

# The WILDCAT



81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, FORT JACKSON, SC

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Barbaranda Williams looks at her daughter's bracelet that Maya Williams made during a recent Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Workshop. Williams is the wife of Sgt. 1st Class Osceola Williams, who is assigned to Army Reserve Medical Command.

## Helping our kids understand deployments

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell, Public Affairs NCO

ORLANDO, Fla. – Hundreds of Soldiers returning from overseas deployments make the trip here each month to a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program to learn about the tools and resources available to assist Army Reserve families while their children spend hours playing and interacting with others who spent the past year in the same situation.

Children spend the day occupied by video and board games, baby dolls, building blocks and colorful stickers, but nearly unnoticed to them is a new “friend” who rolled up her sleeves to be temporarily tattooed to show her support.

For the past several months, our YRRP workshop team has placed military family life consultants within the childcare services to assist the youngest members of the Army Reserve family with the

separation of their parents, said Christa Burns, 81st RSC family programs director.

“We want to make sure our littlest ones through our teenagers have the resources available to them in case they want to talk to someone about how they feel about their mom or dad deploying,” she said. “We are truly concerned about the entire family, not just the Soldier and spouse.”

Burns said the consultants spend the day playing games and interacting with the children.

“We want them to go unnoticed – a new friend of sorts,” she said. “It’s not just about watching the children while their parents are attending the conference, this is a learning experience for them as well. We want them to walk away knowing that someone was there to listen to them and that we care about them too.”

# Command Corner

By: Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills

Fellow Wildcats, I would be amiss to not start this month's article off not mentioning the wonderful 81st Gala that was held during February's battle assembly.

My hat is off to CSM (Ret) Marty Wells and his daughter Rosalie for their wonderful performance and contribution to the American flag. I hope to see this as the beginning of many more successful events ahead. Great job to the staff for the hard work and energy for a successful event.

Now to work and business discussion. I want to emphasize the need once again for our folks in the field at our ECS and AMSA shops, the bands, and within our headquarters to do daily routine house-keeping. Our work areas should be the reflection of pride in who we are and what we stand for in supporting the Army.

I ask for your help in spreading the word to our Wildcat team and units within our area of responsibility to perform daily cleaning. N, C, O. - Neat, Clean, Orderly.

As we transition to a slower operations tempo, I want to challenge the Soldiers and civilians of the command to help me in getting focused on the basics again.

We need to focus on the art of leadership and the legacy of our corps. I'd ask the 1st Sgt. in the command to include NCO history as well; I encourage the officers to do the same for the Officer Development Program. Let's not forget the legacies that have been set before us and do our part to preserve the heritage of the Army and the corps that reside within.

As we wrap up the senior enlisted promotion board, I can

attest to the fact that evaluations truly are key in the "tale-tell" truth as to whether our Soldiers should be recommended for promotion among their peers. There are too many "canned" remarks and raters/senior raters are not expending the effort to rate these Soldiers appropriately.

I ask you to consider when writing an evaluation whether or not the rated Soldier makes the grade to lead your son or daughter into a hostile environment and whether you feel that individual is capable of bringing the Soldiers under them to the forefront of the battlefield successfully as a leader. I also remind you that being a leader as a rater or senior rater requires you to be candid and provide detailed information that truly allows the rated individual to be seen for what is realistically so.

This is important business, and I truly ask you to step forward in making a difference in this area.

We have our first Staff Sgt. Audie Murphy board coming up in a few months. I hope that 1st Sgt. and senior NCOs are digging into this making it a priority to recognize and prepare that deserving Soldier for this challenging opportunity. It is critical that we push our Soldiers forward challenging them to compete in and apply for every award recognition and competition event out there. This is experience and once again, heritage, we can't afford to allow to fall to the wayside.

Annual training is right around the corner. I ask that our Soldiers and families work together in preparing and ensuring readiness is not an issue when it comes time



to perform the Army Physical Readiness Test and to step onto the scales.

Physical fitness should be an important part of our everyday lives. This should be considered and applied by all our Soldiers and civilians.

