



84th Division Alumni Bugler

Newsletter of the 84th Division Alumni Association

March 2013



Upcoming Special Events

- 04 May 2013 Dining In/Out** (Saturday)
18 May 2013 Armed Forces Day (Saturday)
13 Jun 2013 Annual Meeting (Thursday)
14 Jun 2013 Flag Day
06 Sep 2012 Fort McCoy Retiree Appreciation Day
14 Sep 2013 Steak Fry Cookout (Saturday)



2013 Valentine Dinner

On Sunday February 10, 2013, we held our now annual Valentine's evening dinner at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove, WI. Approximately 60 guests enjoyed good food, and an eye full of red attire. Skip Pochowski and Mark Millard serenaded us with an eclectic range of music on their classic electric guitars, with Skip providing his distinct vocals. Many of our recent events have gone without a formal guest speaker, which provides the attendees more of an opportunity to visit with each other. We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Alumni Membership Renewal Date Change!

A number of years ago the renewal month changed from ending June 30, to December 31. The Alumni Board has decided to change back to the June 30 renewal time period. So if your renewal ends this month, the new renewal period will start six months from now. Hopefully, this will take some of the pressure of your December bill paying.

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84th Alumni Association Sunshine Activities

Individuals aware of any member or spouse who should receive a get well card or sympathy card, should call Jan Berzowski at 262/468-4928. Please remember to spell the individual's name and provide the address, if available, and give a brief description of the problem when leaving a message. This system works very well for the Alumni Association. To date, approximately fifty cards have been sent to members. Keep the calls coming.

Please keep Bill McKeown in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery from surgery.

New Alumni Members!

Please welcome our new members. Members of the Executive Board attended the last two 84th Commander's Conferences, which have greatly helped increase alumni membership.

- COL Bruce Klem
- COL Donald Rambadt
- MAJ Robert Trich
- MSG Timothy Schoessow
- MG David Puster *
- Mr David Waldecker *
- LTC Michael Burgess *
- CW2 John McConnell *
- CSM Luther Thomas *
- SGM Guy Rosenthal *

*Indicates Fort Knox new member

Some Soldiers Never Retire

On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2012, CW4 (Ret) Mike Malloy, an alumni member, was honored as the Milwaukee County Veteran of the Year. The presentation was made by the President of the Veteran's Board of Directors, and County Executive Chris Able presented Mike with a Proclamation from his office. The presentation was held at a dinner and recognition program at the War Memorial Center in Milwaukee. We are all proud of you Mike!



From the President's Desk

We have been hearing lately that the sequestration hasn't been as bad as we had expected. I mentioned sequestration last year when I explained how the inability of our political leaders to develop and then stay within an annual budget would cause this stalemate in our country. The penalty for this inaction was a really bad deal called sequestration. Cuts would be made to the national budget, but rather than using a surgical tool, we are now forced to use a meat ax for across the board reductions. Sounds a bit fair, except that the kicker in this is the military would then take another major hit of \$500 billion over the next ten years. We took our across the board cut like everyone else, then were penalized another \$500 billion. Who agreed to that? Who offered that? The same people who couldn't agree for four years on a budget. Did you expect anything different? Really? Now you ask, "Are our politicians really doing what is best for us?"

Those of us who also have had to had to make cuts in personnel (I have, in the Army and in my civilian occupation) were given the opportunity to prioritize reductions by identifying the least important positions (and, yes, least productive employees) to eliminate. This is called "targeted attrition." This is the way private business and even the military has done this distasteful job for decades. But not under sequestration. Everyone took a cut across the board and everyone is affected. The White House, apparently trying to show leadership, stopped White House tours ("See? We are affected, too. We feel your pain.") Really? And, we will no longer see the Blue Angels or the Thunderbirds. Under the existing budget crisis, I can live with that. And the Navy is cutting four air wings (about 200 planes) and an aircraft carrier, and I guess I can live with that, too. Then 800,000 Department of Defense civilians will be furloughed one day a week (20% pay cut) for the unforeseeable future. Hmm. And the Army is cutting about 200,000 soldiers. And educational benefits for our soldiers are frozen. Oh oh. When all this happens, usually your best and brightest realize this uncertainty could be permanent and they start looking for other jobs. Those who remain may not understand what is happening, or

are too deeply entrenched in the bureaucracy that they would never leave, anyway. What we see then is called "provoked attrition," and that has never worked for anyone who has had to do it. Now, this sequestration thing starts to hurt a bit.

Finally, we see that Arlington Cemetery will reduce its staff and thus reduce the number of burials each day from 31 to 24. Really? It currently takes 2 weeks for the funeral of a soldier killed in action, and they want to delay this even more? Really? (I know I have used the word "really" a lot but that is what comes to mind as I read these press releases).

