



84th Division Alumni Bugler



March 2008



Special Points of Interest

Early Retirement - The National Defense Authorization Act makes earlier retirement for Reserve Component members a reality.

The new law allows a reduction in retirement age by three months for every 90 days spent in support of a contingency operation.

However, eligibility begins the date the law goes in effect rather than backdating it to dates of mobilization as far back as September 11, 2001.

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Tricare's mail-order pharmacy service

29 August 2007; Registering for Tricare's mail-order pharmacy service is now easier with the launch of the new Member Choice Center. A phone call or mouse click is all that is needed for retirees to begin receiving their prescriptions by mail, said Tricare officials.

By using this new service, not only will the beneficiary receive mail-order enrollment assistance, but the center's staff will actually contact physicians to get new prescriptions and forward them to the mail-order pharmacy for processing. The switch from retail to mail order becomes virtually effortless for the beneficiary.

"We are always looking for ways to improve customer service and add value for Tricare beneficiaries," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity. "They wanted a more user-friendly program and the MCC delivers."

Beneficiaries do not have to download forms or wait to have forms mailed; they can go to the "My Benefit" portal on <http://www.tricare.mil/> or to <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE> to complete the registration. There is also the option to call the MCC toll free at (877) 363-1433 to switch from the retail program to mail-order service.

When a beneficiary calls the center, a patient-care advocate from Express Scripts

Inc., Tricare's pharmacy benefit provider, explains the program and offers to transfer the current prescriptions to the mail-order option. If the beneficiary agrees, the advocate submits a prescription transfer request to the patient's physician.

The mail-order pharmacy can save beneficiaries as much as 66 percent on medications for conditions such as high blood pressure, asthma or diabetes. The beneficiary may receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications for the same amount they would pay for a 30-day supply at a retail pharmacy.

The Department of Defense saves money, too. The department pays 30 to 40 percent less for prescriptions filled through the mail-order service compared to retail pharmacies. The department's savings could be substantial -- \$24 million a year - with just a 1 percent shift of prescriptions from retail to mail order.

"As with all health entitlements, there are things our beneficiaries can do to reduce costs," said General Granger. "The military treatment facility is the most cost-effective option, but that's not always available for some beneficiaries. Mail order is the next best thing. Having prescriptions filled by mail saves them time and money. It also lowers the cost for the entire military health system."

Help Wanted!

We were all in a leadership position in the past & your association can use your help now. It's not hard or time consuming, new ideas are always needed. Help us make the association even better than it is now.

We have two openings for board members starting this June. Please contact any board member for more information.

Please give us a hand by becoming a board member, it doesn't hurt.

The Presidents Corner

Greetings for 2008 - for those of you not staying over in Wisconsin it has been a memorial winter! Your Alumni Association is moving forward again this year to provide you with this newsletter and an agenda of events for your participation. I am pleased to report that we are financially sound and that participation at our Steak and Chicken Dinner last September was well attended. I appeal to all of you recruit a new potential member to attend one of our upcoming events. It is always great to see old friends and former members of the 84th Division and to share recollections and stories from service with the Railsplitters.

I want to also challenge some of you to consider serving on the Board of Directors. At the present time we have some vacancies and we need to move some new members through the board to introduce new events and venues for the future. Your current board has been long serving, dedicated and very hard working. Please feel

free to contact me or other members of the board if you are interested.

Our next event will be our Dining In/Dining Out, Saturday, 26 April 2008, at the Western Racquet Club. Our featured speaker will be MG William C. Kirkland, Commander, 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness). MG Kirkland was a previous member of the Railsplitters when it was the 84th Division (IT) and will be able to provide us with a SITREP on the status of his command. This is always a fun evening and we want to continue this tradition and provide a great show of our support for the 84th Training Command with our participation.

I hope to see you in April and future events!

Glen "Rusty" Armstrong
President
COL, AUS

Secretary's Corner

Its spring again, or at least it soon will be. Time to start planning for the rest of the year.

On 26 April 2008 we will be holding our annual Dining In/Dining out, at the Western Racquet Club, 1800 Highland Dr., Elm Grove, WI. An Army tradition that brings members together for a great time and camaraderie. In June we will be holding our Annual Membership Meeting. Again we are setting up special guests that will keep you informed on upcoming changes & benefits that may affect your retirement. In September we will have our Steak & Chicken Fry.

More than just meetings these events are a great time to reacquaint and renew old friendships from the past. The greatest and most important thing in any lifetime next to

family is friendships, past and present. That is what life is all about. Everything is secondary. Please try to attend all these events.

By now everyone should have received their new Army Retirement Pin. It shows bond between Active Army, Reserve, Guard and Retired Soldiers.



The Army has created a new pin to emphasize the continuing bond between the Army and its almost 800 thousand retired Soldiers.

