

PACIFIC WARRIOR 2007

The Blade

U.S. Army 63rd Regional Readiness Command
Summer/Fall 2007 Volume 43, Issue 2



Inside:

Pac Warrior - Soldiers prepare for deployment

Operation Purple Camp:

Kids support each other during parents' deployments

63rd RRC
"Blood and Fire"



ARMY STRONG.™

CO



MP Unit takes defensive cover during IED "attack" at Pacific Warrior exercise.

Cover/Inside photos: Patricia Ryan PAO

CONTENTS

Vol. 43, No. 2 Summer/Fall 2007



Commander

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock

Deputy Commander

Brig. Gen. Charles Ebner

CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Wilsdon

Public Affairs Officer

Patricia E. Ryan

Editor

John D. Wagner

Writer/Photographer

Kent A. Ambrose

Layout/Design

Shanell Vargas & Patricia Ryan

The Blade is an unofficial publication under the provisions of AR 360-1 and distributed through Army Reserve Centers within the 63rd Regional Readiness Command. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or of the U.S. Army Reserve. Average circulation is 5,000 three to four times annually. **Stories, photographs and suggestions are welcome. Mailing address is:** 63rd RRC PAO ATTN: Blade Editor 4235 Yorktown Ave. Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5170 (562) 795-2358/2356 fax: (562) 795-1370 email: john.d.wagner@usar.army.mil

Departments

CG's Corner, Top Talk, DCG Column	1
Homecomings	3
Cover Story: Pacific Warrior	5
Safety	9
Ambassadors	13
Family Readiness	15
Army Briefs	27

Features

Mission Graduation.....	7
Keeping Soldiers Battle Ready	8
Post Deployment Health Screening	8
Wounded Warrior Program.....	11
Inspector General.....	12
6045th Family Day	17
Soldier Naturalization.....	18
Chaplain's Corner	19
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.....	19
Soldier Life Insurance.....	20
American Idol Extra.....	21
Diamond Saber.....	22
Soldier of the Year.....	23
Operation Sand Castle.....	24
Connelly Award Competition.....	25

COMMANDER'S CORNER ★★



Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock

Exercise Pacific Warrior was a great learning experience for all involved. Planning for it began, for some, well over a year ago. Many lessons have been learned.

For Soldiers participating, it is important that leaders gained an appreciation for the challenges in keeping their Soldiers and units trained and ready for deployment. In Pac Warrior, great efforts were made at developing a collective training event in which all could benefit.

At Camp Parks, the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and 304th Sustainment Brigade underwent a "constructive" exercise fully supported by computer simulation. For Soldiers from both units, the systems they operated replicated realistic environments such as that in deployment.

For the 3,500 Soldiers at Fort Hunter Liggett, unit commanders submitted their training objectives months before the exercise. Tactical scenarios were developed and resourced with opposition forces and observer controller trainers.

All leaders should recognize what their units' strengths and weaknesses are and work hard during the training year to improve proficiency and readiness. Remember, time is your scarcest resource—use it wisely.

And remember to keep Safety paramount. There is no training advantage to allowing our Soldiers to become injured. Let's all continue doing what we do so well—Soldiering.



Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Wilsdon

I want to give all our great civilians and Soldier leaders a hearty "Hooah!" for outstanding performance in Pac Warrior. The NCOs rose to the occasion along with our super civilians and some pretty darn good officers!

This was a great stretch exercise. Many parts have never been tried before in the Army Reserve. Maj. Gen. Mock's version of what right looks like is a new model for the Reserve. You ALL helped this become a success. As a result you all had great training and preparation for fighting our nation's wars. I know it was hot, but it may be even hotter where you get deployed.

In the post-exercise continuing training, remember to remain vigilant and keep your eyes open for unsafe acts; don't let your safety guard down!

You must continue the habits practiced here, and continue to hone your skills; and we as one team will join one fight to overcome America's enemies!

May God bless every one of you and keep you safe from harm.



"Leaders are always accountable. Take ownership of who and what you are."



Brig. Gen. Charles Ebner

Soldiers from the 63rd RRC continue to do great things when mobilized in the defense of our country. The 950th Combat Support Company recently returned from duty in Iraq, where like so many of our mobilized units they did a fantastic job. The 950th deployed to Mosul, Iraq to provide direct support maintenance for several units on base.

However, their mission changed to providing base and convoy security where they were attacked with small arms fire and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Identified as the best company in their Battalion, most of the Soldiers of the 950th received the Combat Action Badge for engaging or being engaged by the enemy and the Army Commendation Medal. The unit has been nominated for a Meritorious Unit Commendation; and nine Purple Hearts were awarded for combat injuries along with at least 10 Bronze Stars. The 950th deserves a big "hooah!"

When not mobilized our main focus must be on preparation for mobilization or individual and unit readiness. A huge part of readiness is training. It starts with individual training, then builds with collective training. A major War Fighter Exercise such as Pacific Warrior, which we just completed, was a world-class exercise involving approximately 4,000 Soldiers from around the nation who came to Fort Hunter Liggett for unit training that replicated the environment where the majority of our units are deployed. Despite the heat and the

challenging scenarios, the exercise was a huge success. A number of senior USAR leaders came to FHL for the first time and left with a good understanding of the potential this post has to train our Reserve forces.

Our preparation for deployment never ceases. Recognizing the need to inform the leadership of our units down to the lowest level, the CG directed that we conduct a Transformation and Mobilization Commanders Conference for 63rd RRC commanders, their senior NCO and civilians. During this three day event there were discussions on AR-RAP, the new recruiting program, training methodologies and models for pre mob training, maintaining readiness and the importance of strong Family Readiness programs to name but a few of the topics addressed. All of these are related to the Transformation of the Army Reserve and are crucial for our future.

I salute each of you for your commitment and dedication to the Army and to our nation.



ARMY VALUES

- LOYALTY
- DUTY
- RESPECT
- SELFLESS SERVICE
- HONOR
- INTEGRITY
- PERSONAL COURAGE

ARMY STRONG

ARMY VALUES

Soldiers return from diverse

950th lands at Joint Forces Training Base

Fire department hoses sprayed water criss-crossing the airfield as proud Soldiers exited a plane and walked into families' loving arms. After a year of dangerous convoy escorts in Iraq, about 170 Soldiers from the 950th Combat Support Company were coming home.

"Isn't this a great day to be an American?" asked Maj. Gen. Paul Mock, commander of 63rd RRC, as he spoke to the crowd of Soldiers and family members at the July 2 event at Joint Forces Training Base, Calif.

The 950th was one of multiple units that returned home from deployment duty this summer.

The unit deployed with more than 200 Soldiers.

About 175 in the unit received Combat Action Badges for engaging attacking insurgents. And nine received Purple Heart



duties in Iraq and Kuwait

By John D. Wagner PAO

medals for injuries. The company was nominated for a Meritorious Unit Commendation and was identified as the best unit in their battalion.

During the ceremony, every Soldier stepped forward and received a "Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award" honoring his or her service. Each award consisted of an encased U.S. flag, a commemorative coin, a lapel pin and "Welcome Home Warrior Citizen" flag.

The unit out of Los Alamitos was previously called the 950th Maintenance Company. But its Soldiers had their mission changed after arriving in northern Iraq last year. Stationed at Mosul, they were tasked to provide armed escorts to convoys of foreign nationals traveling on supply missions on Iraqi highways.

Spc. Frank Salas recalled that one roadside bomb blew off the back part of their vehicle, though no one was killed. In all, the unit logged 7,130 escort missions and 1,360 recovery missions for vehicles that were disabled.

August brought the return of another large unit. The 164th Corps Support Group returned home at Mesa, Ariz., after a year of duty in Balad. The unit was in charge of 14 units with more than 2,100 Soldiers assigned. They planned and executed more than 1,350 logistics patrols for a total of 6 million miles.

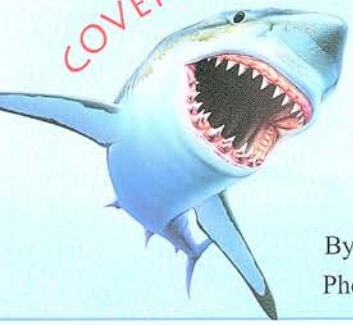
They also organized an aggressive air-sustainment operation, organizing the transport of 22,000 pallets and pieces of equipment by air to have fewer Soldiers out on the dangerous road of Iraq hauling the supplies.

The 164th also planted more than 200 trees at Logistics Support Area Anaconda. The event was a symbolic gesture promoting prosperity and peace to the Iraqi people.

The unit was recommended in Iraq for a Meritorious Unit Commendation for outstanding service. Other units returning include:

- The 948th Transportation Detachment, which had 25 Soldiers assigned to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The unit provided contract oversight and a contracting officer for the largest transportation contract in Kuwait. The contractors hauled supplies for aviation units, brigade combat teams and many other units entering or leaving theater.
- The 513th Movement Control Team, assigned first at Camp Navistar, Kuwait, then relocated to the Khabari Crossing facility to monitor border crossings of people, vehicles and supplies. "We ran 12-hour shifts. We had customs and immigration booths," said Staff Sgt. Michael Camarena, movement control supervisor. "It was like going from Mexico into the United States."





HEAT, DUST, SUICIDE BOMBERS, IED'S PACIFIC WARRIOR

By John D. Wagner, 63rd RRC PAO
Photos: Pac. Warrior PAO Staff

JUNE 2007



About 4,000 Soldiers journeyed to Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., from around the nation to train in heat, dust and mock attacks to prepare for the real thing overseas.

The June event was Exercise Pacific Warrior, a premiere training event for Reservists to rumble down dusty roads, dodge insurgent attacks and detain suspected enemies in an internment camp ringed with concertina wire.