I could go on and on about this but my space is limited. Let me end with 2 other significant points: 1) No reduction in pay for congress or the President during sequestration, 2) March 4 headline: "China defends Booming Military Budget." See? Our politicians really are doing what is best for us. Really?
Peter (Skip) Pochowski

www.84thdivalumni.com

The 84th Division Alumni Association is pleased to provide its members a place to go for information about the Rail Splitters. If you have an idea for something you want to see on the website, please contact me at:

ppochowski@wi.rr.com

Peter (Skip) Pochowski

Defense Bill Limits TRICARE Increases

AUSA and its partners in The Military Coalition scored a huge victory when Congress voted to reject the administration proposals to increase some TRICARE fees and establish new ones. They also rejected DoD proposals to drastically increase pharmacy co-pays.

While the bill does include a modest increase in TRICARE pharmacy co-pays for 2013, caps beginning in 2014 will only allow fees to rise by no more than the annual retiree COLA.

To make up the lost revenue from capping co-pays at lower rates, the NDAA requires TRICARE-for-Life eligible beneficiaries use either military pharmacies or the mail-order system for refills of maintenance

medications for at least one year. Look for more information on how this initiative will work as the details become available.

While Congress will allow the establishment of a Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, it rejected the administration's request that members of the commission would all be appointed by the administration. It also rejected the proposal that any recommendations by the commission would have to be considered by Congress using BRAC-like rules that would have barred any amendments and required an up or down vote.

February 2013 AUSA

A More Affordable Military?

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta met with the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) last September and charged the board with providing him with advice and guidance on four things: the cost of a strong reserve; the best balance between active and reserve forces; how to best use the reserve in the future; and how to achieve cost savings. The RFPB concluded that DoD simply had never fully accounted for the fully burdened life-cycle costs of its most expensive resource-personnel.

For example, the RFPB calculates that an Active Component service member costs the federal government a total of \$384,622 as compared to \$123,351 for a Reserve Component member. That is a difference of more than \$261,271 per position.

We also expect the Quadrennial Defense Review for 2014 to address the statutorily mandated issues as they relate to the reserve. They largely skimmed over these issues in the 2010 QDR.

March-April 2013 ROA

Cancellation of the 2013 Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) Army Birthday Ball

Due to the uncertain Fiscal Year 2013 funding caused by combined effects of a possible year-long Continuing Resolution (CR) and sequestration, along with the need to protect funding for wartime operations, we are cancelling the HQDA Army Birthday Ball scheduled for June 15, 2013.

US Army Warrant Officers Association

Deployments canceled for 3 Guard units

The Associated Press Posted: Wednesday Mar 20, 2013

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — More than 900 Indiana National Guard soldiers will not deploy as scheduled this summer because of federal budget issues.

The Journal Gazette reports that units from Fort Wayne, New Albany and Scottsburg had their missions canceled because of automatic federal budget cuts and military downsizing.

Capt. Kathryn Elkins said more than 500 members of the 1st Battalion of the 293rd Infantry Division out of Fort Wayne had trained nearly two years for deployment to the Horn of Africa.

About 400 members of the 1st Squadron of the 152nd Cavalry in New Albany and Company D of the 113th Combat Support Battalion in Scottsburg had been scheduled to report to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger said he's troubled by the lateness of the announcement.

Potential Installation/Troop Reductions

Installations and communities bracing for pending troop cuts and a major reshuffling of the Army's brigade combat teams should not expect to lose more than 8,000 military and civilian personnel according to a recent report.

The report, which assessed the environmental impact of adding or cutting troops from various Army posts, looked at 21 installations that would likely experience population changes and studied scenarios that ranged from cutting 8,000 military personnel to adding 3,000.

February 2013 Army Times

Legion submits solutions for VA backlog

The American Legion - March 20, 2013

One day after Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., called for the resignation of Allison Hickey, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) undersecretary for benefits, she found herself testifying before Miller as he chaired a March 20 hearing by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs that focused on VA's mounting backlog of disability claims.

For the hearing, The **American Legion** submitted a statement recognizing a substantial increase in the

claims backlog since 2010, along with specific recommendations to help solve the problem. In 2010, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) had about 509,000 claims pending with 39 percent in backlog (pending more than 125 days). As of this week, VBA's figures show nearly 896,000 claims pending with more than 70 percent in backlog.

While VA has been aggressively pursuing technological initiatives to reduce the backlog, they are not the only key to the solution for reducing the backlog. The American Legion recommended three specific actions for VA to take:

- *Fix a broken work-credit system for VA employees, which currently gives the same credit for work, whether it is correct or incorrect.

- *Develop a system to aggregate common errors made in claims processing, and use the information to create a training plan for employees.

- *Hire more veterans to process claims to increase understanding of the military among those who are interpreting claims files.

