



Warrior Wavefront

exercise pacific warrior 2008

Fort Hunter Liggett, California



Today's high: 101°

Saturday's high: 103°

Sunday's high: 103°

June 20, 2008

Treat and release: MEDCAP brings care

By Spc. Daniel M. Schneider
366th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – The village ground was littered with injured earthquake victims as the convoy approached.

Military police vehicles set up security with gunners scanning the area. Engineers rushed ahead to ensure the area was clear of explosives before the medics dismounted with their medical equipment.

The military police, engineers, and medical personnel were a cohesive unit during the Medical Civil Action Program exercise Tuesday, said Lt. Col. Kevin R. Villalobos, medical operation officer for the 7304th Medical Training Support Battalion from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

“It gave the medical troops an opportunity to perform in a tactical environment,” Villalobos said. “They had to adapt how to preserve their own life in order to save someone else.”

The convoy consisted of the 88th Military Police Company from Fort Eustis, Va., the 352nd Military Police Company from Rockville, Md., the 443rd Military Police Company from Sparks, Md., the 863rd Engineer Battalion from Darien, Ill. and the 369th Combat Support Hospital from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

During the exercise, which followed a simulated earthquake,



Spc. Daniel M. Schneider

Maj. Israel Santiago (right) and Spc. Jose L. Alvarado (left), both with the 369th Combat Support Hospital from San Juan, Puerto Rico, assess an “injured” roleplayer in a medical civic action program exercise during Pacific Warrior Monday.

Army Reserve personnel visited affected villages and dealt with numerous injuries, ranging from lacerations to back pains.

Men and women in native dress came out to meet the Soldiers and ask for aid. In one case, villagers initially became vocal and angry when they didn't feel a man with a broken wrist

Continued on Page 4

Hidden hazards create realistic training for troops

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

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion of the 363rd Training Regiment, 402nd Field Artillery Brigade, are here to teach lessons in survival.

The Army Reserve unit, which is based in Los Angeles, is instructing the approximately 3,600 Pacific Warrior Soldiers in advanced Improvised Explosive Device defeat and counter sniper training.

“Our war-time mission is to go to these training platforms, and make sure the Army personnel there receive every opportunity to prepare for a deployment,” said Capt. Jerry Regis,

Continued on Page 2



Sgt. David J. Nunn

Soldiers of the 300th Chemical Company, of West Virginia, react to a possible Improvised Explosive Device during a Pacific Warrior training course.



Chaplain's Corner

Knowing which path to take can make a big difference

By Chaplain (Col.) Tom Phelan
331st Medical Group

"Not all roads lead where we plan to go."

This thought came to me while driving to a Forward Operating Base at Pacific Warrior. I had already learned the route to FOB Ward, but the Intermediate Staging Base said that it was closed and that I needed to use the new route they had described.

As I drove along, I first noticed a better, paved road that inter-

sected the dirt path I was following.

"It's not really a better road if it doesn't lead where I need to go," I thought as I bypassed it and continued along my way. I came upon a steep incline and the military vehicle groaned a little.

"It's OK," I said. "Sometimes it's an uphill climb to get where you are going." Gravel crunched beneath the wheels as the vehicle rolled along a narrow hilly portion of the road. I was careful to stay away from the edge, especially at the blind turns where it would have been difficult to see an approaching vehicle.

I considered how many wrong turns, mechanical difficulties or accidents could have kept me from reaching my destination. When I arrived safely at the FOB, I returned thanks to the Lord that I had made it safely and without complications.

Studying the map, following good directions and safe driving had made the difference.

With this thought in mind, I considered how many lives do not end up where people plan to go.

With both this present life and eternity in mind, make sure you know the destination of the road you are on and drive safely.



Spc. Daniel M. Schneider

Hazards

Continued from front page

an observer controller trainer. "Here at (Pacific Warrior) we are trying to provide some theater immersion training for these Soldiers to become aware of the threat that IEDs present in theater."

The 363rd Training Regiment has designed the course to be a "crawl, walk, run" environment.

