



New Horizons 2004

Guatemalan President Kicks Off Exercise

Story and photos by Sgt. Nick Minecci

JUTIAPA, Guatemala – Exercise New Horizons 2004 officially kicked off here Saturday during a ceremony attended by Guatemalan president Oscar Berger, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala John Hamilton and other Guatemalan and U.S. dignitaries.

Exercise New Horizons 2004 is a joint and combined exercise sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command, working with the Government of Guatemala to perform humanitarian and civic assistance projects, exercise related construction and medical readiness exercises.



U.S. Ambassador John Hamilton

The U.S. servicemembers deployed here as part of Joint Task Force Quetzal are working side-by-side with soldiers from Guatemala to build schools, hospitals and dig wells to provide fresh drinking water for the local population.

As he addressed the gathered military and civilian guests Berger thanked the assembled Guatemalan soldiers and U.S. Soldiers, Airmen and sailors.



Guatemalan president Oscar Berger is greeted at the 312th Field Hospital by Spec. Beatriz Cruz, 818th Maintenance Company (Direct Support), during his visit to Base Camp Quetzal.

“I’d like to thank the U.S. military and the U.S. authorities for the effort they are [using] to produce a better infrastructure for our beloved Jutiapa and its people,” he said.

“Today a process begins in which not only military informa-

—————**See Opening Ceremony, page 3**

818th Maintenance Company’s Soldiers Keep Big Wheels Rolling

Story and photos by Sgt. Nick Minecci

JUTIAPA, Guatemala – It all comes down to one word: teamwork.

That is the message the U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the Fort Meade, Md.-based 818th Maintenance Company (Direct Support) say is the key to success for Joint Task Force Quetzal during Exercise New Horizons 2004.

Joint Task Force Quetzal is a joint and combined task force assembled for Exercise New Horizons 2004 here. During the exercise U.S. service members are working with the Government of Guatemala to perform humanitarian and civic assistance projects, exercise related construction and medical readiness exercises.

“The 818th is here to support the main-



Sergeant Kevin Sych and Spec. Candice Carey, 818th Maintenance Company (DS) check a Humvee.

tenance and upkeep of the [Task Force’s] equipment, we are the only maintenance unit on the ground,” said Sgt. 1st Class Columban Nurse, a track vehicle repairer and the maintenance shop foreman for the 818th here here.

“We are here for any type of maintenance needs,” said Sgt. Jessica Akers, a wheel vehicle repairer from Grasonville, Md.

“If a [servicemember] needs a jumpstart for their vehicle or air in the tires up to fixing hydraulic leaks and other major repairs, we are it,” she added.

Because there are Navy and Air Force personnel on the ground, and a company

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Florida Soldiers Keep Clean Water Flowing

“Water Dogs” Take Raw Water and Make it Safe for Task Force

Story and photos by Sgt. Nick Minecci

JUTIAPA, Guatemala – With the hundreds of servicemembers deployed here, it is up to eight U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers to ensure the water they depend on for everyday living is clean and safe for consumption.

The Soldiers, assigned to the 322nd and 873rd Quartermaster Detachments, from Jacksonville and Miami, Fla., respectively, are part of the 81st Regional Readiness Command, assigned to Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units.

In military shorthand it is simply called ROWPU.

The “water dogs” are providing water for Base Camp Quetzal her as part of exercise New Horizons 2004. New Horizons is a joint and combined exercise, sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command, and working with the government of Guatemala.

During New Horizons the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the Joint Task Force will perform humanitarian and civic assistance projects, exercise related construction and medical readiness exercises.

The mission of the ROWPU Soldiers sounds simple when Spec. Dwight Samuels of the 873rd, who lives in Tampa, Fla., explains it.

“What we do is make the water pure for use,” he said. “We take dirty water



Tampa, Fla. native Spec. Dwight Samuels, 873rd Quartermaster Detachment, based in Miami, Fla., cleans grass and other debris from the Reverse Osmosis Purification Unit filter. The 873rd Quartermaster Det. and the 322nd Quartermaster Det., from Miami, Fla., are providing clean water for the Task Force Base Camp.

and make it clean.”

As he continues it is clear the mission is a little more complex then he makes it sound at first.

