



84th Division Alumni Bugler



June 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

Inside this issue:

Presidents Corner	2
Information Needed	2
Brewers Tickets	2
My Health eVet	3
2007 Annual Meeting	3
Renovations @ McCoy	4
Survivor Benefit Plan	4
Taps	4
Birth of Armor	5
Wi-Fi Scams	5

Busy reservists losing income may qualify for extra cash

By Gordon Lubold
Army Times, Staff writer

Some reservists called up for lengthy or repeated mobilizations could get extra pay under a new Defense Department program that kicks in this month.

The program, mandated by Congress as part of the 2006 Defense Authorization Act, is meant to make up differences in pay for heavily mobilized reservists who earn less in the military than in civilian life.

The Reserve Income Replacement Program took effect Aug. 1 and provides up to \$3,000 per month in extra pay to eligible National Guard and reserve members whose military income is at least \$50 a month less than their civilian wages.

But the eligibility rules are narrowly written and the program is not retroactive. Moreover, its statutory authority is due to end Dec. 31, 2008. Unless Congress extends the RIRP, "no payments shall be made after that date," according to a July 24 memo to the services from the Office

of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Under those constraints, defense officials estimate the program will apply to only about 2,000 people in its current configuration.

Retired Col. Steve Strobbridge of the Military Officers Association of America, a former director of compensation for the Air Force, said it is unfortunate that the program will not help more reservists. He pointed out that the government gives awards and praise to private companies that make up income differences for their reservist-employees when they are mobilized, yet has never been eager to do the same for its own civilian workers.

"If government is going to laud private companies to the sky, it ought to be willing to step up to the plate itself," he said.

Eligibility for the reserve income replacement program is complicated. To qualify, Guard and reserve members must be on involuntary active duty and must

Upcoming Alumni Events

At our Dine-In we had a representative from Lamers Tours. He gave a very informative talk on the trip to Washington DC this fall.

At the Annual Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, 19 June 2007, at the Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449. There will be another representative there at a table to sign up for the trip. At that time

we will have the dates of the trip.

The Steak Fry will start at 3:00 PM on Saturday, 8 September 2007, again at the Griesell-Smith American Legion Post.

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

The Presidents Corner

Your Alumni Association membership had another successful and fun Dining Out this month. We again had a great meal, good fun and another opportunity to spend time with new and current members of our association. Once again we began with the an entrance with our bagpipes, the usual formal toasts and CSM Larry Mueller's moving rendition tribute to our missing comrades – POWs and MIAs.

The 84th USARRTC came through for us again this year with Mr. Vice, 1LT Darrell Williams, who did a great job! He is a school principal with the Milwaukee Public Schools and also recently returned from a year of duty in Iraq. BG Alan Grice and his EXO COL Dale Peterson also attended from the command group. BG Grice brought us greetings from recently promoted commander MG William C. Kirkland and provided us

with another update on mission and posture of the USARRTC.

We also had a presentation from Jim Derse, Group Sales Manager from Lamers Tour & Travel about the opportunity to plan and schedule a group tour to Washington, DC. This was a request from several of our members and received a good response for those attending. Look for more information later.

I want to again complement the board of directors for their continuing support and dedication for the success of this event.

Strike Hard!

Glen "Rusty" Armstrong
COL, AUS
President

Looking for information from it's members!

Your board of directors are looking for more information about the membership.

During the planning of activities we want to accomplish this year, Annual Meeting, Steak Fry and possible trip to Washington DC. We wanted to know how many or our were part of "The Greatest Generation" and had

served in any branch of the services during World War II. We are also looking for Korean War Veterans.

If you or anyone you know are now alumni members please contact any board member with that information. Phone numbers are on last page of this newsletter.

Milwaukee Brewers Do It Again; Free Tickets To Games

Brewers announce Free Terrace level tickets offered to active and retired military personnel

For the third consecutive season, the Milwaukee Brewers will honor members of the United States Armed Forces through Stars and Stripes Sundays and will provide kids and seniors with special discount days throughout the season.

During each Sunday home game in 2007, the Brewers are offering two FREE Terrace Level tickets to active and retired military personnel.

The offer applies to all branches of the military service. Active and retired military personnel must present valid military identification which entitles them to two FREE Terrace Level tickets redeemable at windows 7-12 at Miller Park on the day of game only. This offer is based on ticket availability.

Tickets for Armed Forces Night on Saturday, May 19

when the Brewers take on the Minnesota Twins at 6:05 pm are available through the Armed Forces Committee. Interested parties can contact Anthony Cooling at the United States Coast Guard office at 414 -747-7085 for ticket information. Tickets purchased through the Coast Guard office are offered at a reduced price with a portion of the sale benefiting the Armed Forces Committee.

In addition, the Brewers have designated eight day games as Kids and Senior Citizens Discount Days. Kids 14 and under and seniors 60 and over can take advantage of savings of 50% on all tickets, excluding Bleacher seats, Bernie's Terrace and Uecker seats.

