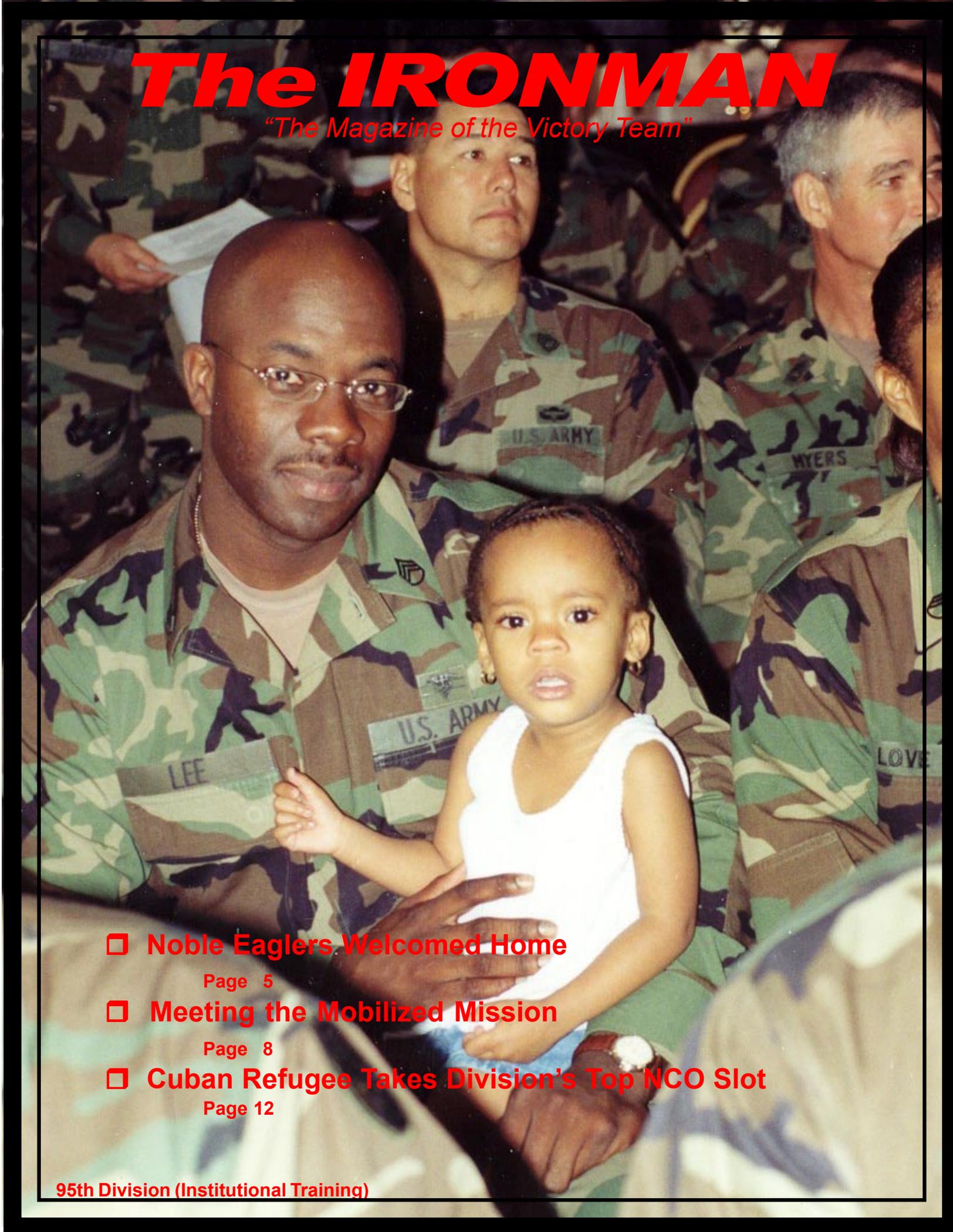


The IRONMAN

"The Magazine of the Victory Team"



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FROM THE COMMANDER

Diversity Gives Division Strength

Since the publication of our last issue of *The Ironman*, the 95th Division (Institutional Training) has been mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Soldiers of the 5th and 7th brigades were called to the colors in October of 2001, and reported for duty at Fort Sam Houston near San Antonio, Texas, and to Fort Sill near Lawton, Okla., to support the TRADOC training base expansion mission to train Individual Ready Reservists being called back to active duty.

Those called to duty came from all types of occupational backgrounds, varied military active duty experience and represented the diversity of the soldiers throughout the 95th Division. They came forward within 48 hours of their notification, inprocessed and reported to their active duty installations and units.

Their families supported them in the finest tradition of the Citizen Soldier, the Minuteman, as did their employers.

To the 18 soldiers from 5th Brigade who were demobilized six months after answering our nation's call, thank you for a job well done. I am extremely proud of your accomplishments. Welcome home!

This edition of *The Ironman* is therefore dedicated to the soldiers, their families and the employers of those who have mobilized, and to all the other soldiers and families of



Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr.
95th Division Commander

the Division who have supported them.

America's strength is in the robust diversity of her people and the diverse talents that they possess.

The Victory Division's strength is no different, for it is derived from the same crucible. In this edition, we also will celebrate the diversity of our Division.

We have soldiers with great individual stories. When we flow together to form the mighty river that is the Victory Division, we equally multiply the strength of the whole. We then have an understanding of the Army slogan: AN ARMY OF ONE!

I encourage you to continue to send in your stories and those of the soldiers, families and employers who make up our Division family. In that way we can continue to tell the tales, and expand the understanding of who we are and why we are what we are.

Everyone has a story to tell, so share it with the editor of your magazine so that we can share it with others.

As always, we hope that you enjoy this latest edition.

VICTORY TEAM!
Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr.
Major General, USAR



COMMAND GROUP

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Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr.

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Diversity: Reason for America's Success

By Command Sgt. Maj. Victor A. Gomez

Every time my family and I go out we are exposed to a myriad of differences in our community that we have learned to appreciate. Notice that I said we have "learned to appreciate."

In Cedar Hill, Texas, you can enjoy the cuisine of at least five countries. Our children attend school with children of diverse backgrounds. The two largest minority groups in my home town are Hispanic and black.

The laundry business I use is owned by an American of Korean ancestry. One of our gas stations is owned by an American of Pakistani descent. The eye-care place is managed by Americans of Hispanic descent and the company I work for is a global conglomerate which is Canadian owned but which employs people from Canada, the United States, England, France, India, Pakistan and Japan, to name a few.

When we arrived in the United States in 1962, we came as refugees. Upon arrival, we were fully immersed in a different language and exposed to different laws, customs and traditions, foods and different people. Our success depended on our ability to adapt and to overcome the many challenges facing us. It wasn't easy but we had a genuine desire to assimilate our-



Command Sgt. Maj. Victor A. Gomez.
95th Division Command Sergeant Major

selves into America. At the same time, we were trying to salvage some things unique to our own culture. This year, the Gomez family will celebrate 40 years of living free. We are American citizens -- Americans inside and out -- and yet we have preserved aspects of our cultural identity.

From our diverse community to our diverse Army, we thoroughly enjoy the diversity and celebrate it. We are accepting

of others because we ourselves want to be accepted.

Diversity is one of America's greatest strengths. In 1919, during his last public message while visiting New York City, former President Theodore Roosevelt said the following:

"There must be no sagging back in the fight for Americanism merely because the war is over. I am concerned that nothing be allowed to interfere with the 'complete Americanization of our people.' Our principle in this matter should be absolutely simple. We should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith, becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man on the basis of creed or birthplace, or origin.

"But this is predicated upon the man's becoming, in very fact, an American and nothing but an American. If he tries to keep segregated with men of his own origin and separated from the rest of America, then he isn't doing his part as an American. There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all.

(See DIVERSITY, page 19)

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On the Cover

Two-year-old Suleica Lee joins her father, Staff Sgt. Herbert Lee, 31, during the 2nd Detachment, 10th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 95th Division (Institutional Training) demobilization ceremony April 13 at Fort Sam Houston's NCO Club. Lee was one of 18 soldiers with medical military occupational skills called to active duty for up to two years in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He worked as an Emergency Medical Technician instructor (91W) at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. (USAR photo by Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty)



Multi-ethnic Military Pays Freedom's Debt

Diversity has always been a part of America's military.

Verification can easily be made by perusing the names of our nation's casualties of war.

Read the epitaphs of more than a million of our fallen comrades whose blood paid for our nation's freedoms and liberties and you will find surnames such as McClatchey, Walkingstick, Nguyen, Smith, Kejowski, Goldstein, Paradiso, Perez, al Saed, Burkhalter and hundreds of others representing nations around the globe. Some are so unfamiliar, so hard to pronounce, so foreign -- yet they are American.

Yes, American. The diversity of the world is represented within our shores and within our military.

Irish-Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Italian-Americans, German-Americans and all of the others who for the past 200-plus years have assimilated into the Melting Pot of America representing our global diversity. Their names have been etched into America's annals of war.

...more than 1.2 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have died serving their country since Thomas Jefferson inked the Declaration of Independence.

All paid with their lives the cost for our continued freedom. There were no discounts. The bullets did not discriminate. Payment was the same for all.

Dollars are irrelevant. While money buys equipment, it's soldiers willing to risk their lives that buy freedom.

What has been the total cost for America's Freedom? All told, Department of Veterans Affairs figures indicate more than 1.2 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have died serving their country since Thomas Jefferson inked the Declaration of Independence.

They answered their nation's call for several reasons. They fought for their God and their country. They fought for honor. They fought for those who could not



Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty
Ironman Editor

Editorially Speaking...

fight for themselves. They fought for their neighbors, their families and their friends. They fought for freedom. They fought....

And now, we have new faces defending our country. We have new hands controlling high-tech weaponry. They may not look like brothers, but they are. The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon unified their resolve.

While freedom's debt has been paid for by numerous generations of a multi-ethnic military, the cost still accrues.

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 plunged our young soldiers into Harm's Way. Once again our military's diversity is displayed as soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of all colors, of all races, might die so we, as a nation, may continue to enjoy our freedom and liberty.

Be thankful for their differences. Be thankful for their diversity. Be thankful for their answering the call to arms. United by the commonality of being Americans, be thankful they are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice.

Conflict	KIA/MIA	Total Force	%
American Revolution	4,435	200,000	2.22%
War of 1812	2,260	286,000	0.79%
Mexican War	13,283	78,700	16.88%
Civil War	558,052	3,867,500	14.43%
Spanish Amer. War	2,446	306,800	0.80%
World War I	116,708	4,743,800	2.46%
World War II	407,316	16,353,700	2.49%
Korean War	33,651	5,764,100	0.58%
Vietnam War	58,168	8,744,000	0.67%
Gulf War	293	2,750,000	0.01%
War on Terrorism	?	?	?