“We run the water through the ROWPU, which takes the water from its raw source and sends it to the raw water pump and to the reverse osmosis elements.

“We use a variety of chemicals, chlorine, biosulfide, sequestrant and polyolectrolite to clean the water,” he added.

“Right now we are providing about 18,000 gallons of fresh water a day,” said Sgt. Joel Montfort, a Miami native with the 873rd.

Staff Sgt. John Wright, who is in charge of the Tactical Water Distribution System and is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the four Soldiers from the 322nd, added that by the time the camp is full, they will be pushing approximately 30-40,000 gallons a day of puri-

fied water with their 600 gallon-a-minute pump.

“Not only will we be providing for the base camp, but we will be filling the water buffalos that go to each work site,” the Jacksonville, Fla., native said.

“We are a 24-hour-a-day operation, but our morale is great,” said Wright, who deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Corps Support Command in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“People here know us because we are always joking, they say ‘There go the water dogs!’ But that is OK, as long as they are getting their water they are happy,” he said.

Wright added that the efforts of his Soldiers and the four from the 873rd don’t go unnoticed by the other servicemembers.

“Once we get set up, people are getting hot showers and have fresh water to drink, they will find us and thank us. That’s always nice,” he said. ❖

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OPENING CEREMONY, from page 1

tion will be shared, but also the human side of the U.S. and Guatemalan military,” Berger said.

Reflecting on the rebuilding of Guatemala following years of internal strife, Berger said the efforts of both militaries are for a greater good.

“The tasks that will be done will be of great benefit for the Jutiapan people,” he said.

“But more than anything, this [exercise] is a symbol of the union and friendship we have, and a symbol that militaries can collaborate with one another when the principal interests are for the people, of freedom and democracy,” he said.

Berger addressed the U.S. troops directly as well, saying, “Thank you very much to the members of the military! Thank you for showing interest in our population.

“This is a vivid example that will stay in the heart of the people who benefit from this...together we can make a better world,” he said.

Hamilton echoed the president’s words, and said the timing of New Horizons, as the Guatemalan military undergoes a massive transformation, is a positive for all those involved.

“The humanitarian effort to construct



Sergeant Briceida Urrutia, 647th Area Support Group, translates a welcome briefing for president Oscar Berger and Brig. Gen. Cesar Augusto Mendea Pinelo, Guatemalan Minister of Defense from Maj. Daniel Dolwick, 416th Engineer Command in the Task Force Tactical Operations Center.

community services, such as schools and clinics and [other structures] are good for the modern army.

This effort on the part of both militaries gives them an opportunity to work side-by-side while improving the way of life for the people of

Guatemala,” he said.

The servicemembers of Task Force Quetzal have been building a base camp for several weeks, and the servicemembers move into the surrounding area this week to begin the civil construction jobs.

“I already know that my troops are going to provide the people of Jutiapa with superb structures,” said Col. Tim Welch, commander of Task Force Quetzal.

“It is truly an honor and a pleasure to command a group like this, and to be able to help our friends and allies here, to help bring a better future for the people of the state of Jutiapa,” he added.

“The majority of the Soldiers are from the U.S. Army Reserves, but we also have active duty Army and Navy, there are Air Force Reservists and U.S. Marines, all serving together,” Welch said. ❖

Units Participating in New Horizons 2004

Joint Task Force-Bravo

- Army*
- Co. A, 1st Bn., 228th Aviation Regiment
- 65th Regional Readiness Command
- 214th MPAD
- 252nd Signal Co.
- 213th Field Hospital
- 302nd MPAD
- 322nd Quartermaster Det.
- 336th Engineer Det. (Firefighters)
- 343rd Ambulance Co.
- 375th Quartermaster Det. (TWDS)
- 396th Ambulance Co.
- 416th Engineer Co.
- 611th Engineer Co. (Light Equipment)

- 647th Area Support Group
- 818th Maintenance Co. (Direct Support)
- 844th Engineer Bn. (Combat)(Heavy)
- 873rd Quartermaster Det. (WP)
- 949th Medical Det. (VS)

Air Force

- 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- 514th Civil Engineer Squadron
- 913th Civil Engineer Squadron

