

BlueDevil II

88th Regional Support Command

November 2002 Vol. VII, No. 3



www.usarc.army.mil/88thsrc/

CG's Corner

Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley



The busy times continue the Blue Devils remain one of the most engaged organizations in the entire Army Reserve. And it is no time to “stand down.”

Since 9-11-01, when Brig. Gen. John Weiss and I were “deployed” to the grass of the Pentagon outside the crash site, and the 375th MP (CID) Detachment heroically moved to Fort Belvoir to provide emergency security augmentation to our Army leadership, the 88th RSC has been active, and more active, in responding to our Nation’s many calls.

Over 1,000 of our soldiers have mobilized and deployed, and some redeployed and de-mobilized, in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. Our missions have included:

Providing some of the first responding units under the Presidential Selective Reserve Call-Up; Sending a Chaplain Team to Afghanistan in the dead of winter; Assisting with military police support to dozens of locations world-wide; Providing a company for Special Operations maintenance missions at Fort Bragg, and overseas; Enhancing military intelligence capabilities for several critical military and civilian agencies; Responding to calls for Medical, Transportation, Quartermaster, Chemical, Public Affairs and Personnel support.

Most importantly, we have proven ourselves ready, willing and able to tackle any and every mission, in any and every environment. That’s the essence of being a soldier, and this Command has provided soldiers and units fully fit for duty every time we have been summoned to such duty.

Requirements continue. Within the past month, we have sent over 100 military police soldiers to the U.S. Central Command. We currently are mobilizing and deploying over 350 military police soldiers, headed by Brig. Gen. Jim Payne, to the Joint Task Force which will take

over internment and security missions in Guantanamo, Cuba. These soldiers also are ready, willing and able to tackle the difficult and complex missions our Army and our Nation requires in this time of preparing for and waging the Global War on Terrorism.

We continue, however, to ask for more. More soldiers, more families, more employers, and more communities may be called upon in the coming months to fulfill yet more missions, at home and abroad. I ask you all to be at the highest level of readiness in all of your soldierly skills, including marksmanship, physical fitness, training for operations, maintenance of vehicles and equipment, chemical and biological defense, morale, personal affairs, and family readiness.

These are all vital areas of preparation should you be the next called (or called yet again) to perform our Country’s most important military duty ... to fight, and win, our Nation’s wars.

You cannot fight, and cannot support those who do, however, if you do not pay attention to safety. We have lost too many soldiers (and family members) in the past year to needless accidents, and must reverse this dispiriting and disappointing trend of increasing deaths and injuries attributable to avoidable accidents. Protect yourselves and your loved one; do military “risk assessments” in your professional and private lives, and take action to prevent harm to yourself and others.

Most importantly, take time to spend with your families and loved ones this holiday season! And let’s all think of, and pray for, those soldiers world-wide who do not have this most blessed opportunity.

- Blue Devils!

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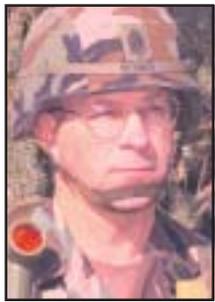
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Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

From the Top

A couple of weeks ago, I walked through a location that looked like a war zone in Afghanistan. Many vehicles with trash in them, canvas covers torn, bows broken, windows smashed or missing. Excess equipment, pallets and just plain junk were strewn all over with no accountability.

But it wasn't a war zone – it was a U.S. Army Reserve motor pool. The sad thing is, there was more than just one that looked this bad. Professionalism, accountability and unit pride seem to be the exception in our motor pools. This is inexcusable at any time, but especially now at a time of war. How can we expect to deploy

and fight a war if our own equipment and attitude might be shoddier than our enemies?

NCOs need to start doing NCO jobs. They must start training and supervising their soldiers in the care, cleaning, accountability and security of equipment. First sergeants need to get out from behind their desks and tour their motor pools, identify weaknesses, and get their NCOs on the job of correcting them.

Yes, there are a lot of things to think about in the motor pool – tools, vehicles, hand receipts, dispatches, PMCS, gate security, etc. Tackling all these details starts with the attitude of, “What do I need to do to have my equipment mission ready?”

Of course, I've heard the excuses: “I don't have time,” “I don't have the people to get everything done,” “No one cares, why should I?” These sob stories have no place in the 88th RSC or the Army Reserve. All NCOs are taught time and resource management. No one said it was supposed to be easy, but if some NCOs can't manage their priorities, they can simply give me their stripes; I'll find someone who can.

In the meantime, find the time to take care of motor stables. Our equipment is only as good as the soldiers who maintain them. The next war zone I see had better be one where our equipment is leading us to victory.

-Take the point

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On the cover

Soldiers from the 948th Forward Surgical Team receive a patient at the Ryder Trauma Center in Miami, Fla. The soldiers were conducting their annual training at the Army Trauma Training Center.

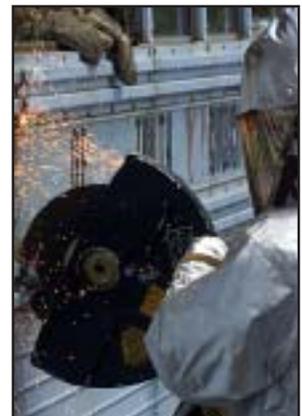
Photo by Bill Geddes, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.



On the back

Firefighters from the 376th Engineer Detachment, mobilized to Fort Campbell, Ky., as part of Operation Noble Eagle, cut away at an old school bus using a gas-powered cutting wheel. The exercise teaches them how to save victims from a bus collision accident.

Photo by Spc. Adam Dielschneider, 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: 88PAO@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Get your unit online

The 88th RSC IM/PAO Web Operations team is here to get your unit 'online'. If your unit does not have an official Web site, here are steps to take to get you on your way.

First of all, let your commander know you want one! Then, volunteer yourself or find someone in your unit who wants to build and maintain the Web site. It is preferable to select someone with experience, but anyone with good computer skills can be taught. This is an excellent additional duty, lots of fun and looks great on a NCOER!

The commander should then prepare an Additional Duty Appointment memorandum and scan or mail it to the 88th RSC Webmaster. A copy of this memo can be found also at: <http://www.usarc.army.mil/88thrcsc/webmaster/webmaster.htm>

Send it to us at 88webmaster@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Once the additional duty memorandum is received, we will send the webmaster FrontPage software to use to develop and maintain your Web site.

More information is located at our site, under the link, 'Important Unit Webmaster Information', located un-

der 'New Unit Websites Online!' on our Web site at: <http://www.usarc.army.mil/88thrcsc/webmaster/webmaster.htm>

You also may have noticed our new battalion-level websites. We have created these interim websites for every 88th RSC battalion-level organizations. These pages are a starting point. Take the simple page we created and build on it. There are many possibilities!

Once again, choose a webmaster from your unit, send us a memorandum and you will be given the software and rights to build a fantastic site. More information on how to do this can be obtained by emailing 88webmaster@usarc-emh2.army.mil

We look forward to having your unit online in the near future.

Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley, 88th RSC Webmaster, Fort Snelling, MN

Military Funeral Honors

I am writing to express heartfelt thanks from the 88th Regional Support Command's Human Resources Division to our regional program coordinators and soldiers who have performed Military Funeral Honors (MFH) missions over the past three years. With your assistance, a vital mission has been performed for our nation and its veterans.

The MFH program was codified by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2000. Among its provisions, all eligible deceased veterans are authorized a two-soldier funeral honors detail, including a formal flag folding with presentation, and the playing of Taps.

Since its inception, the 88th Regional Support Command has led the way out of all other regional support commands in the number of MFH details performed: in 2000, 920; 2001, 2387; and 2002, 3056. The previous figures represent 33-35 percent of all the funerals for the U.S. Army Reserve.

It is an incredible honor to serve our fallen comrades one last time, as

well as being a figure of strength and support for the decedent's loved one. Do you have what it takes to participate in MFH missions? Are you a sharp looking soldier? Does your class A uniform fit well? Have you always wanted to project your pride for the Army to the public?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be just the soldier we require for this rewarding mission. Let your first sergeant or commander know of your interest. Further information may be obtained from your state's MFH Program Coordinator (located at the MSC and DRC level). Together we can give the honor and respect due our fallen heroes.

CPT Lee P. Gearhart
G1, Human Resources Officer
88th Regional Support Command

Blue Devil Mailing List

I picked up a copy of the *Blue Devil II* at the Cincinnati Reunion of the 88th Infantry Division in late August 2002. I have just recently looked through that issue (April 2002) and very much appreciated it.

I was C.O. of the 313th Medical Battalion and later moved to the staff position of Division Surgeon during the Italian campaign. Many of the Medical Battalion personnel usually attend the reunions.

However, I was the only Med. Bn. member to attend the reunion in Cincinnati. Is it possible that you might send those individuals copies of the *Blue Devil II*?

Maurice Kane, M.D.
88th Infantry Division (retired)

Editor's note: Current 88th RSC soldiers and civilians should follow the instructions on page 2 if they are having problems receiving the Blue Devil II. The 88th RSC is exploring the possibility of adding 88th RSC alumni to its distribution. In the meantime, your copies are on their way.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Putting boots on the ground

Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Poole, one of six soldiers from the 825th Replacement Co, deployed to Fort Benning, Ga., isn't prone to hugging the soldiers he helps mobilize and demobilize at the Conus Replacement Center (CRC).

However, when one worried mother called Poole because her son was mobilizing, and had yet to phone home, he made an exception. "She told me if her son is too busy to call, then I'd better give him a hug from her," said Poole. And as most soldiers know, mothers have more rank than generals do. "So I found the young man, and said, 'Unless you want me to give you a big hug, you better call your mother!'" The soldier called right away.

The soldiers working at the CRC coordinate medical and dental screening, conduct the soldier readiness process, and issue the appropriate clothing and equipment. They also manage the weapon familiarization and qualification process, theater-specific individual replacement training, and movement of personnel to the airport.

"From colonels to privates, from 18-year-olds to 60-year-old vascular surgeons, we get them in all shapes and sizes," said Poole.

Personnel processed include military members of all services (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines) and components (Active, Reserve, National Guard), as well as civilians (contractors, Department of Defense, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Red Cross, etc).

"The most rewarding by far is knowing that we are contributing to the war on terrorism," said Capt. Donald Elliot, 825th Replacement Co. commander. "We truly be-

lieve that processing our soldiers and sending them to the theater of operations is contributing to putting 'boots on the ground' and keeping the Army ready to fight."

The arrival of the 88th RSC soldiers allowed the CRC battalion to make three full companies. Before that, the CRC Bn. was only able to field two replacement companies. Now, the CRC has three fully functional companies to process replacements.

"The hardest part for me personally is the ever-changing mission requirements," said Elliot. "We work in an ever-changing environment of what deploying soldiers are required to have as far as what the theater of operations is requiring. We work week to week...depending on what requirements need to be met for deploying soldiers. In short, we must be very flexible and able to meet the challenge of adapting to the next change."

