

# Fort Ord Guestbook

April 2004

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**Date:**

02 Apr 2004

**Time:**

15:25:36

**Name or Email**

dfeldrid@alltel.net

**Comments**

would love to see more photos from 1943 to 1945

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**Date:**

02 Apr 2004

**Time:**

20:06:18

**Name or Email**

phxicee@hotmail.com

**Comments**

Basic training FEB-thru-AUG 1962 looking for anyone in my unit {D-5-1} At graduation a helicopter crashed into one of the barracks. William,Allaire.(Arizona) E-mail me. Thank you for this site.

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**Date:**

03 Apr 2004

**Time:**

14:17:04

**Name or Email**

Lsmith3588@aol.com

**Comments**

I can't remember where the base commissary is located. Does anyone know? My wife and I were talking about our time at Fort Ord. I was stationed here from Sept 1982 until June 1984 when I got out of the Army. I served in the 8th EVAC Hospital. Larry Smith

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**Date:**

03 Apr 2004

**Time:**

20:50:28

**Name or Email**

1SG David C. Freed, C Co, 107th MI Bn (CEWI), 1979-1985

**Comments**

Hi: I was assigned to Fort Ord, CA from 1979 to 1985> Loved the area, but hated the 7th ID.... Dave  
1SG (Retired)

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**Date:**

03 Apr 2004

**Time:**

21:06:32

**Name or Email**

David C. Freed, 1SG, USA (Retired)

## Comments

Hi: I was originally assigned to Co B, 2/17th Inf Bn in 1979. Stayed there for 18 months, and then was moved over to the 3/17th. Both assignments as a 31V Commo Chief, SFC E-7. Prior to that assignment, I came from 1st Inf Div (Fwd) in Germany. Later, 1st Sergeant for C Co, 107th MI Bn (CEWI), formerly the 601st ASA Co, 7th ID. Assigned to the Special Security Office (SSO). Left for 3rd Armored Division in 1985, assigned to A Co, 143d Signal Bn, but was "diverted" enroute to HHC 3AD (G-2, for work in the SSO shop. 3AD was in Frankfurt (Drake-Edwards Kaserne) Later, attached to SSO V Corps (302nd MI Bn) Retired from the Army as an E-8 in 1988 and went to work at a Defense Contractor (CSS) in the Washington DC area with DBA Systems, Inc. Currently living in Florida - still working as a Defense Contractor.....this time with Harris Corp. Would love to hear from fellow Fort Orders via email who were there from 1979 to 1985. Dave David C. Freed 1SG, US Army (Ret) Email: NNN7DXB@aol.com # # #

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**Date:**

06 Apr 2004

**Time:**

15:30:38

**Name or Email**

c. swanson

## Comments

I lived in Ft. Ord when I was a little tyke (1982-1985). All I remember is the ice plant, Casa Maria's (which was on fisher man's warf) and the ocean...I went to pre-school and kindergarten somewhere close by. Thanks for bring back some fond memories...

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**Date:**

06 Apr 2004

**Time:**

21:31:31

**Name or Email**

jgomez10@comcast.net

## Comments

This is my 3rd entry since discovering the website about a year ago. I was at Fort Ord from Jan-May 1969. BCT A-5-1....AIT B-2-4. My Old barracks were at 3rd & 3rd. I recently went back in March 04 to see it one more time. Much of the Fort is gone now but I was glad I went anyway. The Doughboy Theater is still there and I went inside. We had classes in there and went to many 25 cent movies. It was a strange but happy feeling. I went to the area where we were issued our military clothing and the area where we spent our first week in the Army. I brought back a shingle and piece of wood from my torn down barracks. I left a card on a tree in memory of the 7 men in our basic training company that died in Viet Nam. I went as close as I could to where Stillwell hall used to be. I even went to the Travel Lodge in Monterey where we spent some weekends. It looks the same except for new paint. I left totally satisfied and glad that I went. I have some pictures and would be glad to email if interested. Thanks to Mr. Swann for keeping the memories alive. Email [jgomez10@comcast.net](mailto:jgomez10@comcast.net) if interested in pictures.