The 63rd Regional Readiness Command was the sponsor of the exercise and had about 700 Soldiers and about nine units participate. Other units came from about 20 states including Colorado, Ohio, and Georgia. A unit also came from Puerto Rico.

The in-depth planning began right after the previous exercise, Pacific Survivor, in summer 2006. The 63rd worked with the 75th Training Support Division as well as the General Dynamic Information Technology firm to work out the exercise scenarios. They worked with other contractors to construct tent cities serving as forward operating bases Piojo and 8J on the installation.

Pacific Warrior was divided into two exercises, the constructive, with computer simulation at the Camp Parks Combat Support Training Center-West, and the active exercise with Soldiers out in the field.

The constructive involved the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the 304th Sustainment Brigade being trained by other outside units. The constructive scenario "was similar to the Iraqi theater," said Maj. Jeanne Lang, project officer. "It had a threat with IEDs and then it goes into civil unrest. There was also an earthquake and political differences between the (local) factions."

The active scenario was similar. Fort Hunter Liggett became a nation in the Caspian Sea area. The friendly government requested U.S. support after insurgents who desired control of oil reserves

began attacks. A U.S. task force is present for "stability and reconstruction."

"The troops were not in an (offensive operations) combat mode," said Lt. Col. Lori Bury, project officer for the exercise. "A lot of scenarios involved them reacting to IEDs, sniper fire and mortar fire at their operating bases. It mimicked what was going on in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The Soldiers were typically involved in supply convoys, military police patrols, medical activities and holding detainees. Opposing force role players played suicide bombers with simulated vests who mingled among civilians. Others portrayed disgruntled civilians outside the internment facility.

Units from the 63rd RRC were active in various part of the exercise.

The 319th Signal Brigade out of Sacramento, Calif., set up antennas and other communication infrastructure. The unit distributed 70 field phones to companies, battalions and general officers. They drove dusty roads to set up the antennas on hills to provide phone capability. They also laid 20 miles of fiber-optic cable as back-up for the Pac Warrior data network.

"Without us, nobody talks," said Maj. Eric Hogan, S-3 for the 319th. "You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us."

Meanwhile in the heat of battle and training the mail must go on.

The 806th Postal Company, working as a modern day Pony Express, connected Soldiers to loved ones during the exercise. The unit from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., rode daily in convoys to lug packages, postcards and letters between the forward operating bases.

The 17 postal Soldiers delivered more than 8,400 letters and



R



Soldiers train for the real thing at Fort Hunter Liggett, Camp Roberts and Camp Parks



nearly 200 packages to the bases. They also processed some 1,400 outgoing letters, typically carrying them in thick canvas bags.

Unsurprisingly, Soldier recipients appreciated their efforts.

“Whenever we bring them their mail, it’s like we’re bringing them a piece of home,” said Sgt. Luis Mendiola of the 806th.

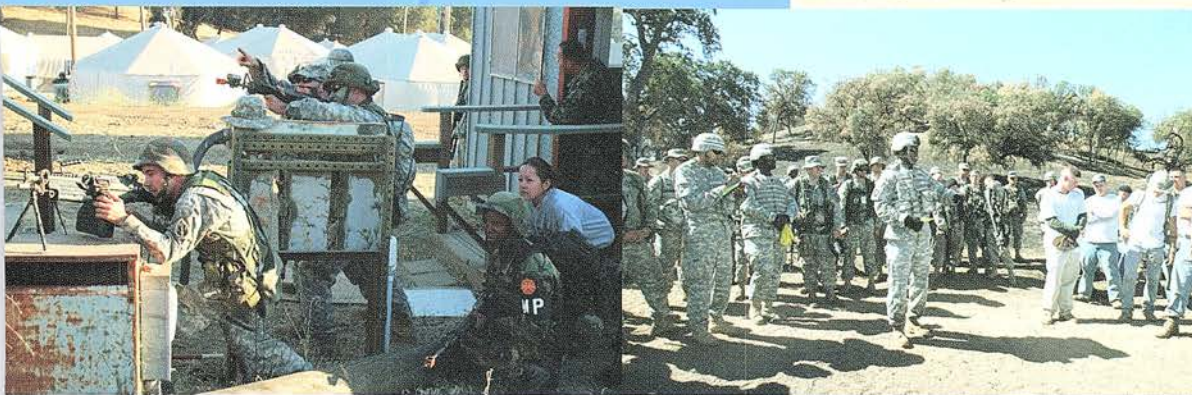
Another 63rd unit, the 923rd Movement Control Detachment, out of Bakersfield, operated checkpoints for convoy vehicles traveling from base to base. The roads in the exercise scenario were dangerous and sometimes surprises come up, noted Spec. Nathan St. Clair.

One day “they found an IED out on the side of the road,” he said. “We had to evacuate for an hour.”

A convoy “has an estimated time of arrival from downrange,” noted Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Farah, NCOIC. “When they arrive we check the time they came, the convoy clearance number and their number of personnel.”

In an environment sometimes exceeding 100 degrees, there was a constant emphasis on safety. Everyday, a new safety tip was publicized. They included “Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!” “Hydrate in the Heat; Drink Water!” and “Slather Sunscreen!”

“Overall safety went really well,” said Bury. “For the number of Soldiers (there) in this heat category we had very few injuries.”



Mission Graduation:

Soldier attends grad ceremony during Pac Warrior

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Kent Ambrose

Pfc. Claudia Chavez wasn't going to miss her high school graduation, not if Sgt. Maj. Rick White and a few other quick-thinking Soldiers had anything to do with it. Having already arranged with school officials for her mother to accept her diploma on her behalf at the commencement ceremony, the 18-year-old Whittier High student, could train at Pacific Warrior with some peace of mind.

"I knew I would miss prom night and grad night, but I was alright with that because I really looked forward to coming to annual training and learn more about the Army and my duties," said Chavez, the first one in her family to join the military. But a day before the graduation date, her high school informed her mother that Chavez missed her last week of classes while at training and became ineligible to receive her diploma.

Stunned by the news, Chavez, assigned with 63rd RRC G-4, told her section leader, Spc. Jim Lauchner about her dilemma. In turn, Lauchner sought help from Staff Sgt. Jaime Lugo. "I knew this thing was a little above my pay grade so I asked my sergeant major to weigh in," said Lugo.

White took a particular interest.

"Everyone in the G-4 became involved in some way and encouraged Chavez every step of the way." "It was really about miscommunication," said White. "I spoke with Chavez's principal in the morning and persuaded her to let this Soldier graduate and not let a technicality stand in the way of a once in a life-time opportunity."

Not only did the school concede on this point, but they suggested Chavez could walk with her classmates if she could get to the school on time. White handed his van keys to Lugo and told him get Chavez to her school safely and on time for the 3 p.m. ceremony. "It was a long drive to Whittier, but we got there 20 minutes beforehand," said Lugo.

Chavez was provided a cap and gown that she quickly donned over her ACUs and stepped in the front of the line to receive her diploma. "The superintendent looked down and said 'nice boots Soldier,'" said Chavez. Afterwards, with little time to spare, Lugo and Chavez headed back to Fort Hunter-Liggett. "Everyone in my section (63rd G-4) has been so supportive of me and encouraged me to do this," said Chavez. Now a high school graduate, Chavez is slated to attend her advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Va., as a supply specialist.



Lined up outside the G-4 shop are (from left to right): Spc. Jim Lauchner, Sgt. Maj. Rick White, Pfc. Claudia Chavez, and Staff Sgt. Jaime Lugo.

Photo: Kent Ambrose PAO



QUARTERMASTER SOLDIERS COORDINATE FUEL AND WATER TO KEEP SOLDIERS BATTLE READY

By Spc. Andrew Reagan, 304th PAD

Even at 40 percent strength the 418th Quartermaster Battalion from Tucson, Ariz. carried out its mission of coordinating the water and fuel supply for FOBs 8J and Piojo as well as the cantonment area of Fort Hunter Liggett.

The 418th made sure that the 348th Transportation Company out of Phoenix, had the means to keep the fuel points on both FOBs stocked with the needed amount of gasoline. The battalion also supplied the 140th Quartermaster Company from Fort Totten, N.Y. with the fuel it needed. The 140th handled the laundry services for the FOBs and each one of its water tankers needs upwards of 400 gallons of fuel at a time.

The 418th operated with fewer than 25 Soldiers, down from its full strength force of 58. This forced junior-enlisted Soldiers to handle the duties usually tasked to sergeants and staff sergeants. This was the first Annual Training where the junior enlisted were able to train within their specialty, as many have had to cross-train in other specialties.

"This mission is really special to me because we are usually staffed by officers and senior NCOs and now our lower enlisted are taking initiative and jumping in there," says Sgt. 1st Class Robert Correa, 418th NCOIC.

Unexpectedly, the extra responsibility heaped on the lower enlisted has not forced the few remaining senior NCOs to micromanage.

"We delegate, give guidance, and issue instructions. If they fall, we pick them up and we haven't had to pick up yet," beamed Correa. "We've been praised for our accomplishments by our higher ups and its thanks to the lower enlisted."



Post deployment health screening benefits Soldiers at Pacific Warrior

From the Post Deployment Health Reassessment Team

The Army Reserve coordinated one of the largest-ever post-deployment screenings during Exercise Pacific Warrior.

Two hundred thirty two Soldiers completed the health screening, which is part of the U.S. Army's Deployment Cycle Support process. The screening is called the Post Deployment Health Reassessment.

The event brought together Soldiers from the 63rd, 81st, 88th, 96th RRCs and the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Command. A commander's program, the reassessment is an unprecedented effort implemented by the Army Reserve in April 2006 to give Soldiers an opportunity to address post-deployment health concerns.

"The main thing that made this event a success, aside from screening 232 Soldiers, was the organization and the work of all the coordinators. This event brought together five RRCs with four coordinators working as a team to ensure that our Soldiers are taking advantage of this opportunity to safeguard their health," said Lt. Col. Duane Sharpe, who leads the program for the 96th RRC.

