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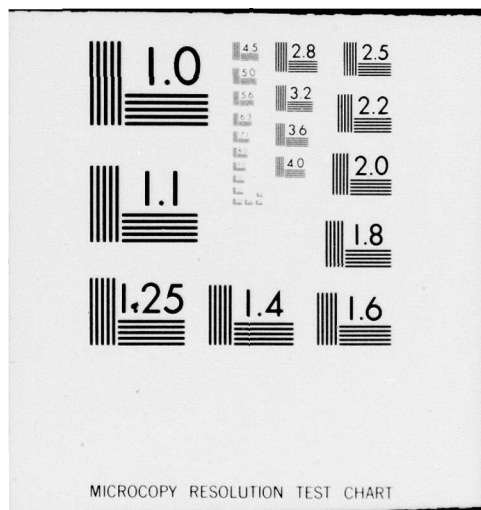
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FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Alexander Nicolini", is written over the typed name and title.

ALEXANDER NICOLINI
Major, Infantry
R&D Coordinator

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SECTION I

FOREWORD

Individual and unit Ranger actions have contributed many courageous and daring exploits to the pages of American history. The story is a recurring one, depicting outstanding leadership coupled with the highest application of the skills used in the art of fighting.

Progressively, throughout the military history of the United States, Ranger units have been formed when needed and have accomplished their purpose with great credit. The American Ranger builds on what he inherited from the Rangers of the past. The present day Ranger is an individual who has completed a rugged nine-week course of instruction, the highest form of individual Infantry training in the Army today. Each period in the history of our country has produced its own Ranger counterpart.

The concept of Ranger training today is not to have Ranger units but to have a nucleus of Ranger-trained personnel within all Infantry units, so that they can develop within their unit the capability of carrying out Ranger type missions. To implement this program, the United States Army Infantry School was directed, in October 1951, to establish a Ranger Department and to conduct the Ranger Course. The present Ranger program is directed towards training the individual rather than the unit.

Ranger type operations are overt operations conducted mostly at night in enemy held territory. Their duration depends upon the location of the target, terrain, type of mission, enemy capabilities, and the tactical situation. Such missions as combat raids to include air-landed, air-evacuation or waterborne raids, combat patrols, ambush patrols, and reconnaissance patrols are typical Ranger type operations.

This pamphlet has been designed to provide you with a history of the Ranger and to orient you on the Ranger course. For the prospective student, it answers many questions that will assist in preparation for Ranger training.

The Ranger course has the capability of developing the overall combat potential of junior leaders to a higher degree than any other course in the Army. Men who make excellent tactical decisions in the classroom or in normal training programs, sometimes fail miserably under the stress of combat. Hunger, fatigue, and the press of a tactical situation uncovers weaknesses which an individual never knew he had. An individual in Ranger training gains an insight into himself and his fellow man. Not every man can qualify as a Ranger. It is a challenge for the professional officer or hard core noncommissioned officer--a challenge to prove oneself under conditions of weather and terrain which equal and often exceed those encountered in combat. The Ranger course affords the junior leader the opportunity, by practical application, to develop and to prove himself in a rugged course of instruction.



SECTION II

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN RANGER

The history of the American Ranger is a long and colorful one and is a saga of courage, daring, and outstanding leadership. It is a story of men whose skills in the art of fighting have seldom been excelled.

The first Rangers were organized in 1756 by Robert Rogers, a native of New Hampshire, who recruited nine companies from among the Continentals. These units were identified as Rangers. Ranger techniques and methods of operation were an inherent characteristic of the frontiersmen in the American colonies prior to the American Revolution. It was Major Robert Rogers who first capitalized on such techniques and characteristics. At that time, the British Army was engaged in fighting the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War). These Rangers were skilled in woodland warfare and were able to travel great distances over difficult terrain. As the chief scouting arm of the British, they were bold in procuring intelligence by scouting enemy forces and positions and taking prisoners. Rogers' Rangers accompanied Wolfe's expedition against Quebec in the Montreal Campaign of 1760, and participated in the Western campaign as far as Detroit and Shawneetown. They were sent by General Amherst to take possession of the Northwestern posts, including Detroit. In the West in 1763, Rogers and his men distinguished themselves in the Battle of Bloody Ridge.

The type of fighting used by these first Rangers was further developed during the Revolutionary War by Colonel Daniel Morgan, who organized a unit known as Morgan's Riflemen. These men, clad in the frontiersman's buckskin garb, schooled in the Indian's methods of forest fighting, and armed with the deadly accurate frontiersman's rifle, were without equal. According to General Burgoyne, Morgan's men were "... the most famous corps of the Continental Army, all of them crack shots. . ."

Morgan's Riflemen fought at the Battle of Freeman's Farm (September 1777) and at the Battle of Cowpens (January 1781), where they inflicted heavy losses on the main body of British troops commanded by Colonel Tarleton. These successes were in large part due to the proper use of natural cover and surprise tactics.

Another famous Revolutionary War Ranger element was organized and led by Francis Marion. Marion's Partisans, numbering anywhere from a handful to several hundred, operated both with and independently of other elements of General Washington's army. By disrupting British communications and preventing the organization of loyalists to support the British cause they contributed materially to Colonial victory.

Marion's group took part in the capture of Fort Johnson and in the victory of Charleston (1775); this victory gave the southern States a respite from fighting for nearly three years. Again active in 1780, Marion was instrumental in the capture of Fort Watson and Fort Motte, South Carolina, the following year. The loss of Fort Motte--on the line of communication between Camden and Charleston--was a great blow to the British cause. Marion's men also commanded the first line at the Battle of Eutaw Springs--one of the decisive battles of the Revolutionary War--and took many prisoners.

A favorite retreat of Marion's fighters was Snow's Island. Deep swamps bordered the island, and great quantities of game and livestock existed inland. Marion's men were able to launch sudden attacks from the island in any direction, surprising, killing, or capturing bands of Tories gathering to aid the British. After each action they would withdraw once again to the safety of the swamps.

The British Colonel Tarleton once pursued Marion's band through swamps and defiles for 25 miles. Arriving at a seemingly impassable swamp, Tarleton halted and cursed, "... the damned fox, the devil himself could not catch him. . ." Marion was to be known thereafter as the "Swamp Fox".

Marion's men were good riders and expert shots. They kept close watch on the British, and detachments struck blow after blow, surprising and capturing small parties of soldiers. They continually raided outposts, scouting parties, and lines of communication. There was no certain defense against Marion's guerillas, and their activity necessitated the presence of British regulars even in conquered regions. This organized partisan activity was most successful against an enemy of superior forces and discipline.