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**Date:**

07 Apr 2004

**Time:**

21:56:05

**Name or Email**

Jerry B.

## Comments

This is just a "thank you" to J. Gomez for emailing me those great photos of Fort Ord taken recently. What memories.. the one of the "army clothes" area instantly transported me back to January of '69.. bitter-sweet recollections of that day.. Thank you so much, --- Jerry B.

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**Date:**

08 Apr 2004

**Time:**

21:29:32

**Name or Email**

rgibbsp@aol.com

## Comments

This is really something to find this web site, I took my basic training at old fort ord, 1949. What a place, we had some fun though and getting to go across the road to the soldier's club on the sands and have a pitcher of beer for 10 cents. Man I really grew up the 13 weeks we were here for the training,

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**Date:**

09 Apr 2004

**Time:**

05:22:52

## Name or Email

riverponcho@aol.com

## Comments

HI,My name ie Herbert Leslie Everitt My last entre I made I didn't put in the year I was at FT. Ord I was there 1 Nov 65 till sometime in Jan 66. I would really like to here from any of the guys that took their basic training there. I know there has to be some of us still around. I live in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.I sort of feel a little bit lost not knowing what happen to some of the guys,I would really like to know about them. I'm sure there are some out there just want to forget about a lot of stuff it really doesn't work very well,I know I've been trying for 30 some years now and the only thing it is doing to is making it harder to handle. This helps a little bit thanks for the site it is sure a big crime to tear down Ft.Ord. That is about all I have to say,like I said if anyone feels like sending me an e-mail it's riverponcho@aol.com

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**Date:**

14 Apr 2004

**Time:**

01:04:13

## Name or Email

Rudolph (Rudy) Estrada

## Comments

Hello Charles, as promised I put a check in the mail to you today in order to help support the site. Keep up the good work, as more former ORD alumni become aware of the site, I am certain the more support you will receive. I would be happy to communicate with anyone who went through BCT Feb-Apr '69 (B-1-1) or AIT, I may be contacted at rudolph@estraday.com.

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**Date:**

14 Apr 2004

**Time:**

17:43:43

**Name or Email**

GMURPHY4@WOH.RR.COM

## Comments

I was with the 25th MP company in 1967 at Ft Ord. I love Stillwell Hall and the view of the Bay. I will also remember the fog in the mornings Great Post I miss the place

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**Date:**

18 Apr 2004

**Time:**

10:25:07

**Name or Email**

fullfill2@aol.com

## Comments

pvt schuler carl r i was in b 4 1 barracks and on to a 21 advanced infantry fort gordon GA then on to fort dix new jersey then germany to b 477 sig core to vietnam then back fort ord to special service co for mp duty fired a m 14 a 45 drove a scout vec with 45 weapon then home to national guard duty delta base rememberd vietnam pfc schuler carl r remember fort ord remember lt kennedy....

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**Date:**

18 Apr 2004

**Time:**

14:24:41

**Name or Email**

James Woolums woolums@flash.net

**Comments**

Really enjoyed it I was there 10/61-12/61 for basic training, B-22-2 4th Plt.

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**Date:**

19 Apr 2004

**Time:**

22:47:58

**Name or Email**

Julie N. joojoo16@hotmail.com

**Comments**

My dad was stationed at Ft Ord from 1987 to 1991 and was a warrant officer. We lived in Fitch Park on Hatten Rd right by the golf course. Used to always play with Joanne and Samantha! I attended grades 2-5 at Marshall elementary. I miss Ft Ord! Email me if u remember me.

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**Date:**

20 Apr 2004

**Time:**

11:04:31

**Name or Email**

PAULINE.STRAUMANN@WALTERSWHOLESALE.COM

## Comments

I am looking for somebody who was stationed at Fort Ord in 1974-19?? I know he was there in 1976. His name is Daniel R. Craig, and he lived in Oklahoma prior to that. Please e-mail me with any info at all, even if you just remember the name! He is related to me, and I can't seem to find any info. Thanks!

