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## **MEDIA RELEASE: First-ever gender integrated Ranger Training Assessment Course completed**

**FORT BENNING, Georgia** – Fifty-eight Soldiers completed the Ranger Training Assessment Course (RTAC) Jan. 30 at the Army National Guard's Warrior Training Center here, including 5 women who will potentially be among the first to attend the U.S. Army Ranger Course in the spring.

The Army's decision to go forward with an assessment of the Ranger Course was announced Jan. 15, and units across the Army are now sending qualified female Soldiers to RTAC here in preparation for the first Ranger course with male and female Soldiers.

"This first iteration of an integrated RTAC has provided significant lessons learned as we conduct a deliberate and professional way forward to the integrated assessment in April," said Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning.

RTAC assesses eligible Army Active Duty, National Guard and foreign military soldiers, on their ability to meet the challenges of Ranger Course. Historically, more than half of the Soldiers who complete RTAC will successfully complete the Ranger Course.

RTAC was designated a pre-requisite for all women who wish to be part of the Ranger Course Assessment. The course is designed to improve the combat arms functional skills of officer and enlisted volunteers.

"The cadre was impressed with the level of physical fitness and dedication of the majority of female volunteers," said Lt. Col. Edmund "Beau" Riely, commander, ARNG Warrior Training Center. The most common reaction among the cadre was appreciation that there were no changes to the standards, he said.

RTAC is two weeks long and consists of two phases. The first phase, assessment, mirrors the assessment phase at Ranger School, and is designed to assess a Soldier's physical and mental abilities. During this phase, a student conducts a PT test, a swim test, land navigation, and a 6-mile foot march. The second phase of RTAC, the field training exercise, is designed to assess and train Soldiers on troop leading procedures and patrolling, skills which will be used extensively during the Ranger Course.

A Soldier who completes RTAC should be able to demonstrate physical and mental preparedness for the U.S. Army Ranger Course as well as apply troop leading procedures; navigate various terrain while dismounted, and develop and carry out combat orders for combat patrols to the same standard as the U.S. Army Ranger Course.

This is the first of four consecutive iterations of RTAC prior to the Ranger Course Assessment, which begins April 20. The final three RTAC courses with male and female students will be conducted Feb. 6-21, March 6-21 and April 3-18.

Photos of Soldiers during the Ranger Training Assessment Course are available for media use here: <http://tinyurl.com/kuxl1tt>.