

The Railsplitter

Summer/Fall 2000

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Story and photos by Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
84th Division Public Affairs Office

The 84th Division (Institutional Training) may not be heading to Kosovo anytime soon, but they recently spent a weekend preparing others for deployment.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment, 2nd Brigade (Basic Combat Training), 84th Division (IT) spent a weekend at Fort McCoy, Wis., in June teaching basic soldier skills to members of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 308th Civil Affairs Brigade.

Sixty 432nd Civil Affairs soldiers are preparing for a deployment to Kosovo, according to Barbara Ashley, spokesperson for the Army's Special Operations Command. The soldiers departed in the late summer and will be in Kosovo for approximately six months.

The purpose of the deployment is to help rebuild the government and coordinate necessary aid, said Lt. Col. George Tankersley, 432nd commander.

"We are the liaison between the Army in the field and aid agencies and foreign governments," explained Tankersley. However, in order for the soldiers to fulfill their civil affairs mission, they must hone their basic soldier skills, he said. And that is what the 84th Division soldiers helped the Green Bay, Wis., based unit accomplish.

"We are doing part of our annual training requirement,"



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Deegan (right), an 84th Division drill sergeant assists 2nd Lt. Jon Borman, 308th Civil Affairs, with his protective mask in preparation for deployment.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Hultz (right), 84th Division, tests Spec. Mark Passmore, 432nd Civil Affairs, on the proper way to use a compass.

Tankersley explained. These requirements included qualifying on the M16 or M9, completing a land navigation course, passing common task and physical fitness testing, and performing water survival training. The 84th Division soldiers are experts at training these skills, he said.

"What we're doing this weekend is essentially what we'll do at (Basic Combat Training)," said Capt. Jim Ashing, referring to their annual training at Fort Knox, Ky. Ashing is the assistant training officer for 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment.

The job of the 84th Division's 2nd Brigade is to teach basic combat skills to new soldiers. This year the Oshkosh, Wis., based unit took on that responsibility at Knox and members of 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment helped them.

To complete their mission, the Oshkosh unit must provide enough personnel to run a basic training unit for approximately three months, Ashing explained. They do this by rotating personnel every 17 days, however, when the unit needs help filling positions, they rely on this year's support battalion, 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment. Which is what they did during the weekend exercise.

"I'm doing what pertains to my mission," Ashing said about the weekend training. The company that will conduct basic rifle marksmanship training at Knox is helping the civil affairs soldiers qualify on their M16.

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Before there is a warfighter there is a trainer

By **Maj. Gen. Robert Smith, III**

Commander, 84th Division

“Before there is a Warfighter, there is a Trainer,” this quote has more relevance since the Chief of Staff of the Army General Eric Shinseki reiterated that the mission of the Total Army (active, Guard and Reserve) is to be ready and prepared to win the nation’s wars.

To ensure the Army can perform its mission, Shinseki looked into the future and concluded that today’s Army must be transformed. This transformation will ensure that our Army is thoroughly trained, highly mobile and properly equipped to lethally defeat and/or deter the enemy.

Shinseki launched the “transformation strategy” to create an objective force that will be manned with 100 percent military occupational specialty qualified soldiers that are able to deploy a combat brigade in 96 hours, a division in 120 hours and up to five divisions in 30 days.

This objective force will not have to put its tanks on blocks and scrounge vehicles to transverse the terrain. This objective force will have enough firepower to engage an armor force. This objective force will not depend only on the land for survival and sustainability, but will have the equipment and supplies to stay engaged until victory is won.

As stated earlier, “Before there is a Warfighter, there is a Trainer” - this is where the 84th Division (Institutional Training) will make its mark on Shinseki’s objective force. Our 1st Brigade (Infantry One-Station Unit Training) will help train the hi-tech infantry soldier of the future who will fight the battles. Our 2nd Brigade (Basic Combat Training) will lay the foundation for our combat support soldiers who help win the battle in the Military Intelligence and Signal Corps as well as those in Quartermaster and Transportation Corps, who keep the force sustained and fed on the battlefield.

But most important it is the drill sergeants of these brigades that introduce and instill the seven values of the Army: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage into the heart and soul of every soldier. It is the soldiers and their values that make our Army the best.

Our 7th Brigade (Training Support) will provide training support at both OSUT and BCT training sites. These instructors will run rifle and pistol ranges, conduct NBC chamber exercises and teach map reading skills. These are critical skills for the objective force, skills that ensure we have an Army that can shoot straight, operate in an NBC environment and never be lost on the battlefield.

In addition, the Army’s current deputy chief of staff for operations says that in the future, if training capacity exists within the Army Reserve, then active, Guard and Reserve soldiers will attend Army Reserve schools. For the 84th Division and the future objective force, it means that our 3rd



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith, III

Brigade (Combat Support), 4th Brigade (Combat Service Support) and 5th Brigade (Health Services) will help provide the Army with training to have 100 percent MOSQ’d soldiers who are technically and tactically proficient.

For 6th Brigade (Professional Development), it means that the objective force will have competent and visionary officers and NCO leaders who can react to any situation with bold and decisive competencies related to ever-changing leadership dynamics. Unlike the snake that can not strike when its head is cut off, objective force members trained by the 84th Division’s instructors will step forward and take charge. Our division motto, “Strike Hard” will prevail on the battlefield.

For ROTC Brigade (Provisional) many of the objective force officers will have had their military foundation and leadership principles taught to them by these instructors. Lessons from military history will simply be memory recall from an ROTC Brigade instructor’s class. Maybe one day, one of these lessons will prevent a disaster on the battlefield.

The bottom line of the Army’s transformation strategy is ‘Soldiers on Point for the Nation, Persuasive in peace...Invincible in war.’ The bottom line for the 84th Division’s Railsplitters is that we must be ready and able to teach and train these soldiers.
Strike Hard!

Future looks bright for 84th

By Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Clark

84th Division Command Sgt. Maj.

As the year comes rapidly to an end, it's time to reflect on the things that have happened in the 84th Division. To say that my first year has been a learning experience is a understatement! I never knew that the 84th Division had so many missions. It probably is no surprise to most of you that I have spent most of my time with drill sergeants at Fort Sill, Okla., or Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

But I have seen the vast amount of talent the 84th Division has in addition to drill sergeants. Across the country, the 84th Division has and continues to serve. It takes many good soldiers to complete a division and you have shown me we have that and more in the 84th Division. Your loyalty and commitment is obvious and I witnessed it as I went from post to post. Hold your head high "Railsplitters", for you make this a premier division!

On a different note, as you may have heard, we are part of a transforming Army. Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki wants to make us lighter and more rapidly deployable. We, the 84th Division, will be part of that transformation. You may be asking, "How?"

Our motto says it all: "Before there is a Warfighter, there is a Trainer." This is true for those training individual entry

soldiers, those supporting The Army Schools System and those teaching professional development - you will be there.

Other changes underway include Shinseki's request to the Sergeant Major of The Army to come up with a plan to implement the wearing of the "Black Beret" as the standard headgear for all soldiers by June 14, 2001.

The Association of the United States Army is also sponsoring an initiative to bring pay in line with the civilian market for soldiers. Studies show that low pay seems to play a large role in a soldier's decision to leave the service. Shinseki is also studying the effects of deployments on the Army family.

It seems to me that our top leadership is seeing what we have known for years: taking care of soldiers, paying them what they are worth and providing for families keeps good soldiers serving!

Our division will finish the year 2000 strong. Our strength is up and our morale is high. But we must continue to strike hard. Continue taking care of soldiers.

I reiterate that our soldiers need and want quality leadership. That means NCO evaluation reports must reflect soldier's duties and accomplishments. It means that soldiers must attend schools in a timely manner to be competitive for promotion. It means that training must



U.S. Army Photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Clark

be realistic, have meaning and be relevant to our mission.

All soldiers must develop and maintain five-year career plans. If you don't think it would be useful in planning your career, think again and ask your first sergeant about it. You as an individual can make a difference! Take that challenge and be all you can be!

My family and I would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Safety during this time of the year can never be overstated. The roads get slick and you think you're okay after one of those office parties...To those of us that have lost love ones this year we can remember the good times we had with them, yet we will miss them just the same. You can take courage in the fact that some day we will all be together again.

The Railsplitter

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Submit photographs as color prints or in JPEG format and include: a list of those in the photo from left to right, their title and unit affiliation; photographers name, title and unit affiliation. We reserve the right to edit.

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Junior officers put their leadership skills to the test at ROA Convention

Story and photos by Pfc. Andries Butler

84th Division Public Affairs Office

More than 100 junior reserve officers recently gathered at the 84th Division (Institutional Training) Headquarters in Milwaukee to test their leadership skills.

In teams of approximately 10 individuals, the service members led each other through a variety of entertaining yet challenging activities including being blindfolded, baaing like sheep and fighting with fire hoses. Though the scenarios were fictitious, they exposed the young officers to realistic leadership situations, such as communication breakdowns, confusion, condensed planning periods and lack of resources.

