



84th Division Alumni Bugler



March 2007



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

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84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (USARRTC) Renamed 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness)

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – The 84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (84th USARRTC) has been renamed the 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness).

The name change comes in response to the unit's transformation under the Army Reserve's Decision Point 74. "Effective Oct. 1, 2007, the 84th USARRTC physically transforms into the 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness)," said Col. Philip E. Tullar, Chief of Staff. "The 84th will exercise command and control over three Professional Development Brigades, one Schools Brigade, one Training Development Brigade, the 84th Division Band, and eventually over the Small Arms Readiness Group."

The transformation has been an ongoing process for the 84th Training Command as 12 brigades from the Army Reserve's

institutional training divisions realigned under the 84th Training Command in October 2006. The brigades are responsible for Officer Education System (OES) training, such as the Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) and Intermediate Level Education (ILE), and Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (SROTC) support to universities across the country. With the addition of the brigades the 84th Training Command is located coast-to-coast and border-to-border.

"The 84th Training Command is now home to over 3,500 Soldiers and civilian employees that will provide the finest training to America's citizen Soldiers, while supporting the Global War on Terrorism," said Tullar.

For more information about the 84th Training Command and training, visit the unit's web site at <https://>

Upcoming Alumni Events

The Dine-In has been moved to Friday, 18 May 2007. It will be held at the Western Racquet Club.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, 19 June 2007. Again it will be at the Griesell-Smith American Legion Post.

The Steak Fry will be held on Saturday, 8 September 2007, again at the Griesell-Smith American Legion Post.

The Alumni President and his staff are working on putting together a tour to are Nations Capitol this fall. We will have a member from the tour company to present the details at the Dine-in and/or the Annual Meeting. Check for more details in the flyers that will follow.

Please mark your calendars for these events. Flyers will be sent out to all members in advance of each event.

The Presidents Corner

Happy New Year, as we begin to think about Spring! This year we are responding to the survey of the membership from last year. We will move our annual formal dinner meeting, or Dine-In, to Friday, 18 May. There was an interest to change this from the traditional April date in order that more of the membership could plan on attending. We are still planning on retaining our annual June Membership meeting (June 19th). We are also exploring the possibility of a charter bus trip to Washington, DC, to visit the new WW II, Vietnam Wall Memorials and other sites - possibly as early as this fall, 2007. More information will be provided to you at our meetings and future mailings. The board is working to respond to your interests also to increase membership and participation.

I represented our association at the first Military Ball for

the 84th US Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (USARRTC) last January 20th, at "McCoy's" on Ft. McCoy. This was the first for the 84th USARRTC since the assumption of command by BG William C. Kirkland. Commanding General was very pleased at the attendance for this event that exceeded 100 participants from his various subordinate units and tenet organization. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and BG Kirkland plans to continue this new tradition in the future, possibly in the Milwaukee area. I was impressed with the USARRTC facility and the new lodging. Ft. McCoy has many new facilities near the new Main Gate to include the new Post Exchange and service station and the nearly completed commissary.

Strike Hard!

Glenn "Rusty" Armstrong, COL, AUS-Ret, President

Military Trivia - Things you Probably didn't Know

Compiled by COL D.G. Swinford, USMC and history buff - Submitted by William Krieger

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW2 was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by a Russian (Finland, 1940). Highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.

2. The youngest US serviceman was only 12 years old, Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by an Act of Congress.

3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy Command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required "30 Mission", your chance of being killed was 71%.

5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an Ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He dies as a passenger on a cargo plane.

6. It was common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers have had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told the enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This is definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill and GEN Patton.

8. German ME-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but it wasn't worth the effort.

9. A German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

And the best for last...

10. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, AK in the Aleutians Islands. 21 troops were killed in the firefight. It would have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

Medal Was Created To Reward Lower Ranks

To recognize non-combat achievement and service by soldiers in the lower ranks, Army Secretary John O. Marsh Jr. established the Army Achievement Medal in 1981.

At the end of the Vietnam War era, the Army had four awards for non-combat meritorious achievement or service: the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal. The first two were rarely awarded to noncommissioned officers, let alone junior enlisted soldiers.

For those near the bottom of the rank structure, only the MSM and ARCOM were realistic to attain. Then, in the late 1970s, Army leaders decided that a new medal was needed to recognize performance on duty by junior enlisted soldiers that did not rise to the level required for those two.

In August 1980, Lt. Gen. Robert M. Elton, commander of the Military Personnel Center, sent a memorandum to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Edward C. "Shy" Meyer in which he suggested creating an "achievement medal." The award, as Elton saw it, would be for significant non-combat achievement that, while insufficient for an Army Commendation Medal, nonetheless deserved recognition.

