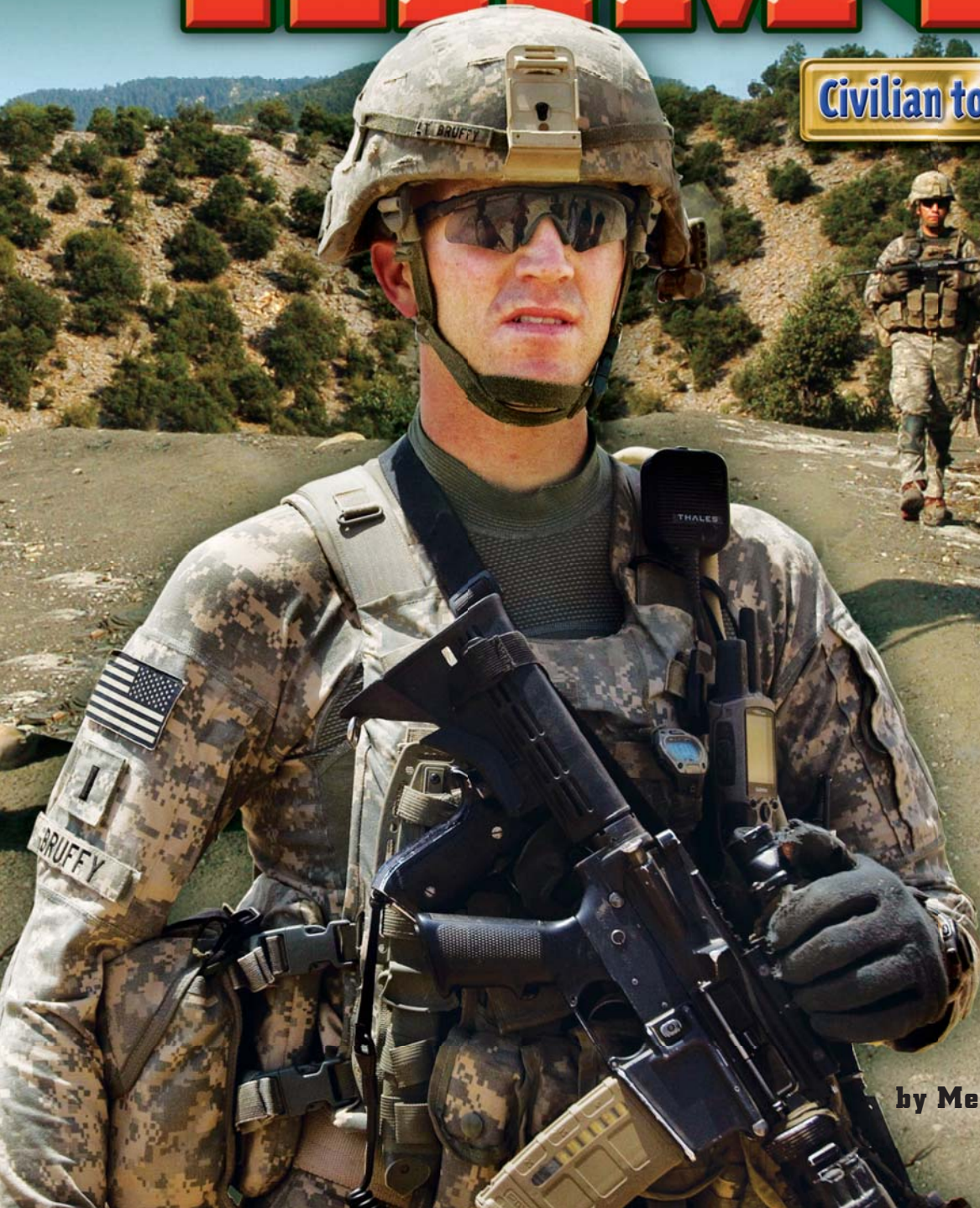




ARMY

Civilian to SOLDIER



by Meish Goldish

[Intentionally Left Blank]