Marion's style of fighting was distasteful to the British commanders. It interfered with their plans for insuring and perpetuating their possession of the southern country, which they sought to achieve by the establishment of military posts in different parts of North and South Carolina. Marion's rapid movements and secret expeditions cut off communication between posts and threw the whole system of government and military surveillance into confusion, aiding greatly in the Revolutionary cause.

The Civil War was again the occasion for the creation of special units such as Rangers. The Confederacy quickly capitalized on the advantages of this type of organization by authorizing the formation of partisan Ranger units. It was not until the summer of 1863 that the Union forces employed Ranger tactics, and then only on a limited scale.

John S. Mosby, a master of the prompt and skillful use of cavalry, was one of the most outstanding Confederate Rangers. He believed that by resorting to aggressive action, he could compel his enemies to guard a hundred points while he waited to attack any he chose.

The first real success of Mosby's Rangers was at Fairfax Courthouse, in Virginia, located well behind Federal lines. Mosby had learned that enemy cavalry, infantry, and artillery units were there. He also knew the officer in charge was Colonel Percy Wyndham, a British soldier of fortune, fighting for the Union cause. Mosby's plan was bold--to infiltrate through the Federal lines and pluck the officer from the midst of the thousands of soldiers protecting the roads west of Washington. His hope for success was based on the theory that to all appearances it was an impossibility.

Under cover of darkness, Mosby and 29 of his raiders infiltrated Federal outpost lines in the woods north of Centerville, Virginia. They cut the telegraph lines between Fairfax and Centerville, preventing the sending of warning signals. The small band reached the outskirts of Fairfax early in the morning. As Mosby had hoped, the Federal headquarters was quite confident of its safety so far behind the lines. As a result, they did not employ a heavy sentry detail. Mosby and part of his command proceeded to a dwelling which was thought to be Wyndham's headquarters. It was the wrong house. Meantime, Mosby learned that a Federal soldier whom they had captured was one of the guards at the headquarters of Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton. Directing part of his detachment to Wyndham's quarters, Mosby himself took several men and set out to capture General Stoughton. Posing as Federal couriers, they gained entrance into the general's quarters and captured the sleeping officer. The detachment detailed to capture Wyndham reported that the Colonel had gone to Washington the afternoon before; however, they raided his quarters and captured the assistant adjutant general, a captain.

It was an unparalleled exploit. Twenty-nine men under a bold and aggressive leader had infiltrated through strong enemy lines to the very point where enemy officers slept, yanked them out of bed, laughed at their guards, and disappeared before morning. They had captured a general, members of his staff, more than 100 other soldiers and a large number of horses.

In March, 1863, Mosby defeated a much larger force of Federal troops near Chantilly, Virginia. When an attack which he had planned miscarried, and his unit was pursued by a strong Federal Cavalry unit, Mosby moved his men into a half-mile stretch of woods. From concealed positions, they delivered deadly carbine and pistol fire into the front and flanks of their pursuers, killing five of them and wounding several others. One officer and 35 men, as well as a large number of horses, were captured. Not a Ranger was scratched!

At the Miskel Farm in the northern tip of Loudoun County, Virginia, Mosby and his band of 69 men were surprised by a force twice their size. During the bloody fight in the farmyard, Mosby rallied his men by shouting encouragement above the noise of the turmoil. His men heard, and delivered the stroke that brought victory. The results, as Mosby stated to Jeb Stuart, were "... nine of them killed--among them a captain and a lieutenant--and about fifteen too badly wounded for removal; in this lot two lieutenants. We brought off eighty-two prisoners. . . ."

Mosby's men were mustered into the regular Confederate service for the remainder of the war. Initially they formed Company A, 43d Battalion, Partisan Rangers. This unit was a part of the 1st Virginia Cavalry.

During the remainder of 1863, the Rangers were busy destroying wagon trains, capturing supplies, horses and mules, and obtaining information of Federal troop movements and dispositions. From May to July 1864, Mosby's men continued to plague Federal supply and ambulance trains, capturing many soldiers and large quantities of equipment. From one of the most successful of these raids, Mosby emerged with 200 prisoners, 500-600 horses, nearly 200 beef cattle, many valuable stores, and \$112,000.00 in payrolls.

In the fall of 1864, an attempt by the Federal troops to build a railroad from Manassas Gap westward had to be abandoned because of Mosby's crippling raids.

The effectiveness of Mosby's operations is attested to by General Sheridan, who in his personal memoirs said, "During the entire campaign I had been annoyed by guerilla bands under such partisan chiefs as Mosby, White, Gilmore, McNeil, and others, and this had considerably depleted my line-of battle strength, necessitating as it did large escorts for my supply trains. The most redoubtable of these leaders was Mosby. . . ."

Mosby was able to preserve and build up his organization over a two and a half year period within a few miles of the enemy capital. Numbered among his forces were men who knew practically every road and trail in Virginia and the location of the homes of many Confederate sympathizers behind the Federal lines. They struck in daylight and in darkness, whenever and wherever they could employ the element of surprise.

Mosby built his command to 800 before the end of the war, but the largest force he ever assembled for a raid scarcely exceeded 350. Usually, his forays were accomplished with a dozen to 80 men, because these small groups could more easily be concealed and moved about as necessity demanded.

Another prominent Ranger-type unit was the cavalry squadron organized and led by General John Hunt Morgan. Morgan and his Confederate raiders began their famous attacks in December 1861. Their initial attack was on Lebanon, Kentucky, 60 miles from Morgan's Camp. During this raid they destroyed large quantities of stores and took several prisoners. A railroad bridge of military importance was burned, thus delaying the movement of Federal supplies to the front.

One of Morgan's most successful raids began in the summer of 1862. With his command of about 800 men, he left Knoxville and made his way westward to Sparta, Tennessee, encountering only a few scattered enemy along the way. Turning north at Sparta, Morgan crossed into Kentucky and captured a small garrison, taking 400 prisoners and valuable stores, including enough rifles to equip most of his unarmed men. The raiders then moved on to Glasgow and captured the garrison there, destroying more public stores. These two encounters were typical of the other raids Morgan conducted throughout his two-and-a-half-week's march behind Union lines. During this time, he swelled his own ranks to 1,200 by recruiting en route, marched more than a thousand miles, captured seventeen towns, destroyed millions of dollars worth of Federal stores, dispersed many of the Home Guard, and raised Confederate morale to new heights. The losses to the Ranger force in both killed and wounded were less than 90.

Some insight as to the effectiveness of these raids is gained from General U. S. Grant's memoirs. Grant wrote: "Morgan was footloose and could operate where his information--always correct--led him to believe he could do the greatest damage. During

the time he operated in this way, he killed, wounded, and captured several times the number he ever had under his command at any one time. He destroyed many millions of dollar's worth of property in addition. Places he did not attack had to be guarded as if threatened by him. . . ."

