



Warrior Wavefront

exercise pacific warrior 2008

Fort Hunter Liggett, California



Today's high: 95°

Tomorrow's high: 105°

June 18, 2008

Quartermaster sustains the fight

By Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE 8J, Calif. – The words “Petroleum Specialist” bring visions of a man in overalls asking if you want regular or unleaded. Quartermaster Soldiers don’t fall into this stereotypical role.

“It might not be a glorious job being a petroleum specialist, but tanks won’t drive without fuel. Airplanes won’t fly without fuel. The Army can’t move without it,” said 1st Sgt. David Lovato with the 877th Quartermaster Company.

If fuel were the blood of the Army, then the Quartermaster would be its heart, especially during Pacific Warrior.

For instance, the 877th QM Company from Albuquerque, N.M. has a platoon of mechanics, cooks and petroleum specialists to set up and handle everything they might need to run a camp.

They are also refueling all the operational equipment, such as fuel bladders and generators, on all the bases. All the fuel they use to service the bases are brought in by two trucks



Soldiers from the 786th Quartermaster Company out of Provo, Utah, position a 20 thousand gallon fuel bag during setup of a fuel point June 11 at Forward Operating Base Schoonover at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during Pacific Warrior Exercise 2008. At right, Soldiers search for the correct pipe fittings.



Photos by Spc. Bryan A. Randolph



from Los Angeles. When time permits, they are also undertaking vehicle recovery missions.

Story continued on Page 2

Food service in the field requires high-calorie work

By Spc. Monte J. Swift
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – Meals are routine until you miss one, and the 693rd Quartermaster Company is making sure Soldiers serving in Pacific Warrior don’t.

“Without us, Soldiers wouldn’t eat,” said Spc. Richath Chhauy, who maintains the outgoing inventory for the unit.

“When Soldiers have good food it boosts their morale.”

The Reserve Army unit from Bell, Calif. carries out daily missions to provide thousands of Soldiers with the truckloads of food they need on the forward operating bases. These shipments include everything required for two hot meals and Meals Ready to Eat for lunch or use in the field.

The unit takes the inventory of these goods seriously,

Story continued on Page 4

Quartermaster

Continued from front page

This isn't all they are doing.

They are also participating in exercise scenarios to train Soldiers to react to the situations that might happen during a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. Even during their off time, the Soldiers continue to stay busy doing Common Task Training to brush up on their Soldier skills.

For more than 85 percent of these Army Reserve Soldiers, a deployment into a combat zone holds more memories than questions. During exercise Pacific Warrior, they are beginning to share new memories as they prepare for their first deployment together.

"This exercise gives the Soldiers some real time, real world training in preparation for possible deployment," said Chief Warrant Officer John Jaramillo, the unit commander. "This is one of the better exercises we have been on. We get the opportunity to setup, live, and operate in an environment that has a higher realism to a combat zone and that experience is

very valuable."

For some of the Soldiers, it was easy to get back into the routine of heat and dust, reminiscent of their time overseas. For some of the newer ones, this experience is unlike anything they have done.

"I'm confident in the training and cross-training I've been getting from some of the more experienced Soldiers," said Spc. Justin Watts.

"I've been learning a lot of vehicle maintenance tasks on vehicles I wasn't exposed to in my Advanced Individual Training. They are really good about the hands-on training for real-world missions so I can learn from my mistakes here so I don't make them in a combat zone."

The better the Soldiers are, the better the individuals and the unit as a whole will do when faced with the challenges of a deployment.

"If a Soldier is smart and trains hard, my unit is more powerful," said Jaramillo. "They manage themselves better... and allow me to divide and conquer major missions with ease."



Chaplain's Corner



Pfc. Daniel D. Haun

A wildfire has been burning in the fields north of Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. and Los Padres National Forest since June 8. The Springville Sequoia National Forest Hotshots and the US Forest Service Department of Agriculture have been working together in attempt to put out the fires.

Finding a message among the smoke

By Lt. Col. Chaplain Rachel Coggins
653rd Regional Support Group

Smoke billows high over the Intermediate Staging Base as a wildfire consumes a nearby mountainside. Helicopters maintain a constant trek across the camp carrying huge buckets of water to douse the fire.

Almost 4,000 Army Reserve Soldiers train in the area below, meeting the challenge of the environment and their tasks, preparing to meet the challenge of war.

The smoke makes its way through the camp like a prophet saying "Pass through the camp and command the people saying 'Prepare'" (Joshua 1:11).

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To submit story ideas please send them to daniel.m.ware@us.army.mil.



First blood: Soldiers use lifesaving skills

By Sgt. Karl Johnson
366th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

FORT HUNTERLIGGETT, Calif. – Among explosions and the screams of the injured, more than 50 Soldiers from 20 different units pressed forward, unsure of what was on the other side of the smoke.

