

ISN Greening Tour
to
Fort Polk, Louisiana
Joint Readiness Training Center

January 27-30, 2003





The Fort Polk Green Suits

Back row (left to right):

Prof. Karen Gleason	Dept. Chemical Engineering
Prof. Gareth McKinley	Dept. Mechanical Engineering
Prof. Greg Rutledge	Dept. Chemical Engineering
Prof. Christine Ortiz	Dept. Materials Science and Engineering
Ms. Joanne Maxwell	ISN Executive Administrative Assistant
Ms. Eve Downing	ISN Outreach Director

Front row (left to right):

Prof. John Joannopoulos	Physics
Prof. Ned Thomas	ISN Director
Prof. Alan Hatton	Dept. Chemical Engineering
Prof. Ken Beers	Dept. Chemical Engineering
Dr. Bill Peters	ISN Executive Director

DAY ONE



The first thing we did upon arriving at Fort Polk was dig in to some delicious MREs (Meals Ready to Eat). John Joannopoulos and Karen Gleason heat their entrees at the Force Provider mess hall.



Later, some of us got in to the Cajun spirit at the Catfish Junction restaurant. Ken Parham of the Natick Soldier Center engages in conspicuous crustacean consumption.

DAY TWO



In a demonstration of soldier load, we pack up a typical infantryman's rucksack, including a 25-pound radio transmitter.



In artillery units, one soldier has to carry a 35-pound mortar cannon, in addition to all his other gear. Christine Ortiz demonstrates.



Joanne Maxwell, assisted by SGT Rick Mauro, dons a typical soldier's equipment belt and rucksack, weighing more than 100 pounds combined.



SPC Michael Brown shows us typical combat ambulance equipment, including a folding leg splint.



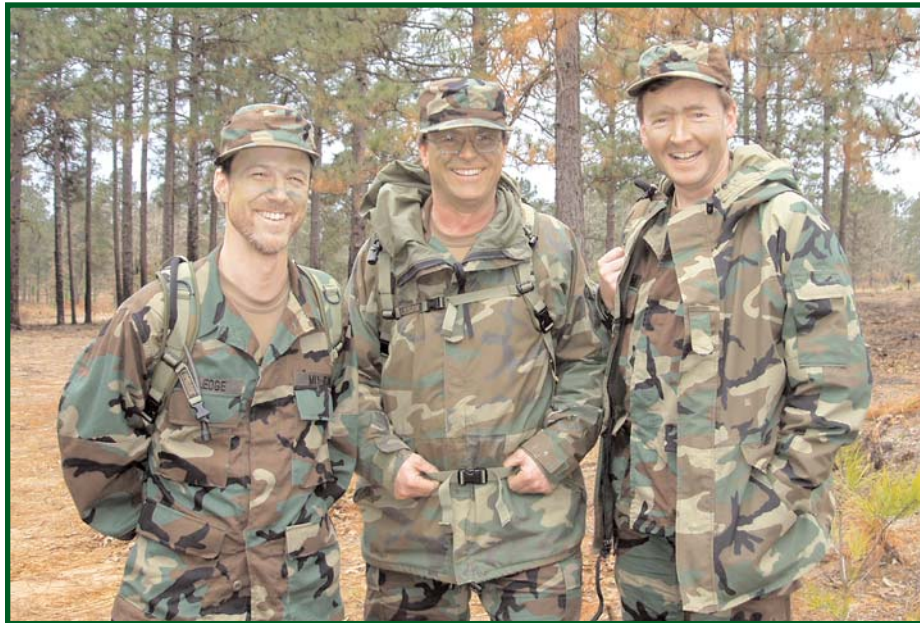
We rode in the backs of Humvees and wore camouflage makeup.



Our first day in the field, these members of the 509th "OPFOR" ambushed our vehicles on the road and "executed" one-third of our group in front of the rest.



Army life created camaraderie among the women....



...and the men.



We toured the Schugart-Gordon MOU (Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain) complex, where soldiers learn to fight in settings where civilians, buildings, street vehicles, and even the media may be present.



After a bit of cleanup, we were eager to relax in a dark and smoky place.

DAY THREE



We visited the well-fortified Combat Support Hospital (CSH), which had been attacked and partially destroyed by OPFOR the day before.



Combat ambulances pick up wounded soldiers and bring them back to the hospital.



A pile of stretchers atop a hospital gurney.



The Combat Support Hospital had a fully functional operating room where two operations could proceed simultaneously.



We stood around in the rain a lot...



...but Ned was always ready to entertain us with a funny story.



Tom Theaux and SSG Alfred Perches were a big part of the success of our trip.



Would you want to work for this man?