The most famous raid of Morgan's Rangers started in July of 1863. With a command of 2,400 men he attacked at Green River Bridge, Kentucky, but after a severe fight was forced to withdraw. Proceeding to Lebanon, Kentucky, they captured that garrison. Continuing to the Ohio River near Brandenburg, they crossed on two captured steamers after dispersing hostile troops on the far side. They encountered some militia at Corydon, Indiana, but quickly scattered them and captured the town. By this time the whole countryside had risen in arms against them. Newspapers proclaimed an "Invasion of Indiana." Reinforcements were hurried in, and gunboats on the river were rushed to intercept the Confederate marauders. Following a course roughly parallel to the Ohio River, bypassing Cincinnati, Morgan's men came to within a day's ride of Lake Erie--the deepest penetration of any Confederate force during the war. But close on their heels was a Federal cavalry force. Near the end of July in the vicinity of East Liverpool, Ohio, Morgan was forced to surrender.

In spite of Morgan's surrender, the raid was successful. It drew off some of the forces which might have harassed Bragg's retreat from middle Tennessee and which might have helped Rosencrans at the Battle of Chickamauga later on. Colonel MacGowan, the Union soldier, said: "Morgan's raid changed the whole aspect and results of military operations in Tennessee and Kentucky in the summer and fall of 1863. But for his diverting and delaying Burnside's movement upon Knoxville and the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad, that commander, with 28,000 men, would have joined Rosencrans three weeks before the Battle of Chickamauga was fought."

From the conclusion of the Civil War until World War II there were no Ranger units in the United States Army. With America's entry into the Second World War, however, Ranger units came forth once again to add to the pages of history.

Major (later Brigadier General) William O. Darby organized and activated the 1st Ranger Battalion on 19 June 1942 at Carrickfergus, North Ireland. The volunteers were mostly from elements of the 1st Armored Division and the 34th Infantry Division. The members of this battalion were all handpicked volunteers. Six officers and 44 enlisted men of the battalion accompanied Commando troops in the Dieppe raid on the northern coast of France. These men learned much of the German's fighting methods and defenses, which proved of inestimable value to the Rangers in later operations. The 1st Ranger Battalion participated in the initial North Africa landing at Arzew, Algeria, and in the Tunisian battles, where they executed a number of hazardous night attacks over difficult and treacherous terrain. The battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for distinguished action which included operations in the critical battle of El Guettar.

The 3d and 4th Ranger Battalions were activated and trained by Darby in Africa near the close of the Tunisian Campaign. These three battalions made up what was known as the Ranger Force.

Darby's Ranger battalions spearheaded the Seventh Army landing at Gela and Licata during the Sicilian invasion and played a role in the subsequent campaign which culminated in the capture of Messina. In the Salerno engagement on the Italian peninsula, the Ranger force fought for 18 days to hold Chiunzi Pass against eight German counterattacks in the Venafrò battles. The Rangers experienced fierce winter and mountain fighting in clearing the entrance to the narrow pass leading to Cassino. At Anzio they had the mission of overcoming beach defenses, clearing the town, and forming a defensive perimeter.

On the night of 30 January 1944, the 1st, 3d and 4th Ranger Battalions launched an attack on Cisterna. The Rangers were annihilated at Cisterna. The surviving original Rangers who had volunteered in Ireland, Scotland or at Arzew, Algeria were returned to

the United States after this action. The newer members were transferred to the American-Canadian Special Service Force which was engaged in holding the lower stretches of the Mussolini Canal facing Littoria and which shortly thereafter joined in the march on Rome.

The Special Service Force, like the Rangers, was a highly trained volunteer unit that specialized in night raiding and beach landings. It had led the American drive into Kiska in the Aleutians. It participated in the drive to the Gustav Line in Italy, clearing the Mount Majo hills. Following this action, they moved to Anzio taking up positions on the right flank along the Mussolini Canal and participated in the breakout to Rome. In Operation ANVIL it spearheaded the landings in Southern France, and fought with the Seventh Army near Belfort Gap.

The 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the D-day landings (6 June 1944) on Omaha Beach, Normandy. Attached to the 116th Infantry, 29th Division, Companies D, E, and F of the 2d Ranger Battalion accomplished their mission of capturing Pointe du Hoc, a German coastal battery. The two battalions then assisted in the capture of Grandcamp and the mop-up of scattered enemy opposition between Grandcamp and Isigny.

The 5th Ranger Battalion participated in operations in the Bay of Brest area. Operating on the left flank, they assaulted and captured three of the numerous defenses which extended the seven miles to Recouvrance.

Later in September 1944, the 2d Battalion, attached to Task Force Sugar of the 29th Infantry Division, drove through numerous outpost strong points to reach the German main line of resistance. The Le Conquet Peninsula was the next objective of Task Force Sugar. The 2d Battalion assisted in this by breaking into the 280mm gun positions (Batterie Graf Spee) and forced the surrender of the Le Conquet garrison commander and 814 men. The 5th Battalion met little opposition in the reduction of the Le Conquet Peninsula defense.

During the Rhineland Campaign, 6-8 December 1944, the 2d Ranger Battalion, operating in the Hurtgen Forest, captured critical heights near Bergstein, creating a salient in the German lines. Although counterattacked five times and subjected to continuous artillery fire, the unit held the ground which offered observation of the key town of Schmidt, as well as of the Roer River dams. The salient created by the attack reached the most easterly point to which the Allies had driven.

In November 1944 General Patton assigned the 5th Ranger Battalion to XX Corps. A force consisting of the 6th Cavalry Group and the Ranger Battalion had the mission of screening the XX Corps southern flank.

In February and March 1945 the 5th Ranger Battalion, while attached to the 94th Infantry Division, accomplished a mission of great consequence to the success of the Allied operations in the Saar River area. Under cover of darkness the Battalion infiltrated the enemy frontline positions and seized the high ground commanding the main German military supply route west of Zerf. Two counterattacks were repulsed, and after five days of fighting the 5th Ranger Battalion had killed 378 men, wounded an estimated 550, captured 562 more, and destroyed two armored vehicles. Seizure of their assigned objective aided the armored breakthrough which overran Trier and brought elements of the XX Corps to the banks of the Rhine River.

The 6th Ranger Battalion, operating in the Pacific, was the only Ranger unit fortunate enough to have been assigned only those missions applicable for Rangers. All of its missions, usually of task force, company or platoon size, were behind enemy lines, involved long-range reconnaissance and hard-hitting long-range combat patrols. The three most noteworthy were during the campaigns in the Philippines.

