



BLUE RIDGER

80th Division (IT), U.S. Army Reserve

Volume 31, No. 1

"Only Moves Forward"

Spring 2002



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Follow Me

Taking Care of Our Careers



By Maj. Gen. Douglas O. Dollar

Who has the responsibility for your Army career? Is it your PMO? The PAC Section? The S-1? Your spouse? Your immediate supervisor? Your commander? Of course, the answer is that you are responsible for your own military career, but so many of our officers, NCOs, and soldiers get so wrapped up in performing their duties that they forget to take care of their own careers.

How many of our soldiers have lost out on a career opportunity because they did not have the required military education? How many could not be selected for one position because they did not have the right experience? How many soldiers failed to get promoted because of problems submitting a proper packet? How many of our soldiers who have always done well don't have the awards or evaluation reports that reflect their true abilities because they were never given the opportunity to shine?

Sometimes, we do what we think is "best" with all the right intentions, but those good intentions lead us astray. We take assignments because we know the people we will work with, or accept jobs because we can stay close to home. But staying in the comfort zone, while easy, doesn't force us to learn new job skills, meet new people, and make ourselves more valuable to the Army Reserve. Most opportunities to excel don't come wrapped in pretty packages. They're often dirty and ugly and require us to get dirty and ugly while doing our best. But the reward of doing a tough job well extends far beyond the satisfaction of a job well done. Your accomplishments will be noted in the form of awards, bullet comments on evaluation reports, and improving your reputation and visibility within the division.

All soldiers should know their date of rank, and know when they will be in the zone for consideration for promotion. Prior to that, it is your responsibility to make sure that your packet and official photo are up to date. However, there is no need to wait until a board is imminent to make sure everything is current as it is usually easier to recognize and fix problems while they are relatively fresh. Officers should also update their military resume and bio on a regular basis.

Under our new career management system, officer vacancies at brigade level and below will be filled through use of OML lists prepared by the unit's commander. Does your commander know where you hope your military career will take you? If you haven't already done so, schedule some time with your commander for a one-on-one discussion about your career plans.

Do you have a mentor? More importantly, do you serve as a mentor? Very few of our senior leaders would have reached their current positions without the help of a mentor during their careers. Sometimes a mentor can suggest options a soldier had never considered; sometimes a mentor just needs to condone the current path a soldier is taking.

While there is no one career progression that is ideal for everyone under every set of conditions, there are certain positions (depending on whether the individual is an NCO, warrant officer, or commissioned officer) that each individual should serve in during his or her career, regardless of specialty. These assignments generally allow for the most learning when performed in a certain order, just as military educational courses (OES or NCOES) make the most sense when taken in a certain order. For example, most officers who do not have command time will find their career sputters out after a certain point. And while time "on the trail" is not necessary for a NCO's career, a successful tour as a drill sergeant, instructor, recruiter, or other similarly challenging position will be highly beneficial for a NCO in the long run.

This is not to suggest that your S-1, PAC section, supervisor, sergeant major, and commander should not be considered as resources when developing your career. Quite the opposite, they are all part of the team that will lead you to positions of increased responsibility and higher rank. The division has prepared a pamphlet about career management for officers, and a similar pamphlet is being prepared for enlisted personnel.

I am committed to having the 80th Division do our part to advancing your career. I challenge you to do your part!



BLUE RIDGER

80th Division (IT), U.S. Army Reserve

The *Blue Ridger* is published periodically for soldiers, civilian employees, and family members of the 80th Division (Institutional Training), United States Army Reserve. With a circulation of 3,200, it is an unofficial publication under the provisions of AR 360-1, and published by the 80th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office.

Views and opinions expressed in the *Blue Ridger* do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Department of the Army or the 80th Division (IT).

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Cover photo: Staff Sgt. Denise Bradley "reflects" on winning the retention soldier of the year board.

Lead the Way

Taking Care of Our Own



By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Phoenix

As NCOs, it is our responsibility to take care of our own soldiers.

Just as we must accept no less than the best from ourselves, we need to stress the value of excellence to our junior soldiers.

