



MISSION: CSTX



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Fort Hunter Liggett, California CSTX 91-10

CSTX Delivers Modern Warfare Training

By Sgt. Jason A. Merrell
345th PAD

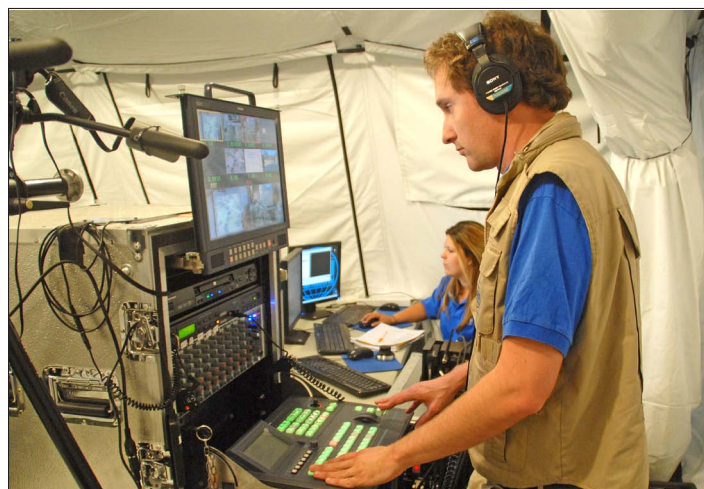
The Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., prepares Soldiers for real-world combat environments, but how do you measure a Soldier's success rate during the exercise in the absence of live ammunition and real fatalities?

Research and development company SRI International, based in Menlo Park, Calif., responds to that question by integrating its FlexTrain technology for the first time in a full-scale Army Reserve training exercise.

FlexTrain utilizes advanced GPS technology and computer software to track and realistically recreate the battlefield in a 3-D representation with high accuracy, said Derek Artz, SRI International, instrumentation deputy.

"We've got up to 500 Soldiers instrumented right now and then another 200 of those tracking devices are put on civilians on the battlefield, vehicles, Opposing Forces, and other assets on the training lane to facilitate the realism of the training scenario," said Artz.

The technology starts with a device called the Enhanced Dismount Instrument, explained Artz, which is strapped to the Soldier's back and weighs less than



SRI International's Nick Davilla, technical production manager, and Jennifer Ramirez, military after action review facilitator, track Soldier movement and actions through advanced GPS technology. Photo by Spc. Joseph Bitet

an interceptor body armor plate. The information from the Soldier's Common Access Card is swiped into a database and linked into the device.

The instrument broadcasts data back to the Mobile After Action Review Facility, where it is recorded by the tactical analysis monitoring station which translates the data into a 3-D representation of the training area. The Soldier's location is represented by an avatar.

The data transmitted, however, is much more complex than just recording troop names and positions. The FlexTrain is also tied into the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System 2000 gear worn by the Soldiers and OPFOR, allowing Soldiers during the AAR to see who they shot during the training.

"Because of our tie-in with the MILES 2000 gear, we can see weapon engagements shown as a shot line. You can see enemy fire, friendly fire, or fratricides, as well. So there's a lot of teaching points and eyebrows raise from the audience when they see it for the first time [during the AAR], and the 3-D model really brings it home," Artz said.



Soldiers from the 282nd Quartermaster Company, Montgomery, Ala., react to an ambush in an urban environment during lane training conducted during the Combat Support Training Exercise. Photo by Pvt. Christopher Bigelow

(SRI, Continued on page 3)

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

The training on the Command Post Exercises (CPX) and Situational Training Exercises (STX) has been great and I want to thank the supporting units, OC/Ts, and OPFOR for their continued great work. As we enter into the FTX phase we need to be aware of our situation and cognizant of our battle buddies. This is the time when we fully integrate the battle staffs with the units and operate each mission as a unified collective team. Just as your command and staff teams are dependent on the communications and maneuver of their down trace units to make informed decisions, we all need to take the extra time to fine tune our own situational awareness and safety responsibilities. Individuals must come together to operate as part of a team for coordinated execution because mission success is dependent on great synchronization.

Remember the keys to success are situational awareness, safety, and rehearsal.

