

Fort Ord Guestbook

May 2004

Date:
03 May 2004

Time:
00:26:08

Name or Email

wayne1@iwvisp.com

Comments

Basic training Apr-June 1964. Unit B-4-3 in the new barracks on the hill near Gigling Road. I was there today looking at the boarded up barracks and it brought back a lot of memories.

Date:
03 May 2004

Time:
01:52:30

Name or Email

onesnakey@softcom.net

Comments

I took basic at Fort Ord in 1949 and spent many hours at the Soldiers club. It is so sad to see such a beautiful building destroyed. Over my military career, I spent 11 years at Ord. Each time I returned from over seas assignments, I requested Fort Ord and was lucky enough to get it. I retired there in 1969 and now live in Stockton. I go back for a sentimental visit about twice a year, and each time it becomes harder to see all the buildings rotting away. 1sg David M. Williams

Date:

03 May 2004

Time:

02:47:57

Name or Email

onesnakey@softcom.net

Comments

This is my second entry. After reading some of the entries, I saw a name who was in B-1-1 in 1969. I was first sergeant of B-1-1 when I retired in Dec. His name was Rudolph Estrada. I have some training books of several cycles during that time and I found a Ruben Estrada. Could you be the same?

Date:

03 May 2004

Time:

03:00:45

Name or Email

rudolph@estradagy.com

Comments

Greetings, my name is Rudolph (Rudy) Estrada and I went through basic training (B-1-1) from February to April 1969 at Fort Ord. I am currently a Professor with the California State University system and have cause to visit the California State University Monterey Bay campus frequently (Fort Ord). I was just there on Saturday, May 1, and have the follwing information to report. The face of the old fort is quickly changing. For those of you who have not been there since your last assignement might find it difficult to find your way around. Old wooden barricks are giving way to new student housing and much of what you remember has now taken on a different a appearance. If you recall, when entering Fort Ord from Highway 1, just one block north on the main street was the old Doughboy Theater, the PX, the bowling alley and the Grayhoud bus depot. Only part of the Old Doughboy Theater still stands. A street widening project has taken away all the buildings and barricks on both sides of the main drag.

Proceeding north on the main street eventually took you past the clothing issue warehouses (they are still standing) to the Stillwell Hall Bridge. The bridge is still there but the Hall has been demolished and all that exists is an empty lot looking out the the blue pacific. With all the construction and street widening projects, many of the old streets have baracades preventing ready access to old sites. Quite frankly, I merely moved many of the "traffic cones" to gain access and went about my business. It appeared that construction crews didn't mind as long as you did not interfere with their activities. I ran across several other former veterans about my age (56) in search of souvinirs. Anything that held memories (pieces of their old barricks, old barrick signs, doorknobs, cigarette butt cans, and just anything that held a memory), but I suspect that this is not something that the powers that be would support. There is a section of old barricks where we went through AIT (Infantry and Administration) that still stand. I convinced my wife to go through many of the old structures with me, but she could obviously not relate to the old memories and feelings that these old buildings recalled for me. I visited the new (but old) cement barricks up on the hill where I did basic training (B-1-1) and was pleasantly surprised to see that my old building was still in tack. In fact, it appears that years ago they converted many of these buildings to individual housing units. I was able to go up to the second floor where I resided during BCT and was immediately flooded with memories, both good and bad. I casually walked down the same cement stair case where I once ran down hoping not to be the last soldier when we were called out by the DI's to join formation on the street. I would strongly encourage any of you who would like to see what remains of Fort Ord to do so ASAP. According to university administration there are aggressive plans to convert much of what exists to university standards. We also drove up to the PT fields up on the hill and much of that has now been converted to off-road bicycling. I was tempted to drive my loaner car through one of the roads leading to Mudd Lake where we bivouaced, but my wife would have no part of it. I was told that much of the open terrain still may have live ordinance on it. There appears to be a small component of military still operating on the base (Language and Intelligence Units) but for the most part there is little to no evidence of any military presence. As I completed my visit there, and as always, I slowly walked between the old barricks and couldn't help to feel a little melancholy. I thought of all the poor young souls who left Fort Ord to Viet Nam and never saw stateside again. I visualized all the memories that existed in the 60's, especially basic training platoons jogging to cadence and being led down the streets by their DI's. Something seems to call me back each time I visit Ord, I seem to be searching for something I lost or someone who might be able to identify to the music of the sixties and someone who appreciates the same era and wants to talk about it. In closing, once again, thanks to Mr. Swann who maintains this site and I will send him over some recent photos and see if he wishes to post them. Good luck to you all.

