



With the burden of weapon and full canteen, a cadet prepares herself for the low crawl. The idea is for the cadet to propel herself with the use of her right leg for distances of 25 feet, keeping her head and body on the ground.

Photos by Matt Mansell



Between training exercises cadets are seen performing weapon checks, which have become just about second nature.



Hand-to-hand combat: one of the more valuable and lethal skills these senior instructors were taught in Ranger School.

This lab doesn't have any test tubes or bottles

When many students learn they have to take a lab, thoughts of looking through microscopes and dissecting animals enter their heads. However there are different types of lab experiences offered at the University and Army ROTC has one of them.

"The field experience is an extension of the classroom. It's a lab type procedure to apply skills in leadership management, map reading and physical training," Lt. Col. Robert Wyatt said.

Wyatt said these leadership labs give students a chance to apply what they learn in the classroom to real life situations.

ROTC seniors establish the requirements, set up the exercises and lead the other cadets, he said. "This allows them to make decisions in a more realistic

situation than can be created in class," he said.

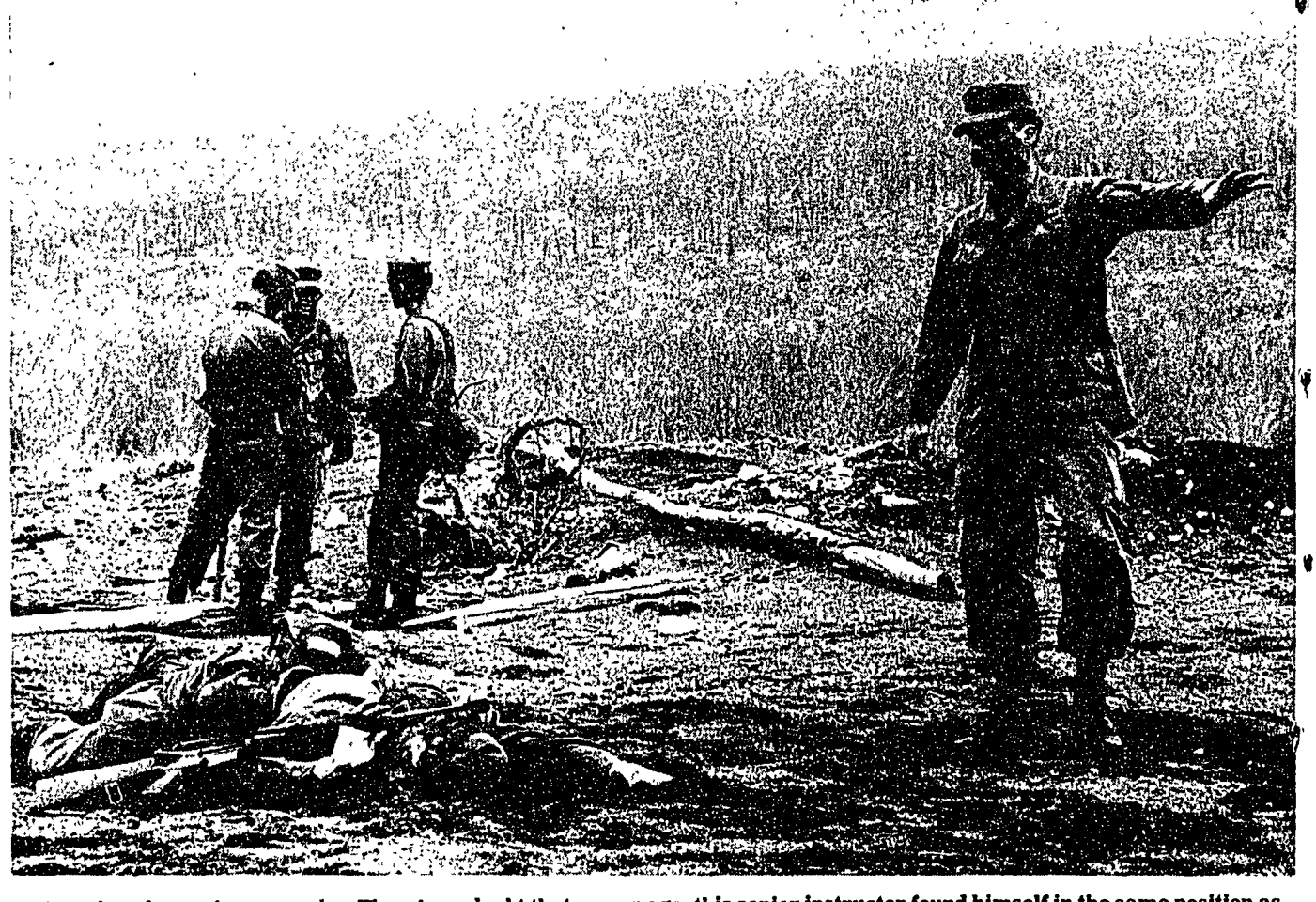
An underlying aspect of the labs is to provide physical development that is not routine, such as climbing and repelling from cliffs, crossing rope bridges and dealing with terrain features, he said.

On this particular day the ROTC went on a field training exercise to Tussey Mountain. The day began at 6:30 a.m. The cadets with the help of their senior and faculty instructors were taught the proper techniques of the low crawl, patrolling and hand-to-hand combat. They returned from the lab at noon.

"These leadership labs give each individual cadet the opportunity to be in the leadership position and to have to make the decisions," Wyatt said.



Not the typical classroom lab, but practical experience is still the objective.



The voice of experience speaks: There's no doubt that a year ago, this senior instructor found himself in the same position as this junior cadet performing the low crawl.