

DASPO Covers West Point Cadets in Alaska.

During the conference I submitted several arctic photos without captions or narration. These photos were DASPO Pacific Detachment, shot between 4-25 July, 1972 of West Point Cadets, often referred to as 3rd Lieutenants, during summer school break. One photo showed a man leaping ashore from a boat. Another had men crossing a rope bridge, and the third was a helicopter on icy rubble (glacier.)

During the summer non-academic class time, the West Point senior class fills out a dream sheet of where to go. It's a request to spend the summer traditional down time with active duty units and organizations worldwide. Some options the cadets had included; Alaska, Hawaii, Panama, Europe and stateside Army installations. I think I heard 3rd Lts state that some classmates were in Korea.

Fort Greely by garrison size is among the smallest post the army has, incapable of handling more than 20 cadets. During the month to six weeks the cadets were at the active duty location, their time was divided between training and practical administrative duties commensurate with commissioned officers, such as platoon leaders, assistance supply or company commanders, transportation, payroll or personnel officers.

Ft Greely home to the Arctic Training and Arctic Testing Centers is a beehive of activity during the winter, but in the summer it's operational utility is restricted to mountain climbing training and rappelling techniques. Stream crossing and river maneuvers using boats and if weather permits an overnight stay on a glacier, where the 3rd Lts were taught to traverse glaciers, using crampons and avoiding crevasses along with walking with snow shoes.

Other army installations provided the cadets with similar activities depending on the base expertise. If a field exercise, maneuver or live fire of tanks or artillery were scheduled, surely the cadets would partake of these activities, before returning to the text book world on the Hudson River.

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DASPO COVER WEST POINT CADETS in ALASKA

1. MSL West Point Cadets on Ekgultna Glacier
2. CU Cramp-on and mountain boots used in mountain climbing and glacier crossing
3. MLS Group of West Point Cadets on glacier
4. MS. West Point Cadets walk along a crevasse in the glacier
5. MS. Man in crevasse on Ekgultna Glacier
6. LS Camera rolling as helo land on glacier
- 7/ MLS boat about to maneuver obstacle in river
8. MS Boats running up river at proper interval
9. CU. West Point Cadets on river maneuvers
- 10 MS Boat going around tree obstacle in river
- 11 MS West Point Cadets learning to climb and repel from high points
- MLS Instructor telling cadets proper technique
- 13 MS Group of 3rd Lts on practice mountain