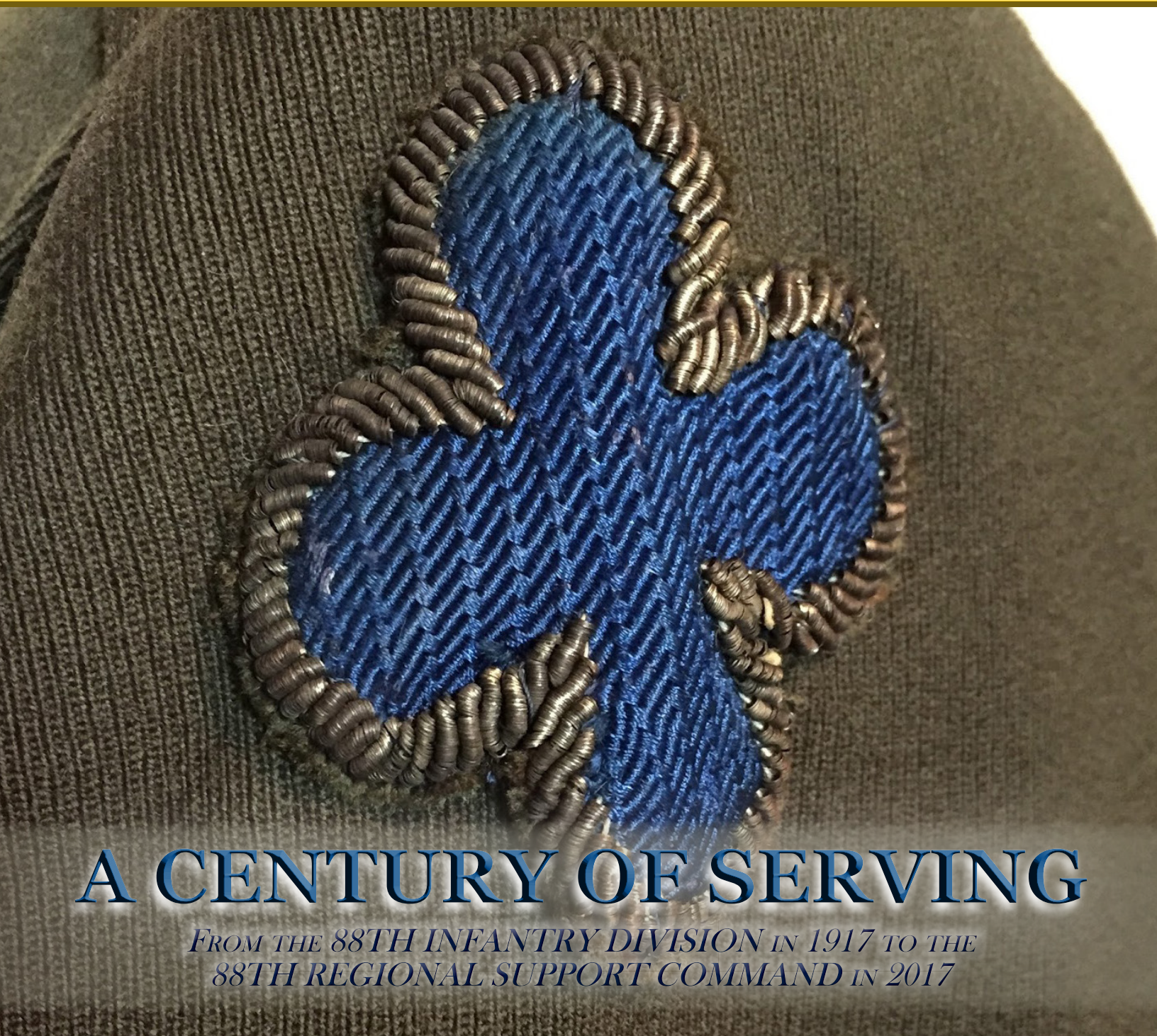


CLOVER LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

Centennial Issue 2017: Volume 4, Issue 2



A CENTURY OF SERVING

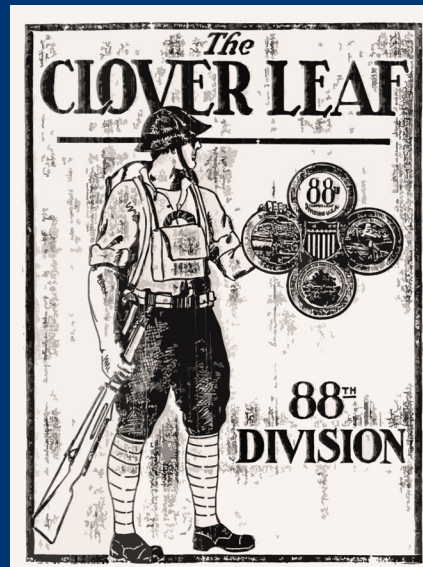
*FROM THE 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN 1917 TO THE
88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND IN 2017*

**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



Ward Zischke, 88th RSC command historian, attends a ceremony to dedicate a plaque at Camp Dodge, Iowa on May 25, in honor of the 88th Infantry Division's beginning there in 1917. The plaque will be permanently on display at the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge. (Photos throughout publication by Catherine Lowrey unless otherwise indicated by caption. Historical photos courtesy of open source media)



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

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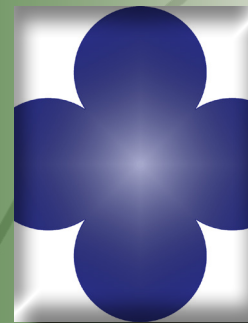
Submissions: The Cloverleaf invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest from members associated with the 88th Regional Support Command.

Contributions can be sent to:
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All articles must be submitted electronically, on CD or by e-mail.

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Catherine Lowrey & Zachary Mott
88th RSC Public Affairs Office
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Brig. Gen. Tony L. Wright



Chief of Staff
Charles C. Hudson



Command Chief Warrant Office
CW5 John Brasfield



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 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, as well as other support services.

We are a committed, customer-centric organization that uses 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 are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and meet the high priority needs of our customers while eliminating redundancies, mitigating risk, and optimizing return on investments.

Together we 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.

~Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Reinert

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The event is one of many taking place across the nation to mark U.S. involvement in World War I and create a greater understanding of Army history.



The 88th Division
was constituted on
August 5, 1917 at
Camp Dodge, Iowa
and
organized on
August 25, 1917

Major General
Edward H. PLUMMER
became the first
commanding general

History

The 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) lineage and honors transferred from the 88th Infantry Division (ID). The streamers earned by the 88th ID in World War I and II, are now flown with the 88th RSC flag. The 88th ID was constituted on 5 August 1917 and organized on 25 August 1917 at Camp Dodge. During World War I, The men of the “Cloverleaf Division”, as they were called, earned a streamer for the Alsace Campaign. The Division returned to Camp Dodge and was demobilized on 10 June 1919.

On 24 June 1921, the 88th ID was reconstituted in the Organized Reserve with its headquarters in Minneapolis, MN, and with subordinate units in Minnesota, Iowa and North Dakota. After reorganization in February 1942, the 88th ID was ordered to active service on 15 July 1942, at Camp Gruber, OK. After training in several locations in the United States and overseas, the 88th ID entered the front line on 27 February 1944, in the Italian Campaign. For its service in Italy, the 88th ID was awarded campaign streamers for the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley Campaigns.

The 88th ID earned a reputation as a well-trained and effective division, earning the nickname “Blue Devils” from the Germans. The 88th ID was inactivated at Leghorn, Italy on October 24, 1947.

Following World War II, the 351st Infantry Regiment was removed from the 88th Infantry Division and used to create The Trieste United States Troops in May 1947.

Due to a disagreement between Italy and Yugoslavia concerning their borders, Trieste became the Free City of Trieste and the TRUST Soldiers stayed to carry on the mission of defense. The entire 88th Infantry Division was not needed so all but the 351st Infantry Regiment was inactivated at Leghorn, Italy in October 1947. The Last commander of the 88th Infantry Division, Major General Bryant Moore, became the commander of the TRUST. The TRUST was inactivated in 1954 when Italy and Yugoslavia agreed that Trieste should become part of Italy.

On 26 December 1967, the 88th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) was activated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and had Command of USAR units in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa. The 88th ARCOM sent units to the Republic of Vietnam (1968-1969), Desert Shield/Storm (1990-1991), and Bosnia-Herzegovina in the former country of Yugoslavia (1995).

