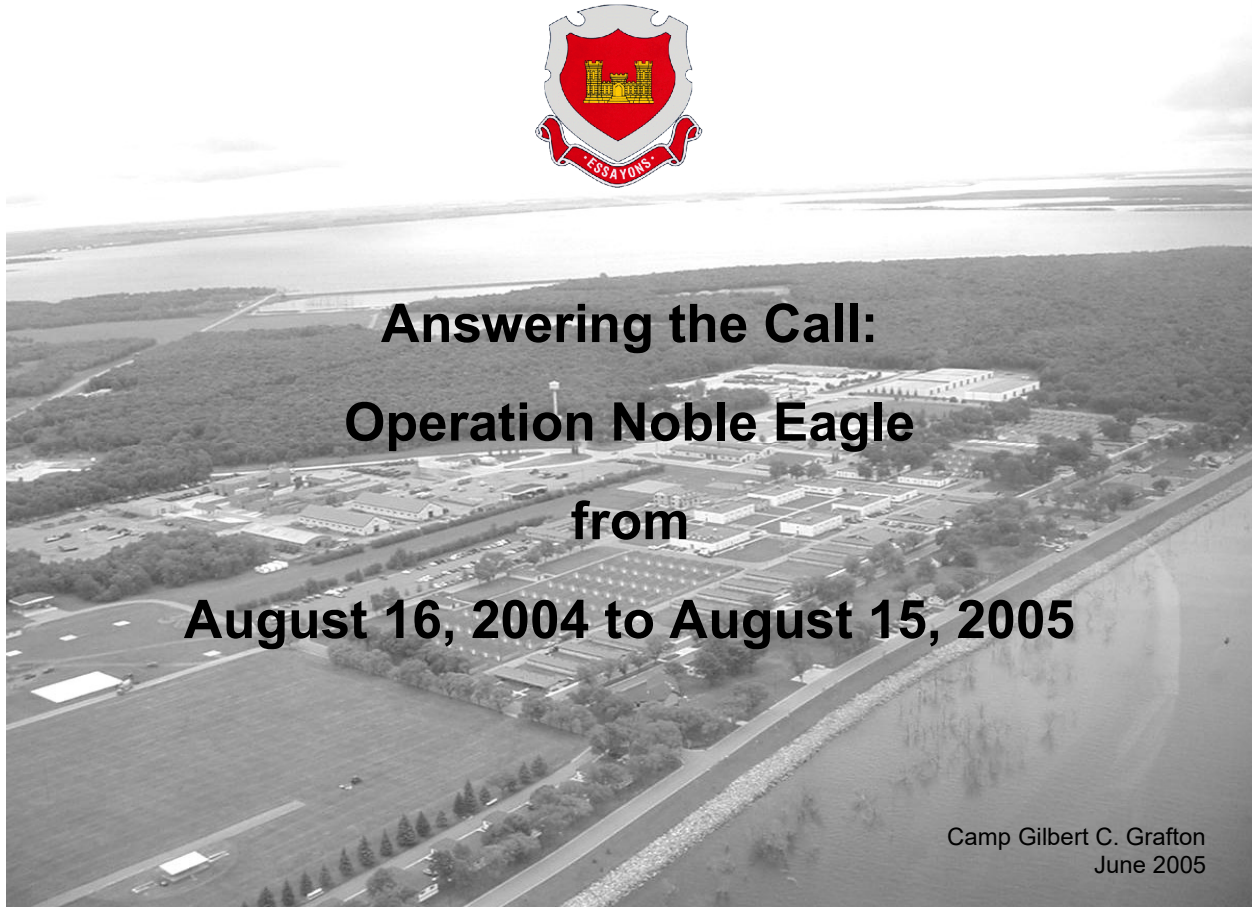




# **1041<sup>st</sup> Training Detachment (EN)**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 104<sup>th</sup> Division (IT)**



**Answering the Call:  
Operation Noble Eagle  
from**

**August 16, 2004 to August 15, 2005**

Camp Gilbert C. Grafton  
June 2005

**OPCON to 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion (TNG)**  
**164<sup>th</sup> Regiment (RTI)**  
**North Dakota National Guard**



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Sioux Falls, SD.