The purpose of the outdoor training event is to test the participants' communication, problem solving, social and teamwork skills.

"The activities made us look for more effective ways to get people to work together cohesively," said Army Capt. Karmin Jenkins, a social-work officer from the 2290th Army Hospital, Walter Reed, in Washington, D.C.

Jenkins spent some of her day staring into the sky as she attempted to shimmy on ropes held by her teammates as she crossed a "contaminated zone" to stop a "nuclear-waste leak." She was nearly successful after a few falls and laughs before the plan had to be modified due to penalties. But the obstacles she and her teammates experienced made the training more effective.

"We don't always pay close enough attention to details or ask for help when we need it," Jenkins said about herself and

other junior officers. Adding that she thought the training was so good that she wants to incorporate it into training at her own unit to improve camaraderie, which is what the organizers want.

While the 84th Division hosted the training, the Reserve Officers Association sponsored it as part of their annual Junior Officer Leadership Development and Training Seminar held in June at the Milwaukee Hilton Hotel. During the four-day event, the reservists heard presentations from senior leaders, attended a variety of workshops including the Franklin Covey Time Management Seminar and networked with officers from all services.

"We want joint training with the services, we want individualized professional results for trainees, and we want to help with personal development," said retired Col. Tom Obenland, U.S. Air Force. Obenland coordinated and planned the field activity portion of the JOLDTS.

"This is the second year the outdoor leadership activities have been part of JOLDTS," Obenland explained. He added that a primary reason it took place this year was because the 84th Division offered the headquarters facility as a training site. The initial coordination occurred at the ROA Convention in Washington, D.C., this past winter, he said.

Master Sgt. Donald Riley, Headquarters, 84th Division (IT) was demonstrating the Laser Marksmanship Training System when Obenland approached him. LMTS is a training system being fielded by the 84th Division, which allows individuals to practice their marksmanship skills using lasers and computers instead of ammunition. After seeing the LMTS, Obenland was convinced it this needed to be part of the

JOLDTS field activities and asked for the necessary support to make it happen. That conversation put the wheels in motion and a few days later, 84th Division Chief of Staff Col. William McKeown contacted Obenland to begin the coordination efforts.

But 84th Division personnel weren't the only ones necessary to make the training happen. Officers that participated in JOLDTS '99 volunteered their time to serve as facilitators, as did members of other services. Using their past experiences and a day of training the facilitators kept the group focused on the task at hand and asked questions that triggered group instruction.

"It's about team building, recognizing team dynamics and dealing with compromise," said Master Sgt. Lucia Greer, one of the facilitators. Greer is part of the 707th Airlift Squadron, U.S. Air Force, Charleston, N.C. She said she has conducted over 100 training missions in her 20-year career, but still finds time to volunteer for JOLDTS.



Soldiers smell and feel their way through a maze during Junior Officer Leadership Development Training.

"I rarely get this kind of support from anywhere I go," she said. "(The 84th Division personnel) are just outstanding. I got better support here than any other unit. They go to any lengths to get any strange thing I ask for," Greer said.

The strange things Greer needed were the things the junior officers used to test their leadership skills in events such as "Shepherd the Sheep". In this event all but one team member wore blindfolds and communicated like sheep using only "baa" sounds to talk. The leader, or shepherd, had to "baa" them into a designated area.

When not baaing, the junior officers were engaged in other activities such as simulating the containment of nuclear waste and practicing teamwork to assemble and use a fire hose to navigate an object through a course.

They also had the opportunity to test their skills on the 84th Division's M9 pistol range. For many, this was the first exposure they had to actually firing a M9 pistol.



Junior officers test their team work abilities in competition.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, Chief of the Army Reserves, also stopped in during lunch to visit with the junior officers.

"The folks here at the 84th Division arranged a fantastic day for some training," he said and encouraged the reservists to take what they learned back to their units to allow others to benefit from their experiences.

Drill sergeants help Girl Scouts earn badge

Story and photos by Capt.

Jacqueline Guthrie

84th Division Public Affairs Office

Several Fox Valley Girl Scouts are wearing a new patch on their uniforms thanks to 84th Division (Institutional Training).

Approximately 30 Girl Scouts and their leaders gathered in the Kettle Moraine State Forest September to learn basic orienteering skills from Army Reserve drill sergeants. The Kettle Moraine State Forest is located near Fond du lac, Wis.



Staff Sgt. Sara Gallegos helps Becky Maasch shoot an azimuth.

"We're going to teach you how to use a compass, how to measure distance by walking and how to identify major terrain features," Capt. Jerry Hameister told the girls. Hameister is the commander of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 84th Division in Oshkosh.

Hameister and 12 drill sergeants showed the girls the proper way to shoot an azimuth with a compass and how to measure distance using their pace count. After completing the classes, the girls put their knowledge to work by orienteering to marked points.

Orienteering and map reading are just one of the many skills soldiers need to know and these drill sergeants are proficient at teaching. When on active duty the 84th Division soldiers teach basic combat skills, including orienteering, to new recruits on active Army bases such as Fort Knox, Ky.

"This is one of the tasks we teach at basic training," Hameister said. Helping the Girl Scouts gives the soldiers extra practice. "It's a great community service project," he added. "It exposes young people to what the Army does."

The organizers of the event agreed. The Fox Valley Girl Scouts chose the 84th Division soldiers because of their

expertise, explained Jennifer Strain, Fox Valley Girl Scouts program specialist and organizer of the event.

"Orienteering is an outdoor skill that girls seem to be interested in," said Strain. "It's also an opportunity for them to get some hands on training using outdoor skills. It helps them earn their outdoor skills badge and an interest patch." Adding that it also gives them "a taste of the military."

"My dad was in the Army," said Tiffany White of Troop 136 and one of the participants. White said she attended the event to earn a badge, but also wanted to experience military training like her dad went through. "So we can go camping together," she said. "But I'm also here to have fun," White added with a giggle.

"I learned how to use a compass and find my way," said Erin Tobinson of Troop 122. "At my house I like to pretend I'm lost and then find my way out."

Most of the girls have handled a compass and thought they knew how to use it, said Debbie Walker, Troop 122 Leader. "But the soldiers taught them more specifics," she said, and helped them earn their "finding your way badge" and complete the Girl Scouts Sign of the Rainbow.

Youths spend summer camp with the military

■ 84th Division joins forces with Wisconsin National Guard

Story and photos by Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie

84th Division Public Affairs Office

At least 200 young people will have something exciting to share at school this fall when asked, "What did you do during your summer vacation?"

The youths, Wisconsin service members' sons and daughters are recent graduates of the 8th Annual Wisconsin Youth Camp. Held annually at Fort McCoy, Wis., the youth camp is sponsored by the Wisconsin National

Guard's Family Program and took place in August.

"The purpose of the program is to give kids the opportunity to see what their parents do on a drill weekend," said Lt. Col. Ken Grant, youth camp director. Participants, ages 8 to 17, get a taste of the military by marching, rappelling, eating in a military dining facility, sleeping in Army barracks or tents and even doing push-ups for drill sergeants, he said.

But this three-day summer camp wasn't all work. The youths also had the opportunity to complete a confidence course, ride in a military personnel carrier, swim in the pool or lake and participate in a variety of sporting activities.

"It's a lot of fun," said Stacie Ringelstetter, 17. Ringelstetter is the daughter of Master Sgt. Brian and Sarah Ringelstetter. Ringelstetter has spent the last seven summers at youth camp and said she wouldn't miss it.

In addition to the confidence she's gained through participating in challenging activities such as rappelling, Ringelstetter said she's made friendships she thinks will last a lifetime. And while this is her last year as a camper, she says, "I'll still be back next year as a counselor."

While the Wisconsin National Guard sponsors the program, Grant says it is only possible because of the more than 200 volunteers, thousands of dollars worth of donations and the hard work of soldiers and airmen. Among those providing support are 84th Division (Institutional Training), Army Reserve drill sergeants from Wisconsin.

"They provide an added touch to the entire program," Grant said. And the kids love it. The drill sergeants are from 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment in Oshkosh; 2nd Battalion, 274th Regiment in Fond du



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Kickbush (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Craig Ver Voort help Emma Wabrowetz, 14, with a confidence course obstacle during youth camp. Kickbush and Ver Voort are drill sergeants in 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade.

Lac; and 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment in Madison. All are part of the 84th Division's 2nd Brigade (Basic Combat Training) headquartered in Beaver Dam. This is the third year the drill sergeants have taught at camp, he said.

"The drill instructors added another dimension to our training," making it more realistic, Grant explained.

The drill sergeants' job includes teaching drill and ceremony and physical training to the participants. They also run activities such as the conditioning and confidence course, rappelling and rope bridge crossings. And they help the youth groups form teams instead of working as individuals.

