

Spring 2022

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Spring Greetings to All Fellow Railsplitters,

The calendar says spring has arrived, but our Wisconsin weather says otherwise! I certainly hope everyone survived the cold or went somewhere warm for the winter. Some of us are happy to see snow, but now we can't wait for it to go away. As we start looking forward to warmer weather and outside activities, we are planning for future events.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 21, 2022 to attend our annual Dining Out at the Western Racquet Club. We have booked some new entertainment for that evening that we are sure you will enjoy. The flyer for the event is enclosed with this issue of the Bugler. We look forward to seeing all of you! Come and enjoy the food, friends and music.

Our annual meeting and Army Birthday celebration will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at the Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith Legion Post #449. Appetizers and beverages will be provided. We are excited to let you know we will have a guest speaker at this meeting. Mr. Dan Buttery, President & CEO, Milwaukee County War Memorial will give us an update on things happening at the War Memorial. Elections will also be held that evening. If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a member on our Board of Directors, please let us know.

Our Annual Steak/Chicken Fry will be held Saturday, September 17, 2022 at the Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith Legion Post #449. Casual attire, jeans or shorts are the dress for the day. This event is our annual fund raiser, so please bring your checkbook and bid generously for the auction items. As always, donated items are greatly appreciated.

Thousands of Wisconsin Soldiers served in the 84<sup>th</sup> Division when it was headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. If you know of anyone interested in joining our military family; we'd love to hear from them. Membership forms can be found at our website:

[www.84thrailsplitters.com](http://www.84thrailsplitters.com).

Before closing, I'd like to take a few moments to stress the importance of end of life planning. The past few months have been difficult in more than one way for several in our Railsplitters family. Sadly, more times than we'd like to acknowledge our loved ones struggle in fulfilling our last wishes. Last year, COL (Ret) Skip Pochowski spearheaded a document to help Soldiers and their families plan for the inevitable. The End of Life Planning Guide is a useful resource to aid you and your family when planning for your passing. The document can be found [here](http://84thrailsplitters.com/84div/84th%20End%20of%20Life%20Guide.pdf) (<http://84thrailsplitters.com/84div/84th%20End%20of%20Life%20Guide.pdf>) If you do not have access to a computer, please reach out to us and we will send you a copy. We understand that it is difficult to discuss these matters; however, it is so important to take care of things now!

I wish everyone good health, enjoy our spring weather, and I look forward to seeing you at the Dining Out!

Goldie M. Schuh, MSG (Retired)

President, 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD

### Inside this issue:

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>VA Aid and Assistance</i>        | 2   |
| <i>Armed Forces Vacation Club</i>   | 3   |
| <i>Memories</i>                     | 4&5 |
| <i>Honor Flight</i>                 | 6   |
| <i>Sunshine Club</i>                | 7   |
| <i>84th Training Command Update</i> | 8-9 |
| <i>Please Take Note</i>             | 9   |
| <i>Humor</i>                        | 10  |

### Upcoming Events:

- ♦ Dining Out  
21 May 2022
- ♦ Annual Meeting  
16 June 2022
- ♦ Steak/Chicken Fry  
17 September 2022

## Please Join Us!

# VA Aid and Attendance

By Col (Ret) Joseph Banich

For the past 10 years, I have been assisting Veterans and their families regarding a Veterans Administration benefit that provides monthly income to cover the cost of long-term/short-term care including home care, board and care, adult day care, assisted living and skill nursing care. The benefit is paid monthly and is tax-free.

The benefit is titled Aid and Attendance. To be eligible for this benefit you need to have an honorable discharge and have served at least 90 consecutive days on active duty during the war time periods listed below. For most Reservists and Guardsmen, going to basic training and then onto AIT, qualifies them for the benefit.

The benefit amount varies depending on whether you are the veteran or spouse, married or unmarried. The benefits go up each year based upon cost of living adjustments. Below are the benefit amounts of 2022.

| STATUS               | 2022 MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT | 2022 ANNUAL BENEFIT AMOUNT |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Surviving Spouse     | \$1,318                     | \$15,816                   |
| Single Veteran       | \$2,050                     | \$24,610                   |
| Married Veteran      | \$2,431                     | \$29,175                   |
| Two Married Veterans | \$3,261                     | \$39,036                   |

There is a net worth Limit of \$138,489. The VA does not consider the value of your home to be part of your net worth.

