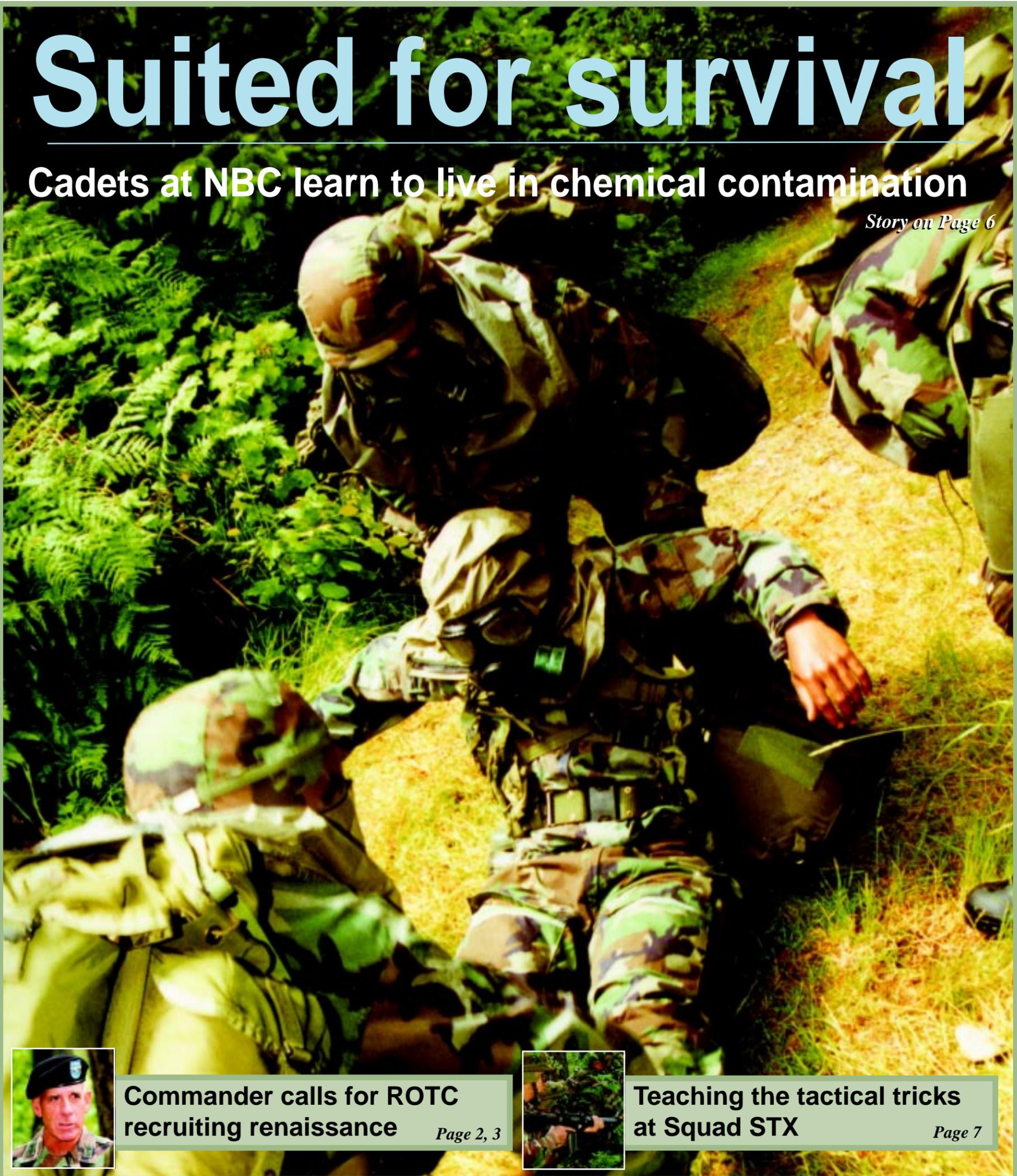




Suited for survival

Cadets at NBC learn to live in chemical contamination

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Commander calls for ROTC recruiting renaissance *Page 2, 3*



Teaching the tactical tricks at Squad STX *Page 7*

Commander calls for ROTC renaissance

Maj. Gen. Casey outlines his blueprint for renovating Cadet Command

By Bob Rosenburgh

Since taking charge of the U.S. Army Cadet Command nearly a year ago, Maj. Gen. John T. D. Casey has made a number of changes in the way his organization conducts business. Based on his assessment of long-standing policies and procedures, a number of improvements can, and will, be instituted to ensure ROTC will continue to produce new Army officers with the skills and knowledge to do their jobs.

"I think the biggest issue we've faced," said Casey, "is that no one has taken a serious look at the command and decided whether or not we are doing what the Army wants us to do, in the level of detail the Army wants us to do it." Casey reviewed both the junior and senior programs and became concerned that, in the latter, they fell short of meeting the Army's requirements. It was not so much a matter of reaching capitation quotas as the fact that too many enrolled cadets drop out before commissioning and too many junior officers were leaving the Army early. "You can put a lot of pressure on people to make mission and they will go out and try to do that," he explained, "but we are also the quality controllers and we need to make sure the right people come into the program."

Casey said Cadet Command was operating under many guidelines developed when the organization was first formed in 1986. Many factors have changed since then.

