



# WILDCAT

Volume 5 Number 2

81st RSC, Birmingham, Alabama

Spring 2002

## Army Reserve chaplain lights fire within

Story by 1st Lt. Stacia L. Hayes  
640th ASG

FRANKFURT, Ky. – On December 17, 2001, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) DeWayne L. Brewer, 640th Area Support Group chaplain, participated as an Olympic Torch Support Runner in Frankfurt, Ky., honoring the 2002 Olympic theme of “Light the Fire Within.” “It was truly the thrill of a lifetime, rolled up all in one moment in time,” Brewer recalled.

Chaplain Brewer was nominated to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay by several of his wife’s, Sheri Brewer, co-workers at the Jessamine County Public Library in Kentucky for his spirit and dedication of caring for others and his enjoyment in jogging on a daily basis.

Brewer was notified in November 2001, that he was selected to be a support runner. He said although all torchbearer slots had been filled, it was still an honor to be selected to participate in the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay as a support runner. Shortly after notification, Brewer received the Olympic Torch Support Runner Windsuit.

Brewer reported to Frankfurt on December 17, 2001, to receive the briefing by the Olympic Torch Support Team members. They informed all runners of the day’s events and also the history of the torch and the significance of the theme, “Light the Fire Within.” It was shared that for every torchbearer and support runner, someone had recognized the “fire” within them and therefore nominated them to represent the 2002 Olympics as a runner. They also shared about the torch itself and its design of an enclosed flame



Photo courtesy of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) DeWayne L. Brewer

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) DeWayne L. Brewer wears the Olympic Torch Support Runner Windsuit as he prepares for his run.**

silver representing the new history ahead of us. The torchbearers were to grasp the torch in the center, bridging the two “colors,” or histories of their lives.

After the briefings, Brewer left with his fellow torch bearers and support runners to the assigned segments, each one two-tenths in distance, to be dropped off at the designated location for each person to run. Brewer was scheduled to run with four torchbearers over four segments, a total of eight-tenths of a mile, as their support runner. While the runners were driving to their assigned spots, each one shared their story about their life and those who nominated them for this monumental day.

Brewer experienced the full meaning of what it means to participate in such an historic event. “The weather brought rain on this truly cold winter’s day, and three of the assigned torch bearer’s for our segments were unable to participate, for whatever reason, so the staff supporting the Torch Relay had to take their places,” Brewer said.

“One very significant fact of this event is that at the moment the torch bearer takes the Olympic torch and it is lit by the other torch, that person is the only person in the entire world doing that one event at that moment,” Brewer said. So when the staff member took his torch and had it lit by the other runner coming up to him and Brewer, he turned to Brewer and said that he had carried it before and asked if Brewer would like to carry it. Brewer reached over and accepted the torch, his heart bursting with joy of having this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Brewer was able to keep the windsuit and also cherish the memories of carrying the torch on that special day. In speaking with Chaplain Brewer about his participation, it was evident that the fire within him will never go out. ☺

in glass on top of a torch shaped like an icicle.

The torch was divided in two sections with the top section being a flat silver color representing the old history of our world and the bottom half a shiny

## 803rd QM CO deploys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Story by SGT Eric C. Barker  
300th Mobile PA Det

OPELIKA, Ala. – Economics teaches us the theory of ‘Supply and Demand.’ The 803rd Quartermaster Company in Opelika, Ala., is putting that theory to work for the U.S. Army Reserve. The demand comes from “Operation Enduring Freedom” and on January 6, 2002, the 803rd was mobilized to supply that demand.

After the events of September 11, many soldiers are happy to be deployed in support of the operation. For most soldiers in the 803rd this is their initial deployment.

Soldiers on deployment make numerous sacrifices regarding families and jobs. Spc. Michael France, supply specialist for the 803rd, explained while holding his

daughter, “I’m going to miss my family, but this is what I signed up for. I’m looking forward to this experience.”

Private Katrina L. James, a truck driver with the 803rd, and a college student, had to put her freshman year on hold for the mobilization. “My friends know I have a job to do, I’m trained to do it and I am going to do it. No matter what,” she said.

Training plays a major role in any deployment. Capt. Kenneth Davis, commander of the 803rd, explained, “We have been sent across the world three years straight during our annual training. That training has prepared us

well in our ability to go out and do our mission.”

The Army Reserve plays an important part in today’s Army. “Being a Reserve unit, we have a lot of civilian professionals. My soldiers bring that professionalism over to the military, making the 803rd one of the best quartermaster companies in the Army,” Davis said proudly.

Sergeant First Class Marcus W. Colquitt, operations sergeant with the 803rd, commented, “Being in the Reserves has its good points and bad points. My wife may not agree with me deploying, but she understands. It’s all in the line of duty. The Army needs us and we are here to supply that need.” ☺

**“The Army needs us and we are here to supply that need.”**

Sergeant First Class Marcus W. Colquitt



Photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker

**Sergeant Sharon D. Thompson, 803rd QM CO, gets help with her bag from her daughter Tiffany.**



**Front cover:**  
Sergeant Terry Turnage, 803rd QM CO, Opelika, Ala., takes time to comfort his daughter, Taylor, and son, Mykael, on the 803rd’s mobilization day. (Photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker, 300th MPAD)

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# GENERAL COMMENTS



Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo

Through this edition you will once again see stories of the great work you, the soldiers of the 81st RSC, are performing. But there

are many untold stories. I will not attempt to tell them all in the tiny space the award winning editor and staff of the "Wildcat" gave me, but will provide a summary of overall activities.

Through March 15th we have 54 units or portions of units, and over 2,500 soldiers mobilized. Units have mobilized with as much as a couple of weeks notice, to one days notice. Most recently 15 members of a unit were to mobilize in 24 hours. We did not think that was sufficient time. Twenty soldiers reported, ready to go - Good Work 834th AG Company (Postal), Miami, Fla.

We have soldiers and units mobilized to a number of locations. When you see a military spokesperson from Kandahar, it is probably Maj. A.C. Roper, Commander of the 314th Press Camp Headquarters, Birmingham, Ala. If you saw the cover of "Time" magazine in

March with the soldier in Afghanistan, it was taken by a member of the 314th PCH. If you go to Forts Campbell, Stewart, Bragg, Benning, or Aberdeen Proving Grounds and encounter an MP, he or she may be from an 81st RSC garrison support unit or the 405th MP Company, Nashville, Tenn. Mobilize at Fort Bragg and you will be under the control of the 2125th Garrison Support Unit, Decatur, Ga., until you deploy to your next location. We have a unit that was mobilized for Europe, changed to Fort Bragg, then changed again. That unit is now in four locations in Southwest Asia supporting combat troops.

As I'm writing this article, I'm returning from El Salvador where I visited elements of the 330th Combat Support Hospital - Millington, Tenn.; 320th MP Company - St Petersburg, Fla.; and well drilling elements of the

926th Engineer Group - Montgomery, Ala. I thought they were performing the normal New Horizons mission, but learned on arrival they are helping communities recover from devastating earthquakes in January and February 2001. In the area our soldiers were working, 844 people died, 4,723 were injured, and over 275,000 houses destroyed or damaged.

You should be proud of your achievements especially the ability to perform when called. Keep up your training. Don't let poor leadership deprive you of the opportunity to learn at every drill and AT period. If necessary, take the initiative and make things happen. That's the reputation of soldiers of the U.S. Army and the 81st RSC.

Thank you for a great job.  
*(Readiness-Soldiers-Families)*

## CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

We are still at war. The uncertainty of our lives and that of our children and grandchildren is a reality that we must face. We must be prepared for the changes that are coming. We continue to march ahead, but we must be more aware that ours is a preparation for whatever may come.

In the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy, Paul had come to the end of his life. He had been a faithful servant to Christ; now he was writing a letter from prison where he would soon be executed for preaching the Gospel. In this letter to Timothy, he calls upon Timothy to remember his roots; his Jewish mother and godly grandmother. Life was changing for young Timothy, the world as he knew it would never be the same, but Paul wisely recognized how important it would be for Timothy to hold to the basis of his faith.

