

CLOVER LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

2017: Volume 4, Issue 1



Army Reserve & I Corps

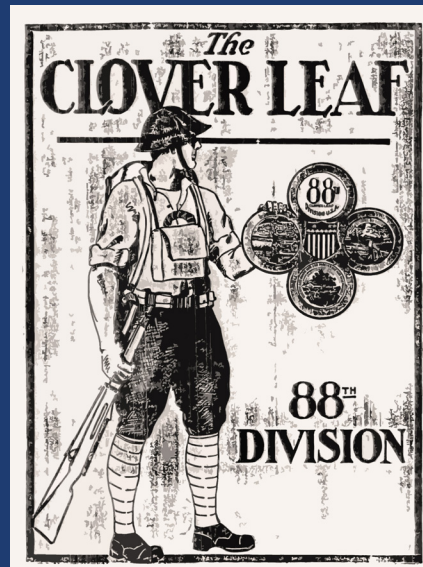
*88th RSC and America's First Corps Team Up to Form
Main Command Post-Operational Detachment*

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 OPERATING IN THE NORTHWESTERN U.S.
FROM THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY TO THE PACIFIC COAST

88TH RSC About Us



Maj. Chris Spencer, retirement services officer with the 88th Regional Support Command, reads the description of the awards being presented to the family of Pfc. Herbert A. Grue during a ceremony, May 28 in Birchwood, Wisconsin. The awards and medals were presented to the surviving family members of the World War II veteran who was killed in action November 16, 1942. (Cover photo by U.S. Army, Photo Above by Zachary Mott)



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT
COMMAND
2017 ~ VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

The Cloverleaf is an authorized official publication, published biannually. Under provision of AR 360-1, the 88th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office publishes the Cloverleaf to provide useful information to our customer units. Contents are not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U. S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 88th Regional Support Command.

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

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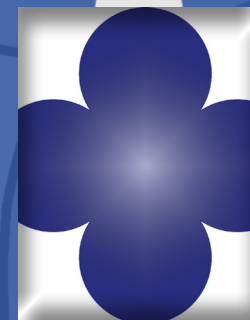
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Deputy Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand



Chief of Staff
Charles C. Hudson



Command Chief Warrant Office
(Currently Vacant)



Command Sergeant Major
Earl G. Rocca

Command Team



The 88th RSC is a fully committed readiness partner which builds READINESS by providing best-in-class services and base operations support for 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 capable and combat-ready and available for any contingency to support 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.

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.

Together we will ensure the Army Reserve is the most capable, combat-ready and lethal Federal Reserve force in the history of the Nation. Please let us know how we can better serve you.



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

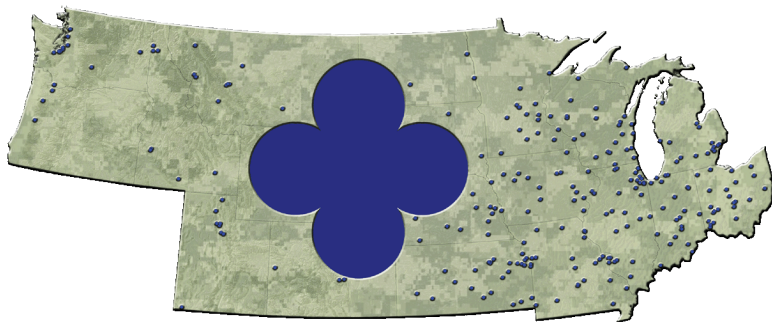
~Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert

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Family of World War II Veteran Receives Final Medals



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

Family of a World War II Veteran who was recently identified as one of the service members who died when their ship was bombed November 16, 1942, in the Pacific theater of operations were able to achieve closure as they were presented with his medals during a ceremony May 28.

Private first class Herbert A. Grue was a member of the 22nd Portable Hospital unit en route to setting up a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital to aide the Soldiers and Marines serving on the front lines. He, along with the contingent of Soldiers and Sailors on board, was listed as buried at sea following the attack by the Japanese navy. It wasn't until earlier this year when the Army notified the surviving family members that Pfc. Grue would have his duty status updated to killed in action.

The oldest grandchild, Laura Ekstrom who now resides in Birch-

wood, Wisconsin and had heard some tales of her grandfather, began asking questions about what medals

“It’s our heritage, I want all of our children – and we even have great-grandchildren here today – to remember this.”

he received, in hopes of learning more about her family’s history of military service.

That fact-finding quest resulted in

a Memorial Day weekend ceremony with more than 50 family members and friends in attendance as Maj. Christopher Spencer, a retirement services officer with the U.S. Army Reserve’s 88th Regional Support Command, presented the family with each of the six awards and described what each medal means.

“It was just the most amazing thing,” Ekstrom said. “It’s just a way to honor our grandfather and everyone that’s fallen in the war and thank them that we have our freedom and stand here today.”

Coordinating the attendance from family members as far away as Arizona proved challenging, but coordinating the ceremony with Memorial Day felt like a fitting tribute, Ekstrom said.

“It’s our heritage, I want all of our children – and we even have great-grandchildren here today – to remember this,” she said.

The six awards presented to

Ekstrom, her five sisters and the rest of the family were: the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

The 20-minute ceremony was followed by a 21-gun salute and playing Taps by an honor guard comprised members of the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

“You serve your whole career in hoping that you’ll do something honorable. Every single time you put that uniform on you want to do something honorable,” Spencer said.

“I don’t think there’s anything more honorable than this. It’s awesome.”



(Photo Top) Maj. Chris Spencer, retirement services officer with the 88th Regional Support Command, presents the surviving family members of Pfc. Herbert A. Grue with the awards and medals the World War II veteran earned before he was killed in action November 16, 1942. (Photo Bottom) Photos of Pfc. Herbert A. Grue along with a hand-written note sent to the family announcing his death in 1942 are on display at the home of his granddaughter Laura Ekstrom in Birchwood, Wisconsin. Ekstrom and her family were presented with the six awards earned by Grue who was killed while serving in the Pacific with the 22nd Portable Hospital unit.



An honor guard comprised of members of the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts provide a 21-gun salute to honor World War II veteran Pfc. Herbert A. Grue at an awards presentation May 28 in Birchwood, Wisconsin. Grue was killed in action November 16, 1942, and his awards and medals were presented to his surviving family members during the ceremony.



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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