As the air cleared, a downed helicopter and its injured crew came into view.

The Soldiers sprang into action, working to care for the most critically wounded first.

On this day, the explosions that kept everyone on edge and the injured patients that demanded attention were not real. They were training aids and roleplaying Soldiers helping to make the final day of a Combat Lifesaver course during exercise Pacific Warrior here more realistic.

"I saw casualties everywhere screaming (for) help," said Pfc. Edwin Lopez, with the 320th Chemical Company.

"At first it was a little overwhelming, but once I got to my first patient, I just jumped in and remembered what they taught us in class."

The Combat Lifesaver course is a four-day event designed to give Sol-

Story continued on Page 4



Sgt. Maria R. Keown



Sgt. Maria R. Keown



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte



Sgt. Maria R. Keown

Clockwise from top: A Combat Lifesaver pulls a roleplayer from a simulated helicopter crash site. Army reservists from more than 20 different units participated together as a single unit during the field exercise.

Spc. Chante Hall with the 863rd Combat Service Support Battalion helps a "wounded" Soldier during a field exercise. After three days of classes, Army Reserve Soldiers applied their knowledge while simulated mortar attacks detonated nearby.

Spc. Viridiane Reza of the 647th Regional Support Battalion attempts to insert an intravenous needle during a Combat Lifesaver field exercise. After removing more than 15 Soldiers from the crash site, combat lifesavers like Reza then had to apply their classroom knowledge in the field. "It was different from all other CLS classes," said Reza. "You get to go out in a real life scenario."

Intravenous needles are indispensable tools for a combat lifesaver and help provide wounded Soldiers with fluids that can be lost due to an injury.

Soldier on the Street

By Sgt. Karl Johnson and Spc. Daniel Schneider

What has been your favorite training so far?



Pfc. Mike Matzke
Military Police Officer
96th Military Police Company
El Central, Calif.

The Humvee rollover training was more hands-on than most of the other training we've received. It was better than trying to stay awake during a lot of briefings.



Pvt. Julio Ayala
Military Police Officer
96th Military Police Company
San Diego, Calif.

The downed gunner training has been the most helpful for me. I'm going to be a gunner and it really helped to train on something that applies directly to me.



1st Lt. Hector Hernandez
Executive Officer
961st Quartermaster Company
Edinburg, Texas

I think the convoy operations training is the best we've received. The interaction between the trainers and the Soldiers was very good. The advice we got was good for what we'll face when we get down range.



Spc. Eric Felton
Plumber
327th Engineer Battalion
Ladysmith, Wisc.

I liked the IED training because the trainers were awesome. They were very detailed which helped my unit when it came to the practical exercise.

Food mission

Continued from front page

sometimes checking their stock three times per day to be sure the bases get what they require. The work can be a 24-hour-a-day task.

Soldiers pull guard over the refrigerated trailers throughout the night to be certain they maintain proper temperature, which is especially important for the produce and hot meals.

In addition to performing their regular mission, the Soldiers also conduct the warrior training courses provided during the exercise, including entry checkpoint defense and Improvised

Explosive Device training.

The convoy missions navigate 53-foot-long trailers and Light Medium Tactical Vehicles through miles of rough, and sometimes hazardous, roads to deliver food to the Soldiers in the field.

"Navigating the dusty roads is often the hardest part of the mission," said Spc. Suhao Liang, a driver. "You have to go very slow when following vehicles so that you can see oncoming traffic."

The unit will remain at Pacific Warrior longer than most units to receive unused inventory from the bases before it leaves on June 29.

Lifesavers

Continued from Page 3

diers who are not in the medical field, the basic tools necessary to treat injuries they might encounter in a combat zone.

The final day of the training is designed to require the Soldiers to use the skills they've learned in the classroom while at the same time being put under extreme stress.

"We try to make the training as real life as possible," said Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Taitingfong, a trainer with the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade.

"We put them under a lot of stress while they're trying to complete their mission. They have to treat and collect casualties, and then evacuate them via air or ground transportation.

"We're teaching these Soldiers the skills they'll need to save lives. They're learning things only medics previously knew

'I saw casualties everywhere screaming (for) help.'

Pfc. Edwin Lopez
320th Chemical Company

how to do."

The impact of the Combat Lifesaver program is already felt on the battlefield. Soldiers who have received the training are now the Army's first responders, providing aid until a medic gets on the scene.

"CLS training is already saving lives," said Taitingfong. "Approximately 15 percent of battlefield (fatalities) could be saved with the proper immediate care."

Combat Lifesaver courses are scheduled and filled to capacity for the duration of exercise Pacific Warrior.