“Powder River”

James T. Cook
BG, USAR

Commanding General, Wild West Brigade



Happy 235th Birthday United States Army



On June 14, the Army marked its 235th birthday and Soldiers at the Combat Support Training Exercise also joined in the celebration with a birthday cake ceremony recognizing the oldest and youngest Soldiers of the exercise held at Forward Operating Base Milpitas.

Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Jacob, age 61, native of Hamburg, Ark., and a member of the 90th Sustainment Brigade from Little Rock, Ark., was the oldest Soldier at the ceremony, while Pvt. Samantha J. Stuart, age 18, a Cameron, N.Y., native, and member of the 442nd Quartermaster Company, based out of Bellefonte, Pa., was the youngest Soldier in attendance. Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez



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Soldiers of the 961st Transportation Detachment, Movement Control Team, Staten Island, N.Y., conduct an After Action Review using the data recorded by SRI International. The AAR allows Soldiers to better understand their movements on the battlefield. Photo by Spc. Anthony Steglik

(SRI, Continued from page 1)

For added coverage of the training, all radio communications from the training lanes are recorded and a SRI videographer stays on-site to capture the action on a handheld video recorder.

SRI employees aren't alone. They work closely with the Observer Controller/Trainers, who are in charge of monitoring and evaluating the exercise. The combined data of the FlexTrain, along with the joint efforts of the SRI employees and OC/Ts, creates unique opportunities during the training lanes.

"They actually have OC/Ts dedicated to our live monitoring station," said Artz. "We also provide those OC/Ts with a communications infrastructure, so that the guy sitting at the monitoring station is watching the live tracking as the convoy is moving down the lane, or as the Soldiers are doing a search of a village. The OC/T on the lane, with his eyes on the action, can radio back to the OC/T sitting at the monitoring station, have him click a button, make a time stamp and pull up that exact moment during the After Action Review."

After a training day is complete, the OC/Ts then mark all of the significant events they find relevant and compile it – developing key training points to present to the

Soldiers during an AAR.

"The AAR is the culmination of the technology we bring to the field," said Artz.

This technology creates a complete, digital replay of a scenario that encompasses the actions of each participant on the battlefield. Everything is recorded – everyone's movement, shot lines, communications and kills – all synchronized with video footage from an on-site videographer and communication captured from radio chatter. This gives the AARs a level of depth that cannot be matched by traditional means, said Artz.


"I think it's great," said Spc. Chris Bryant, 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Macon, Ga. "I was in one of the AARs and was able to see how things played out, and I got a really good idea of where I went wrong. I learned a lot and I've already been able to use what I learned over the past couple days."

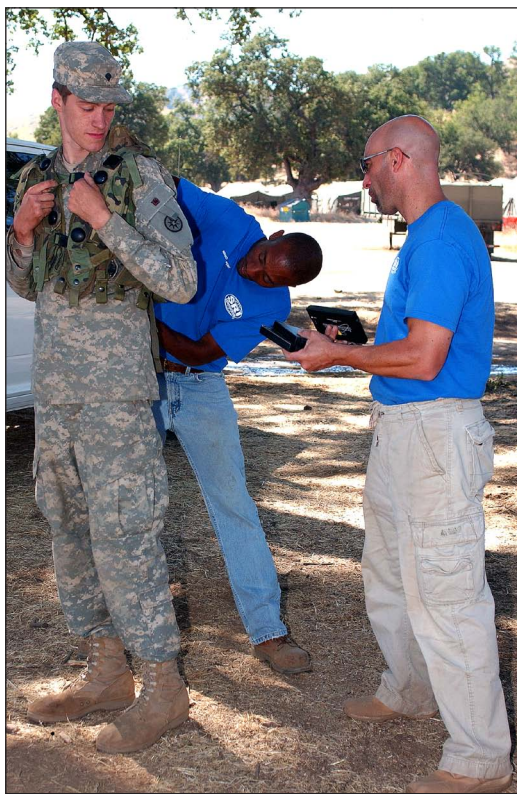
"The resources being provided from this technology are giving Non-Commissioned Officers In Charge and officers a graphic visualization of what Soldiers are doing that they wouldn't be able to experience otherwise," said Cpt. Byron Elliott, an OC/T. "It greatly enhances the training value of the exercise."

