

Blue Devil II

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

Vol. V, No. 3, 2000

*Who ya
gonna
call?
page 4*

www.usarc.army.mil/88thsrc/

CG's Corner

Maj. Gen. John M. O'Connell



After months of gathering data from commanders, soldiers, and support personnel from throughout the 88th Regional Support Command, the Executive Steering Committee recently published the *Command Strategic Plan FY 2001-2006*. This comprehensive document outlines specific performance goals to guide mission planning and establishes performance measures which will help us determine if sufficient progress is being made.

The overall mission of the 88th RSC is to “exercise command and control of assigned units, ensure operational readiness, provide regional support services, and support emergency operations.” As commanding general, it is my vision for us to be the premier RSC within the U.S. Army Reserve Command and serve as the model for others to follow by exceeding expectations. To do this, all 88th soldiers and civilian staff must embrace a set of values by which we operate, including duty, customer focus, product and service quality, innovation, employee support, teamwork and public responsibility.

Further, the 88th RSC has three strategic goals:

#1: Improve readiness by meeting or exceeding standards set by FORSCOM and USARC for strength, IDT attendance, school attendance, and unit deployability.

#2: Improve regional support services by meeting or exceeding customer expectations, as well as federal, state, and local regulatory guidelines.

#3: Conduct an effective command marketing plan to our customers, stakeholders, suppliers, and the general public to improve our public image and public relations.

You’ve probably noticed the businesslike tone to our mission, vision, and values. Although the 88th RSC is first and foremost a military organization whose top priority is **readiness**, the Command, and the Army, are adopting business practices which are customer-focused, measurable, and results-oriented. The Army’s adoption of a “corporate approach” is outlined in the Army’s APIC (Army Performance Improvement Criteria) document and is consistent with the trend of other federal agencies.

I am confident that the soldiers of the 88th RSC will work hard to ensure our mission and goals are met, and our values are reflected in everything we do. We can only be successful with everyone’s full support and commitment.

Blue Devils!



Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

From the Top

Investing doesn’t just take place on Wall Street. It also takes place in the drill hall. Army Reserve units have the chance to invest in recruits by concentrating on pre-IET training. The commanding general and I recently saw the results of such investment when we visited with 88th RSC recruits this summer at Forts Jackson and Leonard Wood. We had a chance to observe their training, and it was apparent that those who had received proper training and support back at their units had a real advantage over those other recruits who did not.

We can’t send our recruits off to basic training with just a pat on the

back and a hearty “good luck.” Starting with the first sergeant, a unit’s NCOs need to “take the point” and ensure their recruits are prepared for basic training; to have the knowledge and support to get them through those intense weeks. A recruit who knows what to expect and is ready for the challenges of basic training will have confidence and a positive attitude - and that builds a better soldier.

It’s all in the details. Under the supervision of the first sergeant, basic soldiering skills can be taught by a high-speed NCO or specialist. A typical day at drill for the recruit can consist of a couple of hours of drill and ceremony, military rank identification, special orders, weapon breakdown, and wear and care of the uniform, to name just a few. Prior to departing for basic training, a recruit should also

be given key unit member phone numbers, the unit address on envelopes, as well as unit patches and crests.

Taking care of these details not only prepares recruits for basic training, but helps them become a part of the unit. During pre-IET training, members of the unit should spend time with the recruits, getting to know them and letting them know about their new unit. This way recruits feel welcome and at ease with this strange new environment we call the military. They look forward to the next drill, and look forward to joining their unit after graduation.

By investing in its recruits a unit sees them as potential assets. And with investment in time, training and care, they will be assets, not only to themselves as soldiers, but to the unit.

Take the point!



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On the cover

Soldiers from the 652nd Engineer Company, a bridge-building unit from Ellsworth, Wis., worked during their two-week annual training with other engineer units to build this bridge across the Arkansas River in Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Photo by Spec. Cory Meyman,
364th MPAD



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Who ya gonna call?

When equipment had to be transported across the Arkansas River, the soldiers of the 652nd Engineer Company were among those called to make it happen.

The road leads to 300 meters of swirling, muddy Arkansas River water, and there's only two hours to get all the equipment across it. Who do you call?

Well, the 652nd Engineer Company, a bridge-building unit from Ellsworth, Wis., for one. You should probably call the 299th, 459th, 739th, 814th and 1438th Engineer Companies, too. On July 25, these Army Reserve units from around the country arrived at Fort Chaffee, Ark., for their two-week annual training and built a bridge over the Arkansas River— and they did it in half the two-hour time allotted.

Under the command of Capt. Glen D. Johnson, the 73 unit members of the 652nd used 19 railcars of equipment, including bridge bays, bridge erection boats and 22 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs) to, “Bridge the Gap,” as their slogan goes.

All this equipment and more would be needed to cross the Arkansas River as it took nearly 42 bays to bridge the gap, said 652nd 1st Sgt. Barry J. Foy.

The preparation for the exercise was intense. A typical day for the unit started at 5 a.m. and ended at 10 p.m., with a few days ending around 3 a.m. Even with the long days, the troops' spirits stayed high, said Sgt. Robert J. Rutter, an engineer for the 652nd.

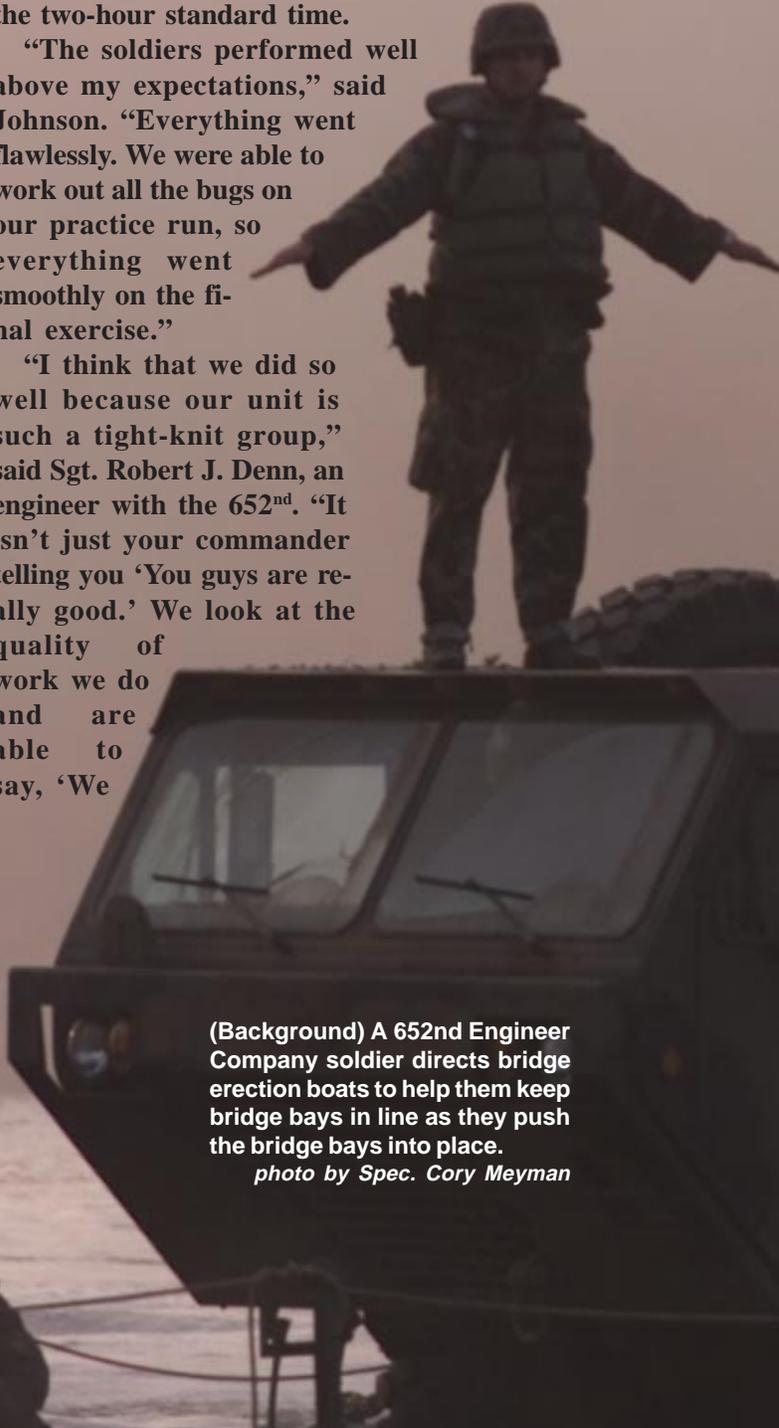
The bridge-building exercise began at 2 a.m. with soldiers positioning and checking over the equipment. By 8 a.m., the bridge building began.

