

SN Catterton
Training Report

This Summer, I attended a Master at Arms school at Camp Clark, New York. Rather than actually having the training at Camp Clark, everyone was moved to Fort Drum, an Army base near by. Upon arrival, I received my room number. Rather than the barracks being one large room with several racks, we each got our own room. The rest of day one was spent unpacking and settling in.

Reveille varied slightly, but was always between 0530 and 0545. The first evolution of each day was PT, which was fairly simple. It consisted mostly of basic exercises and running anywhere from 1-2 miles. At around 0700 we left PT and got ready for chow. The food at Fort Drum was delicious, and we had a great variety to choose from. For the most part, the rest of the day followed a simple and constant schedule of classroom time, chow, and downtime after evening chow.

I learned a lot at MAA training. My instructors, Ensign Santore and Lieutenant Brass taught us all about military law enforcement. We had to know about several articles of the UCMJ, degrees of force, apprehension, searches and seizures, and much more.

On some days we swayed from the normal schedule and did some very interesting and fun things. We received a demonstration from a group of EOD Technicians on the equipment they use, including the robots they use to pick up and transport explosives. I was lucky enough to be given the chance to operate one. Looking at a laptop and holding a Playstation 3 controller, I drove the robot about 45 feet before picking up a fake explosive and taking it back to where I was. I had to do the whole thing without actually looking at the robot, instead I had to watch through the built in cameras.

On another day, we went to an MWD (Military Working Dog) facility and some of the soldiers there showed us the dogs in action. They showed us a detector dog who located a fake IED, and an attack dog who pursued a fake criminal. The dogs were very obedient and loyal to their trainers, the presentation was very informative and I found the whole thing very interesting.

The next day we went to the simulator shooting range on base. We used real weapons, but rather than shooting bullets they shot pressurized air that provided the same kick and sound as a normal weapon would. We shot at a screen about 25 feet away, the weapons emitted lasers that the screen picked up and reacted to. We got to experience several different scenarios, in which we would have to destroy a vehicle before it reached the gates, or destroy several waves of incoming enemies.

Closer to the end of training, we participated in a massive war game with the other trainings on base (Naval Intel and Field Ops). The Field Operations class had control over a base of operations in a nearby forest that the MAAs had to take over. The MAAs were supplied intelligence from the Navy Intel class. The War Game went pretty well, the MAAs were outnumbered by a lot. Unfortunately, time expired before we managed to capture the base.

The training evolution experienced some issues, but overall I'd say it was a very good training. I learned a lot more than I thought I would, and really had a great time. The only real down side was that I wasn't able to learn in a 'hands-on' way, rather than practicing what we learned, most of it was simply shown to us. Despite this, I definitely left MAA training with a lot more than I went in with.