This winter, I was proud to serve as president of our soldier of the year boards and witness what exceptional enlisted soldiers and NCOs we have here in the 80th Division.

These individuals showed poise, intelligence, military knowledge, and leadership qualities as they represented their units. They did not think of participating in a board as a burden, but as an opportunity.

The top soldier from each category was selected to represent the 80th Division at the First Army boards, and each (along with his or her spouse) was also my guest at the awards banquet at the division commander's conference at Virginia Beach in February. Each winner was recognized at the banquet.

I'd like to thank not only these soldiers, but the NCOs who mentored them throughout their military careers, and the first sergeants and sergeants major who pushed them to be the best by representing their units at the selection board.

Representing your unit at a board may require extra time and effort, but in addition to the awards, soldiers always gain confidence in their own knowledge and abilities after a board.

They learn new information when studying which can be useful later in their careers, and they meet other soldiers and NCOs from other units, so they learn about other units and missions and make valuable contacts.

Taking care of our soldiers occurs in many ways: recruiting, counseling, preparing soldiers to go to school, enrolling them in school, sending soldiers to school, helping them with promotion packets, slotting them into the right positions, and more counseling.

Sometimes we do the best thing for our soldiers by sending them to another unit for a career opportunity. Sometimes we need to counsel soldiers for substandard performance.

While doing the right thing may not always be easy, it will pay off when the new leaders not only take over, but know how to take care of their own soldiers because they experienced good mentoring firsthand.

Take the time to get to know your soldiers. Find out what their goals are, learn about their families, discover their talents, challenge their weaknesses, and understand their backgrounds.

Once you know what makes them tick, then you can understand how to challenge them to develop their knowledge and leadership skills.

Taking care of our soldiers is not only the right thing to do; it is what we must do.

Proposed New Test Not the ‘Same Old, Same Old’

By Spc. Jessica C. Harris

We’re gonna kick it up a notch here.

Actually, the Army might be kicking physical fitness tests up a notch by changing its events.

“None of the events have been approved or disapproved,” said Chief Warrant Officer James P. McGuire, 80th Division staff operations officer.

New tests might include the long jump, power squat, heel hook, shuttle run, push-ups, and 1-mile run, according to Army Physical Fitness School’s officer in charge.

If the events are approved, standards (including passing scores) would be developed based on current and ongoing research. An implementation date would then be approved for the tests, said McGuire.

“Right now they’re going into the testing phase. We’re going to start teaching our soldiers some of the events to get us thinking about those events – getting into the mindset that it might be changing,” said McGuire.

“It is far down the road. You’ll probably see some testing in the next year. The 80th will be doing some testing for the Army Reserve,” he said.

Under the current Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), soldiers are assessed according to a base level of performance essential for every soldier, regardless of MOS or duty assignment, according to the Army Physical Fitness School.

One advantage is that it is easy to administer.



Soldiers practice the proper form for the power squat.

The proposed Army Physical Readiness Test (APRT) would assess a broad range of physical attributes and would challenge strength, endurance, and mobility. It would also “predict the ability to perform critical soldier tasks or closely simulate the actual tasks,” according to the Army Physical Fitness School.

Basic trainees at Fort Benning, Ga., began a Physical Readiness Training program Jan. 16 that included the shuttle run, power squat, and long jump, according to the Army News Service.

There is a possibility that soldiers would take the tests in BDUs, according to McGuire.

“Right now, Fort Benning is letting it be the commander’s call. That’s something that would be worked out,” said McGuire.

McGuire said that if soldiers were required to test in the BDU, they would probably do more training in the uniform. “It’s just like anything in the Army. We’ll have to train in the uniform that we’ll take the test in. We’re waiting for United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) to give us guidance on it. There’s a lot more questions than answers at this point, but we’re going to stay on top of it,” McGuire said.

McGuire said that he doesn’t think the events are harder than the current ones. He said that the new tests would require more support and graders to administer, which would pose more of a challenge than the current APFT.

The long jump would indicate lower-body power, according to the Army Physical Fitness School.

Soldiers would have two opportunities to make the jump, and the highest score would count.

The power squat would measure muscular strength, power, and endurance of the hips and legs. Soldiers would have one minute to perform as many as possible.