Soldiers that were screened filled out a DD Form 2900 and spoke one-on-one with a health care provider. If necessary, Soldiers were referred for further evaluation and treatment. They also took part in Battlemind II Training, which explains how skills that helped Soldiers survive in combat can be adapted now that they have returned home.

First Lt. Uriah Perez, from the Medical Command, ran the Battlemind II training at the event. "When you're speaking to the Soldier, you can see a sense of connection," he said. "They understand what you're talking about. Not only are they learning, but they can understand what the symptoms are, so they can help other Soldiers as well."

If you're a Soldier that returned more than 90 days ago, then you are eligible to complete the reassessment program. Visit <http://fhp.osd.mil/pdhrainfo> for more information.



Water safety: be careful in the summer and all year

By Jeff Harris, 63rd RRC Safety

Swimming and summer: they go together! Summer can also bring a "gotcha"! It's easy to overlook the "gotcha," with so much to do and enjoy. But a gotcha can sidetrack your summer.

Taking auto accidents out of the picture, almost half of this fiscal year's off-duty fatalities are water-related. Early indications are that this is likely to be a bad year. Soldiers are drowning at more than double the normal rate. To date, more Soldiers have died in watercraft accidents than the previous three fiscal years combined! Unbelievable, isn't it?

Recently, we lost two Soldiers on the same day in two separate watercraft accidents. Alcohol was a factor in both accidents and neither Soldier was wearing a personal floatation device. In fact, since fiscal year 2004, only one individual fatality was reported as wearing a device. Swimming or boating under the influence is no smarter than driving under the influence, and

Seven out of 10 people who died in boating related accidents drowned. Nine out of 10 reported drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket.

Tips:

- Don't go alone: Swim with a friend.
- Make sure there are other people around - you might need help.
- If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a lifeguard if there is one nearby, or go to the nearest telephone, dial 911, and ask for the Coast Guard.
- Don't drink and swim
- Avoid the "gotcha," "Never Give Safety a Day OFF!"



when it comes to boating, no more legal.

Did you know just being on the water intensifies the effects of alcohol? By looking at accident statistics from the last 10 years, a pattern of drowning situations can be determined. In that time, 141 incidents occurred, some involving more than one fatality. The most significant fact is that only one death occurred at a pool with Army lifeguards present, while unguarded pools were the scene in nine cases.

By far the most dangerous environment is the open water or shoreline. Lake and river recreation produced 41 percent of the drowning incidents, while ocean swimming fatalities produced another 16 percent. Military training operations accounted for 11 percent of the drownings, however, another 9 percent drowned subsequent to vehicle accidents. Many times the victim did not intend to enter the water, but managed to either drive or fall in.

Got RISK?

<https://crc.army.mil>

PLRs Preliminary LOSS REPORTS for the week of 12-18 JULY 07

5

U.S. SOLDIERS DIED IN ACCIDENTS

- 2 Soldiers Injured
- 1 M1114 HMMWV Damaged

Losses

- ▶ A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident July 14 at approximately 1610 local in Missoula, Mont. The Soldier was operating his 2001 BMW motorcycle when a sport-utility vehicle entered his lane of travel and collided with him head-on, throwing him from the motorcycle. He was licensed and wearing a helmet. The driver of the sport-utility vehicle has been charged with vehicular homicide. Local officials are investigating the accident. **COST: 1 Soldier Killed**
- ▶ A Soldier was killed and two others injured in an M1114 HMMWV rollover accident July 15 at approximately 1613 local in Iraq. The Soldier was in the turret of the HMMWV when the driver lost control of the vehicle, ran off the road and rolled. **COST: 1 Soldier Killed, 2 Soldiers Injured, 1 M1114 HMMWV Damaged**
- ▶ A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident July 15 at approximately 1406 local in Columbus, Ga. The Soldier was operating his 2003 Suzuki Hayabusa GSX1300R motorcycle, along with four other Soldiers, when he passed a vehicle and lost control of the motorcycle. He was licensed, had completed an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course and wearing a DOT-approved helmet. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center is investigating the accident. **COST: 1 Soldier Killed**
- ▶ A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident July 15 at approximately 0742 local in Tonganoxie, Kan. The Soldier was operating his 2006 Suzuki GSX-R 1000 motorcycle when he struck a tractor-trailer, causing the motorcycle to burst into flames. He was licensed, had completed an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course and wearing all the required personal protective equipment. The Kansas Highway Patrol is investigating the accident. **COST: 1 Soldier Killed**
- ▶ A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident July 15 at approximately 1610 local in St. Augustine, Fla. The Soldier was operating her 2006 Yamaha motorcycle when she lost control of the motorcycle and was thrown. She was licensed, wearing a DOT-approved helmet and had completed an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. Speed was not reported as a factor and the St. Augustine Police is investigating the accident. **COST: 1 Soldier Killed**

OWN THE EDGE
Leading on the Edge

THUNDER RUN

Photos: Kent Ambrose PAO



Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, commander of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, talks to the crowd of thousands of motorcycle riders about current sacrifices being made by today's Soldiers. The event was the "West Coast Thunder," an annual motorcycle run to Riverside National Cemetery in memory of fallen service members.

1st Lt. Peter Powell, plans officer for the 304th Sustainment Brigade, and his wife Shelley, prepare to participate in the event.

Spectators line the route to Riverside National Cemetery to watch the approximate 5,500 motorcycles go by.

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock's license plate on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.



Own the Edge

Be Wise. Stay Alive. Wear Your PPE!



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.

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.



own the EDGE

Composite Risk Management

Legal Soldiers Conduct Wounded Warrior Program

By Maj. Adam Siegler, 78th Legal Support Organization

Maj. Gen. Scott Black, the Army judge advocate general deemed Wounded Warriors to be a priority in May stating, "No Soldier is more deserving of our best efforts than a Soldier wounded in combat." He directed that legal officers reevaluate their assistance programs.

To accomplish this, Col. Elena Kusky, commander of the 78th Legal Support Organization, announced that the 78th has implemented its outreach program to provide legal assistance to Wounded Warriors. These Soldiers are also a very high priority for Maj. Gen. Paul Mock, commander of the 63rd RRC, who recognized that Wounded Warriors returning from theater frequently face daunting legal challenges in addition to the many physical challenges created by their wounds.

These Soldiers need legal assistance to understand their legal rights to treatment, represent their interests in medical boards, and enforce their rights under state and federal law. To meet these challenges, Kusky tasked Lt. Col. David Torres, the deputy commander, and Maj. Adam Siegler, the unit's legal liaison officer, to develop a program specifically focused on assisting Wounded Warriors.

The organization began by evaluating existing legal assistance programs to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of Wounded Warriors. The Warriors are a top priority for legal services. When receiving requests for legal assistance, the unit's legal assistance intake NCOs will inquire whether the potential client is a Wounded Warrior; if so, the highest priority will be assigned. The 78th is developing a package of references for medical issues, including Army Regulations and programs

that relate to providing services to Wounded Warriors. The 78th website is being redesigned to include the Bill of Rights described below, as well as links to the Army Wounded Warrior Program page which will further link to resources for Soldiers and veterans.

REACHING OUT TO WOUNDED WARRIORS

In addition to providing JAG presence at all receptions and briefings for Wounded Warriors and their families, the 78th will network with 63rd RRC and other units in Southern California and Nevada to identify warriors in need, and to visit them in hospitals, clinics and housing for Wounded Warriors. The 78th's San Diego team has already initiated a liaison relationship with Balboa Naval Hospital and their medical support staff for Soldiers being treated there. Torres also reached out to local bar associations and attorneys and has begun to compile a list of referrals to provide low-cost and free services to Wounded Warriors. The program has already successfully linked up a wounded Soldier from Southern California with a firm that will provide free legal services.

THE WOUNDED WARRIOR'S BILL OF RIGHTS:

To honor Wounded Warriors, Siegler drafted the "Wounded Warrior's Bill of Rights, which sets forth the rights that Wounded Warriors can expect their Judge Advocates to enforce.



WOUNDED WARRIOR LEGAL

78TH LEGAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

If you have a deployment-related physical or mental condition, you are entitled to legal rights and legal representation. The Judge Advocates of the 78th Legal Support Organization (LSO) are here to assist you in understanding and enforcing your rights.

1. Medical Care

You have the right to medical care at Army and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and, in certain cases, temporary housing for you and your family.

2. Medical And Disability Boards

You may be required to attend Medical Review Boards and similar proceedings to determine your fitness for duty and your eligibility for disability benefits. You are entitled to legal counsel to assist you in understanding these procedures.

3. Veterans Benefits

As a returning veteran, you are entitled to a variety of benefits, many of them administered by the VA. Judge Advocates can help you obtain these benefits.

4. Reasonable Accommodation at Work

Pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-

Bill of Rights

employment Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are entitled to have your civilian job back when you demobilize, and you are also entitled to reasonable accommodations for your injuries.

5. Assistance With Housing and Credit Issues

If your deployment and medical condition has affected your housing or credit situation, the Service members Civil Relief Act provides certain legal protections to you, which Judge Advocates can help you enforce.

6. Legal Assistance

The 78th LSO will provide or arrange for legal assistance to ensure that Wounded Warriors and their families receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Please contact us at:

Unit Telephone: (866) 655-9526 (Toll Free) / (714) 229-3700

Emergency: (888) 532-1212 (Toll Free)

Address: 10541 Calle Lee, Suite 101

Los Alamitos, Calif.

Email: adam.siegler@us.army.mil; lucille.gutierrez@us.army.mil

IG: Leadership is Our Focus



It was standing room only for *How to Present a Briefing* training session during August drill weekend at 63rd RRC.