Spc. David Milner deployed with the team, leaving his civilian job as a customer service rep. He works with the other soldiers on a three-week rotation that includes deployment, redeployment and support. "During deployment week, I spend a lot of time troubleshooting, making sure orders are right, and seeing that security clearances are up to date," Milner said.

Sgt. Marshall Hamilton starts his day at 5:45 a.m., and often works until 1 a.m. or as long as it takes. "We could process anywhere between 50 and 300 soldiers, and that takes a week," Hamilton said. "Re-deploying is quicker; it takes one day."

Although no deploying soldiers come out and actually say they don't want to go, there are some negative attitudes that pass through, Hamilton explained. "We deal with everyone leaving his or her families for an average of six months to a possible two-year deployment, and that's not easy by any means."

"The mission is very important as we send troops to all areas of the world," said Elliot. "Obviously I cannot speak of the areas we are sending them to, but I can assure you the troops that we process play a vital role in the war against terrorism." ♦

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley, 88 RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

(Right) Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Poole, an 825th Replacement Company soldier deployed to Fort Benning to work at the CRC, takes inventory of bedding issued to deploying soldiers.





OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Escorting detainees

342nd's training made them ideal for mission

When Army Reserve soldiers possess unique skills, they are subject to being called to duty when the situation calls for it.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11th, the 342nd Military Police Company from Columbus, Ohio, and Detachment 1 from Troy, Ohio, mobilized to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

The specialized training in escorting prisoners the soldiers of the 342nd received made them ideal candidates for the mission.

Many 342nd soldiers work in law enforcement and escort prisoners back home.

According to Sgt. Michael J. Hatter, 342nd MP Co., Detachment 1, Troy, Ohio, the MPs practice escort scenarios while on the plane en route to picking

up the detainees. The MPs cover every possible scenario they can to assure safety and mission accomplishment without incident.

"I've handled prisoners at Hamilton County's (Cincinnati) Sheriff office," said Hatter. "Both missions are dangerous. You never know what can happen."

Having a mission to escort prisoners, some of whom possibly were involved with a terrorist organization with ties to the Sept. 11th attacks, generated much conversation among the 342nd MPs.

"We did a lot of talking before the first mission," said Spc. Paul L. Reece, 342 MP Co., Det. 1. "The consensus was we have to be professional. Regardless of our feelings, we have to be professional in how we handle them

[prisoners]. We had to step up to do the right thing, go by the rules."

The 342nd soldiers know the importance of the mission to national security, Reece said, so the sacrifices made to support the Army Reserve are understood by the soldiers' families.

"The boys and I talk a lot about what is going on," said Reece. "After the Sept. 11th attacks, what our family feels is minuscule compared to the families from the Pentagon and Ground Zero.

"They see me leave every day as a cop. As a soldier, they know I have to do what I do as a sacrifice. I'm proud of them. I have a wife and six kids, ranging in ages from 8 to 19.

"The troops' morale is good," said Hatter. "We get lots of e-mail from home. We've received 'care packages' from a kids' group from an elementary school in Troy called 'Wait and C'. Those packages really made the soldiers feels good."

The 342nd's soldiers miss their families during the long deployment, but they are well aware of the importance of serving their country as police officers and members of the Army Reserve.

"We're thankful every day," said Reece, "that we still have our families to protect." ♦

By Master Sgt. David E. Johnson, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio



Military police from Fort Hood, Texas, conduct final training Jan. 10 at Camp X-Ray prior to the first plane of Taliban and Al-Queda detainees arriving at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Soldiers from the 342nd conduct similar training prior to escorting detainees.

U.S. Army photo

Reserve soldier missing in Cuba

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba - Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Foraker was charged with transporting and guarding hundreds of suspected terrorists at this outpost, but he wasn't without his phobias.

He was scared of heights and the ocean, but since he vanished more than two weeks ago, the most plausible explanation for his disappearance has been he climbed down a cliff and drowned.

"I'm not buying that," said his mother Ann Foraker, 58, speaking Monday by telephone from her son's and daughter-in-law's home in Logan, Ohio.

Foraker's wallet, military ID and civilian shorts and T-shirt were found folded and stuck in a rock crevasse outside the Camp America barracks, just yards from Camp Delta where 598 detainees accused of links to the Taliban or al-Qaida are being held. Nearby, 20-foot cliffs overlook the Caribbean Sea.

"He wouldn't have left his ID," his mother said. "He worked too hard to become sergeant and knew leaving the ID could cost him his stripes."

Foraker was last seen about 1:30 a.m. on Sept. 24 - his day off - when he picked up a flashlight from his quarters and vanished into the night.

"Everything we have learned about him, there is not a single shred of evidence to support any kind of wrongdoing," said Col. John Perrone, in charge of Camp Delta.

He described Foraker as a model soldier.

"He had an excellent work record. He had a good work ethic," Perrone said. "He wasn't aloof about his position. He took it very seriously."

Foraker was supposed to call his family the day he disappeared because one of his two daughters was sick. Foraker's wife, Angela, said everything seemed normal when they spoke the afternoon before he vanished.

"He would call every other day," Ann Foraker said. "He was happy. He lived for those girls and there's no way he would have missed calling."

Foraker deployed to Guantanamo in February and had spent several months transporting detainees from Turkey to Cuba, his mother said. It was unclear whether he spent any time in Afghanistan.

His family says he was terrified of heights and would never go swimming alone. "He was always incredibly cautious," his mother said.

Authorities said the ocean was calm the day Foraker vanished.

Foraker is the first soldier to disappear since the detention mission began in January on Cuba's eastern tip, and one of the only people - military or civilian - to disappear from the base in recent memory.

Authorities suspended the search Friday but said they would keep looking during routine sweeps. Cuban officials also were informed.

Foraker's family said they've grown frustrated with the lack of information from the U.S. military, which so far has prevented Foraker's 24-year-old wife from going to Guantanamo.

"They told me I couldn't because of security concerns," Angela Foraker said by telephone. "In the beginning, I supported the military. But my whole outlook has changed."

Foraker, a Gulf War veteran with the 342nd Military Police Company of Columbus, Ohio, was one of about 1,000 guards at Camp Delta where he worked nine, sometimes 10-hour shifts watching the detainees.

"I feel our son is every bit as important as Sept. 11," said his mother, whose three sons all served in the military. "I've given the military all three of my sons and this is all they can do for me?"

Missing posters dot the base's sparse facilities.

With four years as a full-time soldier in the Army, then nine years since then as a reservist, Foraker was completely devoted to the military, his wife said. He even considered becoming a recruiter and giving up his job laying gas pipelines at Miller Pipeline Corp. outside Columbus.

Foraker last came home for Father's Day, and plans were for his unit to return home sometime in November.

The Forakers' fifth wedding anniversary would be Nov. 19. They have two daughters, ages 3 years and 14 months.

Angela Foraker still doesn't know what to tell her 3-year-old, who is already making plans for the next time she sees her father.

"It's rough," said Angela Foraker. "What do I tell my daughters when I don't know what to tell myself?"

Reprinted with the permission of the Associated Press

Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Ryan Foraker has since been declared dead, body not recovered. Angela Foraker was allowed to visit Guantanamo Bay to attend a vigil.

The U. S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) conducted an extensive criminal investigation to determine what happened to Foraker. The NCIS investigation uncovered no reason to suspect foul play, suicide, desertion or abduction in the disappearance of Foraker.

While the official search for Foraker has ended, U.S. military personnel at Guantanamo Bay continue to be alert for signs that may indicate what happened to him.

The Army regrets the loss of Foraker, a fine soldier who served his country honorably. Our deepest sympathies are with his family.



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Duty: Cuba



Many grandparents can recall where they were when they first heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Their children reminisce about what they were doing when they heard about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Last year, their grandchildren were given their own tragedy to manage and remember -- where they were on Sept. 11, 2001, when the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and the airliner over Pennsylvania began to unfold.

One 88th Regional Support Command soldier was driving home that Tuesday morning, listening to music on the radio. When he arrived home, his wife was hysterical, screaming about somebody bombing the Trade Center.

Then the phone rang; it was his unit administrator, also screaming, and swearing to no one in particular. ‘Get in here!’ the UA shouted. He reported to Fort Snelling immediately, and began working.

The soldier, who is of Southwest Asian decent, has family members in the Southwest Asia region who could be harassed or harmed, and so could not be identified by name. He is fluent in many languages of the Southwest Asia region, and works for the Reserve as a translator and interrogator.

On Sept. 11, he volunteered to go to wherever his country needed him -- that ended up to be Cuba.

“I’m excited to be here [in Cuba] doing my job, as this is what the Army has trained me to do,” the soldier said. He has been in the Army Reserve for nearly five years, based at the 88th RSC, Fort Snelling.

As a first-generation immigrant, he felt a need to join the Army Reserve. “I want my kids and grandkids

(Background) The unidentified 88th RSC soldier deployed to Guantanamo, Cuba, as an interpreter, looks over Camp Delta.

to say the 'my father or grandfather' served our new country," he said. "I want to set the example for my future family."

Part of his individual mission is facilitating the detainees' medical care as an interpreter, he explained. "I provide a means of communication between two individuals who can't otherwise communicate," the soldier said. "I am a catalyst between the guards, medical people and detainees."

The soldier said working with a Joint Task Force is very different than working with all Army personnel. "I have never done this before, so it takes some getting used to the different rank structures," he said. (A Joint Task Force is made up of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps service members). "We all have a good relationship for the most part," he added.

Another part of the mission is interviewing the detainees, and gathering important information that may help in the War on Terrorism .

"Sometimes the detainees are cooperative, sometimes they are very hostile," he said. "As far as them giving me a hard time, I just don't allow them to do that."

The duty isn't easy. According to a news briefing released by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2002 - "At least one detainee now in Cuba — has been threatening to kill Americans. Another has bitten a guard. This is not wonderful duty. It's difficult duty. To stop future terrorist attacks, we have detained these people, and we have and will be questioning them to gather additional intelligence information."

Despite the difficulties, the soldier is proud to be serving his country. Bumper stickers and flags on the family minivan are patriotic, he said, but going to war is the ultimate thing you can do for your country. ♣

Story, photo and sidebar by Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Camp Delta: Life as a detainee

The detainees eat three halal-appropriate meals each day. Halal is an Arabic word which means lawful or allowed, similar to the Hebrew term 'kosher'. Halal foods are permitted for consumption under Islamic law. The most popular example of a non-halal food is pork. There are two hot meals for breakfast and dinner, and a MRE (meal, ready to eat) for lunch. Reportedly all detainees gain at least 20 pounds back to a normal weight once they arrive.

Detainees are allowed to pray when they want, and have access to a Muslim chaplain, who often leads them in prayer. There is an arrow stenciled on each bed that points in the direction to Mecca to accommodate their Muslim prayer needs. The word Mecca is below this arrow, along with the appropriate distance in kilometers between the unit and the Muslim holy site.

