

# Army Newswatch Lead Sheet

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## **Ft Bragg Battles Erosion on Sicily Drop Zone**

Reporter: Hernandez

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### **LEAD:**

MOST AIRBORNE SOLDIERS WILL TELL YOU JUMPING OUT OF AN AIRCRAFT IS EASY, IT'S HITTING THE GROUND THAT'S DANGEROUS. THAT WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE FOR ONE DROP-ZONE AT FT BRAGG, NC, HOME TO THE 82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE. ENVIRONMENTAL CORRESPONDENT JAVIER HERNANDEZ, EXPLAINS.

### **Fonts:**

Locator – FT BRAGG, NC

### **Credits:**

### **Additional Notes:**

MOST OF SICILY DROP ZONE, AT FT BRAGG, NC USED TO LOOK LIKE THIS.  
AFTER YEARS OF TRAINING WORE AWAY SICILY'S VEGETATION  
RAINWATER CARVED THROUGH THE DZ.

**“We have rolling typography and deep sandy soil (cut) so when you take the  
vegetation off of the soil and it's on a hill, obviously then it's going to move (cut). We  
had massive erosion” – Craig Jennings, Soil Conservationist, Ft Bragg**

AND THAT MADE TRAINING HERE VERY DANGEROUS.

**“...When they had a lot of gullies, we had a lot of ankle injuries, foot trauma, back  
injuries – cause guys would be landing on uneven ground especially at night it was a  
big hazard.” – SFC Patrick Macury, A co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 3<sup>rd</sup> SFG**

SO FT BRAGG INVESTED NEARLY 3-MILLION DOLLARS TO REPAIR THE  
SITE.

**“We put in a series of terraces that stops the flow of water downhill. And the next  
important thing is get it vegetated.” - JENNINGS**

THAT'S BECAUSE VEGETATION KEEPS THE SANDY SOIL FROM SHIFTING.  
WORKERS USED A COMBINATION OF RYE, MILLET, AND A NATIVE  
BURMUDA GRASS.

THE PROJECT IS IN ITS SIXTH YEAR BUT IS EXPECTED TO WRAP UP THIS  
SPRING. JENNINGS SAYS THE INVESTMENT IS WORTH THE WAIT, BECAUSE  
SICILY WILL BE EASIER TO MAINTAIN WITH THE NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM  
AND VEGETATION. AS FOR THE SOLDIERS, THEY'LL JUST BE HAPPY TO  
LAND ON EVEN GROUND, JAVIER HERNANDEZ, FT BRAGG NC.