

CLOVER LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

2016: Volume 3, Issue 2

*Army Reserve Soldiers
Gain Proficiency in
Technical Skills
by Providing
Real-World
Support*

A photograph of a soldier in camouflage pants and a tan t-shirt, wearing large black headphones and safety glasses. He is kneeling and using a red air tool to work on the hub of a large, heavy-duty tire. Another soldier is partially visible in the background. The scene is outdoors, likely at a military base.

Operation Platinum Support

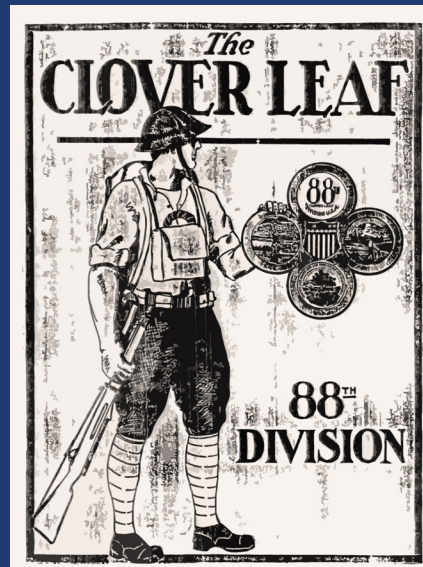
Turning Wrenches and Improving Readiness

A FULLY COMMITTED READINESS PARTNER WHICH CONTINUOUSLY PROVIDES BEST-IN-CLASS BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT TO ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS, FAMILIES, CIVILIANS AND SUPPORTED COMMANDS WITH SUBORDINATE UNITS LOCATED IN THE NORTHWESTERN U.S. FROM THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY TO THE PACIFIC COAST

88TH RSC About Us



As part of his U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, Pfc. Christian Kaplan with the 298th Support Maintenance Company out of Altoona, Pa., removes the lug nuts from a FMTV to remove the wheels for annual service and maintenance at the 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy, July 28. Operation Platinum Support allows Army Reserve Soldiers in low-density supply and maintenance specialties to perform and gain proficiency in their technical skills while acting in direct support to the numerous exercises taking place on Fort McCoy. (Cover illustration by Catherine Lowrey)



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Submissions: The Cloverleaf invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest from members associated with the 88th Regional Support Command.

Contributions can be sent to:
Editor, Cloverleaf Magazine,

88th Regional Support Command,
60 S. O St., Fort McCoy, WI 54656,
usarmy.usar88-rsc.mbx.pao@mail.mil
All articles must be submitted electronically, on CD or by e-mail.

Design, Layout, Editing
Catherine Lowrey & Zachary Mott
88th RSC Public Affairs Office
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Chief of Staff
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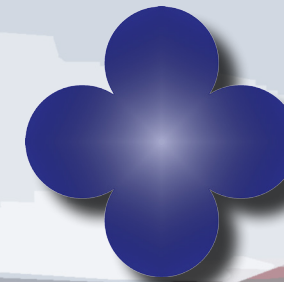


Command Chief Warrant Office
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Command Sergeant Major
Earl G. Rocca

Command Team



88th Regional Support
Command
Commanding General
Major General
Patrick J. Reinert

The 88th RSC is a fully committed readiness partner which provides best-in-class services and base operations support for the Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilians, Families and units within the command's 19-state area of responsibility.

Our mission is to ensure our supported units are ready, accessible and available for any contingency to complement the Active Army and Joint Force by providing the necessary human resource services, medical administrative support, funding, physical security, facilities, environmental, training areas, safety, force management, equipment maintenance and storage, and other support services needed.

We are a committed, customer-centric organization that will use every opportunity to listen to and communicate effectively with our customers in order to provide the best possible facilities, programs and services while maximizing the safety and security of the personnel and units in our region. We will be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and will meet the high priority needs of our customers while eliminating redundancies, mitigating risk, and optimizing return on investments. The 88th RSC is committed to supporting your unit's readiness.

Together we will ensure the Army Reserve is ready to meet any and all global requirements in support of Nation's strategic priorities. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

~Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert

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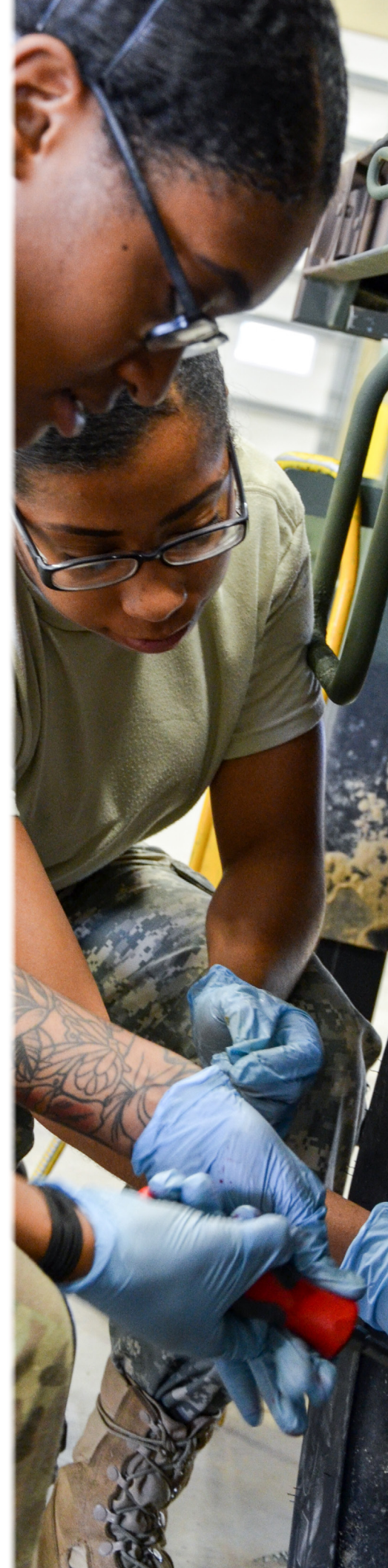
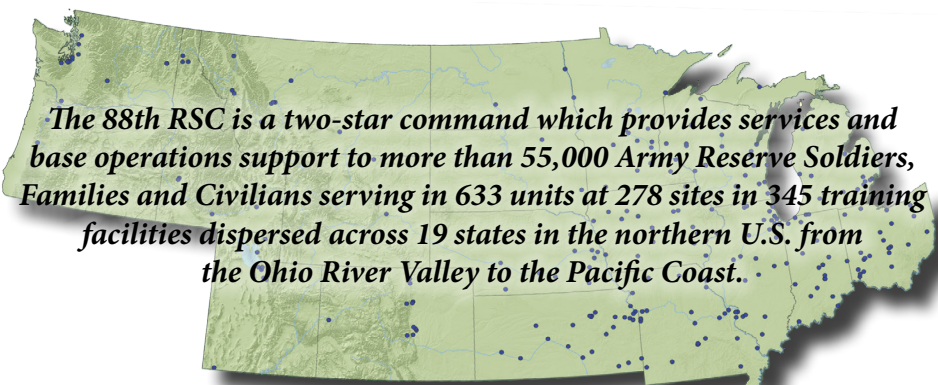
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The 88th RSC's new program Operation Platinum Support serves as dry run for future Draw Yard

Story and photos by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs

88th Regional Support Command Equipment Concentration Site - 67 personnel train Soldiers from the 1015th Quartermaster Company, 451st Quartermaster Company and the 818th Engineer Battalion on Dry Support Bridge operation and maintenance at the soon to be established Draw Yard at ECS-67 on Fort McCoy,

“The units send us personnel in detachment strength through multiple iterations throughout the exercise period,” said Shumway. “These personnel work in support of the ECS-67 staff and will also work in support of the Draw Yard once it becomes operational.”

Shumway went on to explain the Draw Yard mission, Platinum Sup-

cise itself,” Shumway continued.

“The Draw Yard equipment set will be supported by contractors and Operation Platinum Support Soldiers and will be completely separate from ECS-67, which is the largest ECS in the continental U.S.,” Shumway stated. “The Draw Yard will begin supporting exercises in FY17 due to the long lead time needed for planning a

“The Draw Yard is a set of common military equipment, mostly vehicles and generators, that will be available at Fort McCoy for the use of exercise units.”

WAREX or CSTX.”

Platinum Support is an exercise unto itself and supports the Army Reserve's strategy for providing trained and ready units by sending them through these exercises.



Wis., May 5.

Steve Shumway, 88th RSC Supervisory Logistics Management Specialist, Directorate of Logistics explained that as part of the new Operation Platinum Support mission, the 88th RSC facilitates low-density military operation specialties Army Reserve Soldiers in supply and maintenance MOSs in performing and gaining proficiency in their MOS tasks while acting in support of exercises.

