

'Forces gather up for War' - UFL 2001

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DAEGU, Republic of Korea -- After a long five-hour bus ride, hundreds of soldiers and augmentees of U.S. Army Troop Command-Korea arrived at Camp Walker, Daegu where they were greeted with, "Welcome to Ulchi Focus Lens 2001" by Staff Sgt. Joe Ulloth, Operation Sergeant of the Life Support Area, Daegu.

Loading for the trip to Daegu began in the early morning hours of Aug. 17 at Yongsan Main Post, Seoul. Immediately upon arrival, everyone was briefed by the LSA staff and assigned billets. All of the in-processing paper work was done within 10 minutes of arrival before the participants got off of the buses.

"We've received many compliments on our in-processing procedure from various officers and NCOs. Everyone was glad that there was no haste," said 1st Sgt Noriel Deleon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Eighth U.S. Army.

Many may take this swift and smooth deployment for granted, but behind the scenes there are hard working men and women who made this possible. Most of the credit goes to the advance party, which was made up of soldiers from the HHC and the S-4 of USATC-K. They were the first to arrive and will be the last to leave during exercises.

The hard work of the advance party did not go unnoticed. Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Zanini, Commanding General of Eighth U.S. Army, personally visited the LSA and complimented the staff on their accomplishments.

"We the LSA staff are giving our very best," said Deleon. "This is my first UFL and through this exercise, my soldiers and I get to know more about each other."

One problem that the advance party had to think through was how to billet such a diverse group of soldiers. Participants are billeted according to their designated shift in order to avoid any disruption caused by shift differences.

"Personally, I consider this as vacation compared to other exercises I've been on. We have indoor billets, air-conditioners, showers and other such comforts. I've never seen a place as well setup as this in my entire career," said Deleon, a veteran of many field exercises.

The USATC-K has conducted After Action Reviews following every exercise previous to this one.

With the troops settled down comfortably, they can get ready for this year's UFL