

Blue Devil II

88th Regional Support Command

"The Right Place to Soldier"

Winter 2000

Vol. V, No.1



*No more no shows
page 4*

CG's Corner

By Maj. Gen. John M. O'Connell

In an address made at the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) Mid-Winter Conference in January, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve, revealed his vision for our future: *The Army Reserve is to be "the essential provider for training and support operations engaged worldwide with ready units and soldiers."*

When presenting his vision statement last October, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki said his goal was to have "a strategically responsive force – agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, deployable, and sustainable – persuasive in peace, invincible in war."

This Army Reserve vision embodies the spirit of being an effective and integral part of the Army. It is not separate from the Army's vision, but indeed, helps make the Army's vision a reality. With more than 20,000 reservists deployed to six continents last year alone, Plewes acknowledged, "The Army Reserve is not just for emergency use only anymore!"

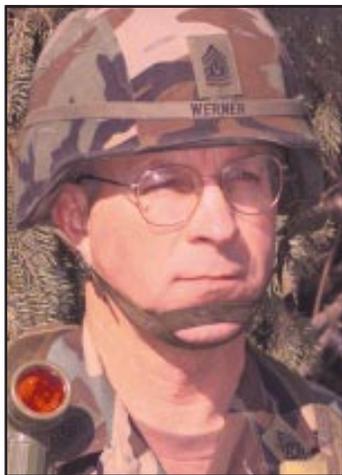
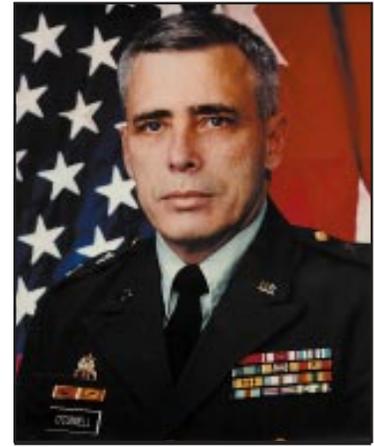
The mission statement of the 88th RSC supports the ideals set forth by our Army leaders: "Exercise command and control of assigned units, ensure operational readiness, provide area support services, and support emergency operations." Further, it is our vision to be the "premier regional support command that is the model for others to follow."

These days, we may be feeling, as Plewes calls it, "undersized and overmissioned." We are called upon to do much

with often insufficient equipment and manpower. In the 88th, we have had many units and soldiers deployed to support overseas training and operational missions, spending increasing amounts of time away from family and civilian employment.

Yet, never before in our history have our units been more ready and more capable to fulfill the missions they are called upon to assume. We continue to play a big part in the Army's goal of strategic responsiveness. Part of our readiness is the civilian-acquired skills 88th RSC soldiers bring with them to their military positions.

We can all do our part to support the visions and missions of the Army, the Army Reserve, and the 88th RSC by continuing to develop and hone our military skills, serving with pride, and encouraging other skilled and talented men and women to join with us. We are all recruiters and must join in the difficult task of enlisting new soldiers while maintaining strength in our units. The overall betterment of the Army and Army Reserve depends on it.



.....From the Top

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

Take the Point. It's a simple phrase used on patrols. It means "out front, the rest will follow." But more than that, the phrase encompasses what an NCO is supposed to be. It's been my philosophy as an NCO during my 31 years in the military.

Before becoming the 88th RSC command sergeant major last December, I served in every NCO leadership position, from squad leader to battalion sergeant major. I enlisted in 1969, and after four-and-a-half years active duty with the 82nd Airborne -- with one tour in Vietnam -- I joined the Reserves as a buck sergeant.

Now that you know where I came from, let me tell you where I'm going. As CSM, the area I want to have the most impact on is strengthening the role of the NCO. Many problems in units are a result of too few NCOs doing their job. This may be because they are not allowed to, don't want to, or don't know how to do their job. The bottom line is they have a responsibility to the soldiers. They need to know them, take care of their needs,

train them, and, last but not least, LEAD them.

At the company level, these standards of leadership begin with the first sergeant. He or she is the one who sets the environment, the tone of the unit. It's "Top's" job to ensure that junior NCOs are doing their jobs, and to uphold and enforce standards. If first sergeants are doing their job, junior NCOs will be doing their job.

But the first sergeant is only half of the command team. The one constant message I've given to NCOs and officers at every opportunity is that the first sergeant runs the company while the commander leads the company. The two need to always communicate. The first sergeant needs to know the commander's intent so he or she can function and there is no conflict, and the commander needs to trust the first sergeant. If both can do their job without having to look over each other's shoulder, the soldiers will be taken care of and the unit mission will be accomplished.

Ultimately, though, it comes down to NCOs at all levels "taking the point." I expect all of my NCOs - and aspiring NCOs - to lead. Lead by action. Lead by example. Lead by training. If not, you are just a pay grade marking time. My 88th RSC CSM coins will have the motto, "Take the point," on them. They will be my watchwords during my tenure as the CSM of the 88th RSC.



Contents

Vol. V, No.1

Winter 2000

CG's Corner	2
From the Top	2
No more no shows	4 - 5
Quest for Connelly	6 - 7
Chill out	8 - 9
SMART standard	10
Army on display	11 - 13
Slide magnet	14 - 15
Patterson works body	16
Cohen on anthrax	17
Bits & Pieces	18 - 19
Family Readiness	20 - 21
Alert 2K	22 - 23

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On the cover



Staff Sgt. Louis Steffes, an 84th Division drill sergeant, stares down a recruit at the Blue Devil Basic Challenge, a prebasic training program hosted by the 646th Area Support Group at Fort McCoy, Wis. See the full story on page 4.

Photo by Mr. Bill Geddes, PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

By Mr. Bill Geddes
88th RSC PAO

No more

“Motivated. Hell yeah we’re motivated. Stab them in the back. Kick them in the front. Choke them in the throat. Poke them in the eye. Release pressure. Toooo smoooooth.”

As chanted by pre-basic trainees at Fort McCoy during the Blue Devil Basic Challenge

As the prebasic trainees chanted it became more and more obvious. They were motivated. Hell yeah they were motivated. Motivated – and more ready to ship for basic training than less than 48 hours before.

It is all part of the Blue Devil Basic Challenge, a pre-basic training program hosted by the 646th Area Support Group at Fort McCoy, Wis. The program is designed to decrease the number of trainees that enlist, but then fail to show up for basic training, prepare the trainees for basic – and give the Reserve drill sergeants some invaluable training.

The no show rate is the big focus. A booming economy, low unemployment rates and more and more companies offering education benefits have effectively sabotaged the Army recruiting effort. With that recruiting effort sabotaged, ensuring that recruits ship has become critical.

“In my unit up in Ladysmith (Wis.) where I work as a unit administrator, we had 12 soldiers who were supposed to ship one summer – eight of them never shipped,” said the initiator of the Blue Devil Basic Challenge program, Command Sgt. Maj. John Vacho, 376th Finance Battalion. “It was ‘My knee is acting up’ or ‘It’s my trick elbow’ – for whatever reason, they didn’t go. Well what’s the real reason? Are they afraid of (the drill sergeants)? Let’s introduce them to the drill sergeants now and let them know they’re human beings – let’s get them training.”

Addressing the perception trainees have of the military is seen to be key – especially with less than 6 percent of the population under the age of 60 having ever served in the military. “The demographics have changed,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Campbell, 84th Training Division. “Most of the young soldiers who enlist now don’t have a dad or a relative who have been in the military. The recruits now haven’t heard the war stories, they don’t know very much about the military. These young soldiers who have enlisted need to know that they can go to basic training and they can make it – millions before them have done it.”



(Above) Staff Sgt. Max Hermans demonstrates standing at attention to some trainees at the Blue Devil Basic Challenge. (Upper right) Staff Sgt. Danetta Hurt looks on in the background as Staff Sgt. Max Hermans gives the trainees a taste of basic training – lots of pushups.

The results of the Blue Devil Basic Challenge remain to be seen – but this sort of program has already proven successful. The Wisconsin National Guard has had a similar program in place for a few years, according to Sgt. 1st Class Russell Tapley, a drill sergeant for the 84th Division. In that time they have cut their no-show rate from 25 percent to 2 percent, and it is now mandatory that trainees who are delayed shippers go to the program before they ship to basic training.