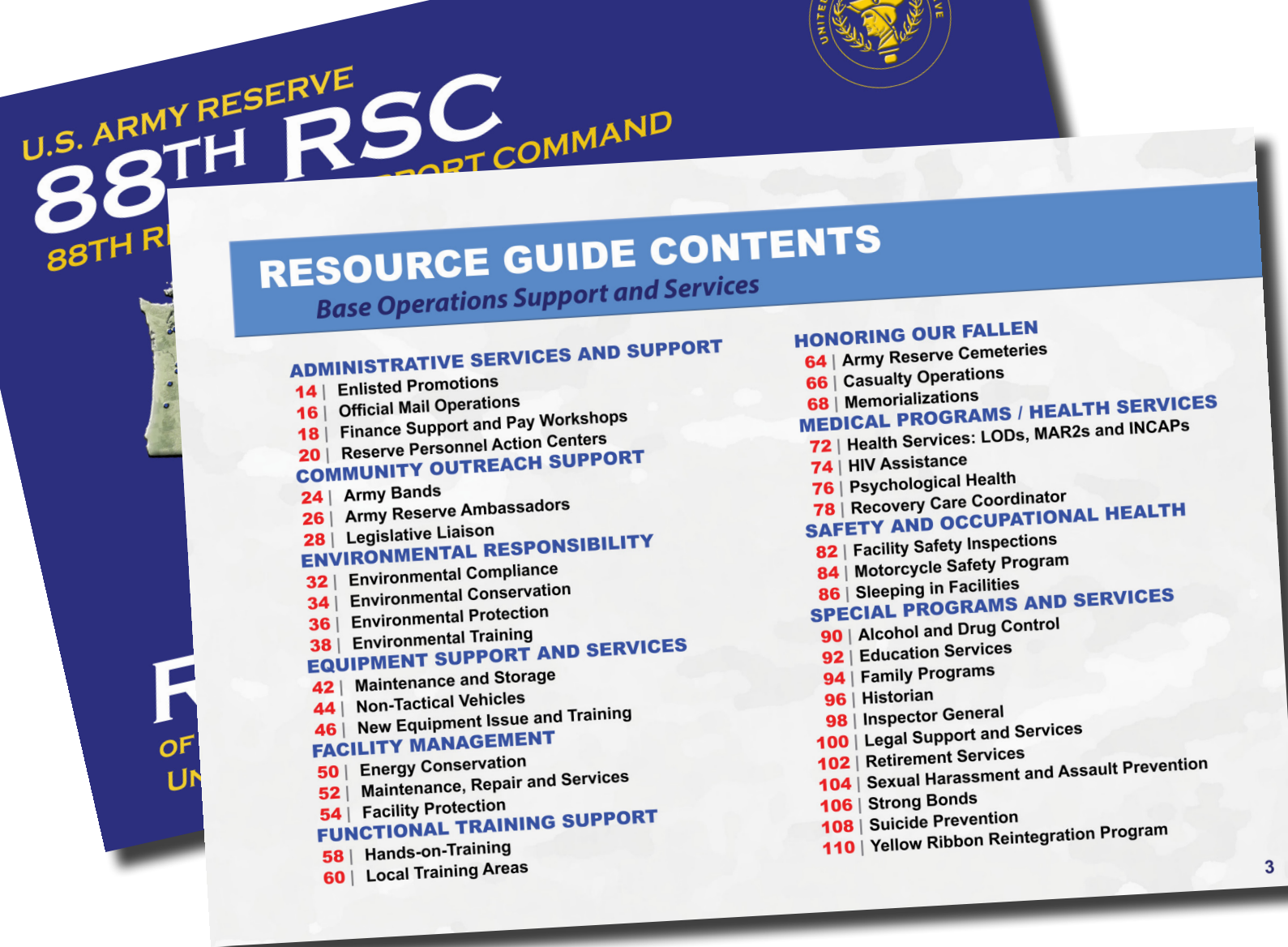
port and the role of exercises in the U.S. Army Reserves readiness strategy.

“The Draw Yard is a set of common military equipment, mostly vehicles and generators, that will be available at Fort McCoy for the use of exercise units, said Shumway. “The goal is a reduction of transportation cost and a reduction in reception, staging, onward movement, and integration time for the exercise units during the exer-

(Photo Top) 88th Regional Support Command Equipment Concentration Site - 67 personnel, Heath Thorsen (left) and Aaron White (right) check the assembly progress during a training exercise on the operation and maintenance of a Dry Span Support Bridge at the soon to be established Draw Yard at ECS-67 on Fort McCoy, Wis., May 5. (Photo Above) Military Technician Michael Esser conducts maintenance training on a generator with Army Reserve Soldiers Spc. John Channer and Sgt. Suman Lama of the 818th Maintenance Support Co. at the 88th Regional Support Command's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy Wis., May 18. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st class Corey Beal)



(Photo Top) 88th Regional Support Command Equipment Concentration Site - 67 personnel, Heath Thorsen (top left) trains Soldiers from the 1015th Quartermaster Company, 451st Quartermaster Company and the 818th Engineer Battalion on Dry Span Support Bridge operation and maintenance at the soon to be established Draw Yard at ECS-67 on Fort McCoy, Wis., May 5. (Photo Above) U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers Sgt. James Smith (left) and Staff Sgt. Danny Loomis, both assigned to the 818th Maintenance Support Company, conduct maintenance on an Armored Personnel Vehicle at the 88th Regional Support Command's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy Wis., May 18, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st class Corey Beal)



Bringing you the best-in-class services and base operations support in the Northern U.S. from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.

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 Regional Support Command provides in our 19 state region.

In the following pages you will find key resources categorized into 10 chapters: Administrative Services; Community Outreach; Environmental Responsibility; Equipment Support and Services; Facility Management; Functional Training; Honoring our Fallen; Medical Programs; Safety and

The Resource Guide gives our customers an easy to use guide to services and base operations support we offer.

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. <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/28949>



88th RSC ARA
Regional Coordinator
Katherine Bissonette, PhD
608-388-0331
katherine.m.bissonette.civ@mail.mil

USAR Ambassadors of the Northwest Region:

Colorado

Shawn Graves sted78@comcast.net
Michael McKinney michael.mckinney@state.co.net

Idaho

Dianne Nordhaus dianne.nordhaus@gmail.com
Joseph Eyre eyrejobon@northrim.net

Illinois

William Hawes wjhawes@sbcglobal.net
John W. Newman VJNewman21@yahoo.com
Bill Lake csmwlake@aol.com

Indiana

Doug Gibbens douggibbens@att.net
Joseph Lampert jflampe@pike.k12.in.us
John Topper jt1@psci.net

Iowa

Gary Wattnem gwattnem@gmail.com

Kansas

Mick Allen Mallen@eaglecom.net

Michigan

Mel Bauman artelb@sbcglobal.net
Paul DeSander pauldesander@charter.net

Minnesota

James Lundell james.lundell@frontiernet.net
Thomas Haugo thaugo@bachmans.com
Steven Carter swcarter77@gmail.com

Missouri

Roger Layman rlayman48@embarqmail.com
Danny Baldwin dbaldwin@kcp.com
Bill Hammerschmidt colhammerschmidt@gmail.com

Montana

James Mariska jamarisk1@gmail.com

Nebraska

Stephen Tellatin sftellatin@gmail.com

North Dakota

Robert Black eagle6680@gmail.com

Ohio

John Lendrum jlendrum@nciprecast.com

Oregon

Dennis Klein MGDeK1964@aol.com
Curtis Loop curt.loop@yahoo.com
Daniel Hitchcock DFHitchcock@canby.com

South Dakota

Robert Perez rgperez@live.com

Utah

Rick Folkerson rickf@kengarff.com
Paul Swenson pauls@colonialflage.com

Washington

Fred Aronow fredjacciaronow@q.com
Stan Flemming stanflemming@hotmail.com
Mary Miller marymyak@aol.com

Wisconsin

Gerald Meyer jmeyer3131@aol.com
John Gessner john.a.gessner.ctr@mail.mil
Bill Bissonette csmbissonette@gmail.com

Wyoming

Barry Gasdek barrygasdek@yahoo.com

88th RSC Ambassadors Inducted into Inaugural Cadet Command Hall of Fame

Story by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Retired Col. Gerald W. Meyer, an ambassador for Wisconsin, was one of the selections for his more than 30 years of military service and more than 10 years with the U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador program following his graduation from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's ROTC program in 1974.

"I am truly honored and completely humbled to be nominated by the University of Wisconsin ROTC and selected by the Army ROTC Command for the Hall of Fame 2016," Meyer said. "But I am especially pleased because this award shows the quality of the UW-La Crosse ROTC program. Without the training I received through them, this award would not have happened."

