

The Blade



63rd Regional Support Command, Los Alamitos, Calif., Summer 2002

**Soldier Medics
Train for War**

**Female General
Makes History
at 63rd RSC**

**'Real World' MPs
Enforce Law
at Fort Bliss**



The Army is changing

The Army has entered a period of profound change complicated by some government leaders and agencies that do not agree with our current direction as forged by the Army chief of staff. We have moved from a Cold War strategy of responding to a specific threat to one based on preparing for many types of dangers.

The 63rd Regional Support Command stands at the highest state of readiness ever. We must remain flexible and engaged and not fall prey to adding soldiers and units at the expense of maintaining readiness.

There will be a tendency to close one's mind to change, but I ask every soldier and civilian of the command to work together as a team, to be forward thinking and to support the decisions of our higher headquarters.

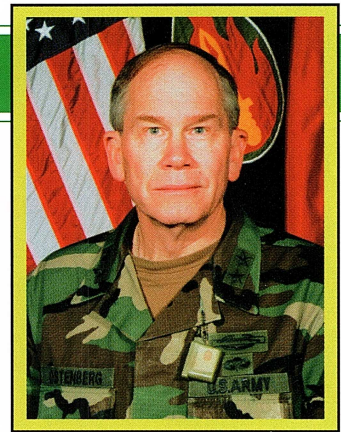
I will fight for stability and sustaining our command's structure if the end-state supports the chief's transformation plan for the future. The current War on Terrorism has, in some cases, increased the rate of our transformation, and also curtailed the attempts to reduce the size of the Army.

We currently have almost 500 soldiers serving in support of Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. They are from 14 units and serving on almost 40 teams both here and overseas. We also have soldiers supporting the peace actions in Bosnia and Kosovo. All of these soldiers are engaged in essential service to our nation's defensive strategy and they are doing an outstanding job.

We can be proud of their selfless service and of their professionalism. Reports I receive from their commanders are highly charged with praise and gratitude for their support.

Please continue your prayers for our fellow soldiers who may be in harm's way and for their families as they cope with the challenges of life without their loved ones by their side.

Maj. Gen. Robert B. Ostenberg
Commanding General



To 63rd RSC: Farewell

To the soldiers and families of the 63rd RSC:

As I prepare to retire from the U.S. Army in the next couple of months, I want to express to each of you my appreciation for the great sacrifice that you make to help keep our great nation free.

It has been an honor and pleasure for me to have served as your command sergeant major. These past four years have slipped by very fast, and I want to leave you with some advice:

- Take care of our soldiers; they are willing to give their lives if needed and they deserve the best that we can provide to

them.

- Live the Army Values and set the example.
- Get all the education you can, at both military and university levels;
- Remember: The only limitation in life is you.

Please keep foremost in your minds, as the Army Reserve continues to deploy units and soldiers of the 63rd RSC are called to the colors, that our nation needs you more now than ever before.

May God bless you, your families and America.

Don Aday
Command Sergeant Major

Top Talk

The Blade



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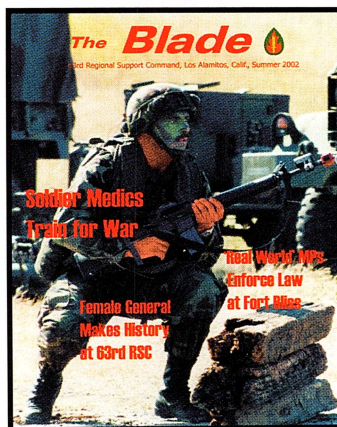
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Front Cover: Staff Sgt. Mark Dubie of 921st Field Hospital prepares for action during annual training at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, Calif.
Photographer: Staff Sgt. Kent Ambrose

Back Cover: Soldiers from the 437th Medical Company load up "patient" Dylan Volaski, 8, into an ambulance during Torrance Armed Forces Day. From left, are Spc. Chris Fenrich, Sgt. Jake Barkero and Spc. Rudy Flores.
Photographer: John D. Wagner

SOUND OFF!

What Do You Think of the New Berets?



"The issued ones are hard to work with. A lot of soldiers don't wear them properly. The one I purchased at a surplus store is better."

Sgt. Oscar Torrez
314th Military Police Company

"I like the berets. They stand for unity and help build esprit de corps in the service."



Sgt. 1st Class Gustave Bloom
419th Quartermaster Battalion



"I like the new beret. It inspires loyalty to the Army and patriotism to our nation. It makes you feel proud to be a soldier."

Maj. Robert Quint
63rd RSC Inspector General Office

"I don't have a problem with them. I wore a beret during active-duty at Fort Bragg."



Sgt. Cynthia Middleton
968th Quartermaster Company

President raises home loan ceiling

Legislation recently signed by President Bush increases the guaranty on Department of Veterans Affairs home loans from \$50,750 to \$60,000.

The increase means eligible veterans can use their loan benefit to purchase a home costing as much as \$240,000 without a down payment.

Many lenders will make VA no-down-payment loans for four times the maximum guaranty amounts, said Judy Caden, deputy director of the VA's Loan Guarantee Service.

"We recommended increasing the loan guaranty a couple of years ago because of rising housing costs in places like Washington, California and the New England area," she said. "The Mortgage Bankers Association and other groups have also been pushing for it."

—From *American Forces Press Service*

Reserve Message Board Supports Soldiers

The Office of Chief of Army Reserve has created a *Public Support to the Troops* electronic message bulletin board to support deployed Reserve soldiers.

The message board can be used to send general greetings, words of encouragement, and other announcements to more than 10,000 Army Reservists who have been called up to support the war against terrorism. Messages should be limited to about 40 words.

The message address is SupportTheTroops@ocar.army.pentagon.mil. The message board can be seen through the U.S. Army Reserve website at www.army.mil/usar/.

—From *Army Reserve Home Page*

Army starts self-service website with career info

The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command has introduced a self-service website allowing soldiers to volunteer for Operation Enduring Freedom or review personnel information.