The First American contingent to return to the Philippines was the 6th Ranger Battalion with the mission of knocking out the coastal defense guns, radio stations, radar stations and other means of defense and communications in Leyte Harbor. On A Day minus three days, the 6th Ranger Battalion was landed from fast attack-type converted destroyers, in the midst of a storm, on Dinagat, Suluan and Homonohan Islands in Leyte Bay. Their mission was successfully accomplished with hours to spare.

Later, a reinforced company from the 6th Battalion formed the entire rescue force which liberated American and Allied prisoners of war from the Japanese Prison Camp at Cabanatuan, the Philippines, in January 1945. They made a 29-mile forced march into enemy territory, obtained full support of local civilians and guerillas, and determined accurately the enemy's dispositions. They crawled nearly a mile through flat and open terrain to assault positions, destroyed a Japanese garrison nearly double the size of the attacking force, and in the dark, assembled over 500 prisoners of war. The prisoners were evacuated from the stockade area within twenty minutes after the assault began. In this action more than 200 enemy troops were killed; Ranger losses were two killed and ten wounded.

Their last mission was the 250 mile trek behind enemy lines by B Company to the city of Aparri on the northern tip of Luzon. Aparri was the last seaport and major city held by the Japanese forces. For twenty-eight days, behind the lines, they successfully infiltrated and reconnoitered the Japanese defenses at Aparri. They prepared the landing facilities at Camalugian Airfield for the 11th Airborne to make one of the major airdrops of the Pacific Campaign. Following the successful airdrop the Rangers initially supplied the point and later the flank security for the 11th Airborne Task Force driving southward along the Cagayan River to link up with the 32d Infantry Division and thus end the Philippine Campaign. It is noteworthy that all of the Japanese prisoners captured during this operation and turned over to the 11th Airborne Division, were captured by one platoon from the 6th Ranger Battalion.

Another Ranger type unit in the Pacific was the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), organized and trained as a long range penetration unit for employment behind enemy lines in Japanese-held Burma. Commanded by Brigadier General (later Major General) Frank D. Merrill, its 2,997 officers and men became popularly known as "Merrill's Marauders." From February to May, 1944 the operations of the Marauders were closely coordinated with those of the Chinese 22d and 38th Divisions in a drive to recover northern Burma and clear the way for the construction of the Ledo Road, which was to link the Indian railhead at Ledo with the old Burma Road to China. The Marauders were foot soldiers who marched and fought through jungles and over mountains from the Hukawng Valley in northwestern Burma to Myitkyina on the Irrawaddy River. In five major and 30 minor engagements they met and defeated the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division. Operating in the rear of the main forces of the Japanese, they prepared the way for the southward advance of the Chinese by disorganizing supply lines and communications. The climax of the Marauders' operations was the capture of the Myitkyina airfield, the only allweather strip in northern Burma. This was the final victory of "Merrill's Marauders" which was disbanded in August, 1944.

The men composing Merrill's Marauders were volunteers from the 33d Infantry Regiment, the 14th Infantry Regiment, the 5th Infantry Regiment and from Infantry regiments engaged in combat in the Southwest and South Pacific. These men responded to a call from the Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, for volunteers for a hazardous mission. These volunteers were to be of a high state of physical ruggedness and stamina, and to be from jungle-trained and jungle-tested troops.

Prior to their entry into the Northern Burma Campaign, Merrill's Marauders trained in India under the over-all supervision of Major General Orde C. Wingate, British Army. Here they were trained in long range penetration tactics and techniques of the type developed and first employed by General Wingate in the operations of the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade in Burma from February to June 1943.

With the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June, 1950, the need arose once again for Rangers. On 25 August 1950, at Camp Drake, Japan, the 8213th Army Unit was organized from volunteers in the Far East. The 8213th was referred to more informally as the Eighth Army Ranger Company and was attached to the 25th Infantry Division. The company participated in the "drive to the Yalu". The company was deactivated in March 1951.

Fourteen Airborne Ranger companies were formed and trained at the Ranger Training Command, Fort Benning, Georgia, between September 1950 and September 1951.

The 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th and 8th Ranger Infantry Companies (airborne) were assigned to divisions throughout the Eighth Army in Korea and used as line Infantry. These units were deactivated in September 1951 and their highly trained personnel were spread throughout the Army.

In October 1951, the Chief of Staff, General J. Lawton Collins, directed that "Ranger training be extended to all combat units in the Army in order to develop the capability of carrying out Ranger-type missions in all Infantry units of the Army." The Commandant of the Infantry School was directed to establish a Ranger Department for the purpose of conducting a Ranger course of instruction. The overall objective of Ranger training was to raise the standard of training within combat units. This was a twofold mission; first for USAIS to train a Ranger cadre, and second for Infantry units to conduct Ranger training. The goal was to provide one Ranger qualified officer per rifle company and one non-commissioned officer per rifle platoon.

In July 1954, General Maxwell D. Taylor gave additional emphasis to the Ranger program when he made it mandatory that all newly commissioned Regular Army officers of Infantry, Armor, Artillery, Corps of Engineers, and Signal Corps select and attend Airborne or Ranger training. In June 1955, RA second lieutenants of the Military Police Corps were included. Some 70% of the RA lieutenants take both Airborne and Ranger training. The United States Army Infantry Conference of December 1958 extended Ranger training to reconnaissance units on the basis of four Rangers per battle group reconnaissance platoon and 12 Rangers per division reconnaissance troop of the reconnaissance squadron.

Ranger training is a concept directed by the Chief of Staff, United States Army, to raise the level of Infantry training, army-wide. Over the years since October 1951, this concept of Ranger training has developed into the present Ranger program. This program is built upon what has been inherited from the Rangers of the past. In World War II the concept of employment was Ranger Battalions. During Korea the concept was Ranger-Airborne Companies. Now it is individual Ranger training; the highest form of individual Infantry training in the Army today. All Rangers have a common ability to operate over varied terrain at night. The Ranger today is an individual, highly imbued with Ranger esprit and drive, who returns to his unit to integrate his training into present training programs.

