

# *Blue Devil II*

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

Spring 2000  
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*Rails  
to  
trails  
page 4*

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# CG's Corner .....

By Maj. Gen. John M. O'Connell

**J**une 14 marks The Army's 225<sup>th</sup> birthday – making it older than our nation, born the following year in 1776.

Since the Revolutionary War, more than 42 million men and women have served in America's military. As Army Reservists, you are part of a proud tradition – people who have sacrificed much to help preserve the liberties upon which America was founded. In the 225 years since The Army was initiated, our world has changed – and our armed forces have changed with it. But the valor, dignity, courage, and fighting spirit of the men and women in uniform have remained the same.

Soldiers of the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC have played a proud and noble role in The Army's history. For decades, men and women from our command have served throughout the world on short tours of duty and longer mobilizations. We have demonstrated our skills, our expertise, and our value to this nation both at home and abroad.

Today, children can safely walk in a Balkan village square because 88<sup>th</sup> RSC soldiers and other American soldiers are there. People are rebuilding their lives after natural disasters because 88<sup>th</sup> RSC soldiers are working with other American soldiers to help. Our 88<sup>th</sup> soldiers

stand guard throughout the world with other American soldiers and their presence will help keep aggressors at bay. From Germany to Japan, El Salvador to Italy, 88<sup>th</sup> RSC soldiers have performed their duties well and represented us proudly.

You are members of the best Army in the world. As we undergo a dynamic transformation over the next decade, The Army and Army Reserve will continue to be respected by allies, feared by opponents, and honored and esteemed by the American people. As your commander, I am proud of the courage, dedication to duty, and selfless service to the nation you show.

For more than two centuries, The Army has courageously fought our country's wars and served honorably in peace. As we enter a new millennium, we in the 88<sup>th</sup> RSC can all be proud of our history and of The Army's overall achievements.

*Blue Devil!*



## .....From the Top

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

**W**hen I was growing up in the '50s and '60s, patriotism was something to be proud of. Back then, American flags displayed on front porches were as common as satellite dishes are

now. And at parades, when the color guard marched by, everyone would show respect by standing, removing their hat, placing their hand over their heart, or saluting.

Sadly, I don't see much of this respect and pride in the national colors today. The next time you're at a ball game take a look. You may see people talking, wearing caps, sitting, or maybe even running around — everything but singing the National Anthem and showing respect for the flag. They may say they don't know the words to the song, or perhaps they think it's embarrassing. Well, it's not embarrassing, and it's not hard to show simple respect

and pride. And, as a soldier, it's something I've tried to impart to the men and women I've served with.

It's easy to render respect to the flag. A quick salute, hand over heart, or simply standing when it passes is sometimes all that's needed. What may be hard is understanding why we show respect.

One doesn't have to look far for an answer. If you attended a Memorial Day ceremony, you saw veterans honoring their fallen comrades. They are trying to teach us something — that we need to remember and honor those who sacrificed themselves to defend the very ideals that the American Flag represents — the same ideals that we defend today as soldiers.

Maybe it's not a coincidence that Flag Day is observed little over two weeks after Memorial Day. One day we honor the flag, and the other we honor the men and women who fought and died for the flag.

As a soldier, when you salute the flag, you are doing two things: you are honoring our nation's fallen soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines, and showing that you have not forgotten. And maybe, just maybe, your example will inspire more flags on front porches.

*Take the point, Blue Devils.*



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**Spec. Luis Ortiz (foreground), Detachment 1, 226th Transportation Company, loosens rails as members of his unit remove railroad track near an ammunition storage facility in support of the "Rails to Trails" project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Ind.**

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



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Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer, 350th MPAD, Indianapolis, Ind.

## A rare training mission allowed the 226th Transportation Company to go from...

# Rails to trails

**T**he biggest challenge facing the 226<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company isn't usually the training. It's finding a place to train.

As Sgt. 1st Class Robert Teague said, "You can't just go anywhere and pull up track."

Teague, a platoon sergeant for the 226th Trans. Co., is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the one of the good training opportunities the unit has found — the project known here as "Rails to Trails."

The 226th, and the company's Detachment 1 from Joliet, Ill., are working with officials at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Ind., as part of a test bed to determine the cost of removing stretches of railroad near ammunition storage facilities. During the test, more than 6,150 feet of railroad leading to the explosive storage areas must be removed and replaced by low maintenance gravel roads.

"'Rails to Trails' was initiated by the Army because of the high-maintenance cost associated with repairing and maintaining railroad track, which costs about \$2.1 million annually at Crane," said David Brown, disaster preparedness officer and the Reserve coordinator for the center.

The Army decided ammunition that needed to be shipped quickly could be moved more efficiently by loading the

ammunition into containers at the storage areas and moving the containers on trucks to rail heads, said Teague, who also works for Union Pacific Railroad in St. Louis.

The Army isn't the only beneficiary of the project. "The Reserve relevance is twofold," Brown said. "The Reserve is doing the test bed of actually removing the rail so the SeaBees can build the roads to the magazines (ammunition storage facilities)."

What that means to the Crane and the U. S. taxpayer, said Brown, is that instead of paying a contractor about \$400,000 to do the job, the Army Reserve does it for about \$80,000.

Crane, located on 63,000 acres in southern Indiana, is planning to remove about 60 miles of rail over a five-year period. The cost of the project, as estimated by the Military Traffic Management Command Engineering Agency, is about \$16 million if done by a civilian contractor and about \$4 million if the Army Reserve completes the job. Removing selected areas of rail should also reduce annual maintenance costs by about one-third, said Brown. The base



**Spec. Luis Ortiz, Detachment 1, 226th Transportation Company, disposes of railroad spikes while helping remove railroad track in support of the "Rails to Trails" project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Ind.**

is jointly maintained with the Army and Navy sharing costs.

"We would seriously be hindered in doing our wartime mission without the support of the United States Army Reserve — it's a win/win situation for everyone," said Brown.

The soldiers of the 226th echo the win/win attitude.

During the February weekend drill held at Crane, the unit had the highest drill attendance since 1st Lt. Vanna Brackney took command of the 226th.

"If you employ the soldier to do the job you hired him to do, then he will be glad to do it," she reasoned.

Brackney, an accident reconstruction engineer who specializes in railroad accidents and equipment failures, has lived this belief, traveling from her home in Grand Prairie, Texas, to drill with the 226th in Granite City, Ill., and prior to that, to Milwaukee, Wis. where she drilled with the 757th Transportation Battalion, the headquarters for the 226th.

After moving to Texas, “I originally continued to drill with the 757th because I wanted to be in a rail battalion and the only other rail battalion is in Connecticut,” she said. “I stay in the rail battalion because these are incredible soldiers. They have unique experiences and abilities.”

Not only are the soldiers unique, the unit is too. The 757th Trans. Bn. is the only Tier 1 railroad transportation unit in the Army, Teague said. The unit emphasizes crosstraining its soldiers in each of the three railroad-related specialties: including track maintenance, train crewman and railway equipment repair.

The opportunity for good training has motivated the 226<sup>th</sup> soldiers, including Pfc. Michael Conner, 19, of Belleville, Ill.

“It’s always been in me to be a hard worker,” said Conner, a crew leader. “With hard work comes the sense of fulfillment that you actually have accomplished something, and it’s even more satisfying when you do it as a team.”

Working on the project has helped Conner in other areas too.

“The confidence I gain in the Reserve helps me at my civilian job,” said Conner. “It gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment to (take) the discipline and teamwork I learn here, and use it out there.”

Brackney has seen the discipline and teamwork, and appreciates it. As an indication of what these soldiers mean to her, she reaches deep into her uniform pocket and pulls out a handful of nails.

“These are date nails,” Brackney said. “See the 31 on the nail? That means the nail was made in 1931.” The nails are put into railroad ties so the tie’s age can be determined.

She plans on polishing the nails and mounting them on plaques so she can present them to some of her soldiers who have been “working their butts off.” It’s a reminder to the soldiers of the 226th Trans. Co. and Detachment 1 of the training experience -- and acknowledgement that “you can’t just go anywhere and pull up track.” ♣



Pfc. Derrick Selders, Detachment 1, 226th Transportation Company, uses a tie tong to move a 12-foot, 300-pound railroad tie in support of the “Rails to Trails” project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Ind.

