



Station #1. Sprayer removes gross contamination using hot, soapy water.

Detailed Aircraft Decon —92d Chemical Company meets the challenge

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Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait— Providing decontamination support for Task Force 1st Battalion, 64th Armor and all the subordinate units involved in *Intrinsic Action* is the mission at hand for the members of 1st Platoon, 92d Chemical. And, with 11 operational decons, four thorough decons, and its most recent detailed aircraft decon, the platoon has kept its training schedule jam-packed with good Army training.

"*Intrinsic Action* has been an outstanding learning experience for the soldiers from the decon platoon," said 1LT Donald Patterson, platoon leader,

92d Chemical. "And, being given the opportunity to conduct a detailed aircraft decon on a fixed wing aircraft was by far the highlight of the deployment thus far."

As a first for the 92d Chemical Company, the members of the 1st Platoon were given the opportunity last year to conduct a decontamination on an A-10 from the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Base, South Carolina. The decon, normally conducted on the Army's rotary winged aircraft, posed many challenges and obstacles for the chemical platoon.

"As a decon platoon, it is our job to be able to remove contamination on any element involved in an operation," Patterson said. "With the support from the Air Force, the soldiers here were able to test their abilities and successfully conduct this decon to standard."

As the site was set up, the aircraft went through five stages of decontamination. The first station removed the gross contamination from the fighter. At the second station, the soldiers used mops to scrub down the fighter to remove the remainder of the contamination. At the third station, the soldiers monitored the

aircraft to ensure the contamination was removed. The fourth station provided a final rinse for the fighter. And, at the fifth station, the soldiers monitored the aircraft one more time, ensuring the contamination was removed.

"The decon posed many new challenges for the platoon," Patterson said. "Because of the height of the fighter and the sensitivity of its components, we were forced to take many precautions during the operation."

Unlike the tanks and Bradleys, the platoon is used to working with, the shell of the A-10 houses many intricate components necessary for flight. Radar systems, computers, and other components of the aircraft forced the platoon to decrease the angle as well as limit the pressure of the wash. Regardless, the end result was a success for the soldiers involved. And the platoon was able to provide the Air Force with an example of what measures they are capable of doing to protect their pilots in a real-world situation.

"The platoon's noncommissioned officers provided a great deal of knowledge on the operation," Patterson said. "Because of their expertise and lead-by-example attitude, they made every part of this rotation worthwhile."

As the platoon looks toward their extended forecast of training, Patterson explained that they will look to validate every aspect of the training they have done so far. "This deployment has given our platoon the chance to use real-world resources and techniques unmatched at Fort Stewart, Georgia," Patterson said. "The soldiers deserve much praise and a gratitude of thanks for the job they have done."

We have included the names of the platoon members: 1LT Patterson, SFC



Above, Station 2. Two appliers (using long-handled mops with hot, soapy water) help remove gross liquid contamination. Because of the avionic equipment on the A-1, no DS2 was used. Below, Station 4. Sprayers rinse the aircraft using ordinary water.



Christopher, SSG Haynes, SSG Gay, SGT Saucke, SGT McIntosh, SGT Stokes, SPC Moynier, SPC Hillman, PFC Therrien, PFC Francis, PFC

Aponte, PFC Wagner, PFC Marshall, PFC Bagan, PFC Hobdy, PFC Shipman, PFC Escobedo, PFC Giles, PFC Johnson, PFC Nye, PV2 Cooper.