Note: 1996 Department of Veterans Affairs estimates



Welcome Home!

18 Soldiers Supporting Operation Noble Eagle Demobilize at Fort Sam Houston

By Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty
95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Soldiers from the 95th Division (Institutional Training) called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle are heading back to their families, friends and civilian jobs 18 months earlier than originally anticipated.

The 18 soldiers from different units within the Division's 5th Brigade were initially called up as authorized by Title 10 of the United States Code by President George W. Bush in response to the World Trade Center attacks and America's "War on Terrorism."

Title 10 authorizes the president to call up to one million reservists for not more than two years. Previously, the president and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressed their goal to have as few reservists on active duty as possible for the shortest duration possible. At any given time, the services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, causing the total number of mobilized reservists to fluctuate up or down on a daily basis.

Although Ready Reservists were originally called to active service for two years, commanders and service chiefs evaluate the specific needs and assign or release reserve forces to meet those needs.

The soldiers from the 2nd Detachment, 10th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 95th Division (IT) mobilized to active duty in response to the events of 9/11 participated in a demobilization ceremony to mark the end of their active duty.

According to the defense secretary's office, "These 18 reservists will return home knowing they responded quickly, honorably and with distinction to their nation's call. The support of their families, communities and employers has been integral to their success. In turn, a grateful nation can be proud of the sacrifice and services of these reservists.

Nearly all of the reservists served as



Soldiers mobilized to Fort Sam Houston in support of Operation Noble Eagle receive certificates of recognition for their families and employers from Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr. commanding general of the 95th Division. Soldiers who were demobilized (in alphabetical formation) were: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Deloney; Sgt. 1st Class Darin Elkins; Staff Sgt. Rodney "Stephen" Geraldo; Sgt. 1st Class Veronica Gipner; Sgt. 1st Class James A. Kinser; Staff Sgt. Herbert Lee; Sgt. 1st Class Linda Love; Sgt. 1st Class David McCann; Staff Sgt. Thomas McDonald; Sgt. 1st Class Sean McLoughlin; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Miller; Sgt. 1st Class William D. Myers Jr.; Sgt. 1st Class Enrique Ramoz; Sgt. 1st Class James D. Richardson; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schuld; Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Skibyak; Staff Sgt. Dennis Stuekerjuergen (not pictured) and Staff Sgt. Richard W. Wakefield. Each soldier was previously awarded the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and/or Army Commendation or Army Achievement medals. (USAR photo by Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty)

instructors here for basic and advanced medical military occupational specialties and emergency medical technician (EM) classes. As vital as are Army Reserve units, the individual men and women of the Army Reserve are even more important. These dedicated citizen-soldiers carry their civilian-acquired skills and expertise with them to meet the needs of the Army and the nation.

Soldiers like Sgt. 1st Class William D. Myers Jr., 49, from Camden, Ark., and Staff Sgt. Rich Wakefield, 34, who both teach

EMT training at the Arkansas Fire Academy when they aren't wearing their battle dress uniforms, or a soldier who "practices what he teaches" like Sgt. 1st Class Theodore R. Skibyak, 41, a paramedic police officer from Rio Rancho, N.M., bring unparalleled experience and professionalism within a nation's phone call away.

A plethora of accolades were bestowed upon the group for "digging in and doing more than just teaching" young troops how to save lives.

(Continued on page 6)



Soldiers Come Home.....

(Continued from page 5)

Those soldiers who answered the nation's call are "some of the best instructors I've seen in the Army," said Maj. Allen Whitford, chief of the initial entry training branch for the Emergency Medical Technician (91W) school (formerly 91B - combat medic) who worked with the instructors on a daily basis. "They were fabulous, energetic, inspired, enthusiastic and I wish I could keep them teaching" (our) active component schools, he said.

"None of the citizen-soldiers acted like it was an imposition to be called to active duty," he said. "They viewed it more like an opportunity to excel and have an impact on the quality of instruction given to young soldiers headed into harm's way."

According to Col. James "Alan" Morgan, chief of the Department of Combat Medic Training at Fort Sam Houston, the 18 soldiers "saved the 91W EMT program by bringing in new ideas and approaches" as they integrated with their full-time instructor counterparts. "They made a tremendous difference in the way we look at teaching and I appreciate their help."

While they made a "tremendous difference" to the program, many left with a feeling of unfinished



business. Such is the case for Sgt. 1st Class Skibyak. "I would have liked to stay here to do the year or two years." He said. "I felt we had an opportunity to improve the 91W school Army-wide had we stayed. However, I have mixed emotions about staying here because I will also be happy to get home to my wife and kids."

Other EMT instructors, like Staff Sgt. Rich Wakefield, (mobilized for the second time in his career) guided the Army's new medics through the 91W "hands-



Staff Sgt. Wakefield
(Continued on page 7)

Lessons Learned

By Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty

95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

Soldiers called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle discussed several of the valuable lessons they learned while serving at Fort Sam Houston. Their comments help edify others to better prepare for future call-ups.

Call-up

"I'm not sure how the call-up has affected my life.... Ask me in a year," said Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Skibyak, a police officer paramedic from Rio Rancho, N.M.

This was my family's second call-up so we already had a contingency plan in place," said Staff Sgt. Rich Wakefield, a 34-year-old Emergency Medical Services instructor for the Arkansas Fire Academy from El Dorado, Ark.

Family Support

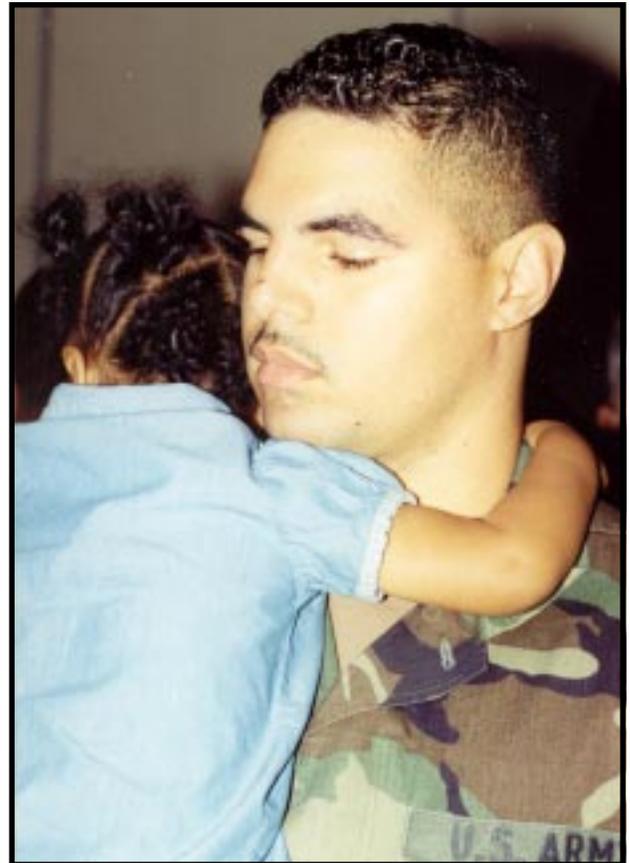
"My family was already wary," Wakefield said.

"I talked to my family and told them to expect I would be going," said Sgt. 1st Class David McCann, 51, from Missouri City, Texas. "They are proud and very supportive that I could serve. They look forward to me coming home now that this mission is complete."

McCann said he received great support from the unit and Tricare. "The unit called and checked on my family to make sure their needs were being met," he said. "I was also worried about what type of treatment my 8-year-old daughter would receive using Tricare healthcare, but the outlets were diverse. It made me feel better knowing a medical facility was close. My wife's stress was lessened by the support we received."

Challenges

"Trying to be accepted as a soldier and not a reservist was one of the most difficult challenges," said Sgt. 1st Class Veronica L. Gipner, a lab tech from Converse, Texas. "At first, the full-timers I worked with questioned my professionalism, but it didn't take very long for them to realize and accept my capabilities. The lesson learned was simple: Whether active, Guard or Reserve, we are all soldiers and we all do the same job. We are an Army of One!"



Sgt. 1st Class Darin Elkins, a 31-year-old physician's liaison from Houston, Texas, receives a welcome home hug from his daughter Donnae Elkins. Elkins worked as an emergency medical technician instructor during the call-up. (USAR photo by Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty)



Soldiers Come Home.....

(Continued from page 6)

on” curriculum, took Inactive Ready Reservists (IRR) soldiers called to active duty in support of the Operation Noble Eagle through a refresher course taught 91W teaching techniques to active duty instructors to enhance their EMT capabilities and then helped write a new Plan of Instruction for the course he purports will “likely be incorporated” in future classes.

Not all of the “tremendous differences” were related strictly to the 91W program. Staff Sgt. Steven Geraldo, 28, who resides in San Antonio, “enjoyed injecting new ways to



Staff Sgt. Geraldo

integrate everyday corporate technology to enhance army training and productivity.”

Each echelon of the soldiers’ reserve units spoke with pride about their service to their nation as those mobilized readied for their return trip home.

“It will be great to have them back home,” said Maj. James Hickey, 10th Battalion commander. “We had to borrow



A reception was held after the demobilization ceremony for the 18 10th Bn. soldiers called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Fort Sam Houston.

Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Gomez, command sergeant major of the 95th Division, thanked the NCOs for their contributions that “will be felt even after they return home.

“These are dangerous and difficult times for soldiers and families alike,” he said. “The active Army is getting smaller and

commanding general of the 95th Division (IT), explained that Fort Sam Houston, with its Army Medical Command “is the home where we (as instructors) make sure that soldiers that go into harm’s way have quality medics behind them.

“Once called upon, all of you demonstrated your agility to respond by reporting for duty within 48 hours. We learned from that experience the hardships it places on families and we have developed plans to give others mobilized in the future more time to get their affairs in order. You are to be commended for your agility, your ability to be extremely adaptive to whatever missions are thrown your way and the tremendous attitude with which you responded.

“No one said no when called upon!” Silverthorn said. “When the bugle sounded calling you to report to the colors ... you did. Your leadership and success echoes accolades.

“The 95th Division is about pride and you have written a new chapter in the 95th’s history books. You have immortalized yourselves into the 95th’s history with pride,” he said. “As you transition back to your families and return to your civilian jobs, recognize them for the heavy uplift you received from those who have supported you while you were away for the past six months.”

“These are dangerous and difficult times for soldiers and families alike. The active Army is getting smaller and smaller and it has to rely more heavily on Army Reserve forces to meet the needs of the nation’s defense. The world was changed by the events of 9/11. Because of soldiers like you, we will come out on top! Welcome Home.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Victor A. Gomez
95th Division Command Sgt. Maj.

from other battalions to keep our strength up to meet our missions while they were away.

