

OUT aining

m page 13

provided by the purpose build facility also added to the training.

The MOUT site is run from a central control tower with the ability to change sounds in an intricate sound system. Also controlled from the tower are pyrotech-

“We had some good hostile demonstrator exercises,” said Arnold. “Our troops had to deal with the hostile environments that they could face.”

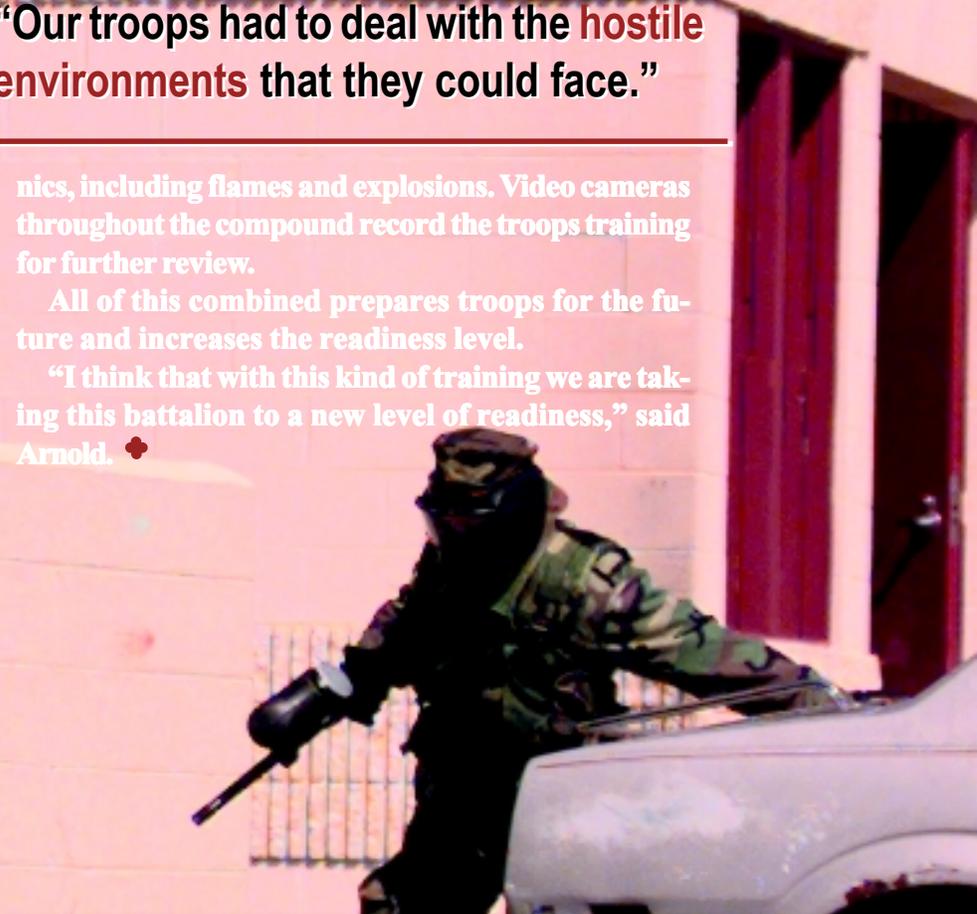
tics, including flames and explosions. Video cameras throughout the compound record the troops training for further review.

All of this combined prepares troops for the future and increases the readiness level.

“I think that with this kind of training we are taking this battalion to a new level of readiness,” said Arnold. ✚



(Right) 88th Regional Support Command soldiers control an enemy soldier during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Training at Fort Knox.



Powerlifting

706th Trans. Co. soldiers did some heavy lifting for the community

Soldiers of the 706th Transportation Company, Detachment One, helped out the Kenton, Ohio, community recently with some power lifting.

Members of the detachment used their trucks and equipment during drill to take 15 Nautilus weightlifting machines from the city of Sidney's YMCA to Kenton's, a convoy of about 65 miles.

The 706th company is headquartered in Mansfield, Ohio.

"We'd never have been able to do it without them," said Beth Hull, the Kenton YMCA's health and fitness director. "They were just wonderful."

The Kenton YMCA is in a newly constructed facility, which opened about a year ago, and was in need of the Nautilus equipment.

In Sidney, the YMCA had recently bought new Nautilus machines and instead of selling the old machines back to the company, took bids to sell them, Hull said.

"We happened to be the quickest to put a bid in," she said.

The used equipment cost the Kenton YMCA \$5,000, while the same machines, if new, would have cost \$30,000, Hull said.

The reserve unit came into play when it came time for the YMCA to move the equipment to Kenton. The machines weigh 200 pounds or more on average, she said.

"We had a convoy move on the training schedule for Sunday," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Menard, a 706th soldier who lives in Kenton. "So, it fit right in the schedule."

