

The Railsplitter

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Fall 2001

Published in the interest of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) and the U.S. Army Reserve.



*McPhillips
chosen
Reserve Drill
Sergeant of
the Year --
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'The men and women of the Army Reserve will do all that the nation expects of us in this national crisis.' — Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes - Page 2

September 2001 - Tragedy in America

By Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes
Chief, U.S. Army Reserve

September 11, 2001, was a day that no American will ever forget.

Terrorists cowardly delivered a series of brutal attacks against our country. One terrible blow after another hit in New York City and then at the Pentagon. The tragedy was so heinous that a day later, the numbness has still not worn off.

On behalf of the Army Reserve family, our hearts go out to all affected by this tremendous act of evil. We



Firefighters and soldiers hang a large flag from the damaged west side of the Pentagon. Photo by Army News Service.

mourn all those lost in the initial attacks, as well as the gallant fire fighters,

police officers and other rescue workers killed while unselfishly trying to save others at the World Trade Center.

We pray for the recovery of the wounded and hope more survivors will be found. We also express our deepest sympathy to all the family members and loved ones of those killed or injured.

For those in the military community, we are particularly concerned about our fellow comrades in the Pentagon. These are friends and colleagues, fellow members of the Armed Forces and Defense Department workers, good people who were going about their daily duties in defense of all Americans.

Individual acts of heroism and of Pentagon workers helping one another in the immediate act of the attack are coming out. The men and women of the Pentagon, military and civilian, acted just as one would expect: those who were in position to help did so and the others followed orders calmly and without panic to leave the building for their own safety.

The Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, just like the Headquarters, Department of the Army, and the Department of Defense, is fully functioning.

'We pray for the recovery of the wounded ...'
-- Plewes

The Army Reserve will render all support asked of us by the National Command Authority.

We have a variety of capabilities and experienced personnel which can and will be made available as part of the federal response, helping our fellow citizens in the best traditions of the citizen-soldier. We shall also do our part in any other response required of the military in the aftermath of this horror.

America was stunned September 11 and we still hurt today, but let there be no doubt in anyone's mind, we will carry on and we will get through this. The men and women of the Army Reserve will do all that the nation expects of us in this national crisis. As citizens and soldiers we could do nothing less.

God bless you all.

On the cover

2001 Reserve and Active Component Drill Sergeants of the Year: Sgt. 1st Class Wayne McPhillips, 84th Division (IT) and Sgt. 1st Class Debra Thorn, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Photo by TRADOC News Service.

The Railsplitter

84th Division Commander

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith, III

Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Matthew Leonard

Command Information Officer

Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie

Public Affairs Chief & Editor

Master Sgt. Vern Borth

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Submit photographs as color prints or in 300 dpi 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 as needed.

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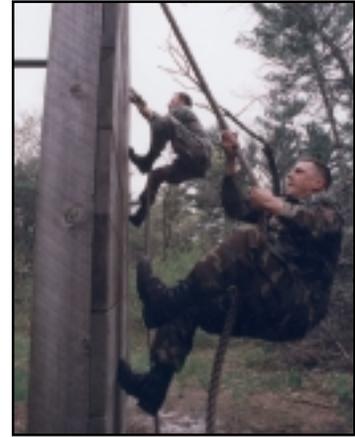
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America Under Attack

By **Maj. Gen. Robert Smith III**
Commander, 84th Division (IT)

“America Under Attack” translates to: Is the 84th Division ready to respond? I am confident that the answer is “Yes”.

Soldiers across our six states have responded to the call of service by being ready to serve and doing whatever is necessary to show that all Americans stand united against the forces that threaten our way of life.

In response to this threat, our soldiers immediately began manning all USAR centers 24 hours a day and did what ever was necessary to ensure all troops were at the highest level of alert and meeting threat-con levels. All this without incident, showing what training and readiness accomplishes.

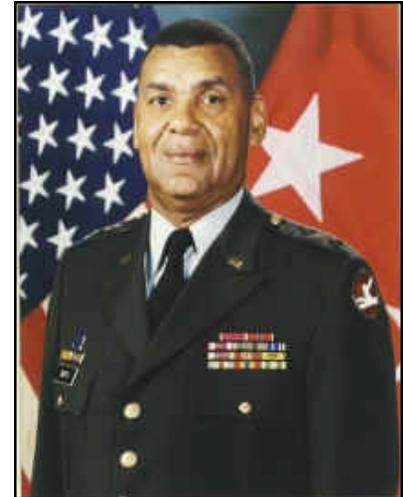
It is obvious why we 84th Division soldiers hold such numerous awards as Drill Sergeant of the Year, TRADOC AGR and Reserve Instructor of the Year and

First Army NCO of the year -it’s because our soldiers train and study hard.

As a training division we model what force protection is and must be. Thus Americans, especially in our region, look for us to stand tall and reassure them that we are there to protect and defend their basic freedoms.

As another year of initial entry training, Total Army School System training and ROTC training starts we in the 84th must “Strike Hard “ in leading the way to instill the basic underpinning that force protection is paramount. To that end I thank all of those involved in helping to keep the 84th out front and demonstrating why laser marksmanship training and distance learning are key cornerstones for the training needs in the Army Reserve. Through these mediums we prepare all soldiers to tackle the challenges that may face them.

So as the days and weeks pass we in the 84th must be aware that our future actions and our compassion will affect the



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith, III

lives of many. I am confident that each of us will do what is right and necessary to show that the 84th Division stands ready always to preserve and defend our American way: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Now more than ever, everyone can understand why our slogan of “Before there is a Warfighter, there is a Trainer” has increased relevance and meaning.

Railsplitters will drive on

By **Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Charles Clark**
84th Division Command Sgt. Maj.



It has been a great year for the 84th Division (Institutional Training). In our ranks are the Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year, First Army NCO of

the Year, TPU Instructor of the Year, and Active/Guard Reserve Instructor of the Year. In addition, most of our Total Army School System battalions are now accredited.

We can be proud of who we are and that we are part of a great organization. I know our title-holding soldiers are a small number of the soldiers we have in the Division and they are getting a lot of attention, however remember they are a symbol of our quality. Not all of you want to compete for titles, but all of you are

important. Thanks to everyone serving in the 84th, your dedication and hard work is not overlooked.

However, sometimes you may feel overlooked. Time is very precious to all of us. There are probably times that the day has gone by and you sit back and ask where did the day go? At division headquarters I find myself asking that question a lot. How soon I forget those days in the “working” side of this division. Now it is meetings, conferences and traveling to sites across the country. I have broken a promise to you and myself that I made when I was hired for this job and that is to get out to you on drill weekends. I promise to fix that.

I accepted an invitation to visit 14th Battalion (NCOES), 6th Brigade (Professional Development) in July. I not only spent time with the soldiers of the 14th, I also observed Primary Leadership Development Course training and talked with young leaders. The real honor came when I was asked to deliver

the PLDC graduation speech. It feels good to be in the field observing our trainers. And I want all of you to know that I’m available for you. All you have to do is ask and I will be there.

On a sad note, however, the events of September 11 have changed our lives forever. Remember that these United States are the most powerful in the world. Our enemies may hurt us but they can never destroy us. Our country was founded on the principles that all men are created equal and we are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We, as citizen soldiers, serve to keep that right alive for every American. I don’t know where we will be in the coming months but remember we are Americans sworn to fight and protect these principles. Remember those that have fallen and remember those that will fall to protect our great nation!

The 84th Division has and will continue to serve with valor and distinction. I know I am proud to be a member of this 84th Division and the United

See, Drive On, Page 22

Brig. Gen. Thompson receives his star

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
Railsplitter Staff

On a bright sunny June afternoon stars were shining at the 84th Division (Institutional Training) headquarters in Milwaukee when Stephen B. Thompson received a star, officially promoting him to brigadier general.

Thompson's wife, Barbara, and Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith III, 84th Division commander performed the traditional pinning ceremony. Thompson was then presented with his one-star general officer flag, his pistol belt and pistol. The flag and belt now belong to the new general and he has the option of buying the pistol from the government when he retires.

"It's my pleasure to be here to promote General Thompson," Smith said. "He is a great American who has soldiered



Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Stephen Thompson accepts his first star from Commanding Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith III, in June at the 84th Division (Institutional Training) headquarters in Milwaukee. Thompson is the assistant division commander for operations. Photo by Master Sgt. Doug Hays.

