



Warrior Wavefront

exercise pacific warrior 2008

Fort Hunter Liggett, California



The ENDEX Issue

June 23, 2008

Pacific Warrior efforts have impact

As the exercise director of Pacific Warrior, I want to thank all the Soldiers who trained and contributed their time to make the event a success this year.

The intent of Pacific Warrior is to put a large number of Army Reserve units in a combat training center-like environment and conduct realistic, battle-focused, Core-Mission Essential Task List-based collective training. This exercise has a field setting that replicates real world conditions similar to what our troops are going through in Iraq and Afghanistan right now.

We have worked on setting this up for about the last 12 months. With all the various pieces together we have had nearly 4,000 Soldiers here from 100 different units from all over the United States. Even Soldiers from Puerto Rico participated in this exercise.

For many of you, this is your first time here. The overall attitude of the Soldiers in the field I heard from was that they were where they wanted to be. It is a great training venue.

It's hot, it's dusty and we've had the fires north of here that added a little bit of realism. But we have made do with what we've got here, continued to Soldier on and sustain operations.

Where there were hiccups, and things to be

fixed, we found solutions instead of griping or complaining.

You can't do anything better than to train units in a field environment. It's good to get Soldiers back into the groove of what needs to be done. We want them to know how to operate in the field and conduct themselves under stressful conditions.

We have got to do more of it. I call Fort Hunter Liggett the diamond in the rough. There's huge potential here.

This is the largest Army Reserve training area in the country. It is the eighth largest in the entire Army and it has outstanding potential for all kinds of training for all kinds of units.

We need to use it more often and hold these types of exercises to improve the overall readiness of our fighting forces.

By taking part in Pacific Warrior, you have improved your own readiness. By improving your readiness, you have improved the Army. I encourage you to continue this process throughout the coming year.

We are already planning for Pacific Warrior 2009 and we hope to see you there!

POWDER RIVER!



Maj. Gen. Bruce Zukauskas

Maj. Gen. Bruce Zukauskas
*Commanding General
91st Division (Training Support)*





Chaplain's Corner

Careful reading can reveal new meanings

By Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Chapman
457th Transportation Battalion

Psalm 23 is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. I love how the Bible reveals God as the One who is our Shepherd and how He provides for his followers.

He takes us beside "still waters," because He cares about what we are afraid of.

He protects us from our enemies, even to the point that we would follow Him unafraid into the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

He gives us more than we could ever need, and lovingly leads and teaches us with His rod and staff.

Psalm 23 is a testament to the greatness of everything we love about God.

But did you ever notice what comes immediately after Psalm 23?

Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

Why would this verse come immediately after Psalm 23? Maybe it was to remind us that even though God can shepherd us and help us, provide for us and

protect us, this world really does belong to Him.

Sometimes, I really want what I want. I often think I know what would be best for me. But in the end, it's God who makes the final decision.

I can either choose to have a good attitude about where He puts me and what He tasks me with, or I can choose to have a bad attitude.

If we acknowledge that God is ultimately in control and that He has our best interests at heart, it's far easier to go through whatever we must go through.



Photo by Pfc. Daniel D. Haun

The Mission San Antonio De Padua is a national landmark inside Fort Hunter Liggett and nearby the operations of exercise Pacific Warrior. Father Junipero Serra, a Franciscan Padre, founded the mission in 1771. San Antonio is the third of the California Missions and is still an active place of worship. In 1773, Serra established workshops, dwellings, and a chapel with adobe bricks, accommodating the 163 converts of the day. A water-powered gristmill was built in 1806, and later in 1810 construction began on the final church structure. The Mission was abandoned in 1882 and then destroyed by weathering and an earthquake. Franciscans returned and completed reconstruction in 1952, and willed the caretaking of the Mission to the Catholic Diocese of Monterey.

California base is focal point for major unit reorganization

Fort Hunter Liggett is the largest installation in the Army Reserve with more than 165,000 acres of unencroached mountains, valleys, rivers, plains, and forests, it provides maneuver areas for today's brigade-based Army. Major tenants at Fort Hunter Liggett are the 3rd Brigade 356th Logistical Support Battalion, 7th Brigade 104th Division (Institutional Training),

the 31st Naval Construction Regiment, Operation Platinum Wrench, and the 63rd Regional Readiness Support Command Equipment Concentration Site 170. The 91st Division (Training Support) is scheduled to reorganize and relocate from Camp Parks to Fort Hunter Liggett in 2009. An Armed Forces Reserve Center is scheduled to be constructed at this site.