The three other inductees representing the 88th RSC are Retired Col. William Hawes from Illinois; Curtis Loop from Oregon; and Barry Gasdek from Wyoming.

"I think the most important thing an ambassador can do for the Soldier is to listen to the Soldier, hear their issues and listen to the family members and help facilitate and liaison a remedy or a solution to their issue," said Meyer, who recently began his fourth term as a U.S. Army Reserve ambassador.

During the ceremony, current U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox Commanding General Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes reflected on the legacy of the inductees who represent the more than 650,000 ROTC graduates.

"When I opened the first folder, I was awestruck and as I sat back in the chair. It was then that it dawned on me the

significance of today -- I was about to sign the certificate to induct General George C. Marshall into the ROTC National Hall of Fame. I didn't feel qualified," he said. "The more I read, the more I signed, I realized each of you and your families are doing everything that I would ever dare ask you to do -- that is exactly why you are our founding class of the ROTC National Hall of Fame."

Meyer said continuing to serve after hanging up his uniform was an opportunity he could not pass up.

"I really love the Army and its people. I have spent my life serving the Army at home and abroad," Meyer said. "I could not resist the opportunity to continue to work for an organization that has given me so much."

Meyer, Hawes, Loop and Gasdek, along with more than 30 others across the 19-state region of the 88th RSC footprint, are charged with providing strategic outreach, advocacy and advisory support to Army Reserve units, Soldiers and families as U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors.

"They represent not only the 88th so well, but they represent the Army Reserve very well in their states," said Col. Michael Holland, the legislative liaison for the 88th RSC who attended the Cadet Command Hall of Fame inductions. "They represent the Army Reserve and the Soldiers as a whole in each of their states by going out and meeting with community leaders and congressional representatives and tell the Army Reserve story. They're out there every day talking and doing great things for the Army Reserve and for the 88th."



(Photo Opposite Page) Retired Col. Gerald W. Meyer, right, a U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador for Wisconsin and the 88th Regional Support Command, shakes hands with U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox Commanding General Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes after Meyer was presented with a medallion honoring his selection as an inaugural member of the Cadet Command Hall of Fame during a ceremony June 10 at Fort Knox's Brooks Field. (U.S. Army photo provided by Col. Michael Holland, 88th Regional Support Command/Released)



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88th RSC welcomes Maj. Daniel Fass, new HHC commander



Maj. Daniel P. Fass assumed command of the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters & Headquarters Company from outgoing commander Maj. Kelly R. Mau, during a change of command ceremony at the headquarters auditorium, June 17. Mau was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert, commanding general, 88th RSC. (Photos by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs)





88th RSC conducts Strategic Planning Session

Story and photos by
Catherine Lowrey,
88th RSC Public Affairs

Key leaders of the 88th RSC, including 88th RSC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert and newly appointed Deputy Commanding General Brig. Gen. Steven Strand, along with representatives of their supported commands throughout the 19 state region conducted a two day Strategic Planning Session on Fort McCoy, Wis., May 11-12.

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 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.

Day one included the 88th RSC staff review and update of the command's strategic plan, an internal analysis of the strategic priorities, followed by a brief to the commander and deputy commander on performance measure changes.

Reinert focused the 88th RSC key leaders on clarifying the mission and vision statements to ensure our way ahead is clear and our commitment to readiness is communicated.

On day two, Reinert welcomed representatives from 88th RSC supported commands to Fort McCoy and the strategic planning session.

"It's an exciting time at the 88th RSC," Reinert stated. "We are starting up a new mission with the addition of an MTOE unit, an operation detachment in support of I Corps. But we must ensure we don't lose sight of our primary mission," Reinert

continued. "Your success is our priority. Feel free to ask any questions. We want to ensure we provide the best possible services and support," Reinert said.

Charles Hudson, 88th RSC chief of staff, briefed the newly released 88th RSC Resource Guide, allowing a better understanding of the RSC's roles and what it does on a daily basis to provide service and support.

"The Resource Guide is a tool we have developed to show, in an easily accessible way, how we can support you," Hudson stated as he went through the Resource Guide page by page, gathering input.

Discussions and feedback from the supported commands led to ideas on how the product could be updated to ensure it provides the best possible resource information.

"Streamlining the Resource Guide to the needs of our customers and supported units is important,"

Reinert said. "Knowing what we can do to support and how to utilize that support is a huge step toward maintaining readiness," Reinert explained.

Reinert encouraged attendees to reach out to their state ambassadors. "They are a great tool for your commands," Reinert stated. "Ambassadors can help leverage support and bring awareness to issues and concerns in your command, while educating local and state officials on the Army Reserve."

Reinert also highlighted the "Soldiers for Life" aspect of retirement services.

"We want every Soldier to know that if they served their country and received a general or honorable discharge, they are a Soldier for Life," Reinert said. "We want to reach out to former and retired Soldiers and make sure they know what support is available."

Suicide prevention and intervention was a deep concern of the attendees. The 88th RSC Director of Human

"We appreciate your input in helping us improve our plan. We are here to help you get to yes. We are here to help you improve your readiness. It's your Soldiers who are headed out the door in support of our nation."

Resources along with the Director of Psychological Services provided points of contact for direct support, ensuring commands know the best course of action to get the well-being support their Soldiers need to prevent suicides.

The session ended with a briefing on the 88th RSC's Strategic Plan updates from day one and received valuable feedback from the attendees.

"We appreciate your input in helping us improve our plan, input to help us understand how to do our job better," Reinert concluded. "We are here to help you get to yes. We are here to help you improve your readiness. It's your soldiers who are headed out the door in support of our nation," Reinert said.



(Photo Above) Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, (far right) speaks to key leaders of his command during a Strategic Planning Session held on Fort McCoy, Wis., May 12. The session is held annually to ensure the 88th RSC continues to provide services and support to ensure the readiness of Army Reserve Soldiers, families and civilians within its 19-state area of responsibility.

Presidential Wreathlaying Marks Annual Celebration for Warren G. Harding

Story by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Celebrating the legacy of President Warren G. Harding brought Soldiers, local leaders, family members, historians and local residents to this small, central Ohio town as a wreath was placed at the Harding Memorial, July 16, in the town he called home from the time he was 18.

As the sun peaked into the circular marble structure, our 29th President was remembered for his deeds and the enduring legacy he left behind following his sudden death in August 1923 – less than 30 months into his first term.

“His vision reaches across generations all the way to us today. Giving the leaders of today a

strong foundation from which to build and a greater goal to reach,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general for 88th Regional Support Command and representing President Barack Obama during the ceremony. “We are grateful, as a nation, to be able to stand upon those foundations and see further down the path to peace and prosperity.”

During his time as president, Harding was the first president to submit a budget to congress. Additionally, Harding and his wife, Florence, helped establish the Veterans Bureau for World War I veterans. This would later lead to the Veterans Administration and the

continued care to American veterans.

Harding was a man who was passionate about helping everyday people. From his front porch campaign, Harding spoke to more than 600,000 people who stood on his gravel-covered lawn to hear him speak and share their concerns for the country. He desire to help everyday Americans continued throughout his presidency.

“He wanted to take the administration’s ideas and policies to us and see how they were affecting each of us in our own lives,” said Sherry Hall, the Harding Home and Memorial site director. “He wanted our feedback, was the government helping or hindering?”



It was that belief that led Harding to travel to the western United States and Canada – he wanted to find out first-hand how the policies he enacted were affecting every citizen. It was during this trip that Harding grew weak and later died. However, the legacy he created remains to this day.

“Every president has touched the nation in some significant way. President Harding is certainly no exception,” Strand said. “His contributions as our 29th president set the tone for sweeping economic and social changes in the 1920s and had a profound and lasting impact on our country.”

The weather allowed for sun to shine on both Harding and Florence’s gravesites, which sit at the center of the more than 85,000 square foot structure, a fact that was not lost on the family’s representative who spoke at the ceremony.

“The president would have loved to have been here this morning,” said Dr. Warren G. Harding III, the great nephew of the former president. “He loved the people and the city of Marion. He loved Ohio. He loved our great nation and he loved his family.”

From left, Sherry Hall, Harding Home and Memorial site director, Dan Russel, Marion County commissioner, Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general, 88th Regional Support Command, and Chap. (Capt.) Jonathan Anderson, 643rd Regional Support Group chaplain, listen as Dr. Warren G. Harding III, great nephew of President Warren G. Harding, speaks during the wreathlaying ceremony for the 29th president in Marion, Ohio, July 16, 2016.



Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general, 88th Regional Support Command, and Chap. (Capt.) Jonathan Anderson, 643rd Regional Support Group chaplain, place the wreath at the foot of the gravesites for 29th President of the United States Warren G. Harding and his wife Florence during the ceremony at the Harding Memorial in Marion, Ohio, July 16, 2016.

