WARRIOR FORGE BEGINS!

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411 on Land Nav, Tactics, More!

A 4th Regiment cadet low crawls through a Maneuver Lane at Warrior Forge 2008.

Photo: Al Zdarsky
Welcome to Warrior Forge 2009!

The Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) was created by an act of Congress on June 3, 1916, and for 90-plus years has provided 75 percent of the Army’s commissioned officers during every American conflict—and the times of peace in between.

Since 1997 Fort Lewis has hosted the national senior-level ROTC summer training event, bringing together cadets from more than 270 college and university programs—from 50 states, two U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

The Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) is a requisite step for any cadet training for a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Its scope and duration make it the largest annual training exercise conducted by Training and Doctrine Command. From June to August, more than 1,500 Soldiers and civilians will provide critical support to over 7,200 ROTC cadets, ROTC cadre, and Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

This year, nearly 5,700 ROTC cadets are scheduled to attend LDAC in 12 ROTC regiments. Each ROTC regiment will undergo a 29-day cycle of sequential and progressive training, culminating in the regimental graduation ceremony.

Following LDAC, those cadets who have earned their degree and completed all Military Science requirements will receive their commissions as second lieutenants during the regimental graduation ceremonies. The remainder of the cadets will return to their universities to complete pre-commissioning requirements and, subsequently, their commissions.

Each cycle of training develops teambuilding and leadership skills. Cadets and candidates are provided with guidance, assigned leadership responsibilities, and allowed to exercise small-unit leadership skills in a variety of positions ranging from squad leader to company commander.

Course cadre provide guidance and training and assess each cadet’s leadership abilities using the principles found in Army Field Manual 22-100. Each cadet receives developmental feedback through individual counseling, which prescribes corrective actions to be taken before receiving additional developmental feedback in a Cadet Evaluation Report, summarizing the cadet’s total performance at the course.

Cadets are expected to possess the qualities of leadership character of the Army officer, and to be productive members of the team as well as being prepared to take charge when necessary. LDAC is not a competition. It is an exercise in teamwork and leadership in which those with greater skills or experience are expected to selflessly assist comrades to facilitate the entire team’s success.

Some cadets arriving at LDAC will be experiencing much of the training for the first time. Others come to the course with some years of prior enlisted service experience upon which to draw. Each regiment is comprised of cadets with a wide variety of skills. Only by working together as a team will the cadets succeed.

By the end of LDAC, cadets will be challenged to put forth maximum effort and carry their new skills with them as they are commissioned as an Army officer.
Cadet regiments represented by active-duty Army units

The U.S. Army Cadet Command established the Regimental Affiliation Program in 1985 to foster unit cohesion, camaraderie, esprit de corps, and the pride of belonging among the diverse groups of cadets attending the Leader Development and Assessment Course from states around the nation.

Cadets attending LDAC have the unique privilege of being members of one of the Army’s finest combat units. Through the Regimental Affiliation Program, each cadet organization is assigned to an active Army regiment. Historical information about these units is provided here to help cadets understand the heritage to which they belong.

The goal of the Regimental Affiliation Program is to bind cadets and cadre together in a close-knit and dynamic organizational relationship with a strong sense of teamwork so crucial to success at LDAC.

Cadets and cadre are encouraged to wear their unit crests proudly and to use their regimental nickname and motto whenever appropriate. The affiliation cadets develop at LDAC is a prelude to the Department of the Army Regimental Affiliation Program they’ll be part of once they’re commissioned as second lieutenants.

Regimental Affiliations

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1st Regiment
37th Field Artillery

STRIKER

“On the Minute”

Constituted July, 5 1918 in the National Army as the 37th Field Artillery and assigned to the 13th Division, the 37th Field Artillery was organized Aug. 17, 1918 at Camp Lewis, Washington. Too late to see combat in World War I, it was demobilized Feb. 11, 1919.

The regiment was reconstituted Oct. 1, 1933 in the Regular Army, again as the 37th Field Artillery, then redesignated Oct. 1, 1940 as the 37th Field Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 2nd Division, later redesignated as the 2nd Infantry Division and activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The regiment entered World War II as part of the Normandy invasion force, fighting its way across Europe through northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and central Europe.

In the Korean War, the 37th Field Artillery fought in numerous campaigns, including the UN Defensive, UN Offensive, First CCF Intervention, UN Countercorvensive, UN Summer-Fall Offensive, Second Korean Winter, Korean Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter, and Korean Summer 1953.

The unit was reorganized and redesignated Feb. 20, 1956 as the 37th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. It was relieved June 20, 1957 from assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division and concurrently redesignated as the 37th Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, then redesignated Sept. 1, 1971 as the 37th Field Artillery.

The unit was withdrawn 16 February 1987 from the combat arms regimental system and reorganized under the United States army regimental system.

Elements of the 37th serve in the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, the Army’s first Stryker brigade.

2nd Regiment
2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment

DRAGOONS

“Toujours Pret”

The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment is the oldest cavalry regiment in the United States Army, with over 150 years of continuous active duty. It was first blooded in the Indian campaigns in Florida and the American southwest, and participated in every major campaign of the Mexican War.

During the civil war, the Dragoons performed distinguished service with the Army of the Potomac on the fields of Antietam and Gettysburg. During the Spanish-American War, the regiment fought alongside Theodore Roosevelt’s Rough Riders in the capture of Cuba, and later went to the Philippines to fight the Moro tribesmen.

The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment bears the distinction of being the only American horse cavalry unit of World War I, where it bore the brunt of the German thrusts at St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne rivers.

The Dragoons distinguished themselves during World War II while leading general George Patton’s 3rd Army across France, relieving the besieged 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, and then driving to Czechoslovakia, achieving the deepest U.S. Army penetration of World War II. Elements of the Dragoons also participated in beachhead operations during the Western Pacific Campaign.

During the Cold War years, the Dragoons guarded 651 kilometers of freedom’s frontier between the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia. From December 1990 to April 1991, the Dragoons deployed to Southwest Asia where they took part in the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation and defense of Kuwait.

The regiment served courageously in the liberation of Iraq, and recently transferred to Fort Lewis, where they are transitioning to a Stryker Brigade.

Regimental honors include the Presidential unit citation, the Belgian Croix de Guerre with palm, and the Philippine Presidential unit citation. Twenty Medal of Honor recipients have been Dragoons – including Sgt. Patrick Leonard, one of only five American fighting men to have received the decoration twice.
The mission of the Leader Development and Assessment Course is to train U.S. Army ROTC cadets to Army standards and to develop leadership and evaluate officer potential. This is accomplished through a tiered training structure using light infantry tactics as the instructional medium. Stress is an inherent part of all cadet and officer candidate training. There will be no profanity or physical abuse, but cadets will know they are in a highly-disciplined environment.

The Warrior Forge training program is sequential and progressive. It starts with individual training and leads to collective training, building from simple to complex tasks. This building-block approach permits integration of previously-learned skills into follow-on training, thus reinforcing learning and promoting retention. This logical, common-sense training sequence is maintained for each training cycle through use of the tiered training structure. LDAC is comprised of the following training:

Confidence Training: This includes rappel training, the Slide-For-Life, Log-Walk/Rope-Drop and a Confidence/Obstacle course. Confidence Training is designed to challenge the cadets’ physical courage, build confidence in personal abilities and assist in overcoming fear. At the rappelling site, each cadet executes one 17-foot rappel and several 37-foot rappels. Cadets demonstrate confidence in their ability to overcome fear of heights by executing the Confidence/Obstacle Course, Log Walk/Rope Drop and Slide For Life.

