

# *Blue Devil II*

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

Fall 1999  
Vol. IV, No.4



*See  
story on page 4*

# CG's Corner .....

By Major General John M. O'Connell

**A**s Army Reservists, we understand how vital our role is in helping keep the peace around the world. At no time in our history has the contributions of the reserve components been so critical as the overall force shrinks in numbers, operates with a reduced budget, yet has increased mission requirements at home and abroad. It is a fact that today's Army cannot accomplish its diverse and geographically scattered missions without the soldiers of the Army Reserve.

When Gen. Eric K. Shinseki assumed duties as the Army's 34th chief of staff on June 21, 1999, he acknowledged this increased interdependence of today's active and reserve forces. In a document titled, *Intent of the Chief of Staff, Army*, Shinseki stated:

"We are The Army – totally integrated into a oneness of purpose – no longer the Total Army, no longer the One Army. We are The Army and we will march into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as The Army. We acknowledge the components and their varying organizational strengths. We will work to structure The Army accordingly."

The 88<sup>th</sup> RSC is currently made up of combat support and combat service support units which are individually and collectively vital to our nation's defense.



## .....From the Top

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Bowden

**M**y tenure as command sergeant major of the 88th Regional Support Command is coming to an end. It is hard for an old soldier to say good-bye.

Serving as your CSM has been one of the proudest times of my life. Reflecting back on this time, I am amazed at the changes that have taken place. We officially stood up the 88th RSC in April of 1996. This completed the painful process of merging four Army Reserve Commands into one RSC.

Reflecting on my career and the Army during the years I served is an interesting journey. The Army and

We must do everything we can to ensure our soldiers are well-trained, mentally prepared, and standing at-the-ready should we be called upon to support our nation's causes.

In September more than 100 men and women of the 79<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co. from Rochester, Minn., left for at least eight months duty in Germany, serving as backfill for MP units going down into Kosovo. The 79<sup>th</sup> is the first 88<sup>th</sup> unit, but not likely the only or the last, to be called upon to support our peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo.

The chief of staff further indicated his overarching goal is to keep the U.S. Army the preeminent land warfighting force in the world and he will focus on three important challenges: manning the Army, force modernization, and providing for the well-being of its personnel and families. I am confident Gen. Shinseki will give his full attention and support to the men and women serving in The Army.



I have witnessed many changes. The 60's saw the build up and long years of the Vietnam War. This was a defining time for my generation. Vietnam and its aftermath took a heavy toll on the Army.

In the 70's the Army suffered the end, and the aftermath of the war. Low numbers and lack of morale were just a couple of the problems plaguing our Army.

The 80's saw a rejuvenating of military pride, along with money for new equipment and pay raises. This continued into the next decade and culminated with the Gulf War. Desert Shield-Desert Storm was an example of "Citizen Soldiers" at their finest.

Following Desert Storm was the greatest overhaul of the Reserves to date. The question was no longer if you were to be mobilized, but when. We are now fighting the old enemy of apathy and attrition.

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## On the cover



Staff Sgt. Shannon Larsen, 79th Military Police Company, Rochester, Minn., qualifies on the M-9 pistol range at Fort McCoy while wearing her protective mask. The 79th MP Co. conducted their annual training at Fort McCoy prior to deploying to central Germany in support of Operation Joint Guardian. See the full story on page 4.

*Photo by Ms. Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, PAO, Fort McCoy, Wis.*

# Called to serve

By Mr. Bill Geddes, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn., with contributions by Spec. C. Roger Schiltz, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio, and Spec. Andy Schmalzriedt, 364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

**A** portion of the 79th Military Police Company, Rochester, Minn., deployed to central Germany this September in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

The 110-soldier deployed unit, activated for up to 270 days, is performing community law enforcement duties at various installations throughout central Germany.

In August, prior to deploying, the unit trained in community law enforcement and qualified on various weapons during annual training at Fort McCoy. “We expect to be doing community law enforcement throughout the duration of our stay in Germany,” said Sgt. Randy A. Petty, now stationed in Bamberg, Germany. “Community law enforcement is not our normal mission, combat support is. The unit is flexible and can handle whatever mission they give us.”

That flexibility doesn’t mean that leaving isn’t tough however. “For me, this waiting is the worst part,” said Spec. Jason Piehn during a good-bye celebration the family support group threw the evening before the unit deployed. “I’ll miss my family and friends, and sympathize with a lot of the other unit members with wives and kids back home.” Piehn is now stationed in Wuerzburg, Germany.

Despite the hardship of leaving loved ones, there are positives that come out of deployments. Many of the soldiers began the deployment with expectations of gaining valuable experience.

From left to right, Staff Sgt. Jeff Goplen, Spec. Doug Globke, and Sgt. Ryan Leif (not deployed), clean weapons at Fort McCoy prior to qualifying on the M-9 pistol range. Photo by Ms. Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, PAO, Fort McCoy, Wis.



“This deployment is not only meeting my expectations, it’s exceeding them,” said Spec. Theodore Levandowsky, stationed in Bamberg, Germany. “I am learning quite a bit about the mission at hand from the more experienced soldiers – that’s the main thing I hoped to get out of this deployment.”

The deployment offers plenty of opportunity for gaining experience. The typical day runs 15-plus hours, according to Spec. Paul Barnes, stationed in Kitzingen, Germany. “Anything from breaking up fights to unlocking quarters for residents who lost their keys, we do it,” he said.

Not only are the soldiers gaining the experience, they are doing their job well. Sgt. 1st Class Walden W. Wagner Jr., Provost Marshal operations sergeant, 279th BSB Provost Marshal Office, wrote the 79th MP Co. that, “The Provost Marshal and I would like to thank you for your outstanding support!!! Collectively and individually, you have assimilated a vast amount of

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*“Community law enforcement is not our normal mission, combat support is. The unit is flexible and can handle whatever mission they give us.”*

— Sgt. Randy A. Petty

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knowledge unique to our community, in an extremely short time. This, coupled with your superb professionalism and technical expertise, ensured a practically flawless transition. On behalf of our community, we want you to know that we truly appreciate your efforts and vigilance in keeping the 279th BSB a safe place to work and live. You are a credit to the Military Police Corps!!! Hooah!”

High praise indeed. But while praise of that sort is nice, it’s not the reason the soldiers of the 79th MP Co. work so hard.

“Our days might be long, but in the end it will all be worth it,” said Sgt. Charles J. Smisek, who is stationed in Kitzingen. “The biggest sacrifices we gave up are the reasons we are here doing this deployment. Family, friends, relatives and people we have never even met that believe in what we as soldiers believe in every time we put our uniforms on -- loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage -- that’s why we’re here.”

**Staff Sgt. Jeff Goplen and wife Gail embrace shortly before Goplen’s flight departs for Fort Benning. Photo by Mr. Bill Geddes, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.**



# Airshow shows off Reservists



Michael Ziegler, 10, concentrates intently as Pvt. Emilian Wojcik applies camouflage during the Cleveland Airshow.

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. David Bennett, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio**

**W**hile solo biplanes and multiple F-16s performed high above spectators during the Cleveland National Air Show Sept. 4, 5 and 6, a small group of soldiers stood grounded near the edge of the tarmac.