The heel hook event would take place on a pull-up bar. Soldiers would have one minute, starting from a free hang, to hook their heels above the bar as many times as possible. Soldiers would need to return to the free-hang starting position with arms fully extended to complete the repetition.

The 300-yard shuttle run would measure the ability to repeatedly sprint after a change in direction. Soldiers would run 25 yards, touch the line, and repeat five more times for a total of 300 yards.

The current two-mile run would become the one-mile run. Additionally, pacing soldiers would no longer be permitted.

Push-ups would be the one unchanged event.

McGuire had a few suggestions for soldiers and units who want to prepare for this possible new APRT. "They need to learn the exercises from the company during pt time. Pull-ups would be good to train for the heel hook. The females may need to do some more upper body strength. Some units are already implementing this into their PT programs," he said.

"The main thing is not to panic over this. Until the final decision is made, we won't know if this is really happening," said McGuire.

The 80th has already taken the

lead of all the USARC units by briefing trainers on the new proposal, McGuire said. "We're letting them start to train towards this new PT test. We're ahead of the curve. A lot of the units are briefing their soldiers on the events right now," he said.

McGuire added, "These tests are just like anything in the army, we go back to them. When I was younger, we had five events and took them in BDUs. Any soldier that can take the PT test now could go take this (new) one and pass it."

Photos courtesy Army Physical Fitness School



One soldier practices the heel hook while the other is a spotter.

Retention NCO of the Year Named

By Spc. Jessica C. Harris

The division retention NCO of the year board found Staff Sgt. Denise Bradley of Hq. Co. to be the best of the 80th this year.

The retention board took place at division headquarters April 6.

"I enjoy helping people, and I love helping soldiers take advantage of opportunities the Army has to offer," Bradley said.

"I wish I had someone to help me out when I was younger. If I had someone to help me in my career, I might be further along than I am now. I enjoy doing that for other soldiers," she said.

"With my job, I'm also making sure that soldiers get all that they're entitled to," Bradley added.

Bradley certainly has a wealth of experience to draw on when helping other soldiers, as she has been in the Army for 20 years. She has been working in retention for three years.

Boots, Berets, and BDUs

Improving Uniform Wear and Appearance

By Spc. Jessica C. Harris

Soldier “A” saunters into the drill hall with an impeccable uniform, glossy boots, and well-shaped beret.

Soldier “B” drags into the drill hall with a wrinkled uniform, dull and dirty boots, and, dare I say, “longish” hair.

Are you soldier “A” or soldier “B?”

“Don’t just throw your uniform in the closet and forget about it until Friday before drill,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Goto, a senior drill sergeant with 4-318th.

Goto had plenty to say about why soldiers neglect proper wear of the uniform and how to fix uniform problems.

“Thirty days between drills seems like plenty of time to get things done, but if we wait until the last minute, something has to give.”

**Sgt. 1st Class David Goto
Senior Drill Sergeant, 4-318th**

“I think the biggest reason soldiers slack off regarding their uniform and appearance between drill weekends is procrastination. Thirty days between drills seems like plenty of time to get things done, but if we wait until the last minute, something has to give,” according to Goto.

“Appearance is one of the aspects that others evaluate us by,” he said. “It is a great tool to aid in the development of pride, uniformity, discipline, and attention to detail.”

Goto said that each uniform has its own set of common mistakes, and that NCOs should set the example for their soldiers to get the wear and appearance correct.

“The most common deficiency I see soldiers making is the improper wear and appearance of the beret. Our beret is very noticeable for at least two reasons. One, we wear them on our heads, so people

look at them all the time. Two, the beret is a very distinctive item, and people are very curious as to what they are,” he said.

Goto cited other problems with the BDU and PT uniforms.

He said that the belt on the BDU uniform frequently causes problems. Some soldiers do not wear one, it is threaded the wrong way, or there is too much running edge showing.

“What bothers me about this is the feeling that soldiers are taking a short cut. They figure since the belt does not show, they can slack on it,” he said.