Meyer approved the recommendation and Marsh established the award April 10, 1981.

Under current regulations, the Army Achievement Medal may be awarded to any member of the armed forces or of the forces of a friendly nation who, while

serving with the U.S. Army in a non-combat area on or after Aug. 1, 1981, distinguishes himself or herself by outstanding achievement or by meritorious service of a lesser degree than that required for the ARCOM.

This means that every soldier is eligible for the Army Achievement Medal, along with any airman, Marine, sailor or Coast Guardsman serving in any capacity in the Army. There is one category of personnel that is ineligible, however, for the award: No general officer may be awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

Jay Morris at the Army's Institute of Heraldry at Fort Belvoir, Va., designed the award. It is a bronze, eight-sided medal and is 1-1/2 inches in diameter.

The front features the Department of the Army coat of arms or seal; to symbolize the Army's heritage. The reverse is plain except for the words "For Military Achievement" and two branches of laurel leaves. There also is sufficient space to engrave the recipient's name. The ribbon is green, white and ultramarine blue.

In the mid-1980s, the Army's Military Awards Branch reported that "one soldier in every five" was receiving the Army Achievement Medal. This liberal awards policy continues. Today, the Army Achievement Medal is awarded more than any other peacetime medal.

In 2005, for example, more than 14,000 were awarded for service and more than 19,000 for achievement.

The Army Achievement Medal often is the first decoration a soldier receives while on duty. Its purpose — to recognize the contributions made by junior-ranking

Legislative Report - Retiree Pay Information

DFAS myPay Advantages

Reprinted from Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter - Military Officers Association of America

Retirees can receive 1099-R and the Retiree Account Statement (RAS) through **myPay** weeks earlier than receiving it in the mail. Account access and **myPay** information is available at <https://myPay.dfas.mil>

DFAS delivers personal pay information and provides the ability to process pay-related transactions quickly, safely and securely to all its members through **myPay**.

Retirees who have forgotten or do not have a **myPay** PIN number can request a new one at **myPay's** web site (<https://myPay.dfas.mil>). If the retiree's e-mail address information has been submitted, a temporary PIN will be sent to this address. Otherwise, a temporary PIN will be mailed to the correspondence address on file.

For more information you can also contact myPay support at toll free (800) 332-7411 or commercial at (216) 522-5096.

History of the 4th Brigade

4th Brigade (Combat Service Support) is headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. Its mission is to provide instruction in combat service support subjects like transportation, ordnance, quartermaster, and personnel services. The 4th Brigade serves as the headquarters for Battalions that perform Institutional Training in several states throughout the Midwest. These Battalions are headquartered in Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin and support MOS training in Personnel, Quartermaster, Transportation, and Ordnance. The mission of the Brigade is to conduct Combat Service Support MOSQ training (IDT and AT) in support of Total Army in Region E. Additional missions as assigned by higher command. This training encompasses those MOS's in the Personnel Services, Transportation, Quartermaster, and Ordnance CMF's.

The 4th Brigade, 84th Division (Training) was constituted 5 August 1917 in the National Army as the 309th Supply Train and assigned to the 84th Division. Organized 7 September 1917 at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky. Demobilized June-July 1919 at Camp Sherman, Ohio.

Reconstituted 21 September 1936 in the Organized Reserves; concurrently consolidated with the 409th Quartermaster Regiment (organized in November 1921 in the Organized Reserves as the 84th Division Train, Quartermaster Corps, with Headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana; redesignated 23 March 1925 as the 84th Division Quartermaster Train; redesignated 1 July 1936 as the 409th Quartermaster Regiment) and consolidated unit designated as the 409th Quartermaster Regiment, an

element of the 84th Division. Redesignated 23 February 1942 as the 409th Quartermaster Battalion. Ordnance Maintenance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 409th Quartermaster Battalion, redesignated 18 September 1942 as the 784th Ordnance Company, an element of the 84th Infantry Division (remainder of the battalion--hereafter separate lineage).

Ordered into active military service 15 October 1942 and reorganized at Camp Howze, Texas. Inactivated 22 January 1946 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

Redesignated 19 December 1946 as the 784th Airborne Ordnance Maintenance Company and assigned to the 84th Airborne Division (84th Infantry Division concurrently redesignated as the 84th Airborne Division). Activated 7 April 1947 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Organized Reserves redesignated 25 March 1948 as the Organized Reserve Corps; redesignated 9 July 1952 as the Army Reserve. Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1952 as the 784th Ordnance Maintenance Company (84th Airborne Division concurrently redesignated as the 84th Infantry Division). Reorganized and redesignated 1 June 1953 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 784th Ordnance Battalion (organic elements concurrently constituted and activated). Battalion disbanded 18 May 1959 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Headquarters, 784th Ordnance Battalion, reconstituted 24 November 1967 in the Army Reserve as Headquarters, 4th Brigade, 84th Division (Training). Activated 31 January 1968 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Inactivated 15 September 1995 at Milwaukee,

Thanks Ray!

