



Rudder's Rangers staged an activity known as a "quad assault" in the Corps quad at the end of February.

**(top photo)** Dawn breaks over the enemy camp. A U.S. airman is being held in the hut located to the left.

**(middle photo)** Rudder's Rangers attack the camp, wipe out the enemy and retrieve the airman.

**(bottom photo)** The camp is rigged with explosives and is then destroyed.

This time, the wait will be shorter.

The sun begins to rise as the second hands on the soldiers' watches sweep toward the time to attack. The guards in the camp, unaware they are being watched, move drowsily as the morning sky turns a light shade of violet.

The birds have just to chirp when the popping sound of automatic gunfire fills the air. A guard falls as his companions hit the dirt and begin scrambling for cover. They fire back blindly, hoping to hit their attackers even though they haven't pinpointed the source of the enemy gunfire.

A series of explosions rip the ground in front of the camp, filling the area with smoke. Until now the soldiers have held their positions, firing into the camp from hiding but as the smoke builds, they race toward the enemy, firing their weapons all the way.

By the time the soldiers have breached the barbed wire ring around the camp, most of the guards have been killed and those remaining meet their end at the guns of fatigue-clad death masks. The U.S. airman is retrieved from the hut, which is then rigged with explosives.

The soldiers leave with a bang as the hut explodes, blowing the roof into the air. The scorecard reads: all enemy killed, all good guys alive and one airman retrieved.

It's pure Hollywood, and the guys from Rudder's Rangers know it. Instead of being carried out in a foreign country, the attack, known as a quad assault, was put on at morning formation in the Corps area. The Rangers who participated in the attack, ran to the steps of Duncan Hall where they stood at parade rest as the rest of the Corps dragged in on their way to morning chow.

Then, instead of being ferried out of enemy territory by waiting helicopters, the Rangers went back to the quad to clean up what was left of the enemy camp.

"Yeah, the quad assault is really Hollywood," says Robert Ford, a senior in Rudder's Rangers and one of the participants in the assault. "I don't really like them (the assaults), but it's good PR and a good way to draw people into the organization. But it's not what I think Rudder's Rangers is all about."

What Rudder's Rangers is about is motivation, he says.

Named in memory of Texas A&M graduate Earl Rudder, who was commanding officer of the 2nd Ranger Battalion in World War II and holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, Rudder's Rangers were formed to provide leadership training for the more motivated members of the Corps of Cadets. The goal of the program is to prepare junior Army ROTC cadets for summer camp or the more rigorous Ranger School, which is the toughest school the U.S. Army runs.

The training members of Ranger Company receive is adventure-type training, which means participants spend time on weekends or during vacations sharpening their leadership and tactical skills in the field. It's a grueling type of training, both mentally and physically and a far cry from the demonstration seen on the quad.

But Ford says a lot of people are attracted to the group by what they see in a quad assault.

"But when they get here, Bam! they get hit with what really goes on," Ford says.

Captain Gerald Collins, military advisor to Rudder's Rangers say the group traditionally starts with about 130 participants every fall, but the number drops quickly. The program is completely voluntary so participants aren't under any obligation to stick it out.

"After the first two or three exercises," Collins says, "where they go out and they get a little tired and a little hungry, and they find out that it's not all 'Rambo' and John Wayne and Chuck Norris and that there's

continued on p.8