God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Paul's counsel to Timothy also helps us find our way in this world of terrorism, death and strife. Paul makes three very strong points in his admonitions to Timothy. First, don't give in to pressure, fear, or shame, but stir up the gift of God that is within you. This is an encouragement to be all God has created you to be.

Second, stay focused. Terrible



Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith

things will take place, Paul will be executed, but Timothy must not be distracted by the temporal. He was to focus himself upon the eternal.

**"We are at War, but as the people of God, we have a firm foundation for victory."**

Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith

Finally, Timothy was to hold to the Word, the basis of his faith until the end. We too must consider our calling and gifts and put them uppermost, and not be distracted by the world's demand that we conform. We must hold to the foundations of our faith, and depend upon the Spirit of God within us to give strength and insight.

We are at War, but as the people of God, we have a firm foundation for victory.

## CSM MEMOS

If any conversation continues very long, the subject of promotion always surfaces. Most of the questions and/or comments are directed at how to get promoted or why didn't I get promoted? There are several major points to consider, but mostly AR 158-140 answers all, especially the technical points.

Promotion is a three-part process for the entire enlisted spectrum. For E-1 through E-4, promotion is dependent upon the company leadership. Promotion to E-5 and E-6 is more dependent on the battalion which uses a promotion board process described in Chapter 3 of AR 158-140 and uses several pre-described forms to assist the board member in making his or her decision as whether to recommend the soldier for promotion or not.

It would be a good start point for any soldier who is to be promoted to take a bit of time and check out the forms and try to determine what a potential board member might see when they look at a packet submitted by him or her. This may help a soldier assess where some of their strong and weak points may be and thereby afford the soldier an opportunity to accomplish a corrective action which would help the board member "see," more clearly,



Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

the entire soldier through the records that reflect his or her soldier skills. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that a counseling session with chain of command should re-enforce this assessment for promotion.

**"...each soldier should strive for excellence through self-development. It is your duty..."**

Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

Promotions and leadership go hand in hand and the atmosphere that exists for those of us in today's Army is for leadership to be a part of all who stay in uniform. Needless to say, each soldier should strive for excellence through self-development. It is your duty and by doing so, you do the most fulfilling part of being in uniform; you take care of others!

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## WILDCAT

The WILDCAT is published in the interest of all personnel of the U.S. Army 81st Regional Support Command. It is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and has a circulation of 30,000.

It is written, edited and published by the Public Affairs Office, 81st RSC, 255 West Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, Ala. 35209-6383. Toll-free number: 1-877-749-9063/ext.1693, Fax (205) 795-1694. Internet address: <http://www.se.usar.army.mil/pao/pao.htm>.

Editorial views and opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the 81st RSC.

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# Reservists turn mobilization into family affair

By Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney  
300th MPAD

OPELIKA, Ala. – Shakespeare once wrote the phrase, “Parting is such sweet sorrow.” This expression comes to mind when one analyzes the plight of two soldiers from the 803rd Quartermaster Company, Opelika, Ala. With deployments, there comes the pride and enthusiasm of serving in the Army, however, there often comes the sadness triggered by the ones who are left behind.

The 803rd recently mobilized to serve an active duty tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This marked the first deployment for many of the unit’s soldiers, and a particularly difficult one for sergeants James and LeKeisha Presley, a married couple in the same unit, deploying on the same date, and leaving behind their 21-month old son, Jamais.

This time around, Sgt. James E. Presley, a heavy-wheel mechanic for the 803rd, will be serving on his second deployment. His first consisted of a tour in Bosnia in 1997. Having served four years in the Army, he said he considers deployments to be a learning experience. This deployment comes shortly after he transferred to the 803rd from Detachment 1 of the 287th Transportation Company in Anniston, Ala.

“I’m not eager to leave my home or family,” said Presley. “Leaving my loved ones was the thing that affected me most during my first

deployment. My wife and I found out on the same day that we had a possibility of being deployed, and this was confirmed on December 24, 2001.”

According to Presley, although he has had a previous deployment, they never get easier. “This tour hits home because my wife is being deployed also,” sighed Presley. “I think soldiers should have more time to resolve family issues, because the hardest thing about this deployment will be leaving my son and my immediate family.”

His wife, Sgt. LeKeisha D. Presley, an automated logistics specialist, shares this sentiment. Presley has served nine years in the Army Reserve, however this is her first deployment. “My initial thoughts were me hoping we stay stateside,” she said. “My family tried to comfort me by saying I wasn’t going anywhere, but when I found out I was leaving, I was a little nervous.”

“The hardest part about leaving will be that I’ll miss maybe a year of my son’s life...”

Sgt. LeKeisha D. Presley

Despite the situation, Presley (LeKeisha) maintained a positive outlook on things. “I expect to gain more experience and get the feel of active duty training during this deployment,” she said.

“Initially, I was nervous about leaving, but my mother, (who will be keeping Jamais in her absence) is very supportive. She doesn’t want me to go, but she understands I have to do what I have to do, and she’s here for me.”

Aside from all the uncertainties surrounding the deployment, the Presleys agree about one thing



Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney

**Sergeant LeKeisha D. Presley, 803rd Quartermaster Company, Opelika, Ala., gives her son a farewell kiss as her husband, Sgt. James E. Presley, and the rest of her family look on.**

wholeheartedly, and that is the fact they will both miss their son. “The hardest part about leaving will be that I’ll miss maybe a year of my son’s life, and you can’t get those years back,” said Presley (LeKeisha). “I don’t think missing Jamais will influence my work performance, but it will influence me in my downtime. The hardest part of all this will be being away from my baby.”

The Presleys took with them fond memories to remind them of their son as they ventured out to serve their country. “The thing that will keep me going when I think about Jamias was the time he learned to take his diaper off,” said Presley (James). “He ran all around the house naked and we had to catch him.”

“My son’s birth is my most memorable experience,” said Presley

(LeKeisha). “I’ll never forget that or his first birthday.”

As far as the mission is concerned, there seems to be no doubt that the 803rd will reap success. “I think the experience gained by simply being there will be the most rewarding thing,” said Presley (LeKeisha).

“I think this will be difficult for some of the members of the unit more so than others because this is the first time the majority of the unit has mobilized,” said Presley (James). “This will definitely let the commander know where the unit’s strengths and weaknesses are and show him the key areas that need to be focused on. I believe civilian and military skills will come into play to accomplish the mission and I know we will be successful. All we have to do is pull together as one.”

## TRICARE gives Army Reserve families new reason to smile

Story by Maj. William N. Nutter  
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Army Reservists now have a new reason to smile when it pertains to dental care! The Tricare Dental Program (TDP) now offers active duty benefits to Reserve soldiers. This benefit is offered to Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and their families.

The program is relatively new, since it was offered only a year ago, beginning in February of 2001. The program is an excellent opportunity to offer reservists an affordable and quality dental care plan.

Lieutenant Colonel Abe Hobson, 81st Regional Support Command’s Medical Plans Officer, wants every soldier to consider the program. “I’m encouraging every commander and leader to inform their soldiers about this program,” said Hobson. “TDP, at a very low cost, will upgrade soldiers’ dental status to be Class II for deployments.”

The monthly premium is \$7.95 a month for a single plan and \$19.74 for the family plan. The plan is competitive with other dental plans offered in the civilian sector, and the premiums actually are lower than the 1999 premium rates.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Scott, Deputy

Chief of Staff Personnel, 81st RSC, is enthused about the cost savings it provides for soldiers. “For what I pay, \$7.95 a month, it is a bang for your buck. It pays better than my primary dental provider,” said Scott. “I think



every reservist should take this opportunity for its savings and its support. There is a website, and toll free numbers that provide excellent information and the nice thing is it is automatically deducted from your drill pay, so there’s no check to write.”

TDP offers dental payments up to \$1,200 per

year for each enrollee. For families that have children that require braces, TDP offers a lifetime maximum of \$1,500 for orthodontic care.

Reservists must have at least 12 months remaining on their service contract at the time of the enrollment for eligibility. Enrolled family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System.

There are two types of enrollment options – single and family. The reserve sponsor may enroll only him or herself, or one family member must select the single options. The family option is offered for two or more family members.

