



LEADER

"Leader's Training Course: Let Us Take You There"

Vol. XXX, No. 7

Eastern Region(ROTC)
Ft. Knox, Ky.

July 16, 2004



Cadets crouch down in action during ITT

Pages 4, 5

Outside the wire

♦ MIAMI, Fla. -- Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry announced Thursday, July 8 that his running mate for vice president will be North Carolina Senator John Edwards. Kerry made the announcement in Pittsburgh during a campaign rally. Kerry told supporters Edwards is "a champion for middle-class Americans."

♦ NEW YORK -- On Friday, July 9 the public interest group, BanTransFats.com, announced they are suing McDonald's. The group is charging the fast food company with false advertising. BanTransFats.com claims McDonald's promised to cut the "bad" fat in their cooking processes in 2002. The non-profit group filed the lawsuit Thursday, July 8 because McDonald's failed to reduce the trans fatty acids used in their cooking.

♦ LOS ANGELES, Calif. -- State Education Secretary Richard Riordan jokingly told a young, Isis D'Luciano, her name meant "stupid little girl." The conversation was videotaped by KEYT-TV on July 1 after the girl asked Riordan if he knew her name meant "Egyptian goddess." The conversation prompted his resignation on Friday, July 9.

♦ According to Honda records given to the federal government, at least 27 Honda CR-V sport utility vehicles from 2003 and 2004 model years burst into flames shortly after getting their first oil change. No injuries were reported, but many the vehicles were destroyed. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration concluded on July 1 that it was the fault of the dealerships or those who improperly installed the oil filters.

♦ LOS ANGELES, Calif. -- British rock legend David Bowie underwent emergency heart surgery. Bowie had a blocked artery last month and is now recovering. According to his publicist, he plans to return to work in August.

Headed in the 'rite' direction

Tucker Lieberman
staff writer

Charlie Company 2-46 marched north into Memorial Grove under a setting sun for their Rite of Passage ceremony as a stereo blasted AC/DC's "Hell's Bells" to welcome them.

The company had just completed a three-kilometer march, the last element of the six-day Bold Leader training exercise. Some of the cadets' Battle Dress Uniforms were still wet from water training exercises. They were tired but happy, knowing graduation was in less than a week.

Other songs played before the ceremony included Eminem's "Lose Yourself," George Thorogood's "Bad to the Bone," and Destiny's Child's "I'm a Survivor." It was the first music cadets had heard in days. The stereo was planted in the center of the field, near a flagpole and an old M-113 Personnel Carrier.

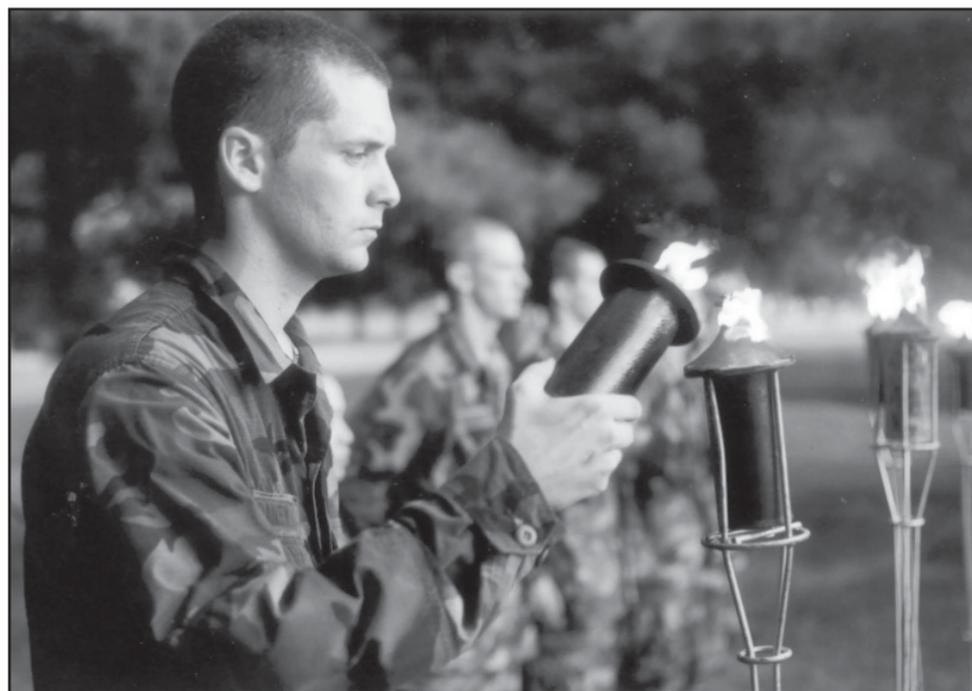
Cadets dropped their rucks in the parking lot and stood on the grass of Memorial Grove, holding light green platoon guidons and the yellow company guidon in front. Once the rock music had died down, the voice of Toby Keith boomed across the grove with his song "American Soldier."

The cadets stood without moving, listening to the words: "I don't do it for money, there's bills that I can't pay / I don't do it for the glory, I just do it anyway / Providing for our future is my responsibility / I'm real good under pressure, being all that I can be."

The eighteen pine trees in Memorial Grove are marked with memorial bricks for each of the 1-46 Infantry's major battles, including Normandy and the Tet Counteroffensive. A torch was lit in front of each tree for the Rite of Passage ceremony.