84th Training Command Senior Leadership



MG David Puster



BG Pete Quinn



COL John Cardwell



Mr. Ted Jendusa



CSM Luther Thomas



Major General David W. Puster is the Commanding General for the 84th Training Command (Unit Readiness).

Brigadier General Pete T. Quinn is the Deputy Commanding General for the 84th Training Command.

COL John Cardwell is the Chief of Staff for the 84th Training Command

Mr. Ted Jendusa is the Supervisory Command Executive Officer (CXO).

Command Sergeant Major Luther Thomas Jr. is currently serving as the Command Sergeant Major for the 84th Training Command. (CSM Thomas has been selected as the next USAR Command Sergeant Major)

Mission of the 84th Training Command

The 84th Training Command trains and assesses Army Reserve units in ARFORGEN in accordance with USARC and FORSCOM directives in support of Operational and Functional Commands.

As directed, provide training to Joint, Combined, and Active Army Forces.

Mission Essential Task List (METL)

- Command and Control Assigned Units
- Plan, Coordinate, and Conduct Warrior Exercises and Combat Support Training Center Rotations
- Plan, Coordinate, and Conduct Basic and Advanced Weapons Training
- Plan, Coordinate, and Conduct Training on Theater-Directed Tasks
- Protect the Force

ADVENTURES IN TRAVEL

Have you ever been to the Milwaukee Brewers spring training site in Glendale, AZ, or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA?



Maryvale Baseball Park, Phoenix, AZ



Milwaukee Brewers Offices

On Wednesday December 26, 2012, we took a round trip Milwaukee ANG flight to Phoenix, AZ. Aside from the golfers and other passengers trying to escape the Wisconsin winter, we wanted to see the Rose Bowl and parade floats prior to the Badgers playing Stanford. We deplaned across the field from the main terminal at the fixed base operator (FBO), next to the ANG base. FBOs typically service small aircraft (corporate and some military aircraft); what terrific service they provide. Those needing rental cars were driven to the airport rental center. After spending the night at the Luke AFB Fighter Country Inn (\$53.23 USAF rates), we headed for Pasadena, CA, and the Rose Bowl.

If you haven't driven it, the spectacular scenery between Phoenix and Los Angeles is mostly desert, crossing the Colorado River and dropping down to sea level, while passing Palm Springs. We checked out things Thursday afternoon in preparation for our Friday viewing of the Rose Parade Floats.



Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, CA



One of Three Float Decorating Buildings

Early Friday morning saw us mistakenly lining up behind some kids who were volunteering to work on the floats (my wife's eyes lit up when we were asked if we wanted to volunteer to help on the floats). If you make it before the parade, you can view the floats in their buildings where they are being assembled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday before parade day, for \$10 each. A newspaper hawker suggested eating at a BBQ run by a

Wisconsin expatriate. *Robin's Wood Smoked BBQ* in Pasadena was a nice way to end our pre-rose bowl mini trip to California.

Saturday morning saw us retracing our route back to Phoenix. We arrived back in the afternoon in time to view the Milwaukee Brewers facilities in the Glendale, AZ area. The place was not yet open for spring training, but it gave a chance to see the place.

We planned the California leg first because the aircraft was on alert status, and sometimes the planes return a day earlier after an extended time away from their home base. A word to the wise, if you are taking a round trip flight, always makes sure the aircrew has your cell phone numbers. We were able to leave our Hertz rental car right at the FBO. Our flight back to the Milwaukee ANG Base left one hour earlier than planned, since the NFL shifted the Green Bay Packers game to a 3:25pm start time, and the crew wanted to catch the game. The ANG base does not operate on Sundays, so we were bused directly to our frozen cars.

Sometimes the best made plans fall through. Last week we drove down to Scott AFB, IL, to catch a very early morning flight to Tampa, FL, by way of Louisville, and Andrews AFB, on a spiffy Air Force C-37 (Gulfstream V). We and three other people could not board because one half hour later terminal the attendant said the VIPs may be discussing classified material (or possibly they didn't want to be bothered by us riffraff). Had we known that, we would have opted for a later flight that day out of Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

If you know of a flight you wish to take, make sure you are signed up as early as possible. Already in March the Guard and Reserve flights have been reduced or eliminated. I don't know what April will bring for SpaceA travel.

World SpaceA Traveler Jerry

More military installations are using Facebook sites. You don't necessarily need to register with Facebook to read the information on the sites

www.facebook.com/84thTrainingCommand

www.facebook.com/mccoymwr

Current HONORS retirement newsletter

www.mccoymwr.com/Services/ACAP_Documents/HONORS_2012.pdf

6 September 2013 RAD registration form

www.mccoymwr.com/Services/ACAP_Documents/2013_RAD_Registration.pdf

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Home of the 84th Alumni Association



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