To enroll in the program, reservists may call United Concordia at 1-888-622-2256 to request an enrollment form. Enrollment forms may also be requested on the United Concordia website at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). When enrolling, new enrollees must pay the first month’s premium in advance to confirm coverage is in effect.

Over 50,000 dentists are part of the TDP network. To locate dentists in the local area the enrollee may call 1-800-866-8499, or visit the website. Dentists not part of the TDP network may provide dental care, but are not bound by any agreement with United Cordia.

# Attack brings dramatic change to Army Reserve duty

Story by Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Since Sept. 11, the nation's Army Reserve forces are mobilizing faster than ever before, according to Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve.

"This Army Reserve will never be the same again," Plewes told several hundred military officers at the Reserve Officer Association mid-winter conference here. At present, 12,000 Army Reservists and 21,400 National Guardsmen are on duty in 50 countries around the world.

"Missions that we had only given lip service to are now essential missions," Plewes noted. "The timing of our call ups, (and) the expectations of the American people as to what the Army Reserve needs to do and how it has to do it, have changed forever."

Plewes said before Sept. 11th the Army Reserve focused on unit and people readiness, job specialty qualification, training programs, equipment readiness and deployments. "We had no idea what our role was in homeland security," he noted. "We didn't know what 'hasty mobilization' meant. 'Threat Condition' didn't figure heavily in our lexicon."

Plewes said the role of the reserve components has changed dramatically. In Vietnam, the military only called up 3,000 reservists. In the aftermath, however, Army Gen. Creighton W. Abrams enunciated the Abrams Doctrine which essentially said, "You're not going to go to war again without calling up the spirit of the American people and you do that by calling up the National Guard and Reserve."

In Desert Storm, the nation called up 135,000 reservists. "They couldn't do it without us and we were there and we were successful," Plewes said. "We established a new basis for where we moved in the future."

He added that now, the Army Reserve is learning first hand what force protection means in terms of threat conditions. Today, more than 800 Army Reserve soldiers are on duty doing force protection work. They're also learning what 'hasty mobilization' means.

"Mobilization procedures that were 'thrown out the window' following the terrorist attack are now being 'truncated'," Plewes said. "In the past, when soldiers were called up to go to Bosnia, Kosovo or East Timor, they had time to get ready to go – 10 days at home stations, then they went to a mobilization to be certified and validated."

Plewes said in Desert Storm it took six months to deploy 84,000 Reserve service members, he noted. Reserve personnel were on the scene immediately after the Sept. 11th attack, and it took four days to put 2,500 reservists on duty.

"That's a real challenge for the Reserve," Plewes said. "The National Guard in its state missions has been doing that for years, but we're part of the federal force. Bringing a federal force to emergencies so quickly is really not something that the Army has been doing."

Today, he stressed, maintaining readiness is not an "occasional thing, but a constant thing." At present, he said, about half of the Army Reserve military intelligences forces and military police are employed.

Plewes said the response from both reservists and employers has been fantastic. He said during Desert Storm, between 15 and 25 percent of the units were unable to deploy due to health or family reasons. "This time around, the number is five to 10 percent."

Army Reserve units have had practice preparing for deployments. About 15,000 Reserve soldiers were mobilized for Bosnia and Kosovo. Reserve officials have focused on readiness,



Photo by Paul Adams

**326th Chem. Co. soldiers decontaminate non-ambulatory volunteer patient Timothy Coleman during a weapons of mass destruction demonstration in Louisville, Ky., at Army Reserve Awareness Day. September 11th brought about an increased emphasis on civilian patient decontamination training in the Chemical Corps.**

family plans and employer support.

"This has paid great dividends," Plewes said. "We are much more ready in terms of unit deployability than we were in the past."

Since Sept. 11th, Plewes said, "There has been a tremendous outpouring of employer support. We've had good employer support for Bosnia and Kosovo. I don't want to diminish that. But this time around, we have many more employers, both public and private, who are matching the salaries — or continuing the salaries if a military salary is significantly less — of their employees."

The war against terrorism "is close to home" and employers recognize it's directly in company interests to support the military.

"There's been a real heartening response on the part of employers. During Desert Storm, we had a tremendous problem with universities. They wouldn't give people credit or their money back, even when it was only one or two weeks into the semester. This time, we've had no problems with

universities. They've given money back and in some cases, they've forgiven courses toward a degree."

The war on terrorism has also caused a rise in recruiting particularly among 'prior service' people who have already served on active duty or in the Reserve.

"There's something going on that they want to be part of," Plewes explained. "Prior service people make up most of the increase in our recruiting numbers, but we're meeting our objectives in non-prior service as well."

Plewes noted that three years ago the Army Reserve fell short 10,000 recruits. Last year, they surpassed the recruiting goal by 102 percent because of the rush to the recruiting stations immediately after the Sept. 11th attack.

"Young people are finding it to be a good thing to join the Army Reserve," Plewes said. "Certainly, the economy has something to do with that, but there is a very strong feeling growing among young people now that they want to get back into serving their country." ☐



## AR-PERSCOM improves website, keeps reservists informed

Story courtesy of AR-PERSCOM

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) joins the ranks of progressive Fortune 500 companies with its online, self-service, personnel management web site, [www.2xCitizen.usar.army.mil](http://www.2xCitizen.usar.army.mil), commonly referred to as "Twice the Citizen." Army Reservists can volunteer online for current operations such as Enduring Freedom, while also utilizing the portal "My2xCitizen" as a personalized human resource tool.

AR-PERSCOM continues to enhance the recently launched My2xCitizen. The portal provides Army Reserve soldiers with a comprehensive view of their career information and enables them to uniquely customize and manage their Reserve career. The site also is designed to allow those Active Army and National Guard soldiers who have served in the Army Reserve to view historical retirement and promotion information.

"The Army Reserve is proud to be in the vanguard," said Col. W. Bruce Pittman, the Commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command. "We are using cutting edge technology to provide important up-to-date information to our large, geographically dispersed Reserve population." According to Pittman, more than 32,000 reservists have registered for My2xCitizen. The site has received more than 258,000 visits since it was launched.

"We are committed to doing all we can to improve personnel readiness," Col. Pittman said.

Accessing the portal is easy. Reserve soldiers must obtain a valid Army Knowledge Online (AKO) login and password. Soldiers can then log into the portal directly from the 2xCitizen web



site home page at [www.2xCitizen.usar.army.mil](http://www.2xCitizen.usar.army.mil).

To register for an AKO account, soldiers should go to [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil). Soldiers who do not have access to the Internet can maintain their military records and obtain information that is listed on My2xCitizen by calling the AR-PERSCOM Customer Contact office at 1-800-318-5298.

According to AR-PERSCOM officials, there are more than 500,000 Army Reservists available to log onto the portal. As of January 7, 2002,

approximately 12,000 soldiers (units and individuals) have mobilized for operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

"Recent military operations make access to timely information such as that provided by My2xCitizen especially important," said Anita Washington, portal business team leader. "Regardless of where they are, this service allows Reserve soldiers to verify their current contact information, update their address and telephone numbers, and obtain information on retirement points," Washington said.

Key features of My2xCitizen include: Integrated secure Army Knowledge Online (AKO) login; Personal information, such as contact date and service data; Mobilization instructions such as Retention and Readiness Information, including security clearance, physical, expiration term of service (ETS) and other important dates; Electronic military personnel documents and retirement information; Alerts that flag key expiration dates pertaining to the soldier's career; Customizable windows and components for personalization; and Contact information update capability (some Current Organization [CURORG] restrictions apply).

Pittman said AR-PERSCOM is continuing to seek ways to improve customer service to soldiers. He said, based on feedback from soldiers worldwide, he anticipates that additional enhancements and interactive tools will be released in the coming months. ☐

# 81st RSC wages war against silent killer

Story by SSG Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Suicide among military personnel is a serious and growing problem. There were 45 suicides in the military last year and five of those were in the U.S. Army Reserve. Considering this, the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) has waged war against suicide in hopes of putting an end to this senseless, but ever-growing problem.

The 81st RSC full-time support Chaplain, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gerald Nelson, said because of the rise in suicides throughout the military, the 81st RSC commanding general, Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo, wants to make sure everything possible is being done so none of his soldiers have to contemplate committing suicide again.