*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.*

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/31745>



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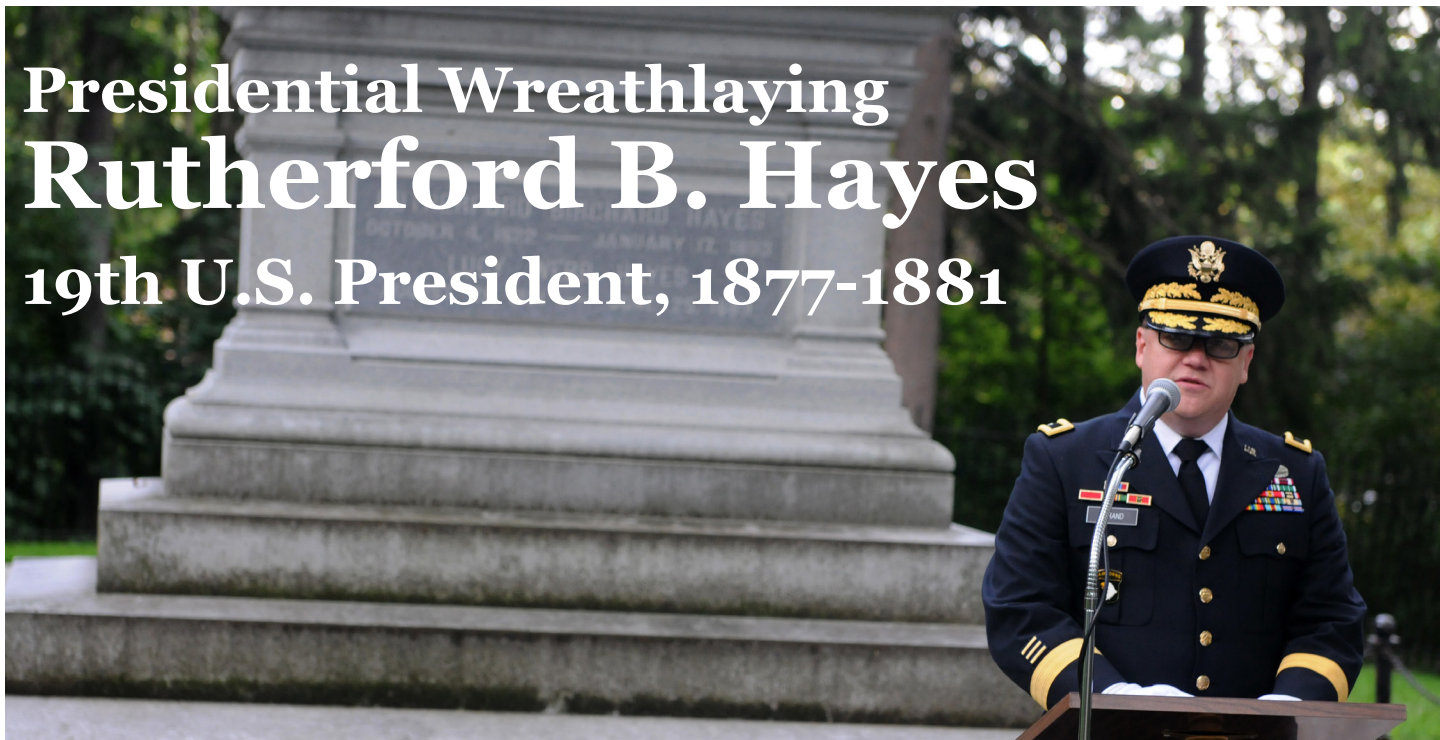
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Presidential Wreathlaying Rutherford B. Hayes

19th U.S. President, 1877-1881



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

Amid the backdrop of warm Midwestern fall afternoon, a former President of the United States was remembered for his service to the nation with a wreath-laying ceremony October 2.

Rutherford B. Hayes served this country in many ways. He was a Soldier, serving in the Civil War and rising to the rank of brevet major general; a congressman, serving as the Ohio 2nd District representative from 1865 to 1867; a governor, twice serving that post for Ohio from 1868 to 1872 and again from 1876 until his inauguration as president in 1877; and ultimately as president. While Hayes was president, he presided over the end of Civil War reconstruction and held the office from 1877 to 1881. He died at the age of 70 in 1893 in his home here.

During the ceremony, current and Civil War-era reenactment Soldiers along with a local congressional representative, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post and more than 50 members of the surrounding communities gathered at Spiegel Grove – the site where Hayes and his wife are buried – to pay respects and honor the 19th President of the United States.

“His legacy as a Soldier is well documented,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. “He was a confident leader with the ability to inspire his men by example.”

After being elected in one of the most contentious

elections to date, Hayes hoped to usher in a bi-partisan era where the good of the country was paramount. He was met with strong opposition from both parties, but he was able to accomplish many things during his four-year tenure.

His most famous quote, “he serves his party best who serves his country best,” lends credence to his desire to be a champion for the national well-being.

“Throughout his years of war, political service and presidency, Hayes remained honest, optimistic and decisive,” Strand said. “He knew the power of compromise and worked tirelessly for fairness and equality for all our country’s citizens.”

Bill Reineke, state representative, 88th Ohio House District, also spoke during the ceremony and highlighted Hayes’ love for his family as well.

“We’ve got a very important man buried here,” he said. “The most important thing that I found out about President Hayes is that he is a family man and to see what a difference one man can make.”

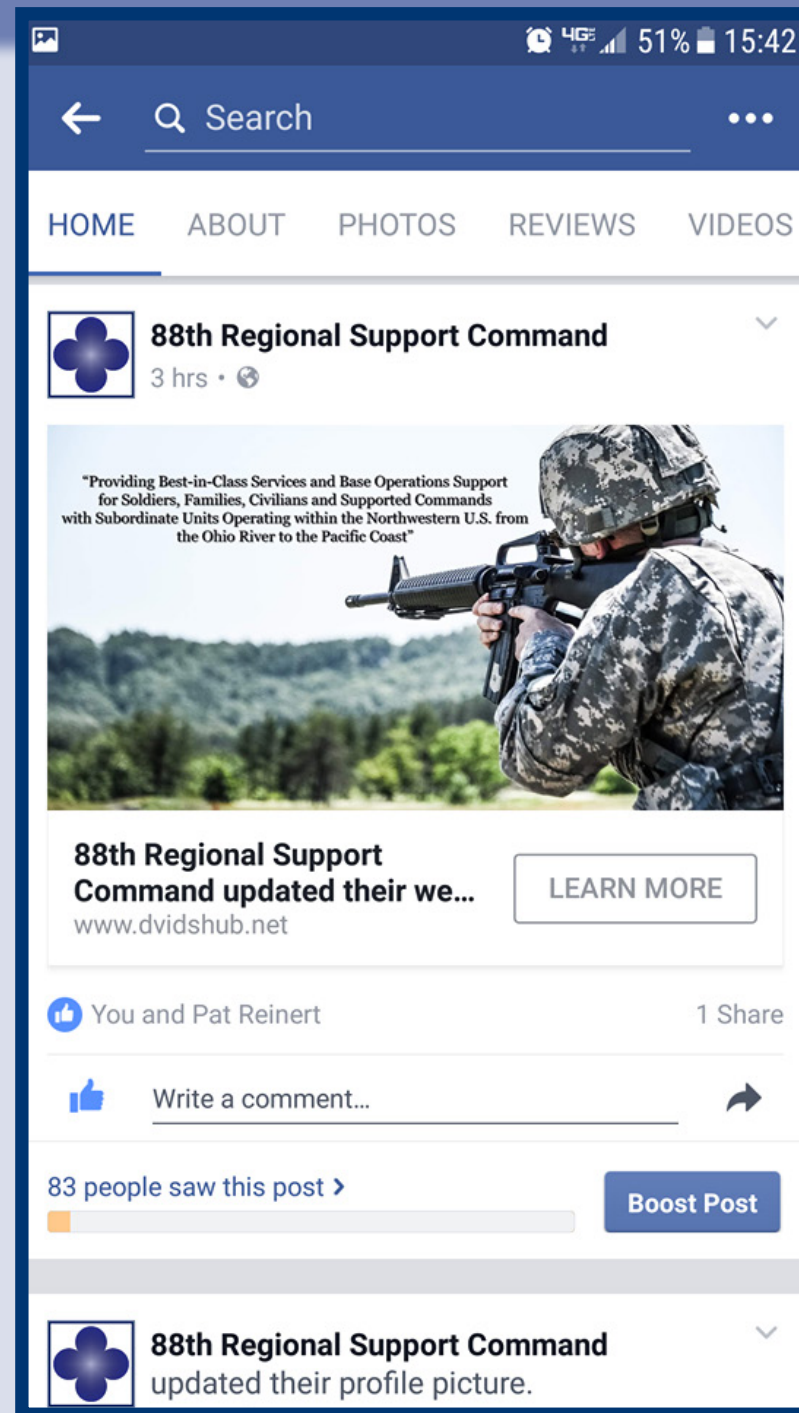
That difference continues to this day as more than 300 living descendants attended the 100th anniversary of the Hayes Presidential Library this past summer. The Hayes library was the first presidential library established in the United States.