The detainees are allowed to exercise in small, secure yards several times a week, take regular showers, read the Koran and related commentaries and reference books on Islam, and talk freely with other detainees in neighboring units.

During in processing at Camp Delta, detainees receive the following comfort items: toothbrush, tooth paste, washcloth, one-quart canteen, prayer cap, soap, shampoo, two towels, one orange jump suit, sandals, two blankets, one sheet and a Koran. They are authorized to send and receive mail.

Detainees are immediately moved to in processing facility upon arrival. In-processing takes about two to three hours for an average group of 30 detainees. The inside of the facility is similar to a large mobile home. There are different rooms for the various in-processing stations, with an alert and extensive security force to escort detainees throughout the process.

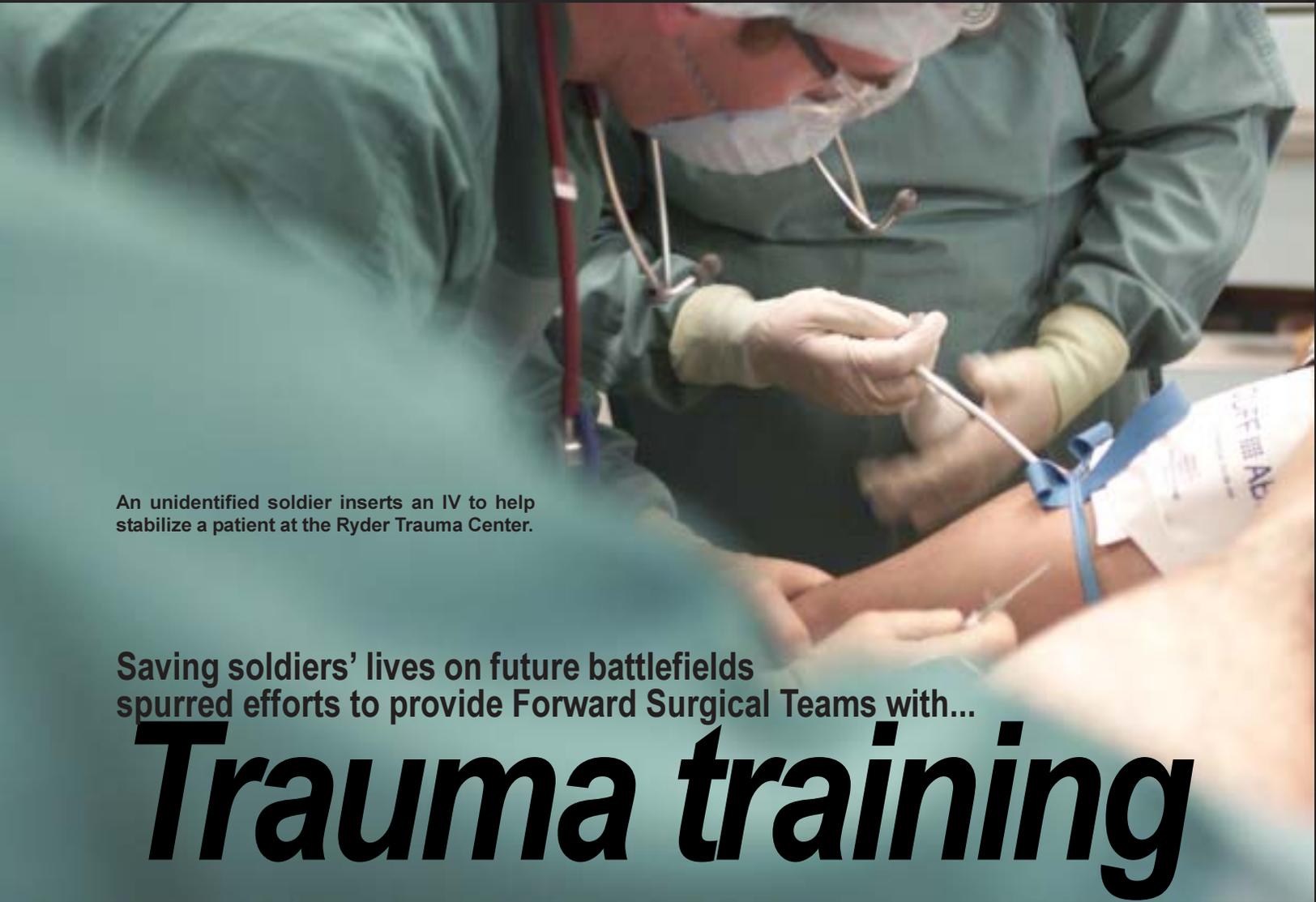
While waiting, detainees are offered water. Their earmuffs and safety goggles are removed as soon as they enter the facility. (They were placed on them for warmth and safety during the flight.) The medical facemask is still left on them as a medical precaution in the event they have tuberculosis, and to protect them from the disease if they don't.

Detainees also take showers and are deloused. Medical exams include a basic medical assessment and a chest Xray. So far, there have been two positive cases of tuberculosis identified. Identification includes fingerprinting, photograph and ID bracelet.

In a news briefing released by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2002, he said, "These men are extremely dangerous, particularly when being moved, such as loading or unloading an aircraft, buses, ferries, movements between facilities, movements to and from showers and the like. During such periods, the troops, properly, take extra precautions." ♣



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM



An unidentified soldier inserts an IV to help stabilize a patient at the Ryder Trauma Center.

Saving soldiers' lives on future battlefields spurred efforts to provide Forward Surgical Teams with...

Trauma training

Soldiers from the 948th Forward Surgical Team (FST) hurry forward as the helicopter lands, shouting questions to the helicopter medics as they unload the patient. Another training exercise?

Training, yes — but it's no exercise. The Southfield, Mich.-based unit was in the midst of its two-week annual training at the Army Trauma Training Center (ATTC), located at the Ryder Trauma Center in Miami. At the Ryder Center, the civilian level-one trauma center for Miami-Dade

County, soldiers work with ATTC and Ryder Staff on real patients, making life-or-death decisions.

This training is part of a congressionally mandated program designed to provide military medical staff with the trauma experience that has been slowly disappearing from its ranks as Vietnam-era staff retire, said Lt. Col. Tom Knuth, director of the ATTC. Training at the ATTC allows active duty and Reserve FSTs to hone individual and team skills.

The soldiers do not, however, walk into the training and begin treating human patients. "We start them out on the first day with a pig 'mass casualty exercise' where we assess their ability to orchestrate as a team in terms of triage, resuscitation, op-

The majority of military doctors take care of a young, healthy population (at least those doctors on the active side), and see almost no trauma because of safety precautions the military takes.

When trauma injuries occur in the military, they are typically high-velocity penetrating or blast injuries. Civilian trauma injuries are different because there is a different mechanism of injury. However, the tissue injuries from high-energy motor vehicle crashes are similar to what is seen in a blast injury, and there are quite a few penetrating injuries in a civilian trauma center that are lower velocity. There are more similarities than dissimilarities.

erative skills,” Knuth said. “We get a good idea on the first day they’re here as to what their individual and management skills are like. Then we integrate them into the Ryder Trauma Center program. They get right in the thick of things and work alongside the civilian staff taking care of patients. They do that for two weeks for Reserve teams and for 30 days for the active duty teams.”

The training culminates with a two-day “superbowl,” a 48-hour time period where the FST takes the reins, and is in control of the trauma center. ATTC and Ryder staffs remain in the area ready to jump in as needed, but the FST surgeons make the clinical decisions, FST operating room technicians assist, and FST nurses provide post-operative care to the patient.

The result is some of the best trauma training around for military personnel. “I have not seen any training that compares to this,” said Maj. Martin Blank, commander of the 948th FST. “It’s not 100 percent because nobody is shooting at us, but this is trauma care. What we do here will be the same thing we do in the field. We don’t have all the equipment, but the set up that we are going to use in



(Left to right) Spc. Aaron Colwell, an unidentified ATTC staff member, Maj. Linda Andrews, and Capt. Forrest Fernandez roll a patient to check for wounds.

the next few days and the teams that we have set up will be the same teams that we use in the field. The jobs that they do here, with minor differences, will be the jobs that they do in the field. It’s unbelievable training”

Part of the training is continually comparing techniques and skills

picked up at Ryder, and adapting them for use in the field. As a level-one trauma facility (level one means it has the equipment and personnel to handle all trauma) Ryder Trauma Center has equipment the FSTs wouldn’t have access to in the field. ATTC training

Trauma
continued page 12



Capt. Forrest Fernandez, 948th FST, performs an ultrasound to check for internal hemorrhages while Maj. Martin Blank, FST commander, observes.

Trauma

continued from page 11

allows the soldiers to gameplan how they would handle cases in an austere environment with the equipment they *would* have access to.

“As we go through each patient, we try to relate it to patients that we’d find out (in the field),” said Spc. Angela Hedzel, an LPN in the 948th. “Maj. Oswald (Hedzel’s supervisor) and I try to relate every single thing going on to what we’d do in the field if we had to do it there. I’d feel a lot more confident (in the field) now. Relaxed even.”

The training and experience gained by the FSTs at the ATTC does more than make the soldiers more confident. It saves lives. “Our unit will go to the field and from day one, we will be able to save lives,” said Blank. “We’ve already knocked out that

steep portion of the learning curve. If we would have been sent to the field without this rotation, it would have taken us two weeks of operating under real conditions to get to this level... and we probably would not have saved as many lives.”

Saving lives is what it is all about at a trauma center, which is why the Ryder staff doesn’t mind hosting the ATTC – in fact they are proud to be able to. “I love it that they are here,” said Albert Bahr, a registered nurse at Ryder. “It is an honor to be able to train them, and we can both learn from each other. They get to see the numbers (of cases) here that

they couldn’t get where they normally train. What an improvement from the beginning to when they leave.”

The ATTC staff and FST soldiers appreciate that cooperation as they rotate through the training. “The most surprising thing is how quickly we were allowed to function independently and as a team,” said Blank. “Their (ATTC and Ryder staff) motivation is to help us succeed. They don’t mind giving up their procedures to help us, they are happy to have us in surgery, and their motivation is patriotism.”

“I think that every FST that is going to be deployed, should rotate through the Army Trauma Training Center,” Blank added. “I don’t know what the expense is to put an FST through here, but it shouldn’t be a consideration. This is real-life *ER*.” ♣

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

Forward Surgical Team

The Forward Surgical Team (FST) concept developed after Operation Desert Storm. The soldiers were moving so fast through the desert, covering great distances in a single day, that medical support was not able to keep up. This created long evacuation times.

The fear that injured soldiers would die by the time they were evacuated from the site of injury to the rear area, where a big, heavy, immobile hospital would be set up. An injured soldier has a much better chance of surviving if medical attention is given in the “golden hour,” a term used to describe the first hour after injury.

The FSTs were designed so that a unit with surgical capability could move as quickly as the soldiers. The units are designed to be set up and fully functional within an hour, and to be torn down and put back on five humvees within two hours.