“General Mayo cares about each and every one of his soldiers and he wants to make sure the command is doing everything it can for them. That includes helping them through the tough situations in their lives,” Nelson said. “It can be hard to do that at times, considering we only see the TPU soldiers once a month, but that is why it’s really important that supervisors make sure they pay attention to what is going on with their soldiers.”

Chaplain (Col.) Tommy W. Smith, 81st RSC Chaplain, said the best thing for supervisors to do is ask questions. “If you suspect that someone may be contemplating suicide, ask the person direct questions. Are you thinking of suicide? How are you going to do it?

Do you have a gun, or enough pills for an overdose? When will you do it,” Smith said. “Contrary to popular belief, you are not putting ideas into the person’s head if you ask them about suicide. Bringing the subject out into the open and discussing it is one of the most helpful things you can do, and suicide prevention classes are a great way to do this.”

Nelson said one of the first questions he asks a unit that calls to

depression, loss of hope, recent break-up of a significant relationship, previous suicide attempts, talking about suicide or death, feelings of failure, lack of roots or social relationships, financial reversal or loss of social status, and drug and/or alcohol abuse.

“They may blame themselves and allow self-hate, self-blame, guilt and shame to fester. Many develop tunnel vision as their hope narrows and all

me, because any suicide is one too many,” Nelson said.

He added that there are two ways soldiers can get in contact with someone if they feel suicidal and need someone to talk to. The first way is the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433). “This is the national hotline, which is really good for people because people who have had problems before and have worked through them usually man it. This gives the people calling hope to know that the people manning the hotline have made it through, and they can to,” Nelson said.

The other hotline is the 81st RSC Suicide Hotline at 1-205-914-9751, which is a 24-hour hotline to Nelson. “This hotline was established by General Mayo because he really hates the whole idea of suicide and he wanted soldiers to know that there is always someone they can talk to if they feel no one else will listen,” Nelson said.

“Life is just so precious and if we are not enjoying life, then we need to get some help because life is meant to be lived to the fullest,” Nelson added. “Suicidal victims must understand that they cannot fix their problems in one day. They must understand that they have to take things one day at a time, one problem at a time. They just need to reach out and let someone know what they are going through and remember that suicide is not the answer to any problem.”

## *If you know someone who may be suicidal:*



- \* Let them know that you care by listening!
- \* Assess the situation.
- \* If you are anxious, call your local chaplain or minister and let them assist.
- \* Don't try to help by yourself!
- \* Take the person for help!

say they had a soldier commit suicide is when was the last time they had a suicide prevention class, which is an annual requirement. “Our Chaplains are trained and ready to assist units in their suicide prevention classes. If a unit hasn’t had their annual suicide prevention class and needs assistance they can call me so we can get it taken care of,” Nelson added.

Smith said some of the typical suicidal warning signs include: withdrawing from family and friends,

they can see is continued suffering. Finally, the thought enters their mind that dying would be the way to stop the pain,” Smith said.

Nelson said one of best things anyone can do for a suicidal person is not to label him or her as such. “If someone is concerned about someone or knows someone having problems dealing with issues in their life, the first thing they should do is take that person to someone who can give them help or contact their Chaplain, or call

## Reservist sings for Pentagon fund

Story by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – In the days following the September 11, 2001, tragedy, many Americans tried to find some way to provide assistance to the people that were affected by the horrific devastation. Many gave blood and some gave money, but one Army Reservist found a unique way to help give back to the survivors of the Pentagon attack; a way that was music to her ears.

Staff Sergeant Denise Underwood, an Active Guard and Reserve soldier with the 139th Legal Support Organization located in Nashville, Tenn., volunteered to take part in the creation of a song that would help raise funds for the family members of the victims involved in the September 11th attack on the Pentagon.

Underwood has been singing all her life. From an early age she began performing on command at family gatherings and in the church choir, and now in the 81st Regional Support Command’s Wildcat Soldier Show, but after 9-11 her focus shifted to using those talents to help Americans cope with the attack on the United States.

Shortly after finding out about a group of people who were putting together a song to help America cope with the Sept. 11th tragedy, Underwood received a phone call to see if she would like to participate in the project. “My participation in the making of this song was truly divine intervention,” Underwood said. “I was only supposed to be part of the military footage for the song’s video and within a matter of days I was under contract and recording at the studio. It was truly amazing!”

The song labeled “You are not alone” came about from Ned Tonner, an attorney and Christian singer, and Katrina Rae, a full-time evangelist and Christian singer, who had an idea to bring together Catholic Christian artists to sing a song and show support for America. After inviting songwriters from around the world to submit versions of “You are not alone” the best version was selected and singers were contacted and offered the opportunity to participate in the project. Underwood was one of 13 singers contacted.

When asked how she felt about being a part of the project, Underwood said, “I am overwhelmed. It is truly an honor to serve our country both in and out of uniform. As we all heal from September 11th.”

Underwood said all the proceeds from the song will go to the Armed Services YMCA Pentagon Survivors Fund. “It is truly an honor and a privilege to have been a part of something so heartfelt. I’m touched to know that people appreciate the contributions made by both military and civilian personnel at the Pentagon,” Underwood said. “Knowing that people sincerely feel the loss and share in our grief so much that they would write a song and send all of the proceeds to our Pentagon family members coping with this tragedy makes me proud to be an American Soldier.”

Underwood said the response to the song has been fantastic. “First, the families directly affected by this tragedy received the video and CD, along with our condolence letter. Then the website started filling orders and at present sales are steady. I think that about

**“It is truly an honor to have been apart of something so special.”**

Staff Sgt. Denise Underwood

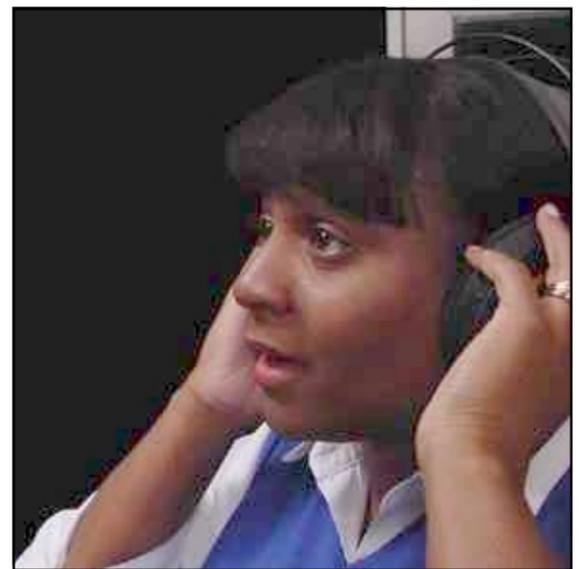


Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Denise Underwood

**Staff Sergeant Denise Underwood, 139th LSO, Nashville, Tenn., records her part of “You are not alone” in a local Nashville recording studio. The proceeds from the song will go to the Armed Services YMCA Pentagon Survivors Fund.**

3,000 units have been sold since its release,” Underwood said. “We have had very positive responses from people who have heard the song. Some people have even gotten emotional when watching the video.”

Underwood said she is not sure if they will travel to the Pentagon to sing the song personally, but, “There is talk about the Larry King Show, and some of the artists involved in the project have included the song in their concerts. I just feel so blessed to have been a part of such a great project and I hope it helps people heal and understand that they are not alone in this. Together we can overcome.”

Anyone interested in hearing the song and purchasing it or the video can go to the Catholic Artists for Relief web site at: [www.catholicartistsforrelief.com](http://www.catholicartistsforrelief.com).

# Bright Star 2002: Egypt

Story by Capt. Joseph Dreksler  
812th TC BN (MT)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – As you looked off into the distance you could barely make out the ray of dawn fast approaching behind sand dunes in the distance. Soldiers, in full battle-rattle, moved with a sense of purpose as they conducted preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) on their vehicles. The soldiers knew it would be a long day but a worthwhile adventure to work with our allied nations and get the opportunity to see the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

This was the daily routine of the soldiers of the 812th Transportation Battalion from Charlotte, N.C., along with the 227th Transportation Company (Medium Truck) located in Albemarle, N.C., and the 991st Transportation Company (PLS) from Salisbury, N.C., while participating in U.S. Central Command's (USCENTCOM) premiere overseas deployment exercise "Bright Star '02"

in Egypt from September through November 2001.