“(Hayes’) honesty and integrity revived the prestige of the presidential office,” Strand said.



(Photo Top) Brigadier Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general, 88th Regional Support Command, speaks to the gathered crowd about the legacy and service of Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th President of the United States, during a wreath-laying ceremony at the president’s burial site in Fremont, Ohio, October 2. (Photo Opposite Page) Brigadier Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general, 88th Regional Support Command, listens to Christine Weininger, executive director of the Hayes Presidential Library and Museum, during a pre-ceremony tour of the museum.

Get Connected



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[www.facebook/88RSC](https://www.facebook.com/88RSC)

Earth Day 2017 88th RSC Focuses on Bees

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



With an area of operations that covers more than one third of the United States, there is a lot of literal and figurative ground for the 88th Regional Support Command to cover.

When planning events for Earth Day, the 88th RSCs Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division found something that impacts each of the 19 states within the RSC footprint: bees.

"Without something as simple as bees, we wouldn't have food," said Melani Tescher, chief, Environmental Division, DPW, 88th RSC. "They are a key component to our survival. With the pollination, they pollinate the trees so we have our fruit, the crops so that way we have our grains, strawberries or whatever it is you choose to have."

There is a display set up at the 88th RSC headquarters that highlights the usefulness of bees and what it takes to become a beekeeper on your own.

According to a 2015 report from the United Nations-backed Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), there has been a 37% decline in the worldwide bee population.

A similar study by the Center for Biological Diversity found that nearly one in four native bee species in imperiled and at increasing risk of extinction.

"Some of the bees are becoming endangered or threatened because of pesticides," Tescher said. "Our display is all about informing people on if you want to be a beekeeper, here's how you can do that. Some of the importance of it and some of the endangered species we're looking for and trying to support as much as possible."

For Kevin Brown, a real property accountable officer with the 88th RSCs DPW, being an at-home beekeeper allows him to have a known outcome for a product he enjoys so much: honey. The benefits to the local environment allow others to reap the rewards of a well-maintained hive as well.

"For me, I like the honey, versus buying the supermarket honey that you don't know what or where it came from necessarily," he said. "Along with that, a large part of our area here is agricultural, so by having bees you're indirectly helping the agricultural business with the pollination that they do."

Brown has a small operation, comparatively, with only two hives. There are larger beekeeping operations that serve to pollinate large swathes of the United States. That pollination process is part of what allows crops, flowers and other life-sustaining agricultural areas to thrive.

A strong agricultural landscape is also vital to the training and readiness of the U.S. Army Reserve. Without healthy vegetation, there would be no terrain on which to train. Without a healthy crop supply, there would be no food for Soldiers to eat.

Killing bees en masse is a danger to the land and it is also threatens the readiness of the American fighting forces. There are, however, ways to stop the destruction of the bee population.

Included in the static display at Fort McCoy, and at various locations throughout the 19-state region, are wildflower packages. These seeds can be planted and will help attract bees to pollinate them and in turn keep their population healthy, strong and able to pollinate crops, trees and everything else.

Another way, Brown said, to keep the bee population thriving is to not think of all bees as a single category.

"A lot of people just lump bees into one big pot – wasps, bumble bees, honey bees, they're all just bees – and they want to kill them because they sting and I don't want my kids or my pets to get into them," Brown said.

Instead, he cautions that you should let bees be, especially when they are in a cluster away from their hive.

"Honey bees aren't typically aggressive, so if you see a cluster of bees outside of a hive environment, don't just spray them with any of those pesticides," Brown said. "They are part of another hive that's trying to move on because it either got too big or the hive swarmed and it's looking for another place that's suitable."

In addition to the bee education and wildflower packets to commemorate Earth Day, 88th RSC environmental specialists are providing Earth Day presentations to elementary school students in Washington State and handing out reusable travel mugs and lunch cooler bags and mouse pads throughout the region.

There is an organized clean-up of the Fort Snelling State Park in Minnesota scheduled for early-May. Additionally, in late-May to early-June, the 88th RSC DPW is planting native species of trees in the Joliet Training Center in Illinois.

Taking care of the environment affects everyone. From farmers to consumers to Soldiers at the range, ensuring the environment remains healthy and active is a key component to being the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal Federal Reserve force in the history of the Nation.

"It's important we try to protect (the environment) as much as we can," Tescher said.



Ribbon Cutting Army Reserve Center Opens in Homewood, Illinois

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

Flanked by Soldiers, both past and present, the current facility commander as well as elected officials from the neighboring community and a local fire official cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Army Reserve Center in Homewood, Illinois, October 15.

This location was originally one of 12 installations that comprised the Chicago Defense Area – which was established in 1955 to protect Chicago and the Midwest from the threat of an air attack during the Cold War. In 1984, a new building was constructed on this site and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Army Reserve Center opened its doors.

Now, following a \$15 million facelift and expansion, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Army Reserve Center re-

opened with geothermal and solar power energy sources; life, health and safety code enhancements; additional parking spaces and enhanced force protection measures. The facility also doubled in square footage as there is

“We now have
a brand new
facility for our
troops and units
to train in that
will support all
of their needs,”

now more than 37,000 square feet of space here.

There are currently four units that call this Army Reserve Center home:

the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade; 317th Engineer Company; 4th Battalion, 100th Chemical Brigade and the 5th Battalion, 100th Adjutant General Brigade

“It’s increased our ability to train our Soldiers and get our Soldiers ready for possible deployments,” said Col. Edward Merrigan, commander of the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade. “The skills and preparations that we undertake inside these will us will enable us to be ready and able to respond when our nation calls for our service.”

Prior to moving into this facility, these units were assigned to various other areas across the Chicagoland area in facilities that are in need of updating or are scheduled to close.

“Where we were before was a facility that they’re slowing phasing out of the inventory,” Merrigan said.

Renovating and improving this facility was a focal point for the 88th Regional Support Command – the

command that oversees the facilities across a 19-state region from Ohio to Washington state.

“We now have a brand new facility for our troops and units to train in that will support all of their needs,” said Col. Kurt Wagner, director of the Directorate of Public Works for 88th RSC. “We are proud for the re-opening of this facility.”

To mark the official opening of the building, Merrigan along with Congresswoman Robin Kelly from Illinois’ 2nd Congressional District; Tamara Jordan, the veteran’s representative for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin; and Rick Sewell, the deputy chief for the Homewood Police Department, cut the ceremonial ribbon following a short ceremony.



(Photo Top) Col. Kurt Wagner, director of the Directorate of Public Works for 88th Regional Support Command, talks about the improvements made to the newly re-opened Vietnam Veterans Memorial Army Reserve Center in Homewood, Illinois, October 15. Wagner heads up the 88th RSC organization that is tasked with maintaining the more than 275 facilities across the 19-state region from Ohio to Washington state. (Photo Above) The newly re-opened Vietnam Veterans Memorial Army Reserve Center in Homewood, Illinois, recently completed a \$15 million renovation and expansion. The facility was officially re-opened during a ribbon cutting ceremony October 15. The new center has geothermal and solar power energy sources; life, health and safety code enhancements; additional parking spaces and enhanced force protection measures. The facility also doubled in square footage as there is now more than 37,000 square feet of space.

484th Army Band

Plays at Dedication Ceremony of Luther Manor Veterans Memorial

Story by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affair

Since moving to the Luther Manor retirement community more than four years ago, retired Army Master Sgt. David Myers has been connecting with veterans of all services. Those friendships and connections led to the establishment of the Luther Manor Veterans Memorial which was unveiled during a dedication ceremony November 9.

