

# The Prince Family Herald

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## Gone "Down Range" \



### After 9 weeks of Reception

Joshu is moving on "Down Range" for 9 weeks of Basic Combat Training and 6 more weeks of Advanced Individual Training. He was released to go last Tuesday June 3, and "ships" today, Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. He and we are SO THANKFUL, and know you all will be too.

His time as a "holdover" has been very productive, and educational in every possible way, totally orchestrated by the Lord in HIS "Officer Candidate School." He writes in a letter that he saw so many "turnarounds" and knees bowing to the Lord's will; a notable example being the Drill Sergeant who had "been on his case" and practically force fed him when he first arrived, and then became one of the most helpful to him. You know those DSs are going to miss the best orderly (the Lord) they ever had! Sounds from his letter that he will get more sleep in BCT than he has been as an orderly! Sleeping with his boots on during the night shift, he would be awakened to help the DS in charge process the 400 or so new recruits as they arrived.

As you can imagine, after the dental surgery and being on a soft foods only diet for several weeks, and having very little appetite, Joshu began to see a few bones sticking out, and as his appetite returned he wanted to put on some weight again. The Lord had a perfect answer for this, working on the night shift gave him the opportunity to eat a 4<sup>th</sup> meal, (and anything else appropriate that came his way!), to add to the daily fare. This has helped and he has found much of the food very good, particularly citing tuna fish sandwiches, which he is able to eat 2 at a sitting. We are very thankful for this answer to help him get a bit of weight and muscle back

before BCT, which doesn't make "fatties" of anyone!

He was thankful also for the return of the Lord's strength that he was so accustomed to at home. Once again he was running from place to place and bounding upstairs 2 at a time! Thank You, Father!

He has been in a position of authority there and has learned much from the Lord in how to take it. We smiled at an accounting of his finding a recruit in the Laundry room crying because he didn't like being there and wanted to go home. The fellow couldn't stand being told what to do. Joshu promptly went and got a pile of bedding, came back and sat down and travailed (pounded) on it to release the pent up frustration, and then offered it to the recruit to do the same! The recruit declined but his attitude did change and no more crying. We look forward to the time when everyone sees what a great help it is to be able to release anger in a constructive manner.

As he prepares to go on to BCT with his company of new recruits, he says they already look to him as a leader with experience and have been very cooperative and friendly towards him. Thank You, Father! The candidates running for President say this nation needs a change, and they are right and the change is already in progress, though not quite what they have in mind, and it is very, very GOOD! We thank the Lord very much for all the concessions the Staff has caused to be made for each one of you where needed to help you in your (His) way. He makes the people willing to do what will help His children, as He promised He would.

## A Letter from Fred

We were very happy to receive a letter filled with his BCT experiences, and the cast of characters he is sharing them with. He described some of the surrounding area which was nice and even sent a pressed dried leaf for us to identify if possible. (I think an emailed photo to the Muscogee County Agent might do that for us.) He is moving right along in his training. We were very interested in his description of the optic or red dot sights they were given to use after Basic Rifle Marksmanship qualifying. Fred did very well using this sight where you place the red dot on the target and shoot at the dot. Much quicker for close combat he says. He scored “an amazing 22 out of 30 which is pretty good.” He says his Drill Sgt. Phillips was saying to everybody, “We got some good shooters here. Prince, ..” then he looked at everyone and said, “”Yeah, you’re going to be Platoon Guide before Basic Training is over.”

‘Platoon Guide or PG is the one who marches the platoon, is responsible for making sure everyone is squared away, uniforms right, ogden cords, pockets closed, patches right, etc. There are PG’s, one at a time, Squad leaders, and team leaders, 4 and 8 at a time. Ogden cords are cords that hang from your collar. You tie knots in them for every quart of water you drink during the day. That way, if you go down, people will know how many you’ve drunk, and whether you are only a little dehydrated or severely so. A lot of effort goes into making sure the recruits get enough water in the heat.’

## **Fred has a Family Day Weekend on Saturday June 21 and Sunday, June 22.**

This is a time for families of qualifying OSUT recruits to be able to visit them, have an overnight off base pass for the Columbus/Ft Benning area and attend a ceremony and briefing where they learn what their recruit has been doing. This is not graduation for them yet, **Graduation comes on July 24 and July 25.**

The 24<sup>th</sup> is when they have the “Turning Blue” ceremony where they receive the blue cords of the Infantry, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> have a formal graduation, after which they are signed out for leave. There is not as much family time at these events as there is in June.

## **Andrew gets 100% !**

Vehicle maintenance checking is as much a part of the Motor Transport Operator’s training as it is here at the City of Truth. Every driving lesson test

starts with having checked out the vehicle first. (At least that is what it says in the handbook for instructors, which is available on line.)

This past week Andrew took a vehicle maintenance test where the vehicles were set up with 22 things out of order on the vehicle, many that a person would have to be very observant to see. The instructor was a woman in this case. When it came Andrew’s turn to inspect his vehicle she followed him around with a clipboard checking off the things he found. He quickly began to find the problems and oversights and by the time he got to # 11 she stopped him and said, “Okay, that’s enough. If you found this many I know you’ll find them all! Let’s just move on.” And she gave him 100% taking just 50% of the test!

## **George is Connected!**

He received his cell phone early this week, and he is delighted with it and has been making good use of it almost every evening. It is so nice not to have to borrow anymore but we are all very thankful that Pv2 Gentry, his room mate, has been so very generous with the use of his phone.

After much discussion with Barbara Alice, George did purchase a very good TOSHIBA lap top, and while he hasn’t got the internet connection card that he needs to go online yet, he has been making very good use of the computer in his courses. He says his course book is HUGE, (bigger than the GM Manuals!), and it is all in electronic PDF files. They are allowed to download material to a thumb drive and then can take it back to quarters and study it there, and George has been doing that. So the Laptop came just in time. Thank You, Father!

Still determined to keep his quarters ship-shape, another of George’s “practical purchases” is a new vacuum cleaner. He found a small, 1 gallon. shop vac (what else?!) at the PX for a very reasonable price and is quite happy with it

It is time to close and “go to press”. Till next week, Good days, everyone. We are thankful for all the ways to “stay connected’ in the Lord!!

### **The Prince Family Herald**

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