# 1041<sup>ST</sup> TRAINING DETACHMENT (ENGINEER)



August 15, 2004 to August 15, 2005

## Army Reservists to Train Others

*Reprinted from the Argus Leader, August 16, 2004*

U.S. Army Reservists from South Dakota soon will be training enlisted soldiers nationwide how to rebuild crucial structures in postwar Iraq. The 1041st Training Detachment, an engineering unit of the 104th Division's 3rd Brigade, will report Wednesday to Fort Riley, Kan. There, the 25 member unit will prepare for the year or more they'll spend at Camp Grafton in Devils Lake, N.D.

"The 1041<sup>st</sup> is basically a school that teaches engineering skills," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Thallas. The U.S. Army Reservists from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, and Washington will be training enlisted soldiers nationwide how to rebuild crucial infrastructure in postwar Iraq.

## UGP Employee to Train Soldiers for Combat

*Reprinted from the Closed Circuit Newsletter, August 20, 2004*

When the U.S. Army began activating more than 5,600 Individual Ready Reserve soldiers in July to help fight the global war on terror, Upper Great Plains Systems Research Group Contractor John Gross found out he was about to become a critical part of their combat training for Iraq and Afghanistan.

For the first time in 16 years as a Reservist, Gross was called up. "For 16 years, I said that if I ever was called to duty, I would go proudly," professed Gross. "Well, my number was called. My Army Reserve unit mobilized on Aug. 16 for up to 365 days. I don't know if the duty will go the full year or not, but I have to prepare to do the whole thing."

After spending nine years with the South Dakota National Guard, Gross transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve as an instructor and has been with the same unit for the past seven years. "I received excellent training from the Army," he said. "I enjoy being an instructor and am proud to be a part of this effort.

"We were activated to support the recent activation of about 5,600 Ready Reserve soldiers," Gross explained. "These are soldiers who have been out of the military for up to four years, but still have some kind of service obligation."

## *Preparing Soldiers for Combat*

Unlike new recruits, Individual Ready Reserves are seasoned, experienced soldiers who can contribute significantly to Army readiness and operational capabilities, the Army said in a June 30 news release. Soldiers could spend 18 months to two years on active service depending upon the Army's needs.

Now Sgt. 1st Class Gross—with 24 other instructors from the 1041st Engineer Training Detachment from Sioux Falls, S.D.—will prepare some of those troops

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**3rd Brigade  
104 Infantry Division**



**Distinctive Unit Insignia**

**Distinctive Unit Insignia Description:** A Silver color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, five chevronels enhanced and interlaced Argent. Attached below the shield a Silver scroll inscribed "TIAKOTEMEN" in Black letters.

**Symbolism:** The red shield and white charges are the colors of the Corps of Engineers, and indicates the unit's origin. The chevrons represent the allocation of the unit to Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. The Indian motto, translated "Fight On", is derived from the Selish.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 329th Regiment Engineers, Organized Reserves on 5 December 1925. It was redesignated for the 329th Engineer Battalion on 1 October 1942. The insignia was rescinded on 7 May 1976. As an exception to policy, the distinctive unit insignia is reinstated and redesignated effective this date for the 3d Brigade, 104th Division.

for the front lines.

"We all know each other and have taught together for several years, so there are some good relationships already in place," he explained. "Our job is to train soldiers being reclassified or who have been out too long and need refresher training. When they complete our training, they'll be qualified as combat engineers."

Before his activation, Gross worked as a computer-aided drafting manager and spent every other weekend and two weeks a year teaching in a classroom or lab. Because most of the Reserve soldiers will be trained as carpenters for the upcoming rotation, Gross is not sure he'll be teaching in doors this year. "I don't usually teach that class [carpentry], but it may be that all of us end up instructing whatever is needed," he added.

"We'll provide hands-on training about emplacing lands mines, trip wires and various configurations of live demolitions," Cross continued. "I will primarily be teaching land surveying, automated drafting and soils analysis.

Gross might not be going overseas, but he'll be far enough from home to miss his family. On the bright side, Gross noted that the shore of Devils Lake will be about 50 yards outside his back door. "So I guess I better take up fishing!" he exclaimed.



