

# NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT SIGNAL FIRE

[www.royalrangers.net/ntd](http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd)

April 2005


## Friday Night SONICFLOOD




## Saturday Night Buddy Calzada



## POW WOW June 3-5



Each one...  
teach one  
Ezekiel 44:23  
North Texas  
Pow-Wow  
2005 

Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Boys for Christ in the North Texas District

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## 2005 Pow Wow

By Jeff Kersey, District Productions Coordinator

Our Pow Wow this year has some special things in store for all of your boys, and you. We have the privilege this year of having a major Christian performing group joining us for Friday evening — Sonicflood. Sonicflood has been performing Praise and Worship concerts across the country for many years. With songs such as “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever,” “Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble,” and “Here I am to Worship” they have brought many songs to our churches to be part of our Praise and Worship experience. And with a new album coming out in March, there will be new songs that will make it into our sing along with radio experiences. This concert will be Friday evening so make sure you arrive early to be there for a seat for this special private concert event.

We have Buddy Calzada from Fort Worth Metro returning this year as the speaker for the weekend. Buddy was with us 3 years ago and brought a challenging message to both the commanders and the boys. Prepare to receive from the Lord through the ministry of this minister of the Word.

The Saturday events will include an outpost standard judging contest, a contest for the best entry way into your campsites,

pinewood derby races, some “X” games type relay races, shooting competitions, and many other challenging patrol type games. Many of these games are being run as a competition and ribbons will be awarded for outstanding outposts. For the “X” games type relays, if your boys have inline skates you will want to bring those. We will have the rest of the equipment for those races.

One of the changes this year is the price. The price for Pow Wow has been raised to \$25 per person. **You must be a chartered outpost in order to attend Pow Wow.**

Our theme this year is “Each one, teach one” based on the scripture from Proverbs 22:6 — **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”** Have you been doing your job?

Watch for a Pow Wow packet with all the details on games, activities, and schedule in your outpost mailbox soon.

This year, we will only be allowing 100 visitors for the Friday night concert. You must call the district office before Tuesday, May 31 (817.589.0082) or the campground on Thursday, June 2 (972.435.1828) if you plan on being a visitor.

## 2005 District Calendar

<b>April</b>	2	Sarge Staff In Training (SIT)
	16	Commander Module Training & Awards Ceremony
<b>May</b>	12-14	RKTC in San Antonio, TX
	14	Sarge Staff In Training (SIT)
	21	Pow Wow Work Day
	26-29	NTC in Kansas
<b>June</b>	3-5	District Pow Wow
	26-1	Sarge Training Academy
<b>July</b>	14-16	Territorial Rendezvous
<b>August</b>	12-13	FCF Frontier Adventure (date change)
<b>September</b>	9-10	Instructor Certification Seminar (ICS)
	24	District Ranger of the Year
<b>October</b>	13-16	NTC in Oklahoma
	28-30	FCF Family Days
<b>November</b>	18-19	District Winter Camp
	19	Regional Ranger of the Year
<b>December</b>	10	FCF Banquet

## Frontier Adventure

*August 12-13, 2005*

By Art Sullivan, FCF Vice President

Calling all Commanders and Rangers who would like to join the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF)! Go to the North Texas District Royal Rangers website, click on the FCF link, and print out the Trail of the Grizzly information and an FCF application. To join in on the Adventure just do the following:

- Complete the Frontiersman portion of the Trail of the Grizzly for men and boys.
- Fill out the application with your sponsor or commander and mail it to the address on the application. Once your application is approved, more information and instructions will be sent to you.
- The Adventure begins on August 12<sup>th</sup>!
- Registration will begin at 5 pm
- Scheduled completion is 6 pm Saturday.

The Frontier Adventure is a memorable experience designed to challenge and test the skills learned from the Trail off the Grizzly, and to teach candidates the way of the frontiersman. If you pass the Adventure you will become a member of the FCF and be eligible to wear the FCF membership pin.

Commanders, this year at Sarge Sellers there will be an FCF merit camp. If any of your boys are going to go through the Frontier Adventure, this merit camp can help them prepare. FCF members needing to work at an Adventure need to contact me via email at [blackpowderhunter@juno.com](mailto:blackpowderhunter@juno.com).

Can't wait to see you there!

Art Sullivan, FCF Vice President

# The North Texas District Training Corner

By Roger Stewart, District Training Coordinator

Greetings Commanders,

Let's discuss the upcoming training events that will be happening in our district and region over the next few months.

**North Texas District Module Training Day & Commanders Awards Service:** This event is where commanders can complete LTA modules which will help them earn their Leaders Medal of Achievement. The event will be held at the Bethesda Community Church at 4700 North Beach Street in Ft. Worth. Cost is \$20.00 pre-registration for chartered commanders, and \$25.00 for non-chartered commanders. The deadline for pre-registration is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 after the deadline all registration fees will be \$25.00.

Commanders this is also your time to stand-up and be recognized for your hard work in the Royal Rangers program. The Commanders Award Ceremony will be held after the module training is completed that afternoon.

The following is a list of classes that will be taught at this event:

- RK Activities
- Discovery/Adventure Ranger Activities
- Expedition Ranger Activities
- Ranger Basics
- FCF Module
- Discipleship 2
- Safety and the Church
- Classroom Management
- Successful Outposts
- Sectional Commanders Overview
- Senior Commanders Overview
- Royal Rangers Data Manager

So as you can see, we have a great list of classes that you may choose from, so come out and enjoy yourself.

## **National Training Camp (NTC):**

This event will be held at the St. Francis Lodge in Atchison, Kansas on May 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2005.

Commanders this is the camp that will bring all of your training into focus, and let you know why you do what you do for the boys. This is the camp that you will never forget. So get your applications completed ASAP and go on the adventure of your life.

## **Ranger Kids Training Camp (RKTC)**

This event is for commanders that teach the Ranger Kids (kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). This camp will teach you skills, classroom management, and exciting events for the boys.

The event will be held at the Latin American Bible Institute in San Antonio Texas on May 12, 13 & 14, 2005. Please get your applications completed and sent in to the national office ASAP.

