



OVERWATCH

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Welcome to the home of the 91st Training Division (Operations) and Fort Hunter Liggett. We are proud to provide you with the most realistic and meaningful training available during Warrior Exercise 91 14-03.

Fort Hunter Liggett provides units and commands every available resource and the perfect training environment to fully realize the expectations and experience of WAREX.

You will be challenged daily to stretch your leadership and soldiering capabilities. WAREX requires you to accept these challenges and never settle for anything less than your best effort.

The training environment is constantly revised and revamped to prepare Soldiers and their leaders for current conflicts to which Soldiers may be called upon to support.

WAREX is the major U.S. Army Reserve effort to support the FORSCOM Army Total Force Policy to transition and integrate the active and reserve components into a Total Force Concept.

WAREX provides the essential resources and training to enhance the mission of a seamless integration of Active Component and Reserve Component Forces. WAREX will continuously evolve with planners developing the best available training to meet the Army Total Force Policy and you are a major part of this process.

Safety is always a priority and thank you for the discipline to make safety a part of your daily checks and training.

Finally, please don't forget to thank your family and loved ones for supporting your service to this great nation.

Train hard and train safely. The 91st Training Division (Operations) is proud to provide the training platform for Warrior Exercise 91 14-03.

BG Jon D. Lee
Commanding General, 91st Training Division (Operations)

OVERWATCH

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WAREX 14-03 trains thousands, prepares Soldiers for deployment

Story by Sgt. Darryl L. Montgomery
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Thousands of Soldiers are here enduring the hot, dry sun and long days to get the best deployment training possible at during Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03.

WAREX is a three week exercise the 91st Training Division hosts each year and is designed to simulate a deployment environment for units participating. Planning for the exercise is no small feat. The process includes several planning conferences and on site visits prior to kick off.

More than 60 units, comprised of approximately 5,000 Soldiers, have been at Fort Hunter Liggett, California, for the latter part of July training in various warrior tasks and drills and conducting combat operations and humanitarian aid in the fictional land of “Atropia” created for the exercise.

“The purpose for the Warrior Exercise is to train specifically Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) year two units on multi-echelon, multi-component, full scale operations,” said Maj. Alexander R. Kerkow, the deputy chief of operations for the 91st Training Division. “Our target audience is Army Reserve units, but they are not the only ones. In addition to Army Reserve units, we augment with active component units and National Guard units.”

Planning for a WAREX beings two years out; at this point, units the 91st Training Division want to come are identified along with the tasks the division wants to train the units on, according to Kerkow.

Once units receive their operation orders, ideally as early as one year out, the units go over their commander’s training objectives (CTO) and submit those objectives to the 91st Training Division.

“The WAREX offers a command the opportunity to mobilize from their home station, get all their people and equipment here, go through an expedited [reception, staging, onward movement, integration] process and get out to the tactical assembly area where they can start to execute their mission,” said Kerkow, a Kennewick, Washington, resident.

The process is just like it is when units deploy to a real-world theatre of operations, minus a few of the real world requirements Soldiers usually go through during the Soldier readiness process, Kerkow added. These requirements typically include medical and dental assessments and clearance from the legal department.

Soldiers coming to the exercise should be prepared to feel as though they are serving in a deployed environment.

“They should be prepared for, as close as we can replicate, a mobilization and deployment to a real theatre of operations,” Kerkow said. “They should be prepared to operate in their particular specialty up to the company level and preferably have some training at the battalion level as well.”



To achieve the level of training that occurs during WAREX, the training is tailored to individual units as best as possible.

“We’ll take all the CTOs and merge them with other units’ as best we can so they can train on their objectives. Some objectives will require different units to execute a mission together,” Kerkow said. “For example, if a ‘village’ needs basic infrastructure but has security issues, military police will roll in to cordon off the area and provide that security while the engineers can go in and help rebuild. While this is going on, there may be a civil affairs unit that wants to make contact with the mayor of the ‘village’ and get his take on the situation.”

Lt. Col. Christine C. Borgognoni, commander of the 324th Military Police Battalion, a unit based in Fresno, California, credits WAREX for better preparing her unit for an upcoming deployment overseas.

“It definitely challenges the staff,” said Borgognoni, a San Francisco, resident. “We are deploying soon and my staff is now well integrated with each other. The team is ready to go and our strengths and weaknesses are now identified.”

Borgognoni also said she has enjoyed watching the Soldiers on the ground learn new things while also accomplishing their missions.

“I love watching Soldiers achieve,” she said. “Accomplishment is an exciting thing to see.”

The 324th MP Battalion may be deploying soon, but will not be going with subordinate companies, according to Borgognoni.

“Another really good thing about our exercises is not all the units here are organic to one another,” Kerkow said, “so, it forces subordinate units to not only work with their normal higher



headquarters, but it also forces them to work with a separate higher headquarters they are not used to working with.”

Ultimately, the 91st Training Division wants to immerse Soldiers in the feeling of being deployed so when they do deploy, they are better prepared and ready for the challenge.

“The end goal for WAREX is to as closely as possible replicate operations in an actual conflict,” Kerkow said. “The scenario we use here is . . . regional instability where we need to bring in assets to assist in securing the area, separating out the belligerent forces, provide humanitarian relief and bolster the host nation’s ability to self-secure and meet their own needs.”

“The only real difference between an actual mobilization and this training exercise would be the train-up time allowed and the training focus would be a little bit more intense for a real-world deployment,” he continued. “For the most part, however, a WAREX is as close as possible as we can replicate to an actual deployment.”

Staff Sgt. Monique S. Jowers, the signal section noncommissioned officer in charge with the 518th Sustainment Brigade, said she has learned a lot from WAREX and has enjoyed her time here overall.