“The 652nd was in charge of sling-load operations,” said Johnson. “We had to load bays into the sling attached to the helicopter, unload the bays once the chopper reached the river, and then float the bays down the river and attach them to the other bridge bays.”

With the pieces ready and in place, all that was left was for the soldiers to connect the bays together. The six units were able to accomplish the mission in half the two-hour standard time.

“The soldiers performed well above my expectations,” said Johnson. “Everything went flawlessly. We were able to work out all the bugs on our practice run, so everything went smoothly on the final exercise.”

“I think that we did so well because our unit is such a tight-knit group,” said Sgt. Robert J. Denn, an engineer with the 652nd. “It isn't just your commander telling you ‘You guys are really good.’ We look at the quality of work we do and are able to say, ‘We



(Background) A 652nd Engineer Company soldier directs bridge erection boats to help them keep bridge bays in line as they push the bridge bays into place.

photo by Spec. Cory Meyman



Chinook helicopters dropped bridge bays for 652nd Engineer Company soldiers to position using bridge erection boats.

photo by Spec. Cory Meyman



652nd Engineer Company soldiers lower a ramp as a final step in preparation for crossing the bridge.

photo by Spec. Cory Meyman

are good.’ We’re exceeding the standard. That’s something to be proud of.”

“Most of our guys are pretty committed to this unit, and our commander talks about (commitment) quite often,” said Rutter. “We seem to have a close-knit unit. And when it comes time to do a job, we feel that we do pretty well.”

Doing their job well requires more than commitment — it requires intensive training. “These are the exact conditions we’d face if called to active duty in wartime or for a humanitarian mission,” said Johnson.

So the next time you have 300 meters of swirling, muddy river water to cross, give the soldiers of the 299th, 459th, 652nd, 739th, 814th and 1438th Engineer Companies a call. They’ll have you on your way in no time.



652nd Engineer Company soldiers used bridge erection boats to push the bridge bays into place.

photo by Pvt. Tony Lindbach



First responders

Reservists are first fully qualified hazardous-material-trained chemical reconnaissance unit in Army

It's coming. No one knows when. No one knows where. But experts agree that it's only a matter of time before there is a weapon of mass destruction terrorist attack here in the United States. And when it happens, soldiers from the 704th Chemical Company, the first fully qualified hazardous-material-trained chemical reconnaissance unit in the Army, will be prepared to respond.



704th Chemical Company soldiers go through the decontamination process during hazardous material training in Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

“Well basically (a weapon of mass destruction attack) is the known threat,” said Lt. Col. Luis A. Millan, deputy chief of staff for operations for the Weapons of Mass Destruction Division of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. “That’s why we’re doing this. They know the threat is out there. They don’t have a date, but there is a high probability that a weapon of mass destruction will be used, and we just need to be ready.”

Soldiers from the 704th Chem. Co., who wrapped up their training at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy in Lewistown, Penn., June 17, are now one step closer to being ready. Which is important, because according to Millan, a recent directive from Washington D.C. to the Army Reserve said to get the Arden Hills-based unit, along with the 392nd Chemical Company out of Little Rock, Ark., ready to respond to this sort of scenario.

The directive came about, Millan said, because of the unique assets the Army has to offer in a weapon of mass destruction attack. With the training the soldiers have in dealing with nuclear, biological, or chemical agents, they are more familiar than civil-

ian entities would be in dealing with an attack. And while the National Guard would be the first place most state agencies would turn if there was an attack, if the Guard assets were overwhelmed the Reserve forces would be there to back them up.

In some instances, the Reserve assets would be the first responders. “Let’s say the event happens on a federal installation,” Millan said. “We can get tasked almost immediately. Also, under that directive, the intent is to save lives. The commander on the ground can make that decision right away, provided he goes through the chain of command almost at the same time, notifying them that he activated the unit to save lives in his local town.”

The unit might also be called up before an attack. “Once the unit is trained and equipped, they will become a Department of Defense asset,” said Millan. For a big event, such as the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, the unit can be predeployed to the event and ready for a mission.

The training occurred at the fire academy because the Army doesn’t offer this type of training, Millan said. The focus of the training here, according to Sgt. 1st Class Robert Mihelic, operations officer for the WMD Division of USARC, is to learn the Level A equipment that the civilian assets use. This equipment, which Mihelic acknowledged is better than the



A 704th Chemical Company soldier lays a wooden pallet on the floor to avoid contamination during a spill drill.

masks and mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) gear that the Army trains in for dealing with unknown agents, consists of a self-encapsulating suit and a self-contained breathing apparatus. Picture the equipment used in the movie *Outbreak*, and you'll have a pretty good idea what it looks like.

The training also covered chemicals and mixtures of chemicals that the Army doesn't normally come in contact with. "We have our chemical equipment, which detects chemical warfare agent," Mihelic said. "The detection equipment that we're taught here at the fire academy is used to deal with industrial toxic chemicals."

That's important, because the unit could also be called upon to assist in the event of a chemical spill. With this equipment and training, Millan said, the soldiers would be protected from any danger out there and so could walk through the decontaminated area, do the monitoring, and see what's out there.

At that point the mission changes. "If we have a big, big accident, our main mission is to decontaminate the

civilians, and to get them to a clean area to receive treatment," Millan said.

Soldiers from the 704th came prepared ready to learn the skills for the mission. "They're very proficient soldiers," Mihelic said. "They come with a lot of enthusiasm and a will to learn."

Enthusiasm like that shown by Spec. Amy Pinter, a reconnaissance specialist in the 704th. "I like the suits," Pinter said. "I like getting in there and learning the new things about different reactants and what we can do to control them.

"It interests me to be right in there," the 24-year-old Rochester Minn., resident added. "I prefer to be in the field instead of home station. This sort of training is something that definitely makes people want to stay in or get in. This training really changed my mind. I'm planning on re-enlisting."

Pinter is not the only one. Since the 704th was tasked to receive this training about a year ago, 15 new recruits have joined the unit, and several current unit members have also elected to stay in the unit.

Part of that might be because of how the training relates to the civilian side of the house. "This training is excellent, the civilian instructors are excellent," said Sgt. James E. Kinzer, a reconnaissance squad leader with the 704th. "It really gives us familiarization with how the civilian end of our response system works. It is very important that we integrate the military, with our skills, and the civilian end, with their skills, and we get all our ducks lined up, and we share all our books."

The civilian instructors shared the soldiers' enthusiasm for the training, as well as for military involvement in the response system. "It puts a smile on my face," said Gary Fulton, adjutant instructor at the fire academy. "I

think it's a needed resource in the civilian sector. Our teams are ill-prepared to deal with weapons of mass destruction. We're ill-prepared to deal with, literally, the terrorists, the fear factor. If we can bring in a soldier, and that soldier has familiarity with the weapons systems, that becomes a technical resource we don't have available."

More Army units should be out there to help soon. According to Millan, while the 704th is the first unit to finish the training, the 392nd should be close behind. Three other chemical reconnaissance companies are scheduled to be activated and trained in the next few years, and 25 existing casualty decontamination units are also scheduled to be trained.

"It's an exciting program," Millan said. "We have always taken the war overseas. We have trained our soldiers to deploy and fight the battle overseas, in other countries. Now, it's time for us to take care of our own country, and that's why we're doing this." ♣



Spec. Amy Pinter, 704th Chemical Company, checks her radio after going through the decontamination process.

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

When children in an Ohio community needed physicals to play sports and enter the Head Start Program, the 256th Combat Support Hospital stepped up to assist, allowing the kids -- and the soldiers -- to be ...

