

# CLOVER LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

2015: Volume 2, Issue 1



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



# CLOVERLEAF CONTENTS

## 4 | 88TH RSC WINS 2015 ACOE COMPETITION

The 88th RSC is extremely proud to be named the overall Army Reserve winner of the Army Community of Excellence competition.

## 6 | 88TH RSC RESOURCE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The 88th RSC now has an easy to use Resource Guide with all of the services and support provided within the northwest region.

## 8 | BECOME A FAN OF THE 88TH RSC

Join the more than 9,000 fans already following us on Facebook to stay up to date with the 88th RSC at [www.facebook.com/88RSC](http://www.facebook.com/88RSC).

## 9 | 88TH RSC FACILITY COORDINATOR COURSE

The 88th RSC Facility Coordinator Course improves ability of coordinators to perform their tasks and better serve facilities.

## 10 | AMSA #38 AWARDED SUPPLY EXCELLENCE AWARD

"With their combined score in both packet and on-site evaluations, AMSA 38 was superior in every category..."

## 12 | 88TH RSC PRESENTS BRONZE STAR TO WWII HERO

Soldiers of the 88th RSC join WWII Veteran for Bronze Star ceremony more than 70 years after operations in Leyte, Philippines and Okinawa.

## 16 | 88TH RSC UPHOLDS SACRED OBLIGATION

The 88th RSC is responsible for seven military cemeteries across the region and conducts regular inspections to ensure their proper care.

## 18 | 88TH RSC IS READY TO A.S.I.S.T.

88th RSC conducts Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training to help those with suicidal thoughts and ideations.

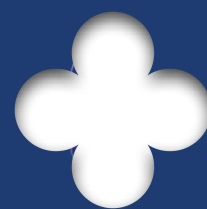
## 20 | RETIREMENT IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT

Are you ready for retirement? The 88th RSC Retirement Service Office is on-call waiting to assist you.

## We exist to support you!

*"We provide the facilities, programs and services required to enable Army Reserve readiness, sustain the Force, and provide the infrastructure for current and future mission requirements."*

Maj. Gen. Karen E. LeDoux,  
commanding general of the 88th RSC



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
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## THE 88TH RSC

### Overview:

The 88th RSC is a two-star command which provides services and base operations support to more than 55,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians serving in 633 units at 278 sites in 345 training facilities dispersed across 19 states in the northern U.S. from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.

Accomplishing the 88th RSC's mission is a total force of more than 15,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, Military Technicians, DA Civilians and Contractors assigned throughout the northwest region.

### Mission:

A regionally aligned organization focused on providing seamless, efficient and timely human resource services, medical administrative support, funding, physical security, facilities, environmental compliance, training areas, safety, legal, religious support, force management, equipment maintenance and storage, new equipment fielding, strategic outreach and other services to primarily Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilians, Family members and units operating in our region.

### Vision:

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 Area of operations.

## 21 | 88TH RSC LOCAL TRAINING AREAS

Training areas are located throughout the northwest region to provide units with venues to conduct field training closer to home.

## 24 | 88TH RSC USAR AMBASSADOR WORKSHOP

Army Reserve Ambassadors from throughout the northwest region joined together in collaboration during an 88th RSC led workshop.

## 26 | PUBLIC SERVICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST

The principles which guide ethical conduct for government employees are a guidepost for all of us here at the 88th RSC.

## 27 | LEGAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

Legal Support and Assistance for Army Reserve Soldiers and Units is only a click away thanks to USARLC site.

## 28 | YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

88th RSC Yellow Ribbon Program implements changes to better serve Reserve Soldiers and Families throughout deployment cycle.

## 32 | COMMITTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

88th RSC fulfills the Army Reserve's commitment to the environment through multiple projects and initiatives across the region.

## 34 | I AM STRONG

Take the pledge to be the force behind the fight to eliminate sexual harassment and assault from our community.

## 35 | 88TH RSC STRATEGIC PLANNING

The 88th RSC holds annual strategic planning session to ensure it continues to provide the best support possible to its customers.

## 36 | ECS 67 RAMPS UP SUPPORT

Equipment Concentration Site 67 ramps up support to meet the demands of Fort McCoy's large scale training exercises.

## 37 | 88TH RSC HANDS-ON-TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

"Real-world" maintenance, supply, allied trades and transportation training is available throughout the 88th RSC's 19 state region.

## 38 | 88TH RSC HOSTS 1ST STRYKER FLMNET

The 88th RSC hosted the Army Reserve's 1st Stryker Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training at ECS 10.

## 40 | 88TH'S MEDICAL PROGRAMS SEMINAR

88th RSC's Health Services Branch hosts region commands from across the region to improve administrative medical processes.

## 41 | MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSES

Rider safety courses are mandatory for Soldiers and free through the 88th RSC Motorcycle Safety Program.

## 42 | THE 88TH RSC NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK

Please visit our Interactive Customer Evaluation site. Your feedback is critical to our ability to provide you the best service.

## 43 | REGIONAL SUPPORT INDEX

The 88th RSC has many resources to serve you - here are the contact numbers to speak to them directly!



# 88th RSC named Army Reserve Army Community of Excellence 2015 Competition Winner

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



The 88th Regional Support Command was awarded as the overall Army Reserve winner of the 2015 Army Community of Excellence competition during an award ceremony hosted at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia, April 29.

The ACOE Award honors the top Army, National Guard and Army Reserve installations which have achieved the highest levels of excellence in building a quality environment, outstanding facilities and superior services.

James Balocki, command executive officer of the Army Reserve, presented the award to Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general of the 88th RSC, who was joined by other attending members of the command.

According to Balocki, winning the ACOE competition is no small feat in the Army Reserve, especially considering the geographical areas covered by competing commands.

“The 88th RSC’s area of responsibility stretches from the Ohio Valley to the Pacific Coast, so you can only imagine the challenges,” said Balocki.

“Implementing knowledge and understanding of what is going on, making changes and improvements in the organization ... it is all made exponentially more difficult.”

LeDoux gave all credit for the command’s success to the members which make up the organization.

“Leadership is one thing, but what truly matters to an organization are the members who make up that organization. It really is the people of the 88th RSC - the full time personnel, the Civilians and our Soldiers who have made this possible,” said LeDoux.

All competitors in ACOE, regardless of size or mission, are assessed and evaluated against Army priorities and Malcolm Baldrige National Quality criteria. The feedback provided through the assessment process offers valuable insights into the state of the organization and highlights areas for continued improvement.

The ACOE program builds on organizational knowledge and encourages a change in perspective, from what is minimally essential to what is optimally possible to support Soldiers, Families and Army Civilians who live, work and train on Army installations.

“This program is management by fact,” said Balocki, “and gaining facts in today’s environment is becoming increasingly more difficult as the information flow comes at you. So being able to sort that out and understanding the important facts from just the interesting information really goes to the heart of how these leaders are able to prioritize and take care of our Soldiers and their Families.”

At its core, the ACOE program encourages commitment to excellence by using continuous improvement as a guide to achieving exceptional customer service and satisfaction.

Staying true to those principles, LeDoux said the 88th RSC would continue to strive for improvement.

“This is a journey, it is not a destination,” said LeDoux. “We will continue to ensure that we provide the best in class customer support – and continue to empower and enable the individuals on our team to make those suggestions, to be able to make changes as they see required, and to be able to improve our customer support to those we serve.”



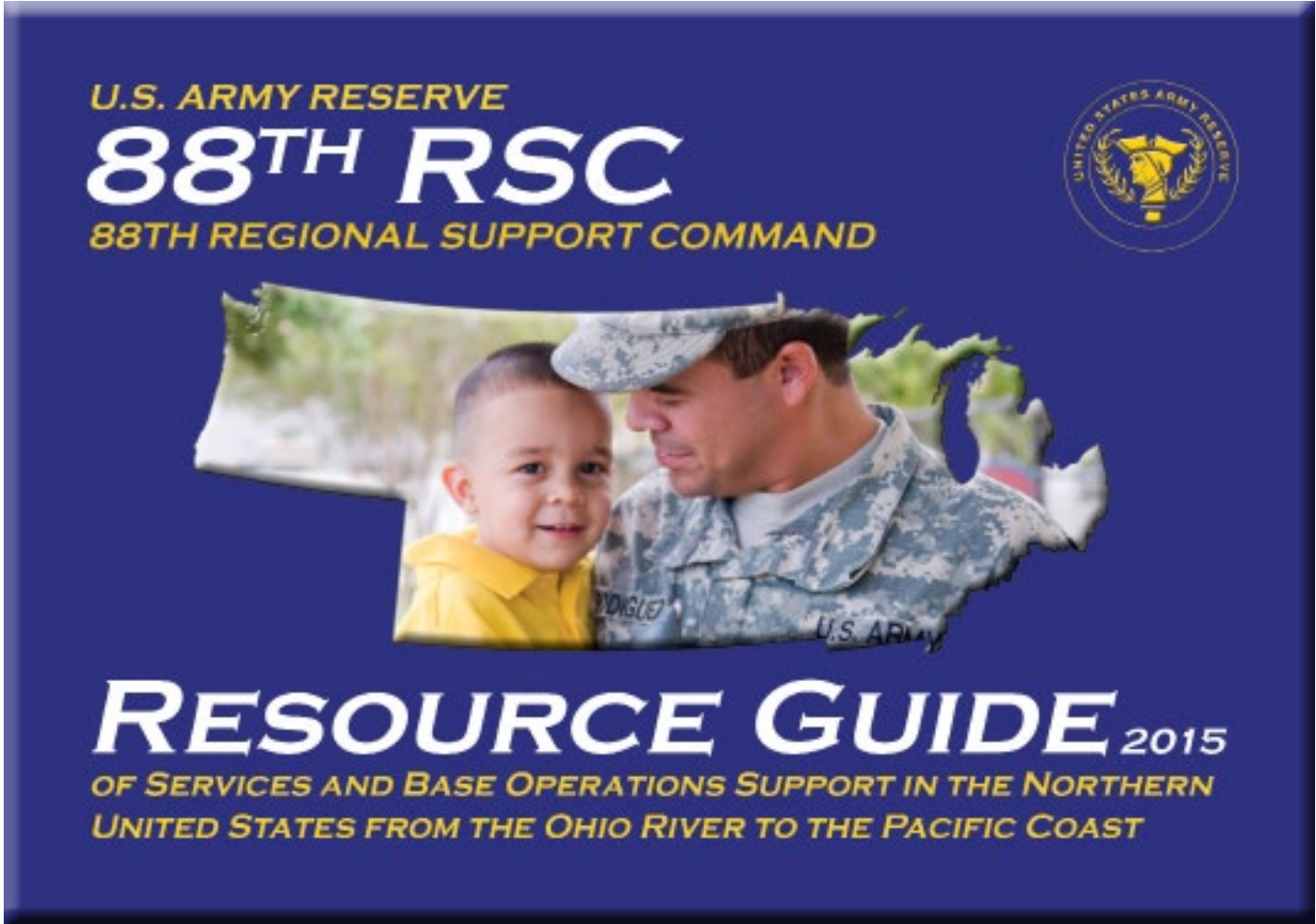
**“...what truly matters to an organization are the members who make up that organization. It really is the people of the 88th RSC - the full time personnel, the Civilians, and our Soldiers who have made this possible.”**