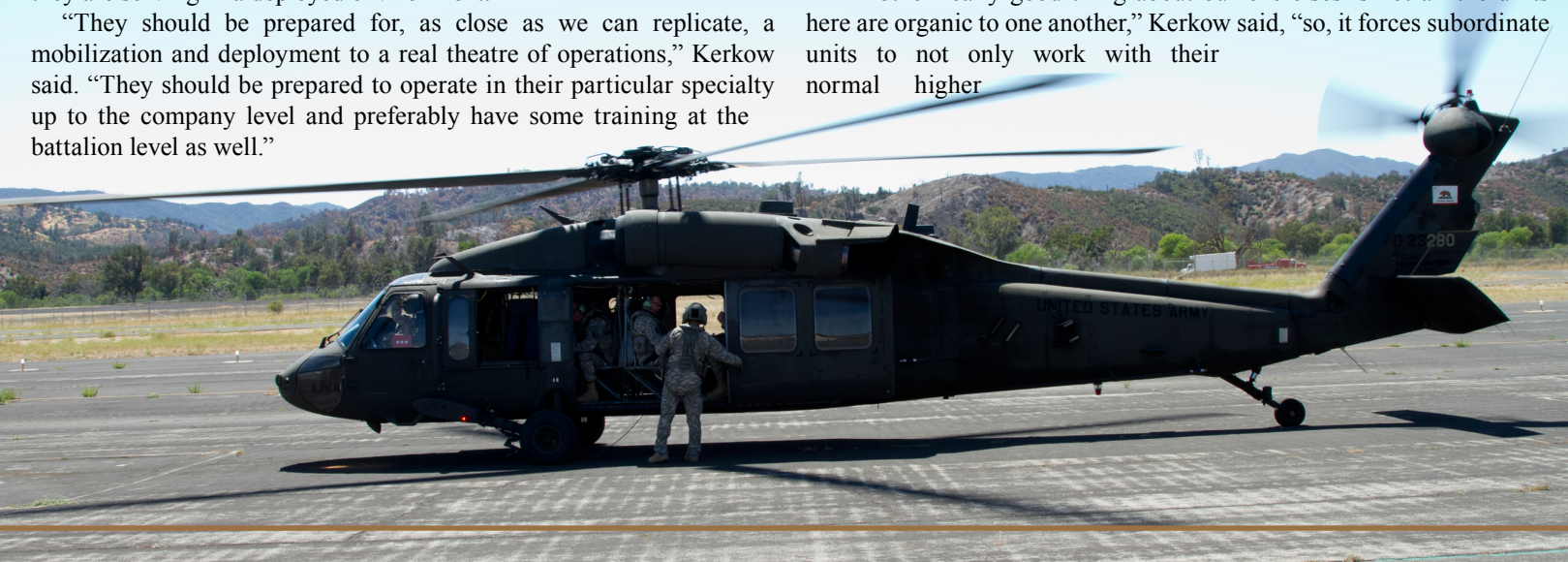
“It has been a rewarding experience and I have been able to grow in my skill sets,” said the Durham, North Carolina, resident. “The only down-side is there are no places for Soldiers to go in the little down time they do get. A [Morale, Welfare, and Recreation] or something would be nice. Some Soldiers have had very limited access to their families while out here.”

For Spc. Christy L. Murray, a signal section specialist with the 518th Sustainment Brigade, WAREX has been a “tremendous learning experience”.

“Getting experience from those who have deployed has taught me more than I’ve ever learned in a classroom,” said Murray, a Queens, New York, native.

Kerkow said he wants the Soldiers to be able to come here and see how it will be when they deploy and conduct their day-to-day jobs in a real-world environment.

“I want them to realize the complexity of a full-scale operation,” he said. “I want them to recognize the importance of executing their basic tasks and how that discipline leads to the higher unit’s success.”



Veterinarians aren't horsing around at WAREX

Story by U.S. Army Spc. Bryan A. Randolph,
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the 994th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Services, out of Round Rock, Texas, got experience with veterinary care for horses during Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 here, July 25th. To receive this valuable training, the Soldiers travelled to the nearby Redwings Horse Sanctuary in Lockwood.

“Today, we’re mostly learning how to handle a horse safely in the field,” said Capt. Cherise Neu, a field veterinarian, from Cypress, Texas, assigned to the 994th. “Our Soldiers might experience horses out in the field on deployments and here within the United States. They are expected to be able to hold a horse and restrain it for a veterinarian to examine it.”

Despite the fact that this was a new experience for most of the Soldiers, they were eager to learn and picked it up quickly.

“The Soldiers did fantastic,” said Sara Ruggerone, from San Luis Obispo, California, the executive director of Redwings Horse Sanctuary. “They handled the horses extremely well, and they were very receptive to all the information we provided.”

When the Soldiers are deployed, the animals they encounter will be more than pets to the owners.

“Some need them for their livelihood,” said Neu. “Those animals may need all sorts of care: wound care, health care, deworming, vaccination.”

As a part of their training, the Soldiers also learned how to take a pulse, give vaccinations, draw blood and monitor sounds in the horses’ stomach area.

“If they feel sick, since they can’t actually tell us, we have to get them to tell us,” said Spc. Martin Gonzalez, an animal care specialist with the 994th, from Fort Hood, Texas. “We try and give a voice to these animals.”

Out of the entire U.S. military, only the Army has a Veterinary Corps. The importance of that fact is not lost on these Soldiers.

“The Army is the only branch of the military service that has an animal care field,” said Gonzalez. “So, it’s actually really important for us to go out to these types of missions, especially overseas”

In addition to beneficial training for Soldiers, the horse sanctuary, which exists solely on donations, benefited from the training.



395th Army Band sounds off

Story and photos by Sgt. Darryl L. Montgomery
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the 395th Army Band from Mustang, Oklahoma, assembled and performed for a change of command ceremony on Forward Operating Base Schoonover here July 17. This performance marked the first time the 395th brass quintet has played together in a tactical environment.

According to Wichita Falls, Texas, resident, Maj. Brian J. Reilly, the commander and musical director of the 395th, the band is rarely deployed, and must gain its tactical experiences from operations like Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03.

While the band may not deploy as often as other units, it must still be ready to accomplish its mission in a deployed environment. The band’s primary function during deployment is to entertain Soldiers in an effort to raise their morale.

“We want Soldiers to know we are there for them,” said Sgt. 1st Class James A. Riley, first sergeant of the 395th. “It is our job to come out and give them a break – you can’t just fight war 24/7. Even if that means we have to rush to a chow hall to set up a jazz group, it’s worth it if it helps get Soldiers relaxed.”

Spc. Aaron W. Skinner, a trumpeter with the 395th, said the band is here testing its capability in a tactical environment.

“We’re used to having commercial trucks carrying everything around, and now we’re having to use humvees to get things around,” said Skinner, a McAlisterville, Oklahoma, resident. “We are very limited on space, and with the full uniform it’s really hot, and we’re constantly inhaling and exhaling – that takes a toll, but it is rewarding overall. I hope we’re successful in the ways that we can provide entertainment from FOB to FOB.”

The band had to meticulously prepare for its WAREX mission here. “Preparation musically is a piece of cake,” said Riley, a resident of Mustang, Oklahoma. “As for the tactical side, running entry control points and convoys, we have to learn all that.”

In addition to playing at various venues here, the band has also conducted tactical training including entry control point, counter-improvised explosive devices, and convoy operations. While this is not the unit’s primary mission, the Soldiers must still be able to conduct Soldier tasks and drills.

“Our primary mission is esprit de corps, to raise morale and the welfare of the Soldiers,” Riley said.



Mortuary Affairs honors fallen comrades

Story and photos by Spc. Tynisha L. Daniel
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Mortuary affairs Soldiers worldwide provide closure to families of fallen servicemembers by returning the remains of their loved ones with dignity and honor. Soldiers of the 387th Quartermaster Company (MA), are training on the art of honoring fallen Soldiers with respect and reverence during Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 here.

The mission of mortuary affairs Soldiers is to recover, process and transport the remains of servicemembers who have lost their lives defending the freedom of Americans.

In an effort to sustain their job proficiency, Soldiers of the 387th, located in Santa Monica, California, are conducting job specific training here. During the WAREX, Soldiers of the 387th conducted training on the processing and transporting of Soldiers killed in action (KIA) and a ramp ceremony honoring the lives of the fallen July 25.