# Protecting

**S**taff Sgt. Connie Murray casts a light shadow against the brick wall. Talking quietly into the lapel of her jacket, she watches the group of men shuttling to a sedan when a gunshot breaks the quiet.

Pushing one man quickly into the rear seat of the car, another man jumps into the front seat and motions the driver to go.

That's just one scenario Murray and 26 Reservists of the 375th Military Police Detachment (CID) in Columbus, Ohio, were put through by their evaluator.

And scenarios were just one of the elements the unit was evaluated on March 11 and 12, as they trained, honing their talent for providing protection for important government officials. During the two-day exercise, the soldiers were tested on weapon proficiency, evasive-driving techniques and reaction drills involving such things as threat assessment and security planning.

One of only two Army Reserve detachments that assist the Protective Service Unit, or PSU, in Fort Belvoir, Va., the 375th is called upon frequently to provide protection for important government officials, ranging from the secretary and deputy secretary of defense to the chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the secretary of the Army.

Murray, who joined the unit after a six-year active-duty stint with the Criminal Investigations Division, or CID, said the reputation of the 375th drew her to the Reserves.

"I asked to get into this unit after I heard about it on active duty," said Murray, a Columbus resident.

In the four years that have passed since joining, she has been assigned to protective elements in places like Russia, Romania and Portugal -- proof that you have to be ready to travel the world if in this unit. And with three

members now in southeast Asia, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Turner, the operations officer for the 375th, said the unit has proven ready whenever called upon.

"Last year, this unit did 300 man days," said Turner, who has been with the 375th for 23 years. "Somebody here has hit every major country in the world."

With that much time dedicated to real-world missions, serving in the 375th requires a firm commitment from the Reservist and a firm commitment from his or her employer. A majority of the soldiers in the unit are city



**Special Agent James Bateman, officer in charge of the Metro D.C. protection team, instructs Chief Warrant Officer Michael Turner, 375th Military Police Detachment operations officer, in how to use an H&K MP5 submachine gun**

police officers who enjoy a good working relationship with Columbus Police Department, Turner said.

Chief Warrant Officer John Khin, assigned to the Protective Service Unit at Fort Belvoir, Va., is one of four evaluators who work with the two Reserve military police companies, as well as the 14 active Army CID units and four National Guard units who provide protective service. He explained the objective of the evaluation isn't to pass or fail, but to reinforce the skills that will keep both the agents and the principal, or VIP, safe should a threat arise.

Capt. James Wilson, PSU commander, said of all the

# the VIP

protective responsibilities, the four areas that agents guard against are assassination, kidnapping, injury and embarrassment. He said embarrassment occurs when it's least expected.

An example, Khin said, occurred a few years ago when the secretary of defense was chosen to throw out the first baseball at a Milwaukee Brewers game.

"You have this big 60,000-seat stadium, and when the secretary is walking on the field, the agent runs after him and his weapon falls out with millions of eyes on him," Khin said. "He (the agent) is going along and he's kicking it.

"Suffice to say that agent is now retired," Khin added.

While discretion is a fundamental part of the job, safeguarding the official is the primary role of the PSU. According to Murray six to 12 agents make up the protective element, depending on the prominence of the assignment and the potential threat. This includes an advance team, a control base and a protection detail.

Protective duties vary from checking escape routes



**Special Agent James Bateman, officer in charge of the Metro D.C. protection team, instructs a 375th Military Police Detachment soldier in H&K MP5 submachine gun usage.**

to the airport, to checking the food the principal will consume on his or her trip. Murray said agents must be alert to any threat and respond appropriately.

That's not always easy to do. And because it's not easy, Murray and her unit are regularly evaluated and put through exercises designed to hone the skills needed to keep VIPs safe.

Wilson marveled at the 375<sup>th</sup>'s attention to detail during the exercises. That attention to detail makes his job easier, he said, both here and away.

"Reservists are essential to what we do," the commander said. "We couldn't do it without them." ♣



**Chief Warrant Officer Michael Turner, 375th Military Police Detachment operations officer, fires an H&K MP5 submachine gun on target. Weapons qualification was one of many areas the unit trained on during a two-day evaluation.**

By Staff Sgt. David Bennett,  
367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

A plea for help in  
memorilizing a  
fallen teacher led  
to a return to ...

## Shared projects

**R**enee Butler enjoyed life with a vigor that few take the time to experience.

When she wasn't teaching seventh-grade math at Willis Middle School in Delaware, Ohio, she coached student athletes in drama, track and volleyball. When Butler was away from school, she enjoyed playing the flute, jogging, sewing, reading and traveling.

Butler was even a third-degree black belt in Shotokan karate.

Almost two years ago, two weeks before starting her 24th year at Willis in August 1998, Butler was murdered by her husband John, who then killed himself. Family and friends, who remember her as energetic and outgoing, continue to grapple with her untimely death.

Since that time, co-worker Kenneth Stanfill and others had planned to do something to honor her memory. Now, with the help of Army Reserve soldiers, that something is happening.

Stanfill, who recently retired as the school's industrial arts teacher, supervised the ground breaking for a memorial garden the weekend of April 15 and 16. The teacher said the students of Willis chose to remember Butler with a design of stone, shrubbery and flowers.



**Sgt. 1st Class Eric Koenig, a fuel petroleum handler with the 175th Quartermaster Company helps build a wall that is part of a memorial to teacher Renee Butler.**

*Photo by Pfc. Erin E. Jones*

"The kids wanted to do something," he said. "The problem was (the need for) a lot of money and a lot of manpower."

Students held several fundraisers the last year to raise money for materials. With \$6,400 in the account, Stanfill solicited the help of members from the 175th Quartermaster Company (Petroleum Supply) in Delaware, Ohio. Using the Reservists' equipment and expertise, labor costs were trimmed considerably, he said.

Actually, the garden was quite a

departure from the unit's regular duties, said 1st Lt. Lisa Gagel, commander of the 175th.

"It was just a grand idea," she said. "We store fuel so the most we (usually) do is build a birm."

The project involved revamping 2,784 square feet of the school's front and side landscaping, and installing a 265-linear-foot stone wall. Existing shrubbery and flowers were saved and transplanted to other locations around the school.

The plan for the garden, which in-



Sgt. Joseph Turner uses a block to level gravel. The gravel will be used as a base for the wall portion of a memorial to teacher Renee Butler.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bennet*

cludes perennial flowers and new shrubbery, was designed jointly by students of the Delaware Joint Vocational School and Ohio State University of Delaware Master Gardeners.

During the course of the weekend, 12 soldiers from the 175th used front loaders, picks, and shovels to clear the property for the new memorial. Gagel said the experience benefited her soldiers as well.

“It’s giving us an opportunity to use equipment we don’t normally use,” the commander said.

Sgt. Joseph B. Turner is the 175th’s mess sergeant. He said getting down and dirty for a good cause was a welcome relief from his normal duties.

“I’ve been with the unit almost a year and this the first community project I’ve done,” said the Pleasantville resident. “I’m having a blast.”

Nancy Bendle, a Master Gardeners coordinator, was happy to see different groups working together for the memorial, which is scheduled to be dedicated Oct. 3 — Butler’s birthday.

“This is very unique,” she said. “I think in our country we’ve gotten away from shared projects.” ♣

**A string helps 1st Sgt. Charles Goddard, 175th Quartermaster Company, ensure the wall is level.**

*Photo by Pfc. Erin E. Jones*



# Pop quiz: What do you do?

**E**ver been caught flatfooted when it comes to flag etiquette? You're outdoors, by yourself, in uniform, and you walk past a flagpole with the U.S. flag flying. Do you salute?

More on that later. First, why worry about it at all? It's just a piece of cloth, isn't it?

Not really. According to FM 22-5, the flag of the United States represents the living country and is considered a living thing.

FM22-5, appendix E, contains regulations and references regarding flag etiquette. Here's a little refresher.

When in uniform and in formation, if reveille is called, or either *To the Color* and the national anthem is played, you execute present arms and order arms at the command of the person in charge, whether enlisted or officer. The same holds true when a cannon salute is rendered as honor to a person, or at a military funeral.

Now, when uncased Colors pass by, or when passing uncased Colors, the commands for present arms and order arms are given six paces before and six paces after the Colors, respectively. Also, when retreat is played as prelude to *To the Color*, the command of parade rest is given, then held until given attention.

