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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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Inseparable: Twins cause double take

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Except for the two minutes when one was delivered before the other, two Soldiers in training on Fort Leonard Wood have been together their whole lives. That togetherness continues as the fraternal twins find themselves in the same brigade, battalion, platoon and even bunk.

Pvt. Alton Davis, the older twin, and Pvt. Jalon Davis even have the same military occupational specialty.

“I feel fortunate. Being in the same platoon makes this experience better for both of us. There are a lot of people here who wish they had their Family here, too. We know we are lucky to still be together,” Alton said.

On their 19th birthday in March, the twins started Basic Combat Training in Company D, 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Chemical Brigade.

“We ended up in the same bunk, simply because they were alphabetically assigned,” Davis said.

“It took drill sergeants about three days to realize we were even related,” he added.

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Staff Sgt. John Santos, Company D, 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment drill sergeant, said the twins caught his eye when he realized the Davis' were together – a lot.

“I noticed their facial features were similar, and they were always spending time together,” Santos said.

Since being ousted as twins, Company D cadre started calling them “Senior” and “Junior” for clarity.

“I like our new names, because when we first got here they yelled Davis, and we both answered,” Jalon said.

Alton said their special twin bond has made them even closer by attending BCT together.

“We finish each other’s sentences all the time. We have certain looks that we can give each other. ‘Jay’ knows what I mean, and I don’t even have to say a word,” Alton said.

The younger twin was of the same mind.

“We can be sitting quiet, then out of the blue we both start singing the same song at the same time. It is weird,” Davis said.

The Tampa Bay, Florida, natives said they have always been competitive, but now they motivate each other more than anybody else could.

“We had a company run. After about five miles, we started motivating each other to stay in formation. I don’t know if I would be doing so well if I didn’t have him here pushing me,” Alton said.

Jalon concurred.

“He does a lot more push-ups than me. I do more sit-ups. So, we are helping each other to do our best and hopefully get a physical training badge,” he said.

The Davis twins said they have been interested in the military since they can remember, especially the U.S. Army, because they have several Family members who have served, and their father is still serving as a Soldier.

“I have always wanted to go into the military or law enforcement, so I chose the best of both worlds,” Alton said.

When they graduate in May they will remain on Fort Leonard Wood to attend Advanced Individual Training to become 31E Internment/Resettlement specialists.

Their drill sergeant said even though they are usually together, he has noticed them preparing to separate themselves.

“Even though they are battle buddies, I see them looking for other people to pair up with,” Santos said.

Jalon said they have been preparing to separate since they went to their Army recruiter’s office.

“We were ready to separate before we came to Fort Leonard Wood. At least I think we are ready. It will just be another challenge,” he said.

Following graduation from AIT, Alton said he hopes to be stationed close to home in Florida, while Jalon said he would prefer to live on the West Coast.

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145.

Encl. (1) Photo

Cutline: Fraternal twins Pvts. Jalon and Alton Davis are inseparable, even in Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains about 80,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command’s U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, and the Army’s largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.