Warrior Wavefront exercise Pacific Warrior 2008

The Warrior Wavefront is published by the Exercise Pacific Warrior Office of Public Affairs.

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Participating public affairs units include the 300th MPAD, 366th MPAD and the 203rd PAD.

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Sgt. Karl Johnson

At left, a civilian firefighter starts a controlled burn outside Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. in an effort to slow down a wildfire that has been burning since June 8. The blaze has devastated more than 50,000 acres of land despite the efforts of more than 2,000 firefighters. Below, Spc. Scott Hollentseiner, a firefighter with the 459th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting), describes the operation of the water cannon atop his team's tactical fire fighting truck outside Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Thursday. Bottom, Army Firefighters from the 459th Engineering Detachment, of Granite City, Ill., perform a maintenance check on their tactical fire-fighting truck.



Sgt. Karl Johnson

Army firefighters help contain flames

By Spc. Maria N. Reynolds
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. -- Six Soldiers, dressed in yellow firefighter jackets with helmets and thick boots, stood in front of a 78,000 pound tactical fire truck awaiting orders.

A fire suddenly blazed 40 feet into the sky behind them, but the Soldiers didn't flinch. Instead, they made their way around the truck, taking time to check and secure their gear.

These Soldiers are the 459th Engineering Detachment (Firefighting) from Granite City, Ill. They originally arrived here for annual training, but were recently asked to join the battle against the wildfires burning near the base since June 8.

This 10-man crew consists of firefighters and mechanics, each certified to fight on the fire lines. On Thursday, they were protecting the areas under controlled burn to help prevent the fires from spreading. Using axes and saws, the crew cleared and surveyed areas for flames, embers and smoke – all while maintaining safety and watching out for each other.

The crew has been through the classes and learned from books, but it doesn't compare to the real experience, explained Sgt. Matthew J. Thompkins, crew chief for the unit.

"The best part of all this is getting to see the operations, being able to get our hands on it and get dirty, because then you learn," said Thompkins.

Civilian crews on the fire line have helped the Soldiers with such issues as hand tools and safety, he said. Their mechanics have also helped with some of the firefighting tasks, but their priority remains vehicle maintenance.

This is the first time the unit has been able to work together in a real world situation, said Spc. Jessica L. Huber, the driver and pump operator for the crew. Their confidence and ability to communicate was tested beyond any team training that they had done before, and they found themselves well adapt-



Spc. Maria N. Reynolds

ed and confident, she stated proudly.

The tactical fire fighting truck can hold 1,000 gallons of water and is more than 17 feet long. The access roads to the secluded region are barely as wide as the truck and Huber needed at least three ground guides to help her navigate through the sharp turns and narrow paths – most of them next to a life-threatening sheer drop.

"I put my life in (their) hands and I trust them completely," said Huber, expressing her gratitude for her fellow Soldiers. "If we didn't work together as a team, we wouldn't have made it up here."

Two of the firefighters, Thompkins and Spc. Scott M. Hollentseiner, are also civilian firefighters. Situations like this haven't happened for them yet, they said, but this event only better prepares them for the future.

"None of our training has been as extensive as this and we are just thankful to be out here," said Huber. "We didn't expect anything like this ... we're definitely lucky."

Soldiers take the wheel for safety course

By **Spc. Bryan A. Randolph**
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – With most up-armored Humvees deployed overseas, many Soldiers don't often get the chance to drive one in the United States.

During the Up-armored Driver Skills training course at Pa-

cific Warrior here, Army Reserve Soldiers had a chance to get familiar with the vehicle without having to go overseas.

Sgt. Eduardo N. Rios, the primary instructor for the course, made the purpose of the class clear.

"Safety, safety, safety," he said, repeatedly.

Rios, a motor transport operator with the 3/356th Logistic Support Battalion stationed here, specified that the class is designed to help Soldiers become familiar with the 1100 series of Humvee.

The additional weight of armor and changes to the engine and transmission cause these newer Humvees to handle differently, which is why training is necessary, he said.

Soldiers started with several hours of classroom instruction, where they reviewed the specifications and capabilities of the Humvee.

Instructors reviewed rollover procedures and stressed the dangers presented by loose items in the vehicle.

After the classroom, the students took the up-armored Humvees out on the hills and roads of Fort Hunter Liggett.

