



*Leadership
starts here*

LEADER

JULY 10
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Fort Knox, Ky.

On the Web at www.leaderstrainingcourse.com



Don't look down

*Cadets learn to rappel
from 50-foot tower
and overcome fear of
heights*

Pages 6 & 7



Cross that bridge

Cadets learn to work together as a team to construct and cross one-, two- and three-rope bridges at stream-crossing training.

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Ritual ending

Bravo Co. marked the end of its training at the Leader's Training Course with a 10k road march and the rites of passage ceremony.

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Body art

Many Cadets and Soldiers around LTC are sporting tattoos, and some of the ink on their bodies has special meanings.

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Army Values are words to live by every day



COL. JAY **DYMEK**
LTC commander

All around your barracks and the training sites at the Leader's Training Course are simple signs with single words: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

Our Army Values define the corporate culture of our Army – values form our base from which all action takes shape and direction. They carry deep meaning for all of us in uniform. If you live on an Army post and were to leave home with your front door wide open, the only effect would be your neighbors would have secured the front door and held your keys until you returned.

The reason is everyone in the neighborhood

shares the same values.

When each company of LTC Cadets returns from the field training exercise, they will take part in a rites of passage ceremony and proudly wear their identification tags and the Army Values tag. I want to discuss what those values are and what they mean to each and every Soldier in the Army today.

The values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. They define who we are as an Army and provide a foundation for personal conduct as a Soldier and, most importantly, as a leader of Soldiers.

Loyalty: Faithful adherence to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, our units and your fellow Soldiers. Loyalty is one's commitment to the cause or basic principles of the organization. It binds all of us together and drives us to support each other, superiors, family and our country.

Duty: As one who takes an oath, it is your legal or moral obligation to accomplish those tasks given to your fullest ability. In pledging allegiance through the oath, you must be willing to accept full responsibility for your actions

and your subordinates' performance. You must be willing to take initiative and anticipate those requirements based upon the situation.

Respect: Quite simply, respect is treating others in the same manner in which you want to be treated. That is particularly for leaders who desire to get other people to do what must be done. Different situations call for different types of leadership approaches, but no situation demands that you treat someone in a manner that belittles or discourages them. Doing so threatens to undermine your authority and damage your credibility.

Selfless service: This involves holding your duty to the organization and others before your personal needs and wants. This happens every day in the Army. It happens here at the Leader's Training Course, too. Through the commitment you have made to attend the Leader's Training Course this summer and your willingness to endure personal hardships, you have lived the value of selfless service.

Honor: It is living up to our Army Values. You must be honest with yourself, truthful and sincere in all of your actions.

Integrity: This is doing what is right, both

legally and morally, even when no one would ever know the difference. It is the basis between trust and confidence and is the foundation for organizational effectiveness. It is acknowledging your mistakes, learning from them and moving forward.

Personal courage: It is exhibiting both physical and moral courage. Displaying physical courage can be as easy as overcoming your fear of heights, such as at rappelling, or your fear of water, such as combat water survival training. Moral courage is not compromising your professional ethics, individual values and moral principles.

These values constantly remind us, and the rest of the world, who we are and what we stand for. They enable each and every one of us to discern right from wrong in any situation.

When you put the values tag around your neck every day, don't think of it as just a reminder of your successful completion of the Leader's Training Course. Instead, see it as a reminder of who we are, what we stand for and to live these values each and every day.

Physical training builds strong bodies, minds



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. CHARLES **GREEN**
LTC command sergeant major

A former LTC command sergeant major once proclaimed that going without physical training was like going without food. Working out proved to be his inner fuel, much the same as coffee or vitamins are for other people.

There aren't many better comparisons about the vitality of PT and what it means for the

body physically and mentally. Physical training enables your body to handle the challenges of daily life and the challenges encountered as a Soldier.

That's why the Leader's Training Course places such a priority on PT.

In fact, you all are the recipients of some pretty significant retooling where we increased the amount of PT from four or five times a week to almost every day. You can thank previous graduates, who said they didn't get enough PT.

We're providing PT on days where the schedule is chock full of activity. And this year, Cadets are even performing PT on non-training days.

While the level of exercise is more demanding, we believe the payoff is worth it.

Even those Cadets who have only been at Fort Knox for a couple of weeks have seen improvements in their ability to run, lift equipment more effortlessly and move more quickly without being as winded as they used to be.

As a Soldier, PT will be a big part of your life. You'll take a physical fitness tests every six months and be required to earn at least 60 points in each of three events which are now very familiar to you: push-ups, sit-ups and the two-mile run.

The Army is in the process of revamping its PT program, the first major changes in many years. The aim of the retooling is to incorporate movements Soldiers encounter every day. There will be things like shuttle runs, sprints carrying weighted gear and tumbling exercises.

Some of those changes have been incorpo-

rated into the LTC PT regimen. We still have to ensure we train you and ready you to pass the physical fitness test that exists today.

Committing to regular PT is not always easy, considering the hectic lives we lead today and all the demands placed upon us.

That said, keep this in mind: If you've got time to eat, you've got time to PT.

Stay at it, "Hard Charger!"