"The biggest challenge for me was to make sure the cadre knew what they were supposed to and expected to do, and then go out and get it done." One such organizational paradigm he meant to replace were attitudes about recruiting responsibilities. "One approach was that 'recruiting is someone else's problem' and 'I'm here to train cadets.' It was not a pervasive attitude, but certainly one that many leaders had."

Casey's solution to the problem is to ensure that everyone understands they are all recruiters, regardless of job title and to make sure the appropriate training is provided to make them proficient at recruiting. "Recruiting does not come naturally," he said, "and we are the only organization within the Army that does officer recruiting."

Casey said previous recruiting efforts were more focused on quantity than quality and the result was an expensive and time-consuming process of attrition.

"What we would do in the past," he explained metaphorically, "was to cast a very large net and get as many fish in that net as possible. Then we could selectively throw back the ones we didn't want." He explained that the same methods just don't

work anymore. One factor, he said, was the invigorated American economy luring more prospects away from a military career into lucrative private-sector jobs. The other factor, said Casey, is what many people call "propensity."

"Too many people don't even understand what the Army is, let alone what it means to be an officer. They are unable to relate to that." He said a recent study showed 63 percent of a sample group of college-age recruiting prospects had no interest in serving in the military at all. "And there was that magic word again," Casey said. "They had no propensity to serve." A further breakdown of the survey questions showed the sample group had a generally negative or apathetic opinion of the Army based on a lack of knowledge or stereotypical media hyperbole. "When it was broken down further based on their perceptions and views, it turned out that only about 20 percent out of that 63 percent really had no propensity for serving."

Once the Army, the ROTC program and serving as an officer was explained, however, most of the sample group was very receptive. Current information, therefore, is the cure to overcoming decades of antipathy generated by such things as the Vietnam War and a smaller number of educators who have actually served in the armed forces. Then there is a generation raised on action movies and cartoons that paint an unfavorable and inaccurate portrait of the American soldier and their leaders.

Part of the challenge is to improve perceptions, not only among college-age prospects, but also within the educational community and households where those potential officers come from.

"Many people out there still think the Army is for those who have a choice between the military or jail," said Casey. "Nothing could be further from the truth. So, there are a number of misconceptions and false assumptions out there we need to work our way through and it takes a very competent, capable cadre member trained on how to do that to break through this veneer and convince prospects to join"

He went on to explain how the old methods of attracting possible enrollments are no longer adequate, either. To simply put a table with brochures at a local fair or in the hallway of a school just isn't enough. "But it's the way we've been doing business for the past ten years," said Casey

So he told his command he wanted them to find Scholar/Athlete/Leaders (SAL) - people who already exhibit the qualities that will make a good officer. To become an Army officer is intellectually challenging hence the scholar - it is physically chal-



Bob Rosenburgh

Cadet David Andrew Kent, from Valley Forge Military College, presents his after-action review of an FLRC station while Maj. Gen. John T. D. Casey, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command, looks on.

lenging, so athletic individuals are ready to train and it is most certainly all about leadership.

"We have to figure out who are the Scholar/Athlete/Leaders and then go recruit those people to get them into the program," he said.

Finding SALs also means ensuring the cadets will complete their degrees to qualify for commissioning, will be able to pass the APFT standard and will be able to take charge when needed.

"Athletics is about as close as you can get to going into combat," Casey noted. "We've all heard the old saw about 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going. It's that perseverance, that refusal to give up, that we want.'" Casey also said he believes people don't go to college to learn how to follow - they intend to get ahead and succeed in their careers and lives. So a well-organized and efficient college student with a high grade-point average is generally a natural leader to boot. "If we can find those people who are already adamant about wanting to be leaders, we can offer them a lot of opportunities."

Once his cadre is properly focused on what kind of recruit is the best to develop, Casey wants them to have all the training and resources they need to enroll the highest quality SAL cadets.

"We have a pre-command course," he said, "that teaches Professors of Military

Science the specific skills they will need to succeed at the campus." He also instituted a Recruiting and Operations Officer (ROO) course that focuses on how to leverage all the resources on campus, in the community and through Cadet Command and the Army. This will revitalize recruiting the next class of SALs. "It's not passive - it's active and it's intense and it's hands-on," he said. "They either get it right or they do it again until they do."

One measure Casey took to ensure recruiting is a year-round effort was to direct ROOs to remain on-campus during Advanced and Basic camps and use that time for expanded recruiting operations.

"If you don't set the table right during the summer, you're playing catch-up through the rest of the year," he said. "Summer camp is very important and I don't want to denigrate the quality of camp ... but that doesn't mean we do it exclusive of the other things that take place in the summer, such as Freshman orientations and campus visits by new students." It is essential to have someone who is well prepared and capable on hand to work with the admissions office doing whatever it takes to make the potential recruits follow through on their enrollment. "If we don't take care of the summer opportunities, we miss a recruiting season and we miss a whole class as it comes in during the summer."

See "Casey," Page 3

WARRIOR LEADER

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ADVANCED CAMP COMMANDER

Col. Daniel S. Challis

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College cadets become road scholars

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon



Cadet Sheraz Goondall, of Pace University, hustles to the front of the formation to stand as a road guard.

Sometimes the walk doesn't seem as long when you know a soft bed is waiting at the end. At least that's what is on the minds of any cadets in the final week of camp. After four days of Patrol STX, the only thing standing between them and graduation is a ten-kilometer road march. And it's not just an afternoon stroll - they carry their full field gear and weapons the entire distance.

