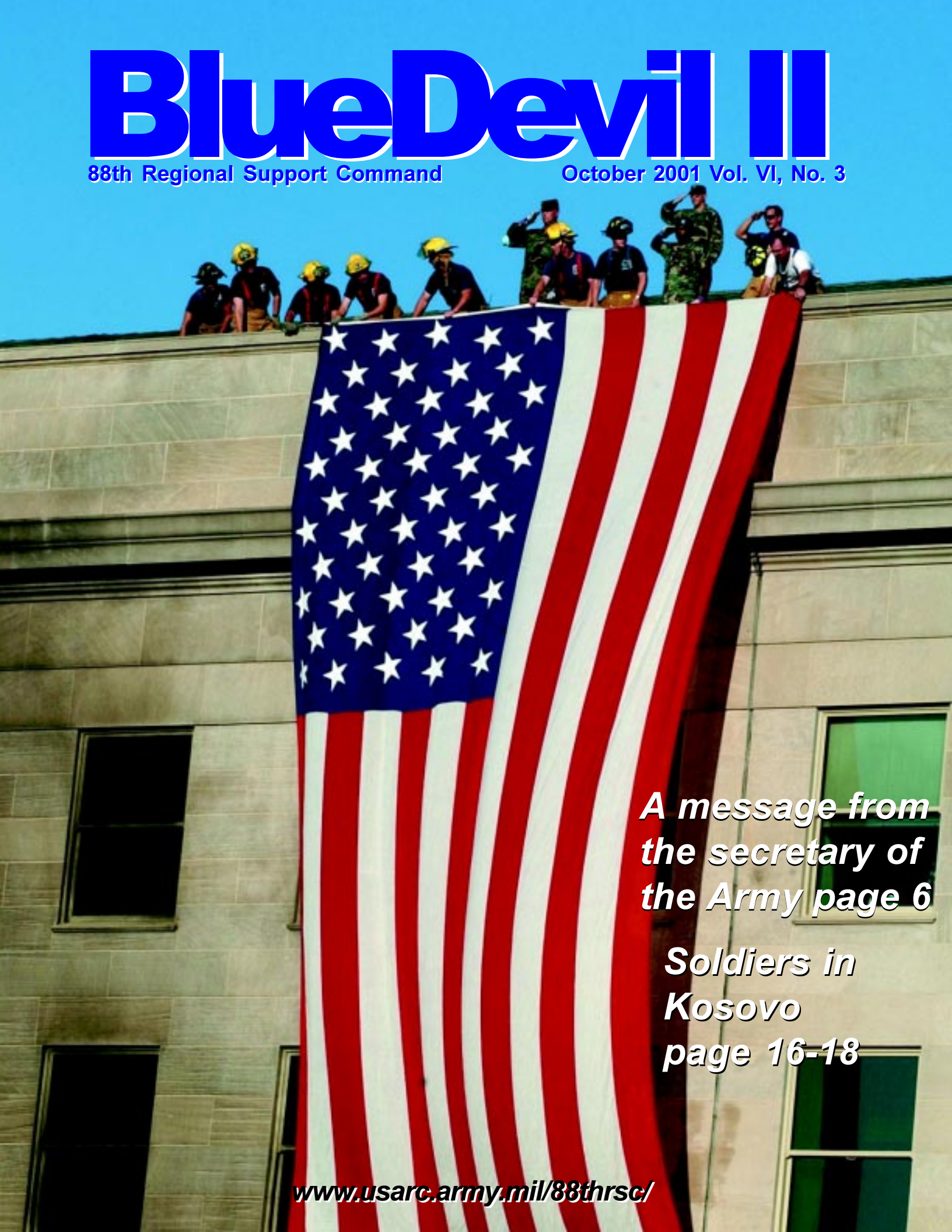
BlueDevil II

88th Regional Support Command October 2001 Vol. VI, No. 3



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Soldiers in Kosovo page 16-18

www.usarc.army.mil/88thrsc/

CG's Corner

Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley

The first two months of my command of the 88th Regional Support Command Blue Devils revealed the extraordinary professionalism, dedication and expertise that exists throughout the headquarters, and extends to each of our units, soldiers and civilians.

The awards and recognitions keep piling up, week after week: Department of the Army recognition for our facilities energy program, runner-up in the DA-level Maintenance Award, winning USARC Soldier of the Year, top Family Support Program and Coordinator, superb Information Management initiatives, and excellent USARC Command Inspection results. And these were received just in July and August.

Added to these awards were magnificent Command events such as the July change of command ceremony and the 2001 Minnesota Military Exposition. At the exposition, the 88th joined our sister services in recognizing the tremendous contributions of our Korean War veterans in the largest single ceremony held in the United States for this very worthwhile and touching recognition of our veteran's community.

At the end of August, Maj. Gen. John O'Connell and I attended the 88th Division reunion in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, a truly outstanding event in which our World War II veterans once more shared with us "newcomers" the brilliant fighting legacy of all Blue Devils.

In sum, the example of exceptional leadership I have received from O'Connell has been truly inspiring, and I and my family deeply appreciate the warmth and generous manner in which we were received by the entire Blue Devil community in our first few weeks on the job. I could not be happier than in assuming command of this great organization, at a threshold point in our history.

The terrible attacks of Sept. 11 do not change our direction and only heighten our resolve. We must focus on immediate readiness and responsiveness for the calls to duty which already have occurred, and will occur more frequently in the future.

Our noncommissioned officers must strive to train and prepare our enlisted soldiers for duty across the full spectrum of conflict; our officers must plan for the future, and execute vigorously and with creative leadership when called upon; our civilian staffs and personnel must step up to a combat tempo in all our preparatory efforts.

We are ready, and will remain ready for any future mission.

- Blue Devils!

From the Top

Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

Since the tragic events of September 11, we have seen the best and worst of humanity. Terrorists have shown they are ready to die for their evil causes, while Americans have shown they are ready to help their fellow citizens. Our country has been united in patriotic solidarity, and our soldiers, sailors, marines and air men have shown determination and courage.

This is a new kind of conflict, though. Terror and death have reached our shores for the first time since World War II, and we are rightly concerned when and where terrorists might strike again. For some, this has created fear of others of different ethnic background. It's an unfortunate, irrational reaction, and one that we as soldiers must suppress if we are to do our duty.

It wasn't long ago that America allowed a tragic attack to influence its treatment of an ethnic group. The attack was Pearl Harbor and the ethnic group, Japanese-Americans. Thousands of American citizens were interred in camps solely because of the way their heritage. It was an unfortunate reaction on the part of our government, but it didn't stop the activation of the 100th Infantry Battalion, a unit composed of personnel of Japanese-Americans six months after Pearl Harbor. The 100th went on to serve in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany, and was among the most decorated units of the United States Army during World War II. The 100th continues to serve in the Army Reserve, stationed in Hawaii, proving the dedication and patriotism of people who call themselves Americans regardless of their ethnic background. It's a lesson of acceptance and diversity we all need to remember as we engage in this new conflict.

Regardless if you are called up for active duty or still serving one weekend a month, I urge you to maintain your professionalism as a member of the armed forces of the United States. You serve a country whose ideals run contrary to the distasteful fears of xenophobia and bigotry. In uniform or out, I expect you to act accordingly.

Take the point!

BlueDevil II

Vol. VI, No. 3 **October 2001**

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Secretary of the Army ..... Thomas E. White
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On the cover

Fireman drape a large U.S. flag over the Pentagon as soldiers salute in the background.

U.S. Army photo

On the back

Spec. Robert Olson, 336th Engineer Detachment (Firefighter), enters a mock burn site. See the story on page 13.

Photo by Spec Chris Rowe, 364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

From the editor

The *Blue Devil II* is for soldiers, DA civilians and family members. We invite readers' views.

Please stay fewer than 150 words and include your name, rank and address. Anonymous letters will generally not be used. We may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: Letters, *Blue Devil II*, 506 Roeder Circle, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4009, or email: **88th.PAO Office@usarc-emh2.army.mil**

MOPP level

I have just completed reading the July 2001 edition of the Blue Devil II and feel that I must both ask a question and make a comment.

On page 5 of this month's magazine you show a soldier at some sort of MOPP level. My question is what is that MOPP level, and is this a contaminated environment?

The caregiver is both without gloves (universal blood and body precautions) and kneeling in a contaminated area if I get the gist of the story (reference paragraph 3 and 5). I reference medical management of biological casualties and medical management of chemical casualties as sources for my question.

I was in the planning cell for the last Weapons of Mass Destruction (J-Rex 2000) training exercise held here in the Twin Cities. I along with other members of the 114th Combat Support Hospital did establish a decontamination site to show the civilian medical community what the Reserve has to offer.

CPT John J. Lapakko, 114th CSH, Fort Snelling, Minn.

GAFET Gold

As a participant in the German Armed Forces Efficiency Test I was disappointed in the article that was published in your Summer issue, titled "Going for GAFET Gold". The facts in the article were for the most part correct but the concept of the event was clouded.

First, in preparing for this type of event it will not get you ready for a marathon. Preparing for a marathon will help with the running portion of the GAFET but nothing else. The GAFET encompasses so many activities that it is very had to train for. As an athlete you generally concentrate on one or two skills or events. With the GAFET you must become efficient in many.

The second thing that I wanted to set straight was the order of the events. The 3rd COSCOM did a very good job in spreading the events over the three days to allow for rest between events. If anyone had to follow one event behind another it was not because the test required it, like our Physical Fitness Test.

Third would be the marksmenship part of the event was done on multiple targets this year. Last year we used only one target. This year we had to move to three different targets and place multiple shots in two of the three targets. And finally the requirements for each participant was totally incorrect. I am including a copy for you of the requirements by age (saying that there were age groups was the only thing the author got right there).

Participating in this event was a great experience both physically and as a soldier. It brings many soldier skills in to play and works both the mind and the body.