Preparation at the unit level started months before as the units started their SRP (soldier readiness processing) in January 2001 and continued up to the convoying of their vehicles from North Carolina to the Port of Norfolk, Va., in August 2001. These 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) units were part of Task Force 812 (reporting directly to the 143rd

Transportation Command (FWD); which consisted of 500 soldiers from four Reserve transportation units (three from the 81st RSC), three National Guard units and one Active Duty HET Company from Fort Hood, Texas.

During this exercise the Task Force was

USCENTCOM, French, British and Spanish forces during the two-month exercise at the height of United States tensions in the wake of the September 11th tragedy.

Lieutenant Colonel Eddie Singleton, commander of the 812th, commented how extremely proud he is of the soldiers who deployed during the exercise. "This was an excellent test of our units' abilities to deploy overseas with their equipment and personnel, for an exercise of this magnitude the units had to conduct training and soldier readiness checks as they would for a mobilization, the full-time personnel at the units were put to the test and they ensured all the soldiers and equipment were prepared to deploy," Singleton said. "The soldiers of the 812th Transportation Battalion deployed one week

after the September 11th attacks and performed their mission as is expected of a soldier in the U.S. Army. The soldiers from the Active Component, National Guard and Reserve pulled together and formed a seamless team accomplishing every mission assigned to the Task Force. I'm proud to serve with these outstanding officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers." 🐾



Photo by Capt. Joseph Dreksler

**Army Reservists from the 812th Transportation Battalion, located in Charlotte, N.C., pose for a picture with soldiers from the French Army in Egypt during exercise Bright Star 2002.**

responsible for transporting vehicles, containers and break-bulk cargo from the Seaport of Debarkation to the Tactical Field Location at Mubarak Military City, Egypt; transporting baggage from the aerial ports; providing theater-wide wrecker/recovery support as well as providing sustainment transportation support to the maneuver forces. Task Force 812 successfully and safely transported over 150,000 tons of cargo for



Photo by Capt. Joseph Dreksler

**Lieutenant Colonel Eddie Singleton, commander of the 812th TN BN, drives across the Egyptian sand in a French Army vehicle.**

# 535th competes for Connelly Award

Story by Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir  
210th MPAD

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Nothing in the Army runs without fuel. From the government issued trucks to the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV); and yes, even the soldiers.

The Philip A. Connelly Award recognizes excellence in food preparation and service in Army Reserve troop field kitchen operations, which keep soldiers fueled during tactical field exercises.

The 535th Military Police Battalion, Raleigh, N.C., recently competed at Fort Bragg as one of four finalists in the 34th Annual Philip A. Connelly Award competition.

The award is associated with the International Food Service Executives Association, who has combined efforts with the Army to recognize units with outstanding food services. Participation in the program is mandatory for all Reserve units with a food service section.

The 535th began its journey through the Connelly competition by winning at the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) level in January of 2001. In May of 2001 they worked hard for another victory to win the Southeastern Region at the Army Reserve Command level.

Since their regional win, the 535th began preparing for the final competition at the overall Department of Army (DA) level. The food service section even put in an extra weekend's work outside the normal schedule to get all their equipment and soldiers ready.

During the competition, "the highest amount of points can be lost inside of the Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT) with preparation of the meal," said Edward A. Siegler, food service management specialist, U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC).

The four food service specialists working in the MKT must follow the recipes according to USARC standards. "Anything from making unauthorized



Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir

(Left to right) Sergeant First Class Gerard Tabor, Sgt. Ronnie Hooker, and Sgt. Anthony Leach. Sgt. Anthony Leach serves the 2002 Connelly Award "competition meal" to Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Tabor as he passes through the Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT).

substitutions to not following sanitation procedures will hurt their chances," Siegler said.

"The menu remains constant for all units throughout all levels of the Connelly, which allows them to be fairly judged, and gives the unit an opportunity to perfect the menu as they progress through the competition," Siegler added.

The 535th is competing against three other Reserve units for the Department of the Army Connelly award. The participating units are judged by a panel of high ranking enlisted soldiers, officers, and trained civilian personnel.

"They're graded on this operation as if they were set up only miles away from a potential threat, as if there's an enemy out there somewhere," said Chief Warrant Officer Daniel W. Ormsby, command food advisor for the 81st RSC.

The contest requires that participating units simulate wartime maneuvers, where soldiers dressed in full battle uniform maintain a 50-meter distance when passing through the serving line. The judges approach the MKT interspersed among the

soldiers, allowing them a first-hand glimpse of the unit's food service operation.

"Though the competition focuses mostly on the food personnel doing their job, it really does require the entire unit working together as one," said Capt. Yvonne S. Breece, 535th battalion supply officer. "The soldiers are using this opportunity to train in the field as opposed to waiting for annual training to go out and do their mission."

"It has taken a total team effort to achieve what we have over the past few months," said Chief Warrant Officer Michael G. Poisson. "It's a heck of a star on this unit to have even made it to this level."

"We recognize the hard work and effort that the service members put into making it to this level," said Alfred E. Rudolph, chairman of the Interantional Food Service Executive Association. "Whether or not they win this last competition, just by getting this far, they are winners."

The Department of the Army level, 34th Connelly Competition winner, is scheduled to be announced at this year's International Food Services Executive Association Annual Convention, in Tampa, Fla. ☺

**"Whether or not they win this last competition, just by getting this far, they are winners."**

Alfred E. Rudolph

## SARG aims to increase Army Reserve soldier readiness

Story by Sgt. David Lomax  
300th MPAD

FORT GILLEM, Ga. – Laptop computer controlled pop-up targets, laser-sight attachments and integrated target simulators and monitors. These are examples of the latest in small arms training technology being employed by soldiers of the Small Arms Readiness Group (SARG) at Fort Gillem, Ga.

Formerly known as the Small Arms Training Team, the SARG and Army Reserve took the lead in the development of a marksmanship simulation system by working with a company called Beam Hit in Fair Lawn, N.J., which developed the Laser Marksmanship Training System (LMTS) currently used by the SARG for training Army Reserve soldiers.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Richard R. Kalina II, a primary marksmanship instructor and SARG member, the SARG is a unit made up of qualified small arms experts whose mission is to increase the readiness of Army Reserve soldiers by providing primary marksmanship instruction, reengineering the weapons training process and integrating simulations to improve individual skills while decreasing required resources.

Kalina said the course of instruction for LMTS training is done in conjunction with primary marksmanship instruction in order to enhance Army Reserve troop marksmanship.

"It is our primary job to provide the subject matter expertise on all types of weapons and marksmanship



Photo by Pfc. John P. Evans

Sergeant First Class Richard R. Kalina II, inspects his simulated M-16 before instructing the Small Arms Readiness Group at Fort Gillem, Ga.

techniques for qualification," Kalina said.

"One of our primary missions is to prepare the soldier for mobilization and bring up qualification scores Army Reserve wide.

"That's our primary concern," he said.

According to Kalina the LMTS course consists of a group going through weapon instruction, holding the weapons, using reflective targets and lasers and finally fundamentals such as sight alignment, sight picture and trigger control followed by evaluation of all the steps.

From one laptop up to ten simulated targets can be linked to give the instructors feedback on what is actually going on down range on the target, said Kalina. The targets give an actual representation of what a 100, 200 or 250 meter target looks like when fired upon. To complete the course a soldier has to pass each part of the four-part course.

"This is the kind of exercise that you would run for a basic training company," Kalina said.

Kalina said that during the development of this course it's been to Fort Knox, Fort Benning and Fort Jackson and is used in conjunction with Basic Rifle Marksmanship training in order to evaluate the LMTS training process. "We also do sustainment training on soldiers on drill weekends to evaluate what a soldier already knows about marksmanship," Kalina said.

"There's a great amount of satisfaction when you can take a soldier with a problem and be able to fix that problem," said Sgt. Lew A. Tippie, a primary marksmanship instructor with SARG. "To see that smile on their face after they finally shoot marksman after the tenth time. It's just a tremendous feeling." ☺

# Army Reservist once raced cars with the best

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Dunn  
319th MPAD

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – Sitting at his desk on the first floor of the Floyd Spence Army Reserve Center, looking over his inventories and hand receipts, he gazes at the photos of a time when being a race car driver and having his own shop was his only dream.