Field Leader’s Reaction Course: FLRC is designed to develop and evaluate leadership and to build teamwork early in the camp cycle. Course administration is accomplished using the established cadet organization and chain of command. Cadet leadership potential is assessed by committee evaluators. Cadets are provided the opportunity to get early feedback on their leadership strengths, weaknesses, styles and techniques.

Land Navigation: Land Navigation training must be mastered early in the camp cycle for the cadets to be fully successful in the tactical training which follows. The Land Navigation evaluation consists of three events totaling 100 points. The written examination is worth 20 percent. The
day Land Navigation test is worth 50 percent. The night Land Navigation test is worth 30 percent. Each cadet must earn 70 percent on each test to pass this event. A passing score in Land Navigation is a camp-completion criterion. Prior to Land Navigation cadets will learn field craft while living and sleeping in the woods. They will set up field expedient shelters using ponchos and whatever else is available. They’ll learn how to maintain noise, light and litter discipline.

CBRN: Chemical, Biological Radiological, Nuclear Training teaches cadets how to administer a nerve agent antidote, how to protect themselves from chemical and biological contamination using their assigned protective mask, decontaminate themselves and individual equipment using chemical decontaminating kits and how to react to chemical or biological hazard attack. In addition, cadets must go through the CS chamber and the COBALT Challenge Lane.

U.S. Weapons: Familiarizes cadets with the operation and employment of infantry squad weapons and call for fire grid missions. The cadets train in the fundamentals of operation and engaging of targets and emplacement of crew-served weapons such as the M-249, M203, and M136.

Cultural Awareness: Teaches cadets a basic understanding of cultural matters and how cultural awareness will facilitate mission success. Cadets learn how to conduct bi-lateral discussions with local officials, how to conduct a knock and search mission and how to defuse volatile situations using an interpreter.

First Aid: Cadets develop confidence in their ability to react properly to battlefield wounds. Through hands-on training and evaluation, cadets learn critical first aid skills.

Maneuver Training: In the first block of instruction in maneuver at LDAC, cadets learn individual battlefield skills, combat movement techniques and procedures necessary for subsequent tactical training at the squad level. Maneuver training is a vehicle to teach and evaluate leadership. It introduces conditions of stress that parallel those found in combat. Tactical training introduces new skills, provides performance-oriented reinforcement opportunities and increases the degree of difficulty and sophistication of training events. Cadets learn the skills necessary to function in a Tactical Training Area. This building-block approach provides the best opportunity for cadets to learn and for cadre to assess leadership potential.

Tactics: This year Squad Situational Training and Patrolling Situational Training Exercises have been combined under the tactics committee. They take place back-to-back while cadets are at the Tactical Training Base. Squads STX is a four-day, two-phase event. The first day, the squad training phase, is designed to train squad battle drills and collective tasks. The last three days, the Squad STX lane phase, are designed to evaluate leadership using tactical scenarios. Each cadet receives two formal evaluations of his/her performance as a squad leader during this phase. Squad operations build on and reinforce all previous instruction. Cadets use knowledge of land navigation, terrain analysis, weapons systems and all individual training previously presented.

Squad Situational Training Exercise: Squad STX is a four-day, two-phase event. The first day, the squad training phase, is designed to train squad battle drills and collective tasks. The last three days, the Squad STX lane phase, are designed to evaluate leadership using tactical scenarios. Each cadet receives two formal evaluations of his/her performance as a squad leader during this phase. Squad operations build on and reinforce all previous instruction. Cadets use knowledge of land navigation, terrain analysis, weapons systems and all individual training previously presented.

Patrolling Situational Training Exercise: Patrolling STX is a four-day event that provides cadets practical experience in leading Soldiers at the section level in a challenging, realistic and fluid environment. On the first day, cadets undergo training and then during the last three days they participate in an exercise where they are formally evaluated. Developmental feedback is provided to all levels of leadership. Patrolling STX builds on and reinforces all previous instruction received during the course, and incorporates the basics of air assault operations by conducting an actual air insertion. The event ends with a 10K foot march.
3rd Regiment
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

**BRAVE RIFLES**

"Brave Rifles! Veterans!"

On a crimson landscape, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment first dashed to battle during the Mexican War as a regiment of mounted riflemen. The regiment earned its nickname early, as it lay blooded and exhausted after the fierce fighting at Contreras. Stared at the sight of each man rising to attention at his approach, General Winfield Scott roared, "Brave Rifles! Veterans! You have been baptized in fire and blood and you’ve come out steel."

Clashing with Comanches, Apaches, and many others, the 3rd Cavalry fought in almost every Indian war. As Americans in the east turned to fight each other, the regiment served the Union Army during the Civil War from Alabama to Tennessee. It next charged the Spanish at San Juan Hill – where its colors were the first to breach enemy lines.

Redesignated the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment during World War II, the Rifles spearheaded major European campaigns. Unleashed from northern France, the regiment raced to the Rhineland and pierced Germany before any other unit.

Turned around to assist Bastogne’s relief, it wheeled again to pursue Hitler’s broken legions all the way to Austria. Said General George Patton as the way to Austria. Said General George Patton as said: "I have never seen a better regiment."

At present, the 3rd Armored Cavalry is the only heavy armored cavalry regiment in the U.S. Army. The other two remaining Armored Cavalry Regiments, the 2nd and 11th, are both considered light ACRs.

Regimental honors include the Presidential Unit Citation, the Belgian Croix de Guerre and 21 Medal of Honor recipients.

4th Regiment
20th Infantry Regiment

**SYKES’ REGULARS**

"Tant Que Je Puis"

The 20th Infantry Regiment is a unit steeped in glory and service to the nation. Constituted May 3, 1861 in the Regular Army as the 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry, it was organized June 6, 1862 at Fort Independence, Massachusetts. During the Civil War this unit served in the 2nd Division of the V Corps. In that time, the regiment saw action at Peninsula, Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Virginia 1862 and Virginia 1863.

Reorganized and redesignated Dec. 6, 1866 as the 20th Infantry, the 20th fought in the Indian wars, including Little Big Horn and Pine Ridge, the regiment saw service in Cuba in the war with Spain as a portion of the V Corps at El Caney and San Juan. During the Philippine Insurrection it took part in the Pasig Expedition of 1899 and campaigns in Manila and Luzon.

Assigned July 9, 1918 to the 10th Division, it was relieved Feb. 14, 1919, assigned Sept. 18, 1920 to the 2nd Division, relieved Oct. 16, 1929 from assignment and assigned to the 6th Infantry Division (later redesignated as the 6th Infantry Division), fighting with that moniker in New Guinea and Luzon. It was inactivated Jan. 10, 1949 in Korea.

Reactivated Oct. 4, 1950 at Fort Ord, California, the 20th Infantry Regiment was relieved April 3, 1956 from assignment to the 6th Infantry Division, then reorganized Nov. 15, 1957 as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System.

During the Vietnam War, the 20th Infantry Regiment saw action in the Counteroffensive-Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive-Phase IV, Counteroffensive-Phase V, Counteroffensive-Phase VI, Tet 1969 Counteroffensive, Summer-Fall 1969, Winter-Spring 1970, Sanctuary Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive-Phase VII, Consolidation I, Consolidation II and Cease-Fire. It was withdrawn Aug. 16, 1986 from the Combat Arms Regimental System and reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System.

