



84th Division Alumni Bugler



December 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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Blue Army Service Uniform

"World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army's most honored traditions," said Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

"We have all of these variations of uniforms – green, blue and white," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. "It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that's what we've done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition."

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform and may continue to wear it. Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration cost.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in

fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011. A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date.

The consolidation of Army service uniforms is part of a streamlining process. In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battle dress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform in place of the Woodland Green Battle Dress Uniform and the Desert Combat Uniform. That uniform consolidation has been a resounding success in terms of Soldier acceptance and reducing the variety of combat uniforms with which they must deal.

Army Blue as a uniform color traces its origins back to the National Blue and was first worn by Soldiers in the Continental

Winter Extravaganza at Fort McCoy

The Whitetail Ridge Recreation Area will host the Winter Extravaganza event from noon to 6:00 PM Saturday 27 January 2007.

Members of the Fort McCoy community and the public are welcome to attend.

A number of activities will be available for all members of the family. The events will include a pancake breakfast and a winter fun run. These events start at 9:00 AM.

Attendees can also build vessels made from cardboard, rope and duct tape then enter the Cardboard Classic competition.

Vessels can be built before 27 January, but must be completed by noon that day. Materials will be provided.

Other scheduled activities include free snowboarding lessons, the Big Air Competition and Snowboard Trick demonstrations, sleigh rides, free movies, popcorn, hot chocolate and door prizes.

For more information, call (608) 388-4498, the Directorate of Moral, Welfare and Recreation. Event Line at (877) 864-4969 or visit www.mccoymwr.com.

The Presidents Corner

Season's greetings and best wishes for 2008! We have had another successful year ending with an excellent turn out for the annual Steak and Chicken Cookout this past September. The weather was great, the food was excellent, the beer and refreshments were cold and there was a wealth of raffle prizes for all those in attendance. I want to again lavish praise and thanks to the board members for their support and unselfish contributions to these events and the many meetings that go into providing for our membership.

We will begin plans for alumni events for 2008. I would like to challenge you to contact any board member if you like to volunteer for serving on the board or helping out this coming year.

Please remember our brothers and sisters serving in uniform and more specifically those serving overseas in harm's way.

Glen "Rusty" Armstrong
COL, AUS
President

Just a side note for a must read; My wife, Ann, is the elementary IMC (library) Director for Greendale Schools. She brought to my attention a small book entitled **The Children's Story** by James Clavell, the author of King Rat and Shogun. This is a very short book you can read in 15 minutes but carries a very

powerful message. It was first published in 1963 and for those of us who believe in this country, and particularly those that have served in the armed services, it is a chilling warning to be ever vigilant to our beliefs. Go find it, read it and the talk to your own children and grandchildren.

Secretary's Corner

It's the time of year for all our children and grandchildren to get very excited. So I guess I should start by wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is the year of our members. As another year ends we have good, bad and sad news.

First the good news we now have a total of 173 members in the Association Alumni. We gained four new members this year: LTC Gregory Miller, SFC Ronald Fischer, SSG James Kasun and SFC Peter Schiller. We all welcome them and their families to our family.

The bad news is that we had a few members get sick or injured. They include CSM Chuck Clark, Jeffrey Bialk, MSG Norm Neitzke. My understanding all are on the

road to recovery.

Lastly the sad news, I know about CSM Gary Noah, CW4 Edward Leonhardt, SMG Charles Andrews and BG Wilford Bjornstad. We send our deepest sympathies to the families of the deceased.

Please forgive me if I forgot someone, these were the records I had available to me.

Please send me an email or postcard/letter if I missed someone. Updated information will be published in future newsletters.

On a personal note on 12 September 2007 my wife, Mary, & I became grandparents for the fourth time with the birth of Morgan Marie Marynik. We now

Military Humor

Three men are sitting stiffly side by side on a long commercial flight. After they're airborne and the plane has leveled off, the man in the window seat abruptly says, distinctly and confidently, in a loud voice, "Admiral, United States Navy, retired. married, two sons, both surgeons."

After a few minutes the man in the aisle seat states through a tight lipped smile, "Admiral, United States

Coast Guard, retired. Married, two sons, both Judges."

After some thought, the fellow in the center seat decides to introduce himself. With a twinkle in his eye he proclaims, "Master Gunnery Sergeant, United States Marines, retired Never married, two sons, both Admirals."

84th Division's Shoulder Patch and Unit Crest

SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA: Description:



On a red disc 2-1/2 inches (6.35cm) in diameter an ax stuck in a half split rail - ax and rail white all enclosed with 1/8 inch (.32cm) Army green border.