Soldiers report initially to a classroom setting, where they are introduced to survival skills through a presentation laced

with photos and videos of attacks in theater.

The instruction continues with the cadre walking the Soldiers through several practical exercises.

These exercises include running security checks around vehicles for hidden explosives, safe evacuation of casualties from a vehicle, and handling of several types of explosive devices.

The Soldiers next move to a full-fledged scenario in a mock village, where they react to IEDs and engage enemy forces.

"I think there now is a more hands-on training environment in preparation for

possible deployments compared to what Soldiers experienced in years past," said Sgt. 1st Class Terrace Collins, an observer controller trainer.

"They have the opportunity now to have this kind of training in several areas, taught by Soldiers with real world experience."

After completing their mission at Pacific Warrior, the Soldiers of the 363rd Training Regiment will return to their standard reserve obligations with their focus being validating units for mobilization at Fort Bliss, Texas, and providing training to individual units.

Warrior Wavefront exercise Pacific Warrior 2008

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

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Chemical victims get clean the hard way

By Spc. Monte Swift
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. –Imagine traveling to your civilian job. After pulling into the parking garage, you walk to the door. Suddenly, a flood of friends and co-workers burst out of the building coughing and crying for help.

Confused, you step back, staring, until it hits you. Your eyes and skin burn, and every breath feels like fire as a fog drifts out of the door. You can only manage one thought. Make it stop.

Civilians facing chemical weapons such as mustard or chlorine gas can receive help from Soldiers like those of the 357th Chemical Company from Pennsauken, N.J. The unit, which is taking part in Pacific Warrior here, held a live event Wednesday using Mass Civilian Decontamination centers.

“This is a superb training activity for Soldiers and everyone who is involved,” said Maj. Gen. James W. Rafferty, commanding general of the 81st Regional Readiness Command, who was on hand to witness the exercise. “I am seeing great things from these Soldiers and the best part is everyone is enjoying the training.”

The Mass Decontamination Center includes three tents that can be set up anywhere in less than 15 minutes and are designed to process large numbers of people at a time, members of the 357th Chemical Company said. In a real situation, the center would be located near a hospital so decontaminated casualties could seek further treatment.

An assembly line process is used to move casualties through the cleaning process. In the first tent, the casualty roleplayers were separated by those who could and couldn't walk. Then they removed contaminated clothing and passed into

Continued on Page 4



Photos by Sgt. Marla R. Keown

Soldiers of the 357th Chemical Company out of Pennsauken, N.J. reacted to a simulated contaminated site Wednesday afternoon. Nuclear Biological Chemical Soldiers work in shifts of 20 minutes on and 40 minutes off. NBC Soldiers said it is 20 degrees hotter inside the suit than the temperature outside.

There are two sides to the decontamination tents, a walking side and an injured side. Contaminated individuals first go through a hot tent where their clothes are cut off or removed. Once all the items are removed, individuals are then washed and scrubbed from head to toe. Even the litters that the wounded persons come in on are scrubbed down.

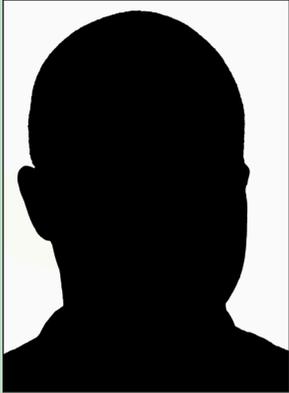
After the scrub down, Soldiers like Sgt. Jonathan M. Azzinaro of Evesham, N.J. (at left) use a Chemical Agent Monitor to check levels of blister and nerve agents. “If a Soldier comes up positive on the CAM, they are recycled and go through the wash again,” said Azzinaro.



OPFOR on the Street

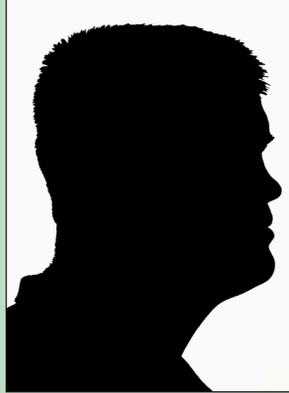
By Sgt. Karl Johnson

What should Soldiers learn from Pacific Warrior?