Seven cadets stepped forward to light additional torches and yell out the seven Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

From a podium, Maj. Kyle Rambo, who teaches ROTC at Michigan Technological University, thanked the company cadre and the drill sergeants for their "tough love." "Every training exercise we did resulted in a steep, positive learning curve for all the cadets," he said.



Chris Ray/staff photographer

Cadet Matthew Bailey from George Mason University lights one of seven torches as cadets recite the Army's values.

The cadets were individually presented with rolled-up gray T-shirts with the Army logo, black LTC caps and LTC graduate dog tags.

Then they ran off the field, high-fiving officers on the sidelines.

Cadet Brian Sanders, Pennsylvania State University, 2/C/2-46, was a platoon leader during the final three-kilometer ruck march to the Rite of Passage ceremony.

Sanders was so energized upon completing Bold Leader that he said he didn't mind being assigned to clean up after the ceremony.

"The hard part's over. Everyone was running around going crazy afterwards, because we were so excited," he said.

The soothing glow of the torches and the emotional music left a lasting impression on Charlie 2-46.

"I'd never heard Toby Keith in my life," said Cadet Axel Lopez Alcaraz, University of Puerto Rico, C/2-46, "but when I heard it for the first time there, I went right out and bought the CD."



Chris Ray/staff photographer

Cadets stand with their gear after completing Bold Leader. They listen closely to their introduction to Rite of Passage,

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Future Leaders ...

By Col. Robert J. Frusha

Leader's Training Course Commander



The 2004 version of the Leader's Training Course is coming to a successful end. I call it successful because when Charlie 1-46 and Alpha 1-46 graduate tomorrow and next Friday, respectfully, nearly 1,000 of you will have taken the first step toward becoming an Army Officer.

I want to congratulate all the cadets who attended this year's course. I know there was some doubt in your mind early on about what you were getting yourself into, but after 28 days here I hope this leadership experience was everything you hoped it to be. More importantly, I hope it is what we said it would be. I've listened about what you liked and disliked about LTC. Trust me, your comments are very important when planning for Leader's Training Course 2005.

I, along with all of the staff and cadre, are proud of your accomplishment. I know your family and friends are, and you should be equally as proud. Each and every one of you have approached this course with high levels of enthusiasm, giving you the ability to achieve what many of you may have thought was unachievable... graduation. But don't let it stop here.

This was only the introduction to your leadership training. You need to build upon what you learned here this summer and prepare for your next step, Warrior Forge.

Upon your departure from the Leader's Training Course, and return to your campus or home, you need to contact your Recruiting

Operations Officer or Professor of Military Science as soon as possible. Talk with him or her about your options and enroll in Military Science III classes for the fall semester. If you still need to complete your physical, don't wait. This will only delay your ability to contract into the program.

Many of the military skills we have taught you are perishable, particularly physical fitness. One of the many attributes we have worked to instill in you is self-discipline and the fitness ethos. You need to establish and maintain a routine of physical fitness.

One of the biggest hurdles to contracting into the program is the Army Physical Fitness Test. Strive for 60 points in each event and don't settle for less.

Focus all your attention on what is probably the most important aspect of our program — academics. No matter how much effort you put forth in ROTC, if you do not maintain the appropriate grades to graduate, we can not commission you as an officer in the United States Army.

Many of you have decided to become an Army officer for a variety of reasons. Whatever the reason, you have chosen to enter into the profession of arms. You need to be committed to the fundamentals of **Duty, Honor and Country**.

As I travel throughout the country, I look forward to seeing some of you on campus and hearing about your experiences here at the Leader's Training Course. Good luck to all of you.

CADET TALK

Katie Bennett: How do you think your experience at LTC and the skills you've learned will impact your life and/or future career(s)?



Crystal Lacanlale
Seattle University
3/A/1-46

"Definitely the leadership skills you learn at LTC will help. LTC isn't just for Army life. Leadership skills will help in civilian life as well. We learn personal courage and decision making and these are skills you need in any job."



Jason Holt
University of California-Davis
3/A/1-46

"I think LTC taught me teamwork and how to communicate better with people. I've learned a lot about discipline and following rules in any situation. I believe it's better to take the hard right than the easy wrong."



Marci Hanson
University of Montana
3/A/1-46

"I believe LTC will make me a better leader as a lieutenant. LTC has made me work better in a team and has taught me communication skills. It's very satisfying to accomplish missions with your team and to conquer your own fears."

Tight Shot Group



Cadet Justin Cunningham eats with fellow cadet James Brinkley after scoring 20 out of 20 at the 9mm range.

"My grandmother has a 9mm and I used that when I was 14," Cunningham said.

Jesse Lebus/staff photographer



Dillon Nutt
Valley Forge Military Academy & College
3/C/1-46

"The skills I've learned here have shown me what I'm made of and what I can physically handle...this prepares me for the future because it shows me that when you're faced with stressful situations you can overcome them rather than give up. LTC also shows you anything can be accomplished if you put your mind to it."

Leader
Eastern Region
U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command
Fort Knox, KY 40121 (502) 624-8149

The Leader is an unofficial publication authorized by Army regulation 360-1 "The Army Public Affairs Program" with editorial content edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office, published weekly during June and July, printed by offset press and distributed to Army ROTC battalions nationally and students at Leader's Training Course with a press run of 3,000.

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NCOs demonstrate leadership to lieutenants

Offer advice on leadership, trust to LTC cadets

Tucker Lieberman
staff writer

Non-commissioned officers have been the backbone of the U.S. Army since the Revolutionary War. It is important for future lieutenants to understand how the experienced, committed leaders known as "NCOs" work together with officers.