*SFC Gross, with son, receives the Army Achievement Award from Col. Adams, 164<sup>th</sup> Regiment Commander, during the 1041<sup>st</sup> awards presentations on June 25, 2005 at Camp Grafton.*

## Forging the next Generation of Engineers

“Lead the Way” and “Sappers Forward” have long been mottos of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The 1041<sup>st</sup> Training Detachment (EN), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 104<sup>th</sup> Division (IT) has accepted the challenges epitomized by these mottos in their every day work as they serve their Country by helping to train the next generation of Army Engineers.

The 1041<sup>st</sup> is deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle and is stationed at Camp Grafton in Devils Lake, North Dakota. Camp Grafton is a major training center of the Army National Guard. The Detachment is attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (EN), 164<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Regional Training Institute), which conducts 18 different TRADOC approved MOSQ and NCOES courses.

The twenty-five soldier detachment was initially called to active duty to train Individual Ready Reservists (IRR) called up in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. That mission did not materialize, and the unit redirected its efforts to support the general needs of the North Dakota Regional Training Institute (RTI). The Detachment is currently divided into four sections; Administrative Support, Combat, Vertical, and Horizontal. Each section is integrated into the 164<sup>th</sup> Regiment organization and directly contributed to the ability of the RTI to complete its assigned training missions in training year 2004 and 2005.

### *Administrative Section*

The Administrative Section works with the RTI to perform the many tasks involved with transporting, in-processing, and out-processing of students, and servicing the students supply needs. In addition, the section maintains the training and individual records of the Detachment.



*SFC Phillips (PSNCO) prepares packets for the “next” promotion board.*

### *Combat Section*

The Combat Section trains Combat Engineer (21B) and Bridge Crewman (21C) MOSQ, BNCOC, and ANCOE courses. The Combat Engineer courses include instruction on live demolitions, mine warfare, obstacle construction, squad tactics, and military operations in urban terrain (MOU).



*SFC Schwind (RTI) observes 21B10 Combat Engineer students as they prepare to enter and clear a building.*

### *Vertical Section*

The Vertical Construction Section trains Carpenter (21W), Electrician (21R), Plumber (21K), Technical Engineering Specialist (21T) MOSQ, and General Engineer Supervisor (21X) BNCOC and ANCOE courses. All of these skill areas have been in high demand during the construction of base camps and other engineer sustainment operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom.



*Carpentry students practice placement of concrete masonry units as part of the 21W10 MOSQ course.*

## *Horizontal Section*

The Horizontal Section trains Construction Equipment Operators (21E, 21F, 21J) MOSQ and Construction Equipment Supervisor (21N) BNCOC and ANCOG courses. Students learn how to drive and operator cranes, dozers, scoop loaders, motorized graders, and towed or self-propelled scrapers. This equipment may be used in a range of missions, to include loading/unloading equipment and compaction, ditching, pumping or auguring operations.



*D-7 dozer and scraper in action at the Camp Grafton Local Training Area as part of the 21J10 MOSQ course.*

## *Mobile Teams*

The Detachment has been involved in several TDY missions. For example, in January 2005 eight members were TDY for 28 days as part of a Mobile Training Team (MTT) at Camp Crowder, Missouri. The MTT taught two “pop-up” Combat Engineer MOSQ courses for the Rhode Island National Guard, who were heading to Iraq. All the equipment and training aids required for the class were loaded and transported to and from Missouri by the Detachment.

In February 2005 a four member cell was sent to Fort McClellan National Guard/Army Reserve Training Center in Alabama to conduct a ground survey of a new heavy equipment training area for the 100th Division. The data collected by the survey is being used to construct a digital topographic map of the site and will aid in planning efforts currently being conducted by the training center.

The team traversed 50 acres and completed topographic data collection using a Geodimeter and TerraModel software. The terrain was extreme at times and heavily wooded, which made it difficult to collect data. Team members were SFC John Gross (NCOIC), SFC Marv Meyer, SFC Cory Herman, and SFC Don Felch.

Additional teams were involved in the transport of Common Bridge Transporters (M1977) HEMTTs to Camp Grafton from Bismarck, ND for 21C10 and 21C30 MOSQ training.