“The hardest aspect of this MOS (military occupational specialty) to us is keeping our emotions under control,” said Staff Sgt. Jesus M. Ortega, native of Rancho Cucamonga, California, a mortuary affairs specialist with the 387th.

While both active duty and reserve Soldiers have the same process of collecting information of fallen Soldiers, those on active duty conduct search and recovery missions as well.

“There are two aspects of search and recovery,” said Alta Loma, California, native, Spc. Luke G. Lagunzad, a mortuary affairs specialist with the 387th. “One is when we receive a report of a fallen Soldier and Soldiers were unable to find remains, we would become attached to the unit [who lost the Soldier] at the last known location and recover the remains.”

The second type of search and recovery is when inhabitants of another country find remains believed to be those of an American Soldier. A mortuary affairs unit then moves to that location to collect and send the remains to lab specialists for identification.

Upon receiving the remains of fallen Soldiers, mortuary affairs specialists systematically collect and process the remains and property of Soldiers and build a case file. The specialists then store the remains inside a refrigeration unit until notified that the Soldier is ready to be transported.

They have 24 hours to transport the remains of servicemembers after processing. If deployed, remains are transported via aircraft to the



Joint Mortuary Center in Dover, Delaware. The mortuary affairs unit in Dover will contact fallen Soldier’s families to allow the family to proceed with their burial arrangements.

Dealing with death does not come easily for many; mortuary affairs Soldiers not only process the remains of servicemembers, they also clean the belongings and personal items found with a Soldier at time of death. These possessions can range from pictures, and letters to other small keepsakes. Seeing these sentimental valuables of the servicemembers can be emotionally difficult for mortuary affairs specialists.

The shoes of a mortuary affairs specialist are not easily filled, and the ability to be resilient and in control of one’s emotions is essential.

“As a mortuary affairs specialist, being able to control ourselves mentally and emotionally is most important,” said Ortega.

Mortuary affairs specialists go through two months of extensive advanced individual training, (AIT). The first phase is classroom-based and teaches troops how to process case files for remains. The second phase includes practical training in Puerto Rican morgues; gaining “hands on” experience allows Soldiers to become accustomed to being near remains.

“The biggest strength you have to have with being a 92M (MA) is resilience,” said Spc. Davy S. Bradley, a native of Simi Valley, California, and MA specialist with the 387th. It’s important to remember that you are providing closure and helping families of Soldiers with the overall process of losing a loved one.

“I thought becoming a 92M would be a way to bring great honor to fallen Soldiers while bringing closure to Americans who have lost family members,” said Bradley. “There will always be some sadness to this MOS, but it’s important to remember the overall mission to get that Soldier back home.”

MEDICS: Treating Soldiers during training

Story and photos by Spc. Ian Valley
205th Press Camp Headquarters

Medics supporting the Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 stand by on every forward operating base on Fort Hunter Liggett, California, to assist any Soldier who needs medical attention. WAREX 9 14-03 provides training for Army Reserve Soldiers in a tactical environment. Most Army Reserve Soldiers only get this kind of training when they are actually deployed. With this duplication of a war-like environment comes the risk of bodily harm. These medics must be ready to aid any Soldier in need.

“We are not [role] players at all,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Mariconi noncommissioned officer in charge of the medical clinics during WAREX 91 14-03, and assigned to the 7214th Medical Support Unit in Garden Grove, California. “Our primary mission for the WAREX is to provide real world medical support for the exercise.”

Soldier safety is a priority during WAREX, even so accidents can happen. The medics must be able to treat common injuries that may



occur during the exercise.

Mariconi said the biggest concerns are weather-related injuries, sprains, dermatological issues and allergies. For most of these, medication is available in each clinic to treat the Soldiers. Other, more serious injuries must be treated at the medical center on post or a local civilian hospital.

Capt. Qunkiu Yuen, a nurse with the 7214th MSU, and assigned to the FOB Schoonover clinic, says there is a new trend though.

“We are starting to see a lot of upper respiratory infections, mostly due to Soldiers coming from different regions,” said Yuen. “They are coming to this dusty area and haven’t got used to the environment.”

No matter what ailment the Soldier suffers from, the first step in patient care is the initial assessment, said Yuen. Soldiers will fill out information sheets, just as they would in any hospital to better help the medical staff evaluate their health.

After this, a member of the medical staff will interview each patient, said Yuen. The medic will check the patients’ basic vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature.

The medics want to find out what is wrong with the patient and how long have they been in that condition, says Yuen.

“I will follow the medics. They will give me a short synopsis of what’s going on with the patient.”

The medics will do their best to treat the Soldiers on the FOB if it is something they can take care of, Yuen says. In other cases, the patient must be taken elsewhere.

tYuen, who is the primary healthcare provider for FOB Schoonover, has the final say on where patients will be treated.

“For stuff that I can’t do here, I will send them forward to the TMC [Troop Medical Clinic] or outside to the hospital,” said Yuen.

Although the medics can only help Soldiers with issues within their skillset, Yuen says the medics job is still very important.

“In the military, most of our medical care on the frontline is medics,” said Yuen. “They have a basic education on how to take care of immediate stuff.”

This includes controlling bleeding and breathing.

Yuen says patients must be stabalized once in the clinics until they either get flown out of theatre or are deemed healthy enough to return to duty.

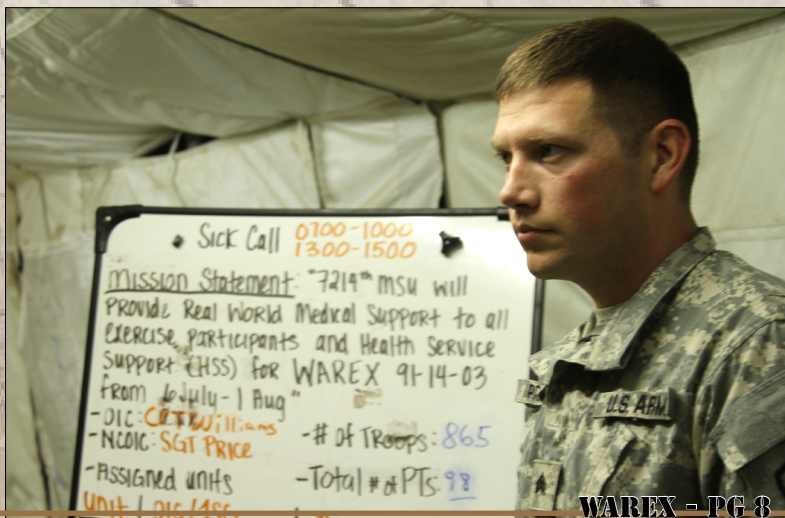
Sgt. Christopher Price of the 7214th MSU and the NCOIC of the FOB Milpitas clinic says that he couldn’t do his job successfully without the help of his medical staff.

“They’re doing a phenomenal job,” said Price.

He says he has seen them grow and be very proactive throughout this exercise. As a leader he takes pride in the fact that his Soldiers display maturity and discipline.