"I've never seen anything like the equipment that's been employed in this exercise and I've been in the Army for almost 23 years," said Lt. Col. Robert Wiley, commander, 352nd CSSB. "The high-tech, video replay capability that we're seeing is incredible. My eyes are wide open, seeing exactly what we did at our training events, and Soldiers are learning."

While the technology provided an eye opener for Wiley, it has served as a motivator for many of the Soldiers, according to Artz.

"Generally, at the end of a training exercise, Soldiers will say this is some of the best training they've ever had," he added.

The FlexTrain system provided by SRI International, combined with pre-deployment, scenario-based training at CSTX, sets a new standard as it moves the U.S. Army Reserve further into the technological age – allowing Soldiers to enhance their readiness and gain confidence to successfully complete their mission. 



Spc. Alexander Pudvah, 326th Quartermaster Company, New Castle, Pa., receives adjustments to an Enhanced Dismount Instrument from SRI International technicians Steven Lott and Frank Ricciardi. Photo by Sgt. Jason Merrell.

Transport Troops Guard the Gate



Staff Sgt. Ashley Hopper, 411th Engineer Company, Iowa City, Iowa, interacts with a simulated local national as a part of the forward operating base defense training lane during the Combat Support Training Exercise. Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

**By Spc. Charlotte Martinez
345th PAD**

Soldiers of the 961st Transportation Detachment, Movement Control Team, Staten Island, N.Y., and the 411th Engineer Company, Wilton, Iowa, teamed up during Combat Support Training Exercise to operate an Entry Control Point and practice Forward Operating Base defense.

Soldiers were tasked with securing the front gate of the ECP, performing traffic stops and identification checks, as well as searches when appropriate, according to Pfc. Irekefe Osah, a Queens, N.Y., native, and transportation management coordinator with the 961st Det. The troops faced simulated mortar attacks, local national protestors, small arms fire, sniper fire and a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. Vehicle and personnel searches were implemented and they reacted to small arms fire. Casualty evacuation tactics were also practiced.

Exercises were structured to simulate real-world scenarios that Soldiers might encounter while in theater.

"This type of training is especially beneficial to the unit because most transportation units are not exposed to some of these

scenarios," said Sgt. 1st Class John Temple, a Baltimore, Md., native, and the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge with the 961st Det. team.

"Any time you get your hands on tasks and you are doing it in a training environment, it is extremely beneficial," said Sgt. Megan Long, a native of Williamsburg, Iowa, and a member of the 411th EN Co., Iowa City, Iowa. "I think the Army is making a strong effort to re-enact overseas situations."

According to Long, her unit typically focuses on Military Occupational Specialty training during their Army Reserve weekends, but coming out to the CSTX for their annual training

allows them to focus on and become more familiar with Soldier skills, tactics, techniques and procedures.

The exercise provides a learning experience as Soldiers got to familiarize with their MOS training, which may become lost during battle assembly, and also to improve any deficiencies in equipment and personnel.

During the After Action Review, Soldiers evaluate their performance via video footage captured during the training so they can get a first hand account of what happened down lane. Soldiers rate their strengths and deficiencies through the AARs, which showed them how they could improve and what they did well.

"This sets us up to train as we fight and fight as we train," said Temple. "The Soldiers had great motivation, they learned about themselves, know what they've done and know what they need to fix. It gives them the opportunity to react to real-world scenarios."

Staff Sgt. Jeff Trzebiatowski, a member of the 377th Maintenance Company and opposing force platoon sergeant, sees this as the safest form of training prior to deploying.

"It gives them the most realistic training possible without actually going overseas," he said.

After the exercise, Osah agreed the training was positive. "I am confident about going overseas and providing support," he said. ▲



Soldiers of the 961st Transportation Detachment, Movement Control Team, Staten Island, N.Y., and the 411th Engineer Company, Iowa City, Iowa, occupy an entry control point and practice forward operating base defense against the opposition force simulating local nationals during the Combat Support Training Exercise. Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

CSTX Soldiers Stay Alert to Stay Alive

By Spc. Anthony Hooker
345th PAD

Army Reserve Soldiers conducted lanes training exercises June 10-16 during the Combat Support Training Exercise to sharpen their warrior battle skills. One particular lane focused on helping Soldiers identify and defeat the realistic threat of encountering improvised-explosive devices during convoy movements.