“Early this year, I came up with this idea of we ought to have some way of honoring the veterans past and present here at Luther Manor,” he said.

There are more than 120 veterans who reside at Luther Manor dating

as far back as World War II and representing every branch of military service. The memorial, which consists of an American flag on the wall with flags of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard on staffs sticking up from the floor and a plaque commemorating all the veterans who have, now and will call Luther Manor home.

“It’s wonderful to see,” Myers said. “We have a number of veterans and to make them feel that they can be part of the military family and that their service was important then and it is now.”

During the ceremony, members of

the Milwaukee NCO Council placed each services flag in the memorial while Army Staff Sgt. Christy Gervais, from the 484th Army Band, played each of the respective service songs and hymns.

The memorial is in the lobby of the main building for Luther Manor and serves as full-time memorial to the veterans living there.

“I am so pleased that we have gone well above and beyond and we’re truly making it a purposefully a recognizable attribute of our community,” said Stephanie Chedid, the president and CEO of Luther Manor.



Members of the Milwaukee NCO Council stand behind their respective service flag at the unveiling of the Veterans Memorial at Luther Manor, November 9, while retired Army Master Sgt. David Myers speaks during the ceremony. The memorial honors the more than 120 veteran residents of Luther Manor as well as all those that have and will live there.



(Photo Opposite Page) Army Staff Sgt. Christy Gervais, left, 484th Army Band, plays the each services’ song and hymn during the Luther Manor Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony, November 9. The ceremony marked the unveiling of the memorial that honors the more than 120 veteran residents of Luther Manor as well as all those that have and will live there.

(Photo Above) Army Staff Sgt. Christy Gervais, left, 484th Army Band, plays the National Anthem during the Luther Manor Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony, November 9, while members of the Milwaukee NCO Council salute. The ceremony marked the unveiling of the memorial that honors the more than 120 veteran residents of Luther Manor as well as all those that have and will live there.



Supporting Warfighters and Their Families Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program



Hosted more than 500 in Minneapolis

Supporting Warfighters and their Families is a key focus of the Yellow Ribbon programs operated by the 88th Regional Support Command.

Story and photo by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC, Public Affairs Office

Supporting warfighters and their families is a key focus of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Programs operated by the 88th Regional Support Command. During the most recent event, held in the Minnesota capital, more than 500 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and their family members attended the three-day event from December 2 to 4.

“Everything we do at the Yellow Ribbon events is geared toward readiness,” said John Venner, the Yellow Ribbon Program director for the 88th RSC.

Attendees received a plethora of resources and points of contact for services ranging from personal

finance to family reintegration following a deployment.

“The Yellow Ribbon Program, as a whole, is supporting the families and Soldiers as they deploy and redeploy,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general for the 88th RSC. “It’s particularly focused on building the readiness with the families as that Soldier is deployed.”

Each of the four separate groups at this Yellow Ribbon event focus on a different part of the deployment/redeployment process. There is one pre-deployment, one during deployment and two post-deployment groups.

“It helps them prepare financially,

emotionally and how to communicate with a spouse; the basic preparations for what they need to do to help set up the family members ... to let them know what’s going to happen,” said 1st Sgt. Thomas Collins, the senior enlisted leader from the U.S. Army Reserve’s 79th Military Police Company based in Wabasha, Minnesota. The 79th MP Company is in the pre-deployment phase of the Yellow Ribbon Program.

The 88th Regional Support Command hosts these events throughout the year at various locations throughout the 19-state northwest region that comprises its area of responsibility.

John Venner, standing left, Yellow Ribbon program director, 88th Regional Support Command, goes over the weekend schedule for the more than 500 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and family members attending the event that helps with the pre-, during-, and post-deployment process, December 3. More than 20 different community partners set up shop at the 88th Regional Support Command-sponsored Yellow Ribbon event, December 3. This program helps the more than 500 Soldiers and family members who attended the event by connecting them to the resources and services they might need throughout the deployment process.

Presidential Wreathlaying William McKinley

25th U.S. President,
1897-1901



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

William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States, was celebrated on what would have been his 174th birthday during a wreathlaying ceremony at his Canton, Ohio, Presidential Library and Museum, January 28.

McKinley was elected to two terms as president. However, his second term was cut short when he was assassinated six months into his second term. Additionally, he served in the Civil War, was an elected member of Congress, governor of Ohio in addition to having a prolific law career as well.

The ceremony began with an opening prayer by Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Hagen, the deputy command chaplain for the Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, based 88th Regional Support Command of the United States Army Reserve.

“Your spirit equips men and women everywhere with a rich variety of

gifts,” Hagen said. “We are grateful for the way in which these gifts were employed in the life of President McKinley.”

Following that, seven separate wreaths were placed at the foot of the McKinley bust by various organizations that represented each era and type of service of McKinley.

Wreath were placed by: Civil War re-enactors, Masons of McKinley Lodge 431, members of the Department of Ohio Army & Navy Union, the mayor of Canton, Ohio, a state senator and a state representative on behalf of Ohio, a wreath was placed in honor of the U.S. Congress and finally a wreath was placed on behalf of the President of the United States.

That final wreath was placed by Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, the deputy commanding general for the 88th RSC, and Hagen.

After placing that final wreath, a three-volley salute was fired by mem-

bers of 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War reenactors and a canon salute followed that.

Sergeant Dana Veneskey from the 338th Army Band out of Whitehall, Ohio, performed taps from the steps leading to the McKinley memorial where the 25th president, his wife Ida and his two children Katherine and Ida are interred, to conclude the ceremony.



(Photo Top) Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, right, deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command, places a wreath at the President William McKinley bust on behalf of the President of the United States during the ceremony marking McKinley's birthday, Jan. 28, 2017. Assisting Strand is Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Hagen, the deputy command chaplain for the 88th RSC. (Photo Inset) Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, left, deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command, and Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Hagen, the deputy command chaplain for the 88th RSC, salute the wreath they placed at the President William McKinley bust on behalf of the President of the United States during the ceremony marking McKinley's birthday, Jan. 28, 2017.



Sergeant Dana Veneskey, from the 338th Army Band, performs taps during the President William McKinley wreath-laying ceremony in Canton, Ohio, Jan. 28, 2017.



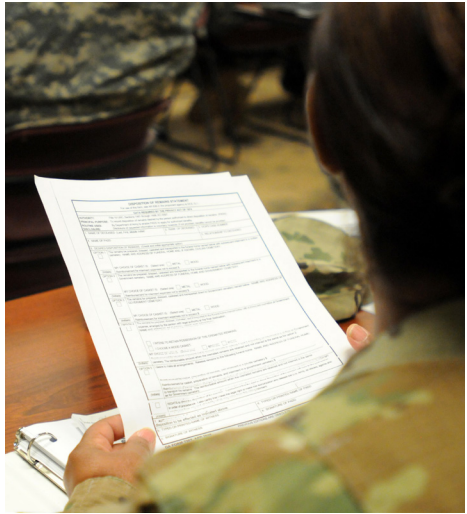
Caring for Families of Fallen Casualty Notification/Casualty Assistance Training with 88th RSC

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

“You only have one chance to do it right,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Boots, the lead Casualty Notification/Casualty Assistance Officer trainer for the 88th Regional Support Command. When a Soldier dies, a casualty notification officer is immediately appointed to notify the primary and or secondary next of kin. This is a duty that falls on a select group of senior leaders across the U.S. Army footprint, to include active duty, Reserve and National Guard. Each quarter, more than 30 Soldiers gather at the 88th RSC Headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, to attend a formal three-day training session that teaches the ins and outs of the program to ensure that family members receive the best assistance during this time. “What they’re learning here are the basic guidelines and rules that govern interactions with the family members and how to represent the Army well

to perform the casualty notification duties,” said Boots. “It’s one of the most important things we can do as an Army is to do that right.” When a Soldier dies, it is a traumatic experience for the surviving family members. Having Soldiers who are properly trained on how to conduct the casualty notification and casualty assistance duties is vital to ensure that family is cared for and properly helped through the litany of paperwork and procedures that follow. “When a family loses a Soldier it should be the responsibility of the Army to make sure that that family is taken care of,” said Lt. Col. Claude Woods, the secretary of the general staff for the 88th RSC and who attended this most recent training session. At the end of the course, each of these 30 Soldiers is certified to complete the duties of a Casualty Notification Officer or a Casualty Assistance Officer, if the need arises.