The site, at www.2xCitizen.usar.army.mil, contains the portal "My2xCitizen" that allows the soldier a comprehensive view of their career-related information and to customize and manage their career.

The portal contains functions that include:

- retention and readiness information such as security clearance, separation dates, and other information;
- electronic personnel and retirement documents;
- contact information;
- customizable windows and components for personalization.

To access the portal, soldiers must obtain an Army Knowledge Online login and password. They can do so through www.us.army.mil.

—From *Army Reserve Media Release*

E-card will help soldiers in distance-learning

Soldiers in professional development courses will soon be given a credit-card-sized E-card to help them with research projects.

The E-card will fit into a computer's CD-ROM drive. When inserted, it will automatically show the links to military websites and other distance-learning resources.

The cards will be part of an enhanced computerized learning system set for completion in 2003.

Soldiers in officer and NCO education systems as well as distance-learning courses will work at computers preloaded with the E-card information.

—From *ARNEWS*

Team zaps family problems stemming from deployments

With deployments continuing and family problems flaring up as a result, 63rd RSC has formed a three-person “quick-reaction” team to help soldiers and spouses as soon as possible.

“Family members don’t have to feel isolated and depressed (with their problems),” insisted Maj. Ron Rallis, legal officer with the 78th Legal Support Organization and chief of the Family Readiness Assistance Team.

Rallis said the team has helped at least 25 people since its inception last January and that the concept is a first in the Army Reserve.

Consisting of Rallis, Chaplain (Col.) Donald Forden and nurse Lt. Col. Beverly Houghton, they quickly assess and give whatever specialized help is needed.

On one occasion a person was suicidal. Forden quickly intervened to prevent a tragedy. Houghton has assisted people with medical problems. And legal problems often arise such as family members being evicted. Rallis and other Army attorneys have helped with legal counsel.

The attorneys have come to the rescue when spouses from a previous marriage have tried to get custody of children following a soldier’s deployment. Rallis emphasized that single-parent soldiers can have a substantial safeguard in this area by filling out “temporary guardianship” documents in their 63rd RSC family-care plan.

Rallis can be reached at (714) 758-4615 (p) or through the 78th at (714) 229-3700.

Soldiers train against bomb threats

By Allen Evans

63rd RSC Office of the Provost Marshal

To prepare for the worst, soldiers in the 63rd RSC headquarters building shuffled through cabinets, probed under tables and pulled open drawers in a realistic training exercise.

The scenario was a phoned-in bomb threat. Of the 20-odd people in the building, about 12 divided into search teams of two people each. The rest evacuated to a parking lot about 300 yards from the building. The exercise was held by the command provost marshal.

“The search teams started from the farthest office and moved forward,” said Staff Sgt. Charles Taum, facility manager and participant. “They had to turn off all electronic equipment such as a cell phone or pager that could detonate a bomb.”

He said the teams then checked

at floor level and then escalated to waist level, to eye level and then to ceiling level—including checking to see if any ceiling panels had been moved. They also opened windows to prevent back-blast pressure.

The search teams did not find a mock bomb—a piece of rubber tubing labeled “bomb training device” hidden in the men’s latrine. However, in a real threat situation they would receive additional help from local police and fire fighters.

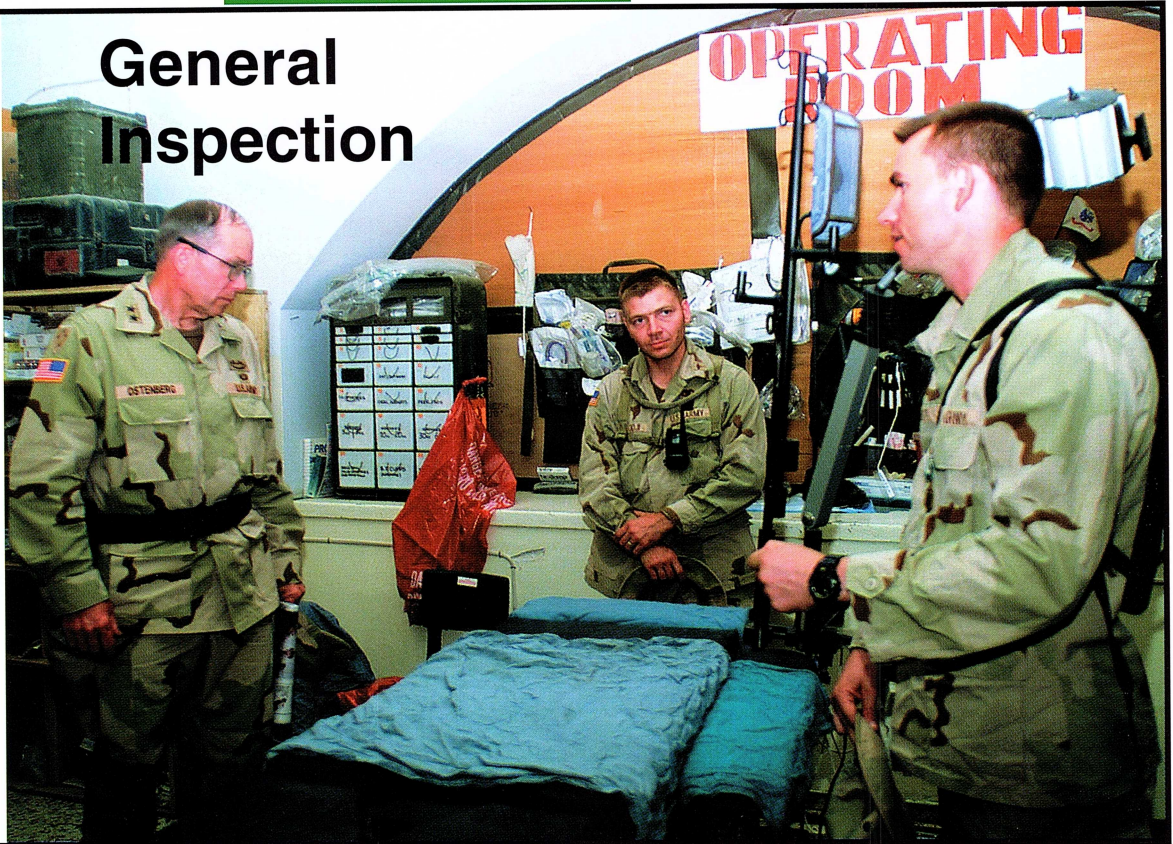
“A lot was learned,” said James Perry, operations officer, in an after-action assessment. “We will correct the shortfalls in the next exercise.” Command officials recommend all units have a prepared bomb-evacuation plan. The provost marshal is distributing bomb-threat-management videos to units in the command. For more information, call (562) 795-2676.