As the roar of jet blast rebounded off the lengthy airstrips at the Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland, the select group of Army Reservists explained to visitors how their job is as instrumental to a pilot's success as the gauges in the aircraft.

"They can't fly without us, that's for sure," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joal Laird, a platoon sergeant with the 192<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company in Milan, Ohio.

Laird helps oversee the unit's mis-

sion of supplying petroleum to many kinds of vehicles in various environments. Though unit members weren't supporting the air show this time, their static display informed visitors of what goes into fuel supply.

Sgt. Douglas Loss, a section sergeant, said the Reserve unit is one of three of its kind in Ohio. According to Loss the 192<sup>nd</sup> is equipped to respond anywhere, anytime to erect a mobile bulk petroleum system – the equivalent to a small gas station – when the situation dictates.

During the three-day event, thousands of spectators observed a host of vintage and modern aircraft performing aerodynamic feats high above the concession stands. The event also gave soldiers an opportunity to demonstrate what the Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard are able to accomplish at ground level.

And at the roots.

Spec. David Pierce, a Reservist and dental hygienist with the 360<sup>th</sup> Medical Company in Parma, Ohio, who assisted with a mock field dental clinic, said inclusion in the air show event proved educational for visitors who had misconceptions about the Army.

"There are a lot of stereotypes of the Army," Pierce said. "Many think it's just tanks, but we're telling them there is more."

Staff Sgt. Jose Alegado, a recruiter with the Cleveland Recruiting Battalion, said having the active Army, Reserve and Ohio National Guard working closely together during the event allowed each component to distinguish themselves. He acknowledged that the professionalism on display, coupled with the excitement of the Cleveland National Air Show, makes his recruiting job easier.

"We're talking to everyone, from the young kids to the veterans." Alegado said. "It's great." 

# 323rd CSH soldiers save life

Story and photo by Lt. Col. Helen E. Alm, 323rd Combat Support Hospital, Southfield, Mich.

It was Aug. 7, 1999, when dinner at a local restaurant in Milford, Mich., nearly turned to disaster, but for the efforts of two young men dressed in BDUs.

The two soldiers, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Miscall and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gregory Simons, came to the aid of a



Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gregory S. Symons, 323rd CSH, interviews a soldier about his blood pressure during a physical exam.

fellow patron who had fallen unconscious to the floor. A crowd quickly formed around the ailing woman, but no one present could give her assistance.

Miscall and Simons quickly determined that the

woman was lifeless, without pulse or respiration and required immediate CPR. Miscall and Simons performed two-man CPR while the crowd of about one hundred patrons watched and prayed for success.

The two NCOs, practical nurses in the 323d Combat Support Hospital (CSH), Southfield Mich., were on their Army Reserve IDT weekend and had stopped for dinner in route to their homes.

It was a grave situation for the 50- to 60-year-old woman known to Miscall and Symons only as Sue. Following two to three minutes of CPR a pulse returned but quickly faded and CPR was once again initiated. After about 20 minutes, the local ambulance arrived with the necessary diagnostic equipment, critical to the required treatment. Symons delivered the much-needed electrical shock and re-established a safe heart rhythm, applied oxygen, and assisted in loading Sue into the ambulance for transport. By the time Sue was ready to go to the hospital, she was conscious enough to squeeze the hands of her benefactors. The anxious crowd responded with a standing ovation.

In a letter to the 323<sup>rd</sup> CSH commander, Sue's friend, Ms. Sandra Sheppard, wrote the following. "Last night, August 7, 1999, at a local restaurant I watched two of your soldiers perform a miracle, as they brought a friend back to life. Sue was blue and her heart had stopped... Your soldiers spent over 20 minutes doing CPR on Sue before the ambulance arrived. They brought her back twice but her heart kept stopping. Watching two men in Army uniforms perform such heroic measures sure makes us proud of our services. I do know they are heroes and deserve the Army's highest medal."

The situation was tense with relatives crying and the crowds about, the two sergeants said, but the task at hand required all of their energies and total concentration.

"There were numbers of witnesses to the event, said Miscall. "I remember some faces but no names. What I do know, is that this grandmother will, hopefully, be able to enjoy the company of her grandchildren for some time to come." ❀

# Exceeding standards

Story and photos by Sgt. Susanne Aspley, 84th Division (IT)

**M**anaging to pass the physical training (PT) test may not be enough when on a high-stress deployment or peacekeeping mission, much less combat. All the high-tech weapons in the Army's arsenal are useless if a soldier is not fit enough to use them. Keeping up with Army physical fitness standards is one reason to put on a pair of running shoes. The personal gains, however, may be just as important.

"Everyone has obligations in life and duties in the Army they have to do, usually for other people," said Master Sgt. Kevin Murphy, an instructor at the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School Mobile Training Team (USAPFS), Fort Benning, Ga. "But physical fitness is about taking care of yourself, to improve the quality of, and add years to your life."

Recently, 52 soldiers from all ranks of the Active, Guard, and Reserve graduated from an intensive two-week Master Fitness Trainer (MFT) course held at Fort McCoy, Wis. The students, with required Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) scores of at least 80 percent, had their mental, and physical muscles challenged by the four-member USAPFS team from Fort Benning. The cadre's responsibilities include advising army staff on fitness policy and leading selected soldiers through the MFT program.

"Physical fitness is a big part of my life already, and I knew going to a course of this measure would only further my knowledge," said Staff Sgt. Kirk Patterson, AGR supply sergeant, 180th Transportation Company, Muskegon, Mich. But that was before he attended the course.

"Being a body builder, I thought I was in really good shape -- that was until I went to the MFT course,"



**Staff Sgt. Punnarin Koy, (center)** an infantry sergeant with 1st Battalion, 340th Reg., does the flutter kick with other classmates during a road march 'break' as part of the Master Fitness Trainer course held at Fort McCoy, Wis.

said Patterson. "My idea of fitness has definitely changed for the better. I know now that being physically fit involves a lot more than just going to the gym and working out. It also involves diets and cardiorespiratory and endurance training."

Each day of the course began with a physical training session. Pushed—but not quite smoked—the students participated in a variety of speed and agility drills, grass drills, guerilla drills, and obstacle courses, as well as a post-wide urban orienteering course. Showers and breakfast were followed by a packed day of classes, including

body composition, nutrition, healthy lifestyle habits, injury and disease risks, and unit and individual program development.