Date:

03 May 2004

Time:

07:08:13

Name or Email

CRUZIN4DAVE@AOL.COM

Comments

I was stationed at Ft Ord,from nov. 1971 to sept. 1972. I was in AIT for truck driving. Later I was attached to 301 Transportation,before being transferred to South Korea.

Date:

04 May 2004

Time:

00:17:17

Name or Email

onesnakey@softcom.net

Comments

Some of you will remember the simulated Atomic Bomb that was detonated at 11am and 4pm whenever there was a Counter Gorilla class. Sgt Philip D. Jernigan and I, SSg David M Williams made the first Simulated A Bomb and detonated it in the middle 50ies,around 1957 I believe. We continued making the bomb until around June 1964, when it was moved to another class. I went to Viet Nam in 1964, and Germany in 1966. I returned to Fort in 1968 and was assigned to B-1-1 as First Sergeant. I retired in Dec. 1969

Date:

05 May 2004

Time:

22:36:10

Name or Email

Chuck

Comments

14th Engr Bn 1980-1982 A Co and B Co

Date:

06 May 2004

Time:

02:56:34

Name or Email

vbjhl@sbcglobal.net

Comments

Had basic and ait in fort ord. H-4-3 3rd platoon, Harold Moore was in charge of the of ft.ord back in October of 1971. These were some of my drill sergeants,Staff Sgt Goavea, Sgt Dietrict,

Date:

06 May 2004

Time:

14:06:10

Name or Email

ahill@asdd.com

Comments

I was stationed at Ft. Ord from May 1990 to August 1991. The time I spent there is well remembered. The Area was great and I really enjoyed my time there. B Co. 127th Sig Bn. Allan Hill (Mobile,Al.)

Date:

06 May 2004

Time:

15:00:11

Name or Email

Wendy Taylor(Used to be Warren) E- mail is country_gurl_24@yahoo.com

Comments

I have enjoyed looking at the pictures of Fort Ord. My dad was stationed there from 84-87, after we left there he was stationed in Tacoma, Washington. I am looking for pictures of the old street we used to live on and the schools around there cant remember which one i attended. I know we lived on Bataan Rd. and the Elementary school was up the street from there. So anyone with any information on it pleas feel free to send me an e-mail, or any more sites with pictures of the Old Fort Ord. My dads name was Donald J. Warren if not mistaking he was an E-6 when we lived there. If anyone remembers him and wants get in touch with him. E-mail me and i will let him know. Once again i have enjoyed the pic's and thanks for giving all of us a chance to enjoy them.

Date:

07 May 2004

Time:

13:10:03

Name or Email

rfaircloth@sc.rr.com

Comments

I just came back from vacation in California and i had the chance to drive into Ft. Ord. I was looking for my old BCT Barracks on the hill. We were H11, Headquarters Company 1st battalion 1st Brigade and I was a squad leader in the first platoon along with Tim Porter, James Casteel, Steve Stonebreaker and I believe an fellow with the last name of St.Clair? Our Platoon guide was Robert Samply. Our DI's were Drill Sgt. Meyes and Drill Sgt Tera I think I was at Ord in BCT from Sep 18, 1972 until Nov 22, 1972 I have lost all contact with everyone since Vietnam. This is a great site so if any of you guys that was in H11 contact me by e-mail rfaircolth@sc.rr.com

