



84th Division Alumni Bugler



December 2006



Special Points of Interest

- **Remember:** You are responsible for updating your retire pay file information at DFSA-CL within one year of the event if you marry, remarry, have a child are widowed or divorced and need to make or update a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election. See the latest Army Echoes newsletter for current address locations.
- **Not receiving Army Echoes?**
- Retired Receiving Pay contact: DFAS @ (800) 321-1080
- Gray Area Retired Contact: USAHRC @ (800) 325-2660

Inside this issue:

Presidents Corner	2
Survey Result	2
Training Divisions	2
Veterans Parade	2
VA Grounds	3
A Soldier's Christmas	4
End of Dog Tags	5
Army's Best Invention	5

Fort McCoy FY 2006 training totals surpass 107,000 personnel

Fort McCoy registered more than 5,000 additional personnel training at the installation during fiscal year 2006 (FY 2006) compared to FY 2005 totals, according to statistics compiled by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS). This was the 22nd consecutive year the installation has trained more than 100,000 personnel.

A total of 107,668 personnel trained in FY 2006 compared to 102,191 for FY 2005. The FY 2006 statistics included 66,380 personnel conducting extended combat training (two weeks or more, including mobilizing units), and 41,288 personnel attending battle drill assembly training.

Highlights of the training year included integrated training with the Patriot Exercise in June, a Global Patriot Exercise in July and the Red Dragon Homeland Defense Exercise in August. It was the first time the Patriot Exercise had come to Fort McCoy and the second time for the Global Patriot Exercise. New training also included a Department of Energy exercise and the testing of the Breech Assault vehicle.

These exercises brought a mixture of personnel to Fort McCoy including Army, Air Force, Marines and federal civilian and contracted personnel. Global Patriot and Red Dragon continued to grow in the number of troops involved.

Fort McCoy continued to strive toward meeting its goal of providing total force training by training more than 2,000 Marines, 2,500 Naval personnel and almost 4,000 U.S. Air Force personnel at Fort McCoy during FY 2006.

Another highlight of FY 2006 was Troop

Projects work continuing on the Young Air Assault Strip to prepare it for landing/takeoff testing of the C-17 cargo aircraft, which will supplement the C-130 aircraft. The project is expected to be completed in 2007 and will make Fort McCoy one of only three Army installations that offer a tactical (dirt) runway that can accommodate C-17 aircraft.

This will bring a lot of attention from units that have this aircraft. "They have to be trained on how to take off and land on tactical runways if they're deployed, so we expect that will bring us additional training."

Another factor that attracts training to Fort McCoy is even though it is a power-projection platform, it also handles extended combat and battle assembly training.

Fort McCoy continues to seek all the training it can attract in the current training environment, which continues to be heavily inclined toward mobilization training. The 2nd Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support Battalion) provides much training assistance to the mobilizing units.

We have a large mobilization/demobilization mission going on here that has helped keep our training numbers up.

Other training highlights for FY 2006 included the 84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command, Regional Training Site-Maintenance and Regional Training Site-Medical all reporting robust training and/or class loads during FY 2006 at Fort McCoy.



The Presidents Corner

Season's greetings from you Alumni Association. We all wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

This has been another successful year for your association and we are planning to continue planning our events for 2007. Many of you responded to our survey and we are using the results to examine future activities. There seems to be a real interest to take a trip to Washington, DC, to see the new World War II Memorial and other capitol sites. The board of directors has begun to plan some new events to offer for your consideration this coming year.

The past year we again enjoyed good attendance at the

Dinning In, Annual Membership Meeting, and the Steak and Chicken Fry. We do need your suggestions and participation for us to continue to offer these events for the future. Your board members continue to serve you well have devoted much of their time and energy for planning and conducting these events. I am asking for each of you to consider how you can assist in volunteering for events this coming year.

Glen A. Armstrong

COL, IN

AUS-Retired

Training Divisions get "Transformed"

This is not referring to some new Christmas toy, but to changes to the remaining USAR Institutional Training (IT) Divisions. The five current USAR Training Support Divisions (TSD) will realign and discontinue operations by the end of September 2007.

The Army Reserve Support Command (1A) will have a TSD West located at Fort Carson, CO, and a TSD East

located at Birmingham, AL., The 75th Battle Command Training Division at Houston, TX, the 78th Battle Command Training Division at Houston, TX, the 78th Operations Group at Fort Dix, NJ, and the 91st Operations Group at Fort Hunter-Liggett, CA. The TSD's will be responsible for both pre-mobilization and post-mobilization support to all National Guard and U.S. Army reserve units.

Milwaukee's Veterans Day Parade

Two of our own 84th Division Alumni Association members were proud participants in this years Veterans Day parade held on the downtown streets of Milwaukee. SFC Fillmore Bott was seen marching in a color guard unit. He was carrying an M-1 rifle at the time.