Helping the young soldiers prepare to ship to basic training is where the drill sergeants of the 84th Div. come into play. “When they walk out the door, I want these soldiers to be the squad leaders and platoon guides,” said Staff Sgt. Danetta Hurt, a drill



“I think it’s productive, I’m glad we’re doing it,” said Pvt. Randall Prudhon, an Evansville, Wis., resident who is enlisting as a combat engineer. “It will give me an edge at basic training.” An edge other 88th RSC recruits should soon have too.

“I would like to see all the ASGs promoting a program like this immediately,” said 88th Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner. “We need to get on board now. This is the pilot. Maj. Gen. John O’Connell is very interested in this program, and he wants to make sure it expands immediately.”

The next Blue Devil Basic Challenge is scheduled for the weekend of April 28 – 30. ♣

No shows

sergeant with the 84th Div. “That way they can instill into the other privates they meet in basic training the factors that are important, the Army Values and the teamwork.”

Hurt and the rest of the drill sergeants do this through classes and instruction in everything from Army Values and teamwork, to how to march, stand at attention — and oh yeah, do push-ups. Lots of push-ups.

“We want to give them a taste of what basic training is really like,” said Staff Sgt. Todd Bacon, a drill sergeant with the 84th Div. “We try to give them the right mental attitude. They’re going there; they’re going to get yelled at, but they are not getting picked on. They’re going there to learn to be a soldier and how to survive on the battlefield. We try to get them to understand that they’re not going there for someone to just take out their aggressions on them, it all has purpose.”

Not that the drill sergeants have carte blanche when dealing with the trainees. “There are a few more restrictions imposed on us when dealing with orientation prior to basic,” said Bacon. “It is a much more relaxed environment. This is very low stress compared to what the soldiers will get in basic training.”

It’s just as well that it was low stress. Or lower stress might be more accurate. “I was nervous we might lose them all,” said Vacho. “After seeing how far (the drill sergeants) went last night, I expected half the parking lot to be empty in the morning. It wasn’t.”

As a matter of fact, the trainees were already starting to come together. “I see a lot of them coming around,” said Vacho. “You can see it by the minute, it’s progressing rather rapidly.” Not only were the trainees coming together, they actually enjoyed it – or at least saw that it was benefiting them.”



Staff Sgt. Joseph Koeck checks a trainee’s bags for contraband at the Blue Devil Basic Challenge.

Quest for Connelly

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

With steam collecting near the ceiling of the field kitchen tent, Sgt. 1st Class Norman Beaver looked past the vegetables being sliced and zeroed in on one of his cooks beating batter for a sheet cake.

On the outside, Beaver, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 256th Combat Support Hospital's mess section, appeared calm about the noontime meal. Privately, however, he knew the lunch of braised beef and pasta required the utmost attention from these soldiers assigned to the support hospital in Brooklyn, Ohio.



The 256th competed Nov. 6 as one of four finalists in the U.S. Army Reserve field category of the 32nd Annual Philip A. Connelly award, which is bestowed upon a handful of National Guard, Reserve and regular Army units for culinary excellence.

Sophy Mae Mitchell Jr., an administrator with the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA), based in Florida, was one of three Connelly evaluators assessing the Ohio Reservists. Watching from a safe distance as the cooks chopped, diced and iced, Mitchell said the national competition allows her organization an opportunity to observe how the military cooks.

"IFSEA is very proud to cooperate with the Department of Defense in the Connelly award," the evaluator said. "It's so inspiring to the civilians because we see the best of military feeding."

On the road to the final four, the 256th bested numerous units in both the 330th Medical Brigade and 88th Regional Support Command. In May, they were chosen by the U.S. Army Reserve Command as the Midwestern regional finalist, one level higher than they achieved last year.

Beaver explained Connelly evaluators look at all aspects of a field kitchen environment including food preparation, sanitation and administration.

"In a field environment, there are no leftovers," he said. "We try to eliminate waste by monthly tallies of the number of soldiers served (320). By taking a six-month average, we can get real close to how much food to order, which helps out in our spending."

From Cleveland, the evaluation team traveled to New York to judge the northeastern regional finalist, the 865th Combat Support Hospital of Niagara Falls, N.Y. The Connelly competition concluded Dec. 15.

The winner, announced in February was -- the 865th CSH, Niagra Falls. The 256th CSH, while disappointed at not winning, is proud of their showing.

Maj. Philip Good, the chief of nutrition care for the unit and a nutrition specialist for John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, said the unit's progression in the Connelly

Spec. Star Arnett, a food service specialist with the 256th Combat Support Hospital, cores tomatoes during the Philip A. Connelly competition in Brooklyn, Ohio, Nov. 6.



competition reflects the cohesiveness that has developed in the section.

“I’m confident we can stack up against anybody,” Good said.

As long as section members stick to the basics, Beaver said he is sure his section can earn the coveted Connelly crown.

“You want to keep it as simple as possible to lessen mistakes,” he said. “Keep the troops focused, enhance when you can and the finished product will be great.” ♣

Sgt. Quintin Jones, a cook with the 256th Combat Support Hospital, releases some steam during the Philip A. Connelly competition in Brooklyn, Ohio, Nov. 6.

One Army Connelly standard

By Staff Sgt. Rob Glenn, 367th MPAD, Whitehall, Ohio

STANDING in a long line on a cold day, with steam coming from an aluminum serving tray, a soldier is the final judge of a field kitchen’s product.

Does the food look good? Taste good? Is the food unsafe because of unsanitary conditions? These are questions asked by soldiers -- some of the same questions asked by field evaluators for the 32nd annual Philip A. Connelly Award for excellence in food service.

The competition is named in honor of the late Philip A. Connelly, past president of the International Food Service Executives Association, or IFSEA, and staunch supporter of military food service. Connelly is credited with founding the current Army food service recognition program, according to Sgt. Maj. Vera F. Harris, Connelly Award evaluator at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, Va.

The Connelly Award competition, which began in 1968, is cosponsored by the U.S. Army Quartermaster School and IFSEA. Both military and civilian evaluators, qualified and trained in food service, comprise the evaluation teams for each category.

From September to December of 1999, evaluators and experts in military food service visited more than 40 Army, Reserve, and National Guard installation dining facilities judging five categories — Active Army Small Dining Facilities, Active Army Large Dining Facilities, Active Army Field Kitchen, Army Reserve,

and National Guard.

Harris said the standards and checklist used throughout the competition are taken from the Army Food Service Manual, Army Regulation 30-1.

“Gone are the days of double standards for active and Reserve,” Harris said. “We have one Army and the standards for active duty and Army Reserve are the same.”

Typical areas that were evaluated include proper sanitation, food preparation technique and procedure, equipment serviceability, specifications for food production, such as time and ingredients, customer service, teamwork and command support.

The regional winners were the 865th Combat Support Hospital (77th RSC) in Niagara Falls, N.Y.; the 942nd Transportation Company (81st RSC) in North Charleston, S.C.; the 256th Combat Support Hospital (88th RSC) in Brookpark, Ohio; and the 349th General Hospital (63rd RSC) in Los Angeles, Calif.

These four units represented the United States Army Reserve Command at the Department of the Army level competition. The winner of this evaluation -- the 856th CSH.

An awards ceremony is scheduled for April 7, 2000, in Chicago.

Besides a trophy and the honor of being recognized for excellence, unit representatives from the winning categories will be able to attend a prestigious culinary arts school for one week.

Chill out

By Sgt. 1st Class David M. Harris, 84th Div. (IT)

In everyday conversation the phrase “chill out” is a way to tell someone to take it easy, lighten the load. On Saturday, March 4, that phrase took on a whole new meaning for several members of the Onalaska-based 458th Service Company when they turned from part-time soldiers to modified scuba divers to take part in the second annual “Polar Bear

all 50 states and nearly 150 countries.

To take part in the Polar Bear Plunge, people seek out sponsors who agree to provide a monetary donation to the Special Olympics program. In exchange, that person agrees to jump into the bone-chilling waters of the Black River. To the average person, diving into icy cold water in the depths of winter may seem a bit crazy.

This year 23 soldiers of the 458th raised an estimated \$2,500 for Special Olympics, according to Richard Loughan, unit administrator for the 458th. The Polar Bear Plunge has its roots in the Army Reserve said Loughan, who serves on the 19-member “Polar Bear Plunge Support Committee To Support Special Olympics.”