"It's similar to pickup and the first couple weeks of basic training," said Sgt. Phil Heckl an 84th Division drill sergeant, referring to the phase of basic combat training when the drill sergeants start training new soldiers. One of the 84th Division's Army missions is to teach basic combat training to new soldiers at Army installations such as Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Benning, Ga.

"That's what we're trying to do," Heckl explained, "teach them the basics."

The 84th Division's involvement in the camp is part of an ongoing partnership with the Wisconsin National Guard, according to Capt. Larry Gnewuch. Gnewuch is commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment. "We do a lot of missions with the Wisconsin National Guard," he explained, including helping the Guard run a delayed entry training program for new soldiers preparing for basic training.

"It's perfect in that it gives our drill sergeants people to instruct," Gnewuch said of the partnership. Otherwise they would be trying to improve their teaching techniques by teaching each other. This is much more effective, he stressed.

However, the 84th Division's involvement wasn't limited to providing drill sergeants, some soldiers also gave up their free time and volunteered to be counselors.

"I love kids, I love being around them," said 1st Sgt.



Sgt. Nick Henke (left) and Staff Sgt. Steve Kelley demonstrate the sling shot. Both are members of 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment, 2nd Brigade.



Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Rellis Beals teaches 11 to 13 year-olds drill and ceremony skills with the help of counselor and 1st Sgt. Laurel Weyenberg. Beals is a member of 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment 2nd Brigade. Weyenberg is a member of 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade.

Laurel Weyenberg, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment. This was her first year as a camp counselor and she says she really enjoyed it. "It's a lot like (the first) phase in basic training," she explained. Therefore, she was able to use her military training throughout the weekend. But mostly she just enjoyed seeing the kids glow with pride from their accomplishments.

Weyenberg was just one of more than 200 service members, parents and camp graduates that made the program possible by serving as counselors, activity leaders, medics, security guards, cooks or staff.

"The success of the program is due to the volunteers," Grant said. While participants pay a \$25 registration fee, the funds don't cover what it would cost to pay for all the personnel and resources needed to run the camp. The program is only possible because of all the resources people give, including their time.

"Youth camp started in 1992 with 50 kids and 30 adults," Grant said. This year more than 400 personnel were involved. Wisconsin Youth Camp is open to all youths age 8 to 17, regardless of their parents' vocation. The campers do not have to have parents serving in the military. However, as the number of campers increases the need for volunteers and donations also grows, he stressed, encouraging more people to get involved next year in the 9th Annual Wisconsin Youth Camp.

Smith recognized for volunteer service

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
84th Division Public Affair Office

Michigan Governor John Engler and the Michigan Senate recently honored Maj. Gen. Robert Smith, III, for his contributions to Michigan's Volunteers of America.

Smith, 84th Division (Institutional Training) commander, was among 12 Michigan citizens recognized in April with a certificate of appreciation from Engler and the Governor's Honor Roll of Volunteers proclamation from the Michigan State Senate for volunteer service.

"Volunteering is the selfless effort of individuals that fosters a true sense of commitment. It is a privilege to recognize and extend our gratitude to the men and women whose dedication to others comprises the strength of our society," says the proclamation.

"This Michigan Legislature is proud to join with the Junior League of Birmingham, Michigan, Inc. in acknowledgment of the members of the 14th Annual Governor's Honor Roll of Volunteers."

The Junior League of Birmingham, a non-profit, volunteer organization of diverse women, sponsors the Governor's Honor Roll to recognize individuals for their unique contribu-

tions with a non-profit organization.

Smith received the award for his contributions to the community as a member of the VOA Michigan, according to Alex Brodrick, VOA Michigan chief executive officer.

"Smith joined the board of directors in 1994 during a very difficult financial time for Volunteers of America Michigan," Brodrick said.

"His tireless effort and deep commitment to our mission was a guiding force in the agency turn around. He was always available to provide support and leadership whenever needed.

"From 1995 he served as our treasurer and finance chair," Brodrick said. "He stayed on in these positions until 1999 when a new treasurer was elected. Bob continues to serve on our board bringing valuable historical understanding to our discussions about our current issues and future direction."



Photo by Volunteers of America

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith, III

Volunteers of America is a 104-year-old national, nonprofit, spiritually based organization, providing local human service programs, and opportunities for individual and community involvement. Volunteers of America Michigan serves people in need, including the frail elderly, the disabled, homeless men, women and children, and people in need of low income housing.

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The soldiers that will do the end of cycle testing are teaching common tasks, he explained.

"Since the 334th is providing support this year, they are providing training to the civil affairs soldiers that is not pertinent to BCT," Ashing said.

"Our prime mission is to provide instruction on basic infantry skills, whether it is in a BCT environment, or during a training exercise," said Maj. Brendt Vitale, training officer for 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment. They provided M9 qualification, common task training, land navigation and assisted

the civil affairs unit with water survival training.

"The training activities and hands-on instruction were excellent," Vitale said, for the civil affairs soldiers and the drill sergeants.

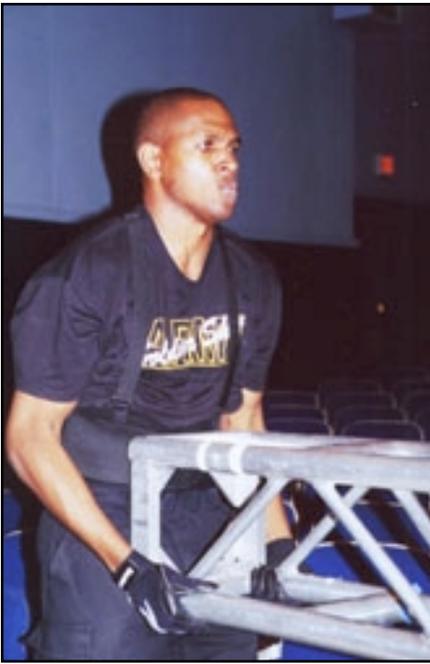
"It tests our proficiency to make sure we are ready to get in front of privates," said Staff Sgt. Sara Gallegos of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment. "It's also good for us to help others."

Helping others is exactly how the 84th Division soldiers received this mission. Both Lt. Col. Carl Willecke, 3rd Battalion, 274th commander and Lt. Col. Timothy Deady, 3rd Battalion, 334th commander, are civil affairs officers and former members of the

308th. When they heard about the upcoming deployment they were eager to help. The training opportunity was a win-win situation for all involved, said Willecke.

"The mission assignments were tasked based on our lead and support battalion missions. The 3rd Battalion, 274th did those tasks that they were going to execute during annual training as a lead battalion and the rest were done by the 3rd Battalion, 334th, a supporting battalion," Willecke said.

"Having the 84th Division (soldiers) conduct the training allowed us to concentrate and complete training rather than running training," said Tankersley.



U.S. Army Photo

Spec. LaVon Thomas

6th Brigade soldier tours with 2000 Soldier Show

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
84th Division
Public Affairs Office

With lively music and dance numbers in every music genre from rap to gospel and country to opera, the 2000 U.S. Army Soldier Show is geared to families and retirees as well as

the young soldier.

"Carpe Diem"! "Seize the Day" is the theme of the 2000 Army Soldier Show - currently touring the world.

"Gen. Colin Powell wrote that over the last 100 years thousands of American men and women have died defending the American dream, and it is our duty to honor their deaths by making our dreams come true," said Ron Campell Smith, now in his fifth year as the show's artistic director.

"I thought there was no better time than the year 2000 to look forward at the possibilities of America and the Army. All dreams start when someone takes that first step to 'seize the day'," he said.

More than 60 soldiers seized an opportunity to audition for this year's show. But the dream of performing on stage or working back stage came true for only 26 soldiers. Final cast and crew selections were posted after a grueling week in March that included a physical training test, drug testing, uniform inspections, vocal coaching and live auditions in April.

"I'd say without a doubt these auditions were the best we've seen since we've been doing them [live]," observed Smith.

"It's a well-balanced group, from bass to soprano, and it's a good group of personalities," he said. The adrenaline was running high and kept pumping until the 19 judges' scores were in and the cast list was posted.

The 84th Division's (Institutional Training) own Spec. LaVon Thomas was among the best.

"I consider the Soldier Show the best of the best," Thomas said. "I saw it last year when they came to

the Chicago area and it really blew me away to see this side of the Army."

As a Reservist, Thomas is assigned to the 13th Combined Arms Service School, 6th Brigade (Professional Development), 84th Division (IT) in Harvey, Ill., where he is a unit supply specialist. But for more than six months he will fulfill a dream of working with the Soldier Show as a lighting technician.

"I've done NTC rotations (National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.) and trained in the field, and to see soldiers who are able to do a Broadway-type show just as well if not better than what they do on Broadway is just incredible. I'm getting my chance now," he explained.

The cast and crew will be in the public eye for more than six months as they perform 110 shows in 23 states and four countries. Their overseas travels in May and June took them to Belgium, Germany, Bosnia and Italy.