5th Regiment
5th Infantry Regiment

**BOBCATS**

"I’ll Try, Sir"

The 5th Infantry Regiment has a proud and distinguished history of service to the nation. From the War of 1812 to Vietnam, the 5th Infantry Regiment has proved its courage and bravery.

Constituted and organized in 1808 as the 4th Infantry, the Bobcats first saw action during the War of 1812, serving with distinction in Canada at Chippewa and Lundy’s Lane.

In 1815, the 4th Infantry was consolidated with the 9th, 13th, 21st, 40th, and 46th Infantry regiments in service during the Indian wars when the Garryowen charged into history against Blackfeet, Kiowa, Comanches, and Sioux.

After the War of 1812, the regiment stormed Arno and Anzio and drove the Nazis from Morocco.

The Regulars later served gallantly in Southeast Asia. During Operation Just Cause, the 6th spearheaded an attack which ultimately led to the surrender of Panamanian dictator General Manuel Noriega.

Regimental honors include the Presidential unit citation, the valorous unit award and three Medal of Honor recipients.

6th Regiment
7th Armored Cavalry Regiment

**GARRY OWEN**

"The Seventh First"

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is one of the most renowned units in the United States Army. Its deeds are linked forever with the legends of the American West. The sabers of the 7th Cavalry were first drawn in service during the Indian wars when the Garryowen regiment charged into history against Blackfeet, Kiowa, Comanches, and Sioux.

The 7th Cavalry next galloped to the Mexican border under the command of General “Blackjack” Pershing to confront Pancho Villa’s renegade bandits.

A generation later, the regiment bore its colors to the Pacific in World War II. The 7th Cavalry proved so stalwart in battle that General Douglas MacArthur never permitted its absence from a single major battlefield. The Garry Owen regiment continued its legendary charge through New Guinea, Leyte, Bismarck and Luzon.

The regiment’s motto, “Seventh First!” was confirmed in the battle for Korea. No other regiment won more Presidential unit citations. The 7th Cavalry was never halted, crushing the enemy from the frozen Chosin reservoir to the La Drang Valley.
Garry Owen was called to action again during Operation Desert Storm, contributing to the United Nations Coalition’s victory over Iraq and earning another Presidential unit citation.

Regimental honors include Presidential Unit Citations from the United States, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea as well as 52 Medals of Valor.

8th Regiment
8th Field Artillery
AUTOMATIC
“Audacieux et Tenace”

The 8th Field Artillery Regiment has a proud and distinguished history of service to the nation. From World War I to the Persian Gulf War the 8th Field Artillery Regiment has proved its courage and bravery.

The 8th Field Artillery was activated at Fort Bliss, Texas on July 7, 1916 and subsequently deployed to France in August 1918 as part of the 7th Division. Arriving at the front late in World War I, the 8th performed occupation duty until returning to the United States in 1919.

During World War II the 8th valiantly supported the 27th Infantry Regiment through battles in the central Pacific theater to include Guadalcanal and Luzon. It was as a result of actions during World War II that the 8th Field Artillery earned its nickname. In March 1945, the 8th was firing in support of the 27th Infantry “Wolfhounds” during intense fighting on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. In a particularly intense encounter with attacking Japanese forces, the 8th fired over 1,100 rounds in a one-and-a-half-hour emergency barrage. The entire manpower of the regiment joined the gun crews to keep up the devastating firepower. Clerks, cooks, and wiremen left their jobs and became artillerymen, displaying a sense of esprit which has become the hallmark of the 8th Artillery. The fire delivered on the enemy forces that might destroy them completely. The firing was so intense and constant the orders of the day described it as being “automatic as a machine gun.” From this accolade was born the nickname, “Automatic.”

In July 1950, the 8th Artillery Regiment arrived in Korea with the 25th Division to help secure the Pusan perimeter. Once again, the team of the 27th Infantry Wolfhounds and the Automatic 8th proved formidable. The colors of the 8th were carried high in every major campaign of the Korean War.

During the Vietnam War, members of the 8th Field Artillery were a part of 13 major campaigns throughout southeast Asia. In 1989, the 8th took part in Operation Just Cause, in Panama, followed by participation in the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation and defense of Kuwait in 1990 and 1991.

9th Regiment
9th Infantry Regiment
MANCHU
“Keep Up the Fire”

Constituted March 3, 1855 in the Regular Army as the 9th Infantry, the regiment fought in over 400 skirmishes during the Indian wars between 1855 and 1867. The regiment traces its lineage to units which fought in the Union Army during the Civil War and received honors for several campaigns, including Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

During the Chinese Boxer Rebellion in 1900, the regiment earned its “Manchu” nickname. The regiment adopted “Keep Up the Fire” as the regimental motto that endures to this day.

The Manchus deployed to France as part of the “Indianhead” 2nd Infantry Division in early October 1917. During the course of the war, battle streamers were earned for their actions at Lorraine, Ile de France, Aisne-Marne, and St. Mihiel. In 1918 the Manchu regiment received the French Fourragere for gallantry during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

During World War II’s Battle of the Bulge, the Manchus fought an 18-hour engagement that stymied the entire German counter-offensive. By the end of the war, the regiment had earned many decorations, including three Presidential unit citations.

Five years after the war, the Manchus arrived as the first unit of the “Indianhead” division on the Korean peninsula. The 9th Regiment fought in 10 major campaigns including Heartbreak Ridge, Old Baldy, T-Bone, and Pork Chop Hill and earned a Presidential unit citation for its gallantry at Hongchon.

Combat came again to the Manchu regiment when the 4th Battalion deployed to Vietnam in April 1966 where it fought victoriously through 12 campaigns. During Operation Just Cause in December 1989, the Manchus were called upon to eliminate hostile forces, restore public law and order, and assist the new government of Panama in establishing democracy.

10th Regiment
23rd Infantry Regiment
TOMAHAWKS
“We Serve”

The 23rd Infantry Regiment is the oldest and most experienced regiment in the United States Army. The 23rd Infantry has a proud and distinguished history of service to the nation. From the Civil War to Vietnam the 23rd Infantry Regiment has proven its courage and bravery.

Organized on July 8, 1861, the 23rd Infantry first saw action on Civil War battlefields, serving with distinction at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Following that tragic conflict, the Tomahawks were called upon to protect the western frontiers of a newly united country, where the regiment’s mettle was tested again on the field at Little Big Horn and in Arizona and Idaho campaigns.

The dawn of a new century found the Tomahawks engaged in the hard-fought Philippine campaigns for Manila and Mindanao.

Responding again in World War I, the 23rd Infantry participated in major actions at St. Mihiel, Lorraine and Meuse-Argonne.

The Tomahawk regiment returned to Europe in 1944 as part of the Normandy invasion and saw action throughout central Europe until the end of World War II.

The colors of the regiment were next unfurled over the Korean peninsula and were carried high in every major campaign of that conflict.

During the Vietnam War, members of the 23rd Infantry were a part of 12 major campaigns throughout southeast Asia.

The bravery and dedication of the Tomahawk regiment have been cited in numerous awards, including seven Presidential Unit Citations, two Valorous Unit Awards, and nine unit citations presented by foreign nations.