“A couple of years ago I was contacted by the Onalaska Police chief, who is also involved in Special Olympics,” Loughan said. “He and the local director for Special Olympics attended meetings in Alaska, where the Polar Bear Plunge was started. He said they used Army Reserve support and asked if we would get involved as well.”

Besides providing plungers, 458th members, who affectionately refer to themselves as the “Junkyard Dogs,” served a critical role in the operation and success of the Polar Bear Plunge. In all, 35 people provided various

support functions toward the Polar Bear Plunge.

These functions include providing:

- Tent set up for changing room areas.
- Four 5-kilowatt quiet generators to power the concession stand, heat hot tubs and tents, and supply lights.
- Individuals for parking vehicles, crowd control, and answering questions.

Plunge.” The Polar Bear Plunge benefits the Special Olympics program in a three-county area in Wisconsin.

Special Olympics Wisconsin is a non-profit program which provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for citizens with cognitive disabilities. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics serves more than one million athletes in

But the money raised is far from outrageous. Last year, the Polar Bear Plunge brought in approximately 315 plungers who, despite temperatures below 30 degrees, raised \$30,000 for Special Olympics. This year, the more than 800 plungers raised more than \$81,000, and were treated to a balmy 60 degree air temperature -- but the estimated water temperature was still only 37 degrees.



Photo by Ann Stenberg

The first rank of 458th Service Company soldiers plunge into the chilly waters of the Black River while the second rank observes what is to be their ultimate fate.

· Overnight security for the Polar Bear Plunge site.

The 458th also provided an Army vehicle display which included three Humvees, three deuce-and-a-half's, and a tractor-trailer.

"It's the best activity that we could ever get involved with," Loughan said. "People from Special Olympics repeatedly say they could not do the Polar Bear Plunge without our assistance. Our soldiers did an excellent job. They really get into it. They bust their guts."

The unit has no problem finding people for the Polar Bear Plunge. One person who volunteered without hesitation was Spec. Heidi Wemette. The NBC specialist from Houston, Minnesota, is one of three 458th soldiers who raised more than \$200 in pledges for Special Olympics. "I watched a video about the Polar Bear Plunge; it made me want to cry. I decided it was a good cause and set out to raise the money." Wemette said her goal is to do even better next time. "I am going to hit that \$500 goal next year," Wemette said.

Another plunger who takes raising money for Special Olympics to heart

is Staff Sgt. Steven Knutson, a technical inspector with the 458th. Knutson, who in the civilian world has logged more than 20 years of service as a driver for the La Crosse MTU bus service, says the Polar Bear Plunge holds special meaning to him.

"A lot of the people who take part in Special



Olympics ride the bus. For them to know someone who actually takes part in the Plunge is real exciting to them, and truly gratifying for me." Knutson also raised over \$200 for Special Olympics.

The end of this year's Polar Bear Plunge does not signal an end to the spirit of volunteerism at the 458th. Unit members have somewhat adopted Special Olympics by incorporating various public events into their yearly training plan.

These events include the Chad Erickson Memorial Run, a La Crosse-area Special Olympics fund-raiser, and the annual "Torch Run," a 170-mile run from Prairie Du Chien to Stevens Point, where the state Special Olympics are held each year. Winners from the state Special Olympics competition go on to national competition.

As for continued future interest in the Polar Bear Plunge, that should not be much of a problem for members of the 458th. Already the Junkyard Dogs are chomping at the bit to take part in the next Polar Bear Plunge scheduled for March 3, 2001, in La Crosse, Wis.

In promoting the unselfish spirit of the 458th, Wemette said, "It was well worth it. I would do it again in a heartbeat, anything to help out Special Olympics. I will do it again next year, even if the temperature is below zero." ♦



Photo by Ann Stenberg

Sgt. 1st Class Steve Stenberg marches members of the 458th Service Company on the shores of the Black River in La Crosse, Wis.

Note: The 458th Service Company (C & C), located in Onalaska, Wisconsin, is seeking soldiers for a variety of available positions. If you are interested in joining this outstanding group of soldiers, contact Richard Loughan, 458th Unit Administrator, at 608-783-4734.

No joke; Thiel sets SMART standard

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

When Staff Sgt. Edward Thiel first heard he was taking a trip to Washington D.C. courtesy of the U.S. Army, he thought someone was pulling his leg.

Thiel, a physical security noncommissioned officer for the 645th Area Support Group, 88th Regional Support Command, received a call from 645th Command Sergeant Major Paul Desander telling him he was the U.S. Army Reserve Sergeants Major of the Army Recruiting Team Program winner, and would be going to D.C. in two weeks to receive the award.

"I first heard of the SMART program when my command sergeant major called me and said we were going to D.C.," Thiel said. "I had a touch of the flu, and it was 11 p.m., so it took me a while to catch on. I kept asking him if this was a joke."

It was no joke. By virtue of the 116 leads Thiel generated in 1999, resulting in approximately 27 enlistments, he was named the first-ever recipient of the award. Two weeks later, he was on a flight to Washington D.C. where he received the award at the Chief of Staff of the Army, Recruiter of Excellence Award Ceremony.

The recently-created Operation SMART program is an initiative designed to assist the U.S. Recruiting Command with the recruiting mission. What's that mean?

Well basically, any soldier who refers an applicant which results in an



Staff Sgt. Edward Thiel, 645th ASG, works the phones drumming up new recruits.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Luis H. Alicea-Battle

enlistment into the regular Army or Army Reserve will receive a certificate from the sergeant major of the Army. Any soldier who is credited with referring enough people that at least three enlistments result will receive a coin from the sergeant major of the Army. And at the end of each quarter, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command will publish the names of soldiers with the most referrals and enlistments from those referrals.

Then, at the end of the fiscal year, the soldier who has provided the most referrals leading to enlistments will be invited (along with his or her command sergeant major) to the Recruiter of Excellence Award Ceremony in Washington D.C. where the soldier will be recognized by the sergeant major of the Army.

To get credit for referrals and resulting enlistments, the referrals must be properly passed on to recruiters to ensure accurate tracking. Check the Operation Smart website at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/smart/ for information on referrals.

Thiel had been properly passing on

referrals for some time. "I'm a school-trained recruiter," said Thiel, who worked as a recruiter back in 1978. "I've got a gold badge and three sapphires (recruiting awards), which is pretty much top of the line for recruiters. My recruiting skills never left me."

Not that you need to be school-trained to be successful. Thiel said that just being himself is what seems to work best. "I've never been a high-pressure recruiter," he said. "I just have my own selling skills. As in any job, if you believe in the product, you can sell it. I believe in the product."

Something Maj. Kevin Knapp, retention officer for the 88th RSC has seen ample evidence of. "Thiel has been consistent over the last three years in sharing his Army Reserve story with everyone he comes in contact with," Knapp said. "Most of what Thiel has done, he's done on his own time. That's part of what makes this so significant."

So is Thiel going to repeat next year? "I've come up with 16 leads so far this year," Thiel said. "I've got a good start, let's put it that way." ♦

Army on display

By Staff Sgt. Dave Boe
364th MPAD, Ft. Snelling, Minn

Where does one go to get the Army Reserve story out to the largest number of people? Why, the largest shopping mall in the world, of course.

That's exactly what units from the 88th Regional Support Command, Fort Snelling, Minn., did when they participated in the second annual Government on Display Exposition at the Mall of America, Bloomington, Minn., Feb. 5-6.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Federal Executive Board of Minnesota, the Mall of America, and Blue Cross & Blue Shield Federal Employees Program, boasted 55 federal and state of Minnesota government agencies.

"This is the biggest mall event in the country, if not the world," said the exposition's organizer, Raymond Morris, executive director, Federal Executive Board Minnesota. "The exposition puts all of the entities of the federal and state governments out to the public for a 'Conversation with Americans.' People can ask questions, obtain information, see exhibits which explain agencies operations, give direct feedback and visit with all of them in one place, on one day, and in a relaxed setting."

Some may dispute the idea of the Mall of America being a "relaxed setting" -- on average 100,000 people visit the mall daily, and on during the exposition, the number of mall patrons swelled to 400,000. Such numbers add credence to the old adage, "location, location, location," but Morris said it was more than just that.

"The quality of the displays, the quality of the presentations have a lot to do with it," he said. "And the success of the event was directly proportional to the involvement of the military. We've had a record turnout because of units like the 88th RSC. They were just outstanding."