Things are little different when in uniform, and not in formation. What do you do in that situation if you hear reveille? No, the answer isn't run inside.

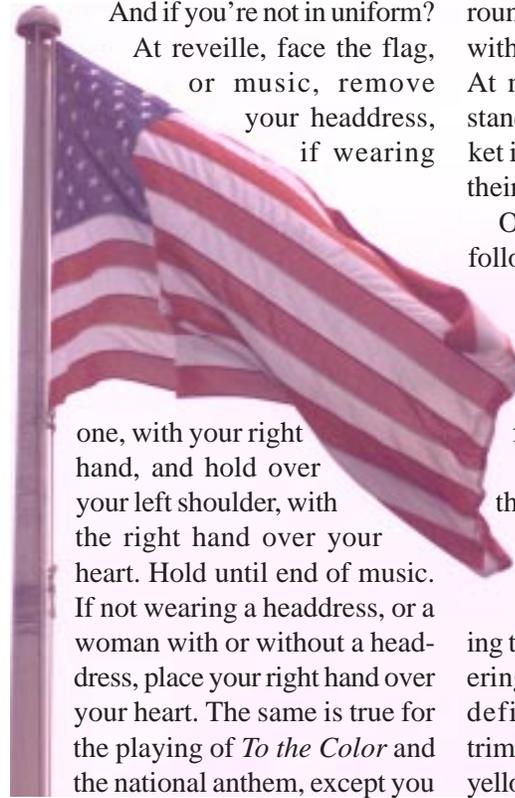
During reveille, at the first note of music, you face the flag (or music, if flag isn't in view) and render a salute, ending at the last note. The same is true when a cannon salutes as honor to a person, except you face the ceremonial party. When retreat is played as prelude to *To the Color*, you stand at attention until the last

note is played. When *To the Color* or the national anthem is played, you salute, if outdoors, and stand at attention when indoors. If at a military funeral, you salute every time the casket is moved, unless indoors, in which case you stand at attention.

If Colors are passing you outside, you render a salute six paces before the Colors and hold until they are six paces passed you. If indoors, go to attention for same length. If passing Colors outside, turn to the Colors and render a salute six paces out, holding until six paces past.

And if you're not in uniform?

At reveille, face the flag, or music, remove your headdress, if wearing



one, with your right hand, and hold over your left shoulder, with the right hand over your heart. Hold until end of music. If not wearing a headdress, or a woman with or without a headdress, place your right hand over your heart. The same is true for the playing of *To the Color* and the national anthem, except you don't face the flag or music. And if indoors you keep your headdress on.

When retreat is played, remove your headdress (unless a woman), face the flag or music, and stand at attention until last note. When Colors pass you, the six paces rule is still in effect, except this time, when outdoors, men remove their headdresses

with their right hand, and hold over their left shoulder with their right hand over their heart, and stand at attention. Indoors, you just stand at attention. When a man passes uncased Colors outdoors, he should turn his head in the direction of Colors, remove headdress with right hand, and hold over his left shoulder with his right hand over his heart. Hold that position until six steps past the Colors.

When a cannon salutes as honor to a person, you face the ceremonial party and remove your headdress and stand at attention until last note or last round of the salute. Women and men with headdresses stand at attention. At military funerals, when indoors stand at attention whenever the casket is moved. Outdoors, men remove their headdresses."

One last thing — when in uniform, follow these words of wisdom: When in doubt, whip it out. That's what my drill instructor taught me.

Back to the question at hand. Do you salute when passing the flag or not?

No. So how does this jibe with the instructions given for passing the Colors? As defined in FM 22-5, a flag, as distinguished from a Color, is not saluted except during the ceremonies of raising and lowering the flag. The FM goes on to define a Color as the U.S. flag trimmed on three sides with golden yellow fringe, and to say that the Color is primarily for indoor display. As such, it would typically be a flag on the flagpole, not Colors. Follow the rules for Colors if you encounter them outdoors in a Color Guard or some other instance when the Color is uncased outside. ♦

By Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes  
364<sup>th</sup> MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.

# No quit

**Q**uitting's easy.

And quitting is exactly what most people expected when Christa Hoffman first talked about tying on a pair of boxing gloves and stepping into the ring two years ago.

"My uncle said, 'Oh that's just something you're going to do for a while and stop,'" Hoffman said. "I think that made me want to do it even more, because he was doubting me and I had really planned on it."

The 20-year-old automated logistics specialist with the 209<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company had started looking for a contact sport while she was still in high school, but sports like wrestling and football didn't allow girls. Then she turned on ESPN.

"I was watching television and I saw Christy Martin, who actually kind of made women's boxing, and I thought, 'Omigosh, that's cool, I want to do that,'" Hoffman said.

Knowing she would be going to Ball State for college, Hoffman called the Muncie Police Athletic League and asked Donnie Garrett, the Muncie PAL director, if she could enroll in a boxing program there.

"I get calls year round from people interested in boxing," Garrett said. "She was unusual being from a small town, still in high school – and she was a girl. You don't dare say no. Is (a female boxing) something I would encourage? Not necessarily. But I told her to come on out."

Hoffman came on out seven or eight months later when she started school at Ball State.

"I figured a couple of hard practices and she'd be done," Garrett said. "That didn't work. But there's a big difference between training and actually getting hit. So I figured she'd get hit hard once, and that'd be it. That didn't work either."

Hoffman's coach, Mark Lemerick, wasn't too thrilled with having a female boxer either. "When women were starting to come to the gym – I didn't want any part of it. I tried to run her out."

But Lemerick didn't run her out. Hoffman kept coming back for more – and in fact started pushing the male fighters while training.



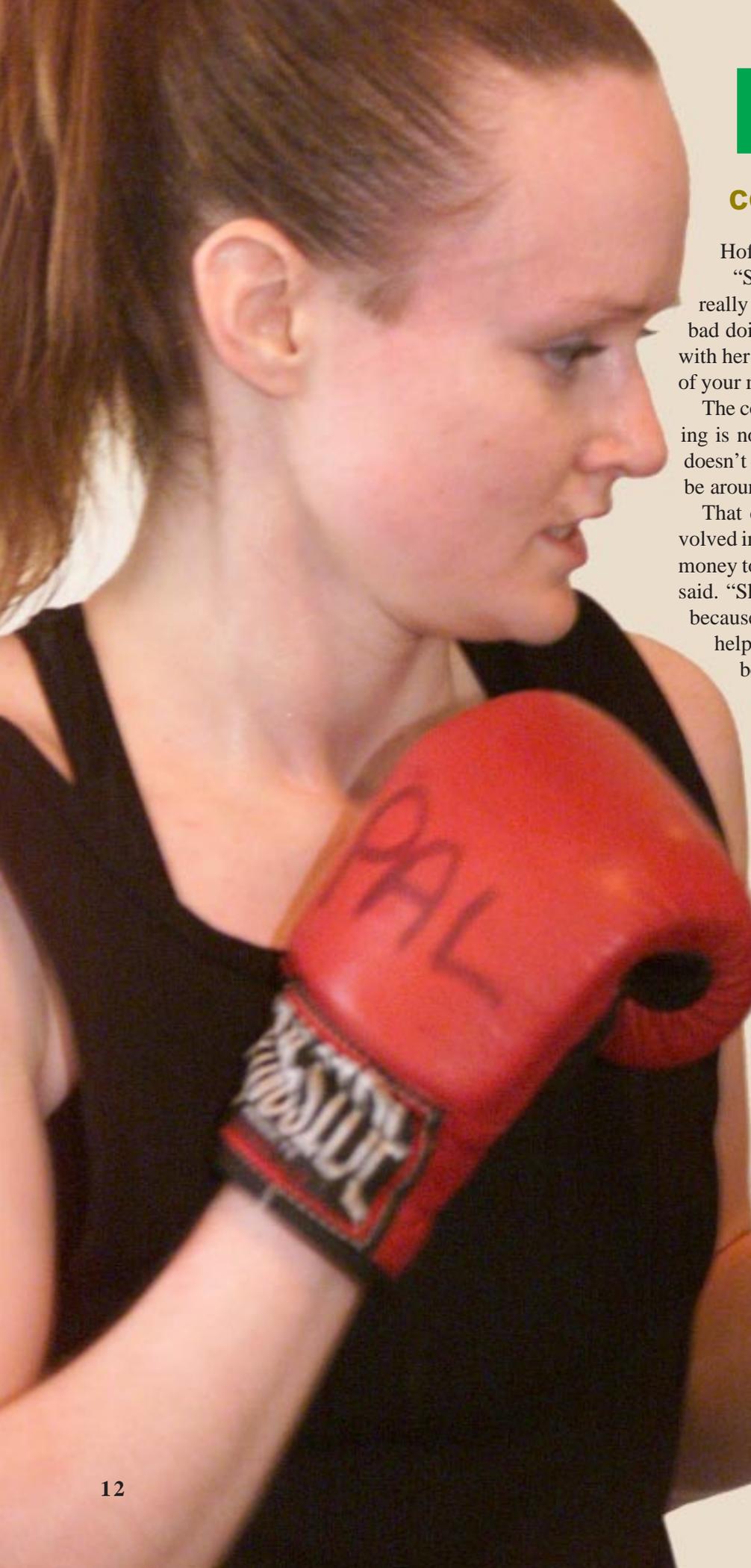
Spec. Christa Hoffman shadowboxes during a training session.

