



Branch Orientation: Top officers talk about their jobs

See pages 6-7



Winning the Recondo badge is an award for excellence

See page 8

WARRIOR



LEADER

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Take Charge! Cadets' leadership grows with each new challenge at FLRC and Confidence Course

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Greg Darling

As one of the very much looked forward to activities of the 2000 ROTC Advanced Camp, confidence training presents a myriad of challenges and exciting experiences for all cadets. The three phases of the confidence rotation give cadets opportunities to increase their personal level of confidence, work together as a team and simply have fun climbing around. Some events are intended to improve teamwork, individual skill and cadets' confidence levels, while others are evaluated for record.

Phase One is a rope bridge construction, showing cadets the different knots and rope techniques required to set-up a one-rope bridge. They are instructed in how to tie "Swiss seat" harnesses, used to connect themselves to the rope bridge before crossing. For evaluation, the nine-cadet team crosses a water obstacle with the bridge secured to trees on either side of a creek. For practice, however, the teams use specific practice areas, to develop the best procedures for the greatest success during the graded competition. The bridge they build must match Army standards. The fastest time thus far is 3 minutes, 45 seconds.

Phase Two of confidence training is rappelling. Here, cadets are exposed to basic traversing techniques, and are required to descend from a 37-foot tower. Before going down the main tower, they practice basic descending, braking and belaying procedures on a small, 17-foot, 45-degree angled wall. After training is completed, they move to the main tower to complete one full descent. Apprehension is generally high for first timers as they slowly acquire certitude in their equipment and the training they receive.

Arguably, the most challenging phase is the confidence/obstacle course portion. Cadets encounter various obstacles they must negotiate, either individually, or as a team. The rope and log portions of the course chal-



Cadet Matthew Link, from Furman University, N.C., makes a big splash at the rope bridge competition.

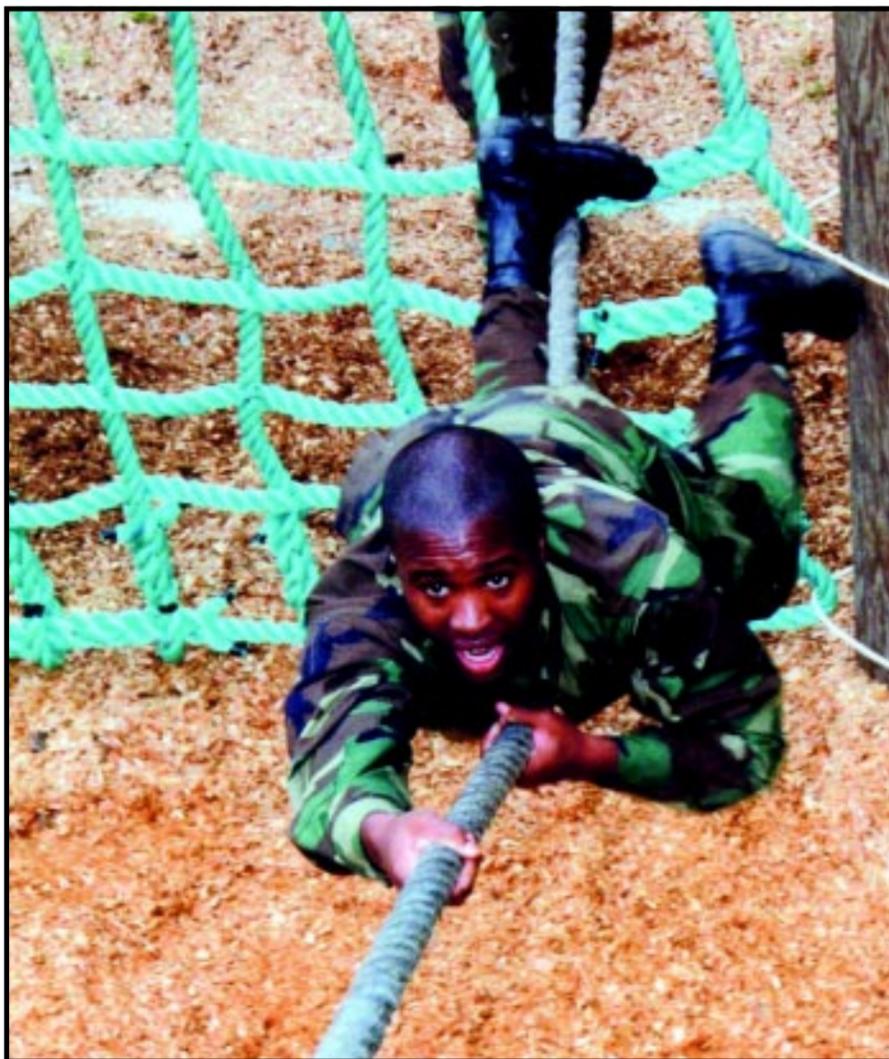
lenge the cadets with climbing and heights before they tackle the timed and evaluated course at the other end.

A similar event, the Field Leader Reaction Course, offers cadets their first field-level, evaluated position as squad leader. Squads rotate throughout the course and different cadets are chosen to lead the group over, following specific mission requirements.