11th Regiment
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
BLACKHORSE
“Allons”

Organized on Feb. 2, 1901, the Blackhorse regiment first saw combat with General Arthur Macarthur against the tribal insurrections in the Philippine islands in 1902. Ordered into battle a decade later, the Blackhorse regiment served as the vanguard for General “Blackjack” Pershing’s punitive expedition into Mexico.

The Blackhorse colors were next unfurled in combat on the beaches of Normandy. Spearheading General George Patton’s epic charge across France, the Blackhorse distinguished itself during the 3rd Army’s unparalleled winter offensive in relief of the besieged 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne. The Blackhorse culminated its valorous war service in participation with Patton’s massive flanking maneuver across central Europe.

At the request of General William Westmoreland, commander, Military Assistance Command, the Blackhorse regiment arrived in Vietnam in September 1966. They carried the distinct honor of being the only armored cavalry regiment to see battle in Indochna.

In 1972, the Blackhorse regiment assumed its mission of defending the Fulda Gap on the frontier of freedom, protecting NATO’s eastern border in the Federal Republic of Germany. As a result of the disintegration of eastern Europe’s communist regimes, the Blackhorse regiment ceased its border operation when the border between East and West Germany opened in 1990.

In May 1991, the 11th was directed to deploy to Kuwait as part of Operation Positive Force. From June to September, the regiment secured the peace on the sands of Kuwait.

Among the regimental honors are the Presidential Unit Citation and Meritorious Unit commendations.

This unit served in Northern Iraq from January 2005 – 17 March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

12th Regiment
32nd Armored Regiment
RED LIONS
“Victory or Death”

The 32nd Armored Regiment has a proud and distinguished history of service to the nation. In World War II and the Persian Gulf War the 32nd Armored Regiment proved its courage and bravery.

The Red Lions regiment was constituted January 13, 1941, as the 2nd Armored Regiment and activated April 15, 1941 at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.

On May 8, 1941, the regiment was redesignated as the 32nd Armored Regiment.
Graduation requirements

Operation Warrior Forge will present you with some of the greatest personal challenges you have ever faced. To succeed, it is important to set the right goals.

**To graduate you must:**
1. Earn at least a Satisfactory rating on each of 16 Leadership Dimensions and rated areas of “Values” and “Performance and Potential.”
2. Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test with a minimum total score of 180 of 300 possible points – and obtain 60 points in each event. If the initial test is failed, one retest is allowed with the approval of the camp commander.
3. Attain a minimum score of 70 percent on each land navigation event (written and practical.) One written retest is allowed.
4. Meet the Army’s height and weight standards.
5. Complete at least 90 percent of training.

Get a Job ...

**Branch Orientation helps cadets set their sights on an Army career**

By Furman “Neil” Neeley
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Engineers, artillery specialists, tankers, infantry officers, and even medics all have, at some point in their careers, looked at the other branches to see if the grass was greener on the other side. Branch Orientation gives cadets a chance to venture through all the different branches and talk with different representatives from each one, giving them a clearer big picture of the landscape they soon each hope to walk.

In the civilian world, Branch Orientations would look a lot like a job fair, in that these cadets are learning about – and will eventually apply for – a spot in one of the branches they choose from. Fitting a person into the right spots and having them perform well is crucial to the success of the Army. These cadets will gain information on the branch of their choice and help them decide whether or not they feel they want to branch something different.

Branch Orientation gives cadets a chance to figure out just what they want to do with their military careers.

**Fitness is about more than just making the grade**

By Mike Sweeten
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Soldiers find themselves regularly taking physical training tests to assess their muscular strength, endurance and conditioning. Cadets attending Warrior Forge are no different. The young men and women take an APFT on the third day they’re here at Warrior Forge to gauge their muscular strength, endurance and bodily conditioning.

The APFT measures a Soldier’s strength and endurance utilizing three basic exercises: push-ups, sit-ups, and a two-mile run.

The minimum score for the APFT is 180 points with at least 60 points in each of the three events. The cadets of Warrior Forge are the future leaders of the United States Army and hold themselves to a higher standard. A good score for a cadet would be 270 points with at least 90 points in each event. Warriors who exhibit superb physical conditioning can earn scores of 300 or higher on the extended APFT scale.

Attaining a place on a sliding scale really isn’t the best reason for a Soldier to be fit, however. Many of the cadets training at Fort Lewis this summer will complete the officer basic course next summer and will lead the sons and daughters of America on the field of battle shortly thereafter.

“It is extremely important for Soldiers to be physically fit,” said Dan Patterson, Warrior Forge Chief of Staff. “Leaders in combat zones have to make life or death choices daily for themselves and those who follow them. It is more difficult for a Soldier to make good decisions when he or she is exhausted. Being physically and mentally fit helps leaders make good decisions in stressful situations.”

Warriors who meet and exceed the standard normally lead very active lifestyles outside of the military. For some cadets, exercise is an integral part of their off-duty lives. The process though to stay in shape is a year long process that requires time and dedication.

The U.S. Army Cadet Command takes physical fitness very seriously. Warriors who do not pass the APFT the first time are required to retake the test. Passing the APFT is a graduation requirement. Those who fail the APFT after their retest will not graduate from Warrior Forge, nor complete the core requirements to earn a Bar of Gold on Army Green.

Earn Recognition!

**The Hometown News Release Program**

Cadets who graduate from LDAC have achieved a significant personal milestone. Because you work hard to make Warrior Forge a success for you and your fellow Soldiers and cadets, we want to help you share your accomplishments with your friends and family back home. This task is accomplished through the Hometown News Release Program.

During inprocessing you will be asked to fill out a DD Form 2266. This form enables you to send news about your achievements to the news media outlets near family and friends in your hometown. The Warrior Forge Public Affairs Office will process these forms; the key to the program’s success is timely, accurate information.

Please be sure you’ve filled out the form at some point. If you have any questions, contact your regimental staff.
Team of teams runs Warrior Forge

By Furman "Neil" Neeley
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Every summer Fort Lewis, Wash., becomes the home for the U.S. Army’s largest annual CONUS training exercise, Operation Warrior Forge, where the next generation of new officers is trained and evaluated prior to being commissioned as second lieutenants.

Also known as the Leader Development and Assessment Course, or LDAC, Warrior Forge is truly an all-Army event.

From colleges, universities, and armories across the country come ROTC campus staffers, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers, active-duty Soldiers, contract civilians and Department of the Army civilians – all to do their part to make the operation a success.

Fort Lewis Soldiers and civilians play a major role as well, with 1st of the 94th Artillery Battalion serving this year as the primary support unit while a variety of Fort Lewis activities perform thousands of tasks so the training can continue.

They work 24-48 hour shifts at various ROTC locations. These Soldiers transport cadets, equipment, and water all over the base. Soldiers from 94th also support Warrior Forge by providing manning support at various tactical operation centers and entry control points.

Other supports include filling and placing thousands of sandbags at numerous locations to include rifle ranges and the terrain map used for land navigation. They also set up all the tents, bleachers, and camouflage netting at select sites. Fort Lewis units also provide medics at training sites.

Cadet Command has approximately 30,000 cadets enrolled in college programs, and LDAC is the single most important event in any cadet’s student career, since successful completion of the 29-day training cycle is an essential, unwaivable requirement for commissioning. Last year, 4,300 second lieutenants were commissioned through ROTC.

The purpose of LDAC is to train and evaluate ROTC cadets to be commissioned as officers, leaders for America’s Army as it conducts the global war on terror and defends the shores and interests of the United States. It’s no small task and the trainers and maintainers generally match or outnumber the cadets, of whom more than 5,800 are expected at LDAC for 2009.

