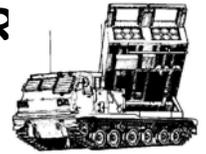




TASK FORCE DEEP ATTACK NEWSLETTER FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON ISSUE 3, JUNE 30TH, 2004



ITT Demonstration a Big Hit With The Cadets



Explosions rock the enemy and the assault begins.



Squads assault the enemy bunker complex and begin sweeping.

Its early in the morning, the sun is shining and the air is cool with the morning dew. More than one hundred cadets sit on the bleachers anxiously waiting for training to begin. Why? Because the Individual Tactics Training Course, though difficult, is considered by many cadets to be one of the more interesting and exciting training events of Warrior Forge. But before they begin, they must first watch a demonstration given by th 62ND Engineers on how to properly assault, destroy and clear an enemy bunker.

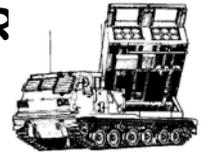
The assault begins with the crackling of loudspeakers. Radio traffic from the assaulting unit booms over the sound system. The Platoon Leader (2LT Tillman of Charlie 2-4 FA) gives commands to move his personnel into position. Key leaders respond quickly one after the other as they move their squads and teams into place. The noise is deafening, and the cadets are unsure of what is going on but the attacking force is well organized and moves in unison to the objective. The sound of machine gun fire rips through the air. The enemy soldiers are confused but manage to take cover.

But they cannot stop the inevitable. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! One explosion after the other rocks the bunker complex. They are squeezed from both directions as the attacking force moves closer to the objective. The soldiers of the 62ND Engineers sweep through the objective and quickly clear the bunkers and in a matter of minutes the enemy soldiers are dead.

Spontaneous applause suddenly erupts from the bleachers surprising everyone. The demonstration isn't complete yet, but the cadets are impressed and cannot contain their enthusiasm. The Engineers continue the demonstration, first searching enemy soldiers, then securing the perimeter, and finally conducting an After Action Review in front of the cadets. Then, 2LT Tillman turns to the bleachers and concludes the demonstration. Once again there is an eruption of applause. It becomes obvious to everyone attending that the demonstration they have just seen was no less than the very best.



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"DEEP ATTACK" Basketball Tournament Showcases Skills



On Thursday the 24TH of June, twenty-eight soldiers competed for bragging rights as the best basketball team in the "Deep Attack" battalion.

The rules were simple, four soldiers to a team, with only three on the court at a time. Each shot counted as one point and three pointers counted as two. If you make the shot you keep the ball. Most importantly, call your own fouls. First one to fifteen wins! The rules may have been simple, but getting to the finals was not.

Seven teams competing in a double elimination tournament meant that some would play several back-to-back games in order to stay alive. In fact "GYMR" which stands for Get Your Minds Right (SGT Kenneth Madison, SGT Jerry Nkansah, SPC Michael Young, SPC Ovidio Saldivar) fought their way through the losers bracket by defeating the "Riders" (SGT Frank Sowell, PVT William Howard, PVT Aubrey Watts). In the finals, they had to face the same team that gave them their first defeat, "The Winners".

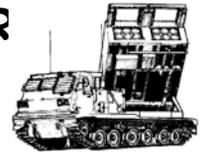
"The Winners" were undefeated in their quest for the championship title. The two big men CPT Dan Elliott and CPT Jake Rodenmayer were impossible to stop. CPT Terry Phillips a former All Army point guard kept feeding the big men the ball and took the outside shot to keep the opposing teams off balance and 1LT Frank Krammer kept the team fresh by rotating in. Even though the first match against GYMR had been hard fought, the championship game wasn't as difficult. GYMR had spent most of their energy getting through the brackets and had little left at the end. The Winners easily defeated GYMR 15-6.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. Although Philadelphians marked the first anniversary of American independence with a spontaneous celebration, observing Independence Day only became commonplace after the War of 1812. By the 1870s, the Fourth of July was the most important secular holiday on the calendar.



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Adventure Seekers Get Their Fix



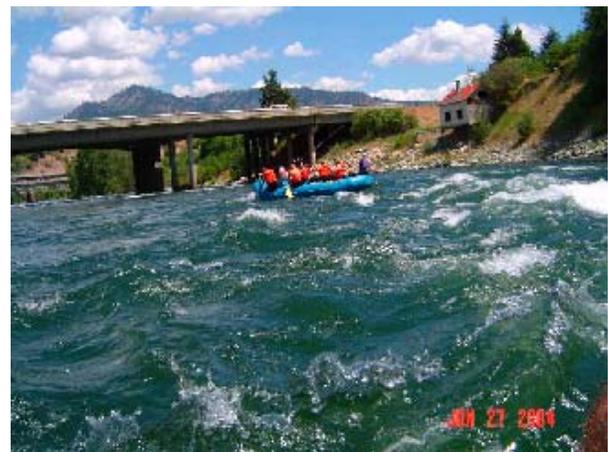
Some opportunistic soldiers took advantage of their time off and spent the day white water rafting. Their trip was sponsored by Outdoor Recreation and took them to the Wenatchee River. Located about three hours away from Fort Lewis, the Wenatchee is fed by several smaller tributaries and gets its ice-cold water from melting glaciers on Mount Rainier.