Ed Marynik
Secretary/Newsletter Editor
1SG, AUS

Military Humor

A new retiree greeter at Wal-Mart just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, even 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker and real sharp, so the boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it.

Finally, one day he called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know Boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though, your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Air Force. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said ... Good morning, General."

U.S. Military Campgrounds

One of the great benefits of the military for a person who loves camping is a military campground. These campgrounds are normally operated by MWR at various military installations (on and off base) as a recreational benefit for Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, Retired, and 100% DAV. Many installations also allow DOD Civilians and other classifications to utilize their facilities. One of the best sources for information is on "U.S. Military Campgrounds" website at www.militarycampgrounds.us.

The website prides itself on being the most *current* and *complete* source of information available on our military campgrounds. Information is updated daily by website users themselves. Campground and website users are encouraged to rate and write reviews on the military campgrounds they visit. Not only are these reviews useful to campers, campground management also has access to these reviews. Users are encouraged to submit updates to the campground information on all military campgrounds they visit.

In addition to campground information available on the website there are maps, driving directions, satellite photos, contact addresses and phone numbers, rates, reservation information, GPS Coordinates, and much more on over 215 U.S. Military Campgrounds. One of the highlights of this website are the campground reviews, and a very active discussion forum.

Since the website started operation on January, 2006, over 15 "secret" military campgrounds have been discovered. "Secret" military campgrounds are those campgrounds the website owner, Larry Farquhar, has classified as those campgrounds that are not listed anywhere else. These are usually campgrounds that are not well known, not advertised, or hidden on a base. Currently, 3 potential "secret" military campgrounds

are on the radar and are being researched.

The website is privately operated, without funding or the endorsement of any military or government agency. Larry started the website partly from frustration that there was no other source of information on military campgrounds that was current, or complete. Larry has strived to keep the website free to users and is supported by minimal advertising. The main source of support is from sales of the "U.S. Military Campgrounds Directory" software. This is software containing much of the same information found on the website, yet no internet connection is required. It's a perfect companion to the website for travelers and their laptop computers. Another advantage of the Directory software is the information is updated monthly.

While "U.S. Military Campgrounds" website is free, user registration is required to access all of the features. Registered members also receive the monthly eNewsletter containing the latest news on military campgrounds, including temporary closures, renovations, new campgrounds and other related news.

If you're a camper or RV'er and qualify to utilize our military campgrounds, you need to visit the U.S. Military Campgrounds website at:

www.militarycampgrounds.us.

Happy & Safe Travels!



When is Decoration Day?

Since 1971, Americans have been celebrating Memorial Day on the first Monday in May. But the holiday dates much further back in our history. It was originally observed during the Civil War (1861 - 1865), when citizens decorated the graves of those lost in battle; many different places claim to be the birthplace of this holiday. In 1866, the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union

Veterans) cited May 30th as the day on which "to strew flowers" or otherwise decorate the graves of the fallen Civil War comrades. This evolved into Memorial Day that we observe today. To honor the men and women who have fallen in the course of any of the American wars. It is also an unofficial signal of the commencement of summer.

A Soldiers Song

The Army Song got its beginnings during a difficult march across the Zambales Mountains in the Philippines. As a lieutenant leading a small detachment to select a route, Edmund L. "Snitz" Gruber (later Brigadier General) overheard a section chief call to his drivers, "Come on! Keep them rolling!"

Gruber, an artillery officer was stationed with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. In March 1908, about a year after Gruber overheard that section chief in the mountains, six young lieutenants - including William Bryden and Robert Danford - gathered in his thatch hut and decided they needed a song for the field artillery.

"With the help of a guitar - in what seemed to us a few moments - as if suddenly inspired, Snitz fingered the melody of the now-famous song," recalled Danford, who retired as a major general. Danford and Bryden helped complete the lyrics.

Gruber taught the song to officers of the 1st Battalion as they arrived at Fort Stotsenburg, Philippines. A few evenings later at the post reception for the new unit and adieu to the old, 'The Caisson Song' was given its first public rendition. Its popularity was instantaneous, and almost in no time all six of the regiments then composing the U.S. Field Artillery adopted it.

During the last days of World War I, senior artillery leaders wanted an official marching song. An artillery officer who did not know Gruber and thought "The Caisson Song" dated back to the Civil War, gave the piece to noted composer and bandmaster John Philip Sousa and asked him to fix it up. Sousa incorporated Gruber's piece into his composition, which he titled, "The U.S. Field Artillery March" - a few beginning measures being his own and the balance from Gruber.

The resulting song became a blockbuster record during World War I, selling about 750,000 copies. Gruber heard of it and asked Sousa, "How about some money, since I wrote the song?" Embarrassed, the innocent Sousa made certain Gruber got his royalties.

