

CLOVER LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

2014: Volume 1, Issue 1



PROVIDING WORLD-CLASS BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT TO ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS AND FAMILIES LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN U.S. STATES FROM THE OHIO RIVER TO THE PACIFIC COAST

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FROM THE EDITOR



In November 1925, the 88th Division published the first 'Cloverleaf' bulletin. Their intent was to convey messages from higher headquarters, communicate beneficial command information, publish general interest articles, and relay command activities to members of the Army Reserve and American public in order to build understanding and support.

The 88th Regional Support Command proudly echoes those intentions today with the establishment of 'The Cloverleaf' magazine.

The 88th, no matter the designation that follows or mission assigned, has a lineage of excellence upon which its members can draw pride. Hopefully this edition of our publication will demonstrate that pride and our efforts to forward their legacy of excellence.

We are proud of the mission we have been entrusted with and are honored to serve you - the Army Reserve Soldiers, DA Civilians and Family Members in the Northwest Region.

Sgt. 1st Class Corey L. Beal
Editor-in-Chief



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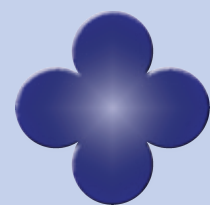
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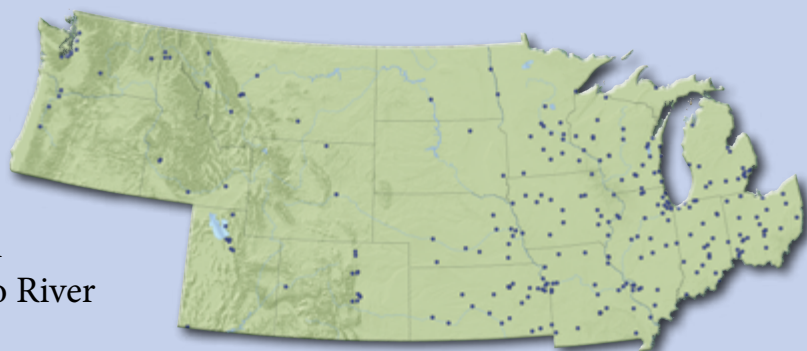
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WELCOME TO THE THE 88TH RSC

The 88th Regional Support Command, headquartered on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, is a two-star command which provides base operations support to more than 55,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilians and their Families serving in 609 units at 278 sites in 345 training facilities dispersed across 19 states in Northern United States from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.



OUR VISION:

The 88th RSC continually provides best in class services and base operations support for the Soldiers, Families, Civilians and units in the Northwest Region of the United States.

OUR MISSION:

A regionally aligned organization focused on providing seamless, efficient and timely personnel, information management, funding, physical security, facilities, training areas, safety, environmental, force development, logistics, area maintenance support, equipment storage, and reserve personnel actions support to Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilians, Family Members and units in our region. In addition, the 88th RSC provides mission command for Army Bands and other units as directed.

OUR STAFF:

Accomplishing the 88th RSC's mission is a total force of more than 15,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, Military Technicians, Department of the Army Civilians and Contractors assigned throughout the Northwest Region. Additionally, 39 Army Reserve Ambassadors, appointed be the Chief of the Army Reserve, facilitate community and legislative outreach and assist Soldiers within the region.

OUR FACILITIES

More than 345 facilities supporting maintenance shops and training centers are located at 278 sites throughout the Northwest Region to serve Army Reserve Units and Soldiers. These include 15 Local Training Areas.

OUR SHOPS AND PERSONNEL ACTION CENTERS

The 88th RSC operates 47 Maintenance Shops in 69 locations providing maintenance support to more than 50,000 pieces of equipment. These include 11 Area Maintenance Support Activity Shops, six Equipment Concentration Sites, 23 Branch Maintenance Activities, one Medical Equipment Concentration Site and two New Equipment Fielding Facilities. Additionally, we operate 12 Reserve Personnel Action Centers at 35 locations supporting more than 16,200 Soldiers assigned to more than 275 units and derivatives.



"WE EXIST BECAUSE OF YOU"
~MAJ. GEN. KAREN LEDOUX

To our Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians in the North-West Region,

The 88th RSC, as a fully committed readiness partner, continually provides best in class services and BASOPS support for the Soldiers, Families, Civilians and units operating within the 88th RSC AOR.

As a regionally aligned organization our mission focus is to provide seamless, efficient and timely human resource services, medical administrative support, funding, physical security, facilities, environmental, training areas, safety, force management, equipment maintenance and storage, and other services to primarily Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilians, Family members and units operating in our region. Provide Mission Command for assigned Bands and other units as directed.

It is our intent to provide the world class facilities, programs, and services required to support Army Reserve readiness, sustain the All-Volunteer Force, and provide the infrastructure for current and future mission requirements. We inculcate sustainable Malcolm Baldrige/Army Communities of Excellence principles throughout our business processes and procedures. We gather and share best practices with other organizations to bring to bear the best solutions for delivering services, implementing programs, and sustaining facilities.

We will use every opportunity to listen to and communicate effectively with our customers and our workforce. We will remain committed to being a customer-centric organization that seeks and applies customer feedback to evaluate and improve the delivery and receipt of programs and services and provide a safe workplace. We will be good stewards of the environment and the resources entrusted to us. We will target our resources to meet high priority needs of our customers while eliminating redundancies, identifying and mitigating risk, and optimizing return on investments.

88th RSC Strategic Objectives:

- Optimize Army Reserve land and facility functional capabilities to tenant activities in the 88th RSC AOR.
- Provide efficient and quality equipment maintenance and storage services to supported units.
- Provide human resource life-cycle management functions to supported Soldiers/units/Families and to OFTS Commands' readiness requirements.
- Provide effective mission command to subordinate units.
- Foster a culture of cost management in the 88th RSC that ensures operational effectiveness and statutory/regulatory compliance while achieving business efficiencies and audit readiness.
- Serve as a synchronizing agent for strategic messaging resources to be used for interactions with elected officials by OFTS Commands operating within the 88th RSC AOR.

The 88th RSC is committed to supporting your unit's readiness requirements. Your units are a great asset to our Army. Let us know how we can better serve you.

KAREN E. LEDOUX
Major General, USAR
Commanding

THE 88TH RSC

SUPPORTING THE REGION AND ENSURING THE BEST IN SUPPORT

The 88th RSC's success or failure directly impacts the mission capability and quality-of-life for Warrior-Citizens throughout the Northwest Region. What follows is an outline of the support we provide and how we ensure its successful execution.

BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT

The 88th RSC supports Operational, Functional, Training and Support Commands located throughout the Northwest Region with Base Operations Support, or BASOPS. BASOPS is defined as the provision of administrative and logistical services. These services are typically beyond the capabilities of OFTS commands and are most comparable to the services expected by units on active duty at an Army installation.

COMMAND STRATEGIC PLAN

The 88th RSC developed a comprehensive Command Strategic Plan to ensure the best in class services and BASOPS support for its customers. This document delineates the command's vision, mission, strategic performance objectives, and strategic goals to guide mission planning, and establish performance measures to accomplish the objectives and goals.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE 88TH RSC

In addition to the command's vision and mission, the 88th RSC has identified five strategic objectives. Linked to each of the five objectives are several strategic goals which provide the measurements for achieving each of the five strategic objectives. These objectives are to: (1) optimize installation (land/facilities) operability to the Northwest Region; (2) provide efficient and quality maintenance support to units in the Northwest Region; (3) provide human resource life-cycle management functions in support of OFTS Commands' readiness requirements in the Northwest Region; (4) provide effective mission command to subordinate units; (5) and foster a culture of cost management in the 88th RSC that facilitates operational effectiveness and statutory/regulatory compliance while achieving business efficiencies and audit readiness.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Linked to the vision, mission, strategic objectives, and strategic goals are performance measures. Each performance measurement is calculated either monthly or quarterly, with a goal and minimum and maximum targets. The constant monitoring of these measures allows the 88th to quickly recognize its performance and make any necessary adjustments for improved support to our customer units.

YOUR FEEDBACK

The 88th RSC needs your feedback to ensure the best in our performance. Whether positive or negative, the 88th asks for your comments in order to adjust practices, adopt better ones, or recognize those in our command who have set a positive example. Your feedback opinion is critical to our ability to provide the quality of services you expect and deserve. Please visit our Interactive Customer Evaluation webpage at: https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=960&dep=DoD

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers are only as important as what they represent. The 88th RSC takes pride in knowing that ours represent services and support provided to Army Reserve Civilians, Soldiers and their Family Members throughout the NorthWest Region. What follows are a few examples:

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

In fiscal year 2013, the 88th RSC Directorate of Public Works oversaw seven construction projects valued at 144 million and awarded three new construction projects valued at \$92.2 million.

~ Mark W. Lewis, Department of Public Works Master Planner

HELPING SOLDIERS WITH SERVICE CONNECTED INJURIES

The 88th RSC Health Services Branch works daily with units and Soldiers through medical evaluation boards, recovery care, incapacitation pay, behavioral health, and a variety of medical programs. On average, they process 700 medical actions a year.

-Dan von Arx, Health Services Branch Chief

ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

The 88th RSC Enlisted Management Branch holds promotion boards throughout the year and processes their orders after recommendation. In FY13 they published a total of 2,464 junior and senior enlisted promotion orders.

~ Shalanda Harlan, Enlisted Management Branch Chief

HONORING THE FALLEN AND CARING FOR THEIR FAMILIES

The 88th RSC Casualty Operations coordinated Funeral Honors for 4,912 Soldiers, conducted 33 notifications and assigned 64 casualty assistance coordination officers to support the Families of deceased Soldiers and Veterans during fiscal year 2013.

~ Dawn Blanchard, Casualty Operations Branch Chief

ASSISTING SOLDIERS IN THE RETIREMENT PROCESS

The 88th RSC Retirement Services Office assists Soldiers daily with retirement preparations and conducts an average of 10 training events across the northwest region. In FY13, the RSO served approximately 5,145 Soldiers who requested their assistance and retirement information.

~ Capt. Harvie Berry, Retirement Services Officer

ENSURING WORK-PLACE AND SOLDIER SAFETY

The 88th RSC Safety Office continuously travels the region visiting facilities to increase safety compliance. In CY13 they conducted 93 Safety Inspections and coordinated 13 Federal Occupational Health Industrial Hygiene Surveys. They also investigated 42 incidents in CY13, a 17 percent reduction from CY12.

~ Michael Curtis, Safety Director

REINTEGRATION AND POST-DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT

The 88th RSC Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Team held 11 Yellow Ribbon Events serving 6,141 Soldiers and their loved-ones in FY13. On a monthly basis, the YRRP team hosts participants from more than 83 units dispersed across 29 states.

~ Michael Larsen, Yellow Ribbon Program Interim Director

BUILDING RESILIENT SOLDIERS AND RELATIONSHIPS

The 88th RSC Chaplains Office organized and hosted 22 Strong Bond events serving 1,047 Army Reserve Soldiers and Family Members during fiscal year 2013.

~ Chaplain (Maj.) Virginia Emery, Strong Bonds Program Manager

HISTORY OF THE 88TH RSC

Provided by Ward Zischke, 88th RSC Historian

The 88th Regional Support Command of today gratefully honors the Soldiers of yesterday and proudly carries the lineage of the 88th Infantry Division.

The history of the 88th began on Aug. 5, 1917 when it was constituted at Camp Dodge, Iowa, as an Infantry Division of the National Army. The 88th deployed to France in September 1918 and participated in the Alsace Campaign in October for which it was awarded a campaign streamer. After additional training in France, the 88th returned to Camp Dodge for demobilization on June 10, 1919.

On June 24 1921, the 88th was reconstituted at Minneapolis, Minn., as part of the Organized Reserve with subordinate units in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota

The 88th was ordered into active service at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma on July 15, 1942. After only 18 months of training, the 88th entered the front lines in Italy in February of 1944.

During the Rome-Arno Campaign in 1944, 88th Soldiers were the first to enter the Italian capital of Rome on June 4, 1944. In the next campaign for the 88th, the Northern Apennines, Capt. Robert Roeder would earn the Medal of Honor posthumously in September of 1944 while defending Mount Battaglia against German counter attacks. The final campaign of the 88th was the PO Valley where the 88th reached Brenner Pass in Austria before WWII ended.

In WWII, the 88th would serve 344 days in combat and suffer over 15,000 casualties. It was in WWII that the 88th acquired and adopted the name "Blue Devils" which was given by their German adversaries.