The Army Reserve units shared the crowded courtyards, halls, and rotundas of the mall with their counterparts in the other services. Inbetween shopping, dining, or seeing a movie,

patrons could see firsthand how a field surgery was performed, or how the latest in digital camera technology worked, or they could listen to their favorite tunes played by an Army Reserve band.

"We seemed to have drawn a lot of crowds," said Spec. Nicholas Marsh, an operating room specialist with the 114th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Snelling. "But I like this because the public gets to see what we do."

Dressed in surgical "scrubs" and standing in a mock operating room under camouflage netting, Marsh assisted in an operation while shoppers holding Nordstrom and Pottery Barn bags watched.

"Even while we're on display, we still are getting in some needed training," said Marsh.

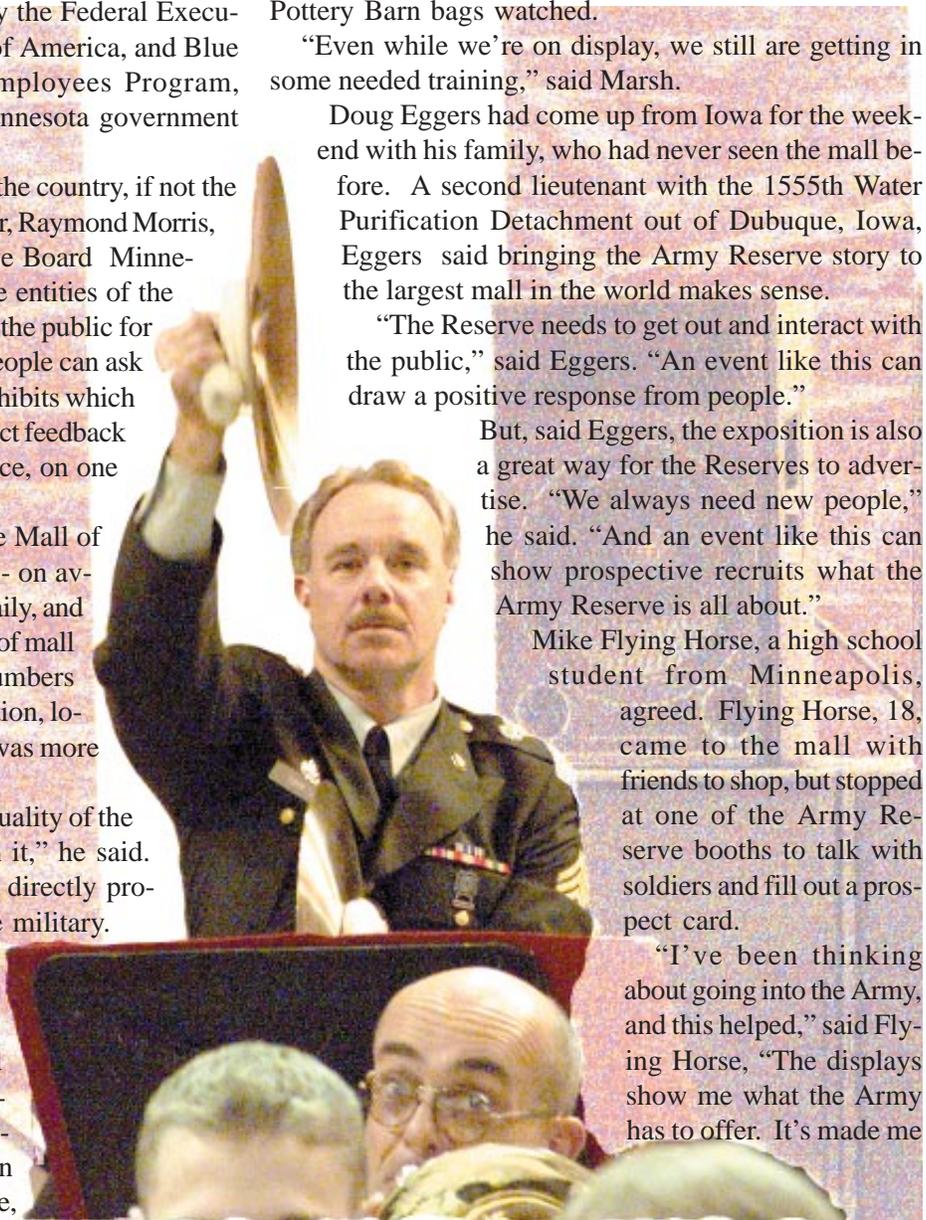
Doug Eggers had come up from Iowa for the weekend with his family, who had never seen the mall before. A second lieutenant with the 1555th Water Purification Detachment out of Dubuque, Iowa, Eggers said bringing the Army Reserve story to the largest mall in the world makes sense.

"The Reserve needs to get out and interact with the public," said Eggers. "An event like this can draw a positive response from people."

But, said Eggers, the exposition is also a great way for the Reserves to advertise. "We always need new people," he said. "And an event like this can show prospective recruits what the Army Reserve is all about."

Mike Flying Horse, a high school student from Minneapolis, agreed. Flying Horse, 18, came to the mall with friends to shop, but stopped at one of the Army Reserve booths to talk with soldiers and fill out a prospect card.

"I've been thinking about going into the Army, and this helped," said Flying Horse, "The displays show me what the Army has to offer. It's made me





Army on display

from page 11

more serious about it.”

Whether it's recruitment or interactive displays, the bottom line, said Morris, is public contact with their government. “The federal government is the best kept secret in Minnesota, he said. “Many citizens in the state don't realize the size of the government or the scope of the agencies here. It's a great opportunity for organizations like the 88th RSC to talk with the public and show how they work on their behalf.” ♣



A soldier with the 114th Combat Support Hospital describes her condition to some interested bystanders.





Kids participate in the 'grenade toss' portion of the Kid's Basic Training held during the Government on Display Exposition.

(Upper left) a child participates in the obstacle course portion of the Kids Basic Training held at the Government of Display Exposition at the Mall of America. (Left) A member of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp performs. (Right) The Air Force Honor Guard.



(Above) Members of the 114th Combat Support Hospital with Sen. Paul Wellstone. (Below) Delayed Entry Program candidates are sworn in during an all-service ceremony.



Story and photos by Mr. Bill Geddes,
88th RSC PAO, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Slide magnet

Kids are drawn to slides like metal to magnets – and the Giant Snow Slide built by the 367th Engineer Battalion for the 2000 St. Paul Winter Carnival (held Jan. 28 – Feb. 5) was so big, it drew kids all the way from South America. Judging from the reaction of those kids, the word is going to keep on spreading.

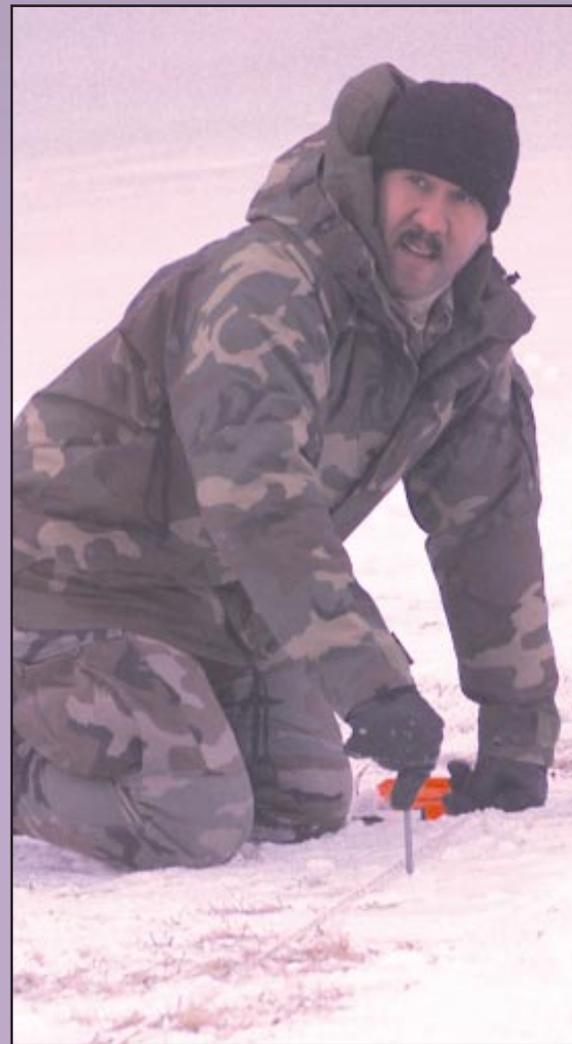
“I loved it,” said Elizabeth La Riva,

a 13-year-old from Lima, Peru. “It was like a big block of ice — I got going really fast.”

