



# The Blade

U.S. Army 63rd Regional Readiness Command  
Summer 2008 Volume 44, Issue 1



## INSIDE ★ ★

WORLD WAR II, DESERT STORM,  
THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

*63<sup>rd</sup> RRC: Defending America  
and Changing for the Future*

1908-2008 ★ ★

**ARMY RESERVE**  
**100 YEARS STRONG**

## Student loan repayment is now self-service

The Army Reserve implemented a new self-service web site for the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). The site includes a variety of educational programs accessible to Soldiers. Soldiers can access the site by visiting the Web-Enabled Education Benefit System at <https://rcms.ocar.army.pentagon.mil/Education> and using their AKO user ID and password. After logging in, select the "My Loan Repayment Program Home Page" link.

With the activation of this web site, units are no longer responsible for the certification of DD 2475 or the forwarding of SLRP claims to the USAR Pay Center. Soldiers will use the SLRP web site to print DD Form 2475 to initiate their annual loan repayment application, manage their loan information, inquire on the status of payments, or view information on the SLRP. This is the only acceptable mechanism for Soldiers to initiate their SLRP payments. The pay center will not accept payment claims from other than the web site.

The web site receives information on SLRP-eligible Soldiers from the Recruit Quota System and the Retention Management System. Newly-eligible Soldiers and those who are within 60 days of their SLRP anniversary date will receive an AKO email prompting them to visit the site and record their loan information. The SLRP site also contains an on-line user's guide and the ability for users to submit questions and repayment inquiries.

Despite these changes, units will continue to use the current manual procedures for processing claims for Health Professional's Loan Repayment until further notice.

## New DoD Predatory Lending Regulation Takes Effect

The Department of Defense put a new regulation into effect that protects service members and their families from high-cost, short-term loans.

The regulation limits the fees and interest that creditors can charge on three specific types of loans: payday loans, vehicle title loans, and tax refund anticipation loans. The DoD targeted these three products because they have high interest rates, coupled with short payback terms.

The new regulation is part of wide-ranging DoD efforts to increase "financial literacy" among service members and their families. These efforts include 24/7 access to confidential financial planning and counseling, a variety of financial readiness training courses, improving the availability of small low-interest loans from financial institutions, promoting the practice of setting aside a \$500 emergency savings account, and educating service members on the availability of counseling, grants, loans and other services from military aid societies.

"We equate financial readiness with mission readiness," said David S. C. Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "This is part of a larger effort to create a culture that encourages our service members and their families to develop sound financial strategies. Preparing for emergencies is an important step forward and vital to avoiding predatory practices and a cycle of debt."

In addition to counseling available through a service member's chain of command, legal assistance office or military aid society, DoD offers several online resources to service members and their families.

"Military OneSOURCE" at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) offers free,

confidential financial planning; counselors are available toll-free at any time at (800) 342-9647.

"Military HOMEFRONT" at [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil) offers reliable quality of life information to help service members and their families, leaders and service providers in the "Personal Finance" section of the web site.

## 5 Years of VA Health Care available for Combat Veterans

Military veterans who have served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998—including veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—are eligible for five years of free medical care through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. This measure increases the previous two-year limit and applies to most conditions.

The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act recently signed by President George W. Bush, applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits—previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans—to 180 days.

The five-year window is also open to activated reservists and members of the National Guard if they served in a theater of combat operations.

"By their service and their sacrifice, America's newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA's world-class health care," said VA Secretary James Peake.

To learn more about VA health care benefits, visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

63rd RRC  
"Blood and Fire"



ARMY STRONG.™



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1908-2008 ★ ★

# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS AND FAMILIES: OUR GREATEST TREASURE ★ ★

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Reserve. The Command Team just attended the Army Reserve Senior Leader War Council and 100 Year Anniversary activities in Washington, D.C. Despite stresses and strains on the Army Reserve Institution we continue to be successful. Our most important treasure continues to be our Soldiers and families. This will continue for the next 100 years. Our technological advances, high tech weaponry, labs, think tanks and institutional education system will never replace the adaptable and dependable U.S. Soldier. This links to our number one priority - Strength. The Army Reserve has grown 10,000 Soldiers in the last two years. We are now at 196,000 and moving towards 205,000 plus.

Soldiers make the Army. I spoke with 2nd Lt. Sandra Altamirano, a Soldier with the 222nd Broadcast Operations

Detachment (and civilian Public Affairs Specialist for 63rd RRC PAO) who represents one of the many success stories in the 63rd. She is what the Army Reserve is all about. Although hers is a unique career story, she is like so many of our Soldiers. We come from all walks of life - we represent America.

The 63rd RRC continues the Army Reserve tradition of excellence. Look around. We are supporting Soldiers in eleven states, we lean forward continually never avoiding what is best for the Army or the nation. A special thanks to all of you. I could not be more proud of our organization.

- Maj. Gen. Paul Mock

### Maj. Gen. Paul Mock interviews our own 2nd Lt. Sandra Altamirano, managing editor, whom he thinks has a unique and successful Army career story.

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** How long have you been in the Army?

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** Eight years. I joined on Nov. 21, 1999.

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** Why did you join?

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** I joined for the career experience mostly. I wanted to go into the field of broadcast journalism as a civilian and saw that the Army Reserve offered that as a job. I also liked the fact that the Army could help me pay for my college education.

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** When were you deployed in theater?

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** I deployed with the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment as an E-5 to Iraq from November 2003 until November 2004. In 2002, I deployed to Kosovo with the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment for six months under the 1st Infantry Division.

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** Tell me what you accomplished.

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** As a unit, the 222nd BOD, along with personnel from the U.S. Air Force, stood up the American Forces Network-Iraq radio station, "Freedom Radio." I was the first morning DJ. I was also on the television team that started "Freedom Journal Iraq," a packaged newscast with news stories from throughout theater that still gets produced today in Iraq and can be seen on the Pentagon Channel.

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** What challenges/hardships did you face?

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** As an Army journalist, our job is to travel where the stories are. A lot of our stories in theater were on the many great things our fellow service members were doing, from donating school supplies to rebuilding bridges, but not every story was a feature with a happy ending.

When the first car bomb went off in Iraq at Assassin's Gate, I was at work about a block away from where it blew up. It was a Sunday morning right around 8:00 a.m. My instinct as a journalist was to go to the story, so that's what I did. When I got to the scene, I was shocked. It looked straight out of a Hollywood movie, but it wasn't; this was for real. I got the story, but it was difficult. People died in their cars; many of them were just on their way to work.

Another challenging time I had in theater was covering a memorial ceremony for the 1st Infantry Division. I was sent to Forward Operating Base Summerall in Baiji to do a story on a bridge reopening. When I arrived at the FOB, everyone was so quiet. I finally asked one Soldier if everything was okay. He informed me



2nd Lt. Sandra Altamirano with husband Marine Staff Sergeant Xavier Altamirano

that their unit had lost another Soldier that day. Spc. Joshua Henry died at the age of 21. His convoy was ambushed while on a mission in Ash Sharqat, a mission that I would have been on had my flight picked me up on time. Spc. Henry was shot three times and still managed to live for two more hours. He died at the FOB.

I was asked to cover his memorial ceremony so that his unit and his family could have a copy of the final piece. I did. I tried to remain professional, to get the shots I needed in order to edit a good piece. As soon as I heard Taps, tears ran down my cheeks. Watching the other Soldiers say their final goodbyes to Henry's picture was the hardest part. When I got back to Baghdad, the memorial ceremony piece became my priority.

The more I think about these moments, the more I realize I made the right decision to stay in, to continue to do my part in serving my country, to be a leader while I serve.

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** What training did you go through to become an officer?

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** After I came back from Iraq, my six years was up and I had the choice of re-enlisting or going into the IRR. I remember thinking that I was going to get out of the Reserves and continue my college education. My goal was to transfer to the University of Southern California. I had been attending Pasadena City College. It was at the Torrance Armed Forces Day that a full-bird colonel and a command sergeant major talked to me about becoming an officer. I thought my mind was set on getting out. It was Col. Mark Scatolini that recommended Army ROTC. I ended up talking to an ROTC recruiter at USC that summer in 2005 and was awarded a full-tuition scholarship, money for books, and a monthly stipend. I basically went to USC for free, but it came with a lot of hard work and dedication to the program:

PT every morning before classes, going to the firing range or FTX or practicing battle drills or doing land nav on the weekends...all this on top of my Reserve commitment which I still had, being a full-time student, and working 2 to 3 part-time jobs (I worked part-time at a flower shop, I had an internship at KPCC, and I was a work study student with the ROTC program).

**Maj. Gen. Mock:** You will be deployed again next year what do you expect to be doing?

**2nd Lt. Altamirano:** I realize that the next time I deploy to theater, things are going to be different. My job now is to make sure my Soldiers are taken care of so that they can do their job to the best of their ability. I will also be performing the duties of a public affairs officer.



## HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SOLDIERS...HOOAH!

First and foremost, I'd like to pay tribute to our Fallen Warriors, our Wounded Warriors, their families, and our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians serving our country... Thank you all...HOOAH!

I'd also like to wish Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Wilsdon and his wife Doreen, good luck on his well deserved retirement. Command Sgt. Maj. Wilsdon brought enthusiasm, dedication and many years of NCO Leadership to the then, 63rd Regional Support Command. During his tenure, among his many duties and responsibilities, he has been engaged with the planning and execution of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command's new mission, Transformation. Though he has prepared me to step in and continue the mission, as he retires, he takes with him a wealth of institutional knowledge. Thank you for all you've done and enjoy retirement...HOOAH!

To our Soldiers, know that as I pursue the duties and responsibilities inherent to my role as the senior noncommissioned officer of the 63rd RRC, let there be no doubt in your mind, I am here to be of service to you and your family. I will coach, mentor and counsel, and expect the same from ALL noncommissioned officers. I will stand firm enforcing the standards, and expect the same from ALL noncommissioned officers. I will train as I expect to fight, and expect the same from

ALL noncommissioned officers. I will never compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage, and expect the same from ALL noncommissioned officers. I will keep close to my heart the NCO CREED, and expect the same from ALL noncommissioned officers...HOOAH!

AR-RAP...Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program. Haven't heard of AR-RAP? Then you don't know what opportunities you're missing. How about the opportunity to help influence growth and strength in the Army Reserve... and earn \$2,000 for each new recruit who reports to Basic Training or Basic Officer Leadership Course, and for each prior service member who affiliates with a unit for four months and has attended a Battle Assembly in the last 60 days. Your unit commanders and first sergeants have been tasked with providing each of us with a mandatory briefing on AR-RAP. Information is also available at [www.ar-rap.com/](http://www.ar-rap.com/).

In closing, I'd like to thank our commanding general, Maj. Gen. Mock, for giving me this opportunity to serve our 63rd RRC Soldiers and Families. To all stay safe and stay focused.

PMA!  
(Positive Mental Attitude) - Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Roberson Jr.

## 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC Says Goodbye to Wilsdon and Raynor

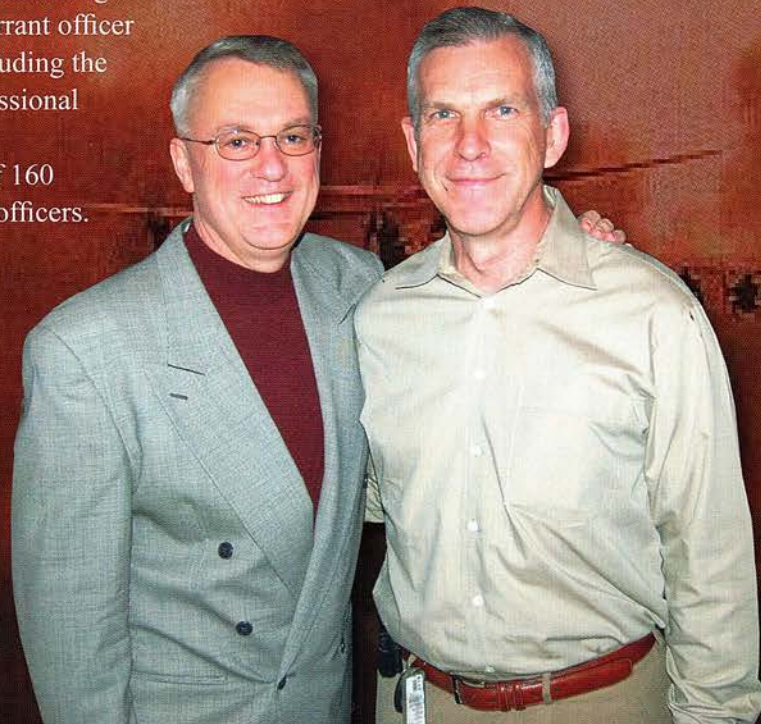
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Wilsdon and Chief Warrant Officer Five Jeffrey Raynor have both retired this year.

Wilsdon served as the command sergeant major for the 63rd Regional Readiness Command starting in April 2004. He was chosen over 37 other nominated command sergeants major for the top enlisted position. Wilsdon was responsible for advising the commanding general on the mentorship, professional development and training of over seven-thousand Soldiers.

Raynor, served as the command chief warrant officer for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Readiness Command since May 2005. He was the principal

advisor to the commanding general for all warrant officer related issues including the mentorship, professional development, and assignment of 160 assigned warrant officers.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC would like to express its gratitude to these fine Soldiers for their selfless and dedicated service to the members of the 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC, the Army Reserve and the nation.



Command Sgt. Maj. Wilsdon and Chief Warrant Officer Raynor pose for a picture during an informal dinner held in their honor. Photo by Kent Ambrose





# 302ND

## MPAD Soldiers Sweep Journalism Awards

# 63RRC

## RRC Honors Top Volunteers

Print and broadcast journalists from the 302<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returned from Iraq in May, but not before they received top awards from the Army Reserve in their career fields.

Army Families are a key component in unit readiness and mission success. The 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC recognized exceptional volunteers at the Family Programs Awards Ceremony and Army Reserve 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea.

**"THE BLADE"**  
3rd place winner of the Lt. Col. Wetzel "Scoop" Brumfield Award: Magazine Publication

**KEITH L. WARE AWARD:**  
FIRST PLACE IN FIELD PUBLICATION CATEGORY

*"The Spartan Chronicle"*  
Sgt. Luis Delgadillo  
Sgt. Jay Townsend  
1st Lt. Kalen Smith

**FIRST PLACE IN TELEVISION SPORTS REPORT CATEGORY**  
*"A House Divided"*  
Staff Sgt. Addie Collins

**HONORABLE MENTION IN PHOTOJOURNALISM CATEGORY**  
*"Patching relations: 1-30th hosts MEDOP, Iraqi doctors take lead"*  
Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

**FIRST PLACE IN LOCAL TELEVISION NEWSCAST CATEGORY**  
*"Newsreel Anaconda"*  
Sgt. 1st Class Ken Hudson  
Staff Sgt. Kelly Longbine  
Sgt. Robert Pinches

**LT. COL. WETZEL "SCOOP" BRUMFIELD AWARD:**  
BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR  
Staff Sgt. Addie Collins

**FIRST PLACE IN SINGLE/STAND-ALONE PHOTOGRAPH CATEGORY**  
*"Working together toward one mission"*  
Spc. Jennifer Sierra

**FIRST PLACE IN RADIO NEWSCAST CATEGORY**  
*"Freedom Report"*

**FIRST PLACE IN PHOTOJOURNALISM CATEGORY**  
*"Patching relations: 1-30 hosts MEDOP, Iraqi doctors take lead"*  
Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

**FIRST PLACE IN NEWS ARTICLE CATEGORY**  
*"LSAA, 316th ESC hosts largest naturalization ceremony ever in Iraq"*  
Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

**FIRST PLACE IN FIELD NEWSPAPERS CATEGORY**  
*"Anaconda Times"*  
Sgt. 1st Class Neil Simmons  
Sgt. Jasmine Chopra  
Spc. Jennifer Sierra

**FIRST PLACE IN TELEVISION NEWS REPORT CATEGORY**  
*"Chaos Night Raid"*  
Spc. Adam Prickel

**OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD**  
(3,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE)

- Talia Wesley
- Sheryl Rallis
- Beverly Smiley
- Miriam McKim

**COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**  
(1,500 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE)

- Jan Wall
- Sheryl Rallis
- Beverly Smiley
- Miriam McKim
- Donna Donahue
- Talia Wesley

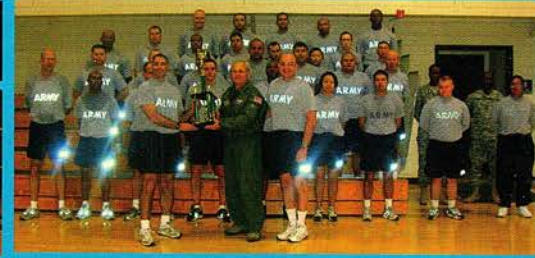
**PATRIOTIC CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD**  
(500 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE)

- Sheryl Rallis
- Cynthia Ringwald
- Patricia Vandenberg
- Amber Soergel
- Rena Martin



## 'FIT TO FIGHT'

Brig. Gen. James L. Melin, commander of the 452<sup>nd</sup> Air Mobility Wing, March Air Base, presented the 304<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade with the March Air Base Commander's "Fit to Fight" trophy. The award is given to the organization with the most participation in physical fitness activities on the base over a one year period.