(Above Photo) Members of the 88th RSC, led by Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, stand with James Balocki, command executive officer of the Army Reserve, after being officially awarded as the overall Army Reserve winner of the 2015 Army Community of Excellence competition during a ceremony hosted at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., April 29. The ACOE Award honors the top Army, National Guard and Army Reserve installations which have achieved the highest levels of excellence in building a quality environment, outstanding facilities and superior services. From left to right stands: Rebecca Westphal, 88th RSC budget analyst; James Balocki, Army Reserve command executive officer; Charles Hudson, 88th RSC chief of staff; Alexa Law, 88th RSC future ACOE examiner; Thomas Helgeson, 88th RSC human resources director; Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, 88th RSC commanding general; Gina Barton, 88th RSC ACOE examiner; Command Sgt. Maj. David Unseld, 88th RSC command sergeant major; Brig. Gen. R.A. Bassford, 88th RSC deputy commanding general; Gary Talbot, 88th RSC ACOE examiner; Steven Keivel, 88th RSC ACOE examiner; and Anthony Paskvan, 88th RSC examiner.

Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general of the 88th RSC accepts the 2015 Army Community of Excellence award from James Balocki, command executive officer of the Army Reserve, during a ceremony hosted at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., April 29.



# The 88th RSC Resource Guide



The 88th RSC is proud to announce the release of our official Resource Guide which is now available for download on the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System at [www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/27050](http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/27050).

This Resource Guide is designed to give you - our customers - an easy to use guide to the vast array of class services and base operations support which the 88th RSC provides in our 19 state region.

In its pages you will find key resources categorized into 10 chapters: Administrative Services; Community Outreach; Environmental Responsibility; Equipment Support and Ser-

***This Resource Guide is designed to give our customers an easy to use guide to the vast array of class services and base operations support we offer.***

vices; Facility Management; Functional Training; Honoring our Fallen; Medical Programs; Safety and Occupational Health; and Special Programs and Services.

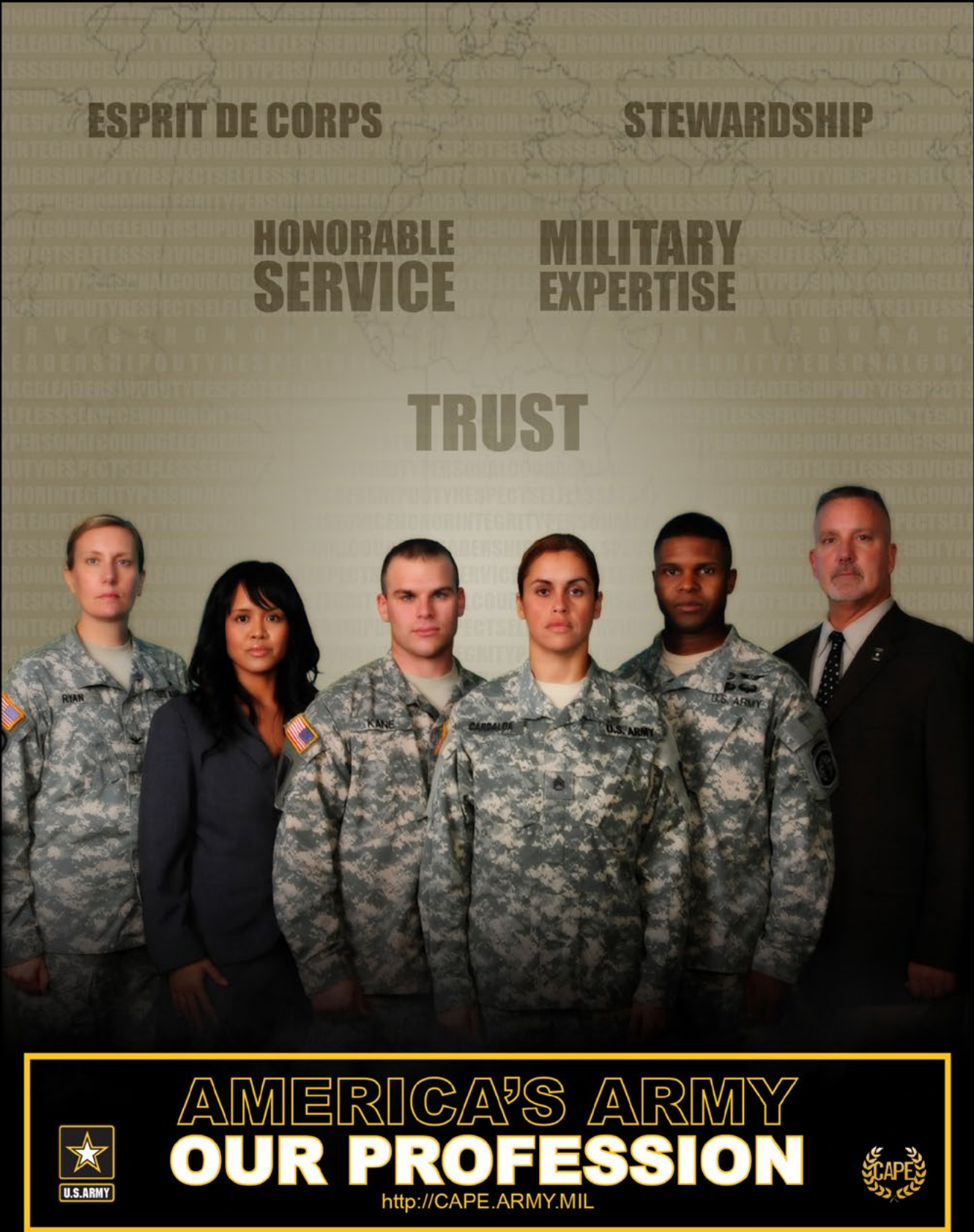
In an effort to make these resources more accessible, we have included all proper points-of-contact, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and web sites.

Additionally, we have included a chapter with an overview of the 88th RSC to provide you our organization's guiding principles.

All of this has been done to fulfill our obligation to those we serve and honor our social obligations as stewards of sacred resources.

# STAND ♦ STRONG

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## 88th RSC holds regional Facility Coordinator Course to better serve tenant units

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

The 88th Regional Support Command hosted a Facility Coordinators Course at its headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wisc., Jan. 21-22, aimed at improving the performance and knowledge of coordinators throughout the command's 19 state area-of-responsibility in the northwest region, which serves as home to nearly 350 Army Reserve facilities.

More than thirty coordinators attended the course, where they learned about the functions of various 88th RSC staff sections and processes in order to help them better serve their respective facilities.

Lt. Col. Michael Ryan, chief of plans for the 88th RSC Directorate of Public Works, said the course was adopted as a best practice to better empower coordinators.

"We took a page from the 81st RSC who began this course a few years ago, and we decided to do the same thing," said Ryan. "It was in response to a lot of questions and issues we had from people in the field."

Ryan said the facility coordinator position involves executing the site commander's facility responsibilities, which include facility security, building safety, environmental compliance and initiating work orders.

"You need to be subject matter experts in these fields, and that's what we're here to help with," said Ryan to those attending the course.

The position entails a lot of different requirements and tasks, said Ryan, making it a challenging job.

"Being a facility coordinator is not a full-time job, even though it feels like it sometimes," said Ryan. "That's why



Charles Hudson, chief of staff, 88th Regional Support Command, delivers his end-of-course speech to those who attended the Facility Coordinators Course at Fort McCoy, Jan. 21-22. Hudson explained the importance of the job and thanked the coordinators for their efforts in a position which often goes unrecognized. The course was designed to broaden the knowledge of coordinators throughout the 88th RSC area of responsibility and help them better serve their facilities.

we're here, to try and help, because your job descriptions are something else and this is an additional duty."

"Hopefully being here will help guide the way ahead and provide resources for you to use and try to make you more efficient," he added.

At the conclusion of the course Charles Hudson, chief of staff, 88th RSC, said he hoped the attendees had gained appropriate knowledge and insight into operating facilities.

"Those of you running multiple facilities have to think of yourselves as FOB's (forward operating bases)," said Hudson. "Everybody has their own area to take care of and their own business to deal with, but everybody contributes to the security, safety and well being of that base."

"Everybody has a major role to play as a facility coordinator, with communication being the key," said Hudson.

"You're there to facilitate contact between the tenants and our staff ... you're there to tell us the things we need to do and how to help you focus on the things that need to be done,"

said Hudson. "We want to make sure when we bring you to Fort McCoy that we're providing the information and things you need to get the job done at your location."

Hudson said the 88th RSC is working hard to try and implement changes which would make the facility coordinator position more proficient.

"Some time maybe in the next year we will roll out changes which will help streamline contracting and repairs to your facilities, so there's not an exorbitant amount of time between the period you submit a work order until it gets done," he said.

The work of the coordinators does not go unnoticed, said Hudson, as he thanked them for attending the course and their efforts to ensure their facilities remain fully functional.

"We appreciate your position and the things you have to do that are not necessarily compensated for," said Hudson. "You do it for the good of everyone on your installation, and we are glad to provide this level of instruction to you."



# 88th RSC maintenance facility wins Army Supply Excellence Award

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Gorzek, Army Reserve Public Affairs



Army Maintenance Support Activity 38 was awarded the Army's supply excellence award during the 11th Annual Chief of Staff of the Army's Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony, hosted at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, June 10.

AMSA 38, which is based in Wichita, Kansas, and falls under the 88th Regional Support Command, was one of 15 logistics units recognized for superior performance in supply operations, after being judged by evaluators from the U.S. Army Transportation, Ordnance, and Quartermaster Centers.

