

ROTC AT HOXIE GORGE



Above: Cortland ROTC rangers at Hoxie Gorge receive a briefing of the day's training schedule.

Below: Ranger commander Mark Grdovic keeps a watchful eye on the cadets while conducting his class on camouflage and concealment.



PHOTOS BY
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Early Sunday morning, while most Cortland students were asleep, a small group of 18 Army ROTC cadets, calling themselves Rangers, went out to Hoxie Gorge to train in the mud and rain.

The Cortland Rangers represent a special detachment of highly motivated cadets in the State University College at Cortland's Army ROTC program. They voluntarily undergo vigorous physical and tactical training. Their primary purpose is to act as an opposing force during field training exercises while developing invaluable leadership skills that they will need in the future as officers in the United States Army.

On this day, the first of monthly training sessions, they were taught methods of camouflage, procedures for using an M-16 rifle and individual movement techniques. All of these entail a large amount of crawling in the mud.

As Ranger Commander Mark Grdovic states, "getting down and dirty is a way of life for the Rangers; everyone learns to crawl before he can walk and you have to be able to walk in order to lead."

Being a Cortland Ranger takes a lot of determination and dedication. All cadets participating in the program will face many challenges throughout the year as they strive for recognition and the satisfaction they get when they receive their Ranger berets.

The day's training schedule ended with a grueling eight mile road march to campus and a final foot inspection before any of the cadets could outprocess and finally head home to clean themselves off.

The United States Army's motto is "Be all that you can be," and the Cortland Army ROTC Rangers are doing just that, and more.

— Michael Somsan