**Service Requirements:** In order to qualify for the benefit, as stated above, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least 1 day during a war time period. Below are the wartime service dates established by Congress:

World War II: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. If the veteran was in service on December 31, 1946, continuous service before July 26, 1947 is considered World War II service.

Korean conflict: June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam War era: November 1, 1955 to May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in Vietnam during this period (boots on the ground or on a ship off the coast). August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 for Veterans who service outside the Republic of Vietnam.

Persian Gulf War: August 2, 1990 though date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law.

A veteran who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during an eligible wartime period.

**Age Requirement:** A veteran applying for the pension must be at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled. The disability does not have to be service connected. The spouse of a veteran can by any age.

**Marriage Rules:** The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran is eligible for the Aid and Attendance pension benefit if he or she was married to the veteran for at least a year before the veteran passed.

**Type of Care:** Aid and Attendance is a reimbursement for home and facility care. Home care can be provided by a family member, friend, or professional caregiver. The person providing the care does not have to be licensed.



The type of care being provided can include help with some of the activities of daily living. These daily living activities are:

Mobility/Transferring – help getting up or down stairs, in or out of a vehicle, in or out of a bed or chair.

Dressing – Help buttoning, zippering, putting clothing on or taking clothing off; getting clothes out of the closet.

Bathing – Any assistance with bathing, brushing teeth, grooming or personal hygiene. Can also include help adjusting the shower head or water temperature and handing someone a towel.

Toileting – help on or off the toilet, assistance with incontinence.

Eating – help cutting up food, feeding the person.

This also includes standby assistance – having another person present within arm's reach to prevent injury during the performance of a daily living activity.

**Application Process:** The application process consists of five to six VA Forms that need to be completed. These forms can be a little overwhelming especially for elderly veterans. I have been working with the Veterans Administration as a volunteer assisting veterans and their families complete the application process. I would be honored to assist any former veteran/spouse of the 84<sup>th</sup> Division and their families during the application process for this benefit. I can be reached at [joseph.banich@jdsu.com](mailto:joseph.banich@jdsu.com) or 317-691-4387. Veterans and family members can find the VA Forms at <https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound>. I can also e-mail the forms to you. About Joe Banich: COL (Retired) Banich served in the 84<sup>th</sup> Division from 1996 until 2004 as a Staff Officer, Battalion and Brigade Commander.

## In Search of Your Next Getaway: Armed Forces Vacation Club

Formerly known as Veterans Holidays, the Armed Forces Vacation Club should be on your list of possible vacation deals. Membership is free to all current, veterans and retired members of the US military and there's a premium membership which unlocks more deals.

AFVC promotes that military and veterans deserve the best therefore they offer weeklong resort stays starting at \$379. Reviewing the resort list shows over 200,000 resort accommodations in over 100 countries. They offer studios to two and even three bedroom rentals. You can shop far in advance or take advantage of their Last Minute Vacation specials for a low as \$339 a week.

With a free membership, why not check out their website at [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com) and see if you find your next getaway.





MAJ Ronald Moe and his lovely wife, Diane. MAJ John Horter is the swordsman on the right.



*Send your pictures to  
railsplitters84th@yahoo.com.*





**In case you missed the fun at our Annual Steak Fry...**



Guest speakers from the Milwaukee Fire Department shared their experiences from 9/11. Bn Chief Mark Fox (left) and Dept Chief Warren Skonieczny (right)



Sally and Tom Abts



Master grillers, Bill VanderPas (middle), Gerard Schuh (right) and supervising on the left is Mike Simmons



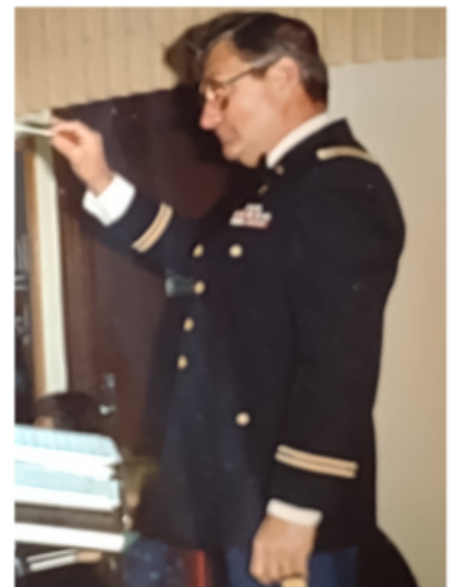
Samples of the auction items — making it one of our best fund raisers ever! Thanks to all!!



