



# WILDCAT

Volume 3 Number 2

81st RSC, Birmingham, Alabama

Spring 2000

## 81st RSC pushes forward with anthrax vaccinations

By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

As various units in the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) continue to receive their anthrax shots, they should know that they are not alone.

Brigadier General Michael R. Mayo, 81st RSC commanding general, and Brig. Gen. William B. Watson, Jr., 81st RSC deputy commanding general, started receiving the anthrax vaccine in January of this year and are on their fourth shot of six. Mayo said he wants to continue to let soldiers know that the shots are safe and necessary for their safety, and he is willing to go through the vaccination process to prove how much he believes in the anthrax vaccine.

Captain Shirley J. Boyd, a nurse administrator assigned to the Surgeons Office at the 81st RSC, said everything is going well with the anthrax vaccination process and they have received no reports of any problems. Although things are going well, Boyd said unit commanders should continue to discuss and keep soldiers informed about the vaccine. That point was not hers alone.

Members of the Department of

Defense (DOD) recently held a briefing to discuss various issues concerning the anthrax vaccine. During that meeting, Dr. Sue Bailey, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, provided the latest information about the anthrax vaccine to the other attendees, but reservists might also find this information to be just as informative.

The following is some of the statement made by Bailey as she discussed the anthrax vaccine with other DOD members during the briefing: "Two years ago, acting on the recommendations of the chairman and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary Cohen approved a program to vaccinate all active and Reserve members against anthrax.

"Nothing the department has learned in the last two years has reduced our concern about the threat of a possible anthrax attack against our troops. Indeed, we know that Iraq and other potential adversaries have weaponized anthrax so that it can be used on the battlefield. As a result, military commanders consider vaccination against anthrax a necessary element of force protection as we prepare for the threats of the 21st century.

"Last year we started vaccinating military personnel who are deploying



Paul Adams

Brigadier General Michael R. Mayo, 81st RSC commanding general, receives his first anthrax shot.

to two high-threat areas, Korea and the Gulf. So far we have vaccinated approximately 383,000 soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines. This is the first phase of the program.

"From the beginning, the safety of the vaccine has been a paramount consideration. Before we started the first vaccinations, Secretary Cohen ordered supplemental testing of the vaccine and a review of all the health and medical aspects of the program by a former dean of the Yale Medical School. The vaccine is safe and very effective. Secretary Cohen and Chairman Shelton both completed the vaccination program.

"The vaccine has very few side effects,

and they are mild and temporary.

"The Anthrax Vaccination Program is a necessary part of our obligation to protect U.S. forces. It's important that all military personnel have complete confidence in the safety of this vaccine. This program is safe, effective and necessary. And we will continue to meet the highest possible standards."

As DOD continues to meet the highest possible standards, the 81st RSC plans to do the same, as it continues to keep reservists safe from anthrax while they defend their families and their country when duty calls. (M)

## Army Reservist entertains troops on worldwide tour

Story by Paul Adams  
81st RSC, PAO

She is no stranger to music. Ever since she was three, or "knee-high to a dove" as she recalls, music has been in her life. With a grandfather as a recording artist and a mother singing gospel music for the local choir, Spc. Kenyetta ("Kim") M. Benson, an Army Reserve truck driver with the 803rd Quartermaster Company, Opelika, Ala., hoped one day to be on top of the world as a professional singer. Little did she realize that she would be traveling the globe singing so early in her career.

With her selection this past winter to the elite All-Army Show Band, the USA Express, the 23-year-old Columbus, Ga., native deployed in early April for a one-month tour to the Balkans. The nearly non-stop trip was to include 19 performances in six countries, to an estimated 12,000 troops in less than 30 days.

"I love going places to sing and I am really excited about this tour," Benson said. Benson is the only reservist in the band.

Singing from place to place was how Benson's early career got started. She got her big break in 1999 when

she saw the Soldier's Show at Fort Benning, Ga., with her mother and a friend, and afterward handed out her business cards. One card fell into the hands of the show's non-commissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC), Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Pettermon.



Paul Adams

Benson performs one of the songs from the show during practice.

Impressed with her credentials, he told Benson to send in an audition tape. "Sergeant Pettermon soon gave me a call and told me I was accepted into the program," she said. Impressed with her confidence and enthusiasm,

Pettermon brought her into the program right away. The tape arrived later.

Arriving at Fort Belvoir, Va., in late January for six weeks of intense rehearsing under the watchful eyes and ears of music and artistic director

midnight doing a number over and over. Mr. Hall would not let us go until we got it right," Benson said.

"We have built up a good relationship with each other," Benson says of the group. "Mr. Hall tells us what he wants and we help each other get it done."

Specialist Laura Whitehead agreed. "Kim is so much fun and is an easy person to work with. She gives me helpful advice and the chills when she sings."

"Our unit is high energy, upbeat and non-stop," Hall said in describing the intensity of the highly-deployable top 40 show band that performs a variety of musical genres, covering all current industry charts and popular past hits. "They will be well prepared for their worldwide tour."

Being part of USA Express and traveling the world will be exciting and exhausting, but to Benson it means more than that. "Everybody relates to music and it gives people an uplifting feeling. Each song has a musical message. I just want to bring a little love and laughter to the deployed soldiers who are far away from home," Benson said. (M)



**Front cover:**  
Maj. Burk Voigt, HQ, 81st RSC, rappells down a Rappelling Tower at Fort McClellan, Ala., during "Operation On Belay."  
(Photo by Sgt. Surrogate Dibble, 318th Chem. Co.)  
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# GENERAL COMMENTS



Brig. Gen. Michael R. Mayo

This is a special moment for me to extend my official farewell and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Bob Windle, for all our soldiers and civilians who are reading this edition of the WILDCAT.

At the end of March, Bob was hailed and honored, and deservedly so, by commanders, leaders, friends and family who attended his official retirement dinner in Birmingham, approximately 325 in all. I mention this for those who were not able to attend, that this occasion was a very special event as it recorded a major part of the history of the Army Reserve in the Southeast. He was a

mainstay of the 121st ARCOM and the 81st RSC.

Bob has been a counselor and

**“Bob, you will be missed. Have fun in your retirement.”**

mentor to all of the commanders, deputy commanders, and chief-of-staffs of both organizations. As a

mentor to our great leaders of the past, Bob has been responsible for much of the success we have enjoyed thus far. In the Army we don't say goodbye, we say “so long.” Bob, you will be missed. Have fun in your retirement.

And now I want to welcome his successor, Jim Eggleton. Jim has also been a member of both organizations. Beginning as an Admin Supply Technician, Jim has risen through the ranks to hold the only job of its kind in the RSC - command executive officer. He has big shoes to fill and I am confident he will do very well. Congratulations Jim. (Readiness-Soldiers-Families)

## CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Things in the 81st RSC Chaplains office are busy as usual. We have soldiers deployed around the world helping to keep the peace. May I challenge each of you to pray for them - our friends and fellow soldiers. Many of them have had to leave their families, jobs and travel halfway around the world to answer the call to defend freedom's cry.

During this time of the year, many of our families are involved in Holy Month activities in their faith groups. What a great time of the year! For those of us of the Christian faith, this time of the year directs our attention to the cross and the impact that it has on our personal faith in God. During a time when there is so much gloom and doom in the world around us, the light from the cross and the empty tomb speaks to the very heart of this problem.

Christ came to bring hope to the hopeless, freedom to those enslaved by things in their lives, and light to those trapped in a world of darkness. The Bible says that Christ is the light of the world, and the implications of that are just overwhelming. Think of this with me for just a moment. Darkness can never dispel all the light. No matter how dark it may get in your life, if you have the light of the Lord in your life, the darkness can never put out all the light that's there. But just think of this, light can dispel darkness, and if you have enough light you could dispel all the darkness in the world. What a great thought. No matter how dark it may get in your life, as long as you have the light of the Lord in



Chaplain (Col.) Edgar McDaniel

your life it can never get too dark to put out that light. Just remember darkness cannot dispel all the light, but light can dispel all the darkness, if there is enough light. Since we have been challenged to be the light of the world, let's go for it.

Don't forget we are here to help you. If you are having a problem and cannot get help with it, talk with your Chaplain in your unit and if you still need help call us. Remember, readiness begins in the heart of the soldier. My staff stands ready not only to help you, but your family also. My strong feeling is you can't be ready until they are ready. Let us help when we can.

My prayer is for you and your family. Don't forget I am here because I care for you. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has indeed been a blessing. May God bless each of you.

**“Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has indeed been a blessing.”**

## CSM MEMOS

As I put pen to paper, I constantly reflect on those who have been an influence on my career and I am eternally grateful for their support and mentoring. As I replace Command Sgt. Maj. Bobby Williams, I am impressed by the job he has done and wish to thank him for that on behalf of all the soldiers of the 81st RSC.

Issues that I am especially concerned with are safety and training, to include military occupational specialty qualifications (MOSQ), with appropriate skill identifiers and the non-commissioned officer education system (NCOES). To each of those ends, I embrace all those responsible to do your duty in seeing that each soldier meets training expectations both individually and collectively.

Safety is our most awesome responsibility of all and must be thought through prior to training and executed during training. This training year has already seen the accident rates reach an alarming number. Damage and/or loss of soldier time, equipment and funding to replace losses is not the way to spend precious dollars that are allocated to us.

MOSQ is the most important aspect for any non-trained soldier. This qualification of a soldier is critical to all. General officer guidance has been provided directing MOSQ training as the primary focus for any non-trained soldier. That is very clear guidance.

NCOES training and professional



Command Sgt. Maj. George Johnson

growth go hand-in-hand. The management of each soldier's career is a shared responsibility between the soldier and his command. Both doing their part equals success for all.

Specialty training is a must for some and is by that nature somewhat of a challenge in today's competitive market. Time for training must be well planned to ensure success for both the military and the individual.

