1994

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M.C. Connie Cooke and Major Lyndall

Our Battalion Commander
C/LTC Jeff Hackett
Silently, the cadets lay on their stomachs, their camouflage faces blending in with the tall grass. They waited patiently for the enemy to approach as the sun beat down on their backs and insects buzzed in their ears. Suddenly, the enemy came into view and the cadets took careful aim, squeezing the triggers of their M16s. Gunfire roared through the flower-covered meadow and the five enemy soldiers fell to the ground.

The ambush was a success.

It was part of Operation Hilltopper Rage, a three-day mission designed to train 15 Western ROTC cadets in leadership positions in the field.

The cadets were flown by two large military helicopters from Bowling Green Airport Friday night, Sept. 17, to a wooded area outside Fort Campbell.

Five of the more experienced cadets on the first helicopter were designated as the enemy, and their mission was to attack the other cadets, who were training together for the first time.

It was near midnight when the second group made their way from the landing zone, carrying 40-pound rucksacks on their backs. The only light came from the stars shining overhead as the cadets crossed the dew-covered grass.

Fog drifted over the field, obscuring the enemy who was just ahead. Shots rang out and the cadets dove for cover, squatting into the darkness and firing towards the faint silhouettes. The enemy disappeared into the darkness and the cadets cautiously trudged on.

They came to the edge of the field and, using only a compass as their guide, entered the woods. Branches, vines, and thorns slapped their faces and hugged their feet as they climbed up. At last they came to a clearing and, after lighting a small fire, they settled in for the night.

Lookouts were assigned to guard the camp as the other cadets snuggled into their sleeping bags, trying to keep warm. Just before dawn, they began a new day.

For breakfast many cadets ate cold spaghetti, beef stew or ham from prepackaged envelopes. They had been supplied with Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) before the trip.

Many of the cadets made faces as they forced the food down their throats. Some even declined to eat.

Captain Roy Henson, assistant professor of military science, said he usually loses weight in the woods because he does not like the food.

"I usually don't eat that stuff," he said. "I'd rather be hungry than nauseated."

As the sun began to climb higher in the sky, the troops planned their day. They hiked through the woods and across an open field, where they were once again attacked. After each attack the cadets were counseled on ways to improve.

Throughout the day the two groups confronted each other. The enemy set up an ambush in the woods shortly after lunch and used smoke bombs to blind the cadets. The cadets later planned their own ambush.

By late afternoon the troops were sweating heavily after miles of walking and had to reapply the green and black camouflage to their faces.

They tiredly trudged back to their campsite, where they planned their night defense. They removed small shovels from their rucksacks and began to dig holes deep enough to shelter their bodies.

As darkness fell, the cadets lay on their stomachs in the holes holding their M16s. Throughout the night they defended their camp against several enemy attacks. By early morning some were so tired they could not hold their eyes open.

Once again the cadets woke before dawn. As darkness gave way to light, the enemy launched a final attack.

By then it was Sunday morning and most cadets admitted they were tired and wanted to go home.

Robbie Ladd, a junior from Palm Bay, Fla., said the only part of the weekend he didn't enjoy was the lack of sleep. "I got six hours of sleep in two and a half days," he said.

Henson said the main purpose of Operation Hilltopper Rage was to give the cadets an opportunity to experience leadership positions in the field.

"What we focus on is having the person in charge learn how to lead," Henson said. The cadets took turns being squad leader and giving orders. They were evaluated on how well they responded to pressure, judgment, sensitivity and communication, among other things.

Ladd said he was glad he had the chance to feel the pressure of being a leader.

"When you're in the hot seat you've got to get everything done," he said. "When you screw up, everyone finds out and you get counseled in front of everyone. You won't make that mistake again."

La Grange senior Doug Rosenkrans said he did not like the cold weather at night. "I hated it in the middle of the morning when I woke up at 3 a.m. shivering," he said.

Cadet Battalion Commander Jeff Hackett said he thinks the training experience will help the cadets when they go to advanced camp later. All ROTC students must go to the six-week leadership camp after finishing their junior year.

"They came together real good, real quick," the Nashville senior said. "When one of them was in charge he or she took charge and the rest of them followed."

Lexington junior Stacy Butler said she could not think of anything better to do Saturday morning.

"Cartoons ain't got nothing on this."