Each lane includes one obstacle and limited equipment, such as boards and ropes, to assist the squad's crossing. Precise guidelines are given about parts of the obstacle that may or may not be touched, and what is off limits while crossing. Time penalties are assessed for violations. The squad leader is required to devise and implement a plan to maneuver the squad toward the assigned objective.

Of 1,000 possible Advanced Camp points, FLRC counts for 40 of them toward an "excellent" evaluation. For "satisfactory" performance, cadets receive 32 points and for "not satisfactory," 24 points. In comparison to scores from previous years, Advanced Camp cadets are scoring higher this year than in the past. This is a reflection of training they received at their colleges and universities prior to camp.

Lt. Col. James Waldo, professor of military science at Florida State University and FLRC Committee Chief, said



Cadet Nasser Ali, from Fayetteville State University, N.C., struggles along a rope climb on the confidence course.

the staff has worked to standardize the evaluation procedure as much as possible.

"We work very hard to standardize and calibrate the way we're doing business out here," he said. "Writing the evaluation cards has been the greatest challenge. No other committee at Advanced Camp is required to write a card in less than 30 minutes, so in one day's time, an evaluator may prepare as many as 22 cards."

Waldo added, "The ultimate purpose of FLRC is to place cadets in a field environment and evaluate them as a squad leader. A lot of the teach-

ing and coaching happens back at their universities. What we are using here are the troop leading procedures [which they learned at school]. The individual will have an opportunity to show his or her squad how he or she will react, under stress, in a field environment."

Whether struggling over a wall or devising solutions to move a squad through bewildering structures, cadets will continue to face challenges at Advanced Camp. It is these challenges that will increase confidence and help cadets as they face the remainder of 2000 Advanced Camp. 

INSIDE: Cadets learn to rock 'n' roll with the M-60 machine gun. Pages 4 - 5

Korea heated up the Cold War

By **Bob Rosenburgh**

Since the beginning of time, soldiers around the globe have often asked, "What am I doing here?" To risk their lives, suffer hardships and leave their homes, what goals were so important? It was certainly a question on the minds of American soldiers on the battlefields of Korea 50 years ago, and the answer still rings true today.

As we continue the process of building the leaders of tomorrow here at the 2000 Advanced Camp, consider the words of Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway, commander of United Nations forces in Korea following Pres. Harry Truman's sacking of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He knew, as we should remember and understand now, that soldiers will fight when they know they are right.

Ridgeway inherited a demoralized and beaten Army on the run from the Chinese hordes pouring down the Korean peninsula. He knew our forces were superior, but faced the obstacles of fear and apprehension rampant within the ranks. Most of all, the troops lacked a sense of purpose and didn't know why they were sent to that god-forsaken scrap of land to fight and die.

Ridgeway made sure the troops understood why they were essential to world freedom and democracy. In a letter written to all his subordinate commanders, he directed them to convey the message to every single member of their respective units. In it he wrote: "In my brief period of command

duty here I have heard from several sources, chiefly the members of combat units, the questions, 'why are we here,' and 'what are we fighting for?' He responded to both.

To the first, he was succinct in pointing out that it was their duty as soldiers to obey the orders of the duly elected government of the United States. They were given the mission to go into Korea and restore democracy in the south while evicting the North Korean and Chinese aggressors.

"The second question is of much greater significance," Ridgeway continued, "and every member of this command is entitled to a full and reasoned answer."

The war was not a question of real estate, he explained, or of any particular town or village. Those issues were incidental. Nor were South Korea, the United States armed forces or their UN allies the focal point.

"The real issues," he said, "are whether the power of Western civilization, as God permitted it to flower in our own beloved lands, shall defy and defeat communism; whether the rule of men who shoot their prisoners, enslave their citizens and deride the dignity of man, shall displace those to whom the individual and his individual rights are sacred; whether we are to survive with God's hand to guide and lead us, or to perish in the dead existence of a Godless world."

For those reasons, he went on, they were fighting for the very survival of democracy.

"In the final analysis, the issue now joined right here in Korea is whether communism or individual freedom shall prevail ... whether it will be checked and defeated overseas or permitted, step by step, to close in on our own homeland and, at some future time, however distant, to engulf our own loved ones in all its misery and despair."

Those are the things, he concluded, for which they fought. Words from half a century ago that have stood the test of time. Ridgeway foresaw the inevitable clashes that characterized the decades following the Korean War, and his prescient counsel proved wise. Whether the foe is communism, which has yet to gasp its last and still subjugates millions, or rogue nations controlled by aggressive despots, the United States has always been and still remains the ultimate guarantor of freedom and democracy.

Along with some rest, reinforcements, re-arming and reorganizing, Ridgeway's words succeeded in putting the fire back in his men. The letter served its purpose well. But it wasn't just a pep talk or even a rallying cry to expedite the needs of the moment. His message to the troops re-affirmed the core values of our armed forces and re-dedicated their commitment to democracy. As cadets and cadre alike conduct their routines here at camp, let no one forget why we are here. 

Detect the commander's mood!

By **Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dwight D. Riggs**

"A king's rage is like the roar of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass." Proverbs 19:12

"Watch out for the Commander! He's not in a very good mood today." You can expect to hear statements like this in the Army as you learn more about your commanding officer, and when and where to surface issues with him. Sometimes you do not want to be in his presence when he ventilates his fury and anger. Now, I am not just picking on commanders, because the same can be said of family members, employers, friends, cadre members, and even fellow cadets. You must be sensitive to people and try to discern their moods before discussing certain subjects with them. If you possess this sensitivity, then you are a wise person indeed, and will significantly advance your Army career.