Every year the 88th RSC selects AMSA's throughout the command's 19-state-region who have been nominated for excellence and sends their

packets up to the United States Army Reserve Command, said David Fyfe, director of logistics, 88th RSC.

"USARC holds a board and does an evaluation of all the packets and if they meet their minimum requirements they are nominated to the DA level," Fyfe said. "The DA does a packet review and if they still meet the requirements they'll then do an on-site evaluation."

With their combined score in both packet and on-site evaluations, AMSA 38 was superior in every category, earning the supply excellence award," Fyfe said.

At a minimum they had to meet an 80-90 percent success rate, which they did successfully and allowed them to receive an award at the ceremony, he said.

Receiving the award on behalf of AMSA 38 was Eric Hollinger, a heavy mobile equipment supervisor; and Wendy Rich, a tools and parts attendant, both of whom have contributed significantly to the AMSA's success, Fyfe said.

"They support the Army equipment for the units in their area and do a very good job of maintaining records and supply accountability throughout the whole year process," Fyfe said. "It takes a lot of work to do day-to-day business, but to recognize the ones that are doing an outstanding job and by the books, this is what it takes."

This is how they're recognized for that effort and we couldn't be prouder of them," he concluded.

(Photo Above) Wendy Rich (second left), a tools and parts attendant for Army Maintenance Support Activity 38, and Eric Hollinger (second right), a heavy mobile equipment supervisor at AMSA 38, pose with their Army supply excellence award which was presented to them at the 11th Annual Chief of Staff of the Army's Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony, hosted at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, June 10. Joining them in the photo are Brig. Gen. Ronald Kirklin (left) commandant, U.S. Army Quartermaster School and Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Sellers (right), regimental command sergeant major, U.S. Army Quartermaster School.

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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.

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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>



# 88th RSC joins community in presenting WWII Veteran's Bronze Star 70 years after valorous service

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



More than 70 years after his heroic actions, World War II veteran Cpl. Clifford P. Blaha was awarded the Bronze Star Medal during a surprise ceremony held by the American Legion in Ettrick, Wisconsin, March 21.

Attending the ceremony were family, friends and members of the local community. Also attending were Soldiers of the 88th Regional Support Command, headquartered on Fort McCoy, who volunteered their afternoon for the opportunity to properly honor a patriot of what's been titled the "Greatest Generation."

Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the 88th RSC, officiated the ceremony and said she was tre-

mendously honored to present Blaha the Bronze Star Medal.

"Mr. Blaha's example serves as a reminder to us all of the tremendous heroism and selfless service of the 16 million Americans who served in WWII," said LeDoux. "Ceremonies like these are long overdue, but fortunately for us they bring back to memory stories of a generation which must not be forgotten."

Helping bring to light Blaha's story was Paul Beseler, American Legion Vice Commander of Wisconsin's 10th District. Beseler had been working behind the scenes to get Blaha his overdue award and orchestrated the ceremony all without Blaha's knowledge.

"Mr. Blaha is a recipient of two purple hearts, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge," said Beseler. "He is eligible for the Bronze Star having been awarded the CIB by virtue of Executive Order 9419.

The criteria for the CIB at the time Mr. Blaha received it would ultimately be the same criteria for the Bronze Star when it was initially released as an award," continued Beseler. "In 1947 a policy was implemented that authorized the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star Medal to all Soldiers who received the Combat Infantryman Badge during WWII."

During the ceremony Beseler read

Blaha's biography to the audience which began with his draft into the Army following High School on July 28, 1944. He then received Basic Training at what was then Camp Hood, which was not quite two years old and housed approximately 30,000 replacement troops.

Blaha was then assigned to the 7th Infantry Division and left Seattle aboard the USS Lycoming to Hawaii where they staged for Leyte, Philippines. They arrived in Leyte for operations there and then departed to be on station for the Battle of Okinawa.

They secured the Kadena Air Base with little resistance, cut across the island and headed south where fighting was more intense and a number of casualties occurred.

During his Division's 82 days of continuous combat there, Blaha was wounded on two separate occasions. He was shot once through the arm, and then on the final day was shot across the back.

His unit then deployed to occupy Korea and accepted the surrender of

Japanese forces which had occupied that country. They then returned to the continental U.S. and Blaha was discharged at Camp McCoy, Wisc.

"Mr. Blaha's service to our Nation holds just as much importance today as it did 70 years ago when he bore the hardships of war," said LeDoux. "As his generation passes we must remind ourselves and teach our youth the heroism and sacrifices which were endured for future generations."

The time to recognize and honor that generation is quickly closing according to Department of Veterans Affairs estimates. Of the 16.1 million veterans who served in WWII, 855,000 are still living today and are passing away at a rate of 492 a day.

"This ceremony serves not only as a tribute to Mr. Blaha's heroism, but to all WWII veterans who endured countless sacrifices for our country and ensured our way of life," said LeDoux. "We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid, and we must not allow their selfless service to be forgotten with the passing of time."

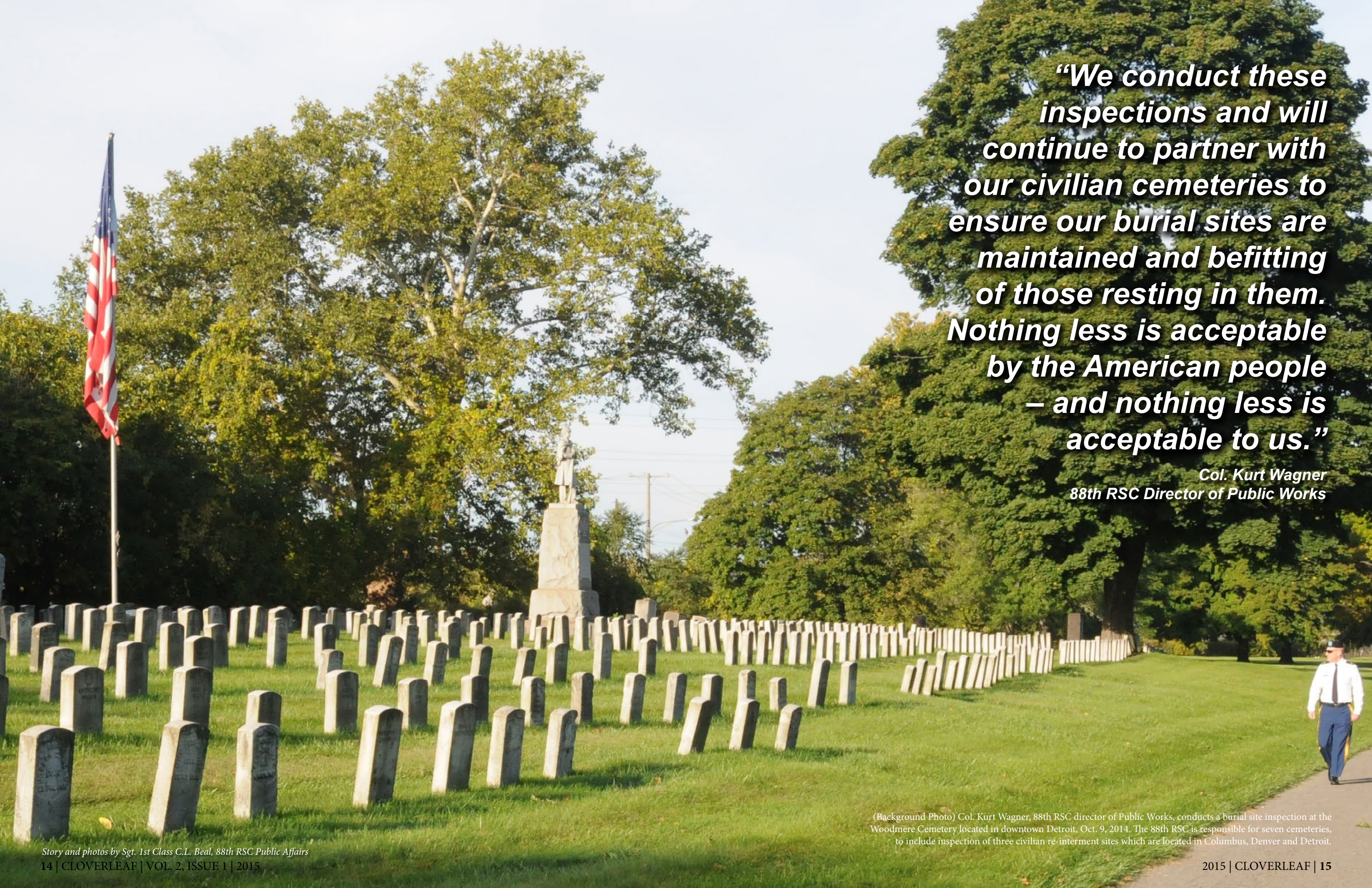


Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, presents World War II veteran Clifford P. Blaha the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony in Ettrick, Wis., March 21. Blaha is a veteran of operations in Leyte, Philippines and the Battle of Okinawa. He is a recipient of two Purple Hearts, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.



Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, thanks World War II veteran Clifford P. Blaha for his service to the Nation following a ceremony awarding him the Bronze Star Medal in Ettrick, Wis., March 21. "Mr. Blaha's service to our nation holds just as much importance today as it did 70 years ago when he bore the hardships of war," said LeDoux. "As his generation passes we must remind ourselves and teach our youth the heroism and sacrifices which were endured for future generations."





***“We conduct these inspections and will continue to partner with our civilian cemeteries to ensure our burial sites are maintained and befitting of those resting in them. Nothing less is acceptable by the American people – and nothing less is acceptable to us.”***

***Col. Kurt Wagner  
88th RSC Director of Public Works***

(Background Photo) Col. Kurt Wagner, 88th RSC director of Public Works, conducts a burial site inspection at the Woodmere Cemetery located in downtown Detroit, Oct. 9, 2014. The 88th RSC is responsible for seven cemeteries, to include inspection of three civilian re-interment sites which are located in Columbus, Denver and Detroit.



# 88th RSC ensures proper care for Service Members' Burial Sites

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



The Army Reserve continues to honor Veterans and their families who have served the nation by ensuring their burial sites are maintained to standards befitting their status as national shrines.

The 88th Regional Support Command oversees the fulfillment of that commitment with the physical inspection of seven burial sites located throughout the northwest region. Col. Kurt Wagner, 88th RSC Director of Public Works, leads the command's cemetery inspection program and said we have a sacred obligation to maintain these sites.

