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SECTION I

FORWARD

Unit and individual 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.

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 has built on what he inherited from the Rangers of the past. The present day Ranger is an individual who is assigned to one of the elite Ranger Battalions or a graduate of the finest and most demanding leadership training in the United States Army today - the US Army Ranger Course conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia.

This pamphlet addresses the Ranger Course, a course of instruction which develops highly confident and capable small unit leaders regardless of branch of service. The current approach to the Ranger Course, training individuals rather than units, was initiated in October 1951, when the United States Army Infantry School established the Ranger Course.

The Ranger Course affords the junior leader the opportunity, by practical application, to develop and to prove himself in a rugged course of instruction. It is stress oriented and develops within the Ranger Student the ability to lead and command under heavy mental, emotional, and physical pressures. The emphasis is on practical, realistic, and strenuous field exercises using the Infantry rifle squad and rifle platoon as the training vehicle to accomplish this development.

The Ranger Course is taught using the most current tactical doctrine; additionally, emphasis is placed on developing military skills in the planning and conduct of dismounted, airborne, airmobile and waterborne squad and platoon-size patrolling operations.

This pamphlet has been designed to acquaint the prospective Ranger student with the history of the American Ranger and the Ranger Course. Furthermore, it has been designed to familiarize the commander with the final product of the Ranger Course and how he, the commander, can profit when his junior leaders earn the coveted Ranger Tab.



SECTION II

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN RANGER

The history of the American Ranger is a long and colorful saga of courage, daring and outstanding leadership. It is a story of men whose skills in the art of fighting have seldom been excelled. Only the highlights of their numerous exploits are told here.

Rangers were organized in 1756 by Major Robert Rogers, a native of New Hampshire, who recruited nine companies of American colonists to fight for the British during the French and Indian War. Ranger techniques and methods of operation were an inherent characteristic of the American frontiersmen; but Major Rogers was the first to capitalize on them and incorporate them into the fighting doctrine of a permanently organized fighting force.

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. According to General Burgoyne, Morgan's men were "...the most famous corps of the Continental Army, all of them crack shots."

Another famous Revolutionary War Ranger element was organized by Francis Marion, "the Swamp Fox." Marion's Partisans, numbering anywhere from a handful to several hundred, operated both with and independent of other elements of General Washington's Army. Operating out of the Carolina swamps, they disrupted British communications and prevented the organization of loyalists to support the British cause, thus substantially contributing to the American victory.

The American Civil War was again the occasion for the creation of special units such as the Rangers. 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. He would then attack one of the weakest points and be assured of numerical superiority.

With America's entry into the Second World War, Rangers came forth to add to the pages of history. Major William O. Darby organized and activated the 1st Ranger Battalion on 19 June 1942 at Carrickfergus, North Ireland. The members were all hand picked volunteers, 50 of whom participated in the gallant Dieppe raid on the northern coast of France with British and Canadian commandos. The 1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Battalions participated, with distinction, in the North African, Sicilian, and Italian campaigns. Darby's Ranger Battalion's spearheaded the Seventh Army landing at Gela and Licata during the Sicilian invasion and played a key role in the subsequent campaign which culminated in the capture of Messina. They infiltrated German lines and mounted an attack against Cisterna, where they virtually annihilated an entire German parachute regiment during close in, night, bayonet and hand-to-hand fighting.

The 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach, Normandy. It was during the bitter fighting along the beach that the Rangers gained their official motto. As the situation became critical on Omaha Beach, the division commander of the 29th Infantry Division stated that the entire force must clear the beach and advance inland. He then turned to Lieutenant Colonel Max Schneider, commanding the 5th Ranger Battalion, and said, "Rangers, lead the way." The 5th Ranger Battalion spearheaded the entire breakthrough and thus enabled the Allies to drive inland away from the invasion beaches.

The 6th Ranger Battalion, operating in the Pacific, conducted Ranger type missions behind enemy lines which involved reconnaissance and hard-hitting long range raids. They were the first American contingent to return to the Phillipines, destroying key coastal installations prior to the invasion. A reinforced company from the 6th Ranger Battalion formed the entire rescue force which liberated American and Allied prisoners of war from the Japanese prison camp at Cabanatuan.

Another Ranger type unit was the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), organized and trained as a long-range penetration unit for employment behind enemy lines in Japanese occupied Burma. The official unit designation was later changed to 75th Infantry. Commanded by Brigadier General (later Major General) Frank D. Merrill, its 2,997 officers and men became popularly known as "Merrill's Marauders."

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 then Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, for volunteers for a hazardous mission. These volunteers were to have a high state of physical ruggedness and stamina, and they were to come from jungle-trained and jungle-tested units.

Prior to their entry into the Northern Burma Campaign, Merrill's Marauders trained in India under the overall supervision of Major General Orde C. Wingate, British Army. There they were trained from February to June 1943, 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 from Burma. 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 marched and fought through jungle 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 Marauder's operations was the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, the only all weather strip in northern Burma. This was the final victory of "Merrill's Marauders" which was disbanded in August 1944.

With the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June 1950, the need arose once again for Rangers. Fourteen Airborne-Ranger companies were formed and trained between September 1950 and September 1951, at the Ranger Training Command, Fort Benning, Georgia. In October 1951, the Army Chief of Staff, General J. Lawton Collins, directed that "Ranger training be extended to all combat units in 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 in all combat units. This program was built upon what had been learned from the Ranger Battalions of World War II and the Airborne-Ranger companies of the Korean conflict.

Fourteen Ranger companies consisting of highly motivated volunteers, served with distinction in Vietnam from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ. Assigned to independent Brigade, Division and Field Force units they conducted long range reconnaissance and exploitation operations into enemy held and denied areas providing valuable combat intelligence.

Recognizing the need for a highly trained and highly mobile reaction force, the Army Chief of Staff, General Abrahms, directed, in 1974, the activation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger), 75th Infantry. These elite units were trained at Fort Benning, Georgia and eventually established their respective headquarters at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia and Fort Lewis, Washington.

The farsightedness of General Abrahm's decision, as well as the combat effectiveness of the Ranger battalions, was proven during the United State's invasion of the island of Grenada to protect American citizens there, and to restore democracy.

During this operation, code named "URGENT FURY", the Ranger battalions conducted a daring low-level parachute drop (from 500 feet) to seize the airfield at Point Salines, and continued operations for several days to eliminate pockets of resistance.

As a result of the demonstrated effectiveness of the Ranger battalions, the Department of the Army announced in 1984 that it was increasing the strength of Ranger units to its highest level in 40 years by activating another Ranger battalion, as well as a Ranger Regiment headquarters. These new units, the 3rd Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry, will bring the Ranger strength of the Army to over 2,300 soldiers actually assigned to Ranger units.

RANGER CREED

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor and high "Esprit de Corps" of my Ranger Battalion.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that, as a Ranger, my country expects me to move further, faster, and fight harder than any other soldier.

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be. One hundred per cent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, my neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word nor will I leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude and desire to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

With the activation of the modern Ranger battalion, the "Ranger Creed" was written by CSM GENTRY, the first Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Ranger Battalion. This creed exemplifies the traits and attitudes of the United States Army Ranger.



MEMBERS OF 1ST BATTALION (RANGER), 75TH INFANTRY



Standing Orders, Rogers Rangers

- 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 ever 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 thru 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 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 betweeen'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 III

THE RANGER COURSE

1. **GENERAL.** The soldier who has experienced combat knows the value of tough, realistic training in leadership and military skills. He knows that he must be able to successfully accomplish any mission which his unit has been organized, equipped and trained to perform in the shortest possible time, with the least expenditure of resources (men and equipment) and with the least confusion to maintain a combat effective unit. The Ranger Course provides tough, realistic training with a minimum of formal classroom instruction.

2. **PURPOSE.** The Ranger Course develops the leadership skills of selected male officers and enlisted personnel by requiring them to perform effectively as small unit leaders in a realistic tactical environment, under mental and physical stress approaching that found in combat. It provides the student with practical experience in the application of the tactics and techniques of Ranger operations in rolling, wooded, mountainous, desert and jungle/swamp environments. Emphasis is placed on development of individual leadership abilities through the application of the principles of leadership while further developing military skills in the planning and conduct of dismounted infantry, airborne, airmobile and amphibious independent squad and platoon-size patrolling operations.

3. **SCOPE.** The Ranger Course is 58 days in length with an average of 18 hours of training each day, 7 days a week. It is divided into four phases of training with each phase being conducted at a different geographical location: The Benning Phase, consisting of 19 days of training, is conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia; the Mountain Phase, consisting of 12 days of training, is conducted at Camp Frank D. Merrill near Dahlonega, Georgia; the Florida Phase consisting of 17 days of training, is conducted at Camp James E. Rudder on Eglin Air Force Base; and the Desert Phase consisting of 6 days of training, is conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas. Four days of the course are consumed by travel between Fort Benning and the outlying Ranger Camps, outprocessing, and graduation.

The emphasis during the course is on practical, realistic, and strenuous field work, where the Ranger student will be taught Ranger related skills which are based on current tactical doctrine. It is a leadership course for small-unit leaders 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 mental and emotional stress are all contained within the Ranger Course.

The physical condition of the Ranger student at times approaches exhaustion. The instruction is conducted with units that vary in size from an infantry rifle squad to a rifle platoon, in distance traveled from 2 to 50 kilometers, and in duration from 1 to 6 days.



The Ranger qualified leader has been trained to lead under stresses similar to those which could be encountered in combat. He is evaluated as a small-unit leader in a series of field training exercises which are conducted primarily at night, under any prevailing weather conditions. Frequent and unexpected enemy contact, reduced sleep, difficult terrain and the constant pressure of operating within restrictive time limits all create this atmosphere of stress.

4. THE BENNING PHASE. The Benning Phase of Ranger training is designed to develop the military skills, physical and mental endurance, stamina, and confidence a small unit leader must have to successfully accomplish a mission. It is also designed to teach the Ranger student to maintain himself, his subordinates, and his equipment under arduous field conditions during the subsequent Mountain, Desert and Florida Phases of Ranger training.

The Benning Phase is in turn divided into two subphases. The first subphase is conducted at the Harmony Church area and consists of a progressive physical training program. The PT program includes combatives, Ranger runs, and confidence tests. This insures the development of physical and mental endurance and the stamina required for enhancing the basic Ranger characteristics (leadership, aggressiveness, determination, self-confidence, self-discipline and resourcefulness). During this subphase the student is taught advanced demolitions, the employment of artillery fires, communications and terrain association, and techniques a Ranger must be prepared to employ. Here, too, the student will learn and practice basic patrolling principles and techniques.



A RANGER STUDENT BRIEFS HIS SUBORDINATES ON THE ROUTE WHILE LEARNING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PATROLLING

The second portion of the Benning phase occurs at nearby Camp Darby. During this subphase the student is taught the use of STANO devices and employment of US Army aircraft in conjunction with Ranger operations. At Darby the airborne qualified student will have the opportunity to make a parachute assault, weather permitting. The major emphasis at Camp Darby, however, is on patrolling. The student is taught the basic principles of patrolling. He is also shown different techniques which can be used during the conduct of reconnaissance and combat patrols. The student then will participate in five patrols. Two will be cadre led, two will be ungraded and the final one will be the student's first graded patrol of the course. Although the student may not pass his first patrol, he will become more familiar with the principles and techniques of patrolling, gain confidence in himself and be ready to move on to the second phase of the course.



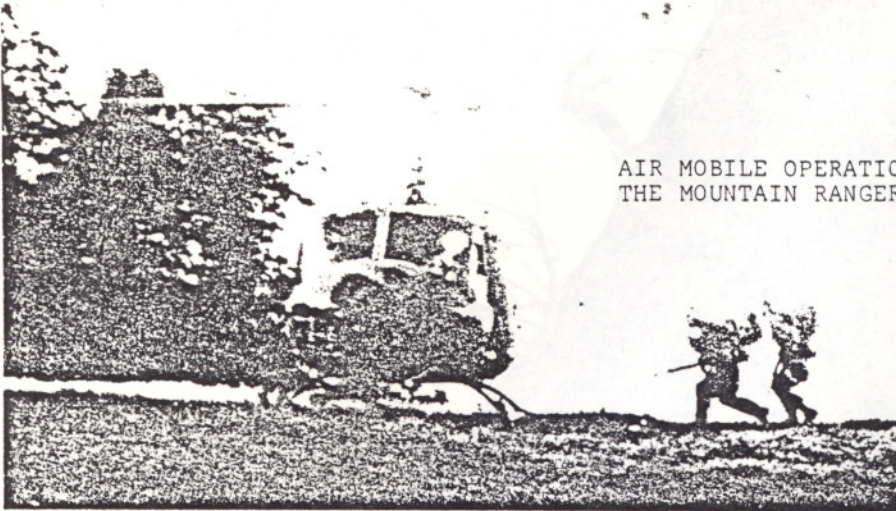
PARACHUTE JUMP AT
CAMP DARBY



STUDENTS MOVE OUT ON A
PATROL DURING THE FORT
BENNING PHASE

When the Ranger student completes the Fort Benning Phase of training, he has developed the basic skills which are required to successfully complete the remaining training phases. His physical and mental conditioning has been improved as well as his confidence in his own abilities. At this point he is ready for the rugged Mountain training phase.

AIN PHASE. During the Mountain Phase of training, the student becomes proficient in the fundamentals, principles, and techniques of employment in a mountainous warfare environment. He further develops his ability to lead squad, section, and unit missions and to exercise control through the planning, preparation, and execution phases of unit missions, including ambushes and raids. The Ranger student continues to improve his ability to maintain himself and his equipment for extended periods in the field with only limited supplies. He becomes aware of his capabilities and limitations and he is continuously challenged by rugged terrain, periods of hunger, mental and physical fatigue and emotional stress.



AIR MOBILE OPERATIONS AT
THE MOUNTAIN RANGER CAMP

Day and night missions are directed against an emplaced threat force. These missions are from two to five days in duration and culminate in a series of combat missions where the patrols will infiltrate the threat forward security area, move cross-country over the mountains, cross the rapid Etowah River, conduct night vehicular ambushes, raid threat missile sites and continue operations in the threat rear area for an extended period of time. Leadership is tested to the maximum, in that a Ranger student may be appointed as patrol leader, to lead tired, hungry Ranger students to accomplish the mission.



CROSSING THE ETOWAH
RIVER ON A THREE ROPE
BRIDGE



MILITARY MOUNTAINEERING
ON MOUNT YONAH



In addition to his patrolling instruction and field exercises, the student receives instruction in military mountaineering techniques which instill in him a high degree of confidence in himself and his fellow students. He learns the fundamentals of rope work, the methods of mountain rappelling, rock climbing, and finally permanent and semipermanent rope installations. Party climbing, balance climbing and a 200 foot night rappel on Yonah Mountain culminate the instruction, allowing the student to incorporate the techniques he has learned.

At the termination of the Mountain Phase the student is taken to Fort Benning's Lawson Army Airfield where he boards an aircraft to move to the next phase of training, the desert Phase, conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas.



AIRBORNE ASSUALT INTO THE DESERT AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS

6. THE DESERT PHASE. In the Desert Phase of the Ranger Course the student is pitted against the harsh desert environment as well as the simulated enemy. He learns to conserve his efforts during the heat of the summer when temperatures reach 110° in the shade, and there is no shade! He learns to move great distances at night across the desert floor, navigating by both the compass and the stars. During this phase of training the student spends five days conducting desert patrolling operations, practicing, desert survival skills, and conducting extended foot movements to reach his objectives. During this five day period each student platoon will plan, rehearse, and execute a live fire raid which includes 60mm mortars, and M60 machine guns firing in support, air strikes by USAF aircraft, and demolition chargers set and fired by the students. This live fire exercise will test the leadership, initiative, and skill of each member of the platoon.

Once he has completed the desert training, the Ranger student is transported to Biggs Army Airfield, Ft. Bliss, Texas and boards an aircraft to begin Operation Stillets, the Airborne assault into the jungle/swamp environment of Eglin AFB, Florida.

At the termination of the Desert Phase, the Ranger student is mentally and physically prepared to participate in the Florida Phase of training and is able to readily adapt himself, under arduous and protracted field conditions, to extended operations which are more sophisticated than those previously encountered.

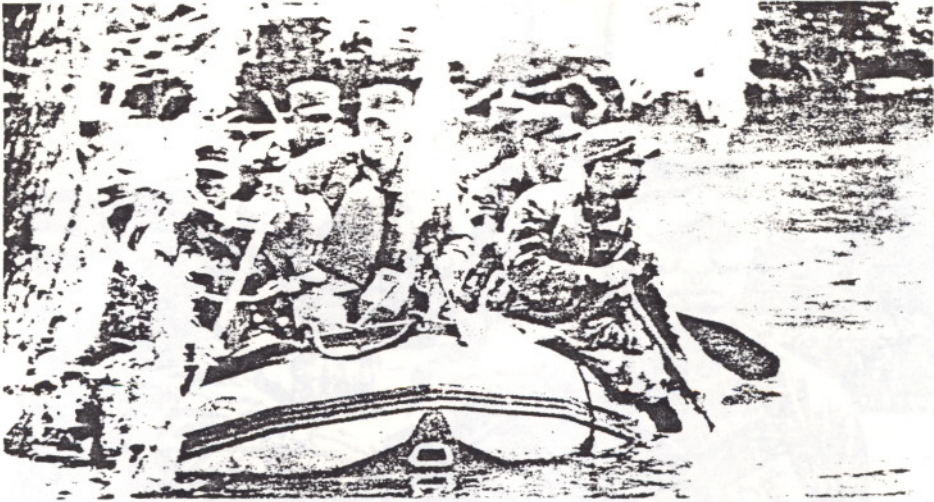
7. THE FLORIDA PHASE. The final phase of the Ranger course is conducted on the Eglin AFB complex, against a highly sophisticated, conventional threat force. Emphasis during the final phase is on application of small-unit tactics and leadership skills in a jungle/swamp environment.

The Florida Phase of training commences with a combat parachute assault by the airborne qualified students and an air-land assault by the non-airborne students onto the Eglin Air Force Base reservation in Florida. During the initial portion of the Florida Phase, the student receives technique training in the following subjects to prepare him to accomplish the tactical missions he will be assigned later in the phase: helicopter rappelling, expedient stream crossings, use of small boats, river navigation, how to employ US Air Force aircraft, survival and techniques of movement in a jungle/swamp environment.



EXTENDED PATROLLING OPERATIONS IN THE JUNGLE/SWAMP OF THE FLORIDA RANGER CAMP





SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS

Following this technique training the students conduct a series of patrolling operations. The Ranger students lead and participate in recon, raid and ambush patrols, as well as a live fire ambush and raid.



STREAM CROSSING OPERATIONS

8. SUMMARY

High standards are a must in Ranger training. The end result of the Ranger Course is an individual who is an effective leader of small units while those units are under the effects of extended mental and physical stress. He has also proven during the Ranger course that he can overcome seemingly insurmountable mental and physical challenges. He has demonstrated while under simulated combat conditions that he has acquired extreme professionalism in planning, coordinating and leading a patrol. He has also displayed while under simulated combat conditions that he has mastered basic skills in leadership, dismounted small-unit night operations, unique infiltration and exfiltration techniques via land, air and water, demolitions, hand-to-hand combat, and low altitude mountaineering. As a result of proving that he can successfully accomplish these tasks during the Ranger Course, he is authorized to wear the coveted Ranger Tab. One who is a graduate of the Ranger Course is the epitome of military competence and efficiency in all Infantry skills.



RANGER RECEIVING THE COVETED "RANGER TAB" DURING RANGER
CLASS GRADUATION CEREMONY