Following the end of WWII in Italy on 2 May 1945, the 88th conducted peace keeping operations in Trieste, Italy to keep the Italians and Yugoslavs from fighting over the disputed region. The 88th was inactivated on 24 October 1947 at Leghorn, Italy.

Twenty years later, in December of 1967, the 88th stood up again in Minneapolis, but now as the 88th Army Reserve Command, or ARCOM. In 1968, the 88th mobilized the 452nd General Supply and 295th Ordnance Companies to Vietnam.

The next mobilization for units of the 88th would come in 1990-1991 when it called up 13 units from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa for Operation Desert Storm to help liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Also in the 1990s, the 88th would mobilize units to Bosnia in Operations Joint Guard, Joint Forge, and Joint Endeavor to help keep peace in the former nation of Yugoslavia.

A major change for the 88th came on April 16, 1996 when it was given command and control over six states formerly controlled by the 83rd, 86th, 88th, and 123rd ARCOMs.

In 2001 the 88th joined in the War on Terror after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Centers.

The 88th RSC would mobilize Soldiers for both Operation Noble Eagle in the US and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. In March 2003 the United States invaded Iraq and began Operation Iraqi Freedom. In July of 2003 the 88th was redesignated as a Regional Readiness Command. In that same year, the 88th had 72 of its assigned units mobilized and another 97 serving as donor units in support of mobilized units from other commands.

One prominent action for the 88th RRC, during OIF, occurred on April 9, 2004 when the 724th Transportation Company of Bartonville, Ill., was ambushed by insurgents. During the ambush SPC Jeremy Church became the first Army Reserve Soldier to earn the Silver Star in Iraq after driving the convoy commander's vehicle through a four mile kill zone and returning to render assistance to fellow Soldiers.

The 88th RRC would continue to mobilize Soldiers until its inactivation in 2009. Thirty-two Soldiers of the 88th RRC made the ultimate sacrifice overseas.

The 88th was reactivated as a Regional Support Command on Sept. 16, 2008, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Today, the 88th RSC has Command and Control over six Army Bands and provides Base Operations Support to Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilians and their Families within the Northern United States from the Ohio River to the Pacific Coast.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS OF THE 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION



Captain Robert E. Roeder
350th Infantry, 88th Infantry Division

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on Mt. Battaglia, Italy, 27-28 Sept. 1944.

Capt. Roeder commanded his company in defense of the strategic Mt. Battaglia. Shortly after the company had occupied the hill, Germans launched the first of a series of counterattacks to regain this dominating height. Completely exposed to ceaseless enemy artillery and small-arms fire, Roeder constantly circulated among his men, encouraging them and directing their defense against the enemy. During the sixth counterattack, the enemy overran the position by using flamethrowers and taking advantage of the fog. Roeder led his men in a fierce close-quarters battle to repulse the attack dealing heavy losses to the Germans. The next morning, while the company was repulsing an enemy counterattack, Roeder was seriously wounded and rendered unconscious by shell fragments. He was carried to the command post where he regained consciousness. Refusing medical treatment, he insisted on rejoining his men. In a weakened condition, he dragged himself to the door of the command post and, picking up a rifle, braced himself in a sitting position. He began firing his weapon, shouted words of encouragement, and issued orders to his men. He personally killed 2 Germans before he himself was killed instantly by an exploding shell. Through Roeder's able and intrepid leadership his men held Mt. Battaglia. His valorous performance is exemplary of the fighting spirit of the U.S. Army.



Second Lieutenant Charles W. Shea
350th Infantry, 88th Infantry Division

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty near Mount Damiano, Italy, 12 May 1944.

As 2nd Lt. Shea and his company were advancing toward a hill occupied by the enemy, three enemy machineguns suddenly opened fire, inflicting heavy casualties upon the company and halting its advance. Shea immediately moved forward to eliminate these machinegun nests in order to enable his company to continue its attack. The deadly hail of machinegun fire at first pinned him down, but, boldly continuing his advance, Shea crept up to the first nest. Throwing several hand grenades, he forced the four enemy Soldiers manning this position to surrender, and disarming them, he sent them to the rear. He then crawled to the second machinegun position, and after a short fire fight forced two more German Soldiers to surrender. At this time, the third machinegun fired at him, and while deadly small arms fire pitted the earth around him, Shea crawled toward the nest. Suddenly he stood up and rushed the emplacement and with well-directed fire from his rifle, he killed all three of the enemy machinegunners. Shea's display of personal valor was an inspiration to the officers and men of his company.



Master Sgt. Manuel V. Mendoza
250th Infantry, 88th Infantry Division.

For conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on Mt. Battaglia, Italy, 4 Oct. 1944.

That afternoon, the enemy launched a violent counterattack preceded by a heavy mortar barrage. Staff Sgt. Mendoza, already wounded in the arm and leg, grabbed a Thompson sub-machinegun and ran to the crest of the hill, where he saw approximately 200 enemy troops charging up the slopes employing flamethrowers, machine pistols, rifles and hand grenades. Mendoza immediately began to engage the enemy. After exhausting his ammunition, he picked up a carbine and emptied its magazine at the enemy. At that time, an enemy Soldier with a flamethrower had almost reached the crest, but was quickly eliminated as Mendoza drew his pistol and fired. Seeing the enemy force continuing to advance, he jumped into a machine-gun emplacement that had just been abandoned and opened fire. Unable to engage the entire enemy force from his location, he picked up the machine-gun and moved forward, firing from his hip and spraying a hail of bullets into the oncoming enemy, causing them to break into confusion. Upon the weapon jamming, Mendoza began throwing hand grenades at the enemy, causing them to flee. His gallant stand resulted in 30 German Soldiers killed, and the successful defense of the hill. Mendoza's extraordinary heroism and selflessness, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the U.S. Army.

The 88th RSC

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program



Story by Catherine Threat, 88th RSC Public Affairs

The 88th Regional Support Command hosted more than 500 deploying and recently re-deployed Army Reserve Soldiers and their Family members at a Yellow Ribbon event in Denver, April 11-13.

This purpose of the this event and the entire Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is to provide Soldiers and their Families with needed information, services, referrals and outreach opportunities throughout the entire deployment cycle.

Michael Larsen, director of the 88th RSC Yellow Ribbon Program, said Yellow Ribbon events fill an incredible void for geographically-dispersed Reserve Soldiers and Families,

who do not have ready access to the same support network and programs as the active component.

Improving the program is an ongoing effort, which is steered by the feedback provided by participants. This practice helps ensure Yellow Ribbon events stay current for everyone and fully serve the Soldiers and Families they are designed for, said Larsen.

"The feedback we get from Yellow Ribbon participants overwhelmingly reports their increased ability to communicate effectively as a Family, manage stress and anxiety due to deployment, deal with financial and employment issues, and preparedness to continue their military service," said Larsen.

In addition to the training, more than 40 Yellow Ribbon community partners were on hand to offer assistance and information to participants. These included representatives of multiple military and civilian resources, as well as employers and colleges.

Also on hand were Army Reserve ambassadors who provide strategic outreach, advocacy and advisory support to Army Reserve units, Soldiers and Families throughout the country.

James Sherman, Army Reserve ambassador for the state of Colorado, has participated in multiple Yellow Ribbon events and said the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

addresses deployment transition issues that were once ignored.

"My father returned from World War II and many of my friends returned from Vietnam, and there was no program," said Sherman. "It was a difficult transition for many of the Families and for the Veterans, and I am very appreciative of the government's efforts to help Families and Soldiers with their transition back to society. In the past, that hasn't been done."

Command Sgt. Maj. David Unseld, command sergeant major of the 88th RSC, stressed the importance of Soldiers and Families attending these events so they can get the help or assistance that they need and may not receive anywhere else.

"The Yellow Ribbon Program prepares Soldiers and their Families for what they may be able to expect while their Soldier is gone; what services are available to them during pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment; and how to take advantage of those services," said Unseld.

Yellow Ribbon classes are tailored for various circumstances, making them vital even for Soldiers and Families who have attended them before. Those members also have a great opportunity to help improve the program for others, said Unseld.

"For those that have been on multiple deployments and been through several events on repeated occa-

"Yellow Ribbon is absolutely integral to Army Reserve Families. Otherwise the Families are left out of almost everything and we don't have any way to connect and know what's going on."

- Melissa Bennett, Army Reserve Spouse

Melissa Bennett stands with her husband, 1st Lt. Brice Bennett, chaplain for the 384th Military Police Battalion, and their four children during a Yellow Ribbon Event in Rosemont, Ill., Sept. 14, 2013.



sions," said Unseld, "they have the opportunity to be a great resource of feedback to help the RSC know what additional topics or information we can provide."

Scott Snow, 88th RSC information management specialist, said all the survey information completed by the attendees is collected and used to ensure the training meets the changing needs of our Soldiers.

"Soldiers and their Families tell us what they want to hear and what they are missing," Snow said. "Then we adjust the program to address those needs. Especially with the multi-deployer's tracks, that's how we get the new information, from their feedback."

Sgt. Maj. Michael Ortigari, 88th RSC chief medical noncommissioned officer, has been with the Yellow Ribbon Program for five years, and said during his first deployment in 1990 there was no such thing as Yellow Ribbon.

"There wasn't any support," Ortigari said. "You were just sent on your way with whatever you had to deal with on your own. So when the program was started, I thought what a wonderful thing, something so overdue. And to bring the Family members along with the service member is very powerful."

The Yellow Ribbon program makes

it very easy for them to get connected with resources when they feel ready," Ortigari said.

"Thirty, 60, 90 days after going through the demobilization process," said Ortigari, "the Soldiers are more open to getting help for themselves or meeting with an employer or education resource because now they're home and they're back into their lifestyle."

The 88th RSC started the multi-deployers phase about a year ago as a direct result of attendees' feedback on the program.

"When the Yellow Ribbon program started, most Soldiers had only been on one deployment," said Ortigari. "It fit very well. When you've been downrange two or three times it's not that helpful to hear things over and over, so we put together a team to develop more pertinent information for these Soldiers. It seems to be pretty well-received."

Lela White, whose husband, Sgt. Samuel White with the 395th Finance Battalion, just returned from his fourth deployment, said this is their ninth Yellow Ribbon event.

"I connect with a lot of community resources, community partners at the Yellow Ribbon Events, I know who to call when I don't know someone in my immediate support group at home who can help. There is always a phone number I can call if I need something, I can find out how to get help."

Lela's husband deployed for the first time just three weeks after they began dating. Although deployment has become a part their life, Lela said she faced new challenges with having a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old at home during her husband's latest deployment.

"The hardest thing I've done is learning to ask for help. I am very independent and I have two small kids, so I had to learn to call on my friends and Family and say I need help."

Even after attending numerous Yellow Ribbon events, Lela finds new resources and information.

"I still find it very helpful," Lela said. "Every time I attend a Yellow Ribbon, I find something that I didn't know before."

Did you Know?

The 88th RSC conducted 11 Yellow Ribbon events in 2013, hosting a total of 3,955 Army Reserve Soldiers, 2,201 Adult Family Members and 966 Children.

***Learn more about the Yellow Ribbon Program and upcoming events by visiting www.yellowribbon.mil/**

88th RSC Hands-on-Training Program Provides Multiple Training Opportunities

By Stan Craig, HOT Coordinator, Contractor, (VSE Corp)

The 88th Regional Support Command's Hands-On-Training (HOT) Program is an innovative approach to training which provides hands-on sustainment training for Army Reserve Soldiers and Military Technicians with logistical occupational specialties and duties. The program provides real-world maintenance, supply, allied trades and transportation hands-on-training throughout the 88th RSC's 19-state area of responsibility. The HOT Program utilizes Area Maintenance Support Activities and Equipment Concentration Sites for specialty courses as well as two Centers of Excellence (CoE) located at Fort McCoy, Wis. and Ogden, Utah. Utilizing these considerable resources, a multitude of HOT sustainment training opportunities are available in a variety of locations. HOT opportunities are loaded in ATRRS using school codes 930B (Ogden), and 930C (Ft. McCoy) for easy scheduling and resourcing. A variety of pop-up and specialty courses can be created based on demand. Quota Source Managers can also utilize the next ATRRS Training Requirements Arbitration Panel to request seats specifically for their Unit/Command. Multiple sources can be utilized to fund travel orders for CoE courses and HOT missions, but ultimately, each student's Command/Unit is responsible for securing funding. The USARC G8 has designated Management Decision Package "TRST" to fund HOT and Sustainment training. The HOT Program DOES NOT provide funding for travel or orders.

