



84th Railsplitters Bugler

Newsletter of the 84th Railsplitters Association

December 2016



Upcoming Special Events

18 Feb 2017 Valentine's Dinner (Saturday)
20 May 2017 Dining Out (Saturday)
15 Jun 2017 Annual Meeting (Thursday)
08 Sep 2017 RAD-Fort McCoy (Friday)
16 Sep 2017 Steak Fry Cookout (Saturday)
11 Nov 2017 Veterans Day (Saturday)



September Steak Cookout

On September 17, 2016, the Association held its now famous Steak/Chicken Cookout at the Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449 in Brookfield, WI. This is also our fundraiser for yearly activities. The event has been fortunate to see good weather for many years. If you can join us in the future, you are sure to have a great day of fellowship.

www.84thdivalumni.com (website)

Mission of the 84th Railsplitter Association

To promote better understanding of the US Army and Army Reserve by the general public;

To promote and develop patriotism and Americanism throughout the State of Wisconsin;

To maintain a well-managed association which will assist, aid and promote programs and objectives of the 84th Division;

To promote fellowship among former and present members of the 84th

ppochowski@wi.rr.com

Peter (Skip) Pochowski



84th Railsplitters Association Sunshine Club

Mary Orley is our volunteer who graciously continues to maintain this supportive function by sending out sympathy and get well cards. Please forward any information or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to Mary Orley, either at her home phone number: 414-425-0256 or to her email address: maryo_44@yahoo.com.

Members we are wishing a quick recovery while they are recuperating: Dave Gramins and Nora Gramins.

New 84th Railsplitter Members

It's great to see our membership continues to grow.

Please welcome our new members:

SSG	Joshua DuBois	WI
MSG	Victoria Lewis-Hayes	MI
SFC	Jarad Heim	WI
MSG	David Heller	WI
1LT	Roichard Kreitz	TX
SSG	Paula Luther	WI
CPT	Ray McAllister	WI
SFC	Anig Messer	WI
SFC	Brian Prospere	WI
SFC	Michael Rice	WI
CPT	Miguel SanchezVillafane	WI
CPT	Marikay Santryano	WI
1SG	Steven Sommerfeldt	WI

Army Beats Navy

Army ended a 14-year run of frustration against Navy, using an overpowering running game and opportunistic defense to carve out a long overdue 21-17 victory. The Black Knights' 14-game losing streak was the longest by either academy in a series that began in 1890. Army (7-5) now trails 60-50-7 in one of the nation's historic rivalries. *Fox News*

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From the President's Desk

Welcome 2017. Just What happened to 2016? Can't believe we are there already. All in all, 2016 was a pretty good year for the 84th Railsplitters Association. Our Valentines Dinner in February and the Dining Out in May were enjoyable and entertaining. Our June annual meeting and elections brought some new members to the Board. The Steak Fry in September was a huge success. We had a record breaking attendance. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Organization. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

2017 is rolling out to be another good year for us. Our Valentine's Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2017, at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove. We will be entertained by Joe and Janice Marie, who will provide a Valentines Holiday Music Program. You don't want to miss this duo- they are great.

Our Dining Out is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2017, also at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove. Entertainment will be provided by a group headed up by Ron DeVillers. You may recall that Ron was the band leader of the 84th Division for many years until the Division left in 2008. Mark your calendar to be there to enjoy oldies but goodies and military favorites.

The annual meeting and Army Birthday celebration will be held Thursday, June 15, 2017, at 6:30 PM. (1830). This meeting will again be co-hosted with the AUSA Association and held at the Stenz-Griesell-Smith Legion Post #449. We have arranged a guest speaker for this meeting, so make sure you can attend. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be provided. Keep in mind we will also be conducting board elections that evening. If any member is interested in serving on the Board, it is up to them to make their wishes known.

Our Annual Steak Fry / Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2017, at the Stenz-Griesell-Smith Legion Post #449. This is our annual fund raising event for the Association, so mark your calendar and let's have another record breaking attendance. Always a good time! Again, keep in mind

the Board is always open to any suggestions you may have for other events or activities during the year.

I sincerely wish you and your family an enjoyable holiday season. Please take some time to look back on 2016 and be grateful for what we have. Put less focus on what we don't have. This time of year is a great opportunity to put life in perspective and appreciate our blessings. Thank you to the men and women in our military for the sacrifices they are making for our country.

May you be blessed with laughter, peace, and love in 2017. Thank you for your gift of friendship.

COL (Ret) Dean P. Orley

President, 84th Railsplitters Association

Nominee for Secretary of the Army

Vincent Viola, an Army veteran and owner of the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers, will be nominated as the next Secretary of the Army.

"I am proud to have such an incredibly accomplished and selfless individual as Vincent Viola," President-elect Donald Trump said Monday in a statement posted on his transition website. "Whether it is his distinguished military service or highly impressive track record in the world of business, Vinnie has proved throughout his life that he knows how to be a leader and deliver major results in the face of any challenge."