“Having standardized training for all Soldiers who do this mission anywhere within the Army family means that we’re treating everyone fairly and evenly across the board so that we can prevent those mistakes or bad situations when the families aren’t taken care of to the upmost,” Boot said. “That’s what we want to do is to make sure those families are taken care of to the best of our ability.”



(Photo Top) Sgt. 1st Class David Boots, standing, the lead Casualty Notification/Casualty Assistance Officer trainer for the 88th Regional Support Command, talks to a class of 30 Soldiers about the duties of a casualty assistance officer during a three-day training session at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, November 30, 2016. The class certifies Casualty Notification and Casualty Assistance Officers across the 19-state region of the 88th RSC to conduct the duties of notifying and assisting families of deceased Soldiers.



Photo of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on Memorial Day. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army)



88th RSC Wins AGAIN! Army Communities of Excellence Fourth Time Winner!

Story by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs, ACOE photos courtesy of the U.S. Army

The 88th Regional Support Command was selected as the gold winner for the U.S. Army Reserve category in the annual Chief of Staff of the Army, Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) competition for 2017.

The Department of the Army announced the 2017 ACOE awards in a March 7 message. This marks the fourth win for the 88th RSC. The unit won the top prize in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

"I am very proud of the 88th team. This award shows how each team member contributes to improving the lives of our Soldiers and the readiness of the Army Reserve," said Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert, commanding general of the 88th RSC.

The ACOE program utilizes the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality

"We were fortunate to have our command stood up on the Baldrige principles, which gave us a head start and we've won every year that we've been eligible."

Program criteria as its basis for judging. By utilizing this method, the best practices of installation management are identified as well as areas where performance improvements can be made.

"I'm really proud to be part of an organization that is focused on being the best provider of BASOPs services in the Army Reserve," said Thomas Helgeson, 88th RSC deputy director and ACOE program manager.

The 88th RSC is headquartered at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, and is a fully committed readiness partner which continuously provides best-in-class base operations support to the Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians and supported commands with subordinate units located in the Northwestern United States from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.

ACOE is sponsored by the chief of staff of the Army, and overseen by the assistant chief of staff for Installation Management. During a year-long process, ACOE applicants are assessed and evaluated against Army priorities and the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. The ACOE awards competition goes beyond the trophy, ribbon, and monetary award, several of the winners said. The competition is about strengthening the readiness of the Army, they said, by investing in the communities that support Soldiers, their families, civilians and their local partners.





The 88th Regional Support Command in Wisconsin took gold as a repeat winner in the Army Communities of Excellence Awards for the U.S. Army Reserve category. The ACOE Awards honor the top active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve installations that have achieved high levels of excellence in building a quality environment, outstanding facilities and superior service.



Story by Catherine Lowrey, 88th RSC Public Affairs, photo above courtesy of the U.S. Army

MCP-OD Activated

88th RSC Instrumental in Activation and Mission of I Corps MCP-OD at JBLM

In a joint effort between I Corps and the U.S. Army Reserve, a Main Command Post-Operational Detachment was formally activated during a ceremony at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, May 17.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, 88th Regional Support commanding general, attended the event and spoke about the MCP-OD's importance and the role of the U.S. Army Reserve in its mission.

"The United States Army Reserve is the Army's sole, dedicated Federal Reserve Force, providing operational capability and strategic depth to the total Army and the Joint Force in support of U.S. national security interests and Army commitments worldwide," said Reinert.

"Similarly, the mission of the MCP-OD is to provide increased capacity to the I Corps main command post, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, providing expandability and increased capability for the Corps HQ in support of forward deployment and extended operations."

Col. Todd Jones, a member of the I Corps Army Reserve Engagement Team which assisted in the MCP-OD creation, explained the ARET mission.

"ARETs are smaller elements that help integrate Army Reserve capabilities in Combatant Command- and Corps-level plans across warfighting functions," Jones said. "These teams address long-term opportunities for the Army Reserve to support Com-

batant Commanders, facilitate unit and individual training, and provide a reach-back conduit to CONUS-based capabilities," continued Jones.

Jones went on to explain the 88th RSC's role in standing up the I Corps MCP-OD.

"The 88th was instrumental in establishing administrative infrastructure to support MCP-OD Soldiers," Jones stated, "including getting full time support established and advertising command through USAR Centralized Selection List process."

Jones also explained the continued role of the 88th RSC in the MCP-OD.

"The 88th will perform an ADCON role in the functioning of the MCP-OD," Jones said "ensuring the detachment is manned, equipped, and re-

sourced for effective integration into I Corps. Effective integration is how and where the training piece happens."

Jones went on to explain how the support from the 88th has allowed MCP-OD to effectively begin manning the new detachment, while simultaneously planning how to leverage capability in support of I Corps.

"This is a unique partnership that is new to the Army, the benefit to the Army Reserve as a result of joining forces with I Corps in this partnership is immense," Jones said.

"It gives USAR Soldiers, across a variety of grades and MOS's, the opportunity to work in a high OPTEMPO Corps HQ, executing ongoing 'shaping' operations in the Pacific AOR, while maintaining readiness for global employment as needed."

Reinert expressed his full confidence in the Army Reserve Soldiers and their commitment to the I Corps

MCP-OD mission and addressed their need for support.

"As Reserve Soldiers balance between family commitments, military duties, and civilian employers, support is crucial," Reinert said. "These Soldiers will bring a variety of skills to the I Corps team that go well beyond their grade and military occupational specialty," continued Reinert. "Because of this balance between civilian and military careers, we owe our Soldiers as much lead time and predictability as possible in order to retain these great Americans, and keep their employers and families actively engaged in the defense of the Nation," said Reinert.

Jones also expressed the confidence I Corps has in the Reserve Soldiers.

"I believe this will be successful because it will give the headquarters a 'bench' of qualified Reserve Component personnel to pull from when needed," Jones said, "either for train-

ing and exercises, or for future deployment, which will help backstop the gaps the HQ often experiences due to high OPTEMPO and personnel turnover."

Reinert ended his remarks at the MCP-OD activation ceremony with a commitment of service and excellence from the 88th RSC.

"I commit to you our focused efforts in manning, equipping, and training this new detachment in support of I Corps headquarters, ensuring they are ready for future deployment as integrated members of the I Corps Team," Reinert said.

Reinert continued, "Lt. Col. Erik Flint, as the MCP-OD commander, will be laser focused on ensuring our Soldiers are cared for, integrated effectively, and ready to answer the call for America with America's Corps."

"We're excited to be part of the I Corps Team and looking forward to serving with you," said Reinert.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Erik Flint uncases the colors for the Main Command Post Operations Detachment (MCP-OD) on May 17, 2017, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brittany Woolbright)



Community Salutes Future Servicemembers

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

The Fort McCoy community gathered together for an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day to salute graduating high school seniors who have enlisted in the military.

“Our Community Salutes”, created in 2009 by Dr. Kenneth E. Hartman, is a national non-profit organization designed to recognize and honor high school seniors who have committed to enlist in the Armed Forces following high school graduation.