Also MSG Norm Netzke was there in the parade. He was honored as one of the "Band of Brothers"

The Parade was held on Saturday, 4 November 2006.

Letter From the Editor

I also would like to offer my best wishes to all in the upcoming Christmas Holiday Season, and to all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

This is your newsletter if there any suggestions for an article that you want to see please let me know, I will do my best to research it and include it in a future newsletter.

The last page of every newsletter has our address, email

and phone number that I can be contacted at or if needed forwarded it to the board member of your choice.

Speaking of contacting us; The correct email address for the Alumni is: 84th alumni@charter.net Sorry for the mix-up this may has caused anyone. Also note the new return address.

1SG Ed Marynik (ret)

Save The VA Grounds; Woods (Milwaukee), WI

In December 2003, at a public hearing on Enhanced Use Leasing, Opposition to commercial development of the Milwaukee VA Grounds was virtually unanimous. Instead, preservation of the historic district and expansion of veterans' services was recommended. Response from the VA? **Silence**

In the fall of 2005, Newspaper reports revealed the extensive plans of the City of Milwaukee has to commercially develop the VA grounds; nothing was said of plans to expand veterans' services.

Public opposition by veterans and citizens caused the VA to schedule a Town Hall Meeting this past August. Again, opposition to commercial development was virtually unanimous. Response from the VA? **Silence**

Senators. Kohl and Feingold, as well as congresswoman Moore and other elected officials, have been entreated to stand with those opposing commercial development (as California Senators. Feinstein and Boxer have done in their state). Their response? Equivocation and delay.

Negotiations continue to this day between the VA and the City of Milwaukee. So does the silence. Those of us concerned about the commercial development of this veteran and historic site worry that government agencies, elected officials, commercial developers and a small number of politically connected veterans are seeking to enrich themselves and increase their political influence and power – at the expense of veterans' health care and the legacy that is the Solders Home Historic District. Other VA sites throughout the nation are under similar threats.

Meanwhile, on 20 September 2006, a GAO report charged the VA with under-funding their budget by basing it on "unrealistic assumptions, errors in estimating and insufficient data." Translation: Senior leadership of the VA is unable to forecast the cost of veterans' health care.

At the same time, the Global War on Terrorism, which may continue for decades, is creating a new generation of veterans with service-connected health-care needs. These are young men and women who will require VA services for the rest of their lives. And now, the Vietnam War generation of veterans, entering middle age with many manifesting Agent Orange-caused diseases, is coming out of the cold and into the VA system for the first time. Their numbers will be huge.

Think about it. The VA is downsizing. It is selling off

buildings and land, and underestimating its budget needs – at the very time that demand for services by veterans is increasing.

It is time to stop this madness. It is time for this nation to recognize the debt it owes to its veterans. It is time for our elected representatives in Washington to put a national moratorium on the Enhanced Use Lease program. And they must act immediately.

Here on the Milwaukee VA grounds there is a great unmet demand for veterans' services. The facility acts as a magnet, drawing veterans from surrounding states. The historic district is ideally situated with ample green space and serenity to offer such services. The federal government should provide the funding to rehabilitate the historic buildings. (And there are funds, but we must begin to hold elected officials and bureaucrats accountable for the unacceptable waist, fraud and abuse of our tax dollars.)

Instead of commercial development, we could rehabilitate these historic buildings to establish a shelter and day facilities for homeless veterans, transitional living facilities for veterans with families, a facility to address the unique medical needs of female veterans a space for veterans Service Organizations.

Moving hospital volunteer offices to the historic district could also free up valuable space for direct medical services. Old Main is an ideal location for a veterans' museum.

At the same time, the Ward Theater should be returned to its traditional theatrical use, and, by all means, control of the Chapel should be transferred immediately to Solders Home Foundation, Inc. for restoration and return to historical use.

A Fisher House, to provide short-term housing for families with veterans in the VA hospital's critical-care unit, should be built in the far southeast corner of the VA grounds.

Except to provide additional burial space for Wood National Cemetery, the site's green space should not be diminished. Furthermore, in recognition of the American-Indian connection to the grounds, a secluded sweat lodge/spiritual refuge should be considered.

As our nation continues to call upon its best and brightest young men and women in the defense of our

(Continued on page 4)

freedom, we must not fail them in there time of need. That the VA and City of Milwaukee are even considering commercial development and the creation of an infotainment/business park on these sacred grounds is profane. The destruction of the veterans'

culture, expressed on VA grounds throughout this nation, must not be allowed to continue.

For further information and a place to post your opinion go to: WWW.woodsva4vets.org

A Soldier's Christmas (author unknown)

'Twas the night before Christmas,
He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney

With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.
I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought

Came through my mind.
For this house was different,

It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,

Once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,

Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United States soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,

And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year,

Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve
In a land far from home.