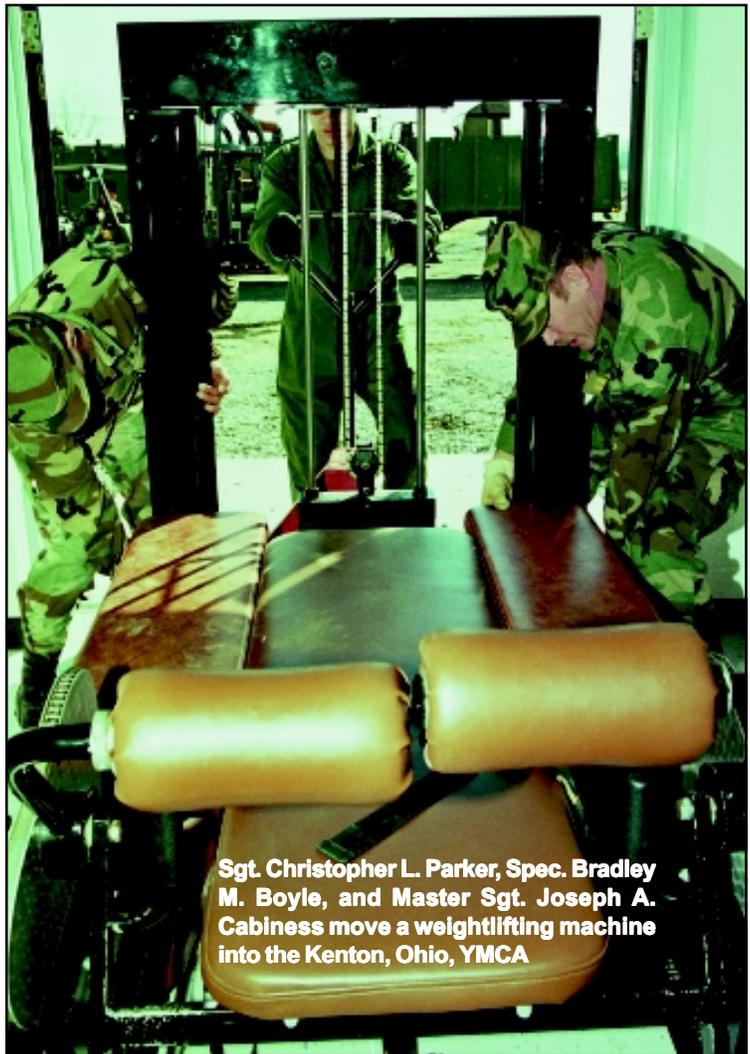
The unit sent soldiers to figure the best route during their Saturday's drill. On Sunday, they picked up the equipment from Sidney with a forklift, a truck and flat bed trailer and two Humvees.

"We got training on driving on the road, which is what we want them to do during drill," Menard said.

Even the unit's forklift operator got training, loading the machines in and out of the truck, as well as maneuvering the equipment to and from the buildings.

"It's good training," said Spec. Joseph Hutton, the unit's forklift operator. "We got to operate the equipment and we got to do a convoy."

Helping in the community is also a good recruiting tool, he said.



Sgt. Christopher L. Parker, Spec. Bradley M. Boyle, and Master Sgt. Joseph A. Cabness move a weightlifting machine into the Kenton, Ohio, YMCA

"Younger kids, up to high school, got to see what we're doing and if it affects them, they'll possibly join themselves," Hutton said.

"It's just invaluable training, plus it helps the community," Menard said.

The Kenton community has always supported the unit, said Sgt. Timothy Lamb, who was in charge of the convoy.

"When we left for Desert Storm, they had a big shindig downtown for us," he said. "They have been really supportive of us."

The higher headquarters for the 706th, the 645th Area Support Group, recently asked units and soldiers to get involved in the community, Menard said.

"Project the command' is their terminology for it," he said. "I've always wanted to do this. Now, I've been given the direction to do it."

Menard said he has made contact with other community leaders and hopes to get involved in more local projects in the future. ♣

Maintenance

HHC, 397th Eng. Bn. wins runnerup, MTO&E category, in AAME competition

By Mike Walton, 88th RSC Public Affairs Office, Fort Snelling, Minn.

“Maintenance is everything” Master Sgt. Mark Erath said, his face beaming with pride. As the 88th RSC’s senior maintenance NCO, he has been promoting and tracking the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) program for the last four years.

Erath is proud because one of the recently announced winners for the fiscal year 2000 AAME program is the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 397th Engineer Battalion of Eau Claire, Wis., which placed runner up in the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTO&E) Intermediate category.

The Department of the Army established the AAME program in 1982 to recognize exceptional accomplishments in unit maintenance across the full spectrum of Combat Arms, Combat Service and Combat Service Support units, officials said.

This year’s competition places greater emphasis on the unit’s total maintenance program in support of mission accomplishment, said Maj. Richard B. O’Connor, coordinator for the awards program in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.

“This isn’t something that the full timers just put together and send in – this required the total unit participation,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Odenius, the full time motor sergeant at the 397th. “Everyone who even touches maintenance – that means the soldiers who perform the PMCS (Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services) on up to the mechanics, the Armorer, the PLL (Prescribed Load List) Clerk –

even the S-1 (Personnel) folks – everyone is involved in this.”

Erath said that maintenance is not just performed by the specialized personnel found in each unit. “Everyone performs maintenance – from the web harness you wear, to the vehicles, tents, commo gear – and that’s what this program’s all about.”

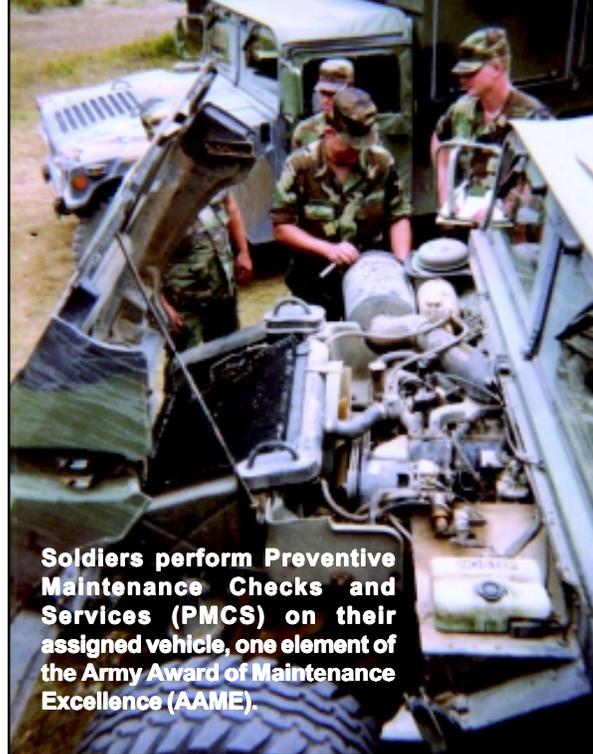
But the personnel folks and supply clerks? What do they have to do with maintenance?