Viola is a 1977 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and Ranger-qualified infantry officer. He served on active duty until the early 1980s, then continued serving in the U.S. Army Reserve—achieving the rank of major—as he began a career on Wall Street.

Viola called the announced nomination an honor, and said that if confirmed, he will "work tirelessly to provide our president with the land force he will need to accomplish any mission in support of his National Defense Strategy." Viola cannot be formally nominated for the post until Trump is sworn in as president. He said one of his primary focuses would be to ensure "America's soldiers have the ways and means to fight and win across the full spectrum of conflict."

Viola served as chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange from 2001 to 2004. He founded the financial services firm Virtu Financial in 2008. He also donated funds

to help establish the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.

Viola has also served on the West Point Fund committee, an arm of the Board of Trustees that supports academy cadet programs. He has been involved with veterans' groups as well as charitable groups in South Florida. *AUSA*

"There are a number of things wrong with Washington. One of them is that everyone is too far from home."
Dwight D. Eisenhower

New Law Ends Army Drawdown

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law in December by President Barack Obama. The bill brings an end to the Army's troop drawdown and provides soldiers with the first pay raise in five years that matches the average private sector increase.

The \$619 billion policy bill represents just half of the annual legislation needed to keep the Army and Defense Department fully running. A separate defense appropriations bill that fully funds programs has not been enacted. Instead, Congress passed and the President has signed a temporary funding bill that mostly limited spending to 2016 levels through April 28.

About \$10 billion in additional spending "over" the Obama administration's request is included in the policy bill. Part of that money goes for halting the post-war reduction in Army troop strength.

Every Army component gets extra soldiers. The Regular Army is authorized 476,000 soldiers. This is 16,000 more than the Obama administration sought for fiscal year 2017 and 1,000 more active-duty soldiers than allowed at the end of fiscal year 2016.

The Army National Guard and Army Reserve also have their personnel caps increased by 1,000 each over the fiscal year 2016 levels. For the Guard, this allows 343,000 soldiers for fiscal 2017. For the Reserve, authorized strength for 2017 is 199,000. *AUSA*

US Army Unveils New Physical Assessment Test

The U.S. Army has launched a new physical fitness test designed to determine if new recruits and soldiers can meet the physical demands of certain jobs such as infantry and armor specialties. The test will be administered to everyone coming into the service-officer, enlisted, active, Reserve and National Guard. It will be administered by any

command responsible for soldier accessions, including Recruiting Command and U.S. Army Cadet Command after the soldier swears in but before he or she begins training.

The Occupational Physical Assessment Test, or **OPAT**, will be administered to all recruits as a way to assess their fitness for military occupational specialties, or MOSs. Soldiers moving into a more physically demanding job, such as combat arms, will have to meet the corresponding physical standard, Jim Bragg, Retention and Reclassification Branch chief for U.S. Army Human Resources Command, said in a recent Army press release.

Under the new test, job specialties are divided into three physical demand categories: Heavy (Black), Significant (Gray), Moderate (Gold).

"OPAT is not designed to turn away or weed out people from the Army," said Brian Sutton, a spokesman for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. "It is designed to put the right people in the right jobs and to ensure we keep our recruits safe while doing so." The scoring is "gender neutral. All soldiers, male and female, must pass the same physical standards for the desired career field," he added.

4 Tests

OPAT measures muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiorespiratory endurance, explosive power and speed. It consists of four individual tests:

-The "Standing Long Jump" is designed to assess lower-body power. Participants stand behind a take-off line with their feet parallel and shoulder-width apart. They jump as far as possible.

-The "**Seated Power Throw**" is designed to assess upper-body power. Participants sit on the floor with their lower back against a yoga block and upper back against a wall. They hold a 4.4-pound medicine ball with both hands, bring the medicine ball to their chest and then push or throw the medicine ball upward and outward at an approximate 45-degree angle. The throw is scored from the wall to the nearest 10 centimeters from where the ball first contacts the ground.

-The "**Strength Deadlift**" is designed to assess lower-body strength. Participants stand inside a hex-bar and perform practice lifts to assure good technique. Then they begin a sequence of lifts starting with 120 pounds, and working up to 220 pounds.

-The "**Interval Aerobic Run**", always performed last, is designed to assess aerobic capacity. The evaluation involves running "shuttles" or laps between two designated points that are spaced 20 meters apart.

3 Fitness Categories

"Black" for MOSs with heavy physical demands, like those of the combat arms branches that require lifting or moving 99 pounds or more.

"Gray" for MOSs with significant physical demands that require frequent or constant lifting of 41 to 99 pounds and occasional tasks involving moving up to 100 pounds.

"Gold" for MOSs with moderate physical demands, such as cyber, that require frequent or constant lifting of weights up to 40 pounds or when all physical demands are occasional.

When a soldier wishes to reclassify to a new MOS, from the Gray category up to the Black category, then he or she would need to take the OPAT. However, if that soldier's new MOS falls within the same or lower-level category, the soldier will not need to take the OPAT, according to the release.

