A soldier in a yellow hard hat and camouflage uniform is smiling and working on a construction site. He is wearing a white t-shirt with a logo on the sleeve and a watch on his left wrist. He is kneeling on a pile of gravel and appears to be working on a concrete foundation.

Blue Devil II

88th Regional Support Command
"The Right Place to Soldier"

Vol. V, No. 4, 2000

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saves life
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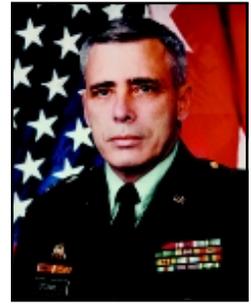
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CG's Corner

Maj. Gen. John M. O'Connell



Few people would dispute the fact that the U.S. Army is the most relevant force the nation has today. The U.S. Army Reserve is, of course, included in that assertion. As soldiers, we understand that we must not only be the best warfighters, but deterrents of war as well – preventing conflict by contributing to regional security, making friends, and building goodwill. With boots on the ground, we provide humanitarian assistance while we are helping to keep the peace.

This unsettled world in which we live makes it challenging for the armed forces to fulfill their commitments all over the globe; we currently have military personnel serving in more than 120 countries around the world. But today's robust economy is making it increasingly difficult for us to recruit enough good soldiers to fulfill our commitments. People are finding well-paying civilian jobs more to their liking than serving in the military.

But we all know there are many more benefits to being an Army Reservist than just earning a respectable second income. Not only do you realize the pride of serving, sense of teamwork, and discipline, but you also learn valuable skills and increase your education.

Do I sound like a recruiter? Well, these days, we ALL need to be recruiters. The 88th RSC's Recruiting Sup-

port Program (previously *Alert 2K*), will work with area recruiting battalions to identify, recruit, and maintain quality soldiers. We can all help them in this effort.

Do you know of fine young men and women who could benefit from military duty and, at the same time, contribute their skills and talents? Talk to them about your experiences and connect them with a recruiter.

I hope that you are proud of your military service and take every opportunity you have to talk about it with others. Share with them what you have learned and how you have personally and professionally benefited from your service – and give them something to think about.

When new recruits join your units, work to ensure they are retained. New soldiers need to be mentored, challenged, trained, encouraged, and appreciated.

I'm asking for you to support our professional recruiters by doing whatever you can to see that our U.S. Army and Army Reserve have the required number of quality soldiers to ensure we continue to be the most relevant force in today's armed forces.

Blue Devils!



Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

In my last column I talked about units investing in new soldiers so they become productive members.

This requires NCOs taking the point and showing leadership. Such responsibility begins with the NCO. NCOs cannot lead soldiers properly without first investing in themselves. This investment is largely meeting standards to ensure career advancement.

Unfortunately, in the 88th RSC and Army Reserve-wide, conditionally promoted NCOs are losing stripes because they did not complete the appropriate level of NCOES. This is not just sergeants and staff sergeants; NCOs of all ranks are suffering career setbacks because of failure to invest in oneself.

There are a number of reasons why NCOs fail NCOES. Obviously, not showing up for a scheduled course, or not enrolling in the first place can result in losing a conditional stripe. APFT failure is another. An NCO can perform academically well at the course, but if he or she cannot meet the physical standards, it's cause for dismissal. The reverse is also true. Another cause for dismissal is showing up at a course overweight.

NCOs must take responsibility to prepare for these challenges. Don't wait to be enrolled in a school. Take the initiative to get enrolled. Remember, conditionally promoted NCOs need to be enrolled in the appropriate level NCOES course within 12 months of the effective date of promotion -- and a reservation on the Army Training Requirements and Resource Sys-

From the Top

tem (ATTRS) won't cut it. Enrollment means in class, at the course. Once promoted, get scheduled for the next open course. The sooner the better.

Prior to enrollment, ensure you are physically fit and academically ready. It's a waste of time to get dismissed after a week at the course because of APFT or exam failure. Learn what to expect at the course. The standards the instructors expect are Army standards. Meet those standards now or suffer the consequences later.

Sound hard? It shouldn't. The system is fair and affects all NCOs. NCOs who don't take their rank seriously can't expect subordinates to take it – or their own military career – seriously. It's leading by example. Wear your stripes with pride; everyone will know you earned them.

Take the point!



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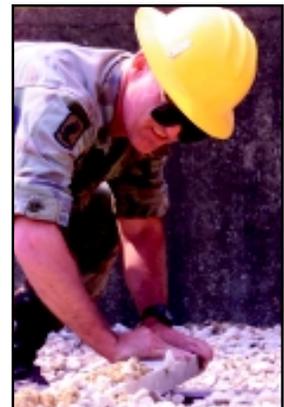


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Staff Sgt. Thomas Lee, 983rd Engineer Battalion, levels rock between the rails of the railroad track near an ammunition bunker at the Crane Naval Weapons Support Center, Crane, Ind. Lee and his unit built an access road the bunker. See *Raising the Standard*, p. 12 - 13

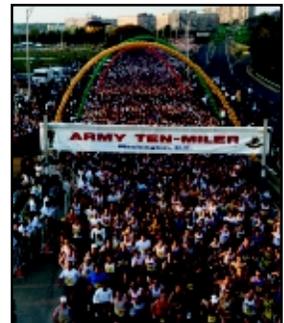
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer, 350th MPAD

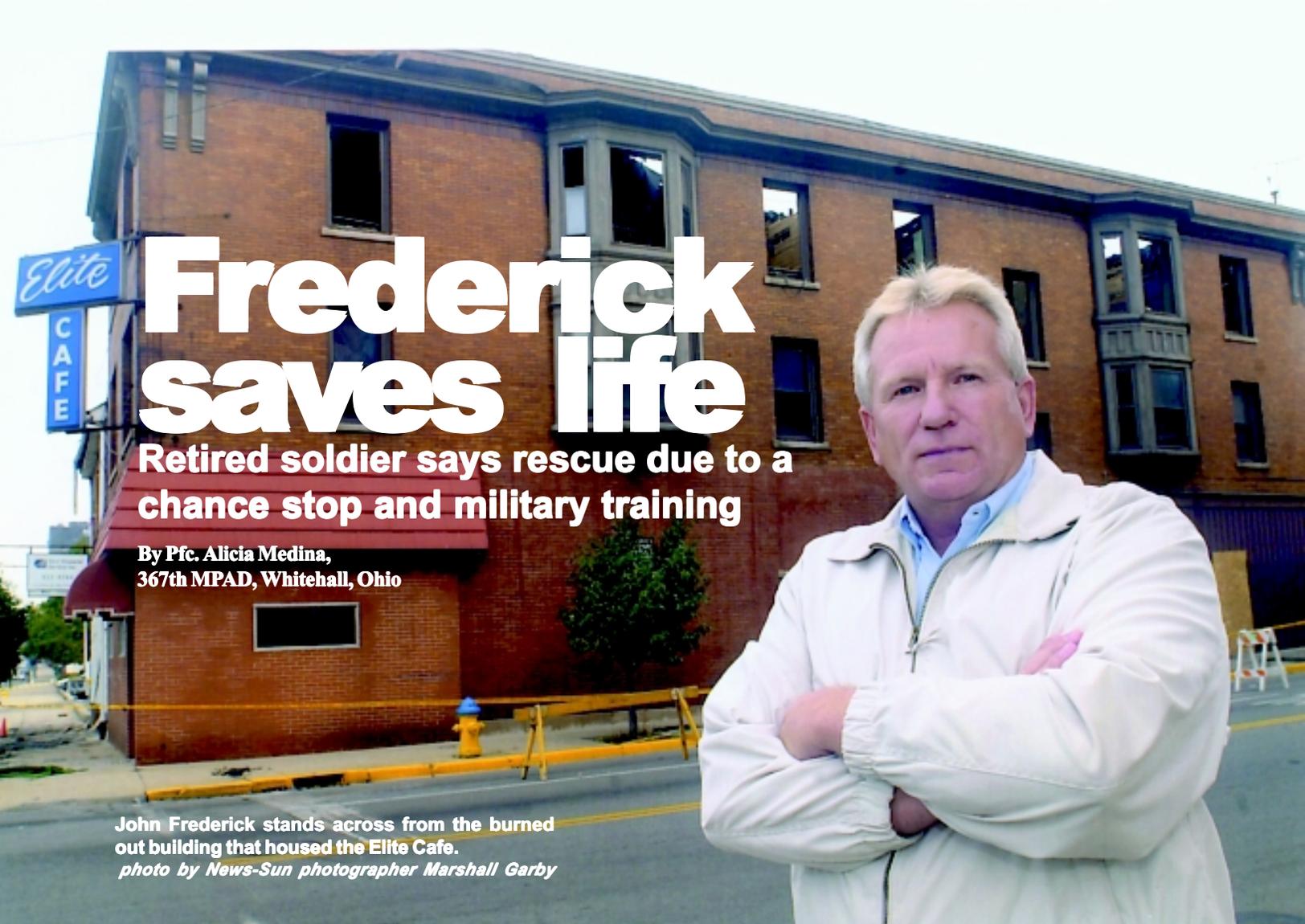


On the back

Participants begin the 16th Annual Army Ten-Miler, a Washington D.C.-area race. The 88th Regional Support Command's Blue Devil team beat 42 other teams to finish first in the Reserve division. See *Blue Devils lead the way*, p. 15

photo courtesy of Island Photography





Frederick saves life

Retired soldier says rescue due to a chance stop and military training

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

John Frederick stands across from the burned out building that housed the Elite Cafe.
photo by News-Sun photographer Marshall Garby

John B. Frederick almost didn't stop Oct. 13 when he drove by the Elite Cafe and noticed smoke rolling from the second-story windows and flames shooting up the outer walls.