"This country has always treated our graveyards as sacred ground," said Wagner. "This is a part of our history – and after more than 200 years in some cases, we are still

maintaining those Soldiers' grave sites."

Out of all the burial sites overseen by Department of the Army, some

***"This country has always treated our graveyards as sacred ground. This is a part of our history..."***

are located in private cemeteries which were used to re-inter those originally laid to rest in Army cemeteries.

Disinterment and relocation of graves may seem extreme, but became a necessity for some Army posts according to Wagner.

"Disinterring a grave is an extremely formalized ceremonial process and they have never been done lightly," said Wagner. "I think a big part of it was that these small installations had a graveyard and as times changed and their cemeteries became larger and more formalized, they realized they could not continue to grow or maintain to the standards deserved.

The Army purchased the plots just like you would. An agreement was then made that the Army would pay for the relocation, burial and grave markers – while the cemetery agreed to maintain upkeep of the

plots and area," continued Wagner.

To ensure the cemeteries kept in agreement, local Army Post commanders would visit and inspect the sites annually. Many of the posts no longer exist.

"As a regional support command, the 88th RSC is considered an installation command and our installation is all 19 states in our region," said Wagner. "So we are responsible for seven cemeteries to include three civilian re-interment sites which are located in Columbus, Denver and Detroit."

Wagner conducted one such inspection at the Woodmere Cemetery located in downtown Detroit Oct. 9.

Origination of the Woodmere Cemetery arrangement was established in 1896 when the Army purchased 250 graves and transferred 166 Soldiers and family members buried on the Fort Wayne Army Post Cemetery. Fort Wayne continued to utilize Woodmere Cemetery for their burials until its closure in 1948.

The Woodmere Cemetery site has continued to grow over the years with the addition of current day Veterans as well as several War of 1812 Soldier whose graves were discovered in the 1980s during excavations for construction of the Detroit monorail system.

The Army has a responsibility for all of these Soldiers and to their families, said Wagner.

"We conduct a physical inspection of these sites and make sure our Soldiers' and their families' graves are deservingly maintained," said Wagner. "Is the grass mowed, are the tombstones clean and unbroken, are they in alignment, is the site well maintained? If we find issues we bring them to the cemetery man-

agement and work with them until they are resolved."

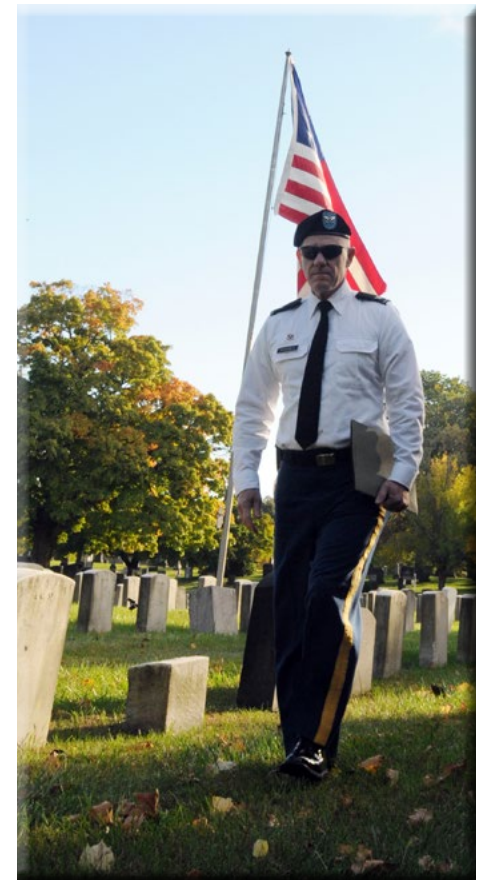
"Three years ago was the first time the 88th RSC inspected these grounds," said Wagner, "and there were significant issues – and we brought those concerns to the cemetery management."

These inspections do make a difference, said Wagner.

"I am pleased to say that the management stepped up and corrected the deficiencies we pointed out – and they are still striving to take better care of it," said Wagner. "Today was a great improvement from what we saw three years ago."

The bottom line is we have a commitment to all those who have served our Nation, said Wagner.

"We conduct these inspections and will continue to partner with our civilian cemeteries to ensure our burial sites are maintained and befitting of those resting in them," said Wagner. "Nothing less is acceptable by the American people – and nothing less is acceptable to us."



Col. Kurt Wagner, 88th RSC Director of Public Works, conducts a burial site inspection at the Woodmere Cemetery located in downtown Detroit, Oct. 9. The 88th RSC is responsible for seven military cemeteries, to include inspection of three civilian re-interment sites which are located in Columbus, Denver and Detroit.



Col. Kurt Wagner, 88th RSC Director of Public Works, accompanied by Anne Borders, 88th RSC Area Facility Operations Specialist, wait as staff of the Woodmere Cemetery gather written burial records during a site inspection in downtown Detroit, Oct. 9.



# 88TH RSC conducts Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

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



**T**he 88th Regional Support Command conducted Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) at their headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wisc., June 22-23, which successfully trained 88th RSC personnel to become ASIST certified and taught various methods associated with combating suicidal behavior.

The course, which uses a prescribed curriculum from Living Works Education, focuses primarily on intervention and how to safely assist those suffering from suicidal thoughts.

"There are so many things which contribute to suicide that there's no way to prevent everything which may lead to it," said Stacey Feig, 88th RSC director of psychological health. "We want to catch this before it starts and this is what this particular class is focused on."

Feig, a certified ASIST trainer, helped conduct the training and said the class is first-aid for those in need and the people trying to prevent it.

"What we're doing isn't considered long-term care, it's just first-aid to get people where they need to be in those early stages," said Feig. "We need to know how to intervene."

**"...this is a great tool and an excellent program to help with someone in that immediate predicament. It gets them the help they need right away."**

"The reason the military uses ASIST is because the need is so huge for it," she continued. "There's not enough

trained professionals to teach this, so we need as many lifeguards as possible, because we never know who's going to fall into the river (of suicide)."

Those suffering could be aged 17 or 70 and come from all walks of life, said Feig, so it's critical to train as many people with basic skills in case a real-life situation occurs.

"You need to feel confident to give that person first-aid ... that's why we use this program, because it's been tested and tested to work and make a difference," said Feig.

Also helping conduct the training was Connie Schauer, who said after more than 30 years of existence the concepts of ASIST have been proven to work and have been especially beneficial to the Army.

"ASIST has been around since 1983 and is evidence based- this does work," Schauer said. "It's based on extensive research and does get continuously updated. It's perfect for caregivers, which we all are in some shape or form."

This includes nurses, pastors and chaplains, Schauer said, many of whom work at the 88th RSC and are on the first line of caregiving.

"All ASIST training is supposed to be standardized, so it's not military specific, but after the surge of suicides in the Army it's very relevant," she said.

This sentiment was echoed by Maj. Scott Hagen, 88th RSC deputy command chaplain, who said attending ASIST training helped him expand on the suicide prevention tools he has learned during his Army career.

"I've done a lot of suicide awareness and prevention training for many groups and it was good to confirm I've been teaching the right things to Soldiers," Hagen said. "This was training I hadn't gone through and it used a specific process to walk with a person in a deep and painful area and empathize with them."

"To preserve life this is a great tool and an excellent program to help with someone in that immediate predicament," he said. "It gets them the help they need right away."

Hagen said the various techniques taught were extremely useful, with methods that he didn't know previously, giving him a broader perspective on how to intervene.

"It clearly is something that can work- it's not perfect and may not work in every situation - but these techniques are useful," he continued. "If I'm ever in the situation where I'm dealing with someone in that much pain, I can go through the steps ASIST teaches to join them in that deep place and walk out of it with them."

"Those who are contemplating suicide need a place where they can see hope," Hagen added. "These basic techniques can get them to that spot."

**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:**

**Jeffrey Schulz  
88th RSC Suicide Program Manager  
608-388-0507 or 608-408-8166  
[jeffrey.h.schulz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jeffrey.h.schulz.civ@mail.mil)**

(Photo Above) During a role-playing scenario, Jennifer Deuster, a human resources assistant for the 88th Regional Support Command, expresses her suicidal thoughts after the death of her daughter, as Maj. Scott Hagen, 88th RSC deputy command chaplain, listens carefully, guiding her out of her thoughts while the rest of the class observes, June 23, in the 88th RSC auditorium. The role-playing was part of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), which took place at the 88th RSC headquarters June 22-23



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

CPT Harvie Berry  
harvie.s.berry.mil@mail.mil  
Office: 608-388-9321



www.facebook.com/88thRSO

Learn more and find the upcoming Training Events at:  
[www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/commands/88RSC/Pages/Retirement.aspx](http://www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/commands/88RSC/Pages/Retirement.aspx)

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

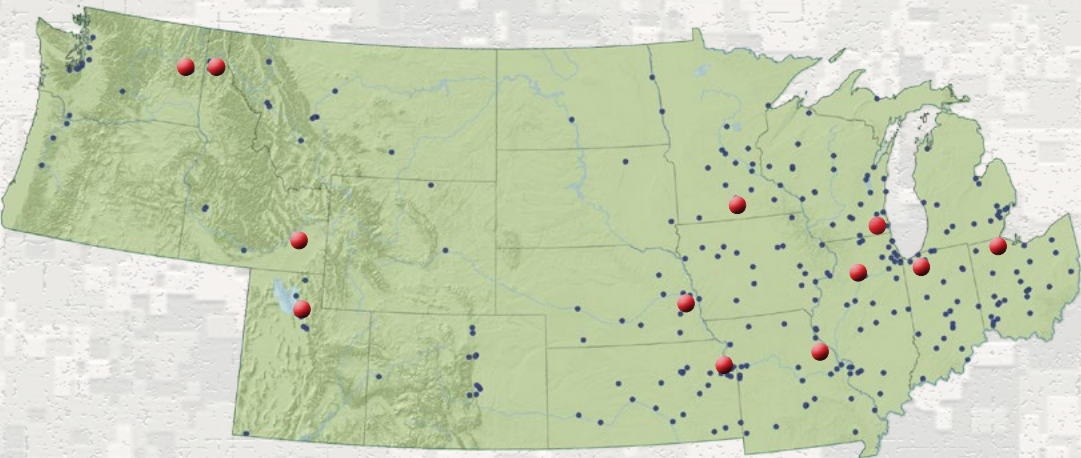
Apply for Retired Pay

- 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

88th RSC  
LOCAL TRAINING AREAS

Provide Units the venues to conduct the field training Soldiers want and deserve!

