

Reservist on Army's cutting edge

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Perhaps the brightest highlight of the 100th Division Readiness Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama in April was a briefing presented by Col. Joe Schroeder.

What made the briefing especially interesting was the briefer himself: Schroeder is a man of multiple military identities.

Not only is he the division's Chief of Staff, he's also a Department of Defense civilian serving as an Operations Research Analyst, Fort Knox, and is now wearing a third hat as the Chief of Staff of General Shinseki's Objective Force Task Force at the Pentagon.

Gen. Shinseki launched a bold, dramatic process to redesign the Army immediately upon assuming his duties as Chief of Staff.

One component of the redesign is how the Army will fight and the war tools it will use.

The Objective Force Task Force was created to address those issues.

Leadership at Fort Knox was asked to provide three candidates, one of whom would be selected to join the task force at the Pentagon.

Of the three names provided Col. Schroeder was selected, a testimony to the fact that a Reservist can compete favorably with his counterparts in the active component.

This is especially interesting in that the selection board was unaware he was a Reservist.

Obviously, Schroeder's civilian knowledge and experience as a research analyst contributed to his credentials, but his many years as a Reservist in the 100th Division, as well as several long tours with a number of Army commands overseas, clearly played a part in his selection.



Col. Schroeder

The story of this fine officer does not end there.

Schroeder's leadership skills and seemingly inexhaustible drive made him a natural to lead the team, and that is exactly what has happened.

He initially served as the Chief of the Requirements Division, but was selected for the Chief of Staff of the Objective Force Task Force when that position became vacant. As Chief of Staff, he is responsible for the tasking and management of a number of Active Component colonels and lieutenant colonel's that are carving out the future of the Army's role in the future defense of the nation.

The fact that he is a Reservist encourages all of us to stand tall with our active duty counterparts and be proud of the immeasurable contributions and experience we bring to the table.

The fact that he is also an active member of the 100th Division makes us even more proud.

Army working toward 'Objective Force'

The United States Army has been working to develop a more strategically responsive force that "dominates" the full spectrum of military operations.

"Objective Force," the name of the program, is an integration of ground, air and space systems that will be capable of seizing terrain, then closing with, and decisively destroying, the enemy.

It was first unveiled in the autumn of 1999 by the Secretary of

the Army and the Army Chief of Staff. To implement the program, a task force was formed and the 100th Division's own Chief of Staff — Col. Joe Schroeder — was also named Chief of Staff of the task force.

According to the charter of the Objective Force Task Force, "the Army is people, and the magnificence of our moments will continue to be delivered by our people. Soldiers — not equipment — are

the centerpieces of our formations today and in the future."

The fundamental purpose of the task force is to "integrate warfighting concepts of all systems of the Objective Force, to accelerate the progression of the Future Combat Systems (a series of systems that assist the Army in achieving dominance) to production status, and to enable decision making by senior leadership of the Army to that end."