“The supply clerks have to insure that maintenance supplies are being ordered and that they are not ordering bogus or excess parts,” Erath explained. “And questions that the evaluation team looks at are, ‘does the unit have the right manuals to do the maintenance?’ and, ‘Do they have the correct number of manuals for the vehicles?’ You can’t do PMCS the right way without the manual. That’s why everyone is involved in this.”

The awards program evaluates five areas in the maintenance program: mission accomplishments, readiness, maintenance training, maintenance management and innovative execution. The program focuses on maintenance operations in company, battery and troop-size units. In competing, units not only improve their maintenance and operational readiness, they also reduce waste, and improve their efficiency, O’Connor said.

“All units can compete, even small detachments and teams with limited

excellence



Soldiers perform Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) on their assigned vehicle, one element of the Army Award of Maintenance Excellence (AAME).

U.S. Army photo

equipment because maintenance is maintenance,” Erath stated. The unit performs their own self assessment and posts their results in each of those areas within the entry binder. The unit’s commander then certifies this self-assessment.

If an entry reaches the Department of the Army-level competition, an evaluation team visits to basically validate the contents of the book.

“Not knowing what they want to see,” was the hardest part of the inspection visit, Odenius said. “Because we didn’t know what they were looking for when they arrived, we had to make sure that everything was just right. We had a inspection sheet and some guidance, but that was the hardest part.” Hard, but successful.

“The continued success of this outstanding program is due to the efforts of the program coordinators at the major commands, like Mark (Erath)” O’Connor said, “and the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School.” ♦

Cold weather, rain, and a shortened time frame didn't keep 88th RSC soldiers from ... **going for GAFET gold**

A cold rain fell on the servicemembers as they stood at the starting line, preparing mentally for the first event of the test. Soon, all 66 of the participants would find out how prepared they were.

The servicemembers, including many from the 88th Regional Support Command, traveled to Camp Dodge, Iowa, May 4, 5 and 6 to compete in the German Armed Forces Efficiency Test. More punishing than the Army Physical Fitness Test, the contest, known as GAFET, was originated by the Bundeswehr (German Army) on February 13, 1971, and is regarded to be one of the world's most challenging military contests.

This year's contest was hosted by 3rd Corps Support Command, Des Moines, Iowa.

"We have mostly Army Reserve soldiers this year," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Zdunich, training noncommissioned officer for 3rd COSCOM. "But we really like seeing as many servicemembers as possible get to participate. We have one Navy seaman this year, the rest Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard."

"To earn the GAFET medal is such a challenge, more servicemembers should get involved," said Zdunich.

"This is a difficult test," said Capt. Martin Schulz, 2nd Psychological Operations Company from Parma, Ohio,

as he acknowledged the steady rain. "This feels like a typical Bavarian spring day – cold and rainy."

"We're here and we're ready. I brought five of our finest soldiers with me, and we all intend to earn a gold medal," said Schulz.

GAFET is much more. It is a three-phased event that combines marksmanship, first aid and physical fitness.

It is difficult to master all events in GAFET in such a short time. German soldiers have a year to complete and demonstrate proficiency in all GAFET events.

For American soldiers who want to wear the GAFET medal on their dress uniforms, all events must be passed over an intense three-day training weekend.

German Sgt. Major Alexander Hammer oversees the event. He is sta-



Capt. Francisco Artley approaches the high jump bar while competing in GAFET 2001.

The physical fitness portion is grueling. During one morning, all soldiers must pass a 200-meter swim; either a long or high jump; a bench press event where the soldier must lift 40 percent of his or her body weight 16 times or a shot put throw; a sprint of 100 or 200 meters; and a distance run of 5,000 meters.

Then the soldiers have lunch.

tioned at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as a chemical corps liaison.

"The difficulty," said Hammer, "is that American soldiers have only three days to pass the GAFET. That's why I am so impressed with the soldiers here. Especially the Reserve soldiers. You stay prepared on limited training time."

The GAFET is broken down by age and gender, and participants can qualify

for either a bronze, silver or gold medal. Soldiers must pass all events to qualify for a medal.

“I train for marathons with my buddy, Master Sgt. Henderson, who is also a member of the 88th RSC,” said Capt. Fransisco X. Artely, a finance officer in the Soldier Support Center at 88th Regional Support Command at Fort Snelling, Minn. “Preparing for GAFET gets me ready for them. The difficult thing is the events we haven’t done since high school, like the high jump.”

“The marksmanship test is a challenge,” added Schulz “because we have to shoot at different targets.”

“Marksmanship is different here,” said Hammer. “In Germany, we train to shoot different silhouettes. In the States, you train on one target for pistol marksmanship. I don’t see the point in killing the same target five times. That’s why we shoot at different targets for our test,” added Hammer.

In one aspect, GAFET is to a soldier what the Iron Man competition is to a triathlon athlete. It encompasses strength and endurance. Events run concurrently. While one group of soldiers is swimming, the others are running track and field. As soon as soldiers complete one area, they must go to the other with little time to rest.