The units can be picked up and moved rapidly. They are designed to sustain operations for 72 hours and do about 30 operative cases in that amount of time.

An FST is a 20-soldier unit, with three general surgeons, an orthopedic surgeon, two nurse anesthetists, operating room technicians, nurses, medics and various support personnel.



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

When 376th Eng. Det. (firefighting) soldiers mobilized to Fort Campbell, Ky., they were welcomed by post firefighters with open arms, part of the...

Brotherhood of firefighters

A fireman holds an axe as he crouches on the hood of a school bus. Another clings to a fender and peers through the window. Suddenly an elaborate spider web-pattern forms as the windshield is shattered into a million pieces. The firefighter winds up taking another swing and unleashes on the other half of the windshield. Both men begin to tear out the broken glass until every piece is removed. To the side of the bus more than a dozen other firefighters watch intently as instructors take notes of what the team is doing, and how they can do it better.

Training is something the 376th Engineer Detachment (firefighting) unit, part of the 88th Regional Support Command of Granite City, Ill., looks forward to receiving. The firefighters were deployed to Fort Campbell, Ky., and have been put in a unique situation by working on post with a civilian firefighting crew.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, Fort Campbell has been the launching site for numerous operations. Civil-

ian firefighters were being overworked before the arrival of the reserve firefighters. The fire station was shorthand 19 people. The firefighters of the 376th got to Fort Campbell at the right time with the right attitude, said James W. Grubb, Fire Chief at Fort Campbell.

Fortunately the firefighters were welcomed with open arms. The men in the unit acted as if they had worked there for years and the transmission was very smooth. There is a

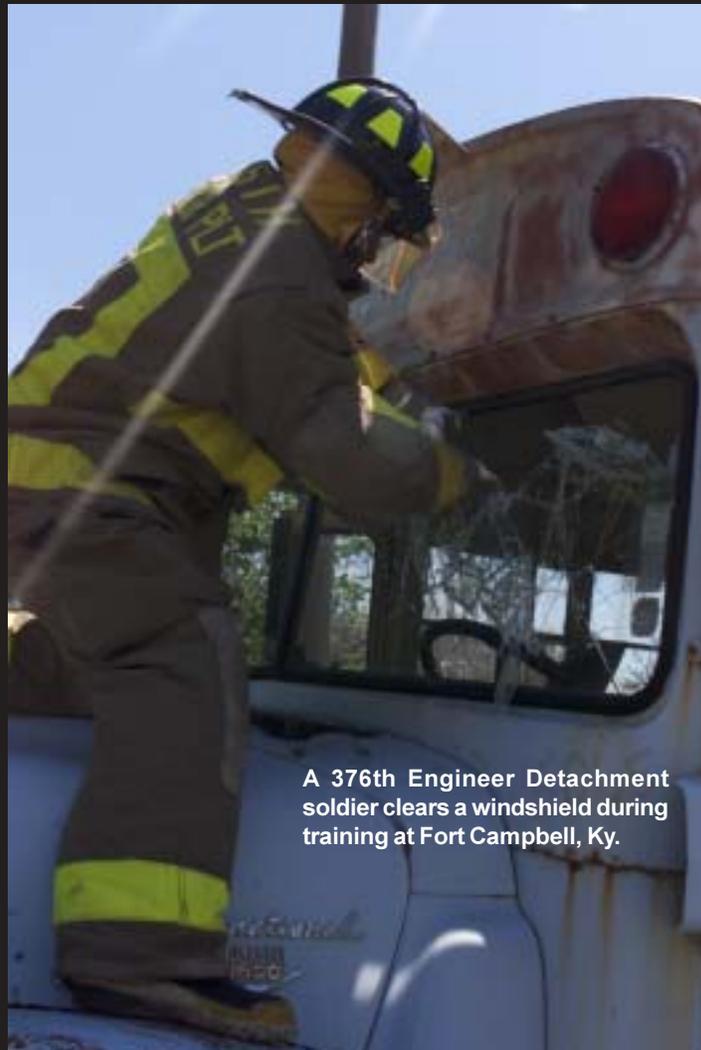
type of brotherhood between firefighters, said Grubb.

“I believe that all firefighters are family. It’s a special bond,” said Grubb.

The 376th has brought many things to Fort Campbell. Some of the most important are youth, experience, real-world firefighters, but most of all enthusiasm, said Grubb.

“That’s the only way you can prove yourself is to go on calls and show them that you’re here to help, you’re here to learn. You’re here to give it 110 percent, at everything, whether it’s cleaning the vehicle or checking your

Brotherhood
continued page 14



A 376th Engineer Detachment soldier clears a windshield during training at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Brotherhood continued from page 13

air pack or out on the sight in the scene. You want to show them that you're here for them, said Sgt. Jesus Hernandez-Vega, a firefighter with the 376th."

As with most deployments, the time before departure is short. Family is first and foremost in the minds of most individuals. This is the first deployment for many of the younger soldiers. There is a feeling of "controlled chaos" that is present in the early stages of any deployment, but the Fort Campbell firefighters made the 367th right at home, said Sgt. Milner, a fire fighter with the 367th.

"We were expecting the worst and it's not bad at all," said Spc. Christopher A. Hollingsworth, a firefighter with the 376th. "The crew that we're working with is a great bunch of guys. We're happy with them."

Firefighters will have the opportunity to acquire certifications from the Department of Defense. Emergency medical training, pump operator training and hazardous material training are a few examples of certifications. These credentials are recognized all over the world and benefit firefighters when looking for civilian jobs.

The unit has three Gulf War Veterans within its ranks and close to half of the soldiers in the unit are civilian firefighters. The experience of these firefighters helps the entire unit. Techniques that are learned on the job are handed down to the younger soldiers, said 1st Lt. Arthur Nowell, Commander of the 376th Granite City, Ill.

The training exercises are extremely hot. The body is put through a lot of stress. Some soldiers get an adrenaline rush out of jumping out of airplanes, but other soldiers, like that of the 376th, can get there rush running into a burning buildings, said Nowell.

"A firefighter just cares. They'll go out

of their way to help and I believe the American people or the citizens outside of the gate have come to appreciate the firefighters. They've been doing this way before September the 11th."

The Military Occupational Specialty '51M,' or firefighting MOS is relatively small compared to many of the MOS's in the Army. The soldiers of the 376th knew that the chances of deployment were high because of their scarcity. Some became firefighters for that very reason and enjoy the opportunity to be out fighting fire.

"I've got 24 years in this (firefighting) and the excitement is just as real today as it was 22 plus years ago; it truly is, said Grubb." ♣

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

(Below) Soldiers from the 376th Eng. Det. wrestle with the jaws of life as they cut out the doors of a school bus to create a safe exit for victims.



BlueDevil II



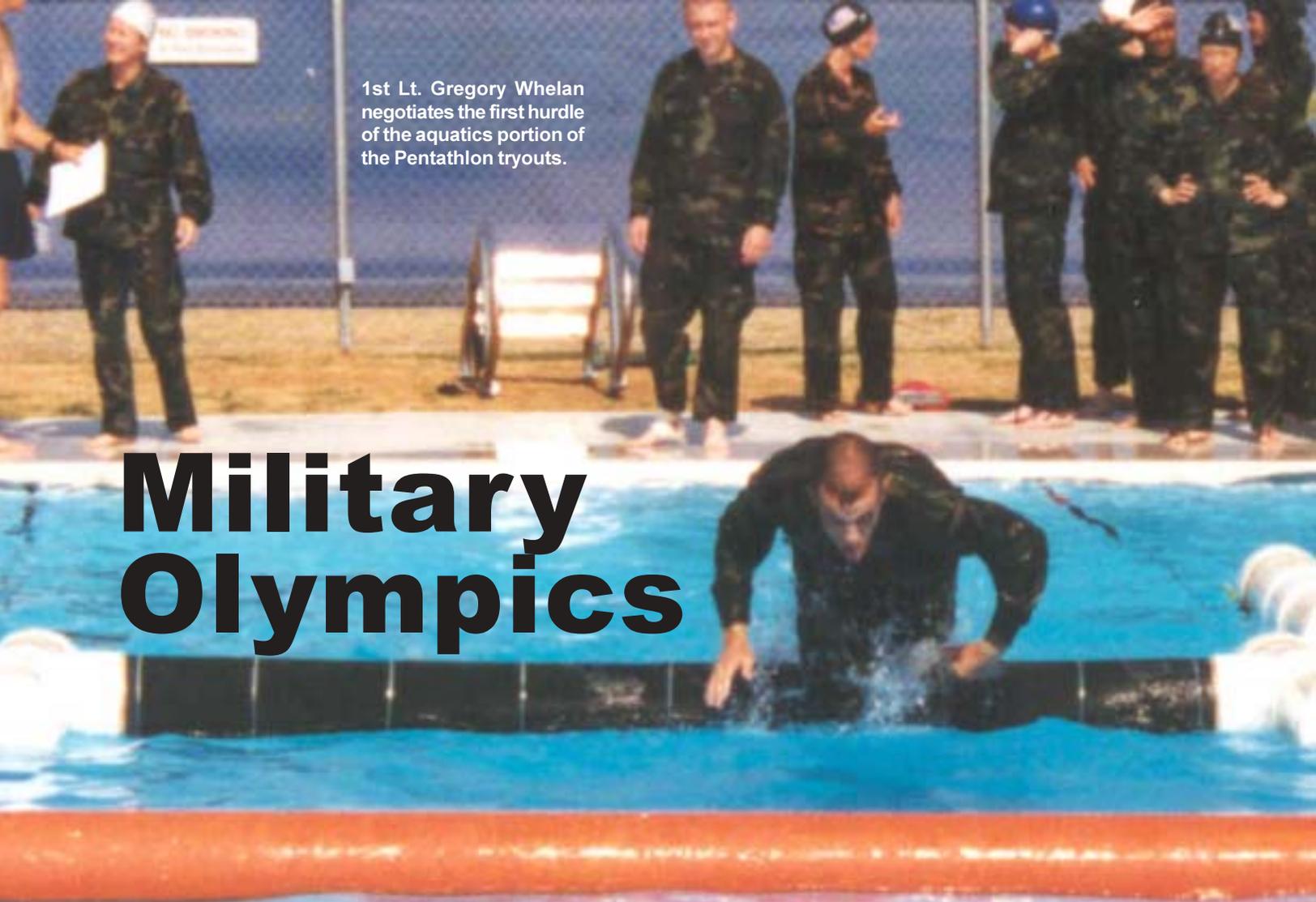
(Above) Soldiers from the 376th Eng. Det. cut off the back end of a bus while training at Fort Campbell, Ky.

(Below) A 376th Eng. Det. soldier changes the blade in a saw-z-all. The 376th is at Fort Campbell, Ky., while deployed for Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom.



(Below) A 376th Eng. Det. soldier cuts through a bus framework. The 376th is at Fort Campbell, Ky., while deployed for Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom.