On the cover

Co. D Cadet Russell Reeves, of Johns Hopkins University, walks down the 19-foot slant wall in preparation for rappelling off the 50 ft. tower and skid. Photo by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader

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COMMANDER: Col. Jay Dymek
SERGEANT MAJOR: Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Green
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER: Steve Arel
EDITOR: Forrest Berkshire
STAFF: Majdi Ammari, Mary Barczak, Joe Castelli, Shane Ersland, Terry Heifetz, Mark Payne, Mackenzie Reiss, Michael Rivera, Christie Schroeder, Kristin Sherrard, Eric Stemen, Ryan Stone, Kelsey Sullivan, Dan Townsend, Roseline Twagiramariya, Brian Veirs, Chen Wang, Douglas Worthington
SUPPORT STAFF: Maj. Karen Parker, Sgt. 1st Class Ken McNulty, Lou Skrzynski

It takes a team to build a bridge

Echo Co. learns importance of teamwork at stream-crossing

By Roseline Twagiramariya

Staff writer

While learning how to cross a two-rope bridge suspended eight feet above water, Cadets also got a taste of what it is like to be in the military.

Taken out of their comfort zones and into an area where cell phone coverage does not exist, Cadets are tested first as individuals and then as a team at stream-crossing training.

Some Cadets bring with them a fear of heights, water or both. However, to successfully complete the event, they all have to overcome their fears and come together as a whole.

"It's all mental," Florida State University Cadet Natasha Miller said.

For Brigitte Miller, the fear of heights was the least of her worries.

"I'm not really afraid of heights but one thing to worry about is going out of line," the Valley Forge Military Academy Cadet said.

After a week at LTC, the Co. E. 1/46th Inf. Cadets were doing training that involved learning how to tie knots and building rope bridges.

The knot-tying often proved the most difficult.

Master Sgt. Michael Jackson, of the stream-crossing committee, said Cadets often miss something during the lesson and get lost when it comes to building their own.

"We can't do anything without those knots tied," Jackson said.

Cadets each took turns balancing across a three-rope bridge and later incorporated that into a competition at the end of the day.

Squads raced against each other in constructing a one-rope bridge and getting all the team members across in the least amount of time. This is where teamwork came in.

"We hope they learn to understand how important it is for them to work with their fellow Cadets," Jackson said, "because when they progress in the Army, it will take teamwork for them to be successful."

The competition between the squads was the highlight of the day and used colorful smoke, hard rock music and explosions to give it a more realistic effect.

"We want to make it more exciting and set the atmosphere that it's a team competition and get them in that frame of mind," Jackson said.

For most Co. E. Cadets, stream-crossing was one of the first times they were tested as a team. They found it to be the most



Above, Echo Co. Cadet Joshua Dilday from Truman State University crosses the one-rope bridge during a stream-crossing race. Below, Cadet Eric Seifer of Indiana University of Pennsylvania crosses the three-rope bridge during stream-crossing training. Photos by Michael Rivera/Leader

enjoyable event of their training to date.

"It was exciting, we worked as a team and we got it done," said Keith Johnson from Florida State University, whose squad won the competition Friday. "Everyone did their part, and it was awesome."

Squad member Megan Webb from New Mexico Military Institute agreed, saying even though they had some difficulties coming together as a team the last couple of days, they were able to get it together for the event.

"We pulled it off, and it was so much fun," Webb said.

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Solak, NCO in charge at stream-crossing, said the training does two things: teach confidence and teamwork.

"This punctuates teamwork, and it is a preliminary thing which gives them a taste of what the military is like," Solak said.

For Natasha Miller, the training taught her the importance of personal courage.

"I'm deathly afraid of water, and I never thought that I would ever do anything like this," Miller said. "But I'm here and I love it and I'm probably going to contract when I get back."



First company reaches finish

Independence Day takes on different meaning for Alpha Co.

By **Mary Barczak**
Staff writer

Cadets of Co. A 1/46th Inf. (Co. 1) celebrated Fourth of July with having the freedom to graduate the Leader's Training Course.

Alpha Co. had 254 Cadets graduate Saturday, marking what some called a "bittersweet end" to their four weeks of training.

Seventeen Cadets were recognized with special honors for showing leadership and other qualities during LTC.

Cadet Natalie Lopez-Barnard received the award for the highest female PT score.

"This wasn't even my highest score," she said with a laugh, indicating the plaque she held with a score of 242. "My highest score was a 250. This was me on a bad day."

Brig. Gen. Mike Devine, deputy commanding general of the 200th Military Police Command, was the guest speaker. He congratulated the Cadets, but also told them they are America's future.

"We must remember that freedom is not free; it was paid for by the blood of others," Devine said.

He also encouraged them to be role models for the Soldiers they will lead in the future.

"Leaders are not born; leadership is something that is learned," Devine said. "Have the integrity to do what is right, legally and morally. Loyalty is a two-way street."

To the Cadets, graduation was a blessing and a reprieve because some of them were able to spend the rest of the Fourth with their families.

Cadet Gretchen Pace, who attends University of Virginia, was excited to be going home where she would reunite with her family at the beach.

Pace also said she was looking forward to driving in her car with all of the windows rolled down so she could sing country songs as loud as she wanted.

Pace said, overall, she enjoyed her LTC experience.

"I wished there would've been more PT, though," she said.

Cadet Jessica Miller, who attends Santa Clara University, said graduation was bittersweet. She's sad to be leaving her fellow Cadets because they've gotten close, but she was ready to go home to spend time with her family and friends.