ARMY

Civilian to SOLDIER



by Meish Goldish

Consultant: Fred Pushies
U.S. SOF Adviser

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Andrew A. Nelles/ZUMA Press/Newscom and U.S. Army/Sgt. Matthew Moeller; 4, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 5, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 6, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 7, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 8, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post; 9, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post; 10, © Jessica Rinaldi/Reuters/Landov; 11, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 12, © Scott Olson/Getty Images; 13T, © U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Larry A. Simmons; 13B, © Scott Olson/Getty Images; 14, © Susanne Kappler/Fort Jackson Leader; 15T, © Susanne Kappler/Fort Jackson Leader; 15B, © Caroline Gotler/The Bayonet; 16, © Tim Dominick/The State/MCT/Landov; 17, © Tim Dominick/The State/MCT/Newscom; 18, © U.S. Army photo/Mr. Carlton Wallace; 19, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 20, © U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Desiree N. Palacios; 21, © Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 22, © Robin Trimarchi/Columbus Ledger-Enquirer/Newscom.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Debrah Kaiser

Photo Researcher: James O'Connor

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Goldish, Meish.

Army : civilian to soldier / by Meish Goldish.

p. cm. — (Becoming a soldier)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-936088-11-9 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-936088-11-8 (library binding)

1. Basic training (Military education) —United States—Juvenile literature.

2. United States. Army—Military life—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

U408.3.G64 2011

355.5'40973—dc22

2010008026

Copyright © 2011 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003.

Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

062010

042110CGB

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents


War Games	4
Signing Up.....	6
The Bag Drill	8
The Drill Sergeant.....	10
Body Building	12
Fighting Skills	14
Over, Under, and Across.....	16
The Final Test.....	18
Set to Graduate	20
 Preparing for the Army.....	 22
Glossary.....	23
Index.....	24
Bibliography.....	24
Read More.....	24
Learn More Online	24
About the Author	24

War Games

The **recruits** in the **platoon** quietly moved uphill, hiding behind bushes along the way. When they came to an enemy village, they heard machine-gun blasts inside a building. The men rushed toward the structure to search for the shooters. As more shots rang out, 18 members of the platoon fell to the ground. Had they been killed?



Recruit Ian Fisher hides behind some bushes—out of sight from the enemy.



Luckily, no one actually died because the attack wasn't real. It was an army training exercise. Yet for recruits such as Ian Fisher, the exercise showed that it takes skill and hard work to succeed as a soldier in the U.S. Army.

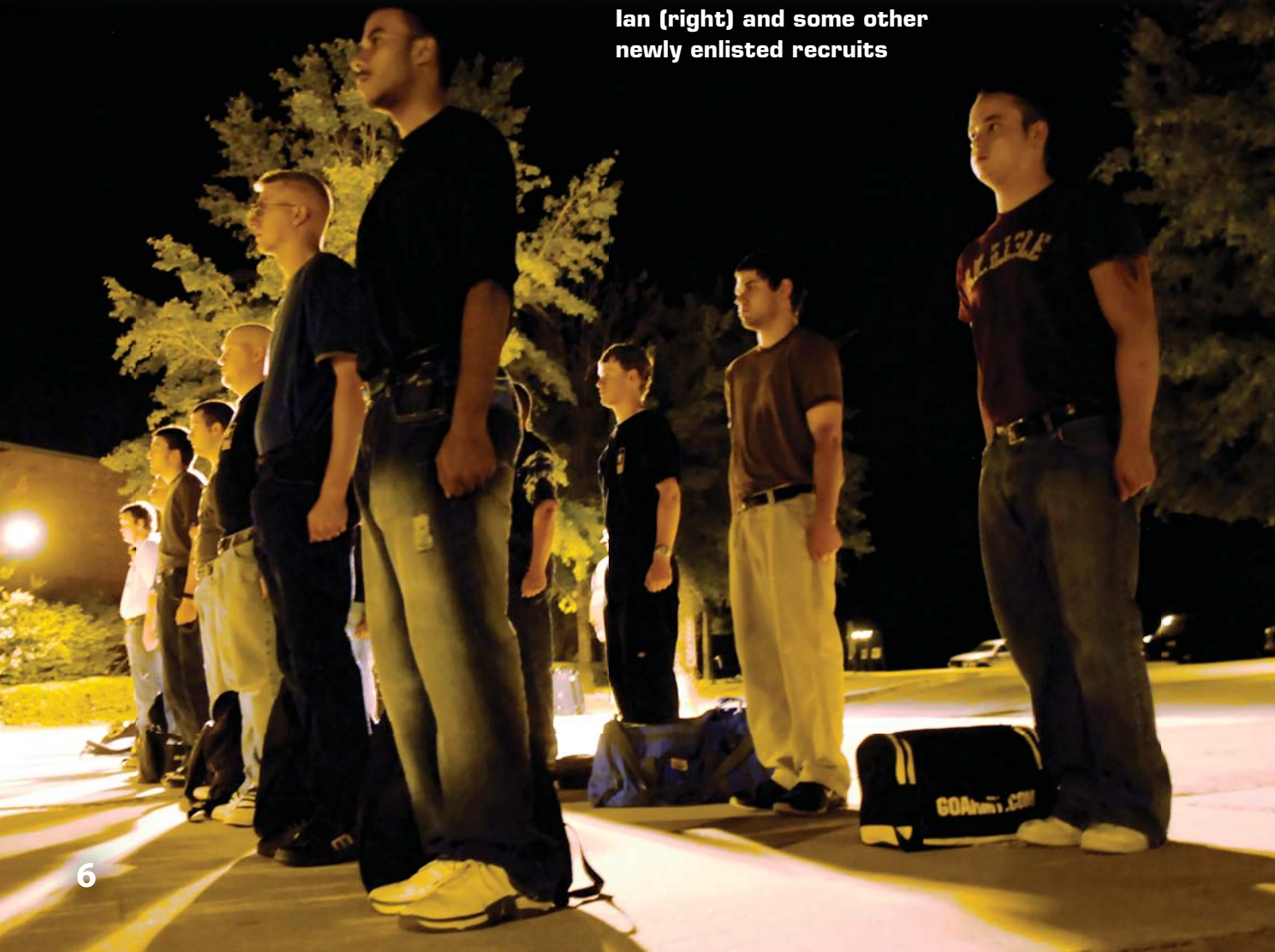
Ian and members of his platoon after hearing the machine-gun blasts

