



Warrior Wavefront

exercise pacific warrior 2008

Fort Hunter Liggett, California



Today's high: 100° Saturday's high: 99° Sunday's high: 97°

June 13, 2008

Soldiers learn how to take the HEAT

By Spc. Maria N. Reynolds
300th MPAD

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – The Soldiers scrambled to reach the doors and crawl to safety from their upside-down Humvee. The combat locks were stuck and they struggled to free themselves from the chaos of flying debris and weapons.

Finally, the doors opened and they crawled out onto the platform of the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer.

Sgt. Jarvis D. Kelly, a truck driver from the 850th Transportation Company in Lyons, Miss., said the HEAT rollover training was realistic and intense.

"I didn't realize how hard it would be to get out of the doors when you're upside down," he said.

The HEAT simulator is a modified Humvee body that can be rotated 360 degrees on a secured platform. This gives Soldiers the practical experience of a rollover without the danger.

**'I didn't realize
how hard it would
be to get out ... '**

The device was built in reaction to the high rate of accidents and rollovers involving up-armored Humvees, said Staff Sgt. Robert Gentry, an instructor with the HEAT training from the 104th Training Division in Vancouver, Wash. The training is mandatory for deploying Soldiers.

The simulator has cameras and sensors so trainers know if Soldiers are following procedures, explained Gentry. Sensors in the seatbelts and in the combat locks ensure both are properly secured, he said.

Once the Soldiers are secured in the simulator, it is rotated at different degrees so they can sense when the vehicle is about to tip over.

Gentry said the training is critical for Humvees with a gunner. "It's the crew's responsibility to pull the gunner into the Humvee and hold him down, and to keep him from being rolled."

The HEAT simulator is inverted and the crew is required to evacuate with their practice weapons. The hardest part, states Gentry, is the combat locks, because they're not easy to use when upside down and disoriented.

The biggest danger with rollovers is unsecured equipment because they become projectiles when the Humvee rolls, said Gentry. The Humvee is very heavy and will probably roll a few times before it stops, he explained, so it's important to always secure gear.

Sgt. Jarvis D. Kelly
850th Trans Co.



Photos by Sgt. Karl Johnson

Above, Spc. Laterrance Moore, a driver with the 850th Transportation Company based out of Clarksdale Miss., assists Soldiers from his unit to escape their "vehicle" during Humvee rollover training here Tuesday. Below, The Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer gives a feel for a Humvee accident during Exercise Pacific Warrior.



"The best way to prevent rollovers is to drive safely, by paying attention to the road conditions, the weather and the territory that you're driving in," said Gentry, noting the importance of maintenance checks.

"It was really great training," said Pfc. Gina M. Rocha, from the 693rd Quartmaster Company in Bell, Calif. "The instructors explained everything down to a 'T' about how it was going to be when we were in the Humvee, and did their best to keep it safe."

Soldier on the Street

What is the best gift you've ever gotten for Fathers' Day?



Sgt. 1st Class Terence D. Bowen
Chemical Specialist
326 Chemical Company Det. 1
Millington, Tenn.

A balloon and a card from my 7-year-old daughter.



Staff Sgt. Arthur L. McLaurin
Military Police Officer
443rd Military Police Det.
Detroit, Mich.

It was a kiss on the cheek stating "I love you, daddy." I could care less about getting material things; it's the things from the heart that matter.



Sgt. Jaime A. Wong
Medic
479th Chemical Battalion
Chiclayo, Peru

It was the present I received from my niece. She gave me a nice shirt, but just the expression. She's my favorite niece and I remember that.



Master Sgt. Brinston B. Collins
Military Police Officer
88th Military Police Company
Ft. Eustis, Va.

When I returned back from Iraq and was able to spend time with my children. It's better than a gift.

Photos by Spc. Maria Reynolds



A Soldier watches the fire that has burned in the hills since June 8.

Training despite the smoke

By Spc. Maria N. Reynolds
300th MPAD

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – A fire in the hills north of here is not expected to impact Pacific Warrior 2008 missions, the joint task force commander said Wednesday.

More than 4,200 acres have burned due to a fire that began on Monday in Los Padres National Park, which is adjacent to the base. The fire spread to Fort Hunter Liggett's wooded areas Wednesday on the north end of post.

