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"Respect All Fear None!"

Visit the class website at: <http://sites.google.com/site/mioocsclass52/home>

Of journey's ended with new adventures beginning,

I wanted to write and say my final goodbyes to the TACS and OC Candidates. It was a privilege getting to know each of you personally. I look forward to our paths crossing at some point in time and getting reacquainted. My journey will be taking me very soon to Iraq. I leave for California next month for some training and will be heading to Iraq in May. My MOS is Carpentry/Masonry which I'm sure they will put to good use over there. This will be my first deployment so I'm not really sure what to expect. I wish you all the best.

Bates

"An army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps, fights as a team.

This individuality stuff is a bunch of bullshit."

- General George Patton Jr

Looking back on it all,

After being PL for February IDT, I must say I learned a lot from the experience. Looking back I have a few things I would like to share with everyone so as a class we can get better. First, I think it is important to note that we are getting better and things are really picking up. We do not have much more time left at Ft. Custer so we must buckle down and get through this and the only way we are going to do this is if we stick together and help each other out. As a class I think we have a real good understanding on what needs to be done from the admin side of being an officer. I don't think anyone one of us has a problem writing an OPORD or a memo. So let's keep up the good work.

OC Pfeiffer

Something's that I noticed that we need to work on, one, making better use of our downtime. We are typically left alone at night and we must utilize this. There is no reason we cannot take this time to go over the next day activities or rehearse our battle drills. Two, we as a class must get better in giving brief backs. This is something that only can improve communication between us and or the TAC's. Three, leadership use your command presence. I must say this is one of my weak spots and I failed you all this past month trust me it won't happen again! The final thing that leadership needs to do is make sure everyone knows what going on. There is no reason why anyone should not have a work plan on them. This will only ensure we are all on the same page.

Looking to the future, OC Lemke as a lot to do this upcoming month and we need to help him out the best we can. So class, prepare the best you possible can for these few remaining drills. The better one is prepared the smoother the weekend will go. Summer is coming quick and we have a lot of work to do.

Each Officer Candidate is reminded that you are responsible for keeping the TAC staff and your class Chain of Command informed of all changes in your life that affect your status in Officer Candidate School.

Of lessons learned,

OC Reitzel

Class,

As outgoing PSG, I would like to pass on some lessons learned. First, learn from the mistakes of others. We do not want to continue to repeat the mistakes of leadership in the past. For example, if there's still snow at next month's drill, the path to the flag pole at the parade field must be cleared.

Second, we need to rehearse these Battle Drills. There just is not enough time to go over these from scratch on our Drill weekends. I think the meeting at OC Rick's house this month is a great idea and hopefully we can agree on our SOPs before drill and eliminate much of the confusion. Also, practice on your own with the sand table kit you should be building. Think through some of the different scenarios so that you won't be thinking about them for the first time at Drill.

Finally, lets keep up the level of motivation we were showing at the end of last drill. This is the intensity we will be expected to show for the remainder of Phase II. If everyone pulls there weight, there shouldn't be any reason why we can't reach intermediate status for next month.

