

Summer 2022

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Hello Fellow Railsplitters!

It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through 2022!

The Annual Meeting and Elections were conducted on the evening of June 16<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Post #449, Brookfield, WI. The meeting was well attended and everyone had a chance to enjoy food, drink and camaraderie. Dan Buttery, President/CEO of the Milwaukee County War Memorial presented an update on upcoming events at the War Memorial and their newest addition, the Medal of Honor Exhibit.

Elections for Board Directors and Officers were conducted. In accordance with the recently approved Bylaws, terms for these positions are 3-years. Sadly, we said good-bye to LTC (Ret) Lori Kunstman and MSG (Ret) Julie Koss. Lori & Julie, a sincere thank you and appreciation for your hard work and efforts during your term; you helped make our organization stronger and more successful. Please join us in welcoming our newest members, MAJ (Ret) Steve Kassens and SSG (Ret) James Kasun.

The Steak and Chicken Fry is our next major event on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Brookfield Highlands, Waukesha. Casual attire, jeans, or shorts are the dress for the day. This is our annual fundraiser so bring your checkbook and bid generously on the silent auction items. Donations are appreciated. (Flyer attached)

Mark your calendar for other events. The Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort McCoy on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, information for registering is included. If you are a golfer (or not), the 2022 Colonel's Cup is Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at Brighton Dale Links in Kansasville, WI. Register NLT September 16<sup>th</sup>. If more information is needed reach out via email: [colonelscupmckeown@gmail.com](mailto:colonelscupmckeown@gmail.com) or call Brigid McKeown, (414) 218-9593.

Reaching out to old friends and colleagues is critical for our continuing success and stability. Help us in spreading the word! Let's use the technology available to us: email, Facebook, webpage, etc. Membership applications can be downloaded by clicking on <https://84thrailsplitters.com/84div/railsplitter%20applicaion%2020220317.pdf>.

One final request, in the recent past we have seen our attendance at events decline. So, we are looking for your feedback/input on the continuance of annually hosted events. Please download the survey form at <https://84thrailsplitters.com/84div/84th%20Railsplitters%20Survey%202022.pdf>. Request you send your response not later than August 31<sup>st</sup>.

I hope to see you soon!

Goldie M. Schuh, MSG (Retired)  
President, 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD

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### Upcoming Events:

- ♦ Steak/Chicken Fry  
17 September 2022
- ♦ Colonel's Cup  
24 September 2022

## Please Join Us!

# 84TH RAILSPLITTERS' CHARTIABLE GIVING

At our recent Annual Meeting, your Railsplitters Association voted to donate to The Highground Rising Project, Fisher House – Wisconsin, Sierra Delta and Camp Hometown Heroes continuing our mission to support charitable organizations which benefit current or former members of the United States military.



## BG COCROFT HONORED

On Thursday, July 21, 2022, I attended a special ceremony held to honor 84th Division alumnus Brigadier General Robert A. Cocroft. Bob Cocroft had been the Director of the Center for Veterans Issues (CVI) for fourteen years when he unexpectedly died on September 12, 2018, at the age of 71. The purpose of the ceremony was multi-fold. First, to officially name the new CVI Resource Center after Bob. A crowd of over of 100 people, to include Bob's wife Jacqui, and their family, were in attendance. Next, Bob was also recognized for his co-founding of the National Association of Black Veterans in the 1970s, which now boasts over 150 offices nation-wide.

Additionally, it was announced that the General had been inducted into the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall-of-Fame. As a 1970 graduate of OCS at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and having successfully completed battalion and brigade command, BG Cocroft was clearly eligible. His classmate, retired LTC Emory Deason, appeared in person to make the presentation.

Finally, the new "Brigadier General Robert A. Cocroft Veterans Resource Center" is located at 3400 West Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. On July 20, the Milwaukee Common Council voted to rename the parts of Wisconsin Avenue near the Center after Brigadier General Robert A. Cocroft.

Personally, I was fortunate to have served with Bob in the 84th Division and later when we served together on the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee County War Memorial. I will remember him as a good man, a good soldier, and a great humanitarian. He will be missed by many.

The Center for Veterans Issues provides housing and supportive services to help improve the quality of life for ALL Veterans, their families, and the communities in which they live and serve. Donations can be made through the website: [info@cvivet.org](mailto:info@cvivet.org), or by calling 414-345-4254.