The issues mentioned will be a continuous duty of the NCOs and the command structure of the 81st RSC. To maintain the readiness posture expected by our military leaders and the American people is a duty we accept and owe to all.

As the 81st RSC leads the way, I must say that I am elated to be part of an organization that does its duty!

**“As the 81st RSC leads the way, I must say that I am elated to be part of an organization that does its duty!”**

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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 360-81 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, Alabama 35209-6383, telephone (205)795-1693, Fax (205) 795-1694. Internet address: <http://www.81strsc.com/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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# DOD announces strategic family readiness plan

Story by Jim Gauamone  
American Forces Press Service

If you were to visit U.S. troops in the world's hot spots — Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor and others — chances are, you would meet members of the Reserve components.

Guardsmen and reservists are increasingly mobilizing for missions only active duty troops did a decade ago, but calling up the Reserve is different from ordering an active duty unit for deployment. As many reservists know, what works for active duty families' readiness may not work for reservists.

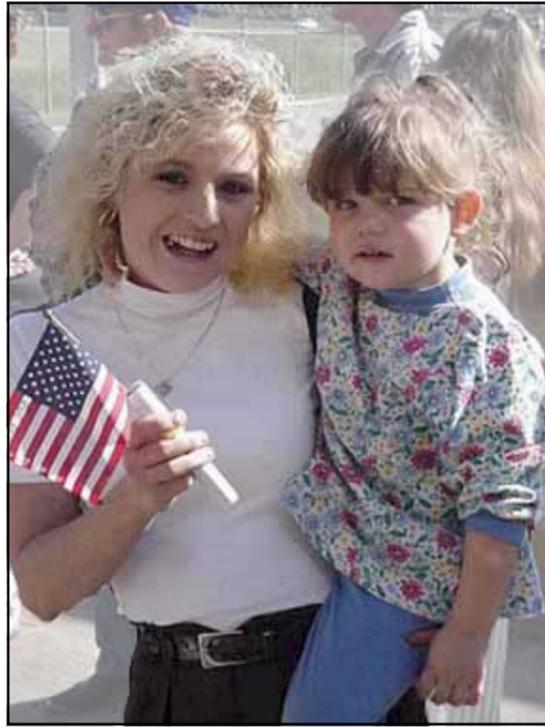
"The 'missioning' of the Reserve components has changed dramatically, yet we really hadn't focused on how their operations tempo was impacting on members' families," said Charles Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

The Department of Defense (DOD) studied the problems of family readiness and issued the "National Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Strategic Plan: 2000-2005."

"This is a plan designed to lay down some goals and objectives for the next five years on how we can foster a better program of family readiness within the Reserve components," Cragin said. "Frankly, we hadn't been doing as good a job as we should within the Reserve components," he said.

The Reserve plan is a result of a partnership of Cragin's office and the DOD offices of family policy and of personnel support, families and education. Representatives from these offices and other DOD communities considered the plan at a September 1999 conference held in Washington.

The meeting brought together enlisted and officer members, spouses, representatives from the American Red Cross and the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and family support personnel from throughout the services.



Lt. Col. Ronnie McDonald

The strategic plan supports four major goals. First, it supports mission readiness through Reserve component family readiness.

"Men and women in the Reserve have a full-time civilian job, and then they also have a full-time commitment to America in the Reserve," Cragin

said. "So the more time they spend in the Reserve, the less time they spend with their families."

He added that taking care of Reserve component family members, therefore, is an important readiness issue, and the family readiness plan is more than "nice-to-have."

"It has long been said that you recruit the member, but retain the family," Cragin said.

The second goal is to develop family readiness programs and services that improve quality of life and support Reserve component recruiting and retention. The third goal is to provide Reserve component servicemembers equitable and accessible benefits and entitlements.

"In quality of life issues for family members, we wanted to look at equity of benefits and entitlements of active and Reserve component members' families," Cragin said. "That doesn't mean parity, but equity based on what everybody is doing as part of the total force."

The fourth, and possibly most difficult goal, is to standardize the readiness programs across the services and within the services to ensure their families are seamlessly integrated into the total force. One of the plan recommendations to this end is to establish a DOD-level family readiness office. However, this effort still recognizes there are differences between the active and Reserve components.

"I think what we've tried to do is accommodate those differences," Cragin said. "For example, the families of members of the Guard and Reserve live in just about every community in America. They're not necessarily linked to a military base or facility. We have to recognize that." ☹

## Army Family Action Plan: What's all the Flap about AFAP?

Story by Vernessa Barnes  
Family Readiness Office

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is a Department of the Army program designed to meet the army community's need to problem solve and enhance the well being of soldiers and their families. It is the Army's version of a town hall meeting where delegates representing all ranks and categories — active, reservists, retirees and family members — evaluate issues brought before them.

Do you remember the old school house rock cartoon from Saturday mornings "Today I'm just a bill, but some day I'll be a law"? This is the case with AFAP issues. Some issues actually become laws as a result of an AFAP

initiative. Army Regulations have been changed, legislation enacted, new programs developed and old programs improved because of AFAP.

The increase in the number of times a Reserve family can shop in the commissary is an excellent example of how this program benefits Army Reserve families. AFAP also stressed the need for legislation to allow government

storage of a soldier's vehicle when called to active duty for less than 140 days.

At the 1999 AFAP there was a call for more consistent support of the program.

During Training Year 2000, the 81st RSC will participate in the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) -wide AFAP in August. The USARC AFAP is our opportunity to address issues that more specifically impact the AGR and U S A R

**"...AFAP is our opportunity to address issues that more specifically impact the AGR and USAR soldiers and their families."**

soldiers and families. Delegates will break into workgroups and hash out issues pertinent to entitlements, medical benefits, employment and finance. The 81st RSC Family Readiness staff is scheduled to

send 10 delegates and to train participants on how to write, critique and present issues.

Remember, AFAP is a program for the people by the people. Endeavor to improve the well-being of soldiers and family members throughout our region. How? By submitting your issues through your Family Support Group Leader, Family Readiness Liaison or Commander. ☹

## Army Reserve families can save more than \$2,000 with commissary card

Defense Commissary Agency  
News Release

Reservists, it's that time again to get your new Commissary Privilege Card. If you do, you can save \$2,000 or more on your grocery purchases in Year 2000! In most cases, the cards are available from the reservists' servicing units.

"Reserve and National Guard personnel are authorized 24 commissary visits each year," said Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Jr., director of the Defense Commissary Agency (DCA). "Commissary shopping is part of their non-pay military compensation, and we at DCA want reservists to use their commissary benefit. After all, they earned it."

With some careful planning, 24 visits to the commissary can result in some serious savings. The most recent market basket survey reports that commissary shoppers save 27 percent on their grocery purchases. This means that a reservist shopping for a family of four could save more than \$2,000 this year by using the commissary.

Those 24 commissary visits and savings are also available to "gray area" reservist retirees, those who will be entitled to retired pay at age 60 but have not yet reached age 60. When reaching age 60, retired personnel and their

eligible dependents will have unlimited access to the commissary. Both reservists and retirees will enjoy shopping for groceries in modern stores and getting a lot of values for their money.

Unfortunately, many Guard and Reserve families lose out on these savings because they do not have a Commissary Privilege Card for the current year. DCA does not issue these cards. Anyone in the Guard or Reserve who has not received a current Commissary Privilege Card in the mail or in person should make a special effort to contact his or her unit to get one.

**"...a reservist shopping for a family of four could save more than \$2,000 this year by using the commissary."**

Guard and Reserve members may use their 24 commissary visits at their discretion throughout the calendar year. For example, an authorized Guard or Reserve shopper might choose to shop at the

commissary four times this month and not shop at all for the next two months. That person would still have 20 visits to the commissary remaining, to be used at whatever pace and schedule the member finds suitable. However, any commissary visits unused at the end of a calendar year do not carry over into the next calendar year, and are lost savings opportunities for Guard and Reserve shoppers. ☹

# 452nd helps get “Bugs” out of New Horizons 2000

Story by Adam Prestridge  
Associate of the 452nd Med. Det.

Select members of the 452nd Medical Detachment, Perrine, Fla., Preventive Medicine (PM) and Entomology (ENTO) sections were recently detailed to conduct a site survey at Comalapa Air Base, El Salvador in support of Operation New Horizons 2000 (NH 2000).

The mission was in direct support of NH 2000, a Joint Chiefs-of-Staff directed, U.S. Southern Command sponsored exercise. The air base is being utilized as a staging area for rotational members of the 324th Combat Support Hospital (CSH), Perrine, Fla., an 81st RSC subordinate unit under the 5th Medical Group, and other servicemembers supporting NH 2000. During their mission, health care providers from the 324th CSH and other service members traveled to a base camp in Chalatenango to provide medical services to Salvadorans.

The 452nd, commanded by Lt.Col. Jamie E. Marlowe, accomplished its mission by detailing two elements to Comalapa, consisting of Preventive Medicine Specialists (91S) and a vector-borne disease officer, 1st Lt. Alan Hicks.

Master Sergeant James Watson and Sgt. Vincent Knowles, of the first element, conducted the initial site survey, evaluating the status of field sanitation, soakage pits, harborage areas, the landfill, troop housing, soldier health and welfare, and the entomological presence.

“Every entomological insect hazard is here at Comalapa,” Marlowe said. “The potential for disease and non-battle injuries (DNBIs) exists on a grand scale. Individual and unit field sanitation must be a priority to prevent the spread of disease and harborage of disease vectors within the base area.”

Due to the limited time provided to accomplish the mission, the focus of the first element was to submit recommendations to correct deficiencies through the chain of command. Upon return to Perrine, the first element members were tasked to conduct comprehensive briefings to the second element to establish their priorities of work.