## **Instructors Certification Seminar (ICS):**

The requirements to attend ICS are:

- Complete the ICS Application and send it to the district office
- Pass the CI Notebook open book exam.
- Be involved in a chartered Royal Rangers outpost for at least two years.
- Attend all modules required to earn the LMA, plus any other modules you want to teach.
- Each candidate will be assigned to an experienced CI or IT as a mentor, before attending ICS.
- Attendance at a national training event is mandatory for every applicant. (NTC for commanders teaching Discovery, Adventure, & Expedition Rangers age group LTA modules, & RKTC or BSTC for commanders that are teaching Ranger Kids LTA modules).

Commanders, we need Certified Instructors! Please, if you qualify, complete the application and send it in before the May 31, 2005 deadline.

The applications and registration forms for the events can be found on the NTDRR web site.

In closing, if anyone has an idea on types of training that you would like to see, please let me know, and we will see if we can make it happen.

May God richly bless each one of you.

Roger Stewart



North Texas District Training  
Coordinator

Home 817-421-0012

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# 2005 North Texas District Modules Training Day

## Pre-Registration

Saturday Training Day      \$25 (\$20 if chartered)      \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to NTD Royal Rangers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, St, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Outpost \_\_\_\_\_      Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mark / Circle the classes you will be taking so you will get credit and certificates for them.

North Texas District Module Training—Course #NTD0405MT

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6
8 - 9	General Session					
9	Discipleship 2 3 hours	Classroom Management 3 hours	Safety and Church 3 hours	FCF 2 hours	Sectional Commander Overview 1 hour	Ranger Basics  6 hours
10					Royal Ranger Data Management	
11				Senior Commander Overview 1 hour	2 hours	
12 - 1	Lunch on Your own					
1	Ranger Kids Activities 3 hours	Discovery/ Adventure Activities - 3 hours	Expedition Activities 3 hours	Successful Outpost 3 hours	Royal Ranger Data Management	Ranger Basics  6 hours
2					2 hours	
3					NO CLASS	
4 - 5	Commanders Awards					



# 2005 Sarge Training Academy

By Jeff Kersey, Camp Program Coordinator

This year's Sarge Training Academy is just around the corner. Are you making plans for your boys and yourself to be there? This camp continues to grow in attendance every year; we see boys every year make great strides in their advancements and progress in work toward the Gold Medal of Achievement. In addition, they learn life skills that aid in their social growth for many years and turn these young men into leaders in their outposts, churches, schools, and into their adult years.

This year's camp has a new addition, the Frontier Brigade Camp. This camp will focus on the Trail of the Grizzly merits and teach them in a camp specifically designed for those merits. The staff and camp will be set in a frontier village while the boys learn merits that can help them on their Trail of the Grizzly advancement or just learn merits in a different camp environment. There will also be Discovery Adventure Camp, Advanced Merits Camp, Junior Training Camp, Advanced Junior Training Camp, and Junior Training Trails this year.

Due to Camporama, there will not be some camps next year. If your Ranger needs to attend



Discovery Adventure Camp or the Advanced Merits Camp enroll them soon, they will not be able to attend these camps next year. The district website will have links up for all the applications and information. There will be a Sarge packet coming to all churches with detailed information on all the camps offered.

Jeff Kersey, STA Program Coordinator  
[jeff@royalrangers.net](mailto:jeff@royalrangers.net)

## April 2, Sarge SIT Camp

By Jeff Kersey, Camp Program Coordinator

You may be asking "what is a SIT Camp?" If you don't know, perhaps you've not been a part of Sarge Training Academy. SIT stands for Staff in Training, and it is what we use to get our staff



together for Sarge Training Academy. We get together and go over changes in the camps, the schedule for the camp, the different job responsibilities for the camp, and many other things regarding our camp. If you've never been, come join us on April 2 and see where you can fit in. If you know someone who's been before, talk to them about their experience and why you should be involved this year. This camp depends on commanders like you to make a difference in the lives of young men and boys. Come and join us on the first SIT to see where you can fit in.

Jeff Kersey, STA Asst. Program Coordinator  
[jeff@royalrangers.net](mailto:jeff@royalrangers.net)

# 2005 Sarge Camp Descriptions

For more information see <http://www.royalrangers.net/ntd/training/2005Sarge.htm>

## Discovery Adventure Camp (DAC)

DAC is a 3 day camp geared just for the Discovery Ranger age boy who has completed the third grade. This camp gives special emphasis in the following skills: Rope Craft, Fire Craft, Tool Craft, First Aid, Compass, Nature Study, and Cooking. The classes are designed to cover the basic camping skills.

## Junior Training Camp (JTC)

JTC is a 5 day camp for all Royal Rangers who have completed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and have completed the camping merit. The boy must be a member of an up-to-date chartered outpost. JTC is designed to give boys training in camping and leadership in their local outpost. JTC offers training in these specific areas: The Patrol Method, Rope Craft, Lashing, Nature Study, Tool Craft, Fire Craft, First Aid, Compass, Safety, Camp Layout, Cooking, Sanitation, Soul Winning, Junior Leaders in an Outpost, Council Fires, Model Outpost Meeting, The Advancement Trail, Camp Recreation, Backpacking, and Overnight Backpacking Trips.

## Advanced Merits Camp (AMC)

AMC is a camp designed for the purpose of helping boys earn merits on their way to earning their Gold Medal of Achievement. Each boy can choose from a list of merit classes offered. AMC can be attended by boys who have completed 4<sup>th</sup> grade and DAC, or have completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The AMC camp is a relaxed camp that gives emphasis to passing off merits in a low-key atmosphere. Each day is filled with lots of fun and accomplishment.

## Frontier Brigade Camp (FBC)

FBC is a camp designed for the purpose of helping boys earn the Trail of the Grizzly merits on their way to earning their Gold Medal of Achievement. These classes will be taught in an FCF village setting by instructors in FCF outfits, creating a unique atmosphere and learning experience for the boys working on the Trail of the Grizzly merits. FBC can be attended by boys who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and have previously attended an AMC, or are a current member of FCF. The FBC camp is a relaxed camp that will present each boy with a fun and exciting atmosphere.