All that they can be

The “Be-all-you-can-be” Army slogan was put to the test by soldiers in the 256th Combat Support Hospital from Brooklyn, Ohio, August 12th, when they performed physical examinations for children in Canton, Ohio.

“When soldiers are allowed to do something as Army Reservists in the community, in uniform, it gives them the chance to show their pride,” said Capt. Mary Burakowski, head nurse at the 256th. “Hands-on work with the community is what drives them. That’s why they join the Reserve.”

“I was in the operating room until after midnight last night,” said Maj. Doug Yoder, a general surgeon, “but I love doing this, so I’m here bright and early.”

This is the second consecutive year the 256th has assisted the Canton Community Clinic, a community-based free clinic for low-income people. Mary Cain, director of the clinic, sought the unit’s assistance in an effort to get additional medical volunteers to give physicals to children from the area.

“The physicals are required so the kids can enter Headstart (a preschool program) and participate in sports,” said Cain.

The first year Cain started the program at the clinic, 28 kids received physicals. She knew that the need to service the community was much

greater than her volunteer staff alone was capable of handling. So, she came up with the idea of bringing in a MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) unit to help.

She enlisted the assistance of U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula from the 16th District, Bethlehem Township, who contacted the 256th.

With the Army Reserve augmenting her volunteer staff with 40 medical personnel, the clinic can now do more than 400 physicals in a single day.

“Hundreds, literally hundreds of kids in the community can now participate in sports or join Headstart on time,” said Cain. “Low-income families often cannot

afford the required visit to the doctor for their kids.” “Thanks to the Army Reserve’s presence here aug-

“Hundreds, literally hundreds of kids in the community can now participate in sports or join Headstart on time.”

— Mary Cain, clinic director



Sgt. Brian King, an x-ray technician by trade, administers a hearing test to a patient during a physical at a Canton, Ohio, clinic.



Capt. Darleen Gedeon, a nurse anesthetist, examines a patient's ear during the a physical as his mother looks on.

menting my volunteer staff," said Cain, "this annual event is a huge success for the community."

The 256th's personnel operated seven stations: medical exams, dental, audiology, height/weight/blood pressure, urinalysis, immunizations and blood draw.

"This is so much better than normal drills at the unit," said Sgt. Brian King, an X-ray technician who operated the hearing test station during the event. "I love getting out in the community like this, especially in uniform."

The children, preschoolers, 3-5 and youngsters, 7-9, who want to play sports, packed the Canton Urban League facility to get their physicals, many of them with questions for the soldiers. "One little boy asked me if I carried a gun," said Maj. Lauralee Wilson, a nurse practitioner.

The 256th personnel hope they can continue to assist the clinic in this annual community event. "A lot of good feelings are generated between the people in the community and the soldiers," said Burakowski. "Respect, achievement, individual pride are accomplished. Respect as soldiers is what we feel."

At the end of the day, after conducting more than 400 physicals, the 256th personnel appeared exhausted, but elated. They had been all they could be — and were already talking about doing it again next year. ♦



Maj. Doug Yoder, a surgeon, examines a patient during a physical exam at a Canton, Ohio, clinic.

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

“I want to be a techy” Baron handles tech distribution

Imagine fielding several hundred computers, digital senders, and laser printers to more than 200 locations within the 88th Regional Support Command’s six-state area. This large-scale effort takes many firms more than a month to complete; under Capt. Michelle Baron’s leadership, the Information Management Directorate’s 17-day annual training period did the trick.

Baron works with the 88th’s IM Directorate and the 212th Quartermaster Company in Arden Hills to coordinate placing equipment into the hands of the right full-time management person.

“She made sure that every scanner and printer that left here was configured properly for the right unit,” coworker Sgt. 1st Class Sandi Arnold said. “It would be so easy to just ship the box to a unit somewhere and tell them ‘Okay, you guys figure it out.’ But Captain Baron kept up the tracking and made sure that when an end-user got that item, it was ready to be plugged in and worked right from the start.”

The biggest challenge to Baron’s job is working with units that receive computer equipment, but don’t open the boxes. “They are waiting for the ‘techy guys’ to show up to open it all up,” Baron said. “They don’t understand that they need to connect it to the network so that we can actually ‘see’ the equipment from our end.”

Baron and other IM team members send computers, digital senders and printers pre-configured based upon the location of the unit, the part of the network they are connected to, and the individual who will use the equipment. This saves hundreds of hours of eleven-minute assistance visits to configure a machine to work within the 88th RSC’s computer network.

Her second biggest challenge is responding to the age-old issue of equipment allocation, something determined by the full-time manning structure authorized and on-station presently.

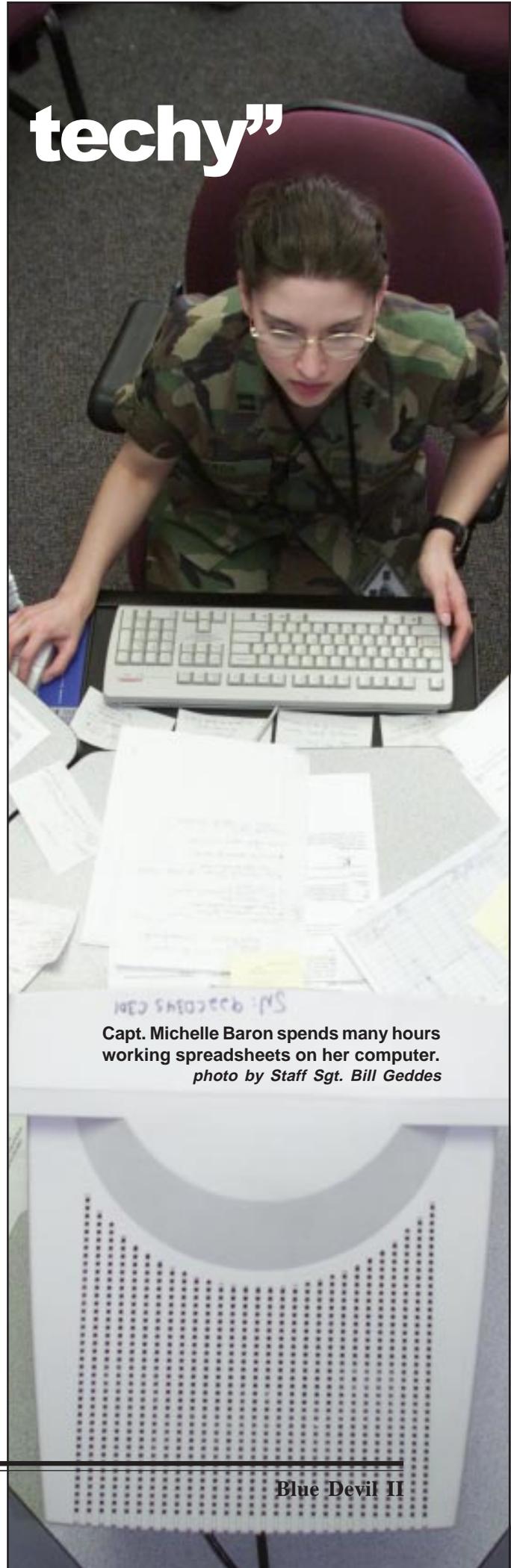
“Every full-time soldier assigned to a facility gets a desktop computer,” Baron explained. “Additionally, for every four or five individuals, one network printer and one digital sender are sent.”

There are exceptions to the policy, and units with unusual computer requirements can request additional equipment via email through Randall Ciechna, the 88th RSC’s chief information officer.

“By staying in control, constantly reporting and bouncing off those reports with me and others, and keeping units involved in the process, she has made an extremely difficult process easy to understand and easy to track”, Ciechna said. “There’re a lot of people out there who think all of their stuff just magically appears. Without Baron, the stuff doesn’t arrive.”

Another frustration for Baron is that the distribution process for the millions of dollars in computer hardware sent outward is “too manual.”