“I can walk away from my aid station for a few hours and I wont have any issues,” said Price.

Whether going for sick call or needing treatment for an injury during training, all Soldiers participating in WAREX can expect a first-rate level of care and attention from the medical clinics.





Soldiers train to combat flames



*Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Chesmer 45th Military History Detachment
Photos by Spc. Victor Blanco 205th Press Camp Headquarters*

With red lights blaring, a M1142 Tactical Fire Fighting Truck speeds up to a burning building with thick dark smoke billowing its windows. In a rush, firefighters of the 238th Engineer Detachment, an Army Reserve unit from Houston, Texas, quickly assemble a three-man breach team to open a way into the burning building, while a nozzle team assertively lays out the hose lines.

The 238th arrived at Fort Hunter Liggett, California earlier this summer for pre-mobilization training before it is deploys overseas in October.

Each year Army Reserve firefighting units arrive to Fort Hunter Liggett to participate in a Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTE). The Department of Defense employs civilian firefighters at the Fort Hunter Liggett Fire Department (FHLFD), which conducts up to five cycles of the exercise each year on rotating two-week basis for units readying for deployment, said Michael B. Hewston of Paso Robles, California, the assistant fire chief of FHLFD.

“We train them in eight different operations during their two week cycle,” said Christopher McGuire, the FHLFD Chief. “We put them in a controlled environment. We put them in a flashover; get them to understand a flashover; how to read smoke and how to communicate with each other.” A flashover, McGuire explained, is a sudden explosion of fire and intense heat. “We build up their skill sets,” he said.

With eight different operations of training, the firefighters of the 238th get a chance to run through all aspects of fighting a structural fire.

They run pump operations to operate the water pumps on their vehicles; ladder operations; forcible entry to learn how to use tools such as the 30 inch halligan tool to pry open doors; search and rescue to locate victims; ventilation operations to control heat and smoke buildup; vehicle extraction techniques to remove victims from vehicles; single room fire training and flashover operations to recognize possible fire bursts.

“This is very good training we receive—it helps us keep up our skills and learn new tactics,” said Spc. Hector M. Rivera, a firefighter with the 238th from Houston, Texas.

Each firefighter is also certified in CPR according to the American Heart Association standards, said Hewston. And every few days, four Soldiers rotate on stand-by with the department for real world experience if an emergency comes up, said McGuire.

Every unit in the Army must meet certain requirements to maintain its proficiency and deployability each year. Army firefighter units must qualify as a unit annually by putting out a live fire, noted Rivera.

“Participating in this training counts for us as extinguishing a live fire even though it is a controlled fire,” he said.

The firefighters of the 238th have been a very motivated group of Soldiers in this training exercise and have been fantastic to work with, said McGuire. “They have been very eager, coming here every single day to the fire station at 7:30 a.m., involved in roll-call, and eager to get out there.”

CSTE exercises come with new challenges and expectations with each cycle. Different units, Soldiers and techniques make each cycle unique. All Soldiers and firefighters have something to gain. “We all hope to have some new experience to take home with us,” said Rivera.

91ST TRAINING DIVISION WARRIOR EXERCISE 14-03



Sept. 2013: Units begin preparation for WAREX 14-03

July, 2014: Soldiers begin mobilization to Fort Hunter Liggett.

July 15 to 22: Soldiers participate in training lanes.

July 23, 2014: WAREX 14-03 kicks off.

July, 30 2014: WAREX 14-03 successfully ends.

August, 1 2014: Soldiers begin redeployment to home station.



Engineers: Making things go BOOM!

*Story and photos by PFC Brian N. Lang
205th Press Camp Headquarters*

The 744th Engineer Battalion, 744th Engineer Company and 368th Engineer Battalion came together for training on essential combat engineer tasks and skills, including using explosives to remove obstacles, unexploded ordinance and removing obstacles in a unit's path of travel during the Warrior Exercise 91 14-03.

"Combat Engineers improve the lives, and establish security for the local population when deployed," said Sgt. Benjamin Heiner, a combat engineer with the 744th Engineer Battalion, based in Ogden, Utah. "However, to get to an acceptable level of muscle memory it takes lots and lots of practice."

This training allowed the Soldiers to observe how to set up, arm and fire a Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC), and practice packing, setting up, and firing a variety of plastic explosives.

"This training is priceless," said Capt.

Steven Keister, Operations Officer for the 368th Engineer Battalion based out of Londonderry, New Hampshire. "These skills are perishable. Without constant and vigilant training the Soldiers are at risk of losing their proficiency."

The combat engineers started their morning by prepping a MICLIC, followed by the conducting of blast procedures and the blast countdown. Soldiers used the MICLIC brought for training with simulated explosives, because there are only two places in the U.S. where a live version can be fired off, because of how large the explosion is. The device has 350 feet of rope covered with blocks of simulated explosives.

"Valuable, massive and life-saving," said Keister. "Is the only way I can think of to describe the training going on for the WAREX. There is a high pay off to this training, because of how valuable it is to ensure that you know what you're doing when working with explosives."

One upside of this training is that the

engineers get to ignite C-4, which they can rarely do.

"Combat engineers use specific methods and techniques to clear the battlefield of dangers that would otherwise injure a servicemember," said Heiner. "There are very technical and detail-oriented parts of this job that we don't always get to practice, but they're just as vital to ensuring safety as blowing up battlefield obstacles."

WAREX is helping to prevent loss of knowledge by shaping the way servicemembers train permanently, which will lead to saving lives on the battlefield.

"There are three easy ways to both describe combat engineers and the job they do," said Heiner. "Loud. Dangerous. Valuable."





Moulage

The art behind Army medical training

*Story and photos by Pvt. Travis J. Terreo
205th Press Camp Headquarters*

First, he peeled the skin off of the plastic tray and glued it to the elbow stump. Next, he added bruising and bone shards where the arm was cut off. Finally, he covered it all in a cascade of blood.

U.S. Army Spc. Harrison Greene, a patient administration specialist with the 4220th U.S. Army Hospital from Shoreham N.Y, is a member of the Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 moulage team. The team's goal for WAREX is to learn from the experience while also improving the quality of training for Soldiers participating in the events.

"A moulage is a real-world enhancement to a medical training mannequin or a live role player," said Greene. "It is a way to make the training more realistic, to really make sure that Soldiers know what they are doing."

The moulage construction process works to the benefit of everyone involved. Though the moulage team is made up of Soldiers with medical backgrounds and experience, it is a valuable training experience for them too.

"The construction process is sometimes a learning experience for us," said Sgt. Leah Moberg, a medic with the 7240th Installation Medical Support Unit from Kirksville, Missouri. "We use pictures of real injuries and of the body parts we are working on as a reference to make the moulage as realistic as possible. We have to learn where the bones are and are not, which wounds bleed a lot and

bottles. The bottles are then placed into a hot water bath until they melt.

