

890A Iraq

Were you adequately trained for your mission? If not, what training did you lack?

1. We did training before our deployment at NTC and multiple field exercises. The issue with this training is that higher levels want you to do more than ammunition training. We need basic soldiering skills but when you never work in a garrison with ammunition, it hinders the mission down range.

Pre-Deployment Challenge

How was it addressed?

1. Getting ammunition training. The leadership does not understand the importance of our jobs and will not give us the tools needed to properly prepare for the deployment. We work more on route clearance than anything and when we go down range we work ammunition.
 - a. To address this, give the Ordnance Companies back the garrison ASPs. This way the soldiers will be proficient in ammunition skills before deploying. Other soldier skills can then be worked in.

Deployment Challenge

How was it addresses?

1. The biggest challenge we had was getting ammunition soldiers to understand their job when we first arrived. There was a lack of understanding at the junior NCO level.
 - a. It was addressed by long hours with senior NCOs and myself working side by side with the soldiers and junior NCOs.

Will experience change the way current job is performed?

1. I would like to think the way we were at the end of our deployment is how I would keep my operation in the future.

Best preparation for challenges in Theater

1. Having been there three times before.

Advice

1. Communicate with the unit that you are taking over for; try to understand how their operation works before you try and change anything.
2. Keep your head, think of all the options you have before making any hasty decisions.
3. Remember you are not the first to be doing what you are doing, look for help from fellow 890As. We need to help one another and remember as a Warrant Officer it is not about *ME* it is about the mission.

Greatest achievement

What led to that success?

1. Seeing my soldiers really understand the job and put out a great product to our using units.

Did you work with any civilian ammunition professionals? How was your working relationship with them?

1. At the Tallil ASP we had three QASAS. There was a good working relationship but at times it could have been better. Most QASAS today do not work with soldiers and think they are in charge of the soldiers. I had to set the ground rules early, that we work together as a team to reach the same goal.

Info to share or anything else you would like to address?

1. Like all Warrant Officers, I want a garrison account. The SSA is now run by the military but sensitive items such as ammunition and explosives are still run by civilians. There is a general disregard for ammunition regulations and no one seems to care when I bring the issue up. Ammunition standards are not upheld.