“I would like to see a more automated version of what I’ve been doing,” she said. “And you know, I want to be part of the team that develops it because that’s the kind of thing I want to do — I want to be one of those techy guys!” ♣



Capt. Michelle Baron spends many hours working spreadsheets on her computer.
photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes

A different hooah

Maj. Kevin Knapp's joining of his love of ballooning and the Army has led to new friends, out-of-pocket expense and millions of dollars in free advertising for the U.S. Army

A confident voice calls out, "Keep weight on", as volunteers cling to a rugged wicker basket under an eighty-five foot mountain of hot air. With an enormous burst of flame, the basket pulls upward and the pilot says, "Weight off" as he floats into the sky. He is a soldier. His mission is to spread the Army message throughout the land.

Maj. Kevin Knapp, a human resource development officer at the 88th RSC, has been spreading the Army message in his hot air balloon for over six years.

In 1989, after spending more than 14 years in Special Forces, Knapp moved to St. Louis as the Reserve Operation Officer for the St. Louis Recruiting

Battalion. Knapp had been impressed by balloon rallies in the past, but thought it would be too difficult to start ballooning himself. A chance meeting with a balloon pilot would help Knapp overcome any difficulties that stood between him and the clouds.

"I was out running, met a balloon pilot, he said, 'Here hold this,' and I've been doing it ever since. I was used to action and adventure. Recruiting is intense in and of itself but it didn't have the action and adventure I was used to, so I got into ballooning," said Knapp.

Knapp uses his love of ballooning as a way to promote Army awareness. The black, 60-foot-wide balloon bears the word 'ARMY' in enormous gold letters. The simple, yet impressive message can be seen for miles and touches civilians and service members alike.

"Service members get really excited. Especially in the central-northern Midwest where we don't have any active-duty Army bases. The Army Reserve and the Army National Guard are the only Army that the public sees. When I come and show the Army black and gold, show the Army name, it brings that pride in service, gives them a little bit of different 'hooah' then they're used to," said Knapp.

Knapp promotes the Army with his own time, money and an extreme passion for ballooning. Over the last six years he has spent over 250 hours on the balloon (that's flight hours and doesn't include numerous hours of static displays and road trips to different locations), and is out of pocket over \$150,000. The program has brought over \$3.5 million of publicity to the Army through T.V., radio, newspapers and magazine articles. It is not an official Army program and the exposure gained by the Army costs the government nothing.

A different hooah continued page 12



Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, inflates the 'ARMY' hot air balloon at the Arch Run in St. Louis.

A different hooah

continued from page 11

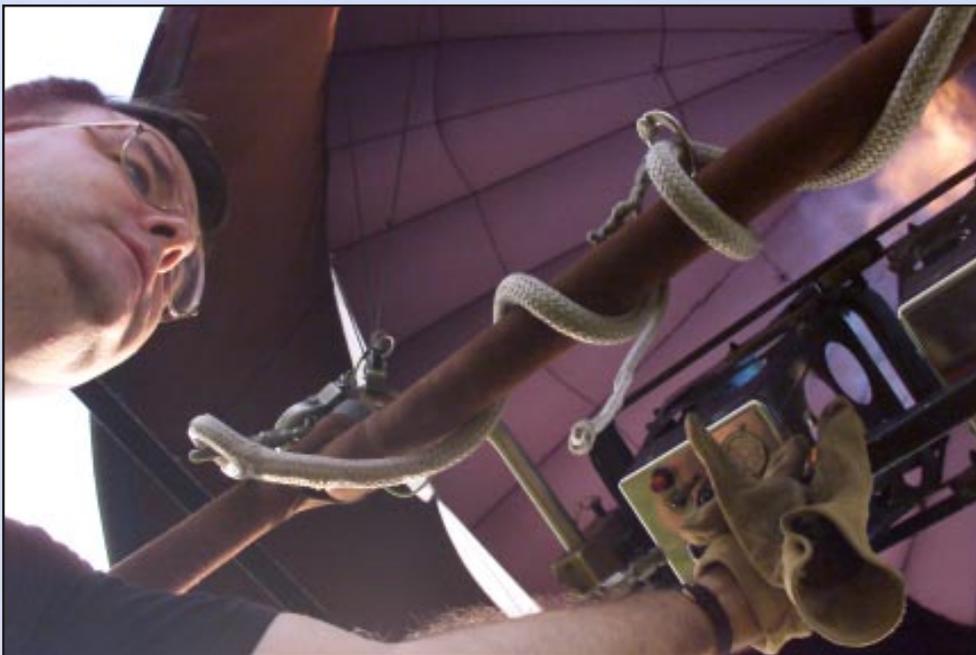
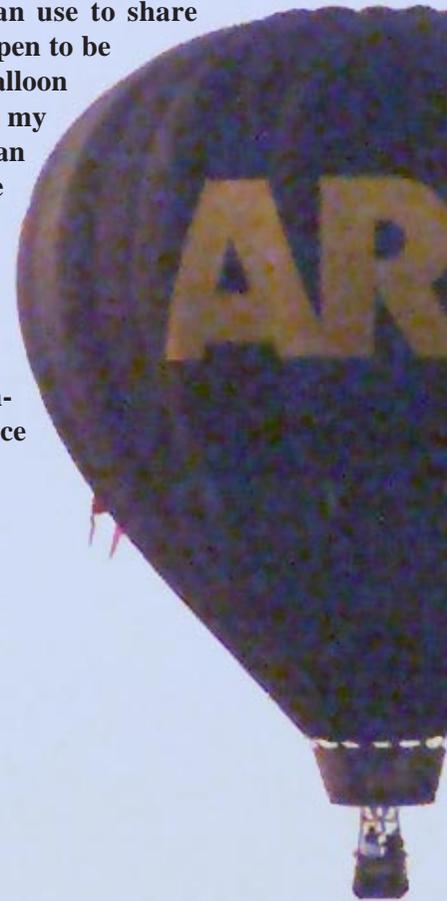
“The focus is getting the Army name out in the public. It’s good to remind civilians that we are a viable option as a service of choice. It also reinforces those service members who made the decision to join the Army. Veterans who see the balloon come up and start talking about what it was like when they were in. The more that they’re talking about their story, their family members listen, their neighbors listen, it comes back to getting the Army name out as the service of choice,” said Knapp.

Knapp is a one-man show. Events range from Washington D.C. to California and 17 states in between. Sometimes driving 13 to 20 hours, he has no ground crew of his own and appreciates the volunteers from the community that help at many of the events. Knapp usually makes it to 15 to 20 events around the country annually, depending on costs and time constraints.

“A lot of soldiers ask me ‘How can I become part of the ‘ARMY’ balloon team?’ and I’ll grab

them and I’ll ask, ‘What are you doing? Come here, hold this.’ The same way I got involved in ballooning,” said Knapp.

“Each one of us has a talent or something in our experience that we can use to share our Army story. I just happen to be a balloon pilot who has a balloon that says ‘ARMY.’ I share my story a little bit louder than most but the more people that we have sharing our stories, especially in the challenging recruiting environment that we have today, the more people will hear those stories and consider the Army their service of choice,” said Knapp. ♣



Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, ignites the burner to put heat into the ‘ARMY’ balloon. Each burner puts out 15 million British thermal units.





Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, explains inflation procedures to 8-year-old Corry (left) and 11-year-old Nate Hallinan, sons of Maj. Jim Hallinan, an engineer military personnel officer for the full-time support management directorate prior to the Arch Run May 20, in St. Louis.



(Above) Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, explains the inflation procedure to volunteers.

(Below) Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, displayed the 'ARMY' balloon during the Arch Run May 20, in St. Louis. Knapp displays the balloon at 15 - 20 events throughout the year nationwide.



Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, gives a tethered ride to some young volunteers as a reward for their assistance.



(Left) Maj. Kevin Knapp, 88th RSC Retention Office, unpacks the 'ARMY' balloon from its storage bag in preparation for inflation.