Thank you very much for running the article so that maybe next year others from this command may participate in this event.

MSG Wayne Henderson, Senior Chaplain Assistant, HHC, 88th RSC

GAFET events offer choices

Some GAFET events offer choices within the event.

Sprint Running Event
Choose between the 100M dash, the 400M dash and the 1,000M run. Participants who fail the 100m can test in the 400m or 1,000m.

Field Event
High Jump or Long Jump
*Strict form requirements will be enforced on these events.

Weight Event
Shot Put or Clean & Jerk/Bench Press or 100M Swim
*Traditionally, the clean & jerk and bench presses are the easiest to pass.

Distance Running Event
5,000M Run or 3,000M Run or 2,000M Run or 1,000M Swim

Shooting :
Given a pistol and five rounds, hit targets at a distance of 25m from a standing, unsupported position.
Result: Hit 3 out of 5 = Bronze
Hit 4 out of 5 = Silver
Hit 5 out of 5 = Gold

Road march
The road march varies in time and distance from 7.5 miles in two hours to 18.7 miles in five hours, depending upon age, gender, and what medal the participant is trying to earn.

Check out the 88th RSC website for a complete listing of GAFET requirements.
www.usarc.army.mil/88thrsc/

Medic first, DCAR second

Two senior Army Reserve officers did what was expected of them when tragedy struck the Pentagon Sept. 11. They responded.

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen, PALD, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON (September 15, 2001) — The image has been seen in newspapers around the country and takes up almost a full page in the latest *People* magazine.

An Army officer, a colonel, is kneeling on the grass beside the Pentagon. His hand is on the side of the head of a woman injured on September 11 when a hijacked airliner crashed into the Pentagon. Other uniformed people who are also rendering assistance to those hurt in the attack surround them.

The woman is just described as a Pentagon employee. The colonel is unidentified — until now.

Those who have seen the photo and know the colonel recognize him immediately. He is Col. Malcolm B. Westcott, Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve (DCAR).

When the plane hit the Pentagon, Westcott exited the building. He quickly moved to where the injured were being gathered. He knew he could do something to help. Earlier in his career, Westcott had been a medic and had completed the demanding criteria to be awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge. To him, this was an instinctual act.

Col. Malcolm B. Wescott, deputy chief of the Army Reserve, helps an injured Pentagon employee after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.
AP photo

"I'm a medic first, I'm the DCAR second," he later said.

He began rendering assistance in the grassy area that had become an emergency triage area. He said that the woman pictured with him had burns and lacerations. What he was doing in the photo was trying to look in her eyes to check her for shock.

Although one of the Army Reserve's senior officers, Westcott was not the most senior Army Reserve officer rendering aid.

"Over there is General Weiss," Westcott said as he pointed to another officer in the photo.

Army Reserve Brig. Gen. John W. Weiss is the commanding general of the 330th Medical Brigade, Fort Sheridan, Ill. He is also Dr. Weiss, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, as well as a transfusion medicine physician.

Weiss, along with other Army Reserve general and senior officers, was attending a meeting of the Army Reserve Forces Policy Council when Flight 77 hit the west side of the Pentagon. Exiting the building, he went to where doctors were needed and went to work at the same open-air emergency room as Westcott.

Weiss and Westcott and all the other volunteer medics did what they could in the aftermath of the attack, working to stabilize victims until they could be evacuated to area hospitals. Eventually, all the injured who had been initially brought from the Pentagon were taken away. The intense fire and the collapse of the section hit by the plane made it unlikely any more victims would be removed for the army of medical and rescue workers now on hand. Those who had first rushed to help could do no more and moved on to take on other duties.

With his meeting now at an end, Weiss went back home eventually, though it took some time before he could get a flight out with all airplanes being grounded nationally after the attack. Like the rest of the Army soldiers assigned to the Pentagon, Westcott exchanged his normal Pentagon duty uniform for battle dress uniform. He would have had to change anyway; his shirt was covered with bloodstains from the victims he helped.

Neither of these two officers considers himself a hero. They were just two Army Reserve soldiers who had the necessary training, knew what to do, were ready when they were needed, and went into action quickly to help out.

They did what the nation expects of the Army Reserve. ✤

Message from Secretary of

My fellow field soldiers all over the Army, from Kosovo to Korea, wherever you may be happening to pull your duty: As you all know by now, our nation, this department and the United States Army was attacked 11 September.

I want you to know that we have survived that attack. That attack has made us stronger and we are now engaged in what our president has called the first war of the 21st century. We will win that war.

Now the war is not going to be won in a single day, or a single raid or a single event. We are engaged in a campaign against a cowardly enemy. And it will take us a while to root him out. But let there be no question about our resolve, our discipline, our professionalism, our tenacity, and in the end, the result of that war.

It started at a point of time dictated by the enemy. It will end in a point of time — as the president has said — of our choosing.

It won't be easy. But few things that are truly worth doing ever are. This is our challenge: to preserve the freedoms that make America what Abraham Lincoln called the "last best hope on earth." And I can assure that the civilized people in countries of the world have united in support of our cause.

You and I, the American soldier and the veteran, now carry the hopes of the American people on our shoulders. I know that you will

the Army Thomas E. White

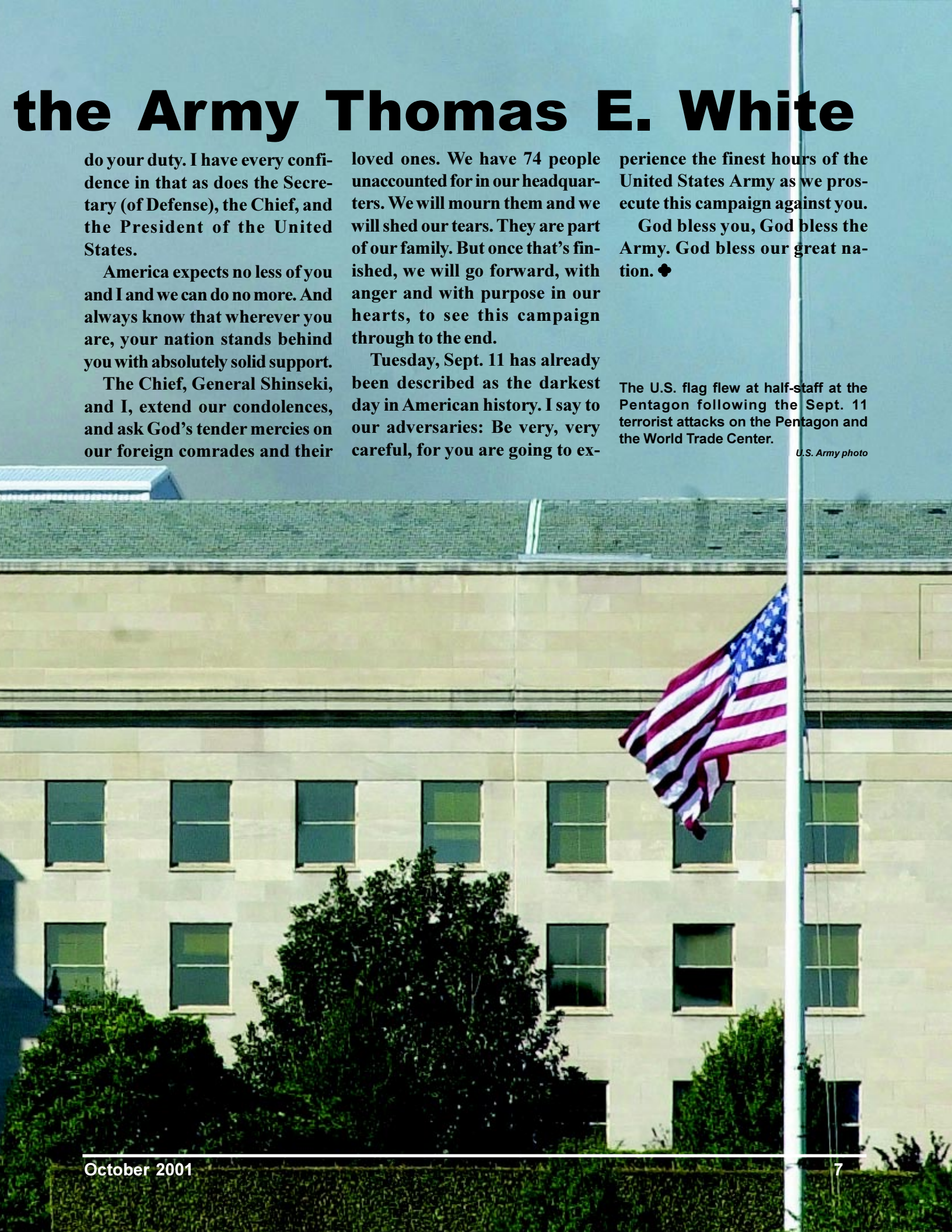
do your duty. I have every confidence in that as does the Secretary (of Defense), the Chief, and the President of the United States.

America expects no less of you and I and we can do no more. And always know that wherever you are, your nation stands behind you with absolutely solid support.

The Chief, General Shinseki, and I, extend our condolences, and ask God's tender mercies on our foreign comrades and their loved ones. We have 74 people unaccounted for in our headquarters. We will mourn them and we will shed our tears. They are part of our family. But once that's finished, we will go forward, with anger and with purpose in our hearts, to see this campaign through to the end.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 has already been described as the darkest day in American history. I say to our adversaries: Be very, very careful, for you are going to experience the finest hours of the United States Army as we prosecute this campaign against you.

God bless you, God bless the Army. God bless our great nation. ✤



The U.S. flag flew at half-staff at the Pentagon following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

U.S. Army photo

"You're Scaring Me!!"

With the events of Sept. 11, terrorism crossed the U.S. border, and the military is a target. Don't operate in fear in your own country, but do examine your life, conduct a risk assessment, and decide what if any adjustments need to be made.