And with this being the second year the nation’s oldest and largest winter festival has hosted the Army Reserve-built Giant Snow Slide, it’s no wonder La Riva was able to get some speed going. Familiarization with the project has led to improvements, and improvements have led to what’s sure to become an eagerly anticipated annual event.

“This year, rather than using a plywood frame for the runs, we used ice blocks inset into the runs,” said Capt. Eric Ekstrom, project officer in charge for the Giant Snow Slide. “That prevents the washboarding effect we saw last year, and will reduce maintenance on the runs. It also increases the speeds on the runs, which isn’t necessarily a good thing, being that last year they were running into the hay bales at the ends of the runs.”

Rebecca Kolls, a reporter from Good Morning America, broadcast live in front of the Giant Snow Slide.



And while longer runs have prevented that from happening this year, that’s not the only improvement. Improved scaffolding has also helped with the building of this year’s Giant Snow Slide – and helped make it even taller than last year’s too. “It’s a different scaffolding system, put together more like an erector set,” said Ekstrom. “It has unlimited potential for design variations, which makes it ideal for our application.”

“The whole thing goes together with a hammer,” said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Gunderson, the officer in charge of the construction phase of the operation. “That’s all it really takes to put the whole scaffolding system together, just one hammer. It works really slick.”



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Britts, 367th Engineer Battalion, surveys the slide area. (Center) Sgt. Troy Sogge, 367th Eng. Bn., helps push a customer down the slide. (Below) Fireworks set a festive tone for the St. Paul Winter Carnival Giant Snow Slide grand opening.

But the scaffolding, used for the main deck of the slide and the stairway leading up to it, is only a part of the slide. “You have to rely on Mother Nature for the rest of the materials,” said Ekstrom. Hundreds of cubic yards of snow are gathered from the nearby state fairgrounds and transported to the Como Park-based slide. The snow, along with thousands of gallons of water, is used to build the runs from the deck down the hill. And just in case Mother Nature hadn’t cooperated, a snow maker capable of making 1,400 cubic yards of snow was made available from a local ski area as a backup. Snow and water are also used to construct walls around the deck, creating a snow castle effect. Hay bales line the runs to keep everyone going down the right path, and more bales sit at the bottom to help stop anyone who gets going too quick when the runs get slick. The care that goes into the building of the slide is obvious.

“I love doing projects like this,” said Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Britts, platoon sergeant for the construction

section. “Building things is what our section is all about, and this gives us a chance to get out here and test our knowledge – and use our MOS (military occupational skill) training.”

The people love having them there too. “The slide is fabulous,” said Tom Trudeau, a member of the Vulcans Fire and Brimstone division of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. “I happen to live in the neighborhood so I was here last year, and the Army Reserve does a great job. Without them it just wouldn’t get done; we couldn’t possibly do it.”

The slide has brought the Reserve national attention as well. For the second straight year, ABC’s ‘Good Morning America’ show has broadcast using the slide as a backdrop while highlighting the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

But when it comes right down to it, it’s the image presented by the Reserve unit that has the biggest impact. “I’ve always had a high regard for the Reserves,” said Trudeau. “This just goes to show me that they’re not only out there protecting the country, they’re also working, making a better way of life for everybody.” ❖



Photo by Capt. Eric Ekstrom

Patterson works the body

By Staff Sgt. Susanne Aspley
84th Div. (IT)

At first, Staff Sgt. Kirk A. Patterson told his friend he was crazy. But his friend thought different. "A close friend of mine, Todd Nessler, talked me into doing my first bodybuilding competition," said Patterson, an AGR supply sergeant with the 180th Transportation Company, Muskegon, Mich.

"I ended up entering in the 1995 Southwest Natural Bodybuilding Championships in Tucson, Ariz and finished first in the Novice Men Division and second in the Men's Middleweight Division. From then on I was hooked and I owe it all to Nessler for giving me that extra push and confidence in myself," Patterson said.

Patterson, recently won first place for the Middle weight division in the 1997 17th Annual Western Michigan Natural Bodybuilding Championship held in Grand Rapids, Mich. He also was runner-up in the Overall Men Division, and overall Best Poser.

"Basic training is where it all started," said Patterson. "There was nothing else to do at the end of the day besides work out. After basic training, I continued working out because of the change in my body composition that I noticed."

The 32-year-old has been interested in bodybuilding for about seven years and competing for the past five. "But I seriously got into bodybuilding after my second competition in 1996 when I took first place in my division (Middleweight) and also Overall Winner. From then on I took my workouts very seriously. I'd say it took about four years to get to the size that I am now," Patterson said.

Between contests Patterson works out for about one and a half hours a day. His schedule consists of four days on and one day off.

Immediately before a competition Patterson 'oils up' and practices posing, which are a routine for flexing positions and/or routine.

"I am pumped up with adrenaline before I go out and perform. It's very exciting and I love

performing in front of a crowd," said Patterson.

Because his father and several brothers were in the service, Patterson joined the Army Reserve during his junior year of high school in 1985 with the split option program. "And not only because it would help pay for college -- I also went in for the challenge." In February 1993, he joined the AGR Program.

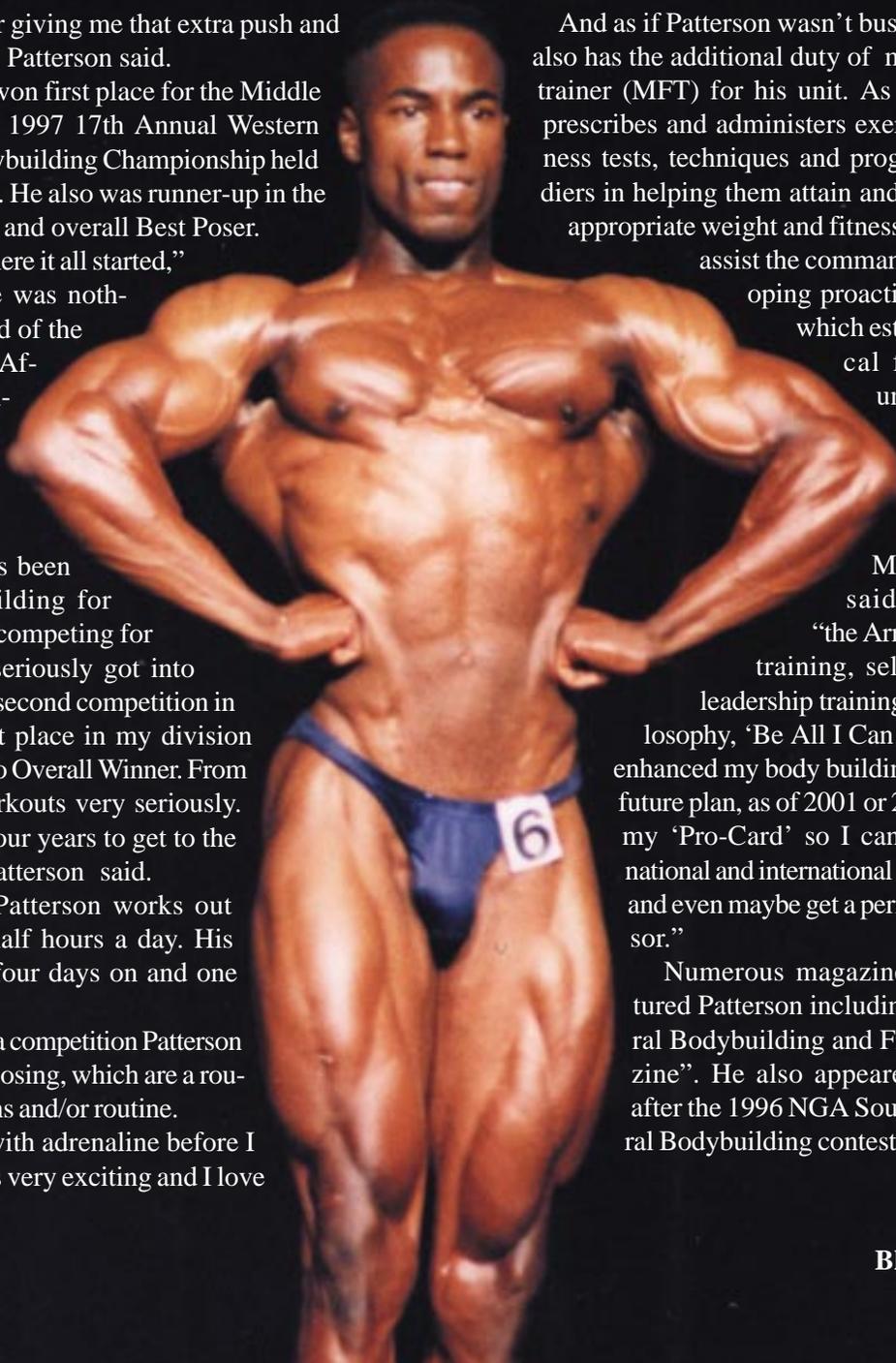
Along with fulfilling his duties as an AGR supply sergeant, Patterson works part time as a Personal Trainer at the Omni Fitness Club in Muskegon Mich. "It's also where I train and prepare for competitions," he said. Patterson is planning to become a certified aerobic instructor and teach at the club.

