



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Far East District to improve Rodriguez Live Fire Complex**

**Seoul** —When Brig. Gen. Charles L. Taylor, 2nd Infantry Division, Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, met Col. Blair A. Schantz, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex Jan. 4, Taylor asked FED to help make the range the best live fire complex in the world.

Situated in a level valley surrounded by steep mountains, Rodriguez Live Fire Complex is the best place in Korea to accommodate live-fire exercises for M1A2 Abrams tanks and M2A2 Bradley fighting vehicles. In its current configuration, the range is laid out for test firing and evaluation of weapons systems. Offensive training takes place in simulators.

During Taylor's visit to the complex with FED he asked the engineers to modify the current configuration of the firing range to accommodate both defensive and offensive battle positions. The 2nd Infantry Division wants the range to have "shoot and move" capabilities.

"The existing battle positions are defensive battle positions and there's nothing wrong with them when considered from that perspective," said Jerry Williams from Thomas J. Davis/Jung II Architecture and Engineering, FED's contractor. "The proposed battle positions are offensive battle positions."

Williams has worked on many upgrade projects at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex through the years. Being familiar with the firing range, he already has a concept in mind that would support a wide range of training scenarios but also allow the range to retain its current capabilities. He is also aware of the type of training that 2ID is looking for especially with the acquisition of new M1A2 Abrams tanks and M2A2 Bradley fighting vehicles this year.

"The soldiers need to be trained in both defensive and offensive scenarios. Defensive battle positions are prepared in advance. Offensive battle positions in a real battlefield are opportunities presented either by terrain or by man-made features that the TC's (track commander) have to recognize when they see them and then take advantage of them," said Williams.

The features that will be added to allow this battlefield flexibility are maneuver lanes. The lanes will allow vehicles to move laterally between the primary existing firing lanes and the seven proposed offensive battle positions, allowing the weapons systems to fire and advance (attack).

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2ID is excited about its new M1A2 Abrams Tanks and M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and looks forward to training with them on an upgraded range so that crews can master the vehicles capabilities.

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## IMAGES



Rodriguez Live Fire Complex near Yongpyong consists of numerous defensive battle positions. The 2nd Infantry Division has asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District to reconfigure the range to include both defensive and offensive battle positions. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



This snow covered battle position at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex demonstrates the current defensive capabilities of the range. If this range were to be used for offensive training in this configuration the vehicle would fire and then move in reverse before it could advance. The 2nd Infantry Division has asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District to reconfigure the range to include both defensive and offensive battle positions. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Col. Blair A. Schantz (center), Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, looks over a defensive battle position with Brig. Gen. Charles L. Taylor (right), 2nd Infantry Division, Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, along with Larry Rogers (left), Deputy Chief, 8th Army G3 Training Division, at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex Jan. 4. The 2nd Infantry Division has asked the FED to reconfigure and improve the range. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

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