I encourage supervisors throughout the command to ensure you are talking physical and mental health periodically with our 81st team members.

In closing, warmer weather is on us and I know many of you are "chomping at the bit" to get on those motorcycles and jump into the fishing boats, etc.

I ask you to step back and ensure you have done everything you should in order to be safe and to return home safely to your family members in doing so.



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SFC Mark Bell  
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## The Wildcat



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# Family Services announces CYSS

By: Christy Burns, 81st RSC Family Programs Director

Meeting the demands of military life and the responsibilities of parenting can be a difficult task. Child, Youth and School Services is here to support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities. CYSS offers programs to support your role as a parent, spouse, and Soldier.

Your local Army Reserve CYSS team consists of a community outreach specialist and a school support specialist, who are subject matter experts in the areas of community and school-based programs for children and youth.

Each member of the CYSS team is responsible for providing a variety of services that support Army Reserve families, Soldiers and the command.

Jennifer Stevens is your 81st RSC community outreach specialist. She supports Army Reserve families by assisting families to find quality child care and identifying resources to reduce out-of-pocket child care expenses. Her duties also include providing

support for command events including coordinating child care and youth supervision, providing ideas for age appropriate activities, disseminating information on child and youth development and providing support at Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events.

Amanda Hammond is your 81st RSC school support specialist. She supports Army Reserve families by providing training and resources to educators and advocating for children and parents on school and education related issues with local schools. She promotes academic success by sharing information with parents and youth about educational programs and school policies and procedures.

Their goal is to provide superior service to Army Reserve families by bridging the gap between military mission requirements and parental responsibility.

For more info contact [jennifer.a.stevens.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.a.stevens.ctr@us.army.mil) or [amanda.l.cauley@us.army.mil](mailto:amanda.l.cauley@us.army.mil) or call (678) 799-1019.

## 81st RSC supports the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

By: Alex Rivera Boards Branch Chief, 81st Regional Support Command

The 81st RSC recently announced the implementation of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club for all the outstanding Soldiers assigned to the command. The SAMC is a means of recognizing those noncommissioned officers who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO corps and a combat ready army. Sergeant Audie Murphy consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism and

regard for the welfare of his Soldiers. The Army Reserve SAMC is an elite organization of NCO's whose demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities are characterized by those of Sergeant Audie Murphy.

Units must first conduct a local, initial selection board under the direction of the unit's senior NCO. Nominees will be reviewed using a question and answer system on a variety of military subjects. In addition, nomi-

will need to submit their leader books for review by the panel.

Soldiers that are recommended by the initial selection board will request to appear before a final selection board, which will be held at the 81st RSC beginning May 19 and quarterly thereafter.

More info can be obtained from Army Reserve Regulation 215-1 or by contacting the 81st RSC boards branch at [RSC081HRO-Boards@usar.army.mil](mailto:RSC081HRO-Boards@usar.army.mil).



## **Did you know?**

### **The difference between "Home of Record" and "Legal Residence"?**

In the United States Military, there is a difference between the terms "Home of Record," and "Legal Residence."

"Home of Record" and "Legal Residence" may, or may not be the same address. One's "Home of Record" is the place one was living when they entered the military (or, re-enlisted in the military, if one chooses).

"Home of Record" is used to determine travel entitlements when one separates from the military. It has nothing to do with voting or paying taxes, registering vehicles, nor any of the other privileges of state residency.

"Home of Record" can only be changed if there is a break in service of more than one day, or to correct an error.

"Legal Residency," or "domicile", on the other hand refers to the place where a military member intends to return to and live after discharge or retirement, and which they consider their "permanent home."

Legal residency determines what local (state) tax laws a military member is subject to, and in which local (city, county, state) elections they may vote in.

### **The Army has published a retirement guide for Reserve Soldiers?**

The Army has just created a retirement guide just for Reserve Soldiers and their families.