## COOKS HEAT UP FOR THE ARMY'S PREMIER FOOD SERVICE COMPETITION

Soldiers of the 376<sup>th</sup> Personnel Services Battalion earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Department of the Army level Philip A. Connelly Food Service Competition. Evaluators from the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School out of Fort Lee, Va., and the International Food Service Executives Association, graded units on excellence in food preparation, menu selection, quality, taste and sanitation.





## THREE AND COUNTING: SOLDIERS TELL AR-RAP SUCCESS STORIES

Story by Sandra Altamirano, Public Affairs Specialist

**L**t. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, launched the Army Reserve-Recruiter Assistance Program (AR-RAP) to increase the number of recruits into the Army Reserve. According to Staff Sgt. April Acord, an Army Reserve career counselor out of Mesa, Ariz., the program works in more ways than one.

"I think that it builds morale for those Soldiers who do participate and are successful," she said, and she would know. Before becoming a career counselor, Acord referred three people, of which two enlisted.

One incentive of being an Army Reserve recruiter assistant like Acord is the \$2,000 you receive for each new recruit who reports to Basic Training, or Basic Officer Leadership Course. You can also receive money for each prior service member who affiliates with a unit for four months and has attended a Battle Assembly in the last 60 days.

"I just spoke about my experience with the Army. I love what I do and what I have done with the Army," said Acord. "It's an evolving tool, and it will continue to improve," she added about the program.

"AR-RAP is gaining momentum," said Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, commander of 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Readiness Command. He encourages commanders everywhere to talk the program up with Soldiers. Although training on AR-RAP is mandatory for all 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC Soldiers, signing up as a recruiter assistant remains voluntary.

Soldiers in Reserve, Active Guard Reserve, Individual Mobilization Augmentation, as well as retirees and DA civilians of the Army Reserve are eligible to participate in AR-RAP. To learn more, visit <http://ar-rap.com> or call (866) 837-2541.

### SUCCESSFUL RECRUITER ASSISTANTS WITHIN THE 63RD RRC

2nd Lt. Denys Buschmann  
Maj. Lester Chambers  
Pfc. Quinn Donathan  
Pvt. Tanner Kleinhen  
Pvt. Todd Neubert  
Cpt. David Gardner  
Maj. Adrian Shanahan  
Maj. Gen. Paul Mock  
Sgt. 1st Class Elsa Cardoza  
Sgt. Maj. Kathy Barros  
Staff Sgt. Luis Acosta  
Staff Sgt. April Acord

Staff Sgt. Michael Harun  
Staff Sgt. Dawn Posas  
Sgt. 1st Class Rickey Hopson  
Staff Sgt. Luavaa Banks  
Sgt. James Schwab  
Master Sgt. Darnell Wilson  
Maj. Matthew France  
Staff Sgt. Jorge Buenrostro  
Sgt. 1st Class Carl Church  
Staff Sgt. Gerardo Garcia  
CWO Thomas Prudden  
Sgt. Jennifer James

**"I think that it builds morale for those Soldiers who do participate and are successful."**



# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

By Jeff Harris, 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC Safety Office

**T**he itch can be felt by Soldiers as they step out from the enclosed office pressure of the day room. Expectations of a little Rest and Relaxation (R&R) is on the personal training calendar, listed as “stress buster.” As Soldiers begin scanning the outside environment for targets, the clear expectation of a great military day, can be felt. The sun is sensed on the skin, the wind orders leaves into movement.

The Soldier decision process is, “I should be saddled-up on my motorcycle, looking for some riding action.” For many motorcycle riders, the unofficial Spring Break began with the Daytona, Florida Bike Week (Feb. 29 – March 9). This year, seven motorcycle accidental fatalities were attributed to this event.

According to the Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motorcycle accidents have increased every year for the past nine years. Motorcycle riding has become very popular, appealing to a group of enthusiasts that are older and more affluent. Sales in the United States for all types of motorcycles in 2006 reached about 1,158,000, a level not seen in 30 years. Along with increased ownership comes a corresponding increase in fatalities. In 2006, 4,810 people died in motorcycle accidents, up from 4,576 accidents in 2005, an increase of 5.1 percent.

Accident analysis for the Army Reserves for Fiscal Year 2007 indicates that of the 18 privately owned vehicle mishaps, there were four fatalities. Two of those were on motorcycles. There were nine motorcycle accidents; all nine motorcycle operators were non commissioned officers. Average operator age for all privately owned vehicle

accidents was 39 years old. Top three causes for all private vehicle accidents were loss of situational awareness, speed, and failure to follow standards or training.

The most important thing you can do when riding your motorcycle is “Use your head.” Considerations for personal Composite Risk Management can be: the condition of my bike, the length of the ride, the time of day, and am I carrying a passenger? If you are new to motorcycle riding, get started by taking a Basic Rider Course offered through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. If you have been riding for a couple of years take the Experienced Rider Course.

Make sure your bike is ready, check T-CLOCS (Tires & Wheels, Controls, Lights, Oil, Chassis, and Stand). Make sure you’re wearing personal protective equipment to include a good set of those goggles with the foam cups designed to keep your eyes from drying out. They are a little pricey, but worth the comfort. A stylish, colorful, comfortable, federally approved helmet is required.

**The most important thing you can do when riding your motorcycle is “Use your head.”**

**When you are riding** a motorcycle and enjoying the breeze, it sometimes is hard to put the risk management process in place. The use of risk management tells you to keep the

risk at an acceptable level. If a long trip is planned, consider breaking it up into smaller segments. Brush up on riding skills; try riding shorter rides, no longer than an hour on urban or back roads. Also, if you plan on carrying a passenger, build up to it, carry friendly passengers for short errands, before trying it over a long distance. Day motorcycle riding considerations may be the heat that occurs during the day. Short stops that include adequate hydration would overcome this hazard. At night you may ride in areas that have well lit streets. You may want to include avoiding riding at night due to reduced visibility, and that end-of-day, evening twilight and “big bug” emerging time, which can make motorcycle riding a chore.

A band of brothers can be found on America’s roadways. If you are an experienced, safety conscious motorcycle rider, mentor that Soldier who is new to motorcycle riding. As a band of brothers, we are the responsible leaders who keep our Soldiers ready through the application of Composite Risk Management. Remember, it requires action...not testing.

**Own the Edge**  
Be Wise. Stay Alive. Wear Your PPE!

**Helmets**  
Certified by the manufacturer to meet or exceed DOT standards. Must be properly fastened under the chin.

**Eye protection**  
Face shield or impact/shatter-resistant goggles. A full face helmet with proper shield provides the best protection.

**Clothing**  
Long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for use on a motorcycle.

**Sturdy foot wear**  
Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes must be worn.

**Personal Protective Equipment**  
A brightly colored upper outer garment during the day and retroreflective at night is required. Note: Black is the most common color for motorcycle clothing. Countermeasures should be applied to make riders more visible as pictured above. If the belt is worn, it should be worn diagonally across the shoulder to maximize visibility.

OWN the EDGE  
U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER  
Composite Risk Management



# Soldiers learn leadership taught by Los Angeles police, but based on concepts by West Point

By Kent Ambrose, Staff Writer



**L**OS ANGELES--Capt. Robert Hauck, garbed in an all-black tactical uniform stepped up to the lectern.

"Some of you probably think I'm the cleaning guy, right? No, I am your instructor," remarked Hauck of the Los Angeles Police Department to an expectant class of Army Reserve Soldiers. Fresh off a 36-hour SWAT operation, Hauck appeared eager and energetic to talk about the topic of attribution theory, about the ways people explain the behavior of others.

So began, last February, the 63rd Regional Readiness Command's inaugural West Point Leadership Program for a diverse group of 32 commissioned, non-commissioned and warrant officers from 63rd units from several states.

The course curriculum, taught to third-year cadets at the U.S. Military Academy was initially adapted by police departments across the nation, including the LAPD in the mid-1990s to develop strong core-leadership practices.

"Ours is the first course of its kind offered to Army Reservists," explained Army Reserve Maj. Glenn Howie, course coordinator and a member of the 63rd RRC's Inspector General Office. "The program aims at teaching individuals how to think more systematically about leadership, challenges and situations."

An intense seven-day program held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, near Los Angeles, the course brought together both senior personnel from the LAPD, and West Point. Requiring students to solve realistic military leadership problems using West Point concepts, the course immerses students in behavioral science and adult education theories compiled from leading universities.

**"The unique thing about** the course was that Army Reserve Soldiers were taught by senior LAPD staff members during the first half of the course while West Point staff taught the second half," said Howie. "Soldiers discussed concepts based on actual police case studies; learning about challenges that confront the department and relating them to ones they face in the Army Reserve. Moreover, all the LAPD guys came in on their own time, arranging their work schedules around teaching the course."