Overdue award

Master Sgt. Ernest Albiero receives Soldier's Medal for four-year-old actions

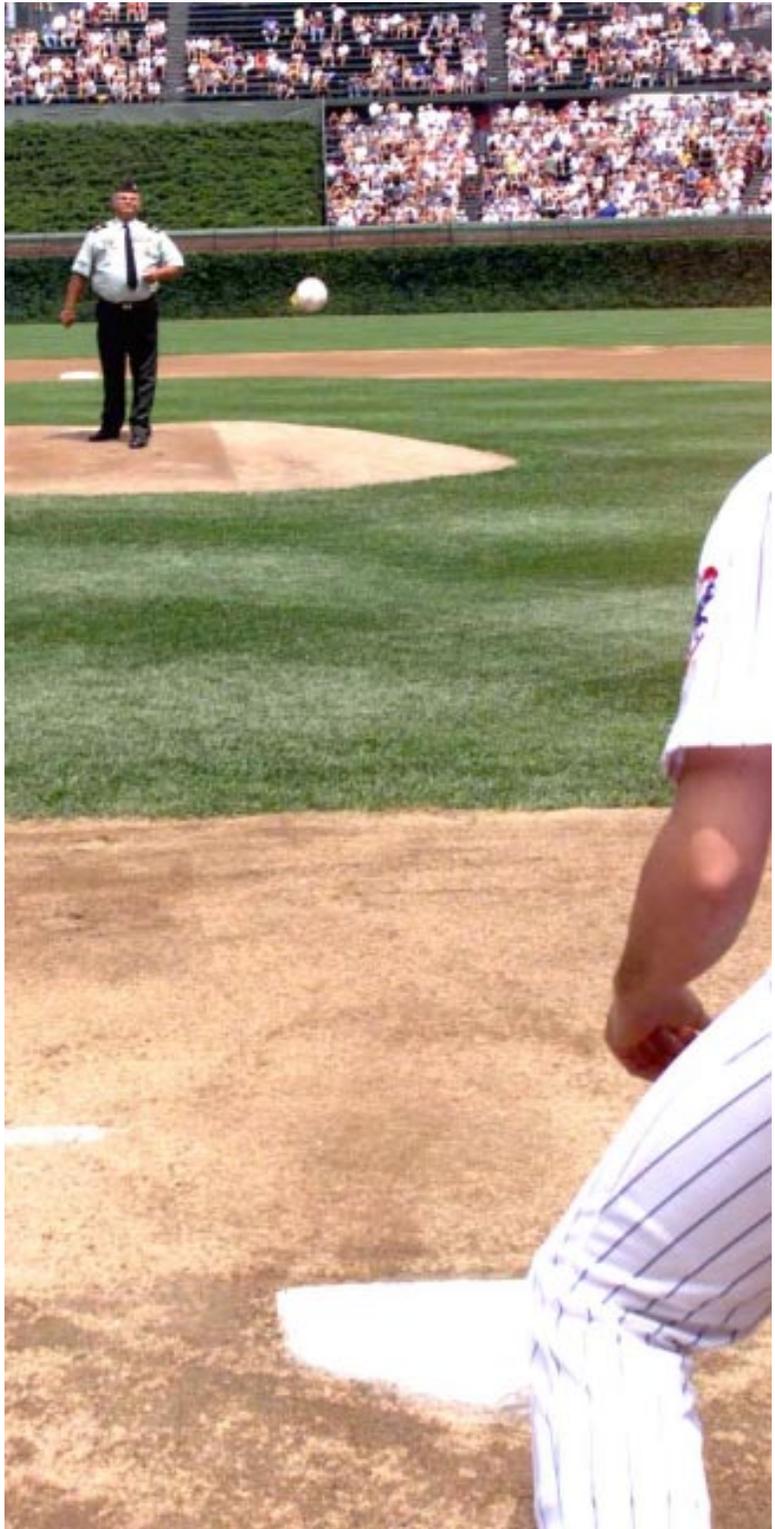
The medal was long overdue – Master Sgt. Ernest “Corky” Albiero performed the actions that earned him the soldiers medal four years earlier – but that was alright with Albiero. He wasn’t looking for recognition when he risked his life to save another – in fact he tries to avoid it.

Albiero was heading back to Fort Hood, Texas, from Brownsville, Texas, June 23, 1996, returning from a pass during his two-week annual training, when a welding truck passed him. Seconds later, Albiero came upon the truck, smashed into the back of a tanker truck, and on fire.

Another motorist had already stopped near the median, and yelled to Albiero that the welding truck driver was pinned inside. White smoke was already billowing from the truck. Albiero leapt into action, grabbing a fire extinguisher from his truck and rushing up to assist. The driver was pinned inside, both doors were jammed shut, and the windshield was blown out

“I ran up to the cab and flames were coming up over the guys head,” Albiero said. “I literally put the fire extinguisher on the guy’s face and put him out. But the fire kept coming up and coming up and coming up. So I kept putting it out and putting it out and putting it out.”

It wasn’t long before Albiero’s extinguisher gave out, and he started looking for another one in the welding truck. “It was one of those trucks with the little doors on the side. I opened one of them up and saw all these acetylene tanks,” Albiero said. “So I ripped them out of there and threw them onto the median. I opened another door and here’s 8 or 9 cases of starting fluid, you know, ether. That (stuff) will blow up, so I threw it out too. People came up and saw me throwing it out like I was a madman or something. I was throwing that stuff all over the highway.”



Master Sgt. Ernest “Corky” Albiero, 376th Finance Battalion, throws the opening pitch at a July 4 Chicago Cubs game to a standing ovation.
photo by Sgt. Noreen Feeney



Master Sgt. Ernest “Corky” Albiero, 376th Finance Battalion, acknowledges the crowd after throwing the opening pitch at a July 4 Chicago Cubs game. Albiero received a standing ovation after the announcer told the crowd why he was there.

photo by Lt. Col. Jeffery S. Wierichs

By this time a crowd had gathered, a crowd Albiero estimates to be around 200 strong. “I just kept yelling at them, ‘Bring me more stuff,’” Albiero said. “They would run up and get about 20 feet from the truck and throw these bottles of lemonade or milk at me, like gallon bottles. I’d take that and goosh him with it. Something was on the floorboards that kept reigniting.”

The floorboards weren’t the only part of the truck on fire. Flames were also coming up from the hood – the place Albiero was climbing to ‘goosh’ the driver with whatever fluid was thrown to him – and while he didn’t re-

alize it at the time, Albiero was getting burned too. Albiero was more concerned about the driver. “He looked like he was having a problem,” Albiero said. There was that plastic smoke coming up – you know, thick black – that stuff you can’t breathe. He was moaning at me, reaching out to me. I told him, ‘Don’t die, I’m going to stay with you until we get you out. I’m going to get you out of this truck, you just hang tough kid.’ He did, he hung on.”

Most of the crowd of 200 spectators was, understandably, leery about coming forward. They had, after all, just

seen Albiero throwing acetylene tanks and bottles of ether out of the welding truck. And no one knew what was in the tanker truck. Fortunately, one other person did step forward.

“If I ever see that Mexican guy again, I’m going to give him a sloppy kiss,” Albiero said. “He saved my life.” Albiero never knew the man’s name, but thanks to his stepping forward and putting out the fire under the hood

while Albiero put out the fire in the cab, he’ll never forget him.

Finally, 20 minutes after the accident, the paramedics got there. A paramedic ran up with the ‘Jaws of

Life,’ a device used to free people trapped in vehicles, but she was too slight to get the job done. “You have to have enough (weight) to punch it into the door,” said Albiero, who used to work as a paramedic. Albiero punched it in and went to work. “When I opened the Jaws of Life and I pulled the door off, I had bent down the top of the door. I tried to rip it down with my hands. I’m a big dude you know, so I could push it. When I got the door open, he was pinned in about 6-8 inches of space. I saw

Overdue award continued page 16

“You don’t sit back and watch, you help. That’s what soldiers do, soldiers do that stuff.”

— Master Sgt. Ernest “Corky” Albiero

Overdue award continued from page 15

the fire extinguisher behind the seat.”

The paramedics got the driver out of the cab and went to work on saving his life. Albiero, exhausted after the 15 – 20 minute experience, and not yet aware of his burns, asked a police officer if he could leave. The officer told him to pull his car around; he’d let him through. “You don’t look too good either,” the officer said.