Soldiers also take short cuts with the PT uniform, Goto said. “I’ve seen things like the jacket zipped to various levels, sleeves pulled up, shirt tails hanging out, jackets tied around the waist, civilian athletic apparel (mixed with the uniform), and various states of grooming. The mind-set is that it is a PT ‘outfit’ rather than a PT ‘uniform,’” he added.

“This bothers me because the PT uniform is a uniform and is governed by standards that need to be enforced.”

“When I see a soldier who is in the wrong about the wear of the uniform, the first thing that goes through my head is that the soldier needs correcting. Be wary of undermining another leader when dealing with soldiers outside of your command. Judgment of any soldier has to be put in the context of the whole soldier,” according to Goto.

“Soldiers look to their leaders to establish how to act and conduct themselves. When you do need to make a correction, the method that gets results is to treat them with respect,” he said.

Goto, who has been in the Army for 15 years, emphasized that a good appearance helps soldiers look professional.

“For the past couple of years I have been taking Cub Scouts to the Department of Defense open house at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. From that experience I know the general public ... loves when the (military) looks good,” he said.

“When we look professional, people get a sense of confidence in us.”

Uniform Changes to be Approved

In case you needed a little help remembering the small tidbits that help you have a professional appearance, here are some possible changes to the wear and appearance manual (670-1) soon to be approved (some have been issued in messages or policy letters already):

Hair: Dreadlocks are prohibited for all soldiers. Prohibited hair dye colors include purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright fire-engine red, and neon colors. Applied colors must look natural on the individual soldier. Females are authorized to wear braids and cornrows; baldness is authorized for males, either natural or shaved.

Nails: Males are not authorized to wear nail polish and they must keep nails trimmed to the tip of the finger. Females must keep nails trimmed no longer than ¼ inch, as measured from the fingertip. Two-tone or multi-tone manicures and nail designs are prohibited. Prohibited nail polish colors include bright fire-engine red; khaki or camouflage; purple, gold, blue, black, white, and neon colors.

Contacts. Tinted or colored contacts, and contacts that change the shape of the iris are prohibited, as they are not medically required. The only contacts authorized are opaque lenses (when prescribed for eye injuries) and clear corrective vision lenses.

Cell Phones and Pagers. One electronic device is authorized for wear on the uniform, in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4-by-2-by-1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, in a bag, or in some other carrying container.

Bloused Boots. Soldiers will not blouse boots any lower than the third eyelet from the top of the boot.

Headgear. Males are exempt from wearing headgear to evening social events (after retreat).

Black beret: The Army flash is the only flash authorized, unless authorization for distinctive flashes was granted.

Hydration Systems. Commanders may authorize the use of a camouflage hydration system (commonly called “camelbacks”) for field duty or on work details. Soldiers will not use these devices in a garrison environment, unless directed by the commander.

Pregnancy. Soldiers who are pregnant wear the PT uniform until the uniform becomes too small or too uncomfortable. At that time, pregnant soldiers may wear civilian equivalent workout attire. Leaders will not require soldiers to purchase larger PT uniforms to accommodate the pregnancy.

ID bracelets: restricted to medical alert or POW/MIA bracelets.

Civilian bag carrying policy. For bags carried on the shoulder in uniform, no see-through (plastic or mesh) bags are authorized, and soldiers will not carry the bags with the strap draped across the body. Bags must be carried on one shoulder only when walking, with the bag and the shoulder strap on the same side of the body.

Information provided by Master Sgt. Messman

Community Outreach

Chop the Wood and Ring the Bells ... All for a Good Cause

By 1st Lt. Wayne Grant

Members of A Co., 2/319th, occupied the streets and neighborhoods of Covington, Va., for drill in December. The unit, whose mission is to provide training support in basic rifle marksmanship, was not practicing urban tactics or countering terrorism. They were providing support to the community they serve.

The unit has provided community service for more than 20 years. Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Scott, a senior instructor and 23-year member of the unit, recalled “years ago as an E-4 and E-5 ringing bells for the Salvation Army.” He said it all started as a way to help the communities where the soldiers live.

Recently, the unit expanded its focus to include not only bell-ringing, but also to helping underprivileged children and providing firewood to needy families.