They started with a "rodeo" where drivers practice braking and maneuvering through a series of orange cones. The drivers then were able to build their experience and confidence through an off-road course designed to show the Humvee's capabilities.



Spc. Bryan A. Randolph

The Humvee confidence course involves Soldiers taking the up-armored vehicles on the roads of Fort Hunter Liggett

Pacific Warrior welcome unit adapted to challenges

By **Sgt. David J. Nunn**
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – The first introduction to Pacific Warrior most Soldiers had were the helping hands of the 653rd Regional Support Group.

The Army Reserve unit, from Mesa, Ariz., inprocessed almost 4,000 Soldiers to this year's event, managing the Reception Staging Onward Movement and Integration Process.

The process gave the unit a chance to practice their skills and face the unique problems that come up in real-world operations.

"This (mission) is much more realistic than the previous training situations offered to Soldiers deploying in the past," said Sgt. Maj. Rozanne C. Harper of the 653rd RSG.

"All of this is in an abbreviated fashion of what everyone may actually do during a deployment; it gives us the necessary experience to succeed."

The goal was to get each unit arriving to the Intermediate Staging Base to their bases with all their equipment to accomplish their missions within 48 hours, Harper said.

Some of the challenges faced by the 653rd during this mission have been the situations that force a unit to remain constantly flexible and adaptive.

'It gives us the necessary experience to succeed.'

Sgt. Maj. Rozanne C. Harper
653rd Regional Support Group

"We are given a roster of the units attending this training and one of the biggest challenges we have encountered thus far is sometimes it's changed and we had to adjust accordingly," said Harper. "We have been able to identify any issue that has come up however, and everything has gone really smoothly."

One of the unique successes of the unit has been their Liaison Office. Dealing directly with newly arrived Soldiers, they have worked tirelessly on making sure their reception process runs as smooth as possible.

Spc. Matthew Stoy, a vehicle mechanic specialist and a former Marine from Tempe, Ariz., said his work for the liaison office is a great example of the adaptability of members of his unit.

"I've really enjoyed the face-to-face interaction with the Soldiers here," said Stoy. "We try to get these (Soldiers) out to their mission as fast and easy as possible, while building a relationship with their leadership."

A warrior retrospective



Spc. Daniel M. Schneider

Above, Spc. Chante P. Hall of 863rd Engineer Battalion, Headquarter Support Company, from Darien, Ill., takes part in a June 17 MEDCAP exercise during Pacific Warrior. At right, Spc. Sarah Abre of the 369th Combat Support Hospital from San Juan, Puerto Rico shows a "foreign national" what positions to assume while being searched by another Soldier at Forward Operating Base Schoonover June 11.



Sgt. Marla K. Keown



Capt. Mark Walker



Capt. Mark Walker

Far left, a Soldier tests out his radio prior to a convoy exercise on June 19. Immediate left, Soldiers react to a convoy ambush during a visit by members of the press to exercise Pacific Warrior 2008 on June 18. Below, a Soldier attends to an "injured" roleplayer during a June 14 Combat Lifesaver evaluation exercise at a simulated helicopter crash site.



Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

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Standing post, standing guard

Control point duties maintain safe bases for Soldiers during exercise

By Spc. Monte J. Swift

203rd Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARD, Calif. - Concertina wire and concrete barriers aren't the only things that divided Soldiers from hostile forces here.

Those working and sleeping inside the base depended on the

protection provided by Soldiers guarding its entrance gates during Pacific Warrior.

On June 13, the Soldiers of the 428th Engineer Company and the 425th Engineer Company practiced their Entry Control Point security training here.

Their job was a simple one; to check the identification of Military and civilians entering the base, perform vehicle and personnel searches, react to crowd control problems, deal with suicide bombers, simulated mortars and rocket-propelled grenade attacks.

Observer Controller Trainers of the 2nd Battalion, 363rd Training Regiment oversaw the exercise and taught training classes, but didn't coach or give solutions during the simulated crises.

"When there is unity in a unit, everything works better," said Capt. Patrick J. Comunez, the officer-in-charge of ECP training. "(The units) showed up with skills and a level of camaraderie that cannot be taught in the classroom."

Verbal communication and hand signals helped the units stay on task as they moved throughout the checkpoint providing security and responding to dangerous situations. Soldiers with the training units said their fellow members who recently returned from deployments helped the teams with their professionalism.

Some Soldiers used their civilian experience

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Pic: Daniel D. Haun

A Soldier takes position at the entrance of Forward Operating Base Ward on June 13.