Miller said she's having a party with three of her roommates from home when she returns.

Jeanette Miller, Jessica Miller's mom, attended the graduation with Jessica Miller's aunt.

Jeanette Miller reminisced about how her daughter decided to join ROTC.

"We've never had anyone in the military from our family before. So, it was a new experience, I'm still learning," she said. "I guess it was about the end of her freshman year that



Top, Cadet Paul Wanta from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse salutes during the national anthem at the Alpha Co. graduation ceremony. Above left, an Apache helicopter lands on Brooks Field, giving a thunderous start to the graduation ceremony. Above right, the Cadets of Alpha Co. 1/46th Inf. (Co. 1) exit the parade field to celebrate their graduation from LTC with family and friends. Photos by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader

Jessica decided she wanted to do ROTC. She was purely physically and mentally driven to it."

Graduation was also a time for new beginnings.

Leah Hoxie, mother of Cadet Elizabeth Hoxie, said she was baffled when her daughter told her she was going to join ROTC.

Leah Hoxie is an ardent pacifist.

"I didn't know why, but I didn't try and stop her," she said.

"I just asked her where it was at, who she would be with and if it was safe."

Leah Hoxie said she participated in sit-ins in the 1960s and

1970s in protest of the war in Vietnam.

Cadet Hoxie, who attends Michigan State University, said she will probably contract with the Army when she goes back to school.

"I still do not support war, but I will support my daughter," Leah Hoxie said.

Cadet Hoxie said she was drawn to the Army's sense of community.

"I always have told my children, family comes first, so Elizabeth has her family at home, her family of friends at college and now a third family (the Army)," Leah Hoxie said.

Ceremony marks end of training

Rites of passage signifies transition in Cadets' lives

By **Mary Barczak**

Staff writer

AC/DC's "Hells Bells" blared during the brisk early morning hours as cadre lined along the roadside cheered the Cadets on as they marched toward a fire-lit grove.

Their enthusiasm and calls of encouragement seemed to re-energize the Cadets.

"Great job, Cadets." "Keep going." "Hooah."

Following a 10k road march Tuesday, the Cadets of Co. B 1/46th came to the end of their training at Memorial Grove.

That milestone was marked by the rites of passage ceremony. Lined up behind blazing torches, Cadets broke their silence only to call out each Army value and light a new torch signifying the value.

Lt. Col. Chuck Schretzman, Bravo Co. company tactical officer, told the Cadets to reflect on all their accomplishments from the last 25 days.

"Each one of the phases helped you to complete your training," he said. "In the Soldier First phase you adjusted to the Army way of life, in the Warrior Leader phase you learned military skills you will take with you and in the Future Leader phase you were challenged physically and mentally at FTX."

Schretzman told the Cadets he was proud of them and encouraged them to contract through their ROTC programs at their campuses.

"You *are* the sons and daughters that make up the Army. Bandits lead the way! Hooah!" he said.

The Cadets stood at attention as "God Bless the USA" played while cadre rewarded each Cadet with an Army tag, cap and shirt.

At the end of the ceremony the Cadets ran through a gauntlet formed by the cadre who congratulated the smiling Cadets with high-fives and words of encouragement.

Army National Guard liaison officer 1st Lt. Matt Reff and Inspector General Maj. Dan Kent were among the crowd cheering on the Cadets.

Reff said he has been through a few schools in the Army, but at the end of each one the trainees always look forward to the closing ceremony.

"They're a big deal," he said. "You come into the last leg miserable, tired and sweaty so it's nice to have someone there to cheer you on and help you overcome this milestone. The Cadets' family and friends couldn't be here this Tuesday morning to support them in this, so that's why we are here."

Kent said he came to support the Cadets because he spoke with some of the Cadets from Alpha Co. after they had their ceremony last week and they told him having the support of their cadre there meant a lot.

Cadet Joe Bidlow, who attends East Stroudsburg University, said he still hasn't decided whether he will contract



Above, Co. B 1/46th Inf. Cadet Alejandro Prado lights a torch at Memorial Grove during the rites of passage ceremony. The ceremony also marks the end of a month of training. Photo by Chen Wang/Leader At right, Cadets with Alpha Co. (Co. 1) are congratulated by cadre after completing the 10k road march. Photo by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader

when he goes back.

He said he has always wanted to do something with the Army, but he wasn't sure what.

Regardless, Bidlow said he had fun during the Leader's Training Course.

"It was a good experience. Had a lot of confidence-building," he said.

Cadet Theresa Williams, who attends Virginia Commonwealth University, said her experience at LTC was painful, but worthwhile.

"It pushed me way out of my comfort zone," she said.

Williams said her inspiration to try the program came from her boyfriend's father, who was in the military.

"He spoke so highly about it, and I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, so I figured, why not," she said.

Williams said she will probably contract. Her overall experience at LTC was enjoyable and memorable.

"I had fun and made a lot of friends," Williams said. "The biggest thing you have to learn, though, is that you have to find the energy within yourself" to make it through the course.



COVER STORY

DON'T LOOK DOWN

*Rappelling a
confidence-booster
for those afraid of
heights*

Story by Shane Ersland • Staff writer

Tears rolled down Cadet Kanesha Gulley's face as she couldn't quite bring herself to make the leap. She was having a hard time trying to communicate that she didn't trust her life to the cords wrapped around her midsection.