(Photo Opposite Page) Staff Sgt. David Lambermont, 338th Army Band bugler, plays taps during the Presidential Memorial Wreathlaying Ceremony for President Warren G. Harding at the Harding Memorial in Marion, Ohio, July 16, 2016.





Dr. Stedman Graham, chairman and CEO of the Chicago-based S. Graham & Associates, takes time to pose for pictures with Reserve and Guard members and their families, at the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event in Schaumburg, Illinois, June 18. Graham was the key-note speaker of the YRRP event; he spoke to service members and their families about the importance of mastering yourself. The transition between serving on active duty and civilian life can be challenging. The YRRP is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of service members, their families and communities by connecting them with resources and support throughout the deployment cycle. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie A. Castillo, 416th Theater Engineer Command Public Affairs/released)

88th RSC Yellow Ribbon Welcomes Stedman Graham

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie A. Castillo, 416th Theater Engineer Command, Public Affairs Office

The steps to success aren't always clearly laid out or easy to reach. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program helps service members find their path and plan for success before, during and after deployment.

The 88th RSC hosted a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Event in Schaumburg, Illinois, for more than 400 National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers and their families, June 17-19.

The transition between serving on active duty and civilian life can be challenging. The YRRP is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of service members, their families and communities by connecting them with resources and support throughout the deployment cycle.

The 88th RSC had many support systems on hand during the event, from banking assistance to education information. Army Reserve career counselors were also available to assist Soldiers wanting to further their Army careers.

The Soldiers and family members also attended workshops and training classes over the three-day weekend; a guest keynote speaker was the highlight of the event.

Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert, 88th RSC commanding general, introduced Dr. Stedman Graham, chairman and CEO of the Chicago-based S. Graham & Associates, to the audience of Reserve and Guard members and their families. Graham spoke about the importance mastering yourself.

Graham is an Army veteran, who

served from 1974 to 1979. He, in large part, credits his experience as a Soldier for his desire to help corporations, organizations and individuals succeed.

“Often, we limit our potential by moving in our own small circles because of our fears. If we change the way we view the world, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.”

“At the end of the day all you have is you,” said Graham. “But nobody teaches you how to create the mastery in you.”

Graham volunteered his time to speak to the Yellow Ribbon attendees. Many took notes, others listened in order to absorb the message he was sharing.

He led an interactive lecture, starting familiar phrases and sentences then pausing to let the audience finish the thought. In the middle of the session he invited six service members to

the front of the room to conduct an exercise. Each person had 30 seconds to blurt out as many things they loved as possible.

The Soldier with the highest number had 25 items ranging from human to material to nondescript. The purpose of this exercise, according to Graham, was to realize what is important to you. This aids in helping define your happiness because you focus on things in which you excel.

“We have to organize this information around what you love,” said Graham. “What are you passionate about? What are your talents? What are your skills? What do you do well? Because the value that you give yourself is the value the world gives you. This is why self-mastery is so powerful.”

Graham continued to speak about the remaining 8-steps of his 9-step plan for success, the first step being passion for what you do. Each step ties itself to the next, just like the journey each service member must take when transitioning through the deployment cycle.

Graham concluded by tying in the poem “The Race” by D.H. Groberg. He noted there are blocks and obstacles in all aspects of life that must be overcome, and are each person's individual race.

“The world is a collection of unlimited wealth and resources,” said Graham. “Often, we limit our potential by moving in our own small circles because of our fears. If we change the way we view the world, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.”

Operation Platinum Support

Turning Wrenches and Improving Readiness

Story and photos by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs

As the 88th RSC's Operation Platinum Support mission continues, the benefits of this unique program are stacking up for Soldiers, their units, Equipment Concentration Site 67 and the 88th RSC.

OPS allows U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers in low-density supply and maintenance specialties to perform and gain proficiency in their technical skills while acting in direct support to the numerous exercises taking place on Fort McCoy.

Christopher Frick, ECS 67 manager said Operation Platinum Support was something ECS 67 and the 88th RSC Directorate of Plans and Training started laying the groundwork for three years ago.

"We saw a real need for soldiers to get more hands-on training," said Frick, "more opportunity to do their jobs, to enhance and build their skill sets that they are not necessarily getting on a battle assembly weekend."

As part of their U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th RSC's Operation Platinum Support mission the 698th Quartermaster Company out of Nicholas, New York, the 818th Support Maintenance Company out of Baltimore, and the 1015 Quartermaster Company out of Baltimore, were turning wrenches and improving readiness at ECS 67 in July.

U.S. Army Reserve 1st Sgt. Kevin Merrill from the 698th Quartermaster Company assisted his Soldiers as they completed services and maintenance on Humvee's at ECS 67.

"At home station, we get to do just services," said Merrill. "Here we get wrench time doing the repair, doing the trouble shooting so it enhances their capabilities."

"Two thirds of the unit are supply technicians," Merrill continued. "They are working in the Central Issue Facility and ECS warehouses

right now stocking and maintaining, checking serviceability and checking tents they plan on issuing out for the next exercise. Next week there will be thousands of soldiers here drawing their equipment and our supply techs will be quite busy."

Mathew Berndt, a supervisor at ECS 67, explained how the Soldiers who participate in OPS aren't just learning, they are assisting the ECS with its mission as well.

"We are short staffed and our employees are going on their own AT's during the summer months," said Berndt. "Out here they are accomplishing a lot of our more expedient repairs from the equipment that is coming in off issue and getting it back up to 10/20 standards so that we can issue it back out to the next units for the exercises."

Berndt went on to explain how there's not always a lot of time to turn wrenches or work on a wide variety of

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(Photo Above) As part of his U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, Pfc. Walter John Solt IV, 698th Quartermaster Company mechanic, gets wrench time doing repairs and troubleshooting to enhance his MOS capabilities. Operation Platinum Support allows Army Reserve Soldiers in low-density supply and maintenance specialties to perform and gain proficiency in their technical skills while acting in direct support to the numerous exercises taking place on Fort McCoy.



As part of her U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, Spc. Kelly Simmons, 698th Quartermaster Company out of Nicholas, New York, drains a radiator as part of an engine repair on a HMMWV at the 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy, July 28.



As part of their U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, Soldiers from the 1015th Quartermaster out of Baltimore, Md., perform a two-person lift while stacking tentage before returning the equipment to storage at the 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy, July 28.

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wrenches or work on a wide variety of equipment at the unit level.

“Some of the equipment they get to work on here, they don’t even see at their home station. But more than likely, they will see it when they mobilize or deploy and this gives them a chance to work on that equipment and better their skills for the future,” said Berndt. “It’s not practice, it is real world, hands on work.”

Private 1st Class Christian Kaplan, 298th Support Maintenance Company mechanic, spent the afternoon removing the wheels from an FMTV for its annual service and maintenance.

“We don’t get to do a lot of maintenance in our Reserve unit,” Kaplan said. “We just do basic maintenance on smaller trucks. It’s nice to get out here and use heavily used vehicles and get accustomed to bigger machinery and have all the tools that are available to us here. It’s a lot to expand my knowledge on what I’m doing. I’m learning every day in here. The civilians here are very knowledgeable, very hands on with us. They get down and get dirty with us.”

Kaplan went on to describe how Operation Platinum Support provided him with a more practical learning experience.

“These trucks are heavily used as they would be in a deployment situation so it’s not like we just service them and they sit. These get used, so a lot of ingenuity has to come into play,” said Kaplan.

Fellow 298th mechanic, Sgt. Vannoy Bryant, added that working with other units enhanced the training.

“It’s good because you never know who you’re going to deploy with,” said Bryant, “so it’s good to interact with

different Soldiers and the knowledge they bring to the table. You’re always learning.”

Sergeant 1st Class Availeo Hubbard, 1015 Quartermaster Company NCOIC, spent the afternoon supervising his Soldiers as they prepared tents for turn in and storage.

“Our customers are counting on us to make sure the equipment is mechanically sound and operationally ready when they need it. These Soldiers are helping accomplish that mission. It’s not practice, it is real world, hands on work.”

“Training’s going good. Compared to battle assembly, it’s actually more hands on. BA is mostly classes and medical, here we are actually getting hands-on working together as a team, meeting new people, learning personalities, stuff like that. It is way more engaged than battle assembly,”

Hubbard said.

“A lot of the guys are just learning how to break down tents for the first time, so that’s pretty good training, definitely team building and team work. A lot of group work.”

Frick summed up the benefits of Operation Platinum Support for the ECS and for everyone involved in the program.

“This mission is helping the ECS meet our goals. It’s helping us to reduce our backlog. It’s helping us to reduce our delinquent services. It’s helping us to reduce our overdue inventories. And it’s benefiting our customers because we are getting ahead.