On 16 April 1996, the 88th ARCOM was re-designated and reorganized as the 88th RSC with Command of USAR units in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The 88th RSC mobilized units for Bosnia and Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF). On 16 July 2003, the 88th RSC was re-designated as the 88th Regional Readiness Command (RRC), and was inactivated 1 July 2009. The 88th RSC was activated 17 September 2008, and today supports USAR units in 19 states from Ohio to Washington.

The 88th Division suffered at least 590 casualties during World War I from battle and disease and 15,173 casualties during World War II. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 88th Regional Readiness Command lost 32 Soldiers who are now memorialized on the Wall of Heroes in the 88th RSC headquarters.





88th Division - Brief History - First World War 1917-1918

Article published by Gjenwick-Gjønvik Archives, www.gjenwick.com/Military/#axzz4xHNVIIdKS

**September 4, 1917, to
July 24, 1918...**

The 88th Division, a National Army Division, was organized September 4, 1917, at Camp Dodge, Iowa, from men drafted from the states of Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and Illinois.

Later when these first drafts had been transferred in large measure to Camps Cody, Bowie, Doniphan, Pike, Travis and Gordon, newly drafted men from these original states, together with men from Missouri and Nebraska, constituted the bulk of the Division.

The Division was officered largely by reserve officers from the First Training Camp at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and from the Second Training Camps at Forts Sheridan, Snelling and Benjamin Harrison.

**July 25, 1918, to
September 4, 1918...**

July 25, 1918, the Division began moving from Camp Dodge overseas, and was assembled in the 21st Training Area with headquarters at Semur, Cote d'Or, France. less the 163d Artillery Brigade, which was sent to the artillery training school at Clermont Ferrand in the south of France and never rejoined the Division.

**September 5, 1918, to
September 13, 1918...**

On September 5, 1918, Major-General William Weigel, who had just been promoted from Brigadier

General in command of the 56th Infantry Brigade of the 28th Division, U. S. A., which had taken part in the Second Marne offensive, was assigned as Commander of the 88th Division. The Division was assigned to the VI American Corps, First Army, for training in open warfare.

**September 14, 1918, to
September 27, 1918...**

September 14, 1918, the Division moved by rail to the Hericourt, Haute-Saone Training Area near Belfort, France. Its position in support

**“The
achievements
of the 88th
Division have
been measured
only by its
opportunities.”**

enabled the 29th American Division to be withdrawn from the Center Sector of Haute-Alsace and sent to take a prominent part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, where, crossing the river Meuse at

Samogues, it advanced to the high ground east of Consenvoye and captured the enemy artillery observation points and massed artillery there.

This maneuver enabled the Ameri-

can divisions west of the Meuse River to advance without having their right flank held up by artillery fire from these heights. Thus, by releasing the 29th Division from the Haute-Alsace Sector, the 88th Division contributed, not indirectly, to the winning of the important Meuse-Argonne offensive.

On leaving the 21st Training Area at Semur, Cote d'Or on September 14, 1918, the 88th Division was transferred to the VII American Army Corps (with headquarters at Remiremont) for administrative purposes.

**September 23, 1918, to
November 1, 1918...**

On September 23, 1918, advanced elements of the 88th Division moved into the Center Sector of Haute-Alsace, which was being temporarily held by the 38th French Division that had relieved the 29th American Division.

These advanced elements, totaling eight officers and four hundred men, were augmented until on October 7, 1918, Division Headquarters of the 88th Division was moved to Montreaux Chateau, Haute-Alsace; and on October 15, 1918, the command of the Center Sector of Haute-Alsace passed from the 38th French Division to the 88th American Division, which formed part of the 40th. French Army Corps of the VII French Army, while remaining under the VII American Army Corps for administrative purposes.

To reach the sector, the infantry and

engineers of the Division had been forced to make long marches—sometimes 25 kilometers a day—on congested roads, pulling with them their heavily loaded machine gun carts, combat and field wagons, in cases the average weight pulled per man being 250 pounds.

Furthermore, the Division had been forced to go without essential supplies, because all available transportation was being used to the maximum in the Argonne drive. On arrival in France, the Division had been required to turn in all its field ranges, overcoats, and all except one blanket per man; and means of cooking had to be improvised, or secured by purchase from the French or by the utilization of small French stoves in billets, supplemented by the extensive use of camp kettles and watercans. Until October 6, 1918, there were only two ambulances in the Division—and they had to serve the French troops in the area also.

Meantime, on September 20, 1918, a wide-spread epidemic of influenza set in, and in eight days there were 1,370 cases in one regiment alone. This epidemic increased until October 14, 1918, on which date there were eighty deaths. All told there were 6,845 cases of influenza and 1,041 cases of pneumonia reported, from which 444 deaths resulted.

After arrival in sector, much additional marching was made necessary by reason of the withdrawal of French divisions and the re-arrangement of their forces on the north and south of the Center Sector of Haute-Alsace.

On October 24, 1918, the Division took over the Fulleren subsector, of the South Sector of Haute-Alsace, making a total of approximately nineteen kilometers of front line held by the 88th Division.

While in this (Haute-Alsace) sector, energetic patrolling, often in force, in connection with the French division in the sector and later when the 88th

American Division alone occupied the sector, kept the enemy constantly on the alert, held in the south many German planes, considerable artillery, and several divisions which had remained in this sector of the German line for a long time. All this force, consequently, was held out of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and again the 88th Division contributed, less indirectly, to the success of that offensive.

In this (Haute-Alsace) sector, several night raids were carried out by

**“The 88th
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September
4, 1917, from
men drafted
from the states
of Minnesota,
Iowa, the
Dakotas and
Illinois.”**

the 88th Division and a number of prisoners were captured, enabling the identification of the opposing divisions to be kept up-to-date. German “stormstruppen” troops, assigned to the duty of roving from one sector to another between the Voges and the Swiss Border, also made several raids on the lines of the 88th Division, both at night and in the daytime. These enemy raids were accompanied by gas projector attacks and by intense artillery bombardments, but at no time were the German raiding parties able to enter the lines held by the Division.

On November 2, 1918, the 88th Division began to withdraw from the Haute-Alsace sector, and on Novem-

ber 4, 1918, turned over command of the sector to the 154th French Division; 88th Division Headquarters being established temporarily on the outskirts of Belfort.

November 2, 1918, to
November 11, 1918...

Meanwhile, on November 1, 1918, the 88th American Division was transferred to the Second American Army (with headquarters at Toil), and on November 6, 1918, began moving the advance brigade to the Lagney Area, north of Toul, where it was placed in the IV Army Corps (American) Reserve, which corps had headquarters at Wienville, preparatory to taking active part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The balance of the Division was placed in Second American Army Reserve, with 88th Division Headquarters at Lagney.

Again, the presence of the 88th Division, this time on the Meuse-Argonne front, made possible during the days immediately preceding the armistice the delivery up to the very hour of the armistice of even more powerful blows by other elements of American divisions released by the arrival of the 88th Division in Corps Reserve.

The plans of the Second Army for the contemplated attack east of the Moselle River, effective November 14, 1918, and which was to strike the German line between METZ and SARREBRUCK, provided for the 88th Division an important part in what could have been a very important phase of the Metz coup. The signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918, stopped this new offensive—and effectively put an end to the fighting.

The achievements of the 88th Division have been measured only by its opportunities.