"She doesn't whine or cry around about push-ups or bag work, she gets right in there," said Garrett. "We have guys that run track or cross country or are rated in the top ten in the nation for their weight class in boxing. When we go running, she comes in first or a close second."

Not that Hoffman could beat most of those boxers in the ring – the physical differences between men and women prevent that. She does spar with them however, and has proven she can handle it.

"I can take a punch fine," Hoffman said. "Sometimes the guys in the gym will hit me with a real good one and swing me around a little bit, and I'll be like 'whoa,' but it's nothing that's going to keep me from boxing."

Hoffman can dish it out too — something Garrett can attest to. A former boxer at both the amateur and professional level, he sparred with  
**No quit continued page 12**



# No quit

continued from page 11

Hoffman and was surprised at her aggressiveness.

“She’s real competitive,” Garrett said. “She started getting really good, and I had to hit her a good one to get her off me. I was bad doing it, but if you’re boxing with her you better get in with her — cause if you don’t, she’s going to slap the taste right out of your mouth.”

The competitiveness shows up in everything Hoffman does. “Winning is not a word that’s in her vocabulary,” Garrett said. “She doesn’t do it well. She wants to win at everything. You do not want to be around her after she loses.”

That competitiveness is actually part of what got Hoffman involved in boxing in the first place, according to Garrett. “She needed money to help for college, so she joined the Army Reserve,” Garrett said. “She wanted a sport that would help her excel in the Army because they place a high value on physical fitness. The Army helped pay for her education — and she also got real good at boxing.”

Hoffman was undefeated for a long time, then lost to the then number one fighter in the 125-pound weight class, 30-year-old Deirdre Fabian. “It was a split decision against a woman who has been dominating her division,” Garrett said. “(Hoffman) has only lost to the number one and two ranked boxers in her weight class — both twice and in two fights.”

One of those losses occurred recently in Midland, Texas, at the 2000 Everlast Women’s National Championships, to the



A doctor checks Spivey's injuries after her match at the 2000 Everlast Women's National Championships.



**Spec. Christa Hoffman and top-seeded Adelaida Avalos exchange a flurry of punches at the 2000 Everlast Women's National Championships. Hoffman lost the match.**



**Spec. Christa Hoffman shadowboxes during a training session.**

“Her one weak point is her experience,” said Garrett. (Hoffman typically fights women who have six to 10 years of experience on her.) “She gets better there with every fight. I could see someone stopping her by knocking her out with a lucky punch maybe, but they’d have to stop her. Quitting – that’s not in her vocabulary either.” ♣



**Spec. Christa Hoffman for match at the 2000 Everlast championships.**

number one ranked Adelaida Avalos, Whittier, Calif., who Hoffman was unfortunate enough to get as her first draw.

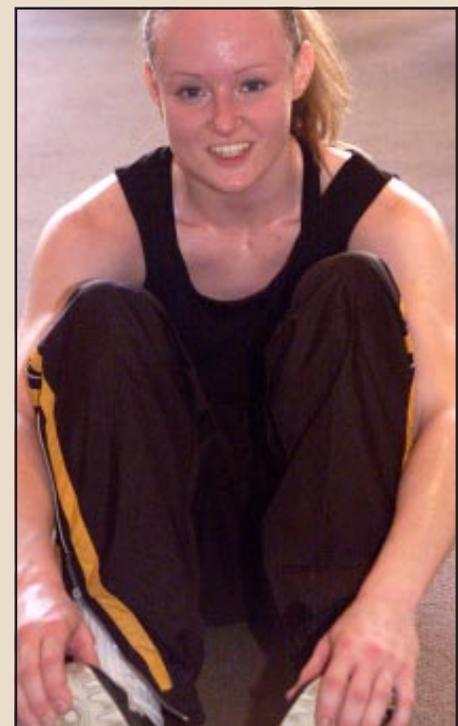
“It was a good tough fight,” Avalos said after the fight. “She’s a skilled fighter, and strong. When my coach asked me who my toughest opponent would be, I said Christa Hoffman.”

While Hoffman took the loss hard, she still had no quit in her. “I’m just going to go back to the gym and work harder,” she said. “I know what I have to work on. That’s what I’ll continue to do. My ultimate goal is still the same.

“I want to go to the Olympics,” she said. (Woman’s boxing is not yet an Olympic event, but USA Boxing expects it to be one by the 2008 Olympics.) “I think that’s doable; I’m right up there with the top people right now.”

Jeanene Hildebrandt, vice president of Indiana Amateur Boxing, agrees, having watched Hoffman since she started boxing. “I have a lot of hope for Christa, I think she’s going to be the future of this sport,” Hildebrandt said. “Christa is the teacher for Indiana women boxers.”

Hoffman has made believers out of Lemerick and Garrett too, both of whom say their attitude towards women boxers has been changed by their exposure to Hoffman. “Once she wins this tournament, she’ll win as long as she wants to,” Lemerick said. “I just don’t see anyone coming up who’s going to work as hard as she does.”



**Spec. Christa Hoffman looks to her coach, Mark Lemerick, for advice during a training session.**

# Looking for Itschner



Soldiers of Company B, 961st Eng. Bn., install a roof on a Maintenance Building at Fort McCoy during their annual training.

Photo by Rob Schuette, Fort McCoy PAO

**W**hat is an Itschner? An annual award given to the outstanding engineer company within the Army, the Itschner is recognition that that company is the best in the Army. Companies don't necessarily look for it, but it is nice to get.

And on May 5, Capt. Tamara Arendt, commander of Company B, 961<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, accepted the award for her unit at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineer Regimental Dinner at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Named after the 39<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Emerson C. Itschner, the award was given to the Sturtevant, Wis.-based unit in recognition of the unit's many accomplishments in 1999.

Co. B construction efforts included laying fiber optic cable in several buildings, rehabbing a PX, total refurbishment of an old Fort McCoy barracks into BOQs, and excavation work at two community parks for soccer and ballfields.

The unit was also active in the community. Efforts included hosting two food drives, supporting eight local charity events with tent and equipment, participating in July 4, Memorial Day, and Flag Day ceremonies and parades, and giving speeches on the role of the Reserves.

Each year, companies compete for the Itschner by submitting a packet that details, among other things, mission-related accomplishments including combat support tasks, construction tasks, training, and contributions to the image of the Corps of Engineers, which includes community relations and domestic action programs.

The award generated competition between 961st Eng. Bn. companies during their annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis., which started soon after the award presentation. The first two days of tactical operations gave Co. B a chance to demonstrate their proficiency, as they became the first company to receive a "GO" on the tactical lanes by the evaluator.

This spurred some goodnatured ribbing and debate between soldiers. Throughout the annual training, soldiers sparred back and forth about who dug the better foxholes or who swung a hammer more efficiently. The positive impact the friendly competition had on the units was noticed.

"Our soldier's construction skills match those within the civilian world; Our officer and noncommissioned officers' leadership, project management, and soldier skills are second to none," said Lt. Col. Lawrence D. Gonzalez, 961st commander. "Winning the Itschner validates that our battalion is ready to do its mission. Our soldiers are proud to be in 961."