Did you know...

88th RSC AMSA & ECS Sites offer Soldiers opportunities to perform in their MOS with a skilled and knowledgeable Military Technician by their side. The most common training opportunities are with Wheeled and Tracked Vehicles, Ground Power, Engineer Equipment, Weapons Repair and Automated Supply Specialist missions.

Current 88th RSC 'HOT' CoE Course Offerings - Listed by ATRRS Title, School Code and Location	Ogden, UT	Ft. McCoy, WI
	930B	930C
ALL TERRAIN LIFTER ARMY SYSTEM (ATLAS) FLM	X	
ARMORED SECURITY VEHICLE (ASV) FLM		X
AUTOMOTIVE REFRIGERATION TRNG & EPA 609 CERT	X	X
Family OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLES FLM	X	X
HEAVY EXPANDED MOBILTY TACTICAL TRUCK FLM	X	X
KALMAR-RTCH-FLM		X
M9 ARMY COMBAT EXCAVATOR (ACE) FLM		X
M915A5 TRACTOR FLM	X	
M966H 5YRD LOADER FLM		X
REFRIGERATION TRAINING AND EPA-608	FY15	X
RSC MIL-TECH INSPECTOR & CLASSIFICATION	X	
SKID STEER LOADER FIELD LEVEL MAINTENANCE	X	
TACTICAL QUIET GENERATOR (3-60 KW) FLM	X	
TRACK VEHICLE OPERATION & FLM (M113A3 OR M88)	X	
INTEGRATED ARMOR PROTECTION HMMWV FLM	X	
WELDING AND FABRICATION TRAINING-5	X	X
WHEELED VEHICLE RECOVERY OPERATIONS	X	

To schedule sustainment training for your Unit at an AMSA or ECS in your local area, reserve seats in a CoE course, or request a pop-up class, please contact:
Ogden CoE: Stan Craig at 801-392-2570 ext. 224
Ft. McCoy CoE: David Teelon at 608-388-6837

For more 88th RSC 'HOT' information, visit: <http://hot.vsecorp.com> or <https://xtranet/sites/88rsc/DOL/HOT/>

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Helping Kids Cope with Deployments and Reintegration

Story by Sgt. Brittany Zold, 88th RSC Public Affairs

The challenges facing Army Reserve Families during deployment and reintegration are vast and complex – especially for kids.

To combat these unique challenges, the 88th Regional Support Command Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Team has incorporated training specifically developed to assist and empower military children throughout the deployment process.

Bryan Taylor, chief of the 88th RSC Programs and Services Division, said the 88th RSC children's program was born from seeing the need and a passion to fill it.

"The direction we were given was to provide on-site childcare and appropriate activities for children under 17, but we knew more could be done," said Taylor. "What we did was independently develop a second-to-none fully integrated children's program."

Rochelle Wheeler, director of the 88th RSC Family Programs and Services, helped develop the program and currently oversees it.

"We don't bring the children here just to have fun," said Wheeler. "We already address reintegration issues with the adult Family members, but now as part of the 88th Family Programs - we address the same issues at the child's level as well."

According to the Yellow Ribbon Resources-Your Child and the Deployment Process pamphlet, children of Soldiers will experience the same emotions and feelings as their Soldiers: stress, guilt, difficulty communicating, anger and feeling lost or depressed.

**Is your Child having a hard time coping with deployment or reintegration?
Speak with a Fort Family Outreach Specialist by calling 1-866-345-8248.**

The programs offered at Yellow Ribbon events are both structured and age-related, said Wheeler.

"We consistently assess it, making children's activities not only accessible, but relevant to their life at that time," said Wheeler. "CYSS at USARC level is now looking at the types of scheduling and classes that we do and are looking at that as a model that perhaps all the RSCs should be doing."

Linda Talley, wife of Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve, witnessed the training herself during a Yellow Ribbon event in Schaumburg, Ill, Nov. 2.

"Programs like these are essential for Army Reserve Children," said Linda. "When you have kids that are all dispersed, they don't have the support system that exists at an active duty base."

Activities included group discussions with Military Family Life Consultants to talk about their feelings regarding the deployment and different ways they can or did deal with the experience.

While visiting with teens, Linda gave her own insight on everyday things that could be done to help deal with the emotions experienced during and after a deployment. She focused on staying positive and suggested keeping a journal to track daily emotions and feelings.

"For every negative thing written, at least two positives need to follow," said Linda.

"It is all about perspective."

**"They come to
Yellow Ribbon events and
kids find other kids like them
that they can relate to —
and that is important."**

- Linda Talley

In a session named 'What Do You Want Your Parents to Know,' children were asked if there was anything about them, military or home life, they wanted their parents to know, but didn't feel comfortable saying.

Their responses were anonymously compiled and later read in one of the parent sessions.

"Your Soldier changed, they are not the same person that left on deployment," said Linda. "You have changed as well and are not the same child they left behind, but this is a good thing."

In an exercise named 'Deployment Superheroes,' children between ages 8 and 12-years-old make a deployment shield unique to their deployment experience that illustrates why they are a 'deployment superhero.'

The program also included a networking exercise called 'Uniquely You,' which helps establish relationships between military kids who may have or will face the same deployment challenges and experiences.

Bringing Army Reserve Children to events like these also lets them find camaraderie which cannot be found in civilian communities, said Linda.

"They come to Yellow Ribbon events and kids find other kids like them that they can relate to—and that is important," said Linda.

Crowning the children's training is a special ceremony where they are recognized for their service and sacrifices by being individually presented a True Patriot Certificate.

"The look on the children's faces when they are called to the stage and presented their certificate is extraordinary – you would think they were just given the Medal of Honor," said Taylor.

The impact this has on the children is tremendous, said Taylor.

"Knowing your sacrifices are acknowledged and appreciated is great for anyone – and it's the absolute least we can do for any of our deployment heroes."

(Background Graphic) Linda Talley, wife of Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve, engages with children conducting resiliency training during a Yellow Ribbon event in Schaumburg, Ill, Nov. 2.

88th RSC Medical Programs Seminar Aids in Better Care for Reserve Soldiers

Story by Staff Sgt. Kevin Gorzek, 368th Public Affairs Detachment

The 88th RSC hosted its fourth annual medical programs training seminar at its headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wis. March 11-13. The training is held annually and educates commands on medical processes so they can in turn train their subordinate units on necessary administrative and legal processes. Approximately 100 Army Reserve Soldiers and civilians from across the U.S. attended the seminar which is geared toward front-line workers at the unit level. Dan von Arx, Chief of the 88th RSC Health Services Branch, said the seminar was "meant to educate new personnel and refresh existing personnel."

The seminar included training on various processes the 88th RSC uses to take care of Army Reserve Soldiers who have service-related medical issues. These included medical evaluation boards, recovery care, incapacitation pay, behavioral health, and a variety of medical processes which are critical when a service member becomes injured or unable to perform normal duties. The training has paid off, said von Arx, stating that he has personally seen a vast improvement in the quality and timeliness of medical packets since the seminars first began. "This training helps correct bad habits so documentation comes up the chain of command correctly the

first time," said von Arx. "This directly translates into better Soldier care." The 88th RSC Health Services Branch processes on average 700 medical actions a year. With that large amount, properly processed packets greatly reduce the time needed to process and allow better service for affected Soldiers, said von Arx. The seminar was interactive, and participants had the opportunity to ask questions and get answers to specific issues their Soldiers are experiencing. "This training is about more than just filling out paperwork," said von Arx. "It is about giving our Soldiers the attention and care they need and deserve."



Dan von Arx, chief of the 88th RSC Health Services Branch, speaks to attendees of the 88th RSC's medical programs training seminar on Fort McCoy, Wis., March 13. The training is held annually and educates commands on necessary medical administrative and legal processes.

Did you know...



Army Reserve Soldiers who are not on Active duty are eligible for free legal services from Reserve Component legal assistance providers. Services provided may include:

- Witnessing signatures to documents or providing notary services.
- Providing legal advice to Soldiers during a client interview or in a telephone conversation.
- A letter written on behalf of a Soldier and signed by an attorney or writing a letter for the Soldier's signature.
- Legal negotiation with parties whose interests are adverse to that of the Soldier.
- Legal document preparation which includes drafting, completing, and execution of documents (for example: wills, powers of attorney, and leases).
- Preparation and filing of federal and state income tax returns and other legal papers.
- Assistance to Soldiers (pro se assistance) which enables the Soldier to file legal documents, papers, or pleadings in civil proceedings without the attorney.
- Client referral to another attorney in another military legal office or to a civilian lawyer.
- In-court representation in limited circumstances.

Obtaining Legal Support and Assistance is easier than you may think

Army Reserve Units and Soldiers can now view available services, download request forms and find points of contact at the USAR Legal Command official web pages at:

www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/commands/USARLC

STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER THE MOST

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class C.L. Beal, 88th RSC Public Affairs

The strength of the Army Reserve is only as strong as the relationships that support the Soldiers within it. The Army Reserve works to improve the resiliency of those relationships with a chaplain-led program called Strong Bonds.

The 88th Regional Support Command conducts more than 20 Strong Bond events a year, the most recent hosted 32 couples in Portland, Ore., April 4-6.

During the event, participants were given tools and information to enhance communication and healthier relationships with a nationally recognized curriculum called Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program, or PREP. Using this curriculum, participants are led through video and workbook-supported discussions on various aspects of communication, personalities and problem solving.

This is especially important for Army Reserve couples according to the 88th RSC Deputy Command Chaplain, Lt. Col. Robert Brady.

"Army Reserve Families have a much more complex set of circumstances than their civilian counterparts," said Brady. "They must balance not only their civilian careers and relationships, but also manage and navigate through deployments, battle assemblies, annual training, schools, and various other military obligations which cause interruptions in life."

"Additionally, Army Reserve Families are typically geographically dispersed and don't have ready access to resources available on active duty installations such as Army Community Services, behavioral health services, and Family life chaplain counseling," said Brady.

Chaplain (Maj.) Virginia Emery, 88th RSC Strong Bonds Program manager, said this program is open to and applicable to all couples, no matter where they are in their relationships.

"This training is for everyone from newlyweds to those celebrating their 30th anniversary," said Emery. "It's also great to have couples who have not been together long to see and gain insights from those who have," said Emery.

Sgt. Maj. Andrea Jusino and Sgt. 1st Class James Jusino, of the 75th Training Division, are a dual military couple. Though married for 31 years, they said the Strong

Bonds training benefits them directly as well as gives them tools to help others.

"Many of the things taught at Strong Bonds are applicable in all aspects of life," said Andrea. "We both have our civilian jobs and children, but we are also Soldiers and can share the tools we have been given with all of them."

"The communication tools are very relevant," said Andrea. "Life happens and the longer you put something off the more it festers and I think that's why couples get divorced – because they don't know how to communicate."

Although the training is led by chaplains, Strong Bonds is not a ministry event said Emery.

"Strong Bonds is a skills-based training event designed to enhance relationships – regardless of theologies or beliefs," said Emery. "It is run by chaplains, but the training is not coming from a theological standpoint so that it can reach out to all Army Reserve relationships."

First Lt. Paulo Quijano, of the 334th Chemical Company, and his husband William were married last year upon the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' Like many of the other newlywed couples, they decided to attend the training to learn some useful tools and be able to incorporate them in their relationship early on.

"It's good that you don't wait till there is a problem," said Paulo. "A lot of this program is about being able to identify problems and frame them correctly. If I can identify issues and define them before they become a problem, then we can work on it before it turns into a bigger issue."

Will said he was surprised and happy that it wasn't just another class that focused on how to incorporate the Army into your life.

"It's not just about military skills," said Will, "but teaches and gives tools on how we can grow as a couple – and how we can improve our marriage."

According to Brady, the Strong Bonds program has a substantial impact on the force because of what it does and also what it prevents.

"Who cares if you have the best Soldier in the world if he is consumed with a disintegrating relationship," said Brady. "If you don't care for the foundations of our military it will suffer. Every leader realizes that it doesn't

matter if you have bullets if you don't have a shooter who is focused and able to do his job."

Cpl. Michael Greenman, of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and his wife Eve decided to attend the Strong Bonds event after being told about it at their unit.

Michael and Eve have been married for two years, but have known each other for 22 years.

Eve said in that time they had developed a very strong friendship and were gratified by the program's emphasis on that aspect of relationships.