Photos: P. Ryan PAO



By Col. Laurie McCabe, 63rd RRC IG

The 63d RRC Inspector General Office focuses energies on leadership. We conduct a monthly leadership professional development class each battle assembly; we provide leadership assessment, leadership validation and command coordination programs at unit level enabling leadership teams to take a frank look at their capabilities. And there are “on the road” IG teams working hands on with Soldiers.

Through these experiences we have consistently seen two areas of concern: lack of communication and senior ranks acting as information filters between the commander and junior Soldiers.

Effective leaders need the support of others so they listen to what other people think and try to understand their motivators, wants and wishes. Communication is most effective when you are personally with Soldiers – hearing their words with their inflections. Relying on staff as your source of input will color the world somewhat unrealistically.

Well meaning senior officers and NCOs become filters, interpreting words and determining what information is passed on to unit members and what is not disseminated because they have determined it is irrelevant. Not only do they filter down, senior leaders can determine what the commander will hear and how it’s portrayed. Bad news can be played down and facts distorted to provide a rosy picture.

Leaders encourage and try to make strong connections with their Soldiers by understanding and being genuinely interested in their perspective. The transformational leader involves assessing motives, satisfying needs and treating Soldiers as full participants in the success of the unit.

SELFLESS

SERVICE

Put the welfare of the Nation,
the Army, and your subordinates
before your own.



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG™

ARMY VALUES



U.S. ARMY

ARMY RESERVE

It's not your everyday job.



Army Reserve Ambassador Program

The Army Reserve Ambassador Program was established in April 1998 to promote awareness of the Army Reserve and the identified goals and objectives of the Chief, Army Reserve (CAR). They serve as the CAR's local eyes, ears and voice, and promote each goal and objective the CAR identifies as a priority.



As a tool of the Army Reserve's Strategic Outreach initiatives, Ambassadors serve as a bridge to the community. They are a group of influential volunteers who function at the state and community

levels. Their function is similar to that of Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), and they carry a protocol equivalent of a major general.

Ambassadors are a focal point in building relationships, cultivating influential "friends" and improving understanding and knowledge of the Army Reserve within the business and social sectors of communities across America. They serve as the CAR's local eyes, ears and voice, and promote each goal and objective the CAR identifies as a priority. Ambassadors give Army Reserve outreach briefings to civic organizations and key leaders; they seek out local groups to explain capabilities, skills and value the Army Reserve provides to the community; they establish open lines of communication with the local community to identify and gain insight into their needs and our ability to meet them; and they reach out to Soldiers and their families during the difficult times of deployments and the excitement of "welcome home" ceremonies.

To continually improve the program and the abilities of Ambassadors, a conference is held once a year to review significant Army Reserve programs and the overall effectiveness of Ambassador efforts.



Ambassadors are appointed by the CAR, via nomination from Regional Readiness Command/General Officer (RRC/GO) commanders for an initial term of three years, with renewable extensions at the option of the CAR. The nominee cannot be an actively-serving member of the National Guard, Ready Reserve (Selected), Individual Ready Reserve, Federal Government or be a Federal elected or appointed official.

Each RRC has an ambassador coordinator to provide administrative support to and oversight of its respective Ambassadors. For further information about the program, call the National Coordinator of the Army Reserve Ambassador Program at Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (703) 601-0869 or 1-800-411-6227, ext 601-0869.



Keith Bushey: Participated as a VIP at the annual Torrance Armed Forces Day parade. Attended a Los Angeles Police Department retirement ceremony and recruit-graduation ceremony with Maj. Gen. Paul Mock, commander of 63rd RRC. Gave a post-deployment and "Welcome Home" briefing in Victorville, Calif., for Soldiers returning from deployment.



Ron Dunn: Attended, with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and other officials, a groundbreaking for the West Los Angeles Veterans Home on VA property. Also attended a second groundbreaking for West Los Angeles Fisher House Foundation, a place for parents of wounded Soldiers on VA property. Visited Soldiers at the Los Angeles International Airport USO who were returning from deployment or Pacific Warrior. Met with Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, gave him an Ambassador Coin and planned to meet again in the future.



Daniel Furtado: Visited Camp Parks during Exercise Pacific Warrior, received a tour and briefing. Also worked with 6045th Garrison Support Unit Family Readiness members and helped raise \$2,000 for a future Family Day picnic. Working with a local veteran's committee to select a location and then construct a veteran's memorial in Campbell, Calif.



UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



Jack Isler: Helped organize an Association of the United States Army regional meeting in Denver, including obtaining guest speakers such as Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, deputy commander of Northern Command; and Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command. Assisted association chapters develop and adopt resolutions to more closely focus on needs of Reserve Soldiers. Attended a Fort Huachuca Memorial Day event as ambassador.



Richard Lundin: Visited Camp Parks, Calif., for a tour and briefing during Exercise Pacific Warrior. Met with U.S. Representatives George Miller and Ellen Tauscher to discuss legislation to help Army Reserve Soldiers who have problems after deployment. Delivered 10 packages of treats, toilet articles and clothing for shipment to Soldiers in Baghdad and raised funds for a veterans home in Yountsville, Calif.



Ronald Markarian: Attended homecomings for the 250th Transportation Company and the 513th Movement Control Team. Visited a family day event of the 6045th Garrison Support Unit. Attended Camp Parks and Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., during Exercise Pacific Warrior. Visited with U.S. Rep. George Radanovich and discussed Army Reserve issues. Selected to be grand marshal of the Fresno Veterans Day Parade and worked with Maj. Gen. Robert Ostberg, former 63rd RRC commander, to set up a homeland security symposium. Markarian is the selected representative for the EXCOM Community.



James McEachin: Visited six Soldier patients and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. Served as honorary marshal of the Korean War contingent of a Memorial Day parade. Spoke before the Military Order of the Purple Heart in New York and is helping devise strategies for outreach to younger Purple Heart recipients.

Russell Park: Received a tour and briefing at Camp Parks, Calif., during Exercise Pacific Warrior. Met with Family Readiness leaders to request local beauticians to donate services to deployed Soldiers' spouses. Thanked Indiana National Guard Soldiers who came to Southern California for 90 days to repair and build roads along the Mexican border.

Anthony Reed: Participated in two forums with major employers in Philadelphia and Las Vegas to gain Army Reserve support from those organizations. Presented three Superior Civilian Service awards, including one to a bank employee who set up a support program for 400 deployed Reservists. Spoke by invitation before the Ruritan National club on placement of the Army Reserve force structure within the international terrorism threat.

John South: Visited war vets struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder who were taking a "relaxation" class. Met with Arizona state Sen. Linda Gray, U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell and Army Reserve battalion commanders about helping Soldiers and family members who have problems during and after deployment. Also conferred with Phoenix mayor to discuss his supporting the Ambassador Program.

Howard Schwartz: Regularly attends meetings of Jewish war veterans and other social events and answers peoples' questions about military-related issues. Ready with a "Jobs for Veterans" program for returning deployed Soldiers. Wrote a letter to Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of Army Reserve, about how local Jewish veterans have been supportive of the Army Reservist. He received a reply letter and read it to the veterans.



Operation Purple Camp:

kids support each other during parents' deployments

Story and photos by John D. Wagner,
63rd RRC PAO

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - Jale Wesley, 12, recounted days of fun amid hills and trees, after a long period of missing his father.

He'd ascended a wooden pole with metal pegs on the side. Step by step he climbed up as other youngsters held a rope that secured him in a harness. Jale reached the top, about 30 feet up, and then took a long step onto a swing suspended from another rope.

"There were seven swings (in a row) that we had to step onto," he said.

The July event was Operation Purple Camp, a week of activities in an oak-tree covered mountain area, to help the youngsters support each other during troubling absences. Nearly all of the 100 youngsters had a parent deployed overseas.

The purpose is for the youngsters "to bond, share with (each other) and express their emotions," said Flora Sherman, Army Reserve Child and Youth Services regional coordinator for 63rd RRC, involved in organizing the camp. "We want this to be a positive experience."

During one day, the camp had a military theme and three areas of activities. In the first, a special guest, Chief Warrant Officer Gary Becker of the 950th Combat Support Company, recently returned from deployment to Iraq, answered youngsters' questions.

"On a hot day in Iraq do you still have to wear that heavy uniform?" asked one girl, referring to Becker's Army Combat Uniform.

"We have to wear heavier than this," Becker answered. "We have to wear body armor as well and you have to hydrate a lot. You're always drinking."

In another area, Sgt. David Richards and Pvt. Megan Cleveland, also from the 950th, stood before a camouflage-pattern Humvee and a pile of Kevlar helmets, NBC clothing and other field gear.

The youngsters soon climbed into the vehicle and tried on the equipment.



Pvt. Megan Cleveland talks with Erika Paul 13, left, and Soleil Rae, 12, during Operation Purple Camp.



A youngster at Operation Purple Camp steps onto swings 30 feet in the air.

Army Reserve Child and Youth Services

Greetings to All RRC 63rd RRC Staff and Family Members & Volunteers:

Have You Contacted Your Army Reserve (AR) Child & Youth Services (CYS) Regional Coordinator?

The 63rd RRC Family Programs has two AR CYS Regional Coordinators. For Arizona, Nevada, and Southern California, contact Flora M. Sherman at (951) 653-7815 or email at flora.sherman@usar.army.mil. For Northern California, contact Kasee Fuller at (925) 875-4811 or email at kasee.fuller@usar.army.mil. We are available to assist you with the following AR CYS program services:

1) Assisting with Child Care Resources

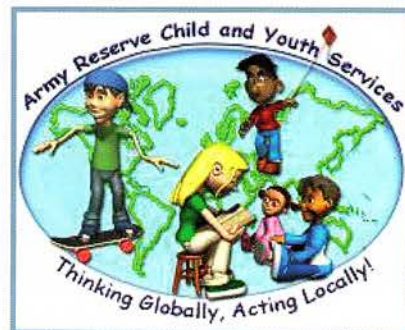
Flora M. Sherman
AR Child & Youth Services
Regional Coordinator
63rd RRC- Family Programs

2) Connecting Families (with Teens) with Positive Youth Opportunities

3) Educating the Community & Schools About the Unique Characteristics of the Army Reserve Families & Students

If you would like more information on any of the above, feel free to contact us via email or telephone. We are also available to present this info at your formation meetings, BTAs, Family Day, or any training that is offered to you all. We look forward to serving California, Nevada, and Arizona.

