



# Med-Alert

## The 5<sup>th</sup> BDE(HS) Newsletter

March 2001  
Volume 13



### THE COLONEL'S CORNER

## NEW MOS: 91W (HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST)

Effective 1 Oct 01, the 91W Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) will be added to the Army's inventory. This new MOS will replace the 91B (Medical Specialist) and 91C (Practical Nurse) MOSs. The 91C will no longer be a standalone MOS. The Practical Nurse will become an additional skill identifier to the 91W and will be classified as "91WM6." Because this effort is so large, the Army will allow this change to take place over a number of years. The transition period for the USAR is 1 Oct 01 to 30 Sep 09. The Active Component timeline is 1 Oct 01 to 30 Sep 07. Many USAR soldiers will not require additional training to transition to the new MOS. They fall into the following categories:

All 91Bs and 91Cs in the ranks of SFC (P) and above, on or before 1 Oct 01, will be automatically "grandfathered" into the new MOS.

All 91Bs and 91Cs who hold the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT)-Paramedic (NREMT-P) license will be eligible to be automatically awarded the 91W MOS.

All 91Bs and 91Cs who hold the NREMT-Intermediate (NREMT-I) license will be eligible to be automatically awarded the 91W MOS.

Soldiers who do not meet the above criteria will require additional training to qualify for the transition to the 91W. Those soldiers can qualify for the 91W MOS by attending some combination of the following transition courses:

NREMT-Basic (NREMT-B) Course – 110 hour course

NREMT-B Bridge Course – 60 hours. Individuals must take a pretest demonstrating basic EMT knowledge.

Individuals failing the pretest will have to take the 110-hour course.

TRAUMA-AIMS Course – Trauma Assessment, Advanced Airway, IV therapy, Medication and Shock management – 68 hours.

Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) – 24 hours.

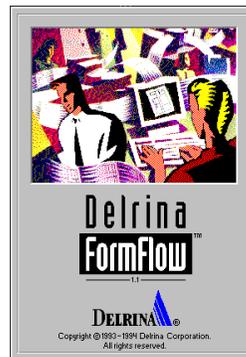
Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) – 21 hours.

The program is designed to assess the unit's maintenance operations at brigade, battalion, company, battery, troop and equivalent MTOE/TDA organizations. The program is open to all U.S. Army Reserve MTOE and TDA units and activities.

Changes to the Maintenance Award Program and instructions for preparing the AAME Nomination Packet will be incorporated in AR 750-1 and USARC Reg 750-1, upon revision.

### FORMFLOW 2.23 SOFTWARE RELEASE

Thanks to the Army-wide Enterprise license obtained by the U.S. Army Printing Agency (USAPA), FormFlow Filler Software is now available on the USARC Intranet.



Due to problems with the 2.23 release of FormFlow Filler initially provided on the Intranet and on CD to individual Reserve Centers, we were forced to issue an urgent notice to stop all downloads and installation of that 2.23 version. We have since received the upgrade (version 2.23.1) and now provide that version for download from the USARC

Intranet. (This is the same version USAPA will distribute on CD.)

Users are NOT REQUIRED to download or install this software!

FormFlow 2.23 Filler Software Download and Installation instructions are on the USARC Intranet (<http://usarcintra>) "Downloads" web page and the "New Items" web page.

The primary source for current FormFlow Filler Software is the USARC Intranet and users with access should use the Intranet as their download source. Only



the Intranet will be able to provide upgrades or patches to the software as it's released.

Regarding home use of FormFlow 2.23.1 software, USAPA tells us that as long as a Reservist is authorized to do Army work from home, he/she can be given the software to put on their computer at home for that purpose. However, it is not authorized for user to bring home and take it to another job or their personal business for use. That is the main point stressed by JetForm Corporation.

This software release is issued under the Army-wide Enterprise license obtained by USAPA and is authorized for download and installation by all USAR users.

**TID BITS**

From the Brigade Supervisory Staff Administrator (SSA), Mr. Carofilis:

- We have a very busy couple of months ahead of us. There are many conferences, briefings, and other events that members of our units have to attend. Each event requires many hours of preparation. Some upcoming events include:
  - 4 March - YSB rehearsal, ITSW and 91W Plan Briefing, San Antonio, TX
  - 5 - 6 March - AMEDD TASS Conference, San Antonio, TX
  - 16 - 18 March - Yearly Strategic Briefings, Oklahoma City, OK
  - 25 - 30 March - Sperandio Conference, Dallas, TX
  - 26 - 30 March - AMEDD NCO Conference, San Antonio, TX
  - 5 - 8 April - 95th Division (IT) Senior Leadership Conference, Oklahoma City, OK
- This past drill was a very productive weekend for the 5th Brigade Headquarters. I was very glad to see so many of our soldiers productively employed. Everywhere I looked, in every section, I saw soldiers working, performing useful tasks for the unit. Keep it up! And kudos to the first line supervisors whom are providing a good framework in which our soldiers can perform.
- During the February drill our Commander got an opportunity to brief COL Gerber, Operations Officer for the Surgeon General of the Army. Our unit was selected based on the great work that is being done by many members of our unit relative to the

planning for the 91W initiative. COL Padilla did an outstanding job in educating COL Gerber on Reserve Affairs and particularly on Institutional Training units. COL Gerber was extremely impressed and pledged to assist us in many ways to insure that the 91W initiative and other unresolved issues are brought to the forefront.