As he continued his drive back to Fort Hood, Albiero realized he was burned, and called his wife for advice. She told him to stop in at Wal-Mart and pick up some Neosporin. Albiero finally arrived at Fort Hood, a little bit late. “My colonel thought I’d gotten into a bar fight or something,” said Albiero. “I had bandages hanging all over me.”

Once he’d gotten back, Albiero grew curious as to what had become of the driver. He found out that the driver, Charlie Wasserman, had been taken to Brooks Medical Center at Fort Hood. Unable to find out any information on his own, Albiero contacted the chaplain for assistance. The chaplain, while investigating the situation, talked to Wasserman’s partner, who had been trailing Wasserman and was one of the 200 in the crowd. Knowing what was in the truck, he had been unwilling to come forward, but told the chaplain about some Army guy (Albiero was wearing his PT uniform at the time) who had put the fire out.

The next morning the chaplain came to where Albiero’s unit was training, told his commanding officer what he had done, and put Albiero in contact with Wasserman’s family.

From that point on, Albiero received updates from the family, and Wasserman was still alive when Albiero left Fort Hood. Unfortunately, Wasserman ended up dying eight days later. But, as Mary F. Wasserman, Charles mother, wrote in a letter to Albiero, “If (Albiero) had not been there, we would not have had those last few days with our son. This too was God’s plan, because our entire family has become closer as a result of the tragedy.”

Albiero was put in for a Soldier’s Medal, but the paperwork was lost. Because two years had passed, the medal could only be awarded if a congressional member

reopened the case. Lt. Col. Jeffery S. Wierichs, wanting his soldier to receive appropriate recognition, wouldn’t let the award die, and contacted Albiero’s congressman, Rep. Dennis Hastert (Ill.) Hastert submitted the award, but the Army lost the paperwork again. Wierich continued to follow up, and Hastert again submitted the award.

Hastert presented the award to Albiero on May 30. “I haven’t presented an award like this before,” said Hastert. It was really an extraordinary thing. I believe the Reservists are the core of the community. They do a great job, not only while on duty, but within their community as well.”

Those words definitely apply to Albiero. “Corky’s an old school soldier,” said Wierich. “He doesn’t look for reasons not to do things, he looks for solutions, for how to get things done.”



Master Sgt. Ernest “Corky” Albiero, 376th Finance Battalion, shakes hand with Congressman Dennis Hastert after being presented with a Soldier’s Medal.

photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes

Albiero also got recognition within the community. On July 4, Albiero was one of three people who threw out an opening pitch at the Chicago Cubs game. “The first two people to throw out a pitch were your typical celebrities - the type who normally throw out the pitch -- and the crowd booed,” said Albiero. “I got up there in uniform, and the announcer read why I was being honored, and the whole stadium stood up and cheered.”

They probably recognized Albiero’s attitude. “You don’t let another human being go to hell in a handbasket,” said Albiero. “You don’t sit back and watch, you help. That’s what soldiers do, soldiers do that stuff. I was probably the only soldier there. It’s an attitude. Army people have an attitude.” ♣

Wilderness Center tamed

Hurricane-delayed engineering projects help engineers

A hurricane slowed the projects down, but it couldn't stop the Toledo, Ohio-based 983rd Engineer Battalion from completing the mission.

Between July 10 and Aug. 11, two rotations totaling more than 100 Reservists from the 983rd set up base camp in Stark County, Ohio, faced with two distinct construction projects: adding a retaining wall, two shelters and an additional parking tier to the parking lot at the Wilderness Center in Wilmot, Ohio, and clearing a six-mile trail in the Canal Fulton, Ohio, area.

According to Wilderness Center Development Director Howard S. Rubin, Jr. this is the third year of construction projects on the 573-acre property, but the first year that the Army Reserve battalion has joined in. The 983rd was scheduled to begin construction operations on these sites last year, but members were called away to Guatemala for hurricane disaster relief instead.

"This is a good opportunity for the soldiers to train in their military occupational specialty (MOS)," said 1st Lt. Christopher L. Smith, 983rd Eng. Bn. OIC for both sites during the first rotation. "This is also good community relations. Once they (the community) realized what we're here for, they welcomed us."

"Having the Reserves here was one of the key things to make this project come together," Rubin said. "They're doing a great job. They really care about what they're doing."

Rubin explained that the

Wilderness Center is buying the materials for the recreational trail, while the battalion is providing the labor and equipment. Members of the battalion are spending their two-week rotation bulldozing, clearing, flattening and widening the six-mile trail, which is owned by the Stark County Park District. When finished, the abandoned railroad line on the west side of the Tuscarawas River will be changed to a 20-foot-wide trail, able to accommodate walkers, runners, bicyclers and horseback riders.

"We're building something for them (the community)," said 1st Lt. Amy B. Herrick, OIC of the Canal Fulton project. "This is definitely a real-world mission; giving back to the community."

Something the community seems to appreciate. "A lot of people seem happy that we are doing this," said Spec. Mark A. Swanson, a heavy equipment operator with the 983rd. "They've stopped by, asked questions and said they are excited about this."

The 983rd has gained from the experience too. "It's a great opportunity to actually get 'stick-time' on the equipment," said Pfc. Victor M. Ghallozi, a truck driver for the 983rd. "Drills are normally spent checking equipment, making sure it's operational and doing smaller projects."

"We have hauled 4,000 tons of fill and stone from a nearby landfill and from soil on site," said 1st Lt. Tim E. Blubaugh, logistic support coordinator. "Also, we've placed 81 yards of concrete, 2 footers for buildings, 2 double-tier staircases and a 100-foot-long sidewalk. Six thousand gallons of fuel have been used in hauling and equipment operations, and we've placed over 50 feet of retaining wall to help beautify the entrance to the center."

A huge amount of work – but something the 983rd was happy to do. As Staff Sgt. Allen E. Fairchild, a carpentry/masonry supervisor for the 983rd said, "Anything to help our kids, our leaders and our future for tomorrow." ♦



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Eckart, a platoon sergeant for the 983rd Engineer Battalion, touches up a drainage area during an annual training exercise at the Wilderness Center.

Army Development System XXI recommends multi-skilled soldiers

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Sept. 5, 2000) — Nine months after standing up, the Army Development System XXI task force is preparing to present its final recommendations on how to improve the current Enlisted and Warrant Officer Personnel Management systems.

Chief among its recommendations to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki will be the concept of a 'multi-skilled soldier' as the underpinning for future Military Occupational Specialty and force structure considerations.

"The environment in which our soldiers serve today can be characterized as one of rapid and continuous change," said Col. Dave Cutler, ADS XXI director. "There is no one clear enemy and our traditional roles keep expanding. Equipment modernization and changes to our doctrine and structure must be anticipated to keep pace. The Enlisted and Warrant Officer Personnel Management System studies and their recommendations should help the Army keep current with the many changes it faces."

Cutler explained how the Army currently relies on institutional training to prepare soldiers for their assigned jobs, the equipment they use and the missions they receive.

"Change in the operational environment occurs faster than we can react with institutional training programs and we may not be able to accurately quantify with an MOS all things soldiers may be required to do," he said. "Soldiers repeatedly demonstrate the ability to adapt to new environments and learn new skills."

Recognizing that soldiers are adaptable, the task force is recommending that institutional training be more focused on the core job competencies that comprise a soldier's MOS as opposed to all of the separate tasks.

As a result of the momentum created by the ADS XXI study, Army branch proponents have independently initiated actions that may reduce a burdensome 241 MOS's currently in the Army inventory, to a more manageable and broader figure of around 200, Cutler said. This potentially creates larger pools of soldiers from which commanders can draw in the future to meet Shinseki's guidance to keep warfighting units manned at 100 percent.

ADS XXI also advocates providing NCOs with published, approved career development plans. This may include placing greater emphasis on directed self-development beyond the required institutional Army schools and providing the proper resources for that development. A rewritten Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-25 will lay out the training and operational assignments required for development along specific career paths.

Other enlisted personnel management recommendations include: restrict garrison and other non-warfighting organizational manning requirement changes and require Department of the Army approval for those changes; develop a web-based automated personnel management system; and improve unit readiness reporting with a system that better captures soldiers' deployment histories.