After two days of swimming, track

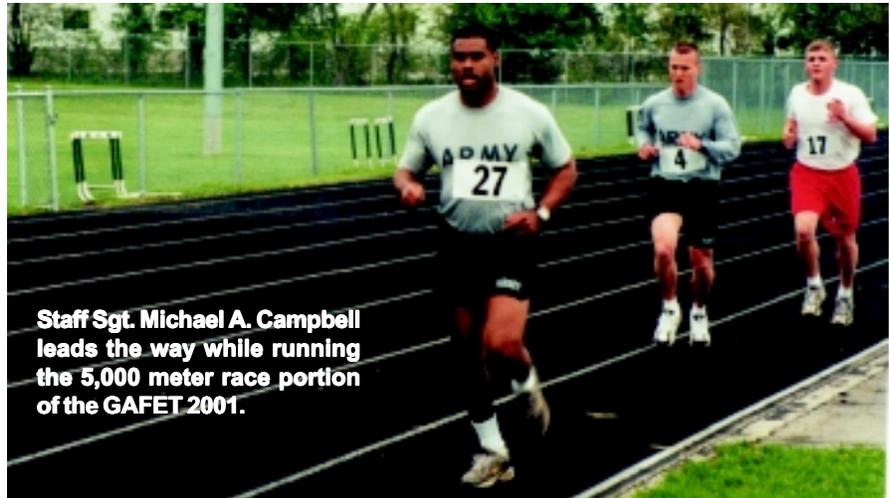
and field, weight lifting, marksmanship and first aid testing, GAFET concludes with a long road march. All soldiers must carry a 22-pound rucksack during their 15-20 kilometer timed trek.

“It’s all worth it at the end. I want

awaited the awards ceremony to find out who the medal winners were.

Fifty-six of the 66 servicemembers earned medals, including 38 gold.

“I am astounded,” said Hammer. “It’s amazing how well the soldiers



Staff Sgt. Michael A. Campbell leads the way while running the 5,000 meter race portion of the GAFET 2001.

to wear the medal,” said Staff Sgt. Michael A. Campbell, the training non-commissioned officer for the 376th Engineer Detachment Firefighters, in Granite City, Ill. “We must maintain a high level of physical fitness to be a firefighter. Preparing for GAFET gives me the well-rounded physical challenge I enjoy. You have to pass so many different events just to qualify.”

After the last of the 66 soldiers completed the road march, fatigue, blisters and sore muscles were forgotten.

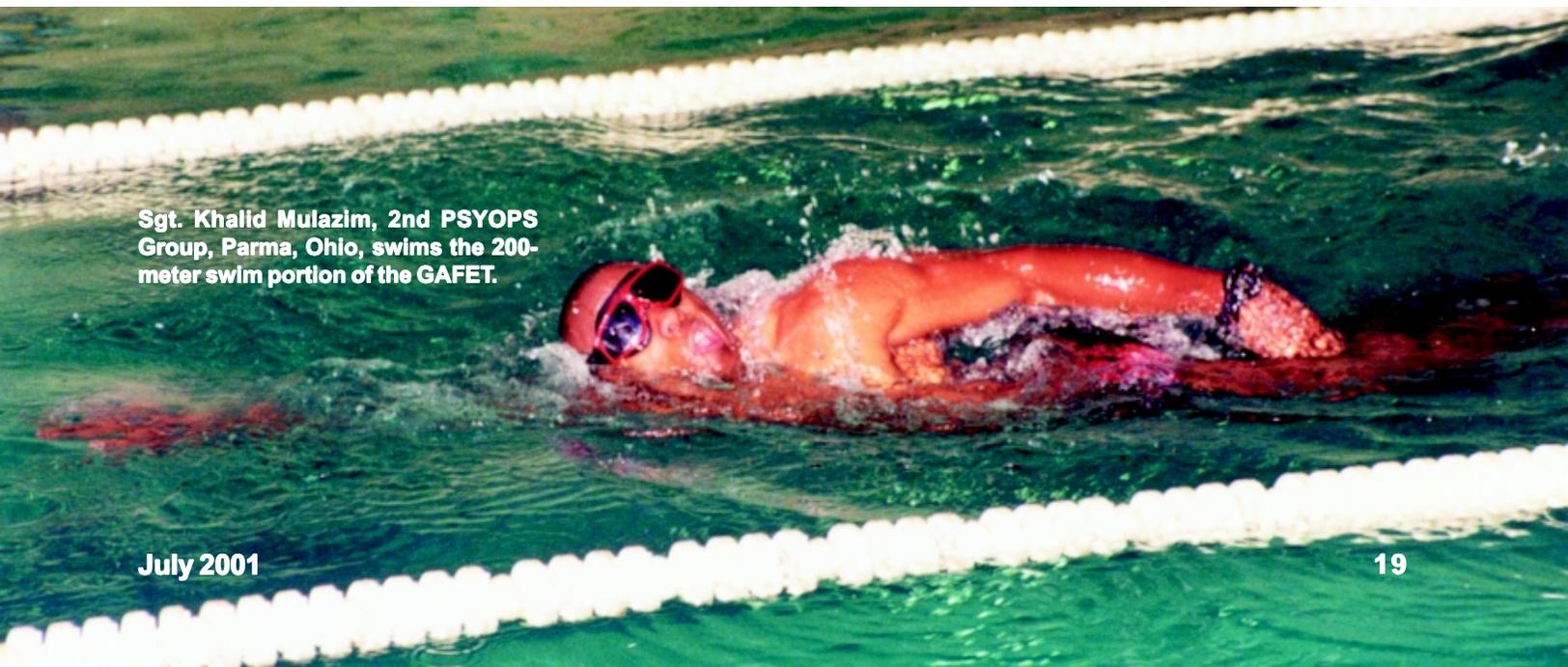
All the GAFET participants

did on this difficult test, and American soldiers did it in only a few days.”