1st Lt. Gregory Whelan negotiates the first hurdle of the aquatics portion of the Pentathlon tryouts.

Military Olympics

Top performance leads 88th RSC soldier to ‘Olympics of the Reserve Forces’

Being in good shape helps, but it takes more than the ability to max the PT test to be on this team. Proficiency in soldier skills, physical strength and agility are also necessary. This is a test not only of athletic skills, but of willpower, teamwork and leadership.

Every year the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) holds a world-class military pentathlon in which 180 young reserve officers from NATO countries come together to compete. Held in France this summer, the competition consisted of five military-related events: pistol shooting, rifle shooting, orienteering, land obstacle course and an aquatic obstacle course.

1st Lt. Gregory Whelan, 826th Ordnance Company commander, Madison Wis., was selected to attend the two-week training camp and tryout held each summer at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Although concerned about his very sore ankle, he moved through the demanding trials and was chosen for the team.

Each event takes its own unique set of skills to succeed: technique and focus in the shooting events, stamina and tactical knowledge in orienteering,

and pure strength in the land and aquatic obstacle courses. “I always maxed the PT test, and was always a good runner, but then I hurt my knee,” says Whelan. “So, that forced me to stop running and do other things to stay in shape, like weight training and swimming. It actually turned out to be a good thing, because it made me a more well-rounded athlete,” he said.

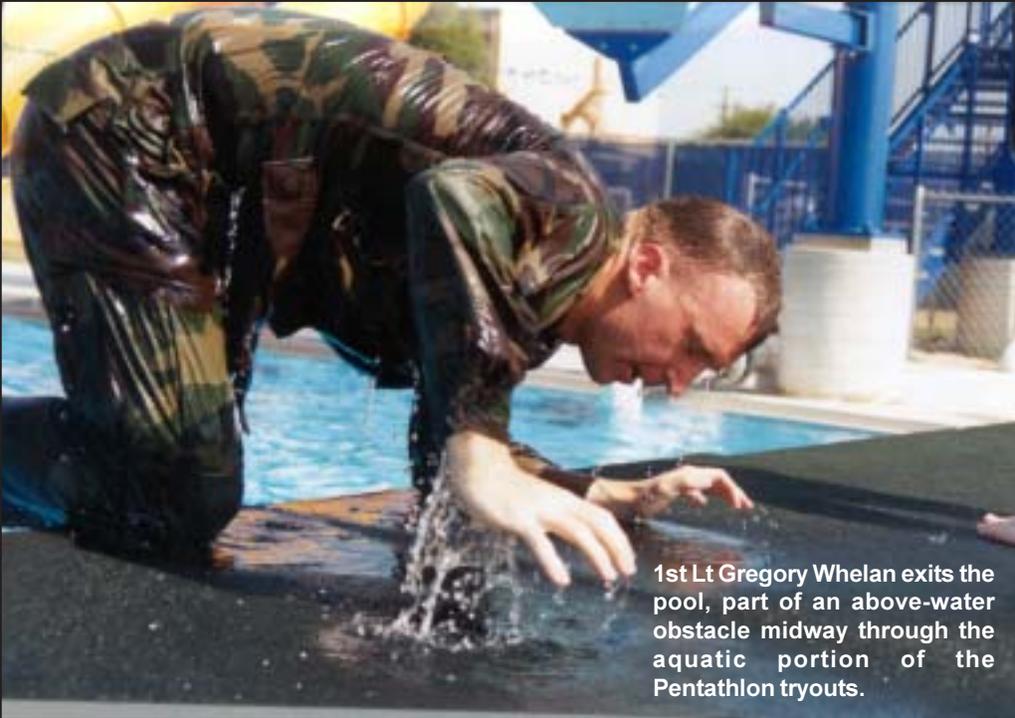
At the end of the tryouts, Whelan was selected to join the team. He then trained an additional two weeks with his new teammates before traveling on to Europe. All reserve component commission officers and cadets from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Reserve are eligible for participation in the event.

“Veterans of the pentathlon are coaches and teachers for the first-time novices who are picked for the

If one team member is tired or slightly hurt, the other two must compensate.

and pure strength in the land and aquatic obstacle courses.

“I always maxed the PT test, and



1st Lt Gregory Whelan exits the pool, part of an above-water obstacle midway through the aquatic portion of the Pentathlon tryouts.

team,” Whelan said. Teams are also coached by qualified specialists and pistol- and rifle-shooting coordinators.

All five events are performed in teams of three, with approximately 60 teams competing in the event. Teamwork is critical, as the soldier-athletes must adjust to the each other’s performance. If one team member is tired or slightly hurt, for example, the other two must compensate.

In the shooting events, competitors must use the host country’s weapons. They get very little time to become familiar with the foreign pistols and rifles. “But the marksmanship training we are getting here is definitely

the best,” Whelan said. “We receive one-on-one individual training, and we fire, fire, and fire.”

In the orienteering event, teams must find 25 locations hidden along a 15-kilometer route. Competitors usually travel on foot from point to point, but inflatable boats or bicycles have sometimes been used. Civilian road maps or military topographical maps can be used, along with aerial photographs and even sketches. Sometimes the organizers give these items to the competitors, and at other times, the teams are allowed to look at them for only a few minutes.

The land obstacle course is the

standard NATO course, consisting of 20 obstacles of regulation size set out in a sequence over 500 meters. According to veteran competitors, this event is the most physical demanding, and some might say the most painful. The obstacles include scrambling through small tunnels, leaping above bars, climbing over walls, scrambling up netting and sliding down ropes. Despite fatigue, each obstacle requires a huge burst of energy.

Soldiers in the aquatic obstacle course must go over or under four obstacles while swimming 50 meters, all while still dressed in the combat clothing of the host country. To do well in this event, it’s not enough to be a good swimmer; a great amount of physical strength is needed to clear the above-water obstacles.

Whelan and the other athletes are not the only ones who benefit from the CIOR experience. Regardless of the games’ final outcome, the competitors’ home units and, by extension, the Reserve forces of all the countries represented are all winners. The competition promotes international goodwill, physical fitness and the gaining of new skills- all values deeply rooted in military life.

Standards to apply

Applicants must meet eligibility criteria and the following physical standards to try out:

	Men	Women
800 meter run	02:30	03:00
5 mile run	32:00	37:30
50 meter swim	00:35	00:40

Point of Contact is:

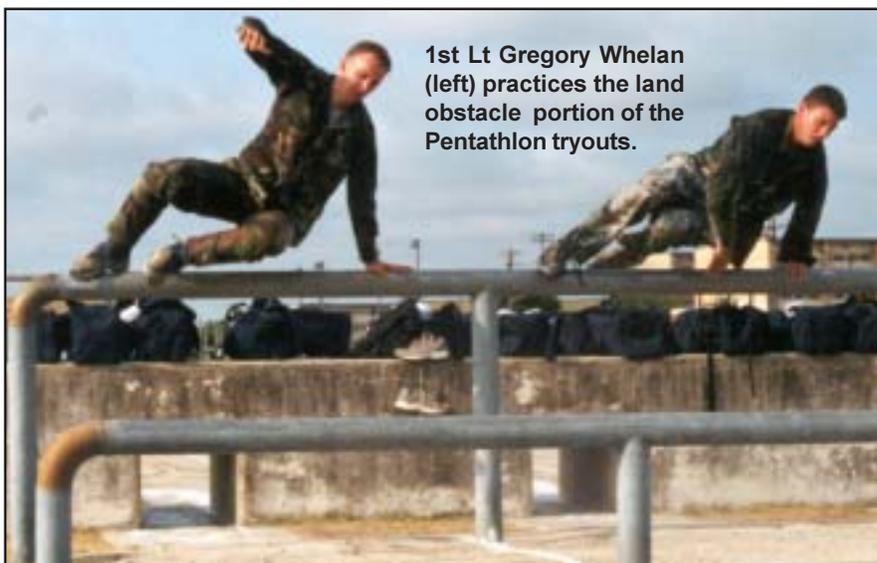
Maj. Garman (404) 464-8268

Garmanth@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Also see the Reserve Officer Association website:

<http://www.roa.org/> ♣

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.



1st Lt Gregory Whelan (left) practices the land obstacle portion of the Pentathlon tryouts.

Tests don't lie

New method of testing soldiers for drug use tests 10 percent of the unit every drill

Pvt. Joe Snuffy is a great guy. He works well with others, he does what he's told, he tells funny jokes and stories, and he seems to get along with everyone. Who cares if he smokes pot every once in a while when he's not going to drill? It shouldn't matter if he gets high in his off time, as long as he doesn't come to drill high. Besides, who is ever going to know? Our unit just got drug tested last month, we won't have another one for a while, right? Wrong!

The U.S. Army Reserve implemented a new method of testing soldiers for drug use for fiscal year 2002. A lot of soldiers have noticed the increased number of bio-chemical tests that have been taking place in the last year. The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) has been, and will continue, doing incremental drug testing in each unit.

The Webster's Dictionary defines 'incremental' as, "one of a series of regular consecutive additions." Not hard to see why the Army decided to call it incremental testing since ten percent of each unit will be tested each drill. The soldiers will be selected completely at random. This method has proven to be 60 percent more effective.

"If I were to go up to a commander and say, 'Here, I've got a rifle that is 60 percent more effective. It will shoot farther, more accurately, and will jam substantially less,' do you think he'd want it for his troops?" said Art W. Juntunen, an alcohol and drug control officer (ADCO) with the 88th Regional Support Command. "You bet he would. That's exactly what we've offered the Army with this new method of testing."

There are three things that make this program work better than doing unit sweep type tests: It's observable, ongoing, and completely random. Seeing soldiers are se-

lected at random every drill, the recreational drug user is more apt to not use for fear of being tested.

"The Army isn't interested in getting rid of soldiers, we're interested in getting our soldiers healthy," said Juntunen. "Substance abuse is a disease."

There are ways to fight this disease. The first step is admitting a problem and seeking help to deal with it. "If a soldier voluntarily comes forward and tells us they've been abusing substances, then as a chaplain, I will listen to the concerns and needs of the soldier," said Maj. Kenneth L. Beale Jr., a chaplain at the 88th RSC. "I can give him

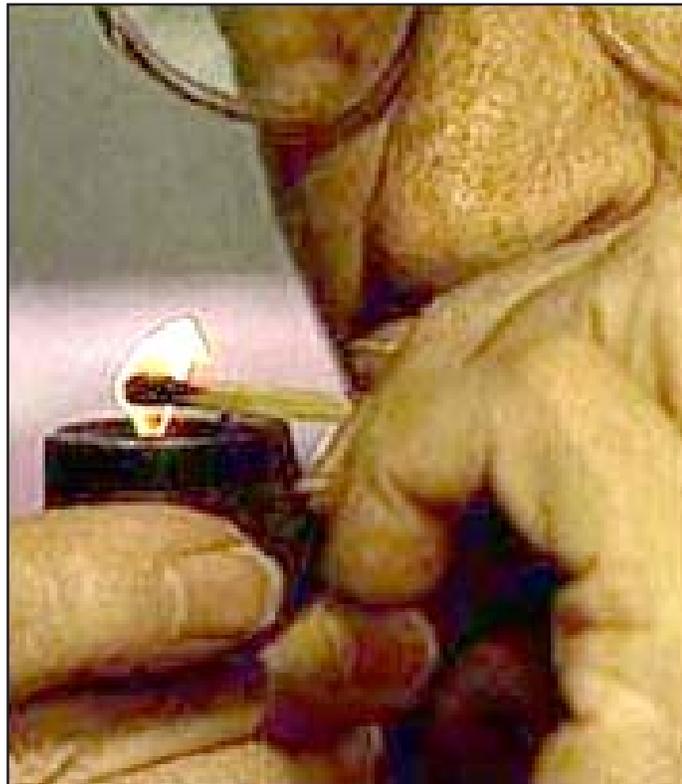
direction and advice. My main concern is getting the soldier some help, but I can also protect the soldier from legal action. Anything shared with a chaplain is privileged information, with the exception of someone saying he is going to hurt himself or someone else.

