

# **HHD STARC'S**



**Annual Training 2001**

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In June 2001, soldiers of HHD STARC boarded a bus and headed out to the Bog Brook training site not knowing what lay in store for them. A two-hour ride of anticipation mounted up to this moment and they just knew they were going to be forced to take the dreaded Common Task Testing (CTT) events they have come to loathe. All expected another boring Annual Training of "Ho Hum" training.

However, things are not always what they seem. Two rotations of soldiers were sent to Bog Brook for training. Upon arrival, First Sergeant Haley and Sergeant First Class Feeney quickly met the soldiers and the soldiers soon learned this was an Annual Training to be remembered! Soldiers were quickly given an in-processing briefing, broken down in to teams, assigned barracks and sent to unload their equipment. They moved briskly as a hot meal was waiting for them. After the meal the events of the next three days began to unfold. Junior NCOs were put in charge of each team.



Building picnic tables in the rain.

The teams were then given a mission that each team had to build a picnic table and they only had two hours to get the job completed. Report to the maintenance shed was the directive and they were off. Working in the rain and under a tarp, the first rotation completed five tables in their two-hour period. The second rotation with about half of the amount of

people was able to complete three tables. This turned out to be a great team building exercise. "GREAT JOB"! No one would believe it could be done but the members of HHD STARC proved that it could. The Bog Brook training site now has eight brand new picnic tables to use and HHD STARC personnel have something to boast about. What a great start for an Annual Training period.



Nearing completion of the first table.



The finished product!

The completion of the picnic tables was only the beginning of the first day. Unit Climate profile questionnaires were administered next by the always spectacular Sergeant First Class Paul Pratt. Shortly thereafter NCODP classes were next on the agenda to be given followed by a special briefing by the new State Command Sergeant Major. After all of the excitement from that days training events the soldiers were then released to do various activities that were available to them free from the tyranny of the First Sergeant and Commander.

Day two started out with a hot meal for the troops and a well-planned day of training. The old style of just setting down and going over the Common Task Testing, which was very boring, was out the



SFC Childs and SSG Williams observe as MSG Moody and SSG Waye plot points on the map.

professional instructors were waiting for them. Once there, the soldiers went through a series of



SFC Hunter evaluates a casualty during testing.

Day three was the last day of training at Bog Brook. Getting close to going home, soldiers had just one more treacherous event to complete. The rappelling tower! The serene peacefulness of the sound of the wind whispering through the woods was quickly broken by the bellowing voice of Master Sergeant Dan “The Towerman” Deraspe. “Fall In” was the command. “Dress Right Dress” and “Cover Down” could be heard all through the woods. “I have never had a safety incident on this tower and I will not start now, so pay close attention”. Everyone snapped to and Master Sergeant Deraspe instructed everyone on the proper way to tie a “Swiss Seat” with a rope and gave strict procedures for working on the tower. Only five personnel were allowed on tower besides the cadre. Individuals who had never rappelled before went down the tower wall. Several others who were scared of heights also went down the rappelling wall. After they were all down many were ready to do it again and again. A few of the braver ones went down the wall

window. The junior NCO in charge had to navigate their team from point to point on a land navigation course to get to each testing site. The first test began at the beginning with map reading. The soldiers had to plot their location on the map and then hump their gear through the brush, and bugs along an azimuth to a predetermined point where the very highly trained and



SGM Small and SFC Hoyle explain how to react to depleted uranium.

common tasks tests assigned to that location. After an hour at each station, each team would rotate to the next station, again humping through the woods. At the end of the day it was estimated that each team had walked about four and one half to five miles between all of the points. With the training day completed, the soldiers were then treated to a nice steak dinner and released to pursue their own recreational interests.



The Rappel Tower

“Australian Style” which is face down verses seat down. At the end of the day, several people had rappelled several times and a good time was had by all.



SSG Soucy rappels “Australian Style” off the tower.

After leaving the rappel tower, a brief After Action Review was conducted with the teams by the First Sergeant. We then had a brief ceremony at the flagpole commemorating the 226th birthday of the Army and changed over from the patrol cap to the beret. At this point the first rotation was loaded on the bus for the return trip and the second rotation began their team events. Truly this was an Annual Training to remember.

**HOOAH to those HHD  
STARC Soldiers!**

## More pictures of HHD STARC personnel at Annual Training



Formation for Change of Beret Ceremony



Looking good in those berets!



The rain didn't slow us down one bit, I think!?



This is great! What's next?



Power Tools! Oh Boy!



Just a little off the top. OK?



We may be few but we are good!



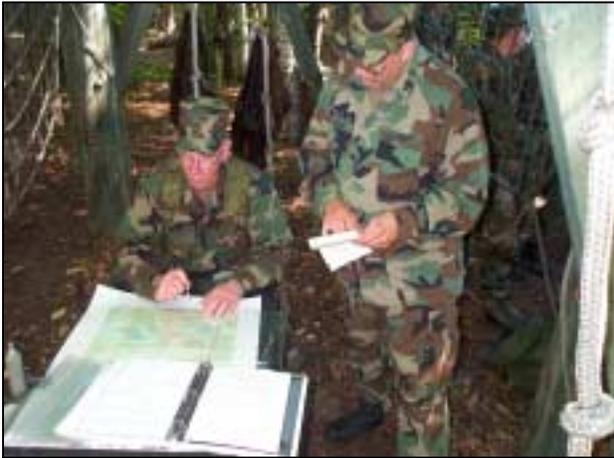
The assembly line at it's best!



SFC Massessa prepares a Map Overlay



SFC Frisk looks for someone to test.