Published by Gjenwick-Gjønvik Archives: Social and Cultural History, Est. 2000

88th Division Commanders

Organized on August 1917

MG Edward H. Plummer ~ Aug. 1917 to Nov. 1917
BG Robert N. Getty ~ Nov. 1917 to Feb. 1918
MG Edward H. Plummer ~ Feb. 1918 to March 1918
BG Robert N. Getty ~ March 1918 to May 1918
BG William D. Beach ~ May 1918 to Sept. 1918
MG William Weigel ~ Sept. 1918 to June 1919

Demobilized on 19 Junes 1919
Reconsituted on 24 June 1921

LTC John H. Neff (CofS) ~ Sept. 1921 to Oct. 1921
COL Harr O. Williard (CofS) ~ Oct. 1921 to April 1922
LTC John H. Neff (CofS) ~ April 1922 to July 1922
LTC James N. Munro (CofS) ~ July 1922 to Jan. 1923
BG Halstead Dorey ~ Jan. 1923 to Feb. 1925
COL Thomas A. Pearce (CofS) ~ Feb. 1925 to Sept. 1929
COL Elliot M. Norton (CofS) ~ Sept. 1929 to Sept. 1930
LTC D. B. Grafton (CofS) ~ Sept. 1930 to Jan. 1931
BG John H. Hughes ~ Jan. 1931 to July 1933
BG David L. Stone ~ July 1933 to Sept. 1936
MG Stanley H. Ford ~ Oct. 1936 to Nov. 1937
COL John Randolph (CofS) ~ Nov. 1937 to Dec. 1939
COL John L. Jenkins (CofS) ~ Dec. 1939 to Feb. 1941
COL Joseph J. Schmidt (CofS) ~ Feb. 1941 to Jan. 1942

Reorganized in 1942
Called to Active Service on 15 July 1942

July 1942 – October 1947
MG John E. Sloan ~ July 1942 to Sept. 1944
MG Paul W. Kendall ~ Sept. 1944 to July 1945
BG James C. Fry ~ July 1945 to Nov. 1945
MG Bryant E. Moore ~ Nov. 1945 to Oct. 1947

Inactivated 24 October 1947
88th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM)
Activated on 26 December 1967

MG Norbert J. Hennen ~ Dec. 1967 to Sept. 1971
MG Merrill B. Evans ~ Oct. 1971 to Sept. 1977
MG Freeman Forrest ~ Oct. 1977 to Sept. 1981
MG Manila G. Shaver ~ Oct. 1981 to May 1983



*MG Edward H. Plummer
1917, Camp Dodge*



*88th Division Patch
World War I*

MG Evan L. Hultman ~ May 1983 to Nov. 1984
MG Roger W. Sandler ~ Nov. 1984 to Oct. 1987
MG Gerald E. Amundson ~ Oct. 1987 to Oct. 1989
MG Paul G. Rehkamp ~ Oct. 1989 to July 1993

**Transitioned on 16 April 1996 from
88th ARCOM to 88th RSC**

MG George J. Steiner ~ July 1993 to July 1997
MG John M. O'Connell ~ July 1997 to July 2001

**Redesignated on 16 July 2003 from
88th RSC to 88th RRC**

BG Michael W. Beasley ~ July 2001 to July 2005
MG Robert A. Pollmann ~ July 2005 to Aug. 2008
MG James R. Sholar ~ Aug. 2008 to July 2009

88th RSC activated on 17 Sept. 2008

MG James R. Sholar ~ Sept. 2006 to July 2009
MG Glenn J. Lesniak ~ July 2009 to May 2012
BG Alton G. Berry ~ May 2012 to Feb. 2013
MG Karen E. LeDoux ~ Feb. 2013 to Dec. 2015
MG Patrick J Reinert ~ Dec. 2015 to Present

88th Command Sergeants Major

Leon Meyers ~ Dec. 1967 to Dec. 1973 ~ ARCOM
William Keppers ~ Dec. 1973 to May 1975 ~ ARCOM
Robert S. Williams ~ May 1975 to Dec. 1986 ~ ARCOM
Donald E Kronberg ~ Dec. 1986 to Dec. 1991 ~ ARCOM
Gordon J. Rice ~ Dec. 1991 to Oct. 1995 ~ ARCOM
Robert Bowden ~ Oct. 1995 to July 2001 ~ ARCOM/RSC
John S. Werner ~ July 2001 to Oct. 2005 ~ RSC/RRC
John W. Vacho ~ Oct. 2005 to July 2009 ~ RRC
James E. Williams ~ Apr 2007 to Oct. 2010 ~ RSC
Michael B Koszuta ~ Oct 2010 to July 2013 ~ RSC
David J. Unseld ~ July 2013 to Jan. 2016 ~ RSC
Earl Rocca ~ May 2016 to Present



MG John E. Sloan



88th RSC Patch, 2017





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

100 Years of Service

“Blue Devils” Dedicate a Plaque to the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge

The 88th Regional Support Command dedicated a plaque at Camp Dodge, Iowa on May 25, in honor of the 88th Infantry Division’s beginning there in 1917.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, 88th RSC commanding general, and Command Sergeant Major Earl Rocca, 88th RSC command sergeant major, attended the Iowa National Guard Command Retreat hosted by Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, and dedicated the plaque in honor of the Blue Devil’s 100 years of serving our Nation.

During the Command Retreat, Iowa National Guard Airmen, Sol-

“The spirit of the Blue Devils is still just as strong as it was when Camp Dodge was bustling with young Doughboys.”

diers, and Civilians are recognized for their contributions to the Guard and their communities, state and nation.

Reinert spoke at the event and shared a brief history of the 88th.

“Some of you here may be wondering why an Army Reserve Command is here to dedicate a plaque as part of the Camp Dodge Memorial Day ceremony,” began Reinert.

“A century ago, the 88th Division was born here at Camp Dodge. It is my honor be here today to pay tribute to the men and women of this great division and dedicate this plaque to be displayed here at the Iowa National Guard Library and Museum,” Reinert continued. “In August, we will dedi-

cate a plaque at our headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.”

The 88th began as an Army Division in August of 1917, at Camp Dodge, Iowa. It was originally composed of National Army draftees from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois.

Reinert went on to talk about how the men who were the first Soldiers of the 88th Division trained at Camp Dodge from August 1917 to summer of 1918.

“Deploying to France in August 1918, the 88th Division along with other US and allied forces on the Meuse-Argonne front, delivered powerful blows right up to the very hour of the armistice agreement,” Reinert said.

The division earned the Alsace campaign streamer in 1918, demobilized at Camp Dodge in June of 1919 and then reconstituted in the Organized Reserve on June 24, 1921, until 1942.

“On July 15, 1942, John S. Quigley, President of the 88th Division Veterans Association, challenged a group of new soldiers gathered around the flagpole of Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, to ‘take up the job we didn’t get done’ in World War I,” Reinert quoted.

“In response, Major General John E. Sloan promised: ‘The glory of the colors will never be sullied, as long as one man of the 88th still lives.’”

In February 1944, the 88th Infantry Division deployed to Italy. Upon arrival in Naples, the 88th became the first draftee division to enter a combat

zone in World War II.

The division participated in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley until May 2, 1945, when German forces surrendered in Italy. During these...

...continued on page 14



The 88th Regional Support Command dedicated a plaque at Camp Dodge, Iowa on May 25, in honor of the 88th Infantry Division’s beginning there in 1917. The plaque will be permanently on display at the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge.



From the 88th Infantry Division to the 88th Regional Support Command

A Century of Serving

100 Years and Still Serving our Nation
August 5, 1917 – August 5, 2017

The 88th Infantry Division was constituted in the National Army on August 5, 1917 and organized at Camp Dodge, Iowa on August 25, 1917. In the 100 years following, 88th Soldiers have fought on the battlefields of France in World War I and the Italian front of World War II where they earned their nickname, "Blue Devils", by their German enemies. During these wars, the 88th was decorated with streamers for the Alsace, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley Campaigns.

The 88th Infantry Division was brought into the US Army Reserve as the 88th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) in 1967. The 88th was later redesignated the 88th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) and subsequently as the 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) in 2008. During this period Blue Devil Soldiers have been mobilized and served in operations in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

The current Blue Devil Soldiers honor the 88th Infantry Division's fighting spirit that has been passed down through the last 100 years and we look ahead with pride to the generations who will wear the cloverleaf in the future.

WWI WWII to Vietnam Desert Storm to Present

"A century ago, the 88th Division was born here at Camp Dodge. It is my honor be here today to pay tribute to the men and women of this great division and dedicate this plaque to be displayed here at the Iowa Gold Star Museum."
~ Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, 88th RSC commanding general

13 campaigns, the German forces nicknamed the Infantry Division the Blue Devils, because they wore a blue patch and fought like devils.

The 88th RSC of today was activated in 2008 and is now headquartered at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. They are responsible for installation support of all Army Reserve property from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Northwest, a 19-state region.

Reinert concluded his remarks with a nod to the century ahead.

“The mission of the 88th has

changed, however, the spirit of the Blue Devils is still just as strong as it was when Camp Dodge was bustling with young Doughboys,” said Reinert. “It is a privilege to be a Blue Devil!”

“This plaque pays tribute to “A Century of Service” of Blue Devil Soldiers,” Reinert continued, “although it should read our first century of service as we look ahead to future challenges.”


The plaque will be permanently on display at the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge.