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**Date:**

20 Apr 2004

**Time:**

17:09:26

## Name or Email

Mike Schwartz ( mschwartz1@hvc.rr.com )

## Comments

I was at Fort Ord in 1964 and part of 1965 I was with the 79th Ord GS I was transfered to the 85th Ord DS located at Fort Bliss.. Who went to Viet Nam on the USNS BARRETT

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**Date:**

20 Apr 2004

**Time:**

23:27:17

## Name or Email

malderman

## Comments

Hi. Great to find this site. My dad was stationed at Ft Ord in 68 - 70. Went to school there a couple of years,lived on Kerling Rd but don't remember which housing section that was. Am planning to visit the area the fall of 2004 and definitely plan to see what's left there. I remember the chapel and the library

and the ice plant! Loved climbing the trees.

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**Date:**

20 Apr 2004

**Time:**

23:55:45

**Name or Email**

HOWARD RATHBUN- NIPOMO, CA hwr8751@aol.com

**Comments**

BASIC INFANTRY TRAINING: JUNE 20,1955- AUGUST 30, 1955. WE WERE AMONG THE FIRST IN THE NEW BARRACKS. FOND MEMORIES: (1)MY FIRST 4:30AM SOS BREAKFAST AFTER AN ALL NIGHT TRAIN RIDE UP FROM LA TO BUS FROM SALINAS AND ARRIVAL THROUGHT THE GATES. (2) DOUBLE TIMING OUT TO THE RIFLE RANGES TO THE BEAT OF A BASS DRUM THROUGH THE TUNNEL UNDER THE COAST HWY. (3) GULPING APC'S TO WARD OFF PNEUMONIA.

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**Date:**

21 Apr 2004

**Time:**

12:46:54

**Name or Email**

TIPCOM1@copper.net

**Comments**

Hello, I attended Basic Training at Fort Ord in the summer of 1976, arriving around June of that year. I was a part of H-2-3 Company. Would love to hear from any of the guys stationed there then. I came from Oklahoma and had never been to California before. I have some great memories of Ft. Ord and will always treasure the friendships I made there and the beauty of the surrounding area. It was really wild to me how the fog would roll in every morning, but would often burn off later bringing beautiful sunshine with mild temperatures. Its funny how while we're going through those experiences (basic training) as

young men, we often dread it. But as I look back now at 47, they were some of the fondest memories I have. Richard M.Tippit

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**Date:**

21 Apr 2004

**Time:**

13:25:14

**Name or Email**

Gary Cunningham

**Comments**

I served with the Bco 5/21 1989-1993. (Panama, Honduras, LA Riots) Would love to hear from anyone who served during that time. puckstopper22@earthlink.net

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**Date:**

21 Apr 2004

**Time:**

15:52:07

**Name or Email**

LHarper@eaglegroupint.com

**Comments**

I just returned from a stay in the Carmel Highlands Inn and while there retraced my days at Fort Ord, CA. I tried to find someone on post that knew something about the post over the past years but to no avail. I did find a lady at the Carmel Mission that gave me a lot of information about Fort Ord. I had not been in that area since June 1967. I took 11B AIT at Fort Ord in Jan-Feb 67, became a morning report clerk for the SPD there while awaiting an FA OCS date. Twenty-nine years later I retired as a Colonel. Many of my fondest memories of my military career go back to the days I spent at Fort Ord. I was raised in rural West Tennessee and, joined the Army, basic at Fort Campbell, and suddenly they put me on this hugh jet for California. Monterey and Carmel were quite an awakening for a country boy from the South. I spent many nights in Stilwell Hall having some great times. I wished they had found a way to

save such a historical/sentimental site for thousands of GIs. It was kind of sad to see how the post had deteriorated but driving around the area really brought back many many wonderful memories. One year later, and on my way to Vietnam via Oakland AFB, I rented a car and drove back to Fort Ord because of the many memories there. Fort Ord was a great chapter in my book of life. Thanks for the memories and the website. COL (Ret) Lee Harper