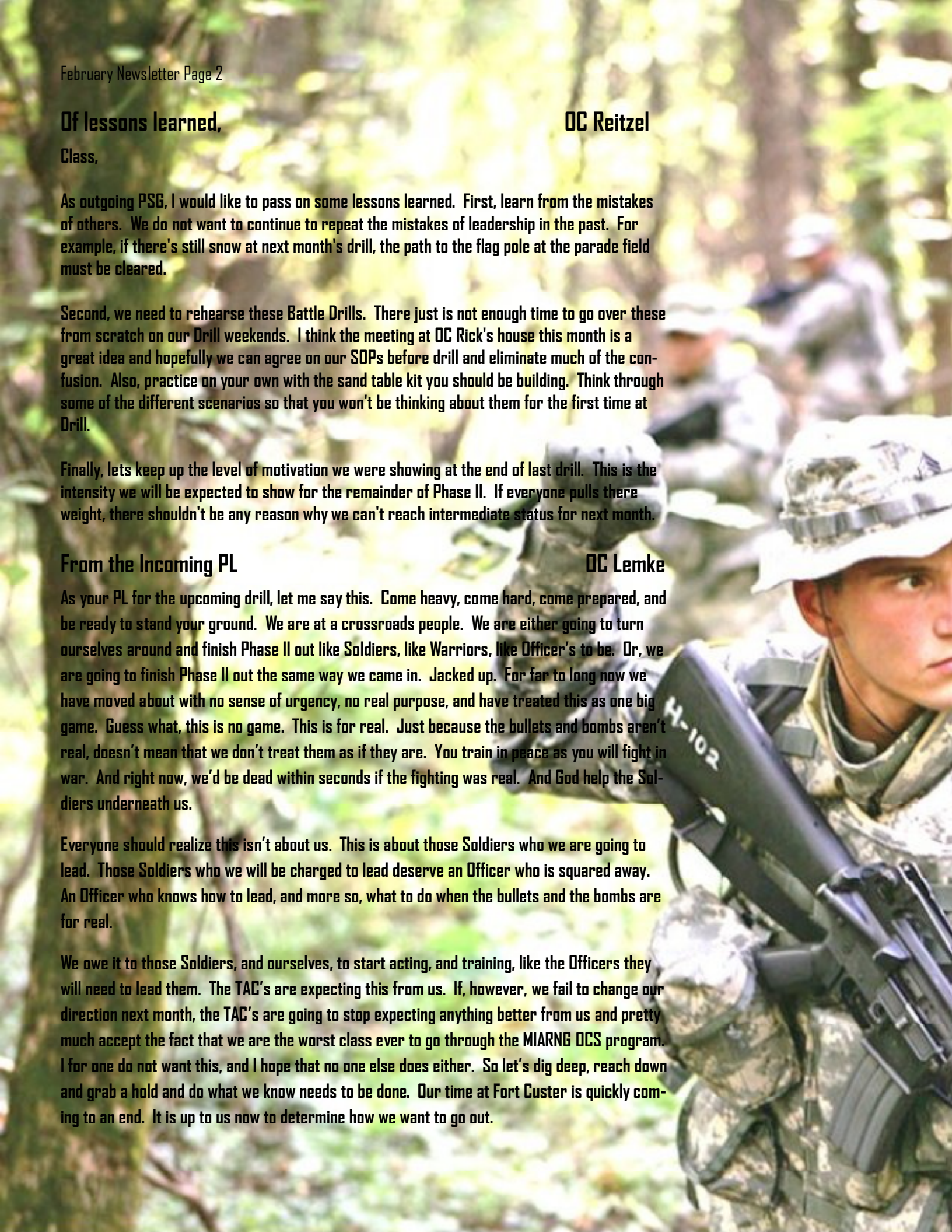
From the Incoming PL

OC Lemke

As your PL for the upcoming drill, let me say this. Come heavy, come hard, come prepared, and be ready to stand your ground. We are at a crossroads people. We are either going to turn ourselves around and finish Phase II out like Soldiers, like Warriors, like Officer's to be. Or, we are going to finish Phase II out the same way we came in. Jacked up. For far to long now we have moved about with no sense of urgency, no real purpose, and have treated this as one big game. Guess what, this is no game. This is for real. Just because the bullets and bombs aren't real, doesn't mean that we don't treat them as if they are. You train in peace as you will fight in war. And right now, we'd be dead within seconds if the fighting was real. And God help the Soldiers underneath us.

Everyone should realize this isn't about us. This is about those Soldiers who we are going to lead. Those Soldiers who we will be charged to lead deserve an Officer who is squared away. An Officer who knows how to lead, and more so, what to do when the bullets and the bombs are for real.

We owe it to those Soldiers, and ourselves, to start acting, and training, like the Officers they will need to lead them. The TAC's are expecting this from us. If, however, we fail to change our direction next month, the TAC's are going to stop expecting anything better from us and pretty much accept the fact that we are the worst class ever to go through the MIARNG OCS program. I for one do not want this, and I hope that no one else does either. So let's dig deep, reach down and grab a hold and do what we know needs to be done. Our time at Fort Custer is quickly coming to an end. It is up to us now to determine how we want to go out.



From the Incoming PSG

DC Davidson

Hello from your incoming PSG. We are expecting great things for March. We will still be adhering to the accountability standards I established for two of our critical tasks; Dress Blues and PT Run Times. Warrior Ethos will be strong this month and will be reinforced by two sessions of warrior PT , Combatives on Saturday and Pugil Sticks on Sunday. We are in the business of killing and lets keep our minds sharply focused on preparation for the same. Thank You,

From the desk of the class VP

DC Schoen

Class 52,

Over the past few months we have grown to quite a close class. I am proud of this accomplishment! It is not that often that a group of complete strangers can be introduced into a stressful environment as OCS and manage not to turn on one another in frustration.