Sergeant Ronnie L. Brewer, a supply sergeant in the 310th Personnel Group located at Fort Jackson, was once a promising young race car driver, who spent his weekends racing late model stock cars at the Caraway Motor speedway in Asheboro, N.C.

Brewer, a native of Trinity, N.C., began racing at 25 and remembers one of the first cars he bought belonged to Ward Burton, who recently won the 44th Daytona 500.

“My father is good friends with Bob Burton, Ward’s father. We bought the car and I actually finished a career third place in it at Caraway,” Brewer said.

The car number “22” is still the number Burton uses on his current Caterpillar Winston Cup Car. Burton, who also has a military connection, is a graduate of Hargrave Military Academy, where he was a first lieutenant and ranked first on the school’s rifle team.

“I started racing after being a former Marine in 1989, I joined the Army in 1996 and went in civil affairs before becoming the supply sergeant here in the 310th as an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) soldier in September 2001,” Brewer said.

Being from a racing family, Brewer has raced with the likes of Mike Skinner, Bobby Labonte and three of the late great Dale Earnhardt’s children: legends like Fireball Roberts, Richard Petty and Junior Johnson,” Brewer said.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Dunn  
**Sergeant Ronnie Brewer (left) and his father, Bill Brewer, stand next to the car the younger Brewer bought from 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton in 1989.**

“We all raced at Caraway, it was a starting point for a young race car driver with the skills to get ahead, it all starts with late models. Also sponsorship is very important and so is money; this and a good pit crew,” explained Brewer.

“My father raced at The Daytona Grand Nationals back in the late 50’s. This was before Winston Cup racing. My father hauled his race car there with a single tow bar on the back of the family car. A lot has changed since those early days when Bill Brewer raced there with legends like Fireball Roberts, Richard Petty and Junior Johnson,” Brewer said.

“My last race was two years ago. I miss it everyday. I grew up in a racing family; it’s what we all lived for. I have approached the Army with recruiting ideas about racing, but have not yet got a response. I enjoy the Army and still hope to combine both,” Brewer said.

Brewer also knows the importance of the fans, “They are the most patriotic of any sport around and they all support their drivers. I wish the Army could be more involved in racing, because it is truly an American sport and an untapped recruiting tool,” expressed Brewer.

Brewer was also in the top ten in points for five years during his Winston Racing Series career. He is still hoping to pursue it and be in the Army too. 🐾

**“I grew up in a racing family; it’s what we all lived for.”**

Sergeant Ronnie Brewer

## 332nd Medical Brigade prepares for possible casualties

Story by Spc. Jeffrey S. Keown  
372nd MPAD

SMYRNA, Tenn. – A distinct sheet of white light bounces from the ominous mountaintops to the front of the approaching battalion. The enemy is hidden well among the cliffs, caves and passes that lie ahead. The infantry soldiers know the danger they face, understanding, all to well, the possibilities of battle. Yet, they march on into the grasp of danger. They are prepared, both mentally and physically, to endure. They are courageous.

Badges of courage will be earned today. Men will be wounded, some so severely that they may not survive. This harsh reality of war is a sacrifice every American soldier accepts. The necessity of medical attention at a close distance is profound. Having the proper tools close at hand will tell the story of just how many injured will live to fight again.

A wounded soldier will be given first-aid immediately even while the battle still rages. They will then be sent, by the fastest route, to a Combat Support Hospital that has been following the men, just out of sight and to the rear. The commander of this hospital will have to decide enroute what this soldier will need and where his needs can best be met. A constant

network solely dependent on good communication will be the only preservation of life today.

Commanders of medical units from all over the Southeast came to the Smyrna Air Base, Smyrna,

Combat Support Hospital (CSH), Memphis Tenn.; 345th CSH, Jacksonville, Fla.; 429th Medical Evacuation Battalion, Savannah, Ga.; and 427th Medical Logistics Battalion, Atlanta, Ga., reacted to the



Photo by Spc. Andrew Lee  
**Second Lieutenant Justin B. Rawley, 396th Medical Co., Winston Salem, N.C., monitors a map which displays simulated battle areas.**

Tenn., in November to train for this type of day.

The training wasn’t hands on. There were no field dressings put on fake wounds. There were no artificial heart attacks. However, the calls coming in over the radio simulated numbers of casualties coming from different areas of the make-believe ensuing battle.

Commanders from the 330th

onslaught of wounded soldiers. The commanders were then evaluated on their decisions. They had control of air and ground evacuation teams. They were in charge of moving their hospitals to be strategic to the fighting. They showed their strengths and weaknesses in making the decisions that would affect the lives of soldiers.

“We’re deciding how we are going to move the CSH forward to provide level three combat health care support,” said Master Sgt. Renee LaFond, intelligence NCO with the 332nd Medical Brigade. There are three levels of combat medical support. Level three includes everything from surgery to x-rays. The CSH has all the amenities of a stationary hospital and is completely mobile.

“Eighteen months of planning went into this training event,” said Col. Keith R. Votava, exercise commander with the 85th Division (Training Support), Fort Sheridan, Ill. “It’s our job to evaluate the training and create the scenarios that the participants will go through,” he said.

Soldiering isn’t an easy job. War is painful, dangerous, sad, and frightening. Army soldiers get out of bed every morning knowing that the day will come when they must use their lives to defend our country. They also know that their life is worth no more than the trueness of their rifle, the loyalty of their peers, the tact of their commanders, and the diligence of those responsible for repairing their broken bodies.

Every time a medic trains, he is better able to save a life. Every time that medic’s commander trains, he is given more opportunities to save lives. 🐾

## MAKERS

**Maintenance of Excellence**

FORT THOMAS, KY – The 478th Combat Engineer Battalion is the winner of the 81st Regional Support Command's "Army Award for Maintenance Excellence" program for 2001. The categories of evaluation for the award are: mission accomplishments, effective use of maintenance resources, innovative management accomplishments and personnel quality of life programs. All competitors were evaluated by the standards established by the Department of the Army (DA) and Department of Defense (DOD). The 478th will now compete at the DA and DOD levels against winners from other RSCs and commands.

"To win this award, the Battalion has consistently maintained equipment readiness levels that meet or exceed the Department of the Army goals, which has assisted the unit in improving its overall readiness posture," explained Lt.Col. Mark Williams, 478th Battalion Commander. He added, "The high frequency and types of field training the 478th is engaged in provides excellent training, but takes a toll on the equipment. It is crucial to have a dedicated maintenance section that can react quickly, and keep this battalion running." (By Maj. James Austin, 478th EN BN)

**Civilian Employees of the Year**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Ricky Howard, a civilian employee with the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), located in Birmingham, Ala., recently received the Supervisor of the Year and the Mr. Robert Windle Employee of the Year awards for fiscal year 2001. Howard is currently assigned to the Deputy Chief of Staff Logistics office at the 81st RSC.

Howard said he felt his staff truly deserved

the recognition and praised the many excellent supervisors in the command who were as deserving. "However, bottom line, someone liked something I am doing because I received the awards," he said.

"Mr. Windle was like a father to me. He spent a lot of his time mentoring me when I was selected for this job. Yes, there is nothing I like any better than being compared to Bob Windle. It is truly a great honor," Howard said.

Others receiving awards were Scott Pinkham, 425th Chemical Detachment, Panama City, Fla., who received the Unit Technician of the Year Award; Lisa Galloway, ECS 124, Fort Jackson, S.C., who received the Maintenance Technician of the Year award; and Phillip McChesney, GI, 81st Regional Support Group, who received the Staff Technician of the Year Award. Each of these employees will be formerly recognized at the next 81st RSC Commander's Conference where they will be presented the Superior Civilian Service Medal and a check for \$1,000.

(By Staff Sgt. Ethel Williams, 81st RSC, PAO)

**Change of Command**

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – The former Commander of the 81st Regional Support Group (RSG) took over the position of Commander of the Army Reserve Regional Readiness Command and relinquished his duties to the former Deputy Commander of the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) in a dual change of command ceremony at the Communities Activity Center (CAC) in February at Fort Jackson. This was the first time a dual change of command ceremony had ever been conducted at Fort Jackson.

