

FIELD OPERATIONS

Field Operations was by far the most difficult training I've attended, and I would recommend it to any cadet interested in an infantry- or special warfare-oriented career. I learned a variety of skills, including the basics of combat medicine, land warfare, and close quarters combat. To put these skills into practice, we treated animatronic mannequins that reacted identically to how humans would. The mannequins bled, screamed, and so on. We conducted two simulated missions, one involved clearing a building and the other involved inserting via helicopter into a forest to search for a high value target. During all of these exercises, there were various devices producing smoke, the sound of gunfire, and replicating other battlefield conditions. This, combined with the body armor and rubber rifles issued to the cadets during the scenarios, resulted in a highly realistic recreation of combat. The training was tiring, and I constantly had to put forth all of my effort, but it was certainly worth it. I learned a lot of crucial information that will help me decide whether or not to pursue a combat-oriented career in the military.

PO2 Aidan Mungan, USNSCC

I attended my second advanced training at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. This was a Field Operations training. This training was hosted by two Marine lance-corporals. This training was hard and rigorous from the very first day. We did the combat fitness test and we got issued our gear which included a Kevlar helmet, rubber rifle, elbow and knee pads, ruck sack (included 2 tarps, a reflective ruck band, and an e-tool), camelback hydration, and a LBV (load bearing vest). We had to wear all of this at all times except the ruck. We set off the next day at 0600 on a 4-mile ruck, as soon as we arrive at the forward operating base we started digging our fighting holes. We dug all day and well into the night and the following day. We learned how to clear houses, fireteam tactics, we went on foot patrols with rucks, and PT (a lot). We had two MREs a day (they weren't the best) and about 2 hours of sleep a night because we had 50-50 watch (one person is on watch, the other sleeps). This was an amazing training, I fully recommend it to anyone who wants to be challenged. I am a little scared that they will make the training a little easier due to many heat-related injuries.

SN Anderson, USNSCC

MARKSMANSHIP

This year I attended a marksmanship training at Camp Wesleyan in Vassar Michigan. My view of this training was very mixed. The goal of this training was to get me more comfortable and accurate with any firearm. Unfortunately, this never happened, we had no ability to shoot any firearms; all BB guns. This in itself did not ruin the training, it was

our attitude. We all lost that basic sense of comradery we all learned at RT. We all started to hate the training and then each other But I still enjoyed some of the training aspects; the chow was absolutely amazing, liberty was superb and skills I learned related to infantry combat was astonishing. Sadly, I cannot recommend this marksmanship training, I was promised to shot firearms and all I got was BB guns.

SA Daniel Adam, NSCC

RECRUIT TRAINING

Over the summer I went to RTIL in Great Lakes Illinois. I went the all the training I needed to, to become a seaman apprentice. RTIL is recruit training for newly enlisted and or sea cadets.

Things that we did were pistol shooting. Many inspections learning the proper way to march and how to become a sailor or a sea cadet. I'd recommend that everyone goes through it but only sea cadets can.

SR Andrew Hudson, USNSCC

Boot camp certainly was an experience. The majority of what took up days was standing, marching, and making beds. There was also a lot of yelling. If you behave and do what you're told and you do it quickly, you should be fine. The RDCs were technically not supposed to swear, but that didn't stop them from accidentally doing so. I'd say the things I disliked the most were the non-substantial times for using the bathroom and doing hygiene. We did a bunch of fun (but still pretty heavily regulated) things, like firefighting, shooting, and marlinespike. Some kid decided it was a good idea to steal my division CO's collar devices and to not admit that he did it, so we wound up suffering that day. There was a bunch of immature kids there. Also, if you are kind to your fellow shipmates, then you'll be better off because if you are chill with the head crew, they might let you get away with going to the bathroom while they're cleaning because they like you, so it is definitely worth your time to treat everyone kindly and with tolerance.

SR Michael Medina

RTIL

I attended boot camp at Great Lakes from 22JUN18-1JUL18. I had an unforgettable experience. You get to see and do so many things that kids my age have never even thought about before. Emergency water survival, basic firefighting, marlinespike, and marksmanship are just some of the topics covered.

I had many positive experiences that week and learned many lessons about what leadership is and the meaning of being a leader. One day, when the females in our division had to clean the compartment, one of our RDCs, Petty Officer Outlaw (that was his real name!), came in with a speaker, and started playing music as we cleaned. I thought this was a test of our military bearing, but he later revealed that the purpose

was to show leadership. He didn't stand around and yell at us; instead, he relaxed the environment and helped us clean. What I learned from the experience is that to be a leader, you can't let your power go to your head. You need to put yourself at the same level of the people you are leading. You are still part of the team

My RDCs were all great, so were my division officer and assistant division officers. They answered all the questions we had about the Navy, college, and ROTC programs.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at RTC and learned so much. I would recommend that recruits have a thick skin going into boot camp. You will be yelled at; you just need to know how to handle it. Memorize your general orders, Sailor's Creed, and *Anchors Aweigh* beforehand. By doing this, you won't stress yourself out even more during the week. You should also try not to stand out. Only stand out for being good (Bravo Zulus). Individuality isn't what you want at boot camp; it's a team effort.

SR Charlotte Medina

RTIL

BASIC MEDICAL

I attended my first advanced training at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas. This was a basic medical training. Unfortunately, the two instructors who were supposed to teach the course dropped out of Sea Cadets last minute. Due to these circumstances we did not get to learn and get certified in CPR because the instructor who took over the class did not have certain credentials to teach us. Otherwise, we learned how to take blood pressure, apply a bandage to an open wound, where to apply a tourniquet. We also learned the history of the corpsman. The food was ok most days and the portions were decent size apart from one day. I cannot recommend this for several reasons, there was hardly a chain of command leaving staff cadets clueless on what the activities of the day were, we had hours of free time doing nothing in the barracks during the day. Please understand this was Camp Robinson's first year they have hosted the basic medical training there and I'm sure they will improve in the coming years.

SN Anderson, USNSCC