The effort is organized primarily through the Christmas Mother and The Salvation Army. The unit coordinates with these agencies months in advance to ensure soldiers are prepared to provide the needed assistance.

Sgt. 1st Class Trent Martin, an operations sergeant, and Sgt. 1st Class David Livingston, a training NCO, organized the support for the underprivileged children. Martin said the work started early in the holiday season as they “help the Christmas Mother process applications and get her shop ready.”

The unit randomly selected an age group of children to assist. “Once we get names, we interview



Staff Sgt. Kyle Moore, assistant training NCO and instructor, finds the perfect gift for the child he is sponsoring.

the children and their families to determine what their ‘must have’ needs are, their clothing sizes, and what they want,” Martin said.

During drill, the children were taken shopping at a local department store that offered them a 10 percent discount on all purchases. A Covington auto dealer also provided the unit a 15-passenger van to provide transportation for the children and NCOs while they shopped.

Money for the children’s gifts was raised entirely through the unit fund. While some money was brought in through raffles to the public, the bulk of the contributions came from “in-house” raffles and direct donations by the soldiers.

The contributions allow the unit to sponsor four or five children each year. Staff Sgt. Kyle Moore, custodian for the unit fund, noted that the unit “generally spends about

\$300 per child, which still leaves us a cushion in the account for the next year.”

While NCOs took the children shopping, other soldiers were out in force ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Dressed in Class “A” uniforms, they merrily braved the elements to raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, a retention NCO, led the unit’s Salvation Army effort. Johnson thought that people gave more this year due in part to the tragedy in September. “People dug deep to help, when they could have spent money on family or elsewhere,” said Johnson.

Johnson felt that the unit had great success ringing bells. He noted, “this was the best year I’ve had of the twelve I’ve been doing it.” He also said that many veterans commented on the fine job the

reservists were doing.

Soldiers not involved with shopping and bell-ringing were needed at Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Persinger's home. There, they split, loaded, and hauled several loads of firewood to needy families throughout the county. The unit recognized early on that not all soldiers could be employed helping the children or ringing bells. Providing wood was another great way to help needy families in the area.

Persinger, a senior instructor, said, "a lot of shut-ins and low-income people use wood as a priority fuel, and it's cheaper than

coal and oil." Persinger was able to obtain rejected logs free of charge from his employer, a paper mill.

More than 30 truckloads of wood were distributed in the community.

By midday, the company, ready for lunch and

fellowship, rallied at a local restaurant for their holiday meal. Joining the unit were the sponsored children, soldiers' family members, and the Christmas Mother.

The restaurant provided free meals to these guests

of the unit. The unit was also pleased to have the division sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Phoenix, attend the luncheon. In the afternoon, the soldiers returned to work in the community. Eight hours of drill was not enough time to complete these projects. Several

soldiers returned the following day, during their off-duty time, to ensure the jobs were completed.

Why does the unit make "helping out" an annual project? "We do it to serve the community and make people aware of the Reserves," Scott said.

"People dug deep to help when they could have spent money on family or elsewhere."

**Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson
2-319th Retention NCO**

Community Outreach

Community Service Centers Around Homeless Shelter

By Spc. Jessica C. Harris

Helping others was the mission for the day when 4th Bde. soldiers volunteered at the YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Women and Homeless Families in Charleston, West Va., Sept. 8.

Cadet Luke M. Phillips, a senior at Marshall University, thought that helping the community would be a great idea, and he realized that fellow soldier Sgt. Margaret Taylor was the director of Sojourner's Shelter.

Soldiers provided building maintenance at the shelter and painted the main commons area, a hall, and the stairs. Then, they grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for more than 60 people at the shelter.

"I wasn't sure of exactly what I wanted to do at first. I contacted several places, including the American Red Cross about possibly doing a blood drive. Then I got the idea from the sergeant (Taylor), and I took it from there," Phillips said.

Phillips took charge of the event by organizing everything from the supplies and food to obtaining

permission for the mission.

"In the five years that I've been in the unit, we've never done anything like this, and I thought it was time," Phillips said.

"The people at the shelter were really happy we were there. Sgt. Taylor, who is the director of the shelter, said they were talking about it days after," Phillips said.