The Old Testament proverb expressing contrast between the tactfulness of subordinates and the pleasantness of superiors is recorded here, in Proverbs 19:12. The title "king" refers not only to monarchs, but also to anyone serving in leadership capacities. A king's supremacy

grants him certain authority, which can often inspire fear and dread within subordinates - from a roaring voice, pounding fist and clenched teeth. When you see and hear these roaring threats from the "lion," run for the door! Be sensitive and tactful when approaching him. That is the clear principle in the first part of the verse.

The roaring lion can also be as gentle as a kitten ("his favor is like dew on the grass"). Dew is the gentle moisture that condenses on the grass at night, providing a peaceful respite for plants. Commanders, parents, spouses and employers can be a comfort, rewarding subordinates with their words of appreciation, awards and promotions. Reward your subordinates while in a leadership role; that is the clear principle in this verse.

This succinct proverb refers to two very pertinent components of Army leadership, tact with superiors and pleasant dealings with subordinates. That is solid Biblical teaching, applicable to the Army, the business world and family relationships.

There is a rich vein between these two distinct commands of tactfulness and pleasantness - a treasure lode infinitely more important than your temporary Army career; it is your spiritual career.

The golden lode is that God, as Supreme King, can either roar His vengeance on people, or gently reward His faithful worshipers. He is not impulsive and temperamental like some commanders, but is consistent in His dual nature of justice and kindness.

When you rebel against God and His Word, and choose to live a life of independence from Him, then you violate the first command of this proverb. You have failed to be tactful and respectful to Him as the King. He will most assuredly roar His anger on you, maybe not now, but on judgment day, where you will not be able to hide.

If you choose to submit to Him and honor Him, you have wisely obeyed the first command of the proverb. Now you will enjoy the refreshing dew of His words on judgment day: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord." No promotion, letter of appreciation, or Army Commendation Medal will ever compare to the award from the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Are you tactful toward your Army commander? Are you humbly respectful toward God as the heavenly commander in chief? Which commander is more important to you?

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Correction

In the cover story of our last issue of **WARRIOR LEADER**, two inaccurate statements were made. One said the Pusan Perimeter was behind the **Han** River. It should say the **Naktong** River. Also, the Pusan breakout was after the Inchon landings, not before.

Land Navigation features terrain brain strain

By 2nd Lt. Greg Darling

Traditionally, one of the more difficult tasks for 2000 Advanced Camp cadets is land navigation. This is where they are tested on both written navigation skills and practical application. Their training is divided into four separate days of evaluation. Beginning with a practice written exam, cadets have the opportunity to shake off the mental cobwebs collected during two months away from school. The test does not go on record, but cadets are notified of their score and then coached by fellow cadets if needed. When it comes to the record written test, the cadets are well prepared to succeed on the 20 question exam.

The practical land navigation test consists of a two-day field exercise with cadets living in tents overnight. As with the written exercise, the first day is a refresher course taught by specially-chosen second lieutenants. Cadets are broken down into squads and given classes on the Lensatic compass, application of a protractor and basic Army map knowledge. This is to boost the



2nd Lt. Greg Darling

A Fourth Regiment instructor briefs cadets prior to a test exercise.

cadets' confidence and increase trust in the equipment they use on the course. Cadets also walk through a pace-verification course, since they rely heavily on dead reckoning and pace count to assist them in finding points

The course is divided into separate day and night exercises, challenging cadets with varying degrees of difficulty. Land navigation is worth 100 possible points of 1000 points cadets can earn at camp.

The written exam is worth 20 points and the day and night courses offer them 50 points and

30 points respectively. To earn maximum points on the daytime test, a cadet must find eight navigation points within a five hour period - the minimum is five points out of eight - to receive a "go". For the night test they must find five navigation points in three-and-one-half hours to secure a maximum passing score and three of five to receive a "go".

A third day is provided for cadets who, for whatever reason, fail to meet the camp passing standards. This is an encouragement to those cadets lacking confidence in their land navigation abilities. Approximately 15 percent of cadets return to re-do the day test and 10 percent for night.

Lt. Col. Kerry Abington, Professor of Military Science at Seattle University, is the officer in charge of all phases of land navigation testing. His cadre is primarily second lieutenants who work directly with the cadets. He also has senior officers assisting him in management of the many-faceted committee.

Abington said the course was in decent shape when they arrived,

since it is used by other units throughout the year. Because of logging in the area some of the points needed to be replaced and re-verified. To ensure accuracy, Abington said, "I [personally] go to every point on the course - 64 points on the day course and 45 points on the night course - to ensure that every point is correctly placed."

Abington said cheating is strictly prohibited throughout all aspects of the course. "We have a rule; when they're on the record test, either day or night, they cannot talk to each other for any reason, other than to render emergency aid." This helps to avoid any sharing of answers or other dishonest behavior.

Whether trekking through the forests of beautiful Fort Lewis, Wash., or struggling over yet another intersection problem, cadets will continue to prove their worth in map reading and land navigation. These skills, honed at Advanced Camp, will provide a strong foundation for their upcoming officer careers.