The 88th Regional Support Command stands at attention while the flag is folded during Retreat at Camp Dodge, Iowa on May 25, in honor of the 88th Infantry Division's beginning there in 1917. Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, 88th RSC commanding general, and Command Sergeant Major Earl Rocca, 88th RSC command sergeant major, attended the Iowa National Guard Command Retreat hosted by Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, and dedicated the plaque in honor of the Blue Devil's 100 years of serving our Nation.



Members of the Iowa National Guard fold the U.S. flag while conducting Retreat as the 88th Regional Support Command dedicates a plaque at Camp Dodge, Iowa on May 25, in honor of the 88th Infantry Division's beginning there in 1917. During the Command Retreat, Airmen, Soldiers, and Civilians are recognized by Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, for their contributions to the Guard and their communities, state and nation.



The 88th RSC command team attended the Iowa National Guard Command Retreat hosted by Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, and dedicated the plaque in honor of the 88th Infantry Division Blue Devil's one hundred years of service to our Nation.

Command Historian conducts World War I Presentation

For local Fort McCoy community



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

American involvement in the “war to end all wars” began a century ago. Remembering that time period and the sacrifices that went along with it was the focus for a gathering at the Tomah, Wisconsin Museum August 15.

Ward Zischke, the command historian for the 88th Regional Support Command, adorned in a World War I-era military uniform, discussed the events that led to American involvement in World War I to include the build-up and creation of the Army and divisions that we know today as well as major battles of the war.

“We should always honor the memory of the Soldiers who participated, but we need to look hard at the reasons

we got involved and the outcome of our involvement,” Zischke said.

The evening was organized by Tomah Museum’s Executive Director Jim Weinatzl as a way to honor the nine men from the Tomah area who died during World War I and to preserve the memory of the past.

“There were a lot of events (during World War I) that affected future things in the world,” Weinatzl said. “For instance, new mechanization, a lot of the trucks were introduced, airplanes were introduced, the engine. All that came into play in the first World War. There were also strides in medicine that led to better knowledge for fighting in World War II. A lot of the lower officers turned

out to be generals in World War II.

Previously, the Tomah Museum has hosted presentations on the American Civil War, World War II and the Korean War. This event focused on the personal impact to families in the region and also the global impact of the war would have for generations that followed.

“Talking about WWI is important because it changed the history of the world,” Zischke said. “The confidence that western culture had before the war of mankind’s progress was dealt a severe blow. Four monarchies were swept away and Communism became a force to be reckoned with. Colonialism began to go into decline and political maps were redrawn in Europe, Asia, and Africa. The United States moved closer to being a world power.”

The 88th Division, as it was known in World War I, was first constituted on August 5, 1917 at Camp Dodge, Iowa

as a part of the National Army. The unit deployed to France to fight in World War I from July through September 1918. The 88th Division earned a campaign streamer for its involvement in the Alsace Campaign in October 1918.

Following this service the 88th Division returned to Camp Dodge and was demobilized on June 10, 1919.

The 88th is hosting a 100th Anniversary commemoration for the 88th Division August 19 at its Fort McCoy, Wisconsin-based headquarters. The ceremony will honor 100 years of service by the 88th which was created to fight in World War I. Through its history the 88th has been a division of the National Army, a division within the Organized Reserve, an Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), a Regional Readiness Command (RRC) and its most recent incantation as an RSC which it has been since September 2008.



Ward Zischke, the command historian for the 88th Regional Support Command, talks to members of the local community during a World War I presentation at the Tomah, Wisconsin Museum. The 100th anniversary of American involvement in World War I is being commemorated for Army units with lineage dating back to that time. The 88th RSC is the legacy unit of the 88th Division which was constituted on August 5, 1917 for service in World War I.

100 Years

1917 - 2017

Story by Zachary Mott, 88th RSC Public Affairs

1917 was a good year. It was the year the 88th Division, along with more than 60 other Army divisions, came into existence to assist American allies and join the fight in World War I.

The 88th Division was first constituted August 5, 1917 at Camp Dodge, Iowa. After a century of serving in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism, the “Cloverleaf” division carries on its legacy today as the 88th Regional Support Command. Now, 100 years after it began, the 88th will be celebrating its centennial anniversary August 19 with a ceremony at the 88th RSC headquarters on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

“That history of persistence, perseverance and excellence lives on in the 88th today as we prepare the most lethal Army Reserve in the history of the nation to deter our adversaries,” said Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, the commanding general of the 88th RSC.

100-years has filled the 88th with a long list of accomplishments. From battlefield honors dating back to World War I to four Army Community of Excellence awards in the last eight years, the 88th continues to be one of the premier Army Reserve organizations. Also included in the proud history of the 88th are Medal of Honor recipients Capt. Robert E. Roeder and 2nd Lt. Charles W. Shea, both from the 350th Infantry Regiment and both earned during World War II.

“The name, mission and location of the 88th has changed many times over the course of a century, however, the spirit of the Blue Devils is still just as strong as it was when Camp Dodge was bustling with young Doughboys,” Reinert said.

In addition to the 88th Division, other notable Army divisions and events can be traced to 1917:

- Army divisions: Notably, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 81st, 82nd, 88th and 99th divisions were constituted in 1917 as part of the American military buildup following the Declaration of War on April 6, 1917.

- Events: Zimmerman Telegram, February 1917, a telegram from German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmerman to the German minister of Mexico is intercepted and deciphered. The message offered U.S. territory to Mexico if it joined the side of Germany in the war. Russian Revolution begins in March 1917 with the abdication of Czar Nicholas II and a provisional government established. Declaration of War, April 1917, the United States declares war on Germany. Selective Service Act passes in May 1917 that required all males between 21 and 30 to register their names for possible enrollment into the military. The United States declares war on Austria-Hungary on December 7, 1917.

(Photo Opposite Page) U.S. Troops marching during World War I. (Photo courtesy of open source media)



The 88th Infantry Division in Italy 1942 - 1947

Story by Jami Bryan
Published January 20, 2015

On 15 July 1942, John S. Quigley, President of the 88th Division Veterans Association, challenged a group of new soldiers gathered around the main flagpole of Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, to “take up the job we didn’t get done” in World War I. In response, MG John E. Sloan promised: “The glory of the colors will never be sullied, as long as one man of the 88th still lives.” With those words, MG Sloan reactivated the 88th Infantry Division.

Comprised of mostly draftees, many of the newly conscripted men came from New England and the Mid-Atlantic States. Young and inexperienced, the men began formal training 3 August 1942. It was a drastic change in climate for most, and a more drastic change in lifestyle. In the first few weeks, the draftees had to learn how to make a bed, sweep and mop a floor, police an area, what the letters “K.P.” meant, how to stand at attention, how to march, field sanitation, basic first aid, military organization, close-order drill, courtesy, discipline and the difference between stripes and bars. Most importantly, they learned it was best never to volunteer for anything. They found themselves completing obstacle courses, going on night compass marches, dealing with gas mask drills, and learning how to fire rifles and other small arms.

Combat experienced men came from North Africa to offer tips and battle methods to the new soldiers. Upon inspection of the division, all were satisfied and impressed with the progress made by the men of the 88th. MG Sloan was a strict disciplinarian

and a stickler for minute details, but in the end he got the results he desired. Even residents of cities and towns near Camp Gruber held the new outfit in high esteem. To almost all, these men were well-trained, well-behaved, and very well-received.

The only people who were not originally confident in the 88th were the soldiers themselves. For some reason, the men thought they were overrated and going nowhere. To many, the 88th was still just a number. That feeling followed the men from Camp Gruber to the Louisiana Maneuver Area on 16 June, and to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in August 1943, as the men completed their training, and even into November 1943 at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, as they waited for deployment overseas.

On 2 November 1943, an advance party of ten officers left Camp Patrick Henry for North Africa. BG Paul Kendall, who led the expedition, was the first member of the 88th to set foot on foreign soil. While he and his advance party members were busy preparing to receive the division, the 351st Infantry Regiment began its slow voyage across the ocean to North Africa. Aboard a Liberty ship, the trans-Atlantic voyage was no easy feat. The ship was overcrowded and many of the men battled seasickness. It was a relief when the ships docked in Casablanca. The 350th Infantry Regiment and the 349th Infantry Regiment soon followed, and the entire 88th was assembled in North Africa by 27 December 1943. Not one man was lost during any of the crossings.