We sadly note that Raymond T. Franecki SGM, Ret., has notified the alumni board that he has resigned from the board of directors. Ray was one of the early alumni members of this organization and has devoted many

hours for the good of the membership and will be missed. He will continue to be an active participant and contributor to future meetings and activities.

Milwaukee to Host the 27th Annual Wheelchair Games

"Salute to Patriotism" is the theme for this year's games being hosted in Milwaukee at several venues this June 2007. The Zablocki VA Medical Center and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America will host games. Wednesday, June 20th 2007, will be the special POW/MIA Day at the games.

Admission is free and public is welcome. Volunteers and other support will be needed.

"Courage is fear holding on a minute longer"
GEN George C. Patton

Know Where To Go To Access Your Benefits! By Alex Keenan

It seems a fair number of retirees aren't sure where to turn for nuts-and-bolts information on some of their most basic benefits. Lets go over a few of these programs and point you in the direction to access the benefits you've earned.

• **Tricare benefits:**

One of your most important benefits is health care offered through Tricare, which has good health plans for service members, retirees and their families. For information, contact your health benefits adviser or visit the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.mil.

• **Your DEERS:**

For information on your DEERS file, contact your local military ID card issuing office or call toll free (800) 538-9552. The Web site www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/ will give you the three military ID card issuing facilities closest to your ZIP code, city or state.

• **Tricare Retiree Dental Program:**

This program is run by Delta Dental under contract. Eligible retirees and their family members can get information on the program's benefits and enrollment procedures at www.trdp.org or by calling toll free (888) 838-8737, Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Pacific time.

• **Social Security offset for Survivor Benefit Plan annuities:**

The mandatory reduction in SBP payments for spouse annuitants when they reach age 62 and become eligible for Social Security is being phased out. Previously, the annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older was cut from 55 percent of the amount of base retirement pay selected by the member to 35 percent.

The phase-out of this Social Security offset began Oct. 1, 2005, and will finish April 1, 2008. Over that time, annuities for surviving spouses age 62 and older will have increased four times, as follows: Oct. 1, 2005, 40 percent of the amount of retired pay selected by the member; April 1, 2006, 45 percent; April 1, 2007, 50 percent; April 1, 2008, 55 percent.

These recomputations will occur automatically for affected surviving spouses and require no action on the part of annuitants. All annuities paid as of April 1, 2008, will be equal to 55 percent of the base amount of retired pay chosen by the member, regardless of the annuitant's age.

• **Information on SBC:**

They are at www.dod.mil/militarypay/survivor/index.html. There are three ways to get information on your Social Security benefits: Contact your local Social Security office; call toll free (800) 772-1213; or visit www.ssa.gov.

• **Military records:**

Getting access to your military records is often a key to obtaining government benefits. If you've separated or retired from the military, go to the National Personnel Records Center Web site to request copies of DD-214s, personnel records, medical and dental records and service medals and awards.

Requests may be made online by a veteran or his next of kin. Go to www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/ and look for the link in the left-hand column that says: "Military Records Requests."

If you're not a veteran or next of kin, you must complete Standard Form 180 to request copies of records. Mail it to: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

If you're filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs, you do not need to request a copy of your military records; the center will provide the original health records directly to VA after the claim is filed.

For information on VA benefits, contact your local VA office or call toll free: general, (800) 827-1000; insurance, (800) 669-8477; headstones, (800) 697-6947.

• **Veterans Group Life Insurance:**

For information about renewal options for VGLI coverage and related costs, contact: OSGLI, 213 Washington St., Newark, NJ 07102. You also can call toll free (800) 419-1473, or go to www.insurance.va.gov.

Information is power; in many cases, if you know where to go and who to talk to, you're already halfway home.

• **TRICARE Reserve Select Expands to All Guard and Reserve Members**

The TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) program has now expanded to include all Guard and Reserve members and their families. Because of all the changes occurring with TRS, it is important that beneficiaries check the TRS webpage www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect frequently to find the most accurate information. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to subscribe to an email subscription service that provides updates as changes are implemented. To subscribe to this email service, visit: www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/.

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

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