Globe-trotting cadet ready for international assignments

By 2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

Mention "Cairo" to your average Advanced Camp cadet, and he or she might first think of the town in Southern Illinois.

But for Cadet Shaun Fonseca from the University of Pennsylvania, Cairo means Cairo, Egypt, Shaun's home for the majority of his sophomore year in college.

Shaun took classes at the American University in Cairo as well as courses at the Arabic Language Institute. His experiences abroad, he says, have better prepared him to become an army officer in an increasingly global environment.

"It's made me think about places where I could be spending a large amount of time in the future," the fifth regiment cadet says.

"And it's raised a lot of questions about how I'm going to interact with people in a different country," he continues, "especially if I'm in a position like Military Police or Military Intelligence where I would need to work directly with those people."

Last summer, Shaun returned to the Middle East and backpacked through Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

Being an American-especially an American in the military-was quite an experience in some of those countries.

"It was very interesting. When I

would say I was an American-in any place, even Lebanon and Syria-I would get a positive response. They would say, 'Oh we love America, we love your television, your movies.'"

And then they would say, 'what do you do?' And I would say, 'I'm a student.'"

But sooner or later Shaun would add that he was heading for the U. S. Army after graduation, and then conversation inevitably turned to the U. S. presence in the Middle East.

"Eventually the question of bombing Iraq would come up," Shaun admits. "They would ask why we keep bombing Iraq."

Shaun explains: "The Arab people, even though there was a lot of unity against Iraq during the Gulf War, still feel a lot of brotherhood with all Arab countries, especially since the Iraqi citizens are suffering a lot in Iraq."

"They would ask me about that, and then I would have to try and defend the American policy on Iraq and the goals of the American government in the region."

But despite what you might think, the Arabs Shaun encountered were quite receptive.

"Even though I didn't make much headway, they still respected me and weren't fearful or anything."



2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

Cadet Shaun Fonseca, from the University of Pennsylvania, already has a jump on the global perspective of a United States Army officer.

Fonseca adds that he would like to continue his interest in the Middle East during his Army career.

"I'm aware of the foreign area officer program, and it sounds very appealing to me. It sounds exactly like something I would like to do-to be able to be in country, to interact with the people there and investigate what's going on within that par-

ticular country."

Shaun speaks both Arabic and Egyptian colloquial, skills that might come in handy within the military.

Regardless of whether Shaun continues his study of and travel in the Middle East, the global lessons he has learned there will, no doubt, follow him throughout his army career.



M-60

■ Classic weapon allows Machine Gun Committee to teach cadets the fundamentals of firepower

Story and photos by Bob Rosenburgh

Automatic weapons are the life's blood of the modern Army, so the Machine Gun Committee is an important part of the 2000 ROTC Advanced Camp training. And when it comes to machine guns, only the M2 .50 Caliber has been in the U.S. inventory longer than the venerable M-60 Machine Gun. The "Hog," as it was dubbed in the Vietnam War, entered service in 1958 to replace the .30 caliber Browning machine gun and the Browning automatic rifle. The weapon has served long and well, but Machine Gun Committee chief Lt. Col. Dave Reid from Texas Tech University thinks the 2000 ROTC Advanced Camp may be one of the last times cadets are trained with the M-60.

"The Army has begun fielding a new light machine gun," Reid explained, "called the M-240. It fires the same 7.62 mm ammunition, but it is more reliable and accurate." Another automatic crew-served weapon moving into the M-60's turf is the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon. Called the SAW, it's chambered for the same 5.56 mm cartridge used by the M-16 assault rifle. "Between the '240 and the SAW," said Reid, "I don't expect to see the M-60 around much longer."

Whatever the future may hold for the M-60, they are in fine form at camp this year, as all 3,900 cadets fire the guns as part of their training cycle. "Today we have the 3rd Regiment and everything is going well," he said. "There haven't been any incidents." He noted a new addition to the training area, a tactical employment station. "That will give them insights into how to actually use the weapon and, hopefully, incorporate that into



Third Regiment presents itself to Lt. Col. Dave Reid, Chief of the Machine Gun Committee, initiating a full day of training with the Army's primary machine guns.

Platoon STX later on."

1st Lt. John Curlin, C Company, 55th Air Defense Artillery, who is the machine gun range officer at the committee, explained how the training is organized.

"We have 78 M-60s on the firing line that the cadets use," he said, "and on our demonstration line we have one M-249, one M-60, an M2 .50 caliber and a Mark 19 Grenade Machine Gun mounted on a Humvee." The firepower demonstration is where cadets begin their training at the committee, filling a brace of bleachers overlooking the impact area to observe all the weapon types in action



Soldiers of the 55th Air Defense Artillery Battalion fire the SAW, M-60, M2 and Mark 19 as a firepower demonstration for cadets.



Cadet Sarah Slattery, Western Illinois University, loads the M-60 while Cadet Lonnie Pirtle, Southern Illinois University, fires a tripod-mounted M-60 from the foxhole position.



Sgt. 1st Class Lee A. Spencer, 2nd Battalion, 379th Regiment, 95th Division from Fort Sill, Okla. instructs Cadets Slattery and Pirtle in the bipod firing position.