The 88th Division arrived overseas with about 14,000 men. Sixty percent were infantry and the rest were artillerymen, medics, ordnancemen,

signalmen, reconnaissance troops, quartermasters, and engineers. Upon landing, the men were assigned to Camp Passage. They were there primarily to recover from the voyage, have a few decent meals, see a few recent movies, and enjoy a quick sample of life in Casablanca. All too soon, however, the 88th was on the move again. This time they were headed by train to Oran. The division reassembled, but MG Sloan was unhappy with what he saw. In all its travels the division had gotten sloppy, so Sloan ordered more training in the Atlas Mountains. The training paid off – not only was the 88th back in top form, but also better prepared by the wintry terrain of the Atlas Mountains for what lay ahead in Italy.

An advanced party of officers and men flew to Italy in late December 1943 under the command of BG Kendall. Late in the night on 3 January 1944, the first members of the 88th went into the line with the Fifth Army. The division’s first battle casualty came that very same day, when SGT William A. Streuli was killed by enemy air attack two miles west of Venafro.

On 1 February 1944, the rest of the 88th Division began their trip to Italy. The last units came ashore by 21 February, and the entire division was reunited in Naples. Upon arrival in Naples, the 88th became the first draftee division to enter a combat zone in World War II.

The arrival of the 88th was a much-needed respite for the Fifth Army. Tired and battle worn, many in the Fifth Army had been fighting since Salerno, Sicily, or even as far back as North Africa. The 88th was the first fresh division to arrive in the Mediterranean since Salerno. It was

cold and wet in Naples, weather many of the men were not expecting. They were also exposed for the first time to the sights and sounds of war: the gunfire, rubble and the physical destruction of the Italian countryside. Still in a rear assembly area, the waiting was almost worse than the actual fighting. Rumors flew about where the units would be assigned. At night they could see faint flashes over the mountains behind Piedmonte d’Alfie which suggested the front lines were located in what the soldiers called “Purple Heart Valley” and Cassino. The soldiers began to wonder when, and if, they would ever see the front. Fifth Army Headquarters had originally planned to break up the 88th Division and deploy them as needed, but MG Sloan did not want to see his division broken up. He met with LTG Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army, and Clark agreed to keep the 88th intact.

The 34th and 36th Infantry Divisions withdrew from the front for much needed rest and reorganization. A corps from New Zealand and one from France took over the American sector of the line. Most of the French corps was still enroute from North Africa and therefore were spread too thin. MG Sloan saw an opportunity, and sent the 2d Battalion, 351st Infantry, into the line with the French. The battalion arrived at the front on 27 February. That same day, the 88th was ordered to relieve the British 5th Infantry Division in the Minturno section of the Fifth Army line. Done in secret, the 88th took command of the British sector 4 March 1944. To fool any enemy observers, the American soldiers wore British helmets while the switch took place. The ruse worked, and the relief went smoothly.

The Fifth Army was trying to get to Cassino in hopes of gaining a hold on the central Italian highway to Rome, thus forcing a German retreat on both

ends of the line. Although the principal mission for the 88th was a holding and harassing action, ground troops were used mostly for reconnaissance. In the opinion of correspondents and those still stationed in the rear, the action taking place at Cassino was not as exciting as it had been in Salerno, Naples, and Volturno. Although none of these people truly knew what was happening at the front it was because of them that this portion of the Italian campaign was called “the quiet war.” Although it was relatively quiet, the 88th was getting a taste of what it was like on the front lines.

The days passed, and by mid-April, both the Germans and the Allies had twenty-two divisions in Italy. Whereas the Allies were supplementing their

“The glory of the colors will never be sullied, as long as one man of the 88th still lives.”

lines with fresh troops, the Germans were pulling troops from the Eastern front to beef up their divisions. The Germans were trying to keep the Allies as far south as possible as possible to avoid having them get anywhere close to Germany itself. The Allies, however, were torn: an invasion of France was being planned and they did not know how best to use all their troops. As the debate continued, Allied commanders in Italy decided to go forward with their original plans to break out of the Anzio beachhead and smash the Gustav Line. On 11 May 1944, the

350th Infantry attacked enemy lines at Mount Diamano, Hill 316, Mount Ceracoli, and Mount Rotondo, while the 351st was ordered to seize Santa Maria Infante, then open the way into the Austene Valley. The 349th was held in reserve.

Although the Germans put up a fierce fight, Mount Diamano fell to the 350th Infantry in less than an hour. By dawn of 13 May, the 350th also held Hill 316. Soon after they won Mount Ceracoli, and soon after that they captured Mount Rotondo. The Gustav line had been cracked.

The 351st, however, did not fare as well as its counterpart. Attacking the major strong point of the Gustav Line, the soldiers there found it very difficult to capture the hill town of Santa Maria Infante. Company F was destroyed, with all of its men either killed or captured. The Germans staunchly defended the town. Fighting continued through 14 May, when the 1st Battalion moved on the town from the right and the 3d Battalion pushed upwards. The 88th finally captured Santa Maria Infante by 1300. The division was so fierce in battle that German prisoners supposedly remarked that the troops of the 88th fought “like devils.” As a result, the division eventually adopted the nickname the “Blue Devils” in reference to their blue shoulder patches.

The 349th Infantry came behind the 350th and 351st and led the division’s advance across the Ausonia Valley. On 15 May 1944, the 88th pushed through undefended Spigno. By this time, mountain fighting had begun to take its toll on the soldiers. The weather was often wet and cold; the terrain was muddy and hilly; and the men were always sore and tired. It was difficult to get supplies to the troops and evacuate the wounded. There was ever-present radio interference, making communications almost impossible. Yet they still trudged on,

determined to make it to Rome.

The 351st faced heavy fire on 18 May 1944 in its attempt to take Monte Grande, while the 349th and 350th advanced from Roccasecca to the Amaseno Valley, which they cleared on 28 May. After breaking out of the mountains, the 88th Division was thrust right back into combat. They were headed towards the Eternal City.

The 88th attacked to the northwest, with their orders being to cut Highway 6 then head eastward towards Rome. Highway 6 was cut on 2 June, and by 3 June, the Blue Devils were just 4,000 yards from their objective. There was a brutal battle on the outskirts of the city as the soldiers of the 88th ran into strong German resistance. Still, on 4 June, the Eternal City fell to the Allies. Everyone wanted to be first into Rome, but at 1530, on 4 June, the all-draftee 88th became the first division to enter the city. Although overshadowed by the Normandy invasion two days later, the capture of Rome was a significant victory for the Allies and a welcome event for the Romans.

The happiness and celebration that followed the entry into the capital city soon gave way to the reality of war. The 88th received its new orders: follow the Germans north. They were involved in some brief but intense fighting at Monterosi, battling German tanks and hoping to buy time for the main body of troops who were blasting Nazi soldiers fleeing north by Highway 2. After 100 straight days at the front, the Blue Devils were finally granted some much needed rest and relaxation. The respite was short, however, because MG Sloan did not want his men to lose their fighting edge. After only a few short days, he launched another training regimen. Sloan was tough, but the toughness paid off — total casualties in the division only numbered 134 officers and 1,844 enlisted men after 100 days of heavy fighting.

On 5 and 6 July 1944, the 88th was once again back at the front. The confident, heavily armed Germans were waiting. The 88th was ordered to seize the ancient Etruscan fortress town of Volterra, location of a large German garrison. The 349th flanked the town on the right, the 350th flanked from the left, and the two met in the middle. By 2200 on 8 July, the town was in American hands. Four days later the 351st came out of division reserve and took the town of Laiatico. It was during this battle that the 3d Battalion, 351st Infantry, earned a Distinguished Unit Citation.

Villamanga fell to the 349th on 13 July, and the 351st took Monte Foscili. On 19 July the Allies dug

“On 25 April, the Blue Devils became the first Allied troops to enter Verona. Vicenza fell three days later.”

in at San Miniato, where they soon experienced the brutality of the Nazis. All civilian areas were heavily mined and booby trapped, including houses and streets. The citizens of the town were herded into a church so they could not warn the Allies of what lay ahead, and then were mercilessly shot by German tanks. The Germans obviously did not plan to give up easily.

The 91st Infantry Division relieved the 88th so they could once again take

time for refitting and training. This time they geared up to cross rivers, as the upcoming assault crossing of the Arno was not going to be easy. The trip from Volterra to the north bank of the Arno was accomplished, but not without high cost: the division lost 142 officers and 2, 257 enlisted men killed, wounded, or missing.