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 (Xtranet only)

[https://army.deps.mil/Army/CMD5/USARC\\_88RSC/DPT/default.aspx](https://army.deps.mil/Army/CMD5/USARC_88RSC/DPT/default.aspx)



# The 88th Regional Support Command

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

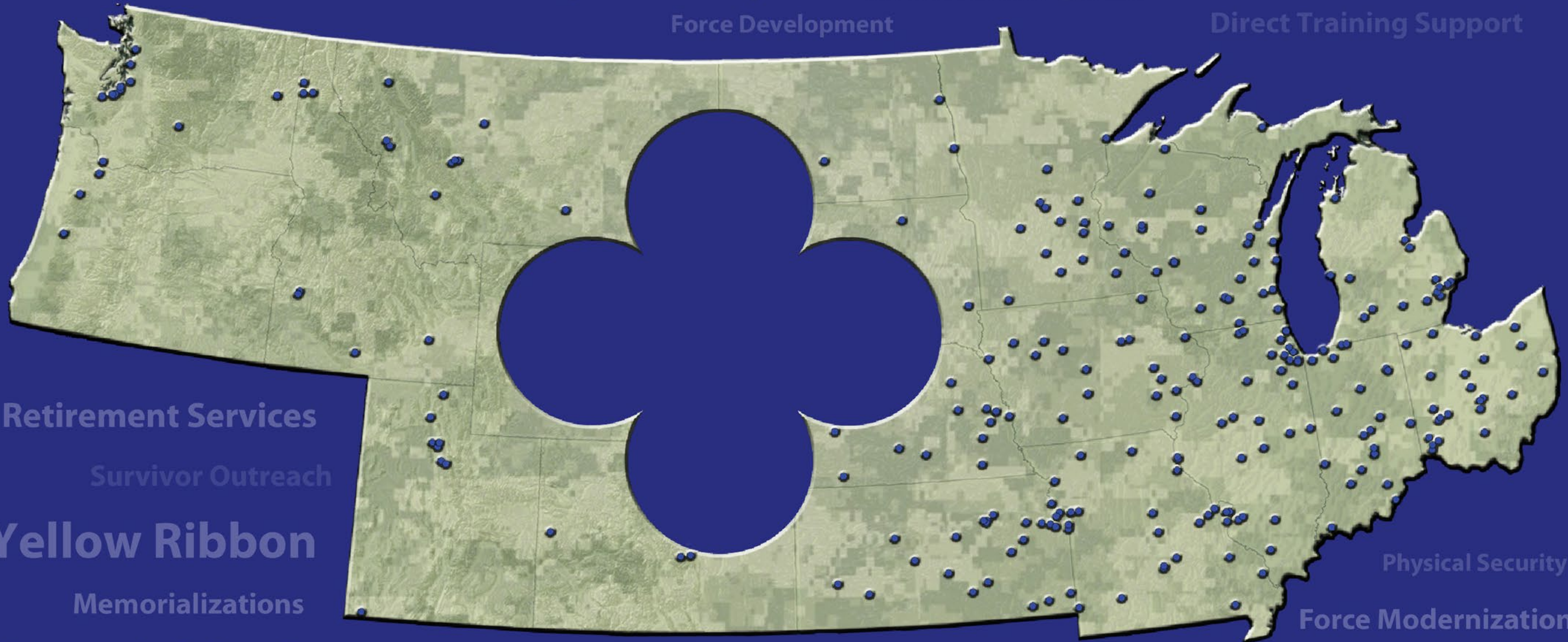
Facility Support

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.



# 88th RSC hosts Army Reserve Ambassadors for regional training workshop

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



Twenty-eight Army Reserve Ambassadors joined together in collaboration during an ARA Regional Training Workshop held by the 88th Regional Support Command on Fort Snelling, Minnesota, May 15.

Army Reserve Ambassadors (or ARAs) develop awareness and advocacy with community leaders and are vitally important bridges to communities across the Nation. They function at the state and local level and voluntarily represent the Chief of the Army Reserve without salary, wages or other benefits.

ARAs educate the public, community leaders and congressional staff offices about the capabilities and value of the AR and its Soldiers. They establish open lines of communication within these communities to help establish mutually supporting relationships

with community leaders and community organizations.

Maj. Gen. Karen Ledoux, 88th RSC commanding general, began the workshop by discussing strategic initiatives. Staff members of the 88th RSC then reviewed issues and responsibilities within the command's

19-state region. In addition, the ARAs were briefed on strategic communication by the Army Reserve Communications director, Franklin Childress.

Find out more about the Army Reserve Ambassador program by visiting: [www.usar.army.mil/community/ambassadors/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.usar.army.mil/community/ambassadors/Pages/default.aspx)

## 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.
- 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.

Twenty-eight Army Reserve Ambassadors stand with Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux (center), commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, and Katherine Bissonette (right of center), 88th RSC ARA coordinator, during a regional training workshop on Fort Snelling, Minn., May 15. Army Reserve Ambassadors (or ARAs) develop awareness and advocacy with community leaders and are vitally important bridges to communities across the nation. They function at the state and local level and voluntarily represent the Chief of the Army Reserve without salary, wages or other benefits. ARAs educate the public, community leaders and congressional staff offices about the capabilities and value of the AR and its Soldiers. They establish open lines of communication within these communities to help establish mutually supporting relationships with community leaders and community organizations. Find out more about the Army Reserve Ambassador program by visiting: <http://www.usar.army.mil/community/ambassadors/Pages/default.aspx>



*“Leaders, please reach out to our Ambassadors and invite them to your major organizational and training events... Together you can increase your community’s awareness, understanding, and support of the Army Reserve.”*

88th RSC ARA Regional Coordinator  
Katherine Bissonette, PhD  
608-388-0331  
[katherine.m.bissonette.civ@mail.mil](mailto:katherine.m.bissonette.civ@mail.mil)

## USAR Ambassadors of the Northwest Region:

### Colorado

Shawn Graves [sted78@comcast.net](mailto:sted78@comcast.net)  
James Sherman [ShermanJ\\_T@msn.com](mailto:ShermanJ_T@msn.com)

### Idaho

Dianne Nordhaus [dianne.nordhaus@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.nordhaus@gmail.com)  
Joseph Eyre [eyrejobon@northrim.net](mailto:eyrejobon@northrim.net)

### Illinois

William Hawes [wjhawes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wjhawes@sbcglobal.net)  
John W. Newman [VJNewman21@yahoo.com](mailto:VJNewman21@yahoo.com)

### Indiana

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Joseph Lampert [jflampe@pike.k12.in.us](mailto:jflampe@pike.k12.in.us)  
John Topper [jt1@psci.net](mailto:jt1@psci.net)

### Iowa

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### Kansas

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Paul DeSander [pauldesander@charter.net](mailto:pauldesander@charter.net)

### Minnesota

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Steven Carter [swcarter77@gmail.com](mailto:swcarter77@gmail.com)

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Bill Hammerschmidt [colhammerschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:colhammerschmidt@gmail.com)

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### North Dakota

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Terry Klinker [terryklinker.2@gmail.com](mailto:terryklinker.2@gmail.com)

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Daniel Hitchcock [DFHitchcock@canby.com](mailto:DFHitchcock@canby.com)

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Bill Bissonette [csmbissonette@gmail.com](mailto:csmbissonette@gmail.com)

### Wyoming

Barry Gasdek [barrygasdek@yahoo.com](mailto:barrygasdek@yahoo.com)



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.

### 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

The image shows two overlapping forms. The top form is the 'USAR LEGAL COMMAND REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES' form, which includes fields for Name of Requestor, Organization, Point of contact information (Name, Telephone numbers, Email address, Location for service, Date(s) service), and a section for 'All Fields are Required' (1. Name, 2. Last 4 SSN, 3. Status, 4. Grade, 5. Marital Status, 6. Spouse Name, 7. Local Address, 8. Primary Phone, 9. Secondary Phone, 10. Email, 11. Military Unit of Assignment, 12. Deploying?, 13. Case Type, 14. Have you spoken with an attorney on this matter?, 15. Have you paid/retained this attorney?, 16. Briefly explain your legal issue, 17. Do you have an upcoming court date on this matter?, 18. Please describe what you would like or what you expect an attorney to do for you, 19. List others and/or organizations that might disagree with you on this issue). The bottom form is the 'RC Legal Assistance Services Request Form' which includes a section for 'All Fields are Required' (1. Name, 2. Last 4 SSN, 3. Status, 4. Grade, 5. Marital Status, 6. Spouse Name, 7. Local Address, 8. Primary Phone, 9. Secondary Phone, 10. Email, 11. Military Unit of Assignment, 12. Deploying?, 13. Case Type, 14. Have you spoken with an attorney on this matter?, 15. Have you paid/retained this attorney?, 16. Briefly explain your legal issue, 17. Do you have an upcoming court date on this matter?, 18. Please describe what you would like or what you expect an attorney to do for you, 19. List others and/or organizations that might disagree with you on this issue). Both forms include a 'Submit' button and a footer with contact information and a disclaimer.

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](http://www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/commands/USARLC)



# 88th RSC implements changes in Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

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



Since its inception in 2008, the 88th Regional Support Command has hosted more than 70 yellow ribbon events, connecting nearly 40,000 Army Reserve Soldiers and their families with vital deployment-cycle information, services, referrals and outreach opportunities.

While improvement and refinement of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is an ongoing process, several significant changes were instituted this fiscal year in order to better serve military families, said Mike Larsen, 88th RSC yellow ribbon operations officer.

These changes include reduction in the number of events, incorporation of elective classes and longer break times to allow more time with community partners.

The first to see these changes were the nearly 700 deploying and recently re-deployed Army Reserve Soldiers and family members who attended a yellow ribbon event held in Schaumburg, Ill., Nov. 8-9, 2014.

Attendees of this event reflected an ongoing trend in participant deployment histories, validating the need for the adjustments made.

"We are seeing a fundamental shift in the ratio between first-time deployers and multiple-deployers," said Larsen. "We have Soldiers raise their hands during the opening of yellow ribbon events to be recognized for their number of deployments – and every event we have more and more Soldiers keeping their hands raised as we count up."