Enrollment in the West Point program is based on merit as applicants are nominated by their commander and must each submit an application for evaluation by a selection board. "Sgt. 1st Class Elissa Eubanks and I initially reviewed packets, making sure the applicants were duty-MOS qualified and unflagged before recommending them to the board," said Howie.

Howie and Maj. Paige Malin coordinated the selection board of two colonels, two sergeants major and Brig. Gen. Charles Ebner, deputy commanding general of the 63rd RRC. Convening in November, the board selected candidates based on leadership ability and leadership potential.

Envisioning an Army Reserve leadership program with "traction and sustainability" Maj. Gen Paul. E. Mock, 63rd RRC commanding general, asked then 63rd Inspector General, Col. Laurie McCabe to enroll in the LAPD program and develop a like-model for the 63rd in 2006.

"For years I tried to figure out how to start a leadership program and I could never quite get it. It was an hour or two here, an hour or two there, but there was no traction or sustainability to it," said Mock.

**After completing** the course offered by the LAPD, McCabe exclaimed, "I have found the Holy Grail of Leadership courses" and began its adaptation and development for the 63rd through LAPD and West Point contacts she made during the classes. Moreover, McCabe also urged her staff to enroll in the program and relied on them to help implement it while executing their other command IG tasks.

Retirement didn't keep McCabe from attending the program's graduation ceremony, however.

"In almost a year's time we brought the CG's vision to life", said McCabe. "We had passionate commanders who believed in their Soldiers and instructors who lived this leadership style. With this, you can't help but have a successful outcome."



## COVER STORY: ★ ★

WORLD WAR II, DESERT STORM,

*63<sup>rd</sup> RRC: Defending America*By John D. Wagner, 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC PAO

**F**rom its inception at a secret conference in Northern Africa, to call-ups for the 100 hours of Desert Storm, to today's unending deployments to far flung parts of the earth, our command has been relevant and ready, on the ground and serving.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Readiness Command has evolved over the decades with different names and missions. Today, its main focus is deploying Soldiers in the Global War on Terrorism.

More challenges are coming. The 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC will one day fold its flag and inactivate, probably within two years. A new organization will start, reclaiming an old name: 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Support Command. The name was previously used by the command from 1996 to 2003.

"Isn't it great those (63<sup>rd</sup> RSC) T-shirts and coffee mugs are going to be in style again?" joked Col. Steven Mogan, command mobilization officer.

A new headquarters is set for construction at Moffett Field, Calif., in the San Francisco Bay area. The plan is for the new organization to support base operations in seven states. This will include public works, military construction, personnel management and other functions, said Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, commander of the new unit, now with just a small number of people.

"We are more focused," said Casella. "We'll reduce redundancy of staff. Therefore more slots can be reharvested to units that can be deployed. We are doing the behind the scenes support to allow others to focus on the mission—deployment and the Global War on Terrorism."

"I'm very excited about coming on board. This will be a very challenging assignment."

The changes within the organization, however, continue to this day. The Army Reserve itself is being

transformed and restructured. The 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC area has temporarily expanded command and control over units in three states up to 11 in the Western United States.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Charles Ebner, 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC deputy commander, recalled high points of the command's history.

"Units of the 63<sup>rd</sup> have taken part in significant events for the Army for 65 years," he said. "As an infantry division it was part of the European campaign in World War II. As a reserve component we prepared units for war with the Soviets during the Cold War... we have sent units for peacekeeping in the Balkans and now have deployed a majority of our units and Soldiers in the struggle against terrorism."

To be sure, the adjustment after 9-11 from peacetime to war was a huge challenge, not without its difficulties. But by 2004, the command leaders had tightened up the organization and upped the communication to move Soldiers out like a finely tuned machine. In readiness, the 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC was rated No. 2 in the Army Reserve.

**"I had to be the tough guy,"** recalled Lt. Col. Terrell Parker, chief of the command readiness team at the time. "I addressed the issues Soldier by Soldier. I asked the hard questions. And we held the commanders accountable for their answers or lack thereof. We talked to Soldiers about Soldiers."

Meanwhile, the deployments in the fight against terrorism go on. This year, 63<sup>rd</sup> has sent out the 137<sup>th</sup>





## THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

# *and Changing for the Future*

Quartermaster Company, to provide laundry and shower services; the 257<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company truckers to haul heavy equipment on the roads, and the 314<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion to run internment facilities. One of its biggest challenges was organizing the deployment for the 311<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command of more than 250 Soldiers. It was so complicated that 63<sup>rd</sup> full time staff toasted with champagne after its completion.

It was the latest chapter in the unit history going back to another era when the world was engulfed in war against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

Allied leaders gathered at a secret 1943 conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

“The enemy shall bleed and burn in expiation for their crimes against humanity,” exclaimed British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division was born soon after at Camp Blanding, Fla. After training for more than a year, they were off to the battlefields of Europe.

The division distinguished itself on many fronts. Soon after they landed, they took control of the Colmar Pocket after eight days of fierce fighting; later came their biggest challenge of breaking through the Siegfried line, which Hitler bragged would never be taken. Later they defeated the elite German 17<sup>th</sup> SS unit.

***In 1952, the division*** became part of the Army Reserve and was training in the dirt and forests at such places as Camp Parks and Fort Hunter Liggett. Division artillery units bivouacked

and conducted firing exercises at both installations. They continued their mission to be trained and ready for combat during the tensions of the Cold War.

The command had a major test in 1991 during a crisis caused by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Our unit, then called the 63<sup>rd</sup> Army Reserve Command, proved its mettle after decades of peacetime training. Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1991, claiming the small nation as his territory. After months of resistance to UN demands for withdrawal, the Western world turned to action. Amid the massive mobilization were 22 units from the 63<sup>rd</sup>. The war ended in less than a week, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> performed their mission with flying colors.

During the buildup of tensions, Spc. Armando Padilla, an MP with the 6632<sup>nd</sup> Port Security Company out of Irvine, Calif., jumped at the chance to serve.

“I volunteered (to be deployed) because it was my duty and honor to protect freedom,” he said. “It’s what I believe.”

Ten years later came the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The 63<sup>rd</sup> started mobilizing troops in a cycle that continues to this day. Soldiers haul beans and bullets along dangerous roads, patrol with MP units and churn out public affairs newspapers. Others have been in military intelligence, medical and water purification units. The command has mobilized more than 7,000 Soldiers since 9-11.

With the advent of the 63<sup>rd</sup> RSC, there will be a new direction and mission. But the 63<sup>rd</sup> name and its defense of the American people will go on.

“We will still use the Flaming Blade (emblem),” said Casella. “We’re just changing the designator title. All that legacy and heraldry we will keep.”



# 63<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION HISTORY SOLDIERS STORM SIEGFRIED LINE CHARGE TO VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II

*-Compiled from 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC Historical Records*

**I**t was known as the Blood and Fire Division. The need for the crack unit arose from a secret conference of Allied leaders in Casablanca, Morocco in 1943. The war effort needed a new high speed infantry division to help destroy the Nazi juggernaut.

“The enemy shall bleed and burn in expiation for their crimes against humanity,” declared British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Thus came the basis for “Blood and Fire,” the patch and slogan for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

The 63<sup>rd</sup>, activated at Camp Blanding, Fla., was first commanded by Brig. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs. He ordered the most effective training possible. The mess halls were closed and Soldiers ate all meals in the field with their mess kits. The troops fought battles in mock German villages. The Soldiers often used live ammunition and detonated explosives during the training as well.

They said to the people, “I am a combat Soldier! What do you have to be proud of?” The troops, enlisted and officer alike, gave a greeting and smile with every salute to help forge comradeship in preparation for war. The training lasted nearly a year and a half.

**“Can anyone here with a military background imagine a 17-month boot camp?”**

asked Brig. Gen. James F. Phillips, former deputy commander of then 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Support Command in a 1995 speech. “It’s mind boggling.”

Division troops, packed into four transport ships including a converted Italian luxury liner, arrived in Marseille, France, in December 1944. After 10 days of unloading vehicles and equipment, they headed north to join the 7<sup>th</sup> Army near the German border.

The Soldiers were then broken into regimental teams. Soon after, the division’s 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment gained a combat victory by capturing Hill 216, eliminating it as an enemy position.

The division soon after invaded a German stronghold called the “Colmar Pocket” in the Volgues Mountains. After eight days of fierce fighting in wet, icy weather, the division broke through and cleared the area.

Then came the 63<sup>rd</sup>’s biggest challenge: breaking through the Siegfried line, girded with twin lethal belts of bunkers, mine fields, tank traps and artillery sires. Hitler often bragged that the Allies would never penetrate the line.

“Beyond the Siegfried line lies crumbling Germany, the Rhine and victory,” declared Brig. Gen. Hibbs. “Your immediate task is to open the gate for the armored divisions. Yours is the honor and glory...Take it away! Strike fast and viciously.”