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**Date:**

21 Apr 2004

**Time:**

15:53:23

**Name or Email**

**Comments**

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**Date:**

21 Apr 2004

**Time:**

20:00:18

**Name or Email**

Tony Tagaloa

**Comments**

I was born in Ft. Ord way back in March 1975. My dad was stationed there, we moved to Ft. Reily in Kansas of 1979 and I haven't been to Ft. Ord ever since. I am now living in San Francisco after being in Tacoma, WA for 20 years. I plan on visiting of what is left of the old Ft. Ord.

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**Date:**

22 Apr 2004

**Time:**

16:30:42

## Name or Email

djmcfee@ameriflight.com

## Comments

Heading back to Ft. Ord, week of May 17th 04, for the first time in 37 years. Mixed feelings about seeing the place again after all this time. After reading some of the posts on this site, and the condition of the fort, it sounds like it could be a sad reunion, but I'm looking forward to the fond memories of a time that played such an important part of my life. I took basic (H-1-1), and AIT there starting in Mar 66, then off to Germany for 2 years, then off to VN 68 - 69 with the 1st Inf. Div. then as luck would have it, back to Ft. Ord for my last year as a DI with D-2-3 69 - 70. Looking back now at the Basic Training yearbooks, pictures, and remembering all the good times and bad times, and being somewhat older now, its amazing, how much those days mean to me after all these years. If anyone has been back there lately, can you tell me how hard it is to find the barracks up on the hill you took basic in. Any maps, signs ect? Can you get into any of them? I would guess not, which is too bad. Anyway looking forward to the trip, wife and I are flying into Oakland, and renting a Thunderbird, packed up my 60's tapes, and heading out to Half Moon Bay then down Hwy 1 to Santa Cruz south. Talk about memory lane !

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### Date:

22 Apr 2004

### Time:

20:02:49

## Name or Email

vallegrandeconstructionco@msn.com

## Comments

djmcfee, Please come back and give us a report on your pilgrimage to Fort Ord. I was a trainee in the D-2-3 barracks during the summer of 1970. I have also been getting a powerful urge to return to the place that started me on the road to becoming a man.

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### Date:

24 Apr 2004

**Time:**

16:23:02

**Name or Email**

eugeniocossio@hotmail.com

**Comments**

Memories of good and bad times but unforgettable experience. Stayed basic trng and the rest of my service time with an additional six months during the Berlin wall episode, my last assgt AG Adjutant General Officers Branch G2 SP4 Personnel. Attended Monterey Peninsula Colege Army language school. Dick Wrathall, Jerry Owens, Morley Longmore, Donald Moats, Henry Brown are you out there? would like to hear from you. My last CO Col Love great human being. my thanks for the site.

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**Date:**

26 Apr 2004

**Time:**

08:26:30

**Name or Email**

woolums@flash.net

**Comments**

Enjoyed the site, it brought back a lot of memories, I noticed you don't have any pics from 1961, I was in B-7-3 Oct-Dec 1961, I have a pic of the 4th Plt. that I was in back then and also listed all the names on the back, if you are interested in a copy give me an E mail address and I will scan and send. It seems the 4th plt was made up for a large part of draftees and most of them were from Modesto Calif, I think they drafted the whole senior class that year. James Woolums

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**Date:**

27 Apr 2004

**Time:**

07:16:17

## Name or Email

Robbie Parks

## Comments

These pictures on this site bring back such wonderful memories of a time gone by. I was at Ft. Ord from 1980 to 1983 when my husband was stationed there. I hated to learn of its closing. However, this site keeps it alive. Keep up the good work.