## Advanced Junior Leadership Training Camp (AJTC)

AJTC is a 5 day camp for all Royal Rangers having completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade who have successfully completed a JTC. Boys interested in this camp will apply for an invitation. Only 16 boys will be invited to attend this camp. AJTC is designed to give boys advanced skills training and more intense leadership training. The following is a list of AJTC classes: Advanced Leadership, How to Teach a Class, Soul Winning, Council Fires, and The 16 Fundamental Truths.

## Junior Training Trails (JTT)

JTT is a 5 day camp for Royal Rangers having completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade and successfully completed JTC. This course is designed to provide basic instruction in backpacking skills. Those participating in JTT will assemble on Sunday at the Lakeview Camp in Maypearl, TX, and will travel for the backpack trip. Once there, you will enjoy four full days of trail packing before the return trip.

## New Boys Training

At National Council the national office released both the Basic DTC and Basic JTC. These two courses are designed to teach basic leadership skills to Discover and Adventure Rangers respectively. These courses can be

taught in a local outpost, or at a sectional or district training event, or they can even be completed by boys working at home on their own. These CDs will be sent to every chartered outpost this spring.

# 35 Hour Prayer Vigil Pow Wow 2005

On June 3-5 during the North Texas District Pow Wow, we will be conducting a 35-hour prayer vigil. Our goal is to have prayer in progress the entire time that the boys are at the camp from 7:00 pm Friday through 6:00 am Sunday. The salvation and safety of the boys and leaders may depend upon your participation. You may be the one to reach God at the right time for a boy to accept Him.

There will be a designated area set aside for continual, uninterrupted prayer for the duration of the Pow Wow. Each section has a specific time assigned and has been provided with a copy of the agenda. If you think you cannot pray for an hour, try the agenda. If you follow it, you may be there longer.

Commanders, bring your boys to prayer time.

**Train them to be “A Threat to the Kingdom of Darkness!”** Over 1,000 men and boys in prayer will bring down some strongholds.

Prayer is a priority during the Pow Wow. Pray especially at your time designated but also be in continual prayer. Remember you are speaking to and listen to God Himself during this time. He is your best friend and loves to hear from you.

Those who participate will receive favor and a blessing from God for the sacrifice of time, energy and, in some cases, sleep.

A copy of the schedule is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions, contact your sectional commander.

Randy Woods, North Texas District  
Royal Rangers Missions Coordinator

## Prayer Vigil Schedule

<b>Southwest Division</b>	7:00 pm to 12:00 am	Friday	
	Waco Section	7:00 pm to 8:40 pm	
	Austin Section	8:40 pm to 10:20 pm	
	San Angelo Section	10:20 pm to 12:00 am	
<b>Northwest Division</b>	12:00 am to 5:00 am	Saturday	
	Wichita Falls Section	12:00 am to 1:40 am	
	Cross Timbers Section	1:40 am to 3:20 am	
	Abilene Section	3:20 am to 5:00 am	
<b>North Division</b>	5:00 am to 10:00 am	Saturday	
	Denton Section	5:00 am to 6:40 am	
	Plano Section	6:40 am to 8:20 am	
	Greenville Section	8:20 am to 10:00 am	
<b>West Central Division</b>	10:00 am to 3:00 pm	Saturday	
	North Ft. Worth Section	10:00 am to 11:40 am	
	South Ft. Worth Section	11:40 am to 1:20 pm	
	Mid Cities Section	1:20 pm to 3:00 pm	
<b>East Central Division</b>	3:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Saturday	
	South Dallas Section	3:00 pm to 4:40 pm	
	Waxahachie Section	4:40 pm to 6:20 pm	* (For this vigil, ND will pray with the EC division)
	North Dallas Section*	6:20 pm to 8:00 pm	
<b>Northeast Division</b>	8:00 pm to 1:00 am	Saturday/Sunday	
	Texarkana Section	8:00 pm to 9:40 pm	
	Tyler Section	9:40 pm to 11:20 pm	
	Longview Section	11:20 pm to 1:00 am	
<b>Southeast Division</b>	1:00 am to 6:00 am	Sunday	
	Trinity Valley Section	1:00 am to 2:40 am	
	Lufkin Section	2:40 am to 4:20 am	
	Brazos Valley Section	4:20 am to 6:00 am	



# **Buckskin Advancement...**

## ***what are you talking about?***

By Dan "Metalbender" Syrcle, Buckskin Rep.

Well, if that is in fact your first question then you need to see a related article on what FCF is and what we do! So, having cleared the air, so to speak, let's talk about the Buckskin advancement in FCF.

I have been an FCF member for only 2 years although I have been on the "outside looking in" at FCF events for as long as my son and I have been involved in Royal Rangers. For me it was never a question of if I would be doing the Buckskin advancement but how soon could I do it!

In the two years I have been in FCF I have heard some interesting theories on why people have not advanced. Here are a few: "It is too expensive," "I don't have an outfit," "I do not have a trade," "I do not have a gun yet," and the best one of all "Well, I am just not sure there is any real value in FCF so I will just be a frontiersman." Let's look at these excuses for a moment.

**Expense** - Yes, it is an expensive hobby! However, most hobbies do have some cost; you will get out of it what you put into it! Everything we do in life has some sort of cost. For me, winning just one young man to Christ because he was interested in my outfit or my craft tips the scales in favor of advancing!

**Outfits** - Guys, we are not talking about a \$1500 set of authentic brain tanned buckskins here! For those of you who did not have a chance to go to the outfits class I taught at the last frontier adventure I had one word of advice, K.I.S.S. — ***Keep It Simple Son!*** An outfit does not have to be fancy or complicated! Do a little simple research and make it yourself. Or, if all else fails, there are a number of FCF members who have access to people who will sew for you. Remember, at Buckskin we want you in an outfit, but we know you are still learning too.