"The soldier will not be penalized for coming forth and admitting a problem," added Beale. "It's a whole different story when the soldier comes up positive on a drug test, however. Then he can suffer severe penalties,

maybe even be put out of the Army."

The consequences of having a positive drug test are left up to the commander of the soldier. Soldiers E-5 and below that have been in for less than three years can be retained without separation proceedings being initiated. Soldiers E-6 and above or any soldier who has more than three years in must have separation proceedings initiated. They can, however, be retained.

Ultimately, the decision to retain or release a soldier is



up to the separation authority, the commander of the RSC. The separation authority is not bound by any of the intermediate commanders. Letters of reprimand or reference may sway the decision, said Juntunen.

Can a soldier refuse a test? Yes! A soldier can refuse a test. However, a direct order is given to each soldier to provide a specimen before the test is administered. Refusing to provide a specimen is, and will be considered, failure to obey a direct order and will be subject to penalty under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

“A person seeking help can go to his local physician, a chaplain, a pastor, a guidance counselor, or even call one of the free hotlines found in the phonebook,” said Beale. “There are various means of getting assistance, if someone wants it. The day of the test is too late.”

Juntunen said soldiers are free to admit their drug problem and not fear penalty anytime except after having knowledge of a drug test. At that point, it is too late. The soldier is then subject to penalty upon a positive drug test result.

In the second quarter of 2002, the Army Reserve tested 37,777 soldiers. Six hundred and thirteen came up positive for drugs. Four hundred and fifteen of those people came up positive for THC, the active component in marijuana (according to www.acsap.org).

Marijuana is known as a gateway drug. In the Army it may be an exit only.

When a soldier notifies his commander of a substance abuse problem, the commander then is responsible to take action under the limited use policy in Army regulation (AR) 600-85 chapter 13. This regulation explains the details of referring the soldier to a state recognized treatment facility, what is expected of the soldier, and what is expected of the commander.

Self-referral is the only way to avoid the consequences. Having a test come up positive means that there is no uncertainty that the soldier was abusing. Any discrepancies and the thinnest margins of doubt automatically work in the soldiers favor. To have enough evidence in urine to exceed the laboratories set thresholds can only be done through substance abuse.

“There is nothing you can get from a restaurant, grocery store or in a health food store that could make a person’s urine hold enough content of any material that would

exceed the thresholds of what we test for,” said Juntunen. “There is no way to beat this system. No amount of hemp oil, no amount of poppy seed muffins, and nothing added to the urine will change the results because of the three different methods that are used in testing each specimen. We can break every sample down to look at each and every atom. If someone comes

up positive, there is no doubt they were abusing drugs.”

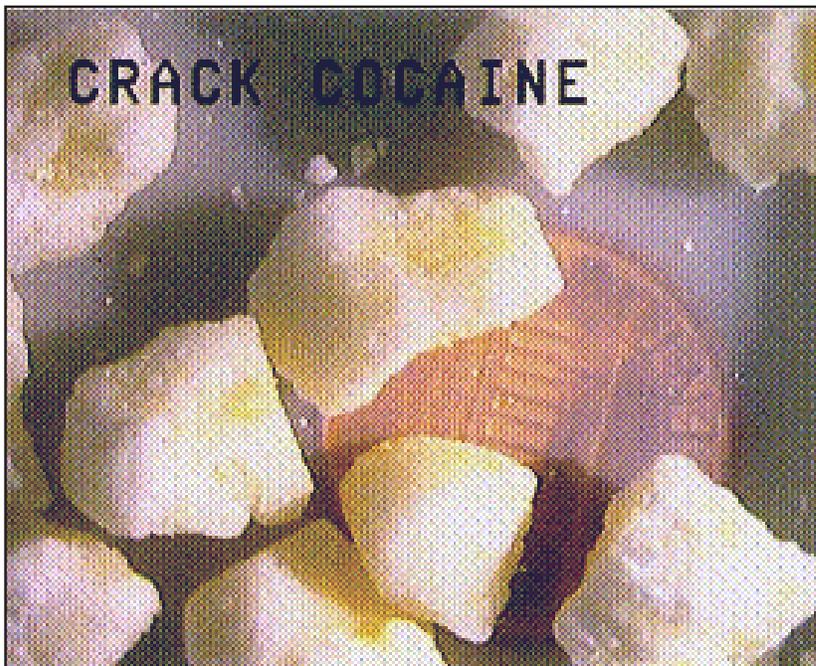
To seek help in dealing with a substance abuse problem, alcohol or drugs, contact a chaplain, a commander, or an alcohol and drug control officer. Art Juntunen can be reached at (800) 843-2769 ext. 3985. The Army Center for Substance Abuse Programs can

also provide some useful information and can be found at www.acsap.org.

It doesn’t matter how well liked Pvt. Snuffy is, or how many funny stories he can come up with. If he comes up positive in the bio-chemical testing, his funny stories won’t save him. Art Juntunen has heard them all. The tests don’t lie. ♣

By Spc. Tony M. Lindback
364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, MN

“The Army isn’t interested in getting rid of soldiers,” said Juntunen, “we’re interested in getting our soldiers healthy.”



Making copies

Document Center generates rave reviews, cost savings

When the 88th Regional Support Command decided to develop the 88th RSC Document Center at Fort Snelling, Minn., it was driven by one thing – customer service.

“We noticed that out in the field, when subordinates wanted things copied in bulk, it was very time-consuming and just an overall hassle for them to go through the Defense Printing Agency,” said Don Alf, an information management specialist with the 88th RSC G-6 (information management directorate). “Our goal was to create an efficient, customer-friendly method for getting access to high-speed, high-volume duplication for our units.”

The result of that goal, the 88th RSC Document Center, drew rave reviews, even from outside the command.

“I’m really impressed, I wish we could run 100 of my own employees through here,” said Michael Brannigan, senior vice president for Public Sector Operations for Xerox, which partnered with the 88th RSC in developing the center. “We talk the concept of enterprise-wide print management. Unfortunately, with our technology, it’s a concept. What you’ve taken is that concept, and you’ve implemented it. You’ve integrated it with your workstations, you have an enterprise-wide strategy.”

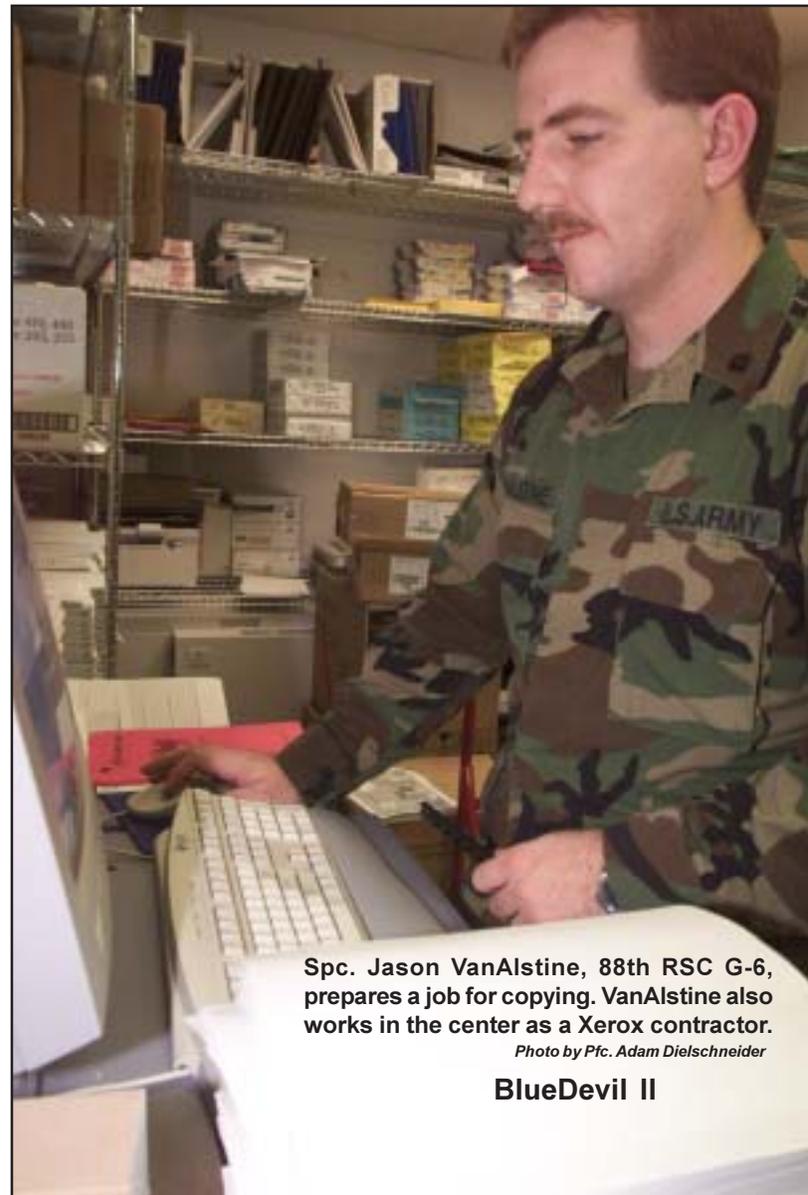
“What would tend to be unique (about the 88th RSC Document Center) is that it’s the full enterprise; it’s black and white, it’s color, it’s office, it’s remote,” Brannigan added. “You have 30,000 people with access to a copy center. You’re implementing it on an enterprise-wide basis.”

Implementing it on an RSC-wide basis has allowed the RSC to reap greater cost savings. When copies were being made at the units using unit printers, the average cost ran about \$.10 a page, Alf said. When using a network copier, the cost runs about \$.01 a page, saving thousands of dollars.

More savings resulted from not having to pay the 15 percent handling fee the Government Printing Office charges. Consolidating all the bulk printing orders into one location not only saved additional money, it allowed the 88th RSC to add new services.

