

SUBJECT: DEFENDER CHALLENGE (DC) 2004 MESSAGE #2

1. THIS YEAR'S DC IS BEING CONDUCTED WITH EIGHT TEAM PARTICIPANTS, WHICH CONSISTS OF TWO, 3-PERSON FIRE TEAMS (6) AND ONE, 2-PERSON CLOSE PRECISION ENGAGEMENT (CPE) SHARP-SHOOTER TEAM (2). ONE ALTERNATE TEAM PARTICIPANT IS PERMITTED FOR A TOTAL OF 9 PERSONNEL. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM OUR INITIAL DC NOTIFICATION MESSAGE, WHICH PERMITTED A TOTAL OF 10 PERSONNEL. THE SQUAD LEADER IS NORMALLY THE SENIOR RANKING COMPETITOR. THE TEAM CAPTAIN IS IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE TEAM AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE THE SQUAD LEADER. DC 04 TEAM CONFIGURATION WILL FURTHER OUR DC 03 EVALUATION OF THE 3-PERSON FIRE TEAM WITH AN ATTACHED CPE CAPABILITY. ADDITIONALLY, THIS CONFIGURATION ALLOWS US TO "TASK ORGANIZE" FOR THE SPECIFIC SCENARIOS IN THIS YEAR'S EVENT. ONE OF THE 3-PERSON FIRE TEAMS WILL SERVE AS THE MANEUVER/SUPPORT TEAM AND THE OTHER AS THE BASIC FIRE TEAM. THE CPE TEAM WILL PROVIDE GREATLY EXTENDED WEAPONS FIRE/RANGE CAPABILITY. WE BELIEVE THIS CONFIGURATION WILL IMPROVE FORCE SURVIVABILITY AND WITH THE ATTACHED CPE CAPABILITY CAN BECOME A VIABLE OPTION IN DOMINATING AREAS OF INTEREST AND INFLUENCE. AS YOU KNOW, CPE ALONG WITH NEW COMBAT WEAPONRY AND TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS GIVE OUR FORCES THE TACTICAL EDGE IN THEIR TAOR.

2. LISTED BY COMMAND BELOW ARE CPE TEAM WEAPONS INFORMATION AND TRAINING STATUS.

A. CPE TEAM WEAPON SYSTEM CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING: 1 M24 SNIPER RIFLE WITH LEUPOLD 10 POWER SCOPE; 1 VIPER II LASER RANGE FINDER WITH PLGR GPS SYSTEM; AND 1 M4 CARBINE WITH X4 DESIGNATED MARKSMAN OPTIC.

B. CPE WEAPON SYSTEMS ISSUED TO COMMANDS:

MAJCOM	M24 TOTALS	VIPER II TOTALS	4 POWER ACOG
ACC	16	26	0
AFMC	2	0	10
AFRC	0	0	37
AFSPC	8	4	0
AFSOC	0	0	0
AMC	2	0	0
ANG	22	3	48
PACAF	11	5	12
USAFE	18	15	51
11WG	0	0	0
USAFA	2	2	2
AETC	11	5	60
DOE	0	0	0
RAF-R	0	0	0
TOTAL	92	60	220

NOTE: THE ABOVE NUMBERS WERE OBTAINED FROM DEPOT. DUE TO VARIATIONS IN SHIPPING/ARRIVAL DATES OF COMPONENTS, THE NUMBERS MAY NOT MATCH EXACT NUMBERS ON HAND AT YOUR BASES AT THIS TIME.

C. NUMBER OF TRAINED CPE TEAMS IN COMMANDS: SINCE AUG 2001 THERE HAVE BEEN 157 GRADUATES FROM CAMP ROBINSON. SOME HAVE ATTRITED SINCE THEN, SO THE NUMBERS LISTED IN THE TABLE BELOW ARE APPROXIMATE:

MAJCOM	CPE GRADUATES
ACC	29
AFMC	3
AFRC	0
AFSPC	17
AFSOC	7
AMC	2
ANG	36
PACAF	7
USAFE	23
11WG	1
USAFA	2
AETC	13
DOE	0
RAF-R	0

ADDITIONALLY, ONE MORE CPE CLASS IS AVAILABLE (22 AUG – 4 SEP 04) BEFORE DC 04. AFMC HAS 2 SEATS IN THAT CLASS AND AMC HAS REQUESTED 6.

D. THE DOE AND RAF TEAMS HAVE NOT RECEIVED TRAINING AT CAMP ROBINSON AND DO NOT HAVE THE SAME WEAPON SYSTEM AS AIR FORCE TEAMS. IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PLAYING FIELD LEVEL, THE RULES REGARDING CPE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1). TRAINING. WE WILL ACCEPT THE WORD OF COMMANDS/FEDERAL AGENCIES THAT THEIR CPE TEAMS HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY TRAINED.

THE LEVEL, EXTENT OF TRAINING, ETC., WILL NOT BE QUESTIONED, AS IT IS NOT REASONABLE OR PERHAPS EVEN POSSIBLE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE THE SAME TRAINING PRIOR TO OCT 2004.