“Wunderbar” was overheard being shouted by many of the American soldiers, many of whom have been stationed in Germany during their military careers and retained a few German words in their vocabulary.

“I missed a gold medal by one event,” said Campbell, who proudly displayed his silver medal. “I’ll be back next year for the gold.” ♦

Sgt. Khalid Mulazim, 2nd PSYOPS Group, Parma, Ohio, swims the 200-meter swim portion of the GAFET.



Outstanding soldiers

The 88th Regional Support Command recognized the 2000 soldier, NCO and AGR soldier of the year at a recent commander's conference. The soldier of the year also won at 1st Army level and competes at FORSCOM level in September.

AGR Soldier of the Year

By Pfc. Melissa Walther, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

Sgt. 1st Class Terry Longworth of the 384th Military Police Battalion was recently selected as the Active Guard/Reserve Soldier of the Year by the 88th RSC, but feels that doing the best job he can, every day, is reward enough.

"I'm just another sergeant," he said. "It feels great to represent the entire 88th RSC."

Longworth, 34, entered the Army after graduating from high school. He had heard his cousin, who was a military police officer at the time, telling stories about his work, Longworth decided he wanted to be one, too. "It

sounded exciting," he said.

After spending his first 10 years on active duty as an MP, Longworth joined the 384th MP Bn. in 1996.

"It's a career," Longworth said. "I'll put in at least 20 years."

Even as a civilian, Longworth was involved in law enforcement, having served as an auxiliary police officer.

Filling the AGR role affords Longworth more time with his family. While on active duty, there were times when he went six or eight weeks without seeing his children because of erratic scheduling. Now he can share time between the job he enjoys and the family he adores.

"The number one ingredient for



Sgt. 1st Class Terry Longworth success is having your family behind you," Longworth said. ♦

NCO of the Year

By Pfc. Melissa Walther, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

The 88th RSC Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Stanforth, manages to juggle his military career, a hectic civilian schedule and life as a single father.

As NCOIC of the 373rd Medical Detachment's dental lab, he makes dental prosthetics and serves as the lab's administrator. Stanforth was recently inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (see story page 21).

Though his military occupation is rewarding and challenging, it's different from his civilian ambition: fire fighting.

This goal led Stanforth to join the Columbus Division of Fire Training Academy, where he could use all his

extra energy. Stanforth said the skills he has gained in the Reserve "most definitely" helped him with the demanding tasks of a firefighter in training. Going before numerous award and promotion boards throughout his 10-year career gave him enough confidence to do well when facing the academy's entrance board. Out of 6,200 applicants, Stanforth ranked 26th out of the 600 cadets accepted.

With cooperation from his unit and academy supervisors, Stanforth still manages to spend time with his 8-year-old daughter, Amber. As a single father, Stanforth and his daughter enjoy birthday parties, hiking and camping.

Considering his busy schedule, "being a father comes first," Stanforth said.

In fact, he left active duty in two



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Stanforth

years ago when he was ordered to Korea, forcing him to leave his daughter behind. Stanforth joined the Reserve in 1999. He plans to stay in for a while, saying he "owes it to the Army." ♦

Soldier of the Year

By Pfc. Alicia Medina, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

Spc. Jean Stackpole, 941st Transportation Company, Fort Sheridan, Ill., was named Soldier of the Year for 1st Army recently.

Stackpole will now compete at FORSCOM level in September. The 24-year-old traffic management coordinator is making quick time since joining the Army Reserve in 1994.

"I love being a soldier. It is the best part-time job ever," Stackpole said, adding that her time in the Reserve has given her life added organization and structure. In addition to her military service, Stackpole is working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing and works part time in telecommunications at an area hospital.

Stackpole was selected Soldier of the Year at 1st Army level after besting the company-, battalion-, and RSC-

level competition last spring.

"It was awesome," Stackpole said, when asked about the 1st Army board. "It was very challenging. I was there with the best of the best. There were a lot of squared-away soldiers there."

Stackpole said there was a wide variety of questions asked at the board, on everything from Land Navigation, to NBC to current events. "They were all tough," she said of the questions. "It was a really tough board. I studied a lot of FM's (field manuals), and some study guides."

Those around her weren't surprised at her success. "She's an excellent soldier," said Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Powel, the unit administrator for the 941st. "She knows what she's doing, and she goes out and does it. She's not a laid back person who just sits around, she's always asking 'Do you have anything I can do.'"

Stackpole, who has never been ac-



Spc. Jean Stackpole

tive duty, went into the Army Reserve to obtain her degree and a commission. So far, she has decided to remain enlisted and "get her hands dirty," she said.

"Being named Soldier of the Year has been a good experience," she said. "It has helped build my confidence. I thank the Army for making me into a better person." ♦

Werner begins Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

The 88th Regional Support Command inducted an inaugural class of five soldiers into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club at the May Commanders Conference.

The Sgt. Audie Murphy club is an organization of noncommissioned officers who have demonstrated performances and inherent leadership qualities and abilities characterized by Sgt. Audie Murphy, an NCO who, as a squad leader, consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism and regard for the welfare of his soldiers.

All 88th RSC AGR and Reserve NCOs, corporal through sergeant first class, are eligible for membership. Candidates are nominated by their battalion command sergeant major, then screened and boarded for membership.



Sgt. Audie Murphy Club inductees, pictured from left with 88th RSC Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner are Sgt. James Reimer, Staff Sgt. Bradley Folczyk, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Stanforth, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Weltzel and Staff Sgt. Paul Workman

Look for more info on the club in the next issue of the Blue Devil II. ♦

Rally for the cure

Reserve soldiers provide water support for Detroit-area Race for the Cure

Maj. Rodney Faulk, 645th ASG
PAO, Southfield, Mich.