“In our setup here, one person can do the work of five people,” Alf said. “What’s even better is we get away from just the traditional stapling. We can bind, we can staple, we can put it in nice presentation folders. I don’t want to compare ourselves with a miniature Kinkos, but we’re pretty close to it. Just about anything they can do, we can do.”

All of which has led to very satisfied customers. “Every time I’ve called them, they’ve responded right away and met all my suspenses on time,” said Command Sgt.



Spc. Jason VanAlstine, 88th RSC G-6, prepares a job for copying. VanAlstine also works in the center as a Xerox contractor.

Photo by Pfc. Adam Dielschneider

BlueDevil II

Maj. John Vacho, 397th Engineer Battalion. "I've got no complaints as to quality. It's easily accessible. You can go in right off the intranet page. They give you all the examples. It's a pretty self-explanatory process. There's a place for special instructions, and even a phone number to call if you have to. I've used that a few times. I'm very satisfied."

The satisfaction level of remote users like Vacho (who is submitting his jobs from Ladysmith, Wis.) is a big part of what has made the Document Center successful. The 88th RSC created a job submission tool called *Docuquest*, which is part of the 88th RSC intranet. It's a user-friendly method of sending an item and a job request to the document center in real time, as fast as an email can be done. Then the job can be produced and sent out that day or the day after.

"That is not something that we see very often," said Brannigan. "I'm not aware of any other customer that has deployed such an elegantly simple tool. It's a beautiful tool that is so simple to use. You're driving work to the devices electronically over the network. The savings there in terms of time, in terms of waiting time, in terms of elimination of lost (print) jobs – there are so many ways you're saving, and you're properly using the technology you've invested in. That was very impressive, we don't see that often."

"Another thing I'm impressed with is you've not just implemented a technology change, you've implemented a management change in terms of the information you're managing," added Brannigan. "Now you can manage the progress. You've got a very sophisticated management information system to monitor literally by device, usage, print usage, cost, savings, projected savings. You've not just gone ahead and done something, but (Randy Ciechna, 88th RSC CIO) put together a business process around it to see that it actually doing what was planned."

"The proof," said Lola Beggs, National Account Manager for the Department of the Army. "That's what I think Xerox should do a better job of helping its customers understand. How do (customers) put this down so that it's proof of capability, proof of the right use of resources. Here, Mr. Ciechna, Mr. Alf, Mr. Mahowald have really got it so that it's on paper."

"We have too many times, with all good intentions, large installations of people that say 'print migration is the way we can save money,' but they don't put the clout behind the action," Beggs added. "And it doesn't happen. They don't get the savings. We (Xerox) can spin our wheels from now to the next millennium and we can't force it. Here, you've got direction and leadership. Everybody is on board." ♦

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

Doc Center Guide

Use the 88th RSC Document Center for high-volume reproduction needs. Jason VanAlstine, a Xerox contractor, runs the Document Center, and can help you with producing a professional high-quality product. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 0730 to 1600 and scheduled 88th RSC HHC drill weekends.

A variety of colored paper stocks are available, as well as various binding types and 3-hole punched paper. The Document Center can cut non-standard size paper for special projects. Production times will vary depending on job size, binding requirement and current workload. Average times are:

- Small (5,000 pages): 1-2 days (Note: A case of paper has 5,000 sheets in it).
- Medium (15,000 pages) 2-3 days
- Large (20,000 pages or more) 5-10 days

Hard copy originals are best requested in person, though you can mail the request to us. Complete the 88th RSC Form 25-6R Duplication Request Form, which is available on the 88th RSC Intranet Publications site or at the Document Center door. Include the pick-up date and a good mailing address, if needed. Do not use ASAP as a due date.

The preferred method for printing requests is *Doc-U-Quest*, a networked-based application. By attaching any .doc, .pdf, or a number of other types of files, you can easily and quickly transmit a job request to the Document Center. To submit a *Doc-U-Quest* just go to the 88th RSC Intranet and look in the middle box labeled "APPLICATIONS", click on "MORE APPLICATIONS", and scroll down until "Document Center Reproduction Request" appears. Click on that, and it will bring you to *Doc-U-Quest*, an electronic form similar to the walk-up version. READ all instructions!

Document Center staff are not proof readers. Provide an original that is the finished product.

The Document Center's phone is 1-800-843-2769, ext 13507, and the E-mail address is MW.DOC.CENTER@usarc-emh2.army.mil.

For more information, contact Donald A. Alf, information management specialist, at 1-800-THE ARMY, ext. 3047.

Education opportunities

Army Reserve educational assistance programs abound. Is one right for you?

Then Vice President Dan Quayle, during a speech at a United Negro College Fund conference, referred to the organization's slogan by saying, "What a waste it is to lose one's mind - or not to have a mind. How true that is." Garbled as his quote was, the former vice president did have one thing right: continued education is a valuable opportunity that should not be wasted. The U.S. Army agrees.

"Higher education enhances the combat readiness of the Army by supporting the development of confident, competent leaders," said Barb Stetler, Education Service Specialist at the 88th Regional Support Command. "Promoting lifelong learning opportunities assists our soldiers in enhancing their job performance, skill qualifications, and career growth, both in the Army Reserve and their civilian occupation."

The 88th RSC's higher education mission is built around four programs: Tuition Assistance, Montgomery GI Bill, DAN TES Testing Program, and Military Evaluation Program. Each program has different eligibility requirements and forms. Soldiers can find out if they are eligible for the GI Bill through their unit and should be able to obtain all required forms. Stetler said soldiers with questions regarding all other education benefits should call their local education office.

Tuition Assistance

A core education benefit for Army Reservists, Tuition Assistance is nevertheless contingent upon Congressional and Department of the Army fiscal year allotments. The key word here is benefit.

"Soldiers seem to think that by being in the Army Reserves, they are guar-

anteed tuition assistance dollars," said Stetler. "Tuition assistance is a benefit, not an entitlement. All eligible soldiers can apply for tuition assistance."

- According to information from the Education center, to be eligible, a soldier must:

tion of the course for which tuition assistance is provided, and ...

- Request for tuition assistance must be approved before course begins.

If eligible, a soldier may be reimbursed 75 percent of tuition costs, up to \$187.50 per semester hour or \$125 per



- A drilling reservist in good standing, and ...
- Completed BCT, and ...
- Attending a Department of Education approved institution of higher education, and ...
- Declare an educational goal leading to a technical certificate or a credential higher than one's current degree level (capped at master's level), and ...
- Earning one's first credential at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's level, and ...
- If enlisted, have sufficient time remaining on enlistment contract to complete the course before separation. If a commissioned officer or warrant officer, one must serve four years in the Selected Reserve upon comple-

quarter hour and \$3500 per fiscal year.

To apply for tuition assistance, soldiers need to fill out DA Form 2171-E, Request for Tuition Assistance - Army Continuing Education System.

Montgomery GI Bill

All eligible officers, warrant officers, and enlisted soldiers in the Selected Reserve can apply for the Montgomery GI Bill to help take a chunk out of tuition costs for technical, undergraduate, or graduate courses.

Enlisted soldiers who sign a six-year contract, complete initial active duty for training and a have high school diploma or equivalent are entitled to the benefit. Officers must sign a service agreement (DA Form 5447-R) to become eligible.

Once eligible, reservists have 36 months of full-time benefits, and ten

years to use them or lose them. The monthly amount awarded can be up to \$267 (adjusted each October), depending on enrollment status. Take more credits, get more money.

Soldiers receiving benefits who are activated and forced to withdraw from school will have their entitlements restored for the period of the term completed. Soldiers must inform their school and VA counselor that they are being activated. Failure to properly withdrawal from school will mean a loss of entitlements that cannot be recouped. Local education offices can answer any questions about activation and potential loss of benefits.

DANTES Testing Program

Think you know enough about Western Civilization 101 that you can take the final exam now? Then DANTES is for you. Offered by the Department of Defense, DANTES Testing Program provides “credit-by-examination” that allows soldiers to earn accredited, academic credit for what they already know. Credits earned can be used towards almost any college degree. Testing is free at military testing sites and reimbursable at national testing sites.

College Credit-by-Examination tests include College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) and Excelsior College Examinations. DANTES also offers College Admission Tests. These include ACT Assessment Test, Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Graduate Record Examinations (GREs) and Praxis Series.

For more information, soldiers can click on <http://voled.doded.mil>

Military Evaluation Program

One way to get around your college’s pesky Physical Education requirements is try to have all that hard labor you did in the military applied for credit. Many colleges will accept military schools and Military Occupational Specialties for credit. These credit recommendations are published in The Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Forces (ACE Guide). To receive credit, soldiers must give their college an ARRTS transcript or an “Application for the Evaluation of Learning Experiences During Military Service (DD Form 295).” Then it’s up to the school.

“Soldiers think that their college must accept the recommendations published in the ACE Guide,” said Stetler. “The ACE Guide is a recommendation and actual credits earned are controlled by each college or university’s policy regarding granting nontraditional education credits.”

The resources are there. The opportunities are there. Getting started may be easier than spelling “potato,” but it’s still up to each soldier to make the effort and take advantage of the various education benefits offered. ♣

By Staff Sgt. Dave Boe
364th MPAD, Ft. Snelling, Minn.

88th RSC Education Counseling Staff

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New online pay system, myPay, debuts

A new online pay account management system debuted Oct. 15 and promises improved service and information security to military members, DoD civilians, military retirees and annuitants.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service system, called myPay [<https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>], replaces the previous Employee/Member Self-Service online system. The site requires users' Web browsers be equipped with 128-bit encryption to conduct secure transactions.

A revamped page design helps myPay users find information and complete transactions more quickly, officials noted. They receive clear confirmation messages.

Self-service online pay management systems like myPay let service members focus on their mission by eliminating worries and hassles associated with pay and benefits, said DFAS Director Tom Bloom.

Through myPay, he said, authorized customers can use existing Employee/Member Self-Service personal identification numbers to:

- View, print and save leave and earnings statements.
- View and print tax statements (military members will have this service available in January 2003).

tary members will have this service available in January 2003).

- Change federal and state tax withholdings.
- Update bank account and electronic funds transfer information.
- Manage allotments (service varies according to military branch).
- Edit address information (service varies according to military branch).
- Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds (service varies according to military branch).
- Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment (military only).
- View and print travel vouchers (service varies according to service branch and travel status).

Using myPay saves the military and taxpayers millions of dollars in printing, postage and customer service costs, DFAS officials noted. In fact, they said, DoD could save nearly \$6 million a year if all its civilian personnel received electronic leave and earning statements.

DFAS officials said answering common questions and allowing account updates online could save an estimated 17 percent of costs associated with traditional customer-service activities.

Customers who use myPay can do anything online that they previously had to stand in line to do, Bloom pointed out.

Customers needing new personal identification numbers can access the myPay Web site [<https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>] at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>. Civilian employees, active Air Force and Marine Corps, all reservists, and military retirees and annuitants receive PINs by mail. For a new PIN, click "need new PIN." Log on to myPay once the PIN arrives in the mail.