NCOs are people who enlisted in the Army and have been promoted for their hard work and leadership skills. They now mentor and teach junior enlisted soldiers. NCOs include corporals and any rank of sergeant, grades E-5 and above.

Officers, by contrast, have less direct contact with soldiers, especially as their rank increases.

To be commissioned as an officer, an individual must have a bachelor's degree and graduate from a rigorous officer training program like ROTC, Officer Candidate School or an academy. NCOs can be commissioned if they fulfill these requirements. Many NCOs have college degrees, but have not undergone the training necessary for them to be commissioned.

Officers always rank above NCOs and must be saluted by them. This is true even if the officer is a 22-year-old recent college graduate and the NCO has silver hair and combat experience.

Sgt. First Class Joseph Lemons, the NCO In Charge for the stream crossing training at LTC, said of the recently commissioned lieutenants, "Technically, all these guys in white T-shirts outrank me, but last month, I outranked them."

Master Sgt. Teddy Barritt has spent 29 years in the Army, after being drafted in 1969 and enlisting as a private first class in 1981. He is now a reservist teaching ROTC at Youngstown State and is teaching LTC for his third summer.

He said he salutes newly commissioned second lieutenants with no reservation, just as he would salute Maj. Gen. Terry Tucker. "That's called respect," he said. He appreciates the compliments officers occasionally give him after he salutes them.

The educated lieutenant and experienced NCO should work as a team, according to Master Sgt. Rick Johnson, who teaches ROTC at Seattle University. "They [lieutenants] just need to give us purpose, training and motivation, then stand back and let us do our job," he said.

Because officers usually receive significantly more pay than NCOs, there is a bit of good-natured rivalry and debate over who does more work. Cadets who have accidentally called an NCO "sir," a term of address reserved for officers, have probably heard the joke, "Don't call me 'sir.' I work for a living!"

Cadet Eric Proctor, Eastern Michigan University, 4/A/1-46, said one night an NCO "asked us why we wanted to be officers and take away jobs from enlisted people. But he was just joking. As long as we're in the Army, they're happy."

Compared to their normal duties of commanding privates, NCOs and lieutenants reverse roles when training cadets at LTC. Lieutenants relate well to cadets, so NCOs tend to use the lieutenants as mediators with the trainees. In Basic Training, by contrast, the NCOs relate well to the privates, so the lieutenants tend to use the NCOs as mediators with the trainees.

The LTC communication structure was illustrated recently at the 9 mm firing range, although cadets may not have noticed it. When Bravo 2-46 cadets were told to throw away their lunch bags, they wasted time by individually running across the field to the trash can, when it would have been more efficient for them to consolidate their trash and send one cadet to run it over.

Second Lt. Louis Lee identified the problem and said he would give the cadets feedback. "Our job is to evaluate them and see why they're getting yelled at and why the drill sergeants are upset," he said.

Staff Sgt. Ed Hannah, a drill sergeant with 4/A/1-46, described the relationship between lieutenants and NCOs as a partnership. "If one of you isn't doing his job, it makes it that much harder for the other guy," he said.

NCOs train lieutenants and help them keep an eye on their privates or cadets. After all, when lieutenants are commissioned, their integration into full-time Army life and responsibility has just begun, and they still need mentorship.

Fortunately, NCOs can help them. Just as enlisted people never forget

See NCOs, page 8



Jesse Lebus/staff photographer

Master Sgt. Rick Johnson helps adjust cadets' harnesses before they ascend the climbing wall during Bold Leader.

DV speakers take the floor

Shelley Cook
staff writer

Many have seen the movie "Black Hawk Down," but few have had the opportunity to hear the story told by the soldiers who lived through it. Ret. Lt. Col. Danny McKnight and Master Sergeant Matthew Eversmann spoke to the future leaders of A/1-46 at the final Distinguished Visitor lecture of the Leader's Training Course on the responsibility they will have to lead American soldiers.

"When you put these green suits on, you will feel the weight of responsibility, but you will stand taller because you know the privilege to lead American soldiers," McKnight said.

McKnight is a well sought after speaker about his experience in Mogadishu, Somalia, in Aug. 1993. He is a 1973 distinguished military graduate from Florida State University and now lives in Orlando, Fla. He also completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne and Ranger Schools. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Eversmann deployed with McKnight to Mogadishu in support of Operation Gothic Serpent. He is a native of Bay Shore, N.Y. and enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in Dec. 1987. He has been awarded the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Ribbon, seven Army Achievement Medals and three Army Commendation medals.

Gen. Byrnes was also a recent DV speaker for C/1-46. Byrnes is Commander of Training and Doctrine Command at the Pentagon. He is in charge of the recruitment process of 77,500 new soldiers into the active Army this year. He graduated from Park College and holds a master's degree from Webster University. He has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal.

All three men said they never thought they would end up with the adventures or with the success they found with the U.S. Army. Byrnes said he decided to stay in because he discovered the magic of "the Army business."

"They won't care about who you are, what degree you have or who your parents are, they will care if you are competent and do you care," Byrnes said.

Byrnes said the Army is a "soldier based business" where the "caliber of the person is far more important than the caliber of the weapon." He said at an Air Force base old planes are featured on lawns but on an Army post there are soldiers.

"The Army definitely has a sense of humor when you think of me as a four-star general. Don't aspire to be my rank; do they very best you can at your job...I thought I was either going to be a rock star or a professional baseball player," Byrnes told one cadet.