Division chaplain turns recruiter

The Railsplitter patch was on display in June in Louisville, Ky., as Chaplain, Lt. Col., James DeCamp formally exchanged cards with the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Korea. DeCamp, born and raised in Korea by his missionary parents, was attending the annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

DeCamp also was on a mission, sponsored by the U. S. Army Recruiting Command, to recruit chaplains and chaplain candidates for the U. S. Army Reserve. With some help from Chaplain, Maj., Saul Cardona, an active duty chaplain stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., he distributed information to the 2,000 attendees, explaining chaplain ministry. DeCamp is the division chaplain for the 84th Division (Institutional Training).

long and hard." He's a caring individual, willing to listen and to help, and "even though he is wearing stars, his feet are still on the ground," said Smith.

"Nobody achieves this level of success without a huge level of sacrifice and commitment," said the assistant division commander for operations, and the U.S. Army Reserve's newest general. He added that the sacrifices and commitment were not just his.

"(My wife) is steady as a rock," Thompson said. Referring to soldiering as an affair of the heart, he thanked Barbara for accepting his passion.

"(My parents) gave me the roots and the wings to do what I wanted," he said. "And without the efforts of some great soldiers in the 100th Division, I guarantee you I would have crashed and burned long ago."

Thompson is relatively new to the 84th Division, joining in the spring of 2000. However, he is not new to training divisions. He spent more than 25 years with the 100th Division (IT), headquartered in Kentucky. As a member of the 100th Division, Thompson served in all levels of command from company through brigade, served as deputy chief of staff for logistics and chief of staff before coming to the 84th Division. He now oversees the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th brigades as well the command operating budget and strategic planning and systems for the division.

"Don't let me fool you. Obviously this is a thrill of a lifetime," Thompson told the 84th Division soldiers, his guests and family members. But also very daunting, he added. "We are responsible to the American people and I am proud to be in a position to influence that.

"I realize that I'm blessed. I realize I've been given a true opportunity," Thompson said, and pledged his support and dedication to the 84th Division, the Army Reserve and the United States of America.



Chaplain James DeCamp greets the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Korea at the annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), taking time out from recruiting chaplains for the Army Reserve.

McPhillips scores victory for whole 84th Division

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
Railsplitter staff

He scored a touchdown, but he couldn't have done it without the team.

"It's a win for the whole division," says Sgt. 1st Class Wayne McPhillips, 84th Division (Institutional Training) and Training and Doctrine Command's Reserve Component 2001 Drill Sergeant of the Year.

McPhillips is an 84th Division drill sergeant, currently assigned to the Drill Sergeant School, 6th Brigade (Professional Development) headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., and a former member of 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment, 2nd Brigade (Basic Combat Training) in Madison, Wis.

"Drill sergeants are in the business of bringing heart and spirit to young Americans," said Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, Training and Doctrine Command deputy commanding general for initial entry training, during a ceremony June 26 honoring McPhillips and the newest active component Drill Sergeant of the Year, Sgt. 1st Class Debra Thorn, Fort Leonard

Wood, Mo.

"I have seen hundreds of drill sergeants, and in every case I have come away impressed with their motivation and their dedication and their competence that they display every day, day in, day out," Van Alstyne said.

It was McPhillips' dedication and competence that got him recognized as an outstanding drill sergeant at battalion, brigade and division level before competing against the Army's top 21 non-commissioned officers for the title. The three-day competition included completing a physical training test, demonstrating common soldier task teachings and appearing before a board of sergeants major.

"It's kind of like a wedding," McPhillips said. "Six months of preparations for three hours of performance." For McPhillips it was six months of intense preparation that he couldn't have done without the help of several people, including Sgts. 1st Class Thorn and Blaine

Huston and 1st Sgt. Robert Priest.

"They pumped me and they prepped me and prepped me and prepped me," McPhillips said. "I don't think the evaluators could have caught me off guard."

Huston, also a member of 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, is the 84th Division's 2002 Drill Sergeant of the Year and one of McPhillips' battle buddies. The two spent weeks preparing for the competition. According to McPhillips, they would spend 15 to 16 hours a day just asking each other questions. The pair trained with 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning,

Ga., and at the Drill Sergeant School at Leonard Wood. Houston also accompanied McPhillips to the TRADOC competi-

tion to provide encouragement and to see what's in store for him when he competes for the national title next year.

McPhillips met Thorn in May when he and Huston traveled to Leonard Wood to prepare for the competition. Thorn is also Fort Leonard Wood's Drill Sergeant of the Year. She and staff members at the Drill Sergeant School helped McPhillips get ready for the competition.

Thorn and McPhillips bonded and used e-mail to continue training together. Their families have also become friends.

"It was frosting on the cake to know we both won," he said.

Priest, the 1999 Reserve Component Drill Sergeant of the Year "played a key roll in this," said McPhillips. Priest is first sergeant of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, 1st Training Brigade (One-Station Unit Training), 84th Division, headquartered in Michigan.

"I was just a mentor/coach," Priest said. "McPhillips and his battle buddy Huston deserve all the credit. They worked extremely hard to represent our division.

"McPhillips represents the spirit of the noncommissioned officer corps and he is the epitome of what a drill sergeant is supposed to be. He set his goal to win, developed his vision and made it happen. All in the spirit of excellence and setting

'They pumped me and they prepped' -- McPhillips



Sgt. 1st Class Wayne McPhillips, his wife, Michelle, and Sgt. 1st Class Debra Thorn accept congratulations at Fort Monroe, Va., Army Drill Sergeant of the Year ceremonies. Photo by TRADOC News Service.

Sgt. 1st Class Wayne McPhillips (No. 27) begins the two-mile run portion of an Army physical fitness test in the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition. Photo by TRADOC News Service.



a new standard," Priest said.

McPhillips also thanked his wife and family for their support, the support staff at the 84th Division's Drill Sergeant School for their time and logistical support, and the 84th Division Commander Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith III for his "commitment to win."

Before becoming a member of the 84th Division team, McPhillips, an airborne infantryman, spent four years with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. He comes from a military family and has five brothers and sisters. His father, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald McPhillips served six years on active duty and 24 in the Army Reserve, including serving as both battalion and brigade command sergeant major with Smith.

Despite his own military experience Gerald McPhillips encouraged his son to go right to college, "but my life was the Army," McPhillips said. "As a kid, my friends played with Star Wars toys. Of course, I had G.I. Joe. As a middle school student, my friends were playing with BB guns, I had an AK-47 training aid with LAW rocket launcher training aid to play with."

Two of his brothers also found homes in the Army.

"Matt, my older brother, served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and then headed to the 82nd Airborne at Bragg where I joined him in the spring of 1993. By God's providential hand, we were assigned to the exact same company," he said. "My little brother, Tim, joined the Wisconsin National Guard in the spring of 1997."

The best part about being a soldier and a drill sergeant is the overwhelming satisfaction that comes from being a part of the transformation process of changing civilians into soldiers, he said.

"To be a part of something so life changing in the life of another is amaz-

ing. These soldiers will never forget the impact that you have had on their lives... the thought of that would humble anyone," McPhillips added.

He said he didn't want to leave active duty but knew that, if he didn't, he would never attend college. While a student at Maranatha Baptist College, Watertown, Wis., he joined the Army Reserve. He admits that he originally wanted to be a drill sergeant because he planned to go back on active duty and thought serving as a drill sergeant would advance his career.

But the Reserve became part of his life. He found great satisfaction in being a citizen-soldier.

"I realized I could have the best of both worlds as a reserve component soldier," he said.

After earning his business degree, McPhillips became an account manager with TSYS, a credit card processing company in Columbus, Ga. But as a member of the Army Reserve, this 84th Division Railsplitter puts on his uniform and teaches basic combat skills to active duty soldiers at nearby Fort Benning.

McPhillips' move to Georgia could have also moved him to a different training division, but his dedication and commitment remains with the 84th. Instead of traveling to Milwaukee to perform his drill weekends, he travels 15 minutes to Benning. He gets more hands-on time with soldiers and because

he is always there, McPhillips is able to help coordinate annual training that 84th Division units perform at Benning.

While his true love continues to be training soldiers, McPhillips has a new job for the next year. As Drill Sergeant of the Year McPhillips will perform special assignments for the TRADOC commanding general, visit initial entry training units to observe training and make recommendations, speak at special civilian and military functions and assist in coordinating next year's competition.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki will present the Ralph E. Haines Jr. Outstanding Drill Sergeant of the Year Award to McPhillips in a Pentagon ceremony later this year.

"I'm in a position now that I represent the reserve component, showing the active component what we have and what we can offer them," he said. "I do not think I am the best drill sergeant in the reserve component, I am merely a representation of them.

"To think otherwise would not only be arrogant, it would be detrimental as a leader. I wish to represent two groups of drill sergeants in the same way. I want to show the reserve component as a whole that the 84th Division has some of the best drill sergeants in the Army Reserve. I also want to show the Army as a whole that the reserve component has something to offer to the total Army concept.