Army engineers built a pontoon bridge, allowing troops and vehicles to cross the Rhine River. The 63<sup>rd</sup> penetrated the line through the towns of St. Ingbert and Hassel after seven days of bloody fighting in March 1945.

The division’s fighting record continued. In April, after vicious battling in the Hardhauser Woods, the 63<sup>rd</sup> defeated the elite German 17<sup>th</sup> SS unit. After many more frontline battles, the Germans surrendered in May 1945. The division stayed in Germany several months for postwar occupational duties and was then sent home for deactivation on Sept. 27, 1945.





## 63<sup>RD</sup> ARCOM GETS BIG CALL UP IN DESERT STORM

*-Compiled from 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC Historical Records*

**O**ne of the biggest tests for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Army Reserve Command came during the international crisis first known as Operation Desert Shield, then as Desert Storm.

In mid 1990, Saddam Hussein, the outlaw dictator of Iraq, sent military forces over his border, invading Kuwait. The United Nations Security Council and much of the international community condemned the aggressive move. But Hussein snubbed the reactions.

Ultimately, President George H.W. Bush ordered the call-up of tens of thousands of reservists for duty in the campaign to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. Among those called were 2,500 Army Reserve Soldiers from 22 units in the 63<sup>rd</sup> who deployed both in the United States and to the Middle East.

The 348<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company from Phoenix, with 68 Soldiers, mobilized to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and deployed to Saudi Arabia. The unit truck drivers logged 400,000 miles, delivering 6 million gallons of fuel, 475,000 gallons of water, and 95,000 pounds of mail along with other cargo.

The 6632<sup>nd</sup> Port Security Detachment from Irvine, Calif., was sent to the Presidio of San Francisco. Its members were then assigned to port security duties in Oakland, Calif.; Houston and Beaumont, Texas; and Sunnypoint, N.C.



The 129<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital from San Diego deployed to the United Arab Emirates to operate a medical facility with 50 beds. Though encountering no battle casualties, the unit treated nearly 400 patients from NATO, and U.S. Navy and Air Force.

Numerous Soldiers received the Bronze Star medal. Among them were Staff Sgt. Chris Cargill and Timothy Hutchinson of the 348<sup>th</sup>.

Cargill was on a supply mission near Dharan, when an Iraqi Scud missile exploded about 300 meters away, destroying a military barracks and killing 28 Americans. Cargill and Hutchinson took action immediately.

**“We got up, threw on our protective masks and ran for it,”** Cargill said. “We pulled out the wounded first and set up a triage (for sorting).”

When the troops returned, they encountered a hero’s welcome—featuring fluttering flags, cheering crowds and happy families.



# RESERVE MP COMPANY ENDS MISSION IN IRAQ WITH FULL-SCALE AIR ASSAULT

By Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Doheny, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) PAO -Blackanthem Military News

Sgt. Benjamin Crews, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), takes up a defensive kneeling position as a CH-47 Chinook takes off during Operation Marauder Harvest Apr. 12 in the Western Desert of the Salah ad Din Province.



TIKRIT, Iraq--On a hazy morning Apr. 12, a group of Army Reserve Soldiers from the 56th Military Police Company from Mesa, Ariz., did something they never thought they would get the chance to do, conduct a Screaming Eagle Air Assault.

Military policemen in Iraq routinely conduct Police Transition Team duties in assisting Iraqis with the policing of their communities, but rarely, if ever, get the opportunity to conduct full-scale air assaults.

The 56th, attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, had spent the last 11 months in Tikrit patrolling streets, training policemen and conducting combat operations.

In their 11th month, they were given the opportunity of a lifetime; conduct a joint air assault with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division.

Along with their Iraqi police counterparts, they crammed into UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters, preparing to hunt down Al Qaeda in the desolate Western Desert of the Salah ad Din Province.

As the blades on the helicopters began to turn, the Soldiers signaled to the crew chiefs that they were primed for take off.

What was waiting for them in the desert was something their commander, Maj. Richard VanBuskirk, from Clarkston, Mich., described as "controlled chaos."

As they completed their insertion and jumped from their helicopters, they realized why 101st Soldiers are feared by the enemy.

The surprising arrival of Coalition and Iraqi forces by helicopter left targeted insurgents with no choice but to "squirt" from the objective. The result of this enemy fleeing to their trucks was an ensuing fire-fight.

"Supporting attack helicopters informed us that a group of men were moving to trucks located near a house," said VanBuskirk. "The men in these trucks were armed with machine guns and assault rifles. They fired on us multiple times as they tried to flee our location, but we eliminated the enemy threat."

After clearing numerous buildings, houses and exploiting numerous items linked to insurgents, the mission was complete and they once again loaded on helicopters and returned to base.

According to Staff Sgt. David Heath, from

Phoenix, the purpose of this intelligence-driven mission was to take the fight to the insurgents, denying them safe haven and refuge.

"Denying an insurgency the safety and security to plan and execute their missions is a major component to the overall security mission in Iraq. It's not just an important mission, it's THE mission," said Heath.

Heath admits that the Soldiers in his unit could not have completed a mission with as many moving parts and pieces as there were, without the competency of the Iraqi SWAT. He feels they deserve as much credit for the overall success of the mission, which resulted in the killing of five insurgents and the detaining of three.

**Ever since the Spartans** of the 1st STB assumed responsibility of the greater-Tikrit area in October 2007, they recognized the proficiency of the MPs. This led to the selection of the unit to conduct an operation of this size, which is usually set aside for the battalion's attached infantry Soldiers.

The 1st STB has a unique task organization in Iraq. They are the only Special Troops Battalion to have responsibility for a large amount of battle space. Certain units under its command, such as the 56th, are tasked to conduct joint Iraqi Police, full-spectrum combat and counter-insurgency operations in their respective areas of responsibility.

Povich said the 56th was selected by his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Rick Ryne, for this air assault because they exceeded all expectations throughout their unique mission in Iraq.

"The 56th MP Company has done an incredible amount of work for us, this was a great opportunity for them to conduct an air assault with their IP, to kind of end their deployment with a successful mission," said Povich. "The battalion commander picked them because they aren't your normal MP Company."

"If you look back throughout military history, it will be very difficult if not impossible to find a United States Army Reserve military police combat support company to be chosen to lead a Joint Coalition / Iraqi Police air assault mission from start to finish," said VanBuskirk. "This also shows how joint active duty Army and Army Reserve relationships have matured over the years, and the confidence our battalion and brigade has in our company."





## ENLISTED SOLDIERS COMPETE FOR 'BEST WARRIOR' TITLES

By Kent Ambrose, Staff Writer

**L**OS ALAMITOS, Calif.--The group began on a Thursday morning with as many push-ups as each individual could muster in two minutes, followed by sit-ups and a two-mile run; a routine, and probably glad-to-get-it-over-with, experience for most people familiar with the Army Physical Fitness Test.

But for 10 motivated Soldiers, representing a wide cross-section of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, the last runner across the finish line marked just the beginning of two intense days of competition--the 2008 Best Warrior Competition.

Winners were: Sgt. Michael Marshall, NCO of the Year, and Spc. Matthew J. Vidmar, Soldier of the Year.

Dividing into two categories, junior Soldiers and non-commissioned officers, the contestants next fired M-16 A2 rifles at simulated targets inside the Engagement Skills Trainer, 2000 facility. After two hours of rifle qualification, they took the remainder of the afternoon going over study material making ready for the next morning's written exam and preparing their class-A dress uniforms for the final event, the oral board.

"I thought the written test was very challenging," explained competitor, Pfc. Joseph L. Wright Jr., of the 96th Military Police Battalion. Wright and the other contestants, each earlier having competed and won at their battalion or brigade level Soldier or NCO of the Year competition, demonstrated their

The group began on a Thursday morning with as many push-ups as each individual could muster in two minutes, followed by sit-ups and a two-mile run; a routine, and probably glad-to-get-it-over-with, experience for most people familiar with the Army Physical Fitness Test.

knowledge in a myriad of subjects, including common Warrior tasks, drill and ceremony, and Army regulations.

"I was actually most excited about doing the board portion," continued Wright. "Of course, I wanted to win but it was the great experience of appearing before the command sergeants major which mattered most to me."

Not all were without apprehension, however. The nearly three hours of board appearances tested the nerves, knowledge and military bearing of the ten contestants. When all the points are tallied, one Soldier stands out above his or her peers, but being selected as the best depends on much more than just being a sharp individual, according to Vidmar.

"It takes a lot of motivation and dedication and preparation, but it also takes a lot of teamwork," he said. "Soldiers should realize it's a team effort to get here. It is collaboration between NCOs and Officers. There is no such thing as a self-made Soldier."