"Had I seen someone already there to help, I wouldn't have stopped," said Frederick, a retired soldier of the 88th Regional Support Command, now a civilian employee.

Thankfully Frederick did stop, and after assessing the situation, he rescued one person and assisted four others from the burning building in Springfield, Ohio.

Frederick was returning from an errand to his job as a shop supervisor at the 656th Transportation Company (MTC) in Springfield, when he passed the Elite Cafe that morning.

Since no one appeared, he decided

to stop and see if he could do something, said Frederick, a retired Army sergeant first class who served 29 years in the military, including nine as a 656th Trans. Co. truck master.

Once he stopped, he ran to the only door leading to the upstairs apartments. Frederick touched the door to see if it was hot before attempting to kick it open. Finding the door bolted, he ran to the side of the building to see if anyone was at the windows. The owner was standing behind the building trying to call for help on her cell phone.

After Frederick kicked at the door again to gain entry, a man opened the door and came staggering out coughing and gagging.

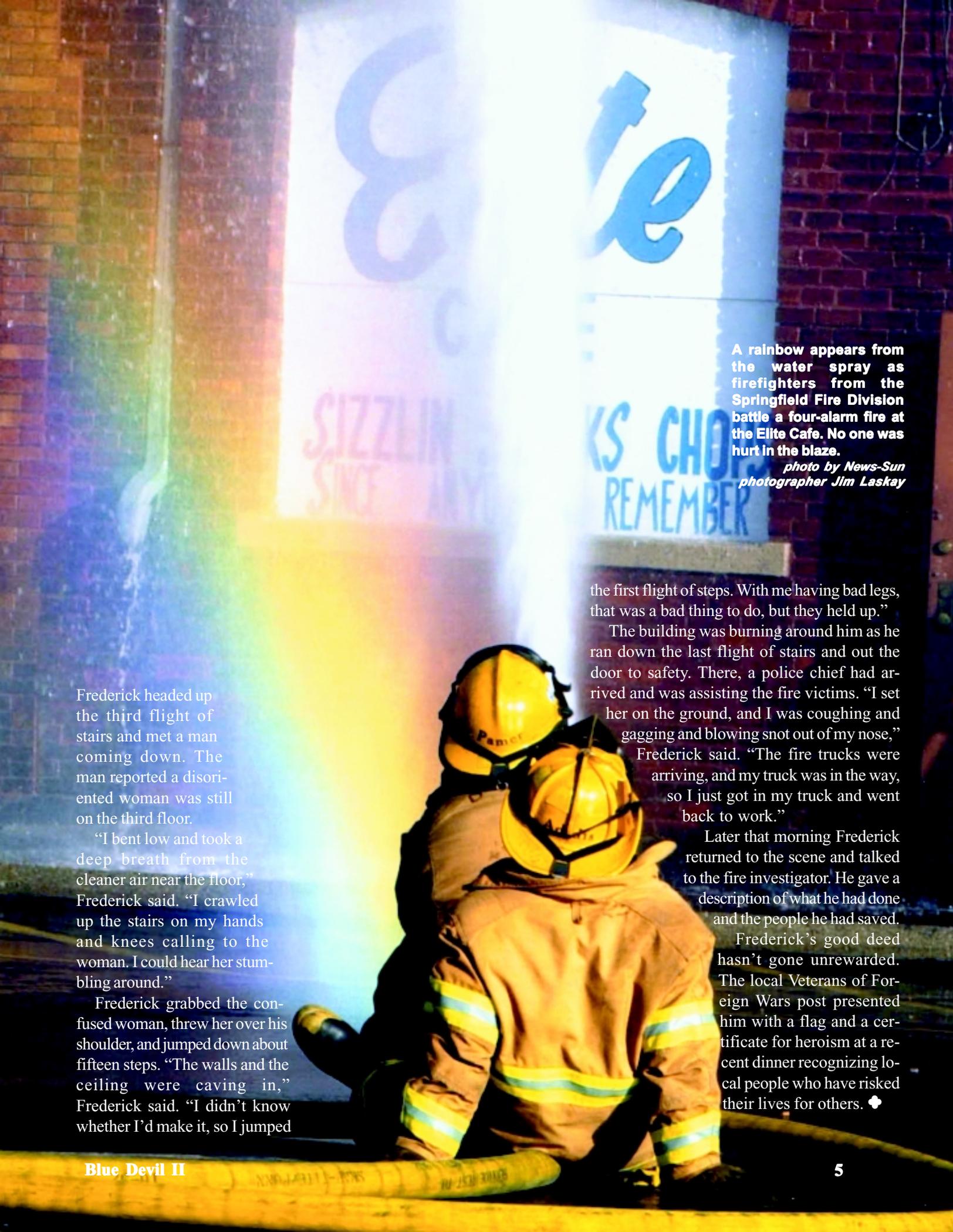
Quickly, he asked the man if there was anyone else upstairs. The occupant said there were others, Frederick

said. Not hesitating, the 50-year-old ran inside and up to the first-floor landing where he found a lady crying that people were still inside. After he assisted the woman to the stairwell, Frederick continued his search for more people.

Hesitating or thinking of his own family and his own safety never crossed his mind, Frederick said. Conditioned by the military to stop at nothing to assist his fellow soldiers if they were down, he knew that quick reaction on his part was crucial, even if it meant risking his own life.

"My conscience would have bothered me more than anything if I hadn't gone in," Frederick said.

On the second floor the fire was burning bright orange and the area was filled with smoke. After assisting three men to the staircase,



A rainbow appears from the water spray as firefighters from the Springfield Fire Division battle a four-alarm fire at the Elite Cafe. No one was hurt in the blaze.

*photo by News-Sun
photographer Jim Laskay*

Frederick headed up the third flight of stairs and met a man coming down. The man reported a disoriented woman was still on the third floor.

“I bent low and took a deep breath from the cleaner air near the floor,” Frederick said. “I crawled up the stairs on my hands and knees calling to the woman. I could hear her stumbling around.”

Frederick grabbed the confused woman, threw her over his shoulder, and jumped down about fifteen steps. “The walls and the ceiling were caving in,” Frederick said. “I didn’t know whether I’d make it, so I jumped

the first flight of steps. With me having bad legs, that was a bad thing to do, but they held up.”

The building was burning around him as he ran down the last flight of stairs and out the door to safety. There, a police chief had arrived and was assisting the fire victims. “I set her on the ground, and I was coughing and gagging and blowing snot out of my nose,” Frederick said. “The fire trucks were arriving, and my truck was in the way, so I just got in my truck and went back to work.”

Later that morning Frederick returned to the scene and talked to the fire investigator. He gave a description of what he had done and the people he had saved.

Frederick’s good deed hasn’t gone unrewarded. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars post presented him with a flag and a certificate for heroism at a recent dinner recognizing local people who have risked their lives for others. ♣

Tragedy changes opinion of Army

Editor's note: Krista Kelly McNeill, 16, sent this letter to her brother's battalion commander as an open letter to the Army. Krista was the youngest sister of Spec. Michael J. McNeill, 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). McNeill was at the National Training Center preparing vehicles for rail load back to Fort Benning, Ga., when he was struck by a car. Photos taken at Arlington National Cemetery by the 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office are used to illustrate a military funeral.

It is amazing how a person's life can change in a matter of minutes. It is amazing how one incident can change your views forever.

In my case, it was a death in the family. I lost my brother, Spec. Michael James (Hogue) McNeill, on May 12. This incident has changed my feelings about the military and military life forever.

I remember the day my brother got hurt clearly. It was May 5. I returned home from school to see my father walking out the door with a suitcase in one hand and a plane ticket confirmation in the other. I was informed that my brother had been struck by a car going full speed while he was crossing a street on foot with two of his Army buddies. He was not expected to make it through the night.