Task force warrant officer recommendations include:

- Define the warrant officer duties and responsibilities more thoroughly in DA Pam 600-3.
- Report warrant officer assignments and readiness throughout the Army by grade.
- Improve warrant officer accessions by targeting candidates earlier in career.
- Institute an enhanced warrant officer education model for professional

development with increased opportunity for technical training. "From the very beginning, our measure of success for any recommendation has been that it must be good for the soldier, the Army and the nation," Cutler said. "I believe we are meeting that standard."

The task force will make its final recommendations to Shinseki sometime in early October. A complete look at recommendations is posted on the web at <http://www.army.mil/adsxxi>.

By Joe Burlas

Military Travel Guide

The Military Travel Guide is the largest Internet resource of its kind, with FREE centralized, one-stop information and reservations for the Armed Forces Recreation Centers, military lodging, military campgrounds, military golf courses, military recreation areas, and space-available information. Access the guide on web, using the following: <http://militarytravelguide.com>

Condo life

Would you like a good deal on a week of "condo life" without sitting through a sales pitch or other presentation? Now is the time to plan a escape from winter temperatures to a "hot" deal. The Armed Forces Recreation Club is a great deal if the time and place fits your vacation plans.

You can find locations available to book a 7-night resort vacation worldwide for a flat rate of \$209. Rates normally range up to \$1500. Accommodations vary from two to eight persons. This benefit is available to all military, reservists and Department of the Army civilians.

Check out www.afvclub.com for availability.

No earring change

Despite reports to the contrary in a recent USA Today article there has been no, repeat NO, change to Army policy pertaining to the wear of earrings by male soldiers. The male body piercing policy remains: No attaching, affixing, or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the skin while in uniform, while in civilian clothes on duty or in civilian clothes off duty on any military installation or other places under military control.

E-5, 6 promotion guide

To qualify for promotion, soldiers:

- Must be recommended by commander
- Must meet (waivers required if applicable)
 - * Time in service for sergeant:
 - 36 months = primary zone,
 - 18 months = secondary zone
 - * Time in grade for sergeant:
 - 12 months waivable to 6 months
 - * Time in service for staff sergeant:
 - 84 months = primary zone,
 - 48 months secondary zone
 - Time in grade for staff sergeant:
 - 15 months waivable to 8 months
- Must qualify with weapon (most recent)
- For recomputation / reevaluation if you don't qualify = 0 points
- Must hold at least interim security clearance, if MOS requires a clearance
- Can submit packet if flagged and commander recommends. A passing Army Physical Fitness Test is mandatory for promotion consideration (can be placed on promotion list but not promoted until flag is lifted)
- Must be selected by battalion promotion board
- Board results placed on Permanent Recommended Promotion List (PRPL); compiled at the 88th RSC quarterly (Jan. 31, April 30, July 31, Oct. 31)
- Unit must request fills as vacancies occur. Soldier with the highest number of points, with required MOS within the geographic area will be promoted. First unit to request fill that matches your MOS gets a new sergeant/staff sergeant (not always your home unit)
- Soldier must complete mileage statement if he/she is willing to travel outside the commuting distance (50 miles/90 minutes)

Make a difference

Stop waiting around for something to happen...

...Be alert! Be astute!! Make a difference,
Don't ponder in life..."What's next to be?"

Be positive, know...make a difference.

...Create a ripple in this sea of life...

For if you don't, who'll know you've been there?

...Start!!!...you don't have to lead, just start,
for if you start, someone may follow you there.

...If we strive in life to improve our lot

Hard work shall not deter us,

...Education can lead us through life's adversity and
intelligence will eventually house us.

...There are no limits to life's possibilities

Project, be sure, let the world see you be,

...Don't stagnate in life by being dormant,
move on them, establish yourself...BE!

So blaze a trail for others to follow

...Make a difference, begin, show the way!!!

Lead those amongst us who have no initiative...

Show that all is not lost...Show that there is a way.

..You who can make a difference!!!

Command Sgt. Maj. Willie G. Conley, Jr.,
983rd Engineer Battalion

- If conditionally promoted, must enroll in Primary Leadership Development Course (sergeant) or Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course (staff sergeant) within 12 months and be qualified within 24 months of assignment to new position
 - Per AR 140-158 b(3), a soldier may be promoted into a position outside his/her unit
 - Soldier does not need to be currently assigned to a sergeant / staff sergeant position to be considered or selected for promotion to that rank
- Note: Soldiers with a date of rank prior to Oct. 1, 1992, are considered as NCOES-qualified commensurate with their current rank.

For more information on how to get promoted, required qualifications, or dates of upcoming boards, contact Liz Petty at 1-800-THE ARMY, ext. 3546.

Family Readiness

AFAP 2000 prioritizes family readiness issues

By Spec. Danny C. Martin, Jr.,
350th MPAD, Indianapolis, Ind.

A wife of a Reservist and mother of two waits impatiently in the check-out line at the local grocery store. When her total appears on the register, she releases a sigh of sorrow. She knows that she has to replace a portion of her items because her husband had his weekend drill and used some of the grocery money to pay for fuel and a hotel room.

This may not happen to all reservists, but is a harsh reality for some.

Recently in Dallas, issues like this and approximately 3,000 others were discussed and weighed for importance during the Year 2000 Army Family Action Plan Conference.

AFAP, organized in 1982, was developed to tend to and prioritize these issues by using the input, knowledge and opinions of soldiers (active duty and Reserve), family members, retirees and Department of the Army civilians.

“AFAP builds the forum to change some of the ‘Quality of Life’ policies the Army has set,” explained C.R. Lee Ratliff, director of Family Readiness, USAR. Participants then vote on what they feel are the top five issues that need looking into.

The participants broke down into several topic groups, including Force Support, Family Programs, Medical/Dental, and Retirement.

“I expect you to all S.I.S.(steal ideas shamelessly) and to S.I.W.(share ideas willingly) for the betterment of the Army Family,” said Chief of the Army Reserve Maj. General Thomas J. Plewes, as he addressed the conference.

Once the work groups finished, it was their time to sell their ideas to the rest of the participants. This year’s top five issues were mileage and lodging reimbursement for drilling Reservists, a survivor benefit increase, Montgomery GI Bill extensions and transfer exceptions, redefinition of VA

qualifications, and TRICARE for “gray-area” retirees.

“Everyone here is a volunteer,” said Diane Magrane, Family Readiness director for the 88th Regional Support Command. “We all want to make a difference to create changes for the better.”

Everyone has heard a complaint or made a suggestion that could supposedly change the morale and standards of the Army. Whether it’s the anxious mother, a college student having trouble coming up with the tuition bill or a retired Vietnam veteran who isn’t technically a veteran. That is the idea behind AFAP, to have the ideas and opinions of the soldiers to be brought forth and heard.

Maj. Gen. Craig Bambrough, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Command summed the entire conference up with one very deep and inspiring thought. “Today, we’re taking care of our soldiers.” ♦

Equal Opportunity

Question: How much damage can spreading rumors in your unit do? More than you know. Rumors...how do they start?... An accident is seen...or a story told...the “facts” are repeated...BUT...

1. Usually people remember sharp details and forget those that were not so vivid...The most important factor or information may be left out of the report.

2. What people notice and remember depends on their own interests and experiences...A person’s job, political views, life experiences, etc. all affect how events are seen and how information is absorbed and retold.

3. Frequently people see what they expect to see whether it was there or not... The expectation that something good or bad will happen often determines how a person sees an event and retells what happened.

4. People fill in gaps to make a story more believable... A person may report something seen or heard the way it “ought” to be, or the way it “usually” is, rather than the way it actually happened.

5. People build up a story in retelling it...Often a person will make an event more exciting and important than it may have been in order to make it worth retelling.

6. People often shorten a story in retelling it... Leaving out details makes a story easier to remember but this often distorts the facts and changes the effect the story has on the listener.

The RUMOR Test...If someone tells you a rumor, ask these questions...

a. How much of this story do you know to be true, and how much are you taking on somebody else’s say-so?

b. Who told you this story? How reliable is he/she in this case, and where did they get it?

c. How far from the original source has this tale come?

d. How much harm and injustice may we be doing if we believe this story, and if we pass it on?

e. If the story seems to require some action, how can we check it for facts, and sort out the truth from the changes and distortions that have crept in before we act?