Jumping off a 50-foot-high ledge could cause some Cadets to have a mental breakdown, and the ones who struggle with it most are usually given a memento for their bravery if they make the plunge.

Such was the case Monday, as Gulley, from Co. D 1/46th Inf., got ready to go off the rappel tower at the Leader's Training Course.

"If you look down, it's over with," Gulley said. "When I leaned back, that's when the tears came."

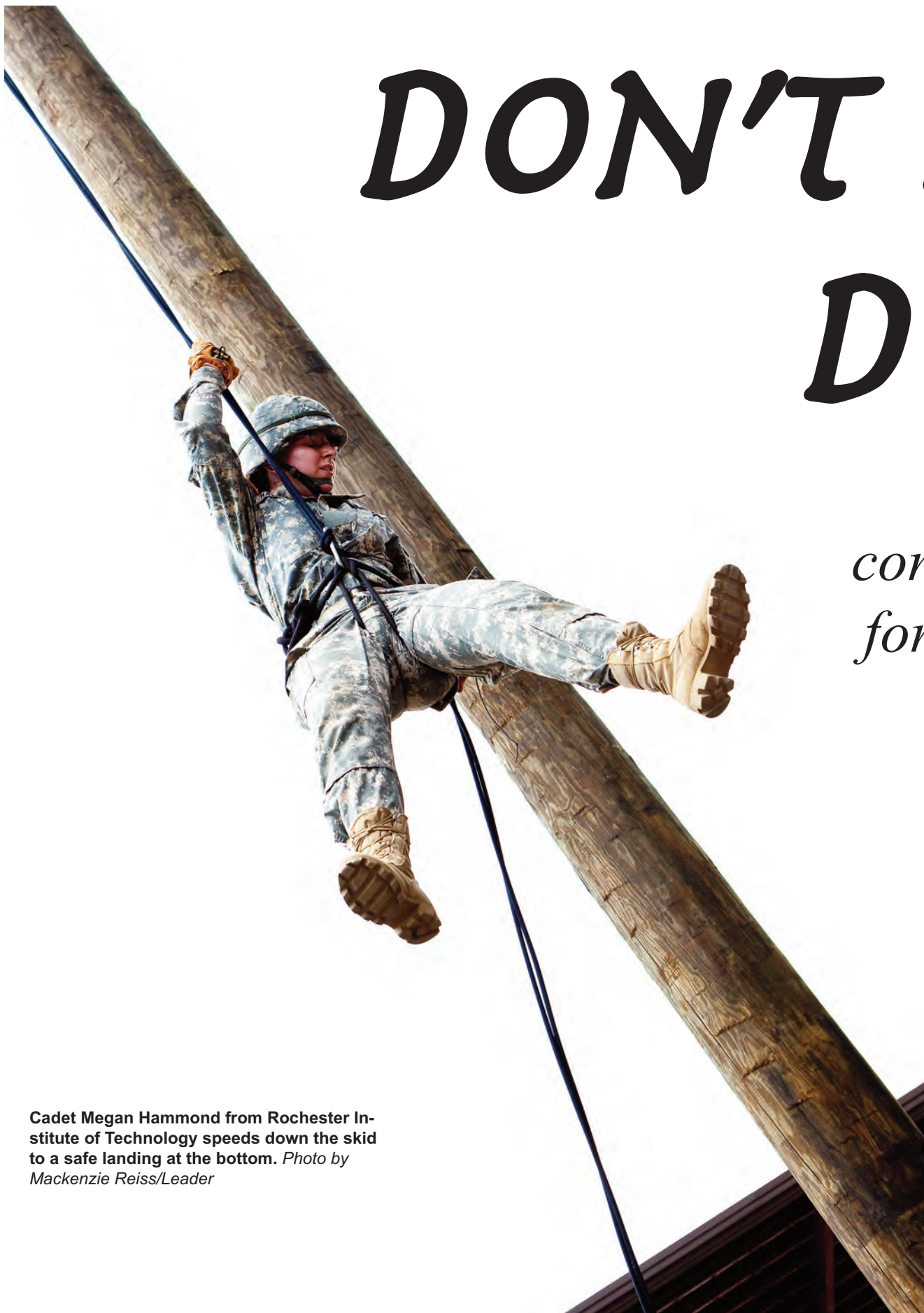
Gulley, a student at Alabama A&M, eventually succumbed to a second lieutenant working the tower, whose advice was to trust her equipment. Then she went down.

She was awarded the commander's coin, which is given after every session at the tower to Cadets who overcame their fears.

