

Summer 2023

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Fellow Railsplitters,

The year is slipping by quickly...hard to believe we are already halfway through 2023! On the evening of June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Meeting and Elections were conducted at Brookfield Highlands, Waukesha. The meeting was well attended with attendees having a chance to enjoy the food provided by Mission BBQ, drinks, and camaraderie. Our guest speaker was Mick Gillitzer, Director of Veteran Programs for Sierra Delta. Sierra Delta is a wellness nonprofit network dedicated to empowering military Veterans through tailored support, dog training grants, resources, community opportunities, and ways to be of service to others. If you know of Veterans who could benefit from this program, please reach out to them at [www.sierradelta.com](http://www.sierradelta.com).

Elections for the Board of Directors were conducted, and the following directors were re-elected: COL(R) Bill Ridgely, MAJ (R) Jim Schuler, CSM (R) Clarence Brunner and SSG (R) Jim Kasun. Congratulations Gentlemen, looking forward to continuing to serve with you.

By the time you read this a couple of other events we hosted took place to get the 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association name out there. On Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, we secured a block of seats at the Milwaukee Milkmen baseball game in Franklin. We also had a team participate in the 5K Famous Sausages Run/Walk at American Family Field on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. We are open to other ideas to increase our presence in the community. We'd appreciate any suggestions you might have.

The Steak Fry is our next major event on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Brookfield Highlands, Waukesha. Casual attire, jeans or shorts are the dress of the day. This is our annual fundraiser, so bring your checkbook, bid generously, bid often on silent auction items. Donations are appreciated!

Some other events that might interest you are:

- Retiree Appreciation Day, Fort McCoy, WI – September 8, 2023
- 2023 Colonel's Cup, Brighton Dale Links, Kansasville, WI – September 30, 2023

I'm pleased to inform you that we are making great progress in establishing the Fort Knox chapter. More information will be shared as things are finalized.

Our success and longevity are based on our membership. It pains me to say our numbers are seeing a decline. Your help is necessary! Reach out to old friends and colleagues who served in the 84<sup>th</sup>. Thousands of soldiers served at various levels of command in Milwaukee/Wisconsin based units. Let's use the technology available to us: phone, USPS, email, Facebook, webpage, etc. Membership applications can be downloaded by clicking on [https://84thrailsplitters.com/84div/railsplitter%20application 20220317.pdf](https://84thrailsplitters.com/84div/railsplitter%20application%20202317.pdf). Feel free to contact me if you or the interested soldier have any questions, email: [goldgr123@hotmail.com](mailto:goldgr123@hotmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

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



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### Upcoming Events:

Steak Fry  
16 September 2023  
Valentine's Dinner  
TBD 2024  
Dining-Out  
18 May 24

## Please Join Us!

## **84<sup>th</sup> Division West Point Mission**

In 1994 the 84<sup>th</sup> Division (Training) was assigned a mission to provide instructors to teach military subjects during the winter intercession at the US Military (USMA) Academy at West Point. The assigned topics were Map Reading and Troop Leading Procedures. This was to be taught to the Plebe (Freshmen) class in January 1995.

The Officer in Charge (OIC) was then MAJ Dennis Block with the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) being then MSG Kim T. Michalowski. Both were assigned to the Operations G-3 at Division Headquarters. We were assigned the mission to liaison with the Active Duty (AD) personnel at USMA to bring a contingent of Officers, NCOs and Drill Sergeants to USMA to provide this instruction.

The mission started with MAJ Block and MSG Michalowski going to USMA to meet our counterparts in the Department of Military Instruction. They received a briefing on the mission and received training materials. The Division sent out an order for the Brigades to provide a pool of personnel from which we would choose the instructors. Over the next two months MAJ Block and MSG Michalowski reviewed the list and held murder boards to select the final set of instructors. When this was completed; they then began three months of up-training to prepare the instructors and hone their presentation skills. Many were already accomplished instructors; so it was more insuring they were familiar with the material and brought their own style to the classroom.

During the fall of 1994, MAJ Block and MSG Michalowski made three coordination visits back to USMA to arrange for billeting, mess issues and refine the mission. MSG Michalowski reported to USMA on December 31, 1994 as the advanced party. He remembers this fondly because they were billeted in the USMA band barracks. The Band SGM happened to be originally from WI and they watched Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Instructors arrived on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with classes beginning the following day. They would spend the next 17 days instructing the Plebes. The mission was quite a success and there were many accolades from USMA about the professionalism of the 84<sup>th</sup> Division soldiers and their instructor expertise. Each soldier brought along training aids and materials for their individual classrooms and provided a unique experience for the future Officers of the Army in the capabilities of the Reserve Soldier.