The 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion headquarters, Macon, Ga., joined four other units in pre-mobilization training to reinforce situational awareness for their troops. The lane training introduced challenges such as maneuvering through a crowded area, recognizing and responding to an IED, and keeping the convoy intact. Soldiers also learned how to prioritize objectives when engaged by foreign nationals.

"In today's fight, there is no rear," said Lt. Col. Samuel Farmer, Jr., Officer-In-Charge of the Observer Controller/Trainers during the CSTX. "In the beginning, logistical Soldiers are shocked a little because many of them are thinking 'I don't have to worry about this because I'm in the rear'."



Opposing forces prepare to attack Soldiers with a simulated rocket propelled grenade in a convoy training exercise at the Combat Support Training Exercise. Photo by Sgt. Jason A. Merrell



Soldiers dismount from their convoy during improvised-explosive device defeat training where they encounter civilians on the battlefield, who play a large role in how the Soldiers reacted in each scenario. Photo by Sgt. Jason A. Merrell

It is vitally important today's Soldiers know basic combat skills and how to protect themselves, no matter what job they perform. Once this is understood, troops are eager to learn what is necessary, Farmer added.

Often during lane training, convoys suffer casualties and losses to enemy tactics. With the threat of enemies constantly around, many trainees were overwhelmed by the actions of the opposing forces, which ranged from general unruliness to deception. Cpl. Lawrence Purvis, a supply clerk with the 352nd CSSB, was a convoy commander during a practice run and said the training grabbed his attention.

"The training opened my eyes to situations I wasn't really prepared for," said Purvis. "It taught me to always be on guard, not to be complacent."

Staff Sgt. Jeff Jordan, a squad leader with the 380th Quartermaster Battalion, from Evansville, Ind., was in the same convoy as Purvis. Jordan, whose unit joined Purvis' during the lane exercises, said the combined effort helped Soldiers improve their adaptability.


"You have to know more than your own job in the Army, so training in

different aspects is good for us," said Jordan, an Evansville, Indiana native.

Purvis said although he had to quickly figure out how to incorporate the new convoy members, he was satisfied with the unforeseen challenges.

"No training is bad," he said. "You can always learn something in training because preparation [for an unforeseen event] is always good."

Jason Teachey, a contractor with the DoD, supervised the IED-defeat training and noticed the changes to Soldiers as a result of the training.

"As the units go through training in our lanes, I frequently see a rise in unit cohesion and individual self-confidence," said Teachey. "Training is a morale booster and a natural camaraderie emerges among convoy members." 



Soldiers from the 282nd Quartermaster Company react to an ambush during a convoy training exercise. Photo by Pvt. Christopher Bigelow



Heavy Lifting

Sgt. 1st Class Ann King, trainer, 91st Training Brigade, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., skillfully instructs Sgt. George Risard, 91st Training Brigade, in Kalmar crane operations. This exercise took Risard an hour to accomplish with safety being the constant focus. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Pisano

Safety Advisory

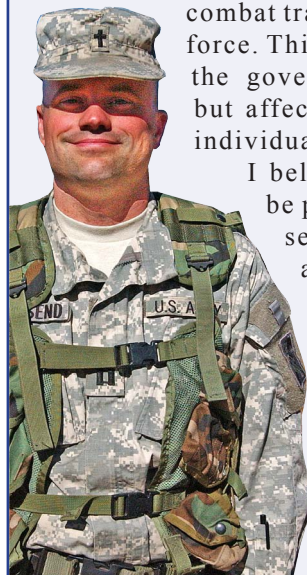
SPEEDS WHILE DRIVING IN TRAINING AREAS:

- All Soldiers will maintain a speed of no more than 25 miles per hour on all roads in the training areas and leading to and from FOBs.
- Posted speed limits on certain roads identify speeds above **25 mph**; however, all Soldiers participating in exercise will maintain no speed no higher than **25 mph**.
- The only exception to this advisory is Mission Road from the new front gate to the Jolon Road intersection. Soldiers may drive the posted speed limit of this road as long as conditions allow.
- Gravel roads have become soft and brittle over winter moisture and summer heating leading to Soldiers not driving to road conditions. **THIS INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF AN ACCIDENT FROM MEDIUM TO HIGH.**

Prevention is The Key

By Chaplain (Cpt.) Paul Townsend

It is a common phenomenon for Soldiers who have experienced combat through the millennia to experience what is presently termed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD. In past centuries it was called Soldier's heart, shell shock, or battle fatigue. Combat is among those human experiences that can cause trauma in the soul. Current overseas contingency operations are creating a great deal of combat trauma within the force. This not only costs the government money, but affects families and individuals as well.



I believe PTSD can be prevented if our service members are given proper tools and skills to practice self-care; moreover, resilience is the key to prevention.

There are four components which promote total well-being. These components are spiritual, physical, emotional, and social. They also make up the psycho-spiritual consistency of the individual.

A Soldier can learn tools to enhance each of the four components. A tool for spiritual maturity is prayer and/or meditation. A tool for physical health is a disciplined exercise regimen. A tool for emotional stability is to self-monitor one's attitude towards their unit and peers. A tool for the Soldier's social well-being is to maintain close personal friendships and have the ability to share one's deepest feeling with his/her friends.

Spiritual, physical, emotional, and social dimensions are intertwined and interdependent. If one dimension is neglected, it compromises the other three dimensions. The goal is to tend to all components for overall well-being.

For more info and further understanding, contact Quick Series at www.QuickSeries.com, (search for PTSD) or by calling 1-800-361-4653.

Army Strong Father's Day at CSTX

Story and photo by
Sgt. Jason A. Merrell, 345th PAD

Father's Day was memorable for two Soldiers serving together in the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett. Maj. Lance S. Hare, 652nd Regional Support Group, and his son, Cadet Tyler N. Hare, 4225th Combat Support Hospital, had the unique opportunity to spend time with each other as they trained during the exercise.

Serving together has done a lot to bring the two closer together. Maj. Hare admits that he looks forward to every month's battle assembly, when they drill in the same building.

"We can talk a lot more now on an equal footing, with more of a common background," Maj. Hare said.

When they are not performing their monthly battle assembly together in Fort Harrison, Mont., they enjoy going hunting and shooting together – a hobby they have shared since Tyler was young. "It's a great time where they get to do a lot of talking," said the proud father.

"It's an honor and a privilege to have your child serve side-by-side with you, but at the same time you are still a parent," said Maj. Hare. 🇺🇸



USO Keeps Soldiers Morale Rocking



Soldiers from the 871st Engineer Company play video games while visiting the United Services Organization's mobile recreational vehicle at FOB Milpitas on June 12. The USO's 'mobile canteen' also provided snacks, internet access and movies for Soldiers to enjoy June 9 through the 12. Photos by Spc. Anthony Hooker



SOLDIER ON THE STREET

Compiled by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

What does Father's Day mean to you?



Pvt.
Priscilla Mathewson
871st EN CO
Oahu, HI

Hometown:
Waianae, HI

"It's a time to give thanks to fathers and all the hard work they do throughout the year to take care of their families."



1st Lt.
Ronie Pioquinto
352nd CSSB
Macon, GA

Hometown:
Warner Robbins, GA

"It's significant to remember how important our father is in bringing us up and providing emotional, mental and spiritual guidance."



Staff Sgt.
Jared Beck
321st EN BN FSC
Boise, ID

Hometown:
Kuna, ID

"It's significant because it recognizes the importance of fatherhood."



Staff Sgt.
Carolyn Blassingame
352nd CSSB
Macon, GA

Hometown:
Barnesville, GA

"To salute the fathers all around the world who stand in the position of the father, dad and mentor for the children of the world today."



Sgt.
Brenna White
652nd RSG
Helena, MO

Hometown:
Missoula, MO

"I think it's an important day to reflect on the memories of your father and all he has done for you. It's day can also be extended to any role model in your life."



Spc.
Christopher Buck
411th En Co
Iowa City, IA

Hometown:
North Liberty, IA

"It's a day where I celebrate everything my father has done for me, including the support of my military career."