14945 4th St.
Riverside, CA 92518
Fax: 951-656-1303



CG ENCOURAGES expanding support to deployed Soldiers' children

SAN DIEGO—Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock praised an organization specializing in promoting support of deployed service members' children and said such efforts should be expanded in California.

Mock, commander of 63rd Regional Readiness Command, spoke at a meeting of the Military Child Education Coalition National Guard and Reserve Institute May 3. The coalition was training dozens of San Diego-area teachers, administrators and counselors on the special issues and needs of deployed Soldiers' children.

The meeting speakers discussed issues such as watching for changes in behavior, what agencies are available for help and how educators from different schools can network with each other to increase effectiveness on these issues.

"We need to get this program into Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Bernardino County," Mock said. "What this war has brought on is the citizen-Soldier being deployed for great periods of time. The family may not be prepared for such a



Maj. Gen. Mock speaks at the Military Child Education Coalition meeting in San Diego.

mobilization that could be up to one and a half years.

"School teachers are probably more connected with the community than any other group."

Expressing her appreciation, Mary Keller, executive director of the coalition, gave the general a coin with children's faces on it. It was a reversal of the usual custom of general officers giving coins to other people.

Flora Sherman, regional coordinator for Army Child & Youth Services, praised Mock's visit.

"Maj. Gen. Mock has been very supportive of speaking on behalf of Army families," she said. "Every event he has graciously accepted. He makes an impact wherever he goes. Families find him very sincere."



Mary Keller, executive director of the coalition, speaks at the meeting.

AR-RAP PROGRAM ARMY RESERVE LAUNCHES DRIVE FOR SOLDIERS TO BECOME RECRUITING ASSISTANTS, EARN \$2,000

Army Reserve Soldiers can become recruiting assistants to work in their local communities and earn \$2,000 for each successful recruiting effort through the Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program, or AR-RAP.

The program involves Soldiers working on their own time in a contractual capacity to conduct recruiting for non-prior-service people to sign up and complete training requirements or prior-service members to immediately join a unit.

The recruiting assistant would be paid \$1,000 for each Soldier who signs up and an additional \$1,000 after the Soldier completes training. If a recruited Soldier is prior service, the assistant would receive the second payment after the Soldier serves 120 days in a unit and attends a Battle Assembly within the previous 60 days.

To become a recruiting assistant, Soldiers must first complete on-line training, which takes about 30 minutes. Upon completion, Soldiers will become certified assistants and are immediately ready to conduct personalized recruiting efforts. Once qualified, they receive a welcome kit and a recruiter-store account to order marketing materials for use with recruiting efforts.

The assistants are expected to work with their prospective Army Reserve recruits throughout the accession process. They are not authorized to make legally binding commitments for bonuses, incentives or to guarantee specific jobs upon joining the Army Reserve.

For more information or to apply for online training, please access www.AR-RAP.com.
---from www.armyreserve.army.mil

63rd RRC
"Blood and Fire"

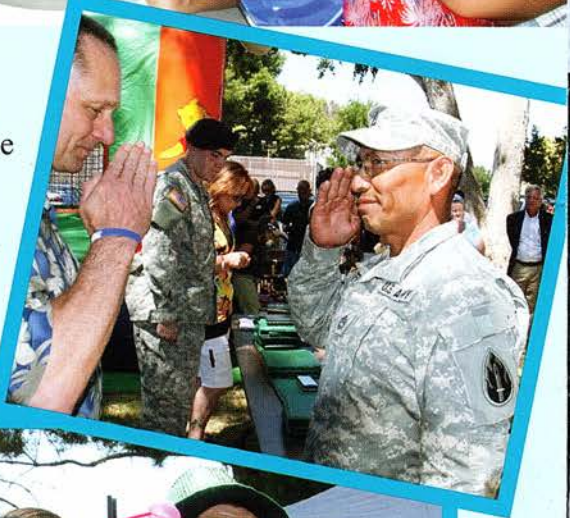


ARMY STRONGSM

6045th Family Day



Maj. Gen. Paul Mock and Col. Joel Mjolsness, commander of the 6045th Garrison Support Unit, welcome Soldiers and families and acknowledge participants of Exercise Pacific Warrior. Informational booths provided family support information.



Legal support unit develops naturalization procedures for mobilized Soldiers

By Lt. Col. David A. Torres, 78th Legal Support Organization

Photo: Maj. Bernie Laforteza, 311th ESC

On July 4, 2002, President Bush signed Executive Order 13269, which authorized expedited processing for aliens and non-citizens serving on active duty in the armed forces. As a result, the naturalization processing time was substantially reduced when compared to non-military applications. The order stressed the importance that our country placed upon bestowing citizenship to those "Green Card" Soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen.

Our country sent forces into Iraq in March 2003. Months prior to that, Soldiers from then- 311th Corps Support Command and scores of Reservists nationwide had been mobilized. During this period 311th legal assistance personnel began receiving emails from Soldiers informing them that they were prohibited from performing their respective MOS tasks because they were not US citizens and thus could not acquire "secret" status.

Shortly thereafter, then-Lt. Col. Elena Kusky, SJA of the 311th, directed her staff to research U.S. citizenship policy and procedures; study the U.S. Army active component citizenship procedure; find ways to expedite the current procedure; then draft a comprehensive step-by-step naturalization SOP. Within several months, Kusky's staff provided a draft for her review. Upon approving the SOP, the concept was embraced by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, then commander of the 311th.

Upon implementing the "311th Expedited Citizenship Program," the response was minimal. However, as the weeks went on, word of the assistance we provided in this area began to spread. As judge advocates, we provide the Soldier applicant with information as to the documents required and oversee the completion and assembly of the naturalization and citizenship application. Along with this packet, a letter is prepared intro-

ducing the Soldier applicant, providing the applicants MOS, and, if pertinent, stating whether the MOS is one requiring a security clearance. The application is then forwarded to the bureau office in Nebraska.

In our "experimental" group of four Soldiers, we were able to complete the naturalization process in less than four months.

The pinnacle of success culminated in June 2003, when the 311th held the first naturalization celebration on a U.S. Army Reserve installation. The event was a tremendous success with the Hon. Ronald S.W. Lew, Federal District Court, rendering a "symbolic" Oath of Citizenship to the Army's new citizens. Maj. Gen. Paul Mock, commander of 63rd RRC, celebrating this event in a speech, voicing his pride in taking part of this historical event.



Soldiers in courtroom pause during a naturalization ceremony. From left are Spc. Cynthia Ramos, Spc. Alberto Funes, Judge Ronald S.W. Lew, Pvt. Romer David and Spc. Enrique Avalos.

He further commented upon the importance of all "Green Card Soldiers" serving in the U.S. armed forces to become citizens of this great country. Mock informed the 200-plus family members and dignitaries in attendance that Spc. Cynthia Ramos, one of the naturalized Soldiers, was prepared to deploy the following day to the Middle East with the 420th MCB.

Within months of the initial naturalization ceremony, the 311th Legal Assistance Office, along with Salomon's assistance, coordinated their efforts with El Paso District Adjudication Officer Carlos Corbett. More than 30 Soldiers from the 311th, and its trace units, were naturalized minutes before boarding an airplane for duty overseas. The naturalization process of these Soldiers – from start to finish – took less than 45 days.

For more information, please call the 78th LSO at (714) 229-3703 or visit our website at www.us.army.mil/suite/page/444635

CORNER Chaplain's

FAITH SUSTAINS SOLDIERS IN DIFFICULT TIMES



By Chap. (Col.) William Brunold 63rd RRC

When I was in the Marines back in the early 1970s, we had an interesting drill sergeant at Officer Candidate School. Even though he was a “rough and tumble-type” character with combat experience in Vietnam, he made an impact on me and other candidates because he was also a man of deep faith.

One particular day after he had chewed us out for whatever (which was pretty much every day), he said something that truly resonated with me. He said, “Every Marine should have a faith, a religion, and you should stick to that faith. Learn it, know it and live it. It will come in handy some day. I don’t care what kind of faith or religion it is. Just have a faith!”

I will never forget what that staff sergeant said that day in 1971. These words have stayed with me and have rung true as our men and women in uniform have gone on deployments in the last five and a half years. Faith has been one of those sustaining elements for our troops, along with their families, co-workers and friends. It should be said also that many American people have kept Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen in their prayers on a regular basis. My congregation in Norwalk continues to pray for and support our service members every Sunday. In May we commemorated both Armed Forces Sunday and Memorial Day when a group of lay people placed the flags of the five services in the sanctuary for the worship services. Those flags remained in full view through July 4.

Many Soldiers I know can testify that faith has sustained them in difficult times, especially during combat operations in our present conflicts. Again, I would echo my former drill sergeant that you have a faith and use it in your daily life. America has been a country that encourages faith without having an established state religion. That makes our country unique in the world.

My encouragement to all our Soldiers, family members and all connected with our present war effort is to put faith high on the list of priorities. It comes in very handy considering all that we have to face these days.

Battling

PTSD
PTSD

Army launches chain teaching program
traumatic stress brain injuries



WASHINGTON - The Army launched today a “chain-teaching” program to help Soldiers and their Families identify symptoms and seek treatment for those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and mild Traumatic Brain Injury. The chain-teaching program, available at Army Knowledge Online or www.us.army.mil includes a standardized script and supporting audiovisual products that leaders will use to teach Soldiers about the signs and symptoms of these behavioral and mental-health issues.