By Mike Walton, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

The photocopied training aid (GTA 19-4-3), recently distributed to all Reservists and brought home to their families, evoked that emotion. Even worse, many soldiers did not bring home the photocopied booklet for fear that their family would become more traumatized than they already were because of the images seen on television, magazines and newspapers.

Scary images. We have reluctantly come to the realization that attacks we have previously watched on TV or read in the daily papers happening in the Middle East, Europe and the Far East, can and has occurred right here in the United States. We Americans are proud people – proud of our heritage, proud of the country we belong to and the country we defend as members of The Army. We don't "stand down" to anyone. In view of the recent attacks, however, we also need to exercise some caution – not fear – as we go about our daily lives and as we ready ourselves for entry into war with enemies hard to point out and even more difficult to find, leaving our families behind.

Those serving our nation as members of the Army Reserve are potential targets by a wide variety of organizations and groups who oppose our government, our way of life, and our nation; likewise, our families have become potential targets as well. These people may be organized, belonging to a "homegrown" or international terrorist organization or group; or they may be individuals with too much to drink, or high on some substance, who see the Reservist and/or their family as someone with money, power and resources they want or they choose to strike out at to substitute for those things they lack in their lives.

We are potential targets because of who we are: citizen-soldiers.

Does this mean that we hide in our homes, only to dart out quickly to the store, the gas station and to work and school? Does this mean that now hand-carry our uniforms to the Reserve centers and change inside, like Clark Kents into Supermen? NO. What this does mean for all of us is a look at ways we can minimize being a potential target of a terrorist – or any other criminal.

The training aid is available on the 88th RSC's Internet and Intranet sites (www.usarc.army.mil/88thrsc/) and as the cover stated, may be freely shared with others outside the military, to include employers. It provides simple, but all-encompassing suggestions on how to reduce your exposure as a potential target. Some of the suggestions offered to combat terrorism may seem simple, but they have been proven effective over the past years.

Reserve members and their families should keep a low profile when all possible. Make an effort to blend into the local environment and resist the urge to provide information about your Reserve status – especially to people you do not know. Some things, like our short haircuts, the crispness of some of our clothing and the manner in which we speak, cannot be hidden away as carefully as other aspects of our daily lives. This is why we are advised to stay away from civil disturbances and demonstrations, because those who oppose the government and/or the military can spot a military person out a mile away.

Travel to and from the Reserve Center – and other locations, like work or school – using varied routes each day. Be unpredictable. Do not park in the same parking location, or in the same parking slot, each time you arrive at your destination. Park a block away, for instance, and walk into the office. Or park with your vehicle "head out" instead of "head in," the most often way people pull into a parking space. Vary your dress, if your office allows you to do so, so that others observing you find it hard to distinguish the leaders from the led. Stay at work a little later some days; arrive at work a little earlier other days, so that there is no pattern to your travel. Take that run, jog or walk using different routes, not only as a way to vary the length of the exercise, but also to offer a variation of your habits. Most of all, let others where you work or within your family know where you are going, what you are doing, and when you should be back. This is especially important to know for our children.

Many Reservists have received special plates identifying them as veterans of our past wars or as Army Reservists or members of the military. If it is possible for you to temporarily have those plates replaced with standard plates, you should consider it. There is very little

which can be done otherwise to make your vehicle a low profile vehicle, but consider hiding or removing patriotic stickers or stickers which ID you or your family as members of the Army. They are great recruiting and retention tools; they're also tools for those wanting to quickly target your vehicle, and in turn, you or your family.

Cover those stickers with duct or electrical tape, but do NOT cover access stickers because you will need them for access to military facilities.

This is a good time for you and your family members to get that Family Member ID card you have resisted getting them for various reasons. This card identifies family members as having access to various facilities, to include the facility in which you work as a Reservist. However, when traveling, place this card along with other identification, in a separate location so if a terrorist demands your wallet or purse, they will not find items that ID you as a member of America's Army or a family member of a soldier. If your facility has a pass card or key, do not display this card or key outside the building or facility – it provides someone watching the ins and outs of people an item to get and in return, makes you a potential target.

Be alert as you conduct your daily "un-routine." Look for things which just don't look right because, for the most part, they are not right and may be an attempt by someone to harass or harm you or your neighbors. Don't give personal information over the phone or the Internet.

Do not conduct personal business using your military email account; use a personal email account and when posting, resist the patriotic urge to identify yourself as a military member unless necessary. Remember that anyone through the Internet can potentially read and intercept email messages, which may include who you are and your relationship to the American military. While traveling, do not wear the uniform and do not use suitcases or other luggage with military or Army logos or emblems. Blend in with other travelers as much as possible.

If you think you are being followed, or if you have received threatening notices or emails, or if you find things not as they should be, go to a pre-selected secure area. All members of your family should know where their secure area is: a public location – a store, shopping center or mall, gas station, or 24-hour restaurant. Stay there and immediately report the incident to your force protection unit advisor, military intelligence officer or military or civilian police agency. If you are on leave or traveling overseas, report the incident to the Security Officer or the Military Attaché at the nearest U.S. Embassy.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon left 125 workers killed or unaccounted for.
U.S. Army photo

The training aid booklet, last updated in 1997, also has advice for parents with children: never leave young children alone or unattended and always in the care of an adult you trust. Tell children to keep doors and windows locked and never to admit strangers. Teach them how to reach the police and a neighbor in the event of an emergency. Know where your children are all of the time.

It is a fact of living in today's America: the American military – to include her Reservists – are potential targets. We are potential targets because of who we are: citizen-soldiers. We have access, due to our status, to military installations. We receive and get tax breaks because of our status. In some locations, we are offered and accept special license plates and other items attesting to our service. Most importantly, we proudly wear the uniform of our Army and train at various locations to become ready for service as part of The Army. A little bit of caution, however, is needed at this point in our lives to protect our families and us during this transition period to war. ✤

Story and photo by Bill Geddes
88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Craig Duehring, principle deputy secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), spoke prior to Michael Dell's signing of the official Department of Defense Statement of Support while Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley, 88th RSC commander (far right) looked on.

Dell reaffirms support for Reserve

Statement of support guarantees Reservists fair access to career opportunities

In a gesture designed to reaffirm his company's commitment to the U.S. Armed Forces, Michael Dell, CEO of Dell Computer Corporation, signed an official Department of Defense Statement of Support Tuesday at a ceremony at Dell headquarters in Round Rock, Texas.

The statement signed by Dell recommitted the company to supporting Guard and Reserve employees, continuing to provide them with fair access to career opportunities at Dell. The statement also guarantees that employees will be granted leaves of absence for military training, consistent with existing laws, without being required to use personal or vacation time.

"As the U.S. armed forces decrease in size, strong mutual support between the Department of Defense and private industry employers is more critical than ever," said Dell. "Our Reservists represent an important part of our workforce. We're fully committed to supporting them in their responsibilities, and ensuring that their service has no negative impact on their career, only positive impact."

Dell was invited to sign the statement by Randall Ciechna, the chief information officer for the 88th Regional Support Command.

"Bambrough (Maj. Gen. Craig Bambrough, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command) gave a speech at the headquarters, and he mentioned getting more people involved in the ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve)," said Ciechna. "So I started making phone calls to ask."

Ciechna's first call was to Dell. "We were down at Dell headquarters and a majority of the people who took us on the tours were Reservists," he said. "The way Dell worked with us showed me they care about supporting the Guard and Reserve. They've got a lot of military people working for them, so they obviously think the military people they've got are good people."

"We don't discriminate against those who chose to serve in the Reserve — to the contrary," said Tom Buchsbaum, vice president and general manager of the DoD account for Dell. "When I see a resume that shows that that person is actively giving back to the community, is serving our national interests, I am more likely to hire that person."

"When we recruit people, we need to know how they're going to react under fire," added Bob McFarland, vice president and general manager of government accounts. "We find that if we can recruit prior military, we have an advantage."

That advantage goes both ways. Tom Irwin, national chairman for the ESGR, said that while more than 3,000 other companies have signed statements, this signing was particularly significant.

"Dell is certainly the first in the IT (information technology) industry to sign a Statement of Support," Irwin said. "It's an industry that has grown increasingly important to our defense posture."

Craig Duehring, principle deputy secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), agreed. "Information technology is a perfect match for the Guard and Reserve, simply because it's getting too difficult for the Department of Defense to keep up with changes in technology."

He pointed out that taking a concept, learning it, gathering a group of people, and teaching it to them, often takes at least three months. "In three months, technology has already changed again," Duehring said.

Having employers willing to support employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve make it easier for those employees to stay in the Guard and Reserve. "Reservists are being called upon during significant military operations to serve more than the required two weeks in the summer and one weekend a month," said CW3 Brian Erickson, a Guardsman and a senior materials manager with Dell's asset recovery business. "Dell has been extremely supportive of my choice to serve in the National Guard, and I've had a great career path. When I started at Dell more than eight years ago, I was a temp employee. Now I'm a senior manager."

Companies such as Dell that sign a Statement of Support do more than provide their employees with a good career path. The active dedication and commitment of employers toward Reserve and Guard employees is critical to their ability to successfully deploy and focus on their military obligation, said Brig. Gen. Michael Beasley, 88th RSC commanding general. "Anytime our military servicemembers are called to duty as Reservists, they have to have the confidence that their employer/employee relationship is stable and secure for their return." ✤

Process saves money

Deploying a standardized computer image using Dell's custom factory integration isn't anything new. But combining that standardized computer image with an auto-logon program is, and the resulting savings for the military could potentially run into the millions of dollars.

The process, developed by Maj. Bernard Froehlich, an information management officer for the 88th Regional Support Command, puts together several existing techniques in a unique way. He'd be the first to admit he didn't really create anything new. "Putting them all together with an effective outcome is where I fit in," Froehlich said.