There is only one thing that I wish we could all change. That is our attitude toward the drill weekend. There is no one that looks forward to being yelled at and degraded, yet we need to understand that this type of pressure is what builds character.

I am sure that we all have co-workers that are the type that complains about every aspect of the job or the days work. We might even be that person. I know that I work with a lot of them. While I will agree that not every situation is ideal, I find that the consummate complaining is very distracting. In fact, I have considered many of those that I work with that do nothing but complain as "cancer". I notice that it may take only one person to say how much they disagree with a particular practice or rule to bring the majority of the others down.

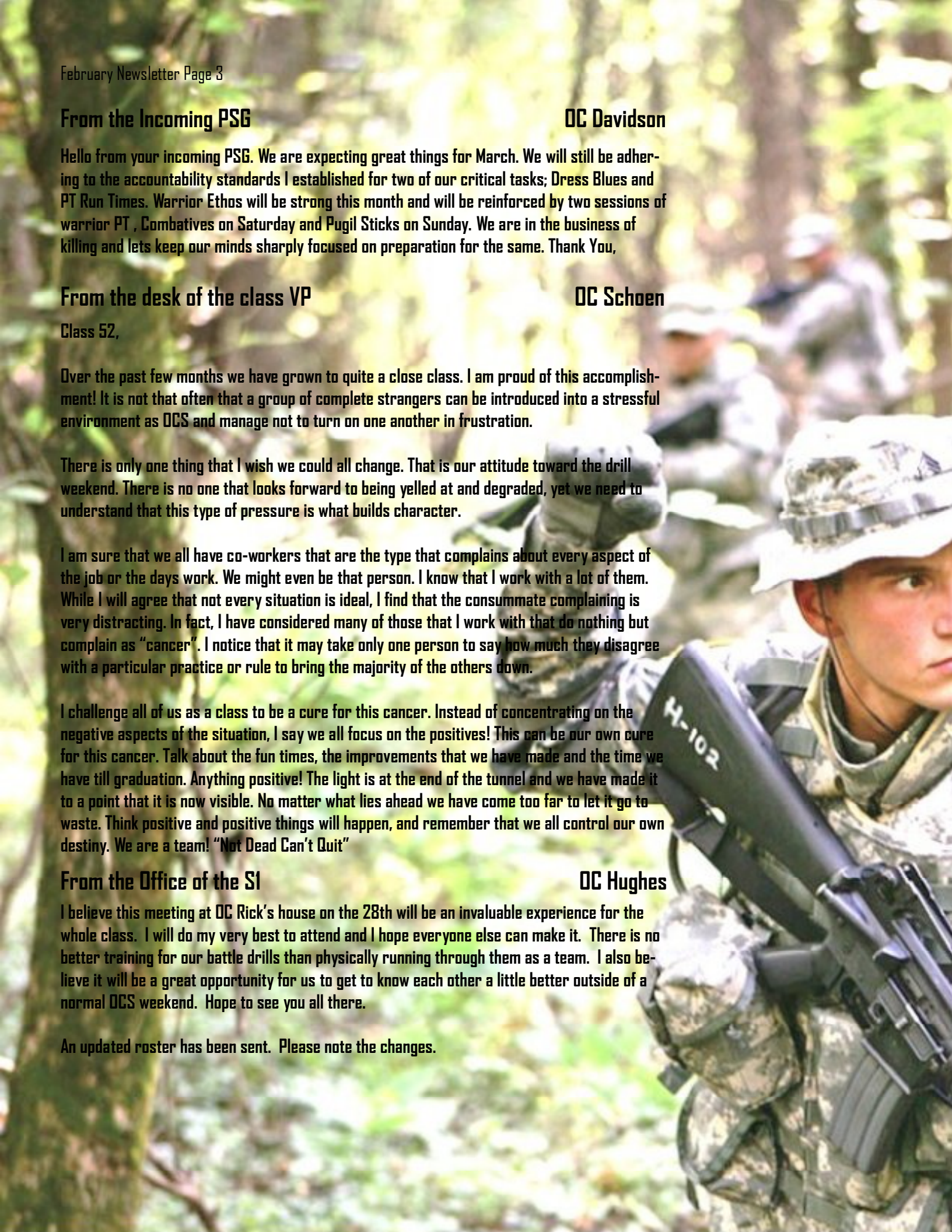
I challenge all of us as a class to be a cure for this cancer. Instead of concentrating on the negative aspects of the situation, I say we all focus on the positives! This can be our own cure for this cancer. Talk about the fun times, the improvements that we have made and the time we have till graduation. Anything positive! The light is at the end of the tunnel and we have made it to a point that it is now visible. No matter what lies ahead we have come too far to let it go to waste. Think positive and positive things will happen, and remember that we all control our own destiny. We are a team! "Not Dead Can't Quit"