Fort McCoy Senior Commander and 88th Regional Support Command Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert spoke at the event which hosted more than one hundred attendees including U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, Wisconsin Army National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard enlistees, their family members and friends, Army Reserve Ambassador for Wisconsin

Gerald W. Meyer, 88th RSC Legislative Liaison Col. Michael Holland and a special guest of honor, Medal of Honor recipient Com-

“You are now a part of the one percent of Americans willing to raise your hands and dedicate your lives to the safety and security of our Nation.”

mand Sergeant Major (Ret.) Kenneth E. Stumpf.

“I am honored be invited here

today to help welcome our Future Service Members to the Armed Forces Team,” Reinert said. “You are now a part of the one percent of Americans willing to raise your hands and dedicate your lives to the safety and security of our Nation.”

Simon Michael Frost, a high school senior from Adams, Wis., who enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve as an infantryman and will leave for basic training in late August, attended the event and spoke with Vietnam veterans excited to welcome new Soldiers into the fold.

“The veterans here are giving me a lot of good advice and they told me the first couple of days of boot camp were going to be rough, but after that it would mellow out a little,” said Frost.

“I’m excited but also a little nervous,” Frost said. “I’ve never had something this structured in my life before and I do like structure.

It will be interesting to see how it goes,” Frost said. “It’s pretty nice that the community is coming out to support everybody.”

Reinert shared some experiences from his more than 30 year career in the U.S. Army Reserve and left the Future Service Members with some words of wisdom.

“What lies ahead is one of the most rewarding careers you could hope for,” Reinert said. “You will forge life-long friendships and experience once in a lifetime opportunities. Take advantage the education benefits available,” Reinert continued, “and use the support systems provided. Learn every day. And take care of those around you.”

Reinert also shared his gratitude to the families of these graduating seniors.

“For the families of these soon-to-be service members,” Reinert

said, “I want to say thank you. Thank you for letting us borrow your sons, your daughters, your family members, your friends. Your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.”

Speaking to the Future Service Members, Reinert said he was humbled by their decision to make a commitment that less than one percent of Americans were willing or able to make and wished them the best of luck in their military service.

“Our Community Salutes” has recognized more than six thousand high school seniors nationwide and more than six hundred and fifty high school seniors from Wisconsin and Illinois.

Speakers at the “Our Community Salutes” event along with Reinert included Maj. Gen. Paul Lima, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Rear

Admiral Steven Day, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.); Command Sergeant Major Mark Poindexter, U.S. Army Recruiting Command; and Cheryl Wenzel a Military Mom, daughter, sister-in-law, U.S. Navy wife, and former Public Relations Specialist for the Naval Station Recreation Services.



Graduating high school seniors who have committed to enlist in the Armed Forces stand aduring the National Anthem.



(Photo Top Left) Mikaila Falash (left) and Anubis Ruiz Martinez (right) after receiving an “Our Community Salutes” certificate from Medal of Honor recipient Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Kenneth E. Stumpf and Fort McCoy Senior Commander and 88th Regional Support Command Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert during an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day, May 20. (Photo Above) Maj. Gen. Paul Lima, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army speaks during an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day, May 20, to recognize and honor graduating high school seniors who have committed to enlist in the Armed Forces following high school graduation.



A proud future U.S. Army Reserve mom takes photos as her son receives an “Our Community Salutes” certificate from Medal of Honor recipient Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Kenneth E. Stumpf and Fort McCoy Senior Commander and 88th Regional Support Command Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert during an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day, May 20, to recognize and honor graduating high school seniors who have committed to enlist in the Armed Forces following high school graduation. (Photos Inset) Fort McCoy Senior Commander and 88th Regional Support Command Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert stands at attention while the American Legion Post 288 out of Cedarburg, Wis., provides color guard support during an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2017.



A proud future U.S. Army Reserve mom hugs her daughter, Calista Lage, after she received an “Our Community Salutes” certificate from Medal of Honor recipient Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Kenneth E. Stumpf and Fort McCoy Senior Commander and 88th Regional Support Command Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert during an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day, May 20, to recognize and honor graduating high school seniors who have committed to enlist in the Armed Forces following high school graduation.

88th RSC Hosts 1 in 6 Presentation During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

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

Sexual assault is a crime the military continues to take seriously and punish accordingly. During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) military commands across the world set aside time to focus on eliminating it from the ranks.

The 88th Regional Support Command welcomed Steve LePore, the founder and executive director of 1in6, to give a presentation on male sexual assault and abuse to more than 60 Soldiers and civilians at the RSC headquarters building on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, April 13.

The name of LePore's organization refers to the statistic that one in six men in the United States have had an unwanted or sexually abusive experience before the age of 18. A statistic that equates to 21 million

“It’s important to bring the forefront the recognition of the sexual assault and trauma that’s placed on men that’s normally been pushed to the side or been ignored in the past.”

men in the U.S.

“It’s a taboo subject,” said LePore when talking about sexual assault and abuse committed against men. “It’s important for those men and then tangentially for everybody that deals with those men – their partners, their wives, their parents, their children, their employers, their buddies in the field, so on and so forth – the idea is to destigmatize the subject by talking about it.”

During his 90 minute presentation, LePore highlighted his 10-years at the helm of 1in6 and the efforts it has made to help men who are survivors of sexual assault or abuse. He said it’s often impossible to tell if someone has been a victim just by looking at them.

“They look like everybody else in the room,” he said. “They may not tell anyone. Ever.”

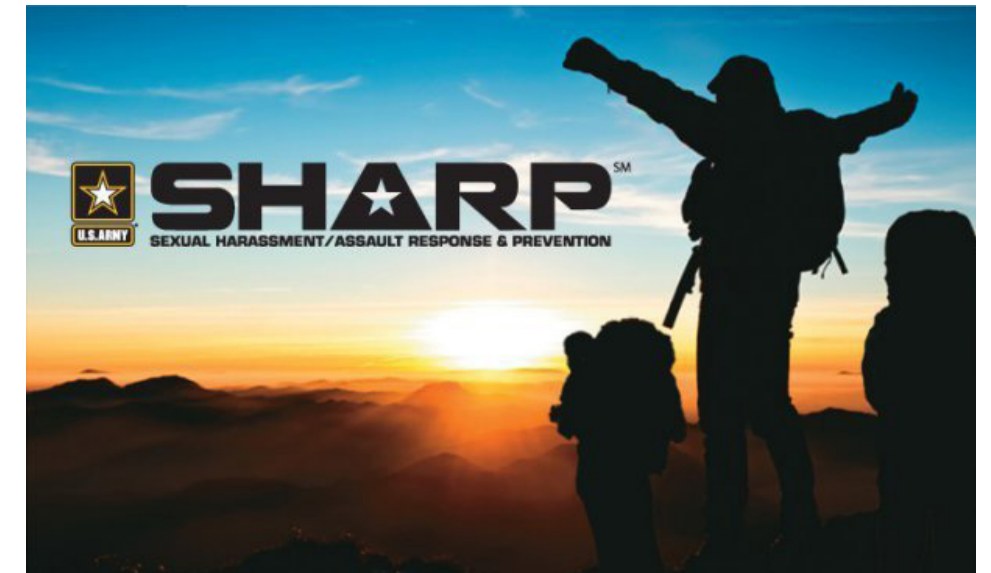
(Photo Top) Ribbons such as these were handed out during the 1in6 presentation in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) at the 88th Regional Support Command's headquarters in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, April 13.

But, LePore said his organization is working to change that last part. He wanted to create a safe environment where men could share their experiences and begin to heal, he said when discussing the role 1in6 plays in helping men heal.

For the 88th RSC, bringing in a speaker to highlight some of the lesser-known issues surround this month of awareness and prevention allowed it to discuss a topic that is often avoided.