CPL Bragg tests SFC Smyth on map overlays.



SSG Waye and MSG Moody plot the way to their next destination



MAJ Hardwick inspects a training station.



Realism at the "React to Depleted Uranium" station



Inspecting protective suits.



Putting on the protective chemical suit.



SSG Mazzaro in her Chemical suit.



A lighter moment is shared after testing.



CSM Collins visits the "Evaluate a Casualty" station.



SPC Sumner instructs SGT Miller.



“Charlie” Station Cadre



SPC Kimball and the other medics provided excellent medical support.



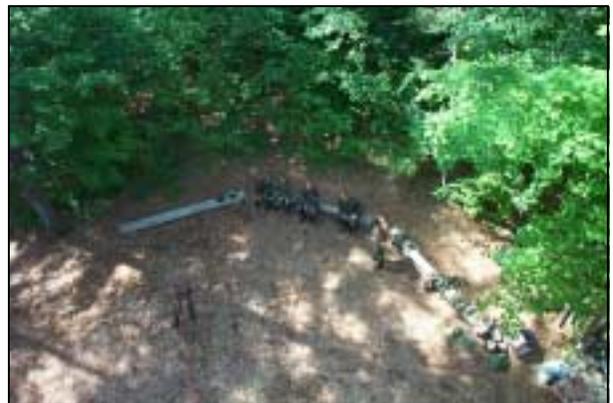
SFC Feeney and his new friend SFC Cliche!?



The cooks provided excellent meals during our time at Bog Brook.



View from the tower looking down. Help!!



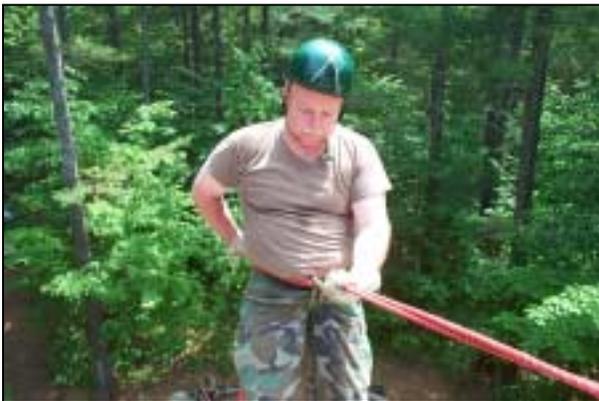
Still looks high from here! How do I get down?



MSG Moody goes down the wall.



Give us a "BIG" smile SFC Frisk!



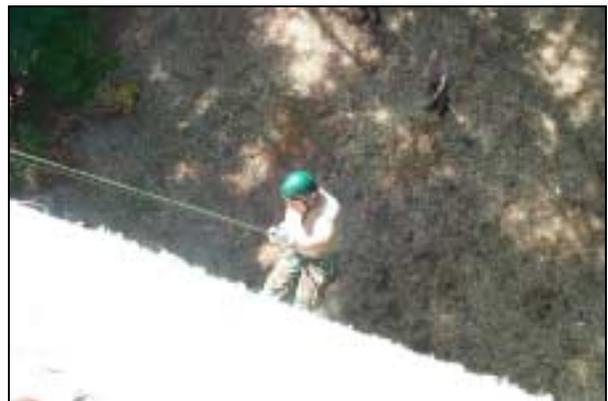
SFC Burrill going over the edge.



SSG Speck is having way too much fun!



SFC Aubrey Hoyle's first jump.



MSG Ed West nearing the bottom.



Going down the wall, SFC Bosse shows no FEAR!



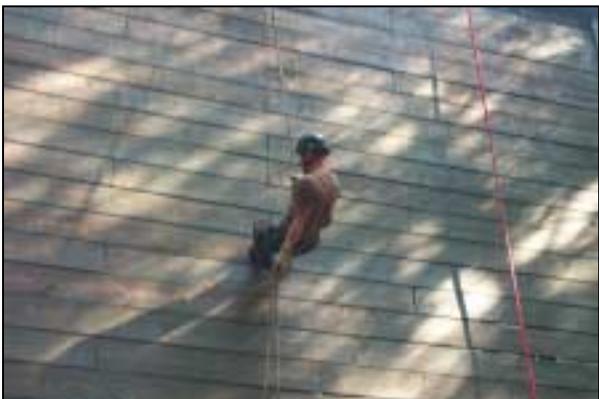
SFC Morang thinks, "This is just too easy!"



MSG West instructed by MSG Deraspe.



CPL Bragg backs off the rope after a successful rappel.



SPC Bickford shows everyone how it's done!



SPC Bickford goes "Australian Style".



SFC Fyfe laughs at this wall. Bring on the big wall!



SSG Hanson in perfect form!



SGT Solorzano screeches to a halt!



SSG Soucy wants no sudden stops here!



SGT Solorzano goes "Australian Style".



Looking down from sixty-foot level. Why did I climb up here anyway?????



SGT Miller thinks this is a piece of cake!



SGT Rivard wonders, "Where are the donuts they said were up here!"



SPC Melanie Damboise is ready to go down the wall.



Look out below! Here I come! I think!



SSG Fredette readies himself for his first descent.



OH! NO! OH! NO! OH! NO!



SSG Soucy preparing to go  
“Australian Style”.



NO Fear! Right? Wrong!!!  
Total FEAR!!!!



That little dot is SFC Hoyle  
coming off the sixty-foot tower.



SSG Poulin goes off the sixty-foot side of  
the tower



Always one crazy one in the bunch! SGT Watts  
(WMD-CST) was the only person to go “Australian  
Style” off the sixty-foot side of the tower!