



84th Division Alumni Bugler



June 2008



Special Points of Interest

A bipartisan group of 10 senators has introduced a bill that would make retroactive changes in reserve retirement to give credit for mobilizations since Sept. 11, 2001, when calculating the age at which reservists can begin drawing retired pay.

The National Guard and Reserve Retired Pay Equity Act would amend a law that took effect in January that allows reservists, who previously had to wait until age 60 to draw retirement checks, to start getting payments 90 days earlier for every 90 days of continuous mobilization. But the law allowed credit only for active duty performed after Jan. 28, the day the bill became law.

Inside this issue:

Presidents Corner	2
Secretary's Corner	2
2008 Dine-In	2
Taps	2
84th Highway Signs	3
Retiree Services Cont.	3
Warrant Officers	4
Recreation Lodging	4
What is CNGR?	5
Soldier of Year Event	5

Ft. McCoy's Retiree Service Office

The Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office (RSO) is located near the Main Gate in building 2187. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Although walk-ins are welcome, appointments are suggested. The office is handicap accessible. You can reach the RSO at (608) 388-3716, or by email at Retiree Services Office.

The RSO provides information regarding benefits and entitlements to active-duty military personnel who are contemplating retirement and continues to support them and their family members as retirees. The Fort McCoy RSO supports the off-post mission in the states of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, California and Nevada.

The RSO processes retirement applications and other separations and serves as the transition activity for soldiers whose records are maintained by Fort McCoy's Military Personnel Division. You can reach the transition office at (608) 388-7956.

The RSO conducts quarterly pre-retirement, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), and Army Career & Alumni Program (ACAP) orientations. Orientations are conducted the first Monday in the months of February, May, August and November. The agenda is available. Advance registration is required and can be accomplished by calling (608) 388-2318. Retirement ceremonies are scheduled on a case-by-case basis for those Soldiers transitioning at Fort McCoy.

A Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) is conducted annually at Fort McCoy on the first Friday in September. The RAD features a morning session with guest speakers from organizations that affect

military retiree living. The afternoon session offers a benefits fair made up of display tables manned by representatives from a wide variety of military retiree-related organizations and activities. The RSO publishes two versions of its annual retiree newsletter, "HONORS." The Midwest Edition serves military retirees in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, and the Northern 32 counties of Illinois. The West Coast Edition serves retirees located in California and Nevada.

Fort McCoy supports two main retiree councils. The Fort McCoy Main Council oversees area retiree councils located in Davenport (Quad Cities), Iowa; Sheridan (Chicago), Illinois; Duluth/Superior; Minneapolis (Twin Cities); and Selfridge, Michigan. The California/Nevada Retiree Main Council oversees area councils located in San Diego; Fresno; Bay Area, California; Fort Ord, California; and Las Vegas. Minutes for the two main councils are available.

The Selfridge Michigan Retiree Council operates a Retiree Activity Office on the installation and provides assistance to retirees from all branches. You can contact the Selfridge Retiree Activity Office at 800-645-9416 Ext 5580 or visit their website at www.selfridgemwr.com/community/rso.htm

Transportation and Household Goods Shipment support is provided by the Transportation Office, Fort Snelling, Minnesota. You can contact their office at (800) 843-2769, extension 1039 or via email at ppsosnelng@conus.army.mil.

Continue at bottom of page 3

The Presidents Corner

This has been an active year for your association. We have had good participation and attendance at our events this past year. We will be having our Annual Meeting this coming June 25th (to be confirmed) with an agenda of election of officers and a speaker TBA.

We encourage all of you to attend and those interested in serving on the board to present themselves for consideration. I also want to stress again that we need

your recruiting efforts to sustain our membership for the future. These will my last Presidential note to the membership. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the membership these past few years. I hope to see you all again at the June meeting.

Glen 'Rusty' Armstrong

President

Secretary's Corner

We are now making the final arrangements for our Annual General Membership Meeting. Our guest speaker for this event will be John Margowski, Director, Waukesha Waukesha County Veterans Service Dept (CVSO). He is very knowledgeable about veterans services and should be a great resource for our membership, and I am sure it will be another inspiring talk. The meeting is set for 25 June 2008 at 1900 hours (7:00 PM).

Lastly we are starting to setup all the requirements for the Steak/Chicken Fry Picnic. The date is still in the planning, but it is usually the weekend after Labor Day. This has always been a great time to kick back and

relax. The food is always good and plenty of it, despite the fact that "Staff" & I are always cooking.

June will be my last month as Secretary of our Association. Due to personal reasons I will not be able to continue in that position. It has been a pleasure to serve as your secretary over the last few years. I still will continue as your newsletter editor, at least for the time being, unless someone else wants that position.

I hope to see you all at the June meeting.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

2008 Dine-In/Dine-Out

Those who attended our annual Dine-In/Dine-Out spent another memorable night of fun, camaraderie, great food and honors. We entertained over 65 members and guests. Our guest speaker CSM Posey Grier, Jr. 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) gave a very inspiring talk on history and future of the 84th.