That pride is evident in Sgt. Jamie Verzal, as he relates a what happened during a chance meeting with a fellow 88th RSC Reservist while working in his civilian job. In their typical soldier-to-soldier chitchat about "What unit are you in?" the other soldier congratulated Verzal on winning the Itschner. "It was really neat that other units knew of our accomplishments and congratulated us on them," Verzal said.

"Essayons," the Engineer Motto which means "Let Us Try," exemplifies the spirit that helped achieve those accomplishments.

"In 1999, B Company soldiers accomplished more projects under adverse conditions and executed more training exercises than in past history, while increasing community involvement," said Arendt. "We are on track to surpass all of last years' accomplishments. The Itschner recognized that these soldiers and this company are the best."

"Essayons"

# Brothers make general

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

**“W**e’ve never had a general from Shell Lake (Wis.) before,” said Alice Ward, post commander for Shell Lake American Legion Post 225. “Now we’ve got two.”

Not only does Shell Lake, population approximately 1,500, now have two generals who grew up in the town, the two generals, Brig. Gens. John M. and Andrew M. Schuster, are brothers.

“It’s a unique event,” said Judy Lewis, administrative assistant for the Alumni Association of the U.S. Army War College. “I can cite several examples of fathers and sons who both became general, but I don’t recall any brothers.” Lewis, who has been with the alumni office for 25 years, said that while she remembered brothers who had both been through the Army War College, she didn’t remember two who were promoted to general.

John, who is now in the individual ready reserve, but most recently served as the deputy commanding general for the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command, and Andrew, assistant adjutant general for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, enlisted together in 1965 into the 128<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry Division, Wisconsin Army National Guard.



**Brig. Gens. John M. (left) and Andrew M. Schuster after graduating basic training in 1966.**

The brothers also went to basic training and advanced individual training together.

“We were in the same platoon (in basic training),” said John, who is one year older than Andrew. “I was the acting platoon sergeant, (Andrew) was one of my squad leaders. What’s interesting is the drill sergeant, at the end of basic training, made a comment to us. He jokingly said, ‘You know, maybe we selected the wrong Schuster to be the platoon sergeant.’ It was a challenge.”

Through the years, the brothers have remained close, even through the early

nineties, when the Guard and Reserve were in fierce competition for soldiers and money (John switched to the Reserves as a captain). “It was a struggle,” said John. “It was a fight between the Guard and Reserve for existence.”

Both brothers commanded engineer groups at the time. “It was never something between us personally, but it was always kind of flowing around us,” said John. “I’d go



**Brig. Gens. John M. (foreground) and Andrew M. Schuster spoke at a Memorial Day celebration in their hometown of Shell Lake, Wis.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes*

visit my units, and they’d say, ‘The Guard’s taking our engineers.’ I’m sure (Andrew) found that in his units too.”

Both brothers feel much better about the situation now. “We feel fortunate that today Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve, and Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, have come together,” John said. “They have decided that there is no reason to fight for it, there’s a place for both components. What we’re doing by fighting over it is causing trouble in Congress, which reduces our resources. So why don’t we go in this together?”

“In the past few years, I know it’s been good for the Guard and Reserve in Wisconsin,” said Andrew. “The Wisconsin Guard and the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command have been working together quite a bit during our annual training exercises at Fort McCoy.”

All of which has reinforced the Schuster brothers’ desire to serve. “We’re going to continue to serve, even when we are no longer in uniform,” said Andrew. “Having attained this rank, we’ll continue to serve for the future of the Guard and Reserve.”



Sgt. Gene Bowen, Detachment 1, 79th Quartermaster Company, talks to John Hampshire, a veteran of World War II.

*Photo by Nancy Taggart*

## Reservists serving veterans

By 1st Lt. Jefferson Wolfe,  
367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

**M**ore than 300 veterans and their families ate a Memorial Day meal prepared on an Army field kitchen thanks to soldiers from local Army Reserve units.

The city of Tiffin, Ohio, had a huge turnout for the food, as well as the parade and ceremony before. “I can’t get over the scene at the monument,” said Tiffin American Legion Commander Jim Roberts. “I have never seen a turnout like that before.”

Sgt. Gene Bowen of Detachment 1 of the 79th Quartermaster Company in Tiffin was in charge of the soldiers setting up the Mobile Kitchen Trailer and the display tents. He watched the ceremony while getting ready to serve food. “I stood on the MKT and could see a sea of people,” he said. “Then, when it was over, they all turned and started heading toward us.”

The veterans and their families lined up to get a chance to eat a breakfast of eggs, creamed chipped beef, sausage and biscuits, home fries, sausage links and coffee. The meal, provided free of charge, was served by

Army Reservists, as well as volunteers and retired military cooks.

“The veterans all thanked me when they came up there,” Bowen said. “We fed between 300 and 350. I really didn’t count because I was having too good a time.”

“The food was good,” said Dr. Percy Lilly, a local veteran. “I’m a southerner and I liked that gravy.” The veterans spent time talking to the soldiers and sharing experiences.

“Our people got just as much out of it, I’m sure,” Bowen said. Some of the soldiers who helped in the project told Bowen they were amazed at the veterans’ enthusiasm and patriotism.

Bowen coordinated the effort, with 17 soldiers from four different units - Detachment 1, 79th Quartermaster Company, 79th Quartermaster Company headquarters, 251st Transportation Company, and the 319th Quartermaster Battalion. Some of the soldiers volunteered, and others were using the event to make up drills they had missed.

Planning for the Reserve part of the event started in January. Bowen presented the idea to his chain of com-

mand, and received support.

“They said it was OK — do it if it benefits the Army Reserve and the community and it isn’t breaking any rules,” Bowen said.

The event was planned by Tiffin’s Operation Liberty Committee, which is composed of veterans from local organizations. Tiffin’s United Veterans Council donated money for the food. “I told them if I was going to do it, it would have to be free,” Bowen said. “We had the all the equipment and the manpower, they had the money.”

The soldiers set up the MKT and six surrounding tents Sunday morning. “It took us all day — pouring down rain, of course,” Bowen said. “We left two guards overnight.”

Fortunately, it stopped raining and the next day, displays of World War II and Korean War memorabilia were set up in the tents not being used for eating.

“Walking around and talking to the veterans made it all worthwhile,” Bowen said. Bowen said he would lend his support and his unit’s support for Memorial Day, 2001. “I’m excited about it already.” ♣

# Cub Scouts add realism

Story and photos by Sgt. C. Roger Shiltz,  
367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

**W**ithin a few moments Conor Reed went from playing a game of football to being carried on a stretcher with a gunshot wound. After entering an Army mobile hospital, immediate action was taken to stabilize his condition.

Reed and 14 other members of Cub Scout Pack 256 from Pickerington, Ohio, helped soldiers from the 629<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Forward Surgical Team) in nearby Blacklick prepare for their annual training by playing the roles of casualties April 1.

As part of the training, members of the 629<sup>th</sup> set up a mobile hospital at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. The hospital is first phase for soldiers in need of emer-



**626th Medical Detachment (Forward Surgical Team) soldiers treat Pack 256 Cub Scouts during an exercise in preparation for annual training at Fort Bragg, N.C.**

gency surgery. The unit will be assisting in real surgical procedures in the field during its annual training at Fort Bragg, N.C., this summer.

“We appreciated the Cub Scouts coming out and giving us real people to deal with,” said Spc. Kevin T. Hartley, a medic for the unit. “We had no idea that they were coming. They really added an element of surprise.”

“Having live patients during annual training is exciting and thrilling,” he continued. “It’s a new situation for most of us to operate in the field. Working with soldiers from Fort Bragg will help.”

Reed, an 8-year-old from Pickerington, enjoyed being a roleplayer.

“I acted like I was shot in the stomach,” Reed said. “It’s cool that I get to help the Army. I like getting ready the most. We got to put ketchup on ourselves.”

“I think the boys have learned a lot and were treated well,” said Rebecca A. Miller, mother of 8-year-old Jordan Q. Miller. “This has been a great experience for the scouts. They have been looking forward to it.”