Peter (Skip) Pochowski, COL, (RET)





## Sunshine Club

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

COL (Ret) Jerome Hardt, various positions in the 84th

CW4 (Ret) Bill Bierwirth, former UA, the 1-334-3<sup>rd</sup> Bde (FA OSUT)

SGM (Ret) Jerry Keehn, former SGM, G3, 84th Division

And apologies to the family of LTC James Nitzsche; his name was spelled wrong in the previous newsletter.

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to:

## Change in Temporary Guidance for USID Cards

**All** Uniformed Services ID (USID) Cards issued to retirees and their dependents, that were previously extended in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) temporary guidance for USID cards during the COVID-19 pandemic, **expired January 31, 2022, and must be replaced**. Please schedule an appointment at your earliest opportunity. Although the benefits to which the cardholder is entitled, in most cases, remain in effect, installations may deny access to retirees and dependents with an expired USID card.

To schedule an appointment to have an ID card reissued, visit the ID Card Office Online website (<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>), and select the ID Card Office Locator & Appointments option.

To learn more about the extension of policy guidance for expired USID cards visit the DoD Response to COVID-19 - DoD ID Cards and Benefits website (<https://www.cac.mil/Coronavirus/>) for a fact sheet and FAQs.



## Military Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

FORT MCCOY, WISCONSIN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

This is a must-attend event for men and women from all military branches of service who have retired or are about to retire from service to our country. It is a free open house that has been cancelled the last two years because of COVID restrictions.

The RAD will begin in Building 905. Registration begins at 7:00 AM, posting of colors and prayer at 7:45 AM with the program starting promptly 8:00 AM.

A Veterans Benefits Expo will be held from 12:00 Noon to 3:30 PM for asking questions of the morning presenters and get information from a wide range of veteran and military organizations. The Expo will be held at the Rumpel Fitness Center Building 1122, South S Street conveniently located by Bldg 905 – this is the same location as previous years.

There will be much to see and do:

- WI Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits and Programs, Legislative updates (MOAA), Tricare for Life benefits and other resources
- Lunch buffet for a nominal cost at 'McCoys' Building 1571
- Post Exchange (PX) specials and DeCA (Commissary) "sidewalk sale" promotions

Attendance at the Retiree Appreciation Day is free, pre-registration is recommended. Information and registration is available by calling the Soldier for Life/Retirement Services Office at 800-452-0923, or by e-mail to [usarmy.mccoy.imcon-central.mbx.dhr-rso@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.mccoy.imcon-central.mbx.dhr-rso@mail.mil).



The 84th Railsplitters Association held its Annual Dining Out this past May. It is always a pleasure to see so many friends and family—and many in uniform! I envy them as the closet fairies have taken my blues and made them quite small!







## **Exercise Summer at the 84<sup>th</sup> Training Command**

FORT KNOX, Ky. – The Summer marks the beginning the commands exercise season that is hosted by the 84th Training Command and its subordinate divisions.

The vision of the 84th TC commanding general, Maj. Gen. Mike Castellanos, is to provide total force and multinational collective training in a Mission Command-focused setting to build and sustain trained and equipped units ready to perform in the dynamic operational environment. Some of the recurring exercises and capstone events are meticulously designed to validate realistic combat support collective training, leader development, and mission command to prepare Soldiers and units for future operational challenges while prioritizing the quality of life of Soldiers, Civilians and Families.

Currently, there are seven ongoing exercises hosted by the training divisions.

Operation Hood Strike, hosted by the 87<sup>th</sup> Training Division's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Mission Training Complex at Fort Hood, Tx., just concluded. The 980th Engineer Battalion of the 420th Engineer Brigade, composed of six companies spanning across Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, joined together for one mission: to improve their combat skill proficiency at the individual, squad and platoon levels.

Operation Hood Strike allows Soldiers to execute Mission Essential Tasks or MET's that are necessary for them to enhance pre-deployment, planning, and preparation activities that increase their readiness posture.

Meanwhile, Operation Postal Warrior, located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, is underway and hosted by the 78th Training Division. Postal Warrior is a standalone 15-day, task-focused exercise, designed to train and challenge postal units in the skill sets and competencies needed to support Theater Postal Operations and increase individual and collective readiness.

The capstone exercises are always the division War Exercises or WAREX. Currently, the 78<sup>th</sup> Training Division is executing the initial stages of its WAREX at Fort McCoy, WI. Rotational units have conducted initial readiness exercises and Soldiers were given primary marksmanship instruction (PMI) courses on their individual weapon systems and preliminary table certifications in preparation for their table IV qualifications in the following days.

