



Warrior Wavefront

exercise pacific warrior 2008

Fort Hunter Liggett, California



Today's high: 87°

Tomorrow's high: 86°

June 9, 2008

Thousands gear up for training challenge

By Staff Sgt. Caroline Maribei
300th MPAD

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – More than 4,700 Soldiers will prepare for real combat environments here during the training exercise Pacific Warrior this year.

Col. Lorenzo J. Valenzuela, the Joint Task Force Commander of Pacific Warrior Exercise 2008 and the commander of the 647th Regional Support Group from El Paso, Texas, said Soldiers will either serve as participants or support in the annual event, which involves a simulated independence movement in a Middle Eastern country.

“The training scheduled will include the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures from lessons learned in theater,” Valenzuela said. “It is the most current doctrine available and it should give the Soldiers confidence that they are getting the best training.”

The Soldiers will be part of the effort to provide Stability and Reconstruction Operations in “Azerbaijan” and restore border and internal security.

They will provide protection from infiltrating forces from neighboring “Azerbaijan,” and help the Azerbaijani military establish defensive positions along the border. The Soldiers are likely to face guerilla attacks from Azerbaijani forces that are familiar with the terrain and may have support of the local population.

The area of operations will include three Forward Operating Bases – Ward, 8J, and Schoonover. When soldiers arrive for the exercise, they will be in-processed at the Intermediate Staging Base and then deployed to their designated bases to begin training.

This training will include Improvised Explosive Devices defeat, combat lifesaver, convoy operations, Forward Operating Base operations, land navigation and map reading, military communication systems, media and civilians on the battlefield,

At right, Soldiers from the 447th Military Police Detachment in North Canton, OH conduct battle drills reacting to contact in the Intermediate Staging Base. At top, Soldiers from the unit prepare to go to their assigned base.



Photos by Pfc. Daniel Haun

staff operations and military decision making processes.

The goal of Pacific Warrior is to improve unit readiness by providing collective training at the company level, organizers said. This will be accomplished through leader training along with collective Mission Essential Task List-based training in the field. Observer/Controllers will be present to oversee the troops as they face opposing forces.

More than 100 unique Combat Support and Combat Service Support units from across the United States will participate in this year's event.

“My highest priority is that commanders achieve their training objectives,” said Valenzuela, adding his hopes that Soldiers take pride in coming out and training with other Soldiers. “A lot of people have done a lot to prepare for the exercise and I think that it will be very successful.”

Soldier on the Street

By Spc. Maria Reynolds and Pfc. Daniel Haun

How did you prepare for Pacific Warrior 2008?



Spc. Louis P Nicksick
Military police officer
447th Military Police Company
Cleveland, Ohio

We actually go out in the field and...do special training with riot control or moving from reactive fire, direct fire or Improvised Explosive Devices.



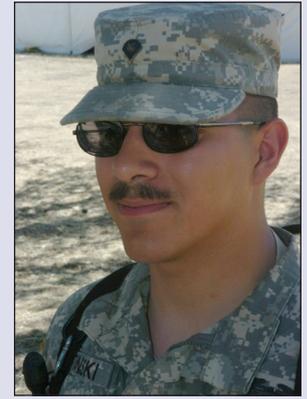
Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Duke
Motor sergeant
88th Military Police Company
Fort Eustis, Va.

We went out with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, an active component that was moving out to Iraq, and we had to train them. It was a good experience.



Staff Sgt. Kerry S Milburn
First sergeant
475th Trailer Transfer Point Det.
Bardstown, Ky.

We did extra training with the forklift. We trained several days to prepare my soldiers to be able to operate them ... and a 10,000 pound forklift to be able to move the commercial shipping containers.



Spc. Mark H Stanski
Military policeman
428th Military Police Company
Grand Rapids, Mich.

I got on the Web to get an idea of the area, to see what the weather was like and to check out the terrain. I knew it was going to be a warm climate so I had to hydrate.

Hunter Liggett history

The base was named in 1941 after Lt Gen. Hunter Liggett, who once served as Chief of Staff for Gen. John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing.

As early as 8,000-10,000 years ago, this area was the heartland of territory between Salinas Valley and the ocean, held by ancestors of people known now as the Salinan Indians.

Much of the land was purchased from William Randolph Hearst in 1940.

The USS Hunter Liggett (APA-14) was one of the three largest attack transports in the Amphibian Force during World War II. It was operated by the U.S. Coast Guard and carried 35 landing boats and two tank lighters, along with 51 officers and a crew of 634.



Photo by Spc. Bryan Randolph

Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Lutz, commander of the 335th Signal Command out of East Point, Ga., explains to members of the 319th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion command group what he expects for training at Exercise Pacific Warrior 2008. Lutz took a tour Sunday of several units participating in the exercise, where he was briefed on current operations, collective training and individual training.

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

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