"We're ready, competent, and able to complete the mission. All I want to be is an example of those drill sergeants who are willing, ready and able," McPhillips said.

***'the epitome of what a drill sergeant is supposed to be' -
- Priest***

2nd Brigade practices basic tasks

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Vern Borth
Railsplitter staff

Drill sergeants of the 2nd Brigade of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) combined crawling, rope climbing, land navigation and rappelling with a family day at Fort McCoy, Wis., in May.

They were training in the skills that they would have to teach to basic trainees at Fort Benning, Ga., during their two-week annual training rotations in summer.

“You’ve got to experience the training before you can teach somebody else,” according to 1st Sgt. George Kaufman of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, Oshkosh, Wis. “You’ve got to lead by example.”

“We will not have anybody do anything that we will not already have done ourselves,” said Staff Sgt. Todd Raley, platoon sergeant with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 274th Regiment, Milwaukee.

“When dealing with annual training, there’s a lot of basic tasks and you can only do a certain amount at the Reserve center,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Lum, operations and training sergeant for the Oshkosh units.



Pfc. Travis Williams, of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 274th Regiment, crawls through an obstacle at the conditioning course at Fort McCoy, Wis.

He noted that 3rd Battalion drill sergeants would be working with those of 2nd Battalion, 334th Regiment, Granite City, Ill., and 3rd Battalion, 334th Regiment, Milwaukee to conduct the summer basic training at Fort Benning.

Each drill sergeant battalion consists of five companies. Each company includes a commander, an executive officer, a first sergeant, a training NCO and 12 drill sergeants. The battalions and companies work together with active Army drill sergeants to field a basic training company that covers the several weeks of basic training.

In 2000, 2nd Brigade soldiers conducted basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. The drill sergeants “have to learn the mindset of the active component that they’re working with,” said Lum. “It forces our unit to communicate and coordinate and make sure everyone is on the same sheet of music.”

A highlight of the May training at Fort McCoy was the rappelling training that also involved about 50 members of Company B, 173rd Engineer Battalion, Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Vollmer, a full-

time Army recruiter at the Menasha, Wis., recruiting station and certified rappel master, directed the rappelling training. The drill sergeants had done some rappelling training before and “every time they get a little bit better.”

The intent was to make the trainers more confident “so that they learn what to look for with the basic combat trainees,” said Vollmer.

Families of 3rd Battalion members joined them for the rappelling training. Family members were fitted with rappelling harnesses and invited to observe the soldiers rappelling off the rappelling tower.

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At left, Sgt. 1st Class Roger Marcoux, left, and Sgt. 1st Class David Jansen of 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, scale an obstacle to prepare for annual training. At right, Jansen and Sgt. 1st Class Glen Pemrich, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, try the ropes.

Rucker - First Army's USAR NCO of the Year

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
Railsplitter Staff

Three years and at least four boards later, Staff Sgt. Algerard Rucker has achieved his goal.

"I was on a quest and I had a goal," says Rucker, a drill sergeant with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 330th Regiment, 1st Brigade (One-Station Unit Training), 84th Division (Institutional Training). "That goal was to win the First Army title for the division." The 2nd Battalion is located in Waterford, Mich.

Rucker, the first U.S. Army NCO of the Year for the Army Reserve, started on his quest in the summer of 1998 when he represented his battalion at the 1st Brigade soldier of the year board. Competing in boards was "something personal," Rucker said. "I love competitions. Competing makes me a better leader, mentor and drill sergeant."

Rucker earned the 1st Brigade soldier of the year title and the 84th Division soldier of the year title and began to prepare for the First Army competition when a promotion to ser-

geant disqualified him. Unnerved, the cycle, "started all over again," he said. This time for the NCO of the year titles.

"Once again I earned the title of 1st Brigade NCO of the year and 84th Division NCO of the year," Rucker said. "Then I said to myself, 'this is it, I'm on my way.' This is what I've trained for."

The big moment finally arrived on April 28, at Fort Gillem, Ga., where Rucker heard the words he had been praying for: "You are the best of the best," said Command Sgt. Major Jeff Mellinger to competitors assembled at First U.S. Army's Soldier and NCO of the Year banquet.

One hundred thirteen soldiers and NCOs had faced grueling boards run by First U.S. Army's seasoned senior NCOs who tested the soldiers on their military bearing and overall military knowledge. Hailing from First U.S. Army's twenty-seven states and three-territory area, the competitors represented the active component, Army Na-



Staff Sgt. Algerard Rucker

tional Guard and U.S. Army Reserve from 48 major subordinate commands.

"All of these soldiers are reflective of the best of our nation, and though there are only six winners recognized here, all of them are winners in their own commands. You would be proud to just have been in the presence of these soldiers," said Mellinger, First U.S. Army's command sergeant major.

Of the six winners, Rucker earned the title First U.S. Army NCO of the Year for the Army Reserve. "These titles are not given," he said. "They are earned through a lot of hard work and dedication."

Rucker plans to put the same hard work and dedication to use in his new job as a drill sergeant, a designation he also recently earned. He will complete his first annual training with his drill sergeant hat this fall at Fort Benning, Ga., teaching infantry skills to new soldiers.

Earning titles is a lot like being a drill sergeant, Rucker said. "It's all about making a difference." Competing in boards increases a soldier's military knowledge and level of confidence, both of which Rucker says he hopes to pass on to new soldiers.

Rucker's quest hasn't ended, however, he says, "My next goal is to compete for the drill sergeant of the year title," Rucker said. "That's gonna make Mom happy."

Continued from page 8

"I was pretty motivated to get here this weekend," said Staff Sgt. Michael Domke of Company B, 3rd Battalion in Oshkosh, Wis.

"I love it," said Raley. "It takes time away from my civilian job where I make a lot more money. But, I don't do this for the money."

"It's really good to get them up here and doing some hooah stuff," in the words of 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment's Command Sgt. Major Michael Holdway. "When the kids go back to school, they're going to say, 'Guess what I did this weekend? I saw some Army training.'"

"This is outstanding," said Staff Sgt. Paul Jerabek, after helping his daughter, Andrea, 6, try on a rappelling harness. "It gives the kids a chance to see what Mom and Dad do other than put on an Army uniform and leave for the weekend."

"I think it's pretty cool," said Andrea.



Staff Sgt. Paul Jerabek of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, Oshkosh, Wis., fits his daughter, Andrea, 6, with a rappeller's "Swiss seat" during a family day demonstration at Fort McCoy, Wis.

All aboard ...!



Students of the Army Reserve's 84th Division (Institutional Training) use hand signals to communicate movement instructions for the safe operation of a locomotive in the rail yard of Fort Eustis, Va.

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Vern Borth
 Railsplitter staff

Some NCOs in the 84th Division (Institutional Training), members of a close-knit military-civilian brotherhood, offer unique "training" to fellow Army Reservists. And their students keep coming back for more.

Instructors from 8th Battalion, 84th Regiment (Transportation Corps), 4th Brigade (Combat Service Support), Fort Sheridan, Ill., teach soldiers how to run a railroad. Students in the military occupational specialty qualification training become railway operations crewmembers (MOS 88U), railway equipment repairers (MOS 88P), and railway section repairers (MOS 88T).

Even though rail transport has been vital for major deployments such as Desert Storm and Balkan peacekeeping operations, "rail in the U.S. Army is kind of a forgotten thing," said Master Sgt. Tim Traub,

NCOs of 84th unit offer unique MOS 'training'

MOS qualification course manager.

Only two Army Reserve battalions provide the soldiers to operate and repair Army trains and repair the tracks they run on.

"And we're the only ones that train them," said Traub, a veteran military railroader of both Desert Storm and Balkan peacekeeping.

While Traub is a salesman for a printing company in civilian life, Staff Sgt. Vernon Archiquette, primary trainer for railway operations crewmembers, operates a Union Pacific freight train between Milwaukee and central Wisconsin.

Both Archiquette and Traub were members of the 757th Transportation Battalion when the 84th Division began in 1998 to offer railway MOS training and needed instructors.



Master Sgt. Tim Traub

"I love teaching," said Archiquette, whose Army Reserve railroad job had led to his civilian job.

A railcar repairman with the 757th in 1992, "it seemed kind of natural to go for a similar job in the civilian world." When he and some other 757th soldiers applied for jobs with what was then the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, they were hired on the spot.

The formal railway training offered by the 84th was created to facilitate reclassification for the in-demand MOS category and give internal unit training a strong start. It includes four or six inactive duty training weekends for Phase 1 and two weeks of intensive resident training for Phase 2. Phase 1 occurs at rail battalion training sites in Sunny Point, N.C., Middletown, Conn., and Milwaukee. Phase 2 is at the Army's transportation school at Fort Eustis, Va.

