

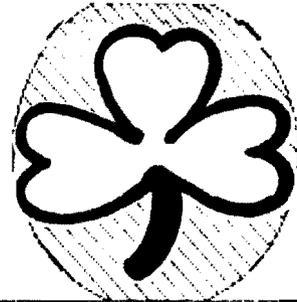


On Guard for Thirteen Years

The

Shamrock

Notre Dame Army ROTC



Spring
1988

Marauders Dominate Purdue Meet

By C/CPT BRENDAN DONAHOE

The 1987-1988 Fightin' Irish Marauder Drill Team concluded its competition season April 9 in impressive fashion. After a cold and disappointing Tulane meet, the Marauders showed their true colors at the Pershing Rifles Purdue Invitational Drill Meet, winning a total of nine honors, including the Neil A. Armstrong Outstanding Unit Trophy.

The IDR Squad Unit won by one point (out of a total of 1,000), and the IDR Platoon, led by C/SGT Chris Govekar, garnered third place. Cadet

Goukar was involved in two other trophies, taking second place in the Individual Exhibition routine and pairing up with C/ILT Hannes Hacker to win the Open Exhibition with their Duet Routine.

The Marauders also gained top honors in the Individual Drill Routine (IDR) Knockout Competition, where each participating cadet is graded on the fundamentals of drill. Four of the top ten places were won by Marauders: C/CPL Dawn Case finished sixth, C/SGT Cindy Bates third, C/SGT Charles McCloskey second, and C/SGT Tim Brooks bested the field of

approximately 100 participating cadets, thus proving the Marauders the top marchers in the area.

The Marauders came off a difficult rebuilding year and proved they were capable of meeting the challenge. The sweeping wins at the Purdue meet were the best the Marauders have done since their conception. The members of the 1987-1988 unit should be recognized and commended for their achievements. Congratulations to all for an outstanding finish.

Graduation means memories

By C/LTC RON GIOMETTI

We have come to the end of another school another school year. For the seniors, this means saying goodbye to Notre Dame and the Fightin' Irish Battalion. We will be heading for assignments and schools throughout the world. The juniors have completed all their preparation and are now ready for Advanced Camp '88. The sophomores are sitting back wondering if junior year is as bad as everyone says it is. The freshmen are just glad to be done with school and ROTC for the year. There are also those cadets who, for some unknown reason, want to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft.

As I reflect upon this year and my other years at Notre Dame, a great many memories come back to me. I have had some of the greatest experiences in my life during my association with Notre Dame and this Battalion. I have had the privilege to work with many fine officers in the cadre, past and present. I have also seen the growth and maturation of many young men and women who will be the future leaders of the Army and the country.

The ROTC unit has made great strides during my four years. This year in particular stands out for the amount of participation we have had in such events as the Battalion FTX's. There has also been great success in many other areas. This unit has shown time and again that anything

can be accomplished if you are willing to put in the effort. The reason for this success is the time and motivation that has been supplied by the cadets in this battalion. All of you have the right to hold your heads proudly when you wear your Army uniform because you have worked hard and proven your abilities.

We have had our good times and our not so good times this year. But whenever there have been problems, we have worked to overcome them. I have felt greatly honored to serve as your commander this year. It has been great to work with such fine people. My job was made much easier by the hard work put in by all the cadets who have been so

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Colonel's Corner: Hail and Farewell

By LTC DOUGLAS
HEMPHILL

Another year's over, and it's been a good one. There have been a few hiccups along the way, but we've been able to get a lot of things done. Not a bad year at all.

You stepped up to the challenge of doing things smarter and better, and that's exactly what you did. We said in August that the goal was to prepare the MS III's better for Camp, get the new MS I's more involved, and make training and teamwork our focus. All of that has been achieved. Most of you saw it and felt it in your squads, platoons and companies - with or without tie-dyed T-shirts and "Yo-Baby-Yo." YOU saw it again when the MS III's and IV's led training on the FTX's and showed they knew a thing or two. Some of you found out that you could do a few things - even teach a few things - you hadn't been sure you were capable of, and could enjoy the challenge of doing them. All of you were part of something and participated in something that's worked well enough to win us ROTC's top award for the second time in three years, and we've still got effort left.

MS I's - you are going to be a real class act. You came on board faster than Clark Kent's alter ego, and you've become a real integral part of everything the battalion does. As Drill Team members, you rose from the ashes like a Phoenix to taste the "thrill of victory." As Rangers, you not only trained yourselves but helped train the rest of the battalion as well. Next year your challenge will be to make the new MS I's as good as you are.