The road march route winds around Fort Lewis' Lake Sequalitchew, then through the back trails of North Fort Lewis. Cadets carry back all the gear they brought on the 104-hour Patrol STX exercise, including the sometimes-cumbersome M-60 machine gun and the PRC-77 field radio. The M-60 adds another twenty pounds to a soldier's load; the PRC-77 adds another eighteen pounds. These loads are distributed through the platoons to ensure that everyone carries their fair share.

Cadet Eric Kennedy, of the Marion Military Institute, carried an M-60 during his platoon's movement. He considered it an honor to bear the extra burden. "It's really about teamwork," Kennedy said. "I've got my assistant gunner back there and he has some of the gun's components, which definitely lightens the load a little bit for me."



Carrying both his Regiment's guidon and an M-60 machinegun, Cadet Jacob Cash of Indiana University/Purdue University marches on.

Cadet Sheraz Goondall, of Pace University, who was a road guard during 3rd Regiment's march, welcomed the physical side of the challenge. "I love this road march. It gives me a chance to lose some weight and exercise. As a road guard, I do a lot of running from front to back, but that's all right. I need to improve the physical dimension of my leadership attributes."

Many cadets just consider the road march

another chore to complete. Once they look at the big picture, however, they realize that it is actually a final test, of sorts. It measures the level of fitness that each cadet has achieved in his or her five weeks of training. It gives them an orientation to the challenges and considerations present in any foot movement. And, finally, it contributes to the development of the warrior and fitness ethic that every future warrior leader in the US Army must have. 

"Casey," from Page 2

A good ROTC battalion commander can do things in all venues equally well. Casey said it's a tough job when it's done right, with "80-hour work weeks" and giving up a lot of weekends, but it must be in order to find the right recruits, then enroll and train them.

Casey also said a shift in recruiting focus is needed to attract the SAL prospects that would be more likely to remain in the Army beyond their minimum service commitment.

"In the past," he noted, "we sold ROTC based on the scholarship. To me, that's akin to selling a car based on the rebate. When the rebate is gone, you say, 'why did I buy that car? It's a piece of junk. If you're not careful, that's what happens with the ROTC program.'" When the dollar value of the scholarship outweighs any desire to serve the country, to be a good leader, or to have a challenging and successful career, the junior officer will leave the Army at the earliest opportunity.

"We should make sure we use incentives for what they are intended, but not as the basis of the deal altogether." Cadets should be in the program for what it will offer them professionally and personally and incentives should simply assist them in succeeding. "Once we convince them to enter the program, we can say, 'Oh, by the way, if you want to come in and learn how to be a good leader, you can get paid every month, you can get a scholarship, we take care of you as best we can and you also have a great job guaranteed when you graduate.'"

Casey said Cadet Command is identifying a few disincentives and working to remove them, as well.

"Our stipend was not a lot of money, and we found that most students had to work anyway." Raising the dollar amount would enable those who didn't want to hold down a job during college to spend their time on academics, sports or other pursuits. "We wanted to make it progressive, too, so people in the program who are more senior would get a little more." ROTC may be able to pay seniors \$350 a month, juniors at a \$300 rate and sophomores and freshmen at \$250 starting in October. "We think

that will go up \$50 for the next year. We also find that the competition to get into schools and the fact that a lot of corporations are offering a lot more than we can offer in ROTC, present a number of challenges."

Junior ROTC, on the other hand, is so successful it is currently undergoing a significant expansion nationwide. Casey said his main goal for that program is to try and make its growth happen faster.

"Junior ROTC is almost a universal winner across the spectrum," he said. "Congressmen like it, high school principals like it, parents like it and it does a number of things for school and the students in those schools that are very helpful." He said Cadet Command had more than 1,420 JROTC programs at the beginning of FY 2001, which will grow to 1,650 in the next several years. "They are scheduled to progress at a rate of about 50 a year," he said, but hopes to accelerate that rate. "If we have programs that want Junior ROTC today, we have Congress willing to give us some money to do it and we have instructors who are willing to sign up for it, then why are we holding people at arm's length?" Casey said he plans to try and make it happen.

"Then there is the culture gap between the Army and the American people that many people say exists today," he continued, noting that the military community has a tendency to grow more insular over time. "For example, 86 percent of the cadets we will commission this year have a mother, father, sister or brother who's on active duty or in the service."

Casey said a broader spectrum of society needs to be represented in the Army's leadership and, although those with a military connection are a welcome part of the recruiting base, a broader "net" needs to be cast. "ROTC's strength in the past has always been the diversity that comes into the officer corps."

Narrowing the so-called culture gap between the military and society can be accomplished by getting more ROTC personnel at all levels of command more involved in their local communities, he said. By using speaker's bureaus, public gatherings, social groups, school and com-

munity events and whatever else presents an opportunity for positive engagement, a clearer understanding of the Army in general and officers in particular can be fostered.

Casey said his vision for Cadet Command is very much akin to the current Army program focused on change.

"Army transformation is very important because it argues even more that we, as leaders in the Army, need to do more to operate relatively independently under difficult circumstances." Just as officers and soldiers in the field often find themselves in situations that require on-the-spot thinking and decisions, ROTC needs to be able to react to changing conditions. We need to be able to think ahead, to be far-sighted."

As for the current organization of Cadet Command, Casey said it's a work in progress, based on decisions made several years ago to reduce its structure.