Cadet Gage Loyal Moulding, Univ. of Montana, (right) races against a member of the Machine Gun Committee cadre in an impromptu M-60 disassembly/assembly speed contest as cadets cheer the two on. Moulding won.

extra barrel and the tripod, plus an M-16. The teams are timed on how long it takes to go from the start to a fully-assembled, combat ready gun and crew.

“The Mad Dog is part of their Leader Stakes scoring,” Curling added.

“Station Four is the Range Card,” he said, “and is actually the most important one. It shows them how to emplace the M-60 in a defensive position and how to do a range card setting up fields of fire.

As an added bonus, station changes are announced by rock and roll hits played at concert volume across the range and arriving cadets are greeted by Wagner’s “Flight of the Valkeries.”

“We try to provide a little motivation as they go to the next station,” said Curling.

Reid noted that one advantage of teaching cadets to disassemble and reassemble the M-60 comes later in the day.

“That evening,” he chuckled, “72 lucky cadets get to come down and clean the whole kit and kaboodle!” 



Mad Dog Assault Course

Getting there is half the fun! An M-60 crew uses teamwork to (1) crawl under barbed wire, (2) climb over a wall, and (3) cross a deep ditch. (4) Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Ortega Hernandez, (left) from 2nd Battalion, 354th Regiment, Dallas, Texas, coaches the machine gun crew and helps them (5) set up a secure firing position. Team members are (left to right, below) David Moses, Weber State Univ. Joseph Lodz, Univ. of Pittsburg, Sheri Vanderlinden, Arizona State Univ. Part of the Leader Stakes competitions, the Mad Dog Assault Course is a timed event that adds to the platoon's overall score at the end of the 2000 Advanced Camp training cycle.



against targets to the front.

“Once they finish with that,” said Curlin, “the cadets are given a safety briefing and an overview of the different stations, then they are broken into four sections by platoon and move out to the stations.”

Station One, the firing line, is where each cadet fires 100 rounds through an M-60 machine gun, first from a tripod mount and then from a bipod while standing in a fox-hole. Each firer also serves as loader when their partner fires.

“At the disassembly/assembly station, they tear down the weapon and put it back together, making a functions check afterwards.” Station Three is the “Mad Dog” assault course, a particularly messy obstacle course where machine gun teams crawl under barbed wire, over a wall and through a deep ditch to reach a firing position while carrying the gun, an