SECTION III

STANDING ORDERS, ROGERS RANGERS

Major Robert Rogers 1759

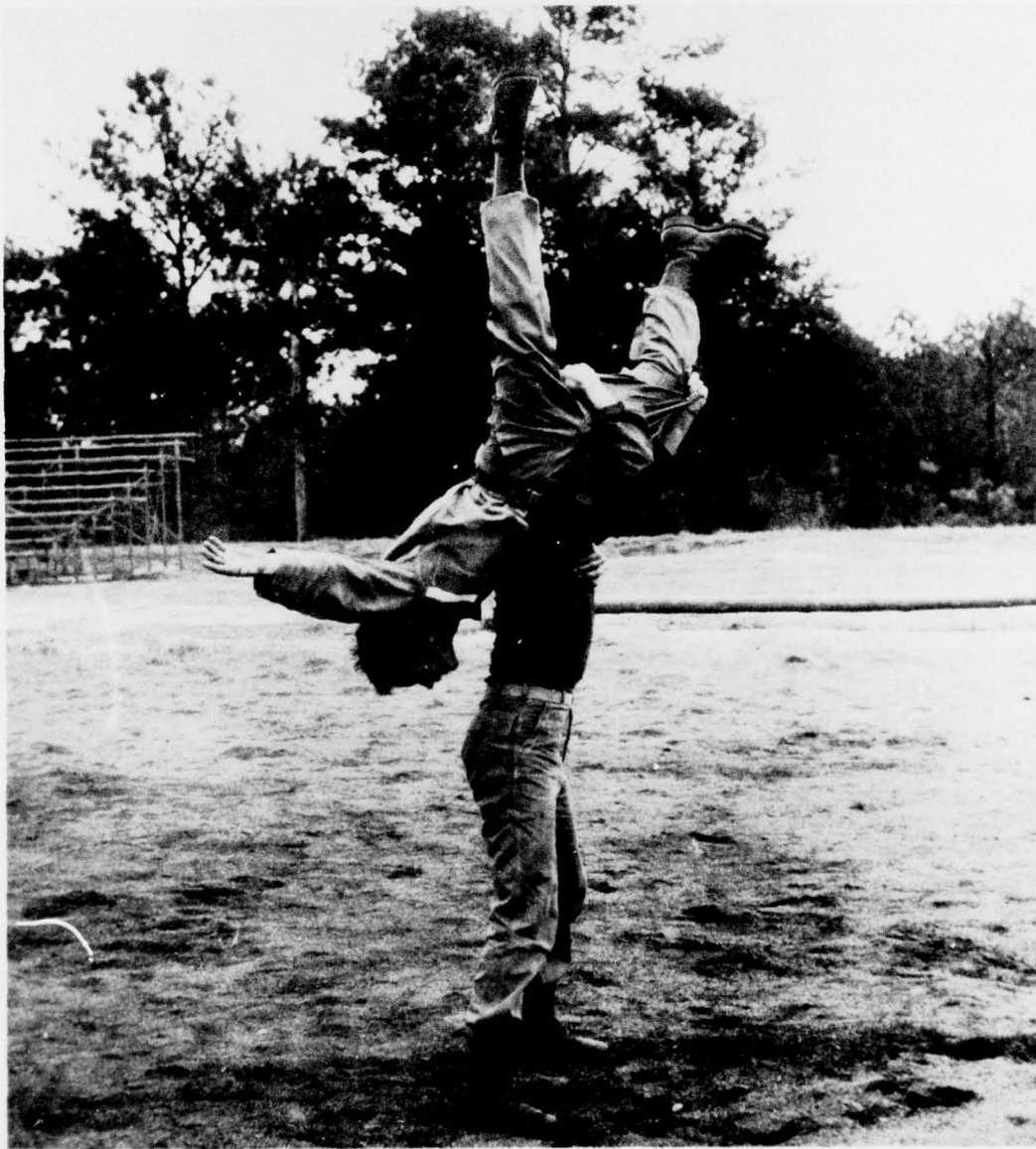
1. Don't forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning.
3. When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.
4. Tell the truth about what you see and what you do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.
5. Don't never take a chance you don't have to.
6. When we're on the march we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.
7. If we strike swamps, or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.
8. When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.
9. When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.
10. If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.
11. Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.
16. Don't cross a river by a regular ford.
17. If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.
18. Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet.

SECTION IV

SYNOPSIS OF THE RANGER COURSE

1. GENERAL.

Everyone who has experienced combat knows the value of tough and realistic training for the fighting man whose job it is to close with and kill the enemy. The soldier of today must get the best possible training so that he can successfully accomplish his mission and remain alive. The Ranger Department provides realistic, tough training with a minimum of formal classroom instruction.



HAND TO HAND COMBAT
FT. BENNING PHASE



TRAINING FOR CLIFF ASSAULT
FT. BENNING PHASE

2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of the Ranger course is: To develop a superb Infantry soldier with exceptional endurance; one who is skilled in the techniques of fieldcraft, survival, mountain, jungle, air-landed and special amphibious operations; and, by use of the patrol as the teaching medium, to combat condition the student under hazardous conditions of terrain and weather which equal and often exceed those experienced in combat. The course trains small unit leaders of all branches of the Army. The course assists unit commanders by improving the leadership and training capabilities of subordinate leaders who undergo the training.

3. SCOPE.

The course is nine weeks in length and consists of approximately 818 hours. The training is exacting and demanding, both physically and mentally. Students must volunteer for the course.

The Ranger course stresses the combat conditioning of the student and the development of good basic combat habits. The emphasis is on practical, realistic and somewhat hazardous field work. The entire course has within its broad scope only one written examination--the real tests occur when the student finds himself in command of a patrol.

The patrol is used as a vehicle of instruction. It offers a means by which the student can be placed in a command position in a practical field exercise. The student, continuously confronted with realistic situations, can be observed, and an insight toward his leadership ability and combat potential can be obtained.

The patrols vary in size from a six-man reconnaissance patrol to a company-size raid; in distance travelled from a few miles to 50 miles; and in duration from six to 96 hours. The situations which occur portray combat situations. Training problems are conducted primarily during hours of darkness without regard for weather or a fixed schedule. Command within the patrol is rotated among the members so that all have the opportunity to lead and command.

The problems are physically and mentally tiring, requiring maximum effort with a minimum of rest. During periods of hunger, fatigue and strain, the student is forced to react to a series of tactical situations to accomplish an assigned mission.

During the Ranger course, the student participates in 16 basic problems, three of which are air-landed and three of which are seaborne. Every student is given opportunities to be a leader. All problems are closely observed by a Ranger officer or non-commissioned officer. The student operates mostly at night over seemingly impassable terrain. At times he is hungry, and always fatigued. The student seldom averages more than five hours of sleep daily during his training in the camps.