Once the Gel Effects melt, a team member removes them from the hot water bath and squeezes them into small puddles on plastic sheets. These are called blanks. At this point, a Soldier uses grease paints to change the gel's color to any color needed, said Robert Marlin, a former Army medic and current moulage construction instructor with Regional Training Site-Medical out of Camp Parks in Dublin, California. Generally, the team only changes colors to help match skin colors.

Next, the team adds special effects. Holes are cut for bullet wounds, aluminum pieces are added to look like shrapnel, dirt can be added to mimic field wounds and much more. With the add ons in place, the mannequins are allowed to dry.

After they dry, a Soldier peels the wounds off of the plastic sheets and places them on the mannequin using clear Gel Effects. A team member then uses more Gel Effects in various colors to blend the wound to the mannequin and adds dirt and other foreign matter. This is also the stage where most of the artificial blood is added. Finally, the moulages are left alone to dry before being stored or sent out for use in medical training.

According to Marlin, there are three different types of moulages. There are regular mannequins, live role players and computerized mannequins.

"The regular mannequins allow Soldiers in training to see what wounds look like and they make Soldiers go through the whole process," said Marlin. "We expect Soldiers to ask what is wrong first, but these mannequins are not going to reply. If we throw one of these out there with a uniform on and tell them that there is something wrong, they have to

find the problem by cutting the clothes off or using rakes and sweeps. They have to use their training."

Live role players are the second type. This type allows the team to put the moulages on people so that they can act as if they are wounded and actually be able to display the wound. This type is not used often, explained Marlin. They are usually only used if we are short on time and need to produce moulages quick for a mass casualty type training.

"The body suits are particularly useful for surgical training," said Spc. Fernando Octaviani, a health care specialist with the 4005th U.S. Army Hospital from Ellington Fields, Texas. "I can put the suit on and it will simulate internal bleeds, bruising or almost any kind of traumatic wounds like shrapnel or gunshots. The advantage to the suit though is that it is all gel, so Soldiers can cut into it and actually perform the procedures."

The final variation is the computerized mannequin. These are the least commonly used because of the price and the requirement that trained technicians be available to run the computer that controls the mannequin.

"The advantages to this type of moulage is that it is almost like working on a real patient," said Marlin. "They can speak, blink their eyes and move their arms. They can even have a pulse and respiration or internal bleeding."

Though some types of moulages are most useful in specific situations, all moulages can be used for any portion of the Army medical process.

"Regardless of the variation of moulage chosen, they can be used at all levels of military medical care whether it is combat life saver type buddy aid, triage, or in a military hospital," explained Marlin.

The Army's Combat Lifesaver (CLS)



Course teaches Soldiers the basic skills necessary to provide potentially lifesaving aid to fellow Soldiers on the battlefield. The team can use moulages to provide injured patients to Soldiers who otherwise might not have had the opportunity to practice.

Triage is the stage of care in which large numbers of injured personnel are sorted based on the severity of their injuries. This stage determines how and when medical personnel will transport and treat casualties.

"Triage is an under practiced but critical stage in the medical process," said Spc. Octaviani. "This stage is about doing the most

good for the most people. I have been through the training and moulages are one of the greatest tools out there for it."

Moulages can also be used in an Army hospital setting. During WAREX, Soldiers stage the mannequins to simulate combat injuries. Soldiers participating in the event then administer CLS-style buddy aid. Medics then triage and transport the mannequins to an Army hospital for further treatment if the wound warrants it.

"One of the hardest parts of being in an Army hospital as a Reserve Soldier is that we don't get a lot of practice being a hospital," said Greene. "We can't set up a field hospital over the weekend for drill. What we do on the moulage team allows the Army hospital units here to get that experience."

Moulages are an invaluable tool for medical training, Octaviani explained. Trying to practice medical aide on someone that you know doesn't actually have an injury and getting that practice in a chaos-free environment is not a useless exercise; but it does not give the same value as working with moulages in the chaotic environment provided by WAREX.

"How this all helps Soldiers is it prepares them for experiences they may have going into areas of operation," said 1st Lt. Christina Leake, the moulage team officer in charge and member of the 7231st Installation Medical Support Unit from Lubbock, Texas. "Having been through this exercise and training, they will know what to do. It better prepares them to take care of Soldiers in a combat environment."





Service runs deep for Montana Family

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Alexandra Hays
45th Military History Detachment

For the Skillmans, service in the Army is a family affair. While the tradition of military service often runs strong among families, you don’t often see a mother, husband and son serving in the same unit. Command Sgt. Maj. Lola M. Skillman, Master Sgt. Dan L. Skillman and Staff Sgt. Jaymes Skillman are all Army Reserve Soldiers assigned of the 652nd Regional Support Group out of Helena, Montana. They deployed to Afghanistan together in 2012, and even out of uniform, the Skillmans serve the Army as civilians in Helena. Command Sgt. Maj. Skillman, the acting operations sergeant major for the 652nd, said being in the military makes it a little easier dealing with the deployments of her loved ones. “Being in the military definitely makes it easier,” she said. And she should know—her husband deployed to Iraq in 2005 while she remained behind at Fort Bragg, N.C. Then a week after Dan came back, their son, Jaymes left for his own deployment to Iraq. “It was very nerve-wracking being stateside, knowing that they are over there in a combat zone and worrying,” she explained. “When Jaymes went over there, he was Infantry and went out on foot patrols, and it was very nerve-wracking.” The history of service, deployments, separation and coming back together runs deep in this family—all the way back to 1985. That year, Command Sgt. Maj. Skillman, who’s served in the Army Reserve for 31 years, met her husband of 29 years, Master Sgt. Skillman, when he joined her Army Reserve engineer unit. From that point they followed a similar career path, attempting to stay together in the same units. In essence, the military was their matchmaker. The choice to stay in the same unit led to the couple deploying together to Germany for a year in 2002. The catch: they had to leave their three children Jaymes, Dannielle and Zachery behind. “We were kind of the spokespersons for having a family care plan in the military,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Skillman. She explained that their three children stayed in the care of their grandmother—but it was tough.