“Having them back will assist us as we prepare for our 91W, basic noncommissioned officers and advanced noncommissioned officers courses.” Hickey said. “They are all volunteer people, all best in their professions and bring tremendous experience to the Army’s medical school system.”

smaller and it has to rely more heavily on Army Reserve forces to meet the needs of the nation’s defense. The War on Terrorism has required soldiers to mobilize to meet the surge of activities necessary to defend America.

“The world was changed by the events of 9/11,” he said. “Because of soldiers like all of you, we will come out on top. Welcome home!”

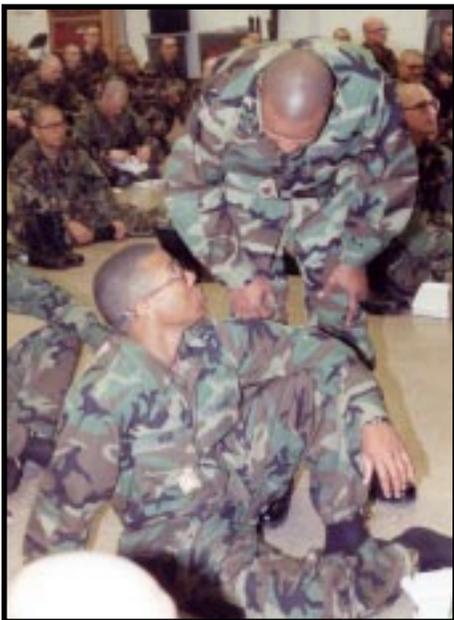
Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr.,



Answering The Nation's Call



Sgt. Joseph C. Hoen, a Diagnostic Rifle Marksmanship Simulator (DRIMS) instructor, shows Pvt. Michael A. Fiorella, a basic trainee at Fort Sill, Okla., the proper procedure for using the weaponeer. Hoen is assigned to 2nd Battalion, 379th Regiment, Nashville, Ark.



Sgt. 1st Class Milton A. Palmer, an instructor assigned to 2nd Battalion, 379th Regiment, talks to basic trainees during a first aid class at Fort Sill, Okla. In civilian life, Palmer is a systems programmer for Alltel in Little Rock, Ark.

Story & Photos

By Master Sgt. Bettina E. Puckett
95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office
 FORT SILL, OKLA. – All Army Reservists understand they can get called to active duty, but it can still be a shock when it happens.

And that was the frame of mind Oct. 20 when 45 soldiers from the 95th Division (IT) were mobilized in support of the War on Terrorism.

Despite being given a brief notice to report – less than 72 hours – they packed up their gear and moved out smartly to this Southwestern Oklahoma Army post they would soon call home.

“We never dreamed that mobilization would actually occur,” said Master Sgt. Bobby L. McLaughlin, who serves as operations sergeant for the newly-formed 1st Detachment. “You always prepare for it, but you don’t really take it seriously because you just don’t think it’s going to happen.”

McLaughlin, a 26-year Army veteran, is assigned to the 95th Division’s 7th Brigade, headquartered in Little Rock, Ark. Others serving with McLaughlin at Fort Sill include soldiers from 1st Battalion, 379th Regiment, Oklahoma City and 2nd Battalion, 379th Regiment, Arkadelphia, Ark.

In civilian life, the reservists hold a variety of jobs, but – for now – they are all full-time soldiers.

For instance, McLaughlin is the principal at Jackson (Tenn.) Christian Middle School – and he admits that he definitely wears two hats.

While on active duty, the high school principal for the Christian school is helping cover for him, but he can’t completely fill McLaughlin’s shoes. “The administrative part is covered pretty well,” McLaughlin said. “I’ve got a good group of teachers and they take care of the business. It helped that we got school going before I had to come out here.”

But some issues still must be tackled by McLaughlin, such as hiring teachers for next year. “Those (issues) are creating some anxiety,” he said.

McLaughlin also typically pulls double duty at the school as technology coordinator and he now finds himself sometimes trying to diagnose computer problems over the phone. Fortunately, he has a cell phone and has had a phone installed in his barracks room.

When he got the call that he was being called to active duty, McLaughlin and his wife Rosemary, who is a nurse educator, were on their way to a marriage retreat. Those plans – and those of his fellow soldiers – came to a quick halt.

The McLaughlin’s have three daughters, and he admits it’s tough missing birthdays and other significant events.

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

Jackson, Tenn., is a 10-hour drive, which he makes an average of twice a month, he said.

Some of the reservists-turned-active-duty-soldiers were able to leave their civilian jobs completely behind until they return from their mission. But others, like McLaughlin, are trying to juggle both roles.

When they arrived at Fort Sill in October, the soldiers were assigned a barracks building, office space, as well as a classroom and other space that could be used for training.

"The barracks are poor," McLaughlin said. "The office was in pretty bad shape. So, the first thing you do is paint the walls and clean up, then straighten up and shine up."

After squaring away their living and

The detachment members have taken on a number of other tasks, many of which support Fort Sill's 95th AG Battalion, to which they are attached. "The 95th AG is the reception battalion," Fenton said.

For instance, the mobilized soldiers are in charge of running the weapons qualification for the entire battalion, he said.

Although the group has been disappointed that they have not had more IRR soldiers to train, they realize a rush of troops could still happen. "At this point – and from a reality standpoint – we're not sure what the Pentagon and what President Bush really intend on doing yet," Fenton said. "That's an item we don't drive."

Of the group of 45 soldiers, there are four women, including Staff Sgt. Susan A. Wells, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Brigade. Before she was

duty, everyone believed their orders would be for a year's duration. But when they got to the division headquarters in Oklahoma City, for their send-off celebration, they were alarmed to see "730" days on their orders – a full two years.

"We said, 'This is wrong. You told us a year,'" Wells said.

"Two years is the (maximum) time frame," Fenton said. "It can be rescinded in a month if they want to, but they can also recall us if they want to. We've been told so many things by so many people, that I take it all with a grain of salt."

Many of the reservists wish they could give their civilian employers a date when they will leave Fort Sill. "I wish they'd give me a solid date," said Staff Sgt. Billy A. Honey, an instructor from Broken Bow, Okla., who works for Bibler Brothers Saw Mill.

"I don't care if I'm here for two years," said Honey, who has a son and daughter with his wife Kerri. "I raised my hand to be here for two years. But I wish I had a solid date."

Honey was once on active duty for seven years, so he is "in his element" at Fort Sill. "I'm glad to be here," he said.

Master Sgt. John L. Williams, a basic rifle marksmanship instructor, 2/379th, misses his job as a machine operator for Weyerhaeuser, but he longs for his hobby, farming, even more. He grows hay on 30 acres in Broken Bow, Okla. While he's away, his sister is helping out.

"I don't have to go home that often," Williams said. "I just have to make sure it's fertilized."

Williams said he considers being called up an honor. "We'll be here until they tell us to go home," he said.

Each soldier has his own room, although each gender must share community showers in their barracks. "Being in the service for 20 years, I've had worse," said Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin J. Paschal, 2/379th.

Paschal, 40, graduated from the Drill Sergeants Academy in 1991 and has always been infantry. "We've always been told to make the best of what we have," said Paschal, who is a corrections officer in civilian life at a maximum security prison in New Boston, Texas.

He tries to visit his wife Lia and their two teen-aged daughters twice a month. It's a six-hour drive to his home in Texarkana, Texas.



Staff Sgt. Billy A. Honey, an instructor from Broken Bow, Okla., painted the "Victory Team Kill!" rock that stands in front of 1st Detachment's headquarters. Honey is one of 65 reservists from the 95th Division (IT) who were called to active duty in support of the War on Terrorism.

work areas, the soldiers were ready to jump into their active duty assignment, which is primarily to train former soldiers who have been called out of the Individual Ready Reserve, or IRR. These soldiers have Military Occupational Specialties, or MOSs, that are valuable to the Army in this War on Terrorism.

"Once the actual stop-loss with the different MOSs kicked in, that was the trigger mechanism for us to start getting personnel," said Capt. Kirk A. Fenton, 1st Detachment commander. "They've trickled in here and there, but we haven't had that many."

handpicked for the mission, the 32-year-old single soldier from Maumelle, Ark., worked for Kroger. "I stock, check, bag – do a little bit of everything," she said.

Her boss couldn't believe it when she got the call. "He figured he'd get more warning," she said. "He's had a hard time finding a replacement for me."

Wells, 32, is serving as the unit S-1, which includes processing pay, promotions and typing Army correspondence. "So far, it hasn't been bad," she said. "I can even call back to the unit (at Camp Pike, Ark.) if I have any questions."

When the soldiers got called to active

(See FORT SILL, page 18)



Leading “Out of the Box”

By Staff Sgt. Michael F. Dean

95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

“Nearly everything I do as the brigade command sergeant major is out of the box,” said 8th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Coles. “But this is something I really like about the job. Different is good, change is good and I think I’m a better NCO for having had the benefit of this experience.”

The 95th Division’s 8th Brigade is the ROTC brigade. Members of this unit teach ROTC classes at one of 10 universities in of Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas. Thus, it is not your typical Training Division brigade.

Coles has held a variety of NCO leadership positions in the 95th Division, primarily serving as a drill sergeant and an instructor in the Drill Sergeant School. One might think that this kind of experience wouldn’t be conducive to “thinking and leading outside the box.” But Coles is quick to say “that’s not the case. In fact, serving this brigade in the senior NCO position with the kind of challenges I face is one of the reasons of why I accepted the position.”

Coles’ career in the Army began 25 years ago, when he served four years on active duty. Upon leaving active duty, he returned home to Oklahoma and joined the Division. All but three of his 21 years in the Army Reserve have been with the 95th. Initially, he completed the 95th Division Drill Sergeant Academy as it was known then. He was “on the trail” with several battalions as a drill sergeant for eight years, then returned to Drill Sergeant School as an instructor, senior instructor, chief instructor and finally as first sergeant. He then served as first sergeant with battalions located in Enid, Stillwater and Shawnee.

“The 8th Brigade is different because the soldiers we recruit into the brigade are not under our control. Operational control of the soldiers is transferred to the primary military instructor at the university where they are teaching. This makes for an interesting relationship between the unit to which the soldiers are assigned (us) and the military science department to which they report.”

Coles explained that the ROTC



8th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Coles will be recruiting more ROTC instructors as plans for doubling the brigade’s mission to 20 universities continues on track. (USAR photo by Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty)

detachment schedules the specific classes they teach, and takes care of other requirements such as physical training tests and NCO evaluations. The brigade handles the payroll paperwork and other administrative details.

“The ROTC mission has been going well. The Army has been very pleased with the way our reservists have handled the classes and summer camps. In fact, plans now are for the 8th Brigade to double the number of universities we are in to 20 in the next year. We are still working on the specifics of growing the mission such as which colleges and universities in which states.”

“My main responsibility as the brigade CSM is recruiting the best possible NCOs and officers into our teaching positions, retaining the ones we have and keeping

the program up and running,” Coles said.