My father left immediately. It is amazing how a person's life can change in a matter of minutes. It is amazing how one incident can change your views forever. That is where it all began. From the minute my father and brother's wife arrived, they were treated like royalty. The Army was right there by their side, no matter what they needed. The Army provided them with a place to stay, transportation and what was needed most of all: a shoulder to cry on.

Before this point, I never thought of military people as being compassionate and caring. But as I came to learn as things went on, they are more caring, understanding and compassionate than most civilian people.

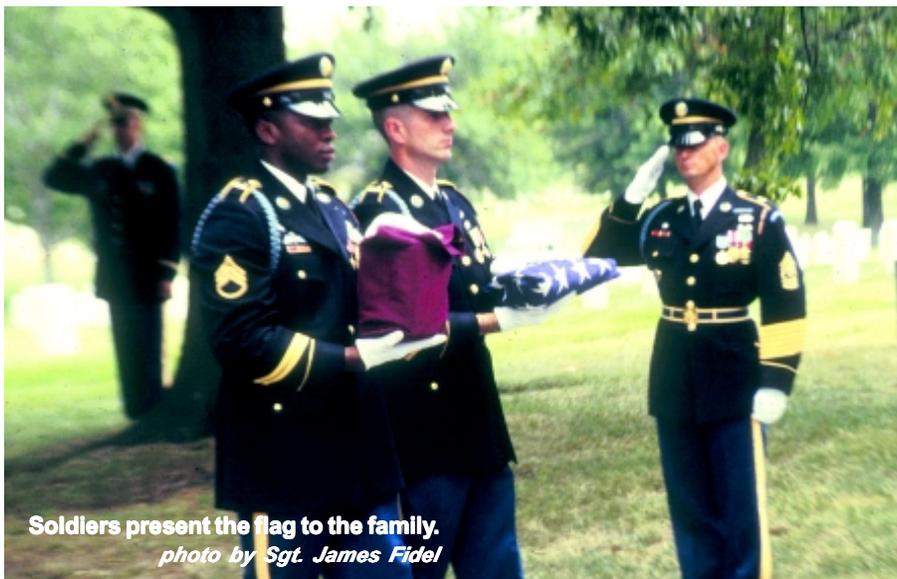
A week passed, and suddenly, on May 12, my brother breathed his last breath. He had passed away. At this point, I thought that the Army

would no longer be helpful or cooperative with my family. I figured they would think that since my brother had passed away, that there was no more use in trying to please anyone. I figured they would try to save money any way they could. But, as I later learned, this was not the case at all.

They helped my family return home and made them as comfortable as possible right up until the end. I would have thought that the military would think about nothing other than their own wants and needs, but once again, they proved me wrong.

Apparently, they put my brother on full retirement with total disability before he died so that his beautiful wife and their soon expected child would be taken care of. This touched me deeply.

The thing that touched me the most was my brother's funeral itself. The military paid for almost all of the expenses and helped a great deal with the planning of the services. The day of the funeral is imbedded so deeply in my heart. It was May 19 to be exact.



Soldiers present the flag to the family.
photo by Sgt. James Fidel

Everyone gathered at the funeral home to pay their last respects to my brother. Michael's body was soon being loaded into the hearse and proceeded, followed by many cars, to the Lakeview Cemetery.

As I followed the hearse, we entered the cemetery to see a lone man, in uniform, holding a bugle under his arm. With great discipline and ceremony, he saluted the hearse as it went by and turned, with the hearse, 180 degrees as it proceeded to the burial site.

At the burial site, the preacher said a few more words, and a silence fell all about. After the passage of a few moments, seven soldiers in uniform with rifles shouldered came marching in perfect synchronization and stopped a short distance away. They raised their rifles and each of

as a thread ever touched the ground. A single soldier marched up to my brother's wife, Jenna, and placed the flag upon her lap, presenting it to her on behalf of the President of the United States, and with great reverence and respect, he stood in a final salute to her. But then, something very unusual happened. As with Jenna, a single soldier approached my brother's mother and my father and presented them with flags also, ones that were already neatly folded and placed in fine wooden boxes, decorated with the United States Seal and containing all of Michael's ribbons.

These did not come from the government's money. These came from the pockets of the men who served with my brother in his battalion. Knowing of Mike's be-

ginnings and the strange turns his life had taken wherein he had two families, containing eight sisters, all of whom he loved dearly, they had raised the money to purchase these for his parents. This showed me that the military is one big family. In the military, whether you like the people you are around or not, you do everything in your power to protect one another and their loved ones. What an honor I found this to be, to have been a part of Michael's life, someone who had served his country so diligently.

This event has changed

my life and touched my heart forever. I have grown a deep love for the military and those who are a part of it. I realized that they are there to help me. The military is one big family that I may hope some day to be a part of. I hope to one day walk in Michael's footsteps, my father's only son, on a path also taken by Mike's father and his father before him. My respect and admiration for the military has grown immensely.

I want to say thanks to all of the people who have helped me, protected me and loved me enough to go to war for me, and a special thanks to the men who have helped my brother's memory live on. This is for you.

Krista Kelly McNeill
Johnson City, Ill.



Soldiers unload a casket from a hearse.
photo by Sgt. James Fidel

them fired three shots into the air with the sound of each shot piercing my heart, bringing out all the love and respect that was felt for my brother. Once again, silence fell about. Then off in the distance was heard a beautiful noise, rolling off the end of the young man's bugle. Each note slowly tearing away at me, making it easier to let go. Each note bringing the remembrance of my brother and how he served his country, his family, his God.

Intense is the only word to describe those few minutes of pain, remembrance and love that came with the playing of Taps. The playing stopped. Then the six soldiers, unarmed, came marching in unison without a single misstep up to my brother's casket. Perfectionists, they were, folding the flag ever so carefully that had once lain upon my brother's casket, making sure not so much

By Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes,
364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Force protection and force multiplying
are just two reasons to look into ...

controlling combat stress

On December 30, 1997, officials sent Michael Jordan off the court in the middle of a Chicago Bulls/Minnesota Timberwolves NBA game. Team officials had received a call; his mom was ill and he needed to call her immediately. The call was a hoax, but by the time Jordan returned to the game, he was so rattled that for the first and only time, the Timberwolves were able to beat a Jordan-led Bulls team.

Proof that even arguably the best player in NBA history is not immune to stress. It is, according to Maj. David Rabb, a social work officer with the 785th Medical Company Combat Stress Company, why most professional sports teams have a team psychologist to help their players deal with stress and maintain high performance.

“The reason is, they want to win,” Rabb said. “That’s also what we want to do in the Army, we want to win. We want to make sure that if we’re involved in a conflict or war, we not only do the job and come back safely, but that we win. That’s one reason the

Army has bought into the combat stress control philosophy and mission.”

While the impact of stress on combat has been recognized for years, treating and preventing stress is a relatively recent phenomenon. Called ‘soldier’s heart’ during the Civil War and ‘shell shock’ and ‘battle fatigue’ during World Wars I and II, the treatment and prevention of combat stress is now seen as a force multiplier.

“Basically what we try to do is teach, educate and give people techniques to reduce their stress levels and situations,” said Rabb. “Prevention is a big key to what we do.”

The impact of that prevention can be huge. “In World War II, for every four people wounded in battle, there would be one person suffering from battle fatigue,” said Rabb. “In the Yom Kippur War, we learned that if after 24 hours you give people three hot meals and a cot, you feed them, sleep them, and provide reas-

urance and support, then the majority of people, 80 percent of them, will be ready to go back to duty. As the Army downsizes and the military cuts its resources, it’s vital that we don’t look at stress as something that’s final.”

Stress, however, isn’t limited to battlefield conditions. Reservists face stressors associated with deployments or training – stressors which can be compounded by stressors existing in the soldier’s civilian life.

“Part of our job is to teach them how to manage that stress,” said Lt. Col. Mary W. Erickson, a senior occupational therapist officer. “What we like to do when we talk to units is com-



Government Training Aids (GTAs), available from combat stress units, provide guidance on reducing stress.

pare what we do with conducting maintenance. You conduct maintenance on vehicles and weapons; you need to do it on soldiers, too. We need to maintain a soldier's emotional well-being, and part of it is teaching them how to deal with stress."

That stress can take many forms, and can be the result of many different stressors, but an important thing to remember is that everyone gets stressed. "We call it stress — we don't use labels, we don't diagnose," said Rabb. "There should be no stigma attached to seeing someone; I have

never seen it on the OER or NCOER."

"People think they're robots or they're Superman," said Rabb. "Sometimes the green suit is like an emotional armor. But once it's pierced, stress has a big impact on a person. We take care of soldiers with wounds that don't bleed. We also support soldiers before anything happens, we help them prepare to deal with stress they may encounter in the future."

Combat Stress units try to get involved in training exercises so that they are out there to help deal with training distracters — issues with the civilian job, a fight with the spouse, or a problem with the kids.