For Warrior Forge 2010, several unique challenges will need to be addressed as troop and cadre levels increase. With thousands of extra personnel added to the daily population of the installation, vehicle traffic on roads will increase significantly, particularly those corridors that lead from North Fort Lewis to the Fort Lewis ranges and training areas.

During peak commuter hours in the morning, there will also be physical training formations and individuals running along some of these routes, so strict adherence to published PT routes and schedules is essential. Additionally, significant road construction is in progress at several locations on post, most notably the East Gate Road all the way out to Highway 507, and roads on North Fort. Planning commutes for the least interference is advised.

The sheer magnitude of LDAC makes a significant impact on Fort Lewis each summer, but the energy put into making it work is well worth the effort of every participant. Since ROTC was first established, in 1919, more than half a million new officers have been commissioned from its cadet ranks – 100,000 of them in the last 20 years since Cadet Command was established. Fort Lewis has been the only site in the nation for this crucial training since 1997 and is expected to be such for years to come. LDAC’s team of teams will continue to produce the best Army officers in the world.

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Earn the coveted RECONDO badge

Cadets who demonstrate exceptional military skills and performance at LDAC have the opportunity to earn and wear the distinctive RECONDO badge. RECONDO earns a cadet half a point toward the national Order of Merit List.

To earn this award, which signifies demonstrated excellence in training, the cadet must achieve each of the following:
1. Execute all confidence training presented to the prescribed standard, to include water safety tasks.
2. Have no non-medical waivers on any event throughout LDAC.
3. Score 270 or above on the Army Physical Fitness Test, without retest, with a minimum of 90 points per event.
4. Achieve a score of 80 percent on written and practical land navigation proficiency tests without retest.
5. Complete the following First Aid tasks to specified standards: CPR, evaluate a casualty, manage the airway, control bleeding.
6. Pass both Squad STX lane evaluations with a minimum rating of satisfactory or higher.
7. Successfully complete Warrior Forge without a performance waiver. Medical waivers are acceptable.
8. Receive satisfactory or higher summary ratings for all 16 scored leadership dimensions and values, as reported on the Cadet Command Form 67-9, Cadet Evaluation Report.
History of Army ROTC

From June to August, more than 1,500 soldiers and civilians will provide critical support to over 8,000 ROTC cadets, National Guard officer candidates, ROTC cadre, and Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

The ROTC was created by an act of Congress on June 3, 1916, and for 90 years has provided 75 percent of the Army’s commissioned officers during every American conflict – and the times of peace in between. This year, nearly 5,000 ROTC cadets and 380 Army National Guard officer candidates are scheduled to attend LDAC in 12 ROTC regiments and an OCS regiment.

Each ROTC regiment will undergo a 32-day cycle of sequential and progressive training, culminating in the regimental graduation ceremony. The OCS regiments experience a 16-day cycle of training, emphasizing fieldcraft and tactical skills. Following LDAC, those cadets who have earned their degree and completed all Military Science requirements will receive their commissions as second lieutenants during the regimental graduation ceremonies.

The remainder of the cadets will return to their universities to complete pre-commissioning requirements and, subsequently, their commissions.

Each cycle of training develops teambuilding and leadership skills. Cadets and candidates are provided with guidance, assigned leadership responsibilities, and allowed to exercise small-unit leadership skills in a variety of positions ranging from squad leader to company commander. Course cadre provide guidance and training and assess each cadet’s leadership abilities using the principles found in Army Field Manual 22-100. Each cadet receives developmental feedback through individual counseling, which prescribes corrective actions to be taken before his or her next leadership opportunity. At the conclusion of LDAC, each cadet receives additional developmental feedback in a Cadet Evaluation Report, summarizing the cadet’s total performance at the course.

Cadets are expected to possess the qualities of leadership character of the Army officer, and to be productive members of the team as well as being prepared to take charge when necessary. LDAC is not a competition. It is an exercise in teamwork and leadership in which those with greater skills or experience are expected to selflessly assist comrades to facilitate the entire team’s success.

Some cadets arriving at LDAC will be experiencing much of the training for the first time. Others come to the course with some years of prior enlisted service experience upon which to draw. Each regiment is comprised of cadets with a wide variety of skills. Only by working together as a team will the cadets succeed.

By the end of LDAC, cadets will be challenged to put forth maximum effort and carry their new skills with them as they are commissioned as an Army officer.

& Timeline of Historical Events in the Life of Army ROTC

1819: Military training begins at American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy (now Norwich University) in Northfield, Vt.
1861-65: 2,500 officers who studied military tactics at civilian colleges and universities serve in the Civil War.
1894: Central State University, Ohio, known at the time as Wilberforce College, becomes the first Historically Black College to establish a Military Science Department.
1914: 94 colleges and universities are staffed with Army officers detailed as Professors of Military Science and Tactics.
1916: National Defense Act of 1916 signed by President Woodrow Wilson on June 3, establishing both Senior and Junior ROTC.
1917-18: 50,000 officers who studied military tactics at civilian colleges and universities serve in World War I.
1919-20: First ROTC commissions conferred on 133 men.
1939: General of the Army George C. Marshall, a commissionee of Virginia Military Institute, named Chief of Staff of the Army.
1939-40: 100,000th ROTC commission conferred.
1941-45: 150,000 ROTC commissionees serve in World War II.
1964: ROTC Vitalization Act establishes ROTC scholarship program.
1972-73: First women, 212, enroll in ROTC.
1975-76: First women, 150, commissioned through ROTC.
1991: Army ROTC observes 75th Anniversary of its organization.
1992: President George Bush authorizes a doubling of the Junior ROTC program, with more than 800 new units to be established by 1997.
1993: Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, ROTC commissionee at Virginia Military Institute, designated new Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, marking the first time the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army have all been ROTC commissionees.
1995-96: U.S. Army Cadet Command marks its 10th Anniversary of service to the nation as the military’s largest commissioning program.
1995-96: Army Junior ROTC grows to more than 1,400 units, an all-time record.
2002: The two primary ROTC summer camps are renamed as the Leader's Training Course and the National Advanced Leadership Camp.
2003: Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher, a 1972 ROTC commissionee at North Georgia College, named fifth commander of Cadet Command, which is restructured to have two subordinate headquarters, Eastern Region and Western Region.
2004: NALC is renamed Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) and is conducted as Operation Warrior Forge.
2006: Cadet Command celebrates 20 years and 100,000 commissioned.
2009: Western Region Cadet Command deactivates. Eastern and Western Regions combine.

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The 32nd lived up to its motto, “Victory or Death” during World War II as it fought valiantly in Normandy, northern France, Rhinelander, Ardennes Alsace and central Europe campaigns.

It distinguished itself by battering, piercing and over-running the defenses of the Siegfried Line earning a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions.

The 32nd also was cited in the orders of the day of the Belgian army and awarded the Belgian Fourragere for its participation in the Ardennes and Belgian campaigns.

In 1991, the bravery and dedication of the regiment were tested again when the red lions returned to battle in southwest Asia. For its actions in the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation and defense of Kuwait, the regiment earned a Valorous Unit Award and a Meritorious Unit Commendation.
Exposure to too much heat can kill. That heat may take the form of a sunny day spent hanging on the beach. Or a day that seems not-so-hot spent under a full rucksack for several kilometers.

