

THE Marauder

5TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter March 2011

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Hold on a little longer; Spring is on the way. We've experienced another cold winter here in Dahlonge, hopefully warmer weather will prevail soon. Even though we still yet to thaw out, the battalion continuously remains on the move and training Rangers. In January, the battalion treated all to a great evening out at our Holiday Ball, followed by a snow and ice storm that slowed activity on the camp for a week. Now we look forward to new adventures.

The next few months offer some great opportunities for families to gain a little more insight into what their Rangers do here at Camp Merrill. The journey begins in April with the Best Ranger Competition held at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Best Ranger Competition remains a great tradition for the RTB community, matching up the best qualified Rangers in the Army in a three day team competition. 5th RTB will play a critical role in supporting all events as well as making sure to support our team CPT Jonathan Norton and CPT Randall Waters.

Back on Camp , 23 April 2011, the Mountain Ranger Association will sponsor their Annual Easter Egg Hunt. A super event that comes at just the right time to get the children out of the house and into the hunt for Easter eggs, while enjoying a BBQ.

As the month of April comes to a close, the Mountain Ranger Run offers competitive types an excellent opportunity show their skills. Come out on 30 April 2011, and support local charities as well as test your physical stamina against the trails and hills around Camp Merrill. Events include, a 5K,

10K, Duathlon, and bike race, so lace up your running shoes and get ready to race.

Last but certainly not least, look forward to the Open House here at Camp Merrill on 7 May 2011. All are welcome to come and experience a small part of the life of a Ranger. Open House is a great opportunity for all ages to see static displays, including weapons and helicopters, and watch a "Rangers in Action" demonstration. The Family Readiness Group will operate a vending station for food and drinks, so mark your calendars for a fun filled day as we look forward to seeing you this Spring.



5th RTB was honored at our Holiday Ball by the presence of Mr. Vincent Melillo, original member of Merrill Marauders, pictured here with daughter and friend.



Calendar Highlights

LEADING THE WAY

28 March- 9 April: BRC ADVON Party departs (FBGA)

10-19 April: Best Ranger Competition Support

15-17 April: Best Ranger Competition

23 April: Easter Egg Hunt

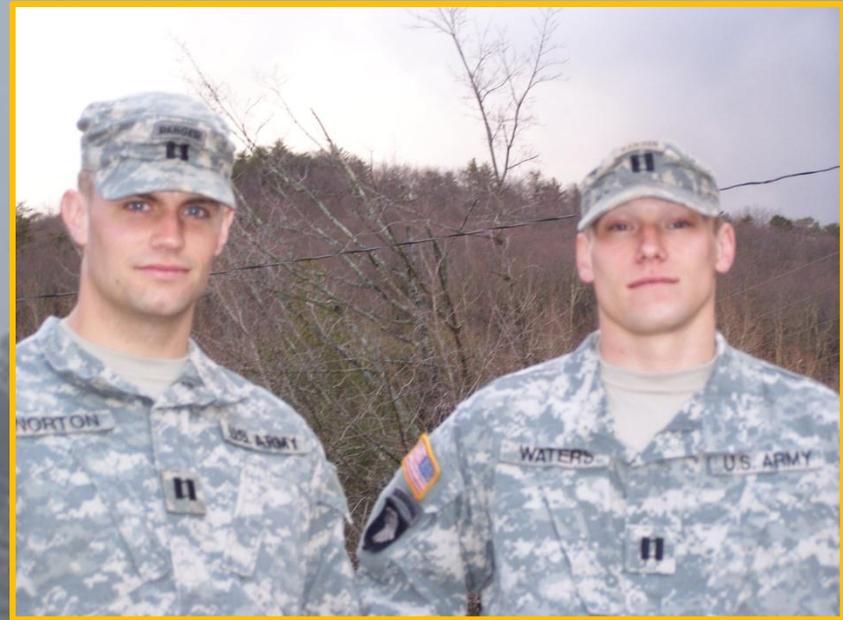
30 April: Mountain Ranger Run

6-8 May: Camp Merrill Open House

7 June: Battalion Change of Command

8-22 June Summer Leave (Tentative)

6-8 August: Battalion Marriage Retreat



Congratulations to CPT Jonathan Norton and CPT Randal Waters for representing 5th RTB and competing in the 28th Annual Best Ranger Competition.