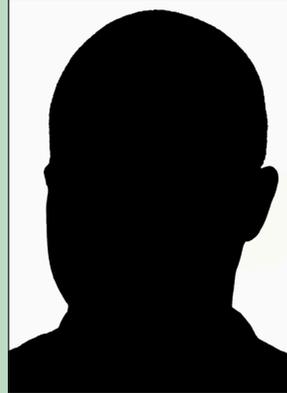
Pfc. Thomas Skiver
Military Police Officer
603rd Military Police Company
Belton, Mo.

It's really important to pay attention to the trainers. There's a lot of stuff that can be hidden, so Soldiers need to know how to search for those things and keep control of the situation.



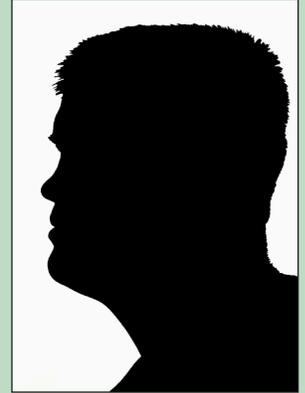
Pfc. Brandon Vaughn
Supply Specialist
447th Military Police Company
Canton, Ohio

It's a team effort. Everyone has to stay focused and remember they all have a role to play.



Spc. Richard Jones
Medic
603rd Military Police Company
Belton, Mo.

Each Soldier should try to take away an understanding of what to expect from the enemy.



Sgt. Dustin Rose
Military Police Officer
603rd Military Police Company
Belton, Mo.

I think the two most important things to work on are communication and looking out for each other.

Chemical

Continued from Page 3

the second shower tent, where Soldiers in protective suits thoroughly and carefully cleaned the casualty with a mixture of soap, water and mild bleach.

From there, they were checked by a Chemical Agent Monitor to determine if another pass through the shower tents is needed. In the final tent they are dressed in a protective suit and sent for medical treatment.

Sgt. 1st Class Claudia Polite said the unit performs these drills monthly, adding that preventing the further spread of contamination is very important. During the event, some casualties became hostile and had to be restrained to prevent them from leaving the contamination zone.

"I would never let my Soldiers to be injured by someone who is brought into the MCD," said Staff Sgt. Patrice Brown, the

MCD team leader. "If they proceed to be violent we will move on to help other casualties."

Soldiers in the training switched jobs during the exercise so everyone got a chance to learn all areas of the MCD. The casualties who could not walk were taken through on a stretcher and carefully rolled over to be decontaminated.

"If you were to get attacked, this would be the unit to go to," said Spc. Anthony I. Martinez of the 900th Quartermaster Company from El Paso, Texas, who played a casualty for the training. "This unit is high speed."

Wearing the chemical suit and mask was very taxing on the Soldiers in the hot weather, said Brown. A separate tent was set up so they could rotate out and cool off.

"The overall mission went very, very well," she said. "We had some trouble with the tents at first, but after we got it straightened out everyone knew what to do and worked as team."

MEDCAP

Continued from front page

was being treated quickly enough.

Col. Dawn A. Vuicich, medical operations officer for the 7303rd Medical Training Support Battalion from Fort Gordon, Ga., said the Soldiers adapted very well, improving each time they stopped.

The exercise was designed to be 80 percent tactical and 20 percent medical, she said.

Master Sgt. Robert Dawley, 479th Engineer Battalion from Watertown, N.Y., said they faced some unplanned, real-life ob-

'As soon as we set up on the second site it just clicked.'

Master Sgt. Robert Dawley
479th Engineer Battalion

stacles to their mission.

"As we pulled out, the first site was blocked by a downed tree, but the (military police) found an alternate route," said Dawley, noting that the Soldiers pressed on despite the hardships. "As soon as we set up on the second site it just clicked. All the units performed outstandingly."