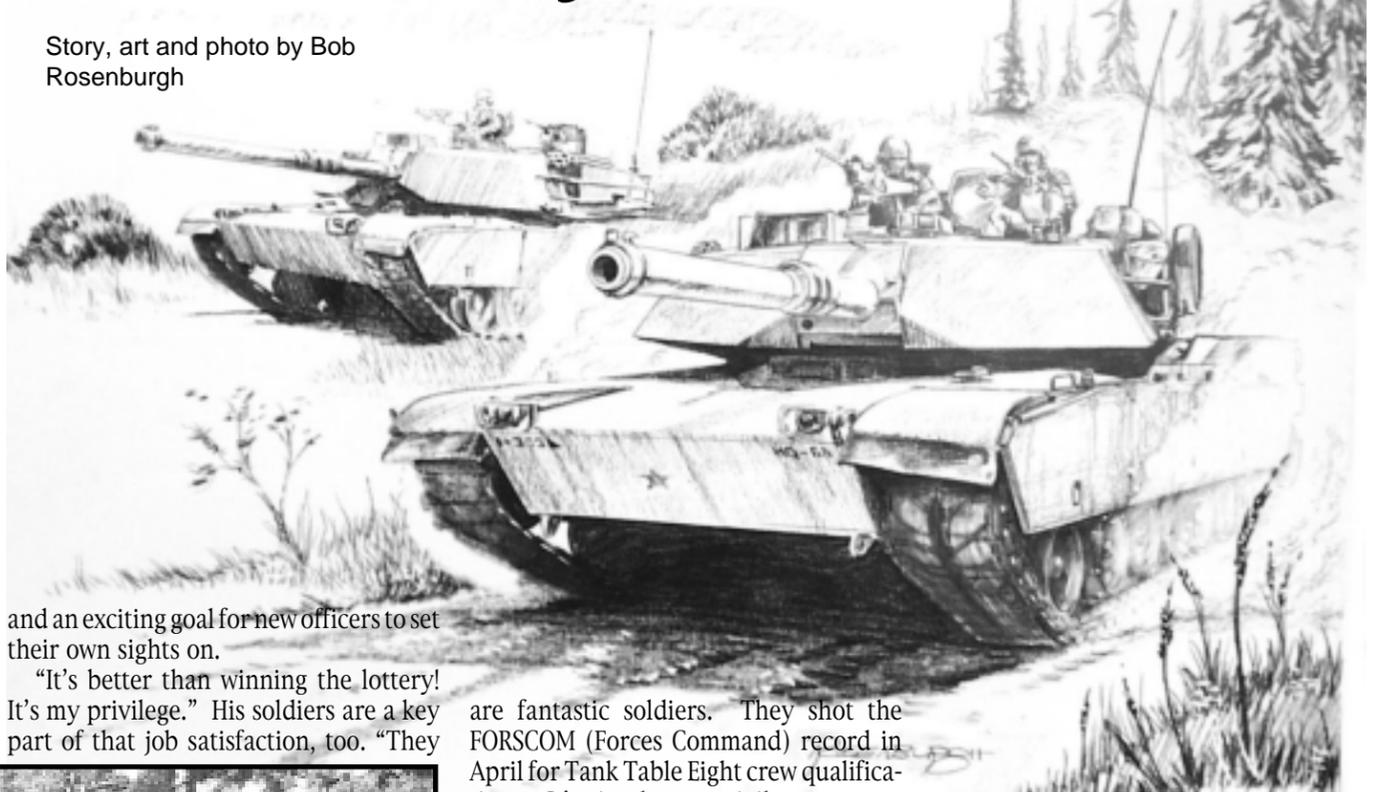
ARMOR: Heavy metal rules

Lt. Col. Ernie Audino, commander of 1st Battalion, 33rd Armor Regiment, is proud of his unit, proud of his 58 M1A1 Abrams tanks and proud of his soldiers. But he is especially proud of his Armor branch, with a pride that fairly glowed as he spoke enthusiastically to cadets who came to his station at the June 26 Branch Orientation day at 2000 Advanced Camp.

"Today's lieutenant can operate as the defeat mechanism on the modern battlefield," he said, referring to the massive firepower of the M1A1. "He has 70 tons behind him and he has a 120 mm smooth-bore cannon that will launch a SABOT (anti-tank round) downrange at a mile a second. That ain't a bad way to go in a war." And, he noted, the tank's firepower is controlled by the most advanced target acquisition and fire control system on any ground weapon system in the world. "That's a fact," he said with a grin.

Audino said commanding an armor battalion is the best thing he's ever done

Story, art and photo by Bob Rosenburgh



and an exciting goal for new officers to set their own sights on.

"It's better than winning the lottery! It's my privilege." His soldiers are a key part of that job satisfaction, too. "They

are fantastic soldiers. They shot the FORSCOM (Forces Command) record in April for Tank Table Eight crew qualifications. It's simply my privilege to serve with them."

Audino is equally excited about his tanks and, despite recent initiatives aimed at creating lighter forces, he sees a bright future for Armor.

"The Chief of Staff of the Army has committed to converting five brigades for the foreseeable future," he said of the transformation plan. "That's not the entire Army or the entire armor force, so there will be a need for a defeat mechanism and this tank is 70 tons for a reason - it has to take a hit and this one can do it."

He said that, in a battle, someone eventually has to cross open space where they are most vulnerable to enemy fires, and the Abrams can do it, firing on the move with a powerful and deadly combination of weapons. Consider, too, the aspect of

58 such mechanized monsters bearing down on a foolish foe.

Armor officers assigned within their branch can also expect to serve in Cavalry regiments, either within division force structures or with separate regiments like the 3rd Armored Cavalry at Fort Carson, Colo.

"At some point you have either a preponderance of Armor assignments or a preponderance of Cavalry, so there will be a natural specialization along the way," Audino summarized. In both types of assignments, however, he said the combat power on hand is absolutely awesome.

"We can do more damage by accident than the rest of our brothers in combat arms can do on purpose!"



A platoon of excited cadets listens as Lt. Col. Ernie Audino, commander of 1st Battalion, 33rd Armor at Fort Lewis, delivers his dynamic presentation while standing on one of his massive M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks.

Special Forces offer special training and missions

By 2nd Lt. Greg Darling

The "Green Berets" of Hollywood are far cries from the finely tuned machine represented at the branch orientation.

Capt. Charles Miller, Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Operational Detachment Alpha, presented his team, explaining the significance of SF and the implications of their job description.

The five primary missions of SF are special reconnaissance, direct action, foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare and counterterrorism. And it is due to the demands of these functions that SF personnel receive the utmost in professional instruction.

Miller said "Special Forces conducts these missions throughout the operational continuum and we in-

fluence the battle field at every level, from the tactical, to the operational, to the strategic. And, traditionally, every Special Forces mission carries some sort of political impact."

By virtue of the professionalism that Special Forces exhibits, the skills they learn place them on the leading edge in both the military and civilian worlds. Their proficiency with medicine and in high-tech communications and foreign/internal relations solidifies their position in the professional job market.

In order to aptly function abroad, SF is organized into five active duty and two National Guard groups. Each group, comprised of three battalions, is assigned a specific region of the globe to fulfill their international role. SF is unique among the other special operations forces in that they maintain geographic focus and cultural awareness.

New 2nd Lieutenants may not seek a commission directly into Special Forces. Applications must be submitted to a SF recruitment office no earlier than promotion to O-2. Applicants are notified of their status and, upon acceptance, will begin the nearly two years of schooling required to become a Special Forces officer.

Think about Military Intelligence

"Do not sell yourself cheaply. If you sell yourself cheaply, for face paint and 'hooah,' there are plenty of branches that will sign you right up." These were the inspiring words of Col. John Custer, Commander of the 201st Military Intelligence Brigade, in his presentation of the MI branch at the 2000 ROTC Advanced Camp branch orientation.