This dynamic necessitates changes to ensure we are tailoring the program to best suit those with multiple deployments while maintaining the support we are providing for those going through the deployment cycle for the first time, said Larsen.

The biggest change to the Yellow Ribbon Program, and one which enabled others, is the U.S. Army Reserve authorized reduction of yellow ribbon events from six to four.

"Last year we had six different yellow ribbon events – this fiscal year it has been scaled down to four events," said Larsen. "This pairing down allows increased focus and resources towards one pre-deployment event, one during, and post-deployment events."

According to Lt. Col. Connie Schauer, 88th RSC yellow ribbon training officer, the reduction of events is a welcome improvement.

"We were very excited when the new guidance came out calling for a reduction in events," said Schauer. "Participation in event six has historically been low and generated negative feedback from participants who said the event was redundant."

Reducing the number of events also allowed the yellow ribbon staff to re-allocate limited resources and implement changes which were once impossible, said Schauer. One such change is allowing yellow ribbon participants to select some of their classes from a menu of electives.

"Many Soldiers and families were saying 'we've heard this stuff before,' or 'I've been to this class already.' A solution we came up with a while ago was incorporating an electives format, but we couldn't because of logistical constraints," said Schauer.

"Now participants can choose some of their own sessions and allows multiple deployers to avoid classes they may have received more than once," said Larsen. "This means members can choose electives best suited for their personal situation, rather than being lumped with others that may not be as relevant."

Another change instituted was increased break times between sessions in order to allow participants more time to connect with community partners.

On average, between 40 and 50 yellow ribbon community partners attend each event to offer assistance and information to participants. These include representatives of multiple military resources as well as employers, colleges, veteran helping agencies and Army Reserve ambassadors.

"Participants said they wanted more time with community partners – and we listened," said Schauer. "Army Reserve Soldiers and families often don't have access or knowledge of these different agencies. Yellow ribbon events bring them all together and allow for the face-to-face time deserved."

It is important to remember that changes and improvements to the Yellow Ribbon Program is ongoing, said Larsen.

"We host 11 yellow ribbon events a year and take time after each one to see what worked and what can be done better, we conduct AARs [after action reviews] and we solicit attendee feedback."

"Our mission is to help Soldiers and their families through the deployment and reintegration process – and we take our job seriously," said Larsen. "We listen to what we are being told by participants and do our best to honor that feedback with action."

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*“Doing the restoration work is really rewarding. You go out to a piece of land that has just been completely overrun with invasive species and get it back to at least some semblance of what it should look like. It’s really satisfying – I love coming in to work every day.”*

*Randy Berry  
88th RSC Wildlife Biologist*



88th RSC wildlife biologist, Randy Berry, prepares a field before dispersing as part of an ongoing prairie restoration project at the Joliet Training Area located in Elwood, Ill., April 22, 2015. Berry has been working to restore the lands to a usable and natural condition for more than two decades.



# 88th RSC fulfills Army Reserve's Commitment to the Environment with ongoing projects and initiatives

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



Every year, Earth Day is recognized worldwide in an effort to increase awareness and concern for the environment. Although Earth Day is celebrated on April 22, environmental stewardship is an ongoing effort throughout the Army Reserve.

The 88th Regional Support Command honors that responsibility with numerous ongoing projects, initiatives and adherence to prescribed environmental guidelines and strict regulations. In total, the 88th RSC oversees more than 10,000 acres at 312 different locations in the command's 19-state-region, which spans the northern U.S. from the Ohio River to the Pacific Coast.

"Environmental protection, stewardship and sustainment is a command priority for the 88th RSC," said Dave Moore, chief of the 88th RSC's Environmental Division. "Preserving and maintaining our natural resources

so they are there for us in the future is the bottom line – and everything we do supports that effort."

As part of the command's efforts, the 88th RSC does what it can beyond what is required, said Moore.

"We are trying to do more than we are required to do," said Moore. "A limiting factor in accomplishing some of these projects is funding. It takes money to do these things, and with our shrinking budgets it gets a little tougher."

"So we make wiser decisions on what needs to be done and when it should be done," continued Moore. "Some of these projects are long-term, requiring ongoing efforts to accomplish, so each year we do the pieces of them that we are able to fund."

One such example is the prairie restoration efforts at the Joliet Local Training Area located in the southwest outskirts of Chicago.

During the 1940s, the area was

farmland, which was purchased by the War Department to build the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant. Since 1962, it has served its current function as a training area for Army, Army Reserve and National Guard units.

Randy Berry, a wildlife biologist with the 88th RSC, has worked at the Joliet Training Area since 1993. For more than two decades, he has been striving to restore the lands to a usable and natural condition.

The goal of these projects is to restore the habitats to their original state, which are becoming increasingly scarce according to Berry.

"There are only about 2 percent of the original prairies left in Illinois – that's it," said Berry. "Ninety-eight percent of it has either been farmed, developed or degraded to nothing like the original state."

"There were once no bushes or trees in this area – this was all tall grass prairies when the settlers rolled through,"

continued Berry. "They would have seen big 5-, 6-, 7-foot-tall big blue stem grass, prairie cone flowers – all of it unbroken."

This change in the habitats has several consequences, one being severe impacts on some native species.

"The loss of all these grasslands has just decimated a lot of these grassland bird species. In the next 50 years, some of these birds will be gone forever – they just have nowhere to go," said Berry. "So any time we can put some prairie habitats out there for these birds to live in – it's a good thing."

The Army Reserve is doing just that.

"We have about 3,500 acres of land at JTA and roughly 1,800 acres is prairie land," said Berry. "I've restored approximately 300 acres of it – the rest being old-field-habitat."

Old-field-habitat is land which has been farmed and left to naturally regrow. According to Berry it still serves as good wildlife habitat, just not to the quality needed for a tall grass prairie.

Berry said prairie restoration re-

quires vigilance and hard work, but the outcome is well worth the effort.

"Doing the restoration work is really rewarding," said Berry. "You go out to a piece of land that has just been completely overrun with invasive species and get it back to at least some semblance of what it should look like. It's really satisfying – I love coming in to work every day."

There are multiple and sometimes costly steps to restoring a prairie according to Berry.

"First you have to burn everything off, then you have to disc it up, then you wait for the stuff you don't want and you hit it up with an herbicide – then you can broadcast the seed and wait for it to come up, but you still have to keep on top of the invasive species."

Invasive species are the predominant challenge throughout these lands according to Berry.

"Invasive species are really our biggest obstacle," said Berry. "There is just so much invasive seed in the ground – it's really hard to stay on top

of it. The worst is bush honeysuckle, a small shrubby little tree that's a real pain. It was intentionally planted in the '40s because people thought it would be good to prevent erosion – now it's just everywhere."

In addition to impacting natural habitats, the invasive plant species also impact the primary reason for the Army Reserve owning and operating the lands.

"Our ultimate objective here is to keep these training lands viable so Soldiers can use them," said Berry. "The biggest obstacles we have are the different types of brush invasive species choking out the land and making it unusable to anyone. You can't walk through it, you can't drive through it – they just make it unusable."

"There is no end in sight – and keeping the invasives in check is a never-ending battle. Every year, more are being passively introduced into the country. Stuff that we're trying to get rid of is a lot of the same stuff you can buy at your local landscape store." Brushing off the challenges and constant work, Berry said he loved his job.

"This is what I've always wanted to do," said Berry. "I was an air traffic controller in the Navy, but always loved the outdoors and wildlife. I was a scout and an explorer – all that good stuff. One day, when I was in the Navy, I decided to go back to school and get an environmental degree. Now I get to spend my time outside doing something I love."

According to Moore, it's people like Berry who make all the difference in the 88th RSC's Environmental Division.

"He is on his own out there making a difference, like many of our field staff," said Moore. "They are all proactive subject matter experts, and they really do care about making a positive impact."



This grove located on the Joliet Training Area in Illinois is an example of invasive plant species overgrowing and taking over an environment, April 22. In addition to impacting natural habitats, the invasive plant species also impacts the Army Reserve's ability to utilize the land. "Our ultimate objective here is to keep these training lands viable so Soldiers can use them," said 88th Regional Support Command wildlife biologist, Randy Berry. "The biggest obstacles we have are the different types of brush invasive species choking out the land and making it unusable to anyone. You can't walk through it, you can't drive through it – they just make it unusable."



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**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**

## 88th RSC enables readiness through Strategic Planning

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



**K**ey leaders of the 88th Regional Support Command and representatives of the commands they support joined together for a Strategic Planning Session conducted on Fort Snelling, Minn., May 13-14, 2015.

The session is held annually to ensure the 88th RSC continues to provide the best possible support to Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians within its 19 state area of responsibility.

In total, the 88th RSC is responsible for providing base operations support and multiple special services to more than 55,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, civilians and family members located in the northern U.S. from the Ohio River to the Pacific Coast.

On day one of the session, the 88th RSC staff reviewed and updated the command's strategic plan, conducted an internal analysis, and back-briefed the command team on current performance measures.

On day two, representatives from 88th RSC supported commands were briefed, allowing them a better understanding of the RSC's roles and what it does on a daily basis to support them.

***“We do this to  
enable readiness  
- because that is  
who we are - we  
are a readiness  
enabler.”***

This forum intentionally led to discussions and feedback from supported commands on how they could be better served.

Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general of the 88th RSC, said having representatives from customer units be a part of the 88th RSC's stra-

tegic planning was absolutely necessary for mission success.

“Just because we think we're doing the right things, doesn't mean we're doing the right things,” said LeDoux to the visiting command representatives, “and that's why we've asked you to come here and be participants in our strategic planning.”

“Today is your opportunity to give us your feedback,” continued LeDoux. “Not only on how you think we've been doing, but help us refocus our efforts and look forward to the next year.”

Enabling unit readiness is the ultimate objective, explained LeDoux.

“The goal is for supported commands to walk away with a better understanding of what we do for the Army Reserve and hear from leaders in the region as we focus our efforts and resources,” said LeDoux. “We do this to enable readiness - because that is who we are - we are a readiness enabler.”

*Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, speaks to key leaders of her command during a Strategic Planning Session held on Fort Snelling, Minn., May 13-14. The session is held annually to ensure the 88th RSC continues to provide the best possible support to Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians within its 19-state area of responsibility.*



# 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site ramps up support for training

Story and photo by Scott Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs

Equipment Concentration Site (ECS)-67 ramps up support for service members on Fort McCoy during large-scale training exercises.

Support can be provided in many forms, including issuing and maintaining equipment, training, supplying parts, and more.