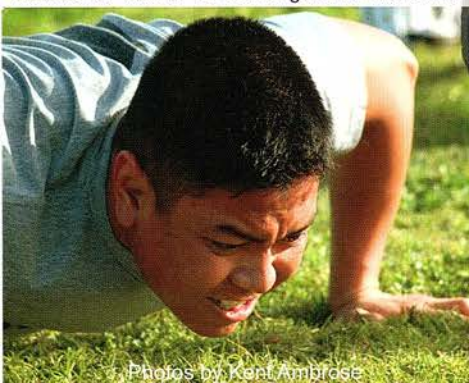
Sgt. John Pyne echoed these thoughts. "I want to stress to Soldiers considering competing in these boards to utilize their chain of command and the knowledge base contained in their units," he said. "Soldiers should also know that the conditioning and sponsorship doesn't begin when you get here (Best Warrior Competition). It starts months prior to that."



Sgt. Michael Marshall waits to start the physical fitness portion of the competition. Marshall won the title of NCO of the Year.



Sponsor Sgt. Julio Aguirre "squares away" Spc. Matthew J. Vidmar before he goes to the board.



Photos by Kent Ambrose



1908-2008 ★ ★

# Volkslauf, The Ultimate Challenge!

By Lt. Col. Ahron Hakimi,  
502<sup>nd</sup> Terminal Supervision Team

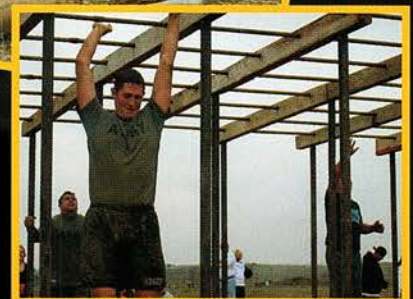
Four members of the 502<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Detachment slogged through a different kind of 10K race, one that combined the road, mud and about 8 million gallons of water.

First Lt. Lorin Seeks, operations officer; Staff Sgt. Carlos Pena, movements supervisor; Spc. Jason Arellano, movements specialist; and Lt. Col. Ahron Hakimi, commander, competed as part of a four-person team in the annual Volkslauf run, which took place on a Marine Corps training facility in Bakersfield, Calif. The team placed fifth in the military team competition, first for the Army, and clocked in at 1:20:25.

From the starting line, runners proceeded onto the course via a dirt trail for about ¼ mile before encountering the first obstacle: Tarawa Landing. After going through Strawser's Staircase, the Wash Boards, Khe Sanh, Viper, Sgt. Hawke's Wall, and The Razorback, runners finally entered Devil Dog's Ditch: a half-mile long, 4-foot deep, 8-foot wide twisting, turning, mud-filled trench designed to test the motivation level of anybody gutsy enough to take it on.

Counting all the hurdles, slides, tunnels, pits, ladders, swings, rope climbs, and low crawls found on the course, there were well over 75 obstacles in all for the 10K race. Add to that several million gallons of water and mud and it is easy to see why this isn't just any old mud run: this is "Volkslauf, The Ultimate Challenge!"

The competition is a charity event that supports the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. In addition to the ultimate challenge, there is a Junior Volkslauf competition for kids ages 4-12.



Soldiers from the 502<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Detachment participate in the many events of the Volkslauf mud run. Photos contributed by Lt. Col. Ahron Hakimi







## Army Reserve at By Kent Ambrose, Staff Writer

# NASCAR

Parachute Team, thrilled fans with their red-smoke contrails and mid-air maneuvers, parachuting down onto the track in an aerial demonstration. One airborne Soldier unfurled the Army Reserve 100th Anniversary flag on his descent.

Meanwhile, Mock and other Soldiers, given special pit access, met with U.S. Army driver and one of NASCAR's 50 best all-time drivers, Mark Martin, on the track prior to the start of the race. Martin posed with Soldiers for photographs in front of his Dale Earnhardt Inc., No. 8, Chevrolet, Impala, detailed with the Army Strong black and gold logos. Mock presented Martin with a 100th Year Army Reserve ornament.

Immediately after Harmony in Motion performed the National Anthem, No. 8's pit crew geared up and sprang into action in preparation for the 312 laps around the one-mile track. To heighten the anticipation the Army Reserve's 7/6th Cavalry from Conroe, Texas flew two AH-64 Apaches over the raceway during the "Gentlemen, Start your Engines" command. An already deafening roar grew louder, as an Air Force sergeant, started the race with a vigorous wave of the green flag.

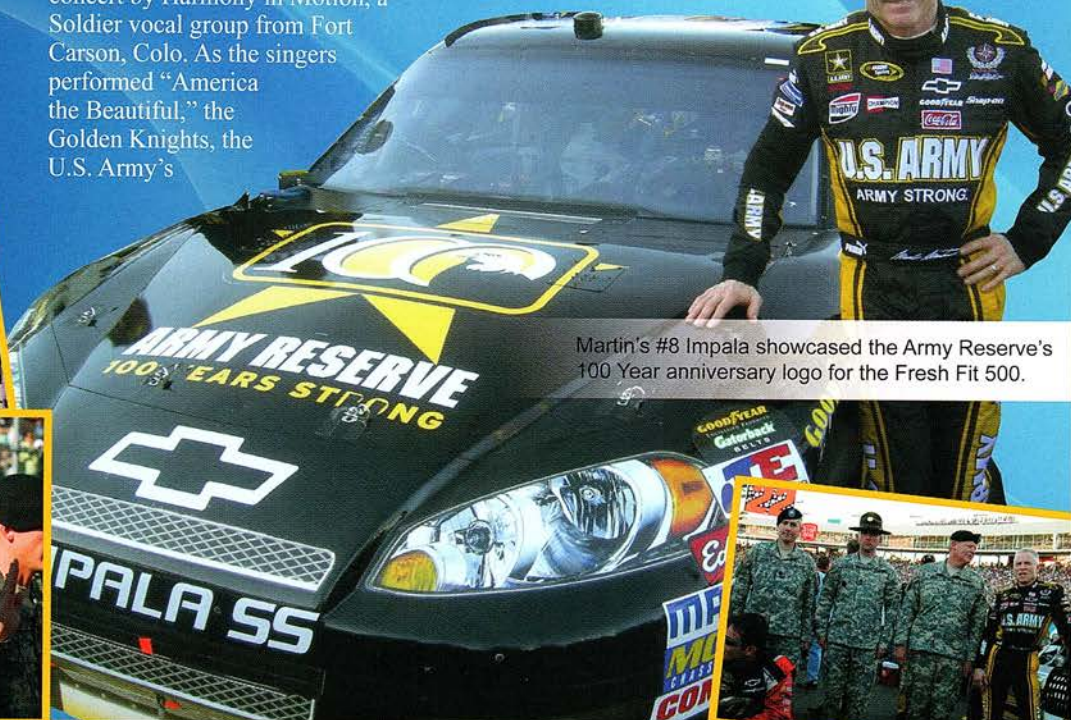
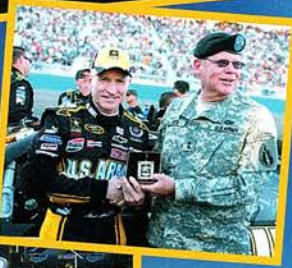
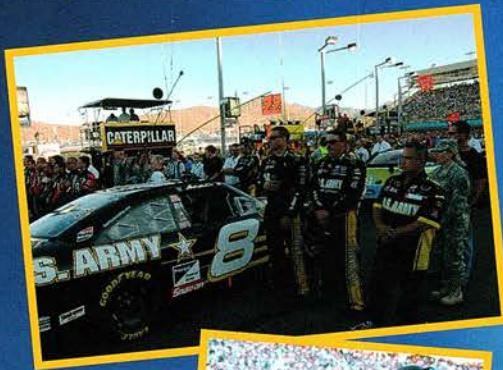
AVONDALE, Ariz.--Nearly 90,000 stock car fans converged on the Phoenix International Raceway on a warm spring Saturday, recently, for Subway's Fresh Fit 500 Sprint Cup race. The all-day event, featuring a host of pre-race entertainment and racing sponsor venues, promised fans the total National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) experience.

Accolades given to our Nation's fighting men and women, including a special tribute to the Army Reserve and its 100th Year Anniversary, multiplied the preliminary excitement. On the starting-line center stage, Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, commanding general of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, conducted an oath of re-enlistment for eleven local Army Reserve Soldiers and an oath of enlistment for five future Soldiers.

Afterwards, Sgt. 1st Class James Thompson, recently named 2008 Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year, marched the re-enlistees and new recruits off the raceway before enthusiastic fans. Part of the crowd also included approximately 50 Army Reserve Soldiers invited by the Phoenix Raceway as part of its "Salute to Military Families."