Unchecked heat-related illnesses may become a serious problem in a short period of time and can even cause death. At Warrior Forge, where cadets and cadre are humping overland in full uniforms carrying combat-loaded rucksacks, heat-related injuries can take hold before you can prevent them.

Cadets, regimental staff and committee members all share the responsibility for protecting the force from heat stress.

“Although it’s not an LDAC requirement, many regiments will assign Battle Buddies to their cadets, and they should be keeping an eye on each other, looking out for the signs and symptoms of heat stress,” said Lt. Col. Chris Speer, Warrior Forge Chief of Occupational Safety and Health. “Especially as the temperatures rise and the more physically demanding activities begin.”

Speer said that regiments will use additional measures this year to identify heat casualties.

“If a cadet has had a previous heat related injury, he will have a red zip-tie placed on that individual’s boot to indicate such,” said Speer. “This allows the cadet to be more closely monitored by cadre and cadets alike.

“Committees will be monitoring the temperature and will alter training as necessary to keep cadets from overheating,” Speer said. “Additionally, regiment staff will be making sure cadets are eating right, getting enough rest and staying hydrated.”

Heat and exercise

The weather here at Fort Lewis at the peak of summer can be quite a handful for any Soldier. Last summer, the temperature climbed above 90 degrees on many occasions and this year it is predicted to be the same. Even though the month of June has been comfortable, watch out – because it could change in a matter of hours over the course of a busy day.

And besides, outside temperature isn’t always the cause of heat injuries. During heavy exercise a person’s body can generate 10 to 20 times the amount of heat it does when at rest.

Symptoms and Treatment

Heat-related injuries are identified by three levels of severity. Heat cramps are usually the first symptom of overexposure to heat and are characterized by severe muscle cramps.

Rest and fluid intake puts a victim on the road to recovery, but must be done quickly to avoid the symptoms worsening.

Heat exhaustion typically occurs when exercise and ambient temperature conspire to cause heavy perspiration, which reduces body fluid levels. This fluid loss reduces blood flow to vital organs resulting in a form of shock. A victim of heat exhaustion may have headaches, nausea, dizziness, skin that’s cool and pale, and will most likely be sweating. Get him out of the direct sun right away, keep him cool. You may have to use a fan or wet towels. Immediate action is crucial to prevent the condition from degrading into heat stroke.

Heat stroke kills about 500 people a year in the United States alone. When temperatures begin to rise into the 90s for prolonged periods, hundreds can die in just a couple of weeks.

Heat stroke occurs when the body’s ability to cool itself fails. Body temperature can rise to deadly levels in a very short time. Symptoms include confusion; delirium; unconsciousness; skin that is red, hot and dry. A heat stroke victim should be cooled quickly but never use ice or very cold water, which can lead to thermal shock. Emergency treatment should be sought immediately.

As the temperature rises remember to drink more water to stay Hydrated, and keep an eye on your Battle Buddy to assure he or she is avoiding heat related injuries.
TTB prepares Warriors for transition to combat

By Furman “Neil” Neeley
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Warrior Forge has replaced last year’s Forward Operating Base with two new seven-acre hard site Tactical Training Bases (TTBs) each, capable of housing two 500-person regiments.

“We’re going out to the field four days earlier this year,” explained Joel Manning, Warrior Forge Chief of Training. “We’re going to be living out of Assembly Areas and Tactical Training Bases longer, which allows us to cycle cadets through the North Fort billeting more quickly and more efficiently.”

“Before cadets occupy a TTB, they spend several days in one of two field assembly areas which are part of the new Maneuver Committee,” Manning said “Some of the training that we were doing last year at the FOB has been rolled into the Maneuver Committee to allow a quicker integration into tactical training.

“In a Maneuver Committee’s field assembly area they will learn many of the skills needed to function in a TTB,” he said. “So various security skills will have been taught in maneuvers so that when cadets roll in to the TTB they’ll be ready to go.”

Manning said that cadets will spend 6 days in the TTB.

While there, the warriors will participate in a scenario that has them participate in a U.S. mission to assist a fictional friendly country, “Palomas” with its struggle with neighboring “Caquetan” rebel insurgents.

For the purposes of the scenario, the Pacific Northwest has been turned into the Paloman Theater. The TTB is located in the zone of separation between the Palomans and the Caquetans. Cadre portray U.S. and Paloman advisors and guide the warriors through the training exercise.

Cadets prepare to go outside the FOB on a security patrol during last year’s LDAC.

After several days of living out of an assembly area, the opportunity to sleep on a cot inside of a large tent instead of the ground may make the TTB with its showers and hot meals seem like a hotel to some.

“It’s not meant to be a hotel,” said Manning. “It’s meant to be an appropriate place for cadets to do those assembly area regroupings that prepare them for the sort of future combat operations that are occurring in the world today.

“We want it to have the bare essentials for the cadets to operate out of and to transition into a secure environment,” Manning said. “They will begin doing pre-combat inspections on their first day there and become oriented to the tactical training base,” said Manning. “They will also assume responsibility for providing security for the base. They then transition into Squad STX on their second day there.

“We have merged what was formerly known as Squad STX and Patrolling STX under a new committee called Tactics,” said Manning. “Both now take place back-to-back at the TTB.”

Manning explained that the Squad STX portion is an evaluation of everything that the cadet has learned thus far in the individual’s career and is a measure of the cadet’s ability to lead their fellow cadets.

“They will be in the field and away from the TTB for 12 hours at a time over the next four days on Squad STX,” Manning said. “They’ll be performing various two-hour missions that are founded on battle drills and basic infantry small unit tactics. Then each night they’ll return to the Tactical Training Base. After Squad STX, the cadets have a transitional day and then move out to patrolling bases to begin Patrolling STX.

“We’ve haven’t changed the tasks for Patrolling,” Manning said. “What has changed is that over the next two days cadets are going to do three missions a day instead of two.”

Manning says that a Tactical Training Base provides important training on the elements of force protection inside the perimeter as well as inside.

“You’ve got to understand that there are non-combat related injuries that detract from the ability to do a mission,” he said. “You can’t brush your teeth and spit on the ground anywhere you want to. You have to understand that you have to look out for the hygiene of the Soldier. You see it and experience it on a much larger scale when you live with 500 or a thousand of your closest buddies in a TTB.”

Cadets take down an “intruder” during a security exercise at last year’s LDAC. Cadets must take care of their own security during their stay at the TTB.
The TTB offers a stunning view of Mount Ranier.

The TTB is meant to be an appropriate place for cadets to do those assembly area regroupings that prepare them for the sort of future combat operations that are occurring in the world today.

Joel Manning, Warrior Forge Chief of Training

Cadets will perform security sweeps outside the TTB just as they did at the 2008 LDAC FOB.

Cadets will be responsible for the security of a TTB just as they did during last year’s FOB.

An aerial view of the 2008 FOB site. The TTB will be similar, only double in size
The duties of a military chaplain are diverse. But regardless of their specific duty or setting, theirs is a ministry of presence. “Ministry of Presence” means being with the front line troops in the midst of combat giving encouragement, prayer and support.

At Warrior Forge 2009, chaplains will be found anywhere cadets are, eating the same food and often going through the same training.

“We try to meet cadets at those points where they might be apprehensive or tense,” said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Stephen Taylor, a 2008 LDAC regimental chaplain. “Whether that’s in the field, out at the rappelling tower or the gas chamber, we’re at those points where some of them are doing something for the first time.”