Custer placed little emphasis, however, on promoting his personal branch. Rather, he employed cadets to chose a branch that would give them

"life skills" they could put to use in the civilian world. He reminded them that, "We're all going to leave the Army, maybe tomorrow, maybe 30 years from now, but [ask yourself], what are the life skills that this branch will give me, over another branch?"

Custer excitedly illustrated how military intelligence, and all the technical skills inherent within the branch, would more than prepare Army officers for their future civilian careers. Several seasoned MI lieutenants who were certified computer professionals, plus one who was an orbital mechanic preparing for the Army astronaut program represented Custer. The point exemplifying these individuals was that they, "didn't come into the Army with these skills. We (MI) sent them to acquire these skills. When they leave the army there's a job out there waiting for them, and it is not one as a personnel specialist, security guard or a truck driver."

INFANTRY: 'Follow Me!'

By 2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

We live in a time when modern weaponry consists of "smart" bombs, lasers, computers and all sorts of high-tech weaponry. But when all is said and done, winning wars means seizing and holding terrain.

And that job calls for the infantry.

During branch orientation day at the 2000 ROTC Advanced Camp, the Army's first and oldest branch demonstrated why they are still an important part of modern warfare.

Lt. Col. Charles Durr, who directs the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Ga., came to Fort Lewis looking for a new generation of infantry officers. Making his case, he addressed the cadets.

"What we offer is leadership. And no one teaches leadership like we do."

Durr outlined how skills taught in the infantry are applied with success elsewhere, then briefly explained what the average infantry lieutenant can expect to experience in their first few years.

"We'll send you to every school in the Army at Fort Benning. I'll make you successful."

Durr did not sell his own branch at the expense of others. In fact, he avidly encouraged branch detail officers, explaining, "It's a combined arms fight: you'll have artillerymen in your formations, medics in your formations... you see what the other branches do."

Durr responded to cadets' questions about the infamous rigors of infantry life.

"Contrary to popular belief, you can have a family in the infantry."

One challenge that worried many cadets was the prospect of going to Ranger School.

"Is it as bad as they say it is, sir?" one asked.

"It requires nothing superhuman - I made it," Lt. Col. Durr responded. "Look at it this way: they can't kill you. And they're paying you to go!"

The cadets then watched a full-strength, fully armed infantry squad from the 25th Infantry Division



Bob Rosenburgh illustration

Infantry officers of all ranks are considered to be among the best leaders in all the armed forces.

sion introduce themselves and explain their weapons and equipment.

Closing the demonstration, Lt. Col. Durr let the cadets sample the weaponry on display tables, including the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon and the M-4 Carbine. A giant Bradley Fighting Vehicle sat to Durr's left, while visiting infantry lieutenants stood behind.

"Be careful around that fighting vehicle," Durr reminded the cadets. "That's a 25-ton piece of equipment. If you run into it, it will not move!" The cadets around the giant Bradley nervously laughed and then peered curiously into the hatch.

Noticing a group of female cadets who were not taking part in the display, Durr walked over and said, "C'mon, you ladies can act interested too." He admonished the cadets for their apparent lack of interest. "You may not be able to go infantry yet, but perhaps sometime in your lifetime you will!"

Like the increasing number of jobs open to women in the Army, some things may be subject to change. But the infantry's mission remains the same: seize and hold terrain.

Judging from Durr and the infantrymen who accompanied him to Branch Orientation, the infantry remains ready for the task. 

ARTILLERY: King of battle

By 2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

"Do you know why they call us the King of Battle?" the grizzled soldier with the star on his hat asked the assembled cadets. "Because we put more destructive power on the battlefield than anyone else!"

"Hoo-ah!" came the cadets' enthusiastic response.

At this summer's branch orientation, field artillery put on a display that drew plenty more shouts of agreement as they demonstrated the power and versatility of their howitzers. Six regiments of cadets filed through the artillery display to be greeted not only by junior officers just a few years older than themselves, but also by one of the top men in artillery.

Brig. Gen. Bill Engel, Deputy Commandant of the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla., made the long trip here to speak to Army ROTC cadets about the merits of artillery and how the branch is employed in battle.

"They need to know that we really care about which branch they take, and we think it's important that they hear it coming from a senior officer," Engel said.

"This may be a three-day trip for us, but we think it's important."

After the general's speech, the cadets rotated between two different stations, listening to artillery



2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

Brig. Gen. Bill Engel, Deputy Commandant of the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla.

lieutenants from the 25th Infantry Division explain their jobs and how artillery is employed within a maneuver unit.

The cadets also saw a short video and examined a 105 mm Howitzer up close.

"Anything that goes up and doesn't shoot in a straight line, we're responsible for," one of the lieutenants cheerfully explained.

In addition to the artillery segment of branch orientation, all the cadets at Advanced Camp 2000 also go through Fire Support Day, where they observe a live gun battery firing rounds downrange

guided by forward observers.

All of this contributes toward making Field Artillery one of the most popular branches year in and year out.

Engel summarized this "sales pitch" to the cadets. "We emphasize three things: soldiers, information, and computers."

Engel spoke of the leadership opportunities artillery officers are given through their management and oversight of soldiers. He then spoke of the tremendous amount of information that artillery officers are called upon to gather, process, and use to do their jobs advising the infantry and armor units they support.

Finally, Engel described the way in which the artillery has been on the cutting edge of the computer revolution, a phenomenon he described as the "digitization" of the army.