Symbolism: The 84th Division, once known as the "Lincoln Division," was organized with personnel from Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, states with which President Abraham Lincoln was associated and where he split rails for fences in his youth.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 84th Division on 15 April 1924. It was redesignated for the 84th Airborne Division and amended to add the Airborne tab on 13 February 1951. On 6 September 1960, the insignia was amended to delete the airborne tab and redesignated for the 84th Division (Training). It was amended to revise the description and symbolism on 6 December 1998. The insignia was redesignated effective 17 October 2005, for the 84th United States

Army Reserve Readiness Training Command, as a challenge and a trust.



DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA:

Description: On a blue octagon a silver square, one point up, charged with a blue axe and above a silver scroll with the motto "Strike Hard" in blue lettering.

Symbolism: In the blue and white of the Infantry, the combination of the eight sided octagonal and the four sided square indicate the numerical designation of the Division. The axe symbolizes the spirit of the pioneer as exemplified by the Railsplitters.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 84th Infantry Division on 23 December 1942. It was redesignated for the 84th Division (Training) on 16 January 1967. The insignia was redesignated effective 17 October 2005, for the 84th United States Army Reserve Readiness Training Command, as a challenge and a trust.

Rosie the Riveter May Get Memorial

World War II was raging when Ludie Feltman Webber walked into Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Airplane Modification Plant in Birmingham, Ala., grabbed a rivet gun and helped put modified Boeing B-29 Superfortress bombers into the sky.

But man's work was new to millions of American housewives who, inspired by the "We Can Do It" attitude of the muscle-flexing Rosie the Riveter poster girl, traded in their aprons for coveralls. Now, 62 years after Webber hung up her rivet gun, the American Rosie the Riveter Association is launching a campaign to build a major national memorial for the 6 million women who ventured from their homes to serve the United States on the home front during World War II.

"We came home, the war was over, and we wanted to marry and start having children," said Fran Carter, once a riveter at the Bechtel plant who nine years ago founded the 2,500-member group. "We never looked back, never sang our song."

A committee for the American Rosie the Riveter Association will study possible sites for the monument, designs and fundraising options, and make its pitch at its

annual convention next year. The organization's national president, Donnaleen Lanktree, says, "Members would like to see someday a monument in Washington, D.C."

Supporters think now is the right time for a memorial because Rosie will re-enter the national consciousness in October 2007 when Ken Burns' new seven-part documentary series, *The War*, debuts on public television. Now is the time before Rosies run out of time to see it, Carter and others say. Headlines mourn the thinning ranks of World War II vets, dying at a rate of more than 1,000 a day. Less attention is paid to the millions of women who managed a well-oiled American war machine. While aircraft weren't built in Central Florida, women supported the war effort in other ways, including producing parachutes at Casselberry Textiles, said Tana Porter, a research librarian with the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando.

Across the state, women labored in shipyards and welding shops and helped manage the state's agricultural industry during World War II.

Air Force Discontinues Use of Base Decals

Air Force officials are working with the other services to allow its people to enter military installations without requiring them to display a base decal on their vehicles.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley recently ended use of the sticker, officially called a DD Form 2220, on Air Force installations because of cost, a lack of utility and long-term threats facing bases.

The decal was developed in the 1970s as part of a vehicle registration and traffic management system, not to bolster security. Air Force officials began questioning the value of the vehicle registration system in 2005 because of security concerns.

Many people incorrectly viewed the decal as being designed to bolster security. In actuality, the decal lessens it by identifying vehicles of Airmen and civilian workers as potential terror targets and may lure gate guards into complacency.

Laws now require motorists to have a legal driver's license issued by a state, proof of vehicle ownership/state registration, evidence of insurance, and safety and emissions inspections. A national vehicle registration system is used by all civilian and military police departments in the country.

Security forces and gate guards now check the ID of each person entering an Air Force installation, Colonel

Sellers said. This provides better security than a base decal ever did. "We're identifying the people coming on base and not the vehicle," he said. "We've done a 100 percent ID check for years."

Air Force officials have asked the other services to allow entry of its people to their installations by honoring their common access cards, appropriate identification or even by issuing them a DD Form 2220, which would enter them in another branch's database. In many cases, Air Force people visit other installations to shop. "That translates into dollars for their Soldiers, Sailors and Marines," Colonel Sellers said. "Commanders want Air Force personnel on their bases."

Using the old system "puts the military in serious danger of losing credibility with its own personnel and the general public," Colonel Sellers said. "The threat is here, it's real and we must continuously improve our processes and procedures."

The military branches have spent millions on new entry points, but have failed to review the process of how they allow entry onto an installation, Colonel Sellers said.