Fifteen soldiers from units of the 645th Area Support Group provided positive visible representation of the Army Reserve by supporting over 30,000 participants of the “Race for the Cure” in Detroit recently. The soldiers set up and operated a water station for the participants of the event, a 5-kilometer run (or walk) which benefits research to find a cure for breast cancer.

The Race for the Cure, sponsored by the Karmanos Cancer Institute, is an annual fundraising event. Participants obtain pledges for their participation, and run or walk a 5-kilometer course in the area of Comerica Park and the Detroit VA Hospital. Participants are dedicated to the cause, enduring chilly 50-degree weather and intermittent rain showers to complete the course. In fact, many race participants are cancer survivors. Other participants were relatives of cancer victims and survivors.

The event provided the opportunity for members of the 645th Area Support Group and the 952nd Quartermaster Company to use their military skills to support a worthwhile, charitable event in the community. The 952nd Quar-

termaster Company provided a truck and water trailer, as well as soldiers to operate the water station. The 645th ASG provided overall coordination and soldiers to assist with operation.

Participating soldiers began their day early, reporting to the Southfield U.S. Army Reserve Center at 5:15 a.m. to load vehicles with tables, chairs, and other items before traveling downtown to begin setup for the event. The race began at 9 a.m., and soldiers handed water to runners as they passed. After the event, soldiers cleared discarded cups from a three-block area.

Race participants were grateful for the Army’s assistance and support of the event. Soldiers were greeted with smiles, handshakes, and hearty greetings of “thanks” for their support. The sponsors of the race thanked each soldier personally.

Despite the long day, the soldiers were enthusiastic about the event.

“Everyone went home feeling good about themselves and the fact that they were able to support such a worthy cause,” said Master Sgt. Dan Wettlaufer, 645th ASG. “It speaks well of the Army Reserve that we would rally around a noble community event.” ♦



Getting promoted

Getting the first few promotions should be automatic. What if you want to get promoted early?

First in a three-part series on enlisted promotions. Next issue -- What to do to excel on promotion boards; Time in grade, time in service requirements for sergeant and staff sergeant.

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

You knocked basic out of the way, you just finished AIT, and now you're headed back to your unit. Still no rank on your shoulders. So when is that going to change?

"Everything that (new soldiers) have to meet to become eligible for advancement is for the most part automatic," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kathryn Becher. "They have to meet those mandatory dates, meaning time in grade (how long you have been at your current rank) and time in service (how long you have been in the Army, see sidebar for requirements for promotions through specialist). Once they meet that, it's supposed to be automatic, unless the commander defers it."

"That's all the way up through E-4 (specialist)," said Becher. "At E-4, you also have to hold an MOS (military occupational skill). All the other grades to this point, you don't need to have an MOS. It's not MOS-qualified for the position, it's hold an MOS. That's all there is for E1 - E4."

What that means is if you are a good soldier, show up for drill on time, and do everything you're supposed to do, your promotions should come to you automatically. Then again what *should* happen isn't always what *does* happen. Units may be short staffed and behind on paper work, and mistakes are made. That is why each soldier should know what is going on in his or her own career. If you know

when you are supposed to be promoted, you can make sure your first-line leader is aware of it.

What if you want to be promoted early?

"What we always tell commanders is yeah, you can waive part of it," said Becher. "But you don't want to do that for everybody, you want to do that for the soldiers that are doing the outstanding job, so that they make a difference. If the soldier never comes to drill, you don't want to give him the same thing you give the soldier that comes to drill every month."

Talk to your first-line leader to find out what it takes for your unit to waive part of your time in grade or time in service. Knowing what your unit needs to see from you is the first step towards achieving your goal.

If the unit feels the soldier is ready, all they have to do is the paperwork (DA form 4187). All waivers are done at the commander's discretion, and there is no limit on the number of waivers you can have in your career.

"If they are really sharp, they could be waived for all their promotions," said Becher. "The only time it's really going to hurt them is when they go up for E-5 (sergeant) and E-6 (staff sergeant). Not that it's going to stop them, but if they're going too fast, they may not have the experience."

That lack of experience could hurt. When a soldier's packet goes before the promotion board for consideration for promotion to E-5, there may not be a lot of information on the soldier for the board to consider.

"They'd have to have a lot of military and civilian education, awards, and things for the board to say 'Wow, this guy is really high speed,'" said Becher.



Time in grade -- None.

Time in Service -- Six months from entry on IADT, can waive to two months.



Time in grade -- Four months, can waive to three months.

Time in service -- 12 months, can waive to six months.



Time in Grade -- Six months, can waive to three months.

Time in service -- 24 months, can waive to 12 months.

Time in grade is the amount of time you have been at that rank.

Time in service is the amount of time you have been in the service.

"Otherwise you have a tendency, if a soldier gets there and they've only been in the system for say two years, to say 'Whoa, is he ready for it.' If they are really sharp, they're going to stand out. But it could slow them down when they go for E-5."

Bottom line, know your career. No one else is going to care as much about it as you do. ♣

TRICARE beneficiaries should save receipts

Many new TRICARE benefits will be phased in over the next six to twelve months. A TRICARE news release reports that among the new programs that will be implemented over time are coverage for school-required physicals, reimbursements for certain travel expenses for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, and reduction of retiree catastrophic caps.