Support group maintained task force during event

By Sgt. David J. Nunn

203rd Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SCHOONOVER, Calif. - It's been said that Soldiers win battles, but logistics win wars.

Members of the 561st Regional Support Group, an Army Reserve unit based out of Omaha, Neb., sustained exercise Pacific Warrior and its thousands of training Soldiers.

They have not only tackled that mission, but also served as the command element for FOB Schoonover, a base created to simulate all the activities a Soldier would experience during a deployment.

"We are the sustainment taskforce; working ... to provide initial staging, provide arrival and departure missions, and maintain three forward operating

bases with all the comforts of home," said Col. Mark Corson, commander of the 561st RSG.

"We take care of the force, to make sure the Soldiers have what they need to accomplish this training."

This mission is especially important to the Soldiers of the 561st RSG, for it prepares them for a possible deployment scheduled next year.

"Pacific Warrior is excellent because it provides us with the training to know how to take care of multiple cities, and cover the administration and logistic mission that goes along with that," Corson said.

In addition to gaining important training for their responsibilities, Pacific Warrior provided necessary training every Soldier will need overseas.

"This gives us the opportunity in pre-

mobilization training, especially for the young Soldiers that haven't deployed - or even those that have - a refresher to work on basic Soldier and survival skills," said Corson.

"These skills will temper the ability to save themselves and their buddy's life when they get over there."

The transition between reception and then moving to FOB Schoonover was well coordinated, allowing them to perform their duties to the Soldiers here and receive their own training.

"Having been previously deployed, this exercise has been very beneficial for the Soldiers that don't have that experience," said Sgt. 1st Class Allen Welch, supply sergeant. "The training has been very good and executed well. It gives us a better understanding of how to do our jobs while reacting under fire."

Soldier on the Street

By Spc. Daniel M. Schneider

What Army movie character do you most connect with?



Spc. Gumaro Canizalez
Water Purification Specialist
961st Quartermaster Company
McAllen, Texas

My favorite character was Vic Morrow from the television series "Combat" because the Americans were the good guys. The Americans were always my heroes.



Master Sgt. Patrick B. Fowler
Operation Sergeant
341st Military Police Company
San Jose, Calif.

Lee Marvin ("The Dirty Dozen") stuck out to me because his service in the military brought realism to his roles. He used his service in World War II to make his movies accurate.



Staff Sgt. Kenji D. Hayes
Truck Driver
850th Transportation Company
Lyon, Miss.

Rambo ("First Blood") connected with me because of the adventure and excitement. He's real strong and puts others before himself and never quits.



Pfc. Logan S. O'Brien
Water Purification Specialist
961st Quartermaster Company
McAllen, Texas

I really connected with Lt. Col. Hal Moore from "We Were Soldiers". I loved the way he trains Soldiers and leads by example by being the first one out of the helicopter.

Soldiers go from rent to tent and back again

By Maria N. Reynolds
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – After three weeks of constant labor at Pacific Warrior here, Spc. Dorothy L. Freeman will face additional work at her civilian job when she returns home.

Freeman, a food service specialist from the 394th Combat Service Support Battalion in Fremont, Neb., just started her civilian job as a loan administrative officer when she was deployed for annual training.

While her fellow employees are supportive of her duties as an Army Reserve Soldier, they have to labor harder to cover her responsibilities when she is gone.

"I was concerned they wouldn't understand," Freeman said, noting she will still face a backlog of work.

Such conflicts are common for Army Reserve Soldiers who have to take time off for training each year. While federal law prevents employers from dismissal or prejudicial actions against Soldiers, the concern remains for some.

Warrant Officer Vincent T. Koski, a materiel management officer with the 275th Combat Service Support Battalion from Fort Lee, Va., said he gets actively involved in any work schedule conflicts in his unit.

"Even though the job may not

fire you, it's always in the back of their minds when it comes time for promotions or time off," Koski said

Many have positive experiences with their employers and their national service.

Staff Sgt. Constance A. Oberg, food service non-commissioned officer for the 394th CSSB, works at her local hospital as a department secretary.

Her staff takes care of her job while she is on orders and supports her. Oberg has even been told that if she deploys overseas, she will continue to receive raises and incentive checks.

"My coworkers are really proud of me and they get excited when I have to do things with the Army," she said.

Spc. Leroy McClary, a supply clerk with the 460th Adjutant General Detachment in Florence, S.C., recently joined the Army Reserve. Just this year, he and his father opened a tire shop in their hometown of Florence, S.C.