After the crossing, the men were once again relieved from the front lines and sent back for seven weeks of refitting and training. MG Sloan was forced to retire in August of 1944 due to his worsening dermatitis. His replacement was his deputy, BG Paul Kendall. He was the obvious replacement, since he had been with the division since Camp Gruber, but it was upsetting to many of the soldiers to see MG Sloan go. Many thought BG Kendall was not of the same caliber as MG Sloan.

By the end of August, the 88th could sense it was once again to go into combat. True to their prediction, the Blue Devils attacked towards the Gothic Line on 10 September 1944. It was once again rainy, cold and miserable at the front. Soldiers on both sides had to trudge around the mountains in deep mud and water. Trying to break through the Gothic Line, the 88th encountered some of the heaviest fighting in the fall of 1944. While studying the Allies to figure out where to launch his main attacks, Field Marshall Albert Kesselring, the German commander, held his reserves in preparation for a surprise counter-attack. That attack occurred 28 September when elements of four German divisions assaulted the 350th Infantry atop Mount Battaglia. For seven bloody days, the Blue Devils threw back every assault and held the critical position. They had won the battle, but not without great cost — approximately fifty percent of the 350th were killed, wounded, or missing. For its heroic part in the ferocious fighting at Mount Battaglia,

the 2d Battalion, 350th Infantry, earned a Distinguished Unit Citation.

While the 350th battled atop Mount Battaglia, the 349th Regiment was busy attacking the village of Belvedere enroute to their destination of Mount Grande. They blasted the Germans out of the village and without stopping, captured Sassaleone and cut the road to Castel del Rio. By 10 October, the 351st had pushed past the 349th, and faced German flamethrowers in a battle at Gesso.

All three regiments were involved in intense fighting, and all three were beginning to lose their drive. The units were losing men faster than they could be replaced, but orders remained unchanged: the 88th

After resting in Montecatini, the 88th was once again headed back to the front on 24 January 1945. They were to relieve the 91st Infantry Division near Loiana and Livergnano. They did little more there than heavy patrolling and maintaining defensive positions, and were once again pulled out of line for further rehabilitation. This time they went through special training to prepare for the impending spring offensive.

The offensive began in April. The Germans had spent six months digging themselves into caves, wrecked buildings, and rocky ridges. Machine guns, mortars, and artillery were well hidden and placed everywhere. The 88th Units were shuttled up and down the front in the hope of confusing the enemy. The Germans were not fooled and built their strongest defensive position south of Bologna and right in front of the Blue Devils. That turned out to be a big mistake: when the Germans tried to pull themselves out of a trap placed by the 10th Mountain Division, the 88th Division's flanking maneuver held them in place. The Germans were caught, and the Fifth Army broke through into the Po Valley.

Once past the Po Valley, the 88th headed to the Alps. On 25 April, the Blue Devils became the first Allied troops to enter Verona. Vicenza fell three days later. The effort of the Allies paid off. At 1600 on 2 May, German forces surrendered. The war in Italy had ended.

On 4 May 1945, the 88th Division joined the 103d Infantry Division, another draftee division, driving

“In 344 days of combat, the 88th Infantry Division lost 2,298 men killed in action and 9,225 men wounded.”

south through Brenner Pass from Innsbruck. On 7 May, it was announced the Germans had surrendered unconditionally. For those fighting in the European Theater, World War II was over.

The men in the 88th did not celebrate wildly, but instead reflected a quiet joy. Many thought it was too good to be true. Many mourned the men that did not make it to see the end. All the soldiers cared about now was wrapping the job up and going home.

The Blue Devils moved into Bolzano, the city that had once been the headquarters of the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe. On 31 May, the 88th gave Bolzano over to the Allied Italian troops, but since tensions

were so high between the Italians and the Germans, the 349th Infantry stayed to prevent trouble. The rest of the division was sent to Lake Garda, where they were given the assignment of guarding 300,000 POWs. Some of the soldiers had enough points to ship out during the summer, while others were moved to Trieste for occupation in the fall. Many of them remained in Italy for the next two years. The division was finally inactivated on 24 October 1947 in Italy. Today the 88th's lineage lives on as the 88th Regional Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, with headquarters at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

In 344 days of combat, the 88th Infantry Division lost 2,298 men killed in action and 9,225 men wounded. The Blue Devils proved that with rigorous training, teamwork, competent leadership, and fierce determination, an all-draftee division was more than capable of fighting well against a well-trained, well-equipped, and battle-hardened enemy. Even under the worst circumstances, the men of the 88th gave their all and wound up playing an integral part in the defeat of the German Army in Italy. The Blue Devils saw to it that MG Sloan was good on his word: the 88th Infantry Division had well finished the job it had started long before in World War I.



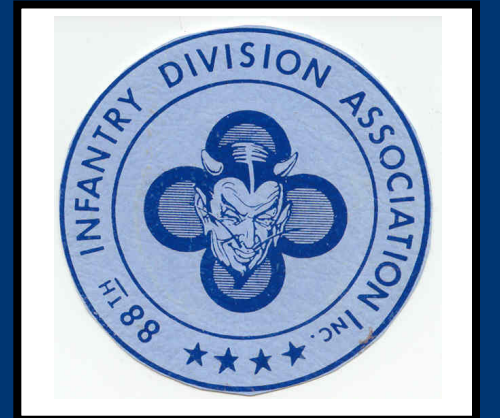
Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan, 88th Infantry Division Commander from July 1942 to Sept. 1944.



Photos of symbols and insignias courtesy of open source media. Not all symbols and insignia shown are, or were, authorized or official.

88th Infantry Division Symbols & Insignia Fighting Blue Devils









The 88th Regional Support Command Celebrates 100 years

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command

The ground rumbled, the glass shook, and the air became thick with smoke as cannons fired a 21-gun salute to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 88th Regional Support Command, here, at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

The 88th RSC was first stood up during World War I as part of the National Army. Then named, the 88th Division was constituted on Aug. 5, 1917 and organized at Camp Dodge, Iowa on Aug. 25, 1917. Less than a year later, the 88th Division deployed to France from July 1918 to September 1918. From there the division participated in the Alsace Campaign and received their first streamer. The division returned home to Camp Dodge and was demobilized on June 10, 1919 and reconstituted in the Organized Reserve on June 24, 1921. The 88th Division remained there until 1942.

“It is my honor to pay tribute to the men and women of this great division,” said Maj. General Patrick J. Reinert, Commanding General, 88th Regional Support Command.

More than 100 leaders and Soldiers attended the ceremony recognizing the century-long lineage, and witnessing a lineage that they were very proud of.

“My view is this is the coolest institution in America,” explained LTG Charles D. Luckey, Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve. “This is awesome,” said Luckey about the ceremony that took place.

The ceremony connected with more than just Soldiers and members of the 88th RSC; it hit home with others who call Fort McCoy home, such as the students of Fort McCoy’s Challenge Academy who helped the 88th RSC prepare for the ceremony.

“It is the military service that started the Challenge Academy,

which is helping me better myself,” explained Jarrod Love, squad leader of First Squad, Bravo One, Challenge Academy. “It gives me a sense of achievement giving back, and helping (the 88th RSC) set up. It’s amazing to be able to see the 88th (RSC) has existed a hundred years and is still going strong; it’s mind blowing to me.”

Also in attendance was a veteran recognized as the oldest serving veteran from the 88th RSC. Bruce T. Abbott served with the 88th Infantry Division during World War II as mortarman. It was because of their combat skills and the blue patch the Soldiers wore, the Germans took to calling Soldiers from the 88th Infantry Division Blue Devils.

“I think it’s pretty remarkable,” said Abbott about seeing the 88th RSC still proudly bearing the same blue patch he wore more than 70 years ago.

During the 88th Infantry Division’s campaigns in World War II they suffered more than 15,000 casualties

and only 3,000 of the original division remained. The 88th Division earned 522 Silver Stars and three Medal of Honor recipients: Capt. Robert E. Roeder, Staff Sgt. Charles W. Shea, and Staff Sgt. Manuel Mendoza who is credited with single-handedly breaking up a German counter attack.

After WWII, the 88th Division remained in northeast Italy conducting peacekeeping operations near the port city of Trieste, Italy. The operations were to keep the Italians and Yugoslavs from fighting over the disputed region. The 88th RSC was inactivated on Oct. 24, 1947 at Leghorn, Italy.

Two decades later on Dec. 26, 1967 the 88th Army Reserve Command was activated in Minneapolis,

Minnesota. In 1996 the 88th ARCOM saw major change and became the 88th RSC. In 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 88th RSC was redesignated as the Regional Readiness Command.