Justin Gottfeid



*Memories of the 84th Division Band*





**My Honor Flight**  
By CSM (Ret) Kim Michalowski

On October 16, 2021, the day started early. Myself and my guardian escort, SFC (R) Jim Hauke; another former 84<sup>th</sup> DIV Drill SGT, arrived at 0600 for registration. After getting registered and being given a breakfast; we loaded the plane at 0730. We were on the second plane with 50 other Veterans and their guardians. We landed in Baltimore at approximately 0930 (EST) and were bussed to the first stop: the FDR and MLK memorials. I have to say the FDR memorial was outstanding and I really enjoyed going through it. The MLK memorial was just as impressive and each was very inspirational.

Our next stop was a group picture at the Lincoln Memorial. We weren't allowed to climb the steps to the memorial but that was OK with me. LOL

From there we went to the Vietnam Wall and the WWII memorial. The Vietnam Wall was very emotional for me. Although I didn't serve with anyone whose name is on the Wall; I took the time to remember some that have provided me inspiration in my life: MOH recipient Lance Sijan from Milwaukee, Robert Hartsock, the only K9 handler to receive the MOH and A1C William Pitsenbarger, MOH USAF who was the subject of the film LAST FULL MEASURE.

I also met two people that will always stay with me. The first was a little Vietnamese woman who was a greeter at the Wall. She was a Vietnam refugee that made it to America and works there as a volunteer to thank Vietnam Veterans for their sacrifice and enabling her to come to America. The second was another volunteer named Bob Dunn, who himself was a K9 Handler in Vietnam. We had a great visit.



One thing I did was take a rubbing of my dog's name and ear number (HOB0, M793) that I got from a memorial to K9s left in Vietnam that is in Ohio. I left that at the wall in his honor; as I would not be here today without his bravery and dedication as my partner in Vietnam. Bob shared in that and it was the highlight of the day. Then we were off the WWII memorial just as it started raining. Jim, my guardian was keeping us on schedule and was awesome to be with. Jim had worked for me during my time as both assistant

Commandant and then Commandant at the Drill SGT School; so it was special he was my guardian.

After the WWII memorial we were off to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to watch the changing of the Guard. I have seen that once before but it is always so impressive and inspiring to observe. It rained the whole time but we all hung in there and it was a special part of the day.

We were fed lunch along the way from Firehouse Subs and as we left the Tomb had a dinner provided by Chick-Fil-A. We were off to our return flight; which left DC approximately 1900. On the way back they did the Mail Call. Jim did an awesome job in getting the word out and I had over 50 letters from family, friends and fellow veterans and comrades: COL Pochowski; a fellow K9 handler I served with at Cam Rahn Bay; my cousin in Houston sent pictures from her kindergarten class; a number of former 84<sup>th</sup> Drill SGTs I served with over the years; my brothers and sister; a couple school classes and numerous friends. It was an emotional ride home and I have saved every one of these treasures.

Then to the coup de gras: the welcome Home at Mitchell. It was more than I expected. And much more emotional than this old CSM wanted to get (HAHA). I had family, to include my 93 year old Mother, my wife of course, my brother, my grandsons, old high school friends, two soldiers I went to DS School with and have been



The Nice Ash Cigar Bar gang



friends with since 1978, two Drill SGTs that served under me at the Drill SGT School, my first Reserve Commander (LTC (R) Lee Rochwerger) and friends from my hangout; the Nice Ash Cigar Bar in Waukesha. They made me a banner that was a huge surprise. One thing that happened that was a big surprise was a little WWII widow presented with a red, white and blue afghan. She makes one for each flight and presents it to one Veteran . My good friend, Army veteran Jennifer Pankowski (she is a Honor Flight volunteer) got her to give it to me.