“We spent a significant amount of time reviewing the findings of the first element, so that on return to Comalapa, we could utilize our time in the most efficient manner,” Hicks said. “We knew what we needed to take and to do in order to accomplish our

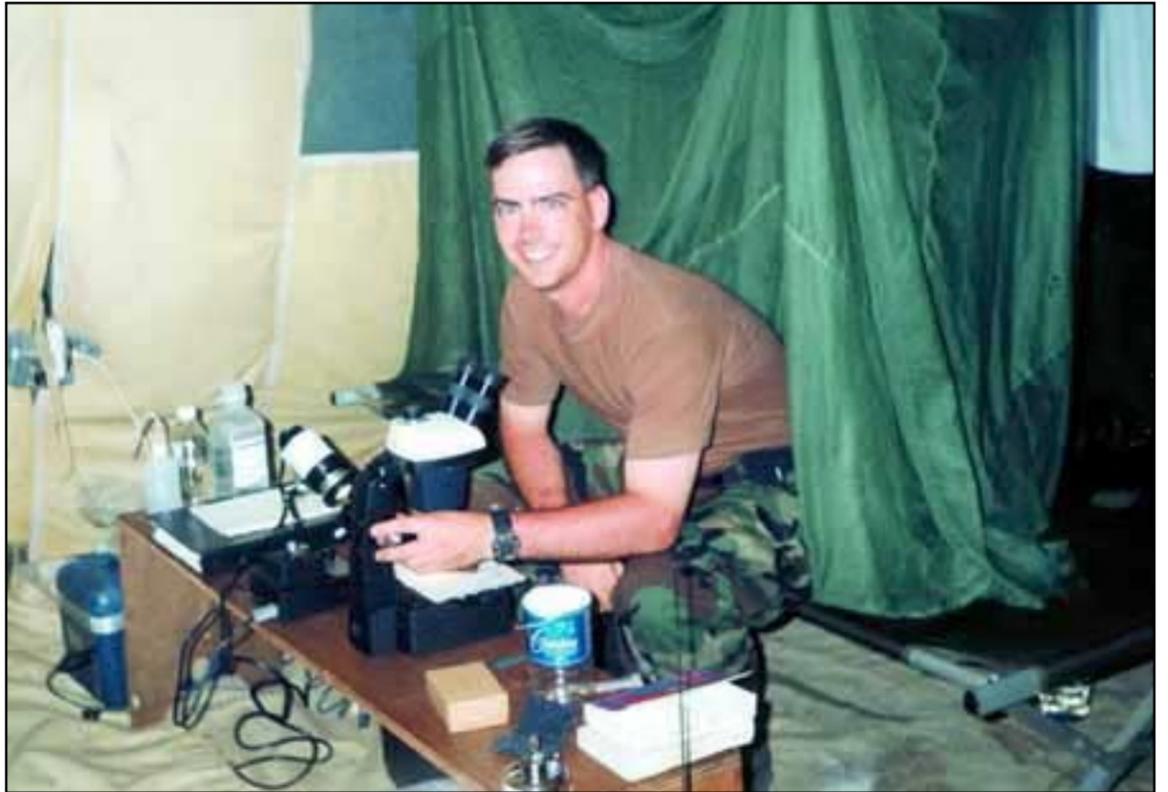


Photo courtesy of 1st Lt. Alan Hicks

**1st Lt. Alan Hicks, 452nd Med. Det., identifies insects from the previous night’s trappings at Comalapa Air Base, El Salvador.**

mission.”

The second element arrived on the ground at Comalapa finding that many of the recommendations initiated by the first element had been completed.

During the daylight hours the element members concentrated on tasks such as constructing soakage pits, landfill relocation, solving troop housing hazards, teaching rotational members about climate consciousness and implementing a grounds maintenance program to cut the wild grass, which harbors ticks, snakes and rodents.

Some units may call it quits when the sun goes down, but the 452nd continued on to conduct after-hours mosquito surveys and small mammal trappings.

“The improvements made between the first and second deployments allowed us more time to conduct entomological surveys for harmful vectors such as the

*Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the carrier of dengue fever,” said Sgt. Miguel Alvares, the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the second element.

One of Marlowe’s goals was to cross-train the non-rotational medics with 91S skills.

“I instructed the medics to read the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT), to perform routine pest control and to conduct food service and quarters inspections,” said Spc. Carolos San Inocencio.

The second element returned home with all the soldiers accounted for and in good health. Collaboration between Lt. Col. Zacote Palacios, the Comalapa Air Base commander; Maj. James Gates, task force liaison officer; Capt. Willie Green, commander, 191st Maintenance Company, Fort Rucker, Ala.; and the 452nd resulted in major improvements in soldier health and welfare in El Salvador. ☺

## 81st RSC says “Farewell” to Robert H. Windle

Story by Elizabeth Eggleton  
81st RSC, PAO

Robert H. Windle retired on March 31, 2000, as Command Executive Officer of the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC). As senior full-time civilian at the helm of the RSC and the former 121st Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), he served with every Commanding General (eight) assigned since the command’s activation in 1968. He has had day-to-day responsibility for supervising the staff and directing the operations of an amazingly complex and intricate organization that has endured many transformations over the years, including the most recent conversion from an ARCOM to the current RSC structure.

At his recent retirement dinner, an audience of more than 300 guests applauded as Brig. Gen. Michael R. Mayo, Commander, 81st RSC, awarded Windle the Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, in part for his expansive range of military and civilian experience, as well as his devotion to organizational and Army goals, which contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the Army mission.

Throughout his 32-year career as a civilian employee, he consistently earned top performance ratings and numerous awards for his service,

including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Superior Civilian Service Award, Commander’s Award for Civilian Service, and Certificate of Achievement – Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Award.

Windle retired from more than 26 years of service in the Army Reserve in 1983 at the rank of colonel. Commissioned on active duty as a second lieutenant in 1956, he completed the AA Officer’s Basic Course in 1957 and the AG Officers Advanced Course in 1971. He served in numerous staff positions with the 11th and the 425th AAA Groups before transferring to the Army Reserve in 1961. His last Reserve assignment was Chief of Staff, 121st ARCOM.

His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one Ten Year Device, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Service Ribbon.

He married the former Carrie Nell Spence of Fairbanks, La., in 1954, and they have four children: Bert, Bill, Robin, and John; and six grandchildren: Abbey, Bentley, Daniel, Justin, Katelyn, and Spence. ☺

## 81st RSC soldiers and families,

Most of you have never seen and many have never heard of the brown shoe Army. I was part of the brown shoe Army and had to dye my boots black. This was a change in how the Army looked, but there has been a greater change in the Army Reserve since my first participation as a reservist in 1960, as a filler from the IV USAR Corps Central Group with the Alabama National Guard during summer camp at Fort McClellan, Ala.

There is basically no way to compare what we did in 1960 as Reserve units or what was expected of Reserve units in 1960 to what Reserve units do now. The Army cannot perform even a small operation now without the USAR being involved. When we look back to Desert Storm, we mobilized approximately one-third of our units and soldiers to support this war. Today, the Army is much more dependent on the

USAR than they were in 1990.

Today’s reservist is smarter, all are volunteers and we expect so much more from each reservist by requiring their time to insure they are fully trained to do their mission and succeed on the battlefield. We also require the same military education as active-duty soldiers and then we must provide collective training in order to perform the unit mission as a team.

My hat’s off to those reservists of 40 years ago and to those of today, for your personal sacrifice and the sacrifices of your family to allow your two professions. That is, to work at a civilian job and to also serve as a reservist to help defend the freedom that we enjoy. As a former reservist, a civilian employee with the USAR, and most important of all, as a citizen of this great country, I want to thank you for all you have done and for what I am sure you will continue to do in the future.



**Bob and Carrie Windle (Photo by Paul Adams)**

— Robert H. Windle

# 81st RSC pulls together, assist soldiers after devastating hurricane

Story by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

Once the rain stopped pouring and the flooding began to slowly drain away, the soldier gathered up his family from the shelter and they began their journey home. As they neared their home, after 13 days, the devastation they saw was unbelievable, and inside their home was even worse, but unbeknownst to them, the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) was already making plans to insure they would be all right.

After Hurricane Floyd wreaked havoc along the U.S. East coast last year, many soldiers and their families were literally left in the dark. Many soldiers lost everything that they had in their homes and had no idea how they were going to recover from the hurricane, but Chaplain (Maj.) Gerald Nelson was already working on a solution to their problems: The Adopt an Army Reserve Soldier Family Program.

Nelson said the program originated out of a meeting he had with other members of the 81st RSC staff. "We had several requests for help from the families in North Carolina that were affected by the hurricane, so we held a meeting to discuss how we could help them," Nelson said. "During the meeting someone mentioned the idea of adopting individual families. The only way we could adopt families was through the 81st RSC chaplains help because nothing else was legal."

He said they cleared adopting the Army Reserve families through the 81st RSC legal office, but he was told that civilian families could not be adopted. This is when he came up with the Adopt an Army Soldier Family Program to

help aid soldiers of the 81st RSC.

"We ran the program through Chaplain McDaniel (81st RSC Chaplain) and through the Family Readiness Groups," Nelson said. "We did that with the help of all the chaplains in the 81st RSC, by getting them to go to their commanders and asking them if they could adopt a soldier family."

Nelson said once the program got started, one of the biggest problems they had was gathering accurate information about the status of the units and their soldiers. "Some of the Reserve units in North Carolina were in turmoil. I say turmoil because they were already dealing with the flooding and a lot of the soldiers had family and friends who were also dealing with the flooding," Nelson said. "Because of this, trying to get in contact with the units to get accurate information on who needed help was nearly impossible, so we sent

**"We would like to thank all the soldiers who helped us from the bottom of our hearts."**

a unit ministry team from the 110th Chaplain Detachment (Birmingham, Ala.) to go there and get accurate information so we could find out what all their needs were."

One unit in particular was the 398th Quartermaster Company, Greenville, N.C. The flooding from the hurricane destroyed the unit's Reserve center,



Photo courtesy of the 81st RSC Chaplain Office

**Sergeant Paul Hussey and his wife Shirley were one of the families helped by the Adopt an Army Reserve Soldier Program.**

which is now being repaired. Capt. Derek P. Bonaldo, commander of the 398th, said his soldiers really appreciated the help they received from the Adopt an Army Reserve Soldier Family Program.