"That's going to stay with a person," said Rabb, "and it's going to impact them somehow. If they don't talk about it, a

lot of times it comes out in other ways, usually behavior. One of the things we do is work with the soldiers so they can do what they have to do to get through."

Realistically, however, there isn't a combat stress unit at all exercises. Talking to the chap-

lain, if available, is another good option. But what if there isn't a chaplain available either?

"If we can teach people — the NCOs, the leaders — what to do, they can do it themselves," said Rabb. "The GTA cards (government training aid cards available through the combat stress units) talk about things you can do to recognize and treat someone under stress. If you can recognize that the person you're working with is under stress, you can talk to that person. The best therapy is a friend who listens."

The key thing is making sure the soldier gets whatever help is needed. "That's leadership," Rabb said. "If you know that somebody's having a rough time with a divorce or because someone close to them has died, and this person that used to be highspeed is now performing at a different level, then why wouldn't you get that person some help. Make the referral and get us involved."

"Combat stress is about the welfare of your soldier, it's about people in leadership taking the time out to address those issues that impact their troops. The 88th RSC is taking the lead in addressing these issues and is taking the time to look out for the welfare of their soldiers. We are actively deploying our combat stress units into situations where they may be needed — at annual trainings, mobilizations, or family readiness meetings — and our soldiers are better for it." ♣

88th RSC Combat Stress Units

Remember to use your chain of command. Do not contact a combat stress unit on your own without trying to use your chain of command first. If you are not comfortable using your chain of command, contact your chaplain. The combat stress units are available for consultation or training.

467th MD DET (CSC)

1402 South Park Street
Madison, WI 53715-2190
(608) 257-0467

55th MD CO (CSC)

9704 Beaumont Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216-1026
(317) 532-4352

785th MD CO (CSC)

505 88th Division Road
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4008
(612) 713-3232

A 785th MD CO (CSC) soldier trains in counseling a soldier during an exercise.

U.S. Army photo

Children with handicaps flown to the North Pole by soldiers and airmen found out... **Santa rides a motorcycle**

Stories and photos by Spec. Cory Meyman
364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Santa, on a motorcycle instead of a sled, comes early for a group of kids every year at Eau Claire Municipal Airport in Wisconsin.

For two years now, Army and Air Force Reservists, along with Ameritech employees, have made it possible for Santa and his wife to bring children with handicaps children to the "North Pole," said Gloria Grabowski, the Ameritech employee who started the idea.

The event, dubbed Operation Santa, was started to help disabled kids have a better Christmas, said Grabowski. The children are loaded into a C130, 'flown' to the North Pole to visit Santa and his elves and receive presents, then loaded back into the C130 to fly home.

"These children have limitations because of accessibility," said Grabowski. "Having a cargo plane that folds down in the back enables us to bring some fun into these kids' lives. It's a Godsend."

"I thought it was a pretty weird request at first" said Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer James Lowe, 397th Engineering Battalion, who helped Grabowski get the vehicles for the event. "We lent two HUMVEEs, with soldiers in each one, a C130 from the Air Force, I.D. tags, and two-way radios to talk to Santa and his wife with."

The children enjoyed the treatment, Lowe said. "There are big smiles every time we put dogtags over each child's neck. Notice none of them have taken them off. None of them."

The children talked to Santa on the two-way radios on the way to the airport before they met the "real thing," said Grabowski.

When they arrived at the runway, the kids loaded up into the back of the C130 and got prepared to fly to the North Pole.

To simulate the flight, the Air Force pilots taxied around the runways for about 15 minutes. They were unloaded and met by a motley crew of Santa's elves (actually colorfully clad friends of the handicapped children) and led to Santa's workshop. The North Pole was a decorated room in the airport, stocked with friends, family, cookies, and hot chocolate.

Santa arrived with his wife just a little bit later, cruising down the runway on a motorcycle. "There was no snow for a sled, so Santa had to use something," said Grabowski with a smirk on her face.

Gifts bought by Ameritech employees are given to the children, said Grabowski. Volunteer employees are given a child to buy gifts for, so that each child receives at least two gifts. After the gifts, Santa read "The Night Before Christmas" to the children.

Gifts bought by Ameritech employees are given to the children, said Grabowski. Volunteer employees are given a child to buy gifts for, so that each child receives at least two gifts. After the gifts, Santa read "The Night Before Christmas" to the children.



Santa reads 'Twas the night before Christmas' before the kids leave the North Pole.

dren. He stayed to eat and talk with them for about an hour, and then took off on the motorcycle again, with his wife riding behind.

“We stay and talk for a little while, give each other hugs, and then go back home,” said Grabowski.

The Ameritech employees are planning to do this again next year, said Grabowski. “It just gives everybody a wonderful sense of joy,” said Grabowski. “I mean this is what Christmas is all about; giving.” ❖



Above, Children walk down the rear hatch of the C130 after arriving at the ‘North Pole.’ Reservists ‘flew’ the children to the ‘North Pole’ as a part of Operation Santa. **Left,** Santa left the Christmas celebration in his sleigh, a motorcycle, with his wife riding behind him. **Below,** Friends clad in elf suits get ready to welcome the children who flew in a C130 to the ‘North Pole.’



Raising the standard

Spec. Philip Aretz compares his craft at building roads to that of a potter manipulating clay. “Building a road is an art just like making a piece of pottery,” the heavy equipment operator said gesturing to the nearly complete road. “I don’t want anybody to say ‘Phil Aretz did a bad job.’ I take pride in what I do. I won’t give anything less than 110 per cent and I don’t accept anything less from anybody else.”

Aretz and fellow reservists from Company A, 983rd Engineer Battalion, Lima, Ohio, were at Crane Naval Weapons Support Center, Ind., in July building access roads to ammunition storage facilities and remodeling the kennel that houses the center’s security dogs.

The cost savings from having the Army do the job compared to hiring a civilian contractor drove the center to select the reservists to work at Crane, said David Brown, the Reserve coordinator for the weapons support center. The excellent quality of workmanship offered by the Reserve engineer unit was also a determining factor.

“It is a win/win situation for all concerned,” Brown said. “We are saving the taxpayers’ money while training soldiers in performance of their wartime mission.”

The Crane projects are more challenging for the unit than recent annual trainings to Central America, said Capt. Mike Schemmel, Co. A commander.

“We need to meet specifications set to a higher standard here than the missions we have recently encountered,” Schemmel said. “It tests the leaders’ construction management skills ensuring specs are being met.”

The projects at Crane also offer cross-training opportunities for the reservists, both on operating different pieces of equipment, and training with different squad members.

“Very seldom do we go to AT and work as a squad,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Schmitz, a construction equipment supervisor. Personnel assignments are made according to the skills needed for a project. Although squad members rarely work together as a squad on projects, it doesn’t hinder the unit from successfully completing its assigned missions because many of the soldiers in the company have been together for eight, 10 or 12 years, he said.

The unit’s mechanics are also given an opportunity to cross-train with the equipment operators on projects. Pvt.2 Anthony Shellabarger, a heavy

vehicle mechanic, was asked by his motor sergeant if he wanted to work at one of the construction sites. Shellabarger quickly volunteered.

“The mechanics get the opportunity to come out to the work site to get a feel on how the equipment operates,” Shellabarger said. “Being able to operate the equipment helps the mechanics make repairs because it gives us a better understanding of how the equipment works.”

In addition to the three road projects, the unit’s carpenters, electricians and plumbers are remodeling the dog kennel that houses the K9s who help provide security at the weapons support center.

The kennel is being remodeled to meet Navy standards and veterinary requirements. The reservists added a water-heated flooring system to keep the dogs warmer during the colder days of the year. The floor was constructed with a slight slope so the floors can be sprayed out during cleaning allowing the water to drain from the kennel and eliminating standing water.

A veterinary area was added to the kennel so the handlers can care for the dogs. An area for the dogs to exercise was enlarged and an obedience course was constructed next to the kennel where handlers and dogs will train together on com-



Above, Spec. Phillip Aretz dumps road gravel to provide trucks access to the bunker, left, that was placed between the rails of bunker, below, Sgt. Harry Haines (left) works on a railroad track near an ammunition bunker.



Blue Devil II

mands such as sit, stay, jump and crawl, said Kennel Master Terry J. Carie.

“We are getting a lot of hands-on training here,” said Site Supervisor Staff Sgt. Keith Trubey. “This type of project allows our soldiers to cross-train which makes them more valuable to the unit and the Army Reserve.”

Whether completing an art project in the form of a road or providing better accommodations for man’s best friend, soldiers of Alpha Company honed skills during this annual training they can use during their next mission. ♦



Working around the railroad tracks near an ammunition bunker to the left, Pvt. 2 Anthony Shellabarger uses a tamper to compact rock on the railroad track to provide truck access to an ammunition bunker and Staff Sgt. Thomas Lee level rock between the rails of the bunker to provide trucks access to the bunker.