While the Phase 1 sites allow locomotives to travel no more than 10 miles per hour where facilities are available, the Fort Eustis site has track allowing speeds up to 35 miles per hour. It also has lab facilities for diesel and electrical study and enough track for track repairers to learn their jobs.

The course is an apparent success, attracting more than 100 students over its three years. Phase 2 students at Fort Eustis in late July and early August included privates first class through master sergeants.

"We get repeat customers. Students come back to take the second and third MOS," said Traub. "It's good for them and it's good for us," he said. It creates well-rounded soldiers who enjoy position and promotion opportunities.

"They can get a job on the railroad at the drop of a hat," said Traub. The training can be a stepping stone to get Federal Railroad Administration certification as a railroad engineer.

Staff Sgt. Scott Howlett of the 757th Transportation Battalion's 1150th Transportation Company, Lincolnwood, Ill., a student of Archiquette's in 2000, returned in 2001 as an assistant instructor with plans to join the 84th Division. A diesel mechanic for a Chicago suburban bus company, he had train sets as a boy and now "I'd like to do it full time like Archie."

"I always wanted to operate a train when I was a kid," said Spc. Dave Wiersma, a student from the 1152nd Transportation Company, Milwaukee. "My grandfather was an engineer."

Master Sgt. William Sedgewick, of the 1205th Transpor-



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Kusy instructs a railway equipment repair student in the use of a cutting torch.

tation Battalion detachment at Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., has been an Army intelligence analyst and is a civilian technical writer. "I ride a computer all the time. I'd rather do this," he said during a break from laying railroad tracks on a hot Fort Eustis afternoon. "It's fun."

Also moving track was Sgt. Jodi Kanitz of the 1152nd Transportation Company, Milwaukee. Already a qualified railway operations crewmember, she was training to be a railway section repairer. "Next year I want to try Papa (MOS 88P)."

"Bill White's name. Trains the name of the game," said Sgt. 1st Class William White who performs rail maintenance as a civilian at the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point, N.C. He helped with railway repairer instruction for Phase 2 at Fort Eustis. "I loved trains when I was a kid and still love 'em now."

"The instructors are great," said Sgt. William Walker, 1205th Battalion from Burgaw, N.C.

"You have to care and have to want to make a difference," according to Traub. "You have to have a passion for what you do."

"We're willing to bend over backwards" to help individual students, said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Kusy, Milwaukee, of the 8th Battalion, 84th Regiment, primary instructor for the railway equipment repair course. "We have instructors that actually come in on their own time and help individual students."

"I want the students to be able to go into those hot missions and be useful to their company," said Archiquette.



Spc. David Cibrario of the Army Reserve's 1152nd Transportation Company, Milwaukee, drives a spike during railway section repairer training at Fort Eustis, Va.

Soza's dedication pays off with award

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
Railsplitter staff

As a tribute to his sister Staff Sgt. Ramiro Soza strives to be the best at all he does. That dedication finally paid off when he became one of Training and Doctrine Command's instructors of the year.

"My oldest sister passed away at age 20 from cancer," said the 84th Division (Institutional Training)

instructor. "She told me anything I wanted I could achieve as long as I didn't give up." Those words of wisdom earned him the instructor of the year honor, but also gave him a lesson he strives to teach all.

Soza, is a former member of Detachment 2, Company C, 1st Battalion, 339th Regiment, 7th Brigade (Training Support) in Sturtevant, Wis. These unit members spend at least two weeks each year teaching basic combat skills to officers in training at ROTC advanced camp in Fort Lewis, Wash.

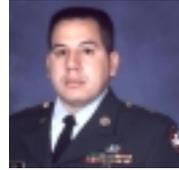
Advanced camp is five weeks of intensive training where cadets encounter physical and mental obstacles that challenge them as a person, soldier and leader. Reserve component soldiers from around the country support the camp as cadre, evaluators and trainers. For the past several years Soza's unit members have been responsible for leading cadets through individual tactical training.

"Every block of instruction he's tasked with he has done an outstanding job," says his commander, Capt. Matthew Larson. "He is one of the best I've ever seen. He knows the material well enough to make it entertaining," which motivates the soldiers and makes them want to learn, Larson added.

Soza's outstanding ability to instruct became evident during Advanced Camp 1999. Cadets reported to Soza's station after completing a rigorous assault course.

"We needed to get the cadets motivated," explained Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Flees, Soza's training partner. The two former 82nd Airborne Rangers developed the "house of hooah" which included a motivational skit with the message: "If you don't have the attitude, you don't belong in our house."

'I wanted to make an impact on someone's life. Let them know I really care.' -- Soza



"Soza's pumped up. I'm pumped up. The cadets are pumped up," Flees continued. The house of hooah gained attention from the cadets, peers and the camp leadership. "Everyone wanted to see the skit."

The skit was videotaped and became part of Soza's instructor of the year competition packet. Soza competed at Division and Army Reserve command levels, before a TRADOC board of senior officers, NCOs and civilians reviewed instructor videotapes, essays and supervisor narratives and named the top tier of winners. Soza won in the troop program unit category.

Soza is an infantryman and spent three years on active duty with the 82nd Airborne, Fort Bragg, N.C., before joining the

84th Division as an instructor.

"My father was a drill sergeant and I always wanted to follow in his footsteps," he said. "I wanted to make an impact on someone's life. Let them know I really care." Soza believes his attitude helped him be the best instructor.

"I'm the best," Soza said. "I think I earned it through a lot of hard work and dedication."

Soza left the 84th Division in July to complete an Active/Guard Reserve tour as a recruiter.

"I hate to see him go," said his commander. "He'll always have a place to come back to."

"Recruiting is a hard job, but if anyone can succeed as a recruiter Soza can," said Flees. "This unit is going to miss him. But they need someone like him to recruit and motivate more people to join the Army."



The 84th Division Color Guard in action during the National Council Of La Raza Convention held at the Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee in July. Photo by Master Sgt. Doug Hays.

Gravunder named 2001 AGR instructor

By Fort McCoy Triad Staff

An 84th Division (Institutional Training) senior training instructor from the Regional Training Site-Maintenance at Fort McCoy has won top-level recognition as the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Instructor of the Year for 2001.

Sgt. 1st Class David Gravunder, a senior training instructor for the construction equipment repair military occupational specialty, career management field 62B, represented RTS-Maintenance in the competition. After winning honors at the 84th Division (Institutional Training) and U.S. Army Reserve Command levels, he won the TRADOC-level award.

Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Allen, RTS-Maintenance instructor coordinator and Gravunder's supervisor, said Gravunder is an "absolutely outstanding instructor."

"Sergeant Gravunder is such a team player that he actually didn't want to be nominated for this award," Allen said. "He's truly the backbone of the instructors. We couldn't have made it through the last year without him."

During the past year, when RTS-Maintenance was at 33 percent strength of its resident instructors (two out of six assigned instructors), Gravunder helped ensure training continued and was successful. He prepared lesson plans, which were taught by battalion instructors, while continuing to handle his own training load. Allen said Gravunder puts a lot of time and effort into teaching his own students as well.

"He is an outstanding communicator," Allen said. "He gets across difficult technical subjects. We try never to exceed a 10 percent failure rate in our courses. In the time he's been here, Sgt. Gravunder has never had a student fail. He'll be here until 9 or 10 o'clock at night to help students who are slow picking up the subject matter. He can spend up to 200 hours in two weeks (on a course), in addition to physical training. He really deserved to receive this award."

Gravunder said he teaches the MOS to students from the ground up and builds



Sgt. 1st Class David Gravunder, center, offers advice to students during a Regional Training Site-Maintenance class. Photo by Rob Schuette.

on their basic knowledge. Soldiers attending the training also can take Basic NCO Course and Advanced NCO Course MOS-specific training at RTS-Maintenance.

"I entered the competition to thank the people who got me here," Gravunder said. "I love the job I have here." To enter the competition, Gravunder submitted a 10-minute video about his work, an essay and letters from his supervisors.

After four-and-one-half years at McCoy, Gravunder said he is comfortable and secure about his job.

"The 10-minute video was easy. I

did it in one take," Gravunder said. "I just did a hands-on on how I would teach the students in the classroom."

Allen, his current RTS-Maintenance supervisor, and his past supervisors, Master Sgt. Timothy Hutchinson and Master Sgt. Mark Butterfield, served as mentors to help Gravunder develop his talents as an instructor. Especially important was their advice about how to develop a sense of humor to keep the soldiers' attention during class, Gravunder said.

Gravunder left the 84th Division in July for a new assignment.