“This is a strange kind of brigade, not like any of the others in a training division, but I’m really enjoying the work. It’s been quite a change from what I’ve been used to, but change is good. I think that is why CSMs only stay in a given position for three years. Going from one kind of brigade or battalion to another is good for us, and good for the units we serve.”

But given the opportunity, Coles would like to return to the Drill Sergeant School some day, as commandant. “That’s my goal -- to be the commandant of the Drill Sergeant School.”

When he achieves that goal, you can be sure he’ll return to the Drill Sergeant School with new ideas, and will install the concept of “thinking outside the box” to the soldiers learning to be drill sergeants.



Unit Activation

3457th MTC Redesignated 13th TASS Bn.

By Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty

95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – The 3457th Medical Training Center (MTC) was redesignated the 13th Battalion (National Health Services) April 13 in an activation ceremony held at the Fort Sam Houston NCO Club.

With the redesignation, the 13th Bn. joins one other within the 95th Division (IT) battalion recognized as part of the Army School System (TASS). Additionally, with the redesignation, the 5th Brigade becomes the only institutional training brigade Army-wide that has two authorized TASS battalions.

“The 13th Battalion’s redesignation provides the unit with stability fully recognized as part of TASS,” 95th Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr., said to the soldiers during the activation ceremony. “It is through years of effort that this redesignation comes to fruition.”

According to Lt. Col. Elias Carofilis, staff administrator and operations officer for 5th Bde., the battalion’s mission and manpower will remain the same. “The 13th Bn. is unique in that they are the only battalion within the TASS with a nationwide mission,” he said. “Their courses are open to anybody, anywhere. All of the other TASS battalions teach courses regionally.”

The 13th’s mission is to teach military occupational specialty generating classes for operation room specialists (91D) and dental specialists (91E) as well as phase IV Basic Noncommissioned Officer courses for medical supply (91J), clinical food service (91M) and laboratory specialists (91K).

Becoming part of the TASS allows the school to seek its own accreditation and active duty Title 11 liaison from the component school. Each school must be accredited every three years by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in Fort Monroe, Va., and proponent school.



Above: Maj. Gen. Robert S. Silverthorn, Jr., commanding general of the 95th Division (IT) reviews soldiers of the newly designated 13th TASS Bn. in San Antonio, Texas. Top right: Maj. Gen. Silverthorn, passes the Army colors to Lt. Col. Floyd W. Priestler Jr. signifying the completion of the redesignation. (USAR photos by Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty)



From Refugee to Top 95th Div

By Master Sgt. Bettina E. Puckett
95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

Spending most of his childhood in Cuba helped the new command sergeant major of the 95th Division (Institutional Training) learn lessons about freedom – and the lack of it – that would affect him for the rest of his life.

“In Cuba, if you didn’t oppose the government, you did alright,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Victor A. Gomez.

Gomez – who officially became the division’s new command sergeant major on Nov. 1, 2001 – was born Oct. 28, 1949, in the sixth province of Cuba called Camaguey. His dad was a noncommissioned officer who played clarinet and saxophone in the Cuban army band. The highest rank he held was warrant officer, Gomez said.

When he was 9 years old, Gomez witnessed a revolution as Fidel Castro knocked Gen. Fulgencio Batista out of power in 1959. “If you opposed the government, you disappeared,” Gomez said. “It was the kind of thing where they would find you on the side of the road dead somewhere.”

Before Castro seized power, President Batista had become very unpopular in Cuba. “When Castro took over, everybody thought he was going to be the greatest thing since sliced bread,” Gomez said.

At one point during the revolt, Gomez actually saw Castro on the street. “I was outside looking up at him and all of those bearded men who had come down from



Command Sgt. Maj. Victor A. Gomez
95th Division Command Sgt. Maj.

the mountains,” he said. “And what struck me was the poor shape their equipment was in. They had weapons that were wired together or held together with rags and stuff like that.”

Other high-ranking soldiers were with Castro. “I didn’t recognize him, but when you have people mobbing around him and calling out his name, you know this is the guy,” he said.

Most Cubans danced in the street at the thought of Castro taking over. But Gomez’s family had a different perspective because they were a military family and, therefore, afraid of reprisals from the new regime.

Victor A. Gomez

Command Sergeant Major
95th Division (IT)

Army Service: 32 years

Education: El Paso Community College

Wife: Ruthie (Torrez) Gomez

Children: Stephen, Christopher and Victor

Home: Cedar Hill, Texas

Civilian Occupation: Senior Project Manager for a property management firm

When Castro first took power, everything appeared calm. But 17 days later, executions of soldiers from Batista’s government began, Gomez said. “We began our attempts at getting out of the country immediately after my youngest uncle was executed,” he said.

Some soldiers from Batista’s regime were given trials, while others were summarily executed. “All they needed to do was allege that they were an enemy of the state and that they were conspiring against Castro,” Gomez said.

Gomez’s uncle and nearly 24 others were “machine-gunned into a hole in the

1971 – Selected as inspect
and 478th
engineer.
Rucker, A
as inspect

1968 – Graduated
Monroe High School,
Rochester, N.Y.

1950

1949 – Born in
Camaguey, Cuba

1960

1962 – Fled Cuba
with his parents and
two brothers

1970

1970 – Drafted into the U.S.
Army as non-citizen; Basic
Training at Fort Dix, N.J.
Helicopter Structural Repair
Course, Fort Eustis, Va.



ision NCO

ground,” and his family was not able to recover his body until two weeks later. “So, it is a tremendously emotional issue for my family,” he said.

After that atrocity, Gomez’s father was determined to get his family out of Cuba.

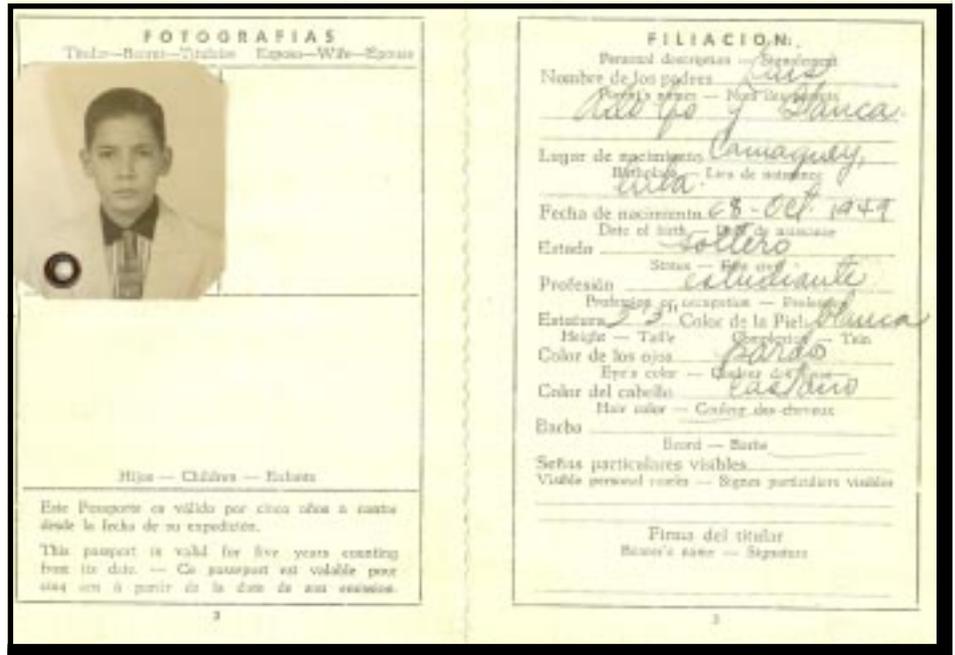
Moving to America

Gomez was 13 when he, his mother and two brothers were allowed to immigrate to the States. His dad was initially held back in Cuba, but later allowed to join his family.

His family received telegrams in the middle of the night saying they would be allowed to leave Cuba. “They come and pull you out of your house,” he said. “The last few days we were in country, we stayed with family and they reassigned our house to someone else. This is what happens in a state where the government owns everything, including your life.”

From October 1962 to August 1963, they lived in Miami. A Presbyterian family from Pittsford, N.Y., sponsored them and they moved to Rochester, N.Y. The sponsors were bilingual. “He was an international salesman for Eastman Kodak and she was a school teacher who taught Spanish,” Gomez said.

They found an apartment for the Gomez family and furnished it. “Somehow, they knew our clothing sizes and every closet



Victor A. Gomez’s passport shows the then-13-year-old Cuban refugee in 1962.

was full and the food pantry was full. We had a washer and dryer and even a bicycle for the three of us boys.”

Gomez was now 14, his older brother was 15 and his younger brother was 10. The Presbyterian family obtained a year’s membership at the YMCA for the Gomez family, enrolled the kids in school and got Gomez’s parents jobs. His dad worked as a janitor for a national clothing store and his mom did assembly line piecework in a factory.

Getting used to an entirely new culture was tough at first, but Gomez’s father refused to take government assistance.

Working in a factory was especially difficult for Gomez’s mother. “In the Spanish culture and particularly in those days, the man is the provider and the woman is the stay-at-home teacher and mentor of kids,” he said. “That’s what my mom had done her whole life.”

Gomez’s mother had trouble learning English and was not happy with her factory job, so she found other employment doing domestic housework. “Now, there’s something she felt comfortable doing,” Gomez said. “I call my mom the Lady of the Cloth because she’s always

(Continued on page 14)

erved in Vietnam with 191st Assault Helicopter Co. Aviation Co. (Heavy Lift) as crew chief and flight

Later active duty assignments took him to Fort la.; Fort Meade, Md.; and Germany where he served ion team chief and instructor with 71st Medical Det.