"We had a lot of soldiers who were affected by the hurricane, but we had three or four who lost everything and the help they received from the Adopt an Army Reserve Soldier Family Program is really helping them get back on their feet," Bonaldo said. "Many of the soldiers received food, clothing, and other needed items from the program. This stuff was a big help to them. Now we are all pulling together to help each other out so we can carry on with our civilian and military lives."

Bonaldo said although the 398th is now sharing a Reserve center with the 362nd Quartermaster Battalion in Kinston, N.C., they plan to move back to their center in Greenville within the next year.

Nelson said units throughout the 81st RSC came together and adopted a number of families, donating money, food, clothing, and appliances to the soldiers who were affected by the hurricane. One soldier that lost almost everything, but was adopted by soldiers from the Headquarters,

81st RSC, was Sgt. Paul Hussey from the 849th Quartermaster Company, Rocky Mount, N.C., and his family. Hussey said without the 81st RSC's help his family would not have had very much to start over with.

"We were notified about 30 minutes before the hurricane hit us, so we didn't have time to save very much," Hussey said. "It took 13 days before we could go back to our house and we had no idea of what we would find once we went back, which was total devastation."

Hussey and his family received almost everything they needed to get back on their feet again from the Adopt an Army Reserve Soldier Family Program. He said the most important thing is that they now have a roof over their heads and that is all they can ask for. "We would like to thank all the soldiers who helped us from the bottom of our hearts. They really came through for us when we needed them," Hussey said with an air of thankfulness and relief in his voice.

Nelson said he hopes no one has to see another disaster like Hurricane Floyd, but if it happens again, "We will have learned a lot from this program, so we will know how to react promptly if this does happen again." ☺

## Army Reserve stands ready in times of civil disaster

Story by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

Often, the general public and Army Reserve soldiers do not fully understand the limitations of U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) support in natural disasters. The USAR stands ready and prepared to assist United States citizens in times of need; however, Jim McReynolds, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), Civil Military Projects Officer, said the USAR is restricted by public law imposed by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Title 10 U.S.C. (United States Code).

McReynolds said the law and act mandates and restricts Reserve personnel from being called to duty for disaster response and recovery operations, such as Hurricane Floyd, without the sanction of the appropriate approving authority.

"This means all state assets, both civil authorities and National Guard, must be exhausted before legally tasking the USAR," McReynolds said. "The USAR can only provide assistance during declared disasters when officially tasked by the Department of the Army acting on requests from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)."

He said the only exception is by "Immediate Response" during any declared or undeclared disaster.

"Immediate response is most commonly associated with unanticipated events such as earthquakes or flash floods. Commanders at all levels have the authority to take immediate actions to save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate great property damage during these events," McReynolds said.

Examples of immediate response for floods and earthquakes are rescue, evacuation, and emergency medical treatment of casualties, maintenance or restoration of emergency medical capabilities, and safeguarding the public health.

McReynolds added that all commanders must decide if immediate response is appropriate, based on his or her estimate of the situation. This estimate must



consider the following criteria: legality, lethality, risk, cost, appropriateness and readiness. A general officer or equivalent grade civilian decides if a request for the loan of equipment, facilities, or personnel received from law enforcement agencies is processed and approved in accordance with Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 5525.5. A request for potentially lethal support (weapons/ammunition) must be

approved by the Secretary of Defense.

When a unit provides Immediate Response assistance, McReynolds said they must be sure to inform their next higher headquarters. The Regional Support Command will notify the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) Operations Center of the actions taken and provide updates (Situation Reports) as required throughout the period of the designated emergency.

"Commanders must ensure the civil agency understands reimbursement of operational costs incurred during the "Immediate Response" action is required," McReynolds said. "Commanders are not authorized to waive the cost-reimbursement requirements of applicable DOD directives; and the civil agency must submit a follow-up written request for the immediate response assistance."

However, McReynolds added that immediate response assistance must not be delayed or denied because of the inability or unwillingness of the requester to make a commitment to reimburse DOD. Commanders must terminate immediate response support when the situation no longer meets the definition.

It is understood that USAR soldiers, as citizens and members of local communities, want to assist during natural disasters. However, McReynolds said he wants soldiers to understand that, "the response they take must always be tempered by what the law allows."

For more information on what Army Reserve units and reservists can do during civil disasters, contact Jim McReynolds at 1-877-749-9063 x 1860 or e-mail him at: James.McReynolds@usarc-emh2.army.mil. ☺

# OPERATION "NEW HORIZONS 2000"

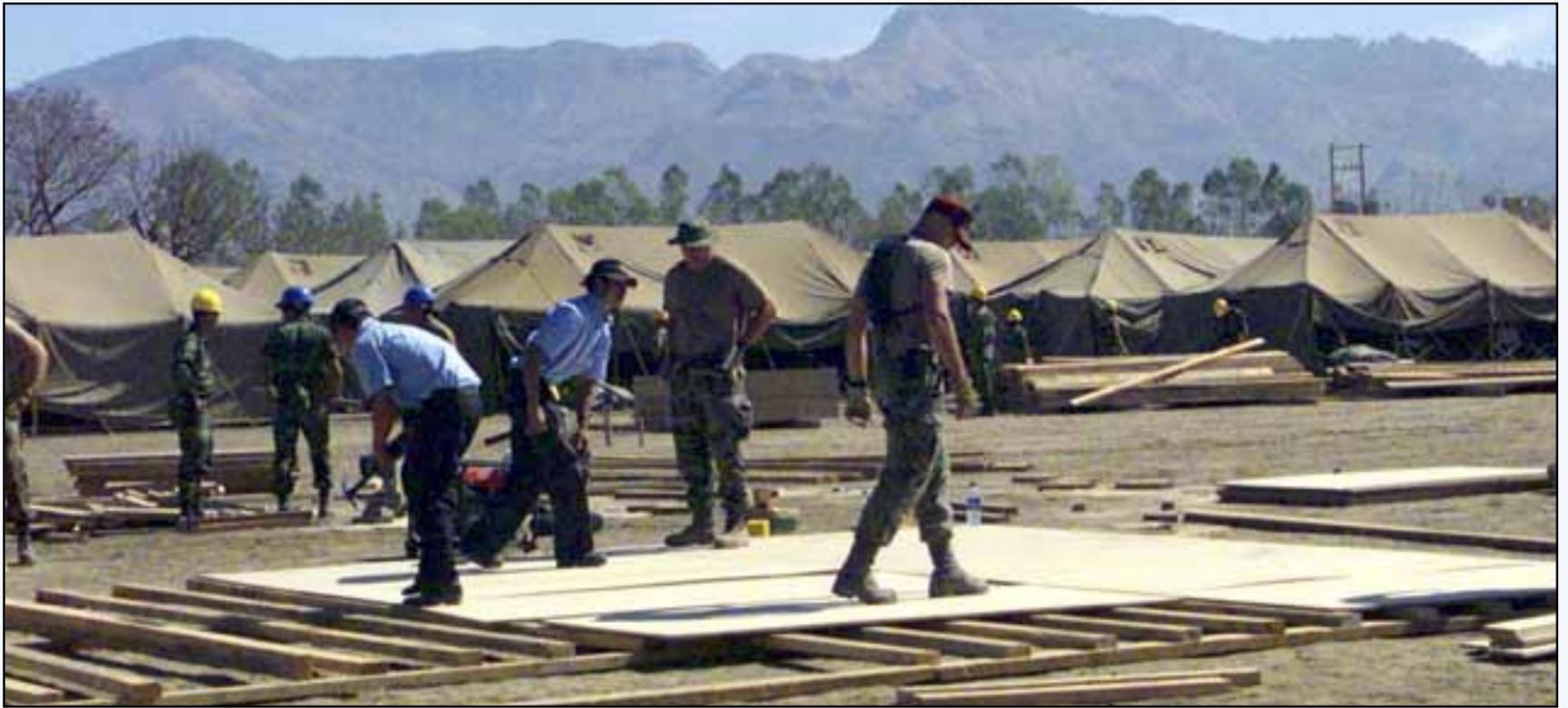


Photo courtesy of Task Force Santa Fe, PAO

**Members of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron (Air Force Engineers) erect additional tents at base camps for incoming servicemembers.**

**Story by Capt. Teresa Nelson  
Joint Task Force Santa Fe, PAO**

As the new century rolls in, Army Reservists from the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) and other RSCs prepare to roll out as Operation Nuevos Horizontes 2000 (New Horizons 2000) gears up for another year of support and training in El Salvador.

Approximately 100 Army Reservists recently arrived at Maxwell Air Force Base to conduct soldier readiness processing (SRP) for deployment to El Salvador.

Units arriving at Maxwell included the 469th Medical Company, Wichita, Kan., and the 324th Combat Support Hospital, Perrine, Fla. The exercise in El Salvador is part of an Army Reserve training operation in Central America and will involve approximately 2,000 U.S. servicemembers from all over the country. Many will come from the Southeast to include the Army Reserve's 81st RSC, Army National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy and Air Force personnel.

The focus of the training exercise is to provide engineer and medical support to impoverished areas in El Salvador. The mission will also provide the reservists the opportunity to practice their military skills in a real-world scenario and better prepare them for mobilization.

"I'm pretty excited about the operation," said Sgt. Connie Perkins, 469th Medical Company. "After 10 years of training at the Joint Readiness Training Center and the National Training Center, it's good to finally do a real-world training mission."

On Saturday, Feb. 5, the soldiers were up at dawn, and after eating breakfast, loaded their bags onto a flatbed truck and prepared to leave Maxwell. Col. Clyde Leavelle, Task Force commander, briefed the soldiers on the upcoming events. His primary message to the troops was safety.