"I don't really think the fire will affect the training," said Col. Lorenzo J. Valenzuela, the Joint Task Force Commander of Pacific Warrior 2008 and the commander of the 647th Regional Support Group from El Paso, Texas.

"The fire is north of the training sites and it would have to go through the post to reach them. I'm sure that it will be taken care of before it reaches that far. We have people that are highly trained handling it."

Private firefighters, as well as local and state fire departments, are working to secure the area. A small camp was set up inside post for them and their support teams to accommodate them during the duration of the firefight. This area has been secured to maintain the safety of soldiers.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



By Spc. Maria Reynolds and Pvt. 1st Class Laura Johnson

Warrior Wavefront

exercise pacific warrior 2008

The Warrior Wavefront is published by the Exercise Pacific Warrior Office of Public Affairs.
Exercise Director: Maj. Gen. Bruce Zukauskas
Joint Task Force Commander: Col. Lorenzo Valenzuela
Joint Visitors Bureau Commander: Lt. Col. Mark E. Johnson
Public Affairs Officer: Capt. Maurice A. Pritz
participating public affairs units include the 300th MPAD, 366th MPAD and the 203rd PAD.
To submit story ideas please send them to daniel.m.ware@us.army.mil.



Unit carries their fair share and more

By Pfc. Daniel Haun
300th MPAD

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – The 475th Trailer Transfer Point Detachment from Bardstown, Ky., is moving more than shipping containers; they're moving the equipment that makes exercise Pacific Warrior possible.

"The mechanics keep the equipment running, so it keeps the mission going," said Staff Sgt. Kerry S. Milburn, the acting first sergeant.

"It's the same way here; keep the Conexes loaded and out to the (Forward Operating Bases) and it keeps the mission going."

He said his Soldiers don't have decades of experience, but they are professional.

"They're some of the best Soldiers I've had in my 23-year career," Milburn said. "Even though they're young, they're energetic. They'll do whatever you ask them."

Youth and energy are two necessities for what can prove to be a dangerous occupation.



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

Pvt. Thomas Smith from Campbellsville, Ky., a driver with the 475th Trailer Transfer Point Detachment ground guides a forklift as it transfers a cargo container.

"It's a really big safety hazard when you pick up a Conex, you're blinded all around," said Spc. James P. Allen, a light wheel vehicle mechanic.

"You have to really rely on some good ground guides and make sure they're taking all the safety precautions. As close as they will be to the equipment, you've got to really be careful where they're (located) at all times."

With safety as the key, Soldiers are restricted from crossing the Conex yard adjacent to the Intermediate Staging Base.

"You'll see us getting on people all the time around the yard for crossing it when we've got equipment running," Allen said.

Along with safety, equipment functions checks are vital to the mission.

"You've got to check your equipment before you start your day up," Allen said. "We do this in the civilian world with our vehicles before we drive, especially on trips. Running oil checks, making sure nothing is dripping, making sure all the lights and brakes work, making sure everything's working. There's no reason to be deadlined or anything like that."

He noted it was no different getting ready for Pacific Warrior this year.

"Preparation (involves) going over the training manuals and getting familiar with the equipment that we will be operating on; doing a lot of (Preventative Maintenance Checks) and making sure everything is good to go, that way we know what we're doing already before we step out here," he said.

In the case of the Conex yard, the job isn't for everyone.

"You've got to be well-rounded, work with your hands, and don't care (if you) get a little bit dirty," Allen said.

'They're some of the best Soldiers I've had in my 23-year career.'

Staff Sgt. Kerry S. Milburn
475th Trailer Transfer Point
Detachment

Emergency calls not just three digits

Staff Reports

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – If you are involved with a real-life emergency in the training areas, do not call 911 from your civilian phone.

All emergencies must be reported to range control. The phone number is **831-386-2503**, the radio frequency is FM 41.05 and the call sign is Hunter 33.

If the emergency is in the cantonment area, you should dial 2513 or 2526 with a Fort Hunter Liggett land line.

On a cell phone in the cantonment area, you should dial **831-386-2526** instead of calling 911, because the standard emergency number may not transfer you to the correct officials while you are on base.

The Troop Medical Clinic's phone extension is 2516.



Spc. Ashley L. Acosta

On Wednesday, California Highway Patrol Flight Officer Paramedic Darren Gennuso briefed members of the 336th Medical Detachment from Millington, Tenn. about the evacuation procedures they would use in the event of real injuries during the exercise.