The soldier's commander is responsible for ensuring the OPAT is administered prior to approval of a reclassification, Bragg said. As with any reclassification action, the battalion- or brigade-level career counselor will administer the OPAT.

If a new recruit fails the OPAT, he or she can request to retake the test. If the recruit cannot eventually pass the OPAT color designator for his or her MOS, it could be possible to renegotiate the contract, allowing the recruit to go into an MOS with a lower physical demand OPAT category, the minimum being Gold, Sutton said.

Military.com by Matthew Cox

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall



"The Moving Wall" is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for thirty plus years. When John Devitt attended the 1982 dedication in Washington, he felt the positive power of "The Wall." He vowed to share that experience with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington.

John, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veteran volunteers built The Moving Wall. It went on display for the first time in Tyler, Texas in October of 1984. Two structures of The Moving Wall now travel the USA from April through November, spending about a week at each site.

The Moving Wall was displayed at the American Legion Post #1 in Germantown, WI (just north of Milwaukee) 9/1/16 to 9/5/16.

<http://www.themovingwall.org/>



Wisconsin Fallen Soldiers from the Vietnam War

**"Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everybody you meet." Gen. James "Mad Dog" Mattis
Secretary of Defense Nominee**

Driver Licenses from Nine States won't be valid IDs for Domestic Flights in a year

Beginning Jan. 22, 2018, travelers from nine states will no longer be able to travel with only their driver's licenses.

Residents of **Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington** will have to use alternate ID forms (passport, military ID, or permanent resident card) to pass TSA security checkpoints—even for domestic travel. The TSA began placing signage around airport security checkpoints to inform travelers of the new rules going into effect in 2018.

The IDs from these nine states do not meet the federal government's minimum security standards. And, according to the REAL ID Act of 2005, federal agencies (like the TSA) are prohibited from "accepting for certain purposes driver's licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act's minimum standards."

In order for states to pass the government's security standards, they must verify every ID applicant's identity, put anti-counterfeit technology in the production of the card, and conduct background checks on those who issue driver's licenses.

If the nine states currently on the list change their ID process, the government “may grant extensions or determine compliance for additional states as warranted,” the TSA said in a statement. “TSA will update signage if and when states that are currently listed receive extensions.”

Travelers who are not from the nine states will not be affected by the change in 2018. But by 2020, all travelers must have identification in compliance with REAL ID or they will not be allowed through TSA security checkpoints. militaryliving.com

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” Abraham Lincoln

ADVENTURES IN TRAVEL

Using space available travel (SpaceA), it seems to be easier to reach the west coast from the Midwest by first traveling to the east coast. Late August saw this traveling duo headed to Wright Patterson AFB, OH. The only lodging available that night was a general officer’s suite (it was larger than my first house). After signing and reading through the guest book in the suite, my wife can now say she slept in the same bed as actor Gary Sinise.

The following afternoon we took a C-17 to Joint Base Andrews, MD. After we deplaned the aircraft, it flew on to Ramstein AB, Germany. Andrews has an Enterprise Rental Car kiosk in the terminal, which I booked in advance. We again stayed at the Andrews Presidential Inn on base.



Gettysburg Visitor Center



Library of Congress

The following day we drove to Gettysburg, PA, to revisit the Gettysburg National Military Park. They have built a new visitor center and theater, and have more paved roads since our last visit. The following day we went to the National Mall and spent time at the Library of Congress. History oozes off the shelves, housed in an impressive building.

The next afternoon we boarded another C-17 for Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. The McChord lodging van picked us up at the terminal and we spent the night on the McChord side of the base. The next day, we taxied to the Fort Lewis side and picked up our Enterprise rental car. We hit Seattle and then visited relatives near Everett, WA, staying at the Navy Gateway Inn (Smokey Point).

We fired up the rental car and traveled to Cheney, WA, near Spokane, to visit another set of relatives. Arriving back at McChord, we used the Enterprise drop box at the terminal and caught an afternoon C-17 flight back to Andrews AFB.

The next morning, I took public transit to the National Harbor complex and rented a Hertz vehicle, for our drive back to Wright Patterson AFB. The following day, we visited the phenomenal U.S. Air Force Museum outside the southwest side of the base. We dropped off the rental SUV at Dayton IAP, and headed back to our home in WI.



One of the former Air Force One planes



Space Shuttle mockup

October saw us taking a road trip South Dakota, which is the home of many scenic sites. The Badlands are south of Wall, SD, just off I-90. To the west, you have Ellsworth AFB (where I was stationed in another life), and Rapid City, SD. The Black Hills host Mount Rushmore National Monument, and the Crazy Horse Monument. At the north end, Deadwood, SD, is another sightseeing venue.



Mount Rushmore



Devil's Tower

To the northwest across the state line in Wyoming, Devil's Tower is a majestic view. There are walking trails around the tower, and camping. If you have an “over 62” lifetime national park pass, which costs \$10, you can get in free.

Happy Traveling!

“Work as if you were to live a hundred years. Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.” Benjamin Franklin

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Please support:

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Home of the 84th Railsplitters Association



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