"We have three code words here at the task force,"

Fe, servicemembers from more than 55 units will deploy from Maxwell Air Force Base to El Salvador from Feb. 5 to May 27, 2000. Aside from 40 duration staff members, the servicemembers will rotate in two-week increments for their annual training.

Leavelle said the training exercise will focus on three different areas. "The first part is the engineer construction portion. The second part is the medical readiness teams and the third part is the base camp construction," he said.

In addition to the training aspects of the mission, the exercise has humanitarian benefits as well. Three schools and a medical clinic will be built, and six drinking water wells will be drilled during the four-month exercise. Fourteen medical readiness teams will travel into impoverished areas of El Salvador to provide badly-needed medical services.

"This mission shows the positive things the military can do at home and abroad," said Sgt. Jody Blaylock, 366th Military Police Company, Stillwater, Okla. "We're getting to see a new part of the world and helping people out."

Numerous combat support and combat service support specialties are necessary for the success of the mission. In addition to engineer and medical units, supply, maintenance, military police, public affairs, water purification,

postal, civil affairs and others will be deployed to support the effort.

For more information, access the Task Force Santa Fe webpage at: <http://www.81strsc.com/tfsantafe/index.html>.

**"If you have a family member or friend who participated in this year's New Horizons exercise in El Salvador, I want to share with you what the training was all about. Yes, it is annual training for many reservists and another deployment for active component participants, but this event provides lasting benefits far beyond the training value we gain. We were on the front line of executing an important portion of our national security strategy, working side by side with our allies, and encouraging the institutions and values of our nation while improving our ability as military forces to operate together."**

**— Col. Clyde M. Leavelle, USAR  
Task Force Santa Fe Commander**

<http://www.81strsc.com/tfsantafe/index.html>

Leavelle said. "Safety, mission, and unity. My primary concern is that everyone who participates in this exercise comes back safely and with good memories of this mission."

Under the command of Joint Task Force Santa



Photo courtesy of Task Force Santa Fe, PAO

**Sgt. Charles Curtis, 324th CSH, Perrine, Fla., performs examinations on children at a local school in El Salvador.**



Photo courtesy of Task Force Santa Fe, PAO

**Members of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron prepare to build a foundation at the El Amatillo school site.**

# Army Reserve family battles life threatening illness

Story by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon  
81st RSC, PAO

Webster's Dictionary defines courage as the quality of being brave, but once one gets to know Evens McVay, they might describe courage as a four-foot, 56-pound, blond hair, blue eyed, little boy who is winning a battle against a life threatening disease unknown to many people.

Six-year-old Evens is the son of Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Hardy, Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), and stepson of Sgt. 1st Class Joey Hardy, 87th Training Support Division (TSD), Birmingham, Ala. He was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) in March of 1998. Kathy said although it has been hard and Evens still has a chemotherapy protocol of two and a half years, he is well on his way to a full recovery.

She added that throughout Evens battle with leukemia he has always been a constant inspiration to them and other children.

"You would think it would be the opposite, but most of the time it was Evens who kept us going through the rough days," Kathy said as her eyes began to swell with tears. "There is so much we have to do. You have to be mother, father, doctor, husband and wife, and Army soldier. You have to be strong for everything, and one day you come to a breaking point where you say, 'Oh my God, my child has cancer,' and you can't see how this could have happened."

She said throughout his illness, Evens has always had a happy, wonderful, positive attitude and no matter how sick he got nothing ever kept him down.

"At first I didn't understand what was wrong with me," said Evens. "I kind of understood what leukemia was about a month after my mom and stepdad told me what I had. You know, some people

provide year-round programs for them, such as overnight camps, at no cost to their families. Camp Smile-A-Mile recently honored Evens by placing his picture on the cover of their magazine.



Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

From left to right: Joey Hardy, Lesley McVay, Evens McVay, and Kathy Hardy pose for a family portrait.

die right when they get it, so I'm happy I'm still living. I think other kids with it who are still living should be happy to."

Evens said he was also happy that the National Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) recently recognized his family as the Military Family of the year. He added that something else that makes him happy is going to Camp Smile-A-Mile with his sister, Lesley McVay, to see his friends and to fish, because he enjoys fishing and it makes him "smile".

Camp Smile-A-Mile is a local non-profit organization for children living in Alabama between the ages of four and 18 who have or have had cancer. They

Lynn Thompson, Executive Director of Camp Smile-A-Mile, said they chose his picture because Evens represents true "courage". "He is such a great kid and he is always smiling," Thompson said. "You couldn't ask for a better picture for Camp Smile-A-Mile's magazine cover."

Evens may still be smiling and doing well, but the disease he has is nothing to smile about. The NCCF reported that the incidence of childhood cancer is increasing. Cancer continues to kill more children than any other disease, but with new research the survival rate for children with leukemia is over 75

percent and rising. Evens is a true example of this.

Kathy and Joey said there were many rough roads along the way, but the support they received from the Army Reserve and their family and friends played a major part in helping Evens and them cope with this illness.

The Hardy's said there are a variety of avenues families dealing with childhood cancer can take to get help and support.

"Families should seek out different programs in the area to get involved with," said Joey. "Military and civilian family support groups are great places to start. Finding programs that have families going through the same situation as your family can also be a big help. There are also a number of organizations that can assist families in other ways, such as the Leukemia Society, the Cancer Society, the Candlelighters, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which was a big support to our family."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted Evens a wish by sending him and his family on an all expense paid trip to Disney World in December of 1998. Evens said although he enjoyed Disney World, he will never forget receiving a bat from Sammy Sosa and meeting the St. Louis Rams football team, who recently won the Super Bowl.

Just as the Rams had the courage to persevere against the Titans, so does Evens as he continues to persevere, encourage others, and conquer his deadly illness.

"I want everyone who helped me to know that I love them and I thank God for being with me because he helped me get through this and I feel a lot better now," said Evens as he placed his small arms around his mom and stepdad's neck and gave them both a big hug and a kiss on the cheek. ☺

## From Russia with love

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Ann Marie Bryk  
81st RSC, PAO

Adoption has unique birthing pains and adoptive parents face challenges and uncertainty just like they would for natural childbirth, but personal courage is a value that can help them overcome that challenge. Personal courage, the ability to face challenges and overcome adversity, is an Army value many might say is embodied by Capt. Shirley J. Boyd, nurse administrator assigned to the Surgeons Office at the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC).

"Shirley's determination to initiate the adoption process and ability to deal with its many challenges is definitely a result of her Army training," her husband Freddy, a former Navy Seabee, proudly stated.

The Boyds began the adoption process in 1998. After thorough research, the couple decided to pursue international adoption. "We found the U.S. wait to be about three to four years, and the international adoption process nine months to one year," Shirley said. They chose to adopt a Russian baby and worked closely with an adoption agency in Mississippi. Through this agency, the Boyds asked the Ministry of Education officer in Siberia for information on children available for adoption.

The Boyds received and reviewed three, three-minute, videos of adoptive children. The agency also sent the children's current medical records for their review. While watching the third tape the Boyds said they saw a child that stole their hearts.

Sweaters, scarves, hats, and gloves — all types of warm clothing fit snugly inside the Boyd's heavy suitcases that rode the conveyer belt at JFK International Airport in New York as they prepared



Sgt. 1st Class Ann Marie Bryk

Shirley holds and kisses Carly's little hand.

to depart to Siberia. In 18 hours, their careful planning and coordination would soon come to fruition.

Soon after checking into their hotel, the couple set out for a five-hour taxi ride to the orphanage located in the Siberian town of KPACHRPCK.

At the orphanage, the Boyds were greeted and escorted into a room where moments later they were presented with a smiling baby girl. "We were so excited," Shirley exclaimed. "She had blue eyes, just like Freddy. Her eyes looked brown in the video back home in Tuscaloosa."

The Boyds named her Carly Nicole-Yelena Boyd. As Shirley held the bright-eyed, petite, blonde, one-year-old baby girl she rested herself against Shirley's warm shoulder. "Freddy and I really wanted a baby," Shirley said with a smile. "She's

everything we prayed to God for."

That evening, the Boyds were honored during a dinner hosted by the Ministry of Education. "We were the first American couple to adopt a child from this orphanage. All of the orphanage staff and coordinators were there," Shirley said.

It wasn't long after returning to their hotel in Siberia that Carly became sick. The Boyds telephoned the Russian adoption coordinator, who called the orphanage doctor. Within 15 minutes a doctor and two nurses stood inside the couple's hotel room. Everyone was transported to a local hospital in an awaiting ambulance.

Carly's condition continued to worsen. "She wasn't getting any better and had a very high temperature," Shirley said. "That's when we got scared." Instantly Shirley's military training as an Army nurse came into play and she knew she had to do something.

The couple made a plan. Without hesitation, Boyd assessed Carly's weakening condition and noted recommended treatment. Freddy went back to the hotel and telephoned a doctor in New York City who works as a main coordinator for the adoption agency. From his hotel room, Freddy relayed his wife's assessment and recommendation to the doctor in New York. Boyd made the determination that Carly was suffering from severe dehydration and required medication not offered at the hospital. Carly was weak and passing blood in diarrhea. She would not drink and had difficulty crying.

"I was afraid we were going to lose her," Shirley whispered. "That's how sick she was."

As a result of Shirley's Army training and knowledgeable assessment, coupled with the doctors' coordination and medication purchased by the Boyds, Carly's health improved each day.

With their new baby bundled in warm, cozy blankets, the Boyds left Siberia and boarded a flight for Moscow. Their journey back home was underway. Following Carly's final medical examination and visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the Boyds headed back to New York and back home to Tuscaloosa. ☺

# Growing the Army Reserve for the new millennium:

## It's a must if the load of more missions is to be met, chief says

Story by Sean D. Naylor  
Army Times

The Army Reserve must get bigger if it is to successfully execute its growing number of missions, according to its top officer.

Major General Thomas Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve, made that announcement Jan. 25th at the Reserve Officers Association mid-winter conference in Washington, D.C.