MS II's - This has been your year for personal growth and learning individual skills. You've made great progress and you've learned the importance of followership. Now, you're headed for the big time. Next

year it falls on your shoulders to be the trainers - the squad leaders and platoon sergeants - and to get ready for Camp.

MS III's - you've become ready this year. We put you through a lot, and you came through like champions - so well that you're already taking hold for next year and planning YOUR battalion's training. Camp Adventure is your for the taking. It shows in your eyes - you know you're ready for the challenge.

All of you have been a team that's worked, and all of you are responsible for that. We've succeeded as a battalion as much as each of you has worked for that success. To those of you who are going to Camp Challenge, Airborne or Air Assault this summer - especially to you MS III's who are taking up temporary residence in the shadow of Mt. Rainier - go get 'em. To all of you, enjoy the challenge you've sought and the break you've earned.

When you come back in August, some familiar faces will be gone. All of you know that MSG Shuttleworth and SFC Lucas will depart very soon for Europe and new opportunities to excel. We wouldn't be the battalion we are if they hadn't been here. MSG Shuttleworth's knowledge and efforts as a trainer have made a lot of cadets good officers, and SFC Lucas has shown us all how much a good supply program can allow a unit to do. We're going to miss them both.

OK, MS IV's, your turn. Are you ready for the real world? I think you are. You assumed leadership for the battalion with very little advance notice, and you put together and implemented a training program that worked. A lot of major changes happened this year, and you were responsible for making them work. You did that well enough to give the MS III's a clear road map for next year. You trained the battalion

well.

Those of you who are going on active duty have a special challenge and reward waiting for you. There are soldiers out there who need you to dedicate yourself to leading them with all that the word "leading" implies. There isn't a greater challenge, and I don't know anything that carries a greater reward.

You who are going into Reserve Forces assignments have a responsibility that in some ways is even tougher to handle. We all are counting on you to become proficient twice - to bring the same ambition to your your Reserve unit as you take to your civilian job. Your leadership is going to play an important part in the continued success of deterrence.

Those of you who are going on to graduate school have a different kind of challenge. You're going to be representing the Army in a non-military setting. - a little like you've been doing, but also a lot different. You'll be lieutenants - members of the officer corps - and how you respond and conduct yourselves will make a difference in how others view what we believe is important.

I salute you all. Each of you has brought different degrees and types of involvement to the battalion, and I think you've benefitted accordingly. I congratulate all of you on what you've done here and on the work you're about to begin in the Army, the academic world and in the civilian workplace. When you pin on the gold bars of a Second Lieutenant and take the oath to support and defend the constitution, you take on a tremendous responsibility. Remember the professional ethic you learned here - duty, honor, country - and all that it implies. Every soldier in the units you'll be leading is somebody's son, daughter, wife, husband, sister, brother, father

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By C/SGT KEVIN
GOPON

THE TIME: 2330 hrs.(11:30
p.m., for you civilians)

THE PLACE: Lawson Field,
Ft. Benning, Georgia (the land
that God forgot, a.k.a. six
inches from Hell)

THE SITUATION: 1st stick,
2nd platoon, C co., 1/507
Parachute Infantry was, at
the moment, laying on the
tarmac outside the hangar
waiting for a perfectly good
airplane to pick them up so
that they could jump out of it
some 1,500 feet above the
ground, and as we waited, I
tried to recall just how I'd
gotten myself into this!

ZERO WEEK

Day 1-- When I got to
Columbus, Georgia, I met up
with some of the other Notre
Dame cadets at the airport.
Boy, was I glad to see them!
Being with people I knew in
this strange land eased my
uneasiness some.

Once at Ft. Benning, we
got to give out some of our
forms, fill out some of theirs,
and get all our forms checked
for errors. Whew! No
problems on our paperwork,
like some of those other
people. Thank God for Joan
and Doris!!! Next, off to our
barracks--Charlie Company.
The rest of the day, none of us
had any idea whatsoever what
we were doing! We ran here
and there, got sheets, formed
up, fell out, and so on, and so
on, and... Mass confusion
reigned!

Day 2-- We in-processed
today. We got our roster
numbers, by which we would
be known for the next three
weeks, and filled out more
forms. The only time we
really got to do anything was
back in the company area
where we did push-ups
because, as one of the
jumpmasters said,

"We gotta have something to
do!"

Today showed me the
meaning of the old Army
phrase, "Hurry up and wait!"

Day 3-- Today, we were split
into platoons and sticks
(squads). The Battalion C.O.
came to speak to us, and then
we got a safety briefing from
1SG Harman. After that, we
were released for that
evening, all day Sunday, and
even all day Monday, since it
was Memorial Day! Two and a
half days off! How great!