State Department seeks help

The U.S. State Department is seeking veterans and transitioning soldiers to fill badly needed positions as it engages in its largest expansion in decades.

The hiring drive, initiated by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, will recruit 1,433 new careerists in Fiscal Year 2002 - 43 percent above the FY 2001 level - in Foreign and Civil Service positions.

To achieve these hiring goals, Powell established the Diplomatic

Readiness Task Force with special authorization for wide-ranging recruitment efforts including a stronger focus on recruiting military.

The department has many opportunities of potential interest to the military. More than 500 former military personnel have entered the department during the last two years.

More information on Foreign Service careers is available at www.foreignservicecareers.gov, or by calling (202) 261-8888.

ROTC Brigade to become permanent in October 2001

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
Railsplitter staff

The 84th Division's 8th ROTC Brigade is no longer provisional due to a recent Department of the Army decision approving the use of Reservists to recruit, train and commission college students.

The use of Reservists on college campuses began in 1998 when the Army decided to test a program that returned active component soldiers to

the active Army and replaced them with Reservists, according to Col. Martin Breaker, commander, 8th ROTC Brigade 84th Division (Institutional Training), headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis. Later, the test program expanded to include Reservists serving as augmentees, increasing the number of soldiers working at each campus.

The test program is now completed. The approved program calls for 16 three-person teams, two officers and one NCO, to support ROTC at 14 differ-

ent campuses in the 84th Division's area of responsibility.

The goal of ROTC is to commission college students as lieutenants for the active and Reserve components.

"The USAR has stepped up to the plate and said we'll help with this mission," Breaker said. In addition to classroom, field, and physical training, this means recruiting and retaining college students in the ROTC program. In 2000, about 3,000 college students earned their commissions at colleges and universities throughout the country. Of these, only 76 went on to serve in the Army Reserve. According to Breaker, these numbers are too low to meet Reserve needs.

ROTC cadets try open-air classroom

By Master Sgt. Vern Borth
Railsplitter staff

On a windy weekend in spring, ROTC cadets from Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee got a chance to see what it's like to be a soldier in the woods.

The freshman and sophomores were introduced to basic combat infantry tasks at Fort McCoy, Wis. For many, it was the first time they had ever held an M-16 rifle.

Since these cadet soldiers were officer candidates, the emphasis was on training them to be leaders in the woods. As they went through a series of exercises, such as deliberate ambush, attacking a bunker, movement to contact, and troop link-up, each cadet was put in charge of a squad.

"That's what we're here to do," according to Lt. Col. Scott Westley, military science instructor and commander of the Golden Eagle Battalion, "develop leaders."

Senior cadets, who had the summer before undergone their advance camp at Fort Lewis, Wash.,



Cadet Elizabeth Eaton, Staff Sgt. Shawn Berry, and Cadet Brad Ritland, show that they're enjoying small-unit training at Fort McCoy in April. Eaton, Sidney, N.Y., is a political science and pre-law student at Marquette University. Berry, Sturtevant, Wis., is an ROTC instructor at Marquette and a member of the 84th Division (Institutional Training). Ritland, Moorhead, Minn., majors in exercise science and physical therapy at Marquette. Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Borth.

and were due to be commissioned as second lieutenants, served as trainers for the freshmen and sophomores. The seniors were, in turn, being evaluated on leadership by their instructors.

"It's a good experience," according to senior cadet Paul Haarmann, Egan, Minn. "You learn a lot about yourself and a lot about other people."

"You get to go out and get dirty," said sophomore cadet Andrea Nolan, San Antonio, Texas. "It's like a bonding with your friends."

Both active Army and Army Reserve instructors train cadets at Marquette and UW-M. Staff Sgt.

Shawn Berry, of Sturtevant, Wis., teaches cadets four hours a week. Berry, a member of the 8th ROTC Brigade of Milwaukee's 84th Division (Institutional Training), called the weekend a "real world classroom."

As the civilian insurance claims adjuster, who formerly served in an armor training brigade, watched his student soldiers go through their combat drills, he noted "They're all right. They've got a long way to go, but they'll be fine."

According to Maj. Jeffrey Schulz, a Reserve instructor from the 84th Division who was in charge of the FTX, "The cadets here are really motivated and willing to learn."

ROTC programs reorganized in the early 1990s. In some cases, the host school became responsible for a large number of participating schools. For example, University of Illinois at Chicago is responsible for 21 participating schools. Under this operating model schools lost cadets, which Breaker attributes to the limited personnel available for recruiting and training. Having additional Reserve support at test schools was a huge success and helped to reverse the trend, therefore increasing participation and commissionings at those schools, he said.

Under the new plan the Army authorized each institutional training division one ROTC brigade. The Railsplitters' 8th ROTC Brigade are now teaching, training and mentoring cadets at 14 schools throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

"The Army Reserve goal is to have a 3-person team at each campus,"

Breaker said, but "the professor of military science has the latitude to use these people the best way to accomplish the mission." All host schools have an active duty lieutenant colonel that serves as the professor of military science.

"Each team is charged with recruiting and commissioning two Reserve officers per year," he said. "That's not to say we don't focus equally as hard to produce officers for all components." Not all college students are interested in going on active duty, they may be inclined to serve their country if they had a better understanding of the Reserves, he said.

So far the results of Reserve involvement is very positive. "We've seen a decrease in attrition in the schools where we have Reservists," he said. Breaker attributes the success to the diversity and dedication Reservists bring to the program. "We have a lot of dedicated people that go beyond mini-

mum requirements," he added. "They do it because they like the job and they think it's important.

The 8th ROTC Brigade is at 120 percent strength. "It's a great job to have. The mission fits with a lot of people's lifestyle," he said. The Reservists get credit for one unit training assembly for each class hour they teach. Annual Training's are usually done by attending special events, such as field training exercises or college recruiting fairs. The PMS's work with the Reservist to coordinate their ROTC requirements with their civilian jobs.

The program has brought many soldiers out of the individual ready reserve, from active duty, and from Reserve units. "It's a real mission. They aren't training for a mission, they are doing the mission full-time, and that's motivating."

Event tests leader skills

By Master Sgt. Vern Borth
Railsplitter staff

The squad of third-year ROTC cadets pondered their dilemma. They had to get a barrel across a ditch while observing silence. The ditch was wider than the two boards they were given were long and they could not jump across or go into the ditch. They had a limited amount of time.

The squad leader, who could not speak to his squad, had to evoke the brain power and teamwork necessary to work to solve the puzzle, all under the scrutiny of an instructor evaluator.

"It's not whether he accomplishes or completes the mission, it's his leadership skills that are evaluated," according to Master Sgt. Terry Schommer, one of the evaluators. Schommer instructs cadets at St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wis., as a member of the 8th ROTC Brigade of the Army Reserve's 84th Division (Institutional Training).

An earlier squad at the field leader-

ship reaction course at Fort McCoy, Wis., had realized that they could use their trouser belts to lash the two boards together to span the ditch to accomplish the task, billed as "Fuel Re-supply. Deliver 55-gallon drum across canyon over makeshift bridge." This squad did not solve the puzzle.

Other assignments included "Spiders Web. Negotiate cargo nets without touching contaminated areas;" "Downed Pilot. Recover a downed pilot using a one-rope bridge;" and "Monkey Ropes. Transport supplies over quicksand using two-rope swing."

The field leadership reaction course was coupled with land navigation training and rifle marksmanship in April for third-year cadets from several Midwestern universities, as the third-year students prepared for their summer advance camp at Fort Lewis, Wash.

For Cadet David Appel from Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill., the FLRC was "great! I love a challenge."

"It's great training for advance camp," said Cadet Royce Baker from Ripon College in Wisconsin. "We get outside and get active. It's good to be working with cadets from other



Master Sgt. Terry Schommer (right) evaluates Cadet Royce Baker. Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Borth.

schools."

"It makes you think and gets everyone working together as a team," said Cadet Terrence Norris of Western Illinois University.

Fourth-year cadets served as officers in charge of each obstacle, giving the third-year students basic instructions and stepping out of the way. "It's tough because you know the answers and you want to help them, but you have to be impartial," said Cadet Preston Postl of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

84th soldiers integral part of ROTC training

By Master Sgt. Vern Borth
Railsplitter staff

“We couldn’t do this operation without the 84th Division,” according to Lt. Col. Scott Westley, professor of military science at Marquette University and commander of Marquette’s Golden Eagle Brigade, in Milwaukee. While Westley and some others are full-time at Marquette, the majority of the military science instructors are Army Reservists in the 84th Division’s (Institutional Training) 8th ROTC Brigade.