Blue Devil II



Yeeehah!!!

Story and photo by Master Sgt. David Johnson,
367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio



718th Transportation Battalion soldiers navigate an obstacle course as a part of the Battalion Rodeo.

Battalion Rodeo tests soldiers' skills

A quiet crisp September morning is shattered by the sound of 50 diesel engines starting up.

As the truck engines rev, the spirit of competition engulfs the members of the 718th Motor Transportation Battalion, Columbus, Ohio.

"This is our Battle of Ohio," said Capt. Chris Schuler, battalion movement officer for the 718th Transportation Battalion. "This is the *Browns vs. Bengals*; the *Tribe vs. Reds*; the *Lumberjacks vs. Cyclones*."

Schuler is referring to the annual Battalion Rodeo put on Sept. 8 - 10 this year at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in southwestern Ohio, where all the transportation units within the battalion competed for the *Coleman F. Davis award*.

The 705th Transportation Company from Dayton, Ohio, won the tractor trailer competition. The 1001st Field Services Company, from Chillicothe and Columbus, Ohio, won the five-ton, 2 ½-ton and HUMVEE events.

The tasks required drivers maneuvering through a myriad of obstacle courses. Drivers competed in

HUMVEE, five-ton trucks and tractor-trailers events.

The rodeo consisted of drivers from three transportation companies: the 705th, the 656th in Springfield, Ohio, and the 454th in Columbus, Ohio. Also participating in the rodeo were two movement control teams: the 869th and 957th from Columbus, Ohio, and a field services support unit (1001st).

Six driving events for the tractor-trailer drivers and five for the HUMVEE teams tested the soldiers.

The primary courses in the rodeo were the offset alley, diminishing clearance, straight line backing, controlled braking, and the serpentine course.

The offset alley course tests the driver's ability to maneuver through a series of barricades, which represent obstacles a driver may encounter during everyday driving. The diminishing clearance event simulates possible driving lane restrictions in construction zones by challenging the driver to keep his vehicle between a series of pylons that decrease in width from 10 feet, 7 inches to 8 feet, 6 inches.

"The tasks are difficult," said Chief Warrant Officer Herman Poulton,

maintenance officer with the 454th Trans. Co. "The difficulty is the young troops go to advanced individual training (AIT), drive brand new automatic transmission vehicles, then come back to the unit and have to maneuver these manual trucks."

Even with the difficulty, the trucks have a positive effect on the soldiers. "Seeing big trucks at the unit; being around them prompted me to get my CDL (commercial drivers license)," stated Spec. Antonio Ellison, an 88M driver with the headquarters detachment, 718th. "I hope to be out on the road soon as a semi-driver."

According to Lt. Col. Kenneth Mottice, 718th battalion commander, the award is named for Sgt. 1st Class Coleman F. Davis, a unit maintenance NCO in the '70s and '80s. Davis was instrumental in beginning the rodeo event for truck units within the battalion, something the units enjoy.

"Driving in this rodeo lets you know the maneuverability of the vehicle more than just normal road driving," said Spec. Scott Sells, transportation coordinator, 869th Trans. Co. "It's awesome. I love driving in the rodeo." ♣

By Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes, 364th MPAD, and 1st Lt. Francisco Artley, 88th RSC Soldier Support Center, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Blue Devils lead way

The 88th Regional Support Command Blue Devils beat 42 other Reserve teams to finish first in the Reserve Division of the 16th Annual Army Ten Miler held Oct. 15. The seven-member team joined a record crowd of more than 16,000 runners competing in the run through Washington, D.C.

The team, led by 2nd Lt. Jason Small's time of 57 minutes, won the Reserve Division for the second time in four years. Small, a member of the 324th Military Police Detachment out of Terre Haute, Ind., deployed to Korea for annual training immediately after the race. With that kind of dedication, the win wasn't much of a surprise.

"It was a little bit of a surprise, but I figured we'd do well," said team member 2nd Lt. Clint Hnilica, 323rd Combat Support Hospital, Southfield, Mich. "We have some fast guys on the team."

Hopefully the success will continue. "They all expressed an interest in coming back next year," said Capt. Lee Gearhart, a human resources officer for the 88th RSC who ran for the team. "I'm excited about that."

"It's probably one of the biggest morale-builders I've seen in the Army," said team member Sgt. Cale Konetchy, 353rd Transportation Company, Buffalo, Minn. "The Army stresses physical fitness, but there are not a lot of programs in the Reserve system that stress that. The Army Ten Miler does that, especially for Reserve soldiers. It was great to see all the Reserve teams out there, knowing that they were all training individually and then coming together in the end for the common goal of bringing home that first place trophy — and having fun doing it."

Gearhart was also

excited about the race, which began at the Pentagon, and ran around the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the White House. "It's beautiful," said Gearhart. "The scenery is wonderful, and there are all kinds of people cheering you on."

Konetchy agreed. "There were a couple of moments along the route that were almost ethereal, like coming around a turn and seeing steam coming from the grates. There are those few moments in running that keep you doing it, like making a great shot in golf. This was one of those moments."

Overall, the 88th Blue Devil team finished 39th out of the 720 teams that entered the Army Ten Miler, and the Lady Blue Devils team, competing for the first time, finished seventh in the Open Woman's category, led by 1st Lt. Kimberly Mclellan, at 1:24:19. Check out the web version of this story on the 88th RSC website (see cover) for a list of all participants and times.

Also running this year for the first time was Maj. Gen. John O'Connell, 88th RSC commanding general, who completed the race in

1:18:45 and finished 29th in his division.

Those interested in trying out for next year, call 1-800-THE-ARMY for either of the two new team coordinators, Capts. Lee Gearhart (x3082) and Jacqueline Conlan (x3308). The 88th RSC selections are made in August and the Army Ten-Miler is in October. ♣

Maj. Gen. John O'Connell, Capt. Lee Gearhart, 1st Lt. Clinton Hnilica, Sgt. Cale Konetchy, 1st Lt. Francisco Artley, Sgt. Steven Wasiman, and Capt. Mark Woommavovah, pose with their first place trophy.

U.S. Army photo



Soldier named *Minnesota Legislator of the Year*

Betzold also recipient of Henry Toll Fellowship

By Master Sgt. Betsey DePoint
Public Affairs Chief, 88th RSC

For many in the U.S. Army Reserve, having both a civilian and military career is mutually beneficial; we learn, hone, and transfer work skills from one to the other. Col. Don Betzold, commander of the 214th Legal Support Organization (LSO), also uses his military training in his third job, that of a Minnesota state senator.

“My Army career has really helped me in my political career,” said Betzold. “I’ve learned things in the Army that you simply can’t learn better anywhere else – leadership, responsibility, organization, making order out of chaos. And I’m also always on time – usually the first one in my seat in the Senate floor!”

Betzold has earned the praise and respect, not only of his constituents who live in the northeast Minneapolis suburban area, but of those professionals who keep close tabs on the Minnesota State Legislature where Betzold has served for more than eight years.

Following the adjournment of the 2000 Minnesota legislative session in the spring, Betzold (DFL-District 48) was named *Legislator of the Year* for 2000 by the newsletter *Politics in Minnesota*, recognizing his work on protecting personal privacy rights. The editors cited Betzold’s “fairness and thoroughness” as a legislator and his “tenacious and responsible – albeit politically unpopular – leadership on privacy issues.” And last year, Betzold was the second Minnesota legislator to ever be awarded a Henry

Toll Fellowship by the Council of State Governments, a nonpartisan national organization promoting effective government policies.

Betzold’s interest in politics dates back to the 1960s, growing up during the height of the civil rights movement. During the next few decades, he volunteered on several local campaigns and managed a successful mayoral campaign. “I liked it,” said Betzold. “I had a knack for it. My appetite for politics was whetted and I decided I wanted to be a legislator.”