Jaymes, who was in high school during his parent’s deployment, didn’t want anything to do with the military when they first returned home. But one day Jaymes told his parents of his plan to join the Army. He did, and after serving active duty in the Infantry, Jaymes joined his parents in the Army Reserve as a property book noncommissioned officer in the 652nd. The three joked about what could sometimes be blurred lines between familial and military duty. “You get that in your mind, like, ‘should I stand at parade rest?’ But you still have to keep that military bearing,” Jaymes said of serving with his higher ranking mother and father. Command Sgt. Maj. Skillman said that sometimes she has to catch herself when she realizes she’s being hard on her son, who is also her subordinate. “I do kind of have to watch myself, because I tend to be harder on him than the other Soldiers,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Skillman of Jaymes. However, the family seems to have worked out the kinks in the military-home life balance. “That’s one thing that we’ve all come to realize,” Jaymes said. “When we’re in uniform, it’s strictly military. When we go home, we leave it behind. That’s one of our rules.” The Skillmans took that family approach of serving to Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, where they treated members of the 652nd RSG like extended family. The family said they set up Christmas parties and would organize unit functions on Sundays. “We got together more as a family—taking care of the unit as a family,” explained Command Sgt. Maj. Skillman. The deployment to Afghanistan also provided depth to the Skillmans’ marriage. Master Sgt. Skillman got choked up and wiped away tears as he described the concern he often felt for his wife while when deployed to Afghanistan her, as she was in harm’s way along with him. “A lot of people asked me ‘it must be nice to have your wife with you,’” Dan Skillman said of their joint deployment. “It really wasn’t, because I worried about her a lot. I really did, but I knew that she could handle it because she was in the military,” he said tearfully. Master Sgt. Skillman said their marriage didn’t change very much due to the deployment—that it was already strong. “Obviously it was tested a few times,” he said. “But all marriages are, so it probably got stronger.” The fact that the married couple shared a very small room during the deployment may have helped them connect, but their close quarters came with challenges as well. “It has its ups and downs,” Lola said of being deployed with her husband, and sharing a room made out of a shipping container with him. “Back home you can go your own separate ways, you can go do something else—when you’re deployed together, it’s 24/7.” However, after staying stateside during a deployment and then deploying with her husband, Lola said she preferred deploying together. “The Afghanistan deployment was easier,” Lola said. “Being there with both of them.” All three family members participated in Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 as part of the 652nd’s “governor’s cell.” The family also attended a previous iteration of WAREX together here in 2011. “There’s so many things going on at once—moving troops, feeding troops, and the WAREX its self,” Dan said. Dan explained that logistics is a huge process and that many Soldiers don’t realize how supplies get from point ‘A’ to point ‘B’ on the battlefield. However, he said, “We enjoy taking care of troops.” Whether in a deployed setting or in their home town, the Skillmans take care of Soldiers as if they are family.

Preventive medicine keeps Soldiers safe

Story and photos by Pvt. Travis J. Terreo
205th Press Camp Headquarters

Across the world, Soldiers eat in dining facilities, shower, drink from fountains and live in shelters provided by the United States Army. Though the average Soldier rarely considers it, there must be someone around to uphold the standards for these essential things: preventive medicine Soldiers. During Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 at Fort Hunter Liggett, California, Soldiers from the 792nd Medical Detachment from Lubbock, Texas, are tackling this job with the help of Capt. Patrick L. McClellan and Spc. Brittany J. Dorrill from the 988th Medical Detachment out of Round Rock, Texas. During WAREX, the preventive medicine team’s mission is two-fold; serve the Soldiers participating in a real-world capacity, and train to be better at their job. “My job is [like] the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) of the Army,” said Dorrill. “I deal with food safety, disease control, and operational safety.” Preventive medicine teams have a variety of methods for evaluating an installation. They are conducting inspections of living quarters and dining facilities, testing food and water, or surveying rodent and insect populations. Their goal is always to create the healthiest space possible for their fellow Soldiers, said Dorrill. One of the team’s many tasks is ensuring that all consumable water sources have acceptable levels of chlorine. Chlorine levels are important because some chlorine will kill bacteria, but too much will make Soldiers sick, said Spc. Bruce J. Gonzalez of the 792nd Medical Detachment out of Lubbock, Texas. Similarly, the team tests water used in showers, hand wash stations and shave stations for turbidity. When water is not clear because of sediment, it is considered turbid. Using turbid water increases the likelihood of spreading viruses, parasites and bacteria. “When you come out of the shower you want to be clean

right?” asked Dorrill. “Well, that is something we do.”

During the WAREX, the 792nd has experienced the effects of turbidity first-hand. Preventive medicine Soldiers inspect all drinking water storage containers before they can be put to use. One trailer-borne water container, often referred to as a water buffalo, was used prior to inspection and Soldiers began to fall ill, explained Dorrill. When word reached the preventive medicine team, it immediately inspected the water buffalo and discovered that rust from the inside was causing turbidity and making Soldiers sick.

The team is also charged with ensuring that the food Soldiers eat is acceptable. To do this, preventive medicine Soldiers inspect the kitchen areas and the area where the dishes and utensils are sanitized. During the inspections, a preventive medicine team member will check the temperature of the sterilization area, which consists of several large vats of boiling water, and of any meat being cooked to verify that they reach the temperature required to kill off bacteria and disease.

“Living quarters also make the list,” explained Gonzalez. “We have to make sure that the Soldiers are keeping their tents and themselves clean.”

To this end, the team

periodically walks through barracks and tents to ensure that there are no trash or bugs. While it inspects the quarters, the team also inspects the surrounding area for anything that may attract bugs or wildlife.

“We also do insect and wildlife surveys,” said McClellan, an entomologist and executive officer of the 988th. “Bugs are my thing.”

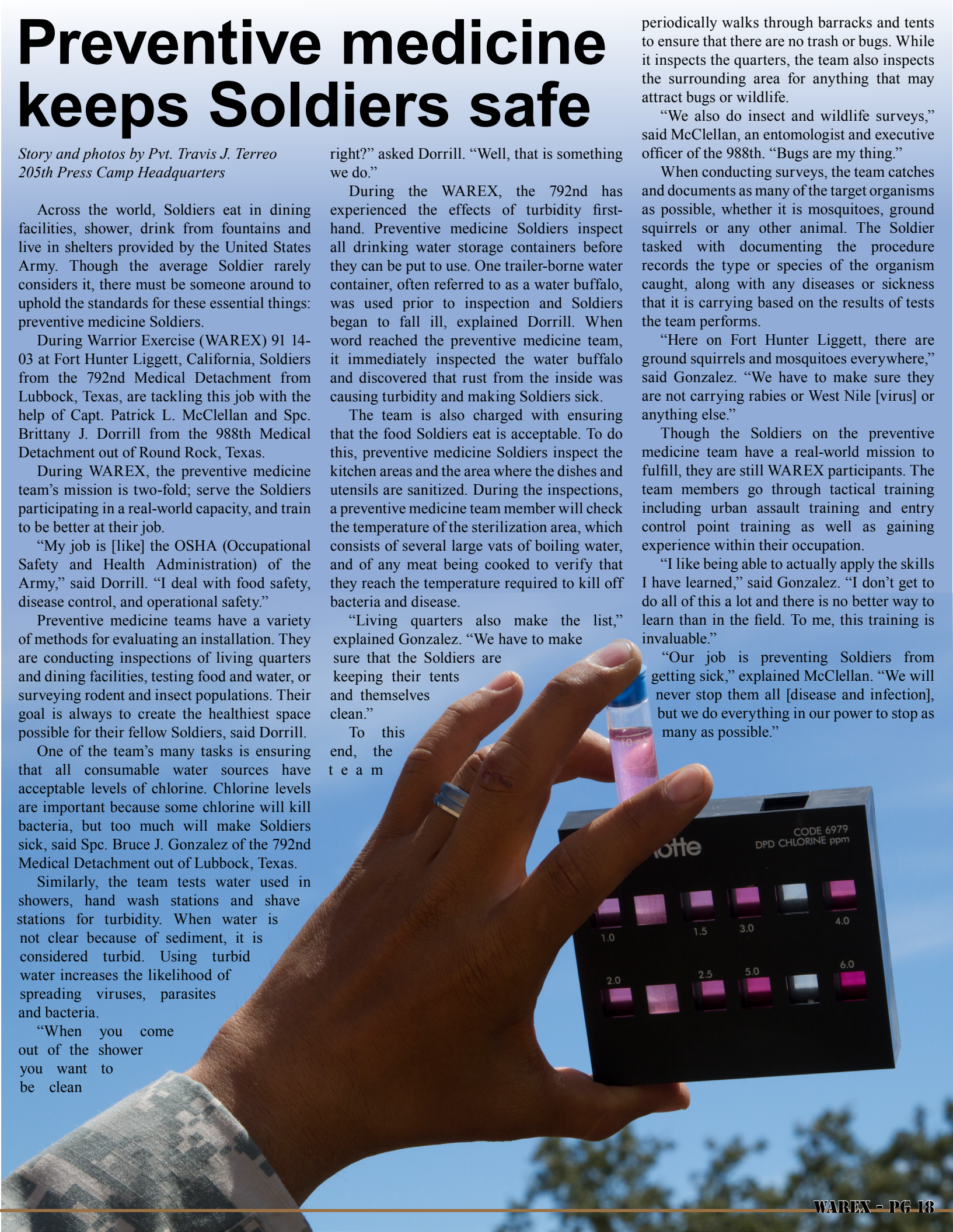
When conducting surveys, the team catches and documents as many of the target organisms as possible, whether it is mosquitoes, ground squirrels or any other animal. The Soldier tasked with documenting the procedure records the type or species of the organism caught, along with any diseases or sickness that it is carrying based on the results of tests the team performs.