ECS-67, which is part of the 88th Regional Support Command, is a tenant organization on Fort McCoy which mainly supports Army Reserve forces.

Supervisory Equipment Specialist Jared Smith of the 88th RSC said everyone at ECS-67 has an important role in getting ready for the exercise season, which typically spans from March through October each year.

"This is no small task by any means; ECS-67 loans thousands of pieces of equipment per exercise to supported units," Smith said. "Our employees work hard year-round to ensure the equipment is maintained and ready for the exercise season. During the exercise season, they're constantly shifting manpower to ensure the units are supported and the equipment is staged and ready — often working after hours to make sure the mission is completed."

ECS-67 has a wide variety of equipment to issue and maintain. Examples are cargo trucks of every size (including trailers), towed howitzers, humvees, mine-detection vehicles, bulldozers, bucket loaders, compactors, excavators, scrapers, small- and large-caliber personnel weapons of all types, tents, tools, and much more. Units also store this equipment at Fort McCoy because it saves money.



**"ECS-67's mission is to store and maintain equipment for units that either don't have the resources to maintain it or don't have room for it at home station."**

"ECS-67's mission is to store and maintain equipment for units that either don't have the resources to maintain it or don't have room for it at home station," Smith said. "A couple of key pieces to successful training are having a great training area, which Fort McCoy has, and having the equipment to train with, which ECS-67 has.

"In many cases, our customers just have to get themselves here, along with any individual or special equip-

ment needs they may have," Smith said. "This aids Fort McCoy to provide a premier training area that also enables commanders to provide the training Soldiers need. Also, with ECS-67 being located on Fort McCoy, it saves a huge amount in transportation money due to the large amount of equipment being on site. I have no doubt the location of the ECS significantly increases the (number) of (service members) who (train) at Fort McCoy on an annual basis."

Supervisory Maintenance Management Specialist Jason Sikorski with the 88th RSC said support at ECS-67 also goes beyond just issuing equipment.

"We also provide hands-on training opportunities, which consists of Soldiers working alongside our military-technician employees while maintaining, operating, and inventorying equipment, thus sustaining the skills that most Soldiers don't have an opportunity to use on a regular basis."

Whether it's for major exercises, such the Combat Support Training Exercise and Warrior Exercise, or for unit-training weekends and battle-assembly training, Smith said success is achieved through the hard work and dedication of their employees.

"They continually find ways, with limited resources, to get the mission accomplished," Smith said. "Our (ECS-67) employees show up to work every day knowing that the tasks ahead are enormous, knowing that to be able to do everything that needs to be done requires a larger workforce, but they endure. They press on knowing that what they're doing is making a difference."

## Take advantage of the **88th RSC's HOT Program** Offering Hands-On-Training in maintenance, supply, transportation and allied trades!

The 88th RSC's Hands-On-Training (HOT) Program is an innovative approach to training which provides hands-on sustainment training for AR 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 area of responsibility.

The HOT Program utilizes Area Maintenance Support Activities and Equipment Concentration Sites for specialty courses as well as the Center of Excellence located on Fort McCoy, Wis.

Utilizing these resources, a multitude of HOT sustainment training opportunities are available in a variety of locations.

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 or Command.

Please contact us to schedule training for your Unit at an AMSA or ECS, to reserve seats in a CoE course, or to request a pop-up class.

For more information, please contact Ft. McCoy Center of Excellence, Brian Witherow at 608-388-6833 or [bryan.a.witherow2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:bryan.a.witherow2.civ@mail.mil). Xtranet users can also visit: [https://army.deps.mil/Army/CMD5/USARC\\_88RSC/DOL/default.aspx](https://army.deps.mil/Army/CMD5/USARC_88RSC/DOL/default.aspx).

### 88th RSC 'HOT' CoE Courses available on Fort McCoy:

#### Welding & Fabrication Sustainment Training

Students will become familiar with the following Welding Process to include, Principles, Theories and Best Practices as well as all Safety aspects of each process; Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Gas metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, Oxy-Acetylene Flame Cutting, Plasma Cutting.

#### Refrigeration and EPA-608

Students will be trained on fundamentals of how refrigeration works and instruction on system maintenance, diagnostics and repair. An EPA-608 test will be given for certification. Students will demonstrate hands-on proficiency in diagnostics and repair.

#### Automotive Refrigeration Training & EPA 609

Students will be trained on fundamentals of how refrigeration works and instruction on system maintenance, diagnostics and repair. An EPA-609 test will be given for certification. Students will demonstrate hands-on proficiency in diagnostics and repair.

#### Armored Security Vehicle Field Level Maintenance

Students will be given an overview of the M1117 Armored Security Vehicle and provided in depth instruction on vehicle systems. Students will become familiar with the components of all the systems of the ASV and will identify component locations, functions of components and systems, possible malfunctions and troubleshooting procedures. Students will remove turret and the engine and drive assembly.

#### KALMAR-Rough Terrain Container Handler

Students will learn in a mixture of classroom and maintenance shop bay environment. Students will be given instruction on operation of the Rough Terrain Container Handler and in depth instruction of maintenance procedures, to include troubleshooting the hydraulic & electrical systems. This course is primarily on maintenance procedures, and will not result in driver certification or licensing.

#### Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles Field Level Maintenance

Students will be given an overview of the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles and provided in depth instruction on vehicle systems. Students will become familiar with the components of all systems of the FMTV and identify component locations, functions of components and systems, possible malfunctions and troubleshooting procedures.

#### Heavy Expandable Mobility Tactical Truck

Students will be given an overview of the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks and provided instruction on vehicle systems. Students will become familiar with the components of all systems of the HEMTT and identify component locations, functions of components and systems, possible malfunctions and troubleshooting procedures.

#### Backhoe Loader Field Level Maintenance

Students will be given an overview of the Back Hoe Loader and provided in depth instruction on vehicle systems. Students will become familiar with the components of all the systems of the BHL and will identify component locations, functions of components and systems, possible malfunctions and troubleshooting procedures.

#### M9 Armored Combat Excavator Field Level Maintenance

Students will be given an overview of the M9 Armored Combat Excavator and provided instruction on vehicle systems. Students will become familiar with the components of all the systems of the ACE and will identify component locations, functions of components and systems, possible malfunctions and troubleshooting procedures.

#### M966H 5 Yard Loader Field Level Maintenance

Students will be given an overview of the M966H 5 Yard Loader and provided in depth instruction on vehicle systems. Students will become familiar with the components of all the systems of the M966H and will identify component locations, functions of components and systems, possible malfunctions and troubleshooting procedures.

\*ATRRS School Code 930C



# 88th RSC hosts Army Reserve's 1st Stryker Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training

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

The 88th Regional Support Command currently has the distinction of hosting the first Stryker Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training (FLMNET) to take place in the Army Reserve, at Equipment Concentration Site 10, April 24-May 12, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.



Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training instructors (top) teach Soldiers from the 355th Chemical Company, how to disassemble nitrogen tanks from the Height Management System of a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance Vehicle Stryker, during FLMNET instruction, May 8, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The training is being taken by both 88th RSC civilian mechanics and Soldiers of the 349th and 355th Chemical Companies, both of whom will be fielding the M1135 Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance Vehicle (NBCRV) Stryker, making the training essential for both units.

The training involves taking the NBCRV apart and how to maintain the vehicle, said Michael DiOrio, an instructor for General Dynamics, whose civilian contractors are instructing those attempting to become NBCRV maintainers.

"There's a myriad of instruction that involves top-to-bottom maintenance," DiOrio said. "We do testing on the power pack, we remove the transfer case and differential ... and in the process of all that we try to show them how all these components relate to the Stryker."

The NBCRV is basically an armored truck, so anyone with minimal mechanical experience should be able to apply their skills to maintaining a Stryker, DiOrio said.

"We have to show them the concepts and how everything is put to-

gether and it's critical they understand this," he said. "We have a reputation at General Dynamics of having the best training program throughout the military and it's always reflected during the evaluation of every course we teach."

"It's almost always 100 percent positive," DiOrio said.

The mechanics belonging to the 88th RSC have performed excellently during the course, he added.

"These are seasoned mechanics and have been working on a variety of vehicles over the years," DiOrio said. "They caught on to the concepts very quickly and in fact we've had to try



Soldiers from the 355th Chemical Company, based in Las Vegas, disassemble the Height Management System of a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance Vehicle Stryker, during Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training, May 8, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.



A mechanic for the 88th Regional Support Command guides the power pack belonging to a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance Vehicle (NBCRV) Stryker into place, during Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training (FLMNET) instruction, May 8, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

and slow them down because they got ahead too quickly."

Participating in the FLMNET is Keynon White, a heavy mobile equipment inspector for the 88th RSC, who said as an equipment inspector he needs to know how the NBCRV operates.

"I have to know how the Stryker functions and what it is I'm looking for when I come to inspect this vehicle," White said. "If I didn't have the training and had to look this vehicle over, I wouldn't know the first thing about it."



Melvyn Rosado (left), a Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training instructor for General Dynamics, supervises the power pack belonging to a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance Vehicle Stryker being placed in the vehicle, while being observed by mechanics from the 88th Regional Support Command taking the course, during FLMNET instruction, May 8, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Learning about the vehicle and the techniques involved with maintaining it has been a tremendous learning experience, White continued.

"Most of us here have only seen the Stryker in pictures and videos, but now we're getting hands on training with the vehicle and how the system works," White said. "Even though this is for the NBCRV it gives us a general knowledge of the Stryker and how it performs."

The level of instruction from Gen-

eral Dynamics has been superb, White said, with trainers who know every inch of the vehicle and how each component functions.

"They present the information in a way that's easy to comprehend, because most of us are mechanics and they aren't trying to spoon feed us the information," he said. "They're letting us perform as mechanics and correcting any faults or mistakes we make."

The training is also mission critical for Spc. Manuel Rios, a Stryker weapons system maintainer for the 355th Chemical Co. from Las Vegas, whose



Marcus Jackson (left) a wheeled vehicle mechanic, and Tristin Riddick (right) a mechanic, both of the 88th Regional Support Command, perform maintenance on a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance Vehicle Stryker, during Field Level Maintenance New Equipment Training, May 6, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Rios said learning about the chemical systems has been the most beneficial aspect of the training, with the instructors being especially thorough in their teaching.

"They're more in-depth than what I've learned at normal Army schools ... in three weeks I've learned more than I have in four months elsewhere," Rios said.