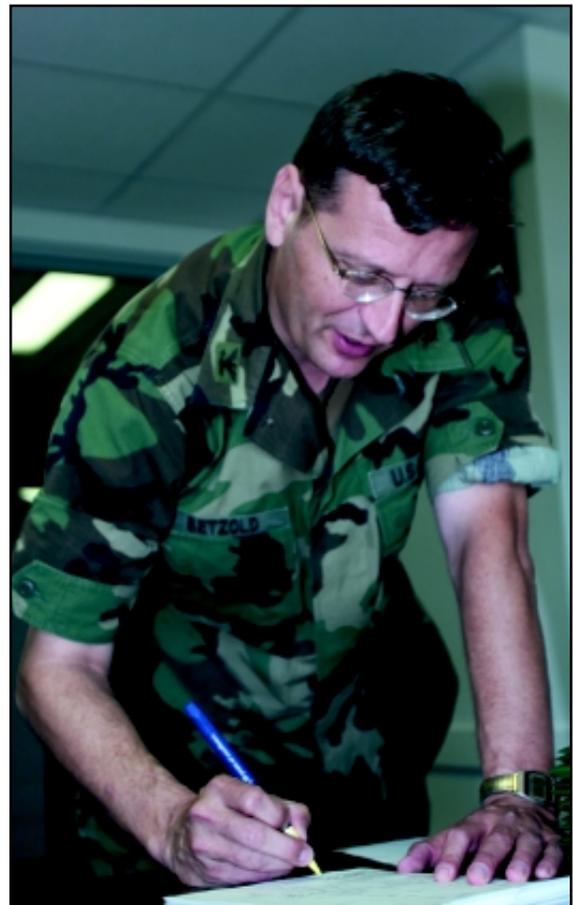
His first campaign in 1990 was an up-hill battle against a long-term incumbent. He lost by only 200 votes. “But I was hooked, and when I ran against him again two years later, I won.”

In the past four years, the Minnesota Senate has selected Betzold to serve on more House-Senate conference committees than any other senator. He has also served on a number of important Senate committees, including the Judiciary Committee, Data Privacy Subcommittee, Family Law Subcommittee, Pensions Commission, Taxes Committee, Health and Family Security Committee, and Budget Division.

Betzold has been chosen to preside over more

Senate floor sessions as temporary president than any other senator. “Presiding over the Senate can be chaotic,” said Betzold. “You have to know the organizational rules, be able to make snap decisions, and be right the first time.”

Of concern to many people serving in the military is the fact that both the U.S. Congress and the Minnesota State Legislature are severely lacking in the number of representatives



Col. Don Betzold, 214th Legal Support Organization commander and Minnesota State Senator, takes care of some paperwork during a drill weekend.

Photo by Spec. Nicole Nelson

who have served on military duty and thus, don't have a solid understanding of military issues. Betzold is a proponent of military issues and would also like to see a change in the tax laws to help Minnesotans who are serving on active duty. "They pay taxes back home and get nothing in return," he noted.

Betzold's military career spans 28 years. He received an ROTC scholarship and earned a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Minnesota. Betzold then spent four years on active duty with the Signal Corps with assignments in Germany. When he got off active duty and joined the Army Reserve, Betzold used the G.I. Bill to attend law school and later switched branches to the Judge Advocate's General corps.

The 214th LSO has 50 soldiers split into two teams; one drills at Fort Snelling and the other in Madison, Wis. Unit members, most of whom are attorneys or work in the legal field, provide legal assistance to active-duty and retired soldiers, conduct legal briefings at unit family day celebrations, and serve as prosecuting or defending attorneys for court cases and boards. When units are mobilized for active duty, the 214th helps them with legal issues. Members typically spend their annual training working in a JAG office, including overseas duty for training in Germany and Italy.

While he has gleaned much from his military career to help him in his political career, Betzold has to be careful that the two don't ever cross over into each other. "There are clear limits and boundaries and I have to be sure to keep a firewall between," he pointed out. "When I'm serving as a soldier, I can't do anything to promote my party's principles. If members of my unit are politically active, I must make sure I've removed their names from any fundraising mailing. I outrank everyone in my unit so I

can't have undue influence over them by asking for money or support."

During the five months the Minnesota Senate is in session, Betzold's private law practice is usually on hold. "I try not to take on any new cases close to the beginning of the session in January. Then I pick up the pieces after we adjourn in late May."

"I get a great deal of personal satisfaction from being able to take an idea and do something legislatively that

will affect the 4.5 million citizens of Minnesota," said Betzold who said he responds to every phone call, letter, and e-mail message he receives from constituents. "But even brilliant ideas get changed along the way to becoming a law. People demand a lot from us and often expect more than we can deliver – they want us to reduce taxes, but at the same time, fund more programs and services. It's a challenging and interesting process." ♦



Col. Don Betzold, 214th Legal Support Organization commander and a Minnesota state senator, addresses the legislature during a recent session.
photo courtesy of Minnesota Senate

VITA offers tax assistance

By Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes,
364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Death and taxes. Two things said to be the only sure things in life — and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program can help you with one of them.

According to the Internal Revenue Service website, the VITA program consists of IRS-trained volunteers who provide free tax assistance at community locations to individuals who need assistance with basic income tax return preparation. VITA is aimed at those for whom paid assistance may be out of reach. Some examples may include non-English speaking, low to fixed income, people with disabilities or special needs, and the elderly.

The VITA program is also available to assist military personnel whose special tax guidance needs reflect their unique living conditions (for example, many military personnel have residence in one state, are working and earning income in another state, and own property in yet another state). The 88th Regional Support Command Staff Judge Advocate organizes VITA program volunteers within the 88th RSC to assist soldiers with their returns.

“We’re mandated by regulation to provide assistance consistent with available resources for the preparation of income tax returns,” said Capt. Greg Billings, 88th RSC SJA. “But TPU soldiers — it’s a gray area. Logistically, we’re dealing with a large region.”

To help deal with the challenges presented by the large area, the 88th RSC is currently looking for VITA program volunteers (see sidebar). Volunteers receive free training, which can be a nice perk.



Sgt. 1st Class Julie B. Anspach, right, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program volunteer, assists Spec. Chelly Lundahl with her taxes.

photo by Maj. Raymond Devoe

“I initially became involved in the VITA program because I wanted to learn how to prepare my own taxes and learn all the new things that come out each year,” said Sgt. 1st Class Julie B. Anspach, a manpower NCO with the 88th RSC DCSFOR. “Your first year, you go through intensive training — it can be one or two weeks long, depending upon your area.” The length of time varies depending upon the state because of differing tax laws, e.g., Florida has no income tax, Minnesota does.

“After the first year, it’s just two days of refresher: one day, federal; one day, state,” said Anspach.

Once trained, giving assistance is usually a fairly simple process. “We’ll go through a questionnaire first to see what forms they need and what documents they should bring in with them,” said Anspach. “Then we sit down and use the program the IRS puts on my computer — it’s really quick, easy and painless.”

Users appreciate the ease of use. “It was convenient, it was right here and it was fast,” said Spec. Chelly Lundahl, an administrative assistant with 88th RSC DCSOPS. “I don’t think it will be a problem for me to use the program again.”

Lundahl also was impressed with Anspach’s customer service. “She’s very friendly and knowledgeable,” Lundahl said. “If she doesn’t know an answer to a question, she gets right out and finds somebody who can handle it.”

Those interested in volunteering for the program should contact the SJA soon. “The state usually does the training in January, so you probably should be talking to me before the holidays,” said Billings.

Those interested in using the program should act early

and try not to wait until the last minute. (See sidebar for contact information.) “If (program users) know they have money coming back, they’re at my door as soon as the W2s come out,” Anspach said. “If they owe money, I don’t see them until April 14.”

The waiting isn’t really necessary. “Come and see me early so we can work it out,” said Anspach. “Even if you owe money, do it early, don’t wait until the last minute. You can send your tax return in early, and you don’t have to have the check in until April 15.”

But if you do wait, chances are you won’t be the latest filer Anspach has seen. “I’ve given assistance to someone who hasn’t filed a return for five years.” ♦

Scholarships for military children

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 2000 — High school students of active duty, reserve component and retired military members have until Feb. 15 to write their way to a share of more than \$400,000 in college money.

The new Scholarships for Military Children program, co-sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency and Fisher House Foundation Inc., plans to present more than 280 awards worth at least \$1,500 each.

“The program will enhance our local commissaries as important quality of life benefactors for military families,” said commissary agency director Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr.

The commissary agency’s 288 stores worldwide have “long supported promotions with a focus on education,” he said. Many of the agency’s commercial vendors are donating the scholarship money.

Courter said the DeCA-Fisher House scholarship program complements, and should not affect existing local or regional scholarship programs sponsored by installation activities, affiliated organizations, or local vendors and commissaries.

Children of active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired military identification card holders need a minimum 3.0 high school grade-point average

to apply. They also must write a short essay on “What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me.”

Interested students can pick up instructions and applications at commissaries or download them from the Internet at www.commissaries.com.

Completed applications and essays must be returned before Feb. 15 to the student’s local commissary. Store officials will validate applications by checking the student’s or sponsor’s IDs, DeCA officials said.

Fisher House is administering the scholarship program and accepting the donations to fund it, spokesman James Weiskopf said. A contractor supervised by Fisher House would screen the essays and applications and determine scholarship recipients, he said. Winners will be notified by April 30.

The nonprofit Fisher House organization was founded by the late philanthropist Zachary Fisher and his wife, Elizabeth. It is perhaps best known for its 26 Fisher Houses, located near military and Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country. Fisher Houses help 5,000 military families annually by offering them a “home away from home” while loved ones are receiving medical care.