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Anthony M. Christy with the U.S Army Health Care Recruiting Team in Columbus is a den leader for Pack 256 and helped plan the event. “It’s great the kids can come out and help,” Christy said. “The unit is getting real training and it is wonderful for the kids. This opportunity has given the children a chance to see what the Army is like.”

Four soldiers from Fort Bragg assisted the unit with their training. These soldiers were part of a mentorship program that helps prepare Reserve units to train with active-duty units.

Staff Sgt. Diamond D. Hough from the 55<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Airborne of Fort Bragg was one of the four soldiers who participated in the mentorship program.

“Our mission was to establish a working rapport between the command element of the two teams,” he said.

Members of the 629<sup>th</sup> also attended a class taught by a member of the 137<sup>th</sup> Assault Co. of the Ohio National Guard. Chief Warrant Officer Jim McDaniels

instructed a class on how to prepare an external load for lift by helicopter.

“My job was to prepare them to set their equipment up for the aviation guys,” McDaniels said. “I had to teach them the proper ways to signal a helicopter for landing, how to pick a landing area, and prepare their load.”

Maj. Marcia E. Hockett, an Army nurse and acting commander of the 629<sup>th</sup>, was pleased with the way her soldiers were performing.

“Having only a 20-soldier unit, each person has a half-dozen roles,” Hockett said. “The boys were great and had a great time. The way our soldiers improvised with different situations was excellent. I feel that we are better prepared for annual training.” ♦

## Sponsorship

Everyone is a sponsor. *Whose job is it?* It is everyone's from general to private, not just the unit-assigned sponsor. *Who is assigned a sponsor?* Every newly assigned soldier whether they are from a different unit, an IRR transfer, prior service, or a brand new private. *Should every new soldier receive a welcome letter?* Definitely! Enclosed with the welcome letter should be a strip map to the reserve center; names and phone numbers of the fulltime staff; and the

drill schedule. If they are prior service or a TPU transfer, include a subdued patch so they can feel like part of the unit the first drill. If they are from out of town, include information about local government quarters or hotels that have reasonable rates. *Should anyone call the soldier?* You bet. The assigned sponsor is responsible for making sure they are met at the unit on their first drill. The Fulltime Sponsorship Coordinator needs to call to make sure they received the wel-

come letter and that the sponsor has made contact with them (maybe the sponsor is on vacation). The First Line Leader and the non commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) or the officer in charge (OIC) should call the soldier to let them know they are needed at drill and are going to be an integral part of the team.

Good sponsorship is a sign of good leadership. It lets new soldiers know that they are important to the unit and that the unit cares about them.

## Tilley named new SMA

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera and Army Chief of Staff Eric K. Shinseki announced that Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley has been selected to be the 12<sup>th</sup> sergeant major of the Army.

For the last two years, Tilley has been serving as command sergeant major for U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. He has 32 years of experience with the Army as an armored cavalryman, including a combat tour in Vietnam.

Tilley was sworn in June 23 after Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert E. Hall retires. Hall, who also served at U.S. Central Command before coming to the Pentagon, has been sergeant major of the Army since Oct. 13, 1997. Hall was extended a year when Shinseki took office last June. Hall retired June 22, after 32 years of service.

As sergeant major of the Army, Tilley will serve as personal advisor to the Army chief of staff on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting soldier training, noncommissioned officer leader development and soldier and family well-being.

The sergeant major of the Army devotes the majority of his time travelling throughout the Army observing training, and talking to soldiers and their families. He listens to their concerns and provides the chief of staff feedback and recommendations for the forces' well-being. He also sits on a wide variety of councils and boards that make decisions affecting enlisted soldiers and their families and is routinely invited to testify before Congress.

Courtesy of Army News Service



## Keith L. Ware Awards

Journalists from the 88th Regional Support Command won several awards in the Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition for 1999.

The 88th RSC Public Affairs Office won a two second place U.S. Army Reserve Command-level awards. *The Blue Devil II* won in the Army-Funded Magazines category, and the *Fiscal 1998 88th RSC Annual Report* won in the Special Achievement in Print Media category.

The 368th Public Affairs Detachment won a first place USARC-level award for the *The Wire*. That publication was judged the best entry in the Annual Training Publications category.

Staff Sgt. Dave Boe, 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, won a first place USARC-level award and an honorable mention in the department of the Army-level competition in the Feature Articles category. His entry, titled *Northern Eagle*, covered Northern Eagle 2000, a joint medical exercise with Reserve units from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Finally, Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes won first place awards at both USARC and DA levels in the News Articles category for his entry titled *Guardian angel saves life*. Congrats to all.

# Approximate retirement point value

This point value table has been prepared to assist you in determining what your approximate gross monthly retired pay may be at age 60. The exact amount will be computed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service when you are certified for retired pay. Their computation will be based on the pay scale in

effect on your 60th birthday or the day you enter on the retired rolls (whichever is later). The columns are based on your total years service for pay (longevity) and may be more than your total years qualifying service (good years).

HIGHEST GRADE HELD SATISFACTORILY		OVER 20 YEARS APPROXIMATE VALUE OF ONE POINT	OVER 22 YEARS APPROXIMATE VALUE OF ONE POINT	OVER 24 YEARS APPROXIMATE VALUE OF ONE POINT	OVER 26 YEARS APPROXIMATE VALUE OF ONE POINT
MG	(O8)	.613	.628	.628	.628
BG	(O7)	.555	.555	.555	.557
COL	(O6)	.443	.455	.467	.490
LTC	(O5)	.388	.399	.399	.399
MAJ	(O4)	.334	.334	.334	.334
CPT	(O3)	.287	.287	.287	.287
1LT	(O2)	.213	.213	.213	.213
2LT	(O1)	.168	.168	.168	.168
CPT	(O3E)*	.307	.307	.307	.307
1LT	(O2E)*	.247	.247	.247	.247
2LT	(O1E)*	.209	.209	.209	.209
CW5	(W5)	.311	.321	.332	.343
CW4	(W4)	.279	.289	.298	.307
CW3	(W3)	.246	.254	.263	.271
CW2	(W2)	.220	.227	.235	.235
WO1	(W1)	.202	.202	.202	.202
SGM	(E9)	.241	.251	.260	.272
MSG	(E8)	.210	.220	.229	.242
SFC	(E7)	.185	.194	.206	.218
SSG	(E6)	.159	.159	.159	.159
SGT	(E5)	.134	.134	.134	.134
CPL	(E4)	.111	.111	.111	.111
PFC	(E3)	.093	.093	.093	.093

**\* with over four years of active enlisted service**

To compute the approximate amount of retired pay you will receive (before taxes and other deductions), multiply the total number of your retirement points by the amount shown above in the Retirement Point Value Table for your pay grade and years of service for longevity pay purposes. For example, if a LTC (O5) has earned a total of 4,000 retirement points and has over 22 years service for pay, his/her approximate amount of

monthly retired pay would be \$1,596.00(4,000 X .399). If a MSG (E8) has 3,250 points and has over 24 years service for pay, his/her monthly retired pay would be approximately \$744.25(3,250 X .229). Eligible members of the reserve components, upon application, can receive retired pay from age 60 for the rest of their lives. They may provide a portion of that benefit for their survivors by electing coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

Table taken from ARPC Form 1259, Jul 00 (Prior editions are obsolete.)

# Family Readiness

**O**n May 19, 160 members, 18 instructors and 6 support personnel of the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command Family Support Group converged on Cleveland to attend the Family Program Academy 2000.

Saturday attendees chose classes from basic subject topics including *Organizing Your Family Support Group for Success*, *Volunteer Reimbursement: It's Payback Time*, and *Volunteer Recruitment: A Talent Search*. Fewer intermediate and advanced courses were offered at this FSG program because of the number of first-time attendees.

Sunday's program included a question and answer session, led by Bob

Russell and a presentation by Janet Fenn on drug abuse called *Kids in Danger, Adults in the Dark*. As a part of the presentation, Fenn had two volunteers wear special glasses which altered their visual perception, simulating the effect of alcohol on the brain. The volunteers then attempted to perform common tasks such as walking or assembling large plastic nuts and bolts.

Thomas Harris gave a *What You Can Take Away* from the weekend presentation, along with the history of volunteering, and then Col. Dan Fischer concluded the weekend as the keynote speaker.

Fischer pointed out that we are all volunteers, whether a family member

or a soldier, and stressed three key points to make FSGs successful. First, just do it, second, do it together, and third, have fun doing it.