“It’s important to bring the forefront the recognition of the sexual assault and trauma that’s placed on men that’s normally been pushed to the side or been ignored in the past,” said Bryan Taylor, the Programs and Services Division chief, 88th RSC. “It was an excellent tool to bring that information to the forefront.”

LePore also discussed the “lens” through which men are typically defined. A lens that shows what men should be and a lens for what men must never be.



To which, LePore responds, “it’s ok to ask for help. It’s ok to see yourself through this lens.”

The presentation concluded with a plethora of resources, both online and in print, as well as a push to get more people involved to help eliminate the stigma.

“The military is leading the charge on this issue in regards to men,” LePore said.



(Photo Above) Steve LePore, the founder and executive director of 1in6, talks to more than 60 Soldiers and Civilians at the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, April 13, about sexual assault or abuse against men. 1in6 was founded to help bring awareness and healing to the one in six men in the United States who have had an unwanted or sexually abusive experience before the age of 18. The presentation was part of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) events by the 88th RSC.

Presidential Wreathlaying James A. Garfield 20th U.S. President, 1881



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

On what would have been his 185th birthday, family members, Soldiers, Boy Scouts and people from the surrounding communities gathered to celebrate the life and service of James A. Garfield at his memorial in northeast Ohio, November 19.

Garfield was elected the 20th President of the United States in the 1880 election. However, an assassin's bullet ended his presidency six months after it began.

"Garfield's presidency is remembered as one of honesty and character," said Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command who served as the representative for President Barack Obama during the ceremony. "He believed government should be true and good."

Although his presidency was short, Garfield's service to this nation was full and his legacy remains to this day.

He began his adult life in pursuit of education. Attaining his degree in two years from Williams College in Massachusetts. He then returned to his native Ohio and became a professor at Hiram College. Two years later, he was named president of Hiram.

At age 28, Garfield began his civil service career by earning a spot in the Ohio state senate in 1859. He left that position in 1861 to serve the Union Army during the Civil War where he rose to the rank of major general.

However, Garfield was again called to civil service when he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1863. He was hesitant to leave his post with Ohio's 42nd Regiment, but he was convinced that by serving as a member of Congress he could have a greater impact on the war than he did on the battlefields.

"Freedom can never yield its fullness of blessings so long as the law or its administration places the smallest

obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen," Garfield said during his inaugural address in 1881.

Following another successful election in 1880 when Garfield was selected to represent Ohio's 19th Congressional District for a tenth term, he was also the Republican nominee for president. His nomination came after a contentious process that took 36 rounds of voting before Garfield – who was not even a campaigning candidate – was selected to represent his party against Democratic candidate Winfield Scott Hancock.

During the ceremony honoring Garfield, Strand and Tim Garfield, the great-great grandson of the former president, along with other surviving members of the Garfield family placed a wreath beside the marble statue that is the centerpiece of the main floor of the James A. Garfield Memorial at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.



(Photo Top) The caskets of James A. Garfield, left, and his wife Lucretia are in the crypt of the Garfield Memorial at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland. The caskets are closed off to the public, but can be viewed through the gates that surround them. (Photo Opposite Page) Brigadier Gen. Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command and representing President Barack Obama, speaks to the gathered crowd during the James A. Garfield Wreath Laying Ceremony, November 19, in Cleveland. The ceremony marks what would have been the 185th birthday of the 20th President of the United States.

Construction vehicles prepare the area for the Tonganoxie Army Reserve Center that is being built on more than 19 acres of land in eastern Kansas. The \$12.1 million project is expected to be completed by January 2019.



Groundbreaking in Tonganoxie Construction Begins on New Reserve Center

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

Situated on more than 19 acres of eastern Kansas Prairie land, the Tonganoxie Army Reserve Center will be a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient facility when it opens in January 2019. But now, it is officially a construction site after the groundbreaking ceremony here, Dec. 13.

"We are extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to construct this new facility in this high-growth area of the Kansas City metropolitan area," said Col. Kurt Wagner, the director of the 88th Regional Support Command's Directorate of Public Works. "It's exciting to start construction on this facility and I'm looking forward to moving into it once it's opened."

For the more than 250 Army Re-

serve Soldiers who will call this \$12.1 million facility home once it opens, the updated accommodations offer them a chance to focus on their tactical and specialized skills.

"Having a new building, one that's been upgraded, will give us more capabilities and take away all those training distractions we're dealing with right now," said 1st Sgt. Darrin Campbell, from the 842nd Quartermaster Company.

Campbell's unit is currently based at the Trembley White Army Reserve Center in Kansas City that was built in 1963 and will be replaced by the Tonganoxie facility.

The new Army Reserve Center will feature a more than 36,000 square

foot building and an additional 1,600 square foot storage facility. This facility will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certifiable upon completion.

It is also a collaborative effort between the 88th RSC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city of Tonganoxie and the county of Leavenworth.

During the ceremony, Tonganoxie Mayor Jason Ward spoke about that collaboration.

"It's been an amazing ride full of ups and downs and we're so proud to be here today," he said. "We have a proud history with the military here in Leavenworth County and we're proud to bring it here to Tonganoxie."

(Photo Top) From left, U.S. Army Reserve Col. Kurt Wagner, 88th Regional Support Command's Directorate of Public Works director; Tonganoxie, Kansas, Mayor Jason Ward; Allen Askew, military aide for Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins; and Lt. Col. Brent Legreid, deputy district commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Kansas City District, dig the ceremonial first shovels full of dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tonganoxie Army Reserve Center that is expected to be completed by January 2019.



Strengthening Families

During Strong Bonds Retreat Weekend

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

More than 50 couples gathered at a hotel in suburban Minneapolis for a weekend filled with marriage enrichment techniques and relationship building tools April 21 to 23 hosted by the 88th Regional Support Command's Chaplain's Office.

The Soldiers and their spouses were taking part in the Army's Strong Bonds program. This is a program that aims to increase individual Soldier and family readiness through relationship education and skills training.

"These are some great life skills that I wish more people would take advantage of because it's really important," said Jon Logan, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier who was taking part in the weekend program with his wife, Amy.

The three-day event allows Soldiers and their spouses a chance to focus on

relationship skills in a relaxing atmosphere. The presenters follow the Pre-vention and Relationship Enhance-

"Strong Bonds is all about helping Army Soldiers and their families have healthy relationships."

ment Program (PREP) and lessons are divided by subject with a related practical exercise for each. Everything from communication to intimacy to styles in how people show and receive love are covered.

"It's my deep desire that there's something for every couple to take away from this no matter where their situation is," said Stacey Feig, a co-presenter with her husband, Col. Erik Feig, the command chaplain for 88th RSC.

In addition to the Feigs, 88th RSC Chaplains (Maj.) Scott Hagen and (Maj.) Dawn Siebold along with Chaplain's Assistants Sgt. 1st Class Arianna Joe and Staff Sgt. Robert Clark served as presenters for this Strong Bonds program.

Each instructor takes a turn leading different parts of the program. The couples were divided into two groups in adjoining conference rooms in order to help facilitate more conversation in smaller groups.

"Strong Bonds is all about helping Army Soldiers and their families have

healthy relationships," said Chaplain Feig. "We teach them techniques which will enable them to have strong and healthy relationships."

Facilitating readiness is also a result of the Strong Bonds program. Soldiers are able to forge better relationships with not only their spouses but coworkers and leaders as well.

"Readiness is all about relationships and the Army has finally figured that out," Chaplain Feig said. "The better we can help relationships within our Army families the more ready we will be to do the things that the Army will call us to do."

For more information on the Strong Bonds program contact: Strong Bonds at www.strongbonds.org or call (608) 388-0542.