Fox Valley Battalion Commander Peter Gibson “sees us as a valuable asset to his program,” according to Master Sgt. Terry Schommer, a part-time instructor with the 8th ROTC Brigade at St. Norbert College in De Pere.

The Fox Valley Battalion includes the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Ripon College, Ripon, Wis.; University of Wisconsin-Green Bay; St. Norbert College, DePere, Wis.; Bellin College of Nursing, Green Bay, Wis., and Marion College, Fond du Lac, Wis. Members of the 84th Division augment active duty instructors.

Maj. Jeffrey Schulz, an 84th assistant professor at Marquette, who was in charge of an April Golden Eagle field exercise, said, “Being in the brigade is probably the best time you’ll have in your field.”



Cadets Terrence Norris, Western Illinois University, left, and Mary Almquist, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, right, carry a stretcher from a “burning building” during an ROTC field leadership reaction course at Fort McCoy, Wis. Evaluating in the background is Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Huelsbeck of the 84th Division’s 8th ROTC Brigade. Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Borth.

Many of the instructors were in ROTC at some time. “A lot of us are going back to where we were when we were their age,” said Schulz. “Your ability to share with them their youth and enthusiasm kind of helps motivate you.”

“This is going to be the next leadership of the Army,” said Schulz. “We have an opportunity to shape that.”

“For us Reservists, this was a great opportunity,” he said. With the reduction of active duty forces, “we show the

cadets what it could be to be a Reservist.” It also gives the Reservist a chance to mentor cadets in related civilian occupations, he said. As a civilian, he is a therapist for Milwaukee Psychiatric Hospital, where some of the cadets also work as students. His hospital coworkers are amused “when the cadets call me, ‘Sir.’”

“Most of us put a lot more than four hours a week into this,” said Schulz, who also works with a prior-service social

ROTC brigade family affair

By Master Sgt. Vern Borth
Railsplitter Staff

If you call for Capt. Marinkovich or for Capt. Ninneman, you’d better specify which one in the 84th Division’s (Institutional Training) 8th ROTC Brigade.

Dragomir and Sava Marinkovich are brothers. They train military science cadets of the Golden Eagle Battalion at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Tom and Amy Ninneman are husband and wife. Both teach military science to cadets of the Fox Valley

Senior ROTC Battalion at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Wis.

The brigade, after being provisional for three years, now has official status as a partner with the active-duty force in training ROTC cadets in the Midwest. The Reserve instructors generally teach four hours of classes each week in lieu of monthly weekend drills.

Chicago natives, the Marinkovich brothers also share similar degrees.

Dragomir, 38, who is webmaster for the military science program at Marquette, has bachelor’s and



Cpts. Sava and Dragomir Marinkovich

master’s degrees in mechanical engineering. He is chief engineer for Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp. He joined the Army Reserve in 1989.

club at the UW-Milwaukee and does some public speaking about the program at local high schools.

Maj. Dave Horn of New Berlin, Wis., previously served as an active duty ROTC instructor. Now he works full time as a materials manager for General Electric and teaches cadets part time. "It's more difficult trying to do this part time," he said.

"There are so many things you'd like to improve, but you just don't have the time to do it."

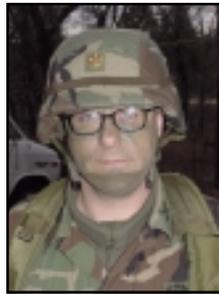
The spring FTX is "a great opportunity to get out here and have some fun

and get back to the true spirit of the infantry, the infantry on the ground," he said.

A former cadet himself, "it's definitely more fun on this side than it was on the other side."

The 84th Division's ROTC Brigade had been provisional for about three years, as the Army evaluated the effectiveness of the Alternate Staffing and Integration programs that tied Reserve instructors to the Golden Eagle Brigade and Fox Valley Battalion.

The 84th's 8th ROTC Brigade becomes fully recognized in October



Maj. Jeffrey Schulz

2001.

"Finally, after three years of being provisional, we've accomplished what we set out to do," said Schommer. "It feels good."

Schommer, a civilian pipe fitter with G. H. Glatfelter in Neenah, Wis., served the 84th Division previously in division operations and was an instructor at West Point. "ROTC was a great fit for me.

"The best part is working with the cadets. The motivation is high speed," he said. "Out of that, hopefully, the (Army) Reserve gets a second lieutenant."

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Huelsbeck, who conducts leadership labs for cadets at St. Norbert College, formerly was a drill sergeant with the 84th and interacted with recruits once a year.

As a military science instructor, "I have an opportunity to make an impression on an individual on a regular basis," he said.

"I've got the best job in the 84th," said Huelsbeck.

Lawrence Ketterman, command sergeant major of the 8th Brigade, who retired this summer after 30 years in the military, noted that the Brigade has grown from three universities to 12 during his time with the brigade.

"It's nice to see the Reserve and active Army working so well together in the ROTC program," Ketterman said. "I see some great new young officers



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point ROTC Cadet Mary Almquist directs her squad in surmounting a wall with a barrel during a field leadership reaction course at Fort McCoy, Wis. Her evaluator, Sgt. 1st Class Amy Koch of the 8th ROTC Brigade watches from the far end of the wall. Photo by Master Sgt. Vern Borth.

coming into the Army."

"It's fun to see the cadets develop a sense of pride in what they do," said Sgt. 1st Class Amy Koch, who teaches cadets at St. Norbert College. "I enjoy making a difference."

Sava, 29, a 1993 graduate of West Point, has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and teaches juniors in the ROTC program. He is scheduled to leave for Harvard in fall to study for a master's degree in business administration, expecting to continue working with cadets at Boston College.

When Sava recently left active duty with the Army, "my brother talked a lot about the ROTC program and I thought it was great," he said.

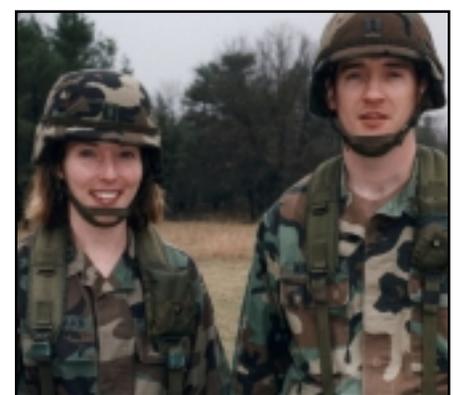
A former company commander in the Army Reserve's 961st Engineer Battalion in Milwaukee, Dragomir noted the flexibility of ROTC duty and the ability to interact with active duty ROTC instructors. "For me it offers an extra dimension."

He can relate to students because of his extensive educational background, he said.

For Sava, ROTC duty feels like a continuation of his active duty time as an artillery battery commander developing soldiers. "I see the students as future lieutenants and, in that perspective, it makes it easy to be with them and motivate them and inspire them to be future leaders."

And, for the time that Sava occupies a bedroom in his brother's family's house, "I can go in his bag and get anything I want," said Dragomir, and "I can borrow his uniform," said Sava.

While assisting with a training exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., in April, Amy Ninneman had to break



Cpts. Amy and Tom Ninneman

away for a short time to nurse their third child, age three months. When she's not training ROTC cadets, she is a full-time mother for the couple's three children.

See, Family, Page 22



Staff Sgt. George Parson, of the Maryland Army National Guard evaluates Sgt. Jason Colbert, of the Texas Army National Guard in the proper employment of the AN/PPS-15 Ground Surveillance Radar Monitoring System. The training is conducted by 2nd Battalion (Military Intelligence), 3rd Brigade (Combat Support), 84th Division (Institutional Training).

Division intelligence training no secret at Fort McCoy

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
Railsplitter staff

The 84th Division (Institutional Training) instructors in 2nd Battalion (Military Intelligence), 3rd Brigade (Combat Support) had a busy summer teaching new jobs to Army reserve component soldiers.

"We're transitioning enlisted soldiers into military intelligence military occupational specialties," explained Chief Warrant Officer Donald McCullough, officer in charge of the summer training sessions.

The school, headquartered at Fort McCoy, Wis., is responsible for conducting specialized MI skill training (MOS reclassification and NCO enlisted school professional development courses) during inactive duty training and annual training for Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

From the beginning of January until the end of August, the instructors taught approximately 200 sol-

diers one of four MOS's: intelligence analyst, counterintelligence agent, interrogator/linguist and ground surveillance systems operator.

The intelligence analyst supervises, coordinates, and participates in collection, management, analysis, processing, and dissemination of combat, strategic, and tactical military intelligence.

The counterintelligence agent supervises and conducts, or assists in conducting counterintelligence surveys and investigations of individuals, organizations, and installations to detect, prevent, and neutralize threats to national security.