Sgt Mercer of HHS summed up the trip in the following quote:

"The white water rafting trip was not only fun but challenging. We enjoyed every second of this trip. The Wenatchee River has class three rapids and freezing water, which made things interesting and challenged us both physically and mentally. Three of us went on the trip, SPC Galan, PFC Mcgraine and myself. This was the first time any of us had ever been white water rafting. We got a crash course



on how to maneuver through the rapids and what to do if things went wrong. It took about five hours to navigate down the river, but with the beautiful scenery and the awesome rapids it felt like minutes instead of hours. This trip was an experience of a lifetime, I recommend that everyone try to experience the rush of white water rafting."

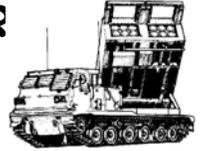




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Land Navigation

Hello and welcome back to Land Nav. either you are a re-tester or you are somehow related to or interested in someone from this committee. Now that we have a rather set schedule, I thought I would share it with you so that you know what your significant other is doing at all times (don't forget the two hour difference).

We have established a routine for the three different days that the teams work. Day one is when the cadets arrive at about 1000 hrs. They attend refresher classes and then it is time to show what you know- night land navigation test one. When they return 0200 the team on duty retrieves the water cans from the course. Before you know it is time to get up again (0520) to call in a report and then get on the road to refill the water trailers. By the time team two arrives at about 0930, after PT, barracks clean up and breakfast, team one has filled all the water jugs and hand wash stations. Now team one becomes the standby team and works with team two. By this time the cadets are eating breakfast, so it is important to get the water cans out to the checkpoints on the course before the cadets are tested on their daytime land navigation skills. We must also make sure the terrain model is raked (A terrain model is a scale model of the earth that is used to rehearse or plan operations.)

and the trash picked up (yes this is still one sentence) team one usually heads back to the barracks to take care of any administrative issues they may have. Team two will recover the water cans and police call the cadet bivouac area. The cadets typically leave at about 1730. After calling in our closure and sensitive items reports, it is time to relax. Team three dispatches their vehicle on day three prior to going out to the training area to prepare for the next regiment of cadets on the following day. Team three has the site to themselves for all of the first day which is nice because after you police call the area, fill the water trailers and all of the water cans you can barbeque and relax, but don't forget to call in the sensitive items report at 1730.

If you think you see a pattern its probably because you are. Sometimes it seems like the movie Groundhog's Day.

We are already planning for re-deployment so that we can clear the necessary agencies and facilities and do what needs to be done to get back to beautiful Ft. Sill on time. (Block leave will start shortly after we arrive back there.)

1LT Vincent

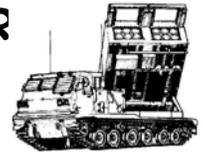
For more pictures of Fort Lewis and other deep attack events check out our web site @<http://sill-www.army.mil/3ca/214web/2-4fa.htm>



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Hand Grenade



Since the last newsletter, the HG committee has supported the training of 5 regiments, consisting of over 1,500 cadets. We usually work 10-hour days, with ammunition draws every time they train new cadets. Some of our best work takes place on the assault course, where the ammunition support team inserts fuses in as many as 1,700 grenade simulators in a day. Their hard work has also drawn the appreciation of the cadre. They barbecued chicken, burgers and brought all the fixings to us on the range. Even though we stay busy, we still get time off to enjoy the area. Our committee makes trips to the movies and to the local malls. We are currently planning a MWR trip to "Gameworks" in Seattle. The soldiers are looking forward to getting a chance to unwind and see the city.

We are officially halfway through our training of cadets, and are beginning our preparations to re-deploy at the end of July. Next month, a different set of cadre will take over the instructor duties for the cadets and we are quickly establishing a good working relationship with the new personnel and will surely have a great final month of training support.

Above

Hero's Corner

Beyond

SPC Aguero and SPC Waldrige (62ND Eng.) performed emergency first aid on two separate occasions resulting in the successful treatment and evacuation of injured personnel.

SGT Andrews (B Btry) has been a strong part of the Land Nav. team, stepping up and taking the lead. He will be sorely missed when he starts terminal leave in July.

SPC Sparks (Hand Grenade) keeps the only 5-ton truck in the committee operational. His work allows the committee to transport supplies, soldiers, and water for all training. Good Job!



Soldiers lift a repaired spare tire into a truck as part of their quality control duties. They ensure all vehicles are maintained to standards.

The maintenance support platoon has successfully kept the committees rolling by insuring that their vehicles are repaired as quickly as possible. Their turn around time for repairs has been positively outstanding.