"We made that decision based on the fact we thought we'd have the information technology in place to do the things we need to do." But the manpower cuts came earlier than the projected automation requirements. "We're halfway between two different types of information technology now," said Casey, "so there is an understandable amount of confusion and frustration." He said the toughest jobs in Cadet Command are probably those of the brigade commanders, since they must oversee some 20 or more senior programs and up to 150 junior programs situated in far-flung locations. "We give them this 'huge' staff of four or five people to work with when they do that." Between command and control challenges and a few schools that march to a different tune than what is expected of them, Casey said better communication lines are essential. "If we were able to better anticipate where problems may happen, we could stop them before they do happen."

Casey said an excellent resource for Cadet Command personnel to study is the "Way Ahead" letter published and disseminated earlier this year.

"That is an excellent blueprint, although some of it is already a little dated, about where I want to go and how we should do business." 

Campus in the conifers

College staff from around the nation comes to see 2001 Advanced Camp

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

They came, they saw, they concurred. And now they have a better understanding of what ROTC is all about. On July 7 through 9, college educators from around the nation, most of whom had very little experience with the Army, flocked to the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp to experience the sights, sound and tastes (MREs) that their students go through.

The goal of the Educators' Visit was to show them the rigors experienced by ROTC cadets, not just to graduate college, but to earn the right to be officers in the United States Army. ROTC students have the unique experience of learning on two distinct levels. Cadets must master the military skills necessary to become an officer as well as complete a four-year degree. Without a common understanding between the ROTC cadre and educators at the universities, college life can be more difficult for a ROTC cadet. The Educators' Visit offered members of the academia an opportunity to spend two days at cadet training sites to gain an understanding of the ROTC program and the cadets that complete it.

While many of the university staff who attended the event were familiar with the ROTC program, most had never had the opportunity to participate in real Army training. Educators experienced the quick-thinking challenges of the Field Leaders Reaction Course on the first day. They took part in two FLRC lanes, working in teams of evaluators and mission participants. They were given a briefing on how cadets are expected to lead on the course, and how they are evaluated.



Members of the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp cadre watch with interest as a group of college educators try their hand at a FLRC field problem.

Many saw how the event builds future leaders and great students. "I was most interested in seeing cadets in their problem solving and critical thinking process," said Dr. Michael Pavkovic of Hawaii Pacific University, "which I hope that we help develop on the academic side."

Next on the educators' agenda was a trip to Individual Tactical Training. The sight of cadets dragging themselves through the dirt, then coughing it up, gave scholars an idea of the physical and mental toughness required to complete Advanced Camp. "It really gave you a feel for what the cadets are going through, and I really enjoyed talking to the cadets in camp," said Christine Wilkinson, an academic advisor at HPU.

The educators got their first taste of the fine field cuisine in a MRE (meal - ready to eat). "I wouldn't want to make a steady diet of them," said Pavkovic. Most educators found that the horror stories of MRE food weren't entirely true (except for the grilled chicken and beef weiners nicknamed "frankenfurters").

The final day of the visit took the guests to the M-16 qualification range, hand grenade site and fire support site. Wilkinson had a blast with the M-16, and even picked up a bit of Army determination. "I hit 15 out of 18 shots, and I wish I would have aced it," she said. Pavkovic had the most fun at the fire support site. "The 155s going off - You can't beat that!"

The culmination of the Educators' Visit came on the evening of July 9 at the Educators' Banquet. Everyone enjoyed fine meals served by the Tacoma Sheraton, and were treated to keynote speaker, Maj. Gen. John T. D. Casey, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command.

By the time they were packing their bags and heading for the airport, all the visitors had a better understanding of what ROTC is about and a new appreciation of cadet life.

M-4 carbine caps four decades of M-16 rifle production: Early problems brought M-16 bad reputation, but development meant success

By 2nd Lt. Randy Maiuri

Most cadets at the 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp are training with the M-16A2 Assault Rifle, a late-model version of the long line of M-16 rifles the U.S. Army has used over the years. But many of the war-ready active-duty soldiers seen training on Fort Lewis carry a very different weapon - what appears to be a shorter version of the M-16A2, but also sporting a subtle series of high-tech refinements that make it much better. It is the M-4 Carbine and, yes it is an M-16 shorty. But the features that make it unique also put it in a class all its own and that is why it also has a new number in its name.

The M-4 rifle differs from the M-16 in several ways. For one, it weighs less and has a faster firing rate. It is also shorter for the purpose of close quarters combat and yet still has the same basic firing range. The M-4 actually has a variable-length feature facilitated by a telescoping shoulder stock that can lock at several lengths selected by the user. Even with its faster firing rate it still has the same muzzle velocity. There are also some things that remain the same about this weapon in comparison to its predecessor. It fires a 5.56mm round. The same magazine is used, either a 20 or 30-round magazine. It is a gas operated, air-cooled, magazine fed, selective rate, shoulder-fired weapon.

In 1964 the United States Army adopted the M-16 assault rifle. It replaced the M-14 rifle. For thirty-seven years the Army used one or another version of the M-16 assault rifle, including the M-16, the M-16A1 and the M-

16A2. Fighting forces in Vietnam, Panama, Desert Storm and other battles have used it. In 2001 the focus changed from the M-16A2 to the M-4 tactical carbine.