Lavone Bell, 1/C/1-46, from the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg, said Byrnes made her

feel more comfortable coming into the Army with little experience because she will learn quickly on the job.

"I know we're going to make mistakes," Bell said. "We're not going to be perfect. He's a four-star general and he said he wasn't a great leader when he started. That makes me feel better."

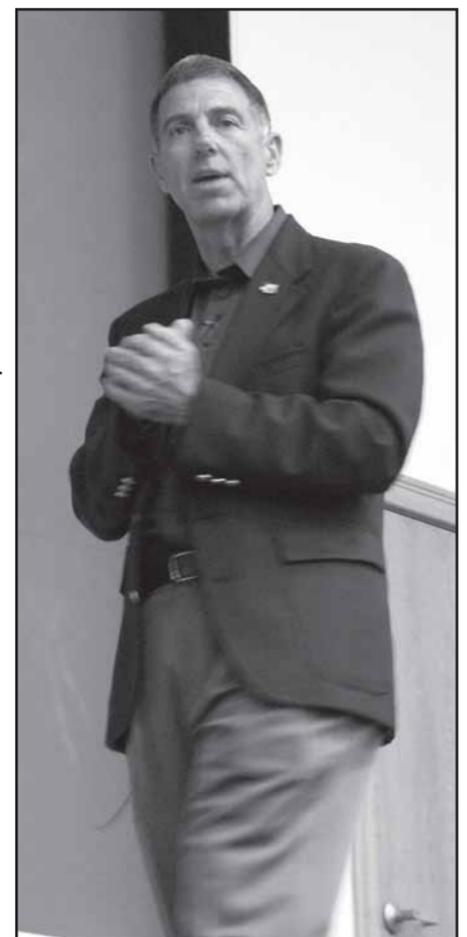
McKnight said he never dreamed he would perform a mission like he did in Somalia and he didn't intend to be in the Army for over 28 years. As a retired officer he said he misses the relationship between the officers and soldiers.

"It's a camaraderie that is unique to one organization in the entire world," McKnight said. "If you miss something the most, I think it's the people that think and feel and care like you do."

Christian Hirota, 2/C/1-46, Florida State University, said after listening to McKnight he now understands a soldier has to have a sense of duty to his fellow soldier and a commitment to the Army to pay the ultimate price to protect American freedoms.

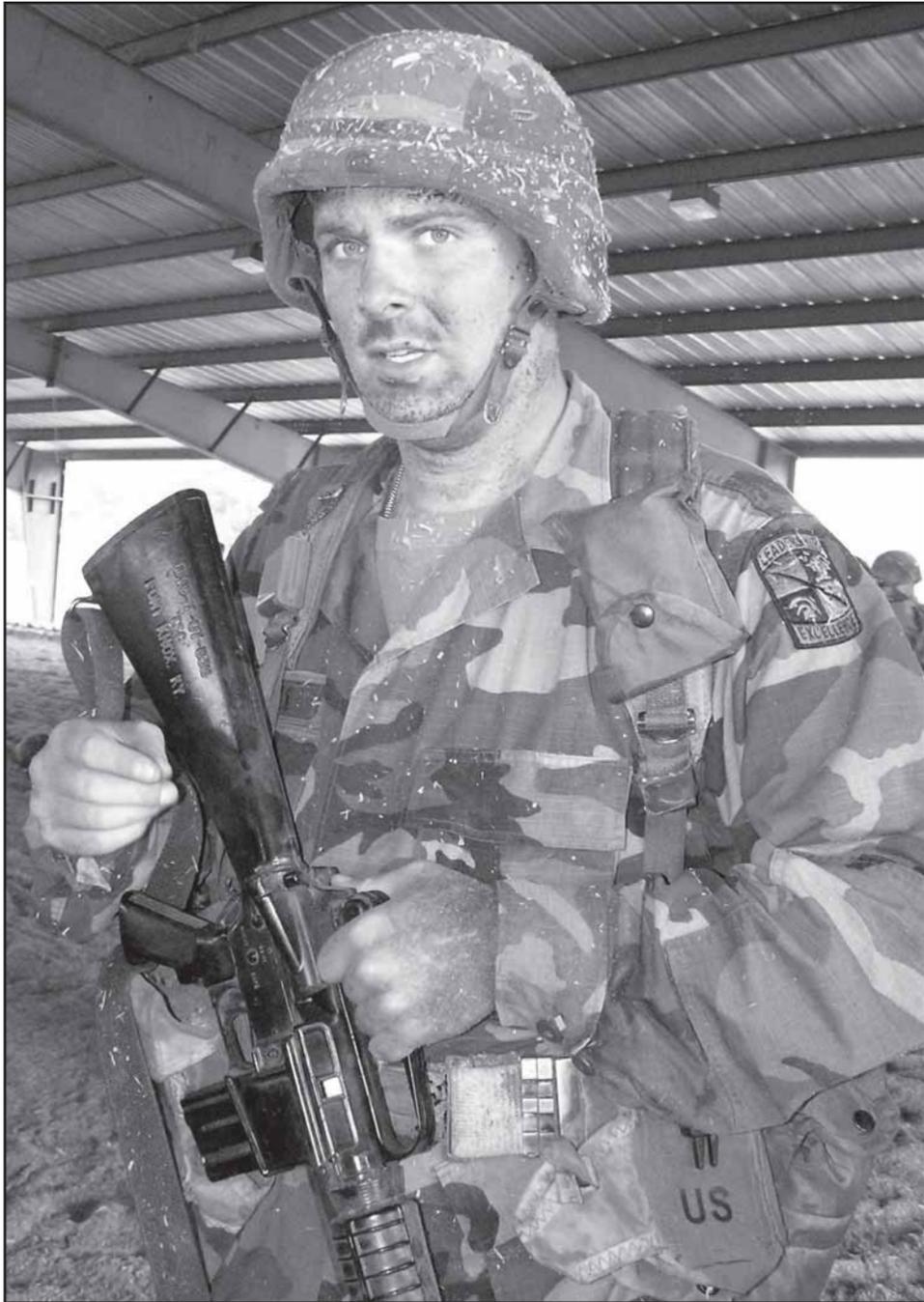
Byrnes and McKnight both said decision-making is a large responsibility for leaders in the Army because lives depend on it.