Froehlich used Dell's custom factory integration option, which allows the consumer to customize the computer at the factory, and added a standardized computer image to every computer purchased by the 88th RSC. A standardized computer image means that every computer has the same standard programs and is set up the same way. Again, nothing new. But then Froehlich added an auto-logon program to the 88th RSC's image.

An auto-logon program means that when the computer is turned on the 88th RSC's settings are loaded and available to the enduser. And while auto-logon programs are also nothing new, the program written to the 88th RSC's image was. It allowed the user to immediately connect to the 88th RSC's network, using a written set of instructions, without assistance from the 88th RSC's help desk.

This saved the 88th RSC more than $120,000 in shipping costs alone the first time it was used. Before Dell's custom factory integration was used to insert 88th RSC's image, every computer the 88th RSC purchased was first shipped to 88th RSC headquarters where the information management directorate inserted the image, and logon instructions customized for the specific enduser, and shipped it to the enduser. Using the custom factory integration, the computers are now shipped directly to the enduser, saving shipping money, wear and tear on the computer from having been shipped twice, and the thousands of 88th RSC manhours that were needed to load the 88th RSC image and assist in setup.

"The auto-logon has been a unique add-on to the imaging process that Maj. Froehlich has driven," said Scott Morris, the inside sales representative for the Army central region for Dell. "That's been passed on to several other Reserve commands."

According to Rick Taylor, the Army Reserve Chief Information Officer, this has the potential to save the Army Reserve more than $2.5 million.

And while this system works especially well for Reserve commands (which are spread out over several states and so have higher shipping costs), active duty commands have begun using it too.

"We, as Dell, passed (the auto logon addition) on to a lot of the active duty components, and some of them have implemented it," said Morris. ✤

Story and photo by Bill Geddes
88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Public presentation of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal gave many of the gathered veterans...

a sense of closure

"Today ends the war for me," said retired Marine Sgt. John Roloff, shortly after joining 237 other Korean War veterans in receiving recognition for actions taken more than 50 years ago. The 88th Regional Support Command and the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) presented the veterans with the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM) at one of the largest presentations of the medal in the nation July 28 at Fort Snelling, Minn.

"It's long overdue," said Roloff. "I'm just glad I'm still alive to receive it. The war's finally over for me now; honestly, it's finally over."

United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters were originally offered the medal by the Republic of Korea in 1951, but at the time, a U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then, most U.S. servicemembers eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel, and on Aug. 20, 1999, the Department of Defense approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. The two governments will conduct fiftieth anniversary ceremonies throughout 2000-2003 and medals may be applied for at any time during this period. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply for the medal.

Martin Kretzschmer, a Korean War veteran, is supported by Sgt. 1st Class Tracie Ohren as he receives his Republic of Korea War Service Medal from retired Lt. Gen. Roger Thompson, AUSA. Ohren is wearing a Korean-era army uniform as part of the Minnesota Military Expo celebration.

Most veterans who send for the medal receive it in the mail. The 88th Regional Support Command and the Gen. John W. Vessey chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) didn't think that was any way to receive a medal.

"We joined the commemorative society (the DoD 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee), and the society gave us the particulars," said CW3 Jim Anderson, the president of the AUSA chapter, and the chief of enlisted branch of the 88th RSC. "We then contacted the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and American Legion and advertised the presentation in their papers."

The ceremony was held during the Minnesota Military Expo, an annual event the 88th RSC puts on that attracts more than 25,000 visitors. It went better than anyone imagined it would.

"We know of no presentation that's been anywhere near this size," said Anderson. "We think this is the largest presentation in the nation, and we're going to claim we're the largest in the nation until someone can show us they presented more than 237 medals."

Retired Lt. Gen. Roger Thompson, vice president of membership and meetings for AUSA, agreed. "When they asked me to do this event, I made sure my calendar was clear so I could do it," said Thompson. "I wasn't going to miss this one. I think it's very important to do these public recognitions."

It was for retired Army Pfc. Leonard Yanez. "It felt really good," he said. "These things, they go right to the heart. You get some sort of closure out of it."

Helping veterans gain closure pleased Sgt. 1st Class Robert Olson, an 88th RSC retention NCO who helped set up the ceremony. "This went well," Olson said. "A lot of veterans thanked me for what we did for them. It's not over yet though. There's another 2 1/2 years of celebrations of this. We had 237 vets who received their medals here today. There's still another million who haven't gotten their medals yet." ✤

Putting out fires

The 336th spent their annual training focusing on structural firefighting and soldier skills

Story and photos by Spec. Chris Rowe, 364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Inside a secluded airplane hanger, a group of soldiers waits patiently. Two compete in a game of chess, as onlookers enjoy light-hearted conversations. Others kick back on cots and read, while outside a football is tossed in a friendly game of catch. All seems to be at peace. With one ring of the telephone, this easy-going atmosphere snaps into an intense, well-rehearsed routine of men grabbing gear and rushing to a fire truck in a matter of seconds.

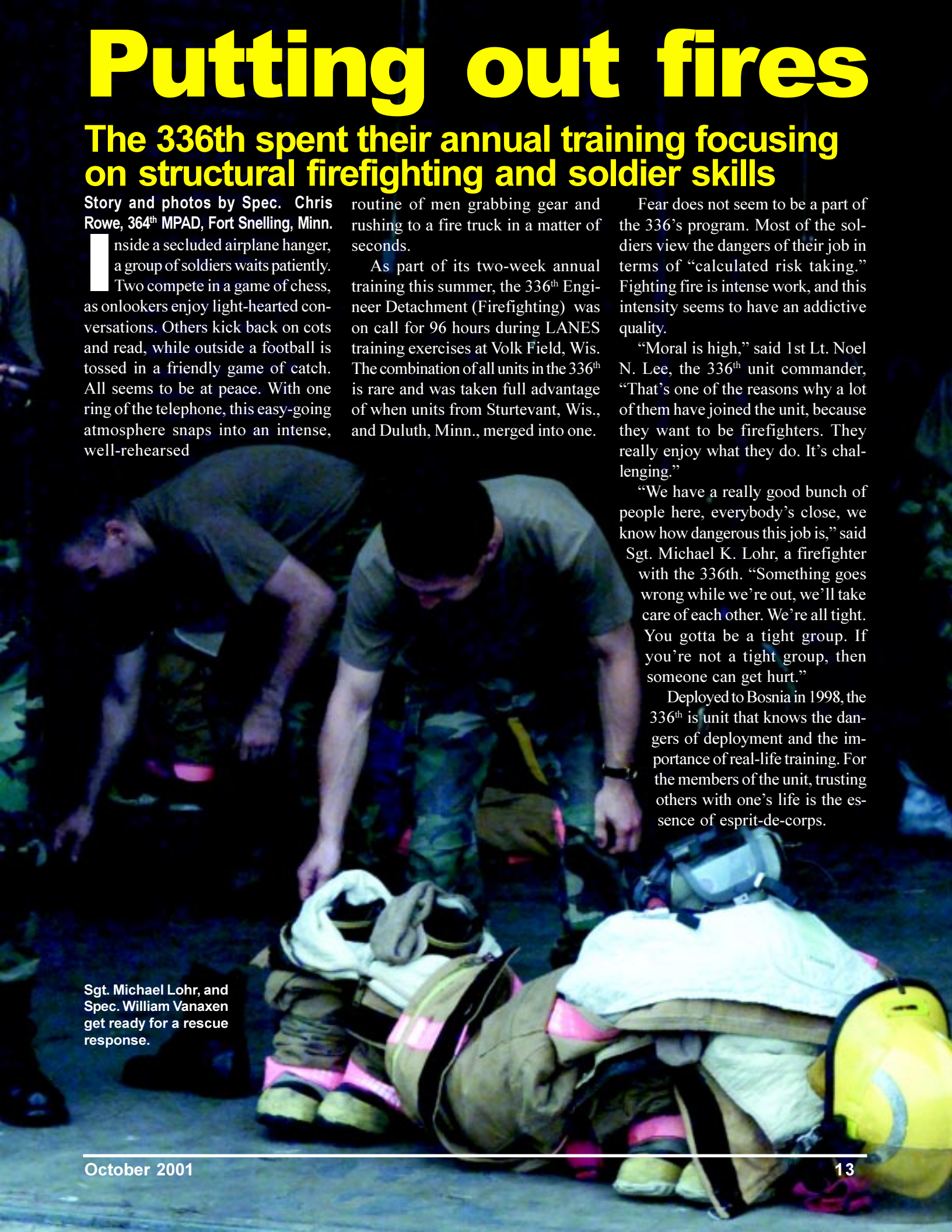
As part of its two-week annual training this summer, the 336th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) was on call for 96 hours during LANES training exercises at Volk Field, Wis. The combination of all units in the 336th is rare and was taken full advantage of when units from Sturtevant, Wis., and Duluth, Minn., merged into one.

Fear does not seem to be a part of the 336's program. Most of the soldiers view the dangers of their job in terms of "calculated risk taking." Fighting fire is intense work, and this intensity seems to have an addictive quality.

"Moral is high," said 1st Lt. Noel N. Lee, the 336th unit commander, "That's one of the reasons why a lot of them have joined the unit, because they want to be firefighters. They really enjoy what they do. It's challenging."

"We have a really good bunch of people here, everybody's close, we know how dangerous this job is," said Sgt. Michael K. Lohr, a firefighter with the 336th. "Something goes wrong while we're out, we'll take care of each other. We're all tight. You gotta be a tight group. If you're not a tight group, then someone can get hurt."

Deployed to Bosnia in 1998, the 336th is unit that knows the dangers of deployment and the importance of real-life training. For the members of the unit, trusting others with one's life is the essence of esprit-de-corps.



Sgt. Michael Lohr, and Spec. William Vanaxen get ready for a rescue response.

Firefighters

continued from page 13

"There's strong camaraderie and because they've had experience in a real wartime situation in Bosnia, the ties are strong," said Lee.