In 1948, the Army conducted a nationwide contest to come up with its own official song. None of the five winners achieved any notable popularity. In 1952, the secretary of the Army appealed to the music industry for a composition. Composers submitted an avalanche of more than 800 songs.

But no submission sparkled enough to be accepted. So a soldier music adviser in the Adjutant General's office was asked to try his hand at it. As a result, H.W. Arberg adapted "The Caisson Song" to become the official U.S. Army song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

ARMY LAUNCHES TROOP MOVEMENT WEB-SITE

The Army has launched its latest Web site, Grow the Army, to illustrate upcoming troop movements and upcoming unit stationing changes.

The site, <http://www.army.mil/growthearmy>, features interactive maps, charts and graphs to show Soldiers and their families where the Army's new 74,200 Soldiers, six infantry brigade combat teams, eight active-component support brigades, and various-sized combat-support and combat-service-support units will move, grow or activate between fiscal years 2008 and 2013.

"The Army is undergoing the largest transformational change since 1942," said Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody at a Pentagon press conference. "We've changed our doctrine. We've changed our organizational structure to the Army modular force."

"We've changed the active component and the reserve component, balancing between formations. We've changed modernization and reset programs, and at the same time, under BRAC 2005, we're changing the footprint of our Army to make it more agile, more expeditionary, but also to place

our formations and our family members in camps and stations that have a higher quality of life, a higher quality of training ranges so that we have the right formations so that we are training as we would fight."

States are color-coded and users can click on them to see specific stationing changes. The state of Texas, for example, is scheduled to gain units at both Fort Bliss and Fort Hood because of both 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act decisions and new stationing decisions, so the state will be light green on the Web site's map.

Fort Bliss expects to gain more than 25,000 Soldiers, the 1st Armored Division from Germany, three brigade combat teams, including one from Germany, and a fires brigade.

It will be marked on the map by green, dark blue and blue stars to represent "Infantry Brigade Combat Team," "Grow the Army," and "Other Stationing Decisions," respectively.

Fort Hood is scheduled to gain slightly less than 6,000 Soldiers, an air-defense-artillery brigade headquarters and a sustainment brigade. It has a dark blue star on the map for "Grow the Army."

Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag

In 1971, Mrs. Mary Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. The flag is black, bearing in the center, in black and white, the emblem of the League. The emblem is a white disk bearing in black silhouette the bust of a man, watch tower with a guard holding a rifle, and a strand of barbed wire; above the disk are the white letters POW and MIA framing a white 5-pointed star; below the disk is a black and white wreath above the white motto: YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

The flag has been altered many times; the colors have been switched from black with white - to red, white and blue, - to white with black; the POW/MIA has at times been revised to MIA/POW.

On March 9, 1989, a POW/MIA Flag, which flew over the White House on the 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the United States Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th session of Congress. The leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony in a demonstration of bipartisan congressional support. This POW/MIA Flag, the only flag displayed in the United States Capitol Rotunda, stands as a powerful symbol of our national commitment to our POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing in Southeast Asia has been achieved.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passes U.S. Public Law 101-355, recognizing the National League

Families POW/MIA Flag and designating it "as a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation." Beyond Southeast Asia, it has been a symbol for POW/MIAs from all American Wars.

With the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act during the first term of the 105th Congress, the.... 'POW/MIA Flag' will fly each year on:

Armed Forces Day - (Third Saturday in May)

Memorial Day - (Last Monday in May)

Flag Day - June 14

Independence Day - July 4

National POW/MIA Recognition Day - September 19

Veterans Day - November 11

The POW/MIA Flag will be flown on the grounds or the public lobbies of major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense, all Federal National Cemeteries, the National Korean War Veterans Memorial, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the White House, the United States Post Offices and at official offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veteran's Affairs, and Director of the Selective Service System. Civilians are free to fly the POW/MIA Flag whenever they wish.

Little-Known Honor for Veterans

About 90 percent of deceased veterans are buried in private cemeteries. As a result, their families may not have been notified that they are entitled to presidential recognition of their live ones' service, if they were honorable discharged. Awareness of the engraved Presidential Memorial Certificate is not a problem for the families of veterans buried in national cemeteries, which routinely pass out information about the certificates. But, some private cemeteries admit they do not, said Bob Manning, who works at the Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is part of a

team trying to get the word out on behalf of the National Cemetery Administration.



Families of deceased veterans who would like a Presidential memorial Certificate - more than one can be provided to next of kin and loved ones.

Call the closest national cemetery for more information. An online locator is at <http://www1.va.gov/directory>.

A request form that can be downloaded and printed is online at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>.

Veteran's Officers and private funeral homes can contact the agency at pmc@va.gov.

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