Heroes Night
Soldiers and family members show appreciation at the recent “Heroes on the Homefront” event at the Cottonwood Christian Center in Los Alamitos, Calif. The church honored soldiers and family members from the 314th Military Police Company, which deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas, for homeland defense. (See story on page 14.) The church organized both a dinner and gifts during the evening. About 250 people attended. (Photo by John D. Wagner)

General Inspection

Maj. Gen. Robert B. Ostenberg, commander of 63rd RSC, visits operating room of the 1980th Medical Detachment, deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan. With him are Capt. David Kolodji (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Brian McNutt. (Photo by Spc. Kevin Buckley, 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Hail to the Chief



Pfc. Ernest Martinez, center, of the 314th MP Company applauds as President Bush speaks at Fort Bliss, Texas. The 314th, out of Irvine, Calif., was deployed to Bliss for homeland defense. (Photo by Capt. Deanna Bague)

63rd infantry general dies at age 93

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) William J. Hixson, commander of the 63rd Infantry Division in the 1960s when it was an Army Reserve unit died recently in Los Angeles after a stroke. He was 93.

Born in Louisville, Ky., Hixson enlisted in the California Army National Guard in 1927. He later served in several officer positions with the 133rd Infantry during World War II in Northern Africa and Anzio, Italy, and was wounded in action.

A career soldier, Hixson commanded the 63rd from 1961 to 1965 when it was headquartered in Los Angeles.

He heavily emphasized soldiers attending intense summer annual training at Camp Roberts, Camp Hunter Liggett and Camp Irwin. The division was inactivated in late 1965, but was

reactivated and reorganized in 1968 as the 63rd Army Reserve Command.

Hixson's awards included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge.

As a civilian, Hixson worked as a sales executive with Southern California Gas Company and served as president of his Lions Club chapter, National Sojourners and the Reserve Officers Association.

Hixson was honored at a memorial service held at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif.

He is survived by his wife Elva, daughter Sandra Sarnoff, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Maj. Gen. William Hixson

Remembering Courage



Irene Gut Opdyke, author of "In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer," speaks at the 63rd RSC's annual "Days of Remembrance" luncheon held in Cypress, Calif. Opdyke, a Polish Catholic, worked as a maid for Ger-

man officers during World War II as a teen and hid Jews targeted for extermination. More than 100 people attended the event, which promotes tolerance and commemorates the Holocaust. (Photo by John D. Wagner)

Cat Man Do

Glore rescues felines, spearheads fielding of new trucks, weapons

Story and photo by John D. Wagner

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif.—The base was being overrun by a stealthy foe two years ago and Steve Glore decided to take action.

Who were these elusive predators? Wild cats—more than 100 tabbies, calicos, persians and others.

“They were multiplying exponentially,” Glore said. “Some tenants thought they were ‘wild attack cats.’ Others were concerned about diseases.”

A true cat lover, Glore wanted to take the humane route. He contacted the Seal Beach Animal Shelter and obtained some wire cages with spring mechanisms. He caught more than 80 felines roaming the Joint Forces Training Base. He had them spayed or neutered and found homes for about 50 kittens.

Glore, a management analyst in the 63rd RSC force development section, specializes in bettering the command in another way. He coordinates fielding—acquiring of and training for—updated equipment such as trucks, machineguns, chemical-agent monitors and others. He typically spearheads expenditures of more than \$5 million per year.

“The Army is constantly looking for new and better ways of doing business,” said Glore, 42.

In 1999, he spearheaded the fielding of more than 100 Palletized Load Systems—a truck and trailer with a mechanical arm that lifts pallets loaded with ammunition, petroleum products or other crucial supplies.

He has also helped obtain 100 of the Heavy Equipment Transporter—a massive tractor trailer that hauls the 68-ton M-1 Abrams tank. In another area, he helped the command acquire the Improved Chemical Agent Monitor—a hand-held device slightly resembling a videocamera that detects nerve and blister agents and nuclear contamination.

The son of a corn farmer and cattleman, Glore was born in Flat River, Mo., and later raised in Rialto, Calif. He joined the Army as a medic in the 1970s and later became an officer. He is currently a Reserve major in 387th Maintenance Battalion.



Steve Glore cradles Dutchess, one of his pet cats.

The blue-eyed administrator with an easy smile has another passion—the German language.

His wife Sabine is director of the Costa Mesa-Huntington Beach German American School, which teaches the language on Saturday mornings. Glore makes himself available as a substitute teacher.

His interest began while assigned to Germany in the late 1970s. He developed a great appreciation for that nation’s language and culture and met his wife there.

“I established a strong rapport with the friends I developed,” Glore said. “It increased my desire to learn the language. My wife was my tutor.”

He later spent a year at the University of Heidelberg and earned a bachelor’s degree in German from California State University-Long Beach.

Meanwhile, Glore has about seven cats, fixed and immunized that need adoptive homes.

“I was raised with a healthy respect for all animals,” he said. “Cats are neat animals. They are such affectionate creatures.”

For cat adoption, call (562) 795-2710.

Soldier, NCO contest adds hands-on tasks

Story and photo by John D. Wagner

Spc. Robert Molina readied his stop watch as the soldier in front of him stood poised for the signal.

"Your standard is to don the protective mask and tighten the straps in nine seconds," Molina said. "Gas!"