The focus of annual training this year was structural firefighting. Structural firefighting involves responding to a variety of burning building situations. One of the mock burn sites used in training the firefighters was a three-story building that could be repeatedly set on fire. A room on the first floor of the building is lined with ceramic tiles. These tiles restrict most of the heat and flames of fires set in the room. The smoke from these fires fills the entire building.

Firefighters arriving on the scene have to evaluate the situation and immediately decide how to approach the fire. Visibility is near zero as firefighters enter many of the burning buildings. A search for the flames and victims soon takes place as different teams enter the building.

The teams have to put out the fire as quickly as possible and evacuate any people that may be trapped in the building. There are several different fire situations the unit must prepare for, including knowing how to handle being the first responders in many cases.

They have to remember how they were trained to assess the situation, how to attack the fire, how to deploy the people and how to deploy equipment.

"It's not just putting out the fire, it's ventilation, it's overhaul, its rescuing people, it's giving first aid, it's searching and rescuing -- there's a lot of things involved," said Lee, "There are hazards. You really have to know what you are doing. That's one of the reasons why we're training. It's not just fire. We have to respond to all sorts of emergencies. It's not just structure but aircraft, vehicle, (and other) incidents, and we have to be trained on medical skills and tasks because we're usually the first people on the scene."

Much of the 336th is composed of full-time and volunteer firefighters. There are many differences between firefighting in the civilian world and being firefighters in the Army Reserve. First and foremost, the people in the 336th are soldiers. The unit is always responsible for conducting military-related tasks, even when responding to calls. Along with honing their firefighting skills, the unit has worked on conducting a convoy, troop leading procedures, water tanker resupply operations, and operating basic security at the fire scene and the Fire Command Center.

The soldiers of the 336th have a unique and challenging job in the Army Reserves. These particular individuals work well under pressure and feed off the "rush" of the fire. With the intensity in which this unit trains, there's no call this unit can't handle.

"Fire safety, fire prevention, fire issues -- those are real threats," said Lee. "They can be just as dangerous as the enemy themselves." ✤

(Background) Soldiers from the 336th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) advance an attack hose .

Spec. Dale Moss couples two hoses.

Spec. Dale Moss performs CPR on a rescue dummy.

Spec. Robert Olson extinguishes the last flames of a smoldering fire on the last routine check through a burning building.

(Right) Spec. Christopher Svendsen and Spec. Robert Olson evacuate a 'casualty.'

International cooperation

Not only the first Army Reserve unit to command Task Force Medical Falcon, the 307th Medical Group also spearheaded efforts to implement Kosovo's first MIMU

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer, 358th MPAD, Camp Monteith, Kosovo

International cooperation plays a major role in maintaining peace in Kosovo, and as a prime example of that cooperation, Army Reserve medical administrators are lending their expertise in helping to provide medical care for service members from several nations.

As the first Army Reserve unit to take command of Task Force Medical Falcon responsibilities, soldiers with the 307th Medical Group have witnessed significant changes during their few months at Camp Bondsteel.

"It is an honor that our success in the Army Reserve has allowed us to step forward and take on this very important mission," said Col. Dean Sienko, commander of Task Force Medical Falcon and the 307th Medical Group.

Along with members of the Army Reserve's 399th Combat Support Hospital and United Kingdom health authorities, 307th members have spearheaded the effort to implement Kosovo's first Multinational Integrated Medical Unit. The MIMU combines the strengths of American and British medical personnel to form a combined level III hospital. As a level III facility, the staff of 25 British and 175 Americans can care for more patients and complement each others' talents and capabilities.

With the increase in the hospital's capabilities came the responsibility to provide coverage for the British-controlled Multinational Brigade Central region in addition to the American sector of Multinational Brigade East. Personnel from several other countries are also members of the regions and can receive treatment at Camp Bondsteel.

"The challenge of operating in a multinational environment is bringing disparately different elements together aligning them on the same page with the same goals," said Sienko, who also served as a medical doctor during the Gulf War. "Working with all of the other countries is fascinating and enhances one's understanding of how the U.S. Army fits into this kind of peacekeeping operation."

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Pfeifer, 307th Medical Group, and 1st Sgt. Donald Doyle, 399th Combat Support Hospital, discuss the guard duty roster in front of the hospital.

Whether the U. S. Army should fit into this kind of peacekeeping operation is a debate that continues in the United States, and the view of at least one soldier here in Kosovo has changed since his arrival.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Pfeifer initially wasn't sold on the need for U.S. troops in the Balkans. However, after witnessing the good that the Kosovo Forces are accomplishing, he has changed his mind.

> **"It's pretty clear we are making a difference in the lives of the people of Kosovo..."**
> **Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Pfeifer**

"It is pretty clear we are making a difference in the lives of the people in Kosovo and being here and seeing the reality made me change my mind for the need of U.S. troops here," Pfeifer said.

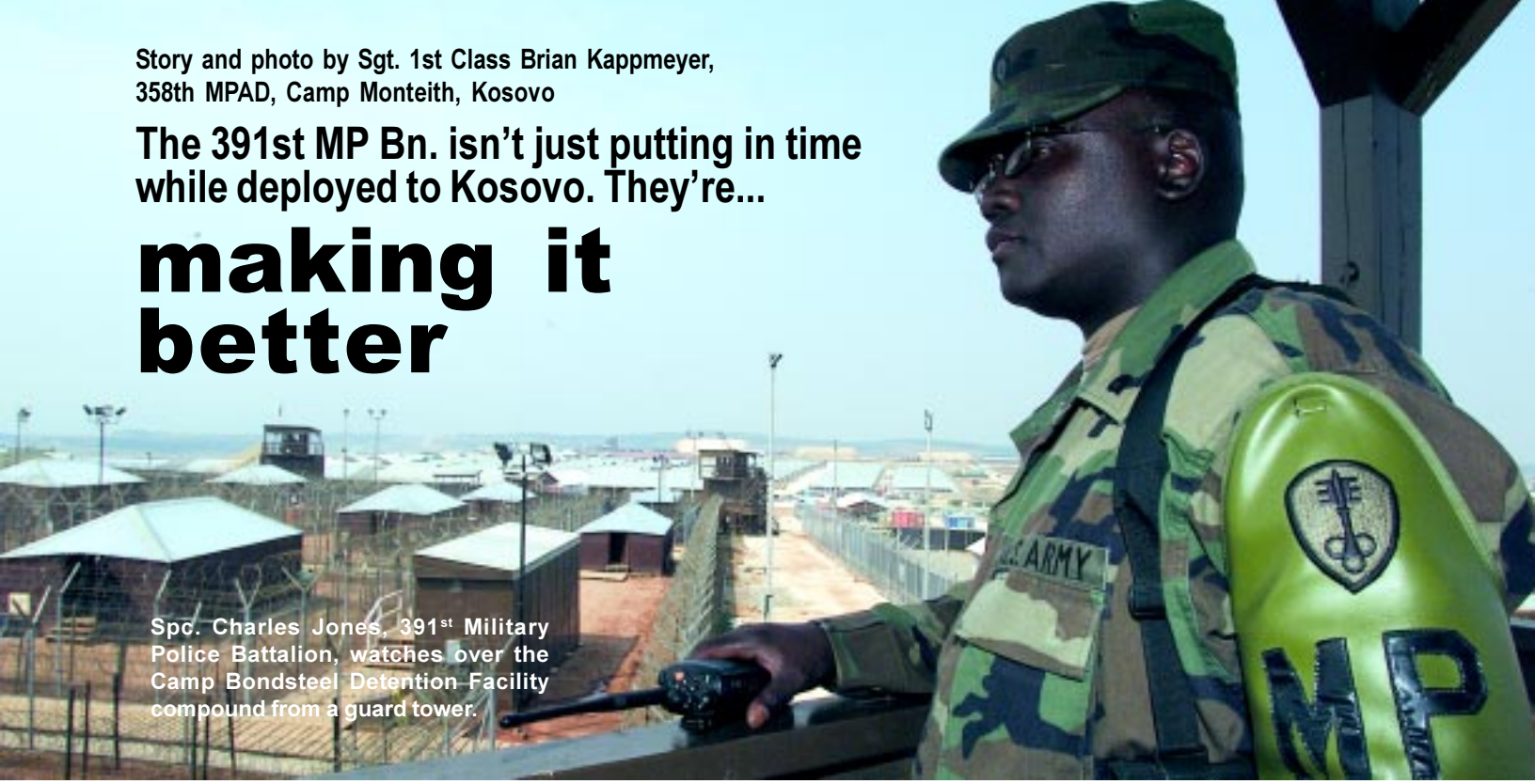
Pfeifer is quick to point out that most of the U.S. medical personnel he is working with are volunteers. In his eyes, that makes a big difference because the soldiers want to be here and that enhances the performance of everyone.

"This is the most professional organization I have been associated with," said Pfeifer proudly. ✤

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer, 358th MPAD, Camp Monteith, Kosovo

The 391st MP Bn. isn't just putting in time while deployed to Kosovo. They're...

making it better



Spc. Charles Jones, 391st Military Police Battalion, watches over the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility compound from a guard tower.

The soldiers from the 391st Military Police Battalion, Columbus, Ohio, haven't just worked at the Camp Bondsteel Detention Center while serving in Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian. They've made it better.

The 391st provided nearly 50 soldiers, including 14 augmentees, to operate the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility. The facility houses up to 192 detainees considered as a potential threat to a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. A detainee spends an average of six months at the facility.

Although they are called detainees, they still act like prisoners, says the detention facility commander, Capt. Gary Link, Miamisburg, Ohio.

"The detainees act like prisoners in how they treat the detention facility staff and how they try and manipulate the staff," said Link who is a deputy warden in Dayton, Ohio, and has 20 years experience with the Ohio Department of Corrections. "They adapt a basic prisoner mentality."