The very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice,

"Santa, don't cry,
This life is my choice;
I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,

My country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over

And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still

And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on, Santa,
It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."



Is This The End Of Dog Tags? Joe, Say It Isn't So!

A Florida company wants to get under the skin of 1.4 million U.S. servicemen and women. VeriChip Corp, based in Delray Beach, Fla., and described as "one of the most aggressive marketers of radio frequency identification chips," is hoping to convince the Pentagon to allow them to insert the chips, known as RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chips under the skin of the right arms of U.S. servicemen and servicewomen to enable them to scan an arm and obtain that person's identity and medical history. The chips would replace the legendary metal dog tags that have been worn by U.S. military personnel since 1906.

The device is usually implanted above the triceps area of an individual's right arm, but can also be implanted in the hand if scanned at the proper frequency. The VeriChip responds with a unique 16-digit number, which can correlate the user to information stored on a database for identity verification, medical records access and other uses. The insertion procedure is performed under local anesthetic, and once inserted it is invisible to the naked eye.

Not everybody agrees noting that the idea of implanting the chips in live bodies has some veterans' groups and

privacy advocates worried.

Joe Davis, a retired Air Force major and a spokesman for the D.C. office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said "It needs further study,"

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT, stated: "If that is what the Defense Department has in mind for our troops in Iraq, there are many questions that need answers. "What checks and balances, safeguards and congressional oversight would there be?" Leahy asked. "What less-invasive alternatives are there? What information would be entered on the chips, and could it endanger our soldiers or be intercepted by the enemy?"

The company is also unsure about the technology. According to company documents, radio frequencies in ambulances and helicopters could disrupt the chips' transmissions. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, VeriChip also said it was unsure whether the chip would dislodge and move through a person's body. It could also cause infections and "adverse tissue reactions," the SEC filing states. But VeriChip spokeswoman Nicole Philbin downplayed the danger of the chips. "It's the size of a grain of rice," she said. "It's like getting a shot of penicillin."

The Army's Best Invention

(Story by Maj. Renita Foster, Soldiers Online Magazine)

It was developed in just 30 days in the summer of 1942 by the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago. And never in its 52-year history has it been known to break, rust, need sharpening or polishing. Perhaps that is why many soldiers, past and present, regard the P-38 C-ration can opener as the Army's best invention.

C-rations have long since been replaced with the more convenient Meals, Ready to Eat, but the fame of the P-38 persists, thanks to the many uses stemming from the unique blend of ingenuity and creativity all soldiers seem to have.

The tool acquired its name from the 38 punctures required to open a C-ration can, and from the boast that it performed with the speed of the World War II P-38 fighter plane.

Sgt. Ted Paquet, was a 17-year-old seaman serving aboard the amphibious assault ship during the Vietnam war when he got his first P-38 or "John Wayne" as it's

referred to in the Navy. Paquet still carries his P-38.

Paquet's P-38 is in a special box with his dog tags, a .50-caliber round from the ship he served on". It will probably be on my dresser until the day I die," Paquet said.

The feelings veterans have for the P-38 aren't hard to understand, according to 1st Sgt. Steve Wilson of the Chaplain Center and School at Fort Monmouth.

"When you hang on to something for 26 years," he said, "it's very hard to give it up. That's why people keep their P-38 just like they do their dog tags. ... It means a lot. It's become part of you. You remember field problems, jumping at 3 a.m. and moving out. A P-38 has you reliving all the adventures that came with soldiering in the armed forces. Yes, the P-38 opened cans, but it did much more. Any soldier will tell you that."

84th Division Alumni Association Ltd.

P. O. Box 51

Slinger, WI 53086-0051

Phone: (262) 247-6415

Email: 84thalumni@charter.net

Please Support

Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449

3245 North 124th Street

Brookfield, WI 53005



Home of the 84th Alumni Association

Your Board Members*

President	COL Glen Armstrong, (Ret)
Vice President	SGM Michael R. Chubeck, (Ret)
Secretary	ISG Edward Marynik, (Ret)
Treasurer	CSM Robert Staffaroni, (Ret)
Board Member	LTC William Vanessa (Ret)
Board Member	CSM David Gramins, (Ret)
Board Member	SGM Raymond T. Franecki, (Ret)
Board Member	SGM Larry Kritz, (Ret)
Board Member	CSM Donald Rosenbauer, (Ret)
Board Member	MSG Judith Ziebell (Ret)
Board Member	MSG Kenneth Ziebell, (Ret)
Editor	ISG Edward Marynik, (Ret)

* Board Members can be contacted via e-mail at 84thAlumni@charter.net