"One thing that it really enforces is friendship," said Eve. "You have to have that in a relationship otherwise you don't have all that special stuff. It's not just about being married, it's about

being friends – that's what's important."

Everyone can benefit from this type of training and it is truly worth the investment said Brady.

"Life is busy and we have to prioritize where we spend our time, but sometimes we take for granted the one person who said I will be there through thick and thin.

If you have made a self-chosen commitment and obligation to try and live out your days with someone else," said Brady, "why wouldn't you want to invest your time into it any time you had the opportunity?"

THE STRONG BONDS PROGRAM OFFERS THREE LEARNING TRACKS:

MARRIED TRAINING:

TRAIN IN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIP AND FUN WITH YOUR PARTNER.

FAMILY TRAINING:

BUILD YOUR TEAM DYNAMIC THROUGH TRAINING IN MANAGING CHANGE IN ALL TYPES OF FAMILIES, RAISING HEALTHY CHILDREN, AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

SINGLE SOLDIER TRAINING:

DEVELOP BETTER SELF AWARENESS AND SKILLS TO MAKE WISE CHOICES FOR LONG-LASTING, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

**LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP
AT WWW.STRONGBONDS.ORG**

The 88th Female Warrior-Citizen Platoon

who helped usher visibility and equality in 1974 Army Reserve

Story by Sgt. 1st Class C.L. Beal, 88th RSC Public Affairs



Women have faithfully served in the military since our Nation's inception, but complete equality and acceptance within the ranks has been an ongoing effort with many important milestones. According to Retired Army Reserve Maj. John A. Perry, one such milestone in establishing gender equality within the Army Reserve was a ground-breaking initiative by the then 88th Army Reserve Command in 1974.

Courtesy Photo: Background: Drill Sergeant Hickman (left) and two members of the 88th Army Reserve Command's first all-female platoon stand on the Ft. Snelling, Minn., parade ground after their homecoming ceremony from basic training, Aug., 1974. Hickman was selected by the Women's Army Corps to take charge, transport and personally facilitate the development of the 88th Army Reserve Command's first all-female platoon.

It was in 1974 that a platoon of 30 female recruits was assembled to give visibility and help foster acceptance, incorporation and respect for the new wave of female warrior-citizens joining the ranks.

Perry, who served on the staff of the 88th's commander at the time, spoke in detail of the era and program to a crowd of Soldiers and civilians during a special Women's History Presentation on Fort McCoy, Wis., March 27.

Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, current commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, who attended the event, said observances like these are very important.

"It gives an opportunity to remember and reflect on just how much has changed within our Army and our within our society," said LeDoux, "and appreciate how far we have come and how much our society has grown."

One of those seminal changes was establishing women's full and equal role within the Army.

"The multi-faceted quandary of women in the U.S. Army posed multiple challenges for a historically male-dominated force," said Perry.

During that time period, the vast majority of female Soldiers were still not part of the regular Army, but rather members of the Women's Army Corps, a separate branch of the Army commonly known as the WAC. The WAC was established in 1942 and was gradually phased out in the 70's. It was officially disbanded in 1978.

"This left the leadership of the time to figure out how to smartly assimilate female Soldiers into standard Army units," said Perry.

"This process had already begun in the Army Reserve as in 1973 there

were already 56 WAC's in the 88th's subordinate units."

The Army Reserve simultaneously faced several additional challenges to include the end of the draft, withdrawal from Vietnam and negative public attitudes toward military service.

"All these factors resulted in dangerously low Army Reserve unit strength which made recruiting the prime mission of



Courtesy Photo: Members of the 88th ARCOM female Platoon conducts a field exercise during their basic training conducted at Fort McClellan, Ala., August 1974.

all USAR units nationwide," said Perry. "The full incorporation of female Soldiers became a clear course of action."

To assist in recruiting Military Occupation Specialty-qualified females for currently vacant positions in Army Reserve units, the Civilian Acquired Skills program was created.

Under the CAS program a qualified female could be enlisted as a Private First Class for an existing vacancy. Female recruits would then complete a special two-week basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala.

After their return and six months of additional administrative training at their own duty station, the new Soldier could then be promoted to the rank assigned to the position

she was enlisted for without further requirements.

"Thus it was possible for many new female enlistees to become E-5 sergeants in less than seven months service in the Army," said Perry. "Needless to say this did not set too well with many old Soldiers, but none the less, the CAS program was working."

To help accelerate the program, the 88th developed a plan which included recruiting their own complete platoon of female enlistees, and sending them off to complete basic training together as a unit with all ceremonial honors.

"This was to be a distinctive – a first in the Nation – basic training unit from one command," said Perry.

The 88th held a departure ceremony at its headquarters on Fort Snelling, Min., to give full honor and proper send-off to the platoon of 30 female recruits, said Perry. Attendees included Family and friends of the enlistees as well as current female Soldiers and media.

A WAC drill sergeant was selected from Ft. McClellan, where they would conduct their single-sex basic training. Drill Sergeant Hickman, first name unknown, joined the ceremony to take charge of the platoon, transport them to their training and personally facilitate their development.

"Assembled in a wide variety of then current girl informal wear, the recruits milled about, sipping refreshments and talking and giggling, holding hands with boyfriends and voicing a multitude of questions to anyone in uniform," said Perry.

The platoon was then formed up in front of Maj. Gen. Merrill B. Evans, commander of the 88th ARCOM.

Perry recalled, "The group gath-

ered as the McClellan Drill Sergeant, the distinctive WAC Drill Sergeant Field Hat sharply atilt on her head, faced the commanding general, standing at rigid attention. 'Drill Sergeant,' said Gen. Evans, 'here are a bunch of recruits. Bring me back a platoon of Soldiers.'

'Yes sir,' the drill sergeant replied, as she rendered a salute. After the salute was returned, she directed 'her' new platoon on board the GI bus and away they went."

While at their condensed Basic Training, the recruits underwent field training and learned military skills such as drill and ceremony, chemical-biological-radiological training, combat marches, and weapons familiarization.

Upon completion of the platoon's basic training, a large reception was held for their homecoming.

The platoon arrived back to Fort

Snelling in the same olive drab bus to a large crowd of assembled guests, 88th units, honor guard and the 451st Army Band.

"They were as sharp a group of Soldiers as I have ever seen. Around the parade ground they marched, to the cheers of the assembled throng. Television cameras rolled and still cameras flashed. It was a proud sight indeed," said Perry.

Following the band and color guard, the platoon marched across the parade field to the waiting crowd.

"The drill sergeant halted the platoon in front of the general and his staff, executed a left face and the Drill Sergeant posted herself in front of the files of the platoon," said Perry. "Marching a few steps forward, the sergeant saluted Evans, saying 'Here is your platoon of Soldiers, as you ordered.'"

According to Perry, the command recruiting program took a decided upswing, especially on the female side. The number of female Soldiers in the command, including subordinate units, increased from 56 in 1971 to 1,048 by the end of July 1975.

The CAS program, with the all-female 88th's Platoon, was deemed the major reason for the stellar growth and adopted by other Army Reserve Commands.

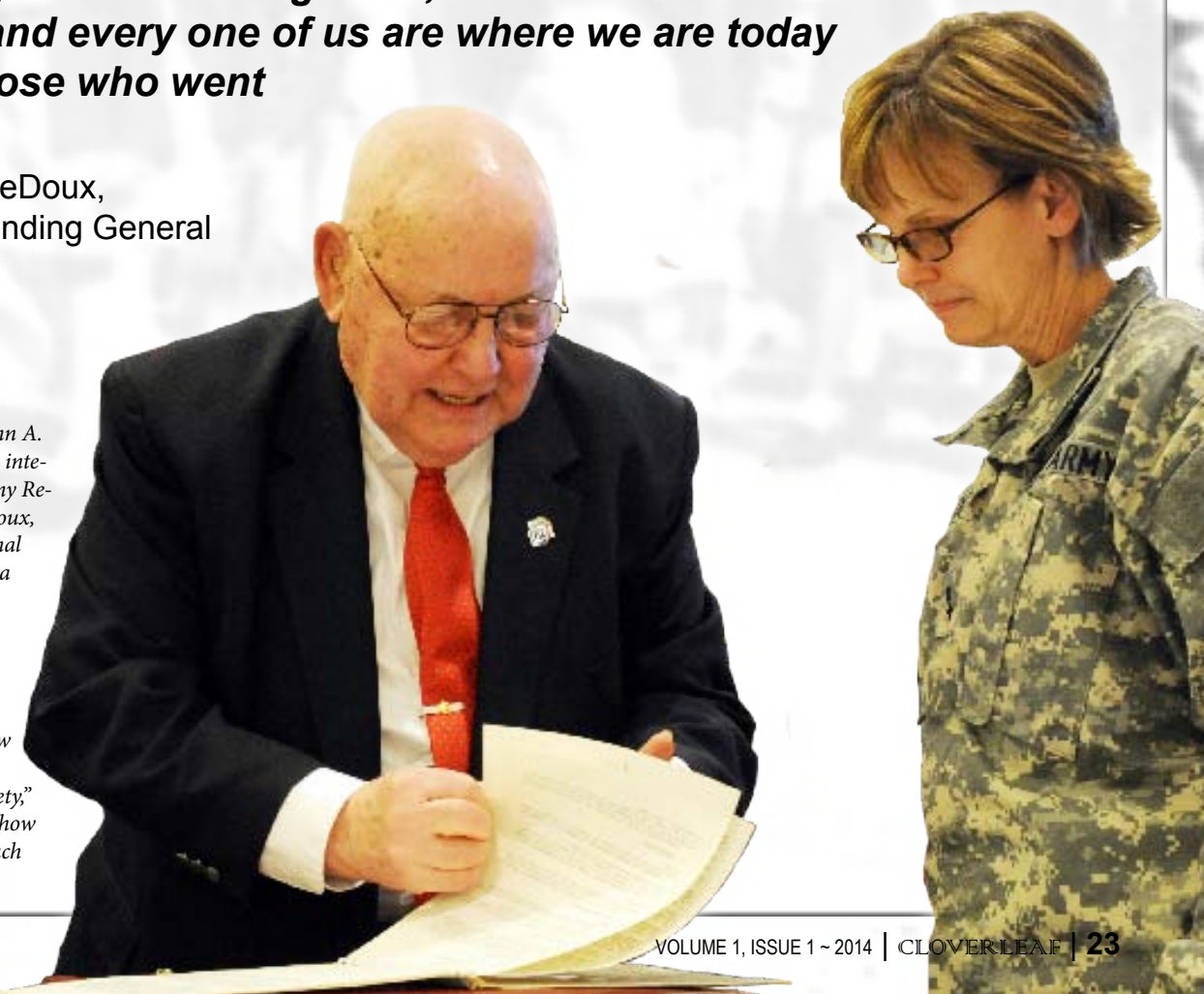
LeDoux said past initiatives like these and the people who took advantage of them have blazed the trail for us to follow and surpass.

"All of us, regardless of our gender, stand on the backs of giants," said LeDoux. "Each and every one of us are where we are today because of those who went before us. Their efforts and work are what made what we do possible."

"All of us, regardless of our gender, stand on the backs of giants. Each and every one of us are where we are today because of those who went before us."

Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux,
88th RSG Commanding General

Retired Army Reserve Maj. John A. Perry shows documents on the integration of women into the Army Reserve to Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, following a Women's History Presentation on Fort McCoy, Wis., March 27. LeDoux said observances like these are very important. "It gives an opportunity to remember and reflect on just how much has changed within our Army and our within our society," said LeDoux, "and appreciate how far we have come and how much our society has grown."



88th RSC Suicide Prevention Program Manager is Here to Help

Story by Catherine Threat, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Suicide prevention is the shared responsibility of the military community as a whole - and the 88th Regional Support Command takes this responsibility to heart.

To help lead the way in its 19-state region, the 88th RSC established the position of Suicide Prevention Program Manager to help lead the way.

Taking on this demanding role is Michael Wikstrom, who said positions like his demonstrate our leadership's commitment and can make a big difference.

"The Army, both Active and Reserve, has seen an increase in the number of suicides over the past several years," Wikstrom said.

"Our leadership believes that it is important to change the tide of suicides by placing dedicated assets whose sole function is to reduce suicidal behaviors among Soldiers and their Families by connecting them to help and

As SPPM, Wikstrom will administer the suicide prevention program for both military and civilian members and serve as lead for the Suicide Prevention Task Force for the 19 state region, coordinating the efforts of its members.