The group performs more than 50 songs during each 80 minute performance at each location. They also unload, set up, dismantle and pack 15 tons of stage trusses and equipment, more than 100 stage lights and four miles of cable.

They will sleep on their black and gold 44-passenger bus as a team of six soldier-drivers moves them and the matching 18-wheeler across the country.

There is no room for prima donnas here. Everyone pulls his or her load, literally. A former Sergeant Major of the Army commented that duty with the Soldier Show is the most physically demanding duty in the Army, second only to combat. Staying physically fit and healthy is a challenge, given that fast food, little sleep, long hours, and lots of bus-sitting are the daily routine.

But the soldiers say unanimously that it's worth it - every minute of it.

"It's thrilling, it's exhausting, it's a pain in the neck, and it's the most rewarding thing I've ever done," said Smith, a former soldier and Soldier Show cast member.

"To start with nothing but their fresh faces looking at me and to end up with a product that entertains thousands of soldiers and families around the world is an amazing experience. I've never been more tired, and I've never been more happy."

(Harriet Rice, Community and Family Support Center, public affairs officer, contributed to this article. For a detailed schedule visit http://trol.redstone.army.mil/mwr/soldiers_show/00/)

Reserve units join forces to train new soldiers

Story and photos by Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
84th Division Public Affairs

The 84th Division (Institutional Training) has joined forces with the 88th Regional Support Command to offer new Reservists a taste of basic training.

A new program for the Army Reserve, the Blue Devil Basic Challenge is a 48-hour “mini-camp” held at Fort McCoy, Wis., twice a year, hosted by the 88th RSC. The first iteration took place last fall, and the most recent took place in April.

During basic challenge recruits learn military basics such as drill and ceremony, rank structure, physical training, first aid and much more. But mostly it is to familiarize them with the military environment and drill sergeants, said Command Sgt. Maj. John Vacho, program organizer. As a Reservist, Vacho is the command

sergeant major of the 376th Finance Battalion, 646th Area Support Group, 88th RSC. However, as a civilian, Vacho is the unit administrator for Company A, 397th Engineer Battalion, 646th ASG, 88th RSC.

Both jobs keep him in touch with new soldiers and he said he was seeing too many soldiers leave the Army before attending their initial entry training. His desire to see soldiers be successful in the Army motivated him to start this unique program.

According to Vacho, approximately 25 percent of new soldiers never even report for basic training.

“New soldiers have their own perception of what (basic combat training) is,” Vacho said. And while most give numerous excuses for not reporting to training, Vacho says he believes it is fear of the unknown.

“They are afraid of drill sergeants,” he said.

In an attempt to reduce the loss and lower the no-show rate to less than 5 percent, Vacho is trying to show soldiers that there is nothing to fear. To accomplish this he contacted several 88th RSC units to provide administrative and logistical



Sgt. 1st Class John Nett corrects Pvt. Sean Ringer's facing movements during drill and ceremony classes.

support and then asked the drill sergeants from 2nd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 84th Division (IT) to provide the training.

“Our mission is to help you get through basic combat training,” Sgt. 1st Class Russell Tapley told the soldiers. Tapley is a senior drill sergeant with the 2nd Battalion, 274th Regiment. “We’ve come here to teach you to be successful.”

The 84th Division drill sergeants spend a minimum of two weeks every year teaching BCT at active duty installations throughout the United States, so participating in the Blue Devil Classic Challenge was an excellent training opportunity, Tapley said.

“When we are not doing this we are doing common task training, this is much more beneficial,” said Staff Sgt. Todd Bacon, one of the drill sergeants. “These are the skills we will be exercising when we push soldiers through BCT,” he explained. Skills such as motivating soldiers, explained Staff Sgt. Terry Jacobson, another drill sergeant.

“The motivation to complete basic training has to come from within,” she said. The drill sergeant’s goal is to teach the

recruits what to expect at basic training so they can be prepared and motivated, she said. Jacobson said she wants the soldier to report to basic training with the attitude, "The drills sergeants taught me that I can do it."

This is evident by one of the mottos expressed by the new soldiers throughout the weekend, "Motivation is the key, graduation is up to me."

One hundred and three soldiers graduated from the mini-camp and should be ready to attend basic training. All participants are members of 88th RSC units.

The 88th RSC is headquartered at Fort Snelling, Minn. Its mission is to exercise command and control, ensure operational readiness, provide area support services, and support emergency operations for more than 400 Reserve units in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

While participation in the basic challenge program is not mandatory for the 88th RSC soldiers, unit sergeant majors and first sergeants are encouraging their new soldiers to attend, Vacho said.

"I think it (was) pretty educational," said Pvt. Brian Hanshaw, a member of the 961st Engineer Battalion. Hanshaw attended the first basic challenge last fall and voluntarily returned in April.

"I forgot a lot of stuff from last time," he said. "I wanted to brush up on things before basic training." Hanshaw reported to basic training in June. Participating in the basic challenge program made him realize that he needed to improve his physical fitness level and the importance of team work.

"There is a lot of group effort involved to get things



Sgt. 1st Class James Davis motivates new Army Reserve soldiers.

done," he said. "I really learned the importance of working as a team."

Hanshaw is among 35 soldiers that also attended the fall camp. All four soldiers that were scheduled to report for BCT since then have reported, said Vacho. However, 17 others voluntarily came back to McCoy for the spring session. This supports Vacho's premise that if the soldiers know what to expect they won't be so afraid to report to basic training.

Vacho explained that at first he was a little afraid that the experience might "scare" the trainees even further, but the number of soldiers returning for the second camp showed otherwise. As did the after-action review comments from the participants:

"When I got here I thought it was going to be easy," wrote one soldier. "I then thought this was going to be something to remember."

"I learned a lot this weekend and I would love to do this again."

"This pre-basic training weekend was invaluable to me, even though it was kind of tough I think it will make BCT that much easier."

"I really hope that I can be a leader and set a good example at basic."

"You are all going to be successful in basic training," Vacho told the soldiers at the end of their training. Not only will they know what to expect, he explained, they will be more prepared than the majority of the soldiers in their BCT unit.

Soldiers enlisting to go on active duty do not receive this training, few Guard members receive the training and currently, the only members of the Army Reserves getting the training are those in the 88th RSC, he said.

To evaluate the success of the program, Vacho is keeping track of all participants to see if they report to their initial entry training. He is also personally keeping in touch with the soldiers by asking them to write him during basic training to share their experiences. He responds to every letter he gets.

Vacho said he and the 88th RSC leadership hope the program will be such a success that it will become mandatory for all new soldiers throughout the Army Reserve.



Staff Sgt. Sara Marquardt shows Pvt. April Bauman how to make an Army bunk.

Commander's Conference 2000



(Above) Maj. Gen. Hawthorne Proctor (left), commander, Army Quartermaster School and Center, accepts the traditional 84th Division gift - a drill sergeant bear - from Maj. Gen. Robert Smith, III. (Below) Brig. Gen. Robert Silverthorn, Jr. (left), new commander of the 95th Division (Institutional Training) accepts a farewell gift from the 84th Division, presented by Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Clark.



Story by Maj. Sue Luetzgen

HHC, 84th Division

The annual Commander's Conference took place in August at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield hotel where commanders focused on "Future Visions" and the 84th Division (Institutional Training) strategic management process.

More than 200 commanders, command sergeant majors, first sergeants and support personnel had an opportunity to learn from each other and interface with senior Army leaders. This year's keynote speaker was Lt. Gen. Larry Ellis, Army deputy chief of staff for operations and plans. He delivered a rousing insight into the future of the Army discussing transformation plans, the need for change and the critical role of the Reserve Component in making the Army viable.

Also presenting were Maj. Gen. John Bowen, deputy commanding general (south), Reserve Component; Maj. Gen. Hawthorne Proctor, commanding general, Army Quartermaster Center and School; and Col. Steven Best, deputy commander, 85th Division (Exercise).

Maj. Gen. Robert Smith, III, 84th Division (IT) commander, talked about specific accomplishments of the division and showed video clips of Railsplitters in action.

Company, battalion, brigade and division command teams studied the 84th Division strategic management process before breaking into sessions by brigade to set strength and readiness goals.

But the conference wasn't all work. Participation's were able to visit with representatives from the Reserve Officers' Association, 84th Division Alumni Association, Association of the U.S. Army, Milwaukee Metropolitan NCO Council, 84th Division Public Affairs Office and the 84th Division Retention Office.

Family members that chose to attend the conference received a presentation on family readiness from the 88th Regional Support Command's local Family Readiness Coordinator Renee Krueger and Maj. Gen. Smith.

The traditional 84th Division Dance, renamed last year as the Sergeant Majors' Ball, took place Saturday night where more than 350 84th Division members, alumni and guests shared the Railsplitter spirit. Retired Maj. Gen. Vance Coleman, former 84th Division commander, was the guest of honor and shared his Korean War experience. Participants formally said good-bye to Brig. Gen. Robert Silverthorn, former assistant division commander for operations.