From the Office of the S1

DC Hughes

I believe this meeting at DC Rick's house on the 28th will be an invaluable experience for the whole class. I will do my very best to attend and I hope everyone else can make it. There is no better training for our battle drills than physically running through them as a team. I also believe it will be a great opportunity for us to get to know each other a little better outside of a normal OCS weekend. Hope to see you all there.

An updated roster has been sent. Please note the changes.



From the office of the S2

OC Pfeiffer

Looking ahead on the training schedule, we have some marches coming up. As the intelligence officer I'll be planning our route. We all know the terrain of Ft. Custer so be prepared to march up and down some hills. It may be in our best interests to take our rucks home and march a few miles before going into April's IDT. Plus it is also important to note that next drill we will be vacating our barracks, all of our items must be removed, be prepared for this.

From the S3/S4 Shop

OC Burnett

Acta non verba!

I hope this finds everyone well rested and recovered from our last training. I remind everyone that if they have any requests for next training they need to be to me NLT 18FEB2009. I also remind everyone that if they are going to submit a memorandum that it must go through the PL and then he or she will forward it to TAC staff.

Spring is fast approaching and so is the month of March. In the spirit of Spring and March, I would like to remind you of the story of the "Ides of March". The term "Ides of March" is from the Latin origin Idus Martiae, and is the name of the date 15 March in the Roman calendar. During the Roman era, it was a festive day dedicated to the god Mars. Mars was a warrior God and the Romans paid respect on March 15th by holding military parades.

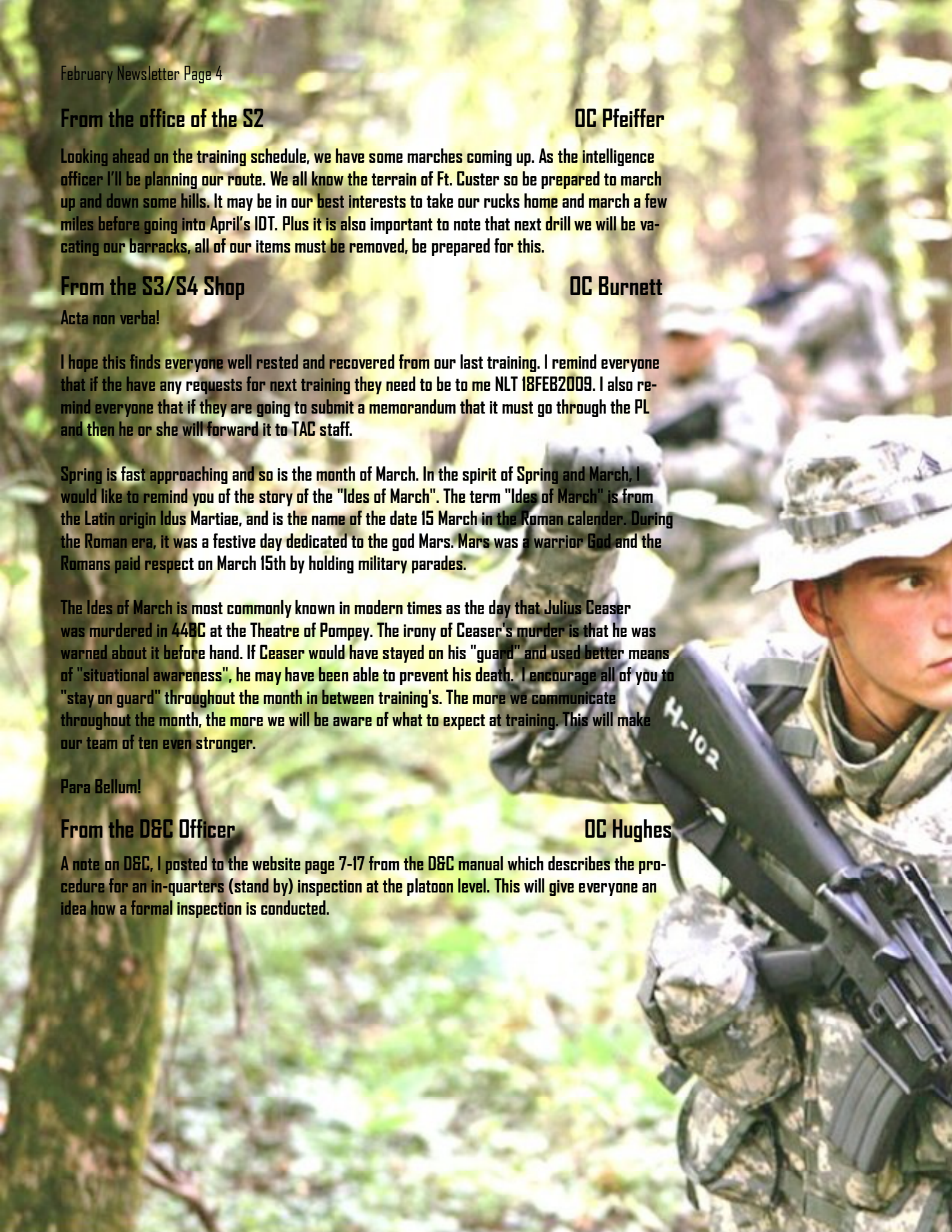
The Ides of March is most commonly known in modern times as the day that Julius Ceaser was murdered in 44BC at the Theatre of Pompey. The irony of Ceaser's murder is that he was warned about it before hand. If Ceaser would have stayed on his "guard" and used better means of "situational awareness", he may have been able to prevent his death. I encourage all of you to "stay on guard" throughout the month in between training's. The more we communicate throughout the month, the more we will be aware of what to expect at training. This will make our team of ten even stronger.

