

Warrant Officers Participate in Pacific Warrior Exercise

By CW4 Farrell J. Chiles

Over 4,200 Soldiers convened on Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) in California to participate in a major Army Reserve exercise called Pacific Warrior. The exercise was designed to prepare Soldiers for the rigors of deployment in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. Soldiers performed collective warrior tasks such as base security, convoy operations and quick reaction drills during simulated enemy attacks. While at FHL, the daily temperatures ranged from 93 – 103 degrees. Among the participants were forty-three warrant officers from reserve units throughout the United States.

CW4 James D. Kluck, a food service warrant officer from the 300th Military Police Brigade, Inkster, Michigan, arrived at FHL on 21 May 07 and departed on 6 Jul 07. Mr. Kluck, a veteran of Patriot Survivor (06), was responsible for the food service operations. Asked about the food operations, he stated, “Food service was over committed and under resourced. However, the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) infrastructures were exceptional”. Prior to the end of the exercise, Mr. Kluck was recognized and received a Commander’s coin from BG Charles Ebner of the 63d Regional Readiness Command (along with a punch to his upper chest) and another coin from LTC Jeffrey Burbach, the Deputy Commander of the 300th ASG, for his outstanding support of the food service operations. Mr. Kluck previously served in GITMO as the Task Force Food Officer (2002-2003).

CW4 Martha Ervin, a Human Resources Technician, from the 63d Regional Readiness Command, located in Los Alamitos, CA was part of her unit’s ADVON (advance party), arriving on 4 Jun 07 and departing on 18 Jun 07. Ms. Ervin was tasked to set up the G-1 operations, establish and publish the policies and procedures for the PERSTATS, Line of Duties, Red Cross notifications, Awards, and other personnel actions. Chief Ervin has orders for deployment to Afghanistan at the end of Jul 07.

CW4 Gary Gaffner was part of a 10 Soldier detachment, the 847th PSB, Detachment 1, from Fort Snelling, MN, that flew from Minneapolis, MN to San Jose, CA and then made a three hour bus ride to Camp Roberts for in-processing. His detachment spent two days and one night at Camp Parks before departing for Fort Hunter Liggett. CW4 Gaffner spent from 15 Jun 07 – 3 Jul 07 at Pacific Warrior. While at FHL, Mr. Gaffner was responsible for reporting his PERSTAT to his S-1 at 0745, 1145, and 1745 daily. Mr. Gaffner commented that he liked the way his team jelled. There was good teamwork. He was very much impressed with exercise, the excellent life support provided by the contractors to include shower and latrine facilities. Mr. Gaffner stated that he saw two other warrant officers during his stay at Fort Hunter Liggett.

The eight Soldier, 847th PSB, Detachment 3, from Columbus, Ohio arrived on 15 Jun 07 and departed on 2 Jul 07. **CW3 Hobson Hamilton, Jr.**, a 420A, provided PERSTAT reports daily at 0630 and LOGSTAT at 1800. He found the exercise challenging and stated that there was good team work with the S-1. According to Mr. Hamilton the training was a “real plus” – just like back in theatre. Mr. Hamilton spent twelve months deployed in Uzbekistan. “The gravel, dirt roads, and mountains couldn’t have been more

real”, he said. Chief Hamilton mentioned one short fall – “We didn’t have photocopy capability at the FOB. We had to work around it”. CW3 Hamilton is also a Vietnam Veteran.

CW2 Tammy Hash, a 920B, Supply Systems Technician, assigned to the 2174th GSU, from Salem, Virginia, left Roanoke, VA on 3 June 07 and arrived at Camp Roberts on 4 Jun 07 with further travel to FHL. The unit consisted of 129 Soldiers commanded by Colonel Richard Torres. The GSU served as the Mayor Cell for one of the three FOBs. Ms. Hash’s duties included the logistical support for all units within her FOB, submitting the LOGSTAT daily reports, and the supervision of ten Soldiers. Chief Hash stated, “The exercise was challenging. I learned a lot. The experience will help my Soldiers to gain knowledge of what to expect when deployed to theatre”. The unit departed FHL on 2 Jul 07.

CW2 Danyel Thompson, 847th PSB, Detachment 2, Fort Sheridan, IL, was the acting commander of the 14 Soldier detachment, arriving on 15 Jun 07 and departing on 2 Jul 07. Her detachment augmented the G-1 staff personnel and was responsible for PERSTADT and other personnel actions. Ms. Thompson stated “The exercise was very interesting. I’m coming from active duty and this was my first exercise as a reservist. This was a good experience. My warrant officer training prepared me”. CW2 Thompson served eleven years on active duty and has been a warrant officer for three years.

I was a part of the trail party for the 63d Regional Readiness Command. We departed by bus from Los Alamitos, CA on 18 Jun 07 at 0845 and arrived at Fort Hunter Liggett at 1430. The G-1 trail party consisted of a lieutenant colonel, a sergeant major, and other enlisted Soldiers. I served as the Executive Officer. We received the PERSTAT reports from the various S-1s, prepared the daily briefing slides, managed the Line of Duties, manned a 24 hour Red Cross operation center, processed over 4,200 certificates of achievement for all the Pacific Warrior participants and provided other personnel actions support. We departed Fort Hunter Liggett on 3 Jul 07.

Other warrant officers participated in Pacific Warriors. There were supply warrants, maintenance warrants and a legal administrator. There was CW5 Brian Reilly from the 63d Regional Support Command’s G-4 and a WO1 who hadn’t went to her basic course yet. Although we only totaled forty-three in number, our presence was felt. The Army can’t go to war or even to a training exercise without warrant officers. We’re that valuable.



Left to Right –CW3 Hobson Hamilton Jr., CW4 Farrell Chiles, and 1LT Gregory Carter. Both warrant officers are wearing unit patches from their Vietnam service.



CW4 Martha Ervin (lower left) with Soldiers of her ADVON team.



CW2 Tammy Hash, 920B, of the 2174th Garrison Support Unit



CW4 Gary Gaffner, Human Resources Technician, 847th Personnel Services Battalion, Detachment 1