The 26-page Army Reserve Non-regular Retirement Information Guide was written specifically to cover the unique circumstances of Reserve retirement. The guide is currently in the process of being distributed through the Reserve. In the meantime, it's available online on both the Army Personnel Retirement Services homepage at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire> and on the special Army Knowledge Online for Army retirees website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/559734>.

### **ID card appointments can now be made online?**

Soldiers, retirees, family members and DoD employees can now use the ID Cards Appointment Scheduler System. Appointments will be available from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment, visit <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil>

## ***Chaplain's Corner***



When you hear the name St. Patrick you think of the holiday of March 17th, his birthday; wearing green, the shamrock, and the annual St. Patrick's Day parades throughout the country. But what is behind the story of him and his life?

He was born in Scotland and was then captured at the age of 16 and sold into slavery in Ireland. At the age of 20 he escaped and made his way back to Scotland. After this he became a priest and felt called to go back to Ireland as a priest and to the people there. This seems unusual to most of us in that he was able to do that. How often would we be able to overcome the hurt and pain of being made a slave for a period of four years but still be able to go back and help the people who hurt us? St. Patrick stayed in Ireland as a priest for 40 years.

As we look at his story it makes us wonder if we would be able to do the same thing. It takes a life that is changed in attitude to go back to the person or people who hurt us and then to work with for such a long time and make a difference in their lives. It was not easy for him but he continued to do his work over the years. I hope that you are able to do such a thing in your life also and make a difference to those around us as we go about our lives.

Why did the Shamrock become associated with St. Patrick? Because he used it to explain the trinity to the Irish people (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This seems to be such a simple way to do it but in our lives, is it not hard concepts and ideas tied to a simple thing that we can remember for years or generations?

### **Strong Bonds Upcoming Dates:**

1 to 3 April – Orlando, FL (40 couples and 40 singles)

29 April to 1 May – Orlando, FL (40 couples and 40 singles)

CH (Lt. Col.) Richard Savage

## **FORCE PROTECTION THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

### **10 KEY INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL TERRORIST ASSOCIATED INSIDER THREATS**



**# 10. Family ties to known or suspected international terrorist or terrorist supporters.**

# Personal profiles, retention explained

By: Lisa Cieutat and Chief Warrant Officer Darrell Peak, 81st RSC Directorate of Human Resources

It has been a long day for you already. You or your significant other arrive home and open your mail. You have just been notified that you are non retainable for military service due to a medical condition. You begin to panic and do not know what to do.

Good news, take a deep breath and follow these steps to assist you in resolving this issue.

First off, the army is trying to retain you not discharge from service. This process is designed to ensure you are qualified for continued service. Also, if the condition is service connected this will ensure you receive the care and benefits associated with your condition. In order to facilitate this process, the Soldier must appear before a medical board.

Let's discuss the process and responsibilities associated with this process.

The Regional Support Command surgeon's responsibility is to monitor, review and validate medical readiness & P3/P4 profiles on army reserve Soldiers within their geographical area of responsibility. They also ensure the medical operational data system has quality and accurate data on army reserve Soldiers.

Upon review of data, they prepare referrals for the four types of medical boards (Physical Evaluation Board (PEB)/Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)/Non-Duty Related-PEB and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Administrative Retention Review (MAR2)) based on condition and criteria outlined in AR 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness.

Those referrals are provided to the RSC health services branch for administrative processing.

The RSC health services branch acts as the Soldier's advocate for MEB-PEB/NDR-PEB processing and sends formal notification of board action. They keep unit and command informed on processes. The branch maintains case management database for tracking progress of board submissions. The branch also consolidates MEB-PEB/NDR-PEB packets based on information submitted by the Soldier and unit for review. The branch coordinates with military treatment facilities and the physical evaluation board liaison officer (PEBLO) for follow up treatment, appointments and status of case. They process the Soldier based on outcomes by the board as follows: 1) unfit for duty findings- complete separation action; 2) fit for duty findings- return to unit; or 3) process for military occupational specialty reclassification action and return to unit.