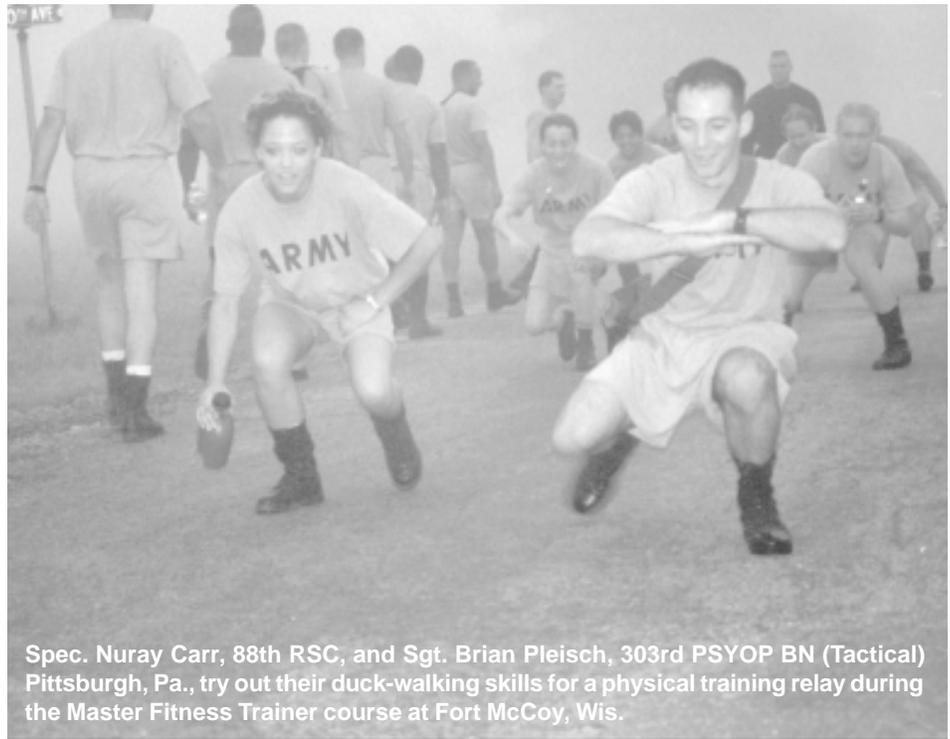
Often there are situations where unit training is not possible or practical, such as for Reserve and Guard soldiers, headquarters staff and soldiers working odd shifts. Fitness then falls into individual responsibility, regardless of military occupational specialty or duty position.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Moledor, CID Special Agent, 375th Military Police Det., (Criminal Investigations) Columbus, Ohio, is also a recent graduate. "I'm the weight control officer in my unit," he said. "I have some great soldiers who struggle with their weight and PT. I wanted to learn the tools to assist them and keep good soldiers in the Army."

Once the master fitness trainer has gained a personal awareness of physical fitness, he or she is able to design both unit and individual PT programs. Ideally, a battalion-size element should have one MFT to advise the commander on the unit PT program. "I want to create a PT program that challenges our soldiers. I'd like people to look forward to PT, instead of dreading it, as is so often the case," said Moledor.

"I learned that everyone is capable of being physically fit," said Patterson. "All that is needed is the will- ingness and the dedication to want to feel good about yourself, and to strive to live a long and healthier life."

Murphy explained during class that physical fitness training should enhance a soldier's ability to successfully perform the unit's mission and mission essential task list. Physical fitness training activities and assessments must correlate with the physical proficiency needed to become mission capable. The Army is shifting toward developing battle-focused physical readiness assessments, creating PT based on mission and



Spec. Nuray Carr, 88th RSC, and Sgt. Brian Pleisch, 303rd PSYOP BN (Tactical) Pittsburgh, Pa., try out their duck-walking skills for a physical training relay during the Master Fitness Trainer course at Fort McCoy, Wis.

METL, de-emphasizing distance running and improving motor skills and total-body muscular strength.

"The APFT is a measuring tool. Just because one can pass an APFT does not mean that they are ready for combat," said Sgt. Terrance Moore, AGR auto logistic specialist, 322nd Maintenance Company, Arden Hills, Minn.

Sgt. 1st Class Galen House, an instructor assigned to the USAPFS, stressed that the future of Army PT will

de-emphasize programs based on building and maintaining fundamental military skills. Medicine ball drills, plyometrics, war

clubs, combatives, and inversion training will soon be more common than the usual routine of pushups, sit ups and a two-mile run.

Graduation day was the highlight of the course, said Spec. Ken Nielsen 180th Trans Co, Muskegon, Mich., but the road was worth the trip. "Whether it was group studying, preparing for the MFT Olympics, or the early morning PT sessions, getting to know the other students and who they were was definitely the most enjoyable part," he said. As far as fitness goes, he added, "All it takes is a little motivation, dedication and a willingness to change and it can be done." ♦

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*"Being a body builder, I thought I was in really good shape -- that was until I went to the MFT course"*

— Staff Sgt. Kirk Patterson

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When senior NCOs from the 88th RSC gathered for Team Builder 99, as expected, it ended with...

## Mission Accomplished

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Anmarie Petruzzelli, 364<sup>th</sup> MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

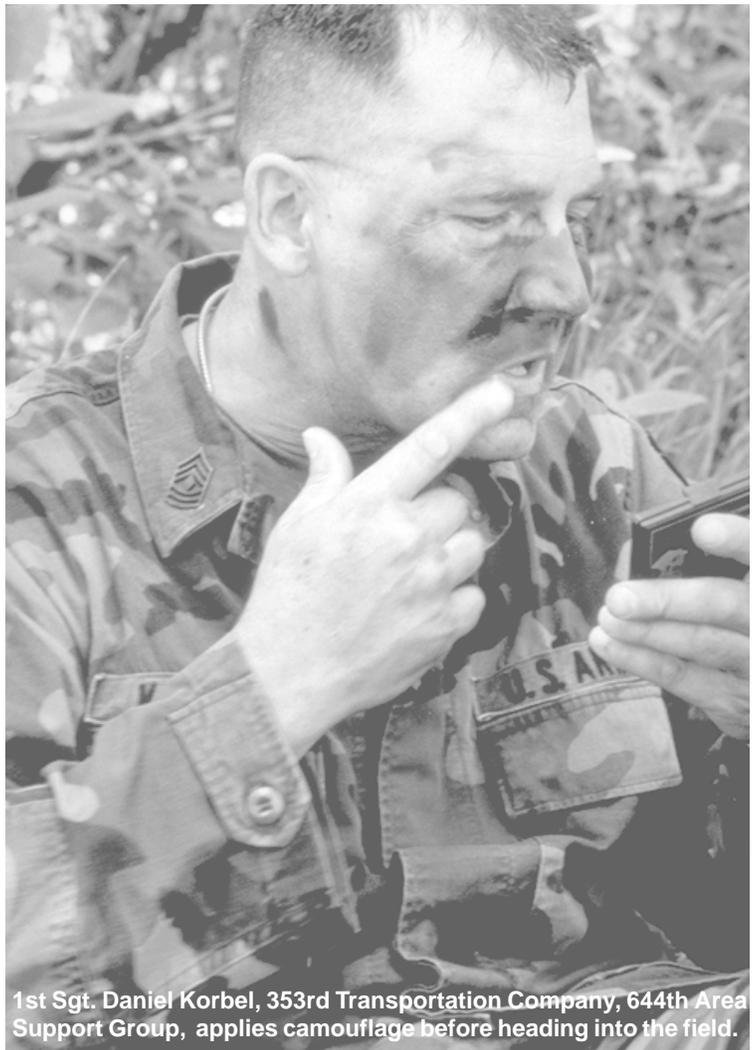
It was a typically hot, August weekend of training at Fort McCoy, Wis. The grueling Army Physical Fitness Test began at dawn with the NCO Academy cadre counting only the picture-perfect pushups and smiling to themselves as soldiers strained for one extra sit-up. The heat from the asphalt running course pushed hard against the runners.

Been there. Done that. Haven't we all?