There are three main contributors to the design and development of the M-16 assault rifle. Eugene Stoner, ArmaLite Corporation and Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company. All played a part in the process. To begin with, Stoner

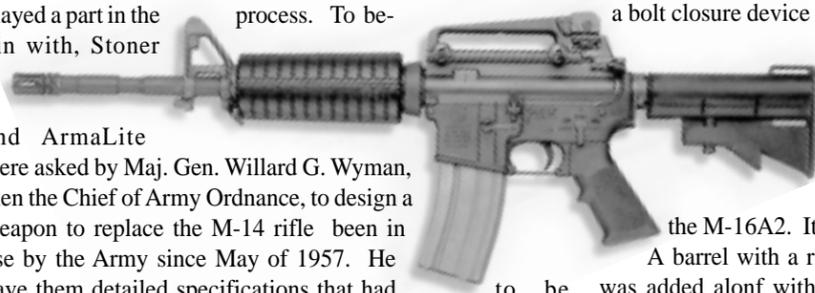
and ArmaLite were asked by Maj. Gen. Willard G. Wyman, then the Chief of Army Ordnance, to design a weapon to replace the M-14 rifle been in use by the Army since May of 1957. He gave them detailed specifications that had to be met in the development of the new weapon. It needed to hold a 20-round magazine, weigh less than 6 pounds loaded, have selective fire capability, and fire a round that could penetrate a steel helmet or body armor out to 500 meters. Military testing of a new weapon can take some time. For this reason, ArmaLite decided to sell its part of the weapon design to the Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company. Colt was not as much involved in the design and development of the weapon as they were in selling it to the Army. While they did help overcome some of the flaws of the original design they were more focused on making sure others knew the weapon's capability and proving its superiority over the older M-14 rifle. From 1960 until 1967, the U.S. Army tested the M-16 both in the

research department and in the field, including Vietnam. After certain problems, which were identified through field use, were fixed, the M-16 rifle was adopted by the United States Army on Feb. 8, 1964. On Feb. 28, 1967 the Army added a new version of the M-16 to its catalog, the M-16A1. It differed from the original M-16 with a bolt closure device known as a forward assist. From

1964 through 1983 the M-16 and M-16A1 served the Army well. The next big change for the Army's main rifle was on Nov. 20 1983, when the Army adopted a newer version called

the M-16A2. It had several new design features. A barrel with a rifling twist of 1:7 turns per inch was added along with a more ergonomic and durable stock, interchangeable hand guards as opposed to the left/right hand guards on previous models, a flash hider with less muzzle flip and replacement of the fully automatic mode with a three-round burst mode.

The latest, and possibly final version, is the new M-4 tactical carbine. It is 861mm in length (fully extended), about 139 mm shorter than the M-16A2. It weighs a pound less than the M-16A2. Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company is now fully responsible for the design, development and selling of the M-4 rifle. From all accounts of field use, the acceptance and usability of M-4 tactical carbine are overwhelmingly good.



Green-to-Gold rewards cadet vets

By 2nd Lt. Randy Maiuri

A surprising number of cadets at 2001 ROTC Advanced Camp already have years of military service already completed. They used the Army's Green-to-Gold program, which provides active-duty enlisted soldiers with contract scholarships, as a way to complete college and become officers. As a result, these cadets have an understanding and base of knowledge about the Army and all of its intricacies well beyond that of most other cadets. They add something special to whatever platoon they are in. Other cadets bring their own talents to the platoon, but in this case, it is more about being a soldier. Some have seen action in conflicts, like Desert Storm, while others have already been leaders of soldiers as NCOs.

The other cadets often rely on Green-to-Gold and other prior service classmates for guidance. As soldiers and leaders, it is their responsibility to give whatever information they can, not to promote themselves but to improve the team as a whole. It is a part of camp, as every cadet learns. Everyone brings something unique to the table. By giving that extra expertise to the team, the team improves and often excels.

The numbers go up every year. There are more cadets this year who have gained entry into ROTC through the Green-to-Gold program. More and more junior-enlisted soldiers are realizing the opportunities presented by ROTC and be-

coming officers. They see how they will have the opportunity to lead from a different perspective than that of an NCO. A college education and the potential of earning significantly more money are also incentives to enter the program.

Cadet Darren Kendrick Peterson, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is a Green-to-Gold cadet. He was on active duty for 3 years and 11 months. Serving as a 13B, section crew chief with a M-109A6 Paladin at Fort Riley, Kan., Peterson also became a noncommissioned officer. He decided to go Green-to-Gold because he wanted to "step up from the NCO position and lead from the front." As with all Green-to-Gold soldiers, he is sought for advice and information by the other cadets. They look to him for information on nearly everything. "They ask me how the regular Army is, how life on and off post is, at work once you come home at the end of the day," Peterson said, "about the family care plan with your spouse and children in day care, and especially about the pay and the educational benefits and opportunities."

Having been an NCO, Peterson says he has a little trouble being in a different leadership role, but he enjoys the challenge. "That is the hardest thing I have to do right now, switching from the NCO to officer rank," said Peterson.

Cadet Jason Ludwig, from the University of Northern Iowa, is another good



2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

Any large group of cadets will almost certainly contain a significant number of Green-to-Gold cadets who have already served as enlisted soldiers.

example of a Green-to-Gold soldier. He was a 19K, tanker, at Fort Carson, Colo., for about two years. He said, "Green-to-Gold has been a good choice for me - it has allowed me to see where enlisted service was taking me and learn of the opportunities out there." He said there were a lot more opportunities available to him: he'd

have the military to help finish his degree with money for school and still be able to return to the military.