With 24 years of military police experience — 10 as an enlisted soldier and 14 as an officer — Link worked with Iraqi prisoners during Desert Storm. Although the number of prisoners was much higher during Desert Storm compared to the number of detainees that detention facility houses at Camp Bondsteel, "the Iraqi prisoners act the same as the detainees do." Link said.

"All of the soldiers have adapted well to the mission," Link added. "I am very honored to serve with them."

The unit attended a two-week mission rehearsal exercise to become familiar with possible scenarios previously experienced by past Kosovo rotations and to help the group understand the challenges they could face in the Balkan region.

Shortly before the 391st arrived at Camp Bondsteel, a detainee escaped from the facility. After his arrival, Link directed that several physical security changes be made to enhance the security of the facility. A few of the changes included repositioning guard towers, adding more lighting and building an exclusionary fence outside the main facility fence.

Link said it was also important to replace the wooden-plank walkways because the planks could be used to hide contraband or be used as battering rams. Link credited previous detention facility operators with doing an excellent job of laying the groundwork for managing the facility.

Spec. Michael Cox, Chillicothe, Ohio, is a hazardous materials student at Ohio University who came to Kosovo because he thought it would be a good experience to see another part of the world.

As part of that experience, Cox is learning Albanian at a language class through the education center along with nine other soldiers from his unit.

"It helps us do our job because we can talk with the detainees and know what they want without needing an interpreter," said Cox.

Shortly after arriving in Kosovo, Cox put his new language skills to the test when he escorted 20 detainees from Camp Bondsteel to a NATO-operated detention facility.

The dedication shown in improving not just the existing facilities, but themselves as well, is all part of the soldiers of the 391st MP Bn. helping Task Force Falcon provide the citizens of Kosovo a safer, better place to live. ♣

Paying troops

Distance brings sadness, pride

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer, 358th MPAD, Camp Monteith, Kosovo

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Buchberger counts cash at the Camp Monteith finance office.

The sadness nine-year-old Megan Leslie felt seeing her father leave home for more than six months was tempered by the pride she also felt.

"'My dad's a soldier and he is going over there (to the Balkans) to keep the peace'" said Sgt. 1st Class Luke Leslie describing what his stepdaughter told her friends after learning he was going to the Balkans. Leslie and his wife, Cindy, explained to Megan that her dad was going far away to help people who needed him.

Leslie, an Army reservist with the 376th Finance Battalion from Wausau, Wis., volunteered for the mission to the Balkans to get the professional experience as a cash collection officer.

"I kind of run the bank," the 18-year Army veteran said nonchalantly regarding the importance of his position.

Fourteen battalion members — 13 of them volunteers — arrived in at Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia in mid-April. They handle military pay issues and help with in- and out-processing of soldiers heading for duty in Kosovo or for soldiers returning home. Six members of the finance unit were sent to Kosovo in support of operations at Camps Bondsteel and Monteith.

For Sgt. 1st Class Donald Leander, volunteer and Camp Able Sentry Finance Office NCOIC, this deployment has offered him a totally different perspective. Leander has been on several deployments, but this is the first one as a spouse and father. Don married his wife, Cindy, last fall and welcomed four stepchildren — all less than 10 years old — into his life in addition to the couple's newborn baby in February.

"I do miss home more," said the Merrill, Wis., resident. "Leaving was easier when I was single."

Cindy is in the same unit and was on the initial personnel deployment list. However, the unit had enough volunteers to remove her name from the list.

Leander said he volunteered partly so his wife wouldn't be deployed, but also to see a part of the world he has never seen. The Army veteran of nearly 24 years is working in his seventh military occupational specialty and is always eager to learn something new.

Staff Sgt. Robert Coxen's job at Camp Bondsteel is to handle all pay issues for reservists and Guardsmen — a formidable task when you are halfway around the world.

"Once a pay problem is identified, the challenge is to correct the problem," Coxen said. "Most of the problems have to be corrected through the mail because hard documents are needed to verify information. The mail isn't always dependable and sometimes we need to send in documents more than once," he said.

Coxen, from Wittenberg, Wis., explained that although he must deal with soldier's pay problems, this deployment is harder on his wife Gail and their two boys ages five and 10. He said he told his boys that they needed to take his place while he was gone and help mom out.

"I'm a fifth grade teacher and we do a lot of traveling during the summertime when school is out," said Coxen, who also deployed for six months during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. "They are doing it on their own this year."

Coxen's coworker, Spec. Bradley Opper, has never been outside the United States. "The difference in cultures, in lifestyles — it is amazing what a difference a few thousand miles makes," said Opper.

Opper, from Wausau, says he knows some reservists who have problems making the adjustment to military life.

"I can get in the mindset of changing from civilian to military like that," says the finance cashier snapping his fingers. "If you are better prepared to go do a job, it is a lot easier to do it."

That preparation exemplifies the pride the soldiers of the 376th take in their jobs -- pride shred by family members left behind.

88th RSC change of command

By Staff Sgt. Susanne Aspley, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

In the time-honored tradition of Army commanders throughout the past 225 years, command of the 88th Regional Support Command was officially transferred from Maj. Gen. John M. O'Connell to Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley in ceremonies on July 28, 2001 at Historic Fort Snelling, Minn. With the passing of the colors, Beasley accepted total responsibility, authority and accountability for the command's 26,000-plus soldiers.

photo by Sgt. Chris Farley

Maj. Gen. John M. O'Connell, outgoing commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, passes the colors to Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner as Lt. Gen Thomas J. Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve, and incoming commander Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley look on.

"As I look out on the Historical Fort Snelling in this great state of Minnesota," said Beasley, "I see soldiers wearing with pride the 88th RSC Blue Devil shoulder patch and I can't help but think about all the great soldiers who wore this patch in two world wars."

Beasley was commissioned through Officer Candidate School as a Field Artillery officer in 1968, and was assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He initially served a total of seven years on active duty, including overseas duty in Italy and Vietnam.

In the course of his military career, Brigadier General Beasley has commanded at all levels, through a Civil Affairs Command. In Vietnam, he commanded Battery B, 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division.

Beasley deployed to Bosnia from November 1996 to July 1997, where he served as commander of the Combined and Joint Civil-Military Task Force, an element of the multinational Stabilization Force.

Brigadier General Beasley's military education includes the Field Artillery, Military Police and Civil Affairs Officer Advance Courses; Command and General Staff College; the Associate Logistics Executive Development Course; and the Army War College.

Brigadier General Beasley earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in political science from Mary Hardin – Baylor College in Belton, Texas; the Master of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University; and a Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

In his civilian career, Brigadier General Beasley is a partner with a Washington, D.C. law firm, specializing in international law and business. He is an author of several legal articles, and lectures frequently on national security and military affairs. He is a recipient of the United States Association of the United Nations Human Rights Award for work on behalf of military veterans.

Brigadier General Beasley is married to the former Roberta Pruett of Norfolk, Virginia. They have two daughters, Sandra and Christina, and reside in Vienna, Virginia.

photo by Sgt. Chris Farley

After taking command of the 88th Regional Support Command, Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley receives a congratulatory hug from his mother

Story and photos by Bill Geddes
88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Changing perceptions

Bosslift gives supervisors insight on Reserve soldiers

The days of Reservists heading out to drill with Weber grills and coolers packed with beer and steaks for a weekend of glorified camping are gone. Perceptions those days created are harder to change.

"I thought Fort McCoy was just a couple of barracks, and (Reservists) came out, and they didn't do a whole hell of a lot, kinda like going off to college for the weekend," said Rick Chernick, owner of Camera Corner, while on a 395th Ordnance Company-organized Bosslift.

The Bosslift, set up with the help of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), was a step toward changing those perceptions. Bosses from the Appleton, Wis., area were flown in to Fort McCoy, Wis., where they observed the 395th's weapons qualification exercise, ate MREs with the soldiers, and saw the 120th Field Artillery fire their howitzers.

"The basic concept is to show appreciation to these bosses who are letting these Reservists do this stuff, sometimes at a moments notice," said Capt. Mike Vaessen, former commander of the 395th Ord. Co., and the planner of the Bosslift. "Some (Reservists) come up to them a day before and say, 'I need Friday off because I have reserve duty at Fort McCoy.' Ninety-nine percent of them let the soldier do that. They understand (the soldiers) have a duty and they're not going to interfere with that."

Beyond that, the Bosslift also gave the soldiers a chance to do some showing off. "When Capt. Vaessen came up with this, it was not to impress the bosses just for the sake of impressing the bosses, it was to show them what this unit is capable of doing," said Capt. Rick Badger, commander of the 395th Ord. Co. "There is an intense measure of pride in the 395th to show we're true professionals."

Vaessen agreed, adding that the soldiers appreciated the opportunity to show their bosses what they were capable of. "It gives the soldiers a chance to say, 'Hey, I may be a forklift operator five or six days out of the week at work, but when I'm in Reserveland, I'm an NCO in charge of a section of 15 soldiers. During this drill, I'm running the .50 cal. range, and I'm ready for bigger things at work.'"

The bosses of the 395th soldiers were wowed by what

ESGR helps

Bosslifts provide a great opportunity for employers to see firsthand the type of quality military training and leadership activities Reservists receive when away from their civilian positions for military duty. Employers, community leaders, and members of the media are invited and transported to military training sites of National Guard and Reserve members as part of the Total Force.

If you're interested in setting up a Bosslift for your unit, an ESGR operational support team coordinator will help

(Right) Rick Chernack and Jeffrey Russoldt watch as Sgt. Brad Nickel explains how an M-203 grenade launcher works.

s units plan Bosslifts

plan and execute the event. There are two types: national- and state ESGR-Committee sponsored. The National ESGR Headquarters sponsors one for each state annually.

Participants are airlifted on a military aircraft to a military training site in the region. Individual ESGR Committees also sponsor Bosslifts; these may or may not include military airlift (depending on location and aircraft availability) and tend to be of shorter duration. Participation for a single Bosslift is limited to 40 people to comply with airlift restrictions.