“Here on Fort Hunter Liggett, there are ground squirrels and mosquitoes everywhere,” said Gonzalez. “We have to make sure they are not carrying rabies or West Nile [virus] or anything else.”

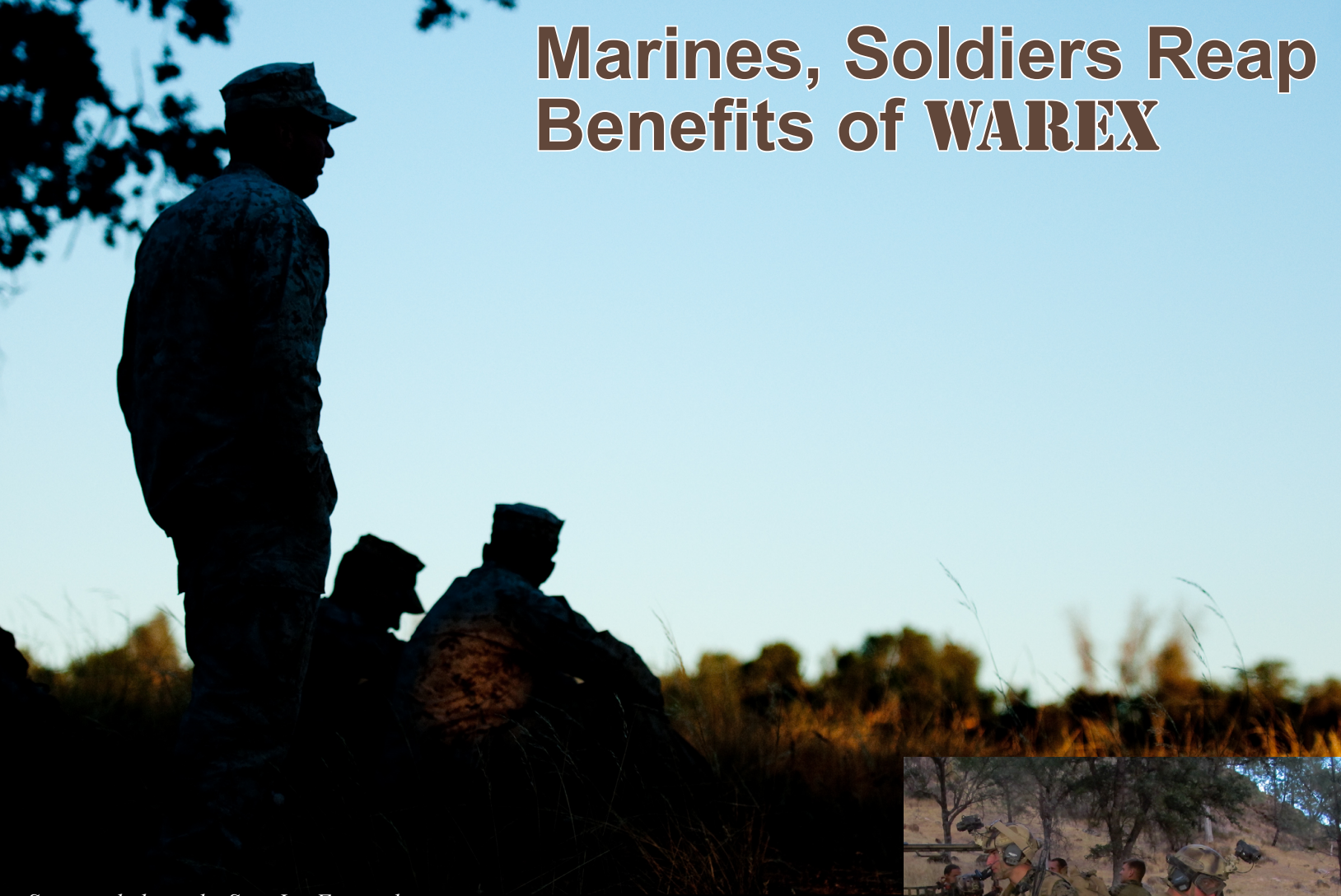
Though the Soldiers on the preventive medicine team have a real-world mission to fulfill, they are still WAREX participants. The team members go through tactical training including urban assault training and entry control point training as well as gaining experience within their occupation.

“I like being able to actually apply the skills I have learned,” said Gonzalez. “I don’t get to do all of this a lot and there is no better way to learn than in the field. To me, this training is invaluable.”

“Our job is preventing Soldiers from getting sick,” explained McClellan. “We will never stop them all [disease and infection], but we do everything in our power to stop as many as possible.”



Marines, Soldiers Reap Benefits of WAREX



Story and photos by Spc. Jon Fernandez
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Marines from B Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division conducted recon training during Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03 in conjunction with Army National Guard troops in early July. The joint exercise included rappelling, vehicle movement and combat patrols.

“The integration between the Marines and the Soldiers here was great training for both branches,” said Capt. Benjamin Howe, the platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, B Company. “At any given point, we can be working with the Army or any other branch of service. It’s also good training to get out of your own team [and] get out of your comfort zone.”

Despite the differences between the branches, there are real world benefits to joint training.

“The Marine Corps, in general, is always willing and eager to train with other services. It’s one of the reasons we’re here,” said Howe. “We often find ourselves working together in different conflict areas.”