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### Date:

28 Apr 2004

### Time:

17:41:04

## Name or Email

Dave Gentry, gentry4176@netscape.net

## Comments

Date: February 1967 I had just finished my BASIC at Fort Lewis, WA. Depending on the job vocation you had selected, or had selected for you, would determine which U.S. Army Post (Fort) you would be sent to next. If you were going to be a Finance Clerk, you would have gone to Fort Benjamin Harrison. If you were going to be a supply clerk (quartermaster) you would have been sent to Fort Lee, Virginia. I was going to be a Personnel clerk, so Fort Ord, California was my destination. I arrived there in February 1967 and went through six weeks of training that taught me the skills I needed to become a Personnel clerk. You were still in training, so you could not go home on week-ends, even if you lived right outside the Fort. But you did have a little more freedom to move around the Post at leisure, once your work day was done. I remember we still had regular inspections so you had to scrub the barracks and make sure your army cot and lockers were in excellent shape. Unfortunately, Spinal Meningitis was plaguing the fort and some soldiers died from the disease. They wouldn't allow anyone from one barracks to visit another barracks, in case the soldier was a carrier of the disease. I remember we had a celebrity living in a barracks a couple buildings over. His name was Gary Lewis, the son of Jerry Lewis, the movie star. Gary Lewis had also had his own Rock band called 'Gary Lewis & The Playboys'. I know, because I owned (still do) several of his LP albums and 45rpm singles. I remember how the U.S. Army post, got all in a dither, when his famous dad (Jerry Lewis) came to the graduation ceremony, when his son (Gary) was graduating from AIT (Advanced Individual Training). The army post (Fort Ord) had three movie theaters where you could go see a movie for a mere 35 cents. So I went to the

movies as often as I could because we didn't have TV's in the barracks and there were not a lot of options for entertaining yourself. They did have a library on post, an also a Day-Room in each company area, which contained the TV. Date: March 1967 AIT (Advanced Individual Training) lasted eight weeks, and during the first four weeks everyone took the same classes and learned the same clerical skills. Then each soldier's specialty would be selected, and for the next four weeks, they would be sent to various military Forts, to train as Finance clerks, Postal clerks or Personnel Clerks. The specialty I was selected for, was Personnel Clerk, and the training was at Fort Ord, I didn't get shipped to Fort Benjamin Harrison, where the Finance clerks would receive the final four weeks of their training. Date: April 1967 I graduated from A.I.T. in April 1967, and because I had been in the U.S. Army four months now, I automatically got promoted to Private (E-2) which means my monthly salary went from \$89 to \$101 per month. Back in 1967, there was no rank insignia for a Private (E-1) or a Private (E-2). You had to make Private First Class (E-3) before you got the single Chevron, sewed on the sleeve of your uniforms. On April 18th, I wrote in a letter home that I was still waiting for my reassignment orders, and was part of the hold over group, of classmates, still waiting to find out what U.S. Army Fort they would be shipped next. Later that week, I got my new orders which stated my next assignment would be at Fort Lee, Virginia. I got a couple weeks off for vacation before I boarded a jet for Virginia. From Fort Lee, Virginia, I would next be station at Calrk Air Base, in the Phuillippines, then from there I would be stationed in Long Bien, Vietnam. Date: February 1969 When my tour of duty in Vietnam eneded, I was once again stationed at Fort Ord, where I completed my three year hitch in the U.S.Army. I will always remember the name of that military installation, Travis Air Force Base, because it was the base where all the soldiers returning from Vietnam, first touched down on American soil, after departing the war torn country of South Vietnam. I remember the entire body of passengers on the plane when ballistic, with yells and screams of joy when those jet wheels hit the tarmac in California. That was in the Winter of 1968, and although we did have a short stop over in Hawaii, it was the continental U.S. that we considered our homeland When I returned from Vietnam, in February 1969, I purchased my 1st new vehicle, a 1969 Volkswagen Beetle, which cost me \$2,069 and set me back \$58 a month in payments. That may not sound like much, but when your are a Specialist-5 (SP5), earning about \$300 a month, that represents 1/5 of your paycheck. During the last ten months of my three year enlistment, I was stationed at Fort Ord. I would drive home every week-end, and often give several of my fellow soldiers a ride as well. I remember one fellow lived in Danville, and the other fellow lived in Concord, which was where I called home at that time. I was discharged in December 1969 and I remmebr my 1st visit to a McDonalds, was in Carmel, a town that was just down the road, from the military post. Clint Eastwood would later become the mayor or this small hamlet. I also recall he starred in a movie titled 'Play Misty For Me' where his chacater was a DJ at the local radio station in Carmel. Actress Jessica Walters played the Psycro who was stalking him.