The interrogator/linguist supervises and conducts interrogations and debriefings in English and foreign languages and prepares and edits tactical interrogation reports and intelligence information reports. The interrogator/linguist also translates and exploits captured enemy documents and open-source foreign language publications and conducts liaison in foreign language with host

nation agencies.

The ground surveillance systems operator supervises or operates ground surveillance systems engaged in intelligence and information gathering.

All training can be taught at the school's headquarters at McCoy or take place almost anywhere. This year the ground surveillance systems operator training took place in Maryland, according to McCullough. It is easier and less expensive to send students and instructors to Maryland than it is to send the equipment to Wisconsin, he said.

Courses also are taught at locations closer to the homes of instructors and units. The unit is unique in that less than five of its 76 assigned soldiers in 2nd Battalion live within 50 miles of McCoy. They come from around the country. Some join the unit for promotion reasons, he explained. But most serve in this type of unit because of their dedication to the military intelligence arena.

The members of this unit are also unusual, McCullough said, because they do not drill one weekend



Sgt. 1st Class Terry Riccolo, left, 2nd Battalion (Military Intelligence), 3rd Brigade (Combat Support), Fort McCoy, Wis., course manager, 96R10 Program, reviews the day's planning with Sgt. 1st Class Ervin Drew and Staff Sgt. George Parson, instructors with the Maryland Army National Guard.

MI battalion hosts conference

The 2nd Battalion (Military Intelligence), 3rd Brigade (Combat Support) hosted a regional military intelligence conference May 5, and will host another Oct. 27 and 28.

The May conference was for customer units expected to be undergoing major reorganizations or preparing for deployments.

Participating units included those of the Indiana and Michigan National Guards and Company B of the 165th Military Intelligence Battalion from Germany.

Other attendees were representatives providing training support to military intelligence units in the region, 34th and 38th Division staffs, and battalion commanders and staff.

Based on customer input, the battalion will try to add inactive duty training offerings in Minneapolis and Indianapolis for military occupational specialties 96B (intelligence analyst) and 97B (C-I agent). The 96R (ground surveillance system operator) load will also increase, and the Indiana Guard offered Camp Attebury as an additional training site for this MOS in training year 2003. Interrogator (97E) and language needs will also change due to the upcoming missions.

Other topics of discussion included course changes, course prerequisites and ways to increase the number of students who meet them at in-processing, fielding of MI equipment (ASAS/RWS), and MOS changes (96R to 98H).

a month and then complete 14 days of annual training. The instructors and staff frequently perform several IDT drills in a row and may do AT in conjunction with drills or spread the 14 days out throughout the year.

Whatever it takes to meet the needs of the students and the Army Reserve, he said.

Spc. Misty

Josserand

needed to learn a new MOS so she could serve with the 309th Rear Area Operations

Center, 7th Army Reserve Command in Germany where her husband is currently completing an active duty tour. She attended two phases of the intelligence analyst course in July.

Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Sorrell, a former 84th Division drill sergeant, needed to learn a new MOS so he could earn a promotion to master sergeant. While looking for a master sergeant position, he learned that his civilian experience as a utility analyst was an asset to the MI community. He transferred from 1st Battalion, 329th Regiment, 1st Brigade (One-Station Unit Training), 84th Division to 3421st Military Intelligence Detachment in his home town of Bloomington, Ind. He also attended the analyst course to learn his new job.

Both students are impressed with the quality of instructors.

"They have a lot of experience doing this," Sorrell said. "Many Army Reserve schools have just instructors. These guys have experience doing the job."

"They have oodles of experience," echoed Josserand. "They have experience from their civilian jobs."

Both are also impressed with the instructors' ability to take active component course material developed at Fort

Huachuca, Ariz., and adapt it to Reserve training at McCoy.

The instructors love what they do and they are good at it, McCullough said. In addition to teaching intelligence courses, several of the assigned soldiers work in the field on a full or part-time basis. Many are asked to teach for different government agencies and several serve as intelligence experts in joint commands around the world.

"We're not just teaching the book, we're practicing our craft," said McCullough, who has served in the Army Reserve for more than 29 years.

The school is accredited, he said, and soldiers teach a modified program of instruction from the active component.

"We teach a different kind of soldier," McCullough explained. Most

of the students are reclassifying into a new MOS and most of them have been soldiering for years and do not need to be taught basic soldier skills that the active component school adds to their curriculum.

All NCOES curriculum is MOS specific, he said. However, the school also conducts operations security and language refresher training.

"We give the soldiers the training they need," so the courses can be taught in a shorter time frame than the active component version. This is more convenient for the citizen soldier who usually cannot be away from the civilian job and/or family for extended periods of time, he said.

The Reserve school is also different from the active one in that it is taught in phases. For example, to become an intelligence analyst a soldier must attend four, two-week phases of training. This summer, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 84th Division instructors taught phases one and two back to back. The enrolled students will return to McCoy or an alternate site for the other two phases needed to acquire the MOS. They may even attend a different MI school in one of the Army Reserve's other four institutional training divisions that teach MI courses.

Next summer the staff at McCoy plans to teach all four phases, McCullough said.

***Spc. Misty Josserand
needed to learn a new
MOS***



Members of a carpentry/masonry course begin constructing a shed as part of their training. Photo by Rob Schuette.

Engineer students learn basic skills in 84th school

By Fort McCoy Triad staff

Prospective engineers learned how to operate heavy equipment, construct buildings, and install sidewalks, and learned the combat side of a mission during an engineer school held at Fort McCoy, Wis., April 28 to May 18.

The 1st Battalion (Engineer), 3rd Brigade (Combat Support), 84th Division (Institutional Training), of Fort Sheridan, Ill., operated the school. Soldiers attending the course attended one of three basic-level courses about carpentry/masonry, heavy-equipment operation or combat engineer military occupational specialties. The school also conducted the Advanced NCO Course Phase II for construction engineer supervisor.

Master Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez, the carpentry/masonry course manager, said McCoy was chosen because it is the only central location for the students in the region. Most of the 100 Reserve and Army National Guard students attending were from the Midwest, although students from Florida, Germany and Guam, attended as well.

“We teach the soldiers the basics from the ground up,” Ramirez said. “The unit personnel will have to do the rest. Many of the soldiers who go through this course will come back to McCoy with

their units for future annual training sessions.”

Most soldiers are required to take the course to be promoted or to be MOS qualified or reclassified, Ramirez said.

The carpentry/masonry (51B) course work includes such things as mathematics instruction for making construction calculations and reading blueprints.

The students training to be heavy-equipment operators (62E) learn how to operate heavy construction equipment, such as scrapers, bulldozers and graders.

The combat engineer (12B) students learn combat engineering skills such as wire obstacles, mine sweeping and demolitions. The school also offers Phase II of the Construction Engineer Supervisor (skill level 40) course for common and technical engineering.

“The good thing about the carpentry/masonry course is the students build things and can see the end result of their work and know that it will be used to support the installation and soldiers training here,” Ramirez said.

Larry Courtright, installation-related construction coordinator, said Fort McCoy has developed a list of projects to support training or the installation work force. The installation decides which projects can be done by soldiers.

Before the classes began,

Courtright said, the school officials reviewed the list and decided the carpentry/masonry courses each would construct a utility shed and do two sidewalk projects.

“The projects that weren’t done by these soldiers will be offered to other engineer soldiers training here,” Courtright said. “This gives them a chance to do hands-on work, as well as do projects that are useful for the installation.”

Sgt. 1st Class Eric Ramsett of the 961st Engineer Battalion of Milwaukee, Wis., said he attended the carpentry/masonry course because it was a requirement for his position with a combat heavy engineer battalion.

“I got a lot of hands-on training here and helped construct a shed from the ground up,” Ramsett said. “We also worked a lot on concrete and masonry.”

Pfc. Ondre Porter of the 983rd Engineer Battalion of Southfield, Mich., said the course taught him how to construct buildings and how to take measurements to ensure the work was done



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Salvador, a combat engineer instructor, sets up a ring main for the hookup of detonation charges. Photo by Anita Johnson.

correctly.

"I did roofing work, which I had never done before," Porter said. "I also learned how to work as a member of team to get things done."

Spc. Dwayne George of the 863rd Engineer Battalion of Rockford, Ill., said he "gained a lot of personal satisfaction and a lot of knowledge of building and placing concrete. I feel I'm qualified and ready to go do my job."

Pfc. Charles Clabbers of the 113th Engineer Battalion of La Porte, Ind., said he came to the course to learn a new MOS, combat engineering. He learned how to operate the Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge and about installing, detonating and removing mines.



Carpentry/masonry students place concrete for a sidewalk. Photo by Anita Johnson.