In closing; it was a hectic day but one that I will always remember and cherish. I was reluctant to go on a flight but am so happy I did. It was a wonderful experience. I am so grateful to my VM buddy Bob Pfeifer, who encouraged me to sign up, Jennifer Pankowski for helping make it memorable by introducing me to Bob Dunn (by the way: Jennifer goes to DC 3-4 times a year and volunteers at the Wall as a greeter), the Honor Flight program and especially SFC (R) Jim Hauke who did so much to make my flight and day a great memory.



LTC(R) Lee Rochwerger, SFC(R) Jim Brinks, CSM(R) Michalowski, SFC(R) Doug Defenbaugh, MAJ(R) Diana Gibson



### Sunshine Club

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who passed away recently:

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>LTC James Nitschke</b>  | <b>CSM Dan Pelishek</b>     |
| <b>CW4Ronald DeVillers</b> | <b>SFC Rellis Beals</b>     |
| <b>WO1 James Olczak</b>    | <b>SSG Bernard Lombardo</b> |

Best wishes for a speedy recovery:

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>MG Robert Smith</b>             | <b>Karen Clark</b>  |
| <b>James Olczak's wife, Cindie</b> | <b>Opal Simmons</b> |

My deepest apologies to LTC Dick Peterson. The LTC is alive and doing well. He was mistakenly listed as deceased in the last newsletter. In the words of Mark Twain, *the news of his demise was greatly exaggerated.*

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to: Mary Orley at (414) 425-0256 or email, [maryo\\_44@yahoo.com](mailto:maryo_44@yahoo.com)



# 84th Training Command Standardizes Mission Capabilities

*Compiled by 84th Training Command Public Affairs*

The 84th Training Command recently underwent the largest transformation in the U.S. Army Reserve since 1993, beginning with the consolidation of the 84th and 75th training commands. The former 75th TC's named divisions, Atlantic Training Division, Southern Training Division, Gulf Training Division, Great Lakes Training Division, and Pacific Training Division were allocated to the 84th TC. The Gulf Training Division and Southern Training Division inactivated in the first quarter of 2019 as part of the Command Implementation Plan. The former 75th TC did not intend to retain Troop Program Unit (TPU) Soldiers at the inactivated locations, so to retain those Soldiers at their locations, the 84th TC created new detachments within the remaining Pacific, Great Lakes, and Atlantic training divisions.

This realignment left the 84th TC with an expanded, nonstandard mix of command structure and operating paradigms. In response to the merger, the 84th TC developed a standardized command structure with input from all subordinate training divisions. The Change Management Process (CMP) plan for fiscal year 2021 unified the command, standardized command and control across the formation, standardized missions and capabilities, and established a new operating paradigm.

Many of these key decisions regarding structure, locations, composition and disposition of Mission Training Centers were made by the training divisions' commanding generals during leadership summits. Working groups comprised of the 84th TC and the divisions' headquarters conducted in-depth analysis to produce standardized, detailed structures for subordinate units. Every position was carefully analyzed to assess the appropriate grade, occupation, position title, additional skill identifier, and security clearance level. The goal was to maximize efficiency of the plan with a simplified structure for reduced requirements and timelines for operations.

The 84th TC seized the opportunity to inject organizational innovations into the plan, including "direct support" Observer Coach / Trainer (OC/T) capability to work directly with a rotational training through mentorship prior to exercise execution. Unit collective performances increase with pre-execution OC/T preparation. Other innovations included improved effects and enablers, analysis and assessment, exercise control, and higher adjacent lower supporting and supported cells as divisional assets. By enhancing these capabilities, the divisions will improve the exercise environments for rotational training units. A more robust opposition forces (OPFOR) cadre was developed to improve and regulate the quality of OPFOR provided at an exercise, both live and virtual. The OPFOR proposed for the CMP reintroduces combat arms specific MOS/AOC (11A/11B) into the Army Reserve.





Finally, a cyber assessment OC/T capability was created to better assess and mentor Soldiers in the digital warfighting environment.