But there's a twist. This wasn't the typical group of young soldiers trying to graduate from an NCOES course. These were the senior leaders from all six states of the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command; soldiers with at least 15 years under their belts.

Team Builder '99, the third Team Builder conference hosted by the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Bowden, took the command sergeants major, sergeants major, and first sergeants through a new way to conduct Common Task Training in the field.

After the APFT, the leaders gulped down a cold breakfast while they showered, dressed for the field, and applied camouflage to their faces and hands. They assembled at the start point, divided into seven teams and received their mission: conduct a leader's recon of the 330<sup>th</sup> Medical Group area of operation and recommend force protection and base defense. Oh yeah, by the way, squeeze in 17 Skill Level 1, 2, 3, and 4 tasks along the way. Be able to teach them too. And those radios? Make sure they work because you'll need to check in at all three rally points — that'll be about every 3 or 4 miles. Be done by 1500 hours. Today.



1st Sgt. Daniel Korb, 353rd Transportation Company, 644th Area Support Group, applies camouflage before heading into the field.

It was already 0930.

They deployed rapidly, checking their pace counts carefully and planning undetectable routes to each rally point. Soon the tactical operations center received message traffic as teams reached their first checkpoints. The leaders knew their stuff. It was obvious they weren't struggling to remember how to do this. Their knowledge was current. They had years of experience at this game.

Second checkpoints were more scattered as the differences in terrain had their effect.

Time was running short. 1500 hours was going to be a tight squeeze. Everyone stepped up the pace. Under pressure, CTT tasks at each checkpoint were mastered quickly.

At the last checkpoint, team leaders from all seven teams not only performed the recon mission, but deployed their teams in a defensive posture, as well. No one was going to come in or out of the 330<sup>th</sup>'s AO. 1500 hours. Mission accomplished. ♦

# Northern Eagle

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. David Boe, 364<sup>th</sup> MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Something wasn't right. All of the elements were there: doctors shouting orders, orderlies darting about, carrying stretchers and medical supplies; even a grim-looking chaplain lurking in the corner. It was all there – a trauma room that sounded real, smelled real, and looked real.

Except for the person laying on the stretcher with half of her leg missing. True, the examining doctors looked earnest enough, and the bloody stump that used to be her right leg appeared gooey enough. What gave her away was her hands, casually interlocked, resting on her chest.

The patient, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Melissa Mann, a nurse with the 114<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, may not be a method actor, but she still had the extra burden of performing two roles that day. Outwardly she was playing a casualty, and, the peaceful hands not withstanding, was doing a pretty good job at it. More discreetly, though, she was pulling double duty as an observer for the medical exercise she was participating in.

It was called Northern Eagle 2000, and as medical exercises go it was big. Eight Reserve and National Guard units from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines took part in the event, held the weekend of Sept. 11-12.



Capt. Don Sodeman, a doctor with the 114<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital holds the stretcher as Maj. Janice Johnson, a nurse with the 114<sup>th</sup> CSH diagnoses a burn patient.

Based on a hostile scenario that takes place in the Balkans and Italy, the exercise was conducted at Fort Snelling, Camp Ripley, and the Air Force Reserve Base in Minneapolis, all in Minnesota. The size and scope of the exercise, not to mention the conflicting styles of the different branches, made Northern Eagle 2000 a challenge for all involved. But, said Mann, that's what made it work.

"An exercise like this is very beneficial," she said. "It puts all the pieces together and helps bring more realism overall."

Putting the pieces together was the job for the various commanders of the exercise, and probably no one had a more challenging mission than Navy Lt. Commander Roger DeBoer, 23<sup>rd</sup> Fleet Hospital out of St. Paul, Minn. As field commander

at Camp Ripley, DeBoer oversaw the transfer of simulated casualties from the front lines to the battalion aid stations, then to Fort Snelling via air evacuation. In short, he had to run a tight ship while on land. Ironic yes, but this required the full cooperation of the different branches. While some aspects of his operation were simulated, the coordination wasn't.

"The real challenge was communication and getting on the same language," said DeBoer. "Each branch has different agendas and needs, and the trick was to get them all blended so we end up speaking the same."

For DeBoer, that meant getting all of his different units to work in a way that achieved his main goal: treating and evacuating casualties as quickly as possible. The Air Force had the

*Northern Eagle continued on page 12*

# Northern Eagle

**Continued from page 11**

air evacuation down, and two Army Reserve units were on hand to help treat the incoming patients from the front lines. While the 785<sup>th</sup> Medical Company treated combat stress cases, the 945<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team tackled the initial batch of wounded.

DeBoer admitted that an all-Navy operation might be easier, but, he said, that's not realistic.

"In real combat multiple-service coordination is the norm," he said. "This exercise is a reflection of a real-life situation."

Marchetti, a member of the 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron at the Air Force Reserve Base, Minneapolis, was at the receiving end of DeBoer's operation; taking casualties off the air transport that were flown in from Camp Ripley, staging them inside a hanger, and preparing them for their next stop. Helping the Air Force were members of the 114<sup>th</sup> CSH. It's the first time Marchetti has worked with the Army. Standing in a field of burned, broken and bleeding casualties lying on stretchers, Marchetti said the inter-service cooperation was "very much a pleasure."

"Working on communication has been the biggest challenge, but it's been a good experience" she said. "It's helping us think about things we normally wouldn't think of in a paper exercise."

Like keeping bodies moving. As the casualties continued to flow in from Ripley – courtesy of DeBoer – Marchetti and the airmen and soldiers under her quickly assessed their condition and sent them to the next, and last point of their journey before more casualties came in.

The final destination was the hospital in Aviano, Italy. (Actually, it was the field hospital of the 114<sup>th</sup> CSH at Fort Snelling.) A sprawling connection of tents and conexes, the hospital was nevertheless crowded with doctors, nurses, soldiers, airmen, seamen and patients.

"There are a lot of patients, but there's also a lot of help," said Sgt. Shawn Neudauer, the central material services NCO for the 114<sup>th</sup>.

Except for a quick catnap, Neudauer had been up for 36 hours, but he takes it in stride. "It's

nice to be able to do what you're supposed to do," he said. "It helps you expect how it really would be."

Despite his lack of sleep, Neudauer said he doesn't envy the experience the casualties are going through. "They're on those C-130s for about four hours," he said. "Not very comfortable."

One of the C-130 passengers, Lt. Mann of the missing leg, was herself still waiting to get into the operating room. "They haven't fixed my leg yet," she said, laying on the stretcher. "I'm delayed for surgery."

While her bloody presence was perhaps unnerving to some, it was still a necessity for the ultimate success of the exercise.

"My role is to get first hand experience of how the operation works," she said. "We need to be able to work together, and we need to know what works and what doesn't."

Mann's commander, Lt. Col. Gloria Maser, agreed. "The training IS needed," she said. "This is the first time in several years we've done something like this, and I wanted the training experience of the services working together."

But there was also the aspect of her own unit working apart. Maser's subordinate commands, the 785<sup>th</sup> Med. Co. and 945<sup>th</sup> FST, as well as members of the 114<sup>th</sup> CSH, were scattered throughout the exercise; some operating at Camp Ripley, others helping the Air Force, while the remainder worked at the hospital. It was a situation that made it next to impossible to keep tabs on everyone, but Masur said everyone knew their mission and did it successfully.