In the meantime, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) is advising beneficiaries to save receipts (as well as explanations of benefits and other claims-related information) for these covered services and benefits obtained from Oct. 1, 2000, for application to the fiscal year catastrophic cap, and from Oct. 30, 2000, for the other benefits, until program implementation so they can later obtain reimbursement from the managed care support contractors in their regions.

TMA will widely publish the date upon which beneficiaries may submit claims with the required receipts, and the managed care support contractors will adjudicate claims for dates of service retroactively to the effective date

established by Congress. The latest information about TRICARE benefits can be obtained through the Military Health System/TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

Beneficiaries may also contact the managed care support contractor in their region, their nearest TRICARE service center, or TRICARE beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators at a military treatment facility for more information.

Meanwhile, two new TRICARE benefits became effective April 1. Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers. They will still have to make pharmacy co-payments for the National Mail Order Pharmacy Program and at network retail stores.

Also, there is a new simplified co-pay structure for prescription drugs provided to eligible uniformed services beneficiaries through the TMA pharmacy program. More information on these new benefits is available at the TRICARE Web site. ♦

White named Secretary of the Army

Thomas E. White became the 18th secretary of the Army after being nominated by President George W. Bush, and confirmed by the Senate.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 10, White identified four objectives he will pursue as secretary of the Army in support of the president and the secretary of Defense: to invest in people, to assure readiness, to transform the entire Army and to adopt sound business practices.

The secretary of the Army is the U.S. Army's senior civilian, responsible by statute for all matters relat-

ing to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management. The secretary leads a work force of some one million active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers and 225,000 civilian employees. The department has an annual budget of approximately 70 billion dollars. ♦



Cribbins scholarship

Association of the United States Army officials announced that candidates may apply now for the school year 2001-2002 Cribbins scholarship.

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., AUSA president, instituted the Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins Scholarship in 2000.

The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to provide financial assistance to current or former soldiers entering an accredited college or university and pursuing a degree in engineering or a related field.

The scholarship will be presented on the basis of academic merit and personal achievement to a soldier serving in the active Army, Army National Guard or U.S. Army Reserve, or who has been honorably discharged from any component of the total Army.

To apply, the applicant must show that he or she has been accepted as a freshman to an accredited four-year college or university.

Those soldiers accepted to a military academy are not eligible.

Applicants must complete the form and return it to AUSA at the address below no later than Aug. 15, 2001.

Proof of acceptance as a freshman to an accredited four-year college, a transcript of high school (or equivalent) grades and, in the case of a former soldier, a copy of the DD214 must accompany the application.

Joseph Cribbins acknowledged as one of the foremost experts on aviation logistics, retired from the Army as a civilian employee on Aug. 3, 1992. He retired from the Army in July 1966.

To apply for the scholarship, write to: Association of the U.S. Army
Corporate Secretary
Attn: Cribbins Scholarship
2425 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201 ♦

Ten-Miler team forming

The 88th Regional Support Command Army Ten-Miler championship running team is looking for interested and serious runners to participate in the 17th Annual Army Ten-Miler. In the past four years, the 88th RSC running teams have placed 1st, 1st, 3rd, and 4th, in the Reserve Team Division. This year the 88th is out to defend its championship trophy. The 88th also plans to send several other teams to the Army Ten-Miler (female team, over-40 team or a coed team). Decisions on the number and types of teams will be made just before team selections.

Team selections will be held Aug. 20-23, based on race results within the previous 60 days of selection. Team registration will be sent out no later than the Aug. 31. Runners are asked to submit a racing biography (name, age, address, telephone numbers, unit address, race history) plus results from their qualifying race. 1st. Lt. Francisco Artley, the 88th RSC team captain, will identify races that can be used as qualifiers. He is looking for races that are between 10 and 13 miles, preferably flat courses. Send information on any races that meet this criteria to francisco.artley@usarc-emh2.army.mil or call 1-800-THE-ARMY ext. 3071.

The Army Ten-Miler will be held on Oct. 14. It is the largest ten-mile run in the United States with an expected 16,000 runners this year. The run is hosted by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and the Association of the U.S. Army. Race information is available on the Army Ten-Miler Home Page: www.armytenmiler.com, and on the AUSA Home Page at www.ausea.org. Registration information is also available on the Army Ten-Miler Home Page. The 88th's team registration, team selection, travel, and hotel arrangements, will be handled by Artley and new coordinators Capts. Jacqueline Conlan (ext. 3308), and Lee Gearhart (ext. 3082).

There are many excellent runners within this command. Please put the word out in formations, staff meetings, etc. Last year soldiers called the 88th after the deadline inquiring about the Army Ten-Miler and stating that they had not received any information from their units. Once selections are made the teams cannot be changed. ♦

Plewes gets 3-star promotion

The U.S. Senate confirmed the Presidential nominations of the Reserve Chiefs to three-star rank on May 24.

Among those promoted to lieutenant general is Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve. He becomes the first three-star Chief of the Army Reserve in the 93-year history of the Army Reserve.

Senator John McCain of Arizona read a statement into the Congressional Record about these promotions on May 25. He stated that they were in recognition of how critical the reserves are to the National Military Strategy. He mentioned that 75 percent of the Army force in Bosnia today is either Army Reserve or Army National Guard and that this "highlights the ever-increasing role of reservists in defending America's security interests around the world."



He continued by saying that the confirmation of the Reserve Chiefs to three-star rank in some small measure thanks the "many wonderful reserve servicemen and women who serve in our armed forces" for their dedicated service. He congratulated the Reserve Chiefs and expressed confidence that the reserves would continue to flourish under their leadership.

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen, Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve

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 sol-

diers 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% 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. ♦

Thrift Savings Plan

Soldiers can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001.