In a flash, Sgt. 1st Class Ayyud Nasir of the 483rd Transportation Battalion snapped open his carrying case. He yanked out his mask, plopped it against his face, tightened the straps, and blew to get a "seal."

Unit training during a drill? No. The event was the 63rd RSC Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year competition. Traditionally the competitors would just stand before a board and answer questions. This year, command sergeants major added new events--an Army Physical Readiness Test, then hands-on soldiering with Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare skills, first aid and map reading.

The decision was made by Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Aday because the final-level competition at Department of the Army includes the new tests.

"So I decided to include them this year in 63rd RSC," Aday said. "This adds a new dimension and has made it more challenging."

Soldiers came from units in California, Arizona and Nevada to compete. Sgt. Michael Ryan of 348th Transportation Company in Phoenix won NCO of the Year. Spc. Jonathan Boucher of the 355th Chemical Company in Las Vegas won Soldier of the Year.

In another area, Spc. Collin Sorlie of the 368th Military Intelligence Battalion showed his knowledge in first aid. Fellow competitor Spc. Rachel Rojas, lay on the floor as the "victim."

"You see the casualty go down," explained Sgt. 1st Class Robert Condit of the 176th Medical Group, describing the scenario. "This is a non-NBC environment and out in the field somewhere. The victim is conscious and will talk to you."

Sorlie began by talking to the victim.

"Specialist, are you okay?"



Spc. Jonathan Boucher, 63rd RSC Soldier of the Year, competes in map reading.

"Can you breathe okay?" he asked. He said to Condit, "I am now checking for bleeding, checking for shock and looking for burns."

The next day, the five junior enlisted and two NCOs stood before a board of five sergeants major to be grilled with questions on soldiers skills.

Ryan recalled it as the toughest part of the competition. "I was nervous," he said. "On one subject, Battle Focus Training, I did poorly. But after that, I don't think I missed any questions."

Boucher reflected after the event ended.

"I was relieved," he said. "It was a very stressful situation. I know we're going to do well at USARC (U.S. Army Reserve Command--the next level of competition)."

It was the second time Ryan had won a title. In 2000, he won Soldier of the Year. "The last time I lost at 5th Army (the next higher level at that time)," he recalled. "But this time I want to see how far I can go. This is a real challenge to better myself. I plan on making command sergeant major one day."



Sgt. Michael Ryan

Action at Camp Parks

Troops train in combat scenario; meanwhile, engineers build bridge

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Kent Ambrose

PARKS RESERVE FORCES TRAINING AREA, Calif.—A lab tech, dietician and a medical supply specialist, clad in full “battle rattle” field gear and sporting camo makeup, move in a tactical stride across a grassy field.

The lab tech gives arm signals to his squad, a quick-reaction-force team. The other two soldiers find cover behind an avocado-green storage container.

The team was performing a function crucial in battle—protecting a field hospital in the midst of war.

“You have to defend the hospital and keep the patients safe,” said Sgt. Anthony D. Lawrence, a laboratory technician. “We have to keep it running.”

The exercise was dubbed “California Medic.” The quick-reaction troops were among about 90 soldiers from the 921st Field Hospital who patrolled, fought occasional battles and treated mannequin “patients.” The unit also went through a challenging four-day field training exercise, hosted by the Parks Regional Training Site-Medical, an area called RTS-Med.

In the fog of war, the scenario changed swiftly and unpredictably for the hospital surrounded by about 30 tents. Burn victims came in, an NBC attack came, and the commander, Col. Daniel Clark was “killed.”

“But he was resurrected as his ‘evil twin,’” recalled Sgt. 1st Class Ben Lucas, with amusement. “He came back as Col. Peter Q. Clark, started (verbally) tearing up the staff and issuing orders.”



Hospital medical soldiers check “patient” during intense training exercise. From left are Maj. Patrick Williams, Capt. Barbara Bradburn and Sgt. Vinci Biagtan.

The scenario tested the unit’s ability to receive, treat and rehabilitate the wounded and defend the hospital against enemy attack. Hospital operations included sorting or “triage,” NBC patient decontamination, patient administration, care wards, and physical therapy. Patients arrived by ambulance, as many as four at a time.

“Pull him up on three,” directed practical nurse and minimal-care-ward master, Spc. Gregory R. Leclerc to Pfc. Julie Lao, a medic. Their patient was a mannequin named “Bill,” with multiple cuts. “Feel all right?” asked Leclerc.

Pfc. Monique L. Armstrong and her team donned their NBC protec-

tive gear and went into action as biological and chemically contaminated patients arrived at the decontamination point. “I oversee what the soldiers are doing and make sure everyone does their job,” said Armstrong, a medical supply specialist who has been on the unit’s decontamination (decon) team for the past two annual exercises.

Army psychiatrist and chief of medical services, Capt. Bruce E. Burns and his staff triaged wounded patients, taking their vital signs and preparing them for the care wards. According to Burns his job is to quickly assess the severity of the injuries and the patient’s medical needs. “We are going to learn how to com-



Soldiers from the 801st Engineer Company work at constructing a pavilion at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area. From left are, Sgt. Leland Ng, Staff Sgt. Frederick Jose, Staff Sgt.

Jan Kulisek, Spc. Mohammed Kahn, Sgt. Robert Well, Sgt. Lam Tran, Spc. Trajel Smith and Sgt. William Monroe.

municate and learn how to bend,” commented Burns, referring to the challenges of a minimal staff and the many scenarios.

Meanwhile, at another area of Parks, hammers pounded, saws buzzed and drills whirred, as 46 soldiers of the 801st Engineer Company constructed a pavillion—wooden shelter with eight legs—and a 60-foot wooden footbridge. “We already have people asking us when the pavillion is going to be done,” commented Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P. Gieskin, operations sergeant. “This is for troop morale to have barbecues. This will be the sixth we have built here in two years.”

Before the crew could lay the redwood planks down Spc. Charles F. Yanez, Army excavator operator and Coca cola truck driver as a civilian , scooped up large amounts of dirt with a huge mechanical shovel and backfilled each end of the bridge abutments—concrete foundation blocks.