1990 – Served as CSM with the 300th Ordnance Bn. in early stages of Operation Desert Shield at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Earned Associate’s Degree in management from El Paso (Texas) Community College

1980

1976 – Began his Army Reserve service with the 98th Division in upstate New York; served in every leadership position to include first sergeant and operations sergeant

1990

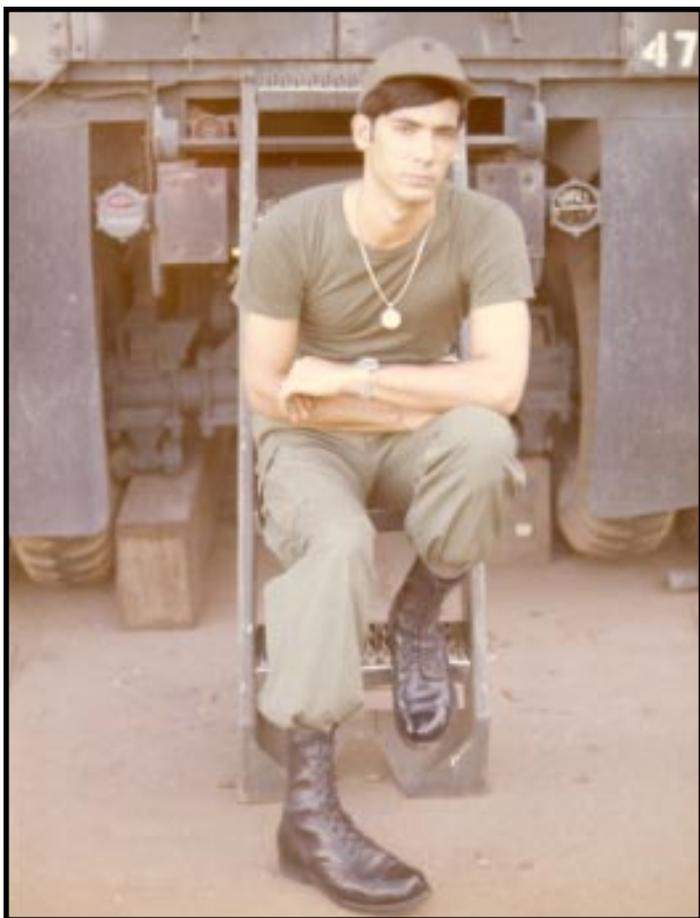
1986 – Graduated from Sergeants Major Course, Fort Bliss, Texas

2000

2001 – Assigned as command sergeant major for 95th Division (IT)



Gomez.....



Then-Spc. Gomez serving in Vietnam in the early 1970s.

(Continued from page 13)

wiping something.”

Discrimination

Some of the lessons – good and bad – that Gomez learned in Rochester would stick with him. For example, in 1963, he was told to sit in the back of the bus when he was riding the public transportation system. “I had never experienced discrimination or name-calling,” he said. “It’s something you remember for life.”

In 1968, Gomez graduated from Monroe High School in Rochester. “In those days, minorities did not get college counseling,” he said. “In other words, they figured that we would end up in the work force somewhere and so the only kids that the counselors spent their time on were the white kids that showed promise of going to college.”

Gomez had been working since he was 8 years old. After high school, he went to work for a sheet metal company and later a company that made circuit boards and telephones. Then, at age 19 – and right in the middle of the Vietnam War – he got drafted as a non-citizen with a green card.

At that time, there was not a requirement for Cuban refugees to become U.S. citizens because there had always been an expectation that Cuba would eventually be free.

Basic Training

After the shock of receiving his draft notice, Gomez reported to Fort Dix, N.J., on April 7, 1970. To this day, he remembers

his drill sergeant’s name. “You couldn’t expect me to learn his first name because there would never have been any opportunity for me to call him anything but Drill Sergeant Harrington.”

He remembers being a poor runner in Basic Training, so Harrington used to come to Gomez’s barracks and wake him up an hour before the rest of the trainees. “We used to have those cookie-thin mattresses and he would roll me onto the floor and he’d say, ‘Get your (stuff) on; we’re going to run.’” And the two of them would go running, in the pre-dawn darkness of the Army post.

Harrington would run alongside of him and taunt him, saying, “I’m an old man. You’re a young man. I’m not even breaking a sweat and look at you. Don’t you hate me? Don’t you wish you could hit me?”

The drill sergeant told the young man he was going to make him the best trainee of the cycle or kill him in the process. “And I said to myself, ‘Gee whiz. I wish he didn’t love me that much.’”

In those days, these were “bolo” companies where Basic Training failures were sent. “I did not want to be associated with those people,” Gomez said.

“Drill sergeants would stand face-to-face with you, hit you in the forehead with the rim of their hat and sometimes the inflection in their voice would cause them to spit on you while they were talking,” he said. “I would clench my teeth and be determined that they were not going to get the best of me. But I would be standing there with tears in my eyes.”

Gomez said he cannot think of a moment in Basic Training that he regrets or that he would begrudge anyone for. “I think it was all good for me,” he said.

And, today, he wants his drill sergeants in the 95th Division to have that type of impact on their trainees. “If they remember your name 30 years later, they’ll remember the training you gave them,” he said.

Raising the Bar

Gomez has high expectations for his NCO Corps. “To me, there’s basic soldiering and everybody needs to look like a soldier and act like a soldier. And then there’s competence. We need to be good at what we do.”

Anyone can set a low standard, he said. “So my goal is to continue to set high standards – to raise the bar across the whole spectrum, including basic soldiering skills, education, competence, integrity, honesty and ethics.”

Most of the 95th Division is comprised of NCOs. “And I expect to lead a noncommissioned officer corps that will be the envy of all the other (divisions of instructional training),” he said.

“But I don’t want you to think my focus is strictly on noncommissioned officers and (junior enlisted) soldiers,” Gomez said. “A basic responsibility of every noncommissioned officer is to make sure that officers are mentored as well.”

Gomez is proud to share his knowledge with anyone who has a good attitude about learning. He has gained his knowledge from a variety of teachers in his life. And although his drill sergeants were tough on him, they taught him values, including “the ability to hang in there and never say die,” he said.

They prepared him for duty in Vietnam. “And had I suffered the misfortune to be captured as a prisoner of war, the enemy would have subjected me to much worse,” he said.



3/355th Regt. Soldier Researches Native American Descendants

By 2nd Lt. Matthew Verett

95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

A unit administrator (UA for short) often has to hunt for information. We have all had times when we have gone to our local UA and asked him or her to locate an alert roster, or travel orders or some obscure regulation.

More often than not, that UA can find it with little help from us. Well, one UA has the ability to find things out about people who can't help him at all. They can't help him because they are no longer alive!

Staff Sgt. James Gammon, unit administrator for 3rd Battalion, 355th Regiment headquartered in Tulsa, Okla., used that ability to find things and put it to good use outside of work.

Gammon began his journey into genealogy about 10 years ago. A desire to discover information about his orphaned mother's relatives prompted his efforts. He knew his mother was Native American, of Chippewa and Ho Chunk descent. He began to research her history and was able to trace her lineage to his mother's mother.

He found that his grandmother was a prominent citizen of her community at a time when Native Americans were often subject to persecution. In fact, her community respected her so much that they named a local high school in Rockton, Ill., after her in 1927.

With the new information about his grandmother, Gammon found a new project. His newly discovered grandmother had an artifact given to her from a relative who had worked for President Martin Van Buren during his Presidency. Gammon was able to identify the artifact and return it to Linden Wald, Van Buren's ancestral home and museum near Albany, N.Y.

For his work, Gammon was awarded the Presidential Coin from the Van Buren estate. Each of the presidential estates can award these coins.

Gammon uses several sources for his genealogical research. The Internet is an increasingly valuable tool as more genealogical information is shared online every day. Also, Gammon corresponds with many county historical societies and county historians. Historical censuses



Staff Sgt. James Gammon, a unit administrator with 3/355th Regiment headquartered in Tulsa, Okla., and his wife Sherry began a genealogical journey 10 years ago.

provide information as well. Rather than just focusing on family names and dates, Gammon said, "I make it a point to find out as much as possible about the people themselves, their way of life and the local communities and industries."

This focus on culture gives him an insight into more than just the names from long-ago dates. It allows him to better understand how people of that time lived, what was important to them and their influence on how we live today.

Gammon is currently working on a project involving the Morgan family. The Morgans, who are related to his grandmother, sent one father and three sons to fight in the same Michigan cavalry unit during the Civil War. All four managed to survive the war and return home.

Future projects include further research into notable Native American women.

Gammon said, "Existing Native American genealogical research usually focuses on the males so there is a lot of opportunity for new discovery among females."

Gammon need go no further than his own family for some very notable Native American women. His great-great-great-grandmother Hopockaw, which is

translated to "Glory of the Morning," had the honor of being the governor of the entire Ho-Chunk nation in the 1700s. In doing so, she was the first female principle chief in Native American recorded history.

Gammon said, "While there have been books written about her, you won't find her in many history books." By finding out more information about her, Gammon hopes someday that we can all know the stories and history of notable Native Americans.

His website (www.hononegah.com) features some of his research of Native American women. Gammon plans to research deeper into the Ho-Chunk, Sioux, Pottawattamie and Chippewa tribes.

Another project will be to dig into the history of one of his wife's grandfathers, who was a survivor of Pearl Harbor.

James is not the only Gammon who serves in the Army Reserve. His wife, Sherry, is currently a private first class in basic training at Fort Jackson. She will attend the transportation management school and will be stationed in the 3/355th. Additionally, she is a member of the

(See GAMMON, page 19)



Army Helps Soldier Attain Goals

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dean

95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

It is a classic case of Army training fulfilling a civilian ambition.

Catherine Randolph grew up dreaming of a career in law enforcement. When she graduated from Enid High School, she knew that her family couldn't afford to send her to college. A friend told her that if she joined the Army, she could get money to help pay for her education.

From an Army recruiter, she learned that the Army could send her to military police school and start her toward her career goal.

Thus, in February 1992, she left home for Army basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort McClellan, Ala. Months later she was an Army Military Policeman.

That is only the beginning of her story. She joined the Army Reserve and was assigned to the 346th MP Company in Wichita, Kan.

When she returned to Oklahoma, she enrolled at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa. With her Army training complete, she was hired by the Tonkawa Police Department. Working for the local police department convinced her that she made the right career choice, but she wanted something a little bigger, a little better.

"By this time, a fellow patrolman and I had married, and he was offered a much better job in Oklahoma City. When we left Tonkawa, I wanted to find a reserve unit that was an easier drive than going all the way to Wichita," Randolph said.

"I looked in the telephone directory and found a listing for the 95th Division. So I just picked up the phone and dialed the number. Somehow, Roger Nelson (logistics management specialist) at division headquarters answered. I told him about my situation, and he told me about the drill sergeant school," said Randolph.

"I had never thought about being a drill sergeant, but it sounded both interesting and challenging. So I transferred to the 95th Division and was assigned to the Norman battalion (2nd Brigade, 3/378th Regiment). That was the best career move in my Army experience."

In the meantime, she became a Capitol patrolman with the



Staff Sgt. Catherine Randolph serves the state as a Capitol patrolman with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the nation as a drill sergeant in 2nd Brigade's 3/378th Regt. (USAR photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Dean)

Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

"We patrol the area around the state capitol complex just east of downtown Oklahoma City," she said. "We are responsible for the security of all the buildings as well as traffic patrols in the capitol area."

She completed the course in a little more than six months and was the honor graduate in her class.

"Drill Sergeant School was awesome, the best thing I ever experienced," she said. "The military police and drill sergeant schools I graduated from are two of the most intense courses the Army offers." That summer, her battalion ran phase one of basic training at Fort Sill, Okla.

"I was pretty scared the first time 'on the trail.' The new soldiers expect so much of you. You (the drill sergeants) are the personification of all that the Army is for them. But once I started teaching, all of the training I'd received came back. All of the training prepared me for teaching and training the new soldiers."