Our surviving World War II members of the 84th Division Alumni Association were present with a proclamation for their service during World War II. Present were SSG Fillmore Bott, MSG Norman W. Neitzke and CW4 Sam G. Sotrin. They were appointed as Permanent Honorary Members of the 84th Division Alumni Association with 'all accompanying rights and privileges of such status.' Not present were MG Robert M. Erffmeyer, LTC Stanley T. Gwiazdowski and LTC Russell G. Schurr.

We were honored by CPT Monica Radtke to serve as this years Ms. Vice. As usual there was enough bickering and rule braking that kept her busy with collecting fines. CPT Radtke is in route to be assigned to the Protocol Office with the Chief of the Army Reserve, at Washington DC, we wish her well.

The head table included CSM James Clark and his wife Karen, CSM Grier and COL Rusty and Ann Armstrong. CSM Clark was welcomed by his many friends and is making a remarkable recovery with Karen's help and assistance.

The 84th Training Command was well represented this year including the Chief of Staff, COL Mike Chyterbok, Goldie Schuh and Gerard, G3 COL Gus Kaufman and Ann, G7 Darryl Hensley and G8 COL John Oathout and Deanna.

Taps

We are sadden to announce the passing of two of our members. Our sincere sympathy goes to the families of: Richard 'Dick' Bauman; 1 January 2008 and Dolores 'Dee' Hollenbeck; 6 December 2007.

Railsplitters Memorial Highway Signs

On March 24, 2008, Governor Jim Doyle signed into law Senate Bill 413, which amended the state law affecting a portion of Highway 33, the Railsplitters Memorial Highway. At the time the legislation was originally passed in the 1990's, state maintenance for signage was omitted, leaving construction and preservation of signs marking the road to municipalities or private individuals or groups.

Alumni Association members reported that the signs originally placed with the adoption of the road had fallen into disrepair, and the Board examined various options to address the issue. Ultimately, word was passed to Senator Scott Fitzgerald, Republican Party leader in the state Senate. Sen. Fitzgerald, also a

current member of the 84th ARRTC, quickly drafted legislation requiring state funding for any necessary erection and maintenance of signs. He quickly enlisted support from the state Assembly for a companion bill as well. With very little time to accomplish all of the preliminary work, hearings were held in both chambers, both chambers approved the legislation, and Governor Doyle placed his signature on the legislation.

All Association members owe a debt of gratitude to Sen. Fitzgerald and our elected representatives for this legislation that will ensure the 84th's proud heritage will be properly displayed on Highway 33 for all to see.



The following Pre-Retirement services are offered:

- * Individual Pre-Retirement Counseling
- * Preparation of Retired Pay Application, DD Form 2656
- * Career Status Bonus/ REDUX Counseling
- * Retirement application processing
- * Retirement orders
- * DD Form 214 processing
- * Final out processing
- * Active Duty survivor assistance

The following Post-Retirement services are offered:

- * Conduct annual RAD
- * Publish local PAO articles in HONORS
- * Information for ACMSS
- * Assistance to Soldiers, spouses and URFS
- * Information for CRSC
- * Information for CRDP
- * Assistance obtaining lost service documents
- * Information/ referral to Veteran Administration
- * TRICARE information
- * Social Security/Medicare information

Warrant Officers Mark 90 Years with Army

Although the Army has had commissioned and noncommissioned officers since the American Revolution, warrant officers are relative newcomers. They celebrate their 90th birthday this year.

Congress authorized warrant officers in the Army on July 9, 1918, when it established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps. Warrant officers in that service served on vessels that laid and maintained defenses along America's coast.

Two years later, in June 1920, Congress authorized an increase in the number of warrant officers to 1,120 and decreed that they could be appointed outside the Coast Artillery Corps.

During this period, however, there was no comprehensive warrant officer program. As a result, the Army sometimes used warrant appointments to reward enlisted personnel for their long service. Additionally, as the Army downsized in the 1920s, some commissioned officers that would have been demobilized were offered warrant appointments to permit them to remain in uniform.

According to William K. Emerson, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and expert in military insignia, it was also in the 1920s that warrant officers in the Army's Tank Corps were "the first to wear the unique 'Eagle Rising' badge, which was approved for war in May 1921."

The Army received its first two female warrant officers. Jean Doble, at IX Corps area headquarters in San Francisco, and Olive Hoskins, at the VII Corps area in Omaha, Neb., apparently were the only female warrants until World War II.

This badge — an eagle seated in a wreath and grasping two arrows — served as a unifying symbol in the warrant officer community until 2004, when the Army required warrant officers to wear the insignia of their appropriate branch.

In August 1941, the Army created two warrant grades — chief warrant officer and warrant officer junior grade. It also authorized warrant officers in the Army Air Forces to serve as pilots.

In early 1942, warrant officers began wearing distinctive gold-and-brown rank insignia; in September of that year, warrant officers in flying assignments began wearing a blue-and-gold rank insignia.