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**Date:**

28 Apr 2004

**Time:**

19:53:21

## Name or Email

patrickvetrone2@comcast.net

## Comments

Great site! I am one of the many army brats that were here and its nice to see one of my favorite places that I lived at. I lived there between 1987 and 1991 on 6th Army Ave in Stilwell park. To Lsmith3588@aol.com-- As far as I know, the commissary was on the left, if standing in front of the PX doors.. down the far end towards the "four seasons", there was a road that went to the parking lot connecting the two, if memory serves me.

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### Date:

29 Apr 2004

### Time:

09:25:07

## Name or Email

SMASH\_ER@HOTMAIL.COM CPL.HARRELL

## Comments

LOOKING FOR C-4/17 YRS. OF 1984-1988 BUFFALO

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### Date:

29 Apr 2004

### Time:

12:35:36

## Name or Email

BMANN@BRASFIELDGORRIE.COM

## Comments

Basic Training @ B-5-1 in March and April 1971. We were in the new dorm style barracks across from the new Hospital. I would very much enjoy hearing from some others who were in my company. Thank You for this web site. It brought back many memories and fond times, like cleaning an M-16 in an April sandstorm. Thanks for the memories. J. B. Mann Georgia

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**Date:**

29 Apr 2004

**Time:**

14:33:18

**Name or Email**

TIPCOM1@copper.net

**Comments**

I am from Okla. and went through Basic Training and A.I.T. at Ft. Ord in the summer of 1976. It breaks my heart at what has happened to this wonderful place. I am coming up to Sacramento to visit a friend in about 3 weeks and was wondering if anyone could tell me if I can access the base to reminisce a little. I know much of it is gone but this is probably the last chance I'll have to see this wonderful part of my past. If anyone can give me any info on how to get to some of the old area's (Basic Training, Stilwell Hall, etc.) please let me know. Thanks, Richard M. Tippit

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**Date:**

29 Apr 2004

**Time:**

23:50:23

**Name or Email**

Dennis Jeter jeter0000@cox.net

**Comments**

Basic Training August thru Sept 1963 B-3-1 Returned in Jan 1965 to CDCEC 5/9 Cav. Would like to contact anyone who served at Ft.Ord during those times.

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**Date:**

30 Apr 2004

**Time:**

12:44:33

**Name or Email**

David Cabral

**Comments**

I began my military career in 1984. My first duty station after basic was Ft. Ord (7th ID light). Looking back it was my best duty station and one of the best units I have ever served with.

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**Date:**

30 Apr 2004

**Time:**

13:48:17

**Name or Email**

rickbix@cox.net

**Comments**

hi, was stationed at Ft. Ord for basic training in 1973, was sent to Ft. Gordon for AIT, returned to Ft. Ord USACC, Telephone and Cable Maintainace. I think I have some old photos, if you would be interested. I remember the place with fondness. My daughter was born there. Rick Bixler

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**Date:**

30 Apr 2004

**Time:**

18:04:57

**Name or Email**

buddame@hotmail.com

## Comments

Had basic training and A.I.T. from April 1970 thru October of the same year. Would love to hear from anyone who might have been there during that time. Sorry to hear that Ft. Ord is no longer. Great place to do basic duty.

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