One challenge they encountered was providing instruction to those Plebes that were in the hospital. They chose a young E6 Drill SGT to take that responsibility. He did an excellent job and those Plebes were able to stay on track with their classmates.

During their stay they were visited by MG Robert Foley, the Commandant of Cadets and a Medal of Honor recipient in Vietnam as a young LT. He visited a couple classrooms and was impressed by the instructors he met, particularly SFC Roger Rickert, to whom he presented his Commandant Coin.

The success of this first mission led to the USMA inviting the 84<sup>th</sup> Division back for four more years and each year another level of instruction was added; resulting with instruction being provided to all four classes of Cadets at the Academy. Each level provided a different level that built on the previous year.

Over the next four years of the Mission 84<sup>th</sup> Division instructors would provide Intercession training in advanced military topics that included:

- Map Reading and Troop Leadership Procedures to 4<sup>th</sup> class Cadets (Freshmen)
- Light Infantry Warfighting Principles, Command and Control Principles and Offensive Operations to Sophomores
- Mechanized Troops, Military Briefings, Authorization Documents, Accountability and Adjustments, and Maintenance and Armor Attacks to Juniors
- Transition to Officership, Investigations, Due Process, Separation and International Law and the Code of Conduct to 1<sup>st</sup> class Cadets (Seniors)

They also used JANUS to draw up battle plans that were then played out on a computer (which almost always won). As you can see; each level increased their knowledge in order to become the Leaders the Army needed upon graduation.

This mission impacted the soldiers of the 84<sup>th</sup> Division in a very positive manner. MSG Terry Schommer was quoted in an article as saying, "Intercession sharpens instructor skills. It gives our soldiers the basics for what we do. When we deal with the cadets, we get the best of both worlds."

MAJ Steven Holloway, one of the session OICs stated, "We had our first planning conference for this mission last August. We began training officially every weekend since then, but because we are limited to one weekend a month, some of the personnel met during the week and trained together on their own. This year we brought more personnel because the curriculum for the cadets has been expanded to include tactical training. Our soldiers—officers and NCOs—were really psyched to come here because this is one of the few missions that you can start, finish and see the end results."

1SG Robert Wolf was quoted as saying, "All of us have trained for several hours, even outside the normal drill weekends, going



SGT Jarod Heim, left, of the 84th Division assists Cadet Andrew Casey with map reading.

over the material that we have to teach.”

SFC Ron Gordon was also quoted as saying, “This mission takes a lot of personal time to prepare. Most of us come from artillery, tanker and infantry backgrounds. We had to go back to the books and practice giving classes to each other and critiquing each other, so we would meet the standards of teaching that was needed. It has been a really great experience.”

Another Drill SGT, SSG Donna Galik stated, “All of the drill sergeants are very supportive of each other in sharing ideas and equipment and helping each other out. We talked with the tactical NCOs (from West Point) beforehand and received some good briefings. Between that and the teamwork within the unit, the mission is very successful.”

After the 1998 mission, the torch was passed to the 98<sup>th</sup> Division out of New York. This brought an end to the 84<sup>th</sup> providing instruction at West Point. The Division legacy was cemented by comments from LTC Charles Motson III, Chief of the Department of Military Science, who was quoted as saying, “Whether we turn out Pattons in 302 is not the important thing. The important thing is that we turn out thinking LTs. Fourth classmen learn things radically different from what the upper classes learn. Plebes (4<sup>th</sup> Class) are learning skills like reading a military map; while everybody else is learning a process.” LTC Motson stated, “The use of the 84<sup>th</sup> has been one of the most important improvements we’ve made. We have certainly become to rely on them and if we were to lose them, it would be very painful.”

SFC Roger Rickert, who was on every mission to West Point, states that this mission was one of the highlights of his career. CSM Michalowski seconds that comment stating that he looked on it as such an honor to be chosen as the first NCOIC and was able to walk the same halls and run the same courses on the campus that his brother did as a member of the class of 1970. He stated that working with MAJ Dennis Block (who valiantly tried to keep up with the CSM on those runs) and the first group of Officers and NCOs was such an outstanding experience. He’s sure that every soldier that went on one of these missions would say that same thing. The 84<sup>th</sup> set it’s usual high standard of training and professional excellence. We should all be very proud of that accomplishment.