“The Soldiers are not only helping us get equipment prepared for operation support- we support both WAREX and CSTX here on fort McCoy and a lot smaller functional exercises as well- but also helping us keep the equipment prepared for all of the customers who store equipment at ECS-67.

“Our customers are counting on us to make sure the equipment is mechanically sound and operationally ready when they need it. These Soldiers are helping accomplish that mission.”

By the completion of Operation Platinum Support this year, supply and maintenance Soldiers will have processed and inventoried thousands of pieces of equipment and are projected to complete more than 100 service and repair work orders.

“And for the Soldiers,” Frick continued, “Operation Platinum Support gives them an opportunity to come to Fort McCoy for two, three weeks and perform their jobs. To exercise their skill sets so when the time comes to be deployed, they know their job. This is readiness.”

As part of their U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, Spc. Ashley Nicole Burks (back), and Pfc. Anita Sharma (front) with the 818th Support Maintenance Company out of Baltimore, Md., service the wheels on a portable generator at the 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy, July 28. Operation Platinum Support allows Army Reserve Soldiers in low-density supply and maintenance specialties to perform and gain proficiency in their technical skills while acting in direct support to the numerous exercises taking place on Fort McCoy.



As part of their U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, Soldiers from the 1015th Quartermaster out of Baltimore, Md., perform a two-person lift while stacking tentage before returning the equipment to storage at the 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy, July 28. Operation Platinum Support allows Army Reserve Soldiers in low-density supply and maintenance specialties to perform and gain proficiency in their technical skills while acting in direct support to the numerous exercises taking place on Fort McCoy.



As part of their U.S. Army Reserve Annual Training participation in the 88th Regional Support Command's Operation Platinum Support mission, , Pfc. Christian Kaplan and Sgt. Bryant Vannoy with the 298th Support Maintenance Company out of Altoona, Pa., remove the wheels of a FMTV for annual service and maintenance at the 88th RSC's Equipment Concentration Site 67 on Fort McCoy, July 28. Operation Platinum Support allows Army Reserve Soldiers in low-density supply and maintenance specialties to perform and gain proficiency in their technical skills while acting in direct support to the numerous exercises taking place on Fort McCoy. (Photos by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs)



A Family Prepares for Deployment

Story and photos by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Military families have always faced challenges. None quite as demanding as a combat deployment. While combat is the Soldiers' mission alone, deployment is a family endeavor.

Bryan and Rachelle Witherow have been married for 13 years and have three sons ages six, ten and 12. Bryan is a U.S. Army Reserve staff sergeant who has been serving for eighteen years. Rachelle is a USAR sergeant and has been serving for four years. They are also both full-time Civilian Military Technicians with the 88th Regional Support Command on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

"Joining the military was something I had always wanted to do," Rachelle said, "and I kind of let his career go first and then I finally got the opportunity.

"It was a tough decision to join the military while the children were small, but I also wanted my kids to

"It was a tough decision to join the military while the children were small, but I also wanted my kids to realize that they needed to be able to follow their dreams no matter what."

realize that they needed to be able to follow their dreams no matter what."

As challenging as it can be to balance two jobs, two military careers, three children, homework, sports practice and monthly battle assemblies, this family has now accepted the opportunity and responsibility of serving their nation overseas.

While Sgt. Rachelle Witherow will be going overseas in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as an ammunition sergeant with the 395th Ordnance Company out of Appleton, Wis., later this year, her entire family faces the challenge of deployment.

"I figured at some point I would deploy. I came into a training unit to start with so it wasn't really an immediate concern," Rachelle pointed out. "But getting promoted into an actual line company, as soon as those orders hit it was 'alright, this is possibly go time,' it can happen at any point now."

Although this will be the first deployment for the Witherow family, military service has been a part of their lives from the beginning. Bryan was already a member of the Army Reserve when he and Rachelle married and their boys have grown up with military service, yearly training and monthly battle assemblies as part of their daily lives.

"I was at my annual training in March and we had a soldier fall off so they decided they needed another NCO to step up. So I stepped up right then. It was another two weeks before I was back home with my family to talk about the deployment.

"It was almost easier to accept the news because I was in a military environment, in uniform, in a military

state of mind during that period of time. Making the phone call and letting my husband know, I mean, that wasn't easy, but we kind of had a feeling that it was coming."

Bryan has concerns about Rachelle's deployment, but he explained why being in the Army Reserve himself has helped him understand the process.

"I think it's difficult as a husband knowing that your wife is going over," Bryan said, "but being a soldier and going through some of the same stuff myself, I get it. So I think it makes it easier on me as a spouse.

"So like some of the challenges and the questions and the worries a spouse might have that's not in the military - a lot of those you already know the answer to so it's not as tax-

ing on me emotionally. You know what's designed and what's in place to keep your Soldier safe."

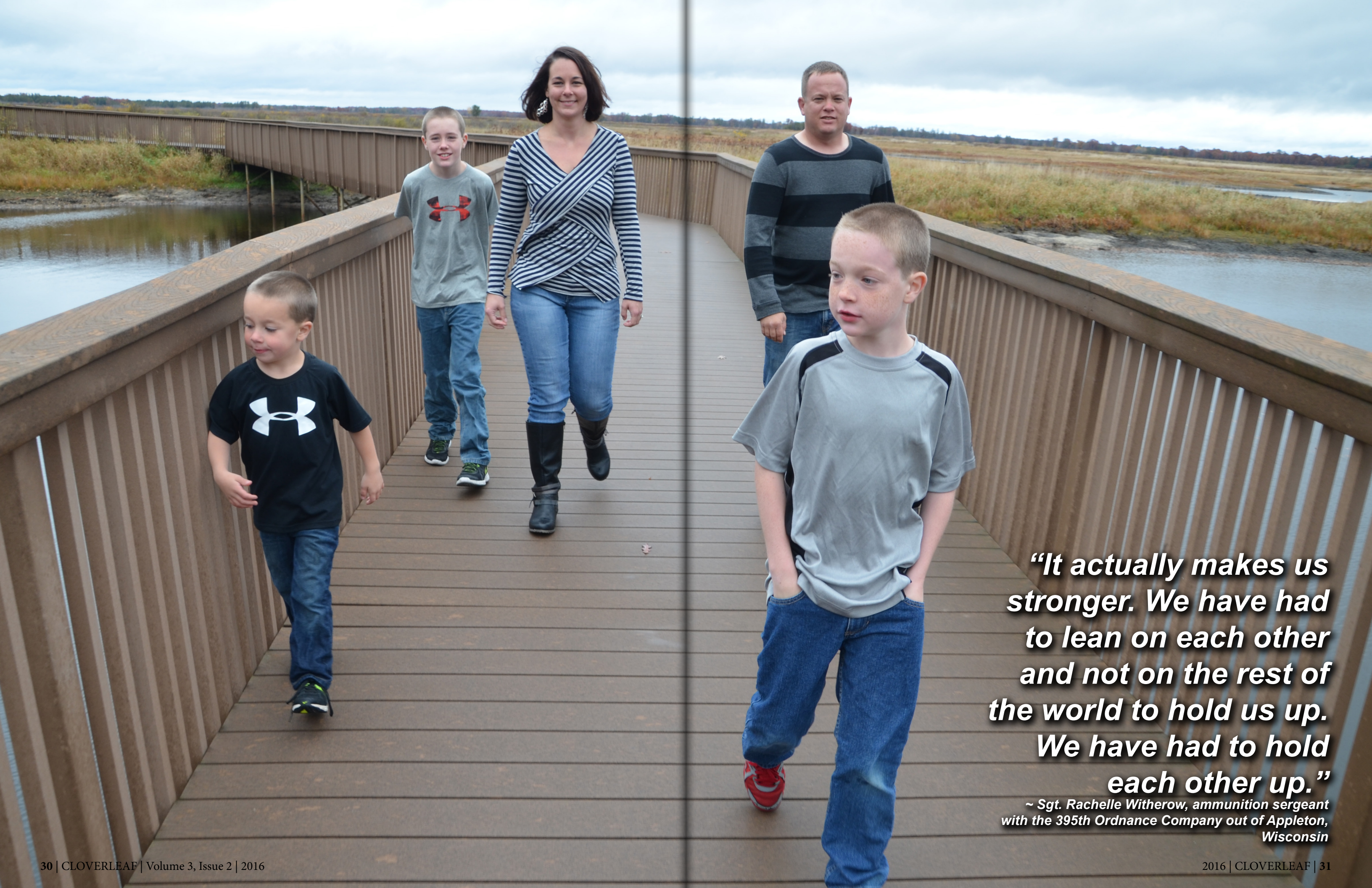
Despite the concerns they both have, Rachelle said that, for now, her excitement has overruled her fear.

