



332nd Warrior Call

Chaplain says “Auf Wiedersehen” after 32 years

Story and photos by Maj. John Heil, 332nd Medical Brigade public affairs

NASHVILLE, TN— December 7, forever known as a day that will live in infamy, will also be known, for the 332nd Medical Brigade, as a day its chaplain, Col. Richard Uhler, would say “Auf Wiedersehen” at his last sermon in Nashville, Tenn., as an Army Reservist.

Its symbolic that the chaplain who began his military career as a combat medic would also end his 32 year career with a Medical Brigade.

His career, which began in the late 1960’s, spanned five decades with continuous service in all three components since 1978.

“That year, 1978, was a time of transition for our family,” said Uhler, “Going back into the military was not the highest priority, but an opportunity that presented itself to reenter

seamlessly – and the rest is history as they say.”

He served in Vietnam and when he returned to the States, after his tour in Vietnam, he then went to Canada. He said that Canadians



Chaplain (Col.) Richard Uhler gives his last Army Reserve sermon on Sunday, December 7, after 32 years of service at the William F. Lyell US Army Reserve Center in Nashville, Tenn. Uhler’s last sermon included a fond memory of his most memorable Christmas in 1978, and memories of his military career.

asked him, “Let me get this straight - you went to Vietnam first and then you came to Canada?” Sounds of laughter followed from his Parrish.

A chaplain provides

spiritual and pastoral support for service personnel, including the conduct of religious services at sea or in the field. Military chaplains have a long history; the first English military-oriented chaplains, for instance, were priests on board proto-naval vessels during the eighth century A.D. Land based chaplains appeared during the reign of King Edward I. The current form of military chaplain dates from the era of the First World War.

Though Chaplain Uhler, like other chaplains, led many to Christ, he’ll never forget those who have also helped he and his family during their journey in life.

In his testimony Chaplain Uhler said “Each Christmas season, I am reminded of

something that took place Christmas, 1978, a story that illustrates the real spirit of the season.”

“A young couple with two small children faced an uncertain fu-

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Special points of interest:

- “Auf Wiedersehen” after 32 years
- Reservists may qualify for early retired pay
- Improvements to the VA Home Loan program
- ASDRS improving dental readiness

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Auf Wiedersehen,

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ture and perhaps a not so merry Christmas since minimum wage barely put food on the table. There was no room in the budget for extravagance that year, but a telephone call from a Boy Scout leader turned what was destined to be a dismal holiday season into an experience that will be remembered



for a lifetime."

"The Scoutmaster told them that the

troop traditionally got names of people in need to give them a small token of benevolence during the holiday season and someone submitted this family's name. The Scoutmaster called to arrange a convenient time for the troop to deliver this so-called "small" token. There was not a dry eye in the home that day when after 14 Boy Scouts each brought in a bag of groceries, a fully decorated Christmas tree came through the door."

"Now thirty years later, this story is still a misty-eyed reminder of true benevolence during the Christmas season. The groceries and the live Christmas tree can only be a memory now and the Christmas tree stand will have to be the only visual

reminder of that day. The identity of those thoughtful enough to submit a name to the Boy Scouts will never be known, but our family will never forget Christmas 1978."



"My military career may not have existed or flourished if decisions or circumstances created a different outcome," said Uhler. "Whether positive or negative result, I am at peace with the outcome."

Uhler preached, "In many ways peace comes to us in stillness and rest. It comes when we can quiet the world around us and listen for God's still small voice. Peace comes when we can get away from the hectic activities that would drain us and keep us focused on what's happening around us."

"But peace also can come when we are in the midst of our everyday activities. When we know we are doing the right things, when we are

sure that our life is in order. Peace can come also in the midst of our deepest worries and conflicts when we are at rest with God."

"When we trust that whatever is happening," Uhler said, "God is the midst of it."

He closed by saying "Auf Wiedersehen", not goodbye. Uhler said, "That expression literally means 'till we



meet again - Or something like that. Is that like the emailing and texting TTYL?"

"As I look back on a military career that began in 1969 and will come to an end this December 14 wondering where 40 years went," said Uhler, "What I see is not the time spent, but rather how I could be of help to the hundreds of soldiers with whom I came in contact either as a medic or a chaplain."

"So may it not be goodbye, rather Auf Wiedersehen."

