WELCOME PACKET

5th Ranger Training Battalion

1 Camp Merrill

Dahlonega, GA 30533

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 5TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION
1 CAMP MERRILL
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533-1802

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATSH-RBE 30 November 2015

Dear 5th Ranger Training Battalion Family,

Welcome to Camp Frank D. Merrill. This booklet provides information that will assist you in getting settled quickly into the North Georgia area. You will also find additional information that will be helpful during your tour.

Military housing is available for Camp Merrill at Porter Village through the Villages of Benning. Incoming company and battalion command teams, the chaplain, and all field grade officer positions are on the key and essential housing list and are required to live in military housing. Any requests for exemption must be approved by the battalion commander to reside outside of military housing.

We value greatly your own and your spouse's service and commitment to the battalion and our country. We value just as much your support to your family and to our Ranger family. I extend my heartiest, warmest welcome to you and your family.

"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY"

Sincerely,

CLAYTON D. MEALS
LTC, IN
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 5th RANGER TRAINING BATTALION
1 CAMP FRANK D. MERRILL
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATSH-RBE-CSM 09 June 2015

Welcome to the 5th Ranger Training Battalion, the Mountain Operations Phase of the United States Army Ranger School. You are a very important part of this team, and this team provides a valuable service not only to the Ranger School students, but to the cadre, the cadre families, and the local community. I expect you to be the example of what a confident, competent Noncommissioned Officer or Soldier should be, one that always set the example for others to follow. You will interact with students and cadre on a daily basis and are expected to be technically and tactically proficient in your craft, for the benefit of the Ranger Students, and junior cadre team members.

This time of service is very rewarding, career enhancing, and will provide many opportunities for you to excel. This is an organization that maintains high standards of performance and professionalism, and you are required to maintain or exceed those standards.

You will report to the AG Replacement Detachment in Ft. Benning, before you travel to Dahlonega Georgia and sign into 5th Ranger Training Battalion. Be prepared to conduct an RPFT, height and weight evaluation upon arrival to 5th Ranger Training Battalion. The physical fitness standards within the Brigade are:

- Ranger Physical Fitness Test (RPFT) 70% in each event from the 17-21 age group
- Complete 6 Chin-ups (palms facing toward the body)
- Run 5-miles within 40 minutes or less
- Complete a 12 mile foot march maintaining a 15 minute mile (standard)

Upon receipt of this letter, please contact me or the 5th Ranger Training Battalion team at, 706-864-3367 ext. 5000 so we can ensure that you and your family receive the best possible reception and integration into the Battalion.

"Rangers Lead the Way"

JERRY L. DODSON
CSM, USA
5th Ranger Training Battalion CSM

IN-PROCESSING PROCEDURES

All personnel assigned to 5th Ranger Training Battalion MUST sign in with the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade (ARTB) at Fort Benning prior to arriving at building 35. The ARTB S1 shop will stamp your orders and sign you into the Brigade. Once you have completed the required tasks at the Brigade HQ's building, you will proceed to building 35 with a copy of your stamped orders and your PCS leave form.

If you are married, you will proceed to Camp Frank D. Merrill (CFM) to start your PTDY for house hunting, and return to Fort Benning at a later date to complete your in-processing. If you are not married you will remain at Fort Benning until your in-processing is complete. All Soldiers will stay in the permanent party barracks located on Camp Rogers during in-processing.

You are not authorized to purchase a hotel room during in-processing at Fort Benning. You are only authorized to use your TLE within 50 miles of Camp Frank D. Merrill.

While you are completing your in-processing, you must go to the following locations:

Central Issuing Facility on FT. BENNING (All TA-50 must be issued by this facility). Camp Merrill only has a small CIF. In order to perform your duties as a Ranger Instructor or Soldier assigned to CFM, you need to receive all of your required TA-50 from CIF at FT. BENNING.

Building 2295 to receive your DDC card. You will need to bring your Accident Avoidance Course certificate with you. They will be open from 0730-1130 and 1230-1630. If you have any questions please contact the testing office at 706-545-9073 or 706-545-5043.

5TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION'S INFORMATION BOOKLET

Camp Frank D. Merrill is the home of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion and the mountain phase of the U.S. Army Ranger School, where small unit leaders are instructed in combat techniques and procedures used to move swiftly over all types of terrain including mountains. One-eighth of the earth's surface is covered by mountains and almost every war which has been fought since the start of recorded history has included some type of mountain operations.

TO RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF "GEORGIA ON MY MIND" TRAVEL GUIDE …….1-800-VISIT-GA (847-4842)

For more information about the Dahlonega area…call or write the Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce, 13 South Park Street, Dahlonega, GA 30533 / Phone 706-864-3513, 800-231-5543,
Fax 706-864-7917 or send email: dahlonega@alltel.net

Other information that might be of interest in your transition:

http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/index.shtml
http://www.thedahloneganugget.com/news/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MOUNTAIN RANGER HISTORY	7
MISSION OVERVIEW	11
CAMP EVENTS	12
INPROCESSING FORT BENNING AND CAMP FRANK D. MERRILL	14
IMPORTANT BATTALION PHONE NUMBERS	15
MEDICAL SERVICES IN AND AROUND DAHLONEGA	16
GENERAL LUMPKIN COUNTY FACTS	20
EDUCATION INFORMATION	22
CAMP FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS	23
FREQUENTLY USED PHONE NUMBERS DAHLONEGA AREA/ FORT BENNING AREA	24
MILITARY SITES ACCESSIBLE FROM CAMP FRANK D. MERRILL	25
CAMP MERRILL PHOTO	26
PORTER VILLAGE PHOTO	27
DIRECTIONS TO CAMP	29
PATROL CAP	30
BALLISTIC HELMET	33
CONDOR SUMMIT JACKET	34
CANTEEN TIE DOWNS	35
FLC TIE DOWN	37
MOLLE ASSAULT PACK	39
MOLLE RUCK TIE DOWNS	40
E-TOOL TIE DOWNS	41
RANGER PT UNIFORM	43
CLASS A UNIFORM	45
BERET	46
POW POLICY	47

The History of Camp Frank D. Merrill: 5th Ranger Training Battalion

In order to fully cover the history of the U.S. Army's Mountain Ranger Training, we have to first take a brief look at the roots of Ranger training. On October 12, 1950 the announcement was made in the "Bayonet" that Ranger training would begin at Fort Benning, Ga. The decision for Ranger training came from lessons learned in World War II and Korea. Plans called for one Ranger Company to be an integral part of each Infantry Division. Based on this concept, the Department of the Army would send separate companies with a full complement of officers and NCOs through the new six-week Ranger Course, taught exclusively at Fort Benning. After graduation, the Ranger Companies would then be available to Division Commanders for special missions of the type performed by their predecessors in World War II.

Based on a new emphasis being placed on this enhancement of the infantry, and on remarks of the Army Chief of Staff, General J.L. Collins (the essence of his remarks being why put all your eggs in one basket) in April 1951, and a verbal directive from the Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces, a study was initiated in August 1951 at Fort Benning to propose a new Ranger Course. This new Ranger Course would be offered to all combat units of the army, in order to develop leaders in infantry units throughout the Army. This standard, explained by General Mark W. Clark in a letter dated 16 February 1952, must be established in sufficient numbers so that each infantry unit the size of a platoon will have at least one Ranger qualified Soldier. This individual will then act as a seed around which many other similar seeds in the unit will grow. The ultimate goal of this process is to raise the standard of performance of all our infantry units. Today this still remains one of the goals of Ranger School.