Meanwhile, she completed the CLEET (Comprehensive Law Enforcement

Education and Training) course required for all certified law enforcement officers in Oklahoma. Then she went back to school, taking night courses at Southern Nazarene University. She completed her bachelor's degree in 1998.

"I've pushed troops at Fort Sill and Fort Jackson, S.C. It's such a challenge, because for the new soldiers, you are the person they depend on. You have to be right, have the correct answers."

"I love serving in the Army. I love serving in the 95th Division. I love being on the trail, serving new soldiers as their drill sergeant. And I owe so much to the Army," said Randolph, who holds the rank of staff sergeant.

"The Army taught me to be a military policeman; that opened the door to civilian law enforcement, put me in a position to meet my husband, made my job with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol possible and led me to be a drill sergeant," she said.

"How could anything be any better? When I think about all that's happened, and how my life has turned out...well it's just awesome. It's just the best ever."



Assistant Division Commander Gets Star



James E. Archer, assistant division commander (operations) for the 95th Division (IT), was promoted to brigadier general April 6 at the division's headquarters in Oklahoma City, Okla. Nancy, his wife of 29 years, celebrated the festive day with her husband, along with their son Jim Archer, Manassas, Va., and daughter Leigh Archer Brabrand, Richmond. Archer, who lives with his wife in Salem, Va., began his current position in May 2001. (USAR photo by 2nd Lt. Matthew Verett)



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Members of the 95th Division in Oklahoma have helped raise a half million dollars to purchase an enhanced fire-rescue truck to be donated to the New York City Fire Department to replace one of the trucks destroyed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Retired Oklahoma City Assistant Fire Chief Jon Hanson spearheaded the campaign. Joining in the effort (left to right) is 95th Division Drill Sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Angel Moreno, Hanson, Sgt. 1st Class Katherine Frost, an Army assistant area manager in Oklahoma City and Staff Sgt. Yvonne Teal from the Division's Strength Management Office. They are contacting other 95th Division soldiers in Oklahoma as part of their fund-raising effort. (USAR photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Dean)



Nurse Takes Detachment Command

By Pfc. Christopher McIntyre

95th Division (IT) Public Affairs Office

For 1st Lt. Aileen Jakaub, commanding soldiers comes naturally. Her father, Bill Fukasa, was a drill sergeant with the 95th in 1963, and he passed many of his leadership skills on to her. "He gave me a lot of pointers on how to behave around the military," she said.

As a newly promoted first lieutenant, she commands Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Division -- a unique position because she is an Army nurse -- and she has set her sights even higher. She wants to be a brigade commander.

"I'm a doer," she said. "Whenever I am given a task, I'll do it no matter what it takes. I'm trustworthy. I have a very good rapport with my soldiers; I respect their knowledge and what they can teach me. Right now I'm taking a class to become a personnel officer. I don't plan on going back to medical.

"What makes this job unique for me is that I need a different type of annual training than this unit usually does," she said. She does medical training on AT, while they go to Fort Jackson, S.C., to provide administrative support for the Drill Sergeant School.

Jakaub, 39, started her military career in the Navy Reserve, in an enlisted slot as a corpsman. Two years ago, she started her Army career at the 94th General Field Hospital for six months, then moved to the surgical section at the division headquarters in Oklahoma City, Okla.

"Then I became commander of HHD, and I'm getting a lot of command experience," She said. "The officers in 2nd Brigade have taken the time to make sure that I have learned my job. When I was a nurse, I did things such as health profiles. A health profile is when a soldier has a medical condition that limits him from doing any part of the (Army Physical Fitness Test). We would submit a packet to the surgical section for a medical profile that would list his limitations.



1st Lt. Aileen Jakaub

"As a company commander, it's totally different. I have to learn both medical applications for promotion and personnel applications for my job," she said.

Jakaub was born and raised on a farm in Hennessey, Okla. She works at the Baptist Hospital Orthopedic Unit in Oklahoma City as a nurse. "I've always cared for everyone," she said, "So I guess I was just destined to be a nurse." She is married to Ron Jakaub, and they live in Oklahoma City where she likes to spend time with her two sons and three dogs. She said, "My husband supports everything I do. He says I am 'ate-up' with the Army."

Fort Sill.....

Continued from page 9

And while it's a hardship being away from home, Paschal says he can deal with it because he's a senior NCO. "My morale will always be there," he said.

Paschal grew up in the projects of Chicago and was born and raised a Muslim, which is sometimes an uncomfortable subject after Sept. 11. But he would never deny his faith, which is clearly stated as "Islam" on his "dogtags."

"We have soldiers who treat me differently when they find out I'm a Muslim," he said. "But if a person has a problem with a Muslim, I ignore them." Paschal said he was heartened to learn there is a Muslim chaplain at Fort Sill.

Despite their religious and cultural differences, Paschal said he and his fellow soldiers have gotten to be better friends over the past months. They often hold domino and card tournaments and socialize during fish fry's. "We've become closer, much closer," he said.

And the soldiers are not only closer with each other, they have befriended the IRR soldiers they train, McLaughlin said. All of

the soldiers stay together in the barracks during the time -- usually about 10 days -- that the IRR troops are at Fort Sill.

"We remember what it was like getting called up and how traumatic that was," McLaughlin said. "With these guys, we're trying to make it less traumatic. We take them out and buy them supper. We make sure they've always got a ride whenever the duty day is over. If we're going to the movie, they are invited, and if we're going to the chow hall, they're also invited."

Williams said, "They feel at home because we're reservists and they're reservists, and they relate to us."

Most troops said the "not knowing" regarding how long they will be on active duty is the toughest part of the mission. But others said they were enjoying their work and getting to know each other. "The best thing is the camaraderie," Fenton said. "You learn a lot about personalities."

The commander said he is especially proud that his soldiers have adjusted to their new lifestyles with few complaints. "They still have lives, and they still have homes and families," he said. "We've tried to keep that link as tight as possible."



Gammon.....

Continued from page 15

Cherokee Nation (District No. 8) and plans to compete for a Tribal Council seat for the Cherokee Nation.

James and Sherry have three children including 10-year-old Sarah, 5-year-old Bradley and 10-month-old Hononegah. Hononegah was named in honor of Gammon's grandmother and the name

literally means "Dear Little Girl" in the Ho Chunk language.

Gammon's next challenge may be to recruit his three children into continuing his genealogical work.

Editor's Note: *Matthew Verett, formerly a staff sergeant working on the 95th Division's Public Affairs' Ironman staff, transferred to the Inactive Ready Reserve. In March, Verett received a direct commission to second lieutenant and is awaiting assignment.*

Diversity.....

Continued from page 3

We have room but for one flag, The American flag, and this excludes the communist flag and the flag of any nation to which we are hostile. We have room but for one language here and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans of American Nationality, and not as dwellers in a polyglot boarding house. We have room but for one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

"The collective survival of the world, both economic and human, hinges on the ability of people not just to accept, but to support and celebrate diversity, and to be tolerant and accepting of others."

Command Sgt. Maj. Victor A. Gomez
95th Division (IT) Command Sgt. Maj.

What President Roosevelt was talking about was diversity without divisiveness. He knew that the polarization of immigrant groups in the United States would lead to a divided country.

Our strength lies in the diverse customs and traditions our parents brought to America which have undergone some transformation and have now become a part of every day America. A dozen different holidays are celebrated each year by American citizens of varied ancestral backgrounds.

Our success as a nation is the direct result of these diverse and multi-talented people. Our ideals and core values are the magnet that draws people from around the

globe. Industry leaders will tell you that, traditionally, diversity has been viewed as kind of an American construct and some argue that diversity has no meaning outside the United States. We are still a young country. Getting here has not been easy, but our system is the envy of the world.

There is no arguing that the world is a far smaller place than it used to be. The collective survival of the world -- both economic and human -- hinges on the ability of people to not just accept but to support and celebrate diversity, to be tolerant and accepting of others.

America's example is there for all to emulate. The opposite is painfully obvious when you watch the news at night. During the Revolutionary War, our ranks included people from all over Europe.

They came to fight alongside us in support of American ideals. Today, you need not look for that to happen. Today, the sons and daughters of those great patriots are already here filling our ranks. When we go into battle we wear one uniform and speak one language. We fight as one team, an American Team, an Army of One. Diverse but not divided. I hope that you will join our family in celebrating diversity.

Victory Team!



House Bill Would Reduce Reserves' Retired Pay Age

Armed Forces News Service

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., has introduced a bill (HR-3831) that would reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which a reserve component member may begin receiving retirement pay.

The bill would "amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55."

If enacted into law, the bill would take effect on the first day of the first month beginning on or after the date of the enactment and would apply to retired pay payable for that month and subsequent months.

'Soldiers Forum' to Give Troops Voice on Web

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers worldwide are now invited to submit stories, commentaries and other articles to the Army News Service under a new program called "Soldiers Forum."

The best articles will be posted on the "ArmyLINK News" Web page at the end of each week and for use on unit publication commentary pages.

The program "gives soldiers a voice on ArmyLINK," said Col. Stephen Campbell, chief of Command Information at Department of the Army.

The articles should be more than "complaint columns" Campbell said. If problems are brought up, suggested solutions should be included as well.

Observations about Family Team Building programs, the NCO Education System, or Common Task Training are just a few examples of relevant topics.

More controversial topics to be discussed include such topics as: drug abuse, domestic violence, street gangs, suicide prevention, retention, single-parent soldiering, OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO.

Letters and articles should be sent to the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, ATTN: SAPA-CI (Soldiers Forum), Rm. 2B720, 1500 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-1500 or e-mailed to: arnews@hqda.army.mil.



Awards & Decorations

Legion of Merit

Lt. Col. Richard P. Gebhart

Maj. John R. Lovett

Lt. Col. Eugene Nahley

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Caroline Abshier

Master Sgt. Dale Ackerman

Command Sgt. Major Randy L. Ashcraft

Master Sgt. James B. Astle

Capt. Tracy A. Babst

Lt. Col Glenn E. Ballard

Capt. Karen E. Boyer

Command Sgt. Major Teddy R. Brewer

Col. Alan Butki

Capt. Marcus A. Castilla

Sgt. 1st Class Carl Chatman

Master Sgt. Lawrence C. Clements

Master Sgt. Ursula D. Dees

Sgt. 1st Class Angela A. Duffy

Lt. Col. Donald C. Durant

Col. Daniel G. Foust

Sgt. 1st Class Katherine E. Frost

Maj. John P. Frye

Command Sgt. Major William C. Grimes

Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Hall

Sgt 1st Class David L. Hallaxs

Capt. Roderick W. Harden

Master Sgt. Stacy Hawkins Jr.

Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Hebert

Sgt. 1st Class Clifton E. Henry

Master Sgt. Larry D Jantzen

1st Sgt. Larry D. Johnson

Sgt. 1st Class Sandra G. Johnson

Sgt. 1st Class Douglas B. Johnston

Maj. Mary M. Lee

Lt. Col. Mark W. Lenneville

Lt. Col. Donald R. Markus

Sgt. Maj. James P. Martin

Sgt. 1st Class Hunter C. Mason

Capt. Shirley J. May

Master Sgt. Mearl F. Mays

Staff Sgt. David P. Miller

Maj. Bradley K. Padgett

Sgt. 1st Class Earl H. Rice

Master Sgt. Dwight L. Rodgers

Lt. Col. Stanley V. Rooker

Lt. Col. Lee K. Rorie

2nd Lt. Christopher W. Sheets

Master Sgt. Kevin M. Siegmund

Staff Sgt. Lula Simmons

Master Sgt. Willis E. Sly

Col. Brenda D. Smith

Sgt. 1st Class James M. Smith

Master Sgt. John P. Souza

Master Sgt. Timothy S. Spencer

Master Sgt. Danny W. Turner

Sgt. 1st Class Paul J. Vanderschaaf

Sgt 1st. Class Teresa A. Wenger

Col. Cecil M. Willis

1st Sgt. Robert Woods Jr.

Army Commendation Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Earlene Archie (2)

Sgt. 1st Class Keith A. Atkinson

Sgt 1st Class Stanley R. Barber

Sgt. 1st Class Javier Barbosa

Maj. Kirby R. Bertholf

Master Sgt Maury K. Blair

Sgt. Michele L. Boback

Capt. Jason C. Boesch

Sgt. 1st Class Tammy Bright

Sgt. 1st Class Glen Burns

Command Sgt. Major Ronald W. Coles

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Crisp

Master Sgt. James R. Croucher

Staff Sgt. Mary Cunningham (2)

Master Sgt. Raymond Dashnaw

Sgt. 1st Class Clarence A. Dixon

Sgt. 1st Class. Gary Dodson

Sgt. 1st Class Dorrin Caldwell

Sgt. 1st Class Linda Dottie

Sgt. 1st Class Teresa A. Drake

Sgt. 1st Class Johnathan A. Fairbanks

Staff Sgt. James Foucha

Sgt. 1st Class Susan Free

Sgt. 1st Class Katherine Frost

Sgt. 1st Class Carol Fuller

Staff Sgt. Roy Garcia

Lt. Col. Richard P. Gebhart

Staff Sgt. Ryan Glenn

Sgt. 1st Class Christina Green

Staff Sgt. Richard K. Griffith

Lt. Col. David L. Guier

Sgt. 1st Class Lindsey Halley

Lt. Col. James Holt

Sgt. 1st Class John Holten

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Joie

Sgt. 1st Class Debra Keegan

Sgt. 1st Class Adelia Marra

Staff Sgt. Rodney D. May

Sgt. Celestine J. McClearse

Maj. Paul J. McCusker

Master Sgt. Anita Merlau

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Michael

Staff Sgt. Terry Montang

Sgt. 1st Class Karen Newsome (2)

Master Sgt. Nachele Norwood

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Owens

Sgt. 1st Class Tommie Pernell

Sgt. 1st Class Eloise Peterson

2nd Lt. Rebecca Reese

Staff Sgt. Daniel K. Ratcliff

Staff Sgt. Martin Roback

Sgt. 1st Class Adam Rudy

Maj. Robin S. Ryan

Capt. Sherri Rollow

Staff Sgt. Lula Simmons

Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Sims

Staff Sgt. Arthur Sipe

Maj. Raymond R. Steeley

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony W. Stewart

Staff Sgt. John Stills

Spec. Mary L. Telles

Sgt. 1st Class David Vandermark

Master Sgt. Danny Calhoun

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Morris

Sgt. David W. Cox

Army Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Dennis Albert

Sgt. 1st Class Keith Atkinson

1st. Lt David Bell

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Bilton (2)

Sgt. 1st Class David Bower

Sgt. 1st Class Bruce C. Brady

Sgt. 1st Class James Burrow

Staff Sgt. George Castillo

Sgt. 1st Class Marion C. Cohen

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Coleman

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Denette

Sgt. 1st Class Eula McDowell (2)

Staff Sgt. David Fairbanks

Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Fields

Sgt. Lorence Ford

Sgt. 1st Class Albert Gant (2)

Sgt. 1st Class Sherietta Garner (2)

Sgt. Kenya Green

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Griffith (2)

Sgt. Edwards J. Hawks

Sgt. Jason Henry

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Hernandez

Staff Sgt. William Holloman

Staff Sgt. Julius Horne (2)

Sgt. 1st Class C. W. Huffine

Sgt. 1st Class Ernesto Infante

Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Jackson (2)

Pvt. 2 Peter Keith

Sgt. 1st Class Twan Knight (2)

Master Sgt. William Lawrence

Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Lopez

Capt. Virgil Marks

Pvt. 2 Joel Martinez

Staff Sgt. Tobias C. Meister

Pfc. Likita Moore

Sgt. 1st Class Jay D. Moore

Sgt. William L. Payne

Sgt. April M. Perez

Staff Sgt. Steven H. Ragan

Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Randolph

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Raney

Pvt. 2 Justin D. Rohler

Sgt. 1st Class Adam Rudy

Spec. Joseph Sarrington

Sgt. 1st Class Leonel Saldivar

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Scammahorn

Sgt Stuart Schall

Capt. Jackelin Simmons

Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Smith (2)

Sgt. Stephen M. Stamps

Maj. Michael W. Swehla

Staff Sgt. Jermon D. Tillman

Spec. Jefferey Tunley

Spec Paul Turner

Sgt. 1st Class Martin Urrutia

Sgt. Candace Vanwey

Staff Sgt. Thomas Vigil

Sgt. 1st Class Terry Williams

Sgt 1st class Pamela Wilson

Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Sgt 1st Class Mark D. Dahlheim

Maj. Thomas M. Lewis

Chief Warrant Officer Harris Smith



Promotions



Colonel

Thurgood, Keith L.



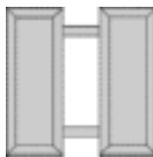
Lieutenant Colonel

Bilbury, John E. III
 Carmean, James R.
 Considine, Michael R.
 Dalton, Cheryl D.
 Gomez, Mary C.
 Holman, Harold R.
 Niles, Barry L.
 Perrin, David N.
 Perry, Robert L. Jr.
 Sauter, Michael J.
 Smith, Todd J.



Major

Gardner, Jerry N.
 Innanen, Stephen R.
 Johnson, Rex A. Jr.
 Myatt, Craig A.
 Rowan, Kimberly A.



Captain

DeJesus, Kimberly D.
 Ellis, Michael J.
 Rodriguez, Wendy S.



First Lieutenant

Davis, Shona R.
 Jobe, Andrea



Command Sergeant Major

Ashcraft, Randy L.
 Iserman, Douglas L.
 Olmstead, Patricia C.
 Smith, Don C. Jr.

Sergeant Major

Henry, Bruce J.
 Ingle, Brian D.
 Montgomery, David T.



Master Sergeant

Bourassa, Douglas E.
 Burt, William A.
 Dreesen, Daniel L.
 Dunstan, Deeann K.
 English, Donna S.
 Humphreys, Mary M.
 Lake, Donald G.
 Mayo, Patrick K.
 Owens, David L. Sr.
 Simmons, Daniel H.
 Taylor, Lovie A. Jr.
 Trower, Linwood R.
 Truesdell, Kurt A.
 Vanzante, Raymond J.



Sergeant First Class

Aguilar, George B.
 Bankston, Michael L. Jr.
 Campbell, Regina L.
 Carroll, Brenda D.
 Chancellor, James B.
 Chaney, Terry W.
 Clark, Ronnie L.
 Coleman, Matthew
 Combes, Mark A.
 Crisp, Racquel D.
 Darling, Robert H. III
 Davis, Stephen E.
 Decoteau, Alwyn
 Dickinson, Heath J.
 Doremus, David D.
 Droney, Benjamin E.
 Dumatrait, Mark
 Dunn, Donald C.
 Dunn, Patrick F.



Elkins, Darin E.
 Elliott, Jon L.
 Estrella, Daniel Jr.
 Fairley, Frederick
 Favers, David L.
 Gaines, Brenda L.
 Garrett, Wesley P.
 Gibbs, Arnold
 Green, Lisa Y.
 Hannan, Michael B.
 Herrera, Gregorio G.
 Herweg, Aultman T.
 Hinton, Debra A.
 Hoffmann, Brian D.
 Holan, Curtis M.
 Hudson, Leonard D.
 Jackson, Antonio M.
 Jones, Anthony E.
 Kennon, Al R.
 Kile, Jason E.
 Lopez, Ramiro A.
 Lyons, Kevin T.
 Martinez, Daniel
 McCulley, Arthur J.
 McCurdy, Dale A.
 Meister, Tobias C.
 Miley, Robert E.
 Miller, Robert S.
 Montenegro, Jose L.
 Moore, Paula G.
 Nixon, David K.
 Ollison, Clarence L.
 Orvis, William E.
 Prikryl, Laura J.
 Ramirez, Jose A.
 Rich, Joseph A.
 Richie, Jackie D.
 Roop, Donald D. Jr.
 Salazar, Gloria
 Sanchez, Kenneth T.
 Scammahorn, Michael S.
 Serrano, Miguel
 Shofner, Paul D.
 Singleton, Henderson L.
 Taylor, Cecil R.
 Thomas, Cassandra A.
 Thomas, Katrina D.
 Treadway, Jimmy D.
 Trevino, Robert J.
 Valentine, Lisa P.
 Walford, Richard M.
 Washington, Fred Jr.
 Willis, Christopher F.
 Wood, Lisa R.

Continued on next page



Staff Sergeant

Alfaro, Eric
 Alford, Cheryl D.
 Allen, Jessica R.
 Babb, Doris S.
 Bailey, Rose S.
 Barr, Craig L.
 Bass, Archie Jr.
 Birkby, Charles H.
 Boback, Michele L.
 Bonner, Faye E.
 Booth, Terry K. Jr.
 Bosch, Robert W.
 Butler, Mary L.
 Campbell, Kevin L.
 Coatney, Suzan E.
 Cooper, Sherrlyn
 Cox, David W.
 Crawshaw, Christopher L.
 Crocker, Gregory S.
 Davidson, Randy J.
 Davis, Robin S.
 Davis, Roosevelt Jr.
 Dering, Shane D.
 Downs, Wallace D.
 Eddy, David W.
 Ellis, Jimmy D.
 Embry, Randall L.
 Ervin, Nickey L.
 Ezell, Jerry D. Jr.
 Fields, Benjamin D.
 Flores, Troy N.
 Fulce, Winfred E.
 Garrett, George S.
 Garza, Marcus A.
 Harjo, Mitchell T.
 Hart, Sammie L.
 Henderson, Stephanie K.
 Hendricks, Shirley J.
 Herrera, Beverly A.
 Hester, Mark H.
 Hooper, Steven P.
 Hurst, Leonald R.
 Jackson, Anthony W.
 Jackson, Wendel D.
 Jefferson, Quintin L.
 Johnson, Andrew J.
 Johnson, Catherine D.
 Jones, James A.
 Jones, Tamika N.
 King, Shane A.
 Kitchen, William A. Jr.
 Lacy, Calvin B.
 Lansberry, Sally J.
 Lee, Leron N.
 Lee, Venus T.
 Longenbaugh, Jimmy C.
 Major, Albert J.
 Manning, Russell L.