Navy

- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-5

Marine Corps

- 8th Engineer Support Battalion

Memos from the Mayor’s Desk

❖ **Make sure you are in the proper uniform at all times. Do not wear a civilian T-shirt with your Army PT shorts, or your BDU pants with civilian shirt and shoes. Follow your particular services’ uniform regulations.**

❖ **Smokers, if you are going to smoke, do not walk and flick ashes everywhere. I have seen several individuals just flicking their cigarettes. This is a no-go. Use the designated butt cans. If you are walking, field strip the cigarette and put it in your pocket until you get to a butt can.**

❖ **Make sure you are taking your malaria pills when you are supposed to. If you have any questions, see the medics.**

❖ **If you are eating your lunch in the DFAC, do us all a favor and clean up after yourself. Do not just leave the MRE packaging laying on the table for someone else to police up. Do your part.**

❖ **The Dining Facility hours of operation are:
Breakfast: 5:30 - 7:30 a.m.
Lunch: MRE
Dinner: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

❖ **The AAFES trailer is open from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 6 - 9 p.m. daily.**

❖ **Curfew is at 9 p.m.**

❖ **Lights out is at 10 p.m.**

❖ **Laundry drop-off is 5:30-7:30 a.m. Pick-up is 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

❖ **We need volunteers to help serve in the MWR tent.**

❖ **If you need help, see me, Maj. Norris or 1st Sgt. Morse I can be reached at the Mayor’s tent.**

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Specialist Candice and Sgt. Anthony Hodge of the 818th Maintenance Company (Direct Support) inventory the contents of one of the unit's maintenance contact trucks.

of U.S. Marines will be arriving soon, the Soldiers of the 818th Maint. Co. (DS) are excited for the chance to work with the other services.

"We are working as a team with the Air Force and Navy personnel here, we loan them tools and they loan us equipment and we get the mission done," said Nurse, a native of Silver Springs, Md.

"That means everyone here, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are relying solely on us for support. That includes the recovery of equipment that may break down at the field sites," he said.

The vehicles of the Joint Task Force are lifelines, not only for the Guatemalan people being helped here, but for the base camp itself, according to Sgt. Arnold DeCastro, a fuel and electrical systems repairer with the 818th.

"The vehicles that we maintain and are supporting here, they are used by the medics, the engineers, the fuel handlers, they all depend on their vehicles. The Soldiers in my unit love what they do and are really enjoying the total team effort that comes working with the other services like we are here," said DeCastro, a veteran of seven-years in the active duty.

One of the lessons DeCastro said he is trying to teach his younger Soldiers is to treat an Exercise like this as a learning experience, since they could be called up at any time for active duty.

"I think some of the younger Soldiers take things for granted. They may complain some about the heat and dust, but this is not a bad place at all," he said.

"But until they go down-range on a live-fire operation, it just doesn't hit how serious this all is, but it is our jobs as [non-commissioned officers] to get them ready," he added.

Depolying as the advance team from their company added to everyone's workload here, but Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Smith, a track vehicle repairer and the maintenance supervisor, said the professionalism and dedication of his Soldiers would not allow for failure.

"When we got here there was nothing really. So we were setting up for the follow-on rotations while doing small repairs during the same time," said the Baltimore, Md. native.

"But these Soldiers are so mission oriented, they do what it takes, and that is so great to be around," he said.

"Plus, we went over the mission with them prior to deployment, so they would know what to expect. For the newer Soldiers a mission like this ... it takes some adjust-

ment to get used to the conditions, but helps is the Soldiers with prior deployments have been really helping them a lot, they give them a lot of insight and the NCOs lead them along the way too," Smith added.

"The bottom line is we are accomplishing the job for our rotation and setting the tone for the other rotations, then they can jump right into the maintenance mission," he said.

Smith said a mission like New Horizons also helps give younger Soldiers a better understanding of the joint environment, allowing them to better understand the role each service has. ❖



Sergeant Robert Oliver, a power generator equipment repairer with the 818th Maintenance Company (Direct Support), searches through his toolbox while trying to fix a leak in a generator.

"These Soldiers are so mission oriented, they do what it takes, and that is so great to be around."

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Smith