And as if Patterson wasn't busy enough, he also has the additional duty of master fitness trainer (MFT) for his unit. As an MFT, he prescribes and administers exercise and fitness tests, techniques and programs to soldiers in helping them attain and maintain an appropriate weight and fitness goal. "I also

assist the commander in developing proactive programs which establish physical fitness as a unit value," he said.

"Along with completing the MFT Course," said Patterson, "the Army's physical training, self discipline, leadership training and the philosophy, 'Be All I Can Be', have all enhanced my body building career. My future plan, as of 2001 or 2002, is to get my 'Pro-Card' so I can compete in national and international competitions, and even maybe get a permanent sponsor."

Numerous magazines have featured Patterson including the "Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Magazine". He also appeared on ESPN after the 1996 NGA Southwest Natural Bodybuilding contest in Phoenix. ♣



Cohen addresses anthrax

By William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense

One of the clearest responsibilities of any secretary of defense is to protect the men and women the United States deploys in harm's way around the world to safeguard our national interests. That is why I, acting on the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, decided to start vaccinating every member of the military against exposure to anthrax, a highly lethal biological agent that at least 10 countries possess in their arsenals or are in the process of acquiring.

In 1996, the Joint Chiefs of Staff identified anthrax as the number one biological threat to our troops. After the Gulf War, United Nations inspectors confirmed that Iraq had produced thousands of gallons of anthrax and deployed it in missile warheads, artillery shells and spray tanks for use from airplanes. As a weapon of mass destruction, anthrax is cheap and much easier to develop than nuclear munitions. When dispersed in aerosol form, the colorless, odorless bacteria covers a wide area and kills people within several days of inhalation. In 1979, approximately 70 Russians died after breathing anthrax spores that escaped from a Soviet biological research facility.

Fortunately, Iraq did not use anthrax against our troops during Desert Storm in 1991, but we can't expect that future adversaries, including terrorists, would not do so. At a time when the U.S. maintains clear conventional military superiority, enemies will be tempted to turn to unconventional weapons, such as anthrax, as a way to defeat our troops.

Although anthrax is highly deadly, we have developed protective equipment and medicines to secure the safety of our troops. In 1970, the Food and Drug Administration licensed a vaccine to protect humans who might be exposed to anthrax. This vaccine has a proven safety record over 30 years of use by thousands of veterans, woolworkers and veterinarians. Protective gear provides only temporary protection, while the vaccine constantly protects troops who might breathe anthrax spores spread on the battlefield.

After evaluating the anthrax threat and the safety of the vaccine, the general who commands U.S. troops in the Middle East requested that all



As an agent of biological warfare (BW), it is expected that a cloud of Anthrax spores would be released at a strategic location to be inhaled by the personnel under attack. As such, the symptoms of Anthrax encountered in BW would follow those expected for inhalation of spores.

troops deployed to the Arabian Gulf area be vaccinated for anthrax protection. Every day approximately 20,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines stationed in the Gulf awake knowing that they could encounter an anthrax attack. The commander of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, who face an anthrax threat from North Korea, also requested vaccinations for his forces.

The Joint Chiefs reviewed these proposals in light of their conclusion that anthrax is the foremost biological threat to our troops. They recommended mandatory anthrax vaccination for all 2.4 million active and reserve members of our military, with the first shots going to troops in or scheduled to go to the Middle East and Korea. They reasoned that force protection should not be optional; just as it is inconceivable to allow a soldier to fight without a helmet, it makes little sense to send a soldier into battle without protection against a known threat like anthrax. Because our military must be able to deploy anywhere on short notice, they recommended vaccinations for all active and reserve personnel.

I supported the recommendation of our military leaders. But before launching the vaccination program, I took steps to make sure that we were prepared. Complaints that the Department of Defense mishandled exposure to Agent Orange and the illnesses suffered by some veterans following the Gulf War in 1991 damaged the military's credibility on medical issues. We have worked hard to correct and learn from these experiences, and one of the lessons is that our medical programs to protect soldiers in battle must be planned

and implemented with an emphasis on safety.

As a result, I decided to delay vaccinations until four conditions were met. First, I ordered supplemental testing, consistent with FDA standards, to assure that the vaccine supplies are sterile, safe, potent and pure. Second, I instructed the services to design a

Anthrax continued on page 18

Frame of choice

Soldiers who want to wear eyeglasses with a civilian-style frame no longer will have to go on the civilian market or pay out of pocket to obtain them.

The Frame of Choice (FOC) spectacle program provides soldiers with an alternative to current standard-issue military spectacles. Frame of Choice does not replace standard-issue frames, but soldiers may choose

to have one pair of civilian-style frames along with one pair of standard-issue frames in fulfilling the readiness requirement for two pairs of eyeglasses. This should give soldiers an added incentive to wear their glasses.

The Army FOC program will be available at all U.S. Army medical treatment facilities when equipment and trained personnel are available to implement the program.

Those eligible for the program include permanent-party active duty Army personnel, Reserve Components on active duty (other than for training), and members of the National Guard in active Federal service according to a "call" (other than for training under 10 USC 270) for more than 30 consecutive days. Military retirees are not eligible.

Col. James M. Kluckman
Office of The Surgeon General

Anthrax

continued from page 17

system that accurately tracks personnel who received the six shots required in the vaccination program. Third, I required the services to develop plans for educating people about the program and administering the immunizations. Finally, I ordered an independent review of the health and medical protocols of the program. This was performed by Dr. Gerald Burrow, the highly respected former dean of the Yale Medical School, who assisted the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

The vaccinations began in 1998 after these four conditions were met. Gen. Hugh Shelton, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and I were among the first to receive the shots. We experienced the same mild side effects, such as temporary soreness or a small bump on the arm, that many others feel. Indeed, the side effects are frequently less than those caused by other routine vaccinations that most Americans routinely receive. Our careful monitoring of the program reveals no unexpected side effects. Nevertheless, if our troops experience a negative reaction, we provide quality medical care.

More than 400,000 active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have started receiving the series of six shots, while only about 300 have refused vaccinations. We take seriously the concerns that people have raised about the program, and we are in the process of distributing additional educational material to explain the program to military members and their families. We have bolstered our website (<http://www.anthrax.osd.mil>)

to counter some of the erroneous assertions about the vaccine that are circulating on the internet. We are continuing to monitor the safety of our vaccine supplies.

The military does not want to lose a single member because of his or her concerns over this program. But most of all, we don't want to run the risk of losing thousands of men and women in uniform from an anthrax attack for which we are unprepared. The threat is real, and we are carrying out a prudent, safe program to counter the dangers our troops face.

Editor's note

The medical units in the 88th RSC continue to implement phase one of the Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program (AVIP), according to Lt. Col. Gaye George. Phase two has been postponed until Bioport's newly renovated facility passes FDA inspection and resumes production of the vaccine. Phase one involves anyone who is going to the high threat areas of Korea or Southwest Asia. Phase two involves early deploying units to these areas.

Units identified for ODT deployment will request medical support for the vaccinations as soon as possible. Soldiers should have received the first three immunizations prior to going OCONUS. The vaccinations must be recorded in the health record, the PHS 731 and in the Medical Protection System (MEDPROS).