The pre-race pageantry also included a concert by Harmony in Motion, a Soldier vocal group from Fort Carson, Colo. As the singers performed "America the Beautiful," the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army's

Martin's #8 Impala showcased the Army Reserve's 100 Year anniversary logo for the Fresh Fit 500.



Maj. Gen Paul Mock presents Mark Martin with an Army Reserve 100 year anniversary ornament.

Army Reserve broadcasters interact with the public before the race.

Phoenix area Soldiers re-enlist before thousands.



# CORNER Chaplain's

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Graham Harbman, 6045<sup>th</sup> Garrison Support Unit

## Find Hope!

Do you remember the movie "Cast Away?" In it, Tom Hanks plays an aspiring Federal Express executive. He is jet-setting around the world and seeking personal fulfillment through business success.

In an early scene, he hurriedly proposes marriage to his girlfriend, then frantically races to catch the next plane to success. But his plans are aborted. The flight crashes into the ocean and he is the lone survivor. He is washed up on a deserted island and struggles for survival for four long years. A picture of his fiancée and a volleyball named "Wilson" are the only things that keep him going.

Finally he's rescued from his bamboo raft after days on the open ocean in his final attempt to escape the island. At last, he returns to his fiancée...only to find that she has long since married another man.

It is a scene of wrenching sadness and raw despair. The one hope that kept

him going is lost. All he has left are utter loneliness and uncertainty regarding his future. He confesses his disappointment and uncertainty, "You never know what the tide is going to bring in."

In the closing scene, he stands at the crossroads of two deserted Texas highways wondering where fate will carry him next. He spent his life seeking fulfillment from things of this world. And at the end of his story, all he has is emptiness and uncertainty.

Emptiness and uncertainty, maybe that describes you. Does your life have real purpose? Do you have rock-solid hope that good will prevail over evil in your life and the lives of those you love? Do you know where you are going when you die?

God is using your struggles to help you see your need for Himself. Do you have enough self-awareness to see that? Only through a vital relationship with the

living God can any of us ever find meaning in this life and be prepared for the next.

The chaplains of 63rd RRC are here to help you through the struggles of this life, especially as you serve your nation in the Army Reserve. More importantly, we are here to proclaim the glorious hope of the next life and how you can know that Hope and begin to experience it now!

So I encourage you: Come! Your commander is required to allow you one hour each battle assembly for religious worship. Next battle assembly, seek out your chaplain and attend services. Come! Find escape from emptiness and uncertainty. Come! Find hope for this life and for all eternity. Come!

God is using your struggles to help you see your need for Himself.

# Equal Opportunity Leadership Training

By Kent Ambrose, Staff Writer

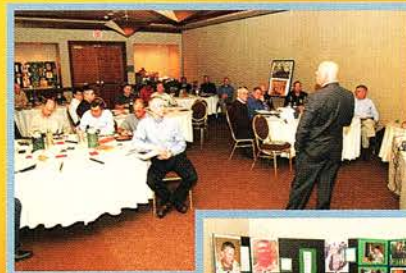
LAS VEGAS--A unique three-day seminar ushered senior leaders from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Readiness Command into the equal opportunity arena, recently. The workshop, conducted by instructors from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., exposed brigade commanders to important issues affecting the cultural and social climate of their units.

Institute instructors covered topics including Socialization, Power, Prejudice and Discrimination, Beyond Victimology and Capitalizing on Diversity. Special emphasis was given to strategies and approaches senior leaders can implement in their command to mitigate and reduce conflicts.

Through role-playing and practical exercises, participants gained new

perspectives on how solutions to equal opportunity problems can increase morale, improve retention and keep readiness acute.

For more information about equal opportunity within the 63rd RRC contact Aaron Wilkes at (562) 795-2350.



Photos by Kent Ambrose

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Mission Statement: *DEOMI will assist its customers in optimizing their combat readiness by promoting human dignity through equity education, diversity, cultural competency, research, and consultation worldwide.*

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Vision Statement: *DEOMI is a force multiplier that maximizes combat readiness.*



# 311<sup>TH</sup> ESC UNCASES COLORS IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

By Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen  
311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr., commander of the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, headquartered in West Los Angeles, talks to the Soldiers of his unit after uncasing the unit's flag in Kuwait. Photos by Staff Sgt. Anishka Fulton



**C**AMPARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Soldiers from the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command uncased their colors recently here, signaling their start of duty as the first such unit sent to Kuwait since the global war on terrorism began.

The ceremony, held on April 23rd, not only marked a historic event for the command, headquartered in West Los Angeles, but also for the Army Reserve as it celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The unit's colors, which feature three interwoven arrows forming a circle, were cased at Fort Bragg, N.C., before the Soldiers of the unit boarded the plane that would eventually take them overseas. The cased colors traveled aboard the aircraft from North Carolina to Kuwait.

During the 311th's uncasing ceremony, the Soldiers of the unit stood in formation while the color guard took its place in front. As Sgt. Patrice Conyers, a signal specialist in the 311th, slowly lowered the encased colors, Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr., commander of the 311th, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Ayala, the unit's command sergeant major, walked forward to perform the ceremonial task.

The Soldiers of the 311th squinted through the desert sun as the colors were first uncased and then unrolled. Conyers then raised the staff to let the colors fly free in the morning breeze.

"That was a beautiful sight," said Frink afterward. "This is what we've been working for."

"I think it's a monumental occasion," he added. "We are the first ESC to be deployed to Kuwait...doing an ESC mission."

The 311th will now take over the mission of providing command of sustainment forces and managing designated contracts in support of combat operations. The 311th will also be responsible for the deployment and redeployment of rotating forces and sustaining operating forces in the area.

Soldiers from the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command uncased their colors recently here, signaling their start of duty as the first such unit sent to Kuwait since the global war on terrorism began.

# SOLDIER EARNS THREE PURPLE HEARTS

## AFTER MANY ATTACKS IN IRAQ

By Pam Garrison, 70<sup>th</sup> RRC Public Affairs Office

**F**ORT LEWIS, Wash. – Three Purple Hearts. After nine bomb attacks and countless other enemy engagements during duty in Iraq, Sgt. Jordan Taylor earned three Purple Hearts and lived to tell about it.

“I really didn’t expect to get them,” he said. “When I thought of Purple Hearts I thought of people losing limbs in World War II. But it’s definitely an honor. With two of them, I feel like I went through some bad stuff.”

Taylor was assigned with the 321<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, in Fallujah, a notoriously dangerous area of insurgent mortars, bombs and sniper attacks. Deployed from September 2006 to September 2007 his platoon had the high-risk mission of patrolling the roads and “clearing” – removing – roadside bombs known as “IEDs,” improvised explosive devices.

“We went (bomb) hunting on dirt roads, canal roads and main supply routes,” said Taylor, 24. “We never said no. We found more bombs than anyone else in Iraq.”

And the explosions came with the territory. The first experience was during their first mission.

“We hit a 155mm artillery round on Supply Route Michigan,” he recalled. “It exploded and did a lot of damage. It popped two tires and shattered the windows. Some people got concussions.”

Taylor’s platoon went out on patrols everyday.

“Almost everyday we found something,” he said. “We’ve had RPG (rocket propelled grenades) shot at us, we’ve been ambushed (with other weapons), we’ve had mortars shot at us, pretty much anything you can imagine. One day we found 15 IEDs in a 32-hour period. We got in two or three gunfights that day.”

The last explosion, the biggest one, near Karmah in April, is the most vivid in Taylor’s memory. Karmah is where three 321<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion Soldiers died in a bomb blast in February.

Taylor was running a device for navigation; he’d “pop up into the hatch” as needed, but it was actually safer for him to stay inside because “it’s too hazardous to actually be up in there,” because of the chance of an IED (improvised explosive device) attack.

When they hit the bomb, “The first sergeant told us the vehicle raised up, and was in the air and we came back down and landed inside the blast hole – the whole vehicle fit inside the blast hole,” Taylor said. “The back door was blown open and another guy got blown out the back. All that happened to him was a blackout, so

# ARMY RESERVE 100 YEARS STRONG



he’s a lucky guy.”

Taylor’s injuries included concussions, deep cuts in his lips and severe bruises on the side of his legs.

Taylor said that when the 321<sup>st</sup> was training in preparation for deployment, there wasn’t much in the news about Baghdad. But that the bad guys were in al Anbar province – Fallujah and Ramadi—right where the 321st would be going.

But from the Soldiers’ ability to monitor the local populace during the many months of daily patrols, they observed that gradually, things were improving.

“The whole time it was a dramatic change from when we got there,” Taylor said. “Ramadi and Fallujah were both very heavy places...Ramadi is like, nothing going on now, almost, and Fallujah is still going on a little bit. There are still a couple of places in Fallujah area that are still kind of hot, but (otherwise) it’s a complete 180.”

