



RANGER NOTES



EARNING THE TAB

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Having a Ranger attitude is feeling like you can't do something, but then finding that "can" somewhere. You soon find out you can accomplish far more than what you ever thought possible. When you go two to four months constantly getting knocked down and dragged through the dirt, you come out the back end of the Ranger course as one confident, motivated, mountain-climbing, hungry, mission-executing machine. You have an attitude few will ever match. They will call you a Ranger.

The Ranger course is 61 days in length, and usually only a third of the class will make it straight through. On average, our classes have about 200 (max of 330) students. We have a recycle policy, which allows those that fail a standard event to continue if they have the drive to stay. They will be reinserted into the next class. Those inserts have increased graduation average to about 51 percent for the past 54 years.

RAP (Ranger Assessment Phase) week is the first week of the Ranger course and is where most will fail to find the intestinal fortitude to continue. Those who thought a PT test and 5-mile run weren't worth much "train-up" didn't consider that from the



Ranger Training Brigade photos

first day to the last you will get no time to yourself, sleep an average of 4 to 6 hours a day and only eat meals the Army gives you (on average 2.5 meals a day). Your body would usually need about four meals to keep up with all the energy you are expending.

After the first week, the Rangers will be pushed on to grueling long days in Camp Darby learning field craft and small unit tactics. They will then move on to the mountains of Dhaulonega, Georgia. With 70 pounds of equipment per person, the uphill climbs and descents will show students a whole new meaning of pain. Finally, the students are then on to the swamps of Florida where the terrain is flat but the snake-infested swamps will make students wonder what they are doing there.

The answer is that they are building excellence and a never-quit attitude that all leaders should have.

The brotherhood of Rangers is second to none. When you complete the Ranger course, you earn the right to wear a new standard of excellence. You can no longer go out and be average. You will stand taller, move faster and not stop at anything to complete what is asked of you. If you don't, you can expect a fellow Ranger to jack you up sideways.

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