Chaplain's Corner

For the past two years, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall has been one of the most popular and heartfelt exhibits of the Minnesota Military Expo, hosted by the 88th Regional Support Command.

As thousands visited the Wall, there were many solemn, moving, yet encouraging testimonies to the 57,000 service members listed as killed or missing in action. Some of the experiences were expressed either verbally or in writing; while some appeared to be locked away in the recesses of memories. Here are a few of those captured experiences:

Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Beale

"I was providing ministry of presence along the wall when a Vietnam veteran called out to me—'Padre!' I responded by asking how I could help him.

He asked me to pray for his buddy. Not knowing who his 'buddy' was, I asked 'What's his name?' He pointed to a name on the wall. I said, 'I would be honored to pray. But before I offer a prayer, please tell me about your friend.'

The veteran stated that he and his high school friend enlisted in the Army together, attended basic training, went to Vietnam, and then ... after a lengthy pause ... said with tears of great remorse 'and he died in my arms.'

It was clear to me that this veteran, some thirty years hence, was still carrying the awesome weight of his buddy's death. With that understanding, I offered prayer — inviting him to place his fingers on top of his buddy's first name as I placed my fingers on his last name etched upon the wall.

My prayer included the veteran envisioning the loving arms of Jesus outstretched to receive his friend and that he would have comfort in knowing that his friend was in the care of God ... that some day he could look forward to a reunion with him in a place where there is no pain, nor sorrow, but a place of eternal peace and rest.

Upon concluding the prayer, I opened my eyes to see tears streaming from the veteran's eyes. It was apparent to me that the veteran realized the vision and placed his friend in the receiving arms of the Almighty. I truly believe that he was finally set free from the burden of memories past."

Chief Warrant Officer Dave Moulder

"I looked down to see a sweet little lady looking up into my eyes, her finger hooked into the sleeve of my BDUs. She said, 'I won't make it to Washington. I have to find him today.'

My guess is that she was in her late 80's. She was very frail and wearing a cotton coat. I asked her for a name and I had her wait in the shade of the tent while I looked it up in the register.

I had searched for many names that day, but her request seemed to have more urgency than the others. This lady was different. She was on a mission.

I found the name in the book and took her arm to escort her to the wall. As I searched the proper panel and line for the name, strictly out of curiosity, I asked what relationship



Many visitors to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Moving Wall made etchings of their loved one's name, just as people do at the Wall in Washington, D.C.

photo by Spec. Danny C. Martin Jr.

she had to this person. She answered in a very broken almost squeak, 'My son.' as my finger stopped on his name.

I stood to hold her as she began to waiver and cry. 'He was such a pretty boy,' she said as she brought out her wallet from her purse to show me the picture taken in her living room of this fine, stract troop.

There he was, perfect, at attention for his mother just before leaving for Southeast Asia. She told me how proud she was of him. She said that she wished she had something to lay under his name. People often leave flowers, scraps of paper or mementos under the names.

I borrowed a few flowers from the nearby wreath and placed them under the fallen troop's name. With that, she sighed and smiled at me, ready to move on after completing a long-awaited task.

I escorted her back to the shade of the tent and convinced her to remove her coat and drink some water. She gave me a warm hug and thanked me one more time. I turned and scanned the crowd for someone else that needed help." ♦

ALERT 2K wraps up year

Story and photo by Capt. Maureen Thayer,
88th RSC ALERT 2K, Fort Snelling, Minn.

“ALERT 2K has two functions,” said Maj. Gen. John O’Connell, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command. “The first is accessions, and the second is to project the uniform in our community.” O’Connell spoke to ALERT 2K staff at Fort Snelling in August for a year-end review. “We’re proud to get into the uniform and show the community what we do.”

In the last 11 months, ALERT 2K has brought in about 300 new accessions and recovered about 650 soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). The program generated over 13,000 non-prior service leads to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC). It has also coordinated and worked more than 1400 community events with Army recruiters.

The mission of ALERT 2K is to improve the strength and readiness of the 88th RSC by recruiting new soldiers and recovering soldiers from the IRR. O’Connell implemented the program in November 1998.

A core staff at Fort Snelling, which includes AGR personnel and soldiers on short tours of active duty, is the tip of the iceberg. This year’s program required nine state representatives, 18 battalion representatives, and more than 400 troop program unit (TPU) representatives in the field across six states.

TPU representatives work at the grass-roots level with

the public. They are usually E-4 or E-5 soldiers who attend community events, such as job and county fairs, working side by side with Army recruiters. Sometimes they work in high schools, which are considered prime recruiting ground. Their job is to look sharp in uniform, be enthusiastic, and tell their Army story to civilians, especially the target group of 17-to 34-year-olds. “The TPU rep sells these kids on the Army. I’ve seen it happen again and again,” said Lt. Col. Steven Shea, Minneapolis Recruiting Battalion commander. “If I say I’m a recruiter,



Spec. Abigail Heins and Sgt. Misty Thompson, 114th Combat Support Hospital, analyze data and prepare end-of-the-year reports. They are on temporary active-duty tours with ALERT 2K.

these kids will immediately do an about-face. But they’ll stay and talk to a TPU rep – that young soldier can sell his unit.”

Sgt. Maj. Howard Handley, also of the Minneapolis Recruiting Battalion, shares this enthusiasm. He said recruiting numbers were up. “We’re getting smarter. We’re picking our targets better, and we’re training these TPU reps on how to work the crowd.”

A TPU rep is tasked to work for ALERT 2K in lieu of drill and annual training. Commanders within the RSC
ALERT 2K wraps up year continued page 23





ALERT Minnesota Military Expo

The ALERT 2K Army Challenge at the Minnesota Military Expo attracted a number of gung-ho civilians who wanted to try their skills and see how they measured up.

The Minnesota Military Expo is a joint-service event designed to show the community what the Reservists in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard do on the weekends. The event is hosted, in part, by the 88th Regional Support Command.

The course featured push up, sit up, pull up and obstacle course portions, all designed to put participators to the test.

The Alert 2K portion of the Minnesota Military Expo also featured ALERT 2K representatives dressed up in Army uniforms from different eras, and a welcome area at the front gate. ♦

ALERT 2K wraps up year continued from **page 23**
cooperate with ALERT 2K by dedicating some of their best troops to the effort.

Battalion and state representatives are noncommissioned officers on AGR tours who manage the TPU reps, and also collect information from each recruiting event, each lead, and each new contract. "I call nineteen recruiting stations every week to find out about accessions," said Staff Sgt. Terry Longworth, battalion rep for northern Indiana.

Battalion and state reps collect an enormous amount of information and input it to a database maintained at the RSC. This database allows the core staff to analyze which events and situations produce the most leads and contracts.

Longworth is proud of the hard work of his TPU reps. "With about 20 TPU reps, I've gotten over 4,000 leads this year. One rep works a cash register in a grocery

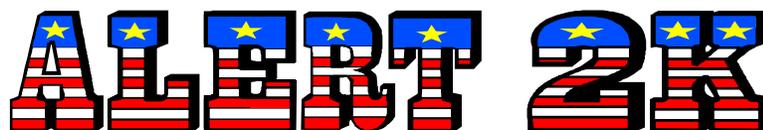
store. She brings me four or five leads every week, and this is from her civilian job," he said.

Many of these reps work weekends and evenings, in addition to traveling great distances to events. They are dedicated to mission accomplishment, and the numbers show it. State representative Sgt. First Class Allison Coullieteburk of northern Indiana said, "High schools are our number one hit – we've got 41 contracts this year."

Leaders agree the program needs fine-tuning, but it remains a priority in this command. "ALERT works well when it has the involvement of three parties – a triad. We need the teamwork of the commands, the recruiters and the TPU reps," said Capt. Jackie Conlan, officer-in-charge of the ALERT 2K program.

O'Connell made his intent clear - "We want to make this program even better next year, and we need 110 percent support from the commanders for this." ♦

Strengthening The Command





Weapons of Mass Destruction **page 6**

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