As a result of the board's study at Fort Benning, the Department of the Army on October 3, 1951, directed the establishment of the Ranger Department and Course at Fort Benning with Colonel Henry Learnard as the first Department Director. In this same letter, the Chief of Army Field Forces was directed to establish the scope of the Ranger Course, course length, frequencies, class capabilities, and prerequisites. Because of these requirements, a second board was convened to study terrain requirements with the following characteristics and distance limitations: mountainous, forested, sparsely inhabited, seacoast, swamp, and jungle within a radius of approximately 200 miles of Fort Benning. Fort Benning alone, as a training site, was automatically ruled out due to the numerous other training areas and obvious orientation points around this reservation such as water and jump towers.

A group of officers on the board, familiar with the North Georgia section of the Chattahoochee National Forest first coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service for use of 396,000 acres in 1951. This rugged and sparsely populated area provided the ideal site for training under simulated combat conditions. On January 3, 1952 class #1 started training as scheduled. Eleven days of the training took place in North Georgia and consisted of three patrolling FTXs, and two days of rappelling training near Woody Gap. One hundred and fifty (150) students reported; forty-seven (47) successfully completed the course.

In September 1952 the first cadre parachute jump was conducted. A C-119 “Flying Boxcar” was used and the Drop Zone (DZ) was an open pasture where the new Lumpkin County City Hall is now located in Dahlonega. From January 1952 until November 1952 students and cadre used the facilities at Pine Valley, a North Georgia College recreation area. This land was leased from the college and was composed almost entirely of temporary quarters and tents. A log cabin used as the orderly room and a barn used as the supply room were the only permanent buildings. On November 5, 1952 the Mountain Training Camp began moving to a new permanent site at Camp Wahsega. This new camp located 12 miles from Dahlonega in the Chattahoochee National Forest, a former Civilian Conservation Corp Camp was now being leased from the state nine months out of the year (excluding June, July, and August) for $250.00 per month. Facilities available on the 40 acres of land included 16 10-man cabins, a large combined mess and recreation hall, dispensary, two permanent showers, latrine buildings, a large baseball diamond, and a swimming pool. A platoon of the 534th Signal Construction Company emplaced new telephone lines to the camp. Camp Wahsega facilities were used to conduct Mountain Ranger Training until 1958.

The current Mosby Army Airfield was built at this time to enable army aircraft to land closer to Camp Washega. During this time, and until the early sixties, instructor duty was considered a hardship assignment. Instructors were assigned duty at the Mountain Ranger Camp for 12 months and then rotated back to Fort Benning to complete their tour of duty.

Between 1959 and 1960, Mountain Ranger Training was moved permanently to the Black Farms area, its present home. This site, approximately one mile from Camp Wahsega, was for many years, used only in the summer months to quarter Ranger cadre and instructors. The first construction project was approved in 1960 for $100,000. This project included one barracks, one mess hall, a sewage lagoon, and the paving of specified parking areas and access roads. A construction project for $704,000, which included the construction of five barracks, operations center, infirmary, officers’

quarters, motor pool and shops, a recreation building, and miscellaneous items such as electrical and communications systems was approved in 1961.

Initially, the students were quartered in tents in the summer and the old Camp Wahsega hutments in the winter. In 1961 construction began on the student hutments which would enable the Black Farms Camp to be used year-round. The hutments were used to quarter the students until 1988 when a consolidated, open bay student barracks was constructed near the Etowah River. The hutments were destroyed; however, a replica was constructed in 1994 and dedicated during Open House Ceremonies on July 30, 1994, the Camp Frank D. Merrill Museum was officially opened and dedicated to the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Mountain Ranger Training Camp from 1952 to present by the Battalion Commander. The building itself is an exact replica of the original hutments that were used as student barracks as a historical monument and museum. In early 1963 a small Post Exchange (PX) was opened. The hours of operation varied depending upon when the manager was walking patrols as an instructor. In 1968, the Commissary was established through the efforts of the Camp's wives. Also, the remaining permanent support troop buildings were built during 1968.

The mountains of North Georgia are remembered by Ranger Instructors and students alike for their steepness, ruggedness, and cold unpredictable winter months. During the winter of 1962-63 nearly half of a 180-man student class became frostbite cases when the temperature in the training area dropped rapidly in one hour.

During the Vietnam Era (1966-71) the Mountain Ranger Camp trained many more students than previously. Ranger School was a stepping stone to actual combat for many of the Army's small unit leaders. On 2 February 1971, the Mountain Ranger Camp was officially designated as Camp Frank D. Merrill in honor of Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill, who commanded the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, "Merrill's Marauders", during the Burma Operations of World War II.

The completion of Interstate 85 in 1979 and State Highway 400 in 1980 has greatly reduced traveling time to Camp Merrill from Fort Benning. One full day was required for the transporting of student classes in the past, now the trip could be made in 4 hours. In 1982, resurfacing of the nine-mile road connecting Dahlonega with Camp Merrill was completed, with one half of the cost being paid by the Federal Government due to military usage.

The mid 1980's and 1990's brought the several much needed renovations to rapidly aging Camp Merrill. The first being construction of new Student open bay barracks to replace the old dilapidated hutments, a new cadre barracks and senior bachelor enlisted quarters to house the growing number of permanent party cadre assigned to Camp Merrill, and a new gymnasium complete with racquetball courts, and sauna. A one mile running track, composed of cinder footing was also constructed circling Mosby Army Airfield. The track is most likely the only one mile of flat terrain available in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

In 1990 the old Black Farms farm house known as the "Snap link" building, which originally had been used as the Bachelor Officers Quarters (BAQ) and later a "guest house", was destroyed by controlled burning as it had become a major fire hazard. In its place, a fully furnished duplex transient facility was built to house army families while in the process of moving to or from the Camp. In 1991, the PX was relocated to the vicinity of the main gate of Camp Merrill, which enabled both the PX and the Commissary to double their size and provide increased service to their customers. Some 500 military families from Northern Georgia, Western North Carolina, and Eastern Tennessee use these facilities. In 1991 a new dispatch facility was also constructed

In 1996 construction began on a much needed housing in Dahlonega area for Soldiers stationed at Camp Merrill. 40 single family houses were constructed for Soldiers and families. In 1988 a ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted and Porter Village was officially opened. In 2009 Porter village was expanded and 40 additional single family homes were constructed including the swimming pool for Soldiers and families residing there. Camp Merrill now boasts what is arguably the best family housing in the Army.

The new decade also brought additional renovations to Camp Merrill. Old outdoor latrines were converted into laundry mat style facilities to provide students a place to refit and wash clothing. A new waste water treatment plant was also constructed. In 2005 renovations to the Lower Mountaineering Training Area began with the construction of a new latrine facility. Sadly by the year 2007, the old "Rope Shack" had fallen into such a state of disrepair it was deemed the facility could not be renovated. A state of the art mountaineering equipment storage facility equipment was constructed in 2007, and the old "Rope Shack" was demolished. 2008 began construction on a $750, 000 Multi Use Tower training facility to replace the dilapidated 30' Ramp. Other Camp Merrill renovations included construction of a new Medical Platoon building, as well as complete renovations to the Troop Medical Clinic, and the Camp Merrill Central issue facility. A new bridge over the Etowah River was also constructed to permit heavy vehicle access to Mosby Army Airfield.

Camp Merrill continues to see new renovations and the additions of modern technology. In 2014, construction began on new cadre barracks for single Soldiers and Cadre, remolding of Company Offices, and paving the one mile track around Mosby Airfield. Remodeling of the Chow Hall began in the fall of 2015. At the time of the remodeling, the Chow Hall, in its original state, was the second oldest dining facility in the Army. Only the chow hall at West Point was older than the one at Camp Merrill, which continues to be legendary for its blueberry pancakes served to thousands of Ranger Students every year.

September 30, 2015 was a historical day in the history of Camp Merrill. Camp Merrill and an additional 282 acres surrounding the camp were officially transferred to the US Army in a land swap agreement with the US Forest Service. The Army had for the previous sixty-three years leased the camp and surrounding 282 acres from the Forest Service. The training area required to execute Ranger School extends beyond the acquired 282 acres. The Army will continue, through a service agreement with the USFS, to train throughout the Chattahoochee National Forest, with the training area extending many miles into the North Georgia Mountains and across three counties.

Due to its location in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains as well the camp's excellent facilities, it is no wonder Camp Merrill is often referred to as the best kept secret in the Army. Camp Merrill, the Rangers, staff, and Ranger families are deeply entrenched into the local Dahlonega community.

Camp Frank D. Merrill: The 5th Ranger Training Battalion
Mission Overview

The 5th Ranger Training Battalion mission is to conduct the Mountain Phase of Ranger School in vicinity of Camp Frank D. Merrill IOT produce Rangers whose primary mission is to close with and destroy the enemy in direct fire battle.

The Mountain phase, the second of three Ranger training phases, is designed to enhance the Soldiers' ability to plan and execute small unit combat missions in mountainous terrain. This phase covers mountaineering, small unit tactics, patrol infiltration, raids, ambushes, and other skills required for close combat and direct fire missions.

The Ranger Camp and the Ranger personnel and their families are an integral part of Lumpkin County. Porter village, a military housing area lies just west of the city of Dahlonega sharing many of the cultural aspects of the surrounding area. The Ranger community regularly participates in events within the community as well as sponsoring fund raising events for local charities. Some of these activities are described below.

Camp Frank D. Merrill: The 5th Ranger Training Battalion
Camp Events

Airborne Operations: 5th Ranger Training Battalion routinely conducts two airborne operations per cycle. The first Airborne operation is conducted at Stringer drop zone approx. 25 minutes from Camp Merrill. Stringer as it's known amongst the cadre is used to maintain airborne currency for Jumpers and Jumpmasters. Families are welcome to attend this jump and are afforded a rare opportunity to experience an airborne operation from close proximity. The second airborne operation we conduct is the Jump into Florida at Rudder drop zone. This is how we handover control of students to the final phase of Ranger school in Florida.

Open House: One of the most visible outreach activities the Rangers have with the Lumpkin County community is the annual Open House. Each year during the spring, class cycle dependent, Camp Frank D. Merrill opens the camp and facilities to the public for a day. Visitors are able to see examples of the Mountain Phase of Ranger training and numerous displays. A demonstration of patrol insertion utilizing helicopters is a favorite with the crowd, especially the younger visitors. Other crowd pleasing demonstrations include rappelling, climbing, mountain rescue, hand-to-hand combat and free-fall parachute jumping (weather permitting).

Mountain Ranger Run: The Mountain Ranger Run is conducted annually during Open House. This 15-kilometer run is sponsored by the Rangers and attracts several hundred runners each year. The run starts and ends at the Ranger camp and covers rolling and mountainous terrain. Funds raised from the run benefit local charities.

Boy Scouts: Camp Frank D. Merrill is host to Troop 36 (Chartered by the US Mountain Ranger Association) in Lumpkin County. Troop meetings are held Monday's at 1830 at the Scout Hut (Old Chapel) just inside the gates of Camp Merrill. The Scoutmaster and several of the Leaders are current and former members of the Ranger camp. Camp Merrill also hosts the Northeast Georgia Council's BSA week long Ranger Camp each summer. The Camp is the only one like it of its kind in the country.

Parades and Ceremonies: Rangers from Camp Frank D. Merrill regularly participate in various parades, demonstrations, and ceremonies in Lumpkin County and the surrounding communities. Hand-to-hand demonstrations; equipment and weapon displays; and the color guard for holidays such as Veterans Day Ceremonies and the Christmas Parade are just a few examples.

Training facilities: The camp also hosts and assists the training of other military units, government agencies, and youth groups. Each year numerous military and civilian organizations utilize the camp and surrounding area to conduct training. Facilities include the lower mountaineering area, a 25-meter firing range, and classroom facilities. For more information about our facilities or how to reserve them, contact the camps Operations section.

Search and Rescue: During the camps long history, Rangers have assisted in numerous search and rescue operations in the Chattahoochee National Forest. With extensive knowledge of the surrounding area and unique training, Rangers have the ability to make quick decisions and assist local authorities in search, rescue and MEDEVAC operations. This was the case in February 2000 when civilian motorists and hikers were stranded in mountainous terrain due to a severe winter storm. Rangers quickly and carefully coordinated search and rescue operations to ensure all were evacuated to safety.

In-processing Procedures

1. The first step to in processing is to report to Ranger Training Brigade HQ's, BLDG 85. Once you have signed in with the Brigade S1 or Staff Duty, you will proceed to building 35. All single Soldiers will continue in-processing in accordance with Ft. Benning guidance, which you will receive at building 35.

If you are married after you sign in with the Brigade S1 and Building 35, you will then report to Camp Frank D. Merrill to start your Permissive TDY for House Hunting. Upon completion of House Hunting you will report to Fort Benning to complete your in-processing. DO NOT IN-PROCESS Ft. Benning until you are complete with your PTDY.

All officers, including Captains coming directly from MCCC, call the BN-S1 to receive specific guidance pertaining to your circumstances, 706-864-3327, ext 5104.

No Soldiers are authorized Temporary Living Expense (TLE) in the Ft. Benning area.

2. Upon completion of in-processing the Welcome Center, you will be given an additional set of orders further assigning you to Ranger Training Battalion, Camp Frank D. Merrill, Dahlonega, Georgia.

3. Point of contact at Ranger Training Brigade is the Personnel Sergeant at (706) 626-3275 or Staff Duty at (706) 544-6980.

4. Before traveling to 5th Ranger Training Battalion, Soldiers should make use of the time allotted by taking care of any personal matters and purchasing required items that are available at Ft. Benning. These include getting sewing done on the uniforms, buying and sewing on the black and gold unit flash for the beret, buying black Corcoran Jump Boots for the class A uniform (jump boots are recommended but not required), and purchasing PT uniforms. See pages 29-45 for uniform specifics.

Specific questions or information can be obtained from Battalion S-1 before departing for 5th Ranger Training Battalion at 706-864-3327 ext. 5210.

5. After completing Ranger Training Brigade in processing the following items should be on your person when in processing Camp Frank D. Merrill:

a. Two copies of orders assigning you to Fort Benning
b. Two copies of orders assigning you to 5th Ranger Training Battalion
c. Two copies of your NCOER/OER, if applicable
d. Two copies of your DA Form 2-1/ERB/officers (ORB)
e. Education Records, if applicable
f. Medical and Dental Records
g. Copy of DA Form 348 (Military Driver's License) and DDC Card
h. One copy of your jump log if applicable.

6. Upon arriving to 5th Ranger Training Battalion report to the Battalion S-1, BLDG 31, for further assignment within the Battalion.

7. If you have any questions about on or off post housing please feel free to call FT. Benning Housing at (706) 545-2988. For any other kind of information call 5th RTB PAC at (706) 864-3327 ext 5210.

Personal Papers: This is a list of documents that the service member and spouse need to have access to at all times. All administrative paperwork accomplished in the Army requires documentation. This list is not all-inclusive, but it does cover the majority of potential problems.

Birth certificates for all family members
Marriage certificates
Court orders for support/custody of legal dependents
Death certificate for spouse or children
Lease agreements (for VHA certification)
Power of attorney
Family Social Security numbers
Dental records
Insurance policies (DD93/SGLI)
Extra keys to everything locked
Naturalization papers
Divorce decree
Adoption papers
Deeds/ Mortgage documents
Wills
Proof of service
Medical records / shot records
Titles to automobiles

Important 5th Ranger Training Battalion Phone Numbers

BN SDNCO----------(706) 864-3367/3327 Ext 0
BN S-1/PAC----------Ext 5210
Villages of Benning----------(706) 685-3930
Porter Village (Katina Bonilla)---------- (706) 864-0486
TMC #06---------- (706) 864-3327/3367/5006, Ext 800/811
COMMISSARY (Dale Smith)----------Ext 5610
PX (Ester Bouder)---------- Ext 5600
TRANSPORTATION (Fort Benning)---------- ------- (706 545-4900/4403
Dahlonega Family Practice----------(706) 864-4012
Chestatee Regional Hospital, Dahlonega, GA---------- (706) 864-6136
Health Benefits Advisor, Martin Army Community Hospital
Fort Benning, GA---------- (706) 544-1347 or (706) 544-3461
TRI-CARE Information----------1-800-444-5445 or (706) 685-1138

Medical Services At Camp Frank D. Merrill And Surrounding Area

Family Member Health Care: All family members should be enrolled in Tricare Prime Remote. Tricare South region supports CFM and can be contacted at (800) 444-5445. TRICARE personnel can confirm enrollment, provide lists of PCM's, send documentation to family members, etc. Family members are not eligible for care at TMC #06. All health care and referrals are handled by the individual PCM's. Soldiers or family members can access Tricare enrollment information enroll in Tricare Prime Remote, update information or change PCM at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe. TMC #06 will assist Soldiers with initial Tricare Enrollment for family members upon arrival and will serve as a point of contact for questions or problems related to Tricare or the civilian health care system.

Active Duty Health Care: It is mandatory for all active duty personnel assigned to Camp Frank D. Merrill to sign up for TRICARE Prime Remote and to pick a civilian Primary Care Manager (PCM) to provide their health care. Active duty personnel may use TMC#06 for minor sick call concerns or emergent health needs only, their PCM will provide all other health care and referrals.

Dental Care

Family Member Dental Care: Family members receive their dental care from one of the local dentists in the area. Family dental care is managed through the United Concordia Dental Program. Information is available at www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com or toll-free at 1-888-622-2256.

Active Duty Dental Care:

1. Active duty personnel will receive their dental care through the Active Duty Dental Program. All service members are automatically enrolled in this upon enrollment in Tricare Prime Remote.
2. Personnel utilizing the Active Duty Dental Program:
    a. Must call 1-866-984-2337 to receive an authorization code and schedule an appointment.
    b. Have the dentist complete a DD 2813 and return it to the TMC to have dental status updated.
3. More information on the Active Duty Dental Program can be found at www.addp-ucci.com or at TMC #06

Prescriptions Filled At Martin Army Hospital

1. Personnel (active duty and family members) who are taking long term medications may bring the prescription into TMC #06 for transport to MACH pharmacy to be filled.

2. The drug box will be taken to Fort Benning by the courier on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The courier leaves Camp Merrill at 0400 so the prescriptions need to be turned into the TMC the day prior and may be picked after 1500 hours. Expect a 2-3 day turn-around for medications.

Medical Evacuation

Active Duty/Ranger Students: Whenever possible the PA will recommend the type of evacuation air/ground and the hospital in which to evacuate the patient. If the PA is unavailable the senior medical personnel on Camp will make the recommendation.

Family Members/Civilians: Will be transported by civilian EMS; may be transported by military ambulance for emergency endangering life, limb or eyesight with command approval.

Medical Facilities in the Dahlonega area

Chestatee Regional Hospital is a 52 bed general acute care hospital. Opened in 1976 as a county hospital, the mountain top facility is one of seven facilities owned by Nashville based Net Care, four of which are in Georgia. The hospital is served by physicians that provide a full range of diagnostic and therapeutic services including a 24-hour Emergency Room, Intensive Care, The Special Beginnings Birthplace, inpatient and outpatient surgical services, general medical, surgical and pediatric services, and pharmacy. Additional services include: cardiopulmonary, lab, radiology, nutrition, pain management, rehabilitation, community outreach programs and corporate care.

In addition to Chestatee Regional Hospital, there are a number of independent physicians that offer Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Chiropractic and other services in the Dahlonega area.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

Before your PCS to Camp Merrill, incoming Soldiers with family members enrolled in EFMP should report to the Ft. Benning EFMP center. Soldiers should confirm that support can be provided for their family member in the Dahlonega area.

Counseling Facilities in the Dahlonega Area

Free marriage counseling sessions are available through the Alpha Hope Counseling Center in Dawsonville and Cumming, ACCARES Wellness Center in Dawsonville, N.G.A Counseling and Education Center in Dahlonega, and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Dahlonega. You may also access counseling through Military One Source at 1-800-324-9647. Personal counseling information may be obtained from the 5th RTBn Chaplain.

When Leaving Your Current Location

- If your family members are in TRICARE Prime, remain enrolled at your current location while you are enroute to Camp Frank D. Merrill. If you disenroll before you move, it will cause a gap in your TRICARE Prime coverage and you will be responsible for the bills. You can call TRICARE South at (800) 444-5445 and have a transfer form sent to you prior to PCS or pick one up at TMC #06 upon arrival to Camp Merrill.

- If you have an existing medical condition that may need immediate attention in your new region, such as pregnancy or a chronic illness, please contact the TRICARE South representative in advance to expedite PCM selection and records transfer at (800) 444-5445.

- Make sure you have an adequate supply of your prescriptions. Filling prescriptions in advance of your move will help you avoid the need to purchase the prescription and then file a claim for reimbursement while all systems are being updated with your enrollment change.

- Follow the existing guidelines regarding non-emergency care authorizations. (Call your Primary Care Manager (PCM) **at previous station** for authorizations should you need care during your move).

- When obtaining care always present identification with your current Prime contractor's information to the provider. If you already have a TRICARE Prime identification card, present this. If your enrollment is in process, present a copy of your enrollment application. Supplying the provider with this information at the time of service will minimize the likelihood of claim payment delays and confusion.

Upon Arrival At Your New Location:

- It is **mandatory** for all active duty Soldiers to apply for TRICARE Prime Remote. While in-processing all active duty personnel will report to TMC 06 to receive their TRICARE Prime Remote application. Civilian health care providers provide health care for active duty personnel.

- Transfer your family members enrollment as soon as you arrive at Camp Frank D. Merrill (**Don't wait until you need care to turn in your application**).

- While in-processing at Camp Frank D. Merrill, complete an enrollment/transfer application and choose a new Primary Care Manager (PCM). When completing the enrollment or transfer form, make sure you note on the application that you are using the "**transfer**" option (if you were enrolled in Prime elsewhere).

- Your enrollment transfer will be coordinated by the new contractor with the former contractor and is effective the day the new contractor receives your completed enrollment application. However, it may take up to 5-7 days for your PCM selection to be validated, your new Prime identification card to be issued, and your records to be updated in all systems. Your new enrollment may not begin until the first of the following month. (**Keep a copy of the enrollment form you have completed in case you need care – this form serves as your temporary identification as a Prime member)**.

- If you have submitted your new application, but have not yet received your TRICARE identification card confirming your PCM selection, we suggest that you verify receipt of your application and determine your PCM assignment before obtaining non-emergency health care. This will help reduce the risk of incurring higher Point-of-Service costs for seeking care outside the established TRICARE Prime network; you may do this by calling the Beneficiary Service Representative line, 800-444-5445.

Legal Assistance At Camp Frank D. Merrill

Legal assistance is provided upon request at Camp Frank D. Merrill by personnel from Fort Benning. Any immediate legal assistance required can be obtained at Fort Benning. The actions covered are wills, power of attorney, property claims, etc. Legal Assistance can be reached at (706) 545-0168.

The Battalion Adjutant/S1 has the authority to serve as a notary for military personnel and their spouses.

5th Ranger Training Battalion Family Readiness Group

A sponsor from the battalion will maintain contact with you during your transition to the Dahlonega area. Within 24 hours of your arrival, a representative from the Family Readiness Group will contact you to assist new families in any way possible. The FRG hosts regular welcome tours to familiarize Soldiers and their families with the Dahlonega area and Camp Merrill. A FRG representative from your respective assigned company can be reached at hhc5thrtbfrg@gmail.com, aco5thrtbfrg@gmail.com, bco5thrtbfrg@gmail.com, cco5thrtbfrg@gmail.com.

General Facts of Lumpkin County

Lumpkin County, the 85th formed in Georgia, was created in 1832 from parts of Cherokee, Habersham and Hall counties following its acquisition from the Cherokee Indians by a treaty, calling for the removal of all Indians from North Georgia.

Lumpkin County is 285 square miles in area and is the 106th in size in Georgia. Approximately one third of the county is located in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The Dahlonega city limits were originally set up to be one-mile radius from the center of town however annexation has increased the city limits.

Dahlonega averages 1,450 feet above sea level, the highest point being 1720 and the lowest about 1180 feet elevation, and the county ranges from 4400 feet at the Appalachian summits to 1070 feet elevation on the shore of Lake Sidney Lanier.

The population of Lumpkin County has grown from 14,473 in 1990 to approximately 20,000 today (some say 24,000).

Climate

The average annual temperature is a high of 69° F. and a low of 57° F. The record high of 103°F was reached on July 29, 1952 and the record low of -11°F was reached on February 13, 1899. The warmest month is July averaging 75.5 °F, and the coldest is January averaging 39.2°F. The average number of days reaching above 90°F is 24, and the average number of days reaching below 32°F is 77. All in all it's a very moderate climate with 4 distinct seasons. The average rainfall is 64.29 inches, with the wettest month being March with an average rainfall of 7.87 inches and the driest being October with an average of 3.48 inches. Record daily rainfall was 6.28 inches on March 30, 1977.

Recreation

Dahlonega offers a variety of recreational activities including organized programs, parks, nature and hiking trails and camping areas. The county maintains a boat ramp on Lake Lanier which provides public access to the many boating activities available.

The Lumpkin County Park and Recreation Department offers sports programs in Tee-ball, softball, football, baseball, cheerleading and soccer. In addition, a number of sports camps are sponsored by the Park and Recreation Dept. including basketball, football, tennis, swimming, soccer, cheerleading and golf.

The Community Recreation Building includes numerous meeting and activities room, a kitchen and a gymnasium which provides a central location for numerous county and community sponsored sports and activities. Work is underway on an extensive program to expand the recreational facilities to include new ball fields.

The City maintains a playground for kids and a walking track. Dahlonega is committed to enhancing the quality of life for those who live in this mountain town. Many other outdoor activities are described on the Things to Do and See web page which includes hiking, camping, horseback riding, and mountain biking in the National Forest.

Media

Newspaper: The Dahlonega Nugget is published weekly by Community Newspapers, Inc., Athens, GA. The paper covers local news and sports, (706) 864-3613.

The Gainesville Times is published daily; it offers information on the city of Gainesville and surrounding counties.

Radio Stations

WDGR-1210 AM - Featuring country and gospel music, live broadcasts of local sports, local information of interest, and local, state and national news and weather.

WKHC- 104.3 FM Featuring news, sports, classic country music and weather, with tracking of local and state hazardous weather conditions. http://www.gold104.com

WNGU FM 89.5 - This North Georgia College & State University station is a member of the Peach State Public Radio family broadcasting 24 hours a day with interrupt programming of statewide hazardous weather warnings. http://www.gpb.org/pspr/

Annual Events

March: Trail Fest-Opening of Appalachian Trail Hiking Season
April: Bear on the Square
May: Annual Wildflower Festival of the Arts
June: The Dahlonega Bluegrass Festival
July 4: Annual 4th of July Family Celebration
October -Third Weekend: Gold Rush Days
December - First Weekend: Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration

Religious Services In The Dahlonega Area

The Dahlonega area offers a multitude of religious affiliations to accommodate the needs of the community. The following are some of the denominations presently in the Dahlonega area:

Baptist	Catholic	Church of God	Church of Christ
Episcopal	Jehovah's Witnesses	Presbyterian	United Methodists
Unitarian	United Pentecostal	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	

To obtain more information on place and time of church services, a weekly list is published in the Dahlonega Nugget every Wednesday.

Education

Lumpkin County Schools: The Lumpkin County School System, with its five schools and nearly 4,000 students, is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in North Georgia. Dahlonega, the county seat, is the site of the first Gold Rush in 1828. Although the Gold Rush has ended, the school system in Lumpkin County continues to mine the gold found in all its students.

Blackburn Elementary: 706-864-8180 http://bes.lumpkinschools.com

Long Branch Elementary School: 706-864-5361 http://lbes.lumpkinschools.com

Lumpkin County Elementary School: 706-864-3254 http://lces.lumpkinschools.com

Lumpkin County Middle School: 706-864-6189 http://lcms.lumpkinschools.com

Lumpkin County High School: 706-864-6186 http://lchs.lumpkinschools.com

The University North Georgia

The University of North Georgia is located in Dahlonega and has an enrollment of about 2750 undergraduate students and 430 graduate students. UNG is an arts and sciences university that offers Masters Programs in Education, Physical Therapy, and Public Administration. Plans are underway to add programs in Masters of Nursing and Masters of Business Administration. UNG is recognized as an outstanding school both for its academics and military programs. UNG students have the highest college admission scores and the highest graduation rate of all regional state universities in the University System of Georgia. UNG is one of only four universities and colleges in the United States classified as a military college by the U.S. Department of the Army and were selected as the best in the nation of all college military programs in 1995. About 450 cadets are in the program, which is open to both men and women. For complete information about the university visit The University of North Georgia page. Ung.edu

Facilities Available To The Family Members On Camp Merrill

PX & Class VI Store: Facility manager can be reached at ext 5600. If there is a specific item that the PX or CLASS IV doesn't stock, ask the staff and they can order it on and in most cases have it within a week. (Bldg 11).
HOURS OF OPERATION: Tuesday-Friday--0930-1600; Saturday--1000-1500.

Commissary: Dale Smith at ext. 5610 manages this facility. If there is a specific item that the Commissary doesn't stock, ask the staff and they can order it on Fridays and in most cases have it on the following Tuesday. (Bldg 25).
HOURS OF OPERATION: Tuesday-Saturday--1000-1700.

Dining Facility: Facility manager can be reached at ext. 5620. The facility is open to Soldiers and their family members. The cost for breakfast is $3.45 lunch is $5.55 and dinner is $4.85. (Bldg 40).
HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday thru Sunday, Breakfast--0630-0830, Lunch--1200-1300, and Dinner--1600-1700.

Overhang Club: The Overhang club is open to all Soldiers of all ranks and their family members. The club services beer, sodas and snacks. (Ext 5131).
HOURS OF OPERATION: Sunday-Thursday: 0900hrs-2300hrs, Friday-Saturday: 0900-0100hrs

Mailroom: Mr. Perry at ext. 5214. The mailroom is available to all Camp Frank D. Merrill personnel. It offers a mail drop box and Post Office Boxes for individual use. The boxes may be convenient for incoming personnel to have mail forwarded too, while trying to get established on camp or off camp. Stamps are available at the PX. Mail is delivered Monday – Friday. (Bldg 16)

Gymnasium: The Gym on the camp is open at all hours. During the duty day the Gym is open, and after duty hours the keys must be obtained from the Staff Duty Non-Commissioned Officer at the Headquarters building. Identification card is required for usage of the facilities. (Bldg 42).

Weight Room: The camp weight room has free weights and universal equipment. The weight room is open to Soldiers and their dependents. (Bldg 44).
HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday thru Sunday 0600-2100.

Other Supporting Areas: 1 MILE TRACK (on Airfield) and: The University of North Georgia has a 25 Meter swimming pool and 400 meter track.