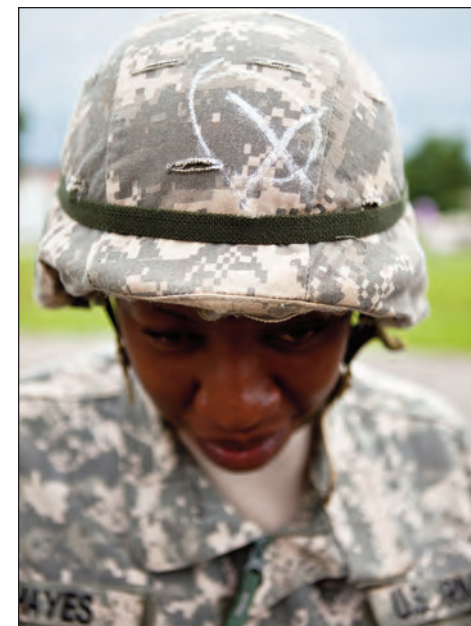
So she might have had what she would consider a near-death experience, but at least she has a shiny new

continued on next page

Cadet Megan Hammond from Rochester Institute of Technology speeds down the skid to a safe landing at the bottom. Photo by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader



COVER STORY



Left, after falling on her first try, Lieutenants encourage Cadet Tiera Rice to pull herself up for a second attempt at the 50-foot rappel tower. Above, Cadet Kanice Hayes shows off the circled X chalk mark on her helmet, signifying that she successfully completed all three rappelling walls. Below, the demonstration team sounds off after showing the Cadets what right looks like on the rappel tower. Photos by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader

chip to show Mom and Dad.

"I'm glad it's over," Gulley said, noting the rappel tower was the toughest obstacle she's had to go through at LTC. "This was worse than anything, because you've got to trust a rope."

Some Cadets, presumably the ones who do not possess a fear of heights, relish the rappelling adventure, however.

"I love it," said Co. D 1/46th Cadet Austen Samet, who attends Oregon State University. "The ropes course was fun, too, but this is just awesome."

The second lieutenants who work the tower try to take the edge off the Cadets as they yell, "This is better than Six Flags!" or encourage the Cadets to shout "I will sign anything!" as they descend.

It is mandatory for Cadets to go off the tower twice to pass the obstacle. The first jump they make is off "the wall," which has a flat surface for the Cadets to make short bounds off as they descend. The "skid" side of the tower is a free fall to the ground.

"The wall helps you get familiar with the equipment and learn how to balance your body," said 2nd Lt. Jennifer Orcutt, a squad tactical officer for Co. C 1/46th Inf.

Orcutt said she notices a lot of Cadets timidly walking down the wall, but if they do it correctly, it should take just two or three bounds to get to the bottom.

"Going off the skid is a lot more realistic," said Cadet Kenneth Eddy from Co. C 1/46th Inf. "You worry about not spinning when you're on the wall."

Eddy, who attends Ohio University, was referring to "possuming," which is what happens when a Cadet's back is parallel to the ground, and they are at risk of turning upside down.

Though the Cadets are only required to go down twice, some would rather keep rappelling than wait for their fellow company members to get through.

As Co. C 1/46th Inf. Cadet Catherine Cockrum was getting ready to make her seventh trip down, one second lieutenant asked, "How many times have you been up here? Man, this is getting old."

It should be noted here that Cockrum and Gulley are not, and probably never will be "battle buddies."

"It's fun, and it's better than sitting over there," Cockrum, who goes to Sienna College in New York, said. "I'm trying to convince



them to let me go face-first."

Co. C 1/46th Inf. Cadet Whitney Jackson said the plunge wasn't too tough, but that one trip was enough for her.

"If I had to do it again, it would be a piece of cake," said Jackson, who attends Alabama A&M. "But I won't do it again."

Though many Cadets found the rappel

tower to be a confidence-builder, there was usually a bit of nervous tension the first time off.

After a Cadet from Co. C 1/46th Inf. received her commander's coin, her fellow company members applauded.

"Yeah, if you cry like a baby, you can get one too," she said.

STOs enter process earlier this year

Change meant to ease Cadets' transition into Army life early on

By Mark Payne

Staff writer

Incoming Cadets at the Leader's Training Course used to meet their squad tactical officers after the Soldier First phase and the guidon ceremony.

Now, after Cadets are in-processed, they get to meet their platoon tactical officer, then they break into squads and Cadets meet their STO. This gives the Cadets more time to get know their STO. The STOs then meet individually with each Cadet in their squad.

Lt. Col. Dan Mishket, Alpha Co.'s company tactical officer, was also at LTC last year and likes the changes.

"I think it's for the better to meet the lieutenants, because a lot of them are from the same background as the Cadets," Mishket said, referring to the college background both the second lieutenants and the Cadets have in common.

Originally, during the Soldier First phase Cadets spent 72 hours with just drill sergeants, learning the ins and outs of being a Soldier. The phase teaches the fundamentals of the Army, such as properly wearing the uniform, how to march, proper salute techniques, proper responses to questions and how to stand in formation. During this time they are also introduced to physical training.

It also distinguishes the roles officers and non-commissioned officers play.

"The reason that we changed that was, it's important that we show the relationship in leadership, which you have as officer and a non-commissioned officer," said Com-



Second Lt. Brett Reichert of University of Kentucky instructs Alpha Co. at the Team Development Course. Photo by Michael Rivera/Leader

mand Sgt. Maj. Charles Green, the course command sergeant major.

The early meeting of the STOs not only benefits the Cadets, but it also benefits the STOs and drill sergeants, who get acquainted with each other earlier and form camaraderie earlier on in the course.

Green said in years past, the STO would come in after three days and have to play catch-up. Now there is a more prepared team from the beginning.

"The drill sergeants are receiving the exact same training the STOs are receiving," Green said. "So, when they take the Cadets through the training they have already gone through it together."

This makes the drill sergeants more comfortable, Green said, because they understand the intent of the training. It also makes the STOs more comfortable because they have been paired with the drill sergeants and can learn from their experience.