The first Kids and Senior Citizens Discount Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 19 against the Pittsburgh Pirates at 12:05 pm. Additional dates include May 2, May 9, May 30, June 20, June 27, July 19 and August 2. All tickets are subject to availability.

From Page 1.....Extra pay

- Completed at least 18 months of continuous involuntary active service.
- Completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty during any 60-month period since Aug. 1, 2001.
- Been involuntarily mobilized for 180 days or more within six months of a previous involuntary period of active duty of 180 days or more.

Officials stress the program does not kick in automatically; troops must apply for the income replacement by completing the new form DD Form 2919 and submitting it to their servicing personnel office. They also must provide copies of their most recent federal tax returns showing their civilian income for the 12 months immediately preceding the

mobilization under which they are applying for the pay.

The program, which defense officials have long opposed, does not address income loss for the average Guard or reserve member who typically is deployed for no more than 12 consecutive months and no more than two cumulative years out of every five. The narrow eligibility rules are based on the notion that service members volunteer for military duty — a commitment that presumably is made after taking income considerations into account.

“People did volunteer and they must have expected that, and they knew their financial situation when they did,” said Cindy Williams, an analyst with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has been studying military compensation and benefits in recent years. “Presumably, they understood something about what their military pay would be if they were called up.”

General Membership Meeting – June 19th

All members and their spouses or ‘significant others’ should attend this meeting.

Bill Walters, Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office will be speaking to us about the type of support you can receive from his office and will be answering questions about retirement benefits. This is a subject that we cannot have too much information on for our members. I would again ask all of you to bring along prospective members to attend this meeting.

Jim Derse, Group Sales Manager from Lamers Tour & Travel will also be attending to present a package

tour information on a trip to Washington, DC, as early as this Fall, 2007. He will have more details on the costs, arrangements, accommodations, meals and hotel information for such a tour. If enough of the membership is interested in making this happen we can begin making reservations for this event. I think this would be a great trip if we can count on your participation!

This meeting is also for election of board members for vacant or expiring board members. Those that are interested should make themselves present for

Department of Veterans Affairs; My Health eVet

If you have not taken advantage of the MyHealth eVet (eVet) website operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) take a look at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov>.

The site has a lot of good info on VA programs, medical facility locations, health advice and ON-LINE PRESCRIPTION ORDERING. As I travel in our RV all over this country, this is a Godsend. I go to eVet, click on my drugs and they are sent to my mailing address so that the next box I get from them has my drugs in it. No more searching for a local VA pharmacy and then trying to get them to give me meds prescribed by a doctor at another VA facility.

If you will make one stop at a VA Medical Center and visit the Release of Information people you will be

asked to watch a videotape, sign a permission slip and show some ID. After that your eVet drug list will have the name of the drug and not just the re-order number. Later this year the list of services will expand to lab reports and eventually you will have on-line access to your VA medical records. But you must do the in-person verification ONCE before these expanded services are available to you.

Perhaps when this program is up and fully functional some of the people who put it together can be sent over to the disability verification and facilities management sides and make those non-functional areas of the VA work too.

eVet is great. If you are a registered VA patient there is no reason not to take advantage of this.

Barracks renovation project under way at Fort McCoy

Twenty-five barracks and associated facilities are being upgraded in Fort McCoy's 2400-2500 blocks to enable the installation to meet its training and mobilization mission housing needs, said Dave Gundlach.

Gundlach, the project manager for the Directorate of Support Services (DSS), said the work continues the installation's goal to upgrade its barracks to meet current facility standards.

This work is part of a plan to upgrade barracks, dining halls, company administrative/supply buildings, new company maintenance shops and new laundromats. The blocks receiving the renovations have been prioritized. The installation is working down this list based on yearly programmed funding.

"We are bringing these barracks up to current standards, including new heating/cooling (equipment), electrical, etc.," Gundlach said. "The work also will include upgrading support buildings in those blocks, such as supply and administrative facilities."

The Alliance Steel Construction Corporation of Superior, Wis., is doing the barracks' rehabilitation. The firm also constructed the Training and Mobilization Dining Facility in the installation's 2600 block. Gundlach said the barracks rehabilitation work will include installing insulation, electric, water/sewer, communications, upgrading the bathroom facilities and installing fire

suppression sprinkler systems.

Gundlach said upgrading barracks facilities at Fort McCoy is an ongoing project. The DSS has a basic plan to upgrade all barracks in future year budgets. The plans also help ensure that each barracks offers the same or very similar accommodations, which meet the current standards when the work is completed, as the other barracks in the area, he said. The new barracks will be suitable for year-round use.



The upgraded barracks, along with other ongoing renovations and construction will improve the quality of facilities for the Soldiers who come to Fort McCoy for training and mobilization.