**Trades** - What can I say? We have lots of folks in FCF who will teach you a trade. We are working on a master list of Buckskin and Wilderness members who will teach you. However, the first place to start is at home. What are you interested in? Do you already have a hobby that might be an FCF trade? Is there something you have always wanted to try? Explore a little. A trade could be just around the corner!

**Guns** - This one is the worst of all! If FCF was just about guns, most of us would never do it! Black powder rifles are not cheap! Lucky for us, FCF folks love to share! Wanna shoot my Pennsylvania Rifle? Just ask! I love showing my gun off and I love letting youngbucks and pilgrims alike shoot it!

**No future in FCF** - To those of you who have this attitude, I am deeply sorry! FCF is a fantastic ministry to the older boys! I talk to boys at all the Pow Wows and Family Days events that can not wait to get into FCF! The growing number of men and boys interested in joining FCF tells me we have a shiny future.

So, why do the Buckskin advancement? Boys like the beads and fringe. Boys like throwing knives and hawks. Boys love watching a blacksmith or a traditional carpenter or a candle maker. Boys want to touch, to feel, and to learn! The little bit of effort we put into our Buckskin advancement really does expand our ministry opportunities. Because of FCF, I have done devotions with flint and steel about how it only takes a spark to get a fire going. I have talked to boys about my salt horn and how we are the salt of the earth. I have been able to talk about my flintlock and translate that into how the Holy Spirit can explode into our lives. Each piece of gear I have gathered has a potential spiritual application. Oddly enough, my outfit and equipment have helped me listen to the Lord's leading on many occasions because boys just want to know! Do we halt our ministry at Frontiersman or push on and expand the Lord's work? After all, this ministry is about "Reaching, Teaching and Keeping Boys for Christ."

So, stepping down off my stump, if you want to pursue your Buckskin advancement, please contact me, Dan "Metalbender" Syrcle, e-mail [txmetalbender@juno.com](mailto:txmetalbender@juno.com), cell 469-767-5377, or home 972-576-8670. Please keep in mind that I really need to receive your Buckskin packet 30 days prior to the Buckskin ceremony. I am planning on one at Pow-wow on Saturday night. If you would like to participate, I need your packet back to me via mail or e-mail no later than May 3rd.

# Take God off the “Do Not Call” list

By Randy Woods, NTX Missions Coordinator

We just sat down for a wonderful, delicious evening meal. We wanted to enjoy the food and relax after a stressful day. After a bite or two, Rnnnnng! – the telephone. It was a telemarketer wanting us to buy or try some amazing product that we can not live without. Some, not wanting to be rude, will listen to the entire call. Others will hang up as soon as we recognize the call type. If we let it, this call can disrupt the rest of the meal, even the rest of the evening. The issue has become so pervasive that the government has set up a “Do Not Call” (DNC) list. Those who violate this list are subject to severe penalties.

We have similar situation in our personal and spiritual lives. At one time, we read our Bibles diligently at a specified time. We prayed at the weekly church services or at a Saturday evening prayer time. We participated in prayer chains for those urgent needs.

Over time, we got busy – even in Rangers. Satan loves for us to get busy. When Saturday evening prayer time arrives, we say we are too busy to go tonight; we are too tired, the kids have been too rowdy or something similar. We stay home. Someone else will be there. Soon, our attendance is a distant memory or forgotten altogether. So it goes with the other things: Bible reading, worship etc. We grow cold and lonely and do not even know it.

God gives us a call. “I missed you. Call Me.” “I want you at the Saturday prayer service this week.” “I have a special request for which I want **you** specifically to pray.” “I want you to give an **extra** amount in the offering this Sunday.” “I want

you to worship Me at church Sunday.” “You know I have given to you and I will continue to bless you.”

Our response may be “God, I am tired. I am busy. I don’t feel well. I have just sat down to relax. Besides, tonight’s game on Monday Night Football is very special.” We just placed God on our “Do Not Call” list. God may call anyway but He likes to be invited. God, being a gentleman, may stop calling. What a **frightful** thought or place to be!

We are telling God that we don’t want to talk to or hear from Him anymore. Companies that violate the DNC list are penalized. If we put God on the DNC list, **we** are the ones penalized. There is a loss of protection, a loss of blessing, a loss of wisdom and a loss of discernment.

Prayer and giving are not for us but for the betterment of others. We tithe and give offerings to maintain the physical church, promote special projects and reach the world where we cannot go through missionaries.

God reminds us through His Spirit of special needs. Often, there are urgent needs. God knows on whom He can depend for intercessory prayer. You may be that one. No one can take your place. If you have placed God on the DNC list, He can’t contact you.

Please take Him off the DNC now. Someone may be depending on you to be there when God calls; is may even be a member of your own family.

Be a continuing threat to the Kingdom of Darkness.

## Ranger of the Year

By Dwain Klopfenstein, NTX RRA Coordinator

Commanders!! The 2005 Ranger of the Year materials are on the national website. <http://royalrangers.ag.org/roty/04-applications.cfm>. These can be downloaded and used for studying. All the Bible verses listed should be memorized. Please review the study guide to prepare for the District Ranger of the Year Evaluation. The Ranger of the Year application is used to record the points and activities throughout the year. Download this

form and start using it now.

The year, the Ranger of the Year evaluations will be held at a divisional level instead of a sectional level. However, the boys will still be named sectional Ranger of the Year recipients. This will make it easier on everyone to make sure they have enough commanders available to help evaluate. Please contact me if you have any questions.

# The Royal Rangers Uniform

By Jimmy Sills, Lufkin Sectional Commander

## Ephesians 6

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the Royal Rangers commander's uniform, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with a **"military issue khaki web belt,"** and having pinned on **"the Leaders Medal of Achievement, activity and merit badges, earned;"** and your feet shod with the preparation of the **"highly polished shoes of peace;"** Above all, taking the **"Royal Rangers emblem,"** wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked and take the **"Blue Beret,"** and the **"Royal Rangers New Testament;"** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: "A Royal Rangers commander" that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak but that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do.