You, the Soldier should provide timely and accurate medical information and documentation as required by your commander, PEBLO and the RSC health services branch. You may also provide supplemental documentation to the RSC surgeon for subsequent review of your DA Form 3349, physical profile. Continue to attend all battle assemblies and annual training in conjunction with physical limitations according to physical profile. Keep arrangements for all scheduled medical appointments and boards. Coordinate with health services branch and/or PEBLO for any issues preventing you from keeping your scheduled appointments.

The unit commander and the unit administrator should:

- \* monitor unboarded P3/P4 population within their organization

- \* ensure timely processing of line of duty investigations and incapacitation claims

- \* provide counseling and direct Soldier to provide current medical documentation

- \* ensure Soldier attend all battle assemblies and annual training and appointments

- \* prepare MAR2/MEB/NDR-PEB board packet based on checklist provided by RSC health services branches

- \* coordinate with RSC surgeon's office on physical profile and assist Soldier with follow up documentation for subsequent review

- \* provide and maintain medical hold Soldier accountability and support

- \* initiate any separation actions, if necessary

Our current mission for notifying Soldiers remains on hold, while we are fulfilling the USARC mission of data input to a new Soldier tracking tool. This tool will allow all the commands to view the tool and see where their Soldiers are in the medical board process. It takes some time in order to load the cases, so we ask that all the commands be patient during this time.

Further guidance can be obtained by contacting the 81st RSC boards branch at RSC081HRO-Boards@usar.army.mil.

# Wildcat team completes first IRR muster in 2011

Story and photos by: Staff Sgt. Toshiko Fraley, Public Affairs NCO

**ORLANDO, Fla.** -- After weeks of preparation, the 81st Regional Support Command's Soldiers Readiness Processing team conducted the first muster for 2011 here. Their mission was to support the Army's Human Resources Command to update the readiness of IRR Soldiers.

The IRR Muster is an annual event, held at various locations around the country, where Soldiers assigned to the IRR report to a central location in order to maintain accountability and update their files.

While the main purpose of the IRR Muster is to maintain contact and accountability of the IRR Soldiers, it is also an opportunity for the Soldiers to review their records and wrap up any outstanding issues from their previous service.

Some of the services offered were identification cards, health assessments and access to Veterans Administration services.

Even though the IRR musters are an the responsibility of the HRC, the 81st SRP team is in

charge of the mission and continues to be hands on throughout the whole process, said Staff Sgt. Ursula Brabham-Smith, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Orlando muster.

After each Soldier signed in at the first station, they were directed by members of the SRP team to report to the auditorium for a one-hour briefing.

As Soldiers entered the door of the auditorium, they were quickly greeted by Master Sgt. Dartalian Harris, of the SRP team.

Harris attempted to speak and shake the hands of each Soldier to make them feel at home.

Harris said he wants to make sure that Soldiers realize that they have not been forgotten.

"When you have to show up to a mandatory event and you have already served your time on active duty, a Soldier starts to wonder is this a ploy and if it is, what is it about," he said. "For them to feel at home and comfortable helps to remind them how appreciative we are of the time they served."

As Harris greeted Soldiers and family members, Staff Sgt. Ursula Brabham-Smith, the NCOIC of this particular mission, ensured each station was prepared and doubled checked to make sure her team was ready for the day's work.

Seemingly calm and collected on the outside, this was Brabham-Smith's first mission as NCOIC for the SRP task.

"The SRP team is very important to the mission because we are the ones who run the show," said Brabham-Smith.

As the welcoming briefing ended, members of the "Wildcat" team took their places and prepared to process each Soldier through several readiness stations.

As on the battlefield, no Soldier is left alone or behind during the SRP process as staff were on the constant lookout for Soldiers appearing lost or confused.

"Their dedication to the operation shows as they focus on the needs of each IRR soldier that approaches their station," said Master Sgt. Dartalian Harris.

The ongoing partnership between the 81st RSC and the Human Resources Command is one of trust and commitment, said one HRC team member.

"We have a good working relationship with the 81st SRP team," said Master Sgt. Dandridge Dudley, HRC NCOIC. "Without their support we couldn't get the mission done, they are an essential strength of the process."