Army Combat Fitness Tests were conducted evaluating individual Soldier fitness conditions that enhance RTU readiness and mission capability for future rapid deployment.

WAREX's are annual training events integrating both combat support and combat service support assets to train United States Army Reserve Soldiers. The exercise facilitates opportunities to proactively handle real-world scenarios with competency in infantry tactics, defensive posture, vertical and horizontal construction, convoy operations and maintenance, communication planning and security, and media operations.

The 78th TD and 87th TD will host one more WAREX each in August.

The 84th is also establishing its first Railsplitter Association Chapter out of Fort Knox. Currently, the draft By-Laws are under review with the unit Staff Judge Advocate office to ensure legitimate legal protections and validation of governing agency.

Once approved, a panel of directors will be chosen as the program is established and an agenda is set.

The mission of this organization is to promote fellowship among members (past, present and future) of the former 84th Division, 84th Training Command, and their predecessor/successor commands, support charitable organizations which benefit current or former members of the United States military, and to hold in patriotic reverence the memory and spirit of those who served in the 84th Division, 84th Training Command, and their predecessor/successor commands.





Rotational Training Units (RTU's) hosted by the 78<sup>th</sup> Training division out of Fort McCoy, WI conduct the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) and M4 IWQ PMI&E TBLs 1-3 during WAREX 78-22-02.

The 78th Training Division, conducted initial readiness exercises during the onset of WAREX 78-22-02. Soldiers were given primary marksmanship instructions (PMI) on their individual weapon systems and preliminary table certifications to prepare them for table IV qualifications in the following days.

Army Combat Fitness Tests were conducted evaluating individual Soldier fitness conditions that enhance RTU readiness and mission capability.

During the course of this WAREX, RTU's at Fort McCoy will train and conduct a STAFFEX for BN and BDE HQ elements, STX lanes designed to enhance unit ability to move, communicate, and operate in tactical environments, and Convoy operations.



### 980<sup>th</sup> EN BN, 420 EN Brigade conducts combat skill proficiency drill during Operation Hood Strike in Fort Hood, Tx.



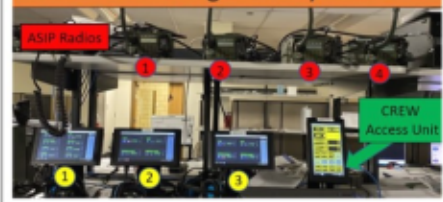
The 980<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion of the 420<sup>th</sup> EN Brigade conducted an Exercise Evaluation (EXEVAL) dubbed "Hood Strike" at Fort Hood, TX from 09-22 July. Soldiers conduct training on convoy operations, weapon familiarization, improvised explosive device detection and limited neutralization, flailing operations, rafting operations and the full enclosure of an improved ribbon bridge (IRB) across Lake Belton.



### Fort Knox Mission Training Complex Radio Wire Integration System (RWIS) to interface with Tactical Communication

Who:	Fort Knox Mission Training Complex (FKMTC)
What:	Utilize RWIS to interface with Tactical Communication
When:	8-24 July 2022
Where:	Fort Knox, Kentucky
Why:	RWIS allows exercise participating units to replicate organic radio communication systems to a simulated radio environment over Tactical Exercise Networks utilizing a Voisus server. RWIS is an economical solution for connecting live and simulated training environments and distributing live, over-the-air voice traffic via worldwide data networks. This breakthrough creates a more realistic tactical training environment. Fort Knox MTC will be the first USARC MTC to incorporate the RWIS with tactical communication, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCARS). Fort Knox MTC has configured and programmed 10-RWIS for connection to 2-SINCARS to allow communication between the 375th CSSB Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and their subordinating units during their upcoming CPX-F, 8-24 July 2022. Fort Knox MTC RWIS Voisus server will serve as the base station for communication when the 375th CSSB communicate tactically using SINCARS and RWIS to their subordinate units during convoy operations from cantonment area to field training areas. The end user for RWIS will interface as if is a live SINCARS during communication.

#### Radio Wire Integration System Lab



Lab set up using 4 Advanced System Improvement Program (ASIP)-SINCARS radios connected through the Voisus server



Different client tablets monitoring different nets. Comms from a ASIP radio that was not plugged into the system to a tablet that was hooked

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## 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.



"THIS IS THE ONLY PART OF MY OLD ARMY UNIFORM THAT STILL FITS."