

Camp Frank D. Merrill has rich history



Home of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion, Camp Frank D. Merrill has been the site of the mountain phase of Ranger training since 1951. It's located near Dahlonega in picturesque north Georgia.

COL Christopher Stone is commander of the camp in 2010, but in 1951, retired COL Ralph Puckett was its first commander. Although the camp's location has moved from Pine Mountain to Camp Wahsega to national forest land, the intensity of the training hasn't changed.

It looks a lot different today since the tent facilities (bottom left photo) that characterized it into the 1960s have been replaced with permanent structures. One of those buildings is a small museum housing Ranger memorabilia.

There are WW II items from the 5307 Composite Unit Provisional, later called Merrill's Marauders (top group photo taken in Burma) after Gen. Frank D. Merrill (below center.) The second group photo shows Rangers in a pre-combat rifle inspection near Yong Dungp'o, Korea. The bottom photo shows a young Ranger hauling his gear up Yonah Mountain at Camp Merrill in 1958.

SPC Benjamin Rich (L- R) and SSG Brandon Justice were staff duty officers when these photos were taken. Justice, a combat techniques instructor for C Company, gave a tour of the museum.

by Jonnie Melillo Clasen, Anet editor