"It's been great," she said. "Everyone has responded quickly and appropriately."

And like every story that ends happily, even Lt. Mann's leg grew back. ♣



Expert moulage made the experience real for Navy a nurse with the 23rd Fleet Hospital, as she inspect



An airman with the 934th A patients prior to unloading



Lt. j.g. J.J. Cole, treated a 'patient'.



Airlift Wing briefs g from the C-130.



Soldiers from the 114th Combat Support Hospital and airmen from the 934th Airlift Wing unload patients from a C-130 during the Northern Eagle 2000 Exercise.



Soldiers from the 114th Combat Support Hospital unload patients.

# Army Ten-Miler

By Staff Sgt. Mike Sweet,  
367<sup>th</sup> MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

**A** lone in an army of runners, Capt. Chris Toepfer, 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group, Fort Sheridan, Ill., absentmindedly wiped the water off his face as driving rain poured down on the more than 11,400 runners at America's largest ten-mile race, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Army Ten-Miler.

"The weather did not bother me at all. The rain is nice for running," said Toepfer. "The Ten-Miler is a very difficult distance. It's not short and it's not long so you have to go at a pretty hard pace the whole time."

The weather did, however, keep some of the more than 16,000 registered runners from showing for the Association of the U.S. Army sponsored run, which was hosted by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. Those who did venture into the harsh elements received a true test of their mettle.

"I hardly noticed the Capitol," said Sgt. Steve Waisman, 961<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, Milwaukee, Wis., "By the eighth mile I did not care about the buildings and monuments around me. I just wanted to see the finish line."

Crossing the finish line with a 63-minute-plus time, Waisman joked that good living helped him complete the race. "I'm from Wisconsin. I owe my fast time to my diet of cheese and beer."

The weather conditions, more suited to a field training exercise than a ten-mile race, did not keep any of the 29 Army Reserve teams that signed up for the race from competing. It did however ground some of the pre-race pageantry, including a jump by the U.S. Army parachute team, The Golden Knights.

Despite cancellations and the weather, 537 teams raced across the finish line. Toepfer, captain of the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC Blue Devil team, finished the race in just over 55 minutes while leading his team to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish out of 29 reserve category teams.

Other Blue Devil team members splashing across the finish line include Capt. Michael Stella of St. Paul, Minn., Capt. James Benning of Duluth, Minn., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Adam Miller of Columbus, Ohio, and Spec. Philip Raymond, Lansing, Mich.

With so many Reservists running for pleasure these days, Toepfer hopes to lead even more Reservists who wear the Blue Devil patch to the 16<sup>th</sup> Army Ten-Miler next year.

"We did well this year and we will do even better next year, said Toepfer. "I think there are a lot more good runners out there; we just have to get the word out." 



Spec. Philip Raymond, Lansing, Mich., was a part of the six-member Blue Devil team that finished third in the reserve category of the Army Ten-Miler.

*Photo courtesy of Island Photography*



# Paint war

Staff Sgt. David J. Besson, 395th Ordnance Company, Appleton, Wis., looks for the enemy during one of the paint wars.

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. William Peacy, 395th Ordnance Company, Appleton, Wis.**

**M**oving through the wood and brush, you could almost feel the eyes of the enemy watching your every move. You know they're out there, somewhere.

Suddenly, you hear movement off to the side. You turn to fire, but it's too late. You hear the sound of an air gun slicing through the air and you felt "the bullet" hit its mark. Looking down you find a splotch of pink paint on your leg. You have just been "tagged."

Welcome to the game of Paint Ball War.

This simulated war experience was created as a part of the drill training for the 395th Ordnance Company of Appleton, Wis.

It was chosen as an event to unite the members within the unit. "The

unit has seen a large influx of new troops within the last year," said Capt. Mike P. Vaessen of the 395th. "Although it has a pretty good sponsorship program, some were not fully part of the unit. It takes a memorable event such as annual training to fully bond troops together." The paint ball war was viewed as a means of achieving this goal.

After receiving the green light from the 521st Maintenance Battalion, commander and 88th Regional Support Command JAG, the planning began in earnest. The usual logistical areas of meals, transportation, equipment, water requirements, medical concerns and funding were covered.

The paint ball wars were utilized not only to build unit cohesion, but also to place soldiers in extreme stressful situations and build a tolerance to it. While MILES training creates a similar experience, the added fear of being hit with a 200

m.p.h. paint ball, the sounds of rounds hitting your cover or whistling past your head cannot be matched by the MILES training.

"The first game was quite an eye-opener for me," said Spec. Carmen M. Collar. "I had to learn the effective range of a paint gun." Communicating to teammates was very important as well.

"Keeping one's flanks secured is also important," said Pvt. Tonia M. Pagrynski, pointing to where she had been hit.

While the unit members, in general, found the operation challenging and enjoyable, underlying their enthusiasm was the strengthening of skill levels 1 and 2. It emphasized the importance of teamwork and communications, skills which are essential to any soldier.

The operation did wonders for retention said Vaessen, and is a training exercise he would highly recommend. ♣

# Can fix, will travel

By Pfc. Cory Meyman, 364th MPAD,  
Fort Snelling, Minn.

**A**s U.S. military vehicles break down in Bosnia after hours of hard work, they're sent to the specialists. And for the three weeks of annual training the 458<sup>th</sup> Service Company (Collection and Classification) spent in Kaiserslautern, Germany, home of the Equipment Maintenance Center of Europe, they were the specialists.

"We repaired about 50 engines in 12 days," said Staff Sgt. Steve G. Knutson, engine shop inspector.

The unit divided into four shops for the repair process.

The component shop fixed transmission parts, power transfer cases and differentials, said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Chris L. Treblehorn, 458<sup>th</sup> Service Co. (C and C).

"The engine shop put transmissions together," said Knutson. "They tested the engine to see if everything was in working order before the engine was sent back to Bosnia."

The armorment shop fixed the armor for vehicles sent out to the field, said Treblehorn.

And the supply shop worked with the allied trades department, which made tools the shops used to put engines together.

"If they didn't have a tool the right size or a stand for the engine, we made it," said Sgt. Donald J. Lecheler.

The supply shop organized parts for the other shops and controlled incoming and outgoing equipment, said Knutson.

"The supply shop has about 2,650 items dealing with mechanical parts for the vehicles," Knutson said. Over 434 requests were processed for different parts.

The 458<sup>th</sup> Service Company's normal day-to-day job usually doesn't include repairing equipment.

"We don't put the equipment together normally," said Sternberg. "We usually tear them apart, cannibalize them. It was a switch to repair them."

Putting the parts back together gave the unit a better understanding of how to take them apart, said Knutson. "Now we know what should be protected while we take



**Spec. Steve Mettlach, 458th Service Company, finishes up a transfer case for a 900 Series 5-Ton truck during annual training in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Photo by 1st Sgt. Chris Treblehorn, 458th Service Company**

it apart during our day-to-day operations."

The three weeks of working in shops helped the experience and morale of the unit's soldiers.

"It was a great retention tool," said Treblehorn. "People who were being shy suddenly started clicking."

Soldiers in the supply shop also got to use the Supply Auto Maintenance (S.A.M.) computer systems.