One of the units that fell under the 88th RRC was the 724th Transportation Company out of Bartonville, Illinois. On April 9, 2004, the unit was ambushed by insurgents. For his actions during the attack Spc. Jeremy Church became the first Army Reserve Soldier to receive the Silver Star in Iraq. The 88th RRC was inactivated in 2009, while the 88th RSC of today was activated in 2008.

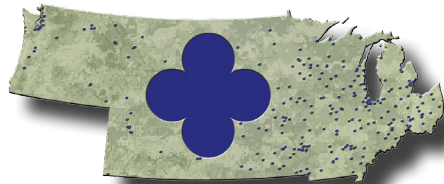
“Although the name, mission, and location of the 88th (RSC) has changed many times over the course

of a century,” explained Reinert. “The spirit of the Blue Devil is still just as strong as it was when Camp Dodge was bustling with young Doughboys.”

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a new plaque in honor of the 88th RSC’s “first century of service.”

“The plaque pays tribute to a century of service,” said Reinert. “Although it should read to our first century of service, as the Blue Devil Soldiers stand ready to meet and overcome the next 100 years of challenges.”

The 88th RSC proudly serves as a member of America’s Army Reserve Forces generating combat ready units, ensuring they are ready to fight fast and continue the march down the road to awesome.



Bruce T. Abbott, who served with the 88th Infantry Division during World War II as a mortarman, was recognized for his service during WWII at the 88th Regional Support Command’s centennial anniversary at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Aug. 19, 2017. Abbot had a canteen cup with him, etched with the name of every location he had been stationed throughout his military career. The names covered from the continental U.S. and across the seas. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command)

A howitzer cannon fires off a blank round during a 21-gun salute in honor of the 88th Regional Support Command's centennial anniversary at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Aug. 19, 2017. The cannons were provided and fired by the 2nd Battalion, 122 Field Artillery Regiment from the Illinois National Guard.



Photo and caption by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command



Bruce T. Abbott, left, who served with the 88th Infantry Division during World War II as a mortarman, was recognized for his service during WWII at the 88th Regional Support Command's centennial anniversary at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on Aug. 19, 2017. Abbot had a canteen cup with him, etched with the name of every location he had been stationed throughout his military career. The names covered from the continental U.S. and across the seas. (Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command)



Welcome to the 88th's 100 Year Anniversary Aug. 1917 ~ Aug. 2017



Attendees at the unveiling of the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque during a ceremony on August 19, included Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Bruce Abbott, honored guest and Soldier of the 88th Infantry Division during World War II, along with his family, U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors attending the Ambassador Workshop, and former 88th commanders and staff.





The 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque before the unveiling at the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19, in honor of the beginning of the 88th Division in 1917.

88th Regional Support Command Blue Devil Color Guard, dressed in historical uniforms dating from World War I to the present, renders honors during the unveiling of the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque during a ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19, in honor of the beginning of the 88th Division in 1917. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command)





Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert (center), commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, Command Sergeant Major Earl Rocca (front) and incoming Command Chief Warrant Officer CW5 John Brasfield (rear) march in as the official party during unveiling of the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque during a ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19. (Photo Opposite Page Top) Command Historian Ward Zischke holds his WWI uniform cover to his heart during the dedication ceremony. (Bottom) Maj. Gen. Reinert receives an engraved artillery shell casing. (Photo above by Catherine Lowrey) (Photos opposite page by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command)



Sergeant First Class Andrew Berg, Illinois Army National Guard Headquarters Salute Battery, Second of the One Hundred Twenty-Second Field Artillery Battalion, holds an engraved artillery shell casing for presentation during a ceremony at the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19, in honor of the establishment of the 88th Division in 1917. (Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command)





The Illinois Army National Guard Headquarters Salute Battery, Second of the One Hundred Twenty-Second Field Artillery Battalion, under the leadership of Sergeant First Class Andrew Berg conducts a 21-gun salute during the unveiling of the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque at the 88th RSC Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19. 88th RSC Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rocca, right, and Bruce Abbott, far right, honored guest and Soldier of the 88th Blue Devil Infantry Division during World War II. 88th RSC Chief of Staff Charles Hudson, lower right, and other attendees including Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, far left, watch during the 21-gun salute. U.S. Army Reserve Command Director of Strategic Communications Col. Gerald Ostlund, near left, also attended the event.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Aaron Berogan, 85th Support Command



Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, Bruce Abbott, honored Soldier of the 88th Infantry Division and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rocca unveiled the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque during a ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters on August 19, in honor of the beginning of the 88th Division in 1917.



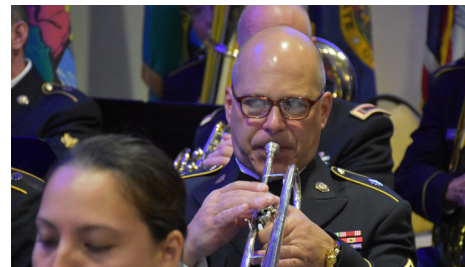
Bruce Abbott, honored guest and Soldier of the 88th Blue Devil Infantry Division during World War II, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, following a ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19, in honor of the beginning of the 88th Division in 1917.





A Century of Serving 88th RSC HHC Blue Devil's Banquet

The 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters and Headquarters Company held a banquet in honor of the 100 Year Anniversary of the establishment of the 88th Division in Warrens, Wis., Aug. 19. Guests of honor included Bruce Abbott, 88th Blue Devil Soldier during World War II, along with his family and author and businessman Robert Edsel, author of the book *The Monuments Men*. 88th RSC HHC Soldiers, 88th RSC Civilians and their families also attended the banquet, as well as past members of the 88th organization dating back as far as World War II.





A Century of Serving 88th RSC HHC Blue Devil's Banquet





Author and businessman Robert Edsel, center, receives a medal as an honorary member of the Order of the 88th Division from Commanding General of the 88th Regional Support Command Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, right, and 88th RSC Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rocca during an 88th RSC Headquarters and Headquarters Company banquet in Warrens, Wis. on Aug. 19, in honor of the 100 Year Anniversary of the establishment of the 88th Division.



Commanding General of the 88th Regional Support Command Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, right, and 88th RSC Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rocca along with author and businessman Robert Edsel, center, conduct a cake cutting ceremony during an 88th RSC Headquarters and Headquarters Company banquet in Warrens, Wis. on Aug. 19, in honor of the 100 Year Anniversary of the establishment of the 88th Division.



88th Regional Support Command A Century of Serving August 1917 ~ August 2017

Story by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Eric Nager

88th Regional Support Command, a U.S. Army Reserve unit that traces its lineage to the 88th Infantry Division, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding on August 19, 2017. The unit stood up 100 years ago at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and saw action in World War I in the Alsace and Meuse-Argonne Campaigns.

The event is one of many taking place across the nation to mark U.S. involvement in World War I and create a greater understanding of Army history. That conflict shaped the modern global environment as well as the modern American Army by introducing the modern Division, Army branches, staff structure, and many installations. The crowning event will be the dedication of a national World War I monument in Washington, D.C. on November 11, 2018.

Major General Patrick Reinert,

the commanding general of the 88th RSC, noted that the unit originally drew citizen soldiers from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois and became known as the “Cloverleaf Division” because of the clover-shaped patch they wear.

In World War II, the 88th was the first draftee division in combat, serving in the Italian Campaign. They were the first division to reach Rome and were nicknamed the “Blue Devils” by the Germans. Bruce Abbott, a World War II veteran of the 88th, attended the event that included the unveiling of a plaque, a 21-gun salute, and performance by the 451st Army Band from Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

After World War II, the 88th was the first division on line against the Soviet Union in the disputed city of Trieste in 1947. Later, the 88th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) sent units to Vietnam, Desert Storm, and

Bosnia.

Most recently, the 88th RSC mobilized units for Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and today supports USAR units in 19 states from Ohio to Washington. Individual soldiers, civilians, and military technicians from the 88th continue to support contingency operations in the Middle East today.

According to LTG Charles D. Luckey, commanding general, United States Army Reserve Command, “the event today is a microcosm of the story of America’s Army, of which America’s Army Reserve has been a part since 1908. The Army Reserve started with the idea of leveraging civilian medical expertise and has grown to being able to create tremendous effects at a cost savings to the tax payer. While our formations have changed status over the years, the lineage and the legacy hasn’t wavered.”