(Editors note: Units will receive videos copies of special speakers and the Railsplitter video.)



(clockwise from top) Retired Maj. Gen. Vance Coleman, former 84th Division commander shares Korean War stories with dinner dance guests. Lt. Gen. Larry Ellis, Army deputy chief of staff for operations and plans, addresses the new Army and the critical role of the Army Reserve. Col. Gerald Meyer, 7th Brigade commander, accepts the 1st Annual Website of the Year trophy on behalf of the 7th Brigade. Maj. Gen. John Bowen, deputy commanding general (south), Reserve Component, discusses 1st Army's support and changes for the 84th Division.

(Photos by Master Sgt. Doug Hays)



Lt. Col. Donald Carlson (left) and Capt. Roger Bernabo, Reserve officers, conduct an after action

review after a situational training exercise with college students preparing to become military leaders.

Wisconsin Reservists dedicated to developing future Army leaders

Story and photo by Lt. Col. Mark Millard
ROTC Brigade (Provisional)

The ROTC program at Milwaukee's Marquette University may look and operate like other ROTC units, but looks can be deceiving.

Among the staff are two Reserve officers, Capt. Roger Bernabo and Lt. Col. Donald Carlson, ROTC Brigade (Provisional), 84th Division (Institutional Training).

The duo are part of an Army test that returns active component soldiers to the "warfighting" force and delegates ROTC training to Reservists.

The test has two components, the Alternative Staffing Program and the Integration Program. Marquette University has given up an active

component position in exchange for eight ROTC Brigade Reserve soldiers as part of the Alternative Staffing Program.

Bernabo and Carlson are a part of the provisional effort to determine the effect of using Reservists as cadre on select college campuses.

As part of their duties, Bernabo and Carlson recently mentored cadets at Fort McCoy, Wis., during a three-day field training exercise designed to prepare third-year cadets for their summer advanced camp.

Performing jointly with other active and Reserve cadre, Bernabo and Carlson mentored cadets as lane evaluators during situational training exercises.

The STX simulate battle situations that test cadets' physical, mental and emotional stamina as well as their leadership ability.

Bernabo and Carlson enjoy training young men and women to be Army officers.

Bernabo, who previously taught second-year cadets at West Point, particularly enjoys teaching freshmen and sophomores at Marquette University.

"They are eager to learn light infantry procedures especially in a field environment," he said.

Bernabo taps into personal and professional experience to teach the cadets. Bernabo has more than 16 years of service to the National Guard and Reserves as an infantry officer and comes from a family of former soldiers, sailors and Marines.

His influence on the young extends beyond the cadets to his eight-year-old son who enjoys reading about military history as well as training brochures from the military.

Bernabo is married with a five-year-old daughter and eight-year-old son. He holds a degree in civil engineering technology and lives in Sheboygan, Wis.

Carlson also enjoys the college campus environment and is not new to cadre life. In the 1980s he served as an assistant professor of military science at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville for three years.

Carlson uses his 11 years of active Guard and Reserve experience to turn college students into second lieutenants. His assignments include working at the Army Materiel Command in Alexandria, Va., during Desert Shield/Storm. Carlson also comes from a military family. His father is a retired Navy master chief.

When not working with cadets, Carlson devotes his time to several civic and political causes in his hometown of Greenfield, Wis.

Carlson's endeavors include working on the Public Celebration Committee and Business Administrative Committee for the Greenfield school district. Carlson is a recreational therapist for the Lutheran Home in Wauwatosa, Wis.

Wisconsin team takes first



Story and photo by ROTC Brigade (Provisional)

For the third year in a row, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's ROTC rifle team captured first place in the regional rifle team competition for the 2nd ROTC Region that took

place in March.

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is part of the Fox Valley Battalion, supported by the ROTC Brigade (Provisional), 84th Division (Institutional Training) headquartered in Milwaukee.

"We are the first team in 20 years to 'three-peat' at the regional level," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bernarde, team coach and member of 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 84th Division in Oshkosh.

The student soldiers include Tom Yackley, Jared Leisner, Ann Maus, Nick Phelps, Sara Freeman, Tim Lorenze, Chris Schley, Heather Sharpless, Rachel Prescott and Tammy Wendlandt.

In addition to top team honors, Oshkosh sophomore and team captain, Thomas Yackley, earned the honor of top individual scorer in the match.

To qualify for the regional match, the 10-member team placed first in the National Rifle Association intercollegiate sectional competition in February, where Yackley again won top individual

scorer.

The team scores from these two matches were combined at the national ROTC competition, giving the rifle team a 3rd place finish. The Oshkosh cadets look forward to having another strong competition season when they return next year.

Cadets learn values from one of the best

Photo and story by ROTC Brigade (Provisional)

Integrity is one of the most important values new officers must employ, Brig. Gen. Robert Silverthorn, Jr. told ROTC cadets during a Marquette University military ball.

At the time of the presentation, Silverthorn was the assistant division commander for operations for the 84th Division (Institutional Training).

The 84th Division's ROTC Brigade (Provisional) supports Marquette's ROTC unit by replacing two active duty cadre members with 16 Reservists.

Not only is this an excellent opportunity for Reservists to share their diverse knowledge, but cadets also benefit

from a much broader exposure to various branches and the total Army concept.

As guest speaker of the military ball April 28, Silverthorn shared the seven Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity and personal courage with those training to be officers.

Silverthorn reminded cadets of the seamless relationship between active and Reserve forces as he stressed integrity and honor for all commissioned officers.

Silverthorn received his ROTC commission in 1970 at Dickerson College in Carlisle, Pa.



Brig. Gen. Robert Silverthorn, Jr.

The cadets bid Silverthorn farewell and wish him well in his new assignment as commander of the 95th Division (IT), headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Exercise prepares cadets for camp

Story and photo by ROTC Brigade (Provisional) Staff

Several 84th Division (Institutional Training) soldiers are preparing college students for the biggest test in becoming Army officers.

Maj. James O'Neil, Master Sgts. Rhonda Schmidt and Terry Schommer, Capts. Tom Nineman and Amy Nineman, and Sgt. 1st Class Russ Tapley ROTC Brigade (Provisional), 84th Division (IT), evaluated ROTC cadets from several Wisconsin and Illinois colleges and universities during a field training exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., April 13-16.

The "mini-camp" prepares third-year ROTC cadets for their summer advanced camp training at Fort Lewis, Wash. At camp cadets are evaluated on their leadership skills and their technical and tactical knowledge through performance in several exercises including land navigation, squad situational tactical exercises and a Field Leadership Reaction Course. The primary purpose of the evaluations is to determine if the cadets will make good Army officers. At advance camp cadets train to Army standards, develop leadership skills and receive evaluations on their officer potential.

Five schools from Wisconsin and Illinois brought approximately 75 cadets to the camp to give them an idea of what to expect at Lewis. Each school also sponsored an exercise and provided evaluators. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Valley Battalion, supported by the 84th Division's ROTC Brigade was responsible for the field leadership reaction course.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Huelsbeck, ROTC Brigade, and active duty cadre, Maj. Paul Chamberlain from St. Norbert College, assisted Cadet Jim Kane with the FLRC. Kane is a ROTC student at Oshkosh. St. Norbert is located in De Pere, Wis.

"To execute the FLRC training, I had one active duty officer, six Reservists from the 84th Division and several senior level cadets," explained Kane.

The 84th Division soldiers worked with the cadet student leadership to setup and run the course which challenges cadets with unexpected obstacles. Each squad of eight to 10 cadets negotiates 10 different obstacles with a different leader each



Cadet Maj. Jim Kane negotiates a FLRC obstacle.

time. The 84th Division soldiers evaluate the student leaders' ability to negotiate obstacles such as a river crossing or transporting injured soldiers through rough terrain.

"The Reservists operated as evaluators for the cadets conducting FLRC training. Their long years of experience ensured that the evaluated cadets received insightful counseling that will help them at advanced camp this summer and as commissioned officers in the Army," Kane said. "The competence and professionalism of our Reservist cadre allowed our training to be a success. The 84th Division cadre have become an essential part of our battalion, and we depend more and more on their support every day."

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is one of three ROTC units supported by the ROTC Brigade. At these universities members of the 84th Division serve as ROTC cadre members. The brigade provides USAR personnel to colleges and universities to augment the active component staff, with the goal of increasing the number of cadets in each program.

The program has two components, the Alternative Staffing Program and the Integration Program. Marquette University, in Milwaukee, has given up an active component position in exchange for eight ROTC Brigade Reserve soldiers as part of the staffing program. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Ohio's Youngstown State University is participating in the Integration Program and is augmented with ROTC Brigade Reserve personnel in addition to the active component staff.