Taylor added that just like in the regular Army, LDAC cadets come from all walks of life and from all sorts of conditions and backgrounds. “We of course want them to feel safe and comfortable with their chaplain and with their worship,” he said. “I can be at least one person who’s not evaluating them. We can smile at them and just encourage them as much as possible.”

That close interpersonal interaction is key to the development of rapport between chaplain and cadet. Chaplain (Col.) Don Holdridge, also a 2008 LDAC regimental chaplain, explains; “The more that you’re out with your cadets or Soldiers in the field, the more informal conversations develop,” he said. “They’ll come to you with ‘Hey chaplain, what do you think about this?’ Or, ‘I’m struggling with that.’ Those things just seem to pop up naturally when you’re there together, eating the same food – eating the same dust.”

According to Taylor, the chaplains who are here to support LDAC are one of the few branches here that are not part of ROTC. “We’re either part of a reserve or guard unit or we’re regular Army,” he said. We volunteer or are selected for this opportunity.

Taylor was a newly accessioned non-denominational Protestant reserve chaplain, during Warrior Forge 2008 and volunteered last year for LDAC.

“For me, being an Army chaplain is the best job in the world,” said Taylor. “I get to minister to the world’s finest Soldiers and I get to serve my Lord.”

Chaplain Taylor explains that the Army sums up their basic chaplaincy mission as “bringing Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers.” It’s just an incredible honor to work alongside these brave men and women as they put on our nation’s uniform to protect our liberties,” he said.

“Chaplains have a split job,” said Taylor. “Half of my job is to perform religious services and the other half is to serve Soldiers, no matter what their faith.

“My job isn’t necessarily to perform those services, but to make sure that every Soldier who is in my area of operations has access to the materials and religious services that they need.”

“When we’re in garrison and somebody misses a chance to worship, I like to offer what I call opportunity worship services. Maybe there’s a classroom available. As long as it’s OK with the chain of command, we gather and rally for a worship service. Often they’re impromptu with little preparation.”

It’s not unusual then for a chaplain in the field to fashion a cross out of some tree branches and gather cadets around for such an impromptu service.
Finding Your Way Without a GPS

By Furman “Neil” Neeley
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

You can’t spell lost without LT.

Hopefully these are not the words you hear when you get to your first unit. One of the many necessary skills possessed by a successful leader is to know where you are and where you are headed. This is one of the many challenges cadets face at Warrior Forge 2009 during Land Navigation.

The Army operates on the ground. That’s a simple notion until you try navigating terrain.

On Training Day 5 (for odd numbered regiments) and Training Day 6, (for even regiments) cadets move to the field where they set up a patrol base near the Land Navigation site.

“New this year, we have added the map reading exam in the field under a large circus tent as part of the field craft training,” said Lt. Col. Jon Segars, Chief of the Land Navigation Committee. “Map reading is a 20 question test over 75 minutes, where Cadets must answer 14 correctly to get a “GO.” Since there are 500 cadets in each regiment this year, we will have to rotate those cadets not taking the written test will undergo Field Craft training.

Capt. Frank St. Charles, a 2008 cadre member from Western Kentucky University, explained what goes on during field craft training.

“Cadets are taught load planning by the Field Craft Team,” he said.

“They learn how to pack for the whole Warrior Forge experience. They learn how to fit equipment onto their Load Carrying Equipment and how to load their rucksack. They are also taught how to build field expedient shelters and how to move around the woods.”

After finishing field craft, cadets spend the night in the woods. The next morning they wake up to a hot meal.

St. Charles said that on their second day at the Land Navigation site, Cadets receive class instruction on how to hold a compass, read a compass, use a map and protractor, verify their pace count on terrain and road, use attack points, how to convert a grid azimuth to a magnetic azimuth and vice-versa, and familiarize themselves with a terrain model of the course.

He explained that cadets are briefed on the Day Land Navigation Course, emphasizing new boundaries. Before heading out on the course, cadets are issued a pencil, map, strip of paper with grid coordinates, and plastic bag.

“They then go out and execute the day course which lasts about five hours,” St. Charles said.

Once the course begins, cadets are given five hours to navigate their way around to find check points. In order to be considered a “Go” for Day Land Navigation, cadets must find at least five out of eight points.

Like last year, cadets will be given eight grids and must return in five hours with at least five correct points found. They will walk between 7 and 10 kilometers during the day course depending on the routes they choose.

Upon return from the day portion of Land Navigation, cadets are graded and are given a break and time to eat a hot evening meal.

After the evening meal, the cadets head out for the Night Land Navigation course.

Segars explained that the night course will be expanded to 11 square kilometers this year vs. seven last year.

“Walking distance is about the same,” he said, “But it allows us to better spread 108 different points across both wooded and open terrain. No two points are within 200 meters of one another.”

Cadets will have 3.5 hours to find at least 3 of 5 points. While on the course, cadets must be wary of obstacles on the ground such as downed trees and ant hills – in the dark.

“Using last year for measurement, we will probably see 90 percent of the Cadets achieve a first time “Go” on all three evaluated tasks,” added Segars.

“The next day those cadets that need it are given a chance to retest,” said Segars. “Those individuals with one or fewer “No-Go’s” will have instruction on how to operate a radio and how to use a Global Positioning Satellite system.”

Segars said that cadets will remain on site for about 42 hours, granted they receive a first time “Go” on all events.

“If the receive a “No-Go” on map reading or Day/Night Land Nav, they stay an extra day to retest,” he said. “If there are Cadets who receive a second “No-Go,” the Warrior Forge Commander will determine if and when they will be allowed to test for a third time.

Segars added that at the completion of this training and testing, cadets are prepared to move into collective tactical operations knowing they are physically able to negotiate terrain over long distances and able to use basic field survival techniques.

“Furthermore,” he said, “Land Navigation is the only individual event at LDAC where Cadets are simultaneously evaluated on their mental aptitude and their physical fitness.”
Field Leader’s Reaction Course
“There’s more than one way of doing things”

By Furman “Neil” Neeley
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

The Field Leader’s Reaction Course is designed to develop and evaluate leadership and to build teamwork early in the camp cycle. Cadet leadership potential is assessed by committee evaluators. Cadets are provided the opportunity to get early feedback on their leadership strengths, weaknesses, styles, and techniques.

The course is intended to present an unfamiliar situation to a squad of cadets to develop their conceptual skills and their team building actions,” said Lt. Col. Ken Ratashak, FLRC committee chief. “The designated squad leader must properly apply the eight step troop leading procedures, issue a five paragraph operations order and effectively communicate his/her ideas to motivate the squad to successfully negotiate the assigned obstacle.”

Ratashak said that communication skills and motivating actions are critical to successful execution of the FLRC.

“The squad leader must be able to effectively explain the current situation, the available assets, the constraints on the squad’s actions, and then clearly articulate an initial plan to the squad.”

Ratashak explained that the squad leader isn’t necessarily evaluated on how well his/her initial plan succeeds once the squad attempts to negotiate the obstacle.

“It’s an evaluation of how well they are able to continue to develop feasible courses of action as the squad is unable to achieve immediate success,” he said. “Key elements to the squad leaders success is his/her ability to generate possible solutions from his/her squad then refine them into a simple, executable plan that he/she can clearly articulate to the squad to negotiate the obstacle within the assigned time.”

Each “lane” is 45 minutes in length – five minutes for the squad leader to receive the order, 25 minutes to negotiate the obstacle, and 15 minutes for After Action Review, counseling, and movement to the next obstacle.