Bosslifts are an excellent way for soldiers to demonstrate the critical role of the Army Reserve in our nation's defense. If you're interested in learning more about the Bosslift program or setting one up for your unit, contact you state committee or the National ESGR Headquarters at 1-800-336-4590.

NOTE: FY 2002 Bosslift schedule requests must be submitted ASAP to ensure flight availability.

they saw. "I'm very impressed by this," said Chernick, who has Capt. Mike Seering working for him. "I had no idea that this is what really went on; I had no idea it was this big. More people should get firsthand experience of this to see what's really going on. This is serious stuff — I've got a much better appreciation for what's going on."

Mary Ellen DeByle, a supervisor in the Manitowac public school system, agreed, adding that while Sgt. 1st Class Connie Specht never told her much about what she did while on Reserve duty while working for her in the offset printing office, it was never a problem letting her go.

"I really understand, since Desert Storm, the importance of the reserves," DeByle said. "(Specht) is very good at training the replacements who cover for her while she's gone, and knows she has to follow up when she gets back."

The fact that it was a joint exercise, said Vaessen, allowed the bosses to see a broader spectrum of the reserves. Once Vaessen contacted the ESGR, the ESGR set up the C130 flights with the 440th Air Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit out of Milwaukee. "The pilots always need stick time," said Vaessen. "You throw that in with an actual real mission, where they have to hit times and locations, and it works out great for everyone involved."

Vaessen then coordinated the rest of the operation with Fort McCoy's range control, which allowed him to shuttle the bosses from range to range. Watching the 120th Field Artillery, a Wisconsin National Guard Unit, coordinate fire with F16s dropping ordnance rounded out the military experience for the bosses, impressing everyone who took part.

"This is the largest, best organized Bosslift operation I've seen," said Brig. Gen. Michael Jelinsky, deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command, who had the opportunity to drop in on the Bosslift. "What the 395th Ordnance Company has done is fabulous." ♣

Staff Sgt. Roy Strutz explains to bosses the maximum effective range of an M-250 cal. machine gun.

Story and photos by Bill Geddes
88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

An Army surgeon general visit to the Mayo Clinic helped Army recruiting...

build partnerships

Dr. Eric T. Boie, Mayo Clinic, shows Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, Army surgeon general, the Mayo Clinic emergency room.

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. James B. Peake returned to the roots of the Army Reserve medical community recently, in an effort to help build partnerships for the future.

Peake visited the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., as a part of a luncheon presentation of Army Reserve opportunities by Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Recruiting.

During the visit Peake recognized contributions by the Mayo to the Army Reserve's past.

"The Medical Reserve Corps was started because of the need for health care," Peake said. "That was what ultimately evolved to become the U.S. Army Reserve. That sense of service is a part of the history of the Mayo Clinic. The founding brothers both served in WWI as special consultants (both brothers reached the rank of brigadier general). The Mayo clinic itself fielded special units to go to not just WWI but WWII as well. There is a rich heritage of service. That is one of the things that has helped make this place the great institution that it is."

Reaching out to that rich heritage of service is what drew AMEDD recruiting and Peake to Mayo. "What they have to offer us," said Peake, "is the quality people who are doing their medical skills day in and day out, who are available to serve their country across the spectrum of operations that we, as a superpower, are required to do."

To help attract those quality people, and to highlight what the Army Reserve has to offer the Mayo clinic, AMEDD recruiting worked with Army Reservists from the 88th Regional Support Command to develop interactive displays highlighting medical opportunities within the Reserve system.

"The Reserves are more extensive than I thought they would be," said Theresal Loessin, an RN in the Uro/Gynecology department at the Mayo Clinic. "They cover a lot more than I thought. You watch MASH and they cover the surgical end, but (the Reserves) do a lot more."

Kondra Jones, a first-year medical student at the Mayo Medical School agreed, saying she enjoyed learning about the flexibility the Army offers with both Reserve and active duty opportunities.

"That flexibility shows that you can have a family and do civilian medicine and still be there to serve the country and tend to medical needs of those men and women who are fighting for our country," Jones said.

Flexibility was another part of Peake's visit. The op-

portunity to talk to hospital administrators about the challenges inherent to having Reservists working for the hospital, as well as to Reservists about the challenges their Reserve duty brings to their civilian jobs, helps the Army to be more responsive to the needs of both.

The need for flexibility was apparent after the Gulf War. Some doctors lost their practice because of time away during the war, and some hospitals were left short-staffed. The Army has already started to respond to the problem.

"What we've tried to do is keep the deployments to a shorter time frame," said Peake. The physicians in Kosovo today are on 90-day rotations, Peake added, unless they opt out or are in command positions.

"The proof will be in the pudding," Peake said, "but so far at least it seems to be a doable thing. They are having a great experience and have a chance to bond with the unit, but are still able to maintain their practice and their skill sets, and therefore, their professional satisfaction."

Peake also pointed out that not all deployments are for 90 days. "Many of the (Reservists) here are gone for two weeks at a time to places like Costa Rica, Guatemala or Nicaragua, helping people," he said. "They see in that time four or five thousand people who otherwise wouldn't have access to any medical care. They come back rewarded and refreshed, they've seen different things, and they're better in their own work environment because of it."

The humanitarian nature of those missions appealed to those attending the symposium, according to Dr. (Lt. Col.) Walter Franz, a consultant in the department of family medicine for the Mayo Clinic, and one of the planners of the event.

"The people you talk to, both professionals in and outside of the Reserve, they want to have a feeling that what we do has a humanitarian nature," he said. "They understand the reality that we have to maintain the health of a fighting force, but in times like we're in now, where we're mainly looking at peacekeeping, the humanitarian type of mission has some dividends. People like to see it, it's a good feeling on both sides."

Jones agreed. "For me, the most effective part of the presentation was the humanitarian mission aspect. The financial aspect was also very beneficial; I'd heard about your full tuition and all fees being covered, plus a stipend, which is excellent in medical school because med students always need money. I really liked the humanitarian missions though."

Good news for Franz. "What I'm hoping is that we would be able to serve as an ongoing reservoir, and benevolent force of providing health professionals at all levels to the Army's mission," Franz said. "I'm hoping that since we're the largest group practicing medicine in the United States, and have a large number of people in practice, that there's strength in numbers, and that we can develop some good partnerships with some very benevolent outcomes." ♣

Maj. Angela Wherry, a medical recruiter, listens for a heartbeat on a human patient simulator while Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, Army surgeon general, looks on.

Getting promoted

Preparation and persistance will set you up for success

By Bill Geddes, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Second in a three-part series on enlisted promotions. Next: Promotion boards; Time in service and grade requirements for sergeant first class, master sergeant and sergeant major.

You've been in the Army a few years now, you have specialist rank on your shoulders, and you want more. Everything has been almost automatic so far, like clockwork. Put the time in, get the promotion.

This is where things change. Now you earn it. So what do you do to make sure you're prepared?

"I would suggest they talk to their first-line leader or first sergeant," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kathy Becher, who works as the chief, Reserve Personnel, for the 88th Regional Support Command Personnel Directorate. "That's the person who should be mentoring them and helping them get ready for E-5 (sergeant)."

The NCO Corps should be mentoring the soldier. While first-line leaders don't do NCOERs on lower enlisted soldiers, they should be doing performance counseling, Becher said. Tell the soldier what he needs to do to become a better soldier or to become more competitive for promotions, and if the soldier is doing a great job, give him a counseling session and tell him so. Counseling sessions don't have to be negative, so create the paper trail.

"Hopefully that's happening," said Becher, "but I know when we talk to units, it's not happening that often."

So what do you do if you aren't getting that feedback?

"If their first-line leader isn't doing it for them, then it's the soldier's responsibility to make them take care of them," said Becher. "If the NCO Corps isn't, then go to them and try to force it. If that doesn't work, they can still stay in the NCO channels and go up to the command sergeant major."

Next take care of the things that will get you points for promotion. They're not automatic now, you need to earn it by having more points than other soldiers up for promotion within your military occupational skill (MOS).

There are several areas to earn points in. One is weapons qualification. If you didn't qualify the last time you went out, you're not eligible for promotion. The higher you score, the more points you get. "If there is no record, you also know they had to qualify to get out of basic," said Becher. "Therefor, you can always give them the minimum of marksman."

The Army Physical Fitness Test is another points area. You have to qualify within 18 months, or have a valid reason not to have, like a profile, explained Becher. The more points scored on the PT test, the more points earned for promotion.

Military or civilian education also earns points. "We understand not everybody's out to be a college graduate, but their military experience will count as college credit," said Becher.

"You can also take CLEP tests, or DANTES tests and get up to 30 college credits," added Becher. "And that is at the government's expense, not the soldier's, so that's one of the easiest ways to get points." CLEP and DANTES tests are tests you take to test out of a course instead of going to the college course.

Visit the 88th RSC website at www.usarc.army.mil/88thrsc/ for information on how to submit paperwork to a college for possible course credit, or for information on how to take CLEP or DANTES tests. If you don't have internet access, contact the education office at 1-800-THE-ARMY ext. 3081 or 3432

Correspondence courses, vocational school courses and NCOES also earn points towards promotion. Contact your unit administrator (UA), or go to the Gen. Dennis Reimer training and doctrine digital library at www.adtdl.army.mil/atdls.htm to enroll in correspondence courses.

Time in Grade -- 12 months primary zone, 6 months secondary zone
Time in service -- 36 months primary zone, 18 months secondary zone.

Time in Grade -- 15 months primary zone, 7 months secondary zone.
Time in service -- 84 months primary zone, 48 months secondary zone.

Time in grade -- amount of time at that rank.
Time in service -- amount of time in the service.

"The only other place for points (before the packet reaches the board) is from the commander," said Becher. "That should be determined by the soldier's abilities. The commander can give up to 150 points, but shouldn't give that to everybody."