NCO Academy hosts course on hostile environments

By Fort McCoy Triad Staff

Federal military and civilian contracting personnel who may be called to provide support for overseas military missions attended a 10-day orientation course in March at the 84th Division (Institutional Training) NCO Academy at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Twenty-six students attended the pilot course of the Basic Contingency Operations Training March 19-28. BCOT is a basic course about conditions personnel can expect in a hostile environment and force protection procedures. The students learned about everything needed to survive in a hostile environment, from first aid to hygiene to using protective equipment such as protective masks, chemical protection suits and decontamination kits.

Military personnel are selected for the missions and civilian personnel can volunteer. Defense Contract Management Agency personnel coordinate the support missions and had four personnel at McCoy to support the training.

Belinda Schultz from the Headquarters of the DCMA in Alexandria, Va., and Joanne Patterson of the DCMA West in Los Angeles, said the DCMA approached the U.S. Army Reserve Com-

mand with the idea for the training.

An increasing number of DoD civilians and contractors are deploying with military forces into combat. Schultz said the BCOT training is designed to help assure the safety of people whose day-to-day jobs do not include close contact with a lethal force, and who have not been trained for armed conflict.

The DCMA deploys personnel teams around-the-world to support contingency operations, Schultz said. Teams have been deployed in Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, Nigeria, Bosnia and Kosovo to support military personnel operations. DCMA has personnel in a number of

overseas locations to be able to provide support as quickly as possible, she said.

Team members administer contracts to provide day-to-day services, including logistics support, maintenance needs, dining facility support, and garbage and snow removal, Patterson said.

Master Sgt. Harry Estabrooks, USARC deputy chief of staff-operations for individual training, said the fact DCMA came to the Army Reserve for the training "spoke highly" about the perceived professionalism of the USAR.

"Two reasons they came to us were to get quality training and quality support," Estabrooks said. "The NCO Academy provides quality training. The installation has bent over backwards to do everything we needed to make this course successful."

See, Contractor, Page 23



Students in a BCOT course receive instruction about the proper wear of protective masks. Photo by Rob Schuette.

Gallegos takes plunge

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Vern Borth

Railsplitter staff

Staff Sgt. Sara Gallegos, of Neenah, Wis., re-enlisted in the Army Reserve May 5 – and followed up with a leap from a 35-foot tower.

Gallegos, a drill sergeant with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 274th Infantry Regiment, Oshkosh, took her oath atop a rappelling tower at Fort McCoy, Wis. during a field training exercise. The exercise included practice in rappelling, traversing obstacles and navigating a compass course, skills that the drill sergeants will be teaching new



Staff Sgt. Sara Gallegos

Army recruits at Fort Benning, Ga. this summer. Her unit is part of the 2nd Brigade of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) that supplies drill sergeants to the active Army during annual training periods.

Her company commander, Capt. Jerry Hameister, Neenah, administered the oath in front of an American flag held by Company A's 1st Sergeant George Kaufman, Omro, and Master Sgt. Phil Nehs, Dale, who is battalion unit administrator. All four were tethered to the tower with ropes for safety.

Prior to the ceremony, Hameister and Gallegos were fitted with "Swiss seats", rope configurations tied around their waists and buttocks and equipped with sturdy metal eyes.

When the ceremony was over, Hameister, with guidance from Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Vollmer, a full-time Army recruiter in Menasha, who also is a trained rappel master, threaded a rope through his Swiss seat's metal eye and went over the side of the tower.

Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Simon, an active-duty ROTC instructor at UW-Oshkosh, held fast on the travel rope on the ground as Hameister traveled down the rope.

Gallegos, who, as a civilian, is a legal assistant for the Remley and Sensenbrenner law firm in Neenah, had not expected to rappel off the open side of the tower without a wall for support, but accepted the challenge and went over the side next. Hameister held the rope at



Staff Sgt. Sara Gallegos takes a re-enlistment oath administered by her commander, Capt. Jerry Hameister.

ground level for Gallegos' halting glide off the tower, as her husband, Robert, and children, Jacob, 5, and Gabrielle, 2, looked on.

Not having gone off the open side of the tower before, "it was quite a memory maker for me," she said. "It was quite thrilling."

"You worry about her," said Robert, a Marine Corps veteran, "but Sara's always been strong. She always does what she sets out to do."

"She is a drill sergeant," he said.

Drive on - from Page 4

States Army Reserve.

As the Army "goes rolling along" so do requirements that never seem to end: evaluation reports, education, strength...We must continue to do these and do them better. Brigade and battalion leaders know how important these requirements are. Do you? Ask yourself how you can help. Our NCOs have always led the way. Lets remember that every time we have an evaluation report due, a vacant school seat, or a soldier who is not MOS trained.

I leave you with the words inscribed on the Korean War Memorial: "Freedom Is Not Free: Let No Man Take Away My Right to Be Free!"

Family - from Page 17

Tom is production manager for Oshkosh Truck Corporation in Oshkosh. They both are products of the ROTC program at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., where they met.

The married in 1992 while on active Army duty at Fort Sill, Okla. She was in medical services and he was in the field artillery. They left active duty in 1997.

When the 8th Brigade was formed in 1998, they interviewed for positions and were accepted as assistant professors of military science.

"We had a great ROTC experience at Notre Dame," said Tom. "This is a neat opportunity for us to get back to that."

"My experience in ROTC was so great that I would like to recreate that for the cadets," said Amy.



During the 2001 84th Division Senior Leaders' Conference in August Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith III, 84th Division (Institutional Training) commander, awarded the "Erffmeyer" to 4th Battalion (Signal), 3rd Brigade (Combat Service) for having the best overall reenlistment rate and lowest attrition rate for Fiscal Year 2000. Accepting on behalf of the unit were Unit Staff Administrator Robin Norris and Commander Col. John Easterly. Photo by Master Sgt. Doug Hays.

Contractor course - from Page 21

The training was developed from a mixture of sources, Estabrooks said. The material came from the 98th Training Division and directly from the soldiers Common Task Training manual. DCMA also added some event-specific training. The information then was given to the NCO Academy to develop into a course of instruction, Estabrooks said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Davidson, NCO Academy commandant, said the Academy provides the best facilities, equipment, training areas and instructors. The NCO Academy is part of the 84th Division's 6th Brigade (Professional Development).

Hosting the BCOT benefits the academy, Davidson added. "(This course) provides the opportunity for the

NCO Academy instructors and support staff to broaden their instructional experience, while at the same time interacting with personnel who are key to sustaining the forces overseas through the Defense Contract Management Agency," he said.

"We hope to use this class to generate interest in the program and build a pool of people to use in future deployments," Schultz said. "We hope these people will go home and tell their friends so we get more interest in the program."

The plan is to make the class mandatory and schedule it at the Academy, as needed, Schultz said. After personnel receive training at McCoy, they would receive further, theater-specific training at Fort Benning, Ga.

CFC donations

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

As part of this year's Combined Federal Campaign, the director of the Office of Personnel and Management has authorized special solicitations of federal employees and other initiatives to provide relief for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks at the New York World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

In a Sept. 12 memorandum for heads of federal departments and agencies, OPM Director Kay Cole James wrote: "In view of the magnitude of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I am authorizing department and agency heads to allow a special solicitation of federal employees at the workplace."

DoD's CFC campaign and associated terrorist victim relief solicitations "are starting up already for those organizations that have received supplies and have had their CFC key workers and team captains trained," said W. Stephen Kelly, director of Washington Headquarters Services' voluntary campaign management office.

Kelly recommends that military and DoD civilians use their CFC pledge cards to choose payroll deduction contributions, noting that organizations are currently receiving "record amounts of cash and checks" earmarked for terrorist attack disaster relief.

A number of charitable organizations that take part in CFC are involved in the New York and Washington relief efforts, OPM Director James said. Employees can continue to direct their contributions to designated charities during the CFC, she added.

For more information on the Combined Federal Campaign and associated relief efforts for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, see the [OPM CFC Web site](http://www.opm.gov/cfc) at www.opm.gov/cfc.



The 84th Division Band marches in the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee in July. Photo by Master Sgt. Doug Hays.

2001 84th Division Senior Leaders Conference

(Another photo on page 23)



Lt. Gen. Billy K. Solomon, commanding general of the U. S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, spoke Aug. 24 at the 84th Division Senior Leaders Conference held in Milwaukee, Wis. Solomon briefed the leaders on logistics strategy for the new millennium. Photo by Master Sgt. Doug Hays.



Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Boyce and Col. Robert Swartwood, 5th Brigade (Health Services) accept the 2001 84th Division (Institutional Training) Best Website Award from Commanding Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith. Photo by Master Sgt. Doug Hays.