STRIKE HARD!!!

Submitted by CSM Kim Michalowski



NEW LOGOS



For the first time since 2001, the U.S. Army introduced a new brand, and an accompanying campaign, intended to spotlight opportunities the Army provides youth, to counter negative connotations about military service, and to increase enlistment numbers after failure to meet recruiting goals last year. The look and feel consists of a reengineered five-point star logo — (the box has been removed to reflect possibilities) — coupled with the return of the “Be All You Can Be” tagline. The logo and tagline are a part of the full branding that includes a custom font, expanded color palette, and more. The Army star has been refreshed to reflect a more modern environment; the existing color palette of black, gold, and yellow – inspired by the ingredients of gunpowder – is expanding to include an own-able “Army Green”; a custom font called “G.I.” is intended to bring consistency.

A few months after the U.S. Army introduced their new logo, the U.S. Army Reserve unveiled theirs. The star with the upward stripe nods to the evolving nature of the formation. It speaks to the Army Reserve’s future and legacy of Readiness, as well as the tangible growth and opportunities that Soldiers can find in the Army Reserve. Along with the new logo, the Army Reserve launched their- “Its Your Time”- campaign, which is designed to educate and inspire the next generation of leaders. In essence the phrase encourages new recruits to envision what they want to accomplish and allow the Army Reserve to get them to their desired goal.

## Sunshine Club

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

**COL Don Rambadt      CW3 Gordy Helman Jr.      CSM James Czajkowski      SGT Gerald Lyden**  
**Dolores Gramins (wife of 1SG Gerald Gramins)      Carol Kunstman (mother of LTC Lori Kunstman)**  
**Son of COL Tom Vandenboom**

Get Well Wishes for:

**MAJ Steve Kassens      CSM Frank Parker      MSG Goldie Schuh**

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

## The 84th Training Command year in review

FORT KNOX, Ky. - The 84th Training Command, known for its exceptional training programs, has executed a series of mission exercises in 2023 critical to sustained force projection and operational readiness across the U.S Army Reserve. With a mission to provide realistic and relevant training, these exercises condition soldiers with invaluable hands-on experience, ensuring they are well-prepared for any future challenges on the modern battlefield.

Key exercises and programs, like Combat Support Training Exercises, Command Staff Exercises, Situational Training Exercises, Postal Warrior, Observer Coach and Trainer program, Operation Stormbreaker, the 84th Marksmanship Team, and more have focused on core competencies all culminating in capstone events like the Best Warrior Competition or the Warrior Exercise.



**Best Warrior Competition**



**COL Morrow at the 91st CSTX**

Some of this year's key highlights; the CSTX hosted by the 91st Training Division simulated sustainment operations in a Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) environment. The training was designed to enhance the lethality and survivability of participating units and prepare them to assume real-world missions. As a part of that training, units were subjected to sporadic simulated attacks by mock enemy forces. These "injects" tested the unit's basic soldier skills.

**91st CSTX**



*Continued*



87th WAREX

The WAREX, hosted by the 87th Training Division, was a large-scale training exercise that replicated real-world missions. Under the guidance of the exercise commander, Brigadier General Kelly Hagenbeck of the 87th TD, WAREX took an innovative approach. Referred to informally as the "gym/personal trainer" model, it provided commanders with tailored support to enhance their units' readiness.

Training audiences for this event focused on managing the reception, staging, onward movement, and integration of mobilizing forces while providing mission command during homeland security, homeland defense, and civil support missions.



87th WAREX



84th ALL-ARMY Small Arms Competition

This year's BWC, in collaboration with the 108th Training Command (IET), Army Careers Group, Army Reserve Aviation Command, and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), tested the physical and mental limits of its competitors with the ACFT, shooting matches, German Armed Forces Proficiency events, land navigation day and night, River assaults, ruck marches, obstacle courses and team building events.



Bataan Death March

In addition to combat-focused exercises, the 84th Training Command also prioritized community focused support events and key leader engagements while sponsoring increased opportunities for Soldier development with events like the Bataan Death March, the Zachary Taylor Wreath laying, the "bring your child to work day" at the Pentagon with Olympic Gold Medalist Amber English, and the Miami Air and Sea show, to name a few.



Bataan Death March



Zachary Taylor Wreath Laying

The 84th's Commanders Ready and Resilient Council has also taken the helm as the leading program in the Army Reserve providing multiple outreach programs and events across the command enabling Soldiers and their families access to vital resources. These programs offer guidance on navigating programs like Army Substance Abuse, Family Readiness, Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion, Safety, Military Family Life Counseling, Veterans assistance, medical, religious support.