Completing the projects seemed to be a boon for the soldiers who train monthly at Parks. Troops at Parks planned to use the pavillion for the Memorial Day weekend. The bridge built from steel beams and redwood measured 60 feet long, 10 feet wide and was planned to serve soldiers, allowing them to cross a muddy drainage ditch walking from a parking lot to the dining facility.

The 801st soldiers completed one bridge and started a second larger one, planned for 80 feet. The larger bridge was set for completion in late July. “You’re busy all the time here, with a lot of cross-training,” said Spc. Jason Airoidi, construction equipment specialist.



Spc. Jon Herrejon of 921st Field Hospital heads for action during Parks exercise.

She's a 'star'

Dacier becomes first female general in 63rd

Story by John D. Wagner

Photo by Melissa McLawhten

Strapping on a belt with a shiny gold buckle, displaying a silver star on her beret and smiling when applause broke out, Donna Dacier made history as the first female general officer within 63rd RSC.

As deputy commander since October, she was promoted to brigadier general in a June ceremony. Dacier's achievement put her into an elite handful in the Army Reserve. There are only nine women among 143 generals.

"Today I thank the Army Reserve for the greatest opportunity of my professional life," said Dacier, a soldier for 28 years. "Hooah!"

As a civilian, she owns an audio-book business. As an Army Reservist, Dacier came to the three-state 63rd RSC after commanding the 653rd Area Support Group in Moreno Valley, Calif. As a major subordinate unit within the 63rd, she administered the 1,600-soldier command in specialties including communications, maintenance, supply and military police. Maj. Albert Thompson, 653rd executive officer, described Dacier as a skilled delegator. "She empowers her staff once they show they can do the job," he said. "And she really cares about soldiers from privates on up. If she can help you, she will."

'You should see a bunch of women with M-16s. It was never dull.'

Dacier has pushed the envelope and struck out for new territory at various points in her life. The daughter of rubber salesman who served as Navy radio operator in World War II, she grew up in Glade Springs, Va.

After graduating from Western Maryland College with a bachelor's degree in English literature and composition in the 1970s, she declined to go the familiar routes for women. "I didn't want to be a teacher, I couldn't stand the sight of blood so nursing was out, and I wasn't looking to be a housewife," she said. "The volunteer Army was getting started, so I thought 'Why not?'"

It was a period of transition right before the Women's Army Corps was phased out in 1976. "People told us we would qualify with M-16s, set Claymores and that 'you'll be hot and sweaty and miserable,'" she said. "We

were excited. You should see a bunch of women with M-16s. It was never dull."

She spent three years of active duty at Fort Gordon, Ga. as a signal officer and instructor. She and other women faced sexual harassment there before the term was even used. "It was rampant then," she recalled. "And it was driving a lot of women out of the service."

Dacier communicated various techniques for women to assert themselves. Sometimes it was something simple such as: "Sir, is that part of the program of instruction?" Sometimes it involved stronger retorts. Later, Dacier worked at the Pentagon for the Office of Chief, Army Reserve. She became an expert chief program analyst.

"My job was to get as much money for training programs as I could," she said. Her technique was to extensively survey other armed forces data bases, and find hidden pools of money not being used. "I would make it known and then convince people that we needed that money," she said. "I funneled about \$400 million over the (five years) that I was there."

Afterward, she graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces of the National Defense University as distinguished honor graduate for the class of 1997. Subsequently, she headed the 335th Theater Signal Command forward telecommunications element in Saudi Arabia, which managed all the communication in that area.

As a civilian, Dacier owns an audio book business in Corona, Calif. Her customers vary widely. She says such books benefit soldiers as well. "A lot of people including NCOs and officers listen to these," she said. "They listen to books on leadership, history and self-improvement. People in the military like to be well informed."



Brig. Gen. Donna Dacier

Boat troops haul vehicles to beach

Soldiers work with Marines; admiral reups NCO on shore

Story by Maj. Felix Boston

1397th Terminal Transportation Brigade

Photos by 1st Sgt. Rick Harmon

481st Transportation Company

MOSS LANDING, Calif.—In an intensive weekend of training, 63rd RSC soldiers thrust a 450-ton boat onto a shore here amid a roaring surf and 5-foot waves to practice vehicle-unloading skills.

The interservice exercise, involving the 481st Transportation Company out of Mare Island Reserve Center, started with a 12-hour, overnight trip through what was then a calm sea. Their “ride” was a 175-foot, Landing Craft Utility, a boat that can haul heavy vehicles, including tanks, during wartime.

The 15 soldiers trained in various ways during the trip over, as well.

“The crew conducted a fire-training drill in San Pablo Bay,” recalled Capt. Mark Evans, operations officer of 483rd Transportation Battalion, higher headquarters for the 481st.

“We sounded the fire bell and the team reported to the deck. About six people donned fire suits and sprayed with the fire hose. People rotated holding the hose and using different nozzles.”

The journey was about 90 miles each way. The following morning, the soldiers plowed the craft right up onto the beach and dropped down the front ramp in a rough surf.

About 40 Marines and an observing Naval admiral participated. The Marines, out of San Jose and San



Boat company soldiers prepare to unload Landing Craft Unit.

Diego, set up beach markers—large colorful flags—to show the soldiers where they should land the craft and drive out a vehicle. Soldiers of the 481st transported three hummers. To speed up training, they repeatedly unloaded one. Other 63rd units were involved as well. The 201st Transportation Detachment assisted with the beach markers. The 6632nd Port Security Company provided security.

The first attempt to drive a hummer off the ramp resulted in mishap. The driver apparently came down the ramp too fast, broke a steering rod, with the vehicle falling into the surf. Ultimately, the soldiers from the 201st hooked up a 5-ton truck to the hummer and dragged it out of the water.

Though the problem was unexpected, the action taken was valuable training, noted 1st Sgt. Rick Harmon of the 481st. “It was handled in a very efficient way,” he said. “After that,

the unloading was flawless. It was like driving on a bridge.”