The **"Belt Truth"** – To speak the truth always; makes you become militant to take each word into mind and weigh it against scripture. Just as the web belt is not the most comfortable item of the uniform – it is constructed for strength – as the "Truth" cannot be divided, it guards us against the temptation of Satan as we speak the truth.

The **"Breast Plate of Righteousness"** – To be protected against direct blows from the enemy with a fortitude and strength found only through the training and the preparation of the heart. Ranger commanders endure many hours of training, as well as are required to read and prepare themselves spiritually at all times. The medals and the awards we earn are simple representations of this time of preparing.

The **"Shoes of the Gospel"** – "Highly polished" the way we should be in our approach to the "un-churched," as the enemy will use all he has at his disposal to dispel and destroy our attempt at either gaining or re-gaining ground previously claimed by the powers and principalities that were spoken of by Paul.

The **"Shield of Faith"** – "The Royal Rangers emblem," it is ALL we believe – it contains the representation of the "Four Gold Points," The "Four Red Points," and the "Eight Blue Points." These 16 items define who we are and what we believe.

Gold Points: Physically, Mentally, Spiritually and Socially.

Red Points: Salvation, Healing, the Holy Spirit and Rapture.

Blue Points: Alert, Clean, Honest, Courageous, Loyal, Courteous, Obedient and Spiritual  
Motto: "Ready, Ready for Anything!"

The **"Helmet of Salvation"** – Just as "Salvation" is the symbol of a "new" life in Christ, the "old man" has passed away and the believer is now ready to pick up his cross and live for Christ. The "blue beret" is a symbol to all other commanders that he has "completed" his path of required training. He is now ready to take on the challenges of the ministry.

The **"Sword of the Spirit"** – Well, if you need a definition this is the absolute truth, the only weapon the believer has in his daily battle. We look to it for "strength," "wisdom," "compassion," and "understanding." The New Testament is a required part of the Royal Rangers uniform, as it is representative of both the new life and covenant between Christ and the believer. If each one the commanders carry the plan of salvation will be marked in their New Testament they will be ready to lead a boy to Christ. This too is the one part of the uniform a commander gives away, because if you are building boys into soldiers for Christ one must arm them with the appropriate weaponry.

***Reach, Teach, and Keep Boys for Christ.***

# Can You Hear Me Now?

By Martin Smith, North Divisional Commander

I was recently thinking about how communication has changed over the past several years. There was a time not long ago when the Pony Express shortened the time to receive news from loved ones from months and years to just days or a few weeks. Railroads and other advances in transportation even shortened mail delivery further. Then people like Samuel Morse, Thomas Edison, Guglielmo Marconi and Alexander Graham Bell came along and we had telegraph, telephones, and soon after, radio, television and satellites. Communication technology was thought to have peaked after these many advancements. But then along came the Internet and e-mail. It's still mind-boggling that you can "talk" to someone with another personal computer all over this world now in just a few seconds with e-mail or instant messaging. And as we speak, we can have a live wireless conversation with most anyone else in the world by punching in a couple numbers on a cell phone keypad and with the right equipment see their face as you

talk to them. Amazing!

With the advent of these 21<sup>st</sup> century gizmos, God has once again allowed mankind to be brought closer together. And I'm confident He's pleased when we use these technological devices to further His work of the Gospel and do so in more efficient, more effective ways. Let me place a challenge before each of us – to increase the quality and level of communication with one another in everything we do. Keep in mind that the Lord gave us not just one Gospel but four! Now there's Someone who doesn't believe in over-communication...

Let's go the extra mile by making ourselves more accessible to assure quality two-way communication. Let's take every opportunity to share information – schedules, plans, needs, resources, praise reports, etc – as best we can in more than just one way. Let's give our boys and our Great Commander our best as we go forward and "be closer than a brother" to one another.



## GMA Recipients—We Need You!!

By Kevin Sluder, GMAA Coordinator

Now that you have earned your Gold Medal of Achievement, you may be wondering "What's Next?" and / or "I've done it all!" Let me assure you, your GMA is not the end, it's just the beginning! You

still have school, a career choice, and many other things you will have to decide upon while you thinking about those things. I have a ministry / fellowship opportunity for you. It is the North Texas District Gold Medal of Achievement Association. It does not mater whether you earned your GMA today or in years gone by, we need you!

Qualifications for membership:

- Be a recipient of the Gold Medal of

Achievement

- Be a born again Christian
- Be a member of your local church and in good standing with them
- Be a chartered member of your local outpost in the North Texas District
- Live by the Royal Rangers code
- Demonstrate the principles and standards of Christian living

Membership dues:

- \$25—first year
- \$10—each year after the first that you wish to remain an active member

For more information, please contact me.

Thanks,  
Kevin Sluder, district GMAA coordinator  
kevindeena3@aol.com

# Starving in the Land of Plenty

By Rick Beebe, West Central Divisional Commander

A nation of plenty, a nation that thrives  
We have all you need to live out your lives.  
We struggle not once, for soup or for porridge  
If we have a real need, it's likely for storage.

Excess we have, in time, food, and money  
We have so much stuff, it's really not funny.  
Our struggles right now, it's silly to say  
Is finding something, to fill up our day.

Entertain me please, any way you can  
Theme parks and movies, that's part of the plan  
Programs on TV, yes- we got a ton-  
Despite all the channels, nothing is on.

Restaurants and grills, around every block  
The portions are huge, they're nothing to knock.  
No we're not hurting, it all comes real easy  
Now all our kids got bad diabetes.

And big homes we have- no one's in the rain  
We would pay our tithes, but our bills are insane  
Don't even think, 'bout ask'n for "missions"  
We need every cent for bassboats and fishin'.

My family is rich, but sure there is strife  
Just ain't no time for the kids and the wife.

Don't even talk- about Bible reading  
There just ain't time with the lives we're leading.

Yet with all that we got, seems it just ain't enough  
Maybe we need some of that spiritual stuff.  
No more of this, we must take a stand.  
We chased a mirage, now we're drinking the sand.

We need something soon, 'cause we're dying out  
there.

A witness for Jesus, who's willing to share.  
I hear there's a way, if we would just listen  
To quench our great thirst, and find what's been  
missin'!

