

Lights, Camera, Action

—taping NBC programs not as easy as home movies

If you've ever shot your own videotape or home movie, you know how simple it can be. So, you ask yourself, why should it take so long to videotape a military subject—take NBC air-land battlefield operations—for instance?

Ms. Jane Preston, chief of the Audio-visual Branch of the Publication and Magazine Division, Directorate of Training and Doctrine at the Chemical School, explains:

"To film or videotape anything involved in NBC, you have to go to different areas of the country, because no one location has every piece of equipment you need to show," she says.

"Especially on the air-land battlefield. You have everything from air defense to artillery; most of the equipment will be unique to a specific location and you can't cheat on it because you've got to have the real

article to do the exercise, to make it real."

The script for the videotape "NBC Air-land Battlefield Operations," called for scenes showing mobile collective protection equipment, soldiers preparing for entry, and the entry procedures.

The approval to tape at Fort Bliss, Texas, had been received, the officers and soldiers had been contacted, the equipment examined, the videotape

(Continued p. 42)



AV chief, camera crew, and soldiers coordinate light, camera, and action on location at Fort Bliss, Texas.



AV Programs Available—and in the Works

A number of NBC-related audio-visual programs have been completed by the US Army Chemical School (table 1), and should be available now or in the near future through your local TASC office. The programs in table 2 are scheduled to be completed and fielded by the end of 4Q87. Questions should be directed to the audio-visual people at the Directorate of Training and Doctrine, USACMLS, AV 865-4827 or FTS (205) 238-4827.

Table 1.

Number	Title
TVT 3-19	Combined Arms in a Nuclear/Chemical Environment (CANE) Phase I—Lessons Learned
TVT 3-12	Mission-Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) Analysis
TVT 3-17	NBC Reconnaissance—Contamination Avoidance
TVT 3-21	Entry/Exit Procedures for Collective Protection Shelters
TF (VT) 3-6350	Warsaw Pact NBC Threat
TVT 3-22	Chemical Decontamination Training Facility (CDTF)
TVT 3-20	NBC Air-land Battlefield Operations
None	Fixed Site NBC Defense

Table 2.

Number	Title
PIN 705855*	Effects of Smoke and Obscurants on Weapon Systems (U) (SECRET)
PIN 705856*	Smoke Effect and Obscurants on Weapon Systems
PIN 705858 DA	Actions Before, During, and After a Chemical Attack
PIN 705938	Flame Field Expedients
PIN 706125	CHEMWARN and NUCWARN Preparation
PIN 706018 DA	Soviet/Warsaw Pact—NBC Threat (U) (SECRET)
PIN 706133	Chemical/Biological Agent Effects
PIN 706128	Third World NBC Threat
PIN 706129	Chemicals in War—An Historical Perspective
Forthcoming	Mobile Smoke
Forthcoming	Combined Arms in a Nuclear/Chemical Environment (CANE) Phase II A—Lessons Learned
Forthcoming	The Chemical Lieutenant (for ROTC units)

* Currently being edited and scheduled for Spring 87 release.



crew lined up, the subject matter expert on hand.

Scene 135 begins with a soldier standing next to a hot line prior to entering the collective protection shelter and then removing his boots and entering.

The crew shot scene 135 with no retakes. Scene 25 had to be retaken because the overboots had been kicked off on the stairs. When the scenes were finished, 11 minutes and seven seconds of tape had been used.

And those were just a few of the simpler scenes. It took two hours total to get it right, and the taping went extremely well, Preston said.

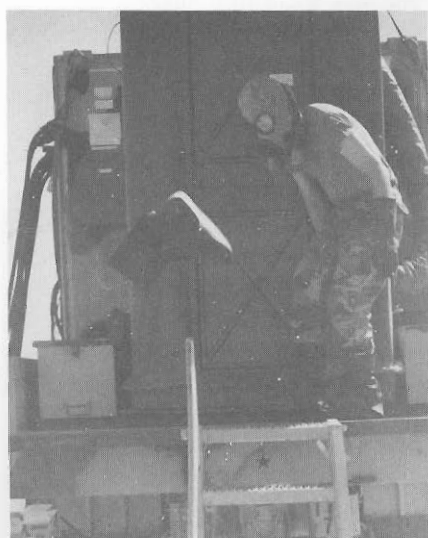
The scenes taken at Fort Bliss run 45 seconds in the 23-minute finished product.

Of course the time taken to tape these scenes do not take into account the time spent writing the original script, coordination of equipment, people, videotape crews, and approvals before and after shooting the other 145 scenes.

"Approval for logistical and/or personnel support outside your MACOM generally requires 90 days before you can begin setting up for taping," Preston said. "A rough edit

is completed to include narration. The USACMLS must review the tape before the final edit is done. All valid comments are incorporated and music laid before the program receives final approval from TRADOC.

"It's a complicated, detailed—at times frustrating—process that requires tons of coordination and planning. But, when the finished product is in the can, it's extremely satisfying."



Soldier kicks off overboot before entering protective cover. Scenes finished, crew loads up for departure.