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Landmark legislation

Recently, the Senate joined the house in passing the 2001 Defense Authorization bill. This landmark legislation contains some important provisions for Reservists.

1. Maximum number of IDT points increase from 75 to 90 per year.
2. Increase to three-star grade for chiefs of Reserve and directors of National Guard.
3. Lifetime health care benefits for all retired Reserve and Guard members.
4. Reserve Component participation in the Thrift Savings Plan.
5. Billeting for Reserve members traveling on IDT.
6. Children of Reservists are now eligible for presidential appointments to service academies.
7. Authority for IDT pay in lieu of allowances for funeral honors duty.
8. Legal services to Reserve members following release from active duty.
9. Extension of involuntary civil service retirement dates for certain Reservists.
10. Expedited release of reports of Reserve officer selection boards.

If you have questions regarding these provisions, call Steve Anderson, ROA’s legislative counsel, at 1-800-809-9448, extension 715.

AR-PERSCOM debuts new website

ST. LOUIS — The Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) recently launched a new customer-focused Website, www.2xCitizen.usar.army.mil, to better support Army Reservists worldwide.

The site was completely redesigned over a four-month period. Developers created a new home page, significantly improved navigation, and incorporated a comprehensive search capability.

“The site is no longer organized by office; instead it’s organized by what the soldier wants to do,” explained

Mark Tenholder, Lead Developer for the project.

“Even if someone is not quite sure where to go within the site,” Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Hon, Tours/Training Working Group Leader added, “with the new search capability, users can enter keywords to get the information they need.”

The main focus of the site centers on the Reservist and his/her ability to locate information as easily as possible; “Soldier Care - Made Simple.”

Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity complaint procedures

In February of this year, I became a member of the 88th Regional Support Command Blue Devils. The lack of understanding for some folks when it comes to the Military Equal Opportunity Complaint Processing System quickly became clear. Army Regulation (AR) 600-20, Army Command Policy dated July 1999 is the regulation that directs the Equal Opportunity Program. Chapter 6 is the Equal Opportunity Program in the Army, Chapter 7 is the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Appendix E is the actual Equal Opportunity/ Sexual Harassment Complaint Processing System. Every commander should have a working knowledge of this regulation as well as the complaint system. Now that I've turned you off by quoting regulations, let's get to Equal Opportunity complaints.

There are two types of complaints: informal and formal. An informal complaint is any complaint that a soldier, family member or DA civilian does not wish to file in writing. Informal complaints may be resolved directly by the individual, with the help of another unit member, the commander or other person in the complainant's chain of command. Typically, those issues that can be taken care of informally can be resolved through discussion, problem identification, and clarification of issues. An informal complaint is not subject to time suspense and is not reported.

A formal complaint is one that a complainant files in writing and swears to the accuracy of the information. Formal complaints require specific actions, are subject to timelines, and require documentation of the actions taken. Individuals file a formal complaint using a DA Form 7279-R, dated April 1999.

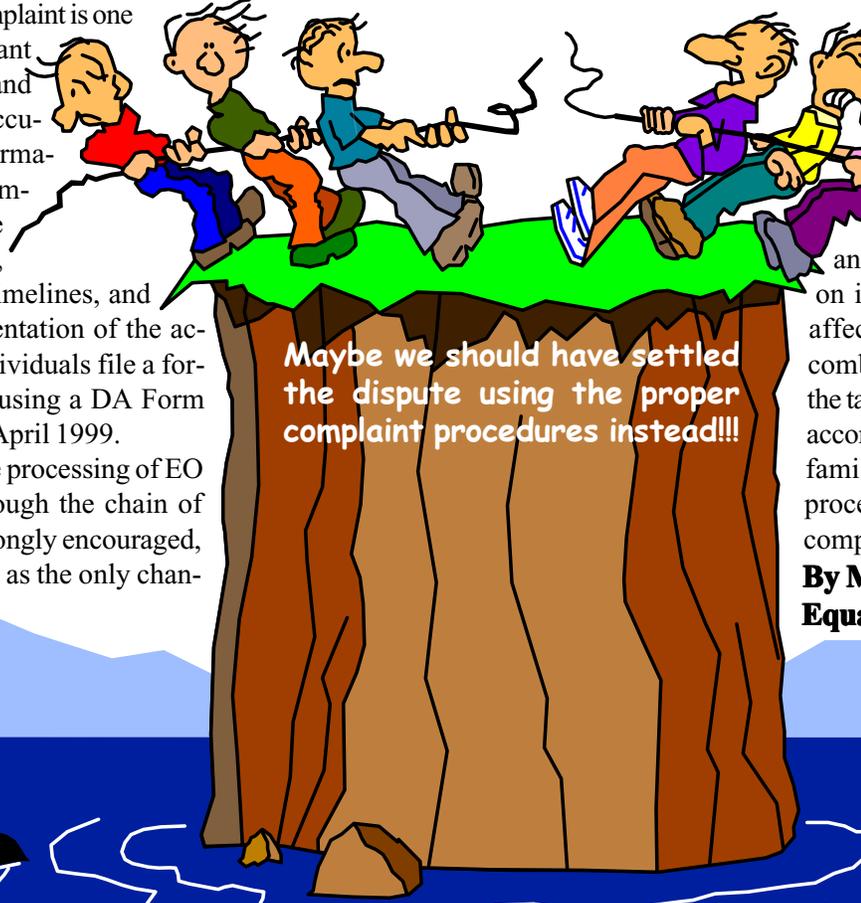
Although the processing of EO complaints through the chain of command is strongly encouraged, it will not serve as the only chan-

nel available to soldiers to resolve complaints. Should a complainant feel uncomfortable in filing a complaint with his/her chain of command, or should the complaint be against the chain of command, a number of alternate agencies may be used. Commanders cannot preclude soldiers from using an alternate agency. Part 9b of DA form 7279-R is used by alternate agencies receiving formal complaints. Alternate agencies must be aware of their responsibilities in receiving a formal complaint. Some alternate agencies listed in AR 600-20 Appendix E are: someone higher in the chain of command, Equal Opportunity Advisor, Inspector General, Chaplain, Provost Marshal, Medical agency personnel, Staff Judge Advocate, and Chief, Housing Referral. The IG is the only alternate agency, which does not use DA Form 7279-R. The IG will process formal complaints under the IGAR system.

Filing a formal Equal Opportunity complaint should never be entered into quickly or without thinking about what the final outcome might be. Every effort should be made to resolve the complaint at the lowest level possible. The reputations, careers of individuals and unit cohesion all pay some price during a formal complaint investigation. Likewise, soldiers knowingly submitting a false or fraudulent complaint will be punished under the UCMJ. As your

Equal Opportunity specialist, I've seen firsthand the devastation racism, sexism, discrimination, and sexual harassment take on individuals as well as the affects on unit cohesion and combat effectiveness. With all the tasks and missions you must accomplish, please take time to familiarize yourself with the procedures for processing EO complaints. Thank You.

**By Mr. Richard Cox, 88th RSC
Equal Opportunity Specialist**



Maybe we should have settled the dispute using the proper complaint procedures instead!!!



New spirit brings increased Family Readiness involvement

Story and photos by Pvt. 2 Kevin A. Dunaway, 367th MPAD

The long, dark hallways leads into the old gymnasium, where ghosts and goblins adorn the giant room the 705th Transportation Company Family Readiness Group members have spirited up for the first Halloween party held here. Fake spider webs hang from the walls as the room fills with the laughter and frightful screams of little children.

The ghoulish affair is one of many events put on during the past year by the group — and is one reason the welfare and morale of the Dayton, Ohio, unit has been on the rise since a new spirit took over.

The big change affecting the Family Support Group is the involvement of a new president, Kendra A. Rains. Rains joined in October 1999 and has succeeded in turning a weak organization into a booming Family Readiness program.

“There have been major improvements from the Family Support Group since Kendra has been involved,” said Maj. James Hunter, commander of the 705th. “She is a little spark of energy.”

With only three weeks at the helm under her belt, Rains quickly got the support of the families in completing the Thanksgiving dinner in 1999. By planning and successfully carrying out each of the special events, the families have shown a new energy in getting together and trying to participate, said Rains.

The Family Readiness Group has assembled and ac-

complished many events, including a Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas party, an Easter celebration and Halloween party. Other events are coming up, including an adult night out.

In years past, proposed events were canceled because of lack of management. But since Rains began organizing the Family Readiness Group, she has followed through on every proposed function, and now receives new support including donated foods, decorations and time from the families. Rains has been involved with family readiness for the seven and a half years her husband has been on both active and Reserve duty.

Increased participation has helped unit morale and new events planned for the future bring hope for even more involvement from unit members and their families, Hunter said.