All active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers will receive the training within 90 days of the launch. “We emphasize that every commander needs to be able to do an individual assessment of each Soldier,” said Col. C. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatry consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army. “If a Soldier has an issue, that commander needs to be able to reach out and help that Soldier. Soldiers also need to be able to help each other.” A version designed specifically for Family Readiness Groups became available July 24.

“Combat is inherently brutal and difficult, and it impacts humans in different ways,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey Jr. “We have made significant improvements in the identification and treatment for PTSD and mild TBI, but we must aggressively work research, prevention and treatment of these injuries and encourage Soldiers and their Families to seek treatment.” All Soldiers in combat suffer stress, but most recover quickly.

Those whose symptoms persist may have PTSD. PTSD and mild TBI are genuine medical and psychological conditions that can negatively impact a Soldier’s personal life, professional abilities and health. Soldiers may be affected by only one or both conditions at the same time. By seeking help, Soldiers can receive professional assessments that direct them toward the right care for their specific conditions. “It’s impossible not to be changed by going to war,” said Dr. Deborah Warden, national director for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, headquartered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. “Parsing out what parts are a stress reaction and what parts have to do with a previous concussion is difficult.”

TSGLI Army and VA Review: Helping Soldiers, dispelling myths

From USARC Public Affairs

Washington, DC—The U.S. Army along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has completed their first review of Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) since its start in 2005. The Congressionally-mandated insurance program has provided about \$250 million to traumatically-injured members of the Armed Services. Of that, about \$136 million was paid to Soldiers in the U.S. Army—more than twice the next highest service.

While those figures definitely represent success in working towards the program's mission to provide financial help for traumatically injured Soldiers, TSGLI still faces challenges with educating servicemembers about the program and dispelling some myths that have grown around TSGLI during its short existence.

TSGLI was created to help servicemembers and their families get through tough financial times that often happen when a servicemember is severely injured. Approved TSGLI claimants receive a one-time payment of up to \$100,000, based on the type and severity of the injury. That money might be the difference that allows a Soldier's Family to stay with him or her during recovery, help with unforeseen expenses or give them a financial head start on life after recovery.

From the Army's point of view, the program faces some inter-related challenges: ensuring that all Soldiers are aware of TSGLI, understand its purpose, and know how to file a correctly prepared claim; and decreasing the claim processing time.

According to COL John F. Sackett, who leads the TSGLI Division under the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency (USAPDA), the average time to process a claim from receipt at Army through payment by Office of Service Members Group Life Insurance is 30 days.

COL Sackett believes both situations can be improved through outreach educating Soldiers, healthcare providers, counselors, and advocates. "Our main focus is on determining which Soldiers are eligible to receive this payment, based on the claim they file, and then making sure eligible Soldiers receive payment as quickly as possible, so this money is available while they recover from their injury."

"One of our biggest barriers," according to COL Sackett, "is the lack of knowledge and general misconceptions that are out there regarding TSGLI. These barriers create situations where Soldiers who are not eligible file claims; or Soldiers who are eligible file claims without supplying the required documentation allowing us to adjudicate their claim quickly."

To reduce these barriers, the Army uses a robust outreach program including messaging, educational materials, media outreach, and a constantly updated dynamic web site, along with numerous in-person appearances and briefings at significant military events (i.e. Army Medical Holdover Conference, AMSUS, AUSA, etc.) and repeated visits to Military Treatment Facilities such as Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. But more is needed, so Army TSGLI is working hard to place "boots on the ground" at major Military Treatment Facilities starting late this summer through this fall. TSGLI Counselors will provide a full stance of claims assistance, medical staff and caseworker education, and extensive Soldier records procurement on behalf of the Soldier working through the Warrior Transition Units and Soldier Family Assistance Centers.

While the overall focus of the outreach program is on educating claimants and the people who care for them, specific messages have been created to help dispel five myths that have grown up around the program:

Myth #1: TSGLI is just for combat injuries. False. Any qualifying injury incurred after December 1, 2005 is eligible for TSGLI coverage—regardless of whether it was in combat or not. The only exception is the retroactive program, which covers Soldiers injured beginning October 7, 2001 through November 30, 2005, but only if they were injured in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE) area supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) or Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Myth #2: A healthcare provider's statement is all that is needed to verify a TSGLI claim. False. While TSGLI claims won't be approved without a certification from a healthcare provider, additional documentation must be provided to substantiate the certification. The documentation may include medical reports and tests that establish the type of injury and the time that the Soldier was incapacitated as a result. Specific information is available on the TSGLI website.

Myth #3: TSGLI replaces a traumatically injured Soldier's income. False. TSGLI provides one-time, tax-free payments that can help a Soldier and Family member get through short-term difficulties related to his or her injury and has no affect on regular pay.

Myth #4: TSGLI is an entitlement to Soldiers incurring any traumatic injuries. False. TSGLI provides an insurance benefit for one or more of a total of 44 scheduled physical losses due to external force or violence. These covered losses include amputation, burns, paralysis, brain injury or coma, loss of senses (e.g. blindness), or temporary losses of two of six activities of daily living (ADLs) such as eating, bathing, dressing, continence, transferring, and toileting. It does not cover Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Myth #5: TSGLI denies the first claim attempt automatically. False. Good documentation is the key to a quick award of TSGLI. Loss schedule one through 43 covers losses that have a defined and measurable loss. Loss # 44, the activities of daily living does not, and further requires the medical provider documentation to substantiate the duration (e.g. 30, 60, 90, or 120 days) of two or more ADLs in which the Soldier was completely dependent (defined as 75-100% care by another person).

By dispelling these five myths, TSGLI will be better positioned to help the Soldiers who are truly eligible for this benefit, and do so in an even more timely manner.

"As claimants become better educated about TSGLI, it can't help but speed up our processes, which allows us to better accomplish our objective of helping heroes in times of need," according to COL Sackett.

COL Sackett and the outreach team rely heavily on the web site and web-based outreach e-tools to help in dispelling these myths and more. "With a majority of the key information online, Soldiers or Family members trying to access the TSGLI programs benefits will better understand the eligibility and claims process. In addition, people who care for Soldiers, such as Family members, counselors and healthcare providers, will have information tailored specifically to their particular roles in the process."

The TSGLI web site has an array of features including user-friendly graphics, detailed program information, outreach materials, program statistics that detail claims and dollars paid to date; and an online discussion forum, where users can log in, post questions or comments and interact with others to share best practices and answer common questions.

For more information about TSGLI, contact the U.S. Army TSGLI service center at 1-800-237-1336 or TSGLI@conus.army.mil. You can also visit the web site at www.tsqli.army.mil.

Soldiers from 63rd RRC go to Hollywood, see 'American Idol Extra'

by John D. Wagner, 63rd RRC PAO

Bill Sindelar, an audience warm-up comedian, joked and revved up his audience dressed in a sea of uniforms and sitting on wooden bleachers.

"In a few minutes, you're going to be seen by millions of people!" he yelled. "Who wants to be on TV?" Claps and cheers erupted from the crowd.

The location was a CBS sound stage near Hollywood with a taping of "American Idol Extra" about to start. Nearly 30 Soldiers from 63rd RRC, mostly from its headquarters and clad in ACUs, gathered for a day of fun on April 25 along with a number of sailors, Marines and one airman.

"Extra" followed an historic taping of "American Idol" at Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles featuring stars including Ben Stiller, Ellen Degeneres and other celebrities. The event raised \$30 million for charity. The show also had six singing contestants belting out songs in an intense competition. For the first time, none were eliminated.

The subsequent "Extra" show, featured teen singing sensations Diana DeGarmo and Sanjaya Malakar. Both were interviewed by show host JD Roberto and DeGarmo sang "America the Beautiful" to honor the service members.

DeGarmo described how she recently toured Iraq with a USO show to entertain the troops. "Every show we had an amazing response. We'd have the house rockin'. When people thanked me, I thanked them and said, 'Dude, you're the one protecting me.'"

The six singing contestants also walked out on stage, two at a time, to talk with Roberto.

The 63rd RRC Soldiers and others wrote questions for the singers and Roberto asked some of them.

"We have a question from Ramon," said Roberto to singer Melinda Doolittle, referring to Maj. Ramon Torry of G-3. "What is the biggest sacrifice you have made to become an American Idol?"

Doolittle said she saw her daughter much less. "And before I helped make other peoples' shows work by singing in the background. Now I have to make my own show work."

After the interviews, all the service members got a chance to meet the contestants and get their autographs.

"Despite the show being filmed to be broadcasted to millions of people, it was as though the performances and the interviews were conducted just for us," Torry said.

Sgt. Ethan Spann, gave a positive review.

"Once I got into the show I enjoyed it," he said. "I liked the hype man (Sindelar) between the shows and I enjoyed meeting the contestants. That was cool. Now I'm following them (their progress). I watched them last night.

Sgt. 1st Class Ileana Magana called the show "awesome."

Maj. Ramon Torry and Maj. Ben Dennis (left) listen as "American Idol Extra" host JD Roberto addresses military guests during a taping of the show.

