



Fort Pickett, VA 2010

## HONOR FLIGHT: DELTA

### CADET QUOTES

- 1 "I'm definitely excited!"  
- Cadet Brau
- 2 "Encampment isn't as hard  
as I thought it would be"  
- Cadet J. Tabb
- 3 "I've made it 6 days so far, I'm  
not going to quit now"  
- Cadet Didi



# THE PICKETT POST

DAY- 6 June 24<sup>th</sup> 2010

## DAY 6

*By The Encampment PAO Staff*

Two words can sum up Day Six:

### **BLACKHAWK RIDES**

The morning run is longer every day. But the endurance of the basics is growing with it. Right after breakfast they formed up and marched to a field near the repelling tower and settled in under shelters and waited to see what would happen.

We did not have to wait very long before we heard the signature "whop whop whop" just before a Blackhawk helicopter burst in to view above the tree line. It flew to the middle of the field and landed with a deafening roar and huge gusts of rotor wash kicking up dust and buffeting the grass. After touchdown and shutdown each squadron approached the vehicle for a thorough safety briefing by the crew; hopping in for a hands-on harness training and proper entry/exiting procedures. As the squadrons completed the instruction they were whisked back to the chow hall for delicious cold wraps, breakfast bars, and chips.

Upon retuning to the landing field, they were given ear plugs awaiting their turn to put the pre-lunch orientation to use.

The Blackhawk rides began in earnest. At the same time one group was getting in, a second group moved into position for the next flight. The system worked safely and efficiently; every cadet who desired a ride received one.

Riding in a Blackhawk is an adrenaline rush to remember. Hearing the roar of the turbo shaft engines and the whine of gears overhead, the enthusiastic cadets sitting in the "hurricane" seats and their faces as they get blasted with gale force winds, the "butterflies" sensation of weightlessness as the heli dips to make a low pass over the trees, looking out the open door and seeing the ground, not the sky, when banking in a sharp turn. Then finally the rumble and shutter at touchdown with your heart pounding.

All these sensations in just a few exhilarating minutes of flight, no one will ever forget it.