“The interim objective of this exercise is to improve the squad’s ability to perform future missions as a team,” Tatashak said. “The primary objective of the FLRC is to create adaptive, agile leaders who might encounter complex situations, develop multiple courses of action, refine those courses of action into a feasible plan, and then verbally communicate the plan so it is executable by the entire unit.

Ratashak said that the leadership dimensions learned on the FLRC are crucial to success on the battlefield because it develops wise and timely decision making by junior leaders.

“Instead of a platoon leader dealing with an unfamiliar situation by seeking guidance from his/her Company or Battalion Commander, he/she is able to immediately solve the problem and aggressively execute the solution by using the resources already available to the platoon,” Ratashak said. “The Warrior leaders of LDAC 2009 will face many uncertain circumstances during combat such as ambushes from enemy hiding in unknown locations, unexpected riots by non-English speaking tribal/religious groups, and threats from suspected suicide bombers.

“The quicker they can create positive actions the greater their chance is to defeat the enemy and improve the quality of life of the people they are securing.”
The U.S. Army expects all Soldiers to be Combat Life Saver trained, and ROTC warriors attending the Leader Development and Assessment Course are keeping pace. The 1st Aid Committee is designed to train and test cadets in five tasks: tactical combat casualty care; airway management, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation; treatment of a chest wound; and controlling bleeding and shock.

“Our lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan tells us these five tasks are relevant to ensure Army lieutenants – and every Soldier – can provide basic first-level medical care,” said Lt. Col. Ariel Rodriguez, 1st Aid committee chief. “In training and combat situations alike, the first level of emergency medical care is critical. These tasks will enable our cadets to help others – even prevent someone from dying – while further medical care is sought.”

Cadets who successfully complete all five tasks the first time through receive half a point toward RECONDO. The cadets go through five stations where they are given instruction on basic combat lifesaving skills.

- Station #1: Evaluate a Casualty
  - Evaluate a Casualty
  - Perform tactical combat casualty care
  - Initiate Field Medical Card
- Station #2: Airway Management
  - Open airway
  - Clear airway obstruction
  - Insert a Nasopharyngeal airway
  - Recovery position
- Station #3: CPR
  - Perform rescue breathing
  - Perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Station #4: Chest Wounds
  - Treat an open chest wound
  - Perform needle chest decompression
- Station #5: Control Bleeding and Treat Shock
  - Apply an emergency trauma bandage
  - Apply a tourniquet
  - Perform first aid to prevent or control shock

BRINGING SOLDIERS HOME SAFELY
Learning to decide, lead, move and fight in any environment is an integral part of Warrior Forge. Three committees – Maneuver Training, Squad Situational Training Exercise (STX) and Patrolling STX – are rolled into a Tactics branch and together they evaluate cadets in just those scenarios. Each of these committees creates a foundation for the next, so that cadets build upon the tactics, techniques and procedures learned from one committee to the next.

“Maneuver Training replaces the Individual Tactics Training that we’ve done previously,” said Lt. Col. John Stark, Tactics Committee Chief. “Maneuver Training is the starting point for Tactics training. We are in the same terrain as ITT was, a bit expanded but now we have a day to review basic patrolling techniques and give the cadets a chance to practice Patrolling in larger-than-squad-sized elements before they get evaluated by Tactics proper. We also give them an orientation to FOB/TTB tactics (running a guard tower, entry control point etc) and we validate the cadets on the use of a radio.

“The warriors are with us for five days,” Stark said. “The STX missions vary on lanes from basic battle drills to different scenarios that can challenge their ability to think on their feet,” said Ramsey. “It’s the first time that we at Warrior Forge get a chance to get a look at them on the tactical side.”

Stark said that the grade that a cadet gets at STX is two thirds of their evaluation at LDAC. They learn at the individual level how to operate tactically in a simulated combat environment. Those skills are put to the test when the cadets begin Squad STX, and continue to grow and improve until the regiment transitions from the Squad STX lanes to Patrolling.

**Maneuver Training**

The Maneuver committee provides cadets refresher training in basic leader planning – and training to perform as members of a fire team, as fire team leaders, as squad leaders, and to clear a room and knock out a bunker using individual movement techniques while crossing over, through and around obstacles. Platoons rotate through training stations, spending about 60 minutes at each station, allowing 10 minutes for movement to the next station.

**Cultural Awareness Training** occurs during the days cadets are in Maneuver Training. Cultural Awareness teaches cadets a basic understanding of cultural matters and how being aware of others cultural mores can facilitate mission success. Cadets learn how to conduct bi-lateral discussions with local officials, how to conduct a knock-and-search mission and how to defuse volatile situations using an interpreter.

“Cultural Awareness is an integral part of any operation in theater,” said Maj. Todd Eckstein, Deputy Chief of Warrior Forge Training. “Knowing...
the population and your enemy – and knowing what things are important to both – are every bit as important to the success of the mission as some of the tactical training cadets receive at LDAC.”

**Squad STX**

Squad STX is comprised of a plethora of activities. The committee itself has two distinct teams. Team Wolverine and Team Grizzly have “lane walkers,” who walk the lanes while cadets execute squad level tactics and are evaluated on their leadership potential.

Squad STX is the first time cadets are fully immersed in a high-stress, tactical environment. There is minimal classroom instruction, and they are required to walk while carrying rucksacks for hours each day. They’re constantly under the tactical evaluator’s microscope. They experience conditions unlike any most cadets have encountered – bad weather, mosquitoes, swamps, and thick, wooded terrain. The cadet leaves this environment knowing more about who he or she is and how to cope with the stressors of battle.

The cadets go through a transition phase through which they learn their role as a leader and what leadership style they will develop to influence their team or squad to accomplish the assigned tasks and mission. They learn how to develop individuals and build teams – while being evaluated in tactical scenarios based on real world situations. Cadets learn how to take constructive criticism and apply it to follow-on missions. Squad STX facilitates the overall professional development of the cadet and enables them to return to their respective programs and share their experience with the new MS-III cadets who will attend LDAC next year.

**Patrolling STX**

At Patrolling STX, the cadets are tested on all of the skills learned from the previous two sub-committees; they are also taught additional tactical skills necessary to achieve the ultimate goal of each and every cadet – excelling in a leadership position.

Patrolling is a simulation of real combat scenarios – it is the culminating event at Warrior Forge.

Before Patrolling, the cadets had only operated as a squad; now they operate as a member of a larger section. Patrolling is the culminating event for the cadets because here they get to show both their individual skills learned at previous committees and their squad skills learned at Squad STX. At Patrolling, the cadets learn the last part of tactics, which is how to operate in a much larger group when they are placed into two squads and execute tactical missions along with real-world type, variable missions. Patrolling places a tremendous amount of pressure and an enormous amount of stress on the cadets in order to evaluate their readiness to successfully lead Soldiers.

Cadets are pushed to their limits physically, mentally and emotionally while operating at the section level. Patrolling gives the Warrior Forge cadet an opportunity to show their leadership potential while learning what it takes to become an Army officer.

Upon completion of Patrolling the cadets leave from this committee with a sense of accomplishment and pride. They also leave with the confidence to go back to their respective institutions of higher learning across America, knowing that they are one step closer to attaining their goal of being commissioned as a second lieutenant. Commissioning grants them the privilege to lead America’s most precious commodity: the men and women who make up the United States Army.
Combat water safety training put to practical use at Confidence 2