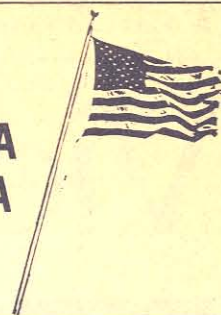


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## 1-9 fights 3-9 in exercise

By **Tony S. Moyers**  
Panorama staff writer

Task Force 1-9 recently returned from an emergency deployment readiness exercise in Utah.

About 375 soldiers from 1st Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., and 100 soldiers from 3rd Bn., 9th Inf. Regt.—plus elements from other Fort Ord units—spent seven days at Camp W.G. Williams, a National Guard camp in Utah.

The terrain was much like that of Fort Hunter Liggett, according to the soldiers in the field, but the difference in altitude caused some problems.

“The exercise wasn’t really that hard, but you lost your breath easily,” said Spec. Terry Kaas, Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment. “It’s a lot like the hill we called ‘the Wizard’ at Fort Hunter Liggett.”

Although they had to adjust to the altitude, the Manchus’ performance in the exercise was good, according to CSM John Mendiola, command sergeant major for 1-9 Inf.

“One reason this terrain didn’t bother the Manchu soldiers as bad as it might have is because they are all in good physical condition,” Mendiola said. “The more we deploy, the better our confidence and performance is.”

But, the success of the exercise wasn’t just because of the soldiers holding defensive positions in the field, Mendiola said.

“We had good training because we had good support,” Mendiola said. “One of our largest problems here was getting water to the soldiers. The support platoon worked day-in, day-out to get us what we needed so we could train.”

The 1-9 Inf. played a mostly defensive role in Utah against Fort Ord’s Co.



Photo by Tony S. Moyers

**9TH REGIMENT SOLDIERS** march into the maw of a C-130 Starlifter airplane to return to Fort Ord from a Utah exercise. Related stories, photos page 1B, 2B.

A, 3-9 Inf. and the Utah National Guard. The units from 1-9 Inf. were declared victors in both the battles fought during the exercise, according to Maj. Jeff Karhohs, executive officer for 1-9 Inf.

The first firefight lasted for less than 15 minutes, with one platoon from Co. A, 1-9 Inf. holding off an entire company of attacking forces. But, the second battle was a little harder for the Manchus.

In the second encounter, Co. B and Co. C from 1-9 Inf. attacked the opposing forces. Co. B dropped in by way of

air assault, while Co. C snuck into the enemy area and cut off any escape routes.

The opposing forces kept the battle going for three hours and inflicted heavy casualties before being overwhelmed, according to Karhohs.

Although the exercise ran Aug. 23-26, soldiers spent two additional days in the field because of difficulties with the C-130 “Starlifter” cargo-passenger flights. The Manchus spent part of the two extra days in the field in the leadership reaction course at the National Guard camp.