"It's hard to say it. There's a part of me that's excited," Rachelle admitted. "I mean this is something we've trained up to do. This is what we signed up to do. To go and do what the Army needs us to do. As a Soldier, I'm excited to have the opportunity to lead other Soldiers and have this opportunity. I'm not going to lie, I'm a little scared. It's the unknown. I've never been there before, so," Rachelle trailed off.

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(Photo Opposite Page) Bryan and Rachelle Witherow pose for a family photo with their children in the Fall of 2015. (Photo courtesy of Catherine Lowrey) (Above Photo) Sgt. Rachelle Witherow, 88th Regional Support Command, receives a promotion with the help of her three sons during a ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wis., April 3, 2015. (U.S. Army Reserve photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Corey Beal)



***“It actually makes us
stronger. We have had
to lean on each other
and not on the rest of
the world to hold us up.
We have had to hold
each other up.”***

*~ Sgt. Rachelle Witherow, ammunition sergeant
with the 395th Ordnance Company out of Appleton,
Wisconsin*



When asked how she handles the transitions between being mom and Soldier, Rachelle responded quickly, comparing it to flipping a switch back and forth. She also explained how being a mom helps her in uniform.

"It's a totally different ballgame," Rachelle stated. "You put the uniform on, you leave the house to go do even just a battle assembly weekend and you got your game face on. At the same time, I've got younger soldiers under me and it's almost like being mom all over again.

"As an NCO, being a mom helps, I have a little more patience. I feel protective of the junior Soldiers. To know that I can make a difference in their lives just like I can with my kids because they are younger and still learning. The

youngest Soldier deploying with me is 19."

Rachelle went on to explain how despite the challenges their family will face and the distance that will separate them, her children are prepared - and proud.

"Missing birthdays and stuff like that has been harder, especially for my older son. This will be my third time missing his birthday since I joined the Army," Rachelle said. "But for the most part they are proud of it.

"We have our countdowns that we do and everything. They are pretty resilient. They seem to get through it pretty easy. Just keep them on schedule."

Rachelle shared her children's ideas of what Reserve service entails and questions they have asked.

"They're boys, so they ask things like 'are you going to go play with guns this weekend?'" Rachelle said. "I think being around it their entire lives with their dad being in the service, it's just a way of life for them."

"I think it's cool and all," their oldest son said. "But since she's going to be deployed, I'm going to miss her because it's going to be a long time that she's going to be gone and I don't know exactly what's going to happen there.

"I'll keep in touch with mom by letter," her middle son added, "maybe by FaceTime like at night before I go to bed or right away in the morning or maybe if mom has her phone and is able to text.

"For now, I try my best to help her out around the house," he continued. "I'll have to help my dad

keep an eye on my brothers while mom's gone. Make sure that stuff is all ok."

Their youngest son offered up his opinion of mom and dad's uniforms.

"Mom is awesome in her uniform," their youngest son said grinning, "and my dad is pretty cool because he has a new uniform."

More seriously, he added, "Soldiers shoot, they protect us from the enemy soldiers."

Then he asked his mom a tough question.

"Are they trying to kill you guys?" he asked.

Rachelle answered, "Depends on how bad they are."

Rachelle paused and sat quietly with her youngest son on her lap before continuing.

"I think Bryan's main concern is just making sure that the kids are taken care of, being there for them as much as possible," she said.

"He has training to attend right after I leave so his mom is coming to stay with the boys for a few

"I think it's difficult as a husband knowing that your wife is going over," Bryan said, "but being a soldier and going through some of the same stuff myself, I get it. So I think it makes it easier on me as a spouse."

weeks and going to stay and help out for the holidays. We have a few closer friends here but we are not from this area so we have to kind of find those people you can really trust especially in this type of situation.

"It actually makes us stronger. We have had to lean on each other and not on the rest of the world to hold us up," she said. "We have had to hold each other up. We have been away from home, in Washington state, for almost 9 years now. Knowing where we were then versus where we are now, knowing what we can do that we never thought we would be able to, you know, because we've had to just do it."

Their oldest son spoke up again and said, "I think it's kind of emotional because I've never gone through this part before, the overseas part. But I'm also used to it because dad has always had to leave for military stuff, too."

"One of the biggest things," Bryan added, "is that we are proud of her. Proud of what's she's doing."



(Photo Above) Sgt. Rachelle Witherow and her family pose for a photo after her promotion ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wis., April 3, 2015. Sgt. Rachelle Witherow will be going overseas in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as an ammunition sergeant with the 395th Ordnance Company out of Appleton, Wis., later this year. (U.S. Army Reserve photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Corey Beal)

Bryan and Rachelle Witherow pose for a family photo with their children in the Fall of 2015. Sgt. Rachelle Witherow will be going overseas in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as an ammunition sergeant with the 395th Ordnance Company out of Appleton, Wis., later this year. (Photo courtesy of Catherine Lowrey)

88th RSC Ensures Army Reserve Ambassadors Know the Soldier's Story



Story and photos by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Army Reserve Ambassadors tell the Soldier's story at the federal, state and local government levels. It is important the Army Reserve helps them understand the story they tell. The 88th Regional Support Command provided an opportunity for ARA's to gain first hand insight into what it takes for Soldiers and military leaders to achieve the readiness required to meet the challenges of an evolving military environment.

Twenty-eight ARA's from 16 states attended the 88th RSC's ARA Workshop on Fort McCoy, July 15 and 16. The workshop provided the ambassadors information on the current and future structure of the Army Reserve, how the Army Reserve fits into overall Army readiness and

what the ambassadors can do to assist Soldiers in their states. Speakers

“Readiness doesn't just happen in the field. Readiness starts with leaders coming together and sharing information.”

included Army Reserve leadership, general officers with units in the 88th RSC's 19-state region, as well as Fort

McCoy garrison command staff, 86th Training Division command staff and 88th RSC command staff.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, 88th RSC commanding general, welcomed the attendees with a simple message.

“These are interesting times with interesting challenges,” stated Reinert.

Reinert went on to explain that readiness is the 88th RSC's number one goal and ambassadors are a critical partner in communicating not only the needs of the military but the capabilities and accomplishments of our force as well.

Maj. Gen. Les Carroll, commanding general of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, TSC, in New Orleans, spoke to the ambassadors about training requirements, readiness standards and working

together. The 377th TSC is the largest command in the Army Reserve with more than 36,000 Soldiers, over 900 Civilians and 442 units in 39 states.

“Readiness doesn't just happen in the field,” Carroll explained. “Readiness starts with leaders coming together and sharing information. My goal is to get you the information you need.”

Carroll went on to explain that ambassadors are the critical link between military leaders and government officials.

“You are the ultimate volunteers,” said Carroll.

Doug Gibbens, ARA for the state of Indiana, spoke during a break about what he was learning so far.

“It's an opportunity to stay up to date and to hear the most current information” Gibbens said. “Perhaps the most interesting was what Maj. Gen. Carroll was just speaking about - the new training requirements and how we are going to have to transition from the war we have been fighting to the next one.”



Gibbens said he will use the information from the workshop in a number of ways.

“One will be with employers,” said Gibbens. “We talk with employers and with commanders, the information doesn't always get down to the local level. I'm just one more messenger. There is also a real benefit not only from the speakers that are brought in but from the interaction and sharing experiences with other ambassadors what works for them, what didn't

work for them. That sharing is very important.”

Steve Carter, ARA for the state of Minnesota is a fairly new ambassador and he shared a few of his focus topics.

“The biggest thing is the need for employers support for Reserve Soldiers to take time off needed for training,” Carter said. “Also, anytime I talk to anyone in legislation and congressional staffs, I highlight the need to support the military financially. Lastly, the community, I



(Photo Top) Mary Miller, Army Reserve Ambassador for the state of Washington, gets a briefing before driving an improvised explosive device removal vehicle in the Virtual Clearance Training Suite during the 88th Regional Support Command's Army Reserve Ambassador Workshop July 16.

(Photo Above) Army Reserve Ambassadors attending the 88th Regional Support Command's Army Reserve Ambassador Workshop July 16, watch a platoon's reaction to a vehicle convoy ambush during the 86th Training Division's WAREX taking place on Fort McCoy. The workshop provided the ambassadors information on the current and future structure of the Army Reserve, how the Army Reserve fits into overall Army readiness and what the ambassadors can do to assist Soldiers in their states. Speakers included Army Reserve leadership, general officers with units in the 88th RSC's 19-state region, as well as Fort McCoy garrison command staff, 86th Training Division command staff and 88th RSC command staff.



don't think the great American public understands the sacrifices that our Reserve Soldiers make."