By the end of World War II, more than 55,000 warrant officers were on active duty, serving in some 40 military occupational specialties.

From the 1950s to the end of the century, the Warrant Officer Corps underwent a number of changes. Chief among these was the creation of a Warrant Officer Career Program, and the addition of the chief warrant officer 3, 4 and 5 grades.

The role of the warrant officer was defined during this period. As the 1985 Chief of Staff Warrant Officer Study Group explained, a warrant officer "is a highly specialized expert and trainer who, by gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, operates, maintains, administers, and manages the Army's equipment, support, activities, or technical services."

Today, warrant officers serve in a variety of positions ranging from legal administrator and helicopter pilot to bandleader and network management technician.



Military Recreation Lodging

Many installations offer recreational lodging facilities as a travel option. The facilities may consist of cabins, cottages, trailers, trailer or RV parks with hook-ups or campgrounds.

In addition, travelers may stay on a space-available basis in official lodging facilities. Rates vary.

Contact: Army lodging, www.armymwr.com; Navy Lodges, Navy Exchange Service Command, www.navy-

nex.com; Navy campgrounds, www.mwr.navy.mil; Air Force, www.afsv.af.mil; and Marine Corps lodging, www.usmc-mccs.org.

While each service has its own Web site for information on military campgrounds and recreational vehicle sites, the Army also has a one-stop Web portal called "Paths Across America" that includes information on facilities operated by all the services. Check it out at www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/

What is CNGR?

Do you ever wonder how many people think about what is happening on Capitol Hill? Every now and then some things that pertain to us come up. One of those things is The Commission on the National Guard and Reserve Report. Congress in the Ronald Reagan National Defense Authorization Act put the commission in place for the fiscal year 2005. Because the operational tempo for the Guard and Reserve was changing so quickly that Congress wanted to know what problems had resulted and how they could be fixed.

The Commission's final report, "Transforming the National Guard and Reserve into a 21st Century Operational Force," states: "The nation requires a operational reserve force. However, the DOD and Congress have no serious public discussion or debate on the matter, and have not formally adopted the operational reserve. Steps taken by DOD and Congress have been more reactive then proactive and more timid than bold. They thus have not focused on an overreaching set of alterations necessary to make the Reserve Component a ready, rotational force. Congress and the DOD have not reformed the laws and policies governing the Reserve Component in ways that will sustain an operational force."

I know that is a powerful statement. Read it again! This statement is about your Reserve, the one we all served or serving in, and the recommendations in this report will greatly affect the officer and enlisted force.

I will paraphrase a few recommendations that may be of interest to you:

- Eliminate the 'order to active duty for more than 30 days' requirement for receipt of full basic allowance for housing.
- Allow reimbursement for travel expenses and provide lodging when a member lives in excess of 50 miles.
- Reduce the number of duty statuses to two: on active and off active duty.
- Active and Reserve Components should have the same retirement system. Current servicemembers should be grandfathered under the existing system but offered the option of converting to the new one; a five-year transition period should be provided for new entrants, during which time they could opt for either the new or the old plan.
- Set the age for receipt of a military retirement annuity to 62 for those who served at least 10 years; age 60 for those who served at least 20 years; and 57 for those with at least 30 years of service.

The above are just a few items in the report, there are items covering dental, Tricare, relocation, family support and several other topics.

Congress appointed this Commission. They are listening! If you have any opinion at all about the Reserve as you know it is completely changing, take advantage of this moment and voice your support or non-support of these recommendations.

On the web you can read the complete report, visit the CNGR website at www.cngr.gov

Fort McCoy to Host Reserve Soldier of Year Event

Fort McCoy, Wis., will be the setting for the Army Reserve Command's annual Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Competition

The event will be held July 6-10 and, for only the second year in a row, the two winners will go on to represent the Army Reserve in the all-Army NCO and Soldier of the Year "Best Warrior" Competition, which takes place at Fort Lee, Va., Sept. 28-Oct. 3.

The Army Reserve competition closely mirrors the Department of the Army competition.

Contestants will take the Army physical fitness test consisting of push-ups, sit-ups and a two mile-run, and they will also have the opportunity to maximize their

scores through a variety of events during the week-long contest.

There will be a written examination on general military topics, a graded essay on an assigned topic, qualification on an M4 rifle, day and night urban warfare orientation courses, and evaluation in a number of critical warrior tasks and battle drills, plus a mystery event.

The soldiers will also face selection boards in front of their Army Reserve peers. The boards will evaluate each soldier's appearance, military bearing and knowledge in a number of key areas.

The winners will be announced at an awards dinner on the evening of July 10 at Fort McCoy.

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	1SG Edward Marynik, (Ret)
Treasurer	CSM Robert Staffaroni, (Ret)
Board Member	COL William McKeown (Ret)
Board Member	LTC William Vanasse Jr. (Ret)
Board Member	CSM David Gramins, (Ret)
Board Member	SGM Larry Kritz, (Ret)
Board Member	CSM Donald Rosenbauer, (Ret)
Editor	1SG Edward Marynik, (Ret)

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