Soldiers train with Army's Old Guard

Story and Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Koszuta
7th Brigade

Three Milwaukee drill sergeants recently traveled to Fort Myer, D.C., to train with The Old Guard, 3rd U.S. Infantry, the Army's official ceremonial unit to the president.

Master Sgt. Michael Koszuta, 7th Brigade; Staff Sgt. Timothy Kubik and Sgt. Lisa Hall, 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment, 2nd Brigade. These 84th Division (Institutional Training) drill sergeants spent four days refining various drill and ceremony procedures including funeral details, colors, firing party and the manual of arms.

They were selected to train with this prestigious organization based on merit and their potential to share these experiences and organize a ceremonial drill unit within the 84th Division.

"This was a once in a lifetime experience," said Koszuta. The manual of arms training we conducted with the M14 was my favorite phase. We had the opportunity to participate in many training sessions. It was a lot to put into three days."

Koszuta plans to put these new skills to use in the near future. "I believe the funeral detail training was the most important to me, because it is relevant training," he said. Koszuta has performed funeral detail on many occasions and he is actively involved in the VFW Zamlen-Holman Post.

The trip also gave the trio a chance to learn some history. The Old Guard, the Army's oldest regiment, was created as a result of the 1783 Peace Treaty of Paris. The treaty said at the end of the American Revolution the newly independent colonies would take military control and responsibility for land west to the Mississippi River.

The American Army that won the revolution had returned to their respective states with the exception of a single Continental Army artillery unit, posted at West Point. This

unit created by Congress, consisting of no more than 450 men, became the Old Guard. The unit has participated in every major conflict since its inception.

Fort Myer is located at the west gate of Arlington National Cemetery. The Old Guard museum details the accomplishments and history of the 3rd U.S. Infantry. During the Civil War, it became common for units to paint the names of battles in which they participated on their colors, usually in the red stripes of the national

standard. In 1890, when the size of colors carried in the field was reduced, the Army standardized honors by directing that they be engraved on a silver band around the flagstaff. In 1919, the current system of streamers was adopted.

Every month the Department of the Army has a retirement ceremony at Myer on Summerall Field. All the units of the Old Guard perform. The Wisconsin drill sergeants had the opportunity to witness this most impressive ceremony.

"It was an honor for the 84th Division drill sergeants to have the opportunity to train with the Army's best. We have returned with renewed commitment and attention to detail," he added.

For additional information on the 3rd U.S. Infantry visit www.mdw.army.mil/Oldguard on the Internet.



Kubik, Hall and Koszuta.

Division soldiers honor Vietnam Veterans

By Capt. Janice Burk
84th Division Public Affairs

Members of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) participated in a emotional memorial ceremony recently in honor of Vietnam Veterans.

The ceremony was part of a week long event, May 4-10, where the Vietnam Veteran's Moving Wall was on display at the Harley Davidson dealership on West Silver Spring Road in Milwaukee. The Wall is a replica about half the size of the Washington memorial.

Several hundred visitors came to The Wall to pay respects to those who did not return from Vietnam. The memo-

rial included speeches by veterans including Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Gary Wetzel. Wetzel, a helicopter crew member, earned the medal for continuing to provide suppressive automatic weapons fire against opposing forces while wounded.

Veteran Bruce Kurth was among many of the visitors. It was also the first time he'd seen a Vietnam memorial. Before the ceremony he wrote a poem to express his feelings, "Of Brothers Not Forgotten."

"Remember how scared I was. Remember the first time you put your arms around me and held me, to comfort me. Please remember me. You always called

me your Brother. Now it means more than you will ever know. When you come see me - Put your hand on me, touch me, feel me, and know that I always did my best for you. Please - remember me," Kurth recited from his poem.

The 84th Division soldiers offered respects to their fallen comrades in arms by firing a 21 gun salute. Members of the rifle team included: Sgts. 1st Class Robin Lord and Shawn Chase; Staff Sgts. Ron Frymark, Tamara Wynn, Nathan Klenz, and Anita Pitts; Sgt. Ian Chin and Spc. Jeffery Kaznierski.

Members of local ROTC units showed their respects by participating in a multi-service color guard.

Going for Gold

Story and photo by Richard 'Chris' Smith

19th TAACOM Public Affairs Office

In May, soldiers from the 84th Division (Institutional Training) participated in the German Armed Forces Efficiency Test 2000 competition, sponsored by the 19th Theater Army Area Command, Conus Augmentation, Des Moines, Iowa.

The GAFET challenges entrants to meet a standard based on age, gender and medal criteria. The standards are set by the Bundeswehr (West German Army), the originator of the GAFET, and is regarded as one of the world's most challenging military contests. Contestants compete for gold, silver, and bronze medals.

All participants received a certificate for their accomplishment. More than 120 service members participated, according to Lt. Col. Jose Carbon, the officer in charge of GAFET 2000.

Winners from the 84th Division were 1st Sgt. Robert Priest, an instructor with the Drill Sergeant School, won a gold medal at GAFET 2000. Priest attained the highest standard for his age and gender in each event to receive this most prestigious award.

First Lt. Vylius Leskys, commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, 1st Brigade, took a silver medal. Capt. Edward Nicholson, operations officer, 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, 1st Brigade and 2nd Lt. Matthew Rambo, executive officer, Company D, 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, 1st Brigade both captured bronze medals.

The test had two phases: first aid and physical training. The first aid phase tested basic lifesaving techniques. The physical phase was grueling and consisted of

9mm pistol marksmanship, weight-lifting, track and field events, swimming and a road march with full field equipment.

At the end of his final track event, Nicholson was asked why he was competing at the GAFET, "It gave me a tough goal to work for," he said.

All participants went home with at least a certificate for courageous efforts, but when asked if the 84th would be back next year, Leskys responded, "Gonna have to...got to get a hold of the gold!"



1st Lt. Vylius Leskys (right), commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, 1st Brigade, competes for the gold.

3rd Brigade "Standdown" in Minnesota

Sgt. 1st Class Lydia Kelly

3rd Brigade, 84th Division

Members of 3rd Brigade, 84th Division (Institutional Training) lent a hand recently to military veterans during the 7th Annual Standdown.

Standdown is a four-day event where participants provide legal assistance, clothing, medical services, job service, economic assistance, to needy veterans and their families. This year's event took place at the University of Minnesota in August where approximately 1000 veterans and more than 400 family members participated.

While standdowns occurs in nearly every state, the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have one of the largest standdowns in the country and Reservists, Marines and Guardsmen participate.

Veterans process through Standdown in much the same way soldiers process through a unit. At each station the participants receive different services or goods, such as surplus uniforms and boots.

Participants come back year after year and some veterans even travel from bordering states to participate.

This year's highlights included a

lunch served by Miss America and a visit from Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura.

There is a sense of camaraderie at Standdown that gives veterans a chance to remember when they felt needed and appreciated for their military service.

They come to receive help, yet they leave feeling good about themselves. Year after year I realize that no matter what happens, no matter how ones' life may change one thing rings true: Once a soldier, always a soldier and there is no place where it is more evident than at Standdown.

Railsplitters join forces with Michigan National Guard

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Vylius Leskys
Company B, 1st Battalion, 333rd Infantry Regiment, 1st
Brigade (OSUT)

Twelve 84th Division (Institutional Training) soldiers shuffled off a UH-1 helicopter, and quickly traveled four kilometers to their assault position, where they laid waiting for an enemy vehicle. The rumble of a HUMVEE was heard in the distance, a shot was fired followed by a roar of rifle fire, like a freight train speeding down its tracks — the ambush was quick and fierce.

The “enemy” is left with three fatalities and a severed logistical package. The division soldiers have gained a wealth of intelligence information. But there is no time to celebrate, the soldiers quickly traveled two kilometers to an extraction point, where they are carried away by a Michigan National Guard helicopter.

This exercise was part of 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment, 1st Brigade’s infantry proficiency training. But it was also an exercise in the total Army concept, where Reservists and Guardsmen join forces to accomplish a mission.

The mission of 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment is to teach Infantry One-Station Unit Training to new soldiers.



Capt. William Webb (left) and Staff Sgt. Randy Confer patrol the “enemy” area.



The Michigan Guard’s aviation unit provides helicopter transportation to members of 1st Battalion, 333rd Regiment.

However, to teach infantry skills they must be proficient in all aspects of the infantry, including traveling. However, neither the 84th Division nor other Reserve units in the Flint, Mich., area have aviation assets.

Flying choppers is the best training for the Michigan National Guard’s aviation unit personnel and the Guard’s 425th Long Range Surveillance Company must also practice breaching enemy lines to collect intelligence. A partnership was formed and the Reserve and Guard planned a weekend exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich., to benefit all. It started eight months before the exercise with phone call to Sgt. 1st Class Allen Johnson, Company F, 425th LRSC. Johnson is the unit’s operations sergeant.