Promotions

Marquez, San Juana S.
 McAfee, David D.
 McElroy, Andrew Jr.
 Milner, Kenneth L.
 Moreno, Yesenia S.
 Morris, Ronald E.
 Navarro, Raymond Jr.
 Ogden, Julie.
 O'Neal, Ivory L.
 Ounsombath, Viengkham S.
 Parker, Patrick W.
 Phillips, Thomas W.
 Ragland, Anthony
 Rainey, Christopher L.
 Rembert, Nathan C.
 Rhea, Ronald D.
 Rigsby, Virginia S.
 Rodgers, Timothy R.
 Rush, Joseph N.
 Schmidt, Joseph R.
 Scott, Marshall C.
 Shorts, Gary L.
 Silas, Jesse J. Jr.
 Silbaugh, Eric K.
 Smith, Christopher
 Smith, Debra L.
 Snetten, Michael L.
 Soria, Leroy
 Stephens, Clyde L.
 Tate, Dennis E.
 Thomas, Robert D.
 Torian, Ray O.
 Treece, Ricky N.
 Turner, Luicana N.
 Tutor, Dana M.
 Vaughn, Clifton C.
 Vernoy, Louis C. III
 Villanueva, Galdino M.
 Walker, Willie J.
 Wallace, Brandon L.
 Walters, Christopher U.
 West, David J.
 Wilkie, Walter Jr.
 Yocum, Donald P. Jr.
 Youngblood, Rodney D.

Sergeant

Age, Derrick M.
 Alavian, Shahand
 Albano, Scott E.
 Alexander, Dennis W. II
 Alvarez, Jose A. Jr.
 Bargman, Craig L.
 Barlow, Bill E.
 Bergeron, Alex J.
 Black, Dehavalyn S.
 Black, Michael D.



Britt, Shelly M.
 Bunn, Paul C.
 Chaney, Charles R.
 Cooper, Trenn L.
 Crespo, Daniel
 Cunningham, Tiffany A.
 Davidson, Clifford D.
 Davis, Christopher S.
 Davis, Gary D.
 Davis, Mario L.
 Dishman, Todd E.
 Drummer, Carl M.
 Duerr, John C.
 Feldtman, George D.
 Fentzke, Rebecca G.
 Flores, Monica
 Flurry, Fred R. Jr.
 Gahl, William A.
 Gallagher, Heather J.
 Gatewood, Martin K.
 Gilliam, Manuel
 Hague, Joseph M.
 Harrison, Heather H.
 Harrison, Patrick A.
 Hayes, Latonya J.
 Henry, Jason W.
 Herman, Richard H. Jr.
 Hess, Walter C.
 Holden, Stephanie W.
 Honesto, Paul A.
 Hooper, Rosa H.
 Hulce, Derrick G.
 Johnson, Brandon P.
 Johnson, Latarsha M.
 Jones, Charles E. Jr.
 Khan, Imran
 Kinsey, Darin L.
 Knauf, Joseph S.
 Lategola, Thomas C.
 Llerena, Jose L.
 Loftis, James B.
 Lomeli, Catherine M.
 Martinez, Damian
 McClary, Anthony W.
 McCoy, Tyrone D.
 Moise, Daniel E.
 Moore, Allen J.
 Morales, Christina C.
 Mosby, John S.
 Narcisse, Marcus D.
 Nickens, Aaron A.
 Nolin, Melvin R.
 Norris, Nathan F.
 Parrish, Michael J.
 Patterson, Adolfo IV
 Pechacek, Jeremy
 Pierce, Andy E.
 Proffitt, Scott A.
 Reed, Mark R.
 Reffitt, Robert A.



Rice, Nicholas A.
 Rosser, Michael D.
 Sanford, Leonard K.
 Sexton, Matthew R.
 Shannon, Joseph L.
 Smittle, Misty D.
 Solis, Sharon
 Spellman, Tim A.
 Star, Rita C.
 Thirakul, Phonhtry
 Thome, Dominic J.
 Transue, Jaime M.
 Trevino, John R. Jr.
 Wells, Derrick
 Wheeler, Christopher W.
 Wolfe, Richard T.

Specialist

Albishi, Faleh
 Andrews, April M.
 Beasley, Dustin L.
 Beddow, Randal J.
 Bouwman, Lewis G. II
 Brown, Robert E.
 Burdue, Kenneth E.
 Bureau, Theresa M.
 Crook, Roger W.
 Davenport, Lewis A.
 Dellinger, Aaron L.
 Dunlap, Anthony M.
 Farrell, Johnathon L.
 Frazer, Scot M.
 French, Mark A.
 Goodman, Alphonso T.
 Guthrie, Odis R.
 Harrison, Nakesha S.
 Howard, Carl D.
 James, Gene L. Jr.
 Jarman, Nicholas R.
 Jolly, Darrell L.
 Kelley, Mark W.
 Kiselis, John P. II.
 Lacock, Michelle M.
 Lainhart, Audry D.
 Lawson, Kevin R.
 Ledlow, William H.
 Mackey, Nicholas D.
 McBride, Pamela J.
 McDonald, Nathan K.
 Parsons, Bobby J. II
 Pennington, Ross I.
 Phillips, Beau D.
 Pope, Timothy W.
 Potter, Janis D.
 Rankin, Paul E.
 Rasdall, Bradley G.
 Riggs, Cameron M.
 Rogers, Roslyn D.
 Rumsey, Jamie L.
 Sarrington, Joseph J.



Promotions

Scott, Latora N.
 Shaw, Nicole L.
 Shields, Tanisha N.
 Stowe, Alicia C.
 Turner, Paul W.
 Williams, Tanisha L.

Private First Class

Bedford, Marcus A.
 Bruha, Ned T.
 Cargile, Billy G. II
 Carter, Jason C.
 Clark, Kera A.
 Coleman, Marion G. III
 Cook, Jeffrey S.
 Eberhardt, Kevin C.
 Elamin, Fatimah N.
 Franzen, Joel R.
 Frazier, Marangelys
 Garretson, Michael G.
 Haynes, Brittany K.
 Heptinstall, Patrick J.
 Herlan, Joshua O.
 Hickman, Gregory T.
 Jones, Jacob A.
 Kube, Mikka E.
 Malcolm, Grant A.
 Marion, Renee S.
 Martinez, Joel E.
 Moore, Likita R.
 Morris, Brendon M.
 Odom, Lemuel A.
 Perry, Clarence E.
 Pinto, Cesilvia G.
 Richardson, Stephen C.
 Roark, Gregory A.
 Rohler, Justin D.
 Rowell, April M.
 Shipps, Tiffany L.
 Simpson, Joshua R.
 Sterling, Jana L.
 Stovall, Adam D.
 Strayer, Jessica L.
 Thompson, Martina N.
 Tompkins, James C. II
 Torres, Edgar I.
 Whittington, Brad K.
 Wynniger, James B.
 Zumwalt, Nicholas L.



Private 2

Adams, Courtney D.
 Adkins, Latoyia E.
 Adkins, Tarus T.
 Alspach, Matthew D.
 Ball, Mark J.
 Beard, Drew A.
 Bethel, Tonya M.



Bierman, Jason A.
 Bishop, Darrell C.
 Blackwell, Connie L.
 Bouchard, Christian J.
 Bowen, Vance M. II
 Bragg, Lakeshia C.
 Brannum, James K.
 Brown, Tony J.
 Bruno, Sarah N.
 Calderon, Raymundo F. Jr.
 Campbell, Clarence D.
 Christopher, Aneshia K.
 Clugston, Rashawnda S.
 Curtis, Lisa M.
 Davis, Michelle L.
 Davis, Valencia J.
 Dillard, Angela L.
 Diven, Noble J.
 Domebo, Cynthia J.
 Franklin, Jeffrey L.
 Garcia, Israel
 Goetzcke, Cassandra L.
 Gonzalez, Ina L.
 Gonzalez, Villarreal C.
 Gottschalk, Julia A.
 Green, Tacarra L.
 Hancock, Alfred J.
 Harless, Nickolas A.
 Harris, Johnny J. Jr.
 Jordan-Lewis, Katherine C.
 Kaylor, David G.
 Keith, Peter J.
 McDaniel, Brandon W.
 McGaugh, Adam L.
 Morris, Martina A.
 Myers, Eddie J. Jr.
 Nabinger, Eric R.
 Nation, Hilary D.
 Negron-Cruz, Trino
 Null, Jason W.
 Parks, Moriah B.
 Pashby, Melanie G.
 Peterson, Charles R.
 Phillips, Brenda J.
 Pigg, Adam B.
 Plunkett, Jeremy A.
 Richardson, Erin M.
 Ryan, Mark L. Jr.
 Sanford, Shannon K.
 Schaefer, Jonathan P.
 Shehee, Alicia A.
 Singleton, Evangeline Y.
 Smith, Kiera M.
 Stone, Michael J.
 Torry, Briana A.
 Tyler, Joshua E.
 Walker, Amiee N.
 West, Ivory B. III
 Whitmore, Cody A.
 Woodward, Jason D.



IRONMAN Fact

Ironmen, or Victory Division?

Many know the 95th Division by the phrase emblazoned on the Division crest: “The Ironmen of Metz.”

This wasn’t always the case. The original nickname of the 95th was the “Victory Division,” a moniker still used for the division.

The nickname was given to the division in a somewhat more peaceful circumstance than in World War II. After the reactivation in 1942, and a move from Texas to Camp Polk, La., the division newspaper, “The Journal,” sponsored a contest to pick the nickname for the division. The white “V” for victory used in the unit patch inspired “Victory Division,” which henceforth became the nickname.

Embattled with German troops occupying France in World War II, soldiers from the Third Reich bestowed the nickname “Ironmen of Metz” to the Division after the fall of Metz, France.

Metz was one of the most heavily fortified cities in Europe during World War II. The city had withstood all attacks by military forces since 451 A.D.

Occupied by Germans fully intending to maintain this record, the city was captured by the Americans, many from the 95th Division, only after some of the bloodiest fighting the war.

Both names are proper nicknames, and either can be used describing the 95th Division.



95th Division (IT)
Public Affairs Office
5316 So. Douglas Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73150

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