(Photo Top) The Illinois Army National Guard Headquarters Salute Battery, Second of the One Hundred Twenty-Second Field Artillery Battalion, conducts a 21-gun salute during the unveiling of the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque during a ceremony at the 88th RSC Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19. (Photo Opposite page Top) The 88th RSC Headquarters and HHC stands at attention after the unveiling of the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19. (Bottom) Maj. Gen. Patrick Reinert, 88th RSC commanding general thanks Lieutenant General Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command, for attending the 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration plaque at Fort McCoy, Wis., on August 19.



From the 88th Infantry Division to the 88th Regional Support Command

A Century of Serving

100 Years and Still Serving our Nation

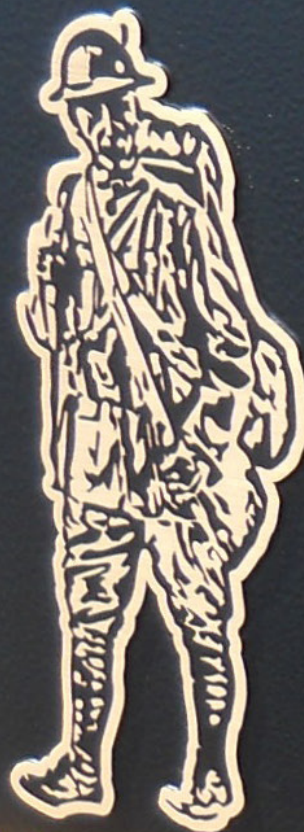
August 5, 1917 – August 5, 2017



The 88th Infantry Division was constituted in the National Army on August 5, 1917 and organized at Camp Dodge, Iowa on August 25, 1917. In the 100 years following, 88th Soldiers have fought on the battlefields of France in World War I and the Italian front of World War II where they earned their nickname, "Blue Devils", by their German enemies. During these wars, the 88th was decorated with streamers for the Alsace, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley Campaigns.

The 88th Infantry Division was brought into the US Army Reserve as the 88th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) in 1967. The 88th was later redesignated the 88th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) and subsequently as the 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) in 2008. During this period Blue Devil Soldiers have been mobilized and served in operations in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

The current Blue Devil Soldiers honor the 88th Infantry Division's fighting spirit that has been passed down through the last 100 years and we look ahead with pride to the generations who will wear the cloverleaf in the future.



WWI



WWII to Vietnam



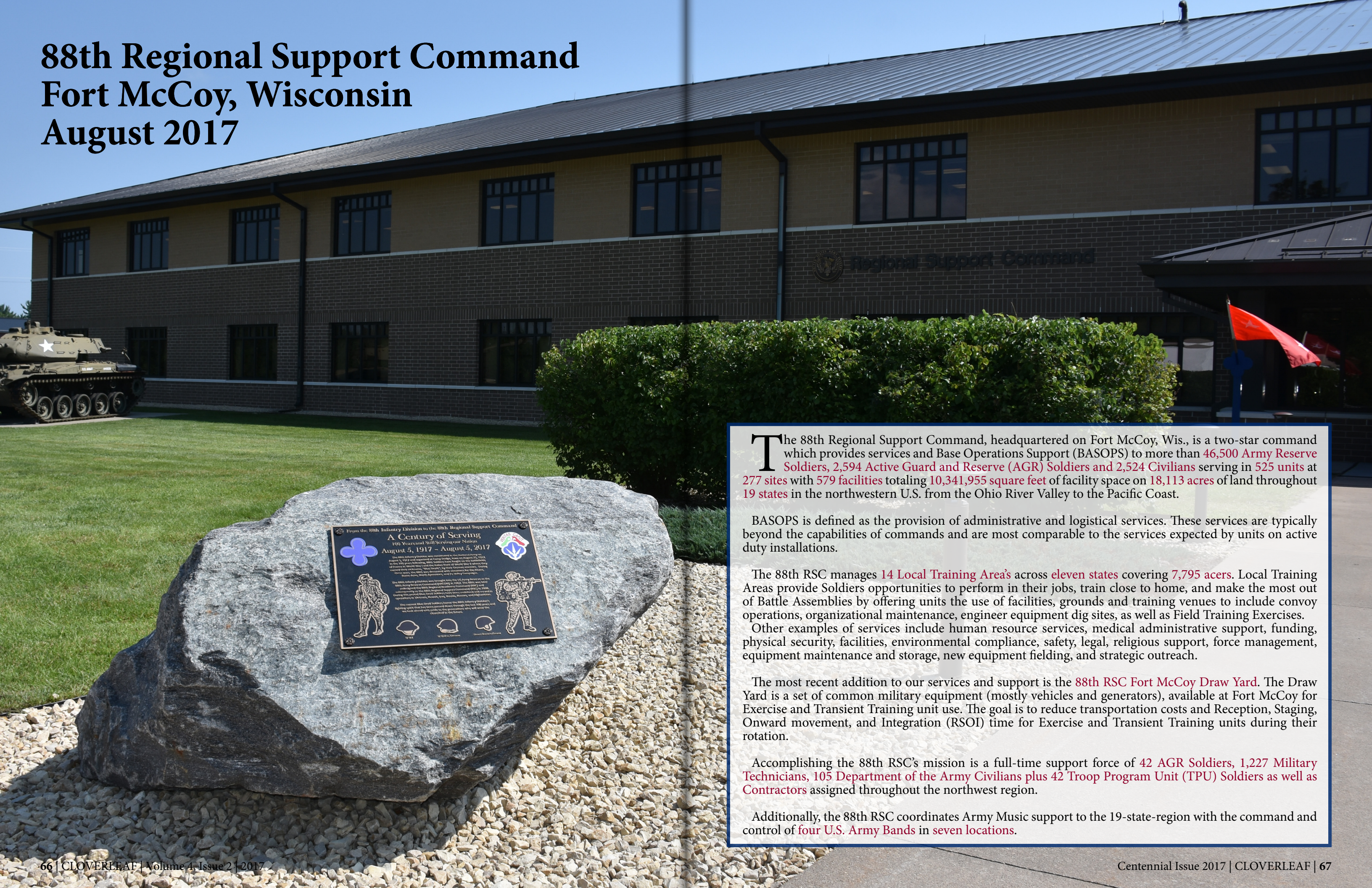
Desert Storm to Present



88th Regional Support Command

Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

August 2017



The 88th Regional Support Command, headquartered on Fort McCoy, Wis., is a two-star command which provides services and Base Operations Support (BASOPS) to more than **46,500 Army Reserve Soldiers, 2,594 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldiers and 2,524 Civilians** serving in **525 units** at **277 sites** with **579 facilities** totaling **10,341,955 square feet** of facility space on **18,113 acres** of land throughout **19 states** in the northwestern U.S. from the Ohio River Valley to the Pacific Coast.

BASOPS is defined as the provision of administrative and logistical services. These services are typically beyond the capabilities of commands and are most comparable to the services expected by units on active duty installations.

The 88th RSC manages **14 Local Training Area's** across **eleven states** covering **7,795 acers**. Local Training Areas provide Soldiers opportunities to perform in their jobs, train close to home, and make the most out of Battle Assemblies by offering units the use of facilities, grounds and training venues to include convoy operations, organizational maintenance, engineer equipment dig sites, as well as Field Training Exercises. Other examples of services include human resource services, medical administrative support, funding, physical security, facilities, environmental compliance, safety, legal, religious support, force management, equipment maintenance and storage, new equipment fielding, and strategic outreach.

The most recent addition to our services and support is the **88th RSC Fort McCoy Draw Yard**. The Draw Yard is a set of common military equipment (mostly vehicles and generators), available at Fort McCoy for Exercise and Transient Training unit use. The goal is to reduce transportation costs and Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration (RSOI) time for Exercise and Transient Training units during their rotation.

Accomplishing the 88th RSC's mission is a full-time support force of **42 AGR Soldiers, 1,227 Military Technicians, 105 Department of the Army Civilians plus 42 Troop Program Unit (TPU) Soldiers** as well as **Contractors** assigned throughout the northwest region.

Additionally, the 88th RSC coordinates Army Music support to the 19-state-region with the command and control of **four U.S. Army Bands** in **seven locations**.





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88th Regional Support Command, Public Affairs
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U.S. ARMY RESERVE

88TH RSC

***PROVIDING THE VERY BEST IN CLASS SERVICES AND BASE
OPERATIONS SUPPORT IN THE NORTHERN U.S. FROM THE
OHIO RIVER TO THE PACIFIC COAST***
