



February 2004
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Warrior News

<http://www.usarc.army.mil/95thdiv/2bde/3-378th/newsletter.html>



3rd/378th

Upcoming Drill Dates

February

- 13 - 0700 First Formation
Uniform: PT / BDU
Lunch: Golden Corral
- 14 - Uniform: BDU
Lunch: Postal Facility

March 5-7

April 17-18

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Commanders Corner



Are We Ready?

In Saturday January 31st edition of the Daily Oklahoman there was a tragic article about an Oklahoma Army Reservist who along with his unit was activated. In phone conversation with his parents he told them he was apprehensive, because he did not believe that his unit was properly trained for what they were doing in Iraq. The next day he was killed in an explosion. My first reaction to reading that was remorse for the loss of the soldier. My next thought was how I would feel if he were one of my soldiers. The bottom line is there is no excuse for not conducting quality training.

We have seen here in Norman first hand how quickly a soldier can be mobilized. There is no time for "cram" training at the last minute. That is why my number one priority is quality training that will prepare our soldiers to survive if they are called to defend our nation. In MG Silverthorn's Yearly Training Guidance he reflects the same philosophy, as does our Brigade Commander, COL Guier in his. The following are a direct outcome of this philosophy:

- EVERYONE in the unit will qualify with their weapon semi-annually.
- We have laid on STX lanes and a tactical road march for April drill.
- During our May FTX at Fort Sill we will train on the new Land-Nav course.
- We will send as many Drill Sergeants as we can fund to observe Fort Sill's new "Strykerville" FTX.

This is just some of the training we will do. Our goal is for every Drill Sergeant to be able to function effectively in a hostile environment as a squad leader, and for every soldier to be adequately trained to survive in the same scenario. There could be no better compliment than for one of our soldiers who is activated to say that his unit prepared him for the mission ahead. This we will accomplish.

I also would be remiss if I did not discuss recruiting and retention. We were doing an excellent job prior to Christmas, but since then we have had no referrals turned in. This is extremely important. Every one of us is a recruiter. Try to talk to any prior service soldiers you know, and turn in any leads to SFC Brown. As I have said earlier, the survival of our unit is at stake. As far as retention, I believe we are doing a good job, let's keep it up. Commanders, continue to talk to your soldiers and address any issues they have as quickly as possible. Every soldier we retain is critical.

Tax Time

Intuit Tax Freedom Project

<http://www.taxfreedom.com>

Intuit® Inc. and the Intuit Financial Freedom Foundation are proud to sponsor the Intuit Tax Freedom ProjectSM, donating TurboTax® for the WebSM services to individuals and families who:

- Qualify for the federal Earned Income Credit (EIC), or
- During calendar year 2003:
 - Were age 62 or older (taxpayer or spouse), or
 - Were age 22 or younger (taxpayer or spouse), or
 - Served active Military duty (including Reservists and National Guard). You must have a 2003 Form W2 from the Military.

Qualified taxpayers can prepare and file their federal return online for FREE with TurboTax, America's #1 online tax prep product. And, if you qualify for the free federal return and your state's tax agency sponsors a Free File Alliance you can also prepare your state return for free.

TurboTax for the Web is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Guides you through your return. Asks you simple questions. Then places your answers onto IRS-approved forms.
2. Double-checks for accuracy. Finds errors, overlooked deductions, and entries that could trigger an audit.
3. Files electronically. E-filing gets your refund faster and gives you an IRS confirmation that your return has been officially filed.

There's no software to download, and TurboTax for the Web is on top of tax law changes - as they happen! Calculations are guaranteed to be accurate - if you pay an IRS or state penalty or interest because of a TurboTax calculation error, we'll pay you the penalty and interest.

Tax statements for all military services now available on myPay
ARLINGTON, VA (Jan. 17) - Effective Jan. 16, 2004, all military service members can access their tax statements for 2003 through myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>). Members may go online and print or save their 2003 W-2 data.

Service members who do not have a myPay PIN may request one by clicking on the "New PIN" button under "Need a PIN" on the homepage <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For questions related to myPay or for assistance in obtaining a myPay PIN, members may call customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

Quotable Quotes

"It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them." -- Mark Twain

Birthdays - February

Happy Birthday to the members of the 378th and their families.

- Addie Crawford – February 5
- Brock Dunning – February 10
- Adam Nissen – February 10
- Kennedy Luther – February 17
- Rickey McCleary – February 17
- Jillian Cornell – February 20
- Peyton Glenn – February 21
- Dennis Albert III – February 23
- Danny Brown – February 23
- Kelly Nagle – February 23
- Victoria Catlett – February 27

Hooah Humor

During training exercises a lieutenant, driving down a muddy back road, encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced colonel at the wheel. "Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the lieutenant, as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

Classifieds

Have something for sale, want to buy something, having a garage sale, announce it here!

FOR SALE: 32" Color TV

32" Color TV with picture in picture. \$100. Contact 360-9686.