(2). WEAPON SYSTEM. WE REQUIRE THAT ALL CPE TEAMS USE THE SAME WEAPON SYSTEM, SEE PARAGRAPH 2A, ABOVE. THIS WILL ENSURE THERE IS NO UNFAIR ADVANTAGE TO THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE MORE ADVANCED EQUIPMENT.

E. FOR THOSE COMMANDS WHO HAVE SEVERAL CPE WEAPON SYSTEMS, WE ARE IN GREAT NEED OF YOUR HELP. RECOMMEND YOUR ASSISTANCE IN LOANING A CPE WEAPON SYSTEM AS OUTLINED IN THE CHART BELOW FOR TRAINING AND USE DURING DC 04.

MAJCOM	LOAN TO	M24	VIPER II	X4 ACOG
ACC (Note 1)	DOE	X	X	
ACC	AFMC		X	
AFSPC (Note 2)	RAF	X	X	
ANG (Note 3)	AMC	X	X	X
AMC (Note 4)	FBI	N/A	N/A	N/A
AETC (Note 5)	U.S. MARSHALS	N/A	N/A	N/A
ANG (Note 6)	CFAC	N/A	N/A	N/A
AFRC	DOE			X
AFRC	AFSPC			X
AFRC	RAF			X

NOTE 1. ACC. ALTHOUGH AFMC NORMALLY SPONSORS THE DOE TEAM, AFMC HAS ONLY 2 PARTIAL WEAPONS SYTEMS.

NOTE 2. AFSPC. ASSUME YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SPONSOR THE RAF TEAM.

NOTE 3. ANG. AMC HAS ONLY TWO WEAPON SYSTEMS AND BOTH ARE COMMITTED TO A DAILY NUCLEAR MISSION.

NOTE 4. AMC. FBI WILL OBSERVE ONLY—NO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR. REQUEST YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF OBSERVERS.

NOTE 5. AETC. U.S. MARSHALS WILL OBSERVE ONLY—NO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR. REQUEST YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF OBSERVERS.

NOTE 6. ANG. CFAC WILL OBSERVE ONLY—NO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR. REQUEST YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF OBSERVERS.

F. FOR AFRC (NO MISSION NEED FOR CPE), YOUR NON-PARTICIPATION IN CPE WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF POINTS FOR THAT PARTICULAR SEGMENT OF COMBAT WEAPONS.

3. FOR THE INFORMATION AND AWARENESS OF ALL, WE PLAN TO INCORPORATE USE OF THE 12 GAUGE PUMP ACTION SHOTGUNS IN THE HANDGUN EVENT. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DC 04 BROCHURE.

4. THE ORDER OF TEAM PARTICIPATION IN DC 04 WAS DETERMINED VIA DRAWING HELD ON 15 JUL 04 BY THE MAJCOM CHIEFS DURING THE SFM COUNCIL. TEAMS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: 1-AFRC;

2-DOE; 3-ACC; 4-AFMC; 5-COMBINED TEAM; 6-AMC; 7-AETC; 8-RAFR-R; 9-AFSPC; 10-PACAF; 11-ANG; 12-USAFE.

5. THE GRENADE LAUNCHER SEGMENT OF COMBAT WEAPONS WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED THIS YEAR. THE M203 DAY NIGHT SIGHT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO COMMANDS UNTIL WELL AFTER DC 04 AND THERE IS NOT YET A STANDARD M203 TO M4 MOUNTING CONFIGURATION. ADDITIONALLY, TRANSITION TIME TO THE VARIOUS RANGES INVOLVED WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH.

6. HISTORICALLY WE HAVE PERMITTED NON-PARTICIPATING FOREIGN MILITARY SERVICES AND OTHERS TO OBSERVE DC. WE HAVE ONE REQUEST ALREADY FROM PACAF FOR THE INDIAN AIR FORCE. JUST A REMINDER, PLEASE REMEMBER TO COORDINATE THESE REQUESTS WITH US TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE ON THIS END. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE SPONSORING MAJCOM TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR VISITORS, THAT IS ESCORTING, TRANSPORTING, ENTERTAINING, ETC., WHILE AT DC.

7. PLEASE RESPOND BY EMAIL TO AFSFC.EXECUTIVECOUNCIL@LACKLAND.AF.MIL WITH CONFIRMATION TO LOAN THE CPE WEAPON SYSTEM AND SPONSOR THE TEAMS INDICATED.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT IMPOSITION, BUT IT'S THE ONLY VIABLE OPTION THAT WILL PERMIT US TO INCLUDE THE CPE PIECE IN THIS YEAR'S DC AND CAPTURE IMPORTANT DATA POINTS THAT WILL AFFECT FUTURE CAPABILITIES OF SECURITY FORCES. IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS, LET US KNOW. YOUR RESPONSE BY 30 JULY 04 WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.