Date:

07 May 2004

Time:

13:13:25

Name or Email

rfaircloth@sc.rr.com

Comments

I just came back from vacation in California and i had the chance to drive into Ft. Ord. I was looking for my old BCT Barracks on the hill. We were H11, Headquarters Company 1st battalion 1st Brigade and I was a squad leader in the first platoon along with Tim Porter, James Casteel, Steve Stonebreaker and I believe a fellow with the last name of St.Clair? Our Platoon guide was Robert Samply. Our DI's were Drill Sgt. Meyes and Drill Sgt Tera I think, I was at Ord in BCT from Sep 18, 1972 until Nov 22, 1972 I have lost all contact with everyone since Vietnam. This is a great site so if any of you guys that was in H11 contact me by e-mail rfaircolth@sc.rr.com

Date:

07 May 2004

Time:

13:54:48

Name or Email

rj@vineripe.com

Comments

I was the last group drafted in 1972, and was stationed at Fort Ord from Jan. 1972 until October 1972 when I was then transferred to Germany until my discharge in Jan. 1974. Because I could type 10 WPM, I bypassed AIT, and became the Company Clerk in the same unit, D-2-1, that I had Basic Training. What an experience to have communication and to get to know personally the same DI's that were screaming at me just weeks before; truly amazing. As a "draftee" I really had no desire to be in the military, but every dark cloud has a silver lining, and my time at Fort Ord, and the general Monterey area, holds many fond memories for me.

Date:

07 May 2004

Time:

17:44:42

Name or Email

KB7JVN@MSN.COM

Comments

i WAS STATIONED AT FORT ORD BASIC JUNE 1965 FOR 8 WEEKS. MY DRILL SGT WAS SGT STRANGE AND WE WERE KNOWN AS "A-3-1", BY THE WATER TOWER . WE COULDN'T GO OFF POST BECAUSE OF SPINAL MENINGITIS. . BASIC HELPED ME GROW UP A LOT AND TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MY OWN ACTIONS. PAUL JOHNSON

Date:

07 May 2004

Time:

17:45:39

Name or Email

Comments

Date:

12 May 2004

Time:

13:52:05

Name or Email

J.D. Wright jdwrighton@aol.com

Comments

Thanks for doing this. As a former member of 4th Platoon, A Company, 2d Bn., 3 BCT Brigade "The Best Damn Company on Post", my memories of Fort Ord are a mix of good and bad. The worst being a

dying cockroach and the best was learning to be part of something bigger than me. I was there January through April, 1975, but Fort Ord will be with me until I move on to whatever happens next. I'm now disabled and money is extremely--well, you don't want to hear my problems. But thank you for doing this.

Date:

12 May 2004

Time:

15:26:32

Name or Email

mike82@access4less.net

Comments

Drill sergeant from 68 to 69 basic training A-1-3

Date:

15 May 2004

Time:

21:35:45

Name or Email

Jeff Hill shadowweaver151@yahoo.com

Comments

Great site was stationed at ft Ord 87-89 with the 8th Evac Hospital.

Date:

16 May 2004

Time:

18:08:42

Name or Email

sunswept@verizon.net

Comments

I lived in Fort Ord for 61-64. My dad, SGT John F. Potris was stationed...I loved Fort Ord and all the people I had met, such as the Picards, the Cornwells, the McKinneys. I lived on Brittney road and have wonderful memories of watching the ice plants grow and watching the men parachute, what seemed to be in my backyard..... Would love to hear from my childhood friends.... Maureen (Ena) Potris-gardiner

Date:

16 May 2004

Time:

21:08:49

Name or Email

Crimmin40@yahoo.com

Comments

Hi! I was drafted 22 Sept. 60 and had my Basic at Fort Ord 3 Oct 1960 to 26 Nov 1960. Was in HQ & HQ Co. 7th Battle Group 3rd Brigade. Comanding General was Brig. Gen. Stanley R. Larsen--Brigade Commander Col. Shields Warren Jr.--Battle Group Commander Lt.Col. Fredrick R. Gehring--Company Commander Capt. William J. William--1st Sgt James Light--SDI M/Sgt. H.E.Malone--And C.Co.SFC B. H.Smith + 244 Boys soon to be men.Thanks Bill Spoonemore

Date:

17 May 2004

Time:

18:41:57

Name or Email

philip.barry@arspace.army.mil

Comments

My brother, Pfc Warren A. Barry was outprocessed at Fort Ord between 1970-71. He is now deceased. Are there any records or photographs of my brother that I can obtain or view. I have his unit information somewhere. Thanks. Sgt Barry, SMDC/ARSTRAT, Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs

Date:

18 May 2004

Time:

14:46:02

Name or Email

Brandi0000@sbcglobal.net

Comments

I am trying to locate my father Tommy Smutzer. He was stationed at Ford Ord in 1969 or 1970. Any info on him would be greatly appreciated, I am 32 years old and just found this out now. It is hard to find info without a date of birth and I was only given a small amount of info on him. Thank you for any tips you may have or can remeber. Brandi

Date:

20 May 2004

Time:

17:08:49

Name or Email

fishbach64@yahoo.com

Comments

I was station at Fort Ord Form July 1975 to July 1978. I was a RTO for CO A 2/31st INF BN . In 1977 I was in CO A USAG Fort Ord. Hope to hear from anyone who I was station with at tis time . My prays have always with the ones I serve and train with. May God be with all. SP4 Gaylon Lewis

Date:

20 May 2004

Time:

17:10:03

Name or Email

fishbach64@yahoo.com

Comments

I was station at Fort Ord Form July 1975 to July 1978. I was a RTO for CO A 2/31st INF BN . In 1977 I was in CO A USAG Fort Ord. Hope to hear from anyone who I was station with at this time . My prays have always been with the ones I serve and train with. May God be with all. SP4 Gaylon Lewis

Date:

20 May 2004

Time:

19:57:58

Name or Email

mikelaughlin@theunion.net

Comments

Thanks for this interesting site. I arrived at Ord in the spring of 1970 after winter basic training at Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri. After that experience, I thought Ft Ord was paradise. Did AIT and was then sent to shake and bake school at Ft Benning; then back to Ord for a while before being sent to Vietnam. Will never forget walking down Alvarado street in Monterrey with a 2nd Lt friend. We decided to stop for a movie. Turned out to be the classic black comedy "Mash" which had tremendous effect on us at the time. Sure wish I could remember that Lt's name. Went back to the old base recently and found my old barracks and company areas. They are in tremendous disrepair and won't last long. Almost 35 years have passed but standing on those narrow streets among those old barrack buildings brought back much tremendous feelings. Good, bad, or otherwise; military service seems to imprint and remain forever. Hello to everyone from old Ft Ord!

Date:

20 May 2004

Time:

22:27:54

Name or Email

jmhayes5431@prodigy.net

Comments

My dauther just pull up your web site and seen some basaic training pictures and she call to tell I was in one of them but she was wrong.I will get back on here tomorrow hope to hear from you

Date:

20 May 2004

Time:

23:26:17

Name or Email

patcongomez2@wmconnect.com

Comments

I was born in 1958 the at fort ord hospital, we lived on the baseat 47 E Ord Ave, Ord Village, Fort Ord. My dad was Patrick Conroy he was in the 33 Transport unit. I would like to see picture or to here from anybody the knew him thank you Patty Ann Conroy Gomez

Date:

20 May 2004

Time:

23:27:59

Name or Email

Comments

Date:

21 May 2004

Time:

01:04:09

Name or Email

derugin@aol.com

Comments

Any ideas where I can look for or find a Basic Training yearbook from 1970? Thanks for the help.