(Photo Top) Chaplain (Col.) Erik Feig, standing right, command chaplain for 88th Regional Support Command, and his wife Stacey, standing right, welcome Soldiers and their spouses to a Strong Bonds event in suburban Minneapolis, April 21. The goal of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier and Family member readiness through relationship education and skills training. (Photo Above) Capt. Marc Moore, aide de camp, 88th Regional Support Command, plays an ice-breaker BINGO game with Sgt. 1st Class Arianna Joe, chaplains assistant, 88th Regional Support Command, during a Strong Bonds event in suburban Minnesota, April 21.



The In's & Outs of the Family Medical Leave Act

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

Understanding what is and is not covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act was the focus of training provided to 88th Regional Support Command and other Fort McCoy-area supervisors Feb. 15.

The daylong class focused on how the program is managed as well as case studies of when FMLA was both properly and improperly enforced.

"It's important to know what is available for our people that we're charged with providing the best possible means of helping them out," said Debra Dalton, the Resource Management director for the 88th RSC.

As a program, FMLA covers employees of public agencies, public and private elementary and secondary schools as well as companies with 50 or more employees. According to the Department of Labor website, FMLA entitles those employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave each year for the birth and care of a newborn child; placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care; to care for an immediate family member (spouse, child, or parent) with a serious health condition; or to take medical leave when the employee is unable to work because of a serious

health condition.

But, as Dr. David Wetzel, who was the instructor for this FMLA session, cautioned, "FMLA training is because a lot of people don't understand it, even people who are administering it."

"It's one of the more complex issues within HR and it's becoming a lot bigger deal as people start having work/life issues. A lot of them don't realize that it's available to them as a benefit."

Wetzel is part of SkillPath and he travels around the country providing training on the FMLA program for various organizations. During his day here, he guided more than 50 supervisors and human resources officials through the minutia of the program so they would better be able to administer and apply the program within their sections.

"People wouldn't be on FMLA if they didn't have to be," he said. "They're on FMLA because they need it and it's important that we treat them well."

More information about the FMLA program is available through the Department of Labor (www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/) or via your local human resources office.

(Photo Top) Dr. David Wetzel, a traveling presenter from SkillPath, discusses the Family and Medical Leave Act with Soldier and Civilian supervisors from across the Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, community during a training session at the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters, Feb. 15.

Read Across America Day

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

With Dr. Seuss books tucked firmly in hand, Soldiers from the 88th RSC joined students from the Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School in commemorating Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day, March 2.

Three Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Arianna Joe, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Gimson and Sgt. Robert Clark along with Hayley Strand, a command specialist with the 88th RSC, visited four classrooms at the Sparta, Wisconsin, elementary school to share their love of reading and to challenge the students in a bit of Army physical training. Specifically, a push up contest.

For Clark, who is a chaplain's assistant with the 88th RSC and a father of four children, reading with the elementary school students was a chance for him to flex his pirate reading voice.

"Having four children of my own, I see the joy that washes over their faces when stories are read to them especially when you're able to throw a bit of silliness into the mix," he said. Clark read Seuss' One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish to a group of first graders using his best pirate voice.

"Read Across America Day is a national initiative," Strand said, "that Army Reserve Child and Youth Services



takes part in to encourage literacy in youth throughout the United States."

This event allows the Soldiers a chance to interact with children in the local schools and share some of their experiences with them as well.

"This is a great way to increase visibility of the military in this area and create bonds between the post and the local community," Strand said.

After each reading session, the Soldiers answered a variety of questions from the Kindergarten through third graders. Once the Soldiers exhausted the children's curiosity it was time to exhaust them physically with a push up contest.

"Those kids were amazing to be around. The amount of excitement and energy they demonstrated throughout the entire process was truly motivating," Clark said.

This is at least the third year that Soldiers from the 88th RSC participated in reading to students at Lawrence-Lawson Elementary. It's something Strand and the Soldiers hope continues as well.

"This was my first experience with this event, but I had an absolute blast and look forward to helping next year," Clark said.



(Photo Above) Sergeant 1st Class Arianna Joe, center, a chaplain's assistant with the 88th Regional Support Command, introduces Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham before reading it to a group of Kindergarten students at Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School in Sparta, Wisconsin, as part of Read Across America Day March 2. Staff Sgt. Nicholas Gimson, left, and Sgt. Robert Clark, both with the 88th Regional Support Command, also read to other students at the elementary school.



Sergeant Robert Clark, right, a chaplain's assistant with the 88th Regional Support Command, challenges a group of Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School students in a push up contest during the Soldiers' visit to the Sparta, Wisconsin, school as part of Read Across America Day, March 2.



Presidential Wreathlaying William Henry Harrison 9th U.S. President, 1841

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

Perched on a hill overlooking the Ohio River in the town he came to call home, the community as well as military leaders and local students gathered to honor the ninth President of the United States, Feb. 3.

William Henry Harrison was elected president at the age of 68 after a life spent in service first in the military, then to his community and ultimately to the nation. Although he holds the distinction of the shortest term in office – March 4, 1841 to April 4, 1841 – his legacy can still be felt today.

“He will be remembered for this dedication to selfless public service above all else,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand, the deputy commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, who was placed a wreath at the Harrison Tomb on behalf of President Donald J. Trump during the ceremony. “He was truly a man of the people and for the people.”

The more than 100 spectators gathered at the Town Hall building to begin a procession to the William Henry Harrison Tomb. Once there, North Bend Mayor Doug Sammons led the ceremony where three separate wreaths were placed at the base of the tomb.

Wreaths were placed on behalf of Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution as well as the President of the United States. Additionally, flags were presented by the Knights of Columbus and Veterans of Foreign Wars that will be flown at the memorial.

“The founders of our country made significant sacrifices in order for this country to exist,” Sammons said.

Harrison, who was born Feb. 9, 1773, and volunteered for military service at 18. He served at Fort Washington in present-day Cincinnati. He began his political career in 1798 when he resigned his military service to seek an appointment as territo-

rial secretary for the Northwest Territories. He then was elected as the Northwest Territory’s first Congressional delegate in 1799. Harrison was then appointed as territorial governor for Indiana in 1800 by President John Adams.

Harrison stepped away from government service to re-join the Army and fight in the War of 1812. He returned to political life in 1816 when he was appointed to the House of Representatives. In 1829 when he became the U.S. envoy to Gran Columbia. He was unsuccessful in his presidential campaign in 1836, but was elected in the 1840 election.



(Photo Top) Brigadier General Stephen E. Strand, left, deputy commanding general, and Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Hagen, deputy command chaplain, for the 88th Regional Support Command, salute the wreath they placed at the base of the William Henry Harrison tomb on behalf of President Donald J. Trump, during the ceremony honoring the ninth President of the United States, Feb. 3, 2017. (Photo Inset) Brigadier General Stephen E. Strand, deputy commanding general for the 88th Regional Support Command, walks with President William Henry Harrison’s wife Anna Symmes Harrison (played by Susan Bell, a direct descendant of Anna), toward the Harrison Tomb in North Bend, Ohio, Feb. 3.



Sergeant Martin Maggart, 338th Army Band, plays Taps during the wreath laying ceremony honoring President William Henry Harrison in North Bend, Ohio, Feb. 3, 2017.



Graduating high school seniors who have committed to enlist in the Armed Forces following high school graduation listen to guest speakers during an “Our Community Salutes” event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2017.



Editor
Cloverleaf Magazine
88th Regional Support Command, Public Affairs
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The 88th RSC is a two-star command which provides services and base operations support to more than 46,500 Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and Civilians serving in 525 units at 277 sites in 325 training facilities dispersed across 19 states in the northern U.S. from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.

