an unsurfaced airfield. Plans are for the runway to be constructed from early to late June, with two aircraft parking aprons to be constructed in late June. An airfield opening day with a visitors day program is also scheduled for late June. For more information on the JRAC demonstration, visit <https://jrac.erd.c.usace.army.mil> or contact Dr. Gary Anderton, 601-634-2955, or Travis Mann, +614408593693.

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