Above, The members of Hilltopper Battalion deploy in a Chinook helicopter at Bowling Green Airport.

At left, Woodard catches up on some sleep during a lunch break while in the field. Cadets didn't get much sleep because of guard duty at night.
The 15 members that attended the weekend leadership and training mission were divided into two groups — five experienced rangers and 10 inexperienced cadets. The two groups participated in mock battles. Cadet Battalion Chief Jeff Hackett instructs Kim Nash, Melvin Washington and Chris Woodard on proper counterattack tactics.

"I got six hours of sleep in two and a half days," said Robbie Ladd, after spending a weekend with 14 other ROTC cadets in Operation Hilltopper Rage. The junior from Palm Bay, Fla., and members of Western's ROTC program flew to Ft. Campbell for leadership and tactical training.
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For details, visit Room 120, Diddle Arena or call 745-4293
The Topper Battalion ready for the Bowling Green 10K

The Ranger Company before the Bowling Green 10K
Ladets hard at work

Mr. Clark working on the display case.

Mr. Rosencrans helping out in supply.

Mrs. Ramey and Mrs. working hard in the supply room.
The Cadre...

Maj. Sydall hard at work.

Maj. Bronson showing the proper way to clean a weapon.

Capt. Herson during water survival
Color Guard

Ms. Two Rivers, Ms. Dugan, Ms. Davis, Mrs. Ramsey

Is there a height requirement?

Practice makes perfect.
The Rangers

The Ranger Rice Crispy Treat
made by Mrs. Whitesides

The mighty Ranger team at
Murray State's Head to Head
Competition

The muscles on the end of
the Rope Bridge
The Ranger's...

Working on the Rope Bridge

The Ranger Team shows the hand and arm signal for "we're #1."

Mr. Smith on grenade assault course.
Tuesday mornings drill

Accountability formation

Mrs. Ramsey marches a squad

Ms. Sowards and Ms. Bartling
Eagerly awaiting their branch assignments.

MS IV's.

MSY Bronson places the caps on the cadeto leaders.

Can we look yet?

Does Mrs. Whitesaver look surprised at her branch?
Hang loose: Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Ranger Heather Two Rivers, a junior from North Pole, Alaska makes her way across a rope bridge in front of Diddle Arena yesterday. The cadets built the bridge to practice for an upcoming Ranger Challenge competition.
Push-Ups, Push-Ups, Push-Ups

Our Battalion Commander

Mr. Two Rivers taking an APFT

Mr. Coulter
The Department of Military Science cordially invites you to attend the 1994 Military Ball to be held at the Ramada Inn Bowling Green, Kentucky on Saturday evening the nineteenth of February 1994 at five-thirty p.m.

RSVP by 1 February 1994
(502) 745-4293
Cost $20.00 per couple

Formal
Ladd, Shepard, Davis work on the balloons.

Butler, Two Rivers, Nash, * Dugan.

Dugan and Two Rivers working hard.
The MS III's: Sowards, Hackett.
Coultier, Williams, Crawford, Kellner,
Resnicow, Cline

The MS III's: Davis, Ladd,
Nash, Rice, Rivers, Hunter, Woodard,
Adamovic, Shepard, Anderson, Washington,
Marlitt, Dugan
Dinner

The Head Table (from left to right):
- Miss Bronson
- Mrs. Fossey
- Col. Torley
- Maj. Tyndall
- Mrs. Tyndall
- Col. Williams
- Lt. Col. Hackett

Woodard, Shepard, Coulter
Dancing and singing...

The men try their hand at singing.

And then the women of ROTC sing their hearts out.

Dancing the night away.
The Military Ball...

Ms. Nash and Ms. Two Rivers

The Color Guard rehearsing

Mr. Ladd imitates the Fruit of the Loom man.
The Military Ball...

The Mighty Cake

Ms. Nash, Ms. Dugar, Ms. Tico Rivers

Decorating beforehand
The Dining In

Presenting the Colors

The Head Table
Dining In

Major Tyndall and Ms. Colter

Mr. Washington and Mr. Thompson
The Dining In Skits...

The MS III's act out the MS III's typical day.

The MS III's portray the cadre.
Water Survival Class...

Mr. Dask after an early morning swim

"Are you ready?"

1, 2, 3...