With this role comes a slew of responsibilities to include: tracking the training of all Ask, Care, Escort and Applied Suicide Intervention Training-certified personnel as well as training for Fort McCoy and the 88th Reserve Support Command; serving as point of contact for program information; providing advice to the 88th RSC commanding general; working to further integrate suicide prevention into support programs such as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program; and coordinating with internal and external organizations to share information, trends, best practices, lesson learned and training developments.

"Any Soldier reading this who may be in crisis needs to know that there are people who care. We want to help and make a difference, even if it seems the situation is so bleak there is no hope. THERE IS HOPE!"

Please reach out and talk to someone. Talk to your battle buddy; call your platoon sergeant, first sergeant, unit Chaplain or Commander. If you can't reach any of them or don't want to, call me! Just please reach out to someone!"

Michael Wikstrom, 88th RSC Suicide Prevention Program Manager (Cell: 480-2031556)

services that are available to get them through difficult issues and times of crisis," Wikstrom said.

Wikstrom, who has seen first-hand the repercussions of suicide, said he is honored to have this position.

"As an Army Chaplain, Active Duty and Army Reserve, I have performed memorials for Soldiers who have chosen to take their own lives," said Wikstrom. "I have seen the devastation that is left behind with their Families, friends and their units."

"I am committed to make a difference for that one person, and to encourage them to never give up," said Wikstrom. "...and to help them realize no matter how bad things are, how hopeless their situation is, that it won't last and better days are ahead. NEVER GIVE UP!"

The ultimate goal is a marked reduction in the loss of life from suicide and the tragedy that results said Wikstrom, speaking about the goals of the SPPM.

"The SPPM will work to provide training and help to ensure all Soldiers and Civilians have the skills to intervene when someone is in crisis, as well as assist Soldiers in developing life skills to handle adversity by working with the various assets such as the Master Resiliency Trainers, behavioral health, Army Substance Abuse Program, Army Community Service, etc."

According to the Army G-1 website*, the active duty component has seen a slight decrease in the numbers of suicides from last year, whereas the Army Reserve has seen an increase.

Suicide Prevention is Everyones Responsibility

Feeling Distressed?

Feeling Hopeless?

Contemplating Suicide?

Know Someone Who Is?

Help is ALWAYS Available!

Emergency - 911

**Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

**Defense Center of Excellence
1-866-966-1020**

**Wounded Soldier & Family
Hotline 1-800-984-8523**

**Military One Source
1-800-342-9647**

**For Suicide Prevention
Information, Presentations,
Training, or Questions,
Please Contact:**

**Michael D. Wikstrom
88th RSC Suicide Prevention
Program Manager
Michael.d.wikstrom.mil@mail.mil
Michael.d.wikstrom.civ@mail.mil
Office: 608-388-9310
Cell: 480-203-1556**

For calendar year 2012, the Reserve and National Guard had 140 potential suicides of which 138 were confirmed or 11.6 suicides per month.

Wikstrom stated that personal interaction is the most crucial step in preventing suicide.

"We are our brothers and sisters keepers! It is important that everyone knows that there is always someone to talk to and reach out to during their darkest hours.

For leadership, it is important that they let EVERY Soldier know that they are important and that they matter. For Soldiers in units, it is important that they be aware of how their battle buddy is doing, how they are feeling and to know when things aren't right.

Finally, it is important that everyone knows what to do when a Soldier is in crisis, so training and education on what Suicide is and what to do is key," said Wikstrom.

Wikstrom explains that over the next decade there will be changes within our military as well as with the way society deals with these changes. With combat operations in Afghanistan ending, we are already seeing the effects on our Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members.

"I cannot predict the future and I do not know what the end result will be, but we will continue to maintain our high levels of awareness and dedication to the health and welfare of our Warrior-Citizens and Family Members," he said.

In his experience, Wikstrom has seen that realignments resulting in permanent change of station moves, unit transfers, health and employment issues and struggles to find new meaning and purpose are all taking their toll on Soldiers and their Families.

He feels that with all this change, there will be some Soldiers who face problems they feel are insurmountable and they are the ones who are at greatest risk for suicide.

Wikstrom had one prevailing message for anyone having suicidal ideations.

"Any Soldier reading this who may be in crisis needs to know that there are people who care. We want to help and make a difference, even if it seems the situation is so bleak there is no hope. THERE IS HOPE!"

Please reach out and talk to someone. Talk to your battle buddy; call your platoon sergeant, first sergeant, unit chaplain or commander. If you can't reach any of them or don't want to, call me! Just please reach out to someone!"

The 88th Regional Support Command

Supporting more than 55,000 Soldiers, Civilians and their Families across 19 States

Facility Support

Environmental Responsibility

Information Management

Force Development

Direct Training Support



Retirement Services

Survivor Outreach

Yellow Ribbon

Memorializations

Motorcycle Safety Program

Equipment Maintenance and Storage

Reserve Health Readiness Program

Strong Bonds Program

Physical Security

Force Modernization

More than 10,000 Acres and 334 Facilities

Providing World-Class Base Operations Support to Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians in the Northern United States from the Ohio River to the Pacific Coast.

A HERO'S MEMORIALIZATION

WELDON SPRING ARMY RESERVE CENTER NAMED IN HONOR OF SGT. MELVIN Y. MORA

Story by Staff Sgt. Francis Horton, 363rd Public Affairs Detachment



(Left) Graphic illustration of Sgt. Melvin Y. Mora, who was killed in action June 6, 2004, at Log Base Seitz, Iraq, during a mortar attack. (Background) Staff Sgt. Tor B. Peterson from the 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and Spc. Ryan Giegling from the 383rd Quartermaster Company, fold the flag to be put in a case which will be displayed in the newly dedicated Army Reserve training center building

Soldiers, families, friends and community members joined together in honor of fallen hero Sgt. Melvin Y. Mora, during a memorialization ceremony in Weldon Spring, Mo., May 17.

The ceremony officially designated

the Weldon Spring Army Reserve Training Center in Mora's name, who was killed in action June 6, 2004, at Log Base Seitz, Iraq, during a mortar attack.

Mora's commitment and dedication to his country exemplified his

selfless service, which will stand as an inspiration to all those who use the training facility in the future, said Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, during the ceremony.

"We are a nation that endures because of the courage of those like Sergeant Mora who defend it," said LeDoux. "It is important to remember our history and the sacrifices that have been made on behalf of a free nation."

The memory of Mora should motivate all of us to push ourselves just as he did, said LeDoux, a fitting testament to his legacy.

"We are all motivated to reach a little farther and to try a little harder and stand a little taller when we remember brave Soldiers like Sergeant Mora who gave their all," said LeDoux.

LeDoux said the new training facility's transformation from a site once used to manufacture explosives to a publicly accessible area is befitting of what Mora embodied and lived for.

"It has been transformed into a facility that not only serves as a place of recreation, education and enjoyment for the citizens of its community, but also allows Soldiers and Service Members to prepare and train in order to serve not only their communities but their country," she continued.

"Sergeant Mora will stand as an example of honorable service and sacrifice," said LeDoux.

Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones, commander, 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, spoke about Mora's past and how he joined the Army Reserve.

Jones said Mora moved from Puerto Rico to Missouri in 1998 and enlisted in the Army Reserve while pursuing a bachelor's degree in physics. He was one month away from graduation when he was called up for deployment.

Since his death, Mora was awarded an honorary bachelor's degree in

physics from the University of Missouri, Colombia. A scholarship fund was set up in his name by his school in 2005, which provides a deserving physics student a scholarship every year.

Mora left behind an example of being, said Jones, a shining characteristic that will endure with all his loved ones.

"He faced the world with unparalleled hope and optimism, his passion for learning remains unquenched," said Jones. "And Melvin was very proud to be a Soldier – proud to be part of something larger than himself."

The best way to honor Mora is through his memory, said Jones, which is why we gathered here today.

He was dearly loved by all who knew him," said Jones, "but greater than the sorrow from his death is the joy that he may be an inspiration for us all."

THE MEMORIALIZATION PROCESS

Memorializing an Army Reserve Facility is an inspiring endeavor. It can also be challenging. The 88th RSC Public Affairs Office is your starting point for the memorialization process. We can provide information and a memorialization process packet that lays out the steps to preparing and submitting an official memorialization request.

Completed packets in the northwest region are submitted through the 88th PAO to begin the staffing and approval process. Memorializations require a great deal of research and staffing. It is not a quick process and in most cases takes six months to one year for completion.

Please contact Catherine Threat, PAO Deputy Director, for more information at 608-388-0336 or Catherine.e.threat.civ@mail.mil



A New Standard in Army Reserve Training Centers

Story and photo by Spc. Kayla Benson, 358th Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, Brig. Gen. Neal Black, commander of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and other distinguished guests cut the ribbon and officially dedicated a new U.S. Army Reserve center in Butte, Mont., Sept. 22, 2013.

The Butte Armed Forces Reserve Training Center uses economical, energy-saving features, including a low emitting/high efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning system; low water flow rate utilities with efficient heating; energy efficient motion sensor lighting that incorporates natural light into an ergonomic design of workspace; and no lawn sprinklers are necessary because of integrated roof rain-diversion and the use of low maintenance landscaping. The building was constructed using many recycled materials and locally produced materials.

Reserve centers like this one are the new standard for Army training facilities.

“The Army is working very hard to be environmentally responsible,” said LeDoux. “We’re building this into the design of most of our buildings right now within the Army and the Army Reserve: what can we do to make our buildings environmentally responsible so that they’re sustainable and have a minimum impact on the environment?”

The new center houses the 592nd Ordnance Company, who plan on using the facility and the surrounding land for training opportunities, such as land navigation and tactical exercises.

“It gives us land space so we can actually move in tactical formation and set-up tactical bases, things of that nature,” said Sgt. Katie Carlson, a squad leader with the 592nd Ordnance Company. “And it helps [the reservists] develop as leaders because now they can lead in a field environment.”

Carlson, along with six other Soldiers with the 592nd Ordnance Company, raised the American flag for the first time after its

The Butte Armed Forces Reserve Training Center uses **economical, energy saving** features, including a **low emitting/high efficiency** heating, ventilation and air conditioning system; **low water flow** rate utilities with **efficient heating**; energy efficient **motion sensor lighting** that incorporates natural light into an **ergonomic** design of workspace; and **no lawn sprinklers** are necessary because of **integrated roof rain-diversion** and the use of **low maintenance landscaping**. The building was constructed using many **recycled** and **locally produced materials**.

commissioning in front of the new building during the ceremony. With the colors raised and the ribbon cut, the new center is officially ready for reservists to train to meet the needs of their nation.



U.S. Army Reserve Training Center located in Butte, Mont., Sept. 22, 2013. This Reserve Training Center uses economical, energy saving features and was constructed using many recycled materials and locally produced materials.

VERIFY STATUS

HRC > Login

Welcome



Third Party Request Web



Third Party Login

Use a PIN provided by a Soldier

[Enter PIN](#)



Soldier Login

Army Reserve Soldiers, create and manage your PINs

[Login Using AKO Account](#)

[Login Using CAC](#)

If the Soldier's Leave and Earnings Statement won't satisfy as proof of Army Reserve employment or income to landlords, mortgage companies, or other non-media, then direct callers to <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/verify/>.

Tell a caller that the Soldier can obtain a third-party request PIN and give it to the persons of his or her choice, who can then use the PIN to access this site.

For instructions, Soldiers can go to <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/verify/>. For additional help, Soldiers can call the Human Resources Command Customer Service at 1-800-318-5298.

Need to
VERIFY
your Reserve
employment?



***Are you or
someone you know
unemployed or
underemployed?***

Leaders please mention the Employer Partnership website at drill formations.

This website helps connect Reserve Soldiers with employers who are committed to hiring and accommodating Reservists.

<http://www.employerpartnership.org>

“Live with Nature Instead of Trying to Conquer It”

Story and photo by Alun Thomas, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Every year on April 22 Earth Day is recognized in an effort to bring awareness to environmental concerns and protection for the natural habitat.

Earth Day was the innovation of Wisconsin Gov. Gaylord Nelson, who began the project in 1970 and helped turn it into a global event, with millions participating worldwide.

Today the 88th Regional Support Command's Environmental Division celebrates that initiative continuously by monitoring the strict regulations that govern how the Army Reserve utilizes its resources and adheres to prescribed guidelines.

The 88th RSC oversees more than 10,000 acres and 300 facilities over a 19 state region, with 11 environmental protection specialists, said Dave Moore, chief of the environmental division, 88th RSC, all of who support Earth Day.