“We would like to conduct this type of training on these dates, with these assets... what can we do to make sure that both of our units achieve some exceptional training,” requested Capt. Edward Nicholson, 1st Battalion’s operations officer who arranged the training. These types of symbolic relationships greatly enhance training and drastically increase morale within a unit, he said.

The 84th Division Railsplitters practiced their infantry skills by ambushing the Guard’s HUMVEE and personnel, patrolling the 425th’s areas of operations and conducting search operations to test the Guard’s reconnaissance teams. The Guard’s 147th Aviation participated by providing transportation to the Guard and Reserve units.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Eric Shinseki’s One Army concept suggests we take advantage of training assets dispersed throughout the active Army, Guard and Reserves that benefit each other in mission preparation, explained Maj. Carlton Allen, 1st Battalion’s commander. “The 1st Battalion, 333rd Infantry Regiment hopes to lead the way in embracing Shinseki’s concept,” he added.

Hoop It Up

By Capt. Janice Burk
84th Division Public Affairs

Basketball players of all ages and abilities gathered in Milwaukee to make a dream come true and help raise funds for cancer and the 84th Division (Institutional Training) and the U.S. Army were there to help.

The 9th Annual Hoop-It-Up tournament stopped in Milwaukee July 29 and 30 to see 715 teams compete for bigger and better things. Eighty soldiers from the 84th Division kept score of the games played simultaneously on 65 courts.

Hoop-It-Up is the official 3-on-3 Tour of the NBA and NBC Sports and is the premier street basketball tour in the U.S., according to a Hoop-It-Up press release. According to official game rules, the competition is open to players ages 8 and older and includes divisions from "recreational" to "top gun," which include college players or better.

Winners of the men's and women's Top Gun divisions advance to the Hoop-It-Up World Championships, where the top two teams have the opportunity to face NBA Legends and WNBA players on the "Court of Dreams."

This national competition started in 1986 in Dallas, Texas, under its original name, Hoop-D-Do. Simply created as a onetime fund-raiser for the Texas Special Olympics, the instant popularity of Hoop-D-Do was unthinkable. Nearly 2,000 hoopsters took part in the weekend event that one hot summer in Dallas – more than 10 years later, the domestic tour proudly has hosted more than 1.1 million players. In 1989, Hoop-D-Do was renamed Hoop-It-Up to become the flagship sports marketing property for the start-up company, Streetball Partners International.

This year's tour consists of 42 cities with a projected 140,000 players and is estimated to draw 500,000 spectators.

"Participation this year is the second highest in the history of the event," said Jim Grayson about the Milwaukee competition. Grayson is the director of sales for the Milwaukee Bucks and one of the many individuals responsible for



Participants in the National Hoop-It-Up Challenge, recently held in Milwaukee, show their physical ability off the court.

bringing the event back to Milwaukee.

In addition to the excitement and opportunity for amateur players in the Milwaukee area, a portion of the proceeds from team entries benefit the Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer Fund, said Maj. Robert Weisbrod, operations officer for Headquarters, 84th Division.

The goal of the MACC Fund is to create events and programs that foster the idea of "a good time for a good cause." People of all ages have embraced this theme over the last twenty-one years while contributing over \$13,000,000 for childhood cancer research, according to MACC fund officials.

In addition to playing basketball, participants and spectators had a chance to learn more about the Army and Army Reserve. The 84th Division demonstrated their Laser Marksmanship Training System, a system currently being fielded, that uses nontraditional lasers and computers in marksmanship training and the Army supplied the "Ultimate Rock Climbing Experience," where participants could test their climbing skills.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for the Army and the 84th Division to get involved with the community," said Col. Stephen Thompson, the 84th Division's assistant division commander for operations.

Reservists gather in Germany for 2000 CIOR Summer Congress

By Capt. Tim Salazar
3rd Brigade, 84th Division

Reservists from around the world gathered this summer in Berlin to improve military relations, discuss common defense issues and even have a little fun and the 84th Division (Institutional Training) was there.

Capt. Tim Salazar, Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, 84th Division was one of 300 U.S. service members to join their international counterparts this summer at the 2000 Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers and its associate medical organization, CIOMR Summer Congress.

While Salazar attended the event as the international secretary for the Communications Commission, he says CIOR is beneficial to the 84th Division units and soldiers because of CIOR's influence on Reserve benefits and military deployments.

CIOR and CIOMR are organizations that bring together a number of international reserve associations. Its mission is to forge ties between reservists and NATO. The National Reserve Officers

Association of the NATO member countries forms the heart of CIOR, but remain completely independent in national operations.

The members of CIOR spent the conference tackling several issues.

The Defense and Security Commission oversaw the Young Reserve Officers Workshop allowing company grade officers to participate in round table discussions on pertinent defense issues. The commission also continued to gather data and documentation from all NATO nations on reserve-related information and producing scholarly discussion papers.

The Civil-Military Cooperation Commission focused on recommending methods of cooperation between civil and military authorities in the areas of civil defense, disaster relief, humanitarian aid and peace keeping.

The Communications Commission produced a 10-minute CIOR video that introduces the role and junction of CIOR to military reserve officers throughout NATO as well as civilian and military organizations not familiar with CIOR. The group advertised the work of

CIOR to the national and international press by submitting articles and photos and communicating through the CIOR web site, www.cior.org.

The Military Competition Commission held its annual pentathlon with 177 reserve officers competing from NATO and Partnership for Peace countries. The competition includes: pistol and rifle shooting, a land obstacle course, the aquatic obstacle course and orienteering.

The Legal Committee continued to administer its contest of the 'Law of War' to YROW members. Testing the knowledge and skill of participants in role-playing and the doctrines associated with international law and prisoners of war.

The Partnership for Peace Committee continued to promote, advise and facilitate democratic principals in newly joined NATO partners such as Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary. The committee explored opportunities to setup and support reservist associations in these countries.

The 2000 Summer Congress continued to prove the importance of CIOR/CIOMR and that reserve officers play a vital role in NATO's future.

After the tremendous changes in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, the 1990s were a decade of restructuring. The new century will continue to carry with it undisclosed dangers. Indeed, in certain NATO countries 50 to 75 percent of reservists provided the required manpower for some nations.

Being capable of generating forces of trained and motivated citizen-soldiers is in itself an effective deterrent against aggression.

The reserve officers of CIOR/CIOMR are dedicated to supporting their nations and the alliance in achieving a credible deterrent and in maintaining peace and freedom.

For more information about CIOR visit the National Reserve Officers Association web site at www.roa.org.



CIOR Communications Commission leadership: (left to right) U.S. Capt. Tim Salazar, UK Squadron leader Michael Cairns and German Lt. Col. Ralf Hapke

The Army War College wants all officers

By Maj. Matthew Leonard
84th Division Public Affairs

All officers should aspire to attend the Army War College, according to Col. Stephen Thompson, assistant division commander for operations, 84th Division (Institutional Training).

"It is the pinnacle of military education," he said. The Army War College is a rigorous two-year school, consisting of 10 courses and two resident phases, each two weeks in length. The resident phase takes place at Carlisle Barracks, Penn.

The War College is an intense but worthwhile endeavor, according to Col. Jill Morgenthaler, deputy chief of staff, information management and recent War

College graduate.

"The Army War College distance education program will take over your dining room table, your spare time, your lunches, your weekends, and your life," said Morgenthaler.

"If Command and General Staff College is a master's degree then the Army War College is clearly a doctorate," Thompson said.

While completion of this course is not a requirement for promotion to colonel, it is a clear discriminator for brigade command selection boards, he said. Lieutenant colonels are encouraged to apply for a slot early in their tenure to get a good start, he said. Adding, that the War College is a requirement for general officer selection.



Recent Army War College graduates: Col. William Kirkland (left), 1st Brigade commander and Col. Jill Morgenthaler, deputy chief of staff, information management.

84th Division celebrates Armed Forces Week

Story and photos By Capt. Janice Burk
84th Division Public Affairs Office

The 84th Division (Institutional Training) soldiers joined forces with other military units to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Milwaukee's observance of Armed Forces Week. During the week of May 15 to May 20 several military units celebrated throughout the city. The 84th showed off their equipment and shared their military skills and experiences with community members. One of its members was also honored for community service.

The Employers Support for the Guard and Reserve, known as ESGR, hosted a breakfast during the first day of festivities to present the Richard I. Bong award. ESGR presents the annual award to a Milwaukee area service member who has demonstrated motivation and leadership, promotes the military and excels in his/her military job.

This year's recipient was 1st Sgt. Howard Griffith, 1st Battalion, 384th Regiment, 7th Brigade, 84th Division (IT). As a soldier Griffith is committed to training his soldiers. He continually evaluates and revises his unit training program to make sure each of his soldiers receives the best possible training. During his personal time, Griffith also supports the military. For the past 19 years he has organized a Veteran's Day ceremony at his civilian job.