As the 481st soldiers practiced the landing and unloading over and over, several dozen citizens came out to watch the exercise.

They commented that it was exciting to see a large Army boat coming up on the shore. Some soldiers even handed out gold sergeant stripes to kids, Harmon said.

In another development, Naval Reserve Rear Adm. William Butler, deputy commander of Amphibious Group 3, performed a reenlistment ceremony for Staff Sgt. Walter Carbaugh of the 201st.

And why not?

“We’re in the Army’s “navy,” observed Chief Warrant Officer David Feil, boat commander in the exercise. “And we speak the same lingo. “We have more in common with the Navy than other soldiers.”

Lifesaver: Soldier receives awards for saving accident-victim

Story and photo by John D. Wagner

LACROSSE, Wis.—A gory traffic pileup was the last thing Staff Sgt. Dennis Rodriguez expected or wanted on a late night return from Wisconsin site seeing.

At 1 a.m. last year, Rodriguez and two other soldiers were returning to Fort McCoy, when they saw a crowd of people waving. The soldiers passed and then turned around.

“We could see it was a bad accident,” recalled Rodriguez, assigned with the 7214th Installation Medical Support Unit in Garden Grove, Calif., and attending a school at McCoy. “A car had hit a light pole and was really smashed. The passenger hit the windshield hard.”

Rodriguez took action that later earned him two awards for heroism.

The injured man, not wearing his seat belt, was semi-conscious and bleeding profusely from severe head injuries. And there were other problems. The car, a red Pontiac, was emitting smoke. The soldiers couldn’t get the doors open. And the other people didn’t want them doing anything.

“They said, ‘Leave it like that for the paramedics,’ ” recalled Rodriguez, 45. “I said ‘Did you call the paramedics?’ and no one had.”

The NCO with graying hair could see the victim was going into a coma. Suddenly, yanking hard, the soldiers pried the driver’s side door open.

“It was like a miracle,” Rodriguez said. “I then crawled inside to get a better look.”

He started applying pressure to the victim’s wound and holding his neck still. “I couldn’t get him out of the car,” Rodriguez said. “He was about 6 feet tall.”

The paramedics had trouble finding the location and were delayed, Rodriguez said. They eventually arrived and cracked open the passenger-side door with a “jaws of life” device.

They told Rodriguez to keep up the pressure even when they were pulling him out of the car. Rodriguez says he held the victim for about an hour. In the end, he said, “my arms and legs were tired.”

The “smoke” from the car was eventually determined to be steam, but the soldiers didn’t know that during the ordeal.

The driver of the car had taken off. The police later found him. Official records indicate his blood-alcohol level was .205. The accident victim survived, and was later scheduled for extensive plastic surgery.

Rodriguez is the training NCO for the 7214th. His



Staff Sgt. Dennis Rodriguez, wearing a medal, demonstrates how he saved an accident victim’s life, on Sgt. John Guzman of the 176th Medical Group.

duties include setting up people for schools, developing the annual training schedule and supervising medical exams at the unit. He is an experienced emergency medical technician for 23 years and has helped others with serious injuries, such as in Germany; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and Fort Rucker, Ala.

He estimates he has dealt with six other injuries as serious as the one in Wisconsin. For saving the victim’s life last year, the LaCrosse police department gave him a Citizen Service Award. Later, he received a certificate and medal as part of induction into the American Police Hall of Fame in Miami. Fort McCoy has requested a Soldier’s Medal, Rodriguez said.

Lt. Ray Serres of the LaCrosse police, was on the scene and later put in the paperwork for the citizen award.

“It was probably one of the worst injuries I’ve seen on a person,” Serres said. “If it hadn’t been quickly attended to, I’m sure the guy would have perished. He (Rodriguez) did an excellent job.”

SWAT training and drug busts

Deployed MPs train and make arrests at Fort Bliss

Story by John D. Wagner
and

Spc. Mark Miranda

Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office

FORT BLISS, Texas—Standing at his guard station with a backdrop of dust and swirling winds, Sgt. Michael Tayupanta was taken aback by a musky smell seeping from an entering soldier's pick up truck.

"At first we stopped him because he had no entrance decal," Tayupanta recalled. "Then he rolled down the window and there was an odor of marijuana. He was obviously under the influence. We searched the car with dogs and found some stems, leaves and buds. I arrested him and the investigators took over from there."

The bust led to Tayupanta receiving a coin from the 76th Military Police Battalion commander at Bliss. "I felt like I was recognized," Tayupanta said. "It was pretty cool."

It was a high point in the ups and downs for 70 soldiers from the 314th MP Company out of Irvine, Calif. deployed to the post in the Texas desert far from home. Now they are taking SWAT training, making arrests each day ...and hoping one day to go home.

The MPs were mobilized last October along with thousands of other service members nationwide after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Their assignment could last two years.

For the reservists, who left behind wives, children and civilian careers, it was a radical shift to "real world" law enforcement.

Their normal mission during week-end drills had been training to handle enemy prisoners of war and civilian internees. At Bliss, working with the post's 978th MP Company, they staff guard stations at the entrance gate, patrol the sprawling post in white police sedans and respond to radio dis-



Staff Sgt. Donald Bragg, right, of the 314th MP Company prepares to search a car with Spc. Michael Bridges of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bliss. (Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Miller)

patches to help people on the installation. While staffing the gates, the 314th soldiers check IDs, conduct random car searches and have arrested various people for being intoxicated and for drug violations.

Meanwhile, the patrolling takes on some of the duties of civilian police officers, according to Capt. Willie Triplett, commander of the 314th.

"They may cite people for speeding, such as doing 35 (mph) in a 15," Triplett said. "Or they may respond to calls such as domestic disputes where a husband is beating his wife. In one, they found marijuana in several parts of the house."

The soldiers have found some time as well to train in handling POWs--their wartime mission.

They have also engaged in various types of job-related instruction as well. About 60 of them even trained for a week with the El Paso, Texas SWAT team.

"That was the first time they had done that," Triplett noted. "They practiced building searches, riot-and-

crowd-control and felony car stops--such as for someone with a gun or a stolen vehicle."

