

# Working Together In Sand Springs

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SAND SPRINGS, Okla. In a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house, Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, 95<sup>th</sup> Division (Institutional Training) commanding general and dignitaries from the Oklahoma National Guard, Sand Springs community and Tulsa County formerly dedicated a new Armed Forces Reserve Center, here. The joint - use concept combines both Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers in one facility, is a first for Oklahoma and reinforces the Army motto, "An Army of One".

"The joint facility we dedicate today, is a first for Oklahoma but it shouldn't be the last," said Silverthorn. "We are a nation at war and we all must work, train and fight

together in our continued focused efforts in the 'War on Terrorism'. The 95<sup>th</sup> Division looks forward to working closely with elements of the Oklahoma National Guard and partnering with them in future efforts."

Combining the two forces are expected to save money by enabling the Army Reserve and Oklahoma National Guard to share maintenance, utility and custodial costs. Also, the concept provides both organizations an opportunity to see first hand how each trains and operates and gives them the opportunity to work together to accomplish similar tasks.

"The Army Reserve and Oklahoma National Guard had their first opportunity to work together during the planning for the dedication ceremony," said Maj. Michael Kinnison, Oklahoma National Guard. "Capt. David A Parker and I served as project officers on the

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Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr.

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***Maj. Gen. Silverthorn dedicates the Worthy Reserve Center***

National Guard side while Maj. Christella Chavez and Sgt. Maj. Paula Torrence were project officers for the Army Reserve."

"The two-story facility provides over 120,000 square feet of office space, training rooms, full kitchen and work out facilities," said Sgt. Maj. Paula Torrence, the 95<sup>th</sup> Division's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Unit Administrator. "The facility sits on a 15-acre tract, located across the street from

the Tulsa Community College's West Campus, also has security vaults and a large motor pool."

Upon completion of the center in May, the National Guard moved in and Army Reserve units joined them in early June. Division units calling the center home include: 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Combat Support, Headquarters, commanded by COL Otto B. Schacht; 1/354 Battalion (Field Artillery), 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. Michael R. Considine; and 3/355 Battalion (Field Artillery) 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. Charles J Kirchen.