"We used the S.A.M. systems over there when they were new," said Sternberg. "When we got back, the same type of computer system was being installed at our unit."

The German workers helped the soldiers get used to the jobs and shop tasks, said Sternberg.

"The Germans were very helpful," Sternberg said. "We worked side by side to fix the engines."

The 458<sup>th</sup> Service Company came back with more than just photographs and souvenirs from Germany. They came back with a better knowledge of their job and experienced soldiers with the ability to perform their job more efficiently. ♣

# Hey Culligan man

Story and photo by Sgt. Rob Glenn,  
367<sup>th</sup> MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

**D**roplets of rain fell from the sky over Fort Dix, N.J., — but these droplets were not as clean as the water inside the whale-sized object in the middle of the training areas of Fort Dix.

The mammoth bag of water the 79<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company (Direct Service) (General Support) prepared inside the bivouac site during their annual training held 50,000 gallons of water ready for use and consumption by soldiers to combat the arid summer swelter. The 79th is headquartered in Marion with unit elements in Zanesville, Tiffin and Akron, all in Ohio.

“We’re like the Culligan man for the Army. We deliver clean water to the troops,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scott Bentley of Akron, unit administrator for the 79th.

The 1999 annual training was the first time the company worked as a whole said Bentley. During the training, the unit conducted water purification and distribution operations. The 79<sup>th</sup> was evaluated on its ability to do its mission while sustaining enemy attacks at the same time.

The enemies in this instance were opposition forces, soldiers trained in testing units’ ability to both defend themselves, including the water bags and equipment position, and attack nearby enemy positions.

“If they (the opposition forces)

take out the bag farm, it’s over,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Weber, his face covered with face camouflage, except for the glint of white teeth from his mouth as he grimaced from lack of sleep.

The bag farm is an area cleared for the 10-, 20- and 50-thousand-gallon

further down the lines using a variety of smaller water transfer bags into the larger 50-thousand-gallon bags.

From the largest bag, the water is pumped at the rate of 350 gallons per minute to the consumer units.

Making the task easier was unit



Soldiers with the 79th Quartermaster Company check a bag for water quality.

bags of water that look like massive tan pillows with lines running in and out of them. These lines can extend ten miles long, supplying consumer units with clean water for lister bags, canteens, water buffaloes, field show-

cohesion, which Weber said was very good. “We brought this many people together to work as one.”

An apparent benefit to bringing the detachments together to complete the tri-fold mission of water purification, storage and distribution was the “learning every day,” said Bentley. Some daily tasks involved periodic analysis of pH and chlorine levels according to Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The result of the annual training education? Water water everywhere -- and several drops to drink. ♣

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*“We’re like the Culligan man for the Army.  
We deliver clean water to the troops.”*

— Sgt. 1st Class Scott Bentley

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ers and laundries. The water is taken from a nearby water source, such as a lake, run through a Reverse Osmosis Purification Unit, and then pushed

# Supporting families

Story by Spec. Nikki Nelson, 364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

**A**h, the life of a Reservist. One weekend a month, two weeks during the year, and a nine-month deployment in Bosnia.

Bosnia?

“It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when,” says Karen McNinch.

McNinch, Family Support Chairperson of Headquarters, Headquarters Company 88th RSC, ought to know. She was recently named as one of five winners of the U.S. Army Reserve Volunteer of the Year award. She has seen firsthand how some family members are in the dark about the military, especially mobilization.

“I know one family member who wasn’t even aware that their significant other was paid for drills,” she said, “and another who didn’t tell his fiancé he was being mobilized until a day before he left.”

McNinch tries to stress soldier and family interplay.

“Soldiers need to keep the communication open,” he said.

When a soldier is mobilized, it doesn’t just affect him. The ripples of reality reach family, friends, employers and even pets. While away, the soldiers have their unit and fellow soldiers to depend on and be close to. Oftentimes, the families of mobilized soldiers are lost in the foray and are unsure of where to turn.

However, in the 88th, they do have a place to turn to, and it’s Family Support. Family Support volunteers like McNinch help the soldiers’ family members and friends during normal times and mobilization.

“It’s important that they realize we are not here just when the soldier is called to active duty,” McNinch said.

Family Support offers classes on subjects such as military acronyms and how to read the leave and earnings statement (LES). Other information is also available on request. Family Support also hosts an annual holiday party and participates in the Military Expo at Fort Snelling. When units are mobilized, family support is there



**Maj. Gen. John M. O’Connell presents Karen McNinch with her U.S. Army Reserve Volunteer of the Year award. Photo by Capt. Michael Stella, 88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.**

to see them off, and greet them when they return.

Although Family Support may not be able to solve every problem, it can help get people started in the right direction. According to McNinch, the key to Family Support and readiness is the soldiers keeping them informed. This includes letting them know exactly what being in the Reserves means to them and their responsibilities.

During mobilization even menial things could become a daunting or terrifying task to unprepared family and friends left behind. The washer breaks. Who is the plumber? The kids get sick. What about benefits? Or maybe something unexpected happens. The house burns down. What about the insurance policies?

Advice to soldiers? Communication. McNinch said. “Keep your heart open.”

Dispensing this sort of information and advice is part of what made McNinch a Family Support Volunteer of the Year for the entire Reserve system. So what if your unit doesn’t have someone like Karen McNinch in it yet?

Family Support is not limited to the families of soldiers but extends as well to friends, employers, and whoever wants to get involved. If soldiers are not sure how to get information on family support they can contact their unit administrator or commander. ♣

# 88th RSC FP Academy best

The 88th Regional Support Command Family Program Academy held Aug. 27 - 29 in Minneapolis was honored with a visit by Patty Shinseki, wife of Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of staff, Terri

Keane, wife of Lt. Gen. Jack Keane, Army vice chief of staff, Liz Plewes, wife of Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve and Sue Bambrough, wife of Maj. Gen. Craig Bambrough, deputy commander of the Army Reserve. The group ob-

served the academy as an example of the Family Program Academies presented by the Army Reserve. As she left the academy, Plewes asked that this note be distributed to the 88th RSC. ♣



Liz Plewes, wife of Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve, speaks to the Family Program Academy hosted by the 88th RSC August 27-29 in Minneapolis.

*Army Reserve Program Academies will be 10 years old next year, and we have trained thousands of soldiers, volunteers and family members. This academy of the 88th RSC represents the best of our family readiness training. There were classes in every aspect of taking care of our families in peacetime and in war. There were also many opportunities to exchange ideas and set up networks among the attendees. Tom and I truly appreciate the commitment and dedication to our Army demonstrated by the staff and volunteers of the 88th RSC this weekend.*

*Liz Plewes*

## From the Top continued from page 2

Through all of this turmoil the one thing that has remained constant is the soldiers. Soldiers will always perform if they are properly led. They want to be challenged and look to their leaders as the standard setters. It has always and will continue to give me a great amount of pride to say that I was an American soldier. I have made mistakes in my career, but always took pride in meeting the standards whether APFT, CTT, or weapons qualification.

It is with a great deal of pride that I complete my tenure as command sergeant major. I have had the opportunity to serve with the greatest soldiers in the Army.