Active Army and Navy service members may request PINs by faxing name, Social Security number, phone number, signature and copy of a government ID to DFAS at 1-216-522-5800. After two business days, log on to myPay using the last five SSN digits of as the PIN and follow the instructions provided to customize the PIN.

Customers with questions about myPay can call customer support toll-free at 1-800-390-2348, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern time. ♦

American Forces Press Service

Absences could end MGIB-SR

Slected Reserve members who use education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) but fail to participate satisfactorily in the Reserve during their obligated period of service will have to refund their unearned benefits.

Examples include members who excessively fail to attend scheduled training, fail the physical fitness testing or do not complete required military courses.

Selected Reservists are generally members who have attended training

one weekend each month and two weeks a year.

Reservists who accrue nine or more unauthorized absences from drills over a one-year period are placed into the "unsatisfactory" category. They then could be transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve and may lose their eligibility for educational assistance under the MGIB-SR.

Such a penalty is specified in law and is a provision of the contract Guard and Reserve members sign when joining the Selected Reserve. ♦

GI Bill benefits increase

As of Oct. 1, Montgomery GI Bill benefits have increased. Servicemem-

bers can now receive up to \$900 a month (up from the previous \$800) in education benefits with at least three years of active duty experience. Selected Reserve members saw a slight increase in benefits, from \$272 a month to \$276 a month. For more information on the GI Bill and how to take advantage of it, see Education Opportunities, page 22, or check out http://www.military.com/Education/Content?file=gi_bill_benefits.htm ♦

Direct commissions; unraveling the myth

The 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) continues to look for qualified soldiers seeking a commission in the United States Army Reserve. This article focuses on one of the more misunderstood commissioning programs – direct appointment.

Currently, there are four paths a soldier may follow to earn a commission: the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program, federal or state Officer Candidate School (OCS), and Direct Appointment.

Traditionally, the Direct Appointment route, also commonly referred to as direct commissioning, had been offered only to those soldiers or civilians seeking appointment through the Army Medical Department, the Judge Advocate General's Corps, or the Chaplain's Branch.

However, with the changing times and increasing qualifications of the soldier and civilian, a direct appointment may be available to those that possess vital skills and/or unique professional training or experience. As a direct appointee, soldiers/civilians have an opportunity to share those experiences and learn more about military leadership in the process.

There are other benefits to becoming an officer through the direct appointment route. In accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 135-7, appointees are eligible for tuition assistance and Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits.

It is no mystery that the direct appointment route can be the most expedient method to receiving a commission. However, there are still requirements IAW AR 135-100 that the soldier/civilian must meet in order to apply. The soldier/civilian must:

- be no older than 32 years and 6 months by the time of commissioning. This requirement may be waived under special circumstances
- be a U.S. citizen or a lawful resident (applicants for Military Intelligence (MI) and Civil Affairs Branches must be citizens of the United States)
- possess a SECRET security clearance before appointment.
- meet the minimum height/weight requirements and APFT standards
- either have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or documentation showing a minimum ACT score of 19 or a minimum SAT score of 850. Test results may not be older than 6 years old
- achieve a minimum GT score of 110. While this requirement cannot be waived, applicants may retest to attempt a better score
- pass a Type "A" medical examination

The direct appointment program is an excellent opportunity for qualified soldiers and civilians wishing to contribute more to the United States Army Reserves. The myth is dispelled and the following saying holds true: it's not just for doctors, attorneys, and chaplains.

For more information on the direct appointment program, please contact Major Daniel Forsberg; 612.713.3858; daniel.forsberg@usarc-emh2.army.mil or Lieutenant Colonel Greg Johnson; Gregory.Johnson@usarc-emh2.army.mil. ♣

By Capt.. Rob Schryver, 88th RSC G-1, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Be wise, immunize; Command surgeon says flu shots help

Have you wondered why the military makes a fuss about soldiers receiving annual flu shots? Well, wonder no longer. Receiving a shot is the best way to reduce contracting influenza.

In 1919, five million people died in this country from the Spanish influenza. Years later, the flu still makes too many soldiers ill and on rare occasions, causing death. Troops of all ages are to be aware of the dangers of influenza and how important it is to receive the flu shot vaccination in a timely manner.

The shots are provided at various locations and prices. Active duty personnel are required to take the flu shot while Reservists are encouraged. It is covered by most insurance companies, including Tricare.

The best time to receive this immunization is from mid October to mid November, but it is beneficial if given up to the end of January. The injection is a killed virus; you cannot get the flu from the flu shot. At times, in building resistance, soldiers may experience flu-like symptoms, however.

Whether you immunize or not, it is important to take precautionary measures to lower the risk of contracting the flu. Dress in layers when necessary, drink plenty of fluids, and exercise good hygiene practices such as washing your hands and not sharing beverages. In light of our current events, an immunization from any disease is an easy way to prevent a serious and potentially life-threatening illness. **Be wise, immunize.** ♣

By Col. Jimmie Browning, Command Surgeon, 88th RSC

Prevention of sexual harassment

This thing called sexual harassment seems so cut and dry, so easy to understand and stop. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Several months ago, Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley, 88th Regional Support Command commander, signed a memorandum directing all members (soldiers and civilians) to complete the on-line Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) training not later than Oct. 15.

Several thousand soldiers and civilians completed the task on time. If you haven't completed the training, please do so. The Equal Employment Opportunity staff from Fort McCoy distributes the training through the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC) homepage and you use your AKO user ID and password to access the site.

Initial technical concerns have been worked out. Participants soon realized there was more to this training than they thought.

The old days of gathering in the drill hall, throwing up slides and hoping

folks paid attention to the lecture is coming to an end. Online POSH training is designed to be a one-on-one lesson containing four modules that ask the participant questions every step of the way. You cannot proceed until you answer the questions correctly.

At the end of the four modules, you're given a 15-question true/false test. You must score a 70 percent or above to pass. Your notice of completion is registered in a database at Ft. McCoy and quarterly updates are forwarded to 88th RSC.

Units having problems rotating personnel through due to lack of computers may elect to do a few collective sessions. Ensure you have someone that completed the training, set-up a laptop or computer with Internet capability along with a proxima projector. Discuss each module as a group, then administer the 15-question test and grade it.

The results, along with names and SSNs should be forwarded to Ms. Andrea Shealy, Labor Relations Specialist or Richard Cox, Military Equal

Opportunity Specialist. Both are on the global e-mail or can be reached at 1-800-843-2769 x 3839 or 3053.

Feedback from many soldiers and civilians completing the training has been interesting. Most participants claim a new awareness, as well as clarification in many areas. The most frequent response to me is "Before this training I really never understood about Hostile Environment or Third Party Sexual Harassment".

Will this training eliminate sexual harassment? Unfortunately, no. Does the training have an impact and will it help reduce incidents of sexual harassment? My answer is a resounding *yes*.

This is a giant step forward using technology and innovation to teach a topic that seems so easy yet remains complex. This training is helping build cohesion and understanding by clarifying what is and is not sexual harassment. Every step forward is a step in the right direction. ♣

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

Hometown news releases needed

When a soldier receives an award, is promoted, or deploys, fill out a hometown news release form (DD Form 2266) and send it to the 88th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office, 506 Roeder Circle, Fort Snelling, MN 55111.

Hometown news releases give soldiers well-deserved recognition and help educate the public as to what the military is all about. 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 will not support the military. ♣

Donations for Operation USO Care Package

Stars and Stripes reports that the United Services Organization (USO) has launched a worldwide "Operation USO Care Package" program, asking affiliates across the globe to pitch in and provide deployed troops with toiletries and sundries needed to ease their deployments.

Since autumn 2001, staffers from USO headquarters in Washington have mailed kits to those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, and provided others to military police assigned to guard the Pentagon and other facilities in the nation's capital. The USO also accepts donations to help with the program; \$25 will cover the cost of one package.

People can also post messages to servicemembers at <http://www.defendamerica.mil>, <http://www.anyservice.member.org> and operationdearabby.net. More information on USO packages is available by calling 866-USO-GIVE or on the Internet at <http://www.usometrodc.org>. For more on family and individual help programs, visit http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=Active_Family.htm.

Please do not send large donations directly to servicemembers, e.g. the results of a school donation drive. Such attempts pose logistical problems for the military mail system and interfere with normal mail delivery. ♣

Chaplain's travels spark opportunity for people to...

Pay it forward

The movie "Pay It Forward" starring Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment showed how one person, a little boy, could change the world. Trevor McKinney (Osment) came up with a plan to fix the things that he didn't like in the world. He called it, *pay it forward*.

The idea was to do a favor to three people, something big. Something they couldn't do on their own. Instead of those three people paying the favor back, the next day they pay it forward to three other people. With everyone paying it forward, in two weeks, 4,782,969 people will have been helped.

The 88th Regional Support Command's Assistant Staff Chaplain, AGR, Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., has come up with a way for anyone and everyone who travels to pay it forward.

While Beale was traveling he realized how many of the personal health care products that come complimentary at hotels he collected, but had no need for.

"I had all these bars of soap that I didn't need, but I new someone out there does. I figured what's the sense in stock piling all of this stuff when someone else could use it," said Beale. "I decided to donate all of this stuff to shelters in the area."

Beale knew he wasn't the only one at the 88th RSC headquarters that traveled, so he spread the word and set a collection box in front of the door to his office. Since February, 2001, he has collected 684 pounds of materials to date.

Delivering these gifts to a different shelter in the area every month, he gives to each one once per year. Dropping off soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower caps, hand lotions, razors, and other complimentary health care products, Beale isn't changing anyone's life, but possibly making it a little better.

"It's important that we do things like this in our com-



Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Beale delivers donations to Caring and Sharing Hands, a Minnesota charity. Beale was a captain at the time of the picture. U.S. Army photo

munity," said Beale. "We are trying to project our command. We are trying to show that we are a part of our community, not apart from our community. As reservists, we are citizen soldiers. Showing that we are from the community we work in and that we care about our community is very important.

"It's so simple," added Beale. "What we are doing isn't rocket science. I just wonder why we haven't done this before. Anyone can do it. Unit administrators, commanders, chaplains at other posts, anyone can set a box out for collections."

"I think about what Christ said when I think of us helping other people, 'When you've done to one of the least of these, you've done it on to me,' meaning when you've shown love to a complete stranger, you've shown love unto me.

"I would like to hear about any other people who take this opportunity to do the same. They can just drop me a line through email (kenneth.beale@usarc-emh2.army.mil)," said Beale.

Getting out to the public and projecting the command is something anyone can do. Becoming a soldier required raising the right hand and repeating an oath, becoming part of the community requires going out into it and showing a little bit of care.

Paying it forward to more than just three people, Beale is getting a jump start on trying to send good deeds. ♦

By Spc. Tony M. Lindback
364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

"We are trying to show that we are a part of our community, not apart from our community."



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