Please hear our cry, please don't be strangers  
Send us an army, of trained Royal Rangers.  
We're waiting for you, so please do not falter.  
Lead us to Jesus, show us the altar.

## Academy of Ranger Training Update

By Sammy Kellum, Deputy District Commander

Commanders, if you missed attending ART on February 18-19, 2005, you really missed out on a great camp and fellowship. Let me take this opportunity to express my thanks to each commander who attended this event, plus everyone who helped make it a success!

Before ART, we had 8 pre-registered for the LTA camp-out. Then 7 more candidates registered at camp, making a total of two patrols for the entire weekend event. PTL, this fine turn-out was a blessing to all our teaching staff.

For all you shooters who do not have your black powder shooters card, you really missed out on a fantastic time of fellowship and training with Commander Ken Harris and his staff. PTL, this event yielded 16 participants. Only 2 people made it to the black powder instructor's course.

We had 4 people complete the First Aid class and 1 test-out for CPR. This was a great opportunity for those needing to complete this required course to earn the LMA.

Start making plans now for next year's ART. We will definitely have another LTA camp-out module, black powder shooters course, black powder instructor's course, and first-aid and CPR. Plans are under way to have some new and exciting advanced classes too. Stay tuned to hear more about this in the months ahead.

Until next year at ART, God bless all of you,

Samuel L Kellum  
Deputy District Commander

# North Texas District Health and Safety

By Scott W. Stamps, District Health & Safety Officer

Well commanders, by now you should have already started planning your summer camping trips. You have planned to take your boys to the District Pow-Wow, Sarge Training Academy, Family Days, and many other camps that may be on your calendar. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to not overlook the little things; the smallest of things that determine if your boys really enjoy the great outdoors or have a miserable time and can't wait to get home to mama; the tiniest things that can have a major effect on any camping trip — chiggers!

If you have ever been to Lakeview Camp, then you already know that the worst thing about summertime isn't sunburn, heat or humidity — it's the chiggers — and Lakeview is a haven for chiggers. In fact, chiggers are the number one complaint at the First-Aid Station. First, you will notice the little red bumps, then the itch. The itching will drive you insane. The more you scratch, the more you itch. Your feet, your ankles, behind your knees, and then, up to the really tender spots your mama told you not to scratch in public; it's exasperating! You never see the little fiends, but you feel their presence for days and even weeks.

In doing research for this article, I've learned a little bit. I have always known that chiggers burrow under the skin, thus causing the maddening itch. And being the all-knowing paramedic that I am, I knew that the only way to get rid of the itch was to get rid of the chigger first. So, I would kill them out with bleach. A 50/50 mixture seemed to work most of the time, but the really stubborn ones required more drastic measures — 100% pure bleach. Oh sure, it would set my skin on fire for a little while, but hey, I had to kill those chiggers. Once the chiggers were dead, I merely had to wait a couple of weeks for the itching to go away. Right? WRONG!!!

Phillip Hamman at Texas A&M University, R.L. Smith at the University of Arizona, Barb Ogg at the University of Nebraska and Donald E. Mock at Kansas State University all agree that contrary to popular belief, chiggers do not burrow under the skin. In fact, chiggers are incapable of burrowing under the skin and they are too large to go through the pores. They actually attach to their victim by biting them, much like ticks do. Their tiny, piercing mouthparts are short and very delicate, and can only

penetrate thin skin or where the skin wrinkles or folds. That's why they mostly get us around the ankles, behind the knees, in the crotch, under the belt line and in the armpits. We can't feel it when they bite us; and their bite is not the source of our irritating itch.

The itch actually derives from the chigger's saliva. That's right — chigger spit! The saliva is digestive in nature. It dissolves the skin cells that it comes into contact with. After a few hours, the skin reacts by causing the cells to harden on all sides, eventually forming a hard, tube-like structure called a stylostome, which rises up around the attached chigger, making it appear as if it has burrowed into the skin. It's the stylostome that irritates and inflames the surrounding tissue, thus causing the characteristic red welt and intense itch. The longer the chigger is attached, the longer it feeds. The longer it feeds, the deeper the stylostome grows, and the larger the welt will eventually become. Itching usually is at its worst a day or two after the initial bite occurs. Unfortunately, the stylostome remains imbedded in the skin tissue long after the chigger is gone and the itch continues for days. The body will eventually absorb the stylostome; however, it could take a week to 10 days, or even longer.

You need not worry about catching any diseases from chiggers. Lucky for us, our North American chiggers don't carry diseases. The biggest thing to worry about is a secondary infection caused by scratching with dirty fingernails. So, what should we do? Keep our hands clean. Better yet, DON'T SCRATCH. If you do find yourself scratching, be sure to disinfect the chigger bite with topical antiseptics.

Actually, the best thing you can do for chiggers is to prevent them from biting you in the first place. Wear the right type of clothing. Shorts, sleeveless shirts and sandals are BAD. Tightly woven socks and clothes, long pants, long sleeve shirts and high shoes or boots are GOOD. Tucking your pant legs inside boots and buttoning cuffs and collars as tightly as possible also helps by keeping the wandering chiggers on the outside of your clothes. When you get back to your camp or home, change clothes as soon as possible. Be sure to wash them before you wear them again or the chiggers



# North Texas District Health and Safety

(continued)

will get you the next time you put them on.

Repellents containing DEET (diethyl toluamide) will help keep the chiggers at bay for a while, but they are only potent for two to three hours and must be reapplied often. One good repellent is Permanone (also sold as Coulston's Permethrin Tick Repellent). It contains the pyrethroid insecticide permethrin and should be sprayed on clothing and allowed to dry before the clothing is worn. These products are generally available at sporting goods stores and outdoor-clothing outlets.