Para Bellum!

From the D&C Officer

OC Hughes

A note on D&C, I posted to the website page 7-17 from the D&C manual which describes the procedure for an in-quarters (stand by) inspection at the platoon level. This will give everyone an idea how a formal inspection is conducted.



History Brief

The Korean War, also known as the Forgotten War 1950-53, was started when North Korean communist troops crossed the 38th parallel into democratic South Korea. They basically invaded by train, and the defending South Korean and U.S. troops were driven to the southernmost point of the peninsula at Pusan. For the U.S. this was the first major conflict they were involved in with the newly formed United Nations. This of course was one of the reasons for the initial failure of U.S. forces because all strategy was being discussed through the U.N. and there was always a Russian General on the council and thus all moves were known. It wasn't until General Douglas MacArthur secretly invaded at Inchon and drove the communists north. The North Korean forces were driven north to the Chosin Reservoir on the Chinese border where they unexpectedly ran into seven well-armed Chinese regiments and were soon surrounded by an enemy who wasn't supposed to be there. Long story short they fought their way back to the 38th parallel and an armistice was signed in 1953 (not ironically the same year Stalin died).

Pastor Chet Theissen, of OCS Chaplain, fought in Korea and was taken POW for a short time. His army unit was completely wiped out except for him and one other. He was operating a machine gun when he ran out of ammo and taken prisoner by a squad of Chinese soldiers. The squad was later killed and old Chet got to join up with the Marines and fought his way out with them. That is just a small nugget of history, and I encourage anyone to, if you get the chance, talk to a veteran of any war and ask about his experience, usually the first hand information is the most reliable and you will learn some history that you probably can't find from any other source.