Day 5--Not so great. We're
all bored silly. We want to
start training!

GROUND WEEK

Day 1--And so it begins.
Awake at 0600, dressed,
formed up and ready for PT by
0630. We chugged a canteen
of water and headed for
ground branch training area.

Pull-ups, calisthenics and
then the run. I never knew
that a little thing like a hill
(maybe a not-so-little thing)
could cause so much trouble!
All the ND cadets made it
through the run, though, no
thanks to the heat and
humidity (I've never sweated
so much in my life).

Afterwards, back to the
barracks for breakfast (ugh!),
then back to ground branch
for training. Today we were
introduced to the parachute
harness, learned to put it on
and take it off and were
taught the five points of
performance for
parachuting, the same points
that airborne training back
here at ND taught us. No
problem there. The rest of
the day was spent learning
the basics of the P.L.F.--the
parachute landing fall. I
tried to master this stuff as
quickly as possible, since a
bad P.L.F. would mean my legs
going snap, crackle and pop.
Not a bad first day. Not easy,
but not bad.

Day 2--This morning, we
were introduced to the mighty

34-foot tower (ooh-aah!).
After showing us how
blackhats with years and
years of experience exit the
tower, they gave us
harnesses, sent us up and
pushed us out.

Our harnesses got hooked to
hooks that rolled down cable
to a dirt mound about 50 yards
from the tower. Once there, a
detail would unhook us and
send us to the blackhat grader
so that we could be told how
pathetic we looked exiting the
tower. I wasn't discouraged,
though. After watching a few
other people go out, I realized
that everybody looks terrible
the first time.

After lunch, we got to the
lateral drift apparatus, which
would test our p.l.f.'s. We
would grab the handles on a
trolley that would roll down a
cable a few feet off the
ground. We would then let go
and hit the ground, executing
a perfect p.l.f. (well, as close
to perfect as you could get).
Quite a few heads banged into
the sawdust today.

Day 5--Last day of ground
week! From what I've heard,
we've made it through the
worst.

TOWER WEEK

Day 1--Morning p.t. this
week is going to be a lot
easier! The calisthenics are
the same and the runs are
longer and faster, but Tower
Branch has a flat track--no
hills. Thank God! In training
today, they put us in the
suspended harness, also
known as "suspended agony".
Hanging in a parachute
harness six inches off the
ground for 30 minutes is just
not comfortable. As the 1SG
said, "It's enough to make you
wish you'd never been
born...a boy! Ouch!"

Day 2--Today they took us
to the swing landing trainer,
a.k.a. the "SLAM DUNK
MACHINE". We stand on a

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platform 12 feet above the sawdust, wearing a harness hooked to a rope that goes through some pulleys to another rope held by a jumpmaster. You then step off the platform, start swinging, and prepare to execute a p.l.f. Whenever the jumpmaster thinks you're ready (or not ready as the case may be), he will let go of the rope and let you fall. How high you dropped from depended on the jumpmaster. If he was mad at you, they would let go while you were still close to the top. Most of the time, though, they would lower you to only a few feet up before killing you.

When I dropped down the first time, my legs spread apart, my arms flew around, and my head went right into the sawdust (thud!). Steve Conner said that it looked like I just didn't know what the hell hit me. It was a pretty accurate description. I spent the rest of the afternoon having my clock cleaned by the stupid thing.

Day 3--I finally got the hang of the slam dunk. I only banged my head a few times in the morning, then I started doing it right. I may make it yet. This afternoon, to train us on how to release our chutes if they fill with air and start dragging us on the ground, we all took turns dragging each other across the ground. What fun.

Day 5--End of tower week! We got a briefing on malfunctions today. The blackhats demonstrated the various malfunctions by dropping rigged chutes and dummies from the world-famous 250-foot tower--the mighty "Oongawa!" I sure hope I never see one of those malfunctions.

JUMP WEEK

Day 1--We went down to the airfield, waited in line for our 'chutes, and filed into McCarthy Hall for our jumpmaster's briefing. Sitting in a place filled with such tradition; where the

first airborne platoon sat, with murals of allied jump wings on the walls, crests of all our airborne units, and all the other memorabilia we saw as we were told the details of our jump...I really just can't describe it. It's an incredibly...motivating experience, for lack of a better word.

Before long, my stick was called and we took that long walk up the ramp onto the C-130 waiting for us. You know, once you get on the plane, there's only one way off. I was fine until they opened the rear exit doors as we neared the drop zone.

"My God", I thought, "we really are 1500 feet up....and they really are going to send us out that door!"