Family Readiness

A Message from Your Friendly Family Readiness Coordinator

Lost and Found: 2 Coats were left behind in the Goldman Room at the Omniplex during the Holiday Party. One coat had a hat and gloves in the pocket. Both are children's sizes. You may call [527-7004, 360-8786] or come by the unit to pick up your lost coat.

We'd like to know what you think about the newsletter, come by SFC Madden's office at the unit and give us some feedback, there may be something in it for you.

*MorningStar Cornell
FRG Coordinator*

ACAP Expanding to Help Army Personnel

For more information about ACAP and it's services, visit the revised ACAP home page at <http://www.acap.army.mil>

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) has introduced several new initiatives focused on helping Soldiers and civilians find jobs after they retire or leave the Army. These initiatives are intended primarily to help retirees, demobilized Army Reserve Soldiers, and civilian employees affected by base realignment programs.

One policy change allows Army retirees and eligible family members to receive lifetime job assistance. This change extends ACAP services beyond the normal 180 days following separation.

"The service is provided on a space-available basis," said James Hoffman, ACAP director. "With a valid retired identification card, retirees can continue to receive employment assistance in preparing a competitive resume, as well as learning important job skills."

In addition, ACAP is establishing a Demobilization Resource Center to receive telephone requests for

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assistance from Army Reserve Component Soldiers and unit commanders during the demobilization process.

All Soldiers who have completed at least 180 days of continuous active duty and who are being released from active duty are required to receive preparation counseling and to complete the Preparation Counseling Checklist, DD Form 2648.

The Center, which will be located at the U.S. Army Personnel Command, will respond to all inquiries pertaining to eligibility for transition benefits. It also will provide referrals to service providers, such as the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Army Reserve's and National Guards' transition assistance offices.

"Once the Resource Center makes contact with the Army Reserve Component Soldier and determines that additional ACAP services or referrals are necessary, the Soldier will be referred to the closest ACAP center for continued assistance for up to 180 days after demobilization," added Hoffman.

In addition, and in order to prepare for the large numbers of Soldiers who are expected to be demobilized and released from active duty, ACAP is preparing to reinforce the counselor field workforce with additional staff at targeted ACAP demobilization installations. These staff additions will help ensure that ACAP can meet the demand to provide mandatory preparation counseling and employment assistance to those who request additional assistance prior to being released from active duty.

Installations conducting demobilization processing where ACAP does not exist, such as Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, will have temporary satellite offices established to assist in the demobilization process. At other demobilization locations, such as Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, ACAP will provide temporary assistance by bringing in temporary ACAP staff or training assigned staff to help with the processing.

THE IMAGE OF RANK

GENERAL: Leaps tall buildings in a single bound; is more powerful than a locomotive; is faster than a speeding bullet; walks on water; and negotiates policy with God.

COLONEL: Leaps short buildings in a single bound; is more powerful than a switch engine; is just as fast as a speeding bullet; walks on water if sea is calm; and talks to God.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL: Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds; is almost as powerful as a switch engine; is faster than a speeding BB; walks on water in an indoor pool; and talks to God if a special request is approved.

MAJOR: Barely clears a Quonset hut; loses tugs-of-war with locomotives; can fire a gun with real ammunition; swims well; and is occasionally addressed by God.

CAPTAIN: Makes high marks on wall when trying to leap tall buildings; is run over by locomotives; can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury; can dog paddle; and talks to animals.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: Runs into buildings; recognizes locomotives two times out of three; is not issued ammunition; can stay afloat if properly instructed; and talks to water.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: Falls over door steps when trying to enter buildings; says, "Look at choo-choo"; wets self when excited; plays in mud puddles; and mumbles to himself.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER: Lifts buildings and walks under them; kicks locomotives off the tracks; catches speeding bullets in his teeth and chews them; and freezes water with a single glance. In the Army, he is God.

"Civilians who are leaving the government workforce as a result of realignment or commercial outsourcing also are eligible to receive ACAP services," Said Hoffman.

Recently, ACAP added a workshop targeted at Army civilians who are impacted by reductions in force, A76 studies or force realignment. Upon request, ACAP staff will present the comprehensive workshop to assist civilians with their return to the public or private sectors.

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Featured Website

A New Look for the Army Reserve Web Site.

<http://www.army.mil/usar>

The Army Reserve Web site went public with a new look in November 2003, completing the first part of a three-phase update project. The new design provides relevant information in an easy-to-use format.

The goal of Phase 1 was to establish a new look and navigation for the site, making it more user-friendly to all audiences, both inside and outside the Army Reserve. Phases 2 and 3 will provide information on regional and subordinate command and expand the resources and information available to Soldiers and Commanders.

Delay in Implementing New TRICARE Benefits

Mobilized Reservists, Families Urged to Save Medical Receipts

A congressional spending cap and challenges with tracking Tricare costs for mobilizing and deactivated reservists have left thousands of Reserve families as of yet unable to take full advantage of some new pre- and post-mobilization health-care benefits

The unusual circumstances have Tricare officials advising reservists to save medical receipts, explanations of benefits and other documents that could be useful weeks or months from now in filing Tricare claims for reimbursements once the full range of new benefits is available.