Friends and family of HHC, thank you once again for your unwavering support for your Soldiers. Your Soldier's continue to be the backbone of the Battalion; truly nothing would be accomplished without the daily hard work and sacrifices of HHC Soldiers.



Hails

PFC Erik Rowley
SPC Timothy Comer
SPC Ryan Carrick
SPC Jonathan Tichnell
SGT Ricky Hebert
SPC Phillip Nelson
SSG Roy Orren
1LT Jason Kruck
SSG Jason VanGilder
SGT Brian Philips

Farewells

SGT Russell, Matthew
SGT Peter Fox
1SG David Banks
SGT Blaine Griffith
CPT Dennis Hall

School Graduations

EIB: 1LT Jason Kruck
Jumpmaster: SSG Ryan Chancellor
Air Assault: SSG Robert Lemon
EO & Resiliency Training: SSG Abdul Bangura
Ranger School: SPC Gregory Sheridan, SPC Chism Michels SGT Joseph Horton, & SPC Michael Thornton
WLC: SGT Andy Lai & SGT Wilson
ALC SSG Brendon Hancock



H

Births

SGT Justin Robertson-15 Feb Alera, Marie
7lbs,5oz 19 ¼

H

C



HHC Single Soldiers enjoying some Spiritual Fitness and Skiing in West Virginia...

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable Spring, and thanks again for all your wonderful support! Rangers Lead the Way!

CPT Ryan Slocum and 1SG Lance Kirkham

A

Regards friends and families of A Co! We hope everyone had an outstanding winter break and are enjoying the unseasonably warm weather!



L

School Graduations

MSLC: SFC Joshua Yost

ALC: SSG Richard Eifert

PATHFINDER:

SFC Neil Fletcher

EXPERT INFANTRY BADGE: SFC

Brandon Cross

Hails

SSG Jimmy Garrett

SSG Jonathon Baxley

SFC Michael Spivey

SFC Joshua Yost

SSG Richard Eifert

SFC Kristopher Fuller

P

Farewells

SSG Blain Weirs, back to 82nd

SFC Weiner, Ft. McPherson

H



SSG Weitzman keeps on track during snow storm...

A

A Co is looking forward to assisting in the Best ranger Competition and invites all family members to the fish fry and Mountain ranger Run in May!

CPT John Thomason and 1SG Shane Stockard

B

The last quarter Bravo Company has received several new NCO's and the incoming Company Commander; and we have been putting them through the certification process to bring them up to speed and increase the company's ability to conduct our mission. With these added numbers the company is getting healthier and we are embracing our new members as they will pave the way for Bravo Company's future.



B

School Graduations

Air Assault School: SSG Tarik Tomlinson & SFC Richard Hancock

Airborne School: SSG Brian Elmore & SSG Brian Blow

BDE Pre-Scuba School: SSG Matthew Collins

Pathfinder School:

SSG Jacey Callahan

WMMC Vermont:

SSG William Pearson

MSLC: SSG Brian Elmore &

SFC Richard Hancock

BMMC: SFC Christopher Carbone, SFC Donald Scott,

SFC Gibson Mongkeya,

SFC Christopher Donaldson,

SSG Alexander Garcia, &

SSG Dylan Spang

EIB: CPT Jason Bradley &

SSG Brian Blow

Jumpmaster School: CPT Daubert

Hails

CPT Matt McDonald

SFC Christopher Donaldson

SFC Eric Guevara

SSG Matthew Dodge

SSG James Couillou

SSG Andrew Dearden

Promotions

SFC Anthony Gilbert made the E-8 list

Births

Kaden James McDonald,
7 pounds, 14 ounces—
20.25".

Coti James Bicknell Scott, 8 pounds,
15 ounces—20.5"

Farewells

SFC Anthony Gilbert moved to BN Student
TAC Office

A

V

O

Over the coming months we will be continuing our primary mission of training Ranger Students. Additionally we will be conducting a change of command in April, and also supporting the Best Ranger Competition in April
CPT Daubert & 1SG Weisensel

C

Friends and family of C Co it has been another good quarter for the men of C Company as we continue to operate at a fast pace. The Company continues to perform exceptionally thanks to your support.