## *After Action Review*

During their deployment, the members of the 1041<sup>st</sup> have helped train over 1,300 soldiers of the Guard and Reserve. Their continued efforts have revitalized the engineer tradition of 3rd Brigade and have demonstrated the Divisions ideals of tenacity in the face of adversity and team work.

**“Essayons!”**



*SFC Meyer shoots an angle and elevation with a total station while in Alabama.*

## **A Call from “the Colonel”**

In January 2005, the 1041<sup>st</sup> played a crucial role in standing up a 21B10 course for 80 mobilized soldiers at Camp Crowder, Missouri. Although this MTT mission was ostensibly under the North Dakota-RTI, 6 out of 8 instructors on the team were from the 1041<sup>st</sup>, as were 2 out of 4 support and operations personnel.

When the team arrived at Camp Crowder, a suitable Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site did not exist. With only a few days to spare, the team began to convert the post’s abandoned heating plant into a facility capable of teaching all of the 21B10 MOUT classes required by Fort Leonard Wood. Although the conversion was going smoothly, the Operations NCOIC of the entire mission, a member of the North Dakota-RTI, was extremely high strung. “If *anybody* calls here, I need to know about it immediately!” he would say to the team repeatedly. “Fort Leonard Wood could show up any minute to inspect us!”

The team finished the Camp Crowder MOUT site 2 days before the 80 students arrived. However, the NCOIC still remained very edgy about potential callers and visitors. To “lighten up” the NCOIC, members of the team decided to leave a note on his desk with the message “Colonel Sanders called” and the phone number of the local KFC restaurant. However, the NCOIC apparently did not get the joke and took it to a whole new level – he not only tried returning the call, but dialed the *wrong* number, and left a lengthy voicemail that obviously went unreturned. When he voiced his frustrations to the team about “Colonel Sanders” not returning his message, the team suggested he dial the number again. This time, the NCOIC got a polite KFC worker on the other end, but still failed to get the joke. He identified himself, and firmly asked to speak with Colonel Sanders.

“I’m sorry, but the Colonel’s not here,” replied the KFC worker.

“Well, I’ve been trying to reach him, can you tell me when he’ll be back?”

“He’s not coming back,” replied the worker.

“Well, could you please tell me how I can reach him, then? I’m trying to return his call.”

“Are you serious?” asked the worker.

“Yes. Very.”

“I’m sorry, sir, but the Colonel is dead.”

It took only a few more sentences between a determined NCO and a confused KFC worker to figure out the entire matter was a joke. The NCOIC hung up the phone and stormed out of his office to find an entire team chuckling with ear-to-ear grins. To make amends, the team later provided the good-natured NCOIC with a meal from KFC and a napkin posthumously signed by “the Colonel”.

## North Dakota Weather

In North Dakota day length ranges from less than nine hours in December to more than 16 hours in June. The normal average annual temperature ranges from 37° F in the northeast to 43° F along the southern border. January is the coldest month with average temperatures ranging from 2° F in the northeast to 17° F in the southwest. July is the warmest month with temperatures averaging 67° F in the northeast to 73° F in parts of the south.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	14°	18°	32°	50°	65°	75°	81°	78°	67°	54°	34°	18°
Avg. Low	-5°	0°	14°	28°	41°	52°	57°	54°	44°	34°	17°	0°
Mean	4°	10°	24°	40°	54°	64°	68°	67°	55°	44°	26°	10°

The highest temperature ever recorded in North Dakota

was 121° F at Steele on July 6, 1936, and the lowest temperature measured was -60° F at Parshall on February 15, 1936.



*The geographic center of North America is located 57 miles west of Devils Lake at Rugby, ND.*

North Dakotans enjoy the cold winters or at least tolerate them with casual indifference because of such modern conveniences as petroleum-burning furnaces and indoor plumbing. Enjoying winter as they do, North Dakotans are somewhat prone to exaggerate the intensity of winter cold snaps and blizzards as they regale friends and relatives from warmer climates about the rigors of winter. Even though the truth may be stretched a little at times, it is a matter of record that during the winter of 1935-36 a winter temperature record at Devils Lake was established that has no equal in the history of the Weather Bureau in the contiguous 48 states. At Devils Lake, the temperature dropped below freezing on November 27, 1935, and did not rise again to the freezing point until March 1, 1936, a period of 96 days. For 37 days, January 14 to February 19, there was only one day on which the thermometer registered as high as zero, while for the week ending February 17 the average temperature was -28° F, and for all January and February, -13° F.