Date:

21 May 2004

Time:

16:42:45

Name or Email

Don Monroe <dmonroe@howard.edu>

Comments

Greetings, Just stumbled on this site. I went through BCT at Fort Ord in 1975. I'll send the photo and a contribution shortly. Who remembers Drill Sgts Graham and Lester? Thanks, Don Monroe

Date:

21 May 2004

Time:

17:39:17

Name or Email

Larry Vellema -ahistorybuff@hotmail.com

Comments

I enjoyed the website very much. As another troop who did basic at Ord, I can certainly relate to everything in the website. I was able to go back for a visit recently after many yrs. What a change. My old area has been torn down, as well as a lot of the base. I was wondering if anyone knows the history of the east garrison section. All I know, is that it's where the base original base was. Would like to hear from someone out there if they have any history of that section. Larry

Date:

21 May 2004

Time:

22:50:12

Name or Email

gypcees gypcees2@charter.net

Comments

My Father was stationed at Ft. Ord, from 1957-1959. I went to Monterey High. My friends & I used to go roller skating at the soldiers club. We lived in the Housing Area just off Giggling Gate Road... Always an Army Brat...

Date:

21 May 2004

Time:

23:23:48

Name or Email

canon1a@bellatlantic.net

Comments

I am doing genealogical research for a friend who's gggrandfather was named Silas B. Hays. I understand the hospital at Fort Ord was named Silas B. Hays and was wondering how it got it's name. Anyone know?

Date:

23 May 2004

Time:

10:43:04

Name or Email

Dr. Dan Hatton, Col, USA MSC (ret)

Comments

I wrote a couple of years ago (attended basic in 1964). Went back on AD in '74 and retired in '98 (total service of 30 years). Now a government appointed official in Orange County. Your site just keeps getting better. I have a recommendation that might greatly facilitate people making contact with each other if they want to do that! You might want to add a link to each Basic Training year. People could click on that. Then there would be a listing by Last name, first, name, basic course attended, and email address (or other info) for each person. That would be much easier than having to go through all of the email to see if there is anyone a person knows and wants to contact. Just a thought.dr dan

Date:

23 May 2004

Time:

14:08:08

Name or Email

dhiett@ncinternet.net

Comments

I posted some time ago. Spent BCT and AIT at Fort Ord, October '59 thru April '60. Rotated to Germany and was discharged October '61. Enjoy this site and have donated. Good hearing from all of you that have served. Give our best to our boys in Iraq. ---Don Hiatt

Date:

24 May 2004

Time:

15:28:40

Name or Email

Dale Swangel 2timoc@verizon.net

Comments

Nice site, Lots of good times. Will have to get the old stuff out of storage and send in some pic's...now thats going to take some time. Automatic Light

Date:

24 May 2004

Time:

23:17:56

Name or Email

McCloed111@dslextreme.com

Comments

Anyone that was in D-2-3 for BCT from January of 1970 to March please drop a line, any platoon- I'm just curious to see who is still around and surfing the web. Thanks, Chris Lund 3rd Platoon.

Date:

25 May 2004

Time:

18:45:12

Name or Email

djmcfee@ameriflight.com

Comments

Well, we just got back from a walk down memory lane at Ft. Ord after 34 years. What a wake up call driving around there now. Monterey, Seaside, Carmel they have all grown beyond recognition, except for the warf, and things like that. Funny though, how driving through the main gate off of Hwy 1 things start coming back to you. It took me about 5 minutes up on the hill to find D-2-3, and then it all started coming back. Probably the most noticable thing that stands out right away are the trees around the BCT buildings, their huge, and I didn't remember that many. Went back and looked at old photos and I was right, there wasn't hardly any. Found the same to be true in and around the old wood barracks down below. The trees have follen down all over the place, you can't even drive up some of the streets. Some of the streets between the buildings have more grass and weeds growing up than visible concrete. What a sad sight, I remember when there wasn't even so much as a blade of grass out of place on the whole base. Family housing areas are a ghost town, and the reception areas are still there, but very run down as one would expect after all this time. We were able to get into many of the old wood barracks down below, and a few of the BCT buildings up on the hill. D-2-3 was one of the barracks right next to the parade ground. Standing there looking out at the still standing review stand, and the parade ground, it was fun to remember graduation days, and all the men marching by in review. Inside the few barracks we went into on the hill was not what I had expected, walking through the building it looks like looters have been in there, and ransaked the place, there was furnature, mattresses, all kinds of crap just thrown all over the place. I was also surprised that the platoon bays are gone. They have extended the hallways at both ends and have added individual rooms on both sides. I was looking forward to seeing some of those murals on the walls at the end of the bays, but no such luck. As I was walking around, I ran into a few guys doing the same thing I was doing, looking for their buildings, we talked and remembered for almost an hour. Seems there are a lot of guys doing the same thing specially on the weekends. One of the guys came all the way from Texas, the other Montana, all looking to revisit a very memorable time of our lives. All in all I am very glad I went back, even though it was sad in many ways, it was fun to just sit, look, and reminisce, one minute it seems like a million years ago, the next 34 years ago, and the next.....yesterday. If anyone is even thinking about going back, I would highly recommend it, but don't wait to long, they are slowly taking it all apart. I have many pictures, if anyone is interested, I would be happy to share them with you, just email me, and if I can be of any help, please let me know. Take care all, hope I didn't ramble on too much. Dan McFee H-1-1 66, D-2-3 69,70

Date:

26 May 2004

Time:

16:11:36

Name or Email

Leonard Reed

Comments

Last basic training class from Ord in 1976. H-6-3.

Date:

26 May 2004

Time:

16:21:18

Name or Email

gizmo1@cox-internet.com

Comments

Leonard Reed, I remember Drill Sgt Graham from 1976 H-6-3.

Date:

26 May 2004

Time:

18:15:26

Name or Email

chrisban35@adelphia.net

Comments

"Once a Lightfighter, ALWAYS a lightfighter"!!!! WHOOOOAAA!!!! I was there from 1987-1990.

The best memories I have was running the beach early in the morning. :) I certainly wish I could track down some of my old buddies while I was stationed there. I was in Bravo Company 590th S&T Battallion and have GREAT memories of my duty there. Chris Banzet

Date:

27 May 2004

Time:

11:46:32

Name or Email

Dospasosfarm@yahoo.com

Comments

8th Evac 1990-92 Please email me if you were their.

Date:

27 May 2004

Time:

22:53:58

Name or Email

trjtanner@juno.com

Comments

Don't know how many fella's will still be around to appreciate this, but I had a cousin who was one of the first "hostesses" the army brought into Fort Ord back in 1941. I was hoping that perhaps someone might be able to fill me in on what these ladies did. Please, keep it clean... I am a relative and a history buff. I just discovered an old suitcase filled with newspaper articles and military memorabilia - inherited since my mother's death. The April 12, 1941 "Monterey Penninsula Herald" article says, "Hotesees Bring Glamour to Fort Ord". The ladies made their formal call on Major General Joseph W. Stilwell, commander of the base. My cousin, Miss Lucille McDonald, went on to serve with the American Red Cross in Korea. Thanks for this website. I will do my best to contribute and help you keep this going.

Date:

31 May 2004

Time:

17:10:58

Name or Email

David M. Watson sales@watsonswildlife.com

Comments

My father (Walter E. Watson) Enlisted in the Cavalry in 1941, training at Fort Riley, Kansas. Was a member of 2nd Cavalry Regiment . Served with 9th Armored Division 776th Amphibious Tank Battalion. Trained at Fort Ord, California. Served in Phillipines, Leyte, Angaur, Peleliu, Okinawa and Ryukyus campaigns. I would really appreciate any emails with info on his battalion as he never spoke much of the war, just all the good stuff. Thanks David Watson sales@watsonswildlife.com