

5th Ranger Training Battalion Open House draws record crowds

By Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Crowds were enthusiastic at what some said was the largest turnout in years for the 5th Ranger Training Battalion's open house May 7, 2011, at Camp Frank D. Merrill, commanded by COL Christopher Stone at Dahlenega, Ga.

Cameras were clicking during the Rangers in action demonstrations consisting of sky diving by Ft. Benning's Silver Wings parachute team, combative bouts, mock helicopter/Ranger missions, rappelling techniques and how to evacuate wounded comrades.

There were food and face-painting vendors. WW II reenactors, Kelly's Zeroes, had an exhibit of the type uniforms, weapons and equipment used by WW II Rangers and Merrill's Marauders. On hand at the open house were veteran Rangers from all eras including WW II. Several Boy Scout troops were represented. The Mountain Ranger Association helped with the event and held a Friday fish fry.