**Sgt. 1st Class Angela Davis and Staff Sgt. Duane Herbert help a Soldier during the Individual Readiness Reserve Muster held on Jan. 23 in Orlando Fla.**





# Alward named one of top military musicians

Story and photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell, Public Affairs NCO



**Maj. Gen. Bill Gerety, 81st RSC commander, congratulates Staff Sgt. Chad J. Alward. Alward received the inaugural 2010 Col. Finley Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award during a ceremony Feb. 13.**

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — In sixth grade, he picked up his first drumsticks and a love for music was born.

Today, more than 25 years later and six years as an Army Reserve musician, Staff Sgt. Chad J. Alward received the inaugural 2010 Col. Finley Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award during a Feb. 13 ceremony at the 81st Regional Support Command headquarters here.

The award is given to the 10 best military musicians from all branches of the armed forces. A member of the 100th Army Reserve Band, based at Fort Knox, Ky., he was the only Army Reserve musician selected.

Alward's name now is associated great musicians who perform with the U.S. Military Academy Band, the United States Army Field Band, the United States Coast Guard Band and the Navy School of Music.

"This just shows the high caliber of Soldiers we have here in this command," Maj. Gen. Bill Gerety, the commanding general, said during the brief ceremony. "Our bandmen are more than musicians. They are Soldiers first. Most importantly, they are our front-line ambassadors for not only the Army Reserve but the entire Army."

Growing up, Alward had no musical background, and no one in his family was a musician. He said he joined the elementary school band because he wanted to do something fun and different.

"It kind of stuck with me," he said about his early years as a percussionist. "Today, I couldn't see myself not having an instrument in my hands."

Alward said he has learned all instruments played in a typical Army band, but still favors the percussion.

"It's what turned me on to music all those years ago," he said.

At the age of 30, Alward made a decision that wasn't easy at the time and he was not your typical Soldier arriving at basic training.

"It was a great opportunity to do something for my country," he said. "So many people before me have given much more than I could ever give this nation. I have the ability to use my musical gifts to inspire others to serve their country as well."

Holding two master degrees from Murray State University and a vice principal at Deer Park Elementary School in Owensboro, Ky., Alward was also a husband and father of a five-year-old son when he joined the Reserve.

"At first he didn't understand," he said about leaving his son.

"Today, he doesn't like that I am gone so much but understands my passion for being in the Army and playing music."

Alward said he hopes his son, now 11 years old, realizes the importance of the men and women in uniform and the sacrifices they make.

"My son always inspires me to do my best, and I hope that me being in the Army Reserve is something he can be proud of and understand our values and morals as Soldiers," he said.

Speaking about the prestigious honor of being named as one of the military's best musicians, Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence Barton, the unit commander, said it was an easy choice to select Staff Sgt. Alward to represent the 100th Army Reserve Band.

"He does things for this band that is above and beyond what a Soldier is required to do," he told the audience at the ceremony.

"Alward is at the top of his field and really makes the 100th Army Reserve Band one step above the others."

# 2011 Strong Bonds Marriage & Singles Events



## ATTENTION CITIZEN SOLDIERS!

### Living or assigned to a unit in the 81st Regional Support Command AOR

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee) The following dates are for both Married and Single Citizen Soldiers except 29-31 JUL (Parents & Children).

|       |     |                 |
|-------|-----|-----------------|
| 1-3   | APR | ORLANDO, FL     |
| 29-1  | APR | ORLANDO, FL     |
| 13-15 | MAY | SAVANNAH, GA    |
| 3-5   | JUN | NEW ORLEANS, LA |
| 15-17 | JUL | ORLANDO, FL     |
| 29-31 | JUL | ORLANDO, FL     |
| 5-7   | AUG | SAVANNAH, GA    |

Questions? Contact SSG Jeremy Glasco at  
RSC081\_STRONGBONDS@usar.army.mil  
or call 803-751-3230.

Visit <http://www.strongbonds.org> for more information.

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