Fisher also said that while it is important to ask people to participate, it is also important to have a valid reason for their participation, a meaningful mission for them. Then once the mission is completed, recognize their participation. Fischer suggested each unit take the time at final formation to pull the FSG volunteers in front of the formation and verbally recognize them for being there. We all want recognition, he said, and when we are recognized, we perform better. ♣

**By Maj. Deanna S. Parker, PAO, 300<sup>th</sup> Military Police Command, Inkster, Mich.**

## Chaplain's Corner

**I**t is appropriate for us as soldiers and as good citizens to consider the values upon which our country was founded. I firmly believe that the Army Values are the core values that carved out of the wilderness a new nation called America.

How can we embrace personal and moral courage in our own personal life and in the Army? First of all, what is the Army's official definition of courage? It is the premier military value that enables us to conquer fear, danger or adversity no matter whether physical or moral. Anyone who has thought about soldiering knows the importance of courage – both on and off the battlefield. It takes courage to withstand the vigor of war. It takes courage to assume responsibility for life-and-death decisions. It often takes courage to “do the right thing.” I call that moral courage — making the decision to do that which is right / correct under all circumstances and in all situations – even when it is not easy or popular.

Along with personal courage, moral courage is also important in today's Army. Doing the right thing in a difficult situation is not always easy. Moral courage is the value that allows our self-worth to be explained by what we do and understand why we do it. Moral courage includes a spiritual dimension, and both transcend the physical dimension. It takes moral courage to stand up for one's belief in what is right, particularly when it is contrary to what others believe. It is the courage to persevere in what

we know to be right and not tolerate wrong behavior by friends, peers, subordinates, or superiors. The spiritual dimension of courage is derived from religious values that acknowledge an ultimate right and wrong.

Let me try to put all these thoughts about courage together by saying that courage is not the absence of fear, but is our personal assessment that something else is more important than the fear that confronts us. A life in fear is a life of bondage, while a life of courage is one that experiences liberty and freedom. Courage is the determination to make the best of whatever circumstances you find yourself in ... regardless of cost.

Courage is a necessary ingredient for living a life without regrets. It takes courage to make the right moral and ethical choices that confront us daily. Courage, acted out in our lives, watches out for the oppressed, speaks up for the weak, takes a stand against injustice and immorality and does so at our own expense. But the courage to take a stand against what is popular and easy, when required, is the key to experiencing a clear conscience.

In conclusion, remember courage is not without fear; it is the overcoming of fear. By finding courage within ourselves, we give others an enormous gift. It is through our strength of spirit and resolve that we become a source of strength for others; a strength that can awaken a goodness and even a greatness, where once there was despair. ♣

**Lt. Col. Wesley V. White, 88th RSC Assistant Staff Chaplain**

# Equal Opportunity

**O**n Oct. 7, 1997, “Consideration of Others” became an integral part of the leadership philosophy throughout the Army Reserve.

In essence, the philosophy is a leadership approach that increases every soldier’s and Department of the Army Civilian’s awareness of human relation issues and commitment to professionalism towards others.

The overall purpose of this program is to enhance trust, cohesion, and readiness by ensuring continual awareness of caring as an organizational imperative. Inherent in the mission of the U.S. Army Reserve is our charter to conduct a comprehensive, effective Consideration of Others program, which can serve as a template for all members of the 88th Regional Support Command and the Army Reserve.

The intent of the Consideration of Others Program is to emphasize the importance of treating each other with dignity and respect. Consideration of

Others enables our soldiers and civilians to understand how their actions affect one another. It emphasizes respect among all individuals regardless of race, religion, or gender, and it enables soldiers and civilians to understand how their actions towards others affects unit readiness.

Consideration of Others workshops are conducted in a small group setting and led by a facilitator. Recently, a Consideration of Others Facilitator Workshop was conducted in Bloomington, Minn.

The workshop was designed to give participants the basic tools required to facilitate a group. Thirty students, with rank ranging from specialist to lieutenant colonel and Department of the Army civilians made up the attendees.

Response to the workshop was overwhelmingly positive. “The Consideration of Others Workshop was among the best training I have experienced as a member of the Army Reserves,” wrote Lt. Col. Len

Kachinsky, senior training officer, 91st Legal Support Organization. “After some brief background lectures, the emphasis was on participation and learning by doing. The class discussions were fascinating and eye-opening.”

That feeling was echoed by Spec. Jamie Milks, 980th Quartermaster Company, who wrote, “Consideration of Others training is a great tool for expanding confidence and organizational skills. I felt my input really meant something, and that in turn helped me feel like part of the team.”

The Consideration of Others Program is mandatory command-wide. Unfortunately, many units have not attempted to implement the program because of a lack of understanding with regard to just what it is and what it can do for the command. Units that need further information about the Consideration of Others Program and the training of facilitators can contact Mr. Rich Cox, 88th RSC Equal Opportunity specialist at (612) 713-3053 or 1-800-843-2769 x 3053. ♣



Students in a Consideration of Others Facilitator Workshop take part in a paper tear exercise, an exercise that deals with people’s perceptions. Participants close their eyes, and fold a piece of paper according to how they interpret the directions they are given. *Photo illustration created from photo by Mr. Terry Stegemeyer, 88th RSC Equal Opportunity specialist*

## Indy Armed Forces Day

By Pvt. Justin A. Carmack,  
350th MPAD, Indianapolis, Ind.

**O**ur military has been faced with unique challenges through the years. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines each have a specific mission and purpose for its existence.

At this year's National Armed Forces Day at the Indianapolis 500 qualifications, members of all the military branches were given the opportunity to exhibit some of their capabilities to the public, with the 88th Regional Support Command there to show off the Army Reserve.

Alert 2K (a part of the 88th RSC recruiting and retention effort) had a display to show the physical standards for military soldiers and boost interest in the Army. Potential recruits were given the opportunity to see how they matched with Army PT standards by performing sit-ups and then push-ups. Potential recruits were then awarded an array of prizes depending on his or her level of performance.

The Army recruiters working with ALERT 2K used a 25-foot climbing wall to draw attention to the site. "The wall was a fun way for me to see some of the things you can do in the military," said Randal Spannath an Indianapolis native. "I was fairly sure I was going to enlist before I came to the track today, but now I am positive I will give the military a try."

Sgt. 1st Class Scott A. Voorhees, the station commander for the Georgetown Recruiting Station, said the wall seemed to be a huge success for their recruiting efforts. It

seemed to be one of the star attractions at Armed Forces Day.

The public also had the opportunity to speak with several of the members of the 337th as well as view a combat support hospital. The hospital is designed to retrieve, treat and return injured soldiers to the battle-

field within three days. If a soldier's injuries are too extensive to return to the battlefield they are then sent to the division hospital where they can receive additional treatment. Among the injuries able to be treated at the hospital are ear, nose and throat surgery as well as eye surgeries and cardio-thoracic surgeries.

Chief Warrant Officer William F. Clowers, of the 337th CSH, explains to potential recruits, "Our hospital, with our staff of approximately 600 soldiers, has the ability to do almost anything that a regular hospital can do. Within two days we can build a completely self functioning hospital with operating room and recovery rooms."

The 88th RSC had many additional sites on hand including a crane and many HMMVEEs. Also on display were transport vehicles, Chinook helicopter and weapons such as the .50 caliber machine gun used by the Army.

Military personnel were not only given the opportunity to speak and show the equipment of their branch of service, they also enjoyed the facilities of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Service members were given the chance to leave their displays and relax in the bleachers while watching the cars qualify on the opening day of qualifications.

This year's Armed Forces Day at the Indianapolis 500 seemed to be an enjoyable victory in informing the public of what the military's mission is and how it is accomplished. ♦



Potential recruits climb the Army wall at an Armed Forces Day event held at the Indianapolis 500 time trials.

Photo by 350th MPAD





# Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Tanya Brodin,  
88th RSC ALERT 2K, Fort Snelling, Minn.

**A**lthough the Cinco de Mayo holiday is gaining popularity here in the United States, the deep-seeded cultural significance of Cinco de Mayo in the Mexican community may not be as well known.

In 1862, Spanish, English and French troops landed in Mexico with the pretext of collecting Mexican debts with the newly elected democratic government. The Spanish and English promptly completed this task and returned home.

