

# National Guard Survival And Combat Training



**Ice Station Zebra**

Ice Station Zebra couldn't be much colder than Camp Ripley, Minn., in February. Just ask Sgt. Elvis Barbee, Spec. 4 Alex Linen and Spec. 4 Glenn Piner, all from warm, subtropical Beulaville. They and the rest of the 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry of the North Carolina National Guard were undergoing training in winter survival and combat in the north woods.

Photo by Sgt. Wm. Schell Jr. - NCARNG



**Fur Face**

Fur-face helps to break the Minnesota wind as Spec. 4 William Griffin, a member of A Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, stands a cold guard while training in winter combat and survival with the North Carolina National Guard at Camp Ripley, not far from the Canadian border. Minnesota was a far cry from the sub-tropical part of Carolina near Beulaville he calls home.

(Photo by Sgt. Wm. Schell Jr. - NCARNG)

Two weeks of cold-weather survival and combat training in the north woods of Camp Ripley, Minn. has ended for the members of the 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry of the N.C. National Guard.

On Feb. 25 they left their snowshoes, cross-country skis, sledges, hex tents, heaters and an arctic climate behind and flew home to the sub-tropical beach towns of Wilmington, Shallotte, Wallace, Whiteville, Beulaville, Warsaw, Jacksonville and Fair Bluff - towns where the only thing that is white and lays on the ground 16 inches deep is beach sand. For many warm-blooded tarheels, this was their first experience with real snow and cold, but they quickly adapted to their frosty environment.

In the first week of training, the men learned how to handle themselves on skis - a first for most of the troops. There were a lot of spills at the beginning, but soon they got their "ski-legs" and could travel even burdened by packs and weapons.

A biathlon was held to build the soldiers' confidence in themselves as soldiers on skis, as they raced around a course, pausing at certain positions to fire at targets. When asked which was the most important skill he had learned in the north, one guardsman commented, "To stay warm and dry. They are the same thing up here because if you get wet, there's a good change you'll get hypothermia and that'll kill you."

In the second week of training - after mastering the finer points of northern operations such as how not to be run over by a fully loaded sledge while going downhill on snowshoes - the displaced southerners underwent a three-day field problem. These war games included night movements and attacks which kept the soldier moving in the open for long periods, sleeping on the snow.

A live-fire assault course, complete with small TNT charges to simulate artillery shelling, allowed the troops to apply their familiar skills in a new way and in a realistic setting. The war-games were judged by members of the 82nd Airborne Division. The winter training classes were taught and supervised by the Winter Training Command at Fort Ripley.

Lt. Col. Nathaniel Robb, commander of the 1-120th Infantry, expressed satisfaction with the performance and spirit of his soldiers. "They treated it all like a great adventure and that's just what this sort of training is supposed to be. Adventure training brings the unit closer together and develops esprit de corps. They had a lot of difficulties to overcome and they did a fine job. I'm proud of them and what they do."

Robb's comments reflected the feelings of both Heman R. Clark, secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, and of Maj. Gen. Hubert Leonard, Adj. Gen. of North Carolina, who flew in to inspect the training.



A recent government study appears to indicate consumer bankruptcy laws need changing. Forty percent of the people who filed for bankruptcy under Chapter Seven, which allows debts to be paid with assets, had income, assets and debt levels very similar to people repaying their debts over several years through a Chapter 13 bankruptcy plan.

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