SBP Annuity's Two-Tier Increase

Over 200,000 recipients of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities will see an increase in their monthly payments deposited on May 1, 2007. Congress approved legislation in 2005 that will eliminate the Social Security offset reduction that applies to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity over a three and a half year period beginning October 1, 2005.

The change will be completely phased in effective April 2008. In October 2005, those affected annuitants whose annuity had been reduced to 35 percent saw their annuity increase to the 40 percent level. In April 2006, the annuity was increased to 45 percent, and in April

2007, the minimum annuity was increased to 50 percent.

A very small number of annuitants are adversely affected by this change. Those annuitants have a Dependency Indemnity Compensation award amount that exceeds the 50 percent SBP amount and at the same time are receiving Supplemental SBP at greater than 5 percent.

In April 2008, the minimum annuity percentage will increase to 55 percent, thereby eliminating the Social Security offset. Until then, yearly Social Security certifications are still required for the following reasons:

- * Remarriage prior to age 60
- * "Working Widow"
- * Reduced social security benefits due to receipt of government pension
- * Non-resident Alien

Taps

SFC Gary Noah 15 March 2007

The Birth of Armored Forces

BY Dr. Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., U. S. Army Military History Institute, U. S. Army Heritage and Education Center

On April 28, 1918, the 1st Light Tank Battalion was organized at Bourg, France, with Lieutenant Colonel George S. Patton, Jr., in command. Patton had been the first soldier assigned to the fledgling Tank Corps in November 1917. Shortly afterwards, he established the first Army Tank School at Bourg. The first two companies (200 men) reached the school on February 22, 1918. Because no American-made tanks had reached France, Patton had to rely on twenty-five borrowed French Renault tanks in training his men.

Two of Patton's staff officers received orders to create a new patch for his men to wear on their uniforms. Based upon his guidance, they came up with the now familiar pyramid or triangle design with the colors red, yellow, and blue, which combine the branch colors of artillery, cavalry, and infantry. Patton immediately paid to have 300 patches sewn in nearby Langres. With this patch and other measures, Patton provided the Tank Corps with its own identity. When organized, the 1st Light Tank Battalion consisted of three companies. By June 6, Patton had enough officers and men in camp to organize the 2nd Light Tank Battalion, also of three companies. Patton then became commander of the 1st Tank Brigade. Word reached Patton on the morning of August 20 that he and his two battalions would soon go into combat. The brigade took 144 Renault tanks into the St. Mihiel Offensive on September 12, with one battalion each supporting the 1st and 42nd Divisions. Over the next two days, the men fought in several small actions and suffered few casualties. The Tank Brigade saw more action during



the Meuse-Argonne Campaign from September 26 to November 2, 1918. These battles gave Patton an idea of how better tanks might accomplish greater things on battlefields of the future. He saw the Tank Corps becoming an independent combat arm. Patton himself had learned to adjust quickly to the rapidly changing events on the battlefield. He would brilliantly exhibit this trait during his operations in World War II. The Army's high command and members of the United States Congress did

not share Patton's vision. The National Defense Act of 1920 abolished the Tank Corps as an independent arm, and tank units came under control of the infantry. Not until twenty years later, on July 10, 1940, was the Armored Force created. The 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions were activated five days later, and George S. Patton would become commander of the 2nd Armored Division in April 1941. Armored forces played a significant role in World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, and the Middle East. A new heavy tank developed in November 1949 would receive the name M46

Patton. Subsequent models through the M60 would retain the Patton name. Just prior to the fighting at St. Mihiel, Patton instructed his tankers: "No tank is to be surrendered or abandoned to the enemy. If you are left alone in the midst of the enemy keep shooting. If your gun is disabled use your pistols and squash the enemy with your tracks." That spirit of the man and his 1st Light Tank Battalion lives on in the armored forces of today's Army.

The "patch" designed for armored forces during World War I by LTC George S. Patton and his staff. This insignia belonged to Sergeant Harry E. Record, 301st Tank Battalion. The colors represent the three branches of service—blue for infantry, yellow for cavalry, and red for

Avoid Free Wi-Fi Scams in Airports

The next time you're at an airport looking for a wireless hot spot, and you see one called "Free Wi-Fi" or a similar name, beware - you may end up being victimized by the latest hot-spot scam hitting airports across the country. Hackers are tricking people into thinking they are connecting to a "free" connection by configuring their PC to allow others to access the

Internet through their shared connection. Then they can retrieve information from your PC. However there is an easy way to identify these scam connections if you know what to look for. Instead of appearing as a "wireless network" (or infrastructure) they appear as a "computer-to-computer" or an ad-hoc connection. Play it safe, and avoid these types of connections.

I wish you all a (belated) happy Memorial Day and thank you all for serving this country!
1SG Ed Marynik and the 84th Division Alumni Board

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 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