The French, however, had colonization

on their minds and began to carry out their ideas. They brought in their intended new leadership, modern equipment and started their attack on Mexico, with the expectation that the Mexicans to surrender if their capital were to fall. They grossly underestimated the intense love the Mexicans held for their country.

On May 5th, 1862, 4,000 Mexican soldiers fought against an army of 8,000 French soldiers. The determined Mexican soldiers managed to defeat the French. This victory bought them enough time to gain the support of the United States and drive the French out of Mexico once and for all.

Today, Cinco de Mayo celebrates the freedom and liberty Mexico gained by their victory in 1862. It is celebrated wherever Mexicans live including the United States.

Local celebrations are prominent in all 50 states, including Milwaukee, Wis., where ALERT Army Reserve soldiers participated to show their support.

The Milwaukee Cinco de Mayo festivities were held at

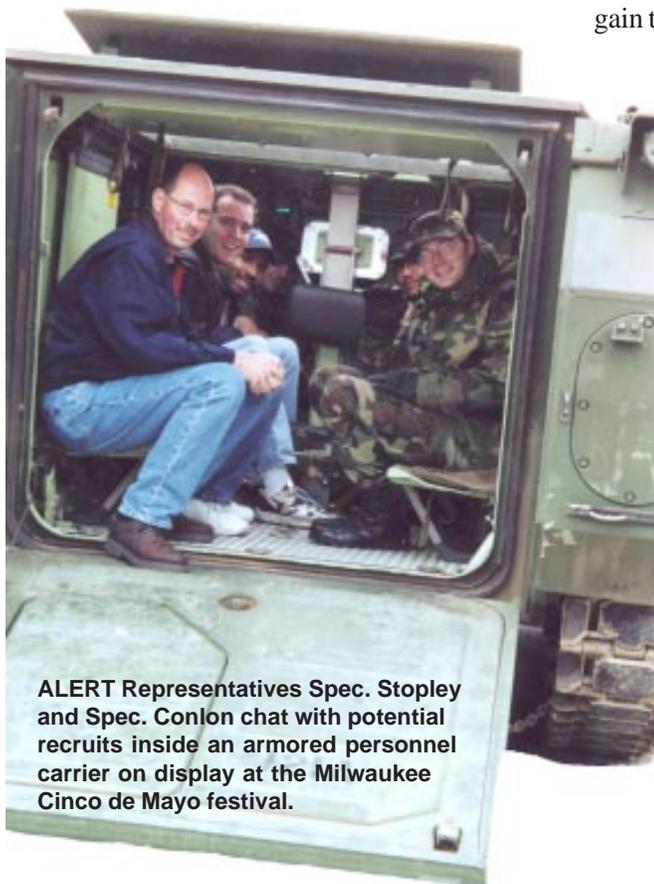
the Wisconsin state fair grounds and kicked off with a three-mile sombrero walk. ALERT 2K reps donned road guard vests and provided assistance with the safety aspects of the walk.

As a thank you for their help with the walk, each ALERT 2K representative was given a sombrero by the organizers of the walk.

A total of 11 Army Reserve soldiers, three Recruiters and the ALERT 2K battalion representative for the Milwaukee area participated in the day's events. The Army Reserve also displayed several military vehicles, the most popular of which was a armored personnel carrier that community members could sit inside and chat with soldiers

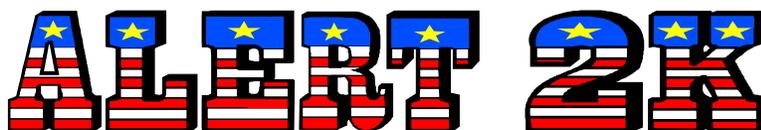
Soldiers enjoyed the days other festivities, which included several musical entertainers, carnival rides, face painting, games, novelty shopping and plenty of Mexican food. Children attending the event were treated to a special show hosted by Ronald McDonald of the McDonalds Corporation.

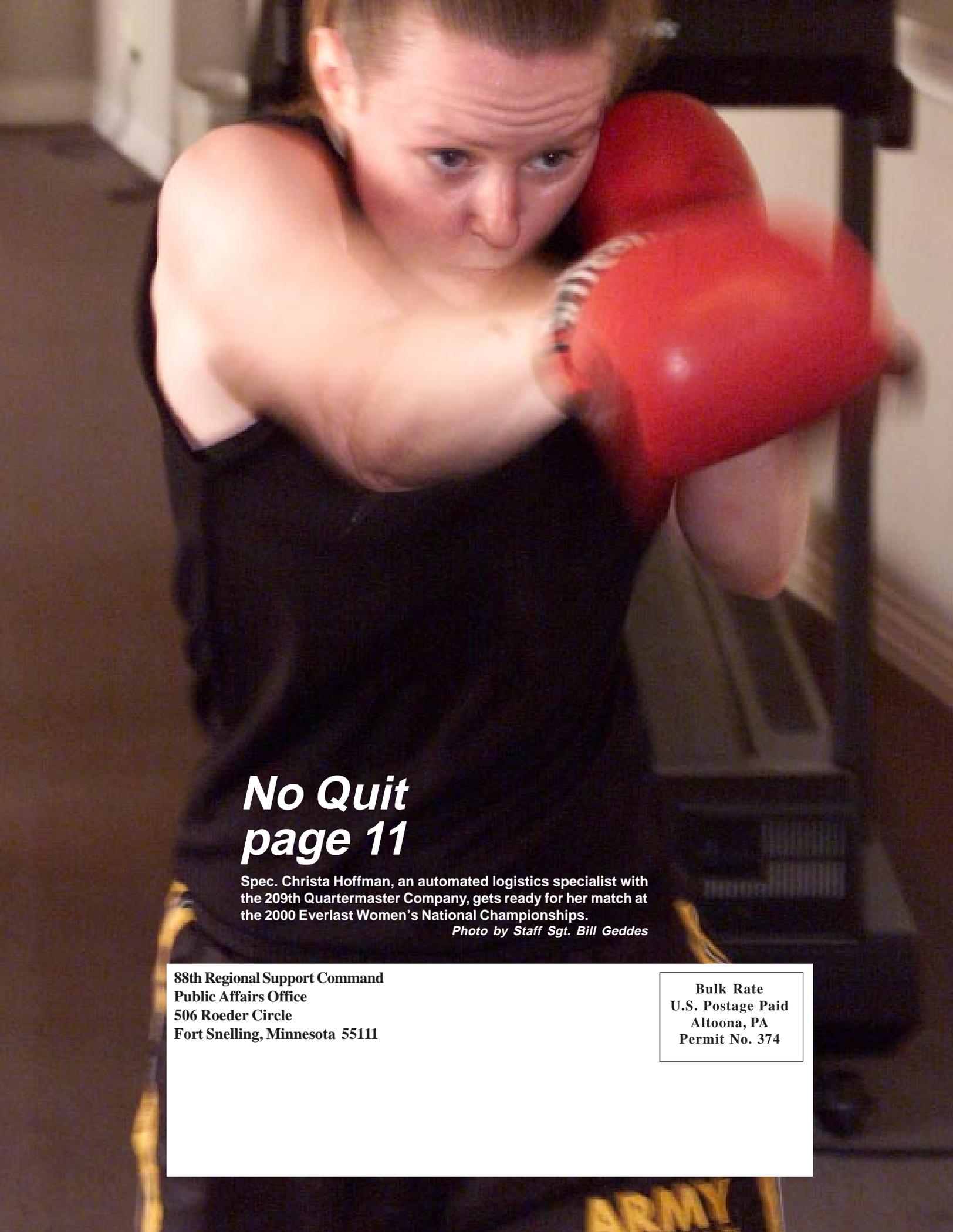
Cinco de Mayo Milwaukee-style gave the local community a chance to celebrate an important historical event. The Army Reserve was both fortunate and grateful to share in this beloved cultural celebration. ♦



ALERT Representatives Spec. Stopley and Spec. Conlon chat with potential recruits inside an armored personnel carrier on display at the Milwaukee Cinco de Mayo festival.

Strengthening The Command





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Spec. Christa Hoffman, an automated logistics specialist with the 209th Quartermaster Company, gets ready for her match at the 2000 Everlast Women's National Championships.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes*

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