"The strength of a redesigned gate is defeated if the process to enter is flawed," he said. "Our first line of defense becomes irrelevant. The priority is not expediting entry, but knowing who is entering."

The Army Flag's Streamers

Did you ever wonder what the history of the streamers on the U S Army flag stood for and why they started?

The 175 streamers attached to the Army Flag staff denote campaigns fought by the Army throughout our nation's history. Each streamer (2-3/4 inches wide and 4 feet long) is embroidered with the designation of a campaign and the year (s) in which it occurred. The colors derive from the campaign ribbon authorized for service in that particular war.

The concept of campaign streamers came to prominence in the Civil War when Army organizations embroidered the names of battles on their organizational colors. This was discontinued in 1890, when units were authorized to place silver bands, engraved with the names of battles, around the staffs of their organizational colors. When AEF units



in World War I were unable to obtain silver bands, General Pershing authorized the use of small ribbons bearing the names of the World War I operations. In 1921 all color-bearing Army organizations were authorized to use the large campaign streamers currently displayed.

"The Army Flag and Its Streamers" was originally prepared in August 1964 by the Office of the Chief of Military History, in cooperation with the Office of the Chief of Information, and the U.S. Army Exhibit Unit, to provide general summaries of each of the campaigns displayed on the Army flag. It was subsequently updated by the Center of Military History to add the campaigns from Vietnam. It is our hope to update the work at some time in the future to cover the missing Armed Forces Expeditions and the campaigns in Southwest Asia.

Protection For Our Heroes: Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act

We all have family or friends that are in the Reserve, National Guard or on Active Duty. Sometimes we don't know or forgot some of the benefits that can help them or their families. One of these benefits is listed here.

What is and how does the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) protect me during active duty?

The SSCRA was established by Congress to provide a break from certain civil responsibilities for members of the military, reserve, and the National Guard.

The Act has been in place since the Civil War in one form or another. The creators' intention was to allow active military to focus all attention on their military duty by providing financial relief. The Act can help beneficiaries save money and provide legal action.

Benefits of the Act include:

- A cap of 6 % annual interest may be collected on all debts (credit cards, mortgage, car loan and other debts).
- Eviction protection for dependents, if the rent is \$2,400 or less per month.
- Delay of any civil court litigation or action (bankruptcy, foreclosure, and divorce proceedings). If notice of legal proceedings is received, you should

contact the military unit or installation legal offices immediately.

- A new provision allows a serviceman and his dependents to terminate an automobile lease, without penalty, if he is called to active duty for 180 days or longer.

A note on home mortgages:

It may be possible to make interest-only payments on your home mortgage while on active duty. U.S. lenders are encouraged by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to accept interest-only payments for active duty military until three months after their return.

How do you receive SSCRA Benefits?

The interest rate reductions do not automatically occur. Service members must request it. In order to receive these benefits, a letter must be sent to each of your creditors. Contact your unit or installation legal assistance office for the necessary paperwork.

There must be proof of mobilization/activation to active duty, evidence of the difference in the member's military and civilian pay, creditor's name, account number and reference to the Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act of 1940, 50 U.S.C. Appendix, Section 526.

OEF/OIF Veteran and Family Outreach

Returning from deployment can be a challenging task for any service member. The Clement J. Zablocki V.A. Medical Center are reaching out to combat veterans and their families to facilitate the healthy transition from service in uniform to the home front.

Our mission is to understand and assist veterans and families with a smooth transition from the unique demands of serving on active duty to returning to the daily activities of civilian life.

Our Goals:

1. Help combat veterans and their families to maintain their balance under stress and, when necessary regain that balance when it has been lost
2. Collaborate with local, state and federal governments to mobilize resources to our combat veterans and families.
3. Target issues concerning mental health, substances abuse, family problems, employment barriers and homeless.

4. Dispel myths and stigmas surrounding getting help.

We are prepared to offer numerous outreach activities:

- Education and support to individuals, families and communities
- Clinical expertise and networking resources
- Information and discussion groups to navigate the VA system
- Training for local community civilian providers

Contact

The Clement J. Zablocki V.A. Medical Center
5000 West National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53295
(414) 384-2000 or (888) 469-6614 (toll free)
Ext. 42442 or Ext.42449

Milwaukee VA Outreach Team:

Andrew Hendrickson, RN: Retired USAR Officer, OEF Veteran, Former OIC of Medical Ward in Afghanistan
Anthony P. Peterson, Psy.D.: Clinical Psychologist, Former Active Duty Navy, Former Military Psychologist, GWOT Veteran

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