Carter went on to state that it was great to hear the priorities of the Army Reserve, what the Army's going through, the current environment and what challenges the Army Reserve faces and how he can help in his role.

In addition to the briefings and discussions, the ambassadors were given a front-row seat to a live training exercise conducted by the 86th Training Division during their current WAREX taking place on Fort McCoy. The ambassadors hid in an urban village and witnessed a platoon's reaction to a vehicle convoy ambush and participated in the after action review that followed.

"This is awesome to see the Soldiers going through training," said Carter. "I was an officer in the Army for 23 years and haven't been through training in a while so it's just a great experience."

The workshop also included hands-on experiences in the virtual training facilities available on Fort McCoy. Ambassadors were allowed to drive Humvees through a virtual environment and fight off an attack in the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer. They drove an improvised explosive device removal vehicle in the Virtual Clearance Training Suite and fired an array of weapons at on-screen targets in the Engagement Skills Trainer.

When asked why he became an

ambassador Gibbens, who retired from the Army Reserve in 1998, responded that it was an opportunity to keep serving.

"It was a way to stay connected to Soldiers," Gibbens said. "That keeps you young, it's kept me young."

The workshop concluded with a bus tour of the Fort McCoy Range Complex. The ambassadors walked through villages, subway stations and building structures used for realistic training scenarios all designed with one goal in mind: readiness.

The ambassadors will return to their states with a greater understanding of how Soldiers train, what the Army Reserve requires to plan, achieve and maintain readiness and what they can do to tell the Soldier's story.



(Photo Top) Twenty-eight Army Reserve Ambassadors from 16 states attending the 88th RSC's ARA Workshop on Fort McCoy, take a group photo, July 15. (Photo Above) Maj. Gen. Les Carroll, commanding general of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, TSC, in New Orleans, speaks to Army Reserve Ambassadors attending the 88th Regional Support Command's Army Reserve Ambassador Workshop, July 15, about training requirements, readiness standards and working together. The 377th TSC is the largest command in the Army Reserve with more than 36,000 Soldiers, over 900 Civilians and 442 units in 39 states.



Doug Gibbens, Army Reserve Ambassador for the state of Indiana, speaks with a Soldier participating in a convoy ambush training exercise by the 86th Training Division.



Honoring the Memory & Legacy of President Benjamin Harrison

Story and photos by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs

On the 183rd anniversary of his birth, more than 60 people gathered to celebrate the life and presidency of Benjamin Harrison at his memorial site in the Crown Hill Cemetery of Indianapolis, August 20.

“Benjamin Harrison continued in the footsteps of five generations of Harrisons, serving his state and his country as a dedicated military leader before following his grandfather’s path into the presidency,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, the deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command who represented President Barack Obama during the ceremony.

As the 23rd president, Benjamin Harrison was sworn into office on the 100th anniversary of George Washington’s inauguration as the first American president. Because of this, Harrison was known as the “Centennial President,” a position he held from 1889 to 1893. Additionally, Harrison is the last president who was also a general during the Civil War.

Harrison’s presidency is noted for many things, said retired Army Maj. Christopher S. Barnthouse, who served as the master of ceremonies for the event, as he highlighted Harrison’s push to modernize the Navy

“Remembering and paying tribute to our nation’s past is an important part of preparing for our nation’s future.”

by adding battleships to the fleet. Additionally, Barnthouse said, Harrison sought to protect the open spaces by passing the Forest Reserve Act.

There were also speakers from the local and national Sons and Daugh-

ters of the American Revolution during the ceremony. Benjamin Harrison’s wife, Caroline Scott Harrison, was first President General of the National Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. The Indianapolis chapter is named in her honor.

The Harrison family lineage dates back to the beginning of American history as his great-grandfather, Benjamin Harrison V, signed the Declaration of Independence and later served as the governor of Virginia. Harrison’s grandfather, William Henry Harrison, was the ninth President of the United States.

Benjamin Harrison was also the first, and only, president from the state of Indiana. The local Army Reserve center bears his name to this day.

“Remembering and paying tribute to our nation’s past is an important part of preparing for our nation’s future,” Strand said. “The laying of a wreath is a noble and heartfelt tribute. The wreath symbolizes both the beauty and brevity of life.”

Formation of ceremonial re-enactors, Young Marines and Cub and Boy Scouts during the President Benjamin Harrison wreath laying ceremony in Indianapolis, August 20, on what would have been Harrison’s 183rd birthday. (Photo Opposite Page) Staff Sgt. Jeff Hotz, a bugler with the 338th Army Band, plays taps during the President Benjamin Harrison wreath laying ceremony as Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, back center, deputy commanding general, 88th Regional Support Command, and Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Hagen, deputy command chaplain, 88th RSC, salute the memorial, August 20.

One-on-One



Sexual Harassment / Assault Response & Prevention Training

Story and photos by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Soldiers learned the depth and breadth of the U.S. Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program during a two-week course at the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, from August 1 to 12.

The course, titled the SHARP 80 Hour Foundation Course, prepares Soldiers to serve in victim advocate roles within their assigned units as well as to assist regional Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs). In total, there were 25 Soldiers in the second of two courses offered by the 88th RSC during the summer Annual Training season.

After graduating this course, many of these Soldiers will fill unit-level victim advocate roles. Additionally, victim advocates are often the face of the SHARP program at that level.

"Collateral duty victim advocates are normally the ones that are tasked

with refresher training within the unit," said Penny Gietzen, the command SARC for 88th RSC. "We try to prepare them with different tools, different videos and resources in general

"We try to prepare them with different tools, different videos and resources in general that they can use."

that they can use."

Gietzen, who was also one of the instructors for this course, said the

Foundation Course lessons begin with the basics.

"We start with the legal movement, victim's rights and how that's progressed over the years," she said.

From there, Gietzen said, the course tackles the intricacies of being a victim advocate and how to make a positive impact on preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault, starting at the lowest level. The course is divided into 15 chapters with practical exercises and role-playing scenarios helping to drive the points of each lesson home. Finally, students must pass an evaluation that tests their knowledge of the SHARP program and the lessons learned during the two weeks of training as well as a role-playing scenario where a victim advocate meets with a sexual assault victim.

"(The instructors) were very thorough," said Staff Sgt. Felicia Moore, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Florida Army National Guard. "It

was refreshing to have instructors that were currently fulfilling the roles as SARCs. Being able to know that they're not just teaching us something, they're actually in the position now. They're able to share their experiences with us."

There are now more victim advocates to fill roles that were either vacant or filled by someone without the foundational training provided here because these two courses are complete.

"This course is great because it's helping to educate myself and I'll be able to educate other Soldiers in my unit," said Staff Sgt. Shawnda Roberts, from the Florida Army National Guard.

Two iterations of the same class in one season are rare but, Gietzen said, it shows the importance being placed on the SHARP program.

"It's great when we start seeing that

our voices are being heard and they're taking the feedback we're providing and incorporating it into the program it's a big sense of satisfaction knowing that you're making an impact," she said.

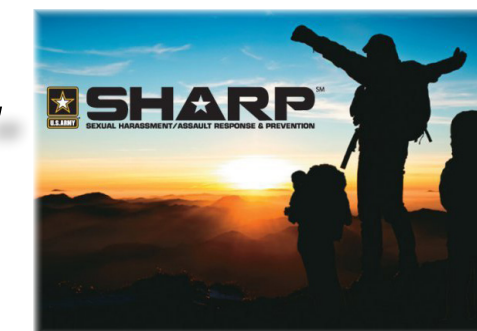
"It was refreshing to have instructors that were currently fulfilling the roles as SARCs."

There are more planned Foundation Courses at various locations across the U.S. Army Reserve Command footprint for Fiscal Year 2017. Gietzen

says the 88th RSC will play a prominent role in those courses once again.

"It's important for those victim advocates to get trained and go back to their units and make sure the training is being conducted consistently," she said.

For more information on the 88th RSC SHARP program contact: Penny Gietzen at penny.a.gietzen.civ@mail.mil or call (608) 388-0315.



Sergeant 1st Class Justin Abbott, a student in the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Foundation Class and a member of the 76th Operational Response Command, conducts a practice counseling session with Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Gomez, a Soldier from 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), who was portraying sexual assault victim for this scenario, August 9 at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Ohio-based Maintenance Shop Earns Top Army Award



Story and photos by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs

Success is measured in many ways. For Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 56 in Whitehall, Ohio, success came in the form of the Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award presented to the staff there by Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, August 29.

“We put a lot of work into it and we’ve done everything they asked for and got it down to what we needed to,” said David Graham, a heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor for AMSA 56. “Without having the people here doing their job, we wouldn’t get this award.”

As a shop, AMSA 56 was responsible for completing more than 2,600 job orders in 2015 and saving the Army more than \$90,000 when it was able to

repair a fuel servicing truck that was damaged in transit. In total, AMSA 56 supports more than 90 separate units for their automotive, small arms and electronics maintenance needs.