Frequently Used Phone Numbers In The Dahlonega Area And Fort Benning Area

Dahlonega Area

Amicalola Electric Membership Corp---------- 1-800-992-6471
Georgia Power Company---------- 706-864-3614
Georgia Natural Gas Company---------- 1-800-282-7411
North Georgia Propane---------- 706-864-2737
Windstream---------- 706-867-3333
Dahlonega Nugget Newspaper---------- 706-864-3613
Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office---------- 706-864-0414/0412

Fort Benning

Information---------- 706-545-2011
Army Community Services---------- 706-545-4043
Army Emergency Relief---------- 706-545-2536
Army Family Team Building---------- 706-545-5377
Civilian Pay---------- 706-545-1550
Bernheim Dental Clinic---------- 706-545-2901
Love Dental Clinic---------- 706-545-2052
Destin Beach Recreation Center---------- 1-800-642-0466
Exceptional Family Member Program---------- 706-545-6969
Household Goods Appointments---------- 706-545-3156
Household Goods Inbound---------- 706-545-2254
Household Goods Outbound---------- 706-545-2256

****Fort Stewart** handles transportation for 5th RTB---------- 912-767-4211/7971
Fort Benning-ID Card Section---------- 706-545-9085/6566/8206
Fort Stewart-ID Card Section---------- 912-767-4061
Dobbins AirBase ID Card Section---------- 678-655-3835
ITT Office---------- 706-545-1223/3481
Household Goods/Transportation---------- 706-545-4885/4900
Military Pay (In/Out Processing) ---------- 706-545-5914/6584/6365
Government Travel Card---------- 706-5451349
Martin Army Hospital Information---------- 706-544-2041
Enlisted Records---------- 706-545-8796
Officer Records---------- 706-545-2602
Red Cross During Duty Hours---------- 706-545-5194
Red Cross After Duty Hours---------- 706-544-2041
Tri-Care---------- 1-800-444-5445
Lumpkin County Tag Office---------- 706-864-2666
http://www.lumpkincounty.gov
Georgia Driver's License---------- 678-413-8400
http://www.dds.ga.gov/

Military Sites Accessible From Camp Merrill

Athens Naval Supply Corps School—706-354-1500. Located near University of Georgia at Athens. Has temporary lodging available along with RV and camping facilities. This post also has a commissary, exchange, and PX.

Destin Army Infantry Center Recreation Area, FL—800-642-0466. The MWR office at Fort Benning operates this site. This vacation spot has all water sports available to include deep-sea fishing, SCUBA diving and sailing. Located between Fort Walton Beach and Panama City Florida.

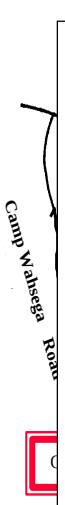
Dobbins Air Reserve Base—770-919-5000. This Air Base is located in Marietta, Ga., just off the I-285 and I-75 interchange. This base is equipped with a PX, temporary lodging and camping facilities and a SATO office.

Lake Allatoona Army Recreation Center—404-464-3113. Conveniently located Northwest of Atlanta along I-75 near Cartersville. This recreation area offers boating, fishing, camping along with temporary lodging.

CAMP FRANK D. MERRILL

PORTER VILLAGE

Directions



From Atlanta

-Take GA Hwy 400 North (Dahlonega).
You will go approximately 50 miles and pass through four traffic lights and the city of Dawsonville.

-Ten miles past Dawsonville, you will come to the four way intersection of GA Hwy 400 and GA Hwy 60. Follow the sign to North Georgia College and State University and take a left onto GA Hwy 60.

-Five miles on GA Hwy 60, you will come into Dahlonega. Go past the intersection of 52 By-Pass and GA Hwy 60 and you will pass the college to the left and come into the town square.

-Take a right at the town square onto North Main ST.

-At the first traffic light take a left onto Hwy 19N.

-Approximately 2.2 miles on Hwy 19N, you will see a small brown sign on the right that says Camp Frank D. Merrill with an arrow pointing left.

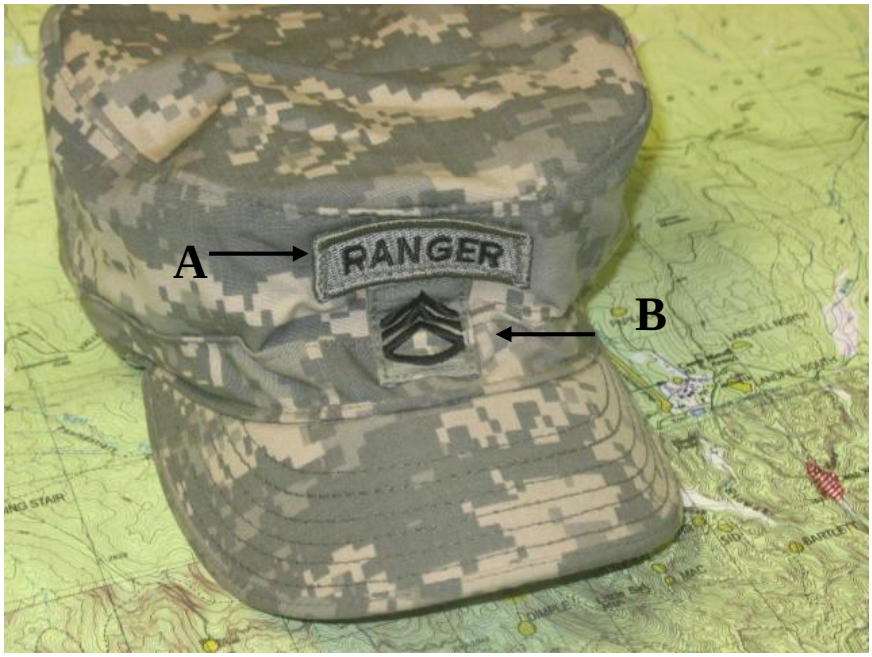
-Take a left onto Camp Wahsega Road and follow all the way (8.4 miles) into camp.

-Report to the BN Headquarters, which is the third building on the left past the PX and BEQs. Sound off with a loud and thunderous *"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!"* because… you… are… there...

Dahlonega, Georgia 30533
(706) 864-5969
(706) 864-3327
DSN 797-5770 / 835-2415

- UCP Camouflage is authorized at all times and is the only authorized uniform worn while walking patrols during the FTX, conducting airborne operations with students, or any other teaching environment that requires the Ranger Instructor to be in FLC and Rucksack
- OCP/OEF-CP is authorized on CFM and while conducting mountaineering training at Lower Mountaineering Area or the rock face of Mt. Yonah

RANGER PATROL CAP



A- RANGER TAB WILL BE SEWN IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE TOP SEAM OF THE PATROL CAP AND CENTERED.

B- RANK WILL BE SEWN BELOW THE RANGER TAB AND CENTERED.

AIRBORNE PATROL CAP

A- AIRBORNE TAB WILL BE SEWN IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE TOP SEAM OF THE PATROL CAP AND CENTERED.

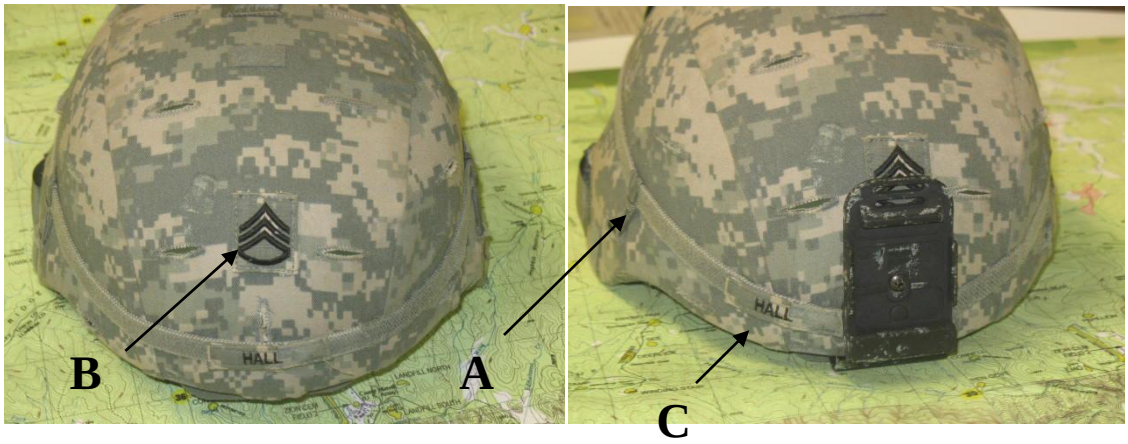
B- RANK WILL BE SEWN BELOW THE AIRBORNE TAB AND CENTERED.