Saying the Army Reserve is no longer "for emergency use only," Plewes announced his vision for a force he said was more ready than it had ever been, but is still suffering from serious shortfalls in recruiting and equipment.

Plewes' speech was intended as a response to the "vision" outlined in October by Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, who was in the audience during Plewes' speech. Plewes said he envisioned the Army Reserve as "the essential provider for training and support operations, engaged worldwide with ready units and soldiers."

In the speech and subsequent remarks to reporters, Plewes outlined the following changes he said were either planned or required by the Reserve as it moves into the 21st century: increasing the size of the force to keep pace with the Reserve's increased operational tempo; improving recruiting, perhaps by having the Army Reserve recruit its own soldiers; increasing full-time manning in the Reserve; making a greater effort to tap into skills reservists have acquired in the civilian world, particularly in information operations — leading eventually to the creation of "virtual units" of information warriors working from their homes; helping the Army project power by moving some of the Reserve's fleet of watercraft to the Persian Gulf, and manning them year-round

with rotating crews of reservists flown over from the United States; expanding the Reserve's training role, especially in the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

At all costs, the Reserve must avoid further cuts to its personnel, Plewes said. "A traumatic decade of decline is behind us," he said, noting that the Reserve had lost 36 percent of its personnel in the Army's downsizing. "The Army Reserve is the most employed reserve component across the spectrum of operations, and is operating at a 'wartime pace' with a 'peacetime force," he added.

"Further reductions just simply don't make sense," Plewes said, alluding to a proposed cut of 25,000 National Guard and Reserve jobs that the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review recommended for elimination.

Defense Secretary William Cohen deferred a decision on whether to make the cut until September 2001, but speaking to reporters after his speech, Plewes emphasized that by deferring a decision, the Pentagon merely had postponed some tough financial choices.

"We've still got to face the dollar piece of it," he said. "If we retain the 25,000, someone has to find the money to pay them. The budget people, the green eyeshade people, would like to make the cut, but now face political opposition," he said. "I don't think that anybody in Congress or DOD really thinks that a 25,000 cut ... makes any

**"Further reductions just simply don't make sense."**

sense."

In fact, Plewes said, "not only can we not afford reductions, but the emerging force requirements dictate that we begin to think about expanding our force."

In slides and press handouts accompanying his speech, Plewes unequivocally called for a larger Army Reserve. The Reserve's problems of doing more with less are not helped by the worst recruiting shortfall in the Army Reserve's history. In fiscal 1999 the Reserve missed its goal of 46,000 new recruits by 10,500, and a shortfall in fiscal 2000 is also likely, Plewes said.

At present, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command is responsible for recruiting soldiers for the Army



Sgt. J. Craig Pickett

**Army Reservists from the 926th Eng. Bn., Birmingham, Ala., build the foothold of a bridge in El Salvador. The 81st RSC is the largest Regional Support Command in the world with approximately 29,000 reservists.**

Reserve as well as the active force, but that may have to change, Plewes said.

"The Army Recruiting Command is doing what it can, but it's not getting the job done," he said. Congress has asked the Reserve to conduct a study on whether Army Reserve recruiting can be improved. "An option is to let the Army Reserve do its own recruiting," Plewes said.

Plewes also called for more full-time support for the Army Reserve in two forms: full-time reservists who serve as active duty soldiers in both reserve components, and are known as Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) troops; and military technicians (mil techs), who work as full-time civilian support to the Reserve, but also are members of the units they support.

"We need 1,800 more AGRs and 1,400 more miltechs," Plewes said. The Reserve also is facing a \$1.7 billion equipment shortfall. Present funding levels were unlikely ever to close this gap," he told reporters. "\$126 million a year doesn't put much of a dent in a \$1.7 billion shortfall." (Reprint permission granted by Army Times Publishing Company, Springfield, Va. 22159) ☺

## The Army Reserve Military Technician Program wants you

Story by Sandra Deal  
81st RSC, Civilian Liaison  
Personnel Office

Are you interested in a dual career with double benefits? The Army Reserve Military Technician (MT) Program offers you an opportunity to work both as a Department of the Army (DOD) civilian and belong to the Army Reserve at the same time.

As a Department of the Army Civilian in the Military Technician Program, you can build toward retirement, accrue both annual and sick leave, and join the Thrift Savings Plan. You can also secure health benefits for you and your family and attend specialized training related to your employment.

As a member of the Army Reserve, you can also build toward a military retirement and receive pay for attending unit training assemblies and individual training. You are also authorized medical care, in certain circumstances, and entitled to post exchange and commissary privileges and attendance at specialized training in your career field to enhance your opportunity for promotion.

The types of positions available in the Military Technician Program include administration, personnel, supply, financial management, training, vehicle maintenance, aircraft operations, and marine and

mobile equipment maintenance.

Military Technician positions require Army Reserve membership and must meet compatibility

to that unit in a military status. If you are selected for a position within a support activity, i.e., AMSA (Area Maintenance Support Activity), ECS

Internet address to review an index of positions that are currently open: <http://ncweb.ria.army.mil/cpoc/index.htm>. These indexes may also be available for viewing at your nearest USAR Center.

For a copy of the complete announcement in which you are interested, either print the listing or write down the number of the announcement in which you are interested and use the following Internet address: <http://cpol.army.mil/employ/index.html>. Follow the instructions under "How to Apply" to make application for the position. Call the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC), Fort McCoy, Wis., for more information at (608) 388-5375 for internal announcements and (608) 388-2664 for external announcements.

It can be exciting! It can be fun! It is a wonderful chance for a young soldier to establish dual civilian and military careers that will provide an excellent standard of living for the soldier and the family.

The 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) has numerous military technician positions throughout its eight Southeastern states area. For more information on these positions and others within the USAR Military Technician Program, contact the web sites and/or telephone numbers provided above. ☺



requirements between the civilian position and military duty position. You are required to maintain active membership in the Army Reserve for as long as you hold a military technician position. If you are selected for a position within a Troop Program Unit (TPU) you must also be assigned

(Equipment Concentration Site), or ASF (Aviation Support Facility), you are required to be a member of the Selected Reserve (TPU/IMA).

There is a web site on the Internet from which you can access USARC and Military Technician Program vacancy announcements. Use the following

## MAKERS

**Army Reserve honors employers**

Emma Wilson and Chris Greshan have two Jacksonville-based jobs with virtually nothing in common, however, a few months each year the pair will stop whatever they are doing and work side by side. Sometimes during grueling 14-hour shifts.

The work revolves around their commitment to the Army Reserve, an effort that takes Wilson and Greshan away from their full-time jobs sporadically every year, for what could be as short as two days or as long as two months.

Greshan and Wilson's Reserve unit, the 1186th Transportation Terminal Brigade, is located in Jacksonville, Fla. Capt. Jan Northstar, Army spokeswoman, said Florida has 31 Army Reserve units with about 1,700 soldiers and about 30 of those soldiers make up the 1186th.

Greshan, an Internet web-page developer, and Wilson, a high school algebra teacher, have something else in common. They both have civilian bosses who give them permission to take time off to fulfill their military duty.

Wilson's boss, Fred Christmann, and Greshan's boss, Jim Smith, were two of about 30 Jacksonville-area employers recently honored by the U.S. Army for being flexible with the schedules of workers who double for the Army Reserve.

Leaving from Jacksonville Naval Air Station, the group was flown to and from Savannah on military planes and given a tour of the USNS Soderman, a newly built U.S. Navy vessel currently docked at the Port of Savannah. The employers also received plaques.

(By Mark Gordon, The Florida Times-Union)

**1186th TTB gives employers a lift**

The 1186th Transportation Terminal Brigade, Jacksonville, Fla., recently invited some of its soldiers' bosses on a journey that hopefully would take them toward a greater appreciation of them as their employees and also as Army Reservists.

This journey, called Boss Lift, is a well-coordinated effort to give civilian bosses a glimpse at why some of their employees ask for time off one weekend a month and two weeks a year, and how much the soldiers appreciate their support.

For some bosses, the trip was an education

process. "When she asked for military time off, I had to check around to see if it was a hoax," said John Hopwood, half-jokingly, of 1st Lt. Amy Ihde, his office manager. The Security Link district operations manager said that in his homeland of England, reservists are not required to take time off from work for military training. They exist solely in a standby status, much like members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) here.

The Boss Appreciation Day took place on a cool morning as the employers met and mingled at Jacksonville Naval Air Station. They were headed to the Port of Savannah, where the 1186th's soldiers were performing annual training, unloading vehicles and equipment recently shipped from an exercise in Egypt.

"All of the coordination and planning to make sure the troops receive their equipment on the front lines is an amazing task when you see it firsthand," said J. Fred Christmann, Wolfson High School principal and boss of math teacher Emma Wilson. Wilson is a captain and logistics officer with the 1186th.

To pull off the nine-hour visit, months of preparation were necessary.

Boss Lift planners were from the 1186th, and the Florida, South Carolina and National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committees. Forty-eight employers were invited, and included business leaders, government officials, transportation authorities and educators.

(By Staff Sgt. Gwendolyn Coley, 2125th USAR, GSU)

**WWII Infantry Division annual reunion**

Company C, 322nd Infantry Regiment, of the 81st Infantry "Wildcat" Division (WWII) is scheduled to hold its 12th Annual Reunion the weekend of September 21-24, 2000, in Hannibal, Mo.

For additional information and registration forms, contact Herman E. Soblick at 516-352-9489 or send mail to Herman E. Soblick, Reunion Chairman, 76 Barrymore Blvd., Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010-1607.

(By Herman E. Soblick, Reunion Chairman)

**ROA chooses 81st RSC soldier as Warrant Officer of the Year**

Story by Staff Sgt. Scotty Johnson  
81st RSC, PAO

Chief Warrant Officer Ida Tyree-Hyche, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), Chief, Special Actions Branch, DCSPER, as recently selected as the Outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year by the Reserve Officer Association (ROA). The ROA's Final Selection Committee selected Tyree-Hyche from a panel of three finalists.