The army is the branch of the **armed forces** that is trained to fight on land.

Signing Up

When Ian turned 17 years old in 2006, he announced to his family that he wanted to become a soldier. At that time, the United States had already been at war with Iraq, a country in the Middle East, for a few years. Ian was eager to help out. "I love my country and want to fight for it," he said. So like thousands of other **patriotic** young men and women, Ian **enlisted** in the U.S. Army after finishing high school.

Ian (right) and some other newly enlisted recruits



Soon after, Ian was sent to Fort Benning, an army base in Georgia, for basic **combat** training, also known as BCT. This is a grueling nine-week program that all army recruits go through to learn combat skills as well as army history and values. It's during this time that **civilians** such as Ian become soldiers.

Before their basic training begins, army recruits spend a week in **orientation**. During this time, they receive their uniforms and equipment. Male recruits get very short haircuts or shave their heads, while females must make sure their hair is not longer than the collars of their uniforms.



Ian Fisher closes his eyes as he gets a typical army haircut—a shaved head.



● U.S. Army Basic Combat Training Locations

Index

- advanced job training 21
- bag drill 8–9, 10
- barracks 10
- battle buddy 17
- drill sergeant 10–11, 12
- enlistment rules 22
- field training exercise 18–19
- Fisher, Ian 4–5, 6–7, 9, 11, 21
- Fort Benning 7
- graduation 20–21
- hand-to-hand combat 14
- Iraq 6, 21
- M16 rifle 15
- Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) 19
- obstacle course 16–17
- orientation 7
- physical exercise 12–13
- platoons 4–5, 10, 12, 18, 20
- weapons 15

Bibliography

Fritz, Sheila J. *Behind the Spoon: Army Basic Training*. New York: Vantage Press (2007).

Rice, Earle, Jr. *The U.S. Army and Military Careers*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow (2007).

Read More

David, Jack. *United States Army*. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether (2008).

Sandler, Michael. *Army Rangers in Action*. New York: Bearport Publishing (2008).

Learn More Online

To learn more about the U.S. Army, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/BecomingaSolder

About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children.
He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

[Intentionally Left Blank]



ARMY

Civilian to SOLDIER

The young army recruits quietly moved uphill. When they reached an enemy village, they suddenly heard machine-gun blasts coming from one of the buildings. As they rushed toward it searching for the enemy, more shots rang out. Some of the men fell to the ground. Had they been wounded?

Luckily, no one was actually hurt. The shoot-out wasn't a real enemy attack—it was an army training exercise. Look inside to learn more about what it takes for civilians to become soldiers in the U.S. Army.

AIR FORCE: Civilian to Airman

ARMY: Civilian to Soldier

COAST GUARD: Civilian to Guardian

MARINE CORPS: Civilian to Marine

NAVY: Civilian to Sailor

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-936088-11-9



9 781936 088119