Any active-duty soldier interested in finding out more about the program can see the unit first sergeant or commander who will answer questions or refer the soldier to the nearest Green-to-Gold coordinator.

SMP offers added options

By 2nd Lt. Tom Malone

Square Knot. Bowline. Slip Knot. Double Half Hitch. Just as there are numerous techniques to tie a rope into a knot, getting involved with ROTC can be accomplished in a number of ways. The Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) is just one of those ways future officers can get involved.

SMP gives individuals who may be interested in ROTC the opportunity to work in a local Army Reserve or National Guard unit as an officer. One person who chose SMP is Cadet De'Mondrae Montgomery, of Alabama A&M University, who said he enjoys "working with a lot of high-speed officers." Montgomery is assigned to the 20th Special Forces Group in Huntsville, Ala.

Aside from professional development, cadets participating in SMP also receive other selected benefits, including a \$200-per-month ROTC stipend, E-5 pay while at drill or annual training, and, depending on each individual case, the Montgomery GI Bill and tuition waiver.

"The best benefits of SMP are the Montgomery GI Bill and drill pay," Montgomery said. "It's also nice being around all of the NCOs and officers and



2nd Lt. James Gordon

SMP cadets emerge from the enlisted ranks of the Army Reserve and National Guard into a bright future as Army officers.

getting that little heads-up before I actually get to my real unit."

SMP is available to current ROTC juniors, seniors and enlisted members of the Reserves and National Guard. Other eligibility requirements are to be enrolled in advanced ROTC courses and to be a non-scholarship cadet or a recipient of the Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty or Dedicated National Guard 2-year scholarship.

Cadet Marcella Marchesano, of the

University of Oregon, is enrolled in SMP on a Dedicated Army National Guard scholarship.

"It's a blast," Marchesano stated emphatically. "Good times with great people is how I see it. As far as professional development goes, I don't think you can get much better than the Simultaneous Membership Program. It truly gives you a jump-start on your career."

SMP not only launches your profes-

sional career, it also provides a financial incentive. The time served in SMP counts toward a soldier's total years in service, so when active duty service actually begins, he or she will be two years further down the pay scale.

Cadet Misti Delano, of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, believes the ability to stay on familiar ground is another advantage of the SMP program.

"I like SMP because it gives me a chance to do ROTC but also stay in my own unit," Delano explained. She also took advantage of the Army's Green-to-Gold program. "I was an NCO prior to this, so now I'm seeing the whole picture. Instead of looking at it through the officer view, you can see how things are going to affect the lowest ranking person on the team."

As with any program, there are advantages and drawbacks to participating in SMP. All individuals need to carefully examine the facts and decide whether or not SMP is a commitment they are interested in making. However, SMP is likely to be a tremendous learning experience worth any inconvenience it may cause. It's kind of like tying a "Swiss Seat" rescue knot. It may not be the most enjoyable task, but it may very well end up saving your life.

MOPPPing up at NBC

Chemical suits are styled for survival

By 2nd Lt. Randy Maiuri

The dreaded chamber. Every cadet must go to the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) committee and take on the confidence chamber. It may be the most-discussed event cadets talk about at camp. Sure, the APFT gets a lot of coverage, but when it comes to rumors and "horror" stories, the chamber is always tops. The stories may frighten or amuse some people, but others say the confidence chamber is too easy. Some claim they coughed up a lung.

But the real story, which few seem to discuss, is why they are required to do it in the first place. One theory terms it a lesson in humiliation. The truth is that NBC training is important because it teaches soldiers to deal with a very real threat.

Master Sgt. Adrian Lewis and his staff run the NBC range. Lewis believes the training he and his staff provide is more important than most soldiers realize. "I think NBC is important because, on the modern battlefield that's a real enemy you have to fight and often times you are going to encounter NBC threats when you don't see any real sol-



One very uncomfortable cadet squints through her tears as NBC Committee cadre help her cope with the effects of the confidence chamber.

diers," said Lewis. "That's the first thing you're going to be hit with. They're going to try to tear down your first line and then, as you move in, NBC is the first wave." As seen by conflicts over the past decade or so, he is right. In places like Iraq and Kosovo, some form of NBC warfare was used against military forces. The threat and involvement of NBC tactics was also prevalent in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

For the most part, there are few problems with cadets and the chamber. There are occasional cadets who just don't want to go inside. That is when the staff members on the NBC range use their people skills to talk to them and gently coax them in, said Lewis. While the committee staff understands the fear some cadets might have about the chamber, it is important that, not only do they overcome their fear, but then they can use this experience to train and help soldiers with the same fears when they become leaders.

Cadets receive 10 hours of training in proper assem-



A simulated casualty is treated in MOPP gear.

bly and use of NBC equipment, used at four levels of coverage called the Mission-Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP). Then they use this training to move a squad through a practical exercise. During this exercise, cadets lead a squad up a steep hill while dressed in full chemical-protective suits and masks. They must maintain troop accountability, react to any contact and ensure the safe movement of the squad. And of course, the last training of the day is at the chamber. It's a good way to clear up the nasal passages for the rest of the day. 



Suiting into MOPP means adding a full-body covering chemical-resistant suit to the rest of the NBC ensemble.



Cadets learn to patrol in MOPP, which includes the protective mask, special gloves and boots and the mask's carrying case.