The AVIP is a Commander's program. All commands to UIC level are required to have access to MEDPROS to monitor and manage their unit's AVIP compliance.

POC is Lt. Col. Gaye George, nurse staff adviser, 612-713-3399

Soldier relocation

There are many reasons why soldiers change units. Employment, school and family requirements are just a few. When obligated troop program unit (TPU) soldiers relocate, is every effort being made to assist in the transfer? Remember, taking care of soldiers will keep those good soldiers in the Army Reserve.

The Major Subordinate Command Transfer Program (MTP) provides an excellent tool for relocating soldiers to continue their TPU affiliation at their new residence. When a soldier informs the unit of a pending relocation, the unit forwards a completed DA Form 4651-R, Request for Reserve Component Assignment or Attachment, directly to the Major Subordinate Command DCSPER providing MTP support. Additional information to include ASVAB scores, education, citizenship will be entered in section 8 "Remarks" of the DA Form 4651-R.

The MPRJ is not forwarded with the DA Form 4651-R, and the action does not go through the normal command chain. Processing the MTP action with the MPRJ through the chain delays the reassignment, adds additional postage costs, and potentially places the relocating soldier into a possible "non-participant" status. Once the action is completed, a copy of the transfer orders is forwarded to the soldier, the losing and gaining units. The losing unit will attach the order to the MPRJ along with any other pertinent records and forward directly to the gaining unit.

It is important to follow these procedures to ensure our soldiers have every opportunity to maintain their TPU affiliation.

Master Sgt. John Pierson
USARC DCSPER

Gore Tex rank

A change in regulations standardizes the size and type of cloth nametapes and ranks authorized for the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System parka.

The change to Army Regulation 670-1 applies to regular Army, National Guard and Reserve soldiers wearing the ECWCS parka, more commonly called "GoreTex" among the ranks.

According to new Army guidance, nametapes attached to the ECWCS will be 1/2-inch wide and 3-1/2-inches long, with 1/4 -inch block lettering. The nametapes will hold up to 14 characters and be attached to the pocket flap on the left side of the parka, only.

Cloth insignias of grade with Velcro fasteners are no longer authorized for wear. The only authorized cloth rank insignias are those that are sewn closed (like shoulder bars). The loops slip over the front tab of the parka the same way that shoulder boards slip over the epaulets on the green shirt and sweater. Soldiers may use pin-on insignias of grade if they desire.

The new size nametape and closed-loop cloth insignias of grade are available in Army military clothing sales stores. After Sept. 30, 2000, no other sizes of nametapes will be authorized for wear on the ECWCS parka. **(This release courtesy of Army Personnel Command.)**

America's Army core values

INTEGRITY: Do what's right legally and morally

I had no sooner spoken the words of this lesson when I began to feel guilty. Here I was, a chaplain, teaching God's people a great lesson on the Army value of integrity. Inwardly I was feeling as unqualified as could be. For here is a value that is as close to each of us, as much a part of us as is our birth date or social security number! *Integrity is us!* It is *what we are, what we think, what we do in the dark when no one is looking.*

I felt so inept as I heard myself say: "Integrity is the quality of being of sound moral principles; uprightness; honest; sincere; the state of being complete." Even as a man of God, I know how easily values can be compromised and I again realized I was talking to myself as well.

Integrity is at the heart of the values expected of a soldier today. If one's honesty, veracity, and sincerity cannot be relied upon all communication, relationships, and cohesion will be degraded.

Soldiers will not follow leaders who are not examples of integrity!

In battle soldiers must rely on their leaders. Trust is built in the unit. Trust is built on integrity. Effective leadership is dependent upon trust and respect. Trust and respect are dependent on integrity.

When you and I have integrity, others will know that what we do and say will be the same. It will become clear that we are dependable. In both preparing for, and fighting in combat, demonstrated integrity is the basis for dependable information, decision making, and delegation of authority. Integrity means you can lean on me, and I on you, because we do what is right, legal, and moral!

By Col. Howard Krienke, 88th RSC staff chaplain

Army Family Action Plan 2000: Search for Solutions

By Diane K. Magrane, Family Program Director, HQ, 88th RSC



Did you know that the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance has been increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000? Did you realize that reserve component family members have only recently been eligible to receive military ID cards?

Such improvements in our military quality of life are a direct result of the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP). To attract and retain a quality force, the Army must maintain high quality of life standards. The AFAP is the Army's formal process to meet this requirement and resolve legitimate concerns.

Initiated in 1984, AFAP was the brainchild of Army spouses. Each AFAP success story originated as an idea or issue that someone decided to pursue. Any member of the Army family can submit quality of life issues to their local-level AFAP forums.

Over the years, more than 400 of these AFAP issues, raised by delegates reflective of the entire Army population and worked by the Army staff and Congress, have resulted in 58 separate pieces of legislation, 125 new or revised policies, and 122 programs established or improved.

The AFAP process is itself a grassroots system. Local-level AFAP forums are held annually with delegates who break out into workgroups such as benefits and entitlements, healthcare, and family support. They then research, prioritize, and propose resolutions for the issues presented from the field. While all issues are considered,

they are labeled as either active, resolved, or unattainable.

Active issues that go beyond the local level are sent to the semiannual Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) AFAP Conference. There delegates prioritize and develop the top issues to be worked by HQDA Process Act Teams. The entire program is overseen by a General Officer Steering Committee chaired by the chief of staff of the Army, General Eric Shinseki.

The first annual U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) AFAP Conference will convene Aug. 11-14 2000 in Dallas, Texas. Family program directors are currently seeking issues for submission and nominations for delegates. If you are part of the Army, you can be an AFAP participant.

- Submit issues to your family program director no later than May 15, 2000
- Apply to Family Readiness as a USAR AFAP conference delegate
- Commanders should encourage submission of AFAP issues

For more information about AFAP, contact Diane Magrane, Family Readiness Division, at 1-800-The-Army, ext. 3521 or visit: www.armymwr.com. ♦

In a military child's eyes . . .

By Lauren E. Magrane, 11-year-old daughter of Maj. Michael Magrane, DCSCOMPT, and Diane Magrane, Family Readiness Division, HQ, 88th Regional Support Command

I am very proud to be a military child. It all started seven moves (ten for my parents), seven schools, and many moons ago. They call me a "Winter Warrior" baby, born one rainy day in Germany along with about two dozen other new babies whose daddies were all in the same battalion. They say there was a long field exercise nine months before, but I'm not exactly sure what that means.

I don't actually know anyone who really understands how difficult it can be to always have a mom or dad go TDY or always be ready to pack up and PCS to another state or country. It can also be really hard on military children when their parents go to drill or even deploy for months at a time.

And unlike many of my friends in school, it takes my family four days to drive see my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. I often cry because I miss my family in Boston and all of my friends around the world, but I know my parents are doing the best for me and my brother and sisters.

But life can also be very exciting for a military child. When I move with my family, I love getting the chance to experience the fun of meeting new people and to be able to see my country. On a wooden map that we got for Christmas, I think we last counted about thirty-five states and a dozen foreign countries that we've been to together as an Army family. Dad and mom have been to even more. Not many kids in my class can say that!