"The hard right decision might look really bad, but you as the leader understand it was the right decision...because it is the best decision in the long run," McKnight said.



Shelley Cook/staff photographer
Ret. Col. Danny McKnight shares his experiences and wisdom on responsibility with cadets during the Distinguished Visitor Lecture.

Crawling toward success



Shelley Cook/staff photographer

A dirty Devon Silk, A/1-43 from Iowa State University catches his breath after the low crawl through sawdust.



Lydelle Abbott/staff photogrpaher

Cadets race through saw dust and mulch as part of ITT training.

Clouds of dust kicked up in the muggy afternoon air as cadets of C/1-46 faced the physical challenges at Individual Tactical Training, sweat dripping off their faces as they crawled across the dirt.

During ITT cadets learn how to low crawl, high crawl, back crawl and do three to five second rushes to simulate movement under fire.

“The purpose of ITT is to develop individual movements across a battlefield when engaging enemy forces while under fire,” drill sergeant Mark Bennett said. “To survive in the battlefield, stealth must be enforced in all movements. This allows an individual to move without the chance of being hit by a bullet.”

Before the training began, the cadets were lined up and the drill sergeants told them they better get motivated. Once the demonstrations and instructions were over, they would soon find out why.

First, the cadets did the high crawl, which involves dropping onto their stomachs and using their elbows and both legs to move while keeping their hips on the ground.

“You keep a low profile, but keep moving in a combat situation,” said 2nd Lt. Shiloh Harless, military intelligence branch. “This crawl allows for faster movement while still staying down.”

The cadets completed two high crawls across the 50 meter dirt pit while drill sergeants and second lieutenants walked around to critique form or encourage cadets to push themselves. They would need all the encouragement they could get for the next part of their training, the low crawl.

During the low crawl, cadets fall to their stomachs, keep their M-16s by their sides, their heads pressed into the ground and their non-shooting hand goes out front to feel for mines or booby traps. Also, they can only push using one leg, making movement slower and more difficult.

“The low crawl is a more restrictive movement that allows the individual to proceed through the battlefield without getting shot,” Bennett said. “The advantage is it is stealthier and less

likely to be hit than the high crawl. The disadvantage is it is a slower movement technique.”

The cadets struggled to do one low crawl across the pit, dirt now clinging to their sweat drenched faces and uniforms. Obviously a physical challenge, the low crawl also requires mental strength.

“I’ve played football before, and camp was kind of like this,” said Brandon Bond, 1/C/1-46, Georgia Southern University. “It’s more about mind over matter, that’s what a lot of this is.”

Cadre members made sure cadets kept proper form, sending some back to the beginning if they cheated by lifting

their heads out of the dirt. Upon reaching the other end of the pit, cadets drank water to spit out the dirt and dust they breathed in during the exercise.

‘It’s more about mind over matter, that’s a lot of what this [ITT] is.’

~ Cadet Brandon Bond

“You should try to breathe in through your nose,” Harless said. “At least that way you can blow it out, instead of it getting in your mouth.”

If the cadets were exhausted, they didn’t show it during the final portion of their training, the three to five second rushes. The purpose of this training is for two soldiers to move quickly during a combat situation. One soldier gets up to run while the other provides suppressive fire, and they repeat this cycle until they are in a safe position.

“This rush allows the individual to go through a battlefield while running,” Bennett said. “This is the fastest method but leaves a desirable target for the enemy to engage.”

The cadets ran across the pit twice, kicking up dust and dirt as they went. To finish out the training, each platoon had two cadets race using the high crawl, moving on their adrenaline and the shouts from fellow cadets.

“This was our first real physical challenge,” said Dodger Eaton, 1/C/1-46, Valley Forge Military Academy and College. “It tested you, but it felt better because we knew we accomplished something.”



Cadets hit the dust while gripping their M-16s. They are taught to high crawl through the dirt to safety.

Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

; cadets master ITT

Story by
Kim Dishler
staff writer



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

From left: Second platoon, 4th squad cadets Sam Kusewich from Marion Military Institute, Thomas Hoskins from University of South Florida, Scott Kuiperi from Valley Forge Military College, Lakeysha Edwards from Bethune-Cookman College, and Tyler Kelley from New Mexico Military Institute rejoice after the Individual Tactical Training competition.



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

“You’re up, they see you -- you’re down,” said cadet Terry Harris from New Mexico Military Institute as he prepares to take off for high crawl training.



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

Cadet Thomas Wu from California Polytechnic University of Pomona practices the high crawl during ITT training.

Lafont works hard to achieve goals

Kim Dishler
staff writer

Camaraderie is common between cadets at LTC, particularly those in the same platoon or squad who must work together each day to complete missions. Cadet Doug Lafont, 4/A/1-46 will tell you his second squad is the best in all of Alpha company.