"We have always been one of the most high-tech branches," Engel said.

Regardless of how the battlefield changes in the years to come, Engel ensured the cadets knew artillery would be at the forefront of the modern army.

Artillery, as Engel might say, is here to stay. Always, the King of Battle. 

Mondo Recondo

By 2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

“C’mon, Recondo! Get up that rope!”
A cadet struggles to inch up a 20-foot climbing rope as fellow cadets and cadre shout encouragement from below.

Starting with the Army Physical Fitness Test at the beginning of camp, cadets try and do well enough in every training event to earn the coveted Recondo badge given out each year.

Cadets who earn over 270 in the APFT with over 90 points in each event become eligible to qualify at the next event as the competition moves to the confidence training. There, eligible cadets must cross a rope bridge, complete all the confidence course obstacles, and successfully complete water survival training.



So far, the current crop of cadets in the running for Recondo seem pretty confident.

Ron Manuel, a cadet from Drexel University, sized up his chances of earning the badge: “I know the requirements, and it shouldn’t be too much of a problem.”

And Eric Minor, a third regiment cadet from Washington University, was equally confident about his chances, but expressed some degree of apprehension about the water safety.

“Yeah, I might have a little problem with



2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

For Recondo requirements, cadets must complete the rope bridge crossing. This cadet grins as he looks nervously below.



2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

Cadet Jeffrey Wyatt from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse (above), balances on a log as he works his way through the obstacle course.”

the water survival training. I swim like a rock!”

Asked whether earning the Recondo badge was one of his goals coming into camp, Manuel replied, “It’s one of my goals, but if I don’t get it it’s no big deal.”

Cadre, however, have been promoting the competition to get the cadets excited.

2nd Lt. Patrick Buchanan, a newly commissioned officer serving as a tactical evaluation officer in 4th Regiment, noted during the water survival training that all the cadets are “familiarized with the requirements.”

“They’re pretty interested, and they’re really striving to accomplish the goals,” he said. “A couple of them were really disappointed when they didn’t do well in the Confidence Course.”

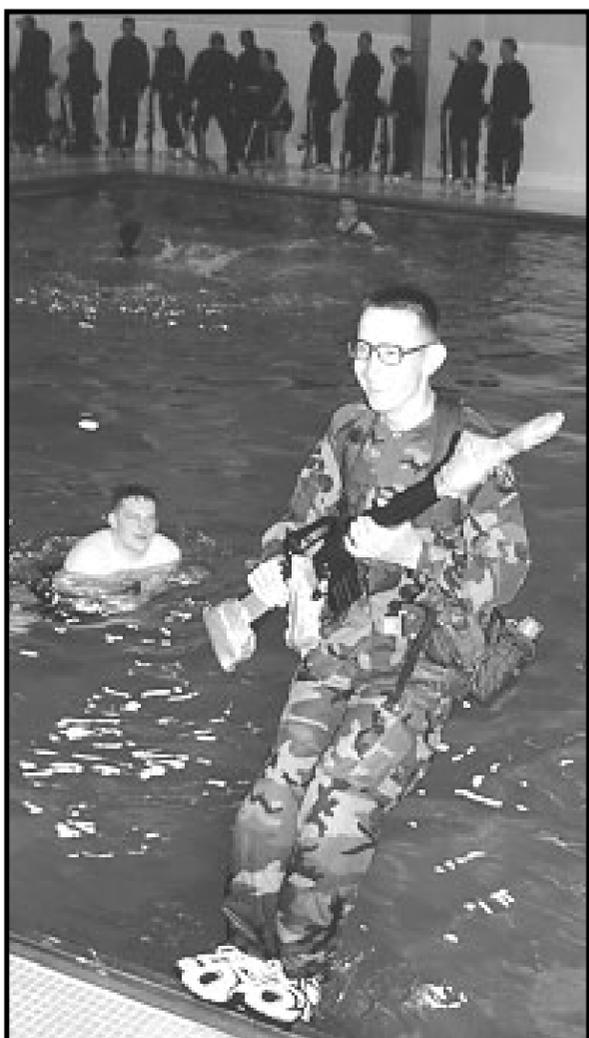
This year, after the cadets complete their confidence training, they must then do well on land navigation and get a “go” on Basic Rifle Marksmanship to earn the badge. They must additionally receive all “satisfactory” marks in their field evaluations.

Recondo wasn’t always done this way. As recently as 1997, Recondo was a one-day event. Cadets would struggle to conquer the confidence course, water safety train-



Al Zdarsky

Easy does it! One cadet takes care to step lightly on the rope bridge crossing.”



2nd Lt. Andrew Exum

Water Safety Training is one of the more entertaining requirements for the Recondo badge.”

ing, and a rope bridge crossing all in a day.

The “slide for life” - an event in which cadets descend via zip cord into Lake Lewis - was also once part of the competition. In all, the competition was meant to gauge the physical stamina of the cadets and push them to their limits.

The word Recondo derives from the words “reconnaissance” and “commando.” Recondo training for regular army soldiers began in the Second World War and continued through the Vietnam era.

Today, the cadets of 2000 Advanced Camp continue the proud Recondo tradition, pushing their limits and keeping their eye on that distinguished Recondo badge.