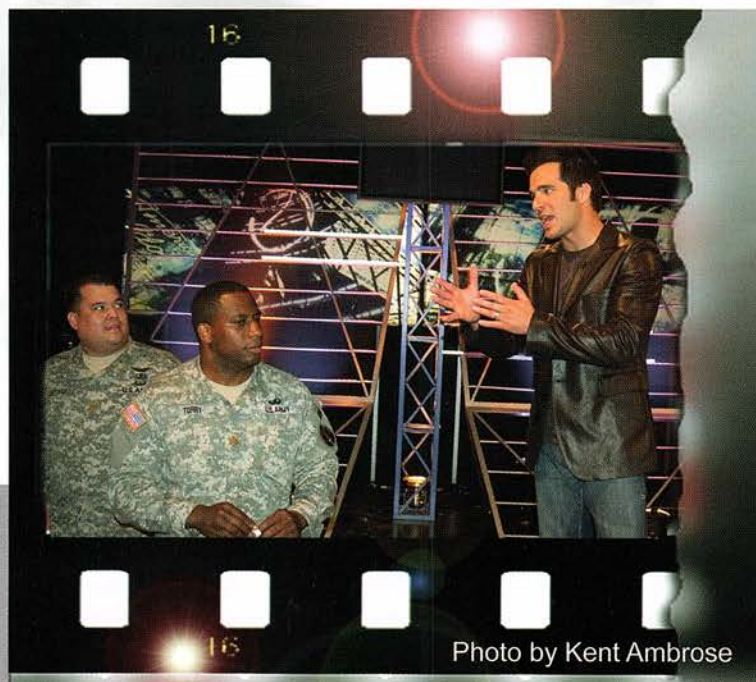


Photo by Kent Ambrose

SOLDIERS ENHANCE FINANCE SKILLS DURING EXERCISE

DIAMOND SABER

2007

By 1st Lt. Alan Colley
326th Financial Management Center

Second Lt. John Keck was recently handed \$199,700 to conduct his daily business. Neat stacks of currency filled the vault in his office. Just outside the door, a guard vigilantly kept watch to ensure no unauthorized personnel were allowed to enter.

As the disbursing agent for the 368th Finance Detachment from Wichita, Kan., Keck was responsible to secure and account for all funds under his control.

Keck was one of over 360 Soldiers from the U.S Army Reserve and National Guard who descended on Fort McCoy, Wis., in July for Exercise Diamond Saber 2007. Over 30 units from 12 states and Puerto Rico participated. The exercise, now in its fourth year, served as the premier training event for finance units. The goal, according to exercise director Col. Kathy Ellis, commander of the 326th Financial Management Center in Bell, Calif., was to “conduct joint training in key financial management skills in order to enhance individual Soldier skills and unit preparedness. Ultimately, these skills translate into mission readiness as units prepare to execute in the theaters of operation.”

Soldiers began the two-week exercise with four days of classroom instruction, focusing on the areas of military pay, resource management, commercial vendor services, and disbursing operations. The exercise culminated in a six-day combined Command Post Exercise and Situational Training Exercise from July 14 – July 19.

To further enhance the training experience, role players taken from participating units were used to simulate real-world transactions. Though the majority of finance customers were fellow military personnel, some role players donned traditional Arab dress or civilian clothing to assume roles as foreign nationals or government contractors. One of the role players, Pvt. David Johnson from the 210th Financial Management Company in Jackson,



Miss., noticed an upward trend as the exercise progressed.

“The cashiers have been really focused. They don’t get distracted,” he said, “Repetition betters them.” Johnson also remarked that his job as a role player was improving his finance skills as well. “I’m trying to learn what to do on the other side of the counter. I feel if I had to replace someone, I could do the job as well as he or she does.”

The ultimate goal was to produce better-trained finance Soldiers capable of accomplishing their war-time mission. Pfc. Eric Smith, a finance clerk with the 368th Finance Detachment from Wichita, Kan., said that the exercise offered “good, hands-on training. When we’re getting ready to go overseas, it is nice to have a real live situation and customers to talk to.” His section leader, Sgt. Ed Guymon, agrees: “This is a great refresher for upcoming deployment. I’m glad to know that when I get into theater, I will have a better finance background.”



Soldiers Compete in 40TH ANNUAL PHILIP A. CONNELLY AWARD PROGRAM

By Lt. Col. Alexander Valentine
Deputy Cmdr. G4

Photos: Patricia Ryan PAO

The 376th Personnel Services Battalion, out of Long Beach, Calif., has been nominated to represent the 63rd Regional Readiness Command at the 40th Annual Philip A. Connelly Award competition. This Department of the Army Level Evaluation will be conducted at Camp Pendleton on Nov. 3.

The USARC evaluators selected the 376th PSB's Army Field Fielding Facility - Mobile Kitchen during "URBAN WARRIOR" one of their Field Training Exercises. The setting was as realistic as it gets, within a Military Operational Urban Terrain (MOUT) environment at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los Alamitos, Calif.

It was a win-win situation for all involved: The unit operated a mess recognized for excellence, the patrons ate a five-star meal and the cooks developed a heightened sense of commitment towards their mission to provide nutritional support to America's combat forces.

The Department of the Army and the International Food Service Executives



Hungry Soldiers file in for a hot and hearty field mess meal.



Lt. Col. Valentine is stopped and questioned.

"An Army Marches

Association established the Phillip A. Connelly Memorial Awards Program in 1968. The award is designed to improve food service operations

and recognize the best mess halls in the Army. The program is named in honor of the late Phillip A. Connelly, a former president of IFSEA.

"The most important part of our job is to concentrate on the training aspects and

knowledge of our cooks, for their equipment, their portion sizes, their required measurements and conversions and the quality of the meal they will be serving," says 1ST Cook Staff Sgt. Evelyn McLarty.

In a wartime scenario, the objective is to keep the troops moving as Napoleon once said, "An Army Marches On Its Stomach." You also need to take into consideration the temperature of the food, which is the responsibility of all food service personnel. During the competition, the well trained Food Sanitation Team made sure all of the thermometer gauges were properly calibrated. ASIDE:

What Napoleon was really getting at with this maxim was the importance of the supply line. Logistics - getting food, clothes, and spare parts to the front - is often what makes or breaks a conflict.

The truth of this was illustrated by Napoleon himself when, in June 1812, he tried (and failed) to invade Russia



Lt. Col. Kristen Cox, 376th lines up to sam

COOKING COMPETITION

On Its Stomach" Napoleon

with a force of 500,000 men. Because the Russians removed most of the food and crops in advance, Napoleon's army couldn't live off the land as they had in previous campaigns.

Despite this, his forces made it to Moscow by September, but they were too emaciated to hold their position and in October went into retreat. Napoleon failed to live up to his own dictum

about supply and, as a result, his bid for continental domination was thwarted.



commander of the
ple the chow.



376th cooks pose for a group shot before the rush.

Warrant officers play key role in Pacific Warrior exercise

By Chief Warrant Officer Farrell Chiles, 63rd RRC

More than 4,200 Soldiers convened on Fort Hunter Liggett in California to participate in Exercise Pacific Warrior. During the training, daily temperatures ranged from 93 to 103 degrees. Among the participants were 42 warrant officers from reserve units throughout the United States.

Chief Warrant Officer Martha Ervin, a human resources technician from the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, was part of her unit's advance party. Ervin was tasked to set up the G-1 operations, establish and publish the policies and procedures for the personnel status reports, line of duties, Red Cross notifications, awards, and other personnel actions.

I was a part of the trail party for the 63rd. The G-1 trail party consisted of a lieutenant colonel, a sergeant major, and other enlisted Soldiers. I served as the executive officer. We received the personnel status reports from the various S-1s, prepared the daily briefing slides, managed the line of duties, operated a 24-hour Red Cross and processed over 4,200 certificates of achievement for all the Pacific Warrior participants.

Chief Warrant Officer James D. Kluck, a food service warrant officer from the 300th Military Police Brigade, Inkster, Mich., arrived at Hunter Liggett May 21 and departed July 6. Mr. Kluck, a veteran of Pacific Survivor, was responsible for the food service operations. Asked about the food operations, he stated, "Food service was over committed and under resourced. However, the Forward Operating Bases' infrastructures were exceptional."

Prior to the end of the exercise, Kluck was recognized and received a commander's coin from Brig. Gen. Charles Ebner of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command (along with a punch to his upper chest) and another coin from Lt. Col. Jeffrey Burbach, deputy commander of the 300th Area Support Group, for his outstanding support of the food service operations.

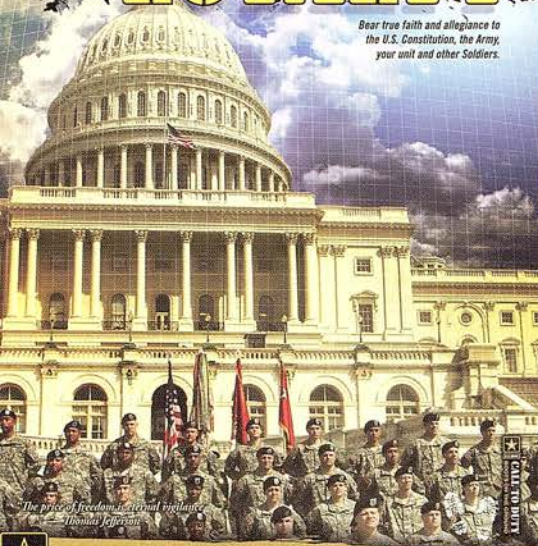
Other warrant officers participated in Pacific Warrior as well. There were supply warrants as well as maintenance warrants. Even though we totaled forty-two in number, our presence was felt. The Army can't go to work or even to a training exercise without warrant officers. We're that valuable.



Left to Right: Chief Warrant Officer Hobson Hamilton Jr., Chief Warrant Officer Farrell Chiles, and 1st Lt. Gregory Carter. Both warrant officers are wearing unit patches from their Vietnam service.

LOYALTY

Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers.

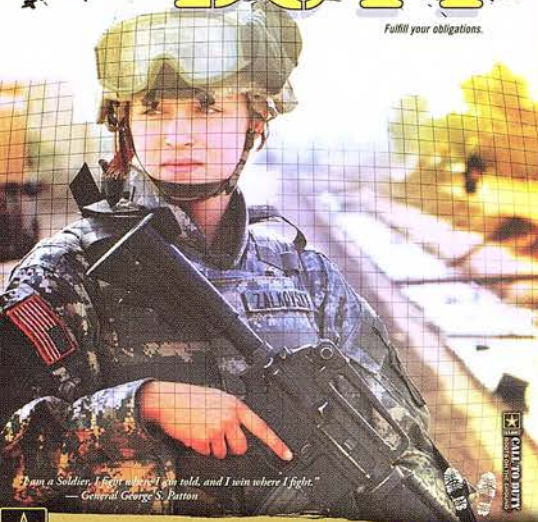


The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. — Thomas Jefferson



DUTY

Fulfill your obligations.

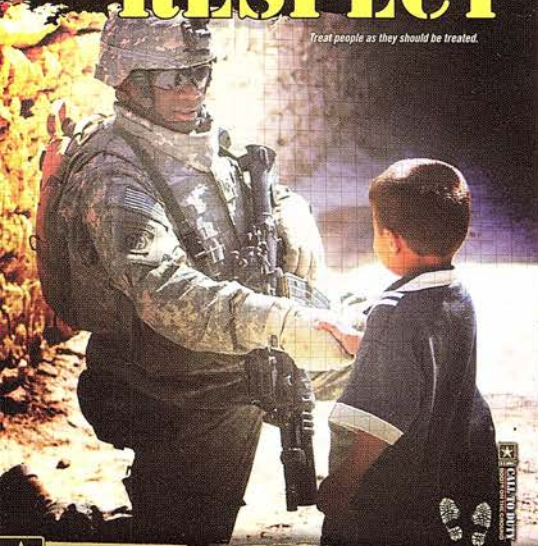


I am a Soldier. I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight. — General George S. Patton



RESPECT

Treat people as they should be treated.



ARMY

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON-- A recent Defense Department policy change widens eligibility for some Army Reserve Soldiers who want to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits, a senior DoD official said.

The DoD policy now aligns with Department of Veterans Affairs rules, which say National Guard members and reservists are eligible to receive Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits for the period covering the amount of time they served on active duty, plus four months, said Tom Bush, principal director for manpower and personnel within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

After studying the matter over the past few months, DoD agreed to align its policy with the VA's, Bush said during a joint Pentagon Channel/American Forces Press Service interview. DoD's previous policy, he said, only recognized the amount of active-duty time as applied to the G.I. Bill coverage period for reserve component members but still required the member to continue to serve in the Selected Reserve.

"The change, from the DoD perspective, is that the benefit now can be used by somebody that leaves the selected reserve for the amount of time that they've served on active duty, plus four months," Bush said. Guard and reserve members who attend regular drill training and meetings are considered part of the selected reserve.

The total amount of G.I. Bill coverage for reservists is still 36 months, Bush said. "So, if you've used part of that (G.I. Bill benefit) it may eat into that 36 months," he noted. Bush said reservists normally have 14 years to use their Montgomery

G.I. Bill benefits. However, that time might also be extended, he noted, by the amount of time Guard or Reserve members serve on active duty, plus four months.

Senior Guard and Reserve officials, as well as demobilization sites, have been alerted to the policy change, Bush said.

About 370,000 Guard and Reserve members on drill or active-duty status have signed up to use Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Bush said.

The Reserve Education Assistance Program, established by the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, is another DoD education initiative for members of the Guard and Reserve, Bush noted.

To be eligible, servicemembers must have served at least 90 consecutive days of active service after Sept. 11, 2001, in response to a Presidential or Congressional call-up of military forces for wartime or other emergency service.

Guard and Reserve members who served for two continuous years on active duty in support of a contingency operation would qualify for both the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP and could select which program they want to use, Bush noted.

Servicemembers can determine if they qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP by contacting their local education office.

I WILL ALWAYS
I WILL NEVER
I WILL NEVER

BRIEFS

NEW HANDBOOK HELPS SOLDIERS SURVIVE FIRST 100 DAYS IN IRAQ

A new handbook on how Soldiers can survive their first 100 days in Iraq is now available at <https://call2.army.mil/new/toc.asp?document=2393>.

"Soldier Handbook: Surviving Iraq," was developed due to the increased casualty rate during the first 100 days of a unit's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to Col. Steven Mains, director of the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The handbook educates Soldiers on how not to become complacent to potential dangers and to be mindful of resourceful enemies who closely observe U.S. tactics to

adapt their attack strategies, said Mains.

The handbook is based on responses from more than 1,700 Soldiers--captains, lieutenants and Soldiers from the ranks of staff sergeant and below. About 1,000 of the responses were taken from interviews with redeploying units in Kuwait and Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo. and Fort Stewart, Ga.

The Soldiers were asked questions pertaining to individual Soldier behavior, unit leadership, equipment and pre-deployment training.

"Our intention was to learn from the Soldiers what they thought contributed to their survival in Iraq," said Milton Hileman, senior military analyst for CALL. "We asked them to focus their answers as if they were talking from one Soldier to another."

The remaining responses came from a 23-question survey that CALL placed on its Web site.

"We were pleased with numerous responses we received from many of the Soldiers," said Hileman. "The Soldiers in many cases were very insightful."

"Several Soldiers came up to me after filling out the survey and said 'Thank you for asking,'" said James Gebhardt, senior military analyst for CALL. "They had a sense of self-worth and self-importance."

Among other recommendations, many Soldiers recommended:

- Staying aware of their surroundings,
- Listening to their leaders,
- Avoiding routine or predictable patterns,
- Following standard operating procedures, and
- Using protective gear and armored vehicles.

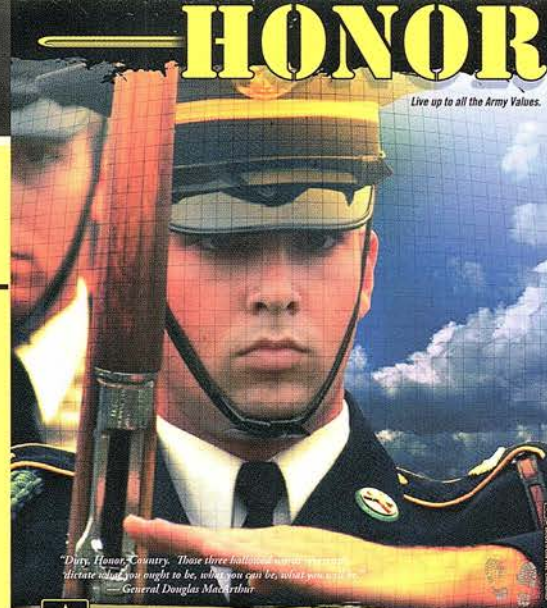
ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST.
NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.
NEVER WILL NEVER QUIT.
NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.



WARRIOR ETHOS
WWW.ARMY.MIL/WARRIORETHOS

HONOR

Live up to all the Army Values.



"Dirty, Honor, Country. These three hallmarks define a warrior. It dictates what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be."
—General Douglas MacArthur

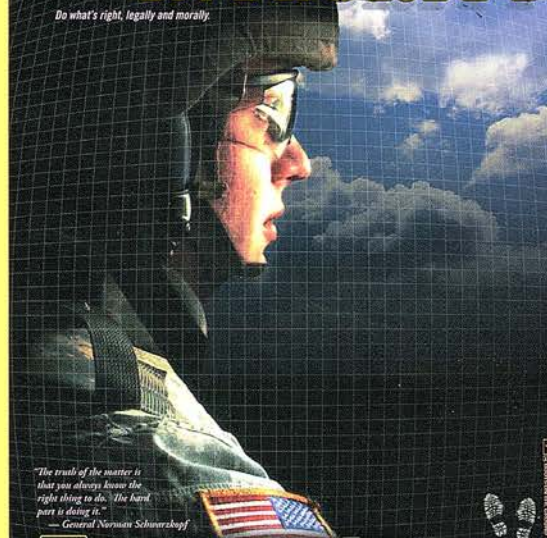


ARMY STRONG.

ARMY VALUES

INTEGRITY

Do what's right, legally and morally.



"The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it."
—General Norman Schwarzsopf



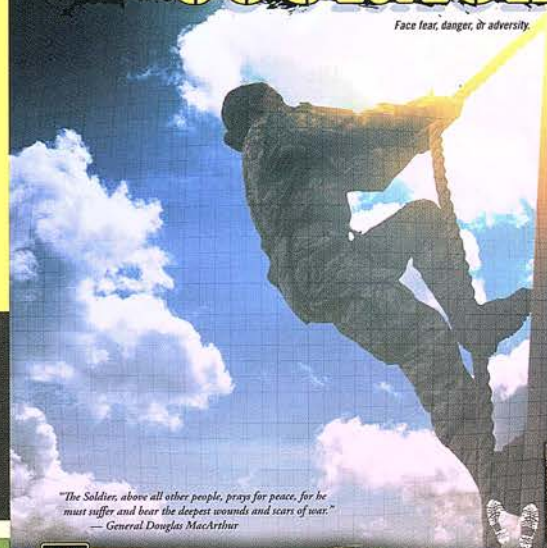
ARMY STRONG.

ARMY VALUES

PERSONAL

COURAGE

Face fear, danger, or adversity.



"The Soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."
—General Douglas MacArthur



ARMY STRONG.

ARMY VALUES



U.S. ARMY

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY U.S. ARMY RESERVE

Help celebrate the tradition of honor and commitment in the U.S. Army Reserve by completing a commendation today!

As a Reserve Soldier, you can honor any number of U. S. Army Veterans. You can also share the honor with your parents, spouse and employer. It's easy and costs the honoree nothing! Visit www.FreedomTeamSalute.com to register and begin the commendation process.

Each Freedom Team Salute Commendation includes:

- Certificate of Appreciation and personal message of appreciation signed by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff
- U.S. Army decal
- Official U.S. Army lapel pin



FreedomTeamSalute.com

SHARE THE HONOR TODAY!