

# ROTC cadets participate in field training



WILL MONTOYA  
Staff Writer

Bang bang, boom boom, alpha team set, bravo team moving, six o'clock 100 meters were sounds heard during a joint Field Training Exercise (FTX).

Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) cadets from Methodist College, Campbell University, University of North Carolina Pembroke, and Fayetteville State University participated in a 36 hour field training exercise on Sept. 25-26.

The cadets departed Methodist College at 4:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. As soon as the buses arrived at the field site, the cadets were broken down into seven person squads and issued a M16 rifle with blank ammunition. The cadets then performed stick



Photo by Will Montoya

**ROTC cadets stand at attention during a joint lab exercise in preparation for FTX.**

lanes, (navigating on a map, moving tactically, and setting up a squad for a simulated battle). The stick lanes have a variety of situations designed to train future Army officers in leading a squad and reacting to different battle drills, such as moving to contact, destroying a bunker and planning and executing an ambush.

After a full day of exercises, the cadets participated in an individual night-land navigation course: they were expected to find their assigned points within three hours. The night-land navigation course proved to be harsh due to the thick vegetation and deep swamp conditions.

"It was the first night land navi-

gation course I ever participated in and it was very tough," junior cadet Martin Rovi said.

Only five total cadets passed the course by finding three out of their five assigned points. During the night the cadets set up a 360 degree parameter and took turns keeping guard and sleeping on the hard ground, most cadets received less than two hours of sleep. "I only got one hour of sleep and the FTX was physically and mentally challenging," junior cadet Chris Drake said.

During the second day cadets participated in a day land navigation course, where they were expected to find 5 out of 8 points, most of the cadets succeeded in the day course.

The 36 hours of vigorous training came to an end after the day land navigation course and the cadets had blisters on their feet and sleep on their minds.

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### **Correction Box**

In the 9/23/2004 edition we stated in "Career Services Corner" that there will be an October 30th Workshop; however, there will be no workshop on this date. This was a misprint. We apologize for the inconvenience.