"I think they feel more as a team going through that training together and then receiving Cadets together," Green said.

Although it's too early to assess, LTC planning chief Lt. Col. Maryse King feels the early introduction works better.

"The sooner they start bonding the better," King said, on the choice to introduce the STOs sooner in the LTC process.

KNOX WEATHER

Today

Partly Cloudy

HIGH 91°

LOW 73°



Precipitation chance: 10%

Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.

Sunset: 9:08 p.m.

Saturday

Isolated T-Storms

HIGH 86°

LOW 71°



Precipitation chance: 30%

Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.

Sunset: 9:08 p.m.

Sunday

Scattered T-Storms

HIGH 86°

LOW 69°



Precipitation chance: 40%

Sunrise: 6:31 a.m.

Sunset: 9:07 p.m.

Monday

Scattered T-Storms

HIGH 81°

LOW 69°



Precipitation chance: 40%

Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

Sunset: 9:07 p.m.

Tuesday

Partly Cloudy

HIGH 87°

LOW 73°



Precipitation chance: 20%

Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

Sunset: 9:06 p.m.

Wednesday

Isolated T-Storms

HIGH 87°

LOW 73°



Precipitation chance: 30%

Sunrise: 6:33 a.m.

Sunset: 9:06 p.m.

Thursday

Scattered T-Storms

HIGH 86°

LOW 71°



Precipitation chance: 60%

Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.

Sunset: 9:05 p.m.

Across

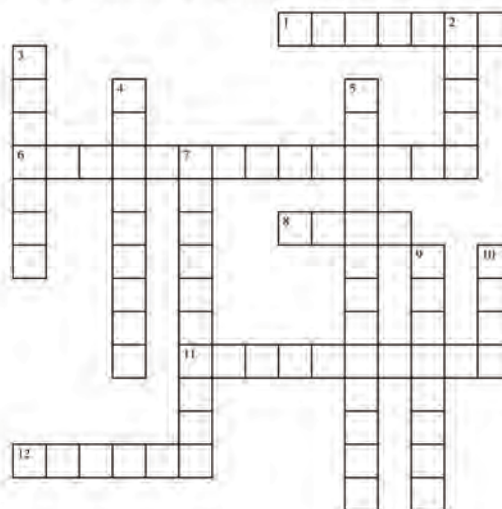
- This newspaper's name
- Yells alot (two words)
- Acronym for journalist
- Favorite MRE for those of questionable taste
- Co. A designation

Down

- College leadership course
- Company flag
- Course commander
- 2009 is the "Year of the _____"
- Rappelling harness
- Safety at rappelling tower says...
- Acronym for military professor

Answers will be published in next week's Leader

Leader's Training Course



Skin art abundant on Soldiers, Cadets

Tattoos a form of self-expression, personal stories behind many

By **Shane Ersland**
Staff writer

While Soldiers wear their rank on their uniforms to signify a large part of what they've accomplished in life, there are some interesting stories behind what is under their fatigues.

Tattoos are becoming more prevalent among military personnel, and Soldiers and Cadets at the Leader's Training Course have their fair share.

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Brimmer, a drill sergeant for Bravo Co., has eight, getting them all at different sites to mark the various locations she's served at in the Army. She's gotten inked at every military location she's worked.

On the back of her right leg, Brimmer has a red and orange Phoenix that she says represents a time in her career when she was on the verge of getting kicked out of the Army, and her squad leader helped her get back on track.

"Like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, I rose up out of my funk," she said.

Another drill sergeant from Bravo Co., Staff Sgt. Laura Lundequam, has Arabic writing on the top of her foot that says "American Soldier" in English. She got the tattoo after coming home from Iraq to signify her tour overseas.

The Army has made moves in recent years to allow for greater acceptance of body art.

Army Regulation 670-1 was changed in January 2006 to permit tattoos on the backs of hands and the back of the neck, provided they are not "extremist, indecent, sexist or racist." The revision was made to bolster recruitment of qualified individuals who might otherwise be excluded.

The modification could pay off. A 2007 Pew Research Center study found 36 percent of Americans between ages 18 and 25 have at least one tattoo.

Co. A 1/46th Inf. Cadet Stein Thorbeck, who attends the University of Minnesota, has both arms covered with more than 60 hours of tattoo work. He said his ink is the one aspect left of his appearance that reminds him of his pre-military rocker image.

"They had no problem with my 'sleeves,'"



Cadet Ciera Jackson from Alabama A&M University displays one of her twenty tattoos inside the barracks. Photo by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader

Thorbeck said, "But I had to cut my hair that hung below my shoulders."

Religion is a popular theme when it comes to body art at LTC.

Cadet Ciera Jackson, from Co. A 1/46th Inf., has 20 tattoos, the most significant one being her favorite Bible passage: Psalm 91.

She noted that she's been in three serious accidents, which she considered herself lucky to walk away from.

"I believe that God's my shield, and that He protects me," the Alabama A&M senior said, adding she also thought it was ironic that when she arrived at LTC, Cadets were given books titled "Psalm 91: God's Shield of Protection."

Other cultures are also represented in some body art at LTC.

Cadet Nicole Tamapua, of Co. D 1/46th Inf., is Samoan. She has tattoos covering her legs that were administered in the traditional Samoan manner using a shark tooth to apply the ink.