A PATROL IN THE SWAMPS AND JUNGLES
FLORIDA PHASE

Training is realistic, rough and to a degree hazardous--the closest approach to combat conditions that can be achieved in a peacetime Army. The number and variety of situations faced by the Ranger student equal those a soldier would gain in two or three campaigns in battle. In brief, it is a combat conditioning course in which the student is exposed to conditions and situations which closely approximate and often exceed those he will encounter in combat. Fatigue, hunger, the necessity for quick, sound decisions and the requirement for demonstrating calm, forceful leadership under conditions of stress are all contained within the Ranger course. Here an individual known simply as "Ranger Price" must impose his personality and will on other student Rangers in order to direct and guide their efforts toward the accomplishment of the assigned mission. While on patrol, he never knows when or where he will be designated as patrol leader. The physical condition of his men at times approaches near exhaustion. The student is constantly harassed by Aggressors who force him into unexpected situations which call for prompt, sound decisions.

After each patrol, a detailed critique is conducted by the Ranger cadre instructor who accompanies the patrol. It is here that the student has an opportunity for self-evaluation and analysis. Through training such as this, a small unit leader is developed who is mentally and physically capable of sustained action in the nuclear or space age and who will continue to exert his influence regardless of time, place or circumstance.

Upon completion of the course, the individual is equipped with sufficient knowledge and skill for him to return to his unit and integrate Ranger-type training into current training programs.

4. FORT BENNING PHASE.

The Ranger student spends his first two weeks of training at Fort Benning. Here the student reviews basic Infantry skills and physically toughens himself. Through past experience it has been determined that most students need a review in basic subjects so that they can successfully complete their work in the field training phases of the course. Physical training classes and other physical conditioning periods such as hand-to-hand combat and bayonet improves his physical condition.

Included in his training at Fort Benning are courses in demolitions, map and aerial photograph reading, troop leading procedures, and intelligence procedures. There is also instruction in mines and boobytraps, aerial movement and resupply, bayonet disarming, patrolling techniques, patrol orders and reports, handling prisoners of war, cliff assault techniques, artillery support of patrol operations, communications, and an air-landed problem.

The emphasis is on student participation. The map reading test includes a compass course approximately 9 miles in length. The student is required to complete the course in 10 hours. Not only does he apply his knowledge of map reading in this field test, but he also benefits from the experience of moving over difficult terrain during the hours of darkness. His confidence in himself is increased, his knowledge of this basic subject is improved, his physical condition is improved, and his mental condition is keener--he is ready for the Florida phase of training.



REHEARSAL FOR A WATERBOURNE RAID
FLORIDA PHASE



THREE ROPE BRIDGE
MOUNTAIN PHASE

5. WATERBORNE OPERATIONS AND JUNGLE TRAINING PHASE.

The second phase of training is conducted at the Florida Ranger Camp, located 242 miles south of Fort Benning on the Eglin Air Force Base reservation. This 190,000 acre training area is ideal for Ranger training in terms of size and variation. One exercise alone exposes the student to off-shore islands, ocean surf, coastal dunes, wire-grass savannahs, dense and jungle-like swamp, a tropical river, and scrub oak and pine wastelands. In many areas, the vegetation is not unlike that found in the Malayan or Philippine jungles. Wildlife is abundant, and includes poisonous reptiles, alligators, panthers and bears.

This phase of the Ranger Course is devoted to both day and night patrolling exercises. The majority of this training is conducted at night and consists of combat and reconnaissance patrols, ambushes, waterborne raids, beach landings and air-landed or evacuation operations. Map and compass proficiency is a critical factor during the long miles of cross-country navigation. An error at any point in the exercise can result in a lost patrol or failure to accomplish the mission.

The forces of the Aggressor Army are an ever-present threat. Striking a vehicle convoy from ambush or tenaciously defending an objective, the Aggressor tests the Ranger's ability to cope with unexpected and varied situation, all presented with maximum emphasis on combat realism.

Weapons and equipment are carried, but rations are limited. This necessitates a knowledge of how to live off the land. Survival and woodsmanship are added to the Ranger's skills. He learns to build traps and shelters and, if necessary, to eat such food as wood fungus, acorns and rattlesnakes.

The Florida Camp confidence test requires the student to climb a spiked pole to an approximate height of 30 feet; walk a narrow catwalk without using his hands; climb a near vertical rope to a horizontal rope; move hand-over-hand to a designated spot and, upon order, drop into water 35-40 feet below. The test is designed to help the student overcome fear of hazards commonly encountered on Ranger-type missions; height, water, and danger of personal injury.

The final exercise finds the student participating in a large-scale waterborne raid to destroy critical enemy harbour defenses. Training support for the exercise comes from all the Armed Services. The United States Navy provides ocean-going minesweepers which carry the raiding company more than 100 miles to its objective; the United States Air Force, using the latest supersonic fighter aircraft, performs simulated strafing missions on the student convoy; and the United States Coast Guard assists in the control of the night beach landing.



LITTER EVACUATION DOWN A CLIFF FACE
MOUNTAIN PHASE

The successful accomplishment of this final mission by the Rangers causes the Aggressor Army in Florida to capitulate, thus ending the campaign and the training phase. The Rangers then proceed to Fort Benning for a one-day rest period prior to beginning the Mountain phase.

6. THE MOUNTAIN TRAINING PHASE.

The third and final phase of training is conducted at the Mountain Ranger Camp, located 14 miles from Dahlonega, Georgia, 217 miles north of Fort Benning. Here in the Chattahoochee National Forest, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the student finds terrain of a very different type from that found in Florida. It is heavily wooded with pine, hemlock, and scrub oak, and is thick with other vegetation. Here for approximately three weeks the student is involved in mountain training and its many ramifications. To prepare him for his patrolling work in this terrain, the student first learns the fundamentals of rope work. He then learns methods of scaling hazardous mountain walls, descending dangerous cliffs, crossing swift streams using expedients, and surviving in mountainous terrain.

When the mountain techniques are learned, once again the patrol is the vehicle of instruction. Day and night patrols surge forward with Aggressors tactically located to impede the advance. The last operation is a combat patrol, the objective of which is located approximately 50 miles away. To reach this objective, the patrols are air-lifted by helicopter to a point behind the Aggressor frontlines, move cross-country over the mountains, cross the rapid Toccoa River and the deep Blue Ridge Lake. Both bodies of water form very difficult natural obstacles. It usually requires a minimum of two days and three nights to make the cross-country move. Upon completion of this mission, the patrol returns to friendly lines via helicopters.

The Mountain Camp has its method of building confidence as does the Florida Camp. Here the student is required to climb a swaying rope ladder for 65 feet, hook a pulley block to a steel cable which stretches across a lake, ride down the cable at break-neck speed and drop on signal into the water. The "death slide", as it is called, is a challenge and appears frightening; but once mastered, it becomes a vivid reminder to the student that he can do the seemingly impossible.