“We’ve had events in support of Earth Day in past years at our bigger facilities where we get the communities involved to support the Soldiers,” Moore said. “For us, Earth Day is about the conservation and energy perspective, from turning off computers and lights at the end of the day and doing the best you can with recycling. Our units have been good supporting that effort.”

The efforts are constantly ongoing for the 88th RSC, Moore said, as they try to maintain environmental sustainability.

“Our agents manage 30 facilities a piece and they’ll go out and do assessments to help their units become compliant with policies and regulations,” Moore said. “My main role is to provide insight and management to all areas. It’s a large task and fast and vast environment. It’s always changing.”

Assisting Moore is Melani Tescher, an environmental protection specialist with the 88th RSC, who leads the conservation branch of the division and makes sure training lands are up to the correct specifications.

“I’ll deal with the trees or weeds, any kind of invasive species and animals and historic buildings,” Te-

scher said. “I make sure we follow the Endangered Species Act or the Wetlands Act. This all has to be coordinated with the local government and each state.”

Also key is the compliance branch, Tescher said, which deals with hazardous waste and material and



88th RSC Environmental Division team members stand outside the command's headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wis., April 22. From left to right: Dave Moore, chief, environmental division; James Hessel, compliance program manager; Mike Collentine, hazardous waste program manager; Timothy Gelhaus, contractor; and Melani Tescher, environmental protection specialist.

make sure units are complying with the regulations enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency.

“Some of the challenges with this are the lack of understanding about what we do, therefore some don’t comply,” Tescher said. “We build relationships with the units to show we’re not here to hurt you; we’re here to help you. We go out of our way to assist them.”

The biggest challenge for Tescher currently is getting local training areas in the region into usable conditions.

“They’ve been neglected for a good while, so now we’re trying to get the woods opened up so we can do training in there,” Tescher said. “We go in there and spray, mow and chop things down. Lots of work is involved”

For Tescher Earth Day is vital for educating people on a variety of environmental issues, including wildlife and natural resources.

“It’s an opportunity to show people they can live with nature instead of trying to conquer it,” she said. “Earth Day is mainly about energy and recycling, but I look at it with a broader scope and I’m looking at Earth as how we’re affecting it.”

“The Army Reserve has taken a good role in it and we’ve shown we’re not here to destroy anything - we try to restore things to their natural condition and that’s admirable,” said Tescher.

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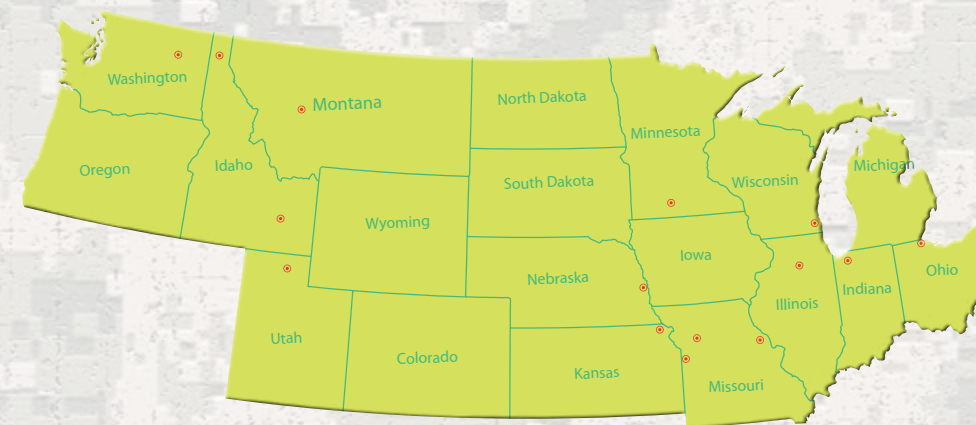
Local Training Areas

Here is your chance to have BA away from the ARC!

88th Regional Support Command Local Training Areas (LTAs) provide Soldiers opportunities to perform in their jobs, train close to home, and make the most out of Battle Assemblies. The LTAs offer units facilities, grounds and training opportunities in convoy operations, organizational maintenance, engineer equipment dig sites, and Field Training Exercises.

88th RSC Local Training Areas											
Name	Location	Size	CT	DS	FTX	MKP	MP	OMS	R25	SL	TP
Hayden Lake LTA,	Hayden Lake, ID	65 Acres					X				
Pocatello LTA	Pocatello, ID	9 Acres			X						
Joliet LTA	Joliet, IL	3585 Acres	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kingsbury LTA	Kingsbury, IN	926 Acres	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Sunflower WET Site	Desoto, KS	80 Acres			X						
Blue Earth LTA	Mankato, MN	60 Acres		X	X						
Belton LTA	Belton, MO	184 Acres	X		X						
Weldon Springs	Weldon Springs, MO	1655 Acres	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake City LTA,	Independence, MO	7 Acres			X	X	X				X
Helena LTA	Helena, MT	7 Acres			X						
Mead LTA	Fremont, NE	960 Acres	X		X						
Monclova LTA	Toledo, OH	27 Acres	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Ogden LTA	Ogden, UT	108 Acres	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Fairchild AFB	Fairchild, WA	11 Acres	X		X	X	X	X			
Silver Springs LTA	Silver Springs, WI	112 Acres			X	X	X	X		X	

Legend of Training Opportunities at LTAs: CT = Convoy Training, DS = Dig Site, FTX = Field Training Site, MKP = Mobile Kitchen Pad, MP = Motor Park, OMS = Organization Maintenance Site, R25 = 55M Range, SL = Shower Latrine, TP = Tent Pad



LTA Reservation Request Website (intranet only)

<https://xtranet/sites/88rsc/DPT> >> LISTS (left side) >> Select LTA Request Documents

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Supervisory Range Support Specialist
Edward Delelio

88th RSC, Joliet Training Area

(815) 423-6764 ext #1

Medical Equipment Concentration Sites

Increase Medical Equipment Readiness and Accountability

Story by Catherine Threat, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Medical Equipment Concentration Sites, known as MECS, play a vital role in increasing medical equipment readiness and accountability across the Army Reserve.

As part of the 88th Regional Support Command's continual effort to provide outstanding support for units and facilities within its region, the 88th RSC Directorate of Logistics established the very first MECS for much needed medical equipment maintenance and storage support.

MECS #88, located in Ogden, Utah, was established in 2009 as a joint venture between the 88th RSC and 807th Medical Deployment Support Command to increase the 807th's readiness and accountability of medical equipment sets and equipment.

The facility provides support to medical units by

storing complete medical sets, loaning medical sets to Army Reserve units to meet training requirements, performing field level maintenance at scheduled intervals, evacuating the equipment for sustainment-level maintenance to the supporting depot, and performing calibration on equipment.

Jared Smith, 88th RSC DOL Supervisory Equipment Specialist for the Utah and Colorado Region, helped initiate MECS #88 and now overseas its operations.

"The 88th RSC's role in the initial start up of the MECS was huge," said Smith. "We were given the mission and we figured out how to make it happen. Our role in the future will be no different than our ground equipment concentration sites really, in that we will maintain C2 [Command and Control] of the MECS and continue to fight for medical equipment accountability and readiness."

There are rules and regulations on how to account for and maintain equipment in general, however, those rules did not apply, or at least were not applied to medical equipment, said Smith. That is not the case anymore, and the MECS mission is a big part of that.

"They're maintaining equipment that in some cases has never been maintained before," said Smith. "They're identifying equipment to be both added to property books and removed from property books, equipment that should have been disposed of long ago and removed from the Army Reserve inventory."

The 99th RSC established a second MECS in 2012, which is located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix, N.J. MECS#88 and MECS#99 function independently yet still maintain similarities in operations to ensure continuity of workflow for Soldiers transitioning between the two sites.

"With the continued partnership of the 807th MDSC, MECS #88 will continue to be an operation that benefits the Army Reserve for years to come."

Jared Smith,
88th RSC Supervisory Equipment Specialist

HOW DOES MECS # 88 HELP SoldierS?

It provides a light at the end of the tunnel for Soldiers who once had no concept of medical maintenance and accountability, ensures Soldiers know what right looks like and are able to fulfill their duties for years to come.

It provides mission-capable medical equipment for Soldiers to train on in the field, ultimately increasing the unit's readiness as a whole, and enabling them to be more efficient in completing their mission-essential tasks.

It provides a platform for sustainment level training, allowing Soldiers to work alongside experienced contracted Biomedical Repair Technicians, utilize the knowledge and skills taught in school and apply them in real world situations by maintaining real medical equipment.

Jared Smith
88th RSC Department of Logistics
Supervisory Equipment Specialist
Utah and Colorado Region

"You could say that they work jointly, having each MECS under two different commands creates subtle differences within each of the organizations," stated Smith. "Our intent is to keep them as close as possible in order to provide a better service to our customers. It shouldn't matter if a TPU [Troop Program Unit Soldier] with the 807th MDSC moves to the 3rd MDSC, because the service we're providing to them and how we're providing it is virtually the same."

Currently, MECS #88 has completed approximately 1,739 work orders since the beginning of FY13, accounting for more than 4000 hrs in direct labor associated with repairing and/or maintaining medical equipment. The facility currently stores more than 1,300 medical sets and equipment belonging to more than 45 different units.

Accomplishments have been significant for MECS #88 at both the organizational and headquarters level thanks to combined efforts by different departments within the 88th RSC, said Smith.

"In partnership with the 88th RSC's Department of Public Works we were able to get the much needed facility modifications completed in order to support the vast requirements of medical maintenance," said Smith.

In addition, partnerships with the 807th MDSC and U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency have made possible the procurement of hard-to-find medical repair parts.

"Medical repair parts procurement continues to be a challenge," Smith said, "however, in partnership with the 807th MDSC and USAMMA, we've been able to obtain the much needed medical repair parts that the Army Reserves really has no way of procuring otherwise."

All of these efforts contribute to increasing the overall readiness of the force, said Smith.

"With the continued partnership of the 807th MDSC, MECS #88 will continue to be an operation that benefits the Army Reserve for years to come," said Smith.

"The 88th RSC's role in the initial start up of the MECS was huge. We were given the mission and we figured out how to make it happen. Our role in the future will be no different than our ground equipment concentration sites really, in that we will maintain C2 of the MECS and continue to fight for medical equipment accountability and readiness."

KICK-STARTING OUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Brady, 88th RSC Deputy Command Chaplain



A totally expected thing happened on the way toward keeping our New Year's resolutions. Most of us awoke on January 1 with a laundry list of things to begin, or to complete. We pushed away the last remaining dried up slice of granny's holiday fruitcake and thought "the gym!" We visited the college website and began planning how to finish that degree. We decided to be nicer to our kids. And then...

...and then we noticed there's a foot of snow all the way between our house and the gym, and in words of those great crooners of old, "baby it's cold outside!"

The image of the gym fades to little more than a good idea. And what about going back to college? Are you kidding? Where would I find the time or money for that? Oh, and treating the kids nicer? Well, that worked until the second of January when they gave you "that look." And so our resolutions – good ones, admittedly – get off to a less than stellar start. After a while we forget the promises.

Well, we don't forget them exactly. They were good ideas and we feel badly we weren't able to do more with them than we did. They deserved better, we think, and next year I'm going to make them work! But for now, we're already tired, frazzled and worn down, so we just decide to punt rather than go for the fourth down conversion. But deep inside we want to know this year counts for something and we can still achieve something.

A friend reminded me recently that we shouldn't put those resolutions to bed just yet. They don't need another year's sleep, but may need a LOT of fine tuning. If you think of the list as more of goals instead of a game plan, you can think of adjusting them from time to time in order to achieve your outcomes.

In the New Testament we're reminded to make plans, but should always be prepared to adjust them. "...if the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:15) James is telling us that we need some flexibility when it comes to our plans; an ability to adapt if things become challenging.

With that in mind, here are a few suggestions on how to make those resolutions still work for you in 2014.

1. **Be Kind to Yourself.** So you are struggling to live up to your resolutions? Welcome to the real world. It isn't easy to make major changes in life. Be more tolerant of yourself. Remember, while making and keeping resolutions is important – they do remind us there are things in life we want to accomplish – your life is so much bigger than those annual promises. If you believe

people should be good to one another, begin by being kind, tolerant and forgiving of yourself.

