

Tips for Visiting Camp Grayling, Ft. Custer or Other Guard Training Facilities

Preparation

- Consult with your Readiness NCO or other unit NCO or Officer assigned to be your contact.
- Ask what day or days, time of day would be best for contact with unit members based on scheduled activities.
- Advise B2B staff 3 days in advance so they can get hotel reservation, etc.
- Know where you are meeting up with your unit. You might meet infantry unit at a particular building and artillery in the field some miles northeast of Grayling. (Note: Cell phone reception can be dicey in artillery areas northeast of Grayling).
- Don't plan on automatically being able to drive your car to all locations. Verify with RNCO!
- It never hurts to ensure unit gives your name to Custer/Grayling/Other front gate.

Trip

- Pack clothes for expected weather conditions.
- Take water in Camelback and snacks appropriate for time of year.
- A "Man Bag" or small rucksack is very helpful for taking "what you need". (Ron Springer is an "expert" in man bags.)
- Don't forget to take any meds you take during day or night and throw in some Tylenol and Excedrin Migraine as you "never know."
- Travel time for those coming from UP will obviously dictate how many nights needed at hotel.

When you arrive in unit area:

- Ask your unit contact if there are any do's or don'ts for area you're in.
- Ask if they have any suggestions or protocols for checking in with squads, gun batteries, etc. (Exam: An E-6 who commands an Artillery piece is called "Chief.")

Don't:

- Expect unit command to bend to your schedule, you bend to theirs.
- Go around unit area without getting approval, exam: Walking through fence gate to rifle range.
- Be a pest.
- Things have changed A LOT since we were in and they are saddled with FAR MORE regulations than we ever were.

What you get out of visit:

- A feeling of being with the Army again.
- A chance to assist and get to know your soldiers on a more personal basis.
- A feeling of being young again. (Don't worry, this doesn't last. Soon you will feel aches and pains reminding you of your true age, or that you need a nap.) ☺
- The more you get to know your unit, the more they will treat you like one of their own.
- A feeling of satisfaction when the unit members call you out by name. (This is priceless!!!)