Drawing my career to a close and being middle aged brings with it a certain amount of nostalgia. I often think of the young men I knew as high school friends, young soldiers I knew in basic and Vietnam. Young men who will always be nineteen. I wish we all could have come home. BLUE DEVILS ♣

# Bits & Pieces . . . . .

## Ray Firefighter of year

**B**ehind every good award are a lot of good soldiers. At least that's how Staff Sgt. Don Ray sees it.

Ray, a fire inspector for the 336<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment (Firefighting), Sturtevant, Wis., was awarded the Military Firefighter of the Year award

of professionals in the unit and they deserve the credit too."

Ray said the unit's deployment to Bosnia last year gave them all a chance to shine — allowing them to put to use their firefighting skills on a full-time basis. The unit, he said, performed a number of duties, such as fire inspection, controlled burns and fire extinguisher exchange. The variety of missions tested the unit's team-

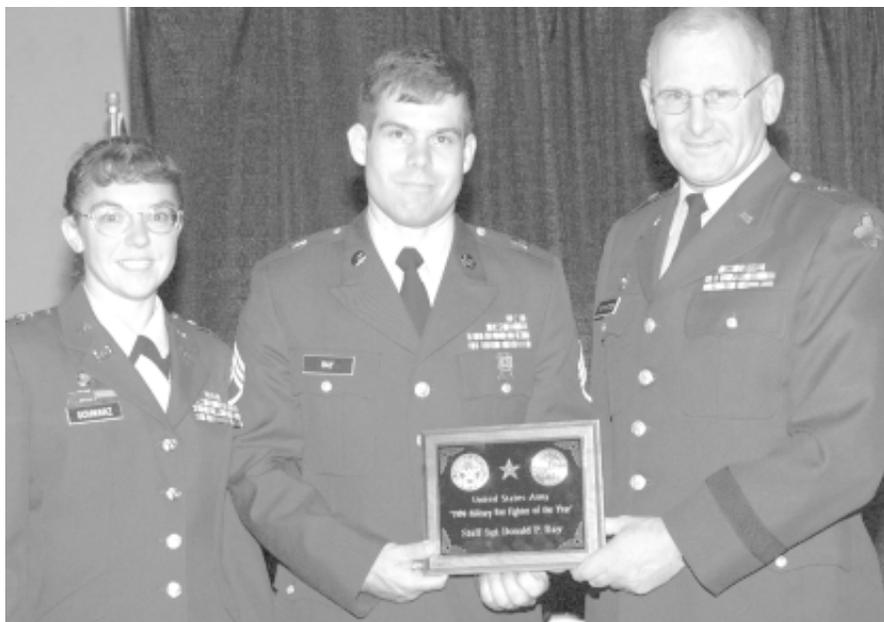
"He did an excellent job in Bosnia," said Schwarz, who nominated Ray. "He and the unit deserved the recognition."

Others did too. Three other soldiers competed with Ray for the Army-wide award. According to Department of Defense guidelines, there are six categories nominees are evaluated on: accomplishments, job performance, technical competence, leadership, initiative and resourcefulness. A committee judged the four based on these categories and Ray was picked as the top candidate.

It's an achievement Ray shrugs off modestly. "It's an honor anyone in my unit could have been nominated for."

Ray said his ultimate goal is to work in the field as a civilian while continuing with his firefighting duties in the Army Reserve. "It's an exciting career that offers a lot of training opportunities," he said. "There's always something you can learn."

**By Staff Sgt. David Boe**  
364<sup>th</sup> MPAD, Ft. Snelling, Minn.



Staff Sgt. Don Ray, 336<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, won the Military Firefighter of the Year award. Ray is flanked by 1st Lt. Linda Sue Schwarz, 336<sup>th</sup> Eng. Det. commander, and Brig. Gen. John Schuster, 88<sup>th</sup> RSC deputy commanding general. Photo by Capt. Michael Stella, 88<sup>th</sup> RSC PAO

Sept. 1, in Kansas City.

For Ray being nominated, let alone winning, was an unexpected event.

"It was an unusual achievement," the 29-year-old Milwaukee, Wis., native said. "I was kind of caught off guard by it."

One thing Ray is sure about is that he didn't win the award by himself.

"I work with a lot of good people in the unit," the 11-year Army Reserve veteran said. "There are a lot

work, but Ray said it was personally rewarding for all.

"The deployment to Bosnia offered a lot of opportunities you normally wouldn't get as a regular reservist," said Ray. "It was a good learning experience. For me, the award is a reminder of that experience."

For Ray's commander, 1st Lt. Linda Sue Schwarz, the award is more than just a reminder; it's a well-deserved commendation.

## Media on the battlefield

**C**NN reporters and cameramen waited on shore to broadcast to the world the landing of American Marines and soldiers in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield in the early 1990s. Since then, media coverage of the military has become a permanent battlefield element with which commanders and soldiers must contend.

In response to the ever-increasing media attention to how military peacekeepers and warfighters are

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doing their jobs, the Army has written into its battlefield training scenarios *media on the battlefield*. Units training at either the JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center) at Fort Polk, La., or the NTC (National Training Center) at Fort Irwin, Calif., are visited and interviewed by civilian media several times during their exercise. For those who are not experienced with relentless, inquiring reporters and the bright lights of the camera (and how many of us are?), it can be an unnerving experience.

To help soldiers prepare, the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC's Public Affairs Office has trained personnel who will help train units prior to their departure. A team of three will assist by first conducting an overall media briefing including training videos, followed by individual on-camera interviewing based on the training scenarios used at the centers.

If your unit is headed for the JRTC or the NTC and you would like additional prior training in media on the battlefield conducted at your home station, contact Capt. Mike Stella or Mr. Bill Geddes in the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC's PAO to make arrangements: (612) 713-3011/12/13; or DSN: 783-XXXX; or 1-800-THE ARMY-XXXX.

## **Sponsorship key to Reserve success**

**T**he Army Reserve today is a vital component of America's defense. America can no longer go to war, or even support America's other national

interest, without the Reserve forces.

One of our principle missions as a Regional Support Command is to provide ready units and confident, capable soldiers. We cannot be successful without effective sponsorship programs for all new soldiers.

Sponsorship is the principle responsibility of the unit commander. However, the unit administrator and first sergeant have the most vital role in assuring that it gets done. Far too often very little is done by the unit's chain of command to welcome the soldiers and take care of them through the first six months of adapting to the unit.

During ALERT 99 the entire command was engaged in telephoning soldiers who are either already transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or are no longer attending drill with their units, to determine if these soldiers would consider coming back into the Army Reserve.

Many of them expressed displeasure with the way they were sponsored when they first enlisted. In one case a unit leader told a soldier that he enlisted into a "stupid job". That soldier is no longer with us!

In another case a specialist with prior service turned in a Class A uniform to the supply room so that a new one could be ordered. That soldier returned a month later and the supply sergeant denied that the uniform was turned in. The soldier had to purchase a new uniform with personal funds in order to have a photo taken for a promotion board.

Why are these soldiers "not" in the Army Reserve? The answer is clear! We failed to properly welcome them, sponsor them and take care of them.

We all know that there are many more examples of why soldiers leave the Army Reserve. If we were properly carrying out the requirements for sponsorship of new soldiers we wouldn't really need a recovery program. In the majority of cases these soldiers are MOS qualified in jobs where we have critical shortages that prevent us from having a deployable, ready unit.