H



A

School Graduations

SERE: SFC Staugler

Airborne: SSG Kussart

Jumpmaster: SSG Kirby, CPT Works, & 1SG Loveall

ALC: SSG Velazquez

BMCC: SSG Kussart, SFC Barrera, SSG Campbell, SSG Molina, SFC Smith, SSG Carbone, SSG Justice, CPT Ryan

RICC: SSG Cash, SSG Carbone, SSG Molina

Hails

SSG Nestor Molina

SSG Warren Cash

SSG Eric Carbone

Promotions

Selected to Master Sergeant:

SFC Timothy Speichert

SFC Bruce Bowlan

SFC Herbert Smith

SFC Michael Barrera

Births

Peyton Tyler Allen 8lbs 9 oz 21"

Katlyn Marie Zeitlin 7lbs 10 oz 20"

Brooke Joelle Smith 7lbs 4 oz 19.25"

We look forward to the Best Ranger Competition, Mountain Ranger Run and Ranger Open House where we can enjoy a more regular day to day schedule without the constraints of having students.

MAJ Kehoe & 1SG Loveall

L

E

L e a r n i n g t o E n j o y t h e J o u r n e y



Chaplain Honbarger

Every now and then I really miss owning an old reliable pickup truck. Recently, after cleaning out the basement, our neighbor very graciously allowed me to borrow his nineteen ninety model Ford Ranger pickup truck, so that I could cart off the trash. Over the phone he offered to start the little Ranger in advance, and then warned me that the truck acted somewhat temperamentally in that the warmer the engine heated up the better that the old truck would run. In an effort to burn some time, I inflated the tire on my wheel barrel and brought up the first load of trash from out of the basement. Figuring that enough time had passed, I walked up the steep angle of my drive and over to my neighbors to an already running Ranger.

At one time, the little truck sported a two tone black and gray paint scheme separated by a red pin stripe. Now the black paint appeared splotchy at best, and the only sportiness left existed in the now out of style white letter tires. Still, a truck's a truck; so I started to climb inside noticing that the seat already held the maximum leg room position. I'm a tad bit on the tall side so I applied a little unorthodox version of yoga and slipped my knees under the steering wheel. Once the door closed, I instinctively shifted into first gear and headed up the drive. Unfortunately, the little truck just didn't make it up the hill. Time and time again, I tried to move up the drive only to find disappointment as the motor sputtered and sent me back down. Finally, I managed to work the clutch just right clearing the hill on my neighbors drive. Silly me, in my overexcitement I backed right down the hill of my driveway without considering if the truck might ever muster the energy to make it back out.

While the motor ran, the family all pitched in and we filled the little bed with everything from scrap wood to old roofing shingles. All in all, I estimated that it served as a pretty heavy load for a little truck, which finally dawned on me as I calculated the drive up the hill of my driveway. After another round of yoga, I buckled my seatbelt and headed up the drive only to find that once again the truck lacked the power to climb the hill. I worried that giving too much gas might not prove beneficial for the little motor, but I found myself forced to push the accelerator all the way to the floor. Still, the truck struggled to make the climb until I added some variety to my technique by pushing the accelerator all the way to the floor while pulling up on the steering wheel for additional leverage. Sheer exhilaration pumped through my vanes as I passed the mail box and headed up the street with a wake of my cheering family in the background. The tachometer on the dashboard matched my enthusiasm, so I pushed in the clutch and grabbed the shifter preparing to launch into second gear and utter glory—when thunk! Without warning the gear shifter knob feel off into my hand, causing me a slight moment of confusion, followed by a sad loss of momentum—back to first gear.