7. SUMMARY.

High standards are a must in Ranger training. The motto of the Ranger Department is "Prompt obedience. Iron discipline." Self-confidence in one's ability to accomplish any assigned mission, regardless of the odds of terrain, weather and an aggressive enemy is developed in Ranger training. Strong self-discipline is another important aspect of Ranger training.

The successful completion of this difficult course is an outstanding accomplishment for any officer or noncommissioned officer. When, upon graduation, he receives the coveted Ranger Tab, he is indeed a proud man and a better soldier. He is equipped with the knowledge needed to conduct this type of training in his own unit. He is a soldier indoctrinated with Ranger drive, toughness, and esprit, who is confident in his ability to operate effectively under conditions of extreme physical and mental stress.

SECTION V

HONOR GRADUATES

1. Since March 1956, the number one officer and number one enlisted man in each Ranger Class have been designated as Honor Graduates. At graduation exercises, Honor Graduates are presented with a Ranger guidon as a symbol of outstanding achievement in the Ranger course. In addition, an official letter of commendation, signed by the Assistant Commandant, United States Army Infantry School, is forwarded to each Honor Graduate, through his Commanding Officer, and is made a permanent part of his official records. This letter officially recognizes the Honor Graduate's accomplishment in attaining the highest overall standing in competition with his other classmates and commends him for his demonstrated command and leadership ability and tactical knowledge under simulated combat conditions involving air-landed, waterborne, swamp, jungle and mountain operations.

2. During the period March 1956 - June 1959, the following officers and enlisted men have been declared Honor Graduates:

<u>Graduation Date</u>	<u>Class Nr.</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
Mar 56	7	Hutchinson, Hugh F., 2/Lt, Inf	Cayson, Joe L., M/Sgt
Apr 56	8	Carlile, Cecil D., 1/Lt, Inf	(All officer class)
May 56	9	Delavan, Patrick N., Capt, Inf	Valenzuela, Conuto, M/Sgt
✓ Jun 56	10	Hamber, John M., 1/Lt, USMC	Del Signore, Joseph, Cpl
Jul 56	11	Mertel, Kenneth D., Capt, Inf	Long, Herman F., SFC
Aug 56	1	Couch, Roy E., Capt, Inf	(All officer class)
Nov 56	3	Colby, John R., 2/Lt, Inf	Allums, Leland D., Sgt, ✓ USMC
Dec 56	4	Beatty, Jerry L, 2/Lt, Inf	Farrell, Jimmie L., Sgt
✓ Jan 57	5	Clark, Frank A., Capt, USMC	Simpson, Lloyd N., Sp-3
Mar 57	6	Olchovik, Stanley, 2/Lt, Arty	Adams, Wilbur L., SFC
Apr 57	7	Coffey, Vernon C., Jr., 1/Lt, Inf	(All officer class)
May 57	8	Quinn, John D., Capt, Inf	Maguire, Edward J., SFC
Jun 57	9	Cashwell, James E., 1/Lt, Inf	Wooten, Aubry A., Sp-3
Jul 57	10	Phillips, Y. Y., Jr., Capt, Inf	Murray, Hugh E. J., Sgt
Aug 57	11	Shakelton, Ronald A., 1st Lt, Inf	Tapp, William B. Jr., Sgt
Sep 57	1	Seale, Billy G., 1/Lt Arty	Olga, Karl E., Sgt
Oct 57	2	Cavasos, Richard E., Capt, Inf	Pugh, Eugene B., M/Sgt
Nov 57	3	Lukert, Edward P. Jr., Capt, Inf	Notter, Frank A., Sgt
Dec 57	4	Townsend, Bernard J. II, Capt, Inf	Studdard, Grady J. S/Sgt ✓ USMC
Jan 58	5	Hannon, James D., 1/Lt, Inf	Shubach, Harry F. T/Sgt ✓ USMC

<u>Graduation Date</u>	<u>Class Nr.</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
Mar 58	6	Sikandar, Khan, Capt (Pakistan)	(All officer class)
Apr 58	7	Scholtes, Richard A., 2/Lt, Inf	(All officer class)
✓ May 58	8	Vandersluis, Jan P., 1/Lt, USMC	Duncan, Charles E. Jr. ✓ Sgt, USMC
Jun 58	9	Granger, John D. 1/Lt, Inf	King, Lawrence R., Sgt
Jul 58	10	Asp, Arnold A., Capt, Inf	Woodring, Robert E., M/Sgt
Aug 58	11	Parmly, Eleazar IV, Capt, Inf	Reed, David A., Sgt
Sep 58	1	Usaw, Andrew T., 2/Lt, Inf	Olivaz, Jacinto E., Sgt
Oct 58	2	Williams, George, 1/Lt, Inf	Stewart, Joseph S., T/Sgt ✓ USMC
Nov 58	4	Gunderson, Peter G., 2/Lt, AGC (Inf)	(All officer class)
Dec 58	5	Martin, Don, Jr., 2/Lt, Armor	(All officer class)
✓ Mar 59	6	Pepperdine, James, 1/Lt, USMC	Jackson, Royce H., Sp-4
✓ Apr 59	7	Hamel, William S., 1/Lt, USMC	Miller, Hugh W., SFC
Jun 59	9	Thames, Billy D., 1/Lt, Inf	Clee, John S., Sgt (Canada)

SECTION VI

STUDENT ORIENTATION

A. GENERAL

The following information is intended to supplement the Guide for Students which is furnished to all students of the United States Army Infantry School. It is intended to answer typical questions for the prospective student.

(1) The Ranger Department trains students from all branches of the Army, the Marine Corps, and many allied countries. No insignia of rank is worn by students during the course; all students are addressed as "Ranger."

(2) Throughout the course, the "buddy system" is utilized to instill a spirit of teamwork and cooperation. When possible, individuals are permitted to select a "buddy" of their choice. Each student is responsible for knowing his buddy's location and for reasonable attention to his welfare.

(3) Completion of the confidence tests is a requirement for graduation.

(4) AR 624-20 authorizes the Commandant, USAIS, to appoint successful enlisted graduates of the Ranger Course to the next higher pay grade, except that no appointments will be made above the grade of sergeant. Enlisted men reporting for the course must have a written concurrence from their unit commander, for promotion to the next higher specialist or noncommissioned grade. These promotions are not charged against any unit's TD or TOE quota.

B. PREREQUISITES

Prerequisites for attendance at the course are:

(1) Company grade officer of any branch, or enlisted male noncommissioned officer.

(2) Must volunteer for the course, except in the case of Regular Army second lieutenants commissioned subsequent to 1 June 1954 in Infantry, Artillery, Armor, Corps of Engineers, Signal Corps or Military Police Corps. Individuals in this category are required to select and attend either the Ranger Course, Airborne Course, or Army Aviation Flight Training.