They balance a hectic schedule of changing tires, car washes and minor repairs, so his father had to find extra help while McClary was gone. Though the summer is the busiest time for the shop, knowing the dates plenty of time in advance helped them prepare, he explained.

"My father was just happy that I came back into the Army, so even though he needed my help, he was understanding when I told him I had to leave for (annual training)," McClary said.

'My coworkers are really proud of me and they get excited when I have to do things with the Army.'

Sgt. Constance A. Oberg
394th Combat Service Support Battalion

Standing guard

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to help the teams through tense moments and provided solutions before problems could escalate.

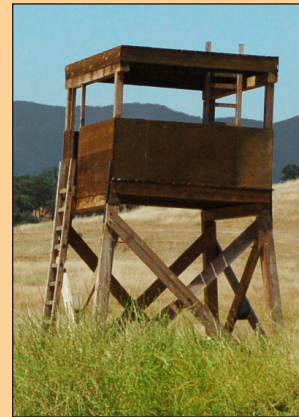
In some cases, all that was required was communication between members of the checkpoint and acting insurgents to bring tense situations under control.

“(One Soldier) used his skills from his civilian job as a correction officer to suppress the demonstration at the Entry Control

Point,” said Sgt. 1st Class John C. Bradshaw, an OC/T with the 2nd Battalion, 363rd Training Regiment. “He handled the demonstration early enough to keep it from becoming a riot.”

The teams faced several attacks during the exercise that echoed real-world threats, including a would-be suicide bomber.

“They did very well,” said Spc. Heath I. Theriac, 354th Military Police Company, who roleplayed the bomber. “They were not going to let me through, and stopped me and searched my bag.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Gary A. White



Engineers take their work to a higher level

Top left, Spc. Greg Kirkeeng from LaCrosse, Wis., a carpenter with the 327th Engineer Company from Onalaska, Wis., turns a bolt for a new watchtower at Forward Operating Base 8J and the nearby Internment Relocation Facility. It was the 10th, and final, tower the unit had to construct during Pacific Warrior this year. At right, Spc. Paul Risch of Almacenter, Wis. hammers a nail into the structure.



An educational time in sunny California

By Staff Sgt. Caroline K. Maribei
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. — The long hot days, the rough terrain, and the ominous grey smoke from the burning hills made for a challenging three-week training exercise.

Pacific Warrior, the Army Reserve's annual event, brought together almost 4,000 Soldiers and about 100 units for nearly a month's worth of hands-on learning this year. Servicemembers gathered from across the nation to take part.

"It's an important collective exercise," said Col. Lorenzo J. Valenzuela, the Joint Task Force commander. "Prior to the Global War on Terror we never trained this way. It is now possible to see where units are before and after AT. I think it's critical that we continue to invest in these exercises so that Soldiers are better prepared to survive and succeed in the battlefield."

The units, which included medical units, sustainment units, chemical units, military police and engineering units, worked together, training and sharpening their skills.

Valenzuela said the aim was to provide the units that are a year or two from deployment with critical skills and teach them to work as one on the battlefield.

"It is collectively where we get that strong combat and combat support power," he added.

The one thing that Valenzuela feels would be a great addition for future exercises would be some maneuver forces.

"Many ... have not operated with an M-1 tank, or had to refuel Bradleys or actually done a hot refuel mission on Blackhawks," he said. "Adding that level of realism would put the exercise over the top."

Bringing the units here was no easy task.

"You've got units from Puerto Rico, New England, Texas, Oregon ... Washington, and right down the street in California," said Valenzuela. "It's quite an orchestrated effort."

Training began as soon as the Soldiers arrived and was based on the lessons learned from theater, Valenzuela said. Some of the training the Soldiers received included Improvised Explosive Device defeat, convoy operations, base operations, and combat lifesaver.

He said the greatest accomplishment of the exercise was that all the Soldiers were actively engaged throughout the exercise. "Sometimes you go to these exercises and half the Soldiers have a great experience, and half of them are just bored to tears," he said.

For Valenzuela the most satisfying part of Pacific Warrior was that Soldiers were trained on those tasks that would help them survive and succeed on the battlefield. He said the most important thing was for the Soldiers to learn to work together, adding it was the first time many had seen the work of others outside of their functional specialty.

"It's important they understand that collaborative effort as they get to deployment," he said.



Capt. Mark Walter

Soldiers train at the Improvised Explosive Device Defeat and Countersniper lane.