Although located in Las Vegas, the 355th Chemical Co. is attached to the 349th, the latter of which is based here at JBLM, Rios said, with both locations to field the NBCRV's.

"This is the Stryker we will be fielding and it's rare to get this opportunity to get our hands on the vehicle itself," he said. "My unit's taken the opportunity to learn about the NBCRV well in advance of receiving it."

Rios said the FLMNET will allow him to go back to his unit and instruct them on the different variants of the NBCRV.

"They've given me a lot of guidance and manuals to learn from," Rios said. "I want to take this knowledge back home and share it with my Soldiers."



# 88th RSC conducts fifth annual Medical Programs Training

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



The 88th Regional Support Command conducted its fifth annual Medical Programs Training, at its headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wisc., March 3-5, to assist commands on understanding administrative and legal aspects of medical processes.

The training gives those attending a working knowledge of medical programs, including incapacitation pay, line of duties, voucher systems and profiles, many of which are necessary when a Soldier becomes medically unable to work.

"The intent is to train the trainer and give them both direct and hands on training," said Daniel Von Arx, Chief of the 88th RSC Health Services Branch. "We train the users and managers and give them the material to take back and train their own people."

This helps eliminate errors on incapacitation claims for example, Von Arx said, because if they aren't correct it delays payments for the Soldier.

"It also delays benefits and care, which nobody wants, so if it's right

the first time everything goes the right way," Von Arx said.

This year 110 people attended the training, with some coming from locations such as Hawaii and Guam.

"A lot of people like our training and come from all over the United States

**"We train the users and managers and give them the material to take back and train their own people."**

because they don't get this training in their commands," Von Arx continued. "We try to be as inclusive as we can and people respond to it."

"We're here to serve our customers and our commands are those custom-

ers," Von Arx said.

Attending the training for the first time was Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Hanneman, S-1 noncommissioned officer in charge, 3rd Brigade, 75th Training Command.

According to Hanneman the course was valuable for him, having never performed many of the medical processes being taught.

"I've never done an LOD before and a number of the people in my unit are more senior members of the Army, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to learn the process," Hanneman said. "The use of the LOD module and the key facets I learned were excellent."

Being able to gain hands-on training was also a positive aspect of the training, Hanneman said.

"I considered myself a novice on this training before coming here, but with the hands-on classes and the points of contacts to now refer to, that's 90 percent of the battle taken care of," Hanneman said.

Daniel Von Arx (center), chief of the 88th Regional Support Command Health Services Branch, teaches a class on categories of profiles to Soldiers and civilians attending the 88th RSC's fifth annual Medical Programs Training, March 3-5, at the command's headquarters, Fort McCoy, Wis. The training gives those attending a working knowledge of medical programs, including incapacitation pay, line of duties, voucher systems and profiles, many of which are necessary when a Soldier becomes medically unable to work

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# 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND NORTHWEST REGIONAL SUPPORT INDEX

<b>88th RSC Headquarters</b> Ambassador Coordinator 608-388-0331 Awards 608-388-0460 Casualty Operations 608-388-0450 Chaplain 608-388-0540 Child and Youth Services 608-388-0446 Command Group 608-388-7518 Emergency Ops. Center 608-556-1206 Emergency Services 608-388-0578 Enlisted Management 608-388-0317 Environmental 608-388-0375 Equal Opportunity Advisor 608-388-0558 Full-Time Civilian Support 608-388-0450 Headquarters Company 608-388-0599 Health Services 608-388-0436 Historian 608-388-0320 Human Resources 608-388-9360 Information Technology 608-388-0364 Inspector General 608-388-3733 Internal Review 608-388-0359 Legal 608-388-0327 Legislative Affairs 608-388-0331 Logistics 608-388-0312 Medical 608-388-1958 Officer Management 608-388-0432 Plans & Training 608-388-0589 Public Affairs 608-388-0336 Public Works 608-388-0375 Resource Management 608-388-0354 Retirement Services Office 608-388-0596 Safety 608-388-0335 Strong Bonds 608-388-0542 Suicide Prevention Program Manager 608-388-9310 Yellow Ribbon 608-388-0526	<b>Area Maintenance Support Activities &amp; Branch Maintenance Activities</b> AMSA 003, North Canton, Ohio 330-649-7923 AMSA 022, Arden Hills, Minn. 651-634-4438/ AMSA 022 BMA-1, Fort Snelling, Minn. 612-713-3292 AMSA 025, Duluth, Minn. 218-727-1464 x240 AMSA 028, Cedar Falls, Iowa 319-277-8081 x3801 AMSA 028 BMA-1, Des Moines, Iowa 515-285-4692 x3135 AMSA 028 BMA-2, Washington, Iowa 319-653-5231 x3801 AMSA 035, Elkhorn, Neb. 402-289-1687 x4170 AMSA 036, North Platte, Neb. 308-532-7735 / 308-534-3692 x4223 AMSA 038, Wichita, Kan. 316-681-1759 x1820 AMSA 038 BMA-1, Parson, Kan. 620-421-6750 x266 AMSA 039, Topeka, Kan. 785-267-6243 x270 AMSA 045, Elwood, Ill. 815-722-9757 AMSA 048, Bartonville, Ill. 309-671-5001 AMSA 049, Milwaukee, Wis. 414-535-5905 / 5965 AMSA 056, Whitehall, Ohio 614-692-2022 AMSA 057, New Century, Kan. 913-397-0862 x5234 AMSA 058, Springfield, Ohio 937-525-3601 AMSA 059, Maineville, Ohio 513-683-1317 x413 AMSA 059 BMA-1, Cincinnati, Ohio 513-351-1480 AMSA 061, Boise, Idaho 208-422-6504 / 6505 AMSA 075, Helena, Mont. 406-442-1112 x101 / 406-449-8993 AMSA 075 BMA-1, Billings, Mont. 406-652-6460 x266 AMSA 075 BMA-2, Missoula, Mont. 406-523-5480 / 406-523-5484 AMSA 075 BMA-3, Evansville, Wyo. 307-266-1831 AMSA 079, Marysville, Wash. 360-403-2534 / 206-550-7311 AMSA 079 BMA-1, JB Lewis-McChord 253-968-7133 AMSA 080, Fairchild AFB, Wash. 509-247-7864 AMSA 100, Denver, Colo. 303-371-1009 x284 AMSA 101, St. Joseph, Minn. 320-363-7821 AMSA 108, Bismarck, N.D. 701-223-8607 AMSA 108 BMA-1, Aberdeen, S.D. 605-225-0027 x29	AMSA 108 BMA-2, Fargo, N.D. 701-241-6615 AMSA 111, Faribault, Minn. 507-334-7513 AMSA 115, Sioux City, Iowa 712-276-5076 x3301 AMSA 119, Salt Lake City, Utah 801-656-4057 AMSA 123, Twinsburg, Ohio 330-486-6986 AMSA 129, Indianapolis, Ind. 317-532-4125 AMSA 131, Jeffersonville, Ind. 812-280-6026 AMSA 132, Evansville, Ind. 812-471-6513 AMSA 133, South Bend, Ind. 574.232-8818 x255 AMSA 133 BMA-1, Fort Wayne, Ind. 260-432-4958 AMSA 134, Livonia, Mich. 734-367-2432 AMSA 134 BMA-1, Bay City, Mich. 989-684-8607 x425 / 989-684-7097 AMSA 135, Augusta, Mich. 269-565-8801 AMSA 136, Grand Rapids, Mich. 616-735-4050 x116 AMSA 136 BMA-1, Traverse City, Mich. 231-946-6756 AMSA 137 (Watercraft), Tacoma, Wash. 253-680-4568 / 4573 AMSA 138, Fort Sheridan, Ill. 847-266-3115 AMSA 139, Madison, Wis. 608-301-8597 AMSA 140, Green Bay, Wis. 920-339-7176 x7200 AMSA 155, Eau Claire, Wis. 715-834-8362 x222 AMSA 159, St Louis, Mo. 314-679-5879 AMSA 159 BMA, Granite City, Ill. 618-451-5127 AMSA 165, Monclova, Ohio 419-868-3921 x3106 AMSA 165 BMA-1, Milan, Ohio 419-359-1440	<b>Army Reserve Personnel Action Centers</b> Aurora, Colo. 303-365-3195 Fort Sheridan, Ill. 630-204-9150 Wichita, Kan. 316-681-1759 x1404 Southfield, Mich. 248-359-2000 x283 Fort Snelling, Minn. 612-713-3191 Belton, Mo. 816-318-0007 x2656 St. Louis, Mo. 314-382-9013 x2341 Whitehall, Ohio 614-692-2850 Salt Lake City, Utah 801-656-4217 Fort Lewis, Wash. 253-968-7022 Vancouver, Wash. 360-885-7050 Fort McCoy, Wis. 608-388-8416	<b>Army Strong Community Centers</b> Walker, Mich. 616-735-4050 x169 Oregon City, Oregon 503-594-6215	<b>Combat Service Support Hands-On-Training Program Coordinator</b> Fort McCoy, Wis. 608-388-0310	<b>Equipment Concentration Sites &amp; Branch Maintenance Activities</b> ECS 10, JB Lewis-McChord, Wash. 253-968-7801 ECS 10 BMA-1, Vancouver, Wash. 360-885-7028 ECS 10 BMA-2 (RSS), Boise, Idaho 208-422-6502 ECS 10 BMA-3 (RSS), Helena, Mont. 406-442-1112 ECS 10 BMA-4 (RSS), Yakima, Wash. 509-225-8893 ECS 33, Fort Riley, Kan. 785-239-6955 ECS 37, Ogden, Utah 801-392-0700 x230 ECS 42, Fort Carson, Colo. 719-524-4949 ECS 66, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. 573-596-1229 / 0771 ECS 66 BMA-1, Springfield, Mo. 417-865-3505 x235 ECS 66 BMA-2, St. Charles, Mo. 636-329-1200 x2504 / x2505 ECS 67, Fort McCoy, Wis. 608-388-4266	<b>New Equipment Fielding Facilities</b> Ogden, Utah 801-392-9360 x243 Fort McCoy, Wis. 608-388-6837 / 6838
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For additions and corrections, please contact us at [usarmy.usarc.88-rsc.mbx.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.usarc.88-rsc.mbx.pao@mail.mil).

42 | CLOVERLEAF | VOL. 2, ISSUE 1 | 2015

2015 | CLOVERLEAF | 43





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