Tamapua's father is a high chief, and her tattoos, consisting of stars, triangles and diamonds, signify her royal rank as a princess.

"Using the tooth was painful, but I still got it all done in one day," Tamapua said.



Above left, the Aztec god of war decorates Cadet Chayanm Garcia's left shoulder. Above right, Cadet Stein Thorbeck's rock-themed tattoos cover his entire left and right arm and took a combined 60 hours under the needle to complete. Photos by Mackenzie Reiss/Leader

Language barrier just one more obstacle to tackle

By Mark Payne
Staff writer

Celso Ramos-Carballo learned to speak English five months ago, making his transition to Army life difficult.

"The first day, a drill sergeant told me to show the other Cadets how to make a military bed," the Co. D 1/46th Inf. Cadet and Puerto Rico native said. "It's kind of hard."



Cadet spotlight

Ramos-Carballo said he is a person of different expressions and humble, but it's hard for people to see it when he can't communicate well.

"I feel like a mute person," he said. "I want to say so many things. I try to

tell my opinion with some of the Cadets, but sometimes they don't understand me."

He said he feels somewhat comfortable, but at the same time alone.

"I take this program, because I want to interact with people who speak English," he said. "I don't like to sit and learn English from a book."

He said it's better to be in the United States and learn firsthand. It's his goal to speak English well in a year.

"Cadet Ramos is one of the most driven Cadets in the platoon," Platoon Tactical Of-



Delta Co. Cadet Celso Ramos-Carballo learns how to load and unload the M240B gun during heavy weapons training.

Photo by Kristin Sherrard/Leader

ficer Lt. Col. Don Stoner said. "He clearly identifies some of his weaknesses, and is very diligent, on a daily basis, about improving them."

Back in Puerto Rico, Ramos-Carballo

attends the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, where he is working on a degree in business relations. He said he also wants to pursue something in the arts, because he

likes to draw.

Before attending college, he grew up in a tough neighborhood. Ramos-Carballo said he regularly hears about his high school classmates being killed.

At the Leader's Training Course, he describes the physical aspect of the course as easy. He also likes how he does something new every day.

"My favorite thing has been the discipline," he said.

His squad tactical officer, 2nd Lt. Monica Tubesing, said he is succeeding despite his limitation.

"He feels a little hesitant because of his language barrier ... he plays himself down a lot," she said. "He doesn't give himself enough credit."

Ramos-Carballo feels the Army is something to which he is going to dedicate his life.

"I'm here to represent those people of Puerto Rico that don't have a good life," he said. "I will always feel indebted."

Ex-cheerleader looking for opportunity to make a difference

By Joe Castelli
Staff writer

Trudging through the monotonies of a traditional 9-to-5 civilian lifestyle would never be enough for a certain standout Cadet in Co. E 1/46th Inf.

Cadet Megan Webb tried cheerleading for a year during high school, but she quickly found that wasn't her calling. "It was a joke," she said of her year-long cheering experience. "It was the worst thing I could've done in my entire life."



Cadet spotlight

"I wanted to do something where I was actually involved and making a difference."

Her desire to be challenged and accomplish something greater eventually brought her to the Leader's Training Course.

"This is what I want to do," said Webb, a freshman at the New Mexico Military Institute. "Most people can go out and do day-in and day-out jobs, but I want to do something that's going to definitely throw me for a spin right now."

She'd always wanted more than a sit-at-your-desk, hands-off education, but the



Cadet Megan Webb, of New Mexico Military Institute, plots her points on a map at the land navigation practice test Tuesday morning. *Photo by Kelsey Sullivan/Leader*

18-year-old had participated in Air Force JROTC for most of her high school career, further piquing her interest in the military.

"I heard about this and I was like, 'Oh, dude, this is exactly what I want to do,'" said Webb, who hopes to one day instruct

JROTC and also fly helicopters. "I knew that I wanted to do military, but I wasn't 100 percent set on the Air Force, just because I wanted to be more physically challenged."

The Alaska native has already garnered a reputation as a hard worker and

natural leader in her squad.

Only days into their training at LTC, even Cadets and cadre in separate platoons knew Webb by name, affectionately referring to her as "a little firecracker," among other nicknames.

"She's pretty care-free outside of being a Cadet, but whenever she's in leadership, it's like a switch is just thrown," said 2nd Lt. Ryan Clark, the squad tactical officer for Webb's squad, 4th Platoon, 3rd Squad. "She's pretty fierce when she's in position."

Clark has seen her take charge a few times.

"She's pretty calm and collected, but if you get on her bad side she has a tendency to just, you know, *bam!* Right in your face. It's kind of cool to watch, because she's just about yay big," Clark said of the 5-foot tall Cadet. "She'll get into a guy's face like nothing."

"I wouldn't go against what she says unless you have a good reason to do it."

Webb, who is leaning toward an English major, never saw herself doing anything like this in high school.

"Now that I'm here, it's so much different than I thought it would be," she said.

"I love it. It's got its highs and lows, but I love it."

"I wouldn't rather be anywhere else."

Former Cadet returns to LTC as squad tactical officer

By Joe Castelli
Staff writer

Just two years ago, 2nd Lt. Nicholas Harrison was a Bravo Co. Cadet at the Leader's Training Course.