Cadet Phillips, Sgt. Taylor, Master Sgt. Charles Massey, Pfc. Freelin Berry, Pfc. Brian Hancock, Pfc. James White, and Cadet Amy Terrell participated in the event.

Phillips added that they would definitely like to do a similar event in the future.

"It was a teambuilding experience. It was in a different environment. I would actually like this to be an annual event," he said.

Phillips plans to organize a blood drive for 4th Bde. in April.

Soldiers Show Excellence at Annual Board

By Spc. Jessica C. Harris

Second brigade and headquarters company soldiers took top honors at the division soldier of the year boards held Oct. 13-14 at division headquarters in Richmond.

The best of the division for 2001-2002 are: Spc. Kamila Williams of Hq. Co. (E1-E4), Staff Sgt. David Allen of 2nd Bde. (E5-E9), Staff Sgt. Robbye Bush of Hq. Co. (Active Guard Reserve), and Staff Sgt. McKesia Hester of 2nd Bde. (drill sergeant).

"I was very nervous," said Bush. "It was my first time at a board, but when I walked into the room and saw the sergeant major (Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Phoenix), I just put on that military face and it was okay. It's just that change of mind-set."

Bush studied materials for the board for two days, tape-recording herself giving answers and listening to her responses. She felt that the questions asked at the board were based on overall NCO knowledge and didn't focus on any one specific area.

"Initially, I wanted someone else to win, but it felt really good to win. It says a lot about the leadership that they felt confident enough in me to nominate me. I want to thank the NCOs at headquarters who helped to put me at ease," Bush said.

Second-place winners for each category are: Spc. Bobby Haywood Jr. of 1st Bde., Staff Sgt. Jude Holman of 7th Bde., Sgt. 1st Class Larry Newton of 1st Bde.,

Allen, winner of the senior enlisted board, receives his certificate from Phoenix following the competition.



Photo by Maj. Patricia C. Anderson



Photo by Maj. Patricia C. Anderson

Bush, winner of the AGR board, stands proudly in front of the flag after the competition.

and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Wofford of 2nd Bde.

The winner of each category received a calendar with a plaque and an Army Commendation Medal. The runners-up won an Army Achievement Medal and a notepad. Each participant received a certificate of appreciation, a Command Sergeant Major coin, an 80th Div. Cup, a pocket knife, pens, and pencils.

Are You Prouder to be in Uniform Since the Sept. 11 Attacks?



"I am no more proud. It's always been an honor to wear it, no matter what the circumstances."

Staff Sgt. David Allen, 2nd Bde.



"I've always been proud to wear the uniform."

Staff Sgt. Jude Holman, 7th Bde.



"I am prouder because I want to be part of serving my country. I am proud to be a soldier."

Staff Sgt. Katrina Todd, Hq. Co.

Police Force Wins Award

By Sgt. Kate Neuman, 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Twenty-Ninth Basic Academy for new Henrico County, Va., police graduated with a special presentation by Maj. Glenwood A. Hence and Maj. Janice Shearin-Smith to the Sheriff of Henrico County.

Hence, Hq. Co. Commander, and Shearin-Smith, an 80th retention officer, presented Honorable Michael L. Wade with the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve award for being a supportive employer of the Army Reserve.

Staff Sgt. Denise M. Bradley, retention NCO for the 80th, nominated Wade for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. Bradley had been on orders since Aug. 27.

She said she has been on and off orders and not able to work her full-time job, and Wade “supported me fully.” Bradley’s orders were for her to work at the 80th through Jan. 11.

In Hence’s speech, he described the award as being one that recognizes deserving employers who support reserve and guard members to retain their valued skills.

Hence said there are over 11,000 soldiers and employers around the country in various positions and that supportive employers are critical in maintaining the strength and readiness of the guard and reserve units.

“This is our way of saying thank you to the Henrico County Sheriff’s Department for their support and serving our soldiers,” said Hence.

“It’s quite an honor to have the number of people that we have serve in the Army. We have 23 members

Watch out for the extra work!