That participation helps events like the Halloween celebration come off. “This came together great,” said

Sherry H. James, vice president of the Family Support Group. “The setup began at 11 a.m. and we had six children help out. As people arrived they chipped in to help out with the party.”

The event was designed to include children, reservists and their spouses. Party activities included bobbing for apples, bean bag toss, door prizes and a costume contest.

“Some of the children don’t go trick-or-treating,” said Rains. “I thought it would be nice if they had something to do, and could get some candy. That way it’s safe and the parents know it’s safe, plus it’s fun. It’s a chance for all these families to get together because the only time the people see each other is drill time. And I think they need to, not only on a professional level, but on a personal level.”

That togetherness helps the unit’s morale — and even after the screams have subsided and it is time to go home, the spirit remains. ♦



Face painting was a big hit at the 705th Transportation Company’s Halloween celebration.

Big smiles at demob

After six months away from home, the last thing a soldier returning from deployment wants to worry about is paperwork. Fortunately for soldiers returning from Operation Desert Spring in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, soldiers from the 6015th Garrison Support Unit were there to help them through the paperwork, identifying problems now – and helping to keep future problems from popping up.

“It’s been going well,” said Spec. Eric Ross, a personnel management specialist with the 6015th. “We get the soldiers in here, get their records straight, and get them out on time.”

Ross and the rest of the soldiers in the 6015th spent nine days outprocessing soldiers from the 131st and 178th Infantry Divisions (Illinois and Iowa National Guard units) this October, ensuring that the returning soldiers’ records were up to date, and the soldiers had been briefed on the different benefits for which they were now eligible.

“When they hit the ground on the first day, they get a briefing on subjects like Tricare, V.A. benefits, finance, and a couple of other areas,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Wojciechowski, a personnel records supervisor with the 6015th. “The next day they go through medical and fill out all the medical forms for their physicals. If they have any complaints, then we refer them to Fort Knox, Ky., until they’re well again.”

The returning soldiers then go to the records section where their personnel files are examined to ensure their casualty documents are still in shape and any awards received while deployed are properly annotated, and then on to JAG

where wills, powers of attorney and such are examined.

“It’s a lot of coordination,” said Wojciechowski. “You’ve got 160 people on the ground or more. We were lucky this time because they broke them up into two groups.”

The coordination that went into the 6015th handling of the demobilization was obvious. “The outprocessing went well,” said Capt. James Fisher, commander of Company C, 1/131 Inf. Div. “We finished early in the day, the stations were well-tended, and people moved quickly to get it done.”

The returning soldiers appreciated that – after a six-month deployment, the outprocessing center was the last place they wanted to be. “We are anxious to get home. I can say that people look at the outprocessing with some anxiety, and we’re all anxious to meet up with the people we left behind.”

Even with the anxiety, however, there was a realization that the demobilization had to happen. “We all realize it’s a necessary process,” said Staff Sgt. Dave Ledoux, an infantry squad leader for Co. C, 1/131st Infantry Div. “It’s for our own benefit, and we have to do it before we get home. We just want to get it done.”

That sentiment was readily apparent to the soldiers with the 6015th. “A few of (the returning soldiers) were a little antsy because some of them only live about 20 minutes away from here, but they’re still staying here,” said Wojciechowski. “This close to home — but not that close yet.”

Still, it’s more enjoyable for the 6015th to be working on the demobilization than the mobilization, something the unit also does. “It’s kind of nice to see them coming back,” said Wojciechowski. “They have bigger smiles on their face.” ♦



Spec. Eric Ross inprocesses a soldier at Fort McCoy.

Who wants to be a millionaire???

By Staff Sgt. David Boe,
364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

He didn't have to phone a friend or eat rats on a tropical island, but Sgt. 1st Class Mark Jual did win a million dollars — all he needed was a little luck.

Jual, an Army Reserve instructor for the 367th Finance Company, Wausau, Wis., was visiting his brother-in-law in Green Bay, Wis., last January, when, one day a strange feeling came over him.

"I told my brother-in-law that I suddenly felt lucky, real lucky" said Jual.

"I told him I should go gambling and that I would win a million dollars. I *knew* I would win a million dollars."

He was right.

All it took was a short walk to a casino and some arm work at a slot machine, and 30 minutes later Jual found himself with a lot more money.

"It took a while for it to sink in," he said. "Then I got pretty excited. Life is good."

Yes, life is good, but nothing, insists Jual, in his, or his family's life has changed. True, since winning at the slots he bought a grocery store, is set-

ting up a laundromat, and is considering retiring early, but Jual said, he still lives in the same house and still goes to work every morning as a realtor. And while he may have won a lot of green, he still plans on wearing green once a month.

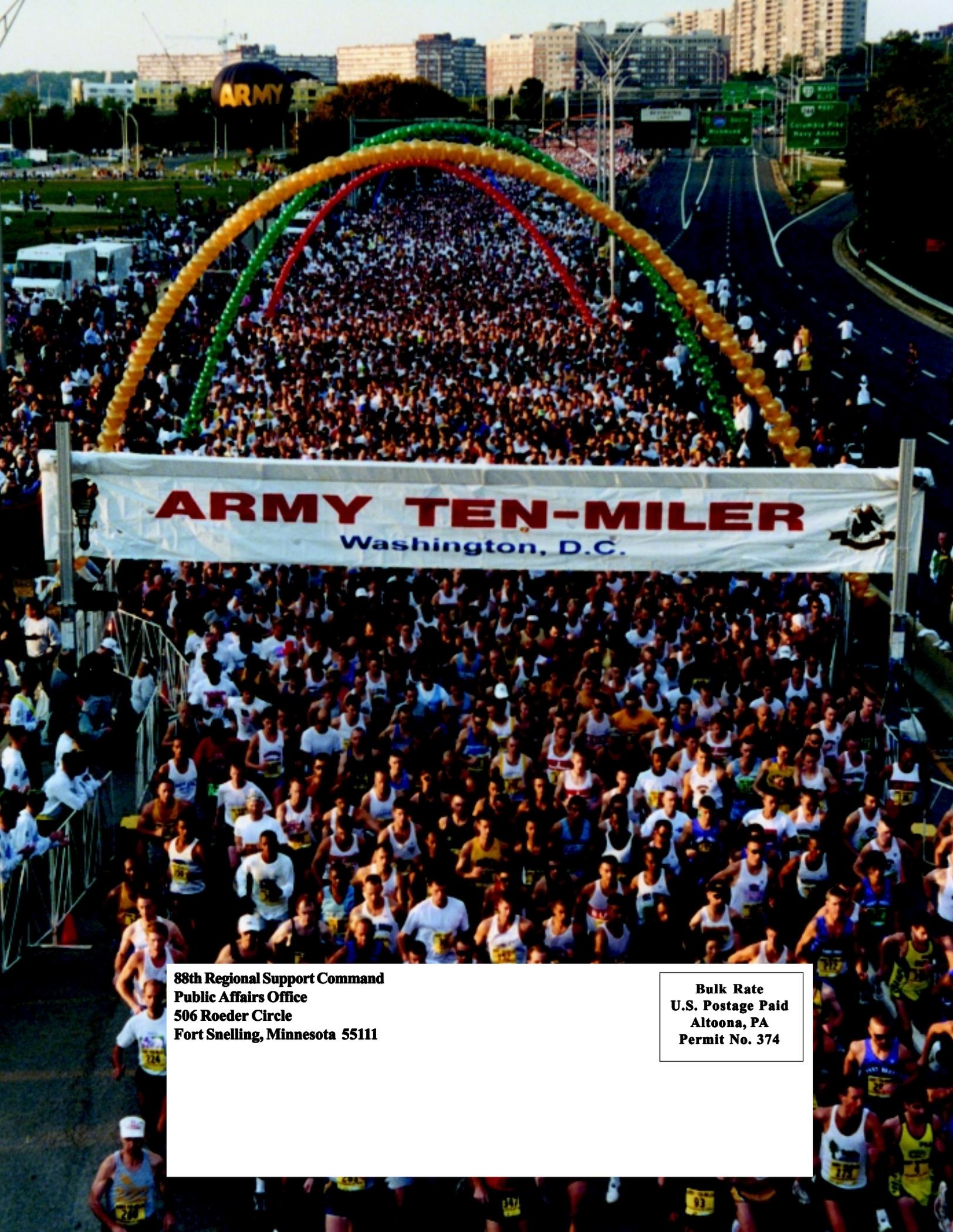
"Fulfilling one's obligations is more important than money," said the 11-year veteran. "I set out to be a career soldier and my commitment is for 20 years."

Jual did hint, however, at interest in at an AGR position near Rhinelander. Maybe his luck will hold. ♣



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Jual (right) accepts a check for \$1 million after a lucky pull at an Onelda Casino slot machine.

photo by Onelda Casino



ARMY TEN-MILER
Washington, D.C.

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