- During the month of April we will all participate in the annual Army Physical Training Test, those of us who need a record APFT will take the test for record, every one else will take a diagnostic test. We are less than 2 months away from this test so get out and work out!. Do not wait! Those of you who have medical conditions precluding you from taking the test need to insure that you have a valid profile. Bring the profile with you to the test site. If you sign in on the day that your APFT is scheduled you should take the test, have a profile or be excused by the Unit Commander otherwise you will not receive pay for that day.
- The results of the Senior Enlisted Board were recently released. Congratulations to the following soldiers from 5th Brigade who were selected for promotion to the next higher grade:

- SFC Pasco
- SSG Sturgill
- SSG Santellanes
- SSG Sorrels
- SSG Govan
- SSG Collins
- SSG Deloney
- SSG Rodriguez, C

**THE HIGH-3 RESERVE RETIREMENT PLAN**



The retired pay for Reservists who entered military service after 7 Sep 80, is based on the last 3 years, or 36 months, of service. Soldier under the "High-3" retirement plan, who attain 20 years of creditable service for retired pay at age 60, and elect discharge rather than

transfer to the Retired Reserve are unknowingly cutting the value of future annuities.

Soldiers who request transfer to the Retired Reserve continue to receive credit for years of service to a



maximum of 26 years. This will have a positive impact on the amount of retired pay they will receive at age 60. They will have their highest 36 months of basic pay, plus years of service, determined at age 60 – generally, the pay scale in effect when they are ages 57, 58, and 59.

Monthly retired pay will be increased annually by a cost of living allowance (COLA) equal to the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Those soldiers who elect discharge will receive retired pay based on their years of service and the highest 36 months of basic pay determined at the pay scale in effect at the time of separation.

It is time that Reservist understood the effect on future annuity loss should they elect discharge instead of transfer to the Retired Reserve.

The Enlisted Management Branch will publish detailed guidance regarding this issue in the future.

**YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> BDE(HS)</b>	
COL Angel Padilla	CSM Vacant
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Battalion</b>	
MAJ James Hickey	CSM Paul Castro
<b>3457th</b>	
LTC Floyd Priester	CSM Vacant
<b>PND</b>	
MAJ Mary Gomez	CSM David Stading
<b>HHD – 5<sup>th</sup> BDE</b>	
CPT Mario Avila	SFC Dan Carlin

**MONTGOMERY GI BILL FOR RESERVE ROTC AND BONUS PROGRAM FOR PRIOR SERVICE**

The U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) is offering two incentive programs aimed at filling shortages in critical areas. One addresses the shortage of lieutenants being accessed into the USAR from the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program and the other addresses shortages in a number of critical enlisted specialties.

Under the first program, USAR Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) soldiers can now qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Kicker. SMPs are college students who have enlisted into an Army Reserve unit and who are also enrolled in Senior ROTC. The MGIB Kicker is an enhancement of the Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR),

which provides educational assistance for enlisted soldiers. It gives the SMP cadet as much as \$350 extra per month, depending on the student’s academic load.

In order to receive the kicker, an SMP cadet must be eligible for the MGIB-SR basic benefit of up to \$263 a month, complete the applicable paperwork, extend his current contract in the USAR for six years and be a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty cadet.

The goals of this incentive are to encourage USAR Troop Program Unit (TPU) enlisted soldiers to join a college ROTC program and to encourage college students to join USAR units.

The second program expands the bonus program for prior service soldiers who enlist into the Army Reserve for a valid vacancy in a critical skill on the Selected Reserve Incentive Program list.

Once they successfully complete training that qualifies them for the assignment and have received the MOS or additional skill identifier, they will receive the bonus.

Previously, only soldiers coming off active duty who already had the same grade and skill as the slot for which they were enlisting could receive the bonus.

Currently, the areas most in demand are medical, transportation, aviation and communications.

Soldiers who qualify for the bonus receive \$5000 for a six-year enlistment or they can receive \$2500 for a three-year enlistment and then an additional \$2000 for a second three-year enlistment.

Prior service soldiers who enlisted into a specialty skill after June 29, 2000, may request an exception to policy for a change to their enlistment contract to receive the bonus.