**After nine bomb attacks and countless other enemy engagements, Sgt. Jordan Taylor earned three Purple Hearts and lived to tell about it.**



# Army 'HOOPSTERS' make finals, take lead in scoring, but succumb to Navy 'REBEL' ball skills

By Kent Ambrose, Staff Writer



Lt. Col. Alexander Valentine proudly displays the Blood and Fire jersey.

SEAL BEACH, Calif.—It was the final bout, and Army cagers took the lead with point guard Dorien King swishing a 3-point shot. They soon bumped up the score with the skilled ball handling of King, Robert Guzman, William Sanders and others.

The lead reached 14-4, but it was not to last. The chemistry changed for the Army's Hoopster team, one of two from 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC, playing the Navy Security Rebels.

With the sailors finding their sea legs using superior shooting and defense, the Army lost, at 45-37. The event was the MWR Intramural Basketball League final on March 14 at the Naval Weapons Station here.

"Sometimes the chemistry was there and sometimes it wasn't," said Alexander Valentine, Hoopster assistant coach. "With their offense, they really put it in second gear in the second half."

He noted that they had four starters out of the game from either injuries or school.

"We all put forth a good effort," said forward Kevin James. "And that's what matters."

The basketball season runs from January to March and the 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC has traditionally filled two regional Army teams. Others in the circuit come from the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Seal Beach Security, and regional Army civilians.

Participating the last seven seasons, the 63<sup>rd</sup> teams have played in three championship finals and in 2006 the Hoopsters clinched the tournament trophy. That championship trophy now sits outside the Chief of Staff Conference Room in Bldg. 4, at Joint Forces Training Base.

The team coaches for the Hoopsters are Valentine and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Moses Torres, while Sasa Sevaetasi and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Edgar Valdiri coach the G-Unit, the other Army team.

On offense: Sgt. Maj. David Cunningham sets up for a shot.

The players re-energize their esprit de corps during halftime.



Photo by Kent Ambrose

# REMAINS FOUND IN IRAQ IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO ARMY STAFF SGT. MATT MAUPIN

## ARMY RESERVE 100 YEARS STRONG



From Army News Service

**T**he U.S. Army confirmed positive identification of remains found in late March in Iraq as belonging to Army Staff Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin. The announcement culminates a near four-year search for the 724th Transportation Company Army Reserve Soldier.

"After a long wait, we want to offer our most sincere condolences to Carolyn and Keith Maupin on the loss of their son," said Army Secretary Pete Geren.

"I want to say this once again to the Families of our other captured Soldiers in Iraq," Geren said, "we will not stop searching for your loved ones, Army Sgt. Ahmed K. Altaie (missing since Oct. 23, 2006), Sgt. Alex R. Jimenez, and Pfc. Byron W. Fouty (both missing since May 12, 2007)."

Then Pfc. Maupin, had been missing for more than three years and 11 months, after his fuel convoy came under enemy attack in Iraq. The Batavia, Ohio, native was promoted three times while missing in action since April 9, 2004, as his family awaited news on Staff Sgt. Maupin's status. Army casualty assistance officers flew to Ohio March 30 to personally notify his parents, Carolyn and Keith Maupin.

"One of the elements of the Army's Soldiers Creed is that **I will never leave a fallen comrade,**" affirmed Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey. "We take those words very seriously, for our Soldiers, their families and this nation. We will never leave a fallen comrade. I want to thank the many Soldiers who've searched and continue to search for these men. Your tireless efforts are one of the most important and unrelenting responsibilities we share."

"The Maupins are people of modest means with great big hearts, and they've touched the lives of thousands," Geren said. "His parents are helping others with Soldiers in harm's way, just like their son, from the Yellow Ribbon Support Center in Cincinnati. This center was set up to build Internet cafes in Iraq, and they secured the donation of laptops so Soldiers could use them. They also sponsor college scholarships and facilitate a support network for Soldiers' Families. They collect and they distribute truckloads of gifts and supplies for Soldiers and Families."

"The Maupins selflessly serve as a funnel for the generosity of people across America," Geren said. "Americans who want to help Soldiers, Americans who want to help our Families. Carolyn and Keith, our prayers are with you. Thank you for all you do for Soldiers."

The U.S. Army also notified members of Congress from Ohio on, March 31, of this important news. Further facts remain sketchy while an investigation continues to determine the circumstances and details surrounding his death.

The Maupins' web site for their son (<http://www.mattmaupin.us/>) features a West African proverb, Odo Nnyew Fie Kwan Frame, meaning "**Love Never Loses Its Way Home.**" The Maupin family uses the proverb to describe the hope that their son would one day return home. Troops in Iraq also used the motto to describe their tireless search for Staff Sgt. Maupin.



### Staff Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin

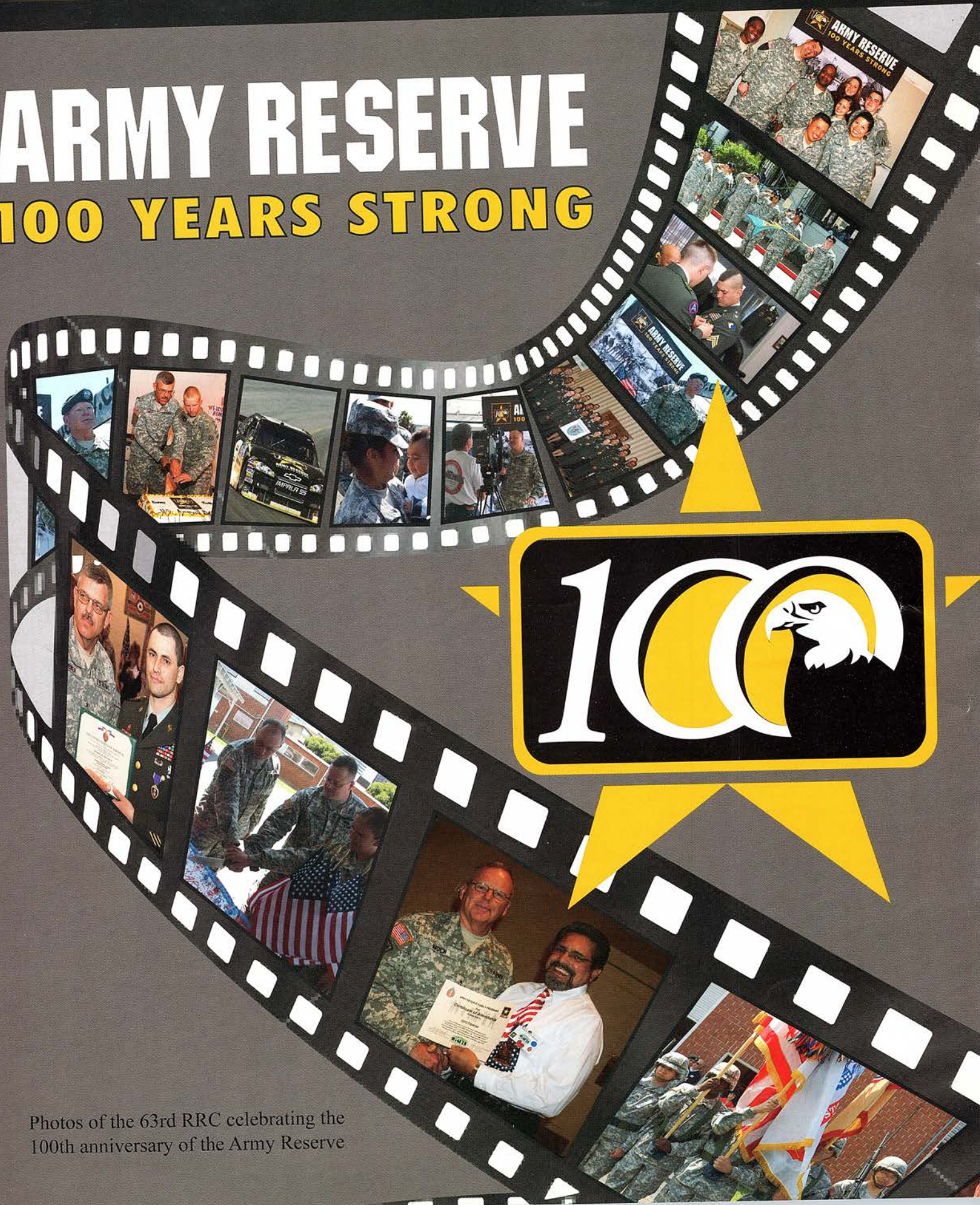
of the U.S. Army Reserve's 724th Transportation Company is shown in his vehicle sometime before April 9, 2004, when his convoy was ambushed en route to Baghdad International Airport. His remains were found and positively identified in Baghdad in March.



DEDICATED TO STAFF SGT. KEITH "MATT" MAUPIN AND ALL THE SOLDIERS OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.

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Photos of the 63rd RRC celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve