

CST Xtra

Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

14 June 2011



Combat training begins

We welcome you to the home of the 91st Training Division (Operations) and Fort Hunter Liggett.

The Combat Support Training Exercise (91 11-01) is designed to address the collective task training needs of your units.

~ Brig. Gen. James T. Cook



Photo courtesy of the 91st Training Division

Brig. Gen. Cook oversees mission scenarios for the 91st Training Division (Operations) at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

Our mission is as follows:

91st Training Division (Operations) conducts Warrior Exercises, Combat Support Training Exercise rotations and other requirements for division headquarters, subordinate down trace units and staff on collective tasks so they are trained and prepared for deployment. As directed, we provide training to joint, combined, and active forces.

The exercises are tailored to your unit commander's training objectives that were supplied by your commander's unit readiness assessment.

Next, we take those identified tasks and build scenarios for your exercises. The end result is that your units receive the necessary training and evaluation of those specific collective tasks. Finally, at the conclusion of the exercise, your unit will receive assessments that will be the basis of your training plan for the upcoming year.

This is your time to take advantage of all the resources that you need to become proficient on your collective tasks. Please use this valuable training time to train to standard.

Our unit is here to support your needs.

Creating something greater than ourselves

It is an honor for me to be serving once again with the soldiers of the 91st. People here are nice, and the work is interesting. Most importantly, these exercises are another opportunity to serve with fellow soldiers.

Throughout my Army career, I have been blessed with many such opportunities, and I have learned to value each one. Serving in the Army as a soldier and a chaplain has always felt special. In putting on our uniforms and assuming our military roles, each of us makes a sacred commitment to our nation and to each other. In becoming soldiers, we have committed ourselves to supporting one another in the work of defending our great country

and serving as agents of freedom throughout the world.

This past Sunday, I had the pleasant task of speaking at FOB Schoonover's Protestant service. (One of the unique characteristics of the Army environment is that, every so often, I, as a rabbi, can serve in this capacity.) At that service, I spoke about the Book of Ruth, in which the heroine makes a stirring declaration: "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. Your people shall be my people..."

As I said to that congregation of soldiers, what Ruth said and did is similar to what we do as soldiers. At various times, we each leave our homes, the places where we feel

comfortable, to come to a new place-Fort Hunter Liggett today, somewhere else at some other time. We come together, often with people we don't know, and collectively affirm that we are one another's people. When I come to the 91st, for example, your people automatically become my people. Through this process, we are able to create something much greater than ourselves.

Ruth, by taking the risks she did to leave a place of comfort and take on a new and different life, became the great-grandmother of David, arguably the greatest king of ancient Israel, and certainly a brilliant military leader. In similar fashion, we, by the risks we took in joining the Army to be part of the great community of US soldiers, have taken a hand in ensuring the destiny of a most wonderful and blessed nation.

**Chaplain (Colonel)
Barry R. Baron**



A not so sunny California



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner

Soldiers dig trenches to stem the flow of water into their tents during a rainstorm at Forward Operating Base Tusi on Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. June 5. The Soldiers are part of CSTX 91 11-01.

372nd PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

143rd ESC Public Affairs Office

Maj. John J. Adams

372nd Public Affairs Commander

1st Lt. Terri L. Hyatt

372nd Public Affairs NCOIC

1st Sgt. Denise A. Shelton

Editor/ Layout Designer

Spc. Francesca Stanchi

Staff Writers/ Photographers

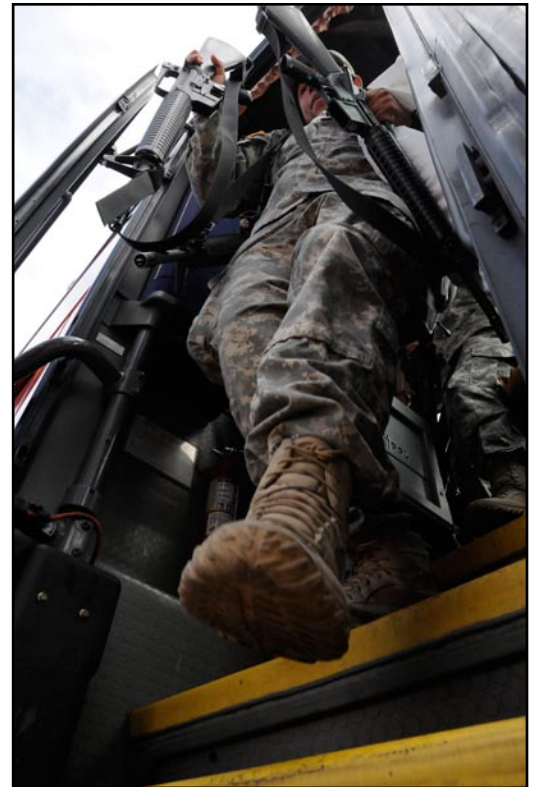
Sgt. Joshua Risner

Sgt. Betty Dodd-Rogers

Boots on the ground



The 277th Quartermaster Company from Niagara Falls, N.Y., grab their bags in preparation to move out to their living quarters during the Combat Support Training Exercise 2011 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. June 5.



A member of the 257th Transportation Company get off the bus to begin their stay at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., and their participation in the Combat Support Training Exercise 2011, June 5.



Soldiers load their baggage onto a light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV) before heading to their living quarters during the Combat Support Training Exercise 2011 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. June 5.



U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Joshua Risner

The line for dinner chow extends off into the distance at Forward Operating Base Schoonover on Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. The Soldiers have gathered here for Combat Support Training Exercise 2011.

Environmental Awareness

Information courtesy of Fort Hunter Liggett Training & The Environment Leader's Handbook

Fort Hunter Liggett encompasses approximately 161,900 acres and is bordered to the north and west by the Los Padres National Forest. Everyone training at or visiting FHL is responsible for ensuring that all federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations are followed to minimize or eliminate environmental disturbances and to preserve the integrity of the installation for future generations of Soldiers to train.

WILDLIFE/HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Endangered species, their habitat and archaeological resources are protected by federal and state law.

Do not feed or harass wildlife.

Any federally or state-protected animal (e.g. arroyo toad, California condor, etc.) found dead or injured will be immediately reported to the FHL range officer.

Stay away from archaeological and historical sites and report newly-discovered sites to Range Control.

VEHICLE MOVEMENT

Stay on established roads and trails except during authorized training maneuvers.

Cross rivers and streams only at bridges and designated fords.

DO NOT drive off-road within 20 meters of stream beds or in low, wet marshy areas.

Do not travel through sensitive natural and cultural resource areas marked with yellow signs, orange traffic cones or Seifert stakes.

ENDANGERED SPECIES



SANTA LUCIA MINT - A small (6-9 in. tall), annual plant, which flowers from May to July and is listed by the state of California as endangered. It has spoon-shaped hairy leaves and small, lavender flowers. The entire plant smells like mint and is found along moist stream banks and pools, usually in dense patches in training areas 17, 18, 19 and 23.



PURPLE AMOLE - This member of the lily family is federally listed as threatened and endangered in California. It is a small, perennial plant that flowers between May and June. It has narrow, wavy leaves, which are grouped at the base of a tall, slender stalk (9-16 in. tall). The flowers are dark blue to deep purple with bright yellow anthers. This plant is found in gently sloping areas of open grassland, oak savanna and oak woodland in training areas 10, 13, 22, 24, 25, 27, the ASP and the cantonment area.

ARROYO TOAD - This is a federally endangered species found in and along the banks of the San Antonio River. Adult toads are 2-3 in. long and are pale and warty, with a pale patch behind the eyes. They lack the white stripe along their backs that is present on other toads. These small toads burrow into the sandy soils along river banks during a portion of the year.





SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX - This small fox (3-6 lbs.) is an endangered species under federal law and is a threatened species under California law. It is easily recognized by its large ears and small size. It is a pale buff color with a black-tipped tail. Kit foxes inhabit open grasslands and oak woodlands in flat to gently rolling hills, and prey upon small mammals, notably the California ground squirrel. Kit foxes den in burrows similar to those used by ground squirrels, but they have also been known to den in structures such as culverts, abandoned pipelines and well casings.

BALD EAGLE - The bald eagle is the United States National bird and is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The adult bird has a dark body with a white head and tail, weighs up to 14 lbs. and can have up to a 7-foot wingspan. Juvenile birds do not have a distinct white head or tail. These birds typically hunt near streams and ponds; they eat fish, waterfowl, small mammals and carrion. Bald eagles build large stick nests in trees and cliffs overlooking water or in remote areas.

VERNAL POOL FAIRY SHRIMP - These seasonally-occurring shrimp are found in puddles classified as “vernal pools” (a low-lying wet area that stays puddled for several weeks, typically in spring) and are an endangered species under federal and California law. They are approximately 1/8-3/4 in. long, translucent, and swim upside down. Eggs remain on the dry pool bottom through summer, hatching during the rainy season. Such pools are typically located in open areas of flat terrain to rolling hills.

CALIFORNIA CONDOR - This is a federally and state listed endangered raptor, one of the rarest bird species in the world. An adult bird can weigh up to 22 lbs. and have a 9.5 foot wingspan. These birds have a dark body with black heads on juveniles and bright red heads on adults. Roosts and nests are located on tall trees and cliffs, usually in remote areas.



HAZARDOUS ANIMALS

There are several potentially dangerous animal species on Fort Hunter Liggett that training units could come in contact with.

Although the potential danger from contact with any of these species exists, this potential is quite low when compared to other natural hazards. Generally, these animal species are quiet and elusive, and the chances of troops or visitors observing them are low.

Should you observe an animal listed, it is important to eliminate or minimize contact with the animal to prevent a threatening situation to both yourself and the animal.



VIOLIN SPIDERS - This group of poisonous spiders including the brown recluse, is tan to yellowish brown with a “violin” or “fiddle” marking on their thoraxes. A bite from one of these spiders causes tissue death (necrosis) of the bite area. Usually, within 30-60 minutes, the person bitten will feel a burning sensation and within eight hours a pustule will develop. In rare cases, a systematic reaction can develop and is characterized by fever, nausea and vomiting.

HAZARDOUS ANIMALS

• Continued from, Page 5

BLACK WIDOW - This poisonous spider is glossy black and marked with a characteristic red hourglass on the underside of its abdomen. The bite of a black widow can cause muscle spasms and breathing difficulty and can be fatal in some cases.

BATS - There are several species of bats occurring in the Fort Hunter Liggett area. Never handle a wounded or sick bat; they are known to carry rabies.

RATTLESNAKES - The Pacific rattlesnake is the only species of venomous snakes found on Fort Hunter Liggett. Snakebites are rare, but caution should be exercised when walking in training areas or climbing in rocky areas. Rattlesnakes are typically active between May and October during the warmer periods of the year. Most rattlesnakes, when disturbed, will attempt to flee to safety. If cornered or surprised, rattlesnakes will buzz their rattles as a warning. If bitten, immobilize the bite area, calm the victim and seek immediate medical aid.



DEER TICK - These tiny ticks are responsible for transmitting Lyme's disease bacteria to humans. Ticks can attach to any part of the human body but tend to gravitate toward hidden and hairy areas, such as the groin, armpit and scalp. Contact with ticks can occur when walking through grass and shrubs. Therefore, it's important to periodically check your body for ticks. Early stages of Lyme's disease include symptoms such as fatigue, fever and chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, swollen lymph nodes and a characteristic skin rash.



MOUNTAIN LIONS

- Mountain lions are known to inhabit the area. If you encounter a mountain lion, do not crouch or run from it as this will make you look like prey. Raise your arms to make yourself look bigger and more imposing, and slowly back away. If attacked by a mountain lion, fight back loudly and aggressively; this will discourage the predator, and in most instances, it will back off.

BOBCATS, BEARS, COYOTES, FOXES, BADGERS AND OTHER CARNIVORES - Several carnivore species occur on Fort Hunter Liggett. Avoid all contact with carnivores, and keep trash contained and unburied to avoid attracting them. Do not approach or feed carnivores. Travel in groups to minimize contact with these predators.





U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner

Seibert stakes such as these cordon off sensitive areas such as enviromental and archaeological sites. Soldiers are not allowed to enter these areas.

Be safe out there!

- Always obey posted speed limits.
- Always wear a helmet when operating tactical vehicles.
- Do not let trash accumulate in living areas.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Drink plenty of water, even if you're not thirsty.
- Fire is a big concern in this environment, only smoke in designated areas.

Dining Hours

for FOBs Tusi & Schoonover

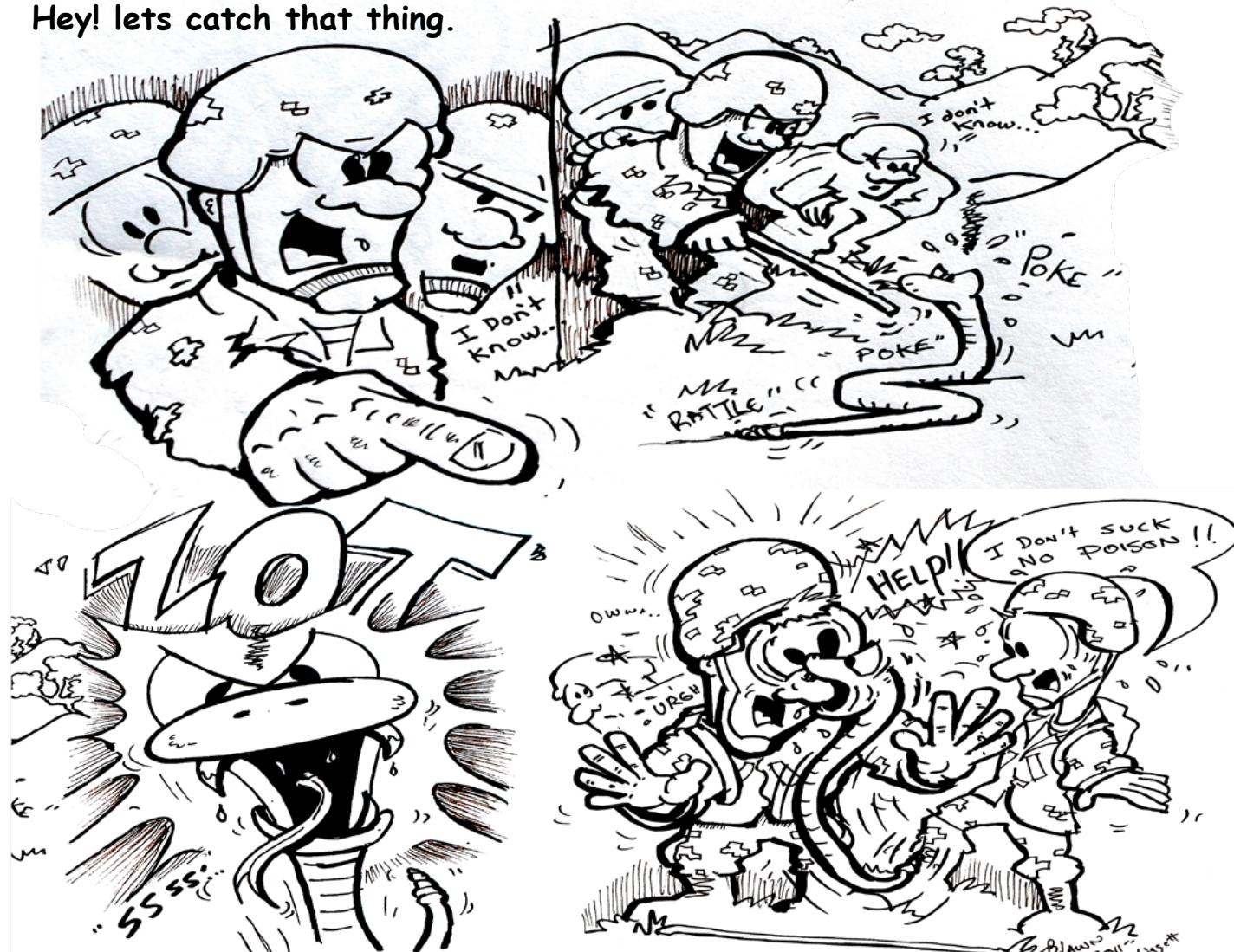
Breakfast 0600-0730
MRE Pick-up at breakfast
Dinner 1700-1830

FOB Milpitas

Breakfast 0530-0730
MRE Pick-up at breakfast
Dinner 1730-1930

Liggett Legends

Hey! lets catch that thing.



The moral of the story.....Leave the critters alone!

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on www.dvidshub.net at 143rd ESC and 372nd MPAD

{SUICIDE}
IS 100% PREVENTABLE

1-800-273-TALK

PX hours
for FOB's Milpitas &
Schoonover
1100-1700
mission depending