That's when my stomach started churning. Before I knew it, though, I was getting the command to "Stand up!". Then "Hook up!", "Check static line!", "Check equipment!", "Sound off for equipment check!", and the dreaded "Stand in the door!" Was I glad that I wasn't standing in the door that first time. Suddenly, "GO!" was given, my stick shuffled to the door, I put my knees in the breeze, and I was flying! I counted to 4,000 to myself because I knew that if I even opened my mouth, I'd never stop screaming. What a view!! I would have forgotten to do anything else if I hadn't heard a jumpmaster on the loudspeaker below, yelling "Check your canopy....Check your canopy.....Check your canopy!"

"Oh, yeah," I thought, "There might be a hole in it. Better check it out. Nope, it looks okay to me."

Quicker than I thought it would, the ground came closer and closer. Next thing I knew, it was time to prepare to land. I looked at the horizon (NEVER look at the ground when landing) and readied myself for...WHUMP!! Not the most graceful of p.l.f.'s, but, as I checked

myself I found I was still in one piece. Hallelujah! After thanking God profusely, I packed my gear, ran off the drop zone and joined everyone else for some food and water. Jump No. 1--successful.

Day 2--Another day, another jump. We had combat gear this time (Boy, that stuff's heavy), but no problem.

Day 3--Two jumps today - one during the day, and one at night. At 2330, we were all laying down outside the hangar wearing our full 'chutes and gear (YOU try laying down with that pack on top of your....well, let's just say it's very uncomfortable) just waiting for a plane! When we finally got in the air, I got to stand in the door and look out at all the pretty city lights. How...interesting.

Day 4--Slept in today after getting back at 0200 after the night jump, then jumped in the afternoon. Five jumps! I did it! Graduation tomorrow! I GET MY WINGS!

Day 5--Graduation day. It felt so good to get those wings pinned on after all that work. Our old Battalion C.O., "Smokin' Joe" Schwenger gave me my wings, and then I went back to the barracks for a time-honored tradition. Even though it's no longer allowed at the graduation ceremony, once back at the barracks, upon request, your favorite blackhat will bestow upon you your very own set of BLOOD WINGS (I won't describe it here--just ask anyone Airborne qualified).

Well, it was all over. I caught my plane and headed home. Yet, as I did, I asked myself the same questions I've been asked by people since: Was it worth it? All that work, and everything else, just for that one fleeting moment of glory? Well, I'll tell you....HELL YES!!! AIRBORNE!

Ft. Lewis - where to go for break

By C/CPT GEORGE
KEOUGH

The MS III year at Notre Dame prepares most cadets very thoroughly for Advanced Camp at Fort Lewis. The members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion go to camp with a good background in D&C, patrolling and field exercise knowledge. If there is one area in which training is lacking, however, it is in the area of life-saving weekend breaks.

The three breaks over the six week period are very important in terms of maintaining personal sanity and rejuvenating your motivation. Although the break periods are less than 43 hours in duration, the time, if spent well, is very rewarding.

My personal recommendations on where to spend your breaks in order of merit are:

1. Mount Rainier

Mt Rainier is approximately one hour from Ft. Lewis. This national park is incredible, especially after nine months in Indiana. It is possible to drive your POV up the glacier-covered mountain up to an altitude of nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. A newly-renovated lodge is located at this elevation with an attractive price for luxurious rooms (about \$70 per night for a triple).

Beware, road construction may cause long delays on mountain roads. Leave extra time if you need to be back on post for formation. Don't get caught on the mountain! Also, if you drink while on the mountain, keep in mind the effect low oxygen levels at high altitudes has on your body's ability to handle alcohol.

2. Downtown Seattle
Approximately 45 minutes

from post, downtown Seattle must rank among the most modern and clean cities in the United States. The Downtown Sheraton offers a great deal to cadets with their military ID cards - a \$155 per night room for just \$55. The hotel offers a weight room, a suana, a whirlpool and a bar on the glass-walled 38th floor.

You never know who you'll run into at the hotel. Last year, Alexander Haig was there along with hundreds of supporters and protestors. The University of Washington is nearby and offers many good college bars and nightclubs. The Puget Sound waterfront area and Seattle Center also are interesting break spots.

3. Tacoma

Tacoma is the city just outside the gates of Ft. Lewis. if you are looking to save money, Tacoma is your place. There are multiple cheap hotels and restaurants. There are more expensive resaurants with great seafood on the Sound. The mall offers a chance to buy items that you may find necessary to survive the remainder of camp. For a good time, rent a room at the Best Western which has a whirlpool. The rate is about \$110 per night for a triple.