Colonel Larry Knightner succeeded Brig. Gen. George W.S. Read, who succeeded Maj.

Gen. William B. Watson, Jr., of his position. Watson succeeded the Commander of the 87th Division (Training Support) in Birmingham, Ala.

Lieutenant General Thomas J. Plewes, Army Reserve Advisor to the Joint Chief of Staff and Commanding General U.S. Army Reserve Command officiated the change of command for the Army Reserve Regional Readiness Command. Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo, Commanding General of the 81st RSC, officiated the change of command for the 81st RSG.

(By Spc. John Nesbit, 319th MPAD)

**CW5 Position**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Command Chief Warrant Officer James S. Doty has been selected to fill the 81st Regional Support Command's (RSC) first Command Chief Warrant Officer position.

The new position was established to provide supervised warrant officer strength management, career development and warrant officer positions and personnel utilization. Doty will also coordinate with the Commands Retention Transition Office on the Warrant Officer Recruiting Program and with the Command Mentor on Mentorship and Counseling Program.

Doty last served as an Intelligence Officer for the 2145th U.S. Army Garrison in Nashville, Tenn. In 1990 he was activated for Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served in Saudi Arabia. He was also activated again in 1996 for Operation Joint Endeavor and served five months with the 2145th MTC at Fort Benning, Ga.

(By Sgt. Scott Fisk, 81st RSC, PAO)

**Alabama Governor's Award**

Story by Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— Staff Sergeant Staffian A. Massey, a local Huntsville, Ala., Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldier, recently received Alabama's highest military award. The Alabama Governor's Award for Outstanding Enlisted Representative was presented to Massey in a ceremony held at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., on May 15, 2002. Brig. Gen. Michael H. Sumrall, the Adjutant General of Alabama, presented Massey with the award as a representative of Governor Don Siegelman.

Massey received the award as a representative of the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) located in Birmingham, Ala. The ceremony was also attended by Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo, 81st RSC Commanding General; and Command Sgt. Maj. George A. Johnson, 81st RSC Command Sergeant Major. Massey received her award along with other service members selected to represent each active military installation and each Reserve Component command in Alabama.

Massey works full-time at the 326th Chemical Company in Huntsville as the units Training and Operations Noncommissioned Officer.

Massey started her 19-year career as a 54B, chemical specialist, in October of 1986. She has nine years of active service, nine years as an Army Reservist and recently completed her first year as an Active Guard and Reserve soldier.



Staff Sergeant Staffian A. Massey (center) stands next to Brig. Gen. Michael H. Sumrall (left) and Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mayo (right) after receiving the Alabama Governor's Award.

Massey was also recently named the 81st RSC Soldier of the Year (Active Guard and Reserve Category). She

will compete for the First Army Soldier of the Year to be held at Fort McPherson, Ga., on June 27, 2002. (A)

# ROUNDUP

## 3rd PERSCOM

JACKSON, Miss. – Several members of the 3rd Personnel Command (PERSCOM), Army Reserve, headquartered in Jackson, Miss., took on a caged project at a local community “no kill” animal shelter in January.

“Several of us have been volunteering at the shelter on our own time and recognized how easily a group of soldiers could solve the unique problem the shelter was experiencing,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Ogden, operations noncommissioned officer. “They needed an organized group to pickup nine linked cages and move them over 12 inches and forward six inches in order to rework the outside fence and add a 10th cage to the row.”

Synchronized operations and teamwork are two of the Army’s strongest attributes and 3rd PERSCOM soldiers made quick work of the task. In less than an hour a handful of soldiers had arrived, assessed the mission, stationed soldiers in strategic locations, moved the 45 feet of linked cages and were returning to work.

“3rd PERSCOM, like other military organizations, responds to community needs,” said Pat Coleman, 3rd PERSCOM supervisory staff administrator. “Here was a need and we (3rd PERSCOM) responded through the community outreach program we have established.”

(By Maj. Karen Magruder, 3rd PERSCOM)

## 642th ASG

### 3274th U.S. Army Hospital

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The 3274th U.S. Army Hospital from Fort Bragg has won the Army Medical Department’s highest award: “The Surgeon General’s Excalibur Award” for 2001. The distinguished award is presented to Army units in the Active and Reserve component for outstanding team and organizational performance in the Army medical field.

The U.S. Army Reserve hospital unit received the award for its significant contribution in providing a staffing support plan in the event that medical personnel from the Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C., deployed to another duty location.

The 3274th took on the project whereby each Reserve unit member was assigned a specific job that was occupied by an Active Duty member in Womack Army Medical Center. The purpose of the project was to keep the hospital fully functional and accomplish the medical mission in the absence of active duty personnel.

The 3274th was the only Reserve unit recognized and honored with the Excalibur Award for 2001. The award is considered an accomplishment because it comes from the Army Medical Department’s highest office: The Army Surgeon General.

Colonel Marsha C. Lilly, 3274th’s commander, accepted the award during the Army Reserve Medical Symposium Conference held in Atlanta, Ga., in March. “This award speaks to our unit’s hard work

and our devotion to our active duty counterparts at Womack Army Medical Center. This really is what the one Army concept is all about. Our soldiers and Womack Army Medical Center soldiers earned this award together,” Lilly said.

(By Maj. William Nutter, 81st RSC, PAO)

## 332nd MD BDE

### 345th Combat Support Hospital

GUATEMALA – The 345th Combat Support Hospital from Jacksonville, Fla., recently participated in a Medical Readiness Training Exercise (Medrete) in Guatemala. The exercise began Feb. 16th and finished March 2nd.

About 40 soldiers were involved in the event, which was based in Zacapa. From there, the soldiers traveled and worked from three sites in the region.

The main focus of the mission, according to unit commander Col. William Myers, was “to train soldiers in delivery of care to large numbers of people with limited assets, and to provide medical assistance to the citizens of Guatemala. Preventive medicine classes, medical exams, dispensing of medication, dental exams, dental treatment and ophthalmological treatment was also given.”

The mission was expected to improve international relations between the two countries. It provided an opportunity to better the public image of the U.S. Armed Forces and enhance American and Guatemalan soldier readiness. It demonstrates American compassion to needy individuals.

American soldiers are involved in a situation of learning, while simultaneously meeting critical needs of others. This follows President George W. Bush’s leadership regarding American military contributions to others.

Leading the mission was 2nd Lt. Steven McKnight who was afforded unusual authority for a junior officer as he commanded the activity. “The position is usually occupied by a captain, but McKnight has shown enthusiasm and demonstrated excellent Army values. He was given this position of authority to progress his military leadership training,” Myers noted. He added that the 345th family saw this as an, “extremely important and vital endeavor, a tremendous opportunity to serve others while contributing valuable training for our own soldiers. It can be described as a true ‘God and Country mission,’ and one that will be conducted with professionalism, courage, class and dedication.”

(By 1st Lt. Jeff Burnsed, 345th CSH)

### 991st TC CO

SALISBURY, N.C. – The 991st Transportation Company (PLS), located in Salisbury, recently held its change of command ceremony in February where the reservists of the 991st said a sad farewell to their old commander and provided a warm welcome to their new commander.

Captain David P. Padgett, former commander of the 991st, was succeeded by 1st Lt. Quentin L. Johnson during the Change of Command attended by the soldiers of the 991st. Capt. Padgett said he

looks forward to working with the reservists and commanding a great unit such as the 991st.

(By Staff Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon, 81st RSC, PAO)

## 171st SPT GP

### 421st Quartermaster Company

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Citizen-soldiers from the 421st Quartermaster Company have helped drop two million meals to starving Afgans.

The rigger unit from Fort Valley, Ga., was activated Oct. 31st to help “Task Force Firepower” prepare humanitarian aid supplies for airlift to Afghanistan.

Task Force Firepower was organized specifically for the mission of requisitioning, packing and preparing humanitarian aid supplies for airlift to Afghanistan. Army Reservists from the 421st make up almost 25 percent of the 400-person task force.