2nd Louie
By Bob Rosenburgh

2nd Lt. James Gordon

Al Zdzarsky

Al Zdzarsky

2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

Squad STX tests combat tricks

By 2nd Lt. James Gordon

The planning and execution of a combat mission are the true test of a leader's ability, so the simulated combat that occurs during the Squad Situational Training Exercises (STX) provides evaluators with a chance to see if a cadet has "the right stuff" to be a leader in the U.S. Army.

Previous training at camp is a prerequisite for successful STX missions. In the preceding weeks, cadets have learned land navigation, individual tactical movement, rifle marksmanship and a host of other skills that are necessary for the 104 hours of Squad STX training. The purpose is to reinforce the earlier training and take it to a new level.

The five-day event gives cadets ample opportunities to run practice missions. The remainder of the time, they receive two evaluations each by committee cadre. These evaluations, are an important first step in determining the path of a future officer's career. The cadre looks for demonstrated leadership ability. Among the most important of these characteristics are good planning, organization and the capacity to keep cool under fire.

During a mission, cadets receive a platoon operations order from their evaluator. The squad leader then has two hours to plan, disseminate information, conduct the mission and participate in an after action review (AAR). For some cadets, the AAR is the most important part, since it gives them a chance to learn from their mistakes and do better in future missions.



2nd Lt. Randy Mauri

Weary warriors watch during an After Action Review that critiques the mission.

However, the missions aren't always "run of the mill" combat operations. During one evaluation, each cadet will receive a change of mission and be presented with a real-world scenario. These new variables include rescuing downed pilots, guarding food supplies, dealing with the media and other missions that soldiers could encounter during peacekeeping missions.

The Squad STX Committee cadre

members looks forward to each day of training. 2nd Lt. Jason Harden of Cameron University, the assistant S-3 officer of the site, said "From my point of view, training is going great." He added that a safety-centered approach has been adopted to train cadets to camp standards without excessive injury or risk.

The opposing force (OPFOR) for the cadets is composed of soldiers from Fort Lewis units. They enjoy the detail because it gives them a chance to see officer develop-

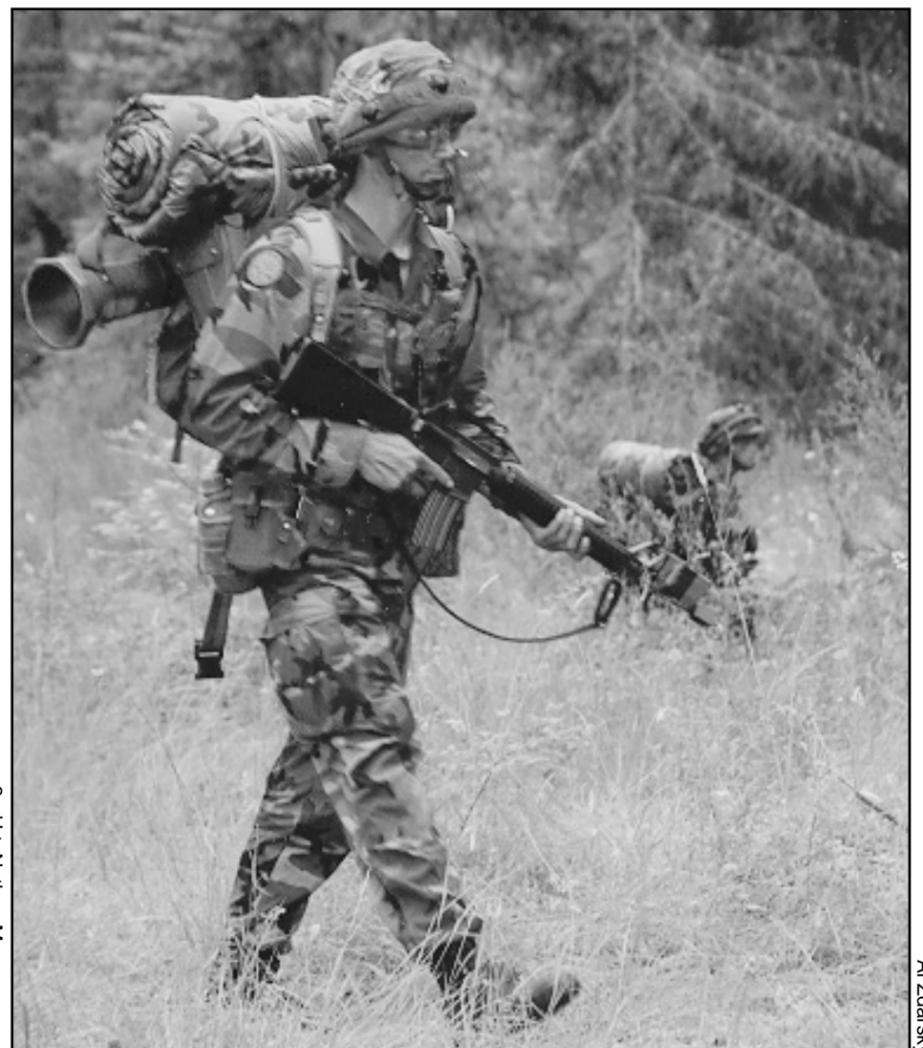
ment in action. "I've been out here since the end of May and I love it," said Pvt. Andrew Cesla, from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment. "The cadets are motivated and sometimes get the jump on us."

Squad STX is also an excellent introduction to the future tactical training cadets face. Later, they will participate in Patrolling STX, which focuses on operations at the section level. Thus, Squad STX is a natural springboard to the cadets' final challenge at Advanced Camp. 