The unit is required to complete DA (Department of the Army) Form 3355-1-R on all eligible soldiers," said Becher, "but only submit those the commander recommends. It is not the soldier's responsibility to complete the DA Form 3355-1-R, but they should review the form to insure all current data is annotated. The more the soldier and the UA or personnel sergeant work together, the better the product."

If the soldier isn't recommended, the soldier needs to be counseled about what to do to get ready.

Once a soldier's packet is ready and signed off on by the unit, it goes before a board. More on that in the last article of the series.

Bits and pieces ...

Servicemember's Group Life Insurance to cover spouses, children

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance plan will also cover troops' spouses and eligible children beginning Nov. 1.

The Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001, signed by President Bush last spring, allows for up to $100,000 coverage for military spouses and $10,000 coverage for each child.

If the service member has SGLI coverage of $100,000 or more, maximum coverage for the spouse will be automatic, and premiums will be deducted along with the member's premium from each month's pay. If the service member carries less than $100,000 coverage, however, the spouse's coverage can be no higher than the member's, Navy Capt. Chris Kopang explained.

"For instance, if the member only had $50,000 in coverage on himself, he can only get $50,000 for his spouse," said Kopang, DoD director of compensation.

He added that spouse coverage must be elected in $10,000 increments. Premiums will be based on amount of coverage elected and the spouse's age.

Spouse's age	Rate per $1,000	Maximum Monthly Premium
Under 35	$.09	$9
35-44	$.13	$13
45-49	$.20	$20
50-54	$.32	$32
55+	$.55	$55

Coverage for children up to age 18, or 23 if a fulltime student, is free and automatic, so long as the member is participating in SGLI, Kopang said. Eligible Reserve component members will receive the same family-member coverage with premiums being deducted from their drill pay, he said.

Service members will be able to decline or reduce spousal coverage, but officials are still working out the details. "Opt out" procedures and updates will be posted to the SGLI Web site at www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm.

Kopang cautioned service members to think carefully before opting out. "Members may sometimes feel they don't need life insurance for a spouse, especially if the spouse doesn't work outside the home," he said. "However, look at the cost of providing childcare, a nanny perhaps, or other things that contribute to maintaining the home. These are costs service members don't always realize they'll have."

Eligibility for spouse and children's coverage would end if the member terminates coverage, separates, retires, dies, or if the couple divorces. However, spouse coverage will extend 120 days past the date eligibility ends.

"That will give the spouse the opportunity to convert their policy to a commercial policy," Kopang said.

Spouse coverage can be converted to commercial policies when the service member separates from the military, but cannot be converted to the Veterans' Group Life Insurance plan.

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA, American Forces Press Service

Army revises AR 670-1 tatoo policy

Here is the revised policy that is going into the revision to AR 670-1.

"Any tattoo or brand that is prejudicial to good order and discipline is prohibited. Tattoos or brands on the face, neck, or head that are visible while wearing a class A or B uniform are prohibited. Tattoos or brands on other areas of the body that are visible while wearing a class A uniform, and that detract from a soldierly appearance are prohibited. "

Please ensure station personnel receive this clarification.

Visit the uniform web page at: www.odcsper.army.mil/ ♣

Creditors must relax interest rates for Reservists

In a precedent-setting case for reservists, a U.S. district court judge in Louisiana has signed a judgment favoring an Army Reserve soldier who suffered financial ruin while deployed to Bosnia.

The Army News Service reports that the court found that the rights of Lt. Col. Stewart Cathey were violated under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act when his bank refused to lower his interest rate to 6 percent when he deployed in 1996. The ruling is expected to have far-reaching implications.

The Act protects qualifying service members by providing reduced interest rates on mortgage payments, credit card debt, and other individual loans or obligations; protection from eviction if rent is less than $1200; and a delay in all civil court actions such as bankruptcy, foreclosure, and divorce proceedings. It covers members of the armed services on active duty.

For more information on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, visit www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief_Act_Revision/. ♣

Foreign service careers for military veterans

The U.S. State Department is recruiting veterans and transitioning soldiers to become Foreign Service officers. A U.S. State Department press release reports that new Foreign Service officers are needed to fill badly needed positions as the Department engages in its largest expansion in decades. More information on Foreign Service careers is available by calling (202) 261-8888. Individuals with technical and administrative skills should contact Foreign Service Specialists by visiting www.state.gov/m/dghr/hr/specialist/ or by calling (202) 261-8851. Information about the State Department's Mid-level Entry Program is available at www.state.gov/m/dghr/hr/mlp/ or by calling (478) 757-3090. Current Civil Service job openings are listed on the Office of Personnel Management web site at www.usajobs.opm.gov. For more information, contact Jacquie Clarkat the State Department Office of Recruitment at (202) 261-8929.

Veterans and transitioning military personnel who are interested in using their military experience to help find civilian jobs have free resources available at Military.com's Career Services. In addition to job postings by companies looking for employees with military experience, services include an MOS skills translator, transitioning and job hunting tips, and more. For more information, visit Military.com Careers at: www.military.com/Careers/FrontDoor/0,11754,,00.html

Army service cap/hat

The Army green male service cap (also called the saucer cap), and the green female service cap (also called the pot hat) have been eliminated as optional headgear for the class A and class B uniforms.

When the beret wear policy was published (reference B), the green service cap/hat was limited to ceremonies or official duties, if such wear was prescribed by the commander. Further review of the policy resulted in the decision to eliminate the green service cap/hat as an optional uniform item due to its infrequent wear and the financial burden incurred by soldiers who purchased and maintained this headgear.

Effective immediately, soldiers will no longer purchase or wear the green service cap/hat. This includes officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel.

Soldiers who have not been issued the black beret will wear the garrison cap with their class A and B service uniforms until they receive the beret.

The blue and white service caps/hats will remain the prescribed headgear for the blue and white Dress and Mess uniforms. ✤

Army Knowledge Online account mandatory

Every soldier, reservist, and Army civilian will be required to have an Army Knowledge Online account by Oct. 1.

This requirement was spelled out in a memorandum signed Aug. 8 by Secretary of the Army Thomas E.White and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

The Army News Service reports that in the future, soldiers will no longer have to send away for copies of their personnel and financial records. They will be able to access this information through an Army Knowledge Online account. Eventually, they will also be able to view and update their personnel data on the Web.

All Army Knowledge Online users will be given an email account that they can use for the rest of their career and even after retirement. The email address will stay the same no matter where soldiers and civilians are stationed worldwide.

To sign up for an Army Knowledge Online account visit www.us.army.mil/ and click on the "I'm a New User" link to register. ✤

Hometown news releases needed

Anytime a soldier receives an award, is promoted, or deploys (on annual training or any other type of deployment), that soldier should receive a hometown news release form (DA Form 2266) to fill out and send in to the 88th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office (ATTN: AFRC-CMN-PA, 506 Roeder Circle, Fort Snelling, MN 55111).

Hometown news releases don't just give soldiers well-deserved recognition, they also help educate the public as to what the military is all about and what we are out there doing in and for the community. With less than 5 percent of those under 60 years of age having served in the military, this takes on ever-increasing importance. Educating the public is crucial to maintaining military readiness. A public uneducated about military affairs is much less likely to support the military.✤

Observances educate force

Special ethnic- and gender-related observances are designed to enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among soldiers, their families, and the civilian community. They recognize the achievements and contributions by specific ethnic groups or a specific gender. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, table 6-1 outlines the special commemorations the Army observes. If I had a dollar for the number of times I've heard the question, "Why don't we have a White History Month?" I could retire comfortably.

Over the course of history, no one in our United States can dispute the facts when it comes to the discrimination and disparate treatment many minorities and women have endured and in some areas, continue to endure.

"Why don't we have a White History Month?"

Ethnic observances are not a gift or some form of restitution for the group being recognized. Moreover, ethnic observances are conducted as a form of continuing education for all members of our armed forces. Is it fair to ask anyone to give up the customs, tradition, culture, or beliefs they were socialized with? Should a commander or anyone have the power to say, "You can't practice your religion or you can't eat that type of food or speak that language?" A group of people tried that in Nazi Germany 65 years ago and I believe most everyone knows the outcome.

Ethnic and gender observances help to make our armed forces strong. Many years ago attending the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, I had several significant emotional events (SEEs). I was in a group of 15 people. This group had all services and all senior ranks. I was placed in a room everyday for 16 weeks and we discussed many issues that impacted cohesion, productivity, and combat effectiveness. One day, I was asked by a black major from the Air Force, "What does it feel like to be white?" The question shocked me as well as every other Caucasian in the group. However, every minority and women in the group could, without hesitation describe what it felt like to be anything other than white in America. I never had to think about my skin color or what it represented. I learned as a white male I took too much for granted.

In Germany, I made it a goal to attend every ethnic observance I could. As a leader, I wanted to know more about the cultures and customs of the soldiers I lead. I was shocked to find out just how much I didn't know.

If you see an ethnic observance advertised, whatever your race or gender, take a chance to learn more about someone else. Ask questions you normally wouldn't ask. It's sure to help you learn more about yourself and you can find out the reason we as an Army don't require a White History Month.

Richard (Rich) Cox, Equal Opportunity Specialist, 88th RSC

Thrift Savings Plan

Soldiers can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9.

The American Forces Press Service reports that the Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000.

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January 2002.

In 2002, service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay. Service members can also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive up to a total amount that generally cannot exceed $10,500 per year.

Contributions to the plan come from "pre-tax" dollars, and service members pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they are withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the new program. More information is at the Thrift Plan's Uniformed Services Page at *http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html* ✤

Search for college money

Military.com's education services has a listing of $300 million in scholarship funds. All personnel in the military community, including dependents, are encouraged to search the scholarship database.

In addition to the scholarship search available, the educational services also provide comprehensive and updated information on educational benefits, such as the G.I. Bill, Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP), and Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

To access these education services, visit: http://www.military.com/Careers/Education/scholarshipsearch

88th Regional Support Command
Public Affairs Office
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