The transformation planning process was a coordinated effort that extended the operational timetable before making it to the highest approving level, Headquarters Department of the Army.

Since 2016, the 84th TC's structure reduced from eight divisions, 18 brigades, and 16 battalions to six divisions, 12 brigades and 16 battalions in 2019. Now, the structure is comprised of four training divisions, the 78th, 86th, 87th, and 91st. (In late 2021, the 87th Training Division was reactivated.) Each division is organized into two brigades consisting of two OC/T battalions and two Mission Command Training Detachments. There is a Mission Training Center assigned to each division and the 84th TC headquarters.

With a nod to the history of each unit, the divisions are headquartered at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Birmingham, Alabama, and Fort Hunter Liggett, California. All training divisions and the 84th TC have legacies dating back to WWI.



The 84th decided to activate the new division in Birmingham, Alabama, and after deliberation with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, it was determined that the 87th TD was the best choice to join the team, given its more than 70-year historical connection to the "Magic City."

Overall, the transformation gives us four training divisions to standardize mission capabilities and allows the 84th TC to serve as a single origin, multi-echelon collective training support organization. The 84th TC provides capabilities that allow for planning, designing, preparing, and executing company through theater-level collective training exercises that support and assist units' premobilization, external evaluation, collective readiness, while reducing post-mobilization training timelines for rotational training units.

All involved personnel worked tirelessly to develop the way forward to meet the intent of the transformation and promote the well-being and stability for Soldiers and Civilians. Every effort was made to ensure Soldiers and Civilians transitioned smoothly and with the least inconvenience, with respect to their battle assembly locations and positions within their units.

It is with great respect for our past that we look to the future of the 84th TC. Beginning as the former "Lincoln Country" Division, to being constituted in 1917 at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, and later making several relocations through the years including Milwaukee, Madison and Fort McCoy, Wisconsin before arriving at Fort Knox, Kentucky in 2009. We honor the history of the 84th, its traditions and heritage that were built over more than one hundred years and that is what continues shaping tomorrow.

The 84th TC is the single point of contact for collective training events for the Army Reserve. We conduct and validate realistic combat support collective training, leader development, and mission command in a decisive action training environment to prepare Soldiers and units for combat operations. With units located across the country, there are plenty of opportunities for Soldiers and Civilians interested in joining the 84th TC.

---

### ***PLEASE TAKE NOTE***

*Recently, we found that a family was apparently not informed of our Website's "End of Life Survivor's Guide" to help them prepare for a Military Funeral. The Guide was prepared by Col Peter Pochowski and contains general information about obtaining forms, honor guards, trumpet players and etc. Firstly, REMEMBER, it is the veteran's responsibility to inform their heirs of what is available, including the guide. To further assist our members and their family, we are now attempting to add the availability of a up-to-date contact list of information; when the family needs help, the Association can be contacted and provide timely assistance.*

**Railsplitters Association, LTD**  
Apple Tree Lane  
Field, WI 53005-6804  
262.782.5645  
railsplitters84th@yahoo.com  
support:  
rth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith  
ican Legion Post 449  
of the 84th Railsplitters  
ation

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

#### OF DIRECTORS

te:  
Schuh, MSG USA Retired  
s/Activities:  
Simmons, CSM USA Retired  
unications:  
chalowski, CSM USA Retired  
e:  
nderboom, SFC USA Retired  
r:  
ramins, CSM USA Retired  
ident:  
ley, COL USA Retired  
:  
Abts, LTC Retired  
F. Brunner, CSM USA Retired  
Grabowski, SFC Retired  
s, MSG USA Retired  
Krieger, SFC USA Retired  
stman, LTC USA Retired  
Paulin, CSM Retired  
Ridgely, COL USA Retired  
huler, MAJ USA Retired  
visor:  
Berzowski, MG USA Retired  
er Editor:  
opliger, MAJ USA Retired

## Humor noun

hu·mor| \ 'hyü-mər, 'yü- \

Definition of *humor*

**1a:** that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous : a funny or amusing quality // Try to appreciate the *humor of the situation*.



I'LL JOIN THE INFANTRY.