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. Servicemembers 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> ♦

New travel rules for Reservists

The U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base has announced an expansion of space-required travel options for reservists traveling for inactive duty training worldwide.

Air Force Print News reports that thanks to the recently enacted Public Law 106-65, Reservists can now travel on Department of Defense aircraft worldwide in a space-required status from their home to their authorized IDT assembly when performing IDT training. ♦

AR-PERSCOM's new IVR helps AGR applicants

The Army Reserve Personnel Command has launched two new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) applications to better support soldiers inquiring about the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program, as well as those requesting information on eligibility and results for designated selection boards. These self-service career management tools enable soldiers and units to call the IVR lines, enter their Social Security numbers, and receive information in the following areas:

AGR Packet Request/Status/Results
* Obtain information about the AGR program and receive instructions on how to complete an AGR application;
* Request an AGR application packet (Customers can also download the AGR application packet at www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil);

* Determine the mailing status of an AGR application that has been requested but has not been received;

* Find out the status of an AGR application that was submitted to this command;

* Determine if an AGR entrance board has met;

* Gain assistance on completing an AGR application;

* Transfer to the USAR Board Support department for assistance.

To use the AGR IVR, call the Full Time Support Management Directorate at (800) 325-4118 or (314) 592-1234; USAR Board Support at (314) 592-0673; or Customer Contact Office at (314) 592-0575.

Promotion Board Eligibility/Promotion Packet Mail-Out/Selection Results and Standby Board

* Determine if a soldier is eligible for an upcoming mandatory board. If initially identified, customers can find out the name, convene date, and recess date of the board;

* Remind soldiers to send in education documents missing from the microfiches sent with their board packets;

* Determine the status of board packet mailings and, if eligible for a board, find out when the packet should be received;

* Board Selection - If a board has completed and results have been released, find out the status of soldiers' selections or non-selections;

* For officer boards, determine if the promotion consideration file reflected whether the soldier was educationally qualified.

* Callers can be transferred to a Standby Board specialist.

To use the Promotions IVR, call the new 800 number (877) 215-9834 or the existing call trees at (314) 592-1200 or (314) 592-1212.

Evaluations - Earlier this year, AR-PERSCOM introduced an IVR system for evaluations. This phone system enables soldiers and units to call in and check the status of the most recent evaluations. Start date, end date, received date, status and completion date of the most recent evaluations are all provided by calling the Evaluations IVR system at (800) 648-5484. ♦

EO a key readiness factor

Throughout its modern history, the U.S. Army has served as the nation's leader by ensuring that positive human relations form the cornerstone for building and maintaining sound, cohesive organizations. Effective human relations and equal opportunity are both moral and operational imperatives for our Army. Just as a poor safety program will threaten a unit's readiness, so too will real or perceived acts of unequal treatment.

Different values and attitudes acquired before enlistment or commissioning do not automatically evaporate or change because someone dons Army green. These differences can lead to the misunderstanding, frustra-

tion, and suspicion of others. Such feelings create serious leadership concerns in any organization. The chain of command's challenge is to provide effective leadership that fosters equal opportunity to enhance unit cohesion and mission accomplishment. At the same time, professional training courses must adequately emphasize dealing with the perceptions and root causes of discrimination and sexual harassment.

People, who work in an atmosphere free of dissension and sexual harassment, and one containing a strong sense of equal opportunity, are more productive and team oriented. They better understand their individual

tasks and remain focused on mission accomplishment. Morale and team effort is positively affected. This results in strong unit cohesion and esprit de corps.

A healthy EO environment is a key factor in developing readiness. Army readiness begins with people. The Army's advanced technology and modernization efforts would fail if leaders lost the sincere and dynamic commitment to the total wellbeing of the Army Family. Everyone in the 88th RSC family must do their part to establish and maintain a healthy EO environment.

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

Reach out and touch someone

Seven 307th Medical Group soldiers, 14 376th Finance Battalion soldiers, and 35 391st Military Police Battalion soldiers are currently deployed to Kosovo. Consider remembering these military service members as they serve a long way from home by sending a card. Address your card to:

Any soldier of 307th Med Gp
Task Force Med Falcon IV
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo
APO AE 09340

Any soldier of 376th Fin. Bn.
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo
APO AE 09340

Any soldier of 376th Fin. Bn.
Camp Able Sentry, Kosovo
APO AE 09340

Any soldier of 376th Fin. Bn.
Camp Monteith, Kosovo
APO AE 09340

Any soldier of 391st MP Bn.
HQ 391st MP Bn., Det. 5
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo
APO AE 09340

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the 88th RSC family, and put your return address on the envelope, should the soldiers wish to respond to you. Remember, no additional postage is required when using an Army Post Office (APO) address. Just apply the usual first class postage. Be sure to mail before Sept. 1. Imagine the blessing your card will bring to those who are serving the call to duty and are away from their loved ones. Let us remember them. Thank you for caring. For more information please call the Office of the Staff Chaplain, HQ 88th Regional Support Command at (612) 713-3938/3936. ♣

Walker Award

The annual board for the Dr. Mary E. Walker Award, an award designed to recognize volunteer service which makes a substantial contribution and has a positive impact on the quality of life for soldiers and their families, will be held in the November/December time frame.

Anyone having knowledge of the service can nominate the individual. Nominations consist of a one-page, double-spaced narrative identifying the volunteer and describing the acts or service which justifies the nomination. Attachments documenting length of service or volunteer hours can be attached, but are not mandatory. The level of individual sacrifice and dedication should be considered, along with merit, quality and impact of volunteer accomplishments

Contact Janet Rodriguez at 1-800-THE-ARMY, ext. 3521 for more information. ♣



**88th Regional Support Command
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