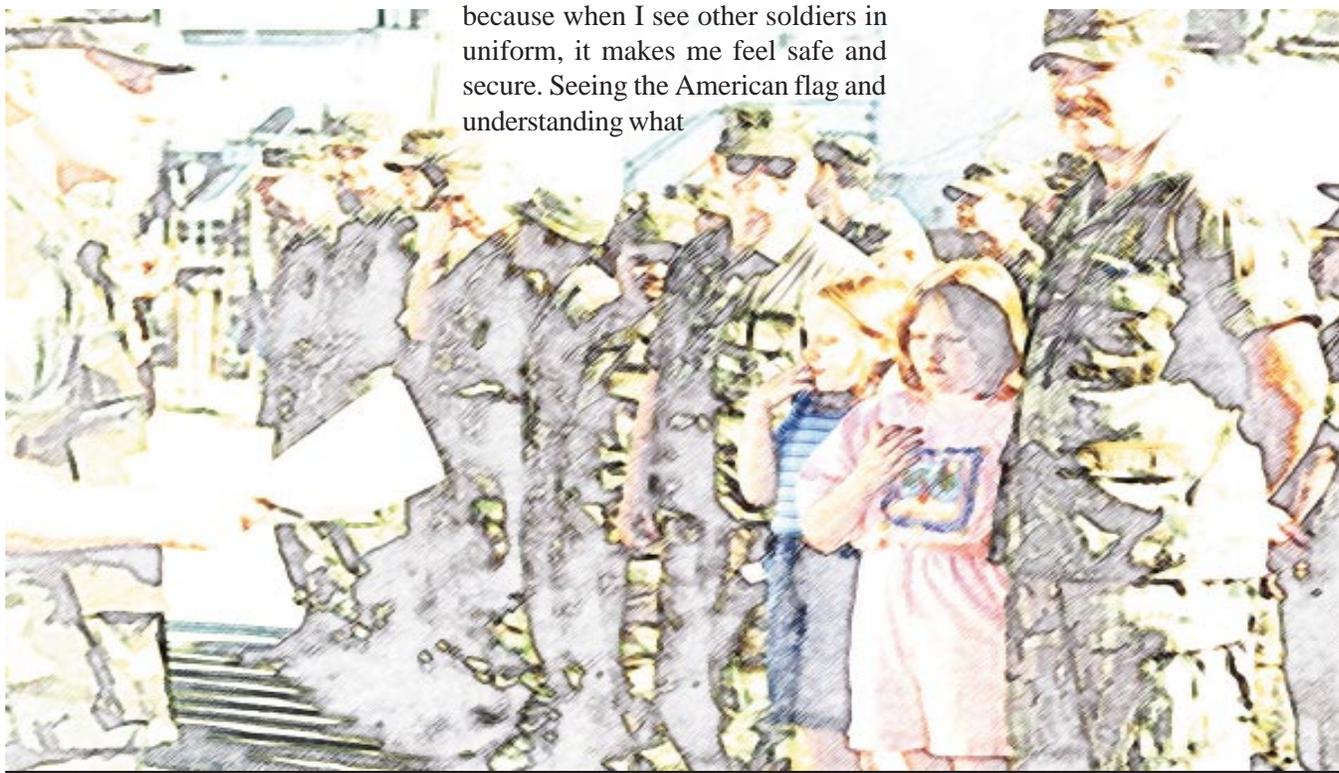
I love knowing every day that my dad wears the same thing . . . BDUs! It's really funny my little brother is in a room with other soldiers in BDUs and can't figure out which one is Daddy! I also love being an Army brat because when I see other soldiers in uniform, it makes me feel safe and secure. Seeing the American flag and understanding what

the military has done for our country reminds me of the respect I have for others and for things around me.

Many times my friends do not understand why I use the term "commissary" instead of "grocery store" or why I say, "yes, ma'am" and "no, sir" to adults. A lot of kids say, "you don't have to say that" and most of the time I just smile. Only a military child would understand.

Whether you move a lot or not, military children still experience something no ordinary children will ever experience. That's what's good about being a military child. I am just so proud of my family and my country that I really cannot put it into words. Even though we all go through rough times, at least I know in my heart that God and my military family are always watching over me.

Note: April is the Month of the Military Child and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. ♣



ALERT 2K

Humvee convoy moves out

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

What's black and gold and able to go just about anywhere? The question might seem like a riddle, but the answer is simple- the Army Reserve black and gold humvee.

During the ALERT 99 program, each of the 88th Regional Support Command's (88th RSC) six states was assigned one black and gold humvee to use for ALERT recruiting events. Because of the enormous success of the ALERT program and the popularity of the humvee, each state has now been assigned two additional black and gold humvees for a total of three per state and an RSC total of 18.

Many civilians are fascinated by military equipment. The ALERT program has capitalized on that fascination by using the humvees to attract potential recruits.

"We must have something that interests them and catches the public eye," said battalion representative Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Carroll of the 718th Trans. Co. "As a state representative last year and now a battalion representative, I can attest to how much the public loves to see the Humvee. The students are always asking



how they can get to drive one and that starts the conversation for a prospect."

"It also helps us [the Army Reserve] get closer to the community because they are asking for the black and gold humvee to participate in parades, career days, JROTC competitions, and other events that draw the attention of the military's target age group," said Carroll.

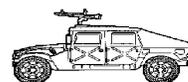
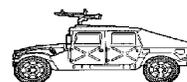
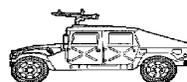
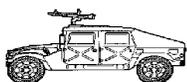
Battalion representatives Spec. Robert Hagland of 521st Maintenance Co. in Wisconsin and Staff Sgt. Terry Longworth of 384th Military Police in Indiana, both shared accounts of making long trips from one end of their states to another in order to have the black and gold humvee at more than one event in a short time period. With the additional humvees, each state can have simultaneous recruiting events featuring the humvees without the hassle of driving all over the state.

Another benefit is the reduction in deterioration of the humvees. The frequency of usage has caused a large amount of wear and tear on the original humvees. The ability to allocate the humvees to different events will allow each of the humvees to remain in better condition overall.

The versatility offered by having more humvees in each state will result in an overall increase in public visibility for the Army Reserve's recruiting efforts. In turn, increased visibility will help the 88th RSC's recruiting mission and its overall strength, making the 88th RSC stronger than ever. ♦



Potential recruits take a look under the hood of a Humvee.



Fully recovered & ready to serve



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

ALERT 2K recruits, retains, and recovers soldiers for the 88th Regional Support Command. The recovery component of the operation ‘recovers’ soldiers from the Inactive

Ready Reserve (IRR) by transferring them back into reserve units of the 88th Regional Support Command. During the ALERT 99 mission almost 700 soldiers were recovered from the IRR. Featured below are two soldiers who were successfully transferred into Army Reserve units as a result of ALERT 2K’s highly effective recovery mission.

Fully recovered

Often times a reserve soldier’s civilian job conflicts with a drill weekend. In most cases the schedule conflict can be worked out. Unfortunately, sometimes the conflict is a recurring problem that forces the soldier to transfer into the inactive ready reserve. This was the case for Sgt. Jason Savasta. Along with civilian job conflicts, Savasta also faced long roads trips every drill weekend because there was no available unit near his home in Ohio.

After a move to Michigan and a change in occupations, Savasta received a postcard in the mail from the ALERT recovery team. The postcard sparked his interest and he began to work with Spec. Jamal Prince to locate a unit that matched his needs. They were able to find a unit that was close to home and that would train him in a new reserve job position.

The reserve job position may be new, but engineer units are familiar territory to this sergeant. “I’ve always been in engineer units. Although I’ve only attended two drills, I look forward to what this particular unit has to offer”. ♦

Ready to serve

Sgt. Mark Neubauer has dedicated himself to the Army for nearly fifteen years. His service to the military includes three conflicts and one war. Neubauer enjoyed his Army career, but complications at his reserve unit cost him large amounts of personal time and hardship. Reluctantly, he decided to transfer into the Inactive Ready Reserve.

While in the IRR, the commitment to the Army remained in Neubauer’s heart. He began to search for a way to come back into the Army Reserve. An ALERT postcard arrived in the mail at an opportune time. He called the number on the postcard and recovery team members Sgt. Kristen Eck and Spec. Chelly Lundahl worked with him to find an Army Reserve unit that was a perfect fit. In his new Army home he will have the opportunity to receive a long desired and deserved promotion to staff sergeant. More importantly, Neubauer will have the opportunity to serve his country once again and the 88th RSC will benefit from his devoted service. ♦

ALERT 2K Points of Contact:

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1-800-THE-ARMY ext. 3052

ALERT NCOIC Sgt. 1st Class Tom Aliotta
1-800-THE-ARMY ext. 3681

Public Relations NCO Staff Sgt. Tanya Brodin
1-800-THE-ARMY ext. 3265

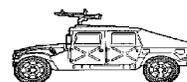
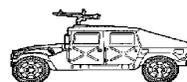
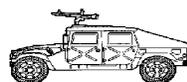




Photo by Pfc. Corey Meyman

A member of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp performs at the Government on Display Exposition held Feb. 5 - 6 at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. The 88th Regional Support command hosted the group as a part of the Army Reserve portion of the exposition, which featured a combat support hospital, a mobile public affairs detachment and an army reserve band. Around 400,000 shoppers visited the mall during the exposition, double the typical crowd size.

**88th Regional Support Command
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Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111**

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