



*Capt. Gerald Collins instructs Rudder's Rangers on the proper techniques for urban assaults. Collins is a military advisor to Rudder's Rangers*

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Those who accept the challenge pay a price beyond the physical and mental effort required to get through a field training exercise. The exercises also take up a lot of time.

Sophomore Mike Richardson says this is the major disadvantage of being in Rudder's Rangers.

"Most of the training is on weekends and your friends will say let's go out and do something and you say, 'No, I can't do that because I've got to go out in the field for three days,'" he says. "It would be a lot easier (not to train), especially when you're out in the woods and you're really tired, cold and hungry and you're thinking, 'My friends are at the (Dixie) Chicken right now. It's hard, sometimes, but that's all part of it.'"

In the rough-and-tumble world of Rudder's Rangers, the introduction of women to the organization came as something of a shock. Women were

introduced to the organization three years ago and Collins and Roberts both smile when they recall the effect of females on ranger Company.

"When they first came in, the organization was in turmoil, tipsy-turvy," Collins says. "But they (the women) stuck it out, gutted it out, did everything that was expected of them and they proved themselves."

Roberts says they didn't slack up on the women and agrees that they have proven themselves, especially Linda Dawn Simmons, who Roberts says may be the number one graduate from this year's summer camp.

Senior Robert Ford agrees, although he was surprised to see women in Rudder's Rangers when he joined as a junior.

"You think of Rangers as being the baddest guys in the Army," he says. "When I walked into the first meeting, there weren't but a couple of them (women), but I still said, 'What are these women doing here?' I couldn't believe it."

"Then I learned that they can pull their weight, and as long as

they pull their weight, then I've got no problems with them at all. Some of them are better than the guys. Dawn Simmons is going to embarrass a lot of guys at summer camp. She's good, she can pull her weight."

Linda Dawn Simmons joined Rudder's Rangers because she wanted the extra challenge of adventure-type training. As one of the three women who broke the all-male barrier, she's seen some changes since the day she went to her first meeting.

At that time, she says, she barely knew what a Ranger was, but a senior in the Corps that she knew and admired was in the Rangers. He got her interested in finding out more and took her to a meeting.

Simmons says the senior introduced her to the Rangers and told them she deserved a fair shake. According to Simmons, that's exactly what the Rangers did.

"We never got left out of anything or were discriminated against in any way," she says. "This is probably the only organization in the Corps that I've felt that way in. The rest of the

organizations in the Corps are very discriminatory."

Rudder's Rangers is about to undergo another change fairly soon. Capt. Collins and Sgt. Roberts are leaving this summer to take on new assignments at bases located in Europe and Asia. Capt. Byran Stephens, now an assistant advisor with Rudder's Rangers, will assume many of Collins' and Robert's duties and is now gearing up for fall.

Collins says he's ready to get back into the regular Army where he'll be dealing with troops and day-to-day military situations. But Rudder's Rangers will always remain a bright spot in his memory.

"To me, they've been an oasis of sunshine compared to some of the other jumdrum-type duties that we have to do here," he says. "I would much rather spend a day out on a Saturday with my Rangers than I would sitting in my office pushing paper, filling out reports and crunching numbers."