2. **Focus on Small, Achievable Outcomes.** The humorous proverb asks the question "How do you eat an elephant?" You know the answer: "One bite at a time." There are times in life

when you must take on a whole elephant, when you must fight and slay the dragon. But most things have to be addressed "one bite at a time." Instead of saying you'll go to the gym every day this year, perhaps decide to take the stairs at work a few more times each week. Small steps lead to real victories.

3. **When the Energy to Make Real Changes is Gone, Pray,** or if you're not a person of faith, then focus. We all have too many things happening in our lives – work, Family, school, church, politics, etc., and it seems at times we can't find the energy to do one more thing, much less keep working on our resolutions. A friend said it this way, "Maybe a better way to put it is, on days you can't make any effort towards resolving your future, focus or pray for a minute, and that's good enough."

New Year's Day is a good thing. It's a time to pause, to reflect and maybe to make promises for the coming year. But remember it's also important to stop from time to time throughout the year to assess where we are in life, and see how we should adjust our resolutions.

Whatever your background, I hope you'll take many opportunities throughout the year to pause, reflect, and if need be, kick-start your resolutions. Positive changes, whether great or small, are the mark of being human.

...remember it's also important to stop from time to time throughout the year to assess where we are in life, and see how we should adjust...

88th RSC Human Resources Specialist Named

All Army Volleyball Team Coach

Story by Alun Thomas, 88th RSC Public Affairs

As a youngster Sgt. Angel Rivera hid his passion for volleyball, fearing he would disappoint his father who did not see the game as a suitable sport for a boy.

Decades later Rivera, from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, a civilian human resource specialist for the 88th Regional Support Command, has turned that doubt into massive success as head coach of the All Army Volleyball team.

This led to him being named All Army Coach of the Year in 2012 after two unbeaten seasons in 2011 and 2012, and he continues his coaching role heading into the 2014 season.

Rivera began playing volleyball during elementary school and quickly adapted to the sport which was hidden from his disapproving father with the aide of his mother.

The secret was exposed however when a coach came to Rivera's house offering a volleyball scholarship, which finally led to his father's awareness and eventual approval.

Rivera signed with the Army Reserve in 2004 and entered active duty in 2006, with two tours in South Korea and one at the Pentagon as a defense attaché. It was during these years that he began in earnest his ascent as a volleyball coach, after a knee injury cut his playing career short.

"I found an opportunity coaching kids in the local area when I was in Washington (D.C.)," Rivera explained. "I had never coached kids before, but I stuck with it and enjoyed it. It was tough making the transition from player to coach, but

it came easy for me to talk to the kids and explain things to them."

Upon winning a regional championship Rivera's coaching career continued to escalate. After applying for the assistant coach of the men's Army team he was soon accepted, having studied the game intensely in his spare time through training camps and multiple courses.

Rivera was soon named head coach in 2011 and led the Army to two unbeaten 12-0 seasons in the



Armed Forces Championships.

This led to his appointment as Armed Forces coach and appearances in tournaments in Brazil and the Netherlands against Olympic players.

"We performed well against world class players and did better than any military side before us," Rivera said. "We had national T.V. exposure and were doing interviews. It was an amazing experience."

Rivera's rise to the top was confirmed when he was named Army Coach of the Year in 2012 by Installation Management Command and was presented his award at a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston in February 2013.

"I put a packet in with everything I had achieved on the court and off it, but when I received the award I was surprised – I wasn't

expecting it at all," Rivera said. "I was happy because they saw everything I'd done and it paid off."

Rivera's success and strong work ethic come as no surprise to his supervisor, Kirsti Trygstad, Orders Branch Chief, 88th RSC, who said she could identify with his coaching success through her own experiences.

"When he told me what he'd done I could immediately relate as I'm a Physical Education and Health major and have five years coaching girl's sports," Trygstad said with a hearty grin. "Knowing what it takes to be a coach and seeing what he's done, that's a big deal."

"Bottom line is this is a prestigious employee and we'll let him do whatever he needs to do to succeed," she continued. "He's humble and I have a great appreciation for someone with that kind of humility."

As he prepares for upcoming May trials for All Army Volleyball, Rivera said the key to his ongoing success is to listen to his players and adapt their thoughts in his coaching.

"Every coach has a different style, but mine is about (listening). This is an opportunity that's not given to everybody," he explained. "When you have these players that show up (to trials) with amazing backgrounds you have to learn from each other. You always have to be open and listen to them."

While I have my own coaching style, I listen to each player as an individual because not all of them learned the same way. Listening to them and incorporating the ideas into my coaching plans has helped make me successful."

The 88th RSC believes
Public Service is a Public Trust



CODE OF ETHICS

Principles of Ethical Conduct for
Government Officers and Employees

1. Public service is a public trust, requiring employees to place loyalty to the Constitution, the laws, and ethical principles above private gain.
2. Employees shall not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of duty.
3. Employees shall not engage in financial transactions using nonpublic Government information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest.
4. An employee shall not, except pursuant to such reasonable exceptions as are provided by regulation, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting, activities regulated by the employee's agency, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's duties.
5. Employees shall put forth honest effort in the performance of their duties.
6. Employees shall make no unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind the Government.
7. Employees shall not use public office for private gain.
8. Employees shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organization or individual.
9. Employees shall protect and conserve Federal property and shall not use it for other than authorized activities.
10. Employees shall not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflict with official Government duties and responsibilities.
11. Employees shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption to appropriate authorities.
12. Employees shall satisfy in good faith their obligations as citizens, including all just financial obligations, especially those—such as Federal, State, or local taxes—that are imposed by law.
13. Employees shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.
14. Employees shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards promulgated pursuant to this order.

The 88th RSC Retirement Service Office is here to help you

*Retirement is a process,
not an event. Different
aspects of that process will
most likely take a few re-
visits to get them right.*

*We at the 88th RSC
Retirement Service Team
are dedicated to helping
you get them right.*

*Do not hesitate to contact
us. You have served the
USAR for many years. You
are worth the effort.*

88th RSC Retirement Services Office Staff

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Retirement Planning Timeline

Throughout Career

Manage important documents to include:

- DD214's
- Retirement Points Statements
- Change in service documents (transitioning between Guard, Reserve, AC, difference services, commissioning, promotion/demotion, etc)
- RCSBP/SBP elections (notifying HRC within one year of changes)

15 Year Mark

Become educated on the following:

- RCSBP
- Tricare (Reserve Select, Retired Reserve, Prime, Standard and Tricare For Life)
- Transfer to Retired Reserve process
- Medical Retirement process (where applicable)
- VA rating process

18 Year Mark

Same education as at 15 but with the following emphasis:

- Decide on RCSBP election strategy with Retirement Officer/Financial Counselor/Insurance Advisor
- Review ARPC 249E with RSO
- Ensure all relevant career documents are iPERMed

20 Year Mark

- Attend Retirement Seminar
- Make RCSBP election with RSO present
- Ensure all documentation is accurate and up to date

Transfer to Retired Reserve

- Ensure Post 9/11 GI Bill is transferred where applicable
- Understand TRICARE options
- Attend Retirement Seminar to be briefed on Grey Area Benefits
- Get good POC's for information on how to apply for Retired Pay
- Understand the early draw process where applicable
- Enroll in VA if not done so already
- Convert SGLI to VGLI if desired
- Visit ID Card facility for Grey Area Retiree ID Card

Apply for Retired Pay

- Get application documents from RSO/HRC nine months from eligibility date
- Contact RSO to assist in making SBP election and completing required documents
- Once eligible, visit ID Card facility to obtain Retiree ID card
- Apprise HRC of all changes to dependent status
- Attend retirement briefing once every 2 years to stay abreast of changes that may have occurred
- Educate dependents on benefits application process once SM dies

Learn more and find the upcoming Training Events at:

www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/commands/88RSC/Pages/Retirement.aspx

Chief of the US Army Reserve Outlines Priorities at 88th RSC Headquarters

Story by Sgt. 1st Class C.L. Beal, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, the chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, addressed more than 250 Soldiers during a town hall meeting at the 88th Regional Support Command headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wis., April 10.

Attending the town hall were Soldiers participating in a Warrior Exercise taking place as well as Soldiers from various units stationed at Fort McCoy.

Talley began with an overview of the Army Reserve and stated some statistics that may not be familiar to some, such as the Army Reserve's total end strength of 205,000 and its operations in 30 different countries.

"The Army Reserve is embedded in every Army service component command and every combatant command around the globe to include SOCOM [Special Operations Command]," said Talley. "So every day the Army Reserve acts in direct support of the active component."

Talley reinforced the Army Reserve's reason for existence to the crowd.

"The reason we have an Army Reserve is to provide direct support to the regular Army. It doesn't make us second-class citizens, but that's why we have an Army Reserve – to serve the regular Army," said Talley. "If the regular Army needs something done and they don't have enough resources to do it, they come to the Army Reserve, because we are the reserve of the U.S. Army."

Talley also spoke of the unique capabilities found within the Army Reserve.

"When you look at the Army Reserve, we have capabilities that do not exist anywhere else in the total force. For example, the Army Reserve is predominantly combat-ser-

"The reason we have an Army Reserve is to provide direct support to the regular Army. It doesn't make us second-class citizens, but that's why we have an Army Reserve – to serve the regular Army"

vice-support and combat-support," said Talley.

Almost all of the Army's total combat-service-support is in the Army Reserve and almost all of the Army's combat-support.

Talley went on to explain and reinforce his current top priorities: sexual harassment and assault prevention, suicide prevention, manning the force, and training the force.

Sexual harassment and assault is an assault on our Family and it cannot be tolerated as a bystander, said Talley.

"The Army Reserve is a Family.

We are a Family as an Army Reserve and we are a part of the Army Family," said Talley. "You don't let people come and do bad things to your Family – right? So don't let these people mess with your Army Family. We need to hold them accountable."

The second priority is suicide prevention, said Talley. The number one reason attributed to suicides in the Army Reserve is failed relationships, the number two is financial. Contrary to what most believe, the majority of suicides are typically not non-participants and most have not deployed.

"What we have to do is recognize that there are people in our formations that are hurting," said Talley, "and they don't want you to know they are having problems in their personal lives."

"We have to get away from this idea that if I get into your personal situation that I am invading your privacy. We have to get involved with people's lives, in and out of uniform."

To do this, Talley reminded the audience of some of their basic responsibilities.

"Officers, empower your noncommissioned officers. NCOs, remember one of your first responsibilities is to train officers," said Talley, continuing that "depending what officer you get stuck with – that might be pretty tough."

Hand-in-hand with suicide prevention is taking care of our wounded warriors, said Talley.

"I want you to first focus on yourself and your Family. I want you to focus on your civilian employment second – and then worry about the Army third. If you do the first two, I bet you I get a better Soldier – and I get a Soldier for life."

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley
Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve

"We can never do enough to take care of our Veterans," said Talley, "and unfortunately, we still have thousands of Army Reserve wounded warriors and we're not doing enough to take care of them."

To address this, Talley said he has implemented new initiatives.

"One of them is making sure that the unit who owns that Soldier stays actively involved with them as they transition to Wounded Warrior Clinics," said Talley. "Second, is making sure the legal command is there to take care of them and their Families. Third is making sure we have Army Reserve LNOs [liaison officers] at our Wounded Warrior Clinics to take care of them."

Talley's third and fourth priorities were manning and training the force.

"The Army Reserve is out there every day," said Talley. "We have a fully manned force, we have to train the force and we have to be ready to go."

Individual readiness is everyone's priority, said Talley, and you have to prioritize everything in your life.

"As an individual you have to be balanced - physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally," said Talley. "If you are out of balance you will not be a good leader and you won't be able to fully contribute to your unit."

Talley said it may sound like hearsay, but the Army Reserve should not

be a Soldier's first focus.

"I want you to first focus on yourself and your Family," said Talley. "I want you to focus on your civilian employment second – and then worry about the Army third. If you do the first two, I bet you I get a better Soldier – and I get a Soldier for life."