Waiting for the next task to start, Lafont jokes around with fellow squad member Jason Meador, Auburn University, about which school is better in the infamous Southeastern Conference rivalry of football. But when the mission starts, Lafont and his squad members work quickly and efficiently, while cheering each other on the whole time.

As the anchor man building the rope bridge at water survival, Lafont helped his squad finish in first place, with a time of 5:33.

"It's undisputed. We have the best teamwork," he said. "We're a melting pot of the American society and exemplify the warrior ethos."

Before Lafont arrived at LTC he was no slacker. He is a triple major at the University of Alabama, majoring in finance, political science and banking and depository institutions.

As a member of the Kappa Alpha order fraternity, Lafont already knew a thing or two about camaraderie before LTC.

"That's what it's all about," he said. "We do a lot of good work for the community also."

While balancing school and being in a fraternity, Lafont also managed to find time to work 30 hours a week as a credit manager at furniture store.

"You just have to learn how to balance," he said. "I'm an overachiever."

Though this is his first experience with the military, Lafont is not completely

"I liked moving around," he said. "Being the new kid is always good. You get the opportunity to correct all your mistakes."

Lafont's father is friends with a colonel at the University of South Alabama, who talked him into coming to LTC.

"I get the opportunity to learn from experienced second lieutenants and my fellow comrades," he said. "I'm enjoying every bit of it."

By joining ROTC, Lafont is hoping the Army will help financially in fulfilling his dream to go to law school.

"I'm going to Dartmouth," he said. "I've wanted to go ever since I was little. I like the law, and hope to one day practice corporate law."

Even though it might seem Lafont spends a lot of time in the library with three majors and ambitions of going to law school, he has quite a bit of experience working outdoors.

"I'm an Eagle Scout so I've spent many a night out in the woods," he said. "It's helped out [at LTC] a lot because there are some people who have never been out of the city before."

Lafont's ambitions are high, whether it comes to his career plans or his expectations for his squad. As he helps tie a fellow cadet's Swiss seat during the rope bridge competition, it is easy to see why Lafont has helped Alpha company's 4th platoon reach the top.

'We're a melting pot of the American society and exemplify the warrior ethos.'

~ Cadet Doug Lafont

unfamiliar as his father is a retired Navy captain, who served 27 years. Lafont said he was able to learn from his father's experiences.

"You learn how to hold yourself and act because public appearances are important. It's about the respect you give others," he said.

Lafont lived in many places growing up, including Scotland, Florida, California, Alaska and Washington, D.C.



Cadet Doug Lafont, 4/A/1-46 from the University of Alabama, watches his teammates in action during stream crossing. Lafont's squad finished first in the competition.

Chris Ray/staff photographer

U.S. weapons training blows cadets away

Bobby Harrell
staff writer

Cadet Emmilly Wells, Washington State University, carefully aimed the A-T4 Light Anti-Armor Weapon at the dusty orange tank 250 meters away. Seconds later, the sound of air escaping the launcher and the thunderclap explosion of rocket against armor rocked Miller Range.

The noise had barely died down before the cadets of B/2-46 sounded off in celebration. Wells had made her first direct hit on the practice tank at the Leader's Training Course.

"It felt really cool to fire it," she said.

The cadets were taught at Miller and Crane Ranges how to use some of the more powerful hand-held weapons in the Army's arsenal, including the M-203 grenade launcher, M-240 Bravo automatic weapon, M-249 automatic rifle SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) and the A-T4 rocket launcher.

Cadets were also shown demonstrations of the Mark 19, an automatic grenade launcher, and the Claymore mine. They practiced with the weapons using "dummy" rounds for the rocket and grenade launchers and live rounds for the machine guns.

Dummy rounds dispersed orange dust on whatever it impacted; making hits on the practice tanks visible.

Cadet Darlanda McTier, Auburn University at Montgomery, said the sergeants said cadets used dummy rounds because real ammunition for the launchers was extremely expensive.

Before coming to LTC, the only gun McTier had fired was her father's nine millimeter pistol. After becoming familiar with the M-16 and the other U.S. weapons, she said she liked working with the machine guns and felt relaxed firing them.

Sgt. First Class Edward Teasley, NCOIC, said the cadets usually get



excited about trying out the weapons for the first time.

"Once they try it, they want to get involved," he said.

The cadets learn to use the heavier weapons in case of an emergency situation, B/2-46 Company Commander Capt. Oscar Malave said.

Also, once the cadets become second lieutenants, they can spot soldiers in their squads who are proficient with the heavier weapons and give them the task of using them. It also helps cadets feel comfortable with the weapons, Malave said.



Jesse Lebus/staff photographer

Mikhail Rubinstein from Marion Military Institute practices aiming a machine gun.

Before practicing on the range, cadets took classes on the proper operation of the weapons. Staff Sgt. Perry Gregorio instructed cadets on the M-203. He demonstrated the right way to clear the grenade launcher of spent shells and duds. Gregorio also showed the proper stance to hold the launcher while firing. Malave said the cadets go through these classes to make sure they understand how to use their weapons properly. If they ignore instructions, they could be harmed, he said.

Cadet Shane Pauley, Marion Military Institute, said he was more interested

in practicing with the machine guns than he was with the launchers.

"I think its cooler," he said.

Cadet Robert Gunderson, Oregon State University, said he thought the machine guns would have more of a kick, but he said they were comparable to the M-16.

Sgt. First Class DonElla Black, drill sergeant for B/2-46, said she was pleased with the cadet's performance on the range. She said the training she received on heavy weapons at Fort Jackson, S.C. was different than the cadets training. Black is also a fan of the A-T4.