Photo by Spc. Jessica C. Harris



Maj. Gen. Douglas O. Dollar, division commander, earned his two-star status Jan. 5 at division headquarters. Retired Maj. Gen. James G. Browder Jr., former division commander, pinned the star onto his successor, joking that “two stars means twice as much work.”

of our Sheriff’s Office in various branches of the service,” Wade said after receiving the award.

Ten members have been called since Sept. 11.

5th Brigade Officer Recognized

By Spc. Jessica C. Harris

Cpt. Thomas Tyron, director of the Emergency Technician program with 5th Bde., won the Award of Excellence honoring three junior Army Nurse Corps officers who made significant contributions to nursing and their organizations.

Tyron, who also won an Army Achievement Medal, was recognized for setting up a new medic (91W) class.

Brig. Gen. Bill Bester, Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, presented the award during the Charles J. Reddy Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in December.



Photo courtesy Army Nurse Corps Newsletter

Tyron (center) poses after the awards ceremony with (left to right) Brig. Gen. Bill Bester, Cpt. Calohan, Cpt. Pizzuti, and Col. Charles Reddy (Ret.).

Need to Know, Nice to Know

Fielding of New ID Card Underway

A team of contractors will travel worldwide to install equipment and help kick off issuance of the Department of Defense's new identification cards. About 25,110 soldiers and Army civilians already have received the credit-card size, multiple-functional Common Access Card (CAC) with an embedded computer chip. By May 2003, about 1.4 million cards are scheduled to be issued to Army personnel, and 4 million cards to be issued throughout DoD.

The CAC has a magnetic stripe, two barcodes and an integrated circuit chip. The magnetic strip will be used to gain access to controlled areas. The bar codes and computer chip will be used to store identification, demographic and benefits information. The computer chip will also store certificates that allow cardholders to digitally sign documents such as e-mail, encrypt information and establish secure Internet sessions.

NCO Evaluation Report Change

A change to the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report requires that soldiers be rated on the Army's seven core values.

The current Army values that were instituted in June 1998 - loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage - will be listed on the new NCO-ER in Part (IVa), Values and NCO Responsibilities.

Next to each value, raters will check either "yes" or "no" to indicate whether the soldier demonstrates that quality.

This is the first revision to the form in 13 years, which is the longest an NCO rating system has gone without being revised.

The NCO-ER will change to Department of the Army Form 2166-8, and the NCO Counseling and Checklist, which is used in conjunction with the NCO-ER, will change to DA Form 2166-8-1.

How to Avoid Collection of your Active Duty Pay

The Resource Management Office has noticed an increasing number of soldiers who are experiencing active duty pay collections. An analysis by the Finance Section determined that a majority of these collections were the result of non-certification of the duty per-

formed when soldiers were on active duty for 8 or more consecutive days.

If certification is not received within 30 days of the duty completion date, the Fort McCoy Reserve Pay Office assumes that the duty was never performed and initiates a collection action.

To avoid collections, all soldiers **must** submit a certification of performance signed by someone knowledgeable of the duty performed. Soldiers must submit the certified order to the Unit Pay Administrator, who will forward the certification document to the Fort McCoy Reserve Pay Office for processing.

National Museum of the United States Army to be at Fort Belvoir

The Army announced Oct. 15 Fort Belvoir as the location for the future National Museum of the United States Army.

Secretary White anticipates the National Museum of the United States Army will open in June 2009.

"I am pleased to announce Fort Belvoir as the location for the National Museum of the United States Army," said Secretary of the Army Thomas White. "After a rigorous review of potential sites, Fort Belvoir emerged as the best place to display the Army's historical artifacts for generations of visitors. Soldiers, veterans, and all Americans can take pride in these educational displays and documents showing the long and storied history of America's Army."

For almost two centuries the Army's extensive collection of artifacts and documents has lacked a permanent home.

Get Your Unit into the *Blue Ridger*

If your unit is doing some exciting training during a drill weekend or has annual training coming up, please take some photos and write up the information. The *Blue Ridger* gladly accepts input from the field. The editor will try to use all stories, with the understanding that the information may be rewritten in the interest of newsworthiness, space, or standard newspaper guidelines. The staff will provide guidance on submitting stories or photos.

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