Every soldier that leaves because we failed to properly sponsor them provides a negative influence for others to join. It makes the job of recruiting even more difficult and costly.

If soldiers feel neglected, misused, not cared for and any number of other reasons cited in surveys, they vote with their feet. They just leave! They can get their benefits elsewhere.

Soldiers can be retained. In the final analysis the key to retaining soldiers is thoughtful, realistic, meaningful training and caring leadership. The excellent results we achieved during ALERT 99 demonstrates that even though soldiers may not have been satisfied the first time around, we have promised to do a better job this time.

The tremendous success of ALERT 99 will be measured by how many of these "recovered" soldiers stay with us. Soldiers will vote with their feet unless we properly welcome them into our units, execute an effective sponsorship program, engage them in meaningful training from the beginning, and "lead them", as all good leaders should.

**By Brig. Gen. John M. Schuster,  
88th RSC deputy commanding  
general**

# ALERT 2K

## The Mystery is Solved...

By Sgt. Tanya Brodin, 88th RSC  
ALERT 2K, Fort Snelling, Minn.

**A**LERT 2K (previously known as ALERT 99) has increasingly become the center of attention in the 88th Regional Support Command (88th RSC). Despite its importance, ALERT 2K and its mission remain a mystery to many soldiers. What exactly is ALERT 2K? Why is it so important? Where did it come from?

The recent U.S. economy has forced the Armed Forces in the Midwest to compete among a stagnant market share. This disadvantage has resulted in a decline in the readiness strength of the 88th RSC over the past few years. Maj. Gen. John O'Connell implemented the ALERT 99 program in November of 1998 to combat the declining numbers. This program is an active approach to improving the readiness strength of the 88th RSC through recruiting, retention and recovery of prior service soldiers. The program was founded in Green Bay, Wis., by Sgt. Kristen Eck, Master Sgt. Gary Fredricks of the Milwaukee Recruiting Battalion, and Mr. Harold Gruehn of the 521st Maintenance Battalion.

ALERT 2K's mission is centered on increasing the readiness

strength of the 88th RSC. Specifically, the mission is "to improve the readiness of the 88th RSC through an aggressive program involving, (1) referral, accessions, and recoveries, (2) execution of sound retention mechanics, and (3) substantially increasing community visibility and involvement" (*Operations Order 9902 ALERT Program Oct. 20, 1999*).

The ALERT 2K acronym was developed by Mr. Harold Gruehn and Sgt. Kristen Eck. The two chose the ALERT acronym because of its ability to grab people's attention. Next, they began to identify the qualities of the program that best described the mission and could be represented by the letters in ALERT.

The acronym has evolved as the program has grown and currently stands for 'A', alliances with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC), the Army Personal Command (AR-PERSCOM), and Contract Recruiters. 'L' represents the Leadership Triad (the commander, sergeants major or first sergeant, and the unit administrator or other full time staff). 'E' represents community events that Army Reserve soldiers attend with USAREC recruiters and talk with the community about their Army experiences. 'R'

represents the three components of the program recruiting, retaining, and recovering soldiers. 'T' represents the "The Army Approach" that is taken in all ALERT 2K operations.

One of the key components of the program is the adherent emphasis on teamwork. ALERT 2K unitizes partnerships between directorates at the 88th RSC Headquarters. The active participation from the command level on down to the troop program unit (TPU) reserve soldiers has made their success possible.

Through teamwork, the program has successfully recruited new soldiers at community events, increased retention of soldiers in the 88th RSC, and recovered an abundance of prior-service soldiers from the Inactive Ready Reserve (see ALERT 2K: Success in Numbers). "The commitment from the general officer level on down is what is making this program work. It is a true and working partnership with USAREC, AR-PERSCOM, and the 88th RSC." Eck said.

The program plans on continued success in the future as it operates by its new motto: Growing America's Army Reserve in the new millennium. ♦

# ALERT 2K Dances Up a Storm of Interest

Story and photo by Sgt. Tanya Brodin, 88th RSC ALERT 2K, Fort Snelling, Minn.

The Confederate Air Force (CAF) regularly holds community events to raise funds for military aircraft restoration. October's CAF event, Black Cat Ball, proved to be a success for both the CAF and ALERT 2K.

The ball was held in St. Paul at Confederate Air Force Hanger #3. Although costumes were optional, many of the approximately 150 attendees donned old military uniforms and 1920's dresses in the spirit of CAF's mission.

Music was provided by *Cafe Accordion Orchestra* and featured the popular swing sound. Swing music is a recent craze with the recruiting target age group of seventeen years old to twenty four years old. The popularity of this music attracted the perfect crowd for representatives from the 302nd Maintenance Battalion and 88th RSC



Sgt. Brian Green shares his enthusiasm for the U.S. Army Reserves with potential recruits.

recruiter Sgt. Brian Green to work their magic.

Dozens of teens gathered around Staff Sgt. Stevie Nelson of the 302nd Maintenance Battalion and Green to ask questions and find out more about the U.S. Army Reserve. One potential recruit said, "It's nice to be able to talk to Army soldiers about what they do in an atmosphere without any pressures."

This is the very idea of the recruiting component of the ALERT 2K program. Maintaining high visibility at community events and

sharing Army experiences with potential recruits at these events.

The community atmosphere serves as a comfort zone for potential recruits to find out more information about the Army Reserves without the 'sales pressure'. Anyone interested just leaves their name and phone number for a recruiter to follow up with them.

The CAF's Black Cat Ball provided yet another opportunity for ALERT 2K's recruiting recipe for success to shine through. ♣

## ALERT 2K

### *Success in Numbers*

Keep watching ALERT 2K's success grow in future issues of the Blue Devil II. This column will provide up-to-date results in each issue.

RECRUITING EVENTS QUARTERLY UPDATE			
MSC:	#of Quarter Events:	#of Leads from Quarter Events:	#of Events Planned for Next Quarter
300 <sup>th</sup> MP CMD	11	52	0
303 <sup>rd</sup> ORD GP	38	587	4
336 <sup>th</sup> TC GRP	32	144	0
643 <sup>rd</sup> ASG	37	527	6
644 <sup>th</sup> ASG	74	258	8
645 <sup>th</sup> ASG	34	359	1
646 <sup>th</sup> ASG	97	507	6
88 <sup>th</sup> RSG	28	251	0

RECOVERY OPERATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE		
MSC:	#of FY 99 Contracts:	#of FY 00 Contracts:
300 <sup>th</sup> MP CMD	31	3
303 <sup>rd</sup> ORD GP	21	2
330 <sup>th</sup> MED BG	76	2
336 <sup>th</sup> TC GRP	25	4
643 <sup>rd</sup> ASG	17	6
644 <sup>th</sup> ASG	12	0
645 <sup>th</sup> ASG	32	6
646 <sup>th</sup> ASG	143	3
88 <sup>th</sup> RSG	19	0
OTHER (USAR or RA)	98	14
Pending Assgn. Orders	218	105
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>145</b>



Soldiers from the 114th Combat Support Hospital and airmen from the 934th Airlift Wing unload patients from a C-130 during the Northern Eagle 2000 Exercise. *Photo by Staff Sgt. David Boe*

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Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111**

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