Two of the three finalists in the competition, Chief Tyree-Hyche and Chief Warrant Officer Barbara Carpenter, represented the 81st RSC. Chief Carpenter serves as the Legal Administrator in the Headquarters, 81st RSC, Staff Judge Advocate section.

"I was overwhelmed," said Tyree-Hyche. "There was an array of achievements between the two finalists and myself, so I know that it was tough for the committee to make a decision."

The ROA established the award two years ago. It is designed to annually recognize the achievements and

dedicated service of its warrant officer members.

The ROA judged the finalists on their military and civilian education, experience, achievements, awards, and decorations. They also judged them on their community and professional activities, as well as their ROA participation, which played a big part in the selection process.

As the recipient of the award, Tyree-Hyche received a plaque and her name will be etched on a permanent award at the ROA National Headquarters in Washington. All finalists are recognized with a certificate and a reception in their honor.

Tyree-Hyche, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is currently pursuing her Juris Doctorate degree from the Birmingham School of Law and serves as the President of the Birmingham ROA, Chapter 05.

In a letter written to the ROA nominating Tyree-Hyche, Brig. Gen. Michael R. Mayo, Commander of the 81st RSC, said, "She is the epitome of a dedicated volunteer rendering selfless service to

**"She is the epitome of a dedicated volunteer..."**



Photo courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer Ida Tyree-Hyche

**Chief Warrant Officer Ida Tyree-Hyche, center, is presented the Warrant Officer of the Year Award by Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, left, and Brig. Gen. Robert Winzinger, Sr., right, who is the ROA Army National Vice-President.**

community missions and public school programs." Her personal motto is, "If one person can make a difference in a child's life, I must be that committee of one."

Tyree-Hyche contributes her leadership skills and experience to serving in the positions she has held within the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel (DCSPER) section at the 81st RSC. Even though her schedule is usually full, she still finds the time to mentor her fellow soldiers. According to Warrant Officer Candidate

Myron Allen, "It's a good feeling to have a senior warrant officer in the area to assist me, but to have the ROA Outstanding Warrant Officer of the year to mentor and motivate me puts me in the best possible position to excel."

Colonel Hugh Bryant, former DCSPER for the 81st RSC, said Tyree-Hyche is a very dedicated and sincere soldier. "She works long and hard to make sure that the job gets completed the best that it can be." Ⓜ

**Army Reservist leads way for soldiers, students**

Math teacher Emma Wilson leads a double life. During the week, she teaches math, geometry and algebra I at Wolfson High School in Jacksonville, Fla. One weekend a month, and two weeks out of the year, she is an Army Reserve captain and the logistics officer for the 1186th Transportation Terminal Brigade in Jacksonville.

"Whatever the unit needs, it is my responsibility to get," said Wilson, describing her Reserve job in customer service. Wilson admits both jobs are equally as demanding, requiring a great deal of organization.

"My students know I am in the Army Reserve. I prepare detailed lesson plans four weeks in advance when I have to go to annual training. I tell my class what is expected, I work with the substitute teacher, introduce the subject and prepare an 'AT' notebook to reinforce what they have learned. The notebook assignment is due when I return and counts as a test grade," Wilson said.

The technique she created has worked well for the past five years, she said. However, she concedes that the technique would not work as well if she didn't have the support of her boss, J. Fred Christmann, who said he was honored to be invited on the Boss Lift and aboard the USNS Soderman to see what Wilson does in the military.

"All of the coordination and planning to make sure the troops receive their equipment on the front lines and then back home is an amazing task when you see it firsthand," said the Wolfson High School principal, whose stern gaze made him look as though he could easily don a uniform and take on the role of the ship captain.

A graduate of Auburn and Troy State Universities in Alabama, Wilson said she was commissioned into the Reserve nearly 14 years ago — inspired by her sister who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. — and the extra benefits that military service would bring.

Wilson married her high school sweetheart, who serves in the Navy. They have one son, an honor student at Wolfson High.

(By Capt. Jan Northstar, 2125th GSU)

# ROUNDUP

## HQ, 81st RSC

As the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) moves forward into the new millennium it brings along a new command sergeant major. One who said he plans to continue to keep soldiers safe and properly trained for the year 2000 and beyond.

Command Sergeant Major George A. Johnson was recently appointed as the new command sergeant major of the 81st RSC. Johnson, who currently resides in Seminole, Fla., replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Bobby Williams, who retired after more than 32 years of military service.

Johnson, who has served more than 32 years of service and has served in a variety of assignments, took over responsibility as command sergeant major in January.

"As I replace Command Sgt. Maj. Bobby Williams, I am impressed by the job he has done and wish to thank him for that on behalf of all the soldiers of the 81st RSC," Johnson said.

He also said issues that he is especially concerned with as he assumes responsibilities as the senior enlisted soldier of the 81st RSC are safety and training. Johnson added that he is elated to be a part of an organization that does its duty to the fullest. He resides in Seminole, Fla.

(By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon)

Active Guard and Reserve soldiers from the Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), recently took a trip to visit some local terminally ill children who are receiving treatment at the Children's Hospital of Alabama.

While there they allowed the children to try on Kevlar helmets and other various Army gear. The soldiers also demonstrated how to don a MOPP suit and a protective mask. As gifts, they gave the children Army Reserve stickers, pencils and 81st RSC shoulder patches. They also unofficially promoted the children to private and private first class, pinning the rank on their shirts. One might say this was one event the children will not forget for a long time.

The visit was held in conjunction with Children's Health Week, which was celebrated at children's hospitals in North America during March. Participating were Capt. Monice Jackson-Ferrill, Capt. Ida Boyd, Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Hardy, Staff Sgt. Kip Yulee, and Sgt. Victoria Ortiz.

(By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon)

Sometimes navigating the maze of managing your professional development and education can seem like a daunting process. What schools do I need to attend? Where and when are the schools? What are the requirements and prerequisites? What can I as a soldier or trainer do to get trained or get my soldiers trained?

TASS (The Army School System) through a new program called TASSMARK hopes to guide you through the maze and simplify the process by providing trainers, soldiers and leaders the capability and access to manage school training and professional development.

According to Master Sgt. Stephen Collins, 81st RSC DCSOPS and project coordinator, TASSMARK is focused on educating customers about TASS to help them as they select and send soldiers to attend Army schools. It is also a means for soldiers to take on some of the responsibility for their own professional growth.

"Through the use of the TASSMARK website, individuals can access information on TASS, basic requirements for the schools, MOS specific requirements and an ATRRS for Novices link that will allow soldiers, trainers and leaders to actually locate the schools and dates they need for programming attendance for their professional development," said Collins.

The website also provides soldiers the opportunity to enroll in the Professional Trainers Association. By enrolling, you commit to providing the highest quality training available for all soldiers. In recognition of your commitment, a certificate of enrollment is sent to you.

Posters advertising the new project have been distributed to all 81st RSC units providing contact information on TASSMARK. For more information on TASS and TASSMARK, go to [www.tassmark.army.mil](http://www.tassmark.army.mil) or call the toll-free number 1-877-749-9063 ext. 1864.

(By Maj. Douglas Melton, 81st RSC)

Soldiers from the Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command, Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) Office, recently participated in a rappelling exercise, "Operation On Belay," with the 20th Special Forces Group (SFG), a National Guard unit also located in Birmingham, Ala.

The SJA soldiers performed the exercise at Fort McClellan, Ala. Maj. John W. Grimes, Deputy SJA, organized the event as a team building exercise for the soldiers in his office.

The SJA soldiers who participated in the exercise were: Maj. John Gavin, Maj. Carrie Chaplin, Maj. Burk Voigt; and Chief Warrant Officer Three Barbara Carpenter. Also participating in the exercise was Sgt. Surrogate Dibble, a member of the 318th Chemical Company, who provided the SJA soldiers with the equipment they needed to perform the exercise safely.

Carpenter said they try to regularly schedule team-building events, such as rappelling and ice skating, to help maintain the morale in the SJA Office.

(By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon)

## 81st RSG

The 82nd Airborne Division Detachment (ADD) is a reserve unit out of Fayetteville, N.C., that supports the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. Not many people know of the unit, but according to the division's newspaper "The Canopy" the detachment made a big impact during the recent Division Warfighter exercise.

"Our mission is to augment the Division Rear Command Post's Operation, intelligence, chemical and fire support cells," said Maj. John Cardwell, detachment commander.

About 30 soldiers ranging from the rank of sergeant to major make up the unit and not all of them live in North Carolina. The unit is so valuable to its soldiers that many travel at least three hours to get to their drill weekends.

The unit is on jump status, a benefit that not many reservists can take advantage of. Jump status allows these soldiers to receive jump pay and stay current with bi-monthly parachute jumps from various aircraft. This is an attractive feature for many division soldiers leaving active duty. Most of the detachment's assigned soldiers hail from division active duty assignments.

Most of the members of the unit know the tempo, tradition and the division way of life through prior active duty assignments with the division.

Three of the detachment's soldiers are active duty. Cardwell believes this helps the unit to integrate well with the division.

Cardwell wants division soldiers to know that there is a reserve unit in which they can still jump and do what they were trained to do while helping the division.

"We're here and we're a part of it, and because we blend in so well, a lot of people don't realize there is a reserve unit that supports the division," said Cardwell. "We might be part-time soldiers, but we are always professional soldiers."

(By Capt. Margaret Heatherman, 82nd ADD, Fort Bragg, NC)

An improved version of the Army's containerized tent city known as the "Force Provider" has been erected at Fort Polk, La., to train units that will run it in future theaters of operation.

The 812th Transportation Battalion, Charlotte, N.C., was recently the first unit to

use the Polk Force Provider. Soldiers from the 812th recently used the tent city along with fellow troops from transportation companies in St. Louis, Charlotte and Beaumont, Texas. The transporters used Force Provider as a base of operations as they moved 101st Airborne Division equipment from the port of Beaumont, Texas, to Fort Polk.