The 84th Training Command's mission exercises in 2023 are a testament to the Army Reserve's commitment to maintaining readiness and developing conditions for success in tomorrow's battlefield. Through realistic and relevant training, soldiers are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to not only enhance unit capabilities but also strengthen the collective readiness of the Army Reserve as a whole. As the 84th Training Command continues to prioritize training excellence, the Army Reserve remains a vital component of the nation's defense strategy.

<https://www.facebook.com/84thTrainingCommand> <https://www.usar.army.mil/84thTC/> <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/84TC>

**Subject:** Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office is Now on Facebook

Greetings,

The Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office is now on Facebook. You'll now be able to see the 2023 Retiree Appreciation Days schedule, Updates coming from DFAS, Tricare, DEERS and many more. You'll also be able to know exactly when the latest copy of the HONORS will be printed and shipped. Please like and follow the Retirement Services Page in the link provided below for all of your Retirement Services updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091981900713>

Brent R. Johnson, Retirement Services Officer, Fort McCoy, WI

## The 101st Airborne's 'Screaming Eagle' Has a Name and a Civil War History

The 101st Airborne Division has probably one of the most recognizable insignias in the U.S. military. [Editor's Note: I'd recognize the 84th Railsplitters patch before I'd recognize the 101st's!] Aside from its participation in some of the most famed battles of the 20th century, the 101st's "Screaming Eagle" patch was made famous even among civilians by the true-to-life HBO television series "Band of Brothers."

That screaming eagle's name is "Old Abe," based on the life of a real bald eagle who served with Wisconsin volunteers during the Civil War and has a long history with the state of Wisconsin. The 101st Airborne just happened to be in the right place at the right time to get Old Abe on its insignia.

In 1861, before the outbreak of the Civil War, a member of the Ojibwe tribe captured a young eaglet. Since it was just a few months old, he kept it as a pet. It was traded to the McCanns, a family of Wisconsin settlers. When the war started, they sold it to some recruits from Eau Claire.

Capt. John E. Perkins, the company commander, named him "Old Abe" after President Lincoln, commissioned a special "union shield" perch for the bird and assigned one of his troops to look after him. Old Abe became the official mascot of Company C, 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment -- nicknamed the "Eagles."

By 1862, the Wisconsin volunteers were in the thick of the fighting in the war's Western Theater. For the whole of their three-year enlistment, Old Abe went into combat with the men of the 8th across Missouri, Mississippi and Louisiana, from Vicksburg to the Red River. Though he had some close calls, Wisconsin's beloved war eagle came out of the war relatively unscathed.

The Civil War ended long after Old Abe and the 8th Wisconsin returned home. The volunteers presented him to the State of Wisconsin, which created a special apartment for Old Abe inside the state Capitol building. His fame wasn't limited to Wisconsin, however. His presence was requested at Civil War veterans reunions, Grand Army of the Republic (a Civil War veterans service organization) events and even the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

Old Abe served for Wisconsin once again in February 1881, when a fire broke out in the Capitol. It was their beloved eagle that raised the alarm, letting fire brigades know there was a problem in the building. Unfortunately, Abe inhaled a lot of smoke in the fire and died a month later. Veterans from across the state volunteered to serve as pallbearers at his funeral.

Instead of burying their mascot, the governor had him stuffed and perched in a permanent spot inside the Capitol rotunda in Madison. His remains were moved to a few locations between 1885 and 1903, but he eventually found his way back to his original perch. The Capitol unfortunately caught fire once again in 1904, destroying Old Abe and his glass case.

Today, a stone Old Abe is perched on what used to be the archway entrance to Camp Randall, where the 8th Wisconsin first formed. It's now part of the University of Wisconsin. A replica of Old Abe has overlooked the Wisconsin State Assembly since 1915.

As for the 101st Airborne, it was originally organized in November 1918, much too late to join World War I. It was reformed in 1921 as part of the Army Reserve, with its headquarters in Milwaukee. In a nod to the state's military history, the Army put Old Abe on the unit's insignia.



*Excerpt from Military.com sent in by 1SG Ed Marynik.*

# 2023 Annual Meeting



## Milkmen Game



Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Milwaukee Chapter



## Famous Racing Sausages 5K



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
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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.



*"Dear Diary, Incredible news! Unfortunately, it's all classified."*