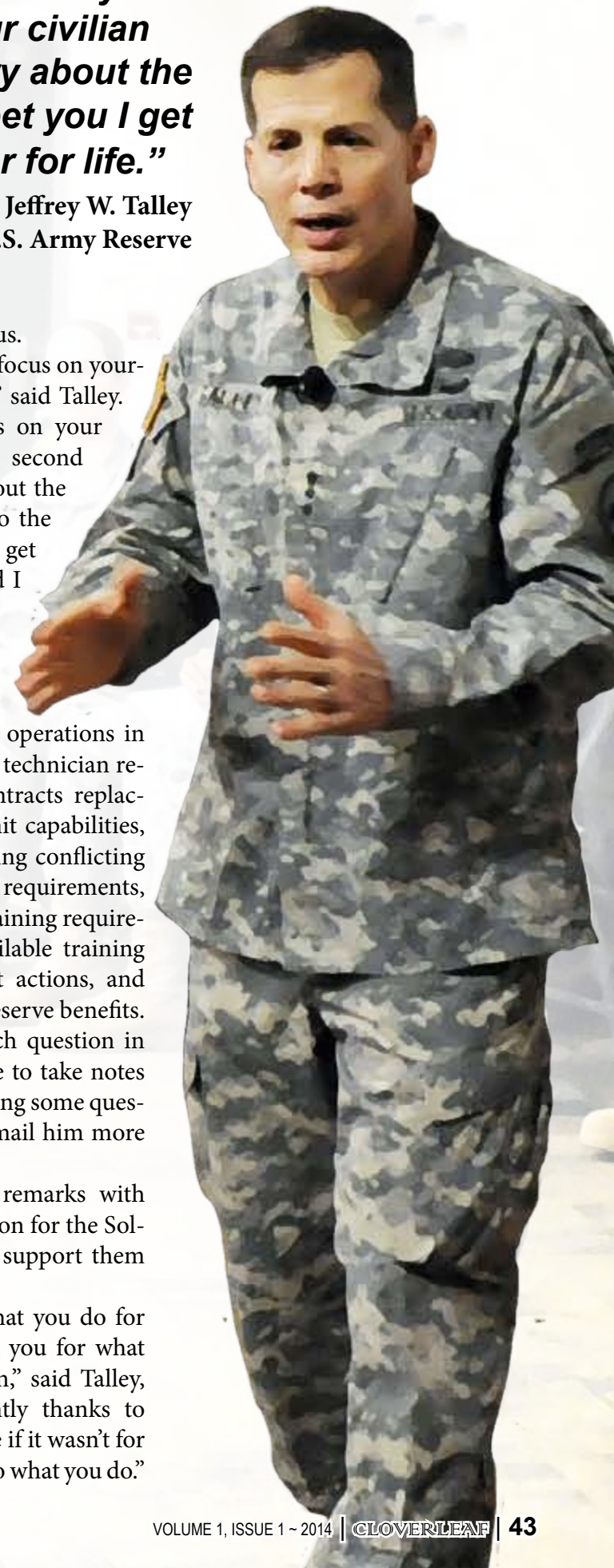
Talley went on to take questions from the audience.

Questions included operations in Afghanistan, military technician reductions, civilian contracts replacing Army Reserve unit capabilities, dates of annual training conflicting with college student requirements, administrative and training requirements exceeding available training days, non-participant actions, and the future of Army Reserve benefits.

Talley answered each question in depth, asking his aide to take notes for follow-up and asking some questioners to directly e-mail him more information.

Talley closed his remarks with thanks and appreciation for the Soldiers and those who support them through everything.

"Thank you for what you do for our Army and thank you for what you do for our nation," said Talley, "and more importantly thanks to your Families because if it wasn't for them you could not do what you do."



88th's Ambassadors of the Army Reserve



By Katherine Bissonette, PhD, 88th RSC USAR Ambassador Coordinator

"Strength through Strategic Partnerships"

U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors provide strategic outreach, advocacy, and advisory support to Army Reserve units, Soldiers, and Families throughout the Country.

The Army Reserve Ambassador Program was established in April 1998 so that private citizens can help to promote awareness of the Army Reserve and the goals and objectives of the Chief of the Army Reserve.

Currently, 39 Ambassadors operate within 88th Regional Support Command and play a key role in our success in communities throughout the Northwest Region.

As a tool of the Army Reserve's Strategic Outreach initiatives, Ambassadors are a vitally important bridge to the communities across the nation.

They are influential volunteers who function at the state and community levels. They convey messages to external and internal audiences in order to have the Army Reserve's significant and relevant contributions clearly understood and supported.

Ambassadors are considered special government employees that represent the Chief of the Army Reserve without salary, wages or related benefits. Their function is similar

to that of civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army, and they carry a protocol status equivalent of a Major General.

Ambassadors build relationships and strive to improve the understanding and knowledge of the Army Reserve within the business and social sectors of communities across America.

They help to educate the public, community leaders, and congressional staff offices about the capabilities and values of the Army Reserve and the Soldiers who live and work in their communities.

Ambassadors also reach out to Soldiers and their Families during the difficult times of deployments and the excitement of re-deploy-

ment ceremonies while bringing in community support.

Army Reserve Ambassadors can assist you in many ways:

First, by telling the Army Reserve Story to elected officials, military/Veterans service clubs, community leaders, and social sectors to ensure the AR contributions, value, and resourcing needs are acknowledged and supported.

Second, Ambassadors support / advance the CAR's Private-Public Partnership Initiative, which helps sustain our force.

Third, using their vast experience and center of influence status in government/military/community, they advocate for Soldiers and Families in a variety of capacities.

Army Reserve Ambassadors support the Army Reserve's mission by:

- Engaging with community, government and business leaders to tell the Army Reserve story.
- Working with their area Legislative Liaison, ESGR contacts, Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, and Family Readiness Groups on key Soldier issues.
- Helping to enlighten business and social sector organizations to recognize the contributions of the Army Reserve.
- Participating in engagements with communities through local service clubs.
- Supporting the Chief of the Army Reserve's Employer Partnership Program and the Secretary of the Army's Community Covenant Program.
- Supporting the recruiting efforts of the Army Reserve through partnering with U.S. Army Cadet Command and U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Fourth, they partner with US-AREC and Cadet Command to ensure the USAR gets quality junior leaders for the future.

Finally, AR Ambassadors provide strategic outreach by opening many doors and often gaining hard-to-get access to important information, services, and benefits to advance and sustain the members of the Army Reserve Family.

Ambassadors have the ability to influence. As Centers of Influence, they are highly respected and have broad networks of friends and acquaintances who they can call on for help.

Commanders and Command Sergeants Major, please reach out to our Ambassadors by inviting them to your YTBs, BFRRs, YR-RPs, Family Support Activities, MOB/DEMOB ceremonies, and other major organizational and training events.

Together you can increase your community's awareness, understanding, and support of the Army Reserve.

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Learn more about the Army Reserve Ambassador in your state by visiting:
www.usar.army.mil/arweb/community/ambassadors

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I AM THE FORCE BEHIND THE FIGHT.

**As a proud member
of the United States Army,
I pledge to be a force behind the fight to
eliminate Sexual Harassment and Sexual
Assault from our community.**

**I will have the personal courage to
Intervene – no matter the time or place.**

**I will Act decisively to stand up and protect
members of my Army Family from all forms
of sexually offensive and abusive behavior.**

**I will be Motivated by my Army Values to
remain a constant force in the fight to
Protect My Team.**

**I AM
STRONG**

Editorial

Finding Purpose in Serving at Home...

By Catherine Threat, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Discussions worth having

With so many U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers returning home from combat service and the drawdown of active duty forces possibly resulting in increased Reserve status, a question has been simmering around the coffee shops and smoke shacks of our Warrior Citizens: How do we find, or rediscover, purpose in serving at home?

For me, serving at home means training up instead of rolling out. For some, this is welcomed news - relief from the burdens of the battlefield. Many Reserve Soldiers are ready to take a break from combat and focus on passing along hard won knowledge and experience to a younger generation - a generation that will undoubtedly face new challenges and are already gaining new opportunities.

But others like me who have only experienced war time service, are beginning to ask themselves questions. What now? How can I feel as connected to the results of what I work to accomplish in training as I felt in combat? I understand the importance of training, of being ready and prepared. Training takes on a distinct focus when it is in direct preparation for a combat deployment. Now, without this focus, how do I push myself just as hard? How do I find the drive to get the training for the mission done when training IS the mission?

I have spent my five short years of Reserve service deployed or in training in preparation for deployment. I have never experienced the garrison life as a so called "week-end warrior". I've only recently become acquainted with attending Battle Assemblies in any type of routine way.

I decided while in basic training that I wanted to serve in combat and focused all my energies in that direction. So now after two Military Occupational Specialties, two uniformed combat deployments, a couple random training assignments, and an Army Civilian deployment - I wonder, what does it mean to serve at home?

These may be simple answers for those who have been in for 15+ years. I will look to these Soldiers for guidance. The example you set of the importance of peace time training will be invaluable. I will also look to my senior leaders. Many of whom have anticipated these questions.

I had the opportunity to accompany now retired, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale on battlefield circulation in Afghanistan in 2011. His guidance to senior leaders was simple and timely - be prepared for these Soldiers when they return from the battlefield. Soldiers who have known nothing but war and are returning home to a garrison life they have little experience of.

He talked about having an entire decade of young Soldiers who have

been under the weight of heavy responsibility - responsible for lives, and missions, and millions of dollars of equipment, Soldiers who were accustomed to making critical decisions day in and day out. He spoke about how they will need leaders who understand the missions they have accomplished and know how to effectively engage them with new challenges and responsibilities at home.

He said these Soldiers may not be content to cut grass and paint rocks and encouraged senior leaders to help them find ways to stay focused and put their knowledge and experience to good use for the Army as a whole.

I was moved by his concern for the future of not only Soldiers, but of the Army. I realized that I was one of those Soldiers. I had never thought past the next deployment.

The U.S. Army Reserve has made, and continues to make, a significant contribution of manpower to the War on Terrorism. Reserve Soldiers like myself found satisfaction in putting our training into action, despite the physical and mental tolls.

We found our purpose in serving overseas. We will rediscover our purpose in serving at home - and we will focus the strength gained from more than a decade of war toward this purpose - each in our own way - but together we will always be - TWICE THE CITIZEN.

88TH RSC INITIATES VETERAN HIRING PROGRAM

Story and photo by Alun Thomas, 88th RSC Public Affairs

In an ongoing effort to hire qualified Veterans, the 88th Regional Support Command has initiated a program specifically designed to provide outreach to potential candidates.

The program allows the 88th RSC to hire 125 percent above their entry level quota, said Mary Lemburg, a human resource supervisor with the 88th RSC. This is made possible through the Veterans Recruitment Appointment.

The VRA is an authority which allows the 88th RSC and other organizations to hire any eligible Veteran to any position without any competition up to the General Schedule (GS) -11 or equivalent level, Lemburg said.

"The new hires have to be on board by the end of September, so we decided to go the VRA route," Lemburg said. "This allows us to go to current Army Reserve Soldiers who have particular MOS's (military occupational skills), in particular mechanics, logistics specialists and human resource personnel."

Lemburg said she went into the files that comprise reserve Soldiers from the 88th RSC's 19 state region and queried by MOS to all the potential candidates.

"Emails were sent out to all the mechanics and HR Soldiers which basically said 'we're hiring Veterans,'" Lemburg continued. "Over ten thousand emails were sent and the response has really started to build because the vacancies are all over our nineteen state region."

Some of the incentives include a \$3,000 sign-on bonus, permanent change of duty station costs paid for and most importantly a foot in the door as technicians, she said.

"It's very exciting and we've done this huge push to try and make this a reality," Lemburg added. "By the end of May we will have all the resumes and paperwork. After that we let it go to the normal hiring process."

The feedback has been positive, mostly through emails from the Soldiers we reached out to - they've been under our noses the whole time and we're going to give them this opportunity."

ABOUT THE VETERANS' RECRUITMENT APPOINTMENT (VRA)

Veterans' Recruitment Appointment is an excepted authority that allows agencies, to appoint eligible Veterans without competition.

Eligibility includes members who are:

A recipient of a campaign badge for service during a war or in a campaign or expedition;

OR

A disabled Veteran;

OR

A recipient of an Armed forces Service Medal for participation in a military operation;

OR

Recently separated within the last 3 years;

AND

Were separated under honorable conditions (this means an honorable or general discharge), you are VRA eligible.

You can be appointed under this authority at any grade level up to and including a GS-11 or equivalent. This is an excepted service appointment. After successfully completing 2 years, you will be converted to the competitive service. Veterans' preference applies when using the VRA authority.

Anyone with questions or needing additional information regarding the VRA authority and job opportunities should contact Mary Lemburg at mary.k.lemburg.civ@mail.mil or (608) 388-0439.



**Contact the 88th RSC Safety Office to find out more:
USARMY.USARC.88-RSC.List.Safety-All-Users@mail.mil**

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