In the past, the 421st helped with humanitarian airdrops in Bosnia. The 421st is one of only two rigger units in the Army Reserve, and the other supports the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

As well as working with active-duty soldiers, the 421st has worked alongside soldiers from the German Army’s Parachute and Rigger School and two German regional commands.

Reservists from the 421st have been filling boxes, building crates, and packing chutes. The unit packs between 100, 000 and 200, 000 pounds of humanitarian aid supplies daily. What they are packing consist of rations, wheat, blankets, and cold weather clothing. The supplies are packed into large crates, each of which will contain either humanitarian rations, bags of wheat wrapped in blankets, or cold weather clothing packed in duffle bags. The crates are fitted with parachutes and dropped from airplanes into Afghanistan.

The 421st riggers are so exacting and careful with their work that they actually put their own names, rank, and unit on each parachute they pack, which gives them even further incentive to make sure they do their jobs exactly right.

(By Staff Sgt. Greg Jones, 21st TSC, PAO)

## 81st RSC

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Did you know that if you are a TPU Reservist, you could qualify for Tuition Assistance (TA) to assist with the cost of college tuition? The government will pay up to 75% of the cost of tuition up to a Masters degree. This equals to \$187.50 per semester hours or \$3,500 per fiscal year. Currently, reservists are also allowed to use the Montgomery GI Bill along with TA! That’s good news!

So, if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, call the 81st Regional Support Command Education Department at 1-877-749-9063 and speak to an Education Counselor at extensions 1741, 1968, 1678 or 1988. You “MUST” be counseled prior to using tuition assistance.

(By Demetra Malone, 81st RSC Education Office)

## BRIEFS

**Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device**

WASHINGTON – The Army recently gave approval for soldiers who are actively involved in operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle to wear certain insignia and medal devices.

Any reserve component soldier who is involuntarily mobilized in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom is eligible to receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, according to the Total Army Personnel Command. Volunteers are also eligible for the award, officials said, but their orders should cite that duty is in support of the war-on-terror operations.

Also, the sleeve insignia for former wartime service and overseas service bars have been approved for wear by soldiers who have been assigned to units that have participated in ground operations during Operation Enduring Freedom, according to PERSCOM.

The soldier must have been assigned to a unit that has actively participated in or been in direct support of ground combat operations against hostile forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, in which they were exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly.

Additional information can be found at the PERSCOM website: <http://www.perscomonline.army.mil/>  
(Army New Service)

**Officer Candidate School**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. - The annual memorandum of instruction and application packet for Officer Candidate School (OCS) is now available on-line at the Army Reserve Personnel Command's new web site at [www.2XCITIZEN.usar.army.mil](http://www.2XCITIZEN.usar.army.mil).

The MOI and packet will no longer be mailed to general officer commands for distribution. Enlisted TPU members interested in applying for acceptance into the Officer Candidate School Program can find this detailed information under the "Library" section of the 2XCITIZEN site.

OCS provides TPU enlisted soldiers the opportunity to use their enlisted experience in their new role as commissioned officers in the Army Reserve.

Additional information about the OCS program is available in the .  
(2Xcitizen Website)

**9-11 Volunteers**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – Currently, the Army Reserve-Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) is only filling individual requirements coming from headquarters and agency levels. If you are an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) or Troop Program Unit (TPU) member, please contact your chain of command. If you are an Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) member or Retiree, additional details can be found at [www.2XCITIZEN.usar.army.mil](http://www.2XCITIZEN.usar.army.mil). AR-PERSCOM has established an automated telephone hotline to expedite processing of volunteer calls for duty in support of current operations. Soldiers interested should call 1-

800-318-5298 or 1-800-452-0201.  
(2Xcitizen Website)

**Army educates forces on anthrax vaccine**

WASHINGTON – When the Department of Defense announced resumption of the anthrax vaccine June 28, the Army was ready to take the lead in educating forces on the vaccine's importance.

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) Agency is an Army-led organization in charge of providing all of DoD - including all military services — with educational tools to increase community knowledge on the anthrax vaccine.

"We're not just saying, roll up your sleeves and get a shot," said Col. Randy Randolph, the AVIP director. "We want them to know that the vaccine is safe and effective protection against all forms of anthrax, including inhalation, which is the most deadly form. It also provides round-the-clock protection against the disease."

AVIP's responsibility is to provide accessible information for troops and civilians to learn more about the vaccine.

Individuals who are required to get the six-series shot, and the annual booster, should learn about the vaccine at their local level, said Lt. Col. John Grabenstein, deputy director of AVIP.

The AVIP Web site was redesigned to be more user-friendly, and to also answer the most anticipated questions, Grabenstein said. However, AVIP's e-mail address and toll-free number can be used if someone needs a customized answer, he said. It's the personal questions that are the most important, he added.

Everyone on AVIP's 24-member team is involved in getting troops educated on the vaccine, Randolph said. Not everyone's primary mission is to provide customized responses, but anyone could be asked to do it, he said.

Last fall several U.S. citizens died from the inhalation form of anthrax, because they didn't know that they had been exposed and weren't able to get antibiotics in time, Grabenstein said. Without the biological threat protection that the vaccine provides, an enemy could widely disperse anthrax spores on the battlefield and many troops could die, he said.

Being protected is more important now than ever, the president said. There is still the threat of adversaries using weapons of mass destruction, Randolph said. When the vaccine was halted last summer, it was done in steps and methodically, which is how it will be restarted, Randolph said. There are people being vaccinated now. However, it's only a small portion of the force, and resumption will be done depending on the threat and mission essential functions, Randolph said.

(Army News Service)

**DoD introduces Online Medical Research Library**

WASHINGTON, June 20, 2002 — Veterans and service members can now find the Gulf War research-related medical information they want on one central Web site, <http://www.gulflink.osd.mil/medsearch/>.

The site is the collaborate effort of the Defense Department's Deployment Health Support Directorate, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The idea for the online medical library, dubbed Medsearch, came as a recommendation from a 1999 CDC conference, according to Drue H. Barrett of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.

"We brought together a variety of different scientists, researchers, veterans and patients' advocates," she said. "In several different work groups at this conference there was raised this issue that sometimes the research was difficult to search through because it was on several different sites."

Medsearch strives to fill the needs of both veterans and researchers, Barrett explained. Veterans wanted one place to go where all the information and research was available in a way they could understand and access it. Researchers wanted an easier way to keep track of all the research being done by the federal government in various places.

The site's creators believed it would be nearly impossible to capture all the research done related to Gulf War veterans' health, but government-funded research would at least represent the majority.

Those who visit the site should know they are viewing just the first stage of an ongoing project. The site will be updated continually as more research is done. Barrett said she hopes Medsearch will become increasingly valuable to veterans as time passes.

(Army Reserve Website)

**DoD pays some employees' Federal Employee Health Benefits**

WASHINGTON – Some DoD civilian employees in the reserve components who are called to active duty will see Uncle Sam pick up their Federal Employee Health Benefits Program premiums.

The new personnel policy, recently authorized by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, applies to call-ups for contingency operations under Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

"This is a really good benefit for our civilian employees in the Guard and Reserve who are deployed in support of contingency operations," said Nancy J. Wilson, chief of the Employee Benefits and Records Management Division, Human Resource Services Center, Washington Headquarters Services, in the Pentagon.

Depending on their health care plan, Wilson pointed out, participants can save up to \$50 a week.

Eligible DoD civilians also may obtain retroactive reimbursement of their FEHBP premium payments if they were called to active duty for certain crises on or after Dec. 8, 1995, according to a June 3 DoD personnel document listing the change. Filing procedures for these payments are still being developed and will be announced when available.

Reserve component members affected by the retroactivity policy change include those called to active duty in support of operations in: Bosnia, by Executive Order 12982, effective date Dec. 8, 1995. Iraqi Crisis, by Executive Order 13076, effective date, Feb. 24, 1998. Kosovo, by Executive Order 13120, effective date, April 27, 1999. Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America, Executive Order 13223, with effective date Sept. 14, 2001.

It's important that individuals notify their benefits specialist as soon as possible, Wilson said. The specialist will work with the employee to make sure that all applicable benefits process smoothly, including the new provisions for payment of FEHB premiums, she noted.

(Army Reserve Website)