

# Military training suits Aquinas senior's style

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

GREECE — While her friends back home were tossing Frisbees around, Kristina Dudley was handling rifles, bayonets and hand grenades.

And while some of her classmates at Aquinas Institute may have been strolling inside festival tents and along the Charlotte pier, Dudley was marching through a gas chamber — and enjoying the experience.

"I had to go through it with a protective mask, break the seal and then reseal the mask. I thought it was going to be real hard, but I had so much fun I went through a second time," said Dudley.

These aren't the kind of activities that would appeal to your average 17-year-old, but basic military training seems to be right up Dudley's alley. That's what she did for eight weeks this past summer at the U.S. Army's base at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"I had always thought of joining the military, but never thought I actually would. But then last January a recruiter called, and said I could get \$25,000 in scholarship money," Dudley recalled.

That factor spurred Dudley into joining the Army Reserve. Her obligation began with basic training at Fort Jackson, where she was assigned to a company comprising 240 other young women.

Dudley's group went through all the rigors of combat training. Although the U.S. Army does not permit women to actively engage in offensive combat, they must be prepared to defend themselves in case their unit comes under attack.

"We were taught combat for self-confidence, and to get a perception of what war is like," said Dudley.

The Aquinas senior is focusing on becoming an Army nurse, but said she would prefer warfare.

"When they taught us about infantry techniques, I was just fascinated. I would like to go to combat," she admitted. "I like to challenge myself ... I



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Private Kristina Dudley, a senior at Aquinas Institute, is focusing her attention on becoming an Army nurse.

realize it's not all fun and games, but I like to get things done. I don't like other people to do it."

As one might expect, basic training's rigors provided many challenges: each day began at 5 a.m. with a three-mile run and other exercises, followed by several hours of combat training. Dudley was allowed one hour of free time in the evenings and also had Sundays off, when she was allowed to attend church and call home.

"Sunday would be the only day I was homesick, because I didn't have any time to think about my family during the week," said Dudley, a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave.

She thrived in basic training, so

much so that her drill sergeant named her leader of a 14-woman squad.

"It's true if you put a lot into it, you can get a lot out of it," she said. "You had to have respect for your superior officers. If you showed respect, you got respect."

"It was definitely a stressful summer," she continued. "Many people went in (to the Army Reserve) so that it would pay for their college. Some people, who you would not even picture in the military, were there. But they all got through and graduated."

Life has basically returned to normal for Dudley, now a senior at Aquinas, 1127 Dewey Ave. She's putting her 5-foot-10-inch frame to use as a star in volleyball, basketball and track; in addition, Dudley is ranked 34th in her class of 230 with a 3.7 grade-point average. She is also a leader in AQ's Peer Ministry group, which assists with events such as the Thanks Giving Appeal and Big Brother/Big Sister.

After graduation, Dudley is obligated to return for advanced individu-

al training next summer as part of her six-year commitment with the Reserve. Provided that she completes her requirement, Dudley will get \$25,000 in scholarship and expense money.

Her obligation after college would consist of one weekend per month and two weeks in the summer over a two-year period, unless the Army mobilizes her unit — the Penn Yan-based 770th Engineering Unit (Construction Support).

Dudley, however, is also considering a switch to the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), which requires full-time officer duty after college. Yet ROTC would pay up to 80 percent of her tuition, allowing her to fulfill her wish of attending the University of Rochester.

In the meantime, the uniform that Dudley brought back from South Carolina will be waiting in the closet — for the most part, anyway.

"If we get to dress up for Halloween, I'm going to wear it," she laughed. "It's a neat outfit to have."

## Kearney, Mercy to take part in Suburban College Night

IRONDEQUOIT — Bishop Kearney and Our Lady of Mercy are among five high schools sponsoring a Suburban College Night at the Irondequoit Mall on Monday, Oct. 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Approximately 125 representatives

from colleges, military services and banks will participate. Other sponsors are Eastridge, Irondequoit and Webster high schools.

For details, call 716/342-4000.

## Greece church schedules Teen Mass for this Sunday

GREECE — A Teen Mass will take place at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, 5000 Mt. Read Blvd., on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m.

The Mass will feature a performance by the Emmaus Players, a group which

proclaims Biblical themes through dramatic skits.

All youths are welcome. For details, call Father Dave Faraone at 716/663-5432.

## Vant to look "Bootiful" this Halloween?!...

Come in for a "spell" and let our Boo Crew outfit you vit von of our costumes for rent or sale.

Check out our spooktacular Halloween costume and party accessories, masks, make-up, wigs, hats, trick or treat handouts, and many more ghoulish items.

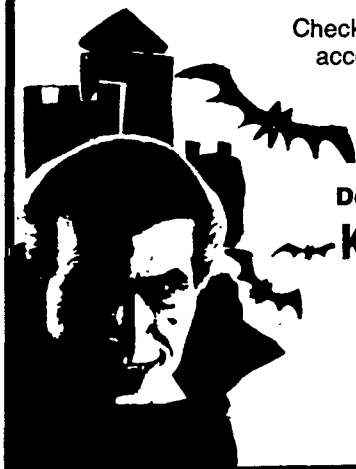
Bring in this ad for  
FREE FANGS!

Don't wait 'til the last minute. Hurry in TODAY!

**KING SALES/COURT JESTER**

"The complete Halloween Store"

Open 10 am-9 pm Mon.-Fri.  
Sat. 10 am-5pm, Sun. 12-5 pm during Oct.  
46 Sager Drive 442-8922  
off Culver between East & University  
(behind Empire Electric)



**WIN A FREE ALBUM OR TAPE**

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**  
Who recorded the 1981 #1 song, I Love A Rainy Night?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSE OF GUITARS**

**MUSIC TRIVIA**

Rules: One correct entry will be selected at random to receive a gift certificate for a free album or tape of the recipient's choice from the House of Guitars.

**WINNER: Nick McDonald of North Eastern Catholic Jr. High correctly identified Flea as the bass player of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.**

Most New Album and Tape Releases Just \$6.98  
CD's From \$3.98 to \$11.98 ea.  
645 Titus Avenue  
544-9928 or 544-3500

Mail Entries to:  
Catholic Trivia  
1150 Buffalo Rd.  
Rochester, NY 14624