

The Bourbon County Citizen

A Direct Descendant Of The Western Citizen, est. 1807

Vol. 27-No.2



STEVE BIGGERS | For The Citizen

Army Cadets Complete Pathfinder Course

Fifteen Army Cadets – 13 males and two females – from as far away as Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania and Texas, as well as five from central Kentucky, recently completed the U.S. Army Cadet Corps' (USAC) Cadet Pathfinder Course at the National Cadet Training Center (NCTC) in Millersburg, Ky.

The Cadets endured freezing temperatures and 3" of snow during the course which began on December 27th and graduated on January 3rd. The training ranged from classroom instruction early in the week, to a three-day and two-night Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park as the culminating event. The FTX was conducted at the 89-acre Tanner's Station fort area, which is also used for reenactments and other public events.

U.S. Army Pathfinders are the first troops to enter an unknown area to scout and map out all geographic contours, while getting the lay of the land for future troop deployment. The Cadet Pathfinders were introduced to the skills associated with being an Army Pathfinder,

including advanced land navigation, use of a compass, team leadership and field survival.

WO1 William Smith, USAC, of Sadieville, Ky., a retired Special Forces soldier and the Officer-in-Charge of the Cadet Pathfinder Course, explained to parents and friends attending the course graduation what their Cadet had endured during the arduous week of training. Most were in awe with how their Cadet chose to spend their Christmas break. When the Cadets were asked if they would do it all over again, there was a rousing and motivated "Hooah Sir!"

The U.S. Army Cadet Corps, headquartered in Millersburg, Kentucky, is a career exploration program for young men and women age 12-18 who are interested in experiencing military life without any future obligation. All Cadets must be crime-free, drug-free and doing well in school. Unit leadership is provided by a corps of volunteers who come from all walks of life. For more information on the U.S. Army Cadet Corps, visit www.goarmycadets.com.