2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

Cadets in a rifle squad wait patiently for orders as their leader scans ahead and plans his next maneuver. Each will have a chance to take charge and react to a wide variety of simulated battlefield scenarios at Squad STX. The exercise will prepare the apprentice gunfighters for the final challenge at Patrol STX before they can graduate.



Al Zdarsky

Movement to contact requires a high degree of situational awareness to avoid walking into an ambush or other tactical traps.

Who made the dogs mad?

At the Mad Dog Assault Course, time is the enemy

By 2nd Lt. Tom Malone

Pulses race, the whistle blows, dust flies and the assault begins.

It's the Mad Dog Assault Course, a hotly-contested portion of the automatic weapons training site and certainly a highlight for many cadets.

"Anytime you can get a weapon in your hand or watch a weapon fire, you kind of see what the Army has out there for you, and it's good stuff," said Cadet Daniel Johnson of Norwich University. "The more exposure you get - the better officer you're going to be."

At some point during automatic weapons, cadets find themselves in the dustiest, sweatiest and dirtiest spot on the site. Despite all of these things, it can be

the most enjoyable spot as well.

At stake on the Mad Dog Assault Course are points to be added to the platoon's overall score at the end of 2001 Advanced Camp for the Leader Stakes competition.

Before the excitement can begin, however, cadets must complete all of the standard, familiar briefings. Following a short briefing on the running of the course, cadets form three-man teams consisting of a gunner, a gunner's assistant and an ammo bearer.

Once their teams have been established, they line up at the starting line and talk strategy. This is where the teams begin to race for the fastest time, and strive to



2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

No wall is too big an obstacle for this motivated team who help each other carry their weapons and themselves through the course.

prove themselves as the leanest, meanest and maddest of all Mad Dogs.

During the Mad Dog Assault Course, cadets maneuver in every direction possible. They crawl under barbed wire, leap over walls and climb into, through and out of trenches. All of this is an effort to speed through the obstacle course and successfully reach the status of a fully-assembled, combat-ready gun and crew.

Through six regiments, the fastest team score to run the assault course was 2nd Platoon, Company B, 4th Regiment, who clocked in with a time of 1 minute and 38 seconds. The fastest platoon average was held by 2nd Platoon, Company A, 6th Regiment.

The team with Cadet Scott Sewell, of the University of West Florida, didn't quite beat the record time. Nevertheless, he was pleased with his team's performance on the assault course. "I think we smoked it again," Sewell said emphatically. "We should've had the record, but we just came up a little short."

At the end of camp, cadets may not be able to remember exactly how to set up

a combat-ready gun; however, the teamwork and positive experiences taken from the Mad Dog Assault Course is certain to stick with them for the remainder of camp.

Just ask Johnson, who said, "The Mad Dog Assault Course is one of the best events. Anytime you can get a contest going, it's great. It definitely builds esprit de corps for the whole platoon. We put ourselves together because we wanted to go after that single record, but the platoon record is all we really care about." 



Al Zdzarsky

The clock stops ticking only when the gun crew is ready for action.



Al Zdzarsky

Off to a good start, a 3rd Regiment team clears the barbed-wire low-crawl and heads to the next challenge at the Mad Dog Assault Course.

Camp clinic cures cadets

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Mayo

Cadet Stoddard Binder just wanted to excel at Advanced Camp. He didn't anticipate getting injured, much less slightly tearing a ligament. Thankfully, the staff at Troop Medical Clinic 9 was well prepared to put him back in the fast lane.

"For the most part we see ankle sprains, knee sprains and muscle type stuff," said Capt. Ellen Partrich, a doctor at the TMC. "A lot of cadets have bad feet because they haven't broken in their boots."

Binder was lucky. He had fluid drained from his foot and returned to his regiment to complete camp. Unfortunately, the TMC staff can't help everyone.

"We've seen some fractured legs that we've had to send to the hospital," Partrich explained. About 15 camp cadre and cadets have been sent home due to injuries and serious illness thus far.

A busy day at TMC 9 may see more than 100 cadre and cadets at sick call. The doctors commonly prescribe medicines like Tylenol, Motrin and antibiotics. They also have IVs for those who become dehydrated or are nauseous.

TMC 9 is where Advanced Camp cadets and cadre go for injuries and illnesses. Open 24 hours, the clinic operates two sick calls a day and sends doctors out to the training sites. For the clinic staff, the work has turned out to be very gratifying. "For the doctors that [go to training sites], it's a lot of fun for them to go out with the cadets in the field," said Partrich.

The most common injuries they deal with involve feet. Cadets without proper-fitting boots are far more likely to get blisters and lower body injuries. Partrich stressed that proper-fitting boots are a must. "Break in your boots before you arrive at camp. It's kind of hard once you get

here," she explained.

"Make sure you drink plenty of fluids," Partrich continued. "Be smart like you would at home. If you're getting sick don't try to stave it off. Go to the medic and get some medicine so you can treat yourself."

While the clinic staff does an outstanding job, its performance is more remarkable when considering its biggest obstacle. Since most of the staff are reservists, almost all of the personnel change out every two weeks. "It's bittersweet, because just when they get the hang of how things run, we get a new group in and start all over again," Partrich said. "Every day there is a new issue, it seems. I think that it's just the growing pains of a clinic that has its entire staff change every two weeks." 

