

LSA provides support for soldiers

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20 AUGUST 2001

DAEGU, Republic of Korea -- When first arriving at Camp Walker to participate in the Ulchi Focus Lens 2001, many received help from soldiers with black armbands marked LSA. They unloaded your baggage from the trucks and helped in-process soldiers. But, who are these helpful soldiers?

They are soldiers who work at the Life Support Area during UFL 2001. Their main job is to take care of soldiers and make sure they can be effective during the exercise. They provide the basic things soldiers need to "survive" here during the exercise.

"In the LSA, we try to make sure soldiers' living conditions are good," said Maj. Peter J. Lane, the Headquarter and Headquarters Company, Eighth U.S. Army commander.

It took three days to set up the LSA. The LSA soldiers arrived here Aug. 2, about two weeks before the start of the exercise.

"We had to deal with the heat over 90 degrees during setting up the LSA" said Staff Sgt. Michelle Johnson, HHC EUSA Training NCO.

The Butler buildings and the tent city billets have mayors for the duration of the exercise. Their job is to ensure everybody is following the rules within the LSA. When problems with the facilities arise, they are the ones who get it fixed.

Improvements are continuously made to the LSA.

"We only had four Butler buildings in April's RSO&I exercise," Lane said. "We built two more Butler buildings."

"I think the Butler building is better than tent. Especially air-conditioning is so nice. The Butler building is like a luxury," said Staff Sgt. Maurice Reed of HHC 8<sup>th</sup> PERSCOM.

As accommodations at the Butler buildings increases, billeting at tent city decreases.

Places to read and relax are also provided within the LSA. The Morale Welfare and Recreation tents provide movies and a variety of foods 24 hours a day. Reading tents are equipped with computers and DSN phones.

"We also serve a link for the services available here on Camp Walker for soldiers," said Lane. "For example, we're setting up the MWR trip to Kyungju," he said. The trip is scheduled for this Sunday

"We have to take care of soldiers. I'm sure all of the soldiers working here in the LSA will do a great job, listening to the needs of soldiers living here. I'm very pleased with what they have done."

After the exercise, sports groups and visiting units will use the LSA.