The best defense that I have found against chiggers is sulphur. Chiggers hate sulphur and they try their best to avoid it. Sulphur is easy to find and very inexpensive. Powdered sulphur can be found pretty much at any feed store and most pharmacies. Pour a cup or so into a cotton sock, and then tie off the end of the sock to keep the sulphur from spilling out. Now, when you and your boys get ready to go out into the field, just raise your pant leg and pat the sulphur-filled sock around your ankles and lower legs. For me, this has truly been the most effective and time proven repellent for chiggers. IT WORKS! There is one slight draw back though, the smell. Unfortunately, some people learn the hard way, and that was the case for me. My wife was not very happy with me when I washed my sulphur-laden clothes with her good towels. Oops, I really messed up, because it took many, many washes to get the smell out. Also, you should be aware that some people could have an allergy to sulphur. If you have not ever used sulphur before, try it on a small area of your skin first.

If you just can't stand the smell of sulphur, or if you have an allergy to it, then your best defense against the chigger bite is simply removing the chigger before it has a chance to bite you. Chiggers generally travel over your body for a few hours before they actually bite you. If you are out in the field, you can remove chiggers by frequently rubbing down with a towel or a cloth. If you are back in civilization, take a good bath as soon as possible after you've been exposed to chiggers. Chiggers are easily removed, even after they bite you. So, plenty of scrubbing with hot, soapy water should do the trick.

If the chigger was able to get you before you

were able to get it, you may still have to suffer through the itching. Trust me, at this point your focus will be on the itch. One of the most popular home remedies is to cover the bite with nail polish. In reality, this is ineffective. Nail polish cannot "smother" the chigger, because it has not burrowed into your skin. In fact, it was probably scratched or rubbed off long ago. The only benefit of nail polish is that it may help to remind you not to scratch. Lotions will relieve the itching slightly, but nothing is completely effective. The only sure cure is time, since there is nothing you can do to dislodge the chigger's feeding tube, which is the true cause of your itch. You simply have to wait until your body absorbs the stylostome.

In the meantime, some local anesthetics such as benzocaine, camphor-phenol and ammonium hydroxide may provide you with some comfort. Topical hydrocortisone creams or corticosteroid creams may also help, as well as antihistamines. One thing I have found that seems to help with the itch more than most is something called *After-Bite*. It comes in a tube shaped like an ink pen. I've had more favorable feedback with *After-Bite* than I've had with any others.

I venture to say that there is no other creature that can cause more discomfort for its size than the chigger. Hopefully by knowing a little more about this little beast, you can help make the summer more enjoyable for you and your boys. So, go ahead. Get out there and enjoy God's beautiful outdoors; and I'll see you at Lakeview.

May the Lord bless each of you and your outpost.

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# The Value of the Gold Medal of Achievement

By Rick Beebe, West Central Divisional Commander

I was 12 when I first became aware of the Gold Medal of Achievement. It was in an article of High Adventure about the National Royal Ranger of the Year Finalists. They were honoring guys who had earned the “HIGHEST AWARD” in the Royal Rangers program—the GMA. I knew then it was something I wanted to achieve. I wanted to be ONE of those guys on the cover of High Adventure.

I mapped out my plan, and just before my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, I completed the last requirement, a 500 word essay on the value of Royal Rangers. I had no idea then the impact Royal Rangers and the GMA would have on my life.

There’s a lot I can tell you about having earned the GMA. Initially, it was an award that provided the recognition I craved as a young man. I became what I had dreamed of—one of the National Ranger of the Year Finalists—twice. It became my “credentials” to become part of the district staff, the chance to travel to a few national events, and it gave me the opportunity to be around some of the best leaders in the ministry.

But what I didn’t understand then was the true impact it had on me. The steps to earning the GMA aren’t impossible, but they do require a plan of action. And more than anything, the GMA taught me the importance of having a vision, how to focus on it, and how to lay out the steps to achieve it. I had no clue at

age 15 how valuable that would be in college, in the workplace, in a marriage, and ultimately in running my own business.

The ride to and from the GMA has been exciting. I’ve been white-water rafting on class IV rapids, horseback riding on the tallest mountains of Montana, attended the World’s Fair, backpacked in a dozen different states, gone rappelling off cliffs, flown an aircraft, explored dozens of caves, gone boating, swimming, canoeing, deep-sea fishing, camped out a couple hundred times, and made hundreds of friends.

But what has been truly exciting is the spiritual journey it has created. I was able to form a deep personal relationship with our Lord. I learned to pray, I learned the importance of reading the Bible, and I was been blessed with the opportunity to lead others to Jesus Christ. And all before I learned to drive!

I’ve also had the privilege of being the commander of a young man to earn the GMA. He is now a Blackhawk helicopter pilot for the U.S. Army. He came to appreciate his GMA when he was already prepared for his survival training with Special Forces.

I’m 37 now, and I’m just starting to truly understand the value of my Gold Medal of Achievement!

Rick Beebe, irarescue@yahoo.com

## Twenty Four Hour Prayer Vigil Update

By Randy Woods, Deputy District Commander and Missions Coordinator

I want to thank each of you who participated in the twenty-four hour prayer vigil the first weekend in March. Those of you who participated will be greatly blessed. God will not forget your sacrifice. For some, it was giving up time and energy. For others, it was giving up some sleep and rest. The intent of the vigil was to have all the staff and all district Royal Rangers events and activities bathed in prayer.

There have been minimal injuries and/or

illnesses over the past several years at our Ranger activities and events. It is because of **your** prayers for safety over the boys and the leaders that have allowed God to place His blessings on us. We want our health and safety officer to be bored!

I believe that the response to the altar calls will be a direct answer to your prayers for salvation and filling with the Holy Spirit. It will have an eternal effect on the boys and on you.

# Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker

By Dan "Metalbender" Syrcle, Buckskin Rep.

Not only were these the trades of the Three-Men-in-a-Tub, but they could also be FCF trades. The winter is winding down and camping season is quickly approaching! So, it is time to start really working on FCF advancements.

FCF needs all of its members to work on a skill or trade. Many of you do not realize how much of an impact you have on the boys who see you at work. Boys and men are visual, they enjoy seeing new things. I remember years ago when I first saw a blacksmith at work; I spent hours in his shop watching and asking questions. Soon, I was learning a new trade in the same shop.