Sometimes they encounter the unexpected. Last March two of the soldiers, who had traveled to hear a speech by President Bush, helped save a woman's life after she collapsed from a stroke while standing in a crowd. The incident occurred soon after Bush arrived at El Paso International Airport.

Staff Sgt. James Araiza recalled that he, Staff Sgt. Fernando Franco and a soldier from another unit carried her to an area to rest.

"We had no cell phone, but luckily we found a Secret-Service man who used his phone to call for (medical) help," he said.

For the 314th, there were some initial tensions in working with the active-duty MPs at Bliss, soldiers said.

Said Franco: "I think there has been the normal amount of skepticism that would follow a visiting MP unit. It's typical, but overall we've learned to work together and accomplish the mission."

Running Strong



Maj. Gen. Robert Ostberg, commander of 63rd RSC, leads soldiers during the City of Los Alamitos 22nd annual 5K/10K Run at Los Alamitos Army Airfield in February. Soldiers from several units throughout the Califor-

nia Southland took part. Teams from the 113th Medical Company took first and second place in the 5K event military-team category. The 185th Medical Company team placed third. (Photo by John D. Wagner)

Chaplain's Column

Thoughts on 'rising from the ashes'

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John South

Rebuilding the Pentagon has been dubbed the "Phoenix Project," symbolic of the legendary bird rising from the ashes. It was a privilege for me (as chaplain for the Phoenix Police Department) to present a plaque addressed to the Pentagon's police officers and to all Pentagon employees.

The award honored those officers who saved many lives in the rescue efforts following Sept. 11, and saluted the rebuilding program as well.

Former 63rd RSC commander, Maj. Gen. John L. Scott, attended and spent more than an hour telling us how inspired and impressed he was with all the men and women working at the Pentagon.

He told us about unselfish dedication and commitment to the war effort. He spoke of people who refused to leave the day of the attack, to stay as a part of the rescue effort. The stories are truly indicative of the principles and loyalty

this nation was founded upon.

Rising from the ashes is a metaphorical description to me that death and resurrection are a part of God's eternal plan. God does hear us.

Three days after the terrorist attack, President George W. Bush stated, "We are here in the midst of grief. So many have suffered so great a loss. We come before God to pray.... We learn in tragedy that God's purposes are not always our own. Yet, the prayers of private suffering, whether in our homes or in this great cathedral are known and heard and understood."

Let us all remember to pray for those in the Pentagon arena who continue to protect our lives by leading our military at home and abroad.

In closing, thank God for the men and women serving God and country, some at the cost of their own lives.

Showing Our Stuff: Troops drive huge trucks, blare out music in annual Torrance parade

Story and photos by John D. Wagner

On an overcast day with hundreds of people lining the streets, 63rd RSC soldiers marched, rumbled along in huge vehicles and set up colorful displays to honor the military.

The event was the annual Torrance Armed Forces Day parade last May.

The 300th Army Band, clad in battle dress uniforms, blared out the Army song and smartly saluted the parade's grand marshal. Other soldiers from the 257th Transportation Company stood on a 48-wheel heavy-equipment transporter trailer carrying a humvee with a black and gold "Army of One" banner.

"We serpented through the route and threw candy to the kids," recalled Sgt. Anthony Grimando. "I love this. This is my second time here. We do a lot of parades in Las Vegas (the unit location) as well."

In a display area, Sgt. Sean Sorey of the 326th Finance Group coached youngsters using the *weaponeer*, a computerized M-16 rifle, in which the shooter "fires" at a target on a video screen.

"Pull your body and head forward so you can get a better shot," Sorey said to Farav Hussain, 11, of Lawndale. Farav pulled the trigger.

"There you go," Sorey said.

"It was cool," Farav said afterward. "I was doing my best to hit something."

In another area, soldiers rubbed black, brown and green makeup on hundreds of kids. Jessica Hurtado, 13, of Lawndale, face covered with multi-colored goop, looked into a mirror.

"Oh my gosh! It looks...different," she said with a smile.



Members of the 300th Army Band perform and salute.



Spc. Kelly Giddings of the 376th Personnel Services Battalion applies finishing touches to youngster at the parade.

Soldiers in 'Jeopardy'

Officer gives legal briefing with game-show twist

Story by Sgt. Stephanie P. Jefferson

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photo by John D. Wagner

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif.—*Question:* An arrangement by which property is held for the benefit of another.

Answer: What is a trust?

Question: An appointment that may be extended only to do exact things on behalf of a person.

Answer: What is a special power of attorney?

Maj. Ronald D. Rallis of the 78th Legal Support Organization has taken the game of "Jeopardy," which reverses the Q&A format, to a whole new level. Rallis, chief of the 78th's legal assistance division now uses his own version of the popular television game show to inform and motivate troops regarding their legal affairs paperwork.

Rallis conducted his "Jeopardy"-styled legal briefing with Los Alamitos-based troops of the 691st Quartermaster unit recently. It was part of the unit's Soldier Readiness Processing exercise at the Joint Forces Training Base gymnasium.

Dozens of troops laughed and applauded as Rallis led them in the game—called "Legal Briefing: Jeopardy Style"—aimed at giving them information on: Wills, Power of Attorney, Guardianships, Trusts, Probate & Estates, the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, and more.

With the assistance of unit non-commissioned officers clad in blond wigs to keep score, Rallis tossed out "questions" to troops. The team with the answer signified such by having the designated team leader wave their number paddle, made from a paper plate. Teams that answered questions correctly were rewarded with a handful of lollipops, tossed to them by one of the "Vanna Whites" as the NCO assistants were so called.

Troops chuckled at Rallis' clever delivery of information and cheered each other on as they answered each question and competed for more lollipops. Rallis said he's been conducting his briefing this way for the past year and that he gets a much better response compared to the old lecture way of giving information.

"The game gives all the legal information, but the troops are engaged (in the information process)," he said. "People don't want it to be over. Because they have to think about the question to produce an answer, they are then motivated to later respond with action...like 'yeah, maybe I do need to get a will done.' That's the true measure of effectiveness of this technique."