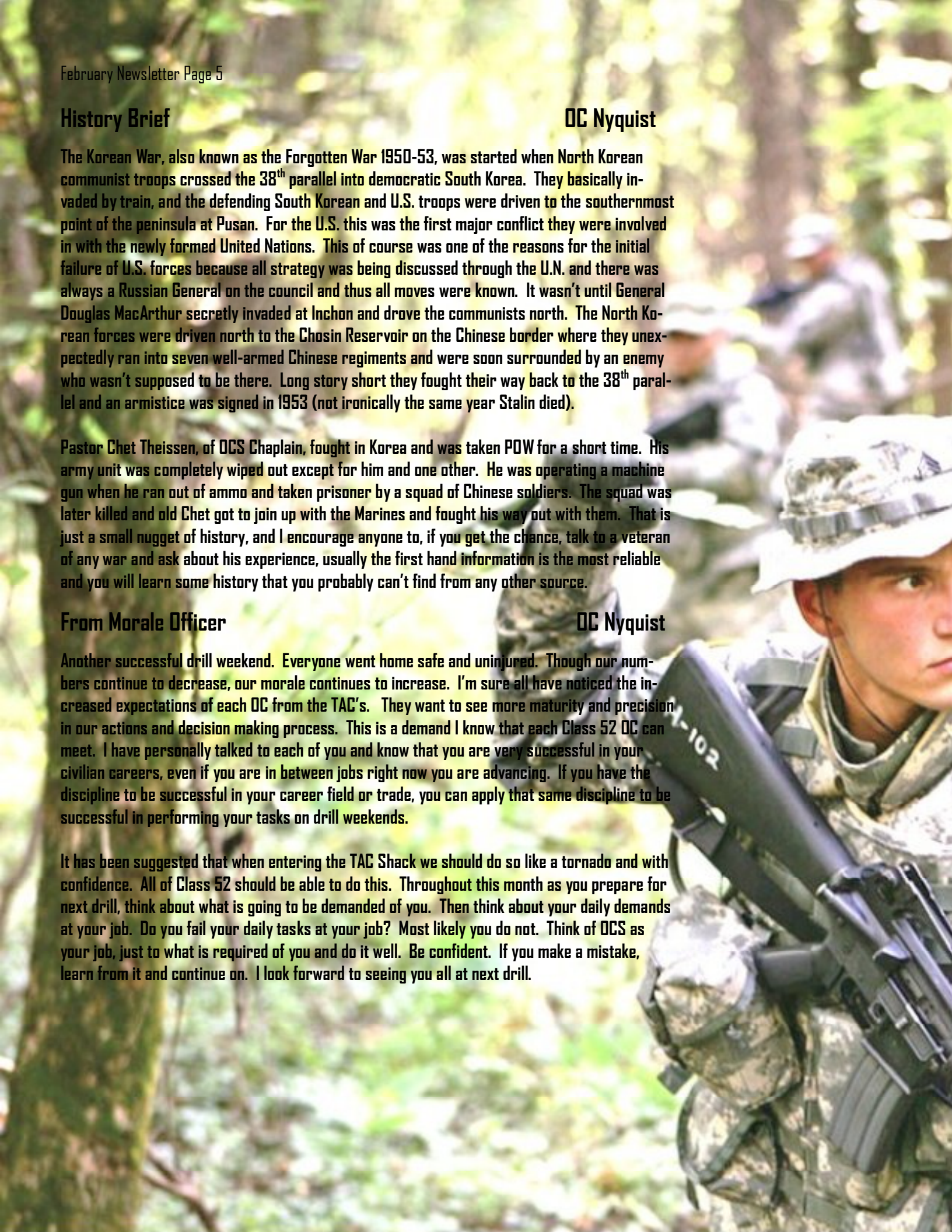
From Morale Officer

Another successful drill weekend. Everyone went home safe and uninjured. Though our numbers continue to decrease, our morale continues to increase. I'm sure all have noticed the increased expectations of each DC from the TAC's. They want to see more maturity and precision in our actions and decision making process. This is a demand I know that each Class 52 DC can meet. I have personally talked to each of you and know that you are very successful in your civilian careers, even if you are in between jobs right now you are advancing. If you have the discipline to be successful in your career field or trade, you can apply that same discipline to be successful in performing your tasks on drill weekends.

It has been suggested that when entering the TAC Shack we should do so like a tornado and with confidence. All of Class 52 should be able to do this. Throughout this month as you prepare for next drill, think about what is going to be demanded of you. Then think about your daily demands at your job. Do you fail your daily tasks at your job? Most likely you do not. Think of OCS as your job, just to what is required of you and do it well. Be confident. If you make a mistake, learn from it and continue on. I look forward to seeing you all at next drill.

DC Nyquist

DC Nyquist



From the desk of the SOP Officer

DC Lemke

As hard as it may be to believe, yes, with everything else going on I am still finding the time to develop our room clearing SOP for our next drill. Expect to see that SOP arrive to your inbox this coming weekend sometime. As a heads up, training for urban warfare is a very complex, not at all easy to master, battle drill to tackle! If you thought our battle drills for crossing an LDA were tricky, you haven't seen anything yet! For us to be successful next drill, we are going to need to study this SOP in and out, and rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse at DC Rick's house if we even want a chance to do good during our drill when the TAC's are trying to trip us up. I will be honest, this is going to be damn hard. But with due diligence, a willingness to work together, and have taken the time to work through our SOP TOGETHER, there is no reason why we can't succeed in this. I also have a few other SOP's I am working on, more to follow on those as I get closer to completing them.