“What you guys do is one of the more important pieces of readiness.”

“Equipment readiness is something that you have to maintain over time. You’ve got to get all the right parts at the right time in order to build

that readiness,” Reinert said. “AMSA 56 and the work you guys do really shows how to do it right. What you guys do is one of the more important pieces of readiness.”

The award is a culmination of a culture that focuses on a specific process and following regulations and standard operating procedures, Graham said.

“Without [the staff] having the dedication to their job and what they do – the supply part and the maintenance part – everything that we do here is a team effort, everybody put forth what they needed to get this done and that’s why we were selected for this award,” Graham said.

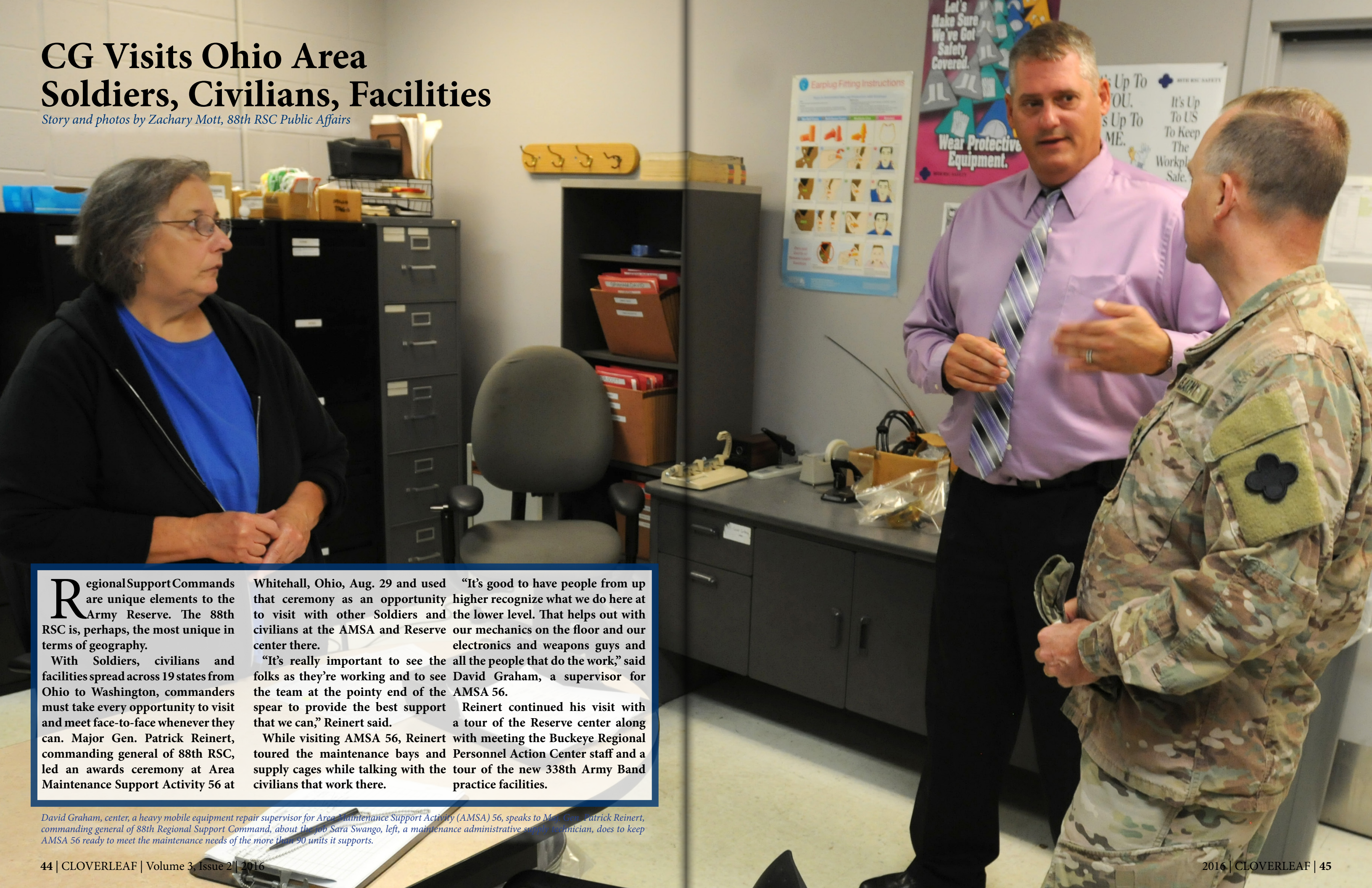
This is the second U.S. Army Reserve-level award AMSA 56 earned and the first Army Chief of Staff-level award.

David Graham, left, a heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor for Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 56, shows Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th Regional Support Command, and David Fyfe, director of logistics, 88th RSC, around the shop floor after an awards presentation, Aug. 29. The Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award was presented to AMSA 56 for its superior performance during 2015 – a year in which it completed more than 2,600 job orders for more than 90 separate units.

(Photo Above) David Graham, left, a heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor for Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 56, holds the Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award after Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th Regional Support Command, presented him the award at the Whitehall, Ohio, shop, Aug. 29.

CG Visits Ohio Area Soldiers, Civilians, Facilities

Story and photos by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs



Regional Support Commands are unique elements to the Army Reserve. The 88th RSC is, perhaps, the most unique in terms of geography.

With Soldiers, civilians and facilities spread across 19 states from Ohio to Washington, commanders must take every opportunity to visit and meet face-to-face whenever they can. Major Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th RSC, led an awards ceremony at Area Maintenance Support Activity 56 at

Whitehall, Ohio, Aug. 29 and used that ceremony as an opportunity to visit with other Soldiers and civilians at the AMSA and Reserve center there.

“It’s really important to see the folks as they’re working and to see the team at the pointy end of the spear to provide the best support that we can,” Reinert said.

While visiting AMSA 56, Reinert toured the maintenance bays and supply cages while talking with the civilians that work there.

“It’s good to have people from up higher recognize what we do here at the lower level. That helps out with our mechanics on the floor and our electronics and weapons guys and all the people that do the work,” said David Graham, a supervisor for AMSA 56.

Reinert continued his visit with a tour of the Reserve center along with meeting the Buckeye Regional Personnel Action Center staff and a tour of the new 338th Army Band practice facilities.

David Graham, center, a heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor for Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 56, speaks to Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th Regional Support Command, about the job Sara Swango, left, a maintenance administrative supply technician, does to keep AMSA 56 ready to meet the maintenance needs of the more than 90 units it supports.



Jordan Lynch, left, unit administrator for the 338th Army Band, shows Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th Regional Support Command, the practice hall during a tour of the unit's facilities Aug. 29.

(Inset Photo Opposite Page Top) David Graham, right, a heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor for Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 56, shows Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th Regional Support Command, and David Fyfe, director of logistics, 88th RSC, look through the rows of vehicle parts stored at the Whitehall, Ohio, facility Aug. 29.

(Inset Photos Opposite Page, Middle and Bottom) David Graham, left, a heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor for Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 56, shows Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of 88th Regional Support Command, and David Fyfe, director of logistics, 88th RSC, a new vehicle diagnostic machine at the Whitehall, Ohio, facility Aug. 29.

What we do.

The Defense Suicide Prevention Office supports a collaborative public health approach where suicide prevention is integrated into military, family and civilian policies and programs to reduce suicidal behavior in Service members, their families and DoD civilians. We are working closely with the military services, civilian organizations and the community to create a network of support for suicide prevention efforts. Visit us at <http://www.dspo.mil>.

RESOURCES

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Send text to 838255



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Connect. 24/7



Dial 911

BeThere.

Learn how to BeThere for yourself and others at <http://www.dspo.mil>.

BeThere

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DEFENSE SUICIDE
PREVENTION OFFICE



BeThere **for Others.**

Everyday connections can make a big difference to someone. Don't assume someone else will make an effort. Be the one who reaches out.



Make a call



Send a text



Grab a cup of coffee



Take a walk together



Meet up for a workout



Stop for a chat at the store

Call for professional help if you become concerned (see resources on the back of this brochure).

BeThere **for Yourself.**

Care for yourself — it's as important as the care you give to others.



Connect with family and friends



Go outdoors for a workout



Get plenty of sleep



Eat right



Volunteer for a good cause



Take your dog for a walk

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Changes in behavior could mean that a person needs help. Reach out to the people you know if they:



Post negative thoughts on social media



Act out of sorts or not like themselves



Struggle with a relationship



Seem anxious or stressed



Drink too much

Editor
Cloverleaf Magazine
88th Regional Support Command, Public Affairs
60 South O Street
Fort McCoy, WI 54656



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