The best bet for transportation is Budget Rent-A-Car in Tacoma. You can rent such as a Thunderbird or Taurus at bargain rates of approximately \$30 per day. Stay away from "Rent-A-Dent" unless you like driving 1972 Pontiac Hedgehogs or 1980 AMC Pacers. Most Rental agencies will pick you up on post.

The drinking age in Washington is 21 and expect to get carded. If you are of age, Washington-brewed Olympia beer is cheap and

plentiful.

Take advantage of your breaks. View them as a tiem to relax with friends from Notre Dame or from your platoon. Also remember to catch up on your sleep before the Adventure Challenge patrol-a-thon.



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leader should have to say is, "what he said," and drive on. After you give an order ask for questions and then randomly quiz people about your order to make sure they were listening. It doesn't matter how high speed you are. If you can't give an OPORD, you will fail.

- C/ILT Hannes Hacker



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integral in making this battalion run. Without their efforts this would have been a very difficult year. Even as this year draws to a close, next year's leadership is preparing to make the Fightin' Irish Battalion stronger than ever.

In closing, I would like to leave all of you with a few suggestions. Make the most of your time here at Notre Dame. The amount that you can learn and the opportunities for growth are amazing. Don't let the little things get you down. No matter how bad things may look, you can overcome any problems and succeed if you put your mind to it. Learn to work with people and understand their position because when yu get into the Army, as a leader your troops will be the most important thing with which you are entrusted. My final suggestion is that you enjoy yourself as much as possible here. All of the activities at the University are only as enjoyable as you make them.

One last mission for Alpha

By C/CPT MIKE BALD

Congratulations, Alpha Company, on another outstanding semester! Once again you have been very busy, but together you have been more than up to the task. You have met many challenges throughout the year, both in ROTC and in the academic field. You have good reason to be proud.

Now, however, I'm going to challenge you with one last mission. You have had a great deal of training this year, and you have been able to observe

leadership in at many different levels. I assume you have learned a lot, and I hope you will remember the strong and the weak points from your experiences. This, then, is what I want you to do. I want you to pass on your knowledge and expertise to future cadets at this University.

They will arrive at Notre Dame expecting to learn about leadership, and you will be the ones who teach them. This is the most important thing you will do in your future as a leader. You must aid your soldiers in their

personal growth and help them develop their own leadership abilities. Finally, make sure your people always look out for each other. This is the "take care of your buddy" rule.

In closing, let me thank all of you for a wonderful year. It was my honor to be your company commander, and I truly enjoyed the job. I wish you good luck for the future. I know you will all have successful careers here at the University of Notre Dame and in the Profession of Arms.

Roll on!

Bravo Co. - Dismissed

By C/CPT KENNETH
DUXBURY

I don't need to remind everyone about all of this year's past events. We all have special memories of something that happened at a PT session, Lab, FTX or social event. What I do need to point out, however, is the great job that everyone did in making this year such a success for Bravo Company as a whole. Each and every one member of B. Co. has a lot to be proud of.

I not only have a great many things to be proud of, but I am also humbly thankful to have had the opportunity to be your company commander. I have grown and learned a lot this past year, and I have all of you to thank for that.

Special thanks go out to Steve Conner and Dave Fortin who did super jobs as company first sergeants. Everyone has made this past year an easy and rewarding experience for me which makes all the more difficult to say farewell.

Men, women equal at Camp

By C/CPT MICHELLE
BRADLEY

For the most part, females undergo exactly the same experiences males do at summer camp. They participate in all required events, undergo the same rigorous training and are treated just as badly by TAC officers and NCOs as their male counterparts (sometimes even worse). No concessions are made to them simply because they are females. In fact, there are some times when more pressure is applied to them because they are expected to break more easily than men, and they suffer from the scrutiny of the NCOs who gleefully await them to crack.

Although they are basically equal at camp, there is one major division separating the males from the females - separate barracks. Separate barracks are an obvious necessity, but there are problems arising from them. The main problem is communication. The males in the platoon sit around late at

night devising wonderful plans for the next day and then crawl contentedly under their wool blankets for a good night's sleep.

The females? Well, they find the plans out the hard way the next morning when they show up for formation with the wrong equipment at the wrong time. Fifty yards was just too far for the men to walk at 2030 the night before just to tell five or six females the plans for the next day.

Don't let this happen to you! For the males, never forget the females in your platoon. They are part of your team, and you should look out for them accordingly. Besides, an irate female can make your life a living Hell!

For you females, do not put up with such a lack of communication. Spend as much time as you can over at the male barracks and make arrangements for a messenger to be sent over if there is any new information put out after lights out. Remember, you are all in this together and if you work with rather than against each other, it will make things much more bearable.