The weather in Devils Lake, though not as bad as in 1935, did set several records, among them were several new low temperatures in January 2005. How cold was it? Let’s hear from the experts!

## *Cold Weather Grips North Dakota*

*Reprinted from the Williston Herald, January 28, 2005*

Temperatures plunged to more than 30 below zero over North Dakota early Wednesday - with wind chill factors of more than 60 below in the eastern part of the state. Grand Forks tied its record low of 34 below at 8 a.m., and Devils Lake and Minot each reported 35 below, with wind chill factors of 60 below in Minot and 64 below in Devils Lake.

"The best advice for travel is - don't." said National

Weather Service meteorologist Todd Hamilton. Stark County Sheriff Tuhy said "We're getting a lot of accumulation on the highways, with snowdrifts bunching up, getting bigger and bigger," if a person has to travel, "let someone know where you are going."

Forecasters said the winds would subside over the state Wednesday afternoon, giving way to a chance of light snow. Temperatures were expected to **warm up to between zero and 20 below**, with overnight lows from 10 below to 30 below.



## After Hours

The job of training soldiers can be intense, with training days often starting at 5:15 A.M. and extending past the dinner hour if retests or additional training are needed. This schedule made for long days, especially in winter, when we would often get up in the dark and return from the office in the dark.

Thankfully, most classes are one to three weeks long with a few days break between classes. However, while a class is in session, the amount of time for extracurricular activities is quite limited. This necessitated the development of self-help recreational outlets that would allow members of the unit to "blow off steam" without having to drive to town or to spend large amounts of cash at the on-base club.

In this vein, the idea for the *Wolf Den* was born. The Wolf Den functions both as a social club, meeting place, gaming parlor, wrestling mat, and dance club for the Detachment. In addition the den serves as "our place" on Camp Grafton; a place where we can invite members of the RTI and Camp Grafton Staff to visit and "party down" with us with the tact understanding that they are the visitors, not us. Thus giving the Detachment at least one place on Camp where we do not have to ask permission or beg forgiveness if a social function became a little on the loud side.

The primary proprietors of the Wolf Den are Troy "Loudy" Loudenburg, Scott "Scotty" Andal, and Cory "Hermy" Herman. These three went out of their way to ensure that all who visited the Den had a good time and could have at least one new story to tell at the mess hall the next day.

Interesting enough, drinking was not the primary event celebrated at the Den. More often than not the events were centered around food (nut feed anyone?), cards (go get screwed!) NASCAR (go #01), or an "official" get together with a LTC, Col., Major, or General. Thus, the Den provided our unit a place where our identity as one of the premier training Detachments in the nation could be celebrated and our unique flavor of fun could be sampled by all—a game of Bingo-Bango-Bongo anyone?



*Our trailer away from trailer—the Den with a beautiful view overlooking Devils Lake.*



*Best Costume Award for the 2004 Halloween Party was won by Troy Loudenburg for his rendition of American Trailer Trash*



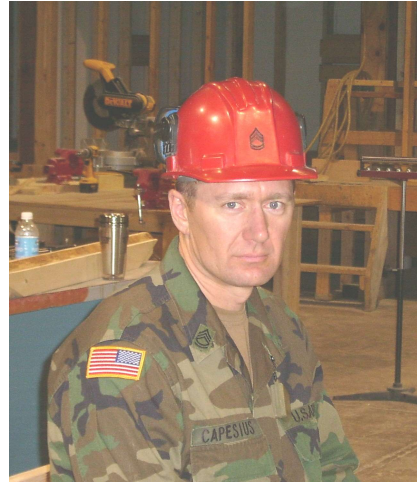
*Gail Phillips, Joe Capesius, and Scott Lewis (RTI) dance the night away at the Wolf Den.*