Griffith is also a member of the division's Weapons Strategy Training Team, teaching others how to use the Laser Marksmanship Training System that will eventually be used throughout the Army Reserve.

The 84th Division also participated in the annual military aircraft and equipment display at the General Mitchell International Airfield, which is the most widely recognized event of the Armed Forces Week activities.

More than 20,000 visitors took the opportunity to get a closer look at some of the military's most widely used pieces of equipment

Among the 84th Division's equipment was a HUMVEE and a cargo truck that participants were able to explore. Some visitors also donned a kevlar helmet to get a feel for field environment attire. Children who visited the display were also eager to experience military camouflage techniques first hand. While some opted for the traditional camouflage application, others decided that green butterflies suited them better.

Many visitors were drawn to the familiar "Smokey the Bear" hat of the drill sergeant. Sgts. First Class Lenoir Calvin, HHD, 1st Battalion, 339th Regiment, 7th Brigade and Michael Feifer, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Willis, 757th Transportation Battalion, told onlookers how they turn young men and women into soldiers.

Sgts. First Class James Daugherty, Garry Frost and Arthur Froh, Headquarters, 84th Division and Spc. Robert Haglund, Headquarters, 521st Maintenance Battalion answered questions and directed visitors.

The 84th Division Band was also on hand to entertain the crowd at the historic Pabst Theater, in the downtown theater district, Milwaukee. Special guests included members of the 85th Division Band and the Great Lakes Navy Band.

Instructors touch-up their classrooms

By Staff Sgt. 1st Class Gary Fox
3rd Battalion (Military Police), 3rd Brigade
(Combat Support)

With a little paint and a lot of initiative, 3rd Brigade instructors are making their classrooms a little more personal.

Military police trainers working out of the National Guard Armory in Owosso, Mich., have made improvements to their classroom environment. The armory, built in 1915 has been in need of repairs for several years. The roof leaked and caused water damage throughout the entire building's structure.

"We had paint and plaster falling from the ceiling and walls in our classroom," said Instructor Staff Sgt. Gary Fox, 3rd Battalion (Military Police), 3rd Brigade (Combat Support), 84th Division (Institutional Training). "This made the classroom environment a distraction for students and not conducive to learning," he explained.

Owosso site instructors Sgts. 1st Class Dirk Anderson, Timothy Black, Staff Sgt. Phillip Kocznasz and Fox repaired and painted the walls and ceiling, as well as refinished the old linoleum floor. Fox also got approval to do some artwork on the classroom walls from the owners of the Michigan Army National Guard building.

"I really wanted to instill a sense of pride for everyone while in the classroom," Fox said. "I discussed this with (the commander of the) 144th MP Company (Heavy). He gave me his blessing." The 144th MPs are part of the 177th MP Brigade, Michigan ARNG.

Fox purchased the paint and materials from his own funds and went to work. On one wall he painted the unit patches of the 177th MP Brigade, the 300th MP Command, and the 84th Division.

"We have students from all companies under the 177th and the 300th. I thought it would help instill a

sense of pride in the students when they see their unit patches on the wall as they entered the classroom," Fox explained. "Of course it also instills pride in the instructors seeing our unit patch represented on the wall as well."

On the other wall are regimental pistols that span just over six feet in width. Fox explained that he wanted the pistols on the wall because they represent the Military Police Corps. As students leave the classroom, they see in big bold green letters above the door the word "pride."

"I put that up there as a reminder to all as they leave the classroom that they should take pride in who and what they are, as well as what they will soon become – MPs," he said. Fox plans on adding the Military Police regimental crest to another wall. "I won't stop there either. I also plan on painting the MP badge as well as a scene of a lonely MP providing security somewhere in the world," he said.

Chaplain's Corner: Winning with Wit

By Chaplain Jim DeCamp
Assistant Division Chaplain

Playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote to Sir Winston Churchill, "Dear Mr. Churchill, Enclosed are two tickets to my new play, which opens Thursday night. Please come and bring a friend, if you have one."

Churchill replied, "Dear Mr. Shaw, I am sorry, I have a previous engagement and cannot attend your opening. However, I will come to the second performance, if there is one."

Humor can diffuse an opponent's attack—even reverse momentum in a contest. It also eases the stress of demanding conditions.

The famous "Kilroy was here" lightened the load of many a World War II soldier.

As we left the hanger at Pope Air Force Base for the C-5A that transported us to Saudi Arabia and Desert Storm, the sign by the door was hard to miss:

"Military Airlift Command. We take more people to places they don't want to go than any other airline in the world."

Sometimes the enemy sends us humor on a silver platter!

For example, during Desert Storm, Radio Bagdad tried to dispirit us with, "And G.I., while you are hot and tired in this desert, your girlfriend back home is going out with Michael Jackson and Bart Simpson!"

For years, "The Lighter Side" feature in Soldier's Magazine was a great asset in building readership and offering comic relief.

"Laughter is the best medicine," says the Reader's Digest.

"A cheerful heart is good medicine," written in Proverbs 17:22.

This holiday season—Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas—will bring its share of laughter, I trust. Yet may laughter be only a stepping stone to the more enduring experiences of joy, fulfillment and peace.

Let us be on a winning team these months, looking for the bright side, and lightening one another's load.

A great Army experience

By 1st Sgt. R. Todd Priest

84th Division

On June 12, I was awarded the prestigious Order of Saint Maurice from the National Infantryman's Association and the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga. The ceremony marked the end of my tour as the 1999 Training and Doctrine Command's Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year.

This past year has truly been a great Army experience and one I hope will inspire drill sergeants of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) to get involved and compete in the Drill Sergeant of the Year program. Maj. Gen. Robert Smith, III, 84th Division commander, views the Ralph E. Haines Jr. Outstanding Drill Sergeant of the Year Award as the most coveted award in the Army Reserve. The award is presented annually by the Army Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major at the Pentagon.

In Appreciation

I would like to recognize individuals and organizations that have made this achievement and the DSOY tour of duty a success. Success requires a team effort and the 84th Division family/team performed and supported the effort in an outstanding manner. It would not have been possible without all of you! Hooaha!

Thanks to my wife Vickie, son Kameron and daughter, Sage for your sacrifices, support and for being there.

Thanks to the 84th Division and Drill Sergeant School for providing the opportunity and the resources needed for success. A special thanks to the following soldiers of the DSS Fort Wayne campus site: Sgts. 1st Class Bodeker, Carnagua, Garret and Schlatter who selflessly filled the my void and executed the mission. Also a special thanks to Mary Corson who personally worked hard to ensure my DSOY packet was ready for competition.

I would also like to thank my employer. Organizations like Subaru-Isuzu Automotive Incorporated is a role model for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Programs. SIA truly represents a partnership in the defense of our nation. Thanks to those individuals that have made personal sacrifices in my absence: Paul, Michelle, Andy and Pam.

About the Competition

The annual competition is hosted by the commanding general and command sergeants majors at TRADOC, Fort Monroe, Va. The competition is four days in length and involves competitors from seven USAR divisions and

thirteen active training centers. Only one winner will be selected from each of the active and Reserve components respectively.

The competition consists of four graded events in accordance with TRADOC regulation 350-16 (DSP). The four events are: pre-competition packet, Army physical fitness test, instructional demonstrations and appearing before a board of select command sergeants majors. The week long competition is challenging and exciting; the atmosphere provided by TRADOC is professional and very memorable.

Honored to Represent

The active and Reserve Drill Sergeants of the Year are high profile positions with many responsibilities and rewards that are both intrinsically and extrinsically nothing short of incredible. A few of the duties include: performing special assignments for the TRADOC commanding general, visiting with initial entry training units to observe training and make recommendations, speaking at special civilian and military functions and assisting in coordinating the TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition.

Examples of key events that require the presence of the Reserve DSOY are: Reserves Officers Associations Convention, Anaheim Calif.; 84th Division Commanders Conference, Milwaukee; NCOA Convention, Las Vegas, Nev.; pentagon ceremony, Washington D.C.; AUSA Convention, Washington D.C.; AUSA Winter Symposium, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (*Note: The locations of some events change annually.*)

Presence is also required numerous times throughout the year at IET installations to review training and make recommendations. To me all events were high profile and I am very proud and honored to have worn the patch that represents all soldiers past, present, and future of the 84th Division: Hooaha Railsplitters!

The Challenge

For those drill sergeants wanting to take the challenge and compete in the competition, advise your chain of command and get involved, there are no losers in this program, only winners. For those who do take the challenge, dedicate yourself, visualize winning, involve your team and stay focused. Excellence is not defined by a single performance event. Excellence is achieved by consistently doing those things that deliver you to that performance level.

Final Thought

Now I am looking forward to doing what noncommissioned officers do best, train soldiers. Remember competition is all about raising the standards and as drill sergeants we have the privilege and unique opportunity to train and instill the highest standards in the youth of America. We are responsible for providing the foundation for the future leaders of our Army and this great nation.