(3) A minimum physical profile of B. (Requests for waiver of this qualification should indicate the factors lower than 2 and contain the reason for each designation.)

(4) Attaining a minimum total score of 225 points on the Army Physical Fitness Test administered within 30 days prior to submission of application. Required minimums in each exercise are as follows: pullups-3, squat jumps-20, pushups-15, 2-minute situps-25. Performance of the minimum requirements in each exercise will not provide a passing score of 225 points.

(5) Must be able to swim.

(6) Enlisted personnel must be of excellent character, must have a standard score of 90 or higher in aptitude area CO, and have nine months or more of active duty service remaining after completion of course.

(7) Allied students must have an English language proficiency, and comprehension level, sufficient to enable them to command a squad or patrol.

(8) Applicants should take necessary action to insure that they are in good physical condition upon reporting for the Ranger Course. All students will be given a Physical Fitness test and swim test during their In-Processing period. Personnel failing in these tests will not be enrolled in the Ranger Course.

C. STUDENT EVALUATION SYSTEM

Students are subjected to constant observation and evaluation throughout the course. Their performance is observed and graded by the tactical officer, problem observers and fellow students.

D. UNIFORMS

(1) Wearing of uniforms will be governed by regulations of service concerned.

(2) Required Uniforms:

(a) Officers:

1. Winter: Army green and Army blue (or equivalent).

2. Summer: Cotton conventional and tropical worsted (or equivalent).

(b) Enlisted men:

1. Winter: Army green (or equivalent).

2. Summer: Cotton conventional (or equivalent).

(c) All (winter or summer): Fatigue.

(d) Identification tags.

(3) Recommended quantity of clothing:

(a) Paragraph D(2)(a)1. above - 1 each (officers only).

(b) Cotton uniform (conventional) - 2 sets.

(c) Fatigue uniform - 6 sets (minimum).

(d) Boots (combat or jump) - 3 pairs.

(e) Socks, cushion sole (QM issue) - 9 pairs.

(f) Underwear (winter or summer) - 6 sets.

(g) Civilian clothing as desired. (May be worn after duty hours during first two weeks of training.)

(4) Normal Uniform Seasons:

(a) Winter - 15 October - 1 April

(b) Summer - 1 April - 15 October

(c) Students attending classes extending from one season into another will be required to wear uniforms appropriate for the season. On post, you may purchase uniforms and accessories at the Quartermaster Sales Store or the Main Post Exchange. Fatigue uniforms may be purchased at these stores and at the Book Department. The primary duty uniform for both summer and winter is the field or fatigue uniform. The blocked fatigue cap is required for Army personnel at Fort Benning. These caps are not available at the QM Sales Store but can be purchased at either the PX or the Book Department. The Army Green, or cotton conventional uniform, is required for graduation exercise.

(5) Field Equipment.

Field jackets, helmet liners, pistol belts, canteens and other field equipment will be issued to you by the Ranger support company and will be used for the duration of the course.

E. QUARTERS (or Billeting facilities).

(1) Ranger students are billeted in the Ranger Support Company barracks. Because of the limited off-duty time available, students are cautioned to bring only a minimum amount of civilian clothing with them. You will not be able to keep your luggage in your cubicle, but additional trunk room space is provided for storage.

(2) Cubicles are arranged in a uniform manner. Each "buddy team" is responsible for the cleanliness of their cubicle and are expected to keep this area ready for inspection during duty hours. Pictures, clocks, small radios and similar personal items may be displayed.

(3) Bachelor students, and married students who do not have dependents at Fort Benning, will be required to live in student barracks provided by the support company.

(4) Married students attending the course on TDY status are encouraged to NOT bring their dependents. Those who have dependents at Fort Benning may live at home during the first phase of training, but will be required to maintain a cubicle in the barracks. Off-duty time is limited and training starts early each day.

(5) Students who bring their dependents with them will find that the civilian rental situation in the Columbus area is favorable. Specific information on housing can be obtained by writing the Infantry Center Billeting Office. If you arrive in Columbus prior to the reporting date indicated on your orders, you may contact the Billeting Office for information. This office is located in Building 5, the Main Post Reception Office.

(6) No government family-type quarters are available for students assigned at Fort Benning on temporary duty.

F. MESS FACILITIES

(1) All students eat in the Ranger Support Company Mess. Rates for meals are established in accordance with AR 30-30 and are generally as follows:

<u>Meal</u>	<u>Students not on Per Diem</u>	<u>Students on Per Diem</u>
Breakfast	.25	.55 (Includes surcharge)
Dinner	.45	.95 (" ")
Supper	.40	.85 (" ")

(2) Officers Mess: Fort Benning has an excellent Officers' Open Mess. All commissioned personnel at Fort Benning, both student and cadre are members of the Main Officers Open Mess. Membership dues are \$6.00 per month and entitle you and your dependents to all club facilities.

G. TRANSPORTATION

(1) Regardless of how you travel to Fort Benning, by automobile, bus, train or airline, you will pass through or close by Columbus, Georgia. Downtown Columbus is eight miles from Fort Benning, and is a city with a population of approximately 135,000.

(2) Columbus is served by three railway lines, three airlines, and seven major highways. There are ten inter-city bus lines that operate in and out of Columbus daily.

(3) If you arrive in Columbus by train or plane, you may travel to the post by bus or taxi. Taxi fare for up to five persons is \$3.00 from the train station and \$4.35 from the Muscogee County Airport. Scheduled bus service to the post is operated by Howard Bus Lines at 4th Avenue and 12th Street in downtown Columbus. Bus fare to the post is \$.25.

(4) Those traveling by car will find convenient directional signs directing them to Fort Benning on all highways. All students report initially to Building 5, the Main Post Reception Office, and from there will be directed to Building 4809, the Ranger Support Company in the Harmony Church area, 12 miles from the Main Post.

H. PAY

(1) All financial matters to include monthly, travel, and per diem pay will be administered by the Ranger Support Company.

(2) Pay for allied and Marine students will be administered by the appropriate liaison sections.

(3) All students must have their individual pay records in their possession upon reporting for the course.

(4) Students should bring sufficient funds to defray initial expenses for food, laundry and incidentals. Pay may not be available, at this station until one or two weeks after you report.

(5) The purchase of traveler's checks (\$10 and \$20 denomination) prior to arrival at Fort Benning is recommended. Personal check cashing facilities are available at Fort Benning. No facilities for cashing personal checks are available at either of the two Ranger camps.

(6) Normal expenditures for students drawing per diem pay will be approximately \$70.00 for each phase of the course. Students not drawing per diem pay will require approximately \$50.00 per phase.