Once again, using the accelerator steering wheel leverage pull technique the truck regained momentum, and I shifted into second by adding a new pistol grip approach of keeping my thumb on top of the shifter knob. Outside of my housing area the victory continued as the little truck picked up speed as we raced down hill. My elation started to wane as debris started to funnel in through a crack in the rear sliding glass window, and I noticed that a roofing shingle gained a short flight and now perched half way on the tail gate. Explicative after explicative ran through my mind like a Wall Street bill board, but I resisted the urge to vent verbally and slowed down, totally ruining any chances of making it back up the hill on the other side. Once again, forced to use the accelerator to the floor while pulling up on the steering wheel for leverage technique, I switched instantly into the pistol grip gear shift with my thumb on top and did a California roll past the stop sign and out on to the main road. Happy once again to have risen to the occasion and beaten the odds, my moment soon faded as I noticed a car right on my bumper, and that's when I remembered the single precariously perched shingle on the tailgate. Tiny beads of sweat formed on my forehead as I calculated my next move. Should I pull over and lose momentum, or should I keep going and risk the shingle landing on the car behind me? I gripped the steering wheel and strained my eyes; I could see the entrance to the landfill. Gently, I told myself, almost there... I turned on the blinker and turned into the landfill with shingle intact and just as I prepared to lift my arms in the goal gesture, I noticed that the gate was shut—the landfill was CLOSED!

At this point I wish I could declare this a work of fiction, but all these events actually took place. I also wish that I, in some miraculous way, I held my composure, but I didn't—actually as the expression goes, "I was fit to be tied." I fumed, I ranted, and I raved, "How can the stinking landfill close on a Saturday!" Then something inside spoke to me, "why are you so angry?" That small voice caused me to stop and conduct a quick evaluation, *how can I be so angry when I'm so blessed?* I live next to a wonderful neighbor who willingly loaned something dear to him so I can get some work done—that's all and I've lost nothing in the process. If anything, I've received an incredible blessing through a fun filled journey, traveling up and down hills and around bends not knowing what may come, but learning to trust in the process. Learning to accept the words of wisdom found in Proverbs 3: 5-6, which states: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." I'm not really sure how it works, but God showed me a valuable lesson in trust that day. I calmed down, called my wife, and she found an open landfill just up the road. Using the push the accelerator to the floor while pulling up on the steering wheel technique, followed by the pistol grip gear shifting method, coupled by trusting in the Lord, I experienced a wonderful and productive journey even if it meant traveling to the landfill. I challenge you to continue to foster your trust in the Lord of Lords and King of Kings and prepare for the journey of a lifetime and then some.

Arts & Crafts

Smiling Faces

5th RTB Playgroup

Meets every Tuesday, please check FRG e-mail for times and location.

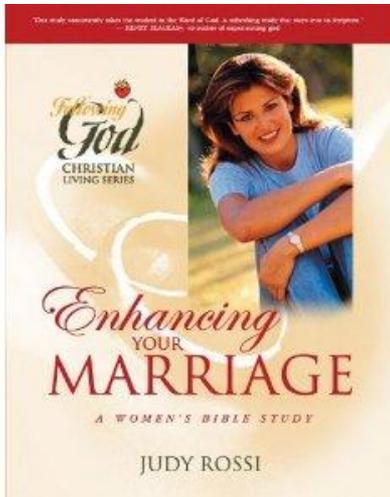
For more information on playgroup, hosting a playgroup, or volunteering to help contact Erin Pare at 706-867-7205 or erin.pare@us.army.mil

Snacks

Play Time



Weekly Women's Bible Study



Come along with **Judy Rossi** on a life-changing Bible Study designed to enhance your marriage. Join in on the life changing fellowship with other ladies of the battalion 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. each Thursday.

For more information contact Kara Honbarger at 706-867-9521 or craignkara@yahoo.com

Childcare Subsidy Available!

Good news for parents seeking childcare. Dahlonga Country Day is accepted by NACCRRA, which offers reduced rates for Active Duty Military at satellite installations like Camp Merrill. Simply follow this link: www.naccrra.org Scan across the top on the page- click the link Child Care for Military Families. Click the Branch of Service circle, and then look on right side of the page about half way down and click on Military Subsidy Application. Once a parent applies online they will get an email back with some specific requested information to fax in. Melissa of Dahlonga Country Day has offered her services in helping any Soldier and their Families apply online at her office, where they are welcome to use her fax to send in the requested information.