Pvt. Francisco J. Marquez, supply specialist with the



Maj. Ronald Rallis leads "Jeopardy" game.

691st, said he enjoyed the "briefing" immensely. "It was fun," he said. "It's a lot better than just sitting around and listening. There should be more (presentations) like this. I learned a lot and am glad to know that my family will be taken care of (if I follow the guidelines set forth in the briefing)."

Rallis' entertaining briefing included a special touch this time with World-War-II-reminiscent performances by the Freedom Feet song and dance troupe.

The troupe, founded by Rallis' teenage daughter, Jessica, is composed of youngsters ages 14 to 18 and are part of the 63rd RSC Family Readiness support group. Freedom Feet has also been designated as the USO show for the 63rd RSC and will perform upon invitation for deploying troops.

Rallis and his legal team travel throughout the 63rd RSC providing legal information and producing legal documents such as wills and powers of attorney right on the spot. In addition, the team has won the Chief of Staff award for excellence in legal assistance for the third year in a row.

Legion of Merit

COL O'Connor, Charles M. 75th LSO LOM

Meritorious Service Medal

ISG	Acosta, Jesse	349th GH	MSM
MSG	Barros, Kathy L.	63rd RSC	MSM
COL	Bergman, William C.	2nd Med Bde	MSMw/2olc
SFC	Byrd, Richard	484th TC Bn.	MSM
CW2	Choi, Simon	302nd MI Co.	MSM
MSG	Cisco, Ronald	6045th GSU	MSM
COL	Colburn, Robert	185th Med. Co.	MSM
ISG	Colon, Felipe	478th TC Co.	MSM
COL	Cox, Patricia	349th GH	MSMw/10lc
CW3	Crudge, George	6252nd USAH	MSM
MSG	David, Ninos	368th MI Bn.	MSM
SFC	Davis, Chris	319th Sig. Bn.	MSM
COL	Debreau, Jean	63rd RSC	MSMw/2olc
LTC	Donnelly, John P.	2nd Med. Bde.	MSM
SFC	Franklin, Richard	1394th DSB	MSM
SGM	Franklin, Tony R.	326th Fin. Gp.	MSM
ISG	Freeman, Lee	489th Main. Co.	MSM
SFC	Freeman-Cohen Ari	63rd RSC	MSM
MSG	Garner, Jerry D.	164th CSG	MSMw/3olc
MAJ	Herup, Carl	2nd Med. Bde.	MSM
MAJ	Hicks, Daniel	1394th DSB	MSM
SFC	Hunter, Michael	484th TC Bn.	MSM
MAJ	Jennings, Laura	349th GH	MSM
LTC	Jost, Melessa	6042nd RTU	MSMw/1olc
CPT	Lamunyon, Guy	176th Med.Gp.	MSM
ISG	Llanos, Carlos	368th MI Bn.	MSMw/3olc
CPT	Lundberg, Phyllis	751st QM Co.	MSM
LTC	McMorris, David	2nd Med. Bde.	MSM
SSG	Mercado, Mary	653rd ASG	MSM
COL	Pappas, Louis	63rd RSC	MSMw/2olc
SFC	Patterson, John	341st MP Co.	MSM
COL	Roman, Jamie	63rd RSC	MSMw/1olc
ISG	Scholz, Eric	6252nd CSH	MSM
CPT	Shaw, Bradford	319th Sig. Bn.	MSM
SFC	Thomas, Prince	63rd RSC	MSMw/1olc
SFC	Thornton, Cecil	368th MI Bn.	MSM
LTC	Vanderheyden, Donald	352nd CSH	MSM
MSG	Valles, Arturo	63rd RSC	MSM
MAJ	Von Dorn, Richard	164th CSG	MSMw/4olc
ISG	Ward, Earl	319th Sig. Bn.	MSM
MAJ	Wasylina, Philip	2nd Med. Bde.	MSM
MAJ	Whitten, William	2nd Med. Bde.	MSM
SSG	Wiest, Cordon	950th Main. Co.	MSM
COL	Woo, Franklin	349th GH	MSM

Army Commendation Medal

SFC	Clark, Frank	2nd Med. Bde.	ARCOM
MAJ	Daly, Donald	7214th IMSU	ARCOM
SSG	Debase, Charles	63rd RSC	ARCOMw/4olc
MSG	Delker, Gerald	63rd RSC	ARCOM
MAJ	Dominic, Kirk	63rd RSC	ARCOMw/4olc
SGM	Folliott, Lynn	63rd RSC	ARCOM
ILT	Fuhriman, James	176th Med. Gp.	ARCOMw/6olc
SGT	Kittles, Yolanda	380th MP Det.	ARCOMw/1olc
SFC	Kovacs, James	7234th IMSU	ARCOMw/4olc
SFC	Lemberger, Maria	63rd RSC	ARCOMw/3olc
SFC	Martin, Leslie	63rd RSC	ARCOM
SGT	Martins, Kristen	63rd RSC	ARCOM
MAJ	McLurkin, Thomas	2nd Med. Bde.	ARCOM
SFC	Klikas, Paul	382nd MP Det.	ARCOMw/3olc
ILT	Ord, Isabelle	63rd RSC	ARCOM
SGT	Peraza, Gabriel	316th MP Co.	ARCOM
LTC	Ruiz, Juan	326th Fin. Gp.	ARCOM
SSG	To, Khoi	176th Med. Gp.	ARCOM w/1olc
CPT	Sandoval, Ramiro	63rd RSC	ARCOM
ILT	Schaefer, Chris	302nd MI Co.	ARCOMw/2olc
CPT	Sparks, Richard	368th MI Bn.	ARCOMw/1olc



Robert Rehm receives promotion to chief warrant officer 5, to become command chief warrant officer of 63rd RSC. Awarding him are Brig. Gen. Donna Dacier, deputy commander of the 63rd, and Chief Warrant Officer Jim Arbuckle of Fort Rucker, Ala.