Enthusiastic 2nd Lt. gets cadets motivated

Bobby Harrell
staff writer

Second lieutenant Shiloh Harless was the first to jump into the pool at Combat Water Survival Training at the Leader's Training Course. Dressed in full gear, Harless swam to the other side of the pool and back for 15 minutes. She was also the first person down the rappelling wall.

Harless said the cadets feel more comfortable completing an exercise if they see her do it first. As a second lieutenant and squad tactical officer of 1st platoon, 1st squad of C/1-46, Harless' responsibility to the squad she trains, coaches and motivates is to lead by example. It's not hard for Harless to do. After all, she's done everything the cadets will do.

Harless graduated from LTC in 2002. In May, she graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in English. Harless was commissioned soon after. She remembers the way the ceremony made her feel.

"My cheeks hurt so much from smiling," Harless said.

Harless broke with tradition in not saluting an NCO during the ceremony. She wanted her JROTC instructor of four years, a warrant officer, to be a part of the ceremony. The salute is a way of showing gratitude to the NCOs who trained you, Harless said.

Three weeks after commissioning, Harless is pushing the cadets in her squad to do their best in training. Besides mentoring cadets, she listens to their problems and tries to correct them.

Harless said the cadets mostly complain about the drill sergeants. Her advice is simple: "Suck it up and drive on."

The biggest difference between drill sergeants and STOs, Harless said, are drill sergeants tell cadets where to go, what to do and when to do it, but STOs tell them why they are doing it.

Part of Harless' job is to evaluate the cadets in a leadership position. Each day, a cadet is chosen out of the twelve-member squad to be squad leader. Harless observes the squad leader in the field and judges his or her performance at the end of the day. If the leader has difficulty dealing with the job, she recommends improvements the cadet can make to become better at it.

Sometimes Harless must regulate the morale of the squad by counseling a cadet. During Basic Rifle Marksmanship, she spoke to a cadet with a negative attitude. The cadet was not enjoying his time at LTC and Harless gave him some words of encouragement. She said training isn't all about weapons and ceremonies.

"It's not just aiming an M-16, you have to have a good attitude, too," Harless said.

Having a positive attitude helped Harless get through the tough parts of her own training. At Warrior Forge, she dealt with her fear of heights in the form of a 2 1/2 story tall obstacle. Harless had to crawl across a rope, hold the rope with



Second Lt. Shiloh Harless keeps a smile on her face while working with LTC. She looks forward to her training in Military Intelligence after LTC.
Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

two hands and fall into the lake below. Harless and her battle buddy helped each other get over their fears of heights and water to pass the course.

"Fear will drive you on," Harless said. She said she helps the cadets combat their fears as well.

Her mother was leery of Harless joining the Army. She wanted Harless to join the Air Force and was worried about her daughter's safety. Harless' brother enlisted this summer and hopes to fly with the Army. Her brother said he was inspired by the stories Harless told him about her training.

After LTC is concluded, Harless will go to Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. She chose M.I. because of the diversity of job assignments. Harless said she can work with any branch of the Army at any location in the world. She's glad she's getting a job where she can move around a lot. Harless isn't sure what her job will be in M.I., but she's secure in her reasoning to join them.

"I want to keep our people safe," she said. Harless wants to help find terrorists like Osama Bin Laden. She said the key to defeat those who use covertness is to use information.

Military helps coach winning team for Marsh

Beth Wilberding
staff writer

Most people spend their birthdays in the glow of candles on a cake. Whitworth College cadet Julie Marsh, 3/C/1-46, spent her 20th birthday eating Oreo cookies from her sack lunch at Handiboe Range.

Instead of spending the day opening presents with family members nearby, Marsh fired M-16A2s during basic rifle marksmanship.

But Marsh does not regret spending her birthday at Leader's Training Course. She's enjoying the opportunity to experience activities she wouldn't have the chance to try in her everyday life – like shooting and rappelling.

"It was a thrill," she said.

Marsh joined her school's ROTC program to learn more about leadership and because of the scholarship it provided. But Marsh said she's involved with ROTC for more than just the money.

"They pay for school, but if money's the only reason you do [ROTC]," she said, "that's wrong ... It's just great at building leadership."



Marsh wants to use her Army leadership skills in the classroom and on the court. She wants to teach high school biology and coach volleyball. She has been playing for eight years.

"I just love it," Marsh said. "I can't explain it."

Marsh plans on entering the reserves when she graduates because she wants to get started coaching and teaching.

She said it would "fit into my schedule."

Military life is a family affair for Marsh. Her father was in the Navy, and her older brother is currently at the Warrior Forge in Fort Lewis, Wash. She said her father didn't mind that his children chose the Army over the Navy. "He's just under the idea [that] if we want to do it, he thinks it's [okay]."

Although Marsh doesn't like the idea of traveling, she said she was willing to go overseas if she was asked to go.

But for now, Marsh is enjoying her time at LTC, building her leadership skills and army knowledge – and making birthday memories at the firing range.



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

In the future, cadet Julie Marsh from Whitworth College hopes to use her leadership skills to coach volleyball.

Are you interested?



Learn more about what cadets are doing during LTC at www.usaac.army.mil/cc/east/ltc

Mapping out the future

Cadets put their skills to the test during land navigation training

Beth Wilberding
staff writer

With compass in hand, Marion Military Institute cadet Jennifer Shaw, 4/C/1-46, studied her map before going on her three-hour terrain hike.