CAT EYES AND NAME TAPE

A- CAT EYES WILL BE 1/2” X 1” IN SIZE.
THE BOTTOM OF THE EYES WILL BE SEWN FLUSH WITH THE TOP OF THE NAME TAPE AND WILL BE 1” APART.

B- NAME TAPE WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE LOWER BAND OF THE PATROL CAP AND CENTERED.

ADVANCED COMBAT HELMET



A- SECURE THE CAMO BAND WITH A GIRTH HITCH, TIED OFF TO THE ADJUSTABLE BUCKLES BAND WITH A SQUARE KNOT AND TWO OVERHAND KNOTS.

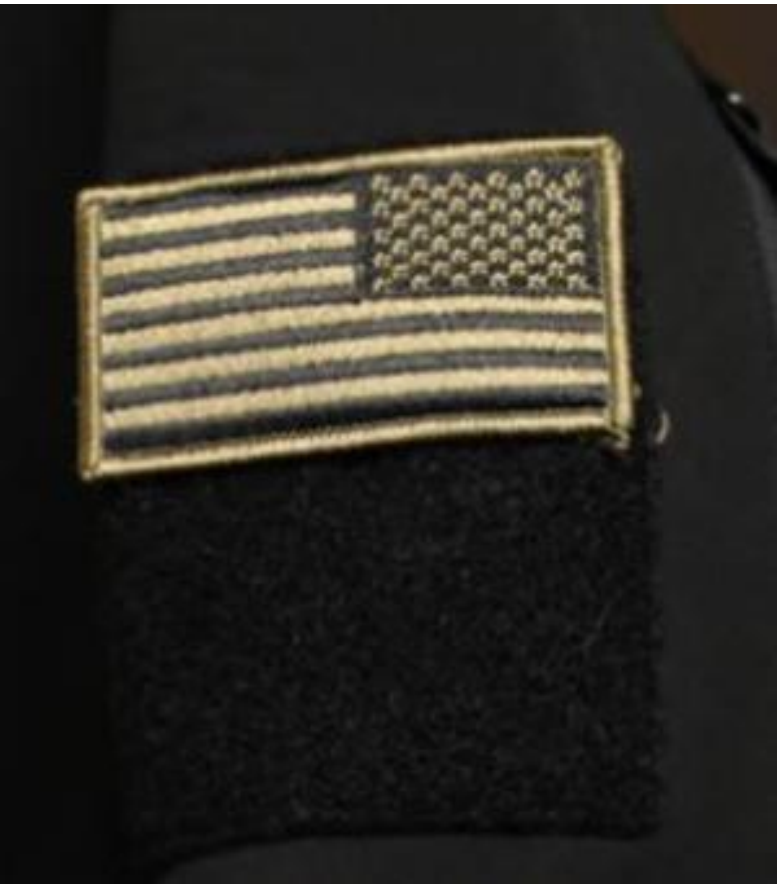
B- RANK WILL BE SEWN ON FRONT OF THE HELMET. PIN ON RANK IS NOT AUTHORIZED. RANK IS NOT REQUIRED
IF A BASE PLATE IS WORN.

C- NAME, WITH NO RANK WILL BE SEWN ONTO THE CAMO BAND ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BASE PLATE AS WORN.

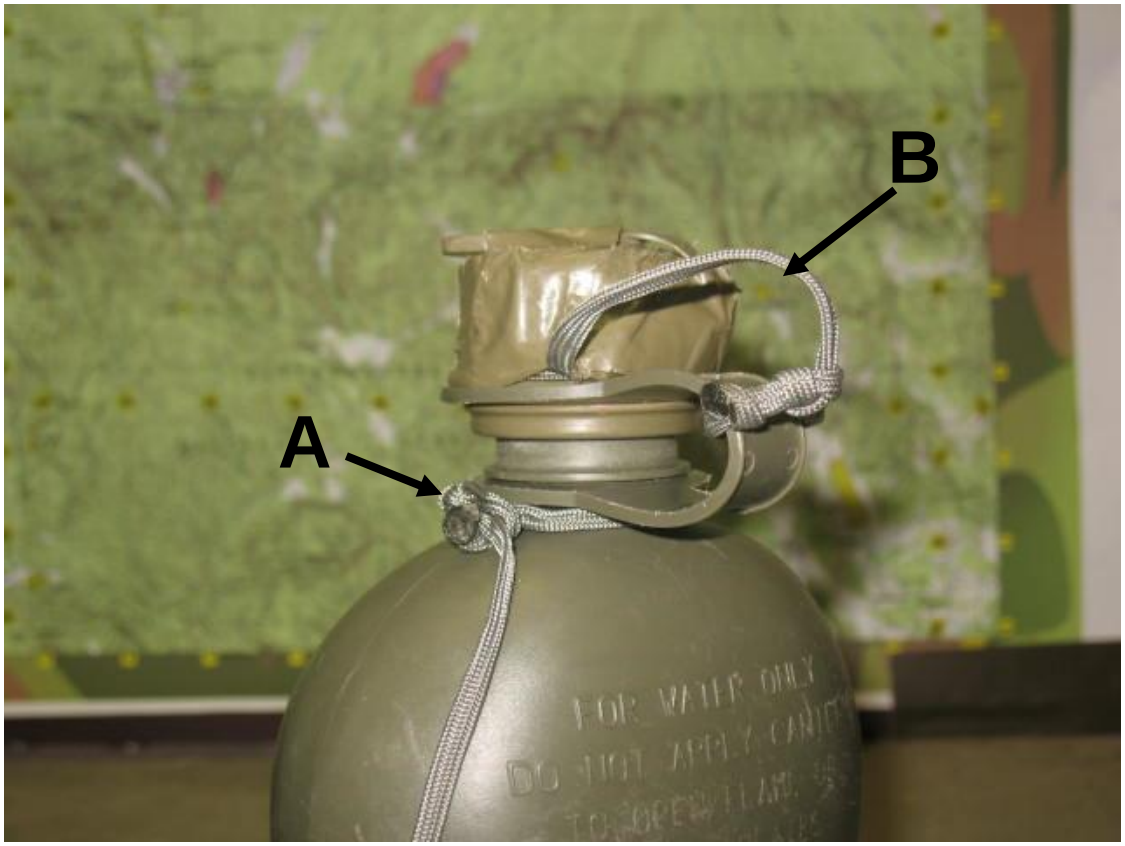
CONDOR SUMMIT JACKET

- **The Condor Summit Jacket is a required uniform addition for all RIs when conducting techniques training, or training at the Lower Mountaineering Area, and on Mount Yonah during inclement weather. The Jacket can be purchased from Commando Military Supply or at North Georgia College in Dahlonega. Many outgoing RIs are willing to sell their jacket at a reduced rate. It is highly encouraged that you purchase the patches prior to arriving on camp, as the PX and supply have a limited number of patches. UCP or Tan 499 (Coyote Brown) patches are authorized; the cloth UCP or Tan 499 (Coyote Brown) American flag is authorized. Patches must match the pattern of the uniform worn. The name tape will be black with white lettering and include rank.**

Top: UCP Cloth flag with Ranger Tab and Diamond.
Bottom: Tan 499 Cloth Flag with Ranger Tab and Diamond