## The Cast



SFC Scott Andal (SD), Horizontal Section



SFC Joe Capesius (CO), Vertical Section



SFC Shon Christensen (WA), Combat Section



SPC Justin Collingwood (SD), Supply



SFC Richard Daniels (WA), Combat Section



MSG DelRay Dorale (SD), Combat Section



Ssg Dustin Drew (SD), Transportation



Sgt Laura Eng (SD), Administration



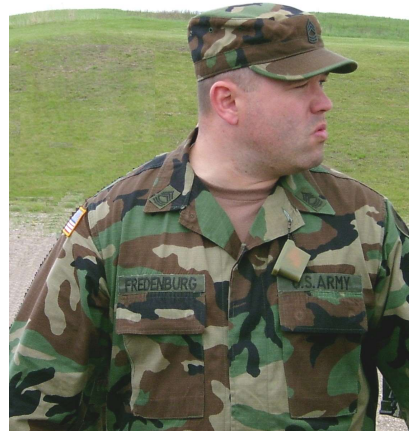
Sfc Chris Fechner (SD), Combat Section



Sfc Don Felch (ND), Vertical Section



Sfc Jason Feldhaus (SD), Combat Section



MSG Jared Fredenburg (SD), Operations



SFC Chuck Graham (CO), Vertical Section



SFC John Gross (SD), Vertical Section



SFC Cory Herman (CO), Vertical Section



SFC David Kruger (WY), Combat Section



SFC Doran Link (ND), Combat Section



SFC Troy Loudenburg (SD), Horizontal Section



SFC Marv Meyer (MN), Vertical Section



SFC Gail Phillips (SD), Administration



SFC Doug Saylor (SD), Combat Section



SFC Jerry Schroeder (SD), Horizontal Section



MSG Brad Stanghor (SD), Combat Section



SFC Todd Stone (SD), Vertical Section



SFC Shawn Theurer (SD), Horizontal Section



"Fritz" Theurer (GR), Horizontal Section

## *Chain of Command*

### **1041<sup>st</sup> Training Detachment**

LTC Dutton, Commander  
 CSM Thallas, Detachment Sergeant Major  
 SGM Braxmeyer, Chief Instructor

### **Detachment 1**

MSG Fredenburg, NCOIC

#### **Combat Section**

MSG Dorale, CET CM  
 MSG Stanghor, Asst. CET CM  
 SFC Christensen, Asst. 21B10 CM  
 SFC Daniels, Asst. 21CMF40 CM  
 SFC Fechner, 21B10 CM  
 SFC Feldhaus, Asst. 21B30 CM  
 SFC Kruger  
 SFC Link  
 SFC Saylor

#### **Vertical Section**

SFC Capesius  
 SFC Felch, 21T10 Ph 4 CM  
 SFC Graham  
 SFC Gross, 21T10 Ph 2 CM  
 SFC Herman, 21T10 Ph 3 CM  
 SFC Meyer, 21T10 Asst. CM  
 SFC Stone

#### **Horizontal Section**

SFC Andal  
 SFC Loudenburg  
 SFC Schroeder  
 SFC Theurer, 21J10 CM

#### **Support**

SFC Phillips, PSNCO  
 SSG Drew  
 SGT Eng  
 SPC Collingwood

## The Characters



Where it all began, Fort Riley, KS August 21, 2004.

(Top, left to right) MSG Dorale, SFC Sayler, SFC Stanghor, SSG Kruger, SFC Andal, SFC Fechner, SFC Stone, SFC Gross, SFC Felch, SFC Daniels, SSG Herman, SFC Meyer, SFC Schroeder, SFC Theurer, SFC Feldhaus  
(Bottom, left to right) SFC Loudenburg, SPC Eng, SGT Drew, SSG Graham, PFC Collingwood, MSG Fredenburg, SSG Link, SFC Capesius  
(Not shown) SFC Gail Phillips (with Camera), SFC Christensen



On our way to the great white north (very close to Hell).



“So, why are we here?” Camp Grafton in-briefing



MG Moffett (center) presents the 104<sup>th</sup> Division (IT) Best TASS Battalion Award to the 1041<sup>st</sup> for TY’04.



“Hi, my name is Doug. This is my brother, Scotty, and this is my other brother, Loudy” (Range Fire TY’05)



The “second flight” waiting to qualify June 3, 2004.



The “Jokester” Brad Stanghor and audience