The benefits in question, called the Temporary Reserve Health Care Program, will improve access to care from the time reservists learn they will be mobilized through a new 180-day transition health period following active service.

President Bush signed the Reserve health initiatives into law Nov. 6 as part of the \$87 billion emergency spending bill for Iraq and Afghanistan. Several benefits took effect that day. Despite the work of a task force set up even before the law was signed, implementation has been difficult.

The biggest challenge has been modifying the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System used to verify that beneficiaries are properly enrolled and eligible for Tricare. DEERS is being reprogrammed to recognize several new benefits and to identify as eligible thousands of individual reservists and their families. Modifying DEERS also is critical for tracking the cost of the initiatives, said Rear Adm. Richard Mayo, deputy director for the Tricare Management Activity. Congress imposed a \$400 million funding limit on those initiatives from Nov. 6, 2003, through Sept. 30, 2004.

The complexity of the task is reflected in details of the new benefits:

Pre-mobilization Tricare

Coverage for Reserve or Guard members begins upon notice of a pending call-up, or receipt of a delayed-effective-date order for mobilization. Family members are covered if the planned mobilization is to last longer than 30 days. Length of Tricare coverage before activation can be up to 90 days, but only for individuals who learned of mobilization on or after Nov. 6. Reservists previously had been eligible for Tricare only when on active duty.

To add more complexity to this and other benefits, it is set to expire Dec. 31 unless Congress votes to extend it.

Transition coverage

Military transitional health coverage is lengthened to 180 days from 60 days or 120 days, depending on length of deployment, under the old rules. The extra coverage applies to those deactivated or separated from service after Nov. 6, 2003. Members and families who intend to use the extra 60 to 120 days' coverage should save their health-care receipts and file claims for reimbursement when they receive word the benefit is available. This benefit also is set to expire Dec. 31.

Pre-activation screening

The services received authority to screen and provide needed medical and dental care to members of the Ready Reserve. Reservists previously had to be on active duty to be screened and receive care. This new authority is permanent.

Drilling reservists

The most controversial initiative will open Tricare to drilling reservists who either are unemployed or have no health insurance through current employers.

About 170,000 are eligible but far fewer could elect to pay the

premiums, to be set roughly at \$420 a year for self coverage, \$1,440 for self and family, plus usual co-payments and deductibles.

This provision will take effect when regulations are published and premium rates are set sometime later this year.

This article is provided courtesy of Stars & Stripes

Welcome

Welcome to the Unit!

- CPT Randy Lynch – S2/S3
- SGT Derron Maxwell – Alpha
- PV2 Brandon Caswell – Alpha
- SPC Joshua Leitch – Alpha
- SGT April Rowell - Bravo
- 2LT Bridget Keith – Charlie
- SPC Christopher Baucom – Charlie
- LT Charles Graf – Delta

Welcome back!

- 1LT Geoffrey Sheaffer - Alpha

Welcome Baby Warriors!!!

- SPC Christy Corwine - Baby Boy January 8.
- SFC Raney - Baby Boy December 25
- SSG Long and wife Tracey - Baby Boy born in November.
- CPT Crawford and wife Terrie - Baby Girl January 23.
- SPC Leitch - Baby Girl born in December.
- SFC Madden - Granddaughter January 8.





Hi,

I'm sorry that I was unable to respond the same day but I was training. Its been busy some days and boring on others, overall I am keeping busy with friends. I decided to take a PT test because I want to be promoted to Specialist. I scored a 267 but I was disappointed because I didn't max on sit-ups and there was no moisture in the air when you are running in a gym with the heat on. haha. I guess I should be pleased. My section Sergeant is a Drill Sergeant from the 98th Div in Rochester, New York. He is really good in mentoring and helping us out when we need it. I am the assistant gunner for the M60 automatic machine gun and Gilles is also an assistant gunner on the M60 for another guy. We will leave somewhere around 16 Feb and 22 Feb. I have all my desert issue, which is nice and we are authorized to wear them starting today. There isn't much else to say. Thanks for writing.

PFC Taylor

We are all still at Ft. McCoy, WI but we will be leaving sometime around the 16th of this month. I am in 1st PLT, SPC. Dickie is in 3rd PLT, and PFC. Gilles and PFC. White are in Support PLT. I'm not sure what they have been up too but I can give you my own status.

Everything is going well except for a few supply issues. In our platoons we have three, seven man sapper squads and I am in second squad. In my squad I am the M 203 gunner, CLS (combat lifesaver), assistant M249 lightmachine gunner, backup RTO, and platoon translator. We are all ready to go and will be in Iraq for 365 days. We will be doing convoy ops, checkpoint ops, and pulling security for EOD. I'm sure that will change once we get in country as everything changes on a day to day bases around here.

I will continue to keep you updated and hope to represent the unit well.

SPC. Henry, Ross



We are doing great here, lots of training completed, we may be leaving on Feb. 20-24 the other companies start leaving on the 17th but we don't have a flight date yet.

PFC Gilles

