

CADET J.J. MCDOLE lies flat against the ground to camouflage himself in pine branches during a field test. McDole, in his first year of ROTC training, is using the prone position to minimize the amount of body mass an enemy has to shoot at.



ROTC boots Army myth with leadership might

BY PAULA LAVIGNE Editor

Russell Willbanks spent his weekend doing homework.

"Intelligence reports have confirmed a twoto three-man enemy element in the area. They are armed with light weaponry and have high morale. ... You have 68 minutes to destroy the enemy and obtain all intelligence possible. You have all your equipment with you. No supplies are expected."

Instead of pulling out a pen and three-ring binder, Willbanks had an M-16 in hand when he started ticking off reminders to his squad. Who

goes where. Who does what. Who does it when. "Go get your equipment on and come back here. You've got two minutes to do it." And they're off.

Minutes later, the tin can Pop! Pop! Pop! Rata-tat-tat! of rifle blanks signal the camouflaged cadets to drop to their knees as they slide along the pine-needle floor. Enemy forces keep firing. More motion. More fire. More sharp shouts. Finally, a bellowing "Cease fire!" comes

from a nearby tree.

Report: 80 percent ammunition. Zero casual-

ties. 100 percent equipment.

Willbanks is done.

And that's only one chapter.

The F-word

Willbanks, and about 30 other cadets with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Army ROTC program, put about seven weeks of training to

practice at the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey. The Big Red Battalion was ordered to defeat the enemy "Wykoations" and "restore peace in Nebraska."

And even if they aren't perfect on their first try, there's still that trip to Red Lobster on the way home Sunday and a chance to do it over again in the spring. For now, it's all in good fun.

Fun! Fun? But this is the Army. The Army isn't supposed to fun.

Well, yeah, it's the Army. But it's not really the Army.

You see, here, if a cadet wears his uniform the wrong way, or if she forgets to pack everything in her rucksack, it doesn't mean, "Drop and give me 50." It means, "Hey, you did this wrong. This is how you do it. Do it right the next time."

BY SARAH BAKER Assignment Reporter

RHA retreat

participants

For the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Residence Hall Association, the weekend blizzard was a good thing.

RHA had its annual retreat Saturday night at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland. Members of RHA got snowed in without electricity, phone lines or water.

We were watching a movie and all of a sudden the lights went out," RHA President Ben Wallace said. "Later the water stopped working also."

The group's return to Lincoln Sunday was delayed by about two hours, he said. Wallace said the group weathered the experience by working together.

"The fact that we were stranded

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