He's used that added familiarity as a squad tactical officer as a leader for the first cycle of Cadets, and he is giving it another run with the second cycle of Co. A 1/46th Inf.

The 3rd Platoon, 4th Squad STO's transition from Cadet to cadre has been a rewarding one.

It also comes naturally.

"It's in my genes," said Harrison, a criminal justice graduate of Pennsylvania State University who branched ordnance. His grandfather fought in Korea, and he has several cousins also in

the platoon tactical officer for 3rd Platoon. "His style gets Cadets to open up, talk to him and ask him questions."

"He deals really well with all of the Cadets," said 2nd Lt. Mike Herbst, a STO in the same platoon who said he's become

good friends with Harrison.

Herbst is the STO for 3rd Squad, and the two are often required to buddy-up and guide their Cadets in tandem.

"I know all those Cadets have a favorable view of him, but at the same time respect him as their leader, which is kind of a hard line to walk," Herbst said.

"You're not that one that they hate, but at the same time you have their respect."

Not only does he walk that line gracefully, but he has a knack for explaining things to his Cadets.

"A lot of them come in without a lot of ROTC or Army knowledge. Sometimes you have to find an analogy for how to relate this to the real world," Herbst said. "He's good at breaking stuff down to that level so they can understand it — conceptualizing it for them."

Having been through LTC himself, Harrison, 22, came back to LTC with a solid knowledge of what Cadets would be going through.

"Everything was like déjà-vu because I've been here before," Harrison said of his first run as LTC cadre. "Before I was worried about how things would work out being a STO because I've never done it before, but this second cycle's gonna be a breeze, definitely."

Harrison is tackling goals in the Army one at a time. His next is to earn a promotion to captain.

"It's been a life-long dream," Harrison said of his endeavors in the Army. "I'm just answering the call, that's all."

2nd lieutenant spotlight



Second Lt. Nicholas Harrison returns to the Leader's Training Course as a squad tactical officer.
Photo by Michael Rivera/Leader

the military.

Harrison's ability to take charge has stood out to his fellow cadre.

"He has a very easy-going, relaxed leadership style," said Maj. Don Smith,

Competitive nature shapes Soldier's outlook



Squad tactical officer for Co. E 1/46th Inf., 2nd Lt. Spencer Tadken, enjoys good competition. His goal is to complete Ranger school and be among the best in the infantry.
Photo by Kelsey Sullivan/Leader

By Joe Castelli
Staff writer

Every year, when they're home together for Christmas, 2nd Lt. Spencer Tadken and his older brother hold a wrestling match in the house just to see who is better.

Using combatives techniques he's learned in the Army, he's won the last two matches.

"I have the crown right now," Tadken said.

Everything in life has always been about the challenge and competitiveness for Tadken. He and his older brother were always on opposing baseball teams growing up, and their competitive relationship always translated onto the field.

"When we would see each other on the field, it was always straight game-face," Tadken said. "I've always tried to be like my brother, and he always tried to be like me."

He and his brother, two years his senior, have battled each other in nearly everything they've done, and once his brother joined the Marines, Tadken soon followed with his own pursuits in the Army.

"He led the way, and I've kind of followed in his footsteps," Tadken said.

The University of Maryland graduate's competitive nature isn't the only thing that manifests itself in his Army career. He likes a good challenge as well. His primary goal is to be among the best in infantry by com-

pleting Ranger School.

"I don't want to just be 'that guy.' I want to be a standout person within the branch," Tadken said. "I look for the hardest thing — whatever's the most competitive, that's just what I want to do."

"I like getting my ass kicked. It may suck at the time, but afterwards, you feel good about it."

Being a Ranger isn't just a goal for Tadken, it's his sole objective.

"I want that tab, that's the first goal," Tadken said of the Ranger tab. "I kind of shoot it one goal at a time. I'll take it day-by-day after that."

Sgt. Charles Pepau, a drill sergeant for 3rd Squad in the same platoon, has observed Tadken throughout his leadership so far and said he's knowledgeable.

"He's squared away. He's high-speed," Pepau said. "He knows the information he needs to teach the Cadets."

"He's still got a lot to learn, but he's on top of the game."

Being a squad tactical officer for Co. E 1/46th Inf. at the Leader's Training Course has been a fulfilling experience for the 22-year-old. Leading 4th Platoon, 5th Squad has also taught him a valuable lesson.

"It just hit me recently how much influence we have over these guys. They're gonna remember us for a long time," Tadken said. "That's the most rewarding part about all of this."

2nd lieutenant spotlight

Through the Lens

A weekly collection of images from the Leader's Training Course



Above left, Co. B 1/46th Inf. Cadet Jeffrey Sanders, of Truman State University, runs through the field during the squad tactics simulation training at Heard Park. *Photo by Chen Wang/Leader* **Above right**, Co. B 1/46th Inf. Cadet Aaron Serbicki, of the University of Pittsburgh, directs his squad members to move to the next lane during the situational training exercise (STX). *Photo by Chen Wang/Leader*



Above left, Co. B 1/46th Inf. Cadet Jared Young, of University of Hawaii at Manoa, shoots at his enemies during the mobile operations on urban tactics (MOUT) training. *Photo by Chen Wang/Leader* **Above right**, Delta Co. Cadets compete against opposing squads in the stream-crossing contest. *Photo by Kristin Sherrard/Leader*