So, how do you find a trade? How do you learn a trade? What will it cost me to have a trade? All of these are important questions. I feel the first step in finding a trade is trying something you either enjoy or have an interest in. Once you find something you have an interest in, study up on it. The Internet is a wonderful source of information as are libraries (you know those places with all the books). Decide what tools or equipment you will need. Are the items you need something another FCF member can make for you? If so, maybe they will be willing to trade on credit. I have a few boys I have traded to that way. I help them get started and then I am one of the first to receive something they made.

Possible trades are posted on the Web site for FCF, but here are a few that I can think of. Tinker, this is a person who is kind of a jack

of all trades and master of none. During the 17-1800's these men were pack peddlers. However, they made most of the items they were selling. Soap makers made soap. I have been told that lye soap is great for getting rid of chiggers! Cooper, a maker of buckets and barrels. No one in FCF is a cooper that I know of! Wainwright, this person made wagons and carriages. Often times they worked with a blacksmith shop. For those of you who drive Chevy cars, the trim on the inside often says "Body by Fischer" — this refers to the Fischer Coach works that worked with Chevrolet at the turn of the century. Cutler, this is a person who makes and sharpens knives and scissors. As you can see, there are lots of choices — these are just a few. Check the website for others. If you have an idea for a trade, let me know and I am sure we can work it out. I just recently had a young buck ask me about beads, not beadwork, but actually making beads! I told him to pursue it. What could be neater than a hand made bead made my one the youngbucks from my outpost?

As always, try and remember that even your trade can have a spiritual application or devotion. As a blacksmith, I was lead to Isaiah 44:12 "Behold the blacksmith who fans the coals to flame and fashions a tool (weapon) fit for its purpose." Don't we as Ranger commanders fan a boy's heart to flame and help forge him to be a tool fit for our Master Ranger's purpose?

## NTX Sets a New Record of Gold Medalists

By Kevin Sluder, GMAA Coordinator

As District Commander Paul Patterson stated in the last Signal Fire: "Our district has set a new record in the nation and for our district for the most Gold Medals of Achievement in a single year." Our district had 35 young men earn this honor in 2004. This brings the total of Gold Medalists from the North Texas District up to 259 (as of December 2004).

The total number of Gold Medalists nationwide is 5,413 (according to the national RR website on January 25, 2005). This means that almost 5% of all Gold Medals nationwide have been earned here in the North Texas district. Congratulations North Texas District!!!! Kevin Sluder, GMA #1244 District G.M.A.A. Coordinator

# Campfire Smell, Dirty Clothes, and Out to Eat

By Eulinda Woods

For years I have read the articles in the district news letter. Since most if not all were written by commanders, I decided to write one from the view point of a commander's wife. I am the wife of a man who has been involved in Royal Rangers for almost twenty-six years. Many times I have seen my husband and sons come home from camp smelling of smoke, piling the dirty clothes on the floor and leaving all for me to clean. Although I love my husband and sons very much, it almost made me hate their return from the camps.

But let me go back a few years. When I was a teenager, I prayed for God to send me the young man He had planned for me to spend the rest of my life with. I learned to lean on Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

Guess what? God answers prayers! He not only gave me a great husband and father to my children, but also a great Royal Rangers commander. We will be married thirty-seven years in June.

For most of our married life, he has been involved at some level of Royal Rangers from the local outpost to the district staff. We have three children and four grandchildren. Both our sons were involved in Royal Rangers. One earned his Gold Medal of Achievement. Two of our grandsons are now involved in Royal Rangers.

I have seen a lot of dirty clothes and camping gear piled on my living room floor. As I mentioned before, I dreaded them coming home from camps. They had fun and I had to do all the work in cleaning up after them. Ministries should be shared but I felt this one was one-sided.

During one of my husband's training events, the instructor said he should buy his wife flowers and candy before going home and put up his own clothing and equipment. I don't care too much for flowers or candy, although they did show he was thinking of me. I do like to eat out. Now, whenever there is a Ranger event, I know I will get a night out. We try to have a date-night each week but this is another special night just for me. I now look forward to his coming home. The dirty clothes are put in the laundry and the camping equipment is put in the garage. The longer the camp, the better the dinner will be. I get to choose the restaurant.

This Royal Rangers wife no longer feels like a Royal Rangers widow. I no longer complain when he comes home. He still comes home with campfire smell and dirty clothes but I get to go out to eat.

Wives, you and your commander husband will face trials as you go through life, but God will move mountains for you as He has for us if your priorities are right. When we together face a mountain, we keep climbing together with God's help.

Commanders, God bless each one of you for loving the boys. If you want to put enjoyment into your return home, bring home your campfire smell, your dirty clothes but don't forget to take your wife out to eat each time you go on an outing.

Eulinda Woods

Wife of District Mission Coordinator Randy Woods

## 2005 Plainsmen Territorial Rendezvous

The 2005 Plainsmen Territorial Rendezvous will be held at the NRA Whittington Center near Raton, NM July 14 though 16. The rendezvous is open to all FCF members in the territory. This promises to be a great time of competition, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Sonny Green, national FCF vice-president emeritus, will be our speaker. There will be

competition for the positions of national and territorial scout, and competitions in the areas of hawk and knife, outfits, flint and steel, black powder shooting, stump preaching, and others.

You can download an application and information packet for the rendezvous on the regional web site: <http://scr.royalrangers.net>

# The Infantryman

Author Unknown

The average age of the infantryman is 19 years old.

He is a short haired, tight muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not really old enough to be a man yet, but old enough to die for his country.

He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away.

He probably listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or jazz or swing, and 155 Howitzers.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark.

He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues; he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle.

He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them.

He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to "square away" those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.

Beardless or not, he is not a boy.

He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY!**

“Signal Fire” is a quarterly publication of the Royal Rangers Ministry of the North Texas District Council Assemblies of God.

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**NEWS NEEDED**

Is there anything specific you would like to learn more about? If you have some ideas or articles to place in the Signal Fire, the next deadline to receive news is May 21, 2005. Please send your information to Mark Oliver at mark@royalrangers.net.

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