The recon teams scouted a road for four days, taking pictures and reporting every bit of pertinent information to their platoon leaders, said Howe a Rochester, New York, native.

“Two teams are continuing to observe

objective areas and sending back photos of the area via high frequency radios,” he said. “They are painting the picture of the objective areas.”

While one team continued observation activities, the Marines staged an ambush against opposing forces (OPFOR) made up of a California National Guard infantry unit. The operation took place in the early hours of July 23, and all prior training was of great benefit, Howe said.

“On our last phase of training, we conducted 24 hour patrols and reconnaissance on our objectives,” said Cpl. Zachary K. Morgan, a member of 2nd Platoon. “One of the teams conducted a hasty ambush on the opfor for training purposes. It was great training for the team that conducted the ambush and for the infantry unit (opfor) [reacting to the ambush].”

The array of recon training including rope systems, rappelling; one-rope bridges; knots and pulley systems, vehicle movement, armored ATVs (all terrain vehicles) and other off-road vehicles, and patrols, said Morgan, a Morgantown, West Virginia native.

“At the end of the day, we’re all Americans fighting for the same cause,” said Howe. “And we are definitely going to be coming back.”



Staff Sgt. Cooper T. Cash
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Amber rays of the setting sun showered the Soldiers in light, while the humming of armored vehicles masked their voices. The warriors of the 324th Military Police Battalion gathered around their battalion commander for a rousing speech of dedication and resolve – the time had come to put their training to the test July 25.

The Fresno based unit was tasked with controlling and searching a village for a high value target (HVT) during Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 91 14-03.

With their vehicles lining the dusty roadway, each vehicle commander visually checked their truck’s inhabitants for all necessary gear for the mission.

Although this was an exercise, the Soldiers seemed as focused as they would be in an actual battle.

“This training pushes Soldiers to their limits,” said San Francisco native, Lt. Col. Christine C. Borgognoni, the commander of the 324th. “The sweat equity of training in this environment helps Soldiers learn.”

The commander’s words to her troops echoed the realistic vibe of the exercise.

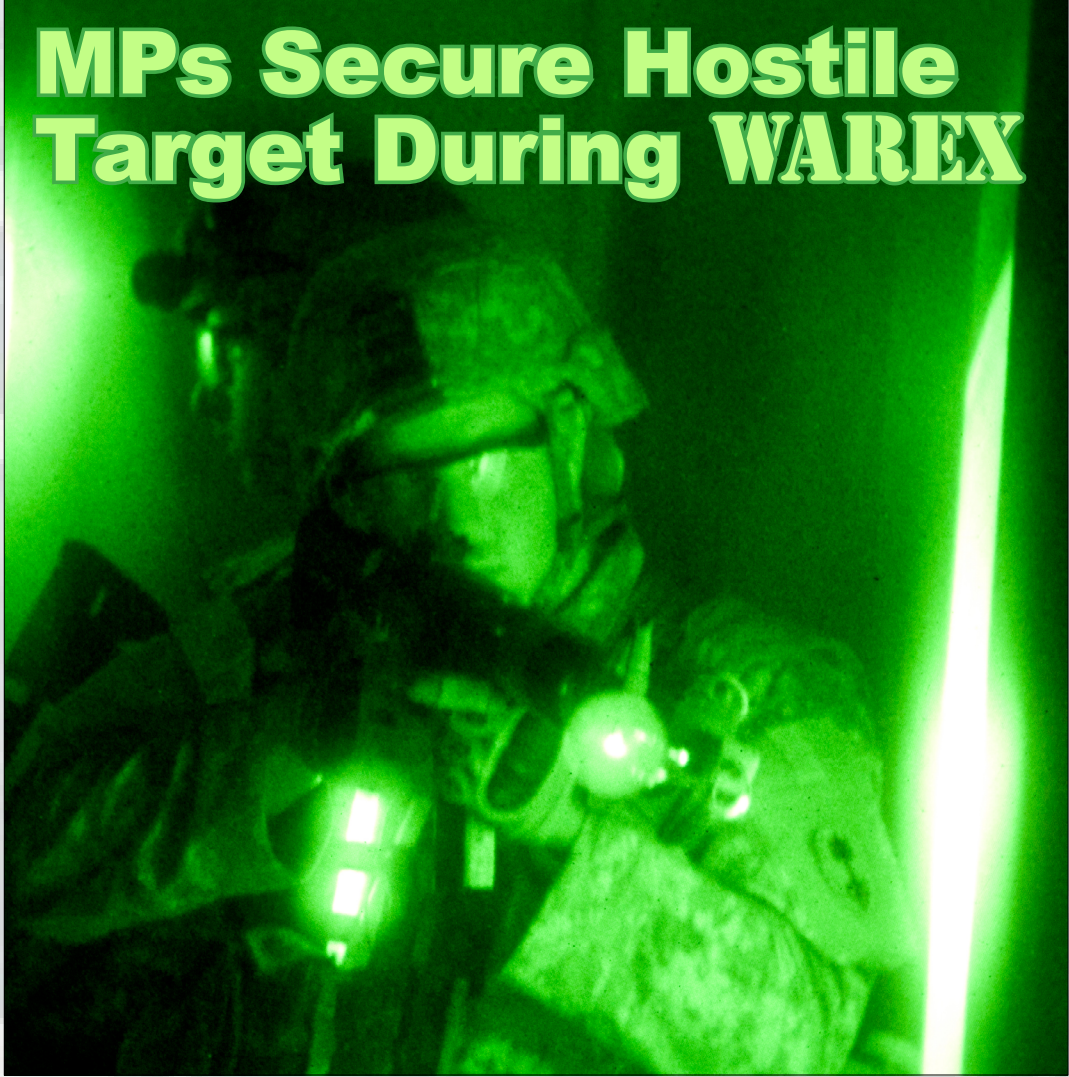
“Today we have the opportunity to change the tide of public opinion,” said Borgognoni. “The enemy plays its own game too- all of you need to keep your eyes open and ready to meet the challenge... there is no single hero in this, we are in this together!”

As with real combat operations, the mission was laid out in an operations order prior to preparation.

“We are looking for HVTs said searching for terrorist activities,” said Sgt. Daniel R. Wuest, assigned to the 377th MP Company, 391st MP Batt., and attached to the 324th MP Batt. “Including cell phones, and bomb making materials.”

As the Soldiers’ vehicles approached the

MPs Secure Hostile Target During WAREX



village, darkness fell. The gun trucks were positioned around the targeted area, and turrets were directed in overlapping sectors of fire.

Swiftly and methodically, the MPs ran in four-to-five man fire teams to their assigned portions of the village.

Lined against each building in a porcupine like formation- Soldiers’ rifles jutted in every direction. After securing the exterior of each

building, they poured through each door, systematically controlling each room.

Although the teams had drilled for four days leading up to the operation, there were still obstacles to overcome.

“Overcoming communications issues was tough,” said Wuest “It helps us prepare to overcome issues when deploying by making us think outside the box.”

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