Ms. Dugan having fun.
The 1993 Battalion Picnic

Mr. Diaz and Mrs. Saunders

Mr. Scott, Mr. Magaz, Mr. Johnson grilling out.

Chowing down!
Battalion Picnic

Just a swingin'

'Maj. Tyndall tests the corn.'

Catch!
Signing Away Your Life...

Mr. Crawford

Mr. Cline

Ms. Digan

Ms. Davis
The petite woman in the black and gold formal gown and high heel shoes bore little resemblance to the cadet in camouflage fatigues and combat boots.

During the week, Louisville junior Misty Dugan runs several miles a day, practices for the rifle team and works in the ROTC office between classes.

Saturday, she spent the evening dancing, dining and singing Karaoke at the military ball she helped plan.

Dugan is one of eight women cadets in Western's ROTC program. She is the Ranger 1st Sgt., which makes her second in command of the Rangers.

Although she said it is sometimes harder for a woman to prove herself, she has no complaints about the program. In fact, she loves it.

At 5 feet and 105 pounds, Dugan said being in ROTC has made her tougher.

Three times a week, ROTC cadets meet at 6:30 a.m. for physical training. They usually run a mile or more and do sit-ups and push-ups, Dugan said.

Dugan said she doesn't mind the early mornings or hard work. She and two of her friends even show up an hour early to do aerobics or swim.

"We do more before 8 a.m. than most people do all day," said her friend, ROTC cadet Heather Two Rivers, with a laugh as she sat with Dugan Thursday night to plan the seating arrangement for the military ball.

But not all of her time is spent training.

Wednesdays are often reserved for going out with her friends. Last week, Dugan, Two Rivers and two other women cadets spent Wednesday night dancing at the Oasis in Nashville.

The next morning, after no sleep, they went on a four-mile march while carrying 25 pound rucksacks.

"It gets hectic after a while," Two Rivers, a junior from North Pole, Alaska said. She decided to join ROTC after taking a mountaineering class. She said she loved the people in her classes and "I just stuck with it. Before I knew it, I signed up."

Her favorite part of ROTC is the people, she said.

Spending weekends in the field, and seeing the same people in class every day makes it easier to make friends, she said.

"At times you get treated like one the guys," she said. "But it's kind of nice to hang out with a group of friends and not worry about how you look."
1st Sgt. Misty Dugan is second in command of the Rangers
Spring Commissioning Ceremony
8 May 1994, 11:00 am
Tate Page Auditorium
Western Kentucky University

Hilltopper Battalion
Army ROTC

The Department of Military Science
cordially invites you to attend
the 1994 Spring Commissioning Ceremony
for

Brian S. Coulter, Douglas R. Rosencrans
Michael A. Crawford, Henry T. Williams III
Jeffrey S. Hackett, Heidi I. Whitescarver
Marvin D. Kellom IV

to be commissioned
Second Lieutenant, United States Army
on
Sunday, 8 May 1994, 11:00 a.m.
Tate Page Auditorium
Western Kentucky University
Ms Nancy Leading

Hold on, don't fall.

The Bn Cmdr & Clan.

The "Beast" and Aco.

In Flight CH 47

I'm Really Not Sleeping
Mr. Martin, Aco, Cmdr
A Co. Group Photo

FLEC "Hang in There"

Water Aerobics

Mrs. Dusan Paying Attention

The Bn XO/Student Helper

This is fun.
Our Gold Bar Recruiter 2LT Hackett.

Mr. Guinn Swearing In Contract.

Mr. Vice during Dining In.

Mr. Hunter, S.
94-95 Ranger Team

Say, "Cheese"

Heavy up & Take the Picture.
Mr. Shepard,
"I'm Glad to Be Here"
CPT Henson,
"So Am I!"

Mr. Ladd, Jr.
This is a
Good-Football
Shot.

Mr. Summers,
15 This
Serious Enough.
Commissioining '95

Maj Tyndall Pms Comments Prior To Swearing In.

LT Anderson, L.
LT Davis, M.
LT Dogan, M.
LT Swords, L.
LT Ladd, P.
LT Hunter S.
LT Two Rivers, H.
LT Washington,

LTbadd & Family
Our Male Nurse.
2Lt Anderson, J. Signing all The Important Papers

The Receiving Line.

Cadre & New 2LT's