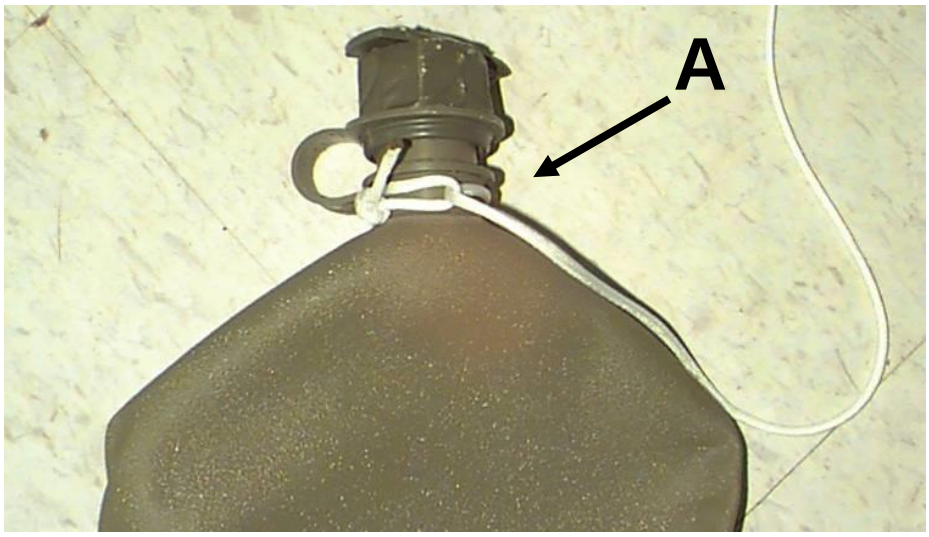
1-QUART CANTEEN



A- SECURE THE CANTEEN WITH AN END OF THE ROPE BOWLINE WITH THE FREE RUNNING END ROUTED THROUGH THE LOOP OF THE BOWLINE TO FORM A SLIP KNOT.

B- SECURE THE CANTEEN LID WITH AN END OF THE LINE BOWLINE WITH THE FREE RUNNING END CLOVE HITCHED AROUND THE CAP AND TAPED.

2-QUART CANTEEN



A- SECURE THE CANTEEN WITH AN END OF THE ROPE BOWLINE WITH THE FREE RUNNING END ROUTED THROUGH THE LOOP OF THE BOWLINE TO FORM A SLIP KNOT.

MOLLE FLC SET UP

A- FLC WILL HAVE TWO 1 QUART CANTEEN POUCHES WITH CANTEENS, AND ONE HAND GRENADE POUCH WITH A COMPASS. ALL POUCHES CAN BE CONFIGURED TO THE WEARER. POUCHES MUST BE MATCHING CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN, OR SOLID TAN OR OD GREEN.

B- SECURE THE 1 QUART CANTEENS TO THE FLC WITH AN ANCHOR BOWLINE.

MOLLE FLC NAME TAPE

A- NAME TAPE WILL BE SEWN TO THE BACK STRAP OF THE FLC. THE NAME SHOULD BE READABLE AS WORN.

MOLLE ASSAULT PACK

A- Cat Eyes will be sewn 1 inch above the name tape and 1 inch apart.

B- Name tape will be centered and sewn above the bottom seam of the MOLLE assault pack flap.

MOLLE RUCK CAT EYES AND NAME TAPE

A- CAT EYES WILL BE SEWN 1 INCH ABOVE TO THE TOP OF THE NAME TAPE AND 1 INCH APART.

B- NAME TAPE WILL BE CENTERED AND SEWN ALONG THE SEAM ON TOP OF THE RUCKSACK FLAP.

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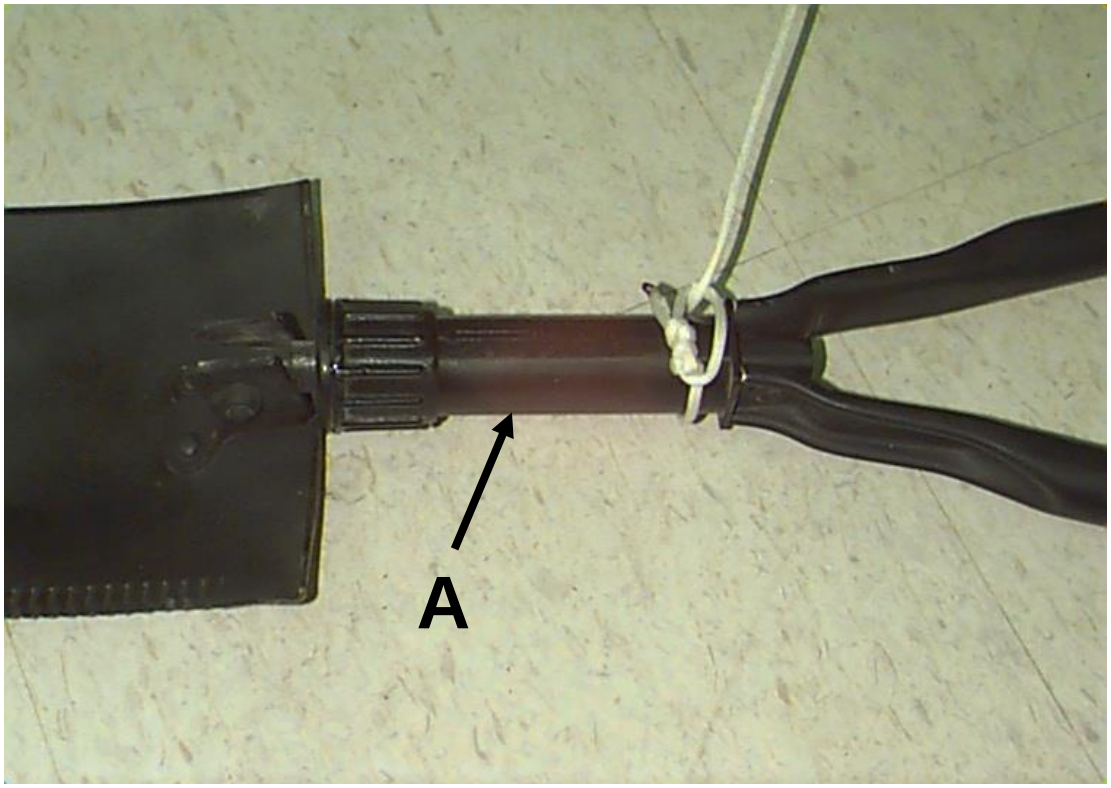
E-TOOL CASE

SECURE THE E-TOOL COVER TO THE ALICE PACK WITH A SQUARE KNOT AND TWO OVERHAND KNOTS.

SECURE THE E-TOOL TO ONE OF THE EQUIPMENT RETAINER STRAPS ON THE MOLLE PACK WITH AN ANCHOR BOWLINE TO THE EQUIPMENT RETAINER STRAP. ROUTE THE FREE RUNNING END THROUGH THE HOLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE E-TOOL COVER AND TIE A BOWLINE FOR THE E-TOOL.

E-TOOL



A- SECURE THE E-TOOL WITH THE BOWLINE FROM THE E-TOOL COVER TIE DOWN. FORM A GIRTH HITCH AND SLIP IT OVER THE HANDLE.

RANGER PT UNIFORM

Ranger PT Uniform will have a white name tape sewn centered on the chest above the tab. NCOs and Officers will have rank and last name, SPC and below will have last name only.

PT UNIFORM CONTINUED

NON RANGER QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WILL WEAR THE RTB ORGANIZATIONAL PT SHIRT WITH THE IMPROVED PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM (IPFU) SHORTS DURING WARM WEATHER AND THE RTB ORGANIZATIONAL SWEATSHIRT WITH THE APFU PANTS DURING COOLER WEATHER.

BERET

The tan beret will be sewn with the Black and Gold ARTB flash with the Infantry School DUI (Follow Me) unit crest centered on the flash.