At full strength, a Force Provider Quartermaster Company can organize into up to six platoons, each of which can operate one Force Provider module, officials said. Each module can provide 550 soldiers with air-conditioned sleeping tents, hot showers, flush toilets, hot meals, laundry service and recreational activities.

(Army News Service)

## 332nd MD BDE

Soldiers from the 332nd Medical Brigade recently took their training to Japan where they participated in Yama Sakura XXXVII (YS 37).

Yama Sakura is a joint Japanese and American exercise with units from Japan's Middle Army Ground Self Defense Forces (GSDF), United States Army Japan (USARJ) and 9th Theater Support Command (TSC) participating.

The exercise focused on computer play between Japanese and U.S. ground forces. The main effort was to increase relations between the two forces and ensure they could communicate with one another.

YS 37 included an intense 5-day/24-hour computer driven exercise. The Liaison Officers (LNO) played a very important role during this exercise. These individuals worked inside the tactical operations center of the Foreign Service and communicated between both organizations. Several members of the Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team (AELT) also participated with the 332nd.

The event also included a Japanese/American social held prior to the exercise to promote a good working relationship. Members of the 332nd Medical Brigade enjoyed a tour of Hanshin Military Hospital in Itami, Japan, to better understand the Japanese capabilities.

(By Master Sgt. Renee Laford, 332nd MD BDE)

## 375th TC GP

The 287th Transportation Company (HET) recently conducted its Change of Command ceremony at its Reserve center in Livingston, Ala.

The outgoing commander, Capt. Bobby Donald, said he is proud of what the soldiers of the 287th accomplished during his command. He turned over the command to Capt. Robert Bradley who said he is very excited about assuming command of the 287th from Donald.

The 287th has soldiers located in Livingston and Anniston, Ala., and have performed various missions successfully during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

(By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon)

## 640th ASG

The 640th Area Support Group (ASG) recently conducted its Change of Command ceremony at its Army Reserve center in Nashville, Tenn.

The outgoing commander, Col. Paul Boyd, turned over command to Col. Paul Carroll.

Boyd retired from the military with 30 years of service. Carroll transferred from the 87th Division where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff of Personnel.

(By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon)

## BRIEFS

## Deployment Lengths

The Army announced yesterday it will standardize the length of time soldiers spend on certain deployments, regardless if they are members of the active or Reserve components. The action applies to tours in support of Operations Other Than War (OOTW) and Small Scale Contingencies (SSC).

Under the new, unifying measure, units will be employed for a maximum of 179 days performing their assigned mission in the area of operations. Officials pointed out that normal, pre-employment training, either in or outside of the United States, does not count toward that 179-day figure.

For example, units going to the Balkans, any time spent in training, including their transition time (Right Seat Ride) on the ground in Bosnia or Kosovo, learning daily activities from the soldiers they replace, would not be applied to the 179 days.

"The 179-day time period would only begin once they have reached their initial operating capability, or for major combat units, when there is a transfer of authority," said Maj. Bernard Hyland, operations staff officer, Mobilization Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Army Operations Center.

"The key date is the IOC (Initial Operating Capability). When they achieve their IOC, that's when their clock will start. It's a brokered time between commanders. For major combat units, it's the transfer of authority, and total duration will be determined on a case-by-case basis," Hyland said.

Also, once a unit has completed its term of employment, time spent on redeployment or on leave status does not count toward that 179-day total. The action applies to all units employed in support of an OOTW or SSC, officials said, whether they perform their duty in Germany, Hungary or Kosovo. Also, in cases such as Southwest Asia, where the tours have been averaging 120 days, this does not mean those tours will lengthen to bring them up to 179 days.

Officials said implementation of the new policy will begin as soon as possible, but must be completely adopted by Oct. 1, 2000.

The intent of the new policy is to reduce the impact of extended deployments on soldiers, their families and employers of reserve component soldiers, according to Patrick T. Henry, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Officials said reserve deployments in the Balkans previously averaged 210 to 230 days, including transition time, while active-duty soldiers spent, on average, 179-210 days.

(Army News Service)

## Free Computer-based Training

Soldiers and Army civilians can now train on more than 1,000 computer-based training courses from their desks at work or home through an Army-wide, computer-based training system – and it's free.

Individuals can take as many courses as they desire at no obligation to the Army and they do not need permission from anyone to take the courses.

The Army recently awarded a blanket purchase agreement to a California-based company for enterprise licenses to provide the Army with a comprehensive library of computer-based training courseware for information-technology applications.

The library includes courses in data communications, networks, programming, operating systems, information systems design and more. Modules such as Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Internet and Intranet Skills, Internet and Intranet Security and others are available.

Several soldiers have already earned Microsoft software engineering certifications through computer-based training. The system can be

accessed through the Internet by anyone with a military e-mail address ending with ".army.mil," ".army.pentagon.mil," or ".arl.mil." Courses are also available on CD-ROM for local Wide Area Network (WAN)/Local Area Network (LAN) implementation.

Registration for courses can be done online at <http://www.armycbt.army.mil>. Army personnel initially must register from a military domain, but individuals can later take courses through the Internet at home or elsewhere. In addition, you can also earn college credits for taking courses.

If you do not have a military domain address, contact your major command representative, whose e-mail address can be found on the website, or the contracting officers' representative at [cibtcor@issc.belvoir.army.mil](mailto:cbtcor@issc.belvoir.army.mil). – Office of the Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers.

(Soldiers Magazine)

## TRICARE

The TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) recently announced the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for offers on the world's largest dental insurance program – the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP).

This new "third generation" dental contract will be implemented on February 1, 2001, and will combine the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP) and the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan (TFMDP). The TDP will provide improved dental coverage of active duty family members, and eligible Reserve Component personnel (Active Reserve/Guard, Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve) and their family members worldwide.

Yet another improvement in the TDP (which includes all active duty family members and all eligible Reserve component personnel and their family members), is an increase in the maximum benefit coverage: \$1,200 annual maximum for routine care and \$1,500 orthodontic lifetime maximum. There is also a staged cost share structure that reduces cost shares for enlisted personnel (E1s to E4s). Since some lower ranking enlisted families do not seek dental care due to costs, the reduction in cost shares for some dental procedures will help defray those costs and encourage dental health.

(TRICARE Public Affairs Office)

## New "Mirror Site"

The men and women of the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC) at Fort McCoy are "on point" in the area of training innovations, according to the Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve.

Colonel Malcolm B. Westcott made that comment when he cut the ribbon February 15 on a new "mirror site" computer classroom at the ARRTC, the first such mirror site in the Army. The "on point" remark was a reference to the Army's vision statement of "soldiers on point for the nation ... persuasive in peace, invincible in war."

The classroom/laboratory at Fort McCoy is called a mirror site because it "mirrors" the training offered at the parent Army Computer Science School at Fort Gordon, Ga. Like the Fort Gordon course, the course at the ARRTC will provide Security Level 2 System Administrator certification to the system administrators and network managers who graduate from its demanding training program.

Such training was mandated by the Army's Directorate of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers. With the new mirror site, the Army Reserve can now provide this training to 400 additional system administrators and managers per year than could be offered at Fort Gordon alone.

Although the training is identical to Fort Gordon's, the classroom setup is not. Fort Gordon uses two classrooms to train the Unix/Solaris and Windows NT systems. ARRTC

conducts the same training in a single classroom with a single set of computers.

Other mirror sites are planned for Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and the National Guard Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson, Ark.

Fort McCoy and the ARRTC were selected for the first mirror site because of their already established reputation as a center of innovation. In 1999, a distance learning initiative began at the ARRTC, linking soldiers together from all over the country for interactive training. This resulted in a tremendous benefit for Reserve Component soldiers by being able to attend Military Occupational Specialty qualification or professional development courses while remaining at home station, thus eliminating expense and time away from civilian occupations.

The ARRTC was also selected for this site because it is the principal Army Reserve training facility. Its modern classrooms, billets and messing facilities are expressly designed to provide a wide range of training at minimal cost. By training students at Fort McCoy's mirror site, the Army Reserve could save between \$120,000 to \$200,000 a year.

(OCAR News Release)

## Army Arch Run

The inaugural Army Arch Run will be held on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20. While the Arch Run is for runners, there are also walker and wheelchair divisions. Competition will include 14 individual categories and 10 team divisions.

To learn more about the Army Arch Run visit the web site at: <http://www.army.mil/usar/arperscom/archrun.htm> or contact Chief Warrant Officer Richard Swanson at: (314) 592-0000 ext. 0205 or email: [richard.swanson@arpstl.army.mil](mailto:richard.swanson@arpstl.army.mil).

(Army Reserve Website)

## Army Reserve turns 92

The Army Reserve, 92 years old this year, is the youngest of the Army's three components.

The Army itself turns 225 years old this year and the Army National Guard traces its history back more than three and a half centuries.

If that leads you to think the Army Reserve does not have much history, think again. Since World War I, Army Reservists – or Organized Reservists as they were called until 1952 – have taken part in every major American conflict of the 20th Century. They have been in the forefront of other types of crises as well.

As World War II neared, the Army Reserve was mobilized again to provide the junior officers needed to build the huge Army necessary to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Almost one of every four Army officers – more than 200,000 of the 900,000 Army officers during the war – was an Army Reservist.

As vital as are Army Reserve units – 1,600 units located in 1,100 Army Reserve Centers all across America – the individual men and women of the Army Reserve are even more important. These dedicated citizen-soldiers carry their civilian-acquired skills and expertise with them to meet the needs of the Army and the nation, then return home with even greater skills and expertise to make their communities better. They volunteered to be "twice the citizen" and they are.

Today's Army Reservists, with a 92-year legacy of outstanding service to our country, are committed to ensuring the Army Reserve remains the Army's indispensable component in the new millennium and that the United States Army continues to be what it is – the best Army in the world.

(Army Reserve Website)