After taking a map reading class and being briefed at the site, cadets in company five were preparing for land navigation. Their guided hike was just the first of many hikes cadets did during their land navigation training.

Shaw said she was looking forward to land navigation.

"I've done it previously at [Marion]," she said. "It's more like a puzzle, trying to find your way through a maze."

Cadets went on three initial missions to prepare themselves for their land navigation exam, Capt. Gregory Roush, land navigation OIC, said. But before they were let loose in the woods, there were some basics cadets had to learn.

"They learn how to use a compass, shoot an azimuth ... plot spot on a map [and] use a protractor to find [the] azimuth," Roush said. An azimuth is the direction in degrees a person is going to be walking.

Once cadets have mastered those skills, they are ready to go on the guided terrain hike. NCOs instruct them while on the hike and supervise them shooting the azimuth, Roush said.

Later in the day, cadets go out in two-buddy teams. They are given instructions to find four points on the range, and they have four hours to complete their task. After a dinner break, cadets regroup with their buddies and go out at night. During the night portion, cadets have three and a half hours to find three points. Roush said the night course teaches the cadets more about orientation.

"It's not an easy task," he said. "It's about familiarization."

Kurt Steenbruggen, 4/C/1-46, Valley Forge Military Academy and College said he was looking forward to the night portion of land navigation.

"We're going to be with one buddy, and the possibility of getting lost is cool," he said. "I like to be in the woods and find my way around."

After the three initial land navigation events, cadets are evaluated on how well they can demonstrate what they have learned. The cadets get a two-hour review session before they are sent into the woods by themselves.

To pass the exam, cadets must get four out of five points in four hours. Roush said safety is one of their biggest concerns, and NCOs are posted all over the 5,000 square meters range.

"When they go out, we have terrain guides in the six grid squares for safety," he said. "If a cadet gets hurt, they have a whistle."

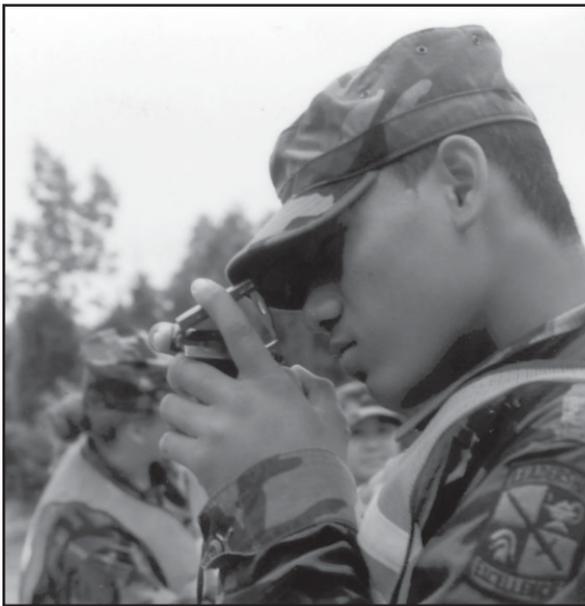
Roush said land navigation is one of the most important skills a cadet will learn. Though cadets don't have to pass land navigation to graduate from the Leader's Training Course, when they go through Warrior Forge in Fort Lewis, Wash., they must pass land navigation to be commissioned.

"When you become an officer ... you have to get [your soldiers] to the point and get back to the rear," he said. "You have to get people to navigate a battlefield from point A to point B."



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

Cadets Daniel Walters from Marion Military Institute, and Terrell Webster from New Mexico Military Institute use a compass to determine map coordinates.



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

Fogaapiapi Ta Ala from Marion Military Institute shoots an azimuth before embarking on land navigation practice.



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

Matthew Lynch from Valley Forge Military College and Sophia Lubin from Augusta State University discuss map coordinates during land navigation.

NCOs, from page 3

their drill sergeants, Lemons said, lieutenants never forget their platoon sergeants, who provide invaluable advice and leave their mark on their protégés.

"A good NCO can be a lieutenant's best friend," said Second Lt. Kate Fulton, who serves on the LTC Warrior Committee that coordinates events like water survival and stream crossing. "These are your technical experts. They know where to go for paperwork, where the resources are... They're like your lifeline, your communication link to the Army. Too many times, people overlook that."

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Peters said NCOs enjoy and take pride in their work. "For many people, money is just not it—it's about your patriotism and your job satisfaction," he said.

Peters has the highest enlisted rank in the Army. During his 26 years of service, he has had three tours in Germany and one in Korea. He has been a reconnaissance scout, a drill sergeant, a platoon sergeant and an advisor to the National Guard.

He now advocates for enlisted personnel in the Eastern Region whenever there is a problem that must be addressed at a high level. His job at LTC is to ensure training is being conducted according to standards, so he attends nearly all of the cadets' training, even Physical Training in the early morning.

The wisdom and experience Peters has acquired over the course of his extensive military career will not come overnight to a new lieutenant. Lieutenants must continually learn more about the Army to back up their authority.

Master Sgt. Scott Shippy, who teaches ROTC at University of Notre Dame, said, "When a second lieutenant is brand new, fresh from Officer's Basic Course, the soldiers in the platoon are going to test that lieutenant's knowledge. They've got to make sure they become knowledgeable about everything their soldiers do."

If the lieutenant does not work well with the NCO, the people serving under the two leaders will receive conflicting messages.

"Soldiers are like little kids, in that they will play mother against father," Shippy said. "So it's very important that the NCO and officer speak with one voice."