Photos: Chaplain (Col.) Richard Uhler is praised for his 32 years of service.



Col. Kevin Carter
Air Force News

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Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stutz

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Editorial views and opinions ex-

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Commander's corner

I want to wish each of you a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year. As we embark on a new year, we can anticipate change and challenges in addition to the continued transition and realignment of the U.S. Army Reserves.

We must at all times remain flexible, adaptable, and be prepared to perform our current as well as future assigned missions.

Currently, we must focus on preparing for Global Medic, identifying and enrolling soldiers who require DMOSQ producing schools. We must also reduce and eliminate Non-participants (NP), encourage eligible soldiers to pursue military education (NCOES, OES, MOS sustainment training) in the interest of retention and promotion and continue our recruiting efforts.

Of equal importance is to ensure that we provide our soldiers with quality training designed to prepare the individual, which if done prop-



Col. James Snyder
Commander

332nd Medical Brigade as the BEST brigade not only in the medical reserves but the entire Army Reserves.

I challenge our officer corps and our Senior NCOs to ensure that this brigade meets these goals and responsibilities.

erly, will be reflected at the unit level.

Overall, "taking care of the soldier" is of paramount importance if we are to sustain the

Hooah!!



Command Sgt. Maj. corner

Happy New Year! Let's start 2009 with SAFETY. You may have seen the Army Safe is Army Strong campaign recently and this is for a good reason. The Secretary of the Army, Honorable Pete Geren, declared 2009 as the "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer". This recognition highlights the significant contributions of NCO's in today's Army; however, it also emphasizes the commitment we must make, everyday, as Citizen Soldiers to maintain our reputation as the "backbone" of the Army.

I challenge all NCO's to continue to lead from the front, empower your Soldiers to become the next generation of NCO's and make things happen in 2009. Here are a few key ways to make things happen in the "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer":



Command Sgt. Maj.
Maureen Goodrich

All Soldiers should be SAFETY trained. NCO's who lead from the front will have all of their Soldiers complete the Accident Avoidance Course, an on-line training

course, via the following link:
<https://www.lms.army.mil/Saba/Web/Main>.

Get your Soldier's MOS trained! MOS training is one of the cornerstones of the unit; trained Soldiers equal unit readiness. Every Soldier should be MOS trained within 6 months of unit inception - no excuses. Readiness is not measured by excuses. Of particular attention in 2009 is the 68W's and 42L's; both must be transitioned (have the Y2 removed) by 1 October 2009.

MOS training starts through committed NCO leadership-NCO's who understand the importance of unit readiness and how it's measured.

CSM comments

Continued on page 11

Reservists may qualify for early retired pay

December 11, 2008

Air Force News

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The Department of Defense has issued new guidelines for early receipt of retired pay for members of the reserve components. Instead of having to wait until age 60 to receive Reserve retired pay, eligible members may receive retired pay prior to age 60 but not before age 50. Under interim changes to Department of Defense Instruction 1215.07, Service Credit for Reserve Retirement, issued under a law passed by Congress effective Jan. 28, 2008, reserve component members are able to reduce the age at which they are eligible to receive retirement pay by three months for each cumulative period of 90 days served on active duty in any fiscal year.

Under the new law, members eligible to receive retired pay earlier than age 60 must still wait until age 60 to receive health-care benefits.

Involuntary mobilization and voluntary active duty in support of a contingency qualify, but there is no requirement to be involuntarily mobilized, to support a contingency or to serve on active duty outside the continental United States to receive credit under the law. Most active-duty time qualifies, including training, operational support duties and school tours. It does not matter whether active-duty time is paid for under military or reserve personnel appropriation accounts, provided such active duty is performed under the authority of 10 U.S. Code § 12301 (d).

Also included is full-time National Guard duty served under a call to active service by a governor and authorized by the president or the secretary of defense under 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) for purposes of responding to either a national emer-

gency declared by the president or a national emergency supported by federal funds.

The following time served on active duty is not creditable service for purposes of reducing retired pay age: as a member of the active Guard and Reserve (10 U.S.C. § 12310); on annual tour (10 U.S.C. § 12301(b)); while in captive status (10 U.S.C. § 12301(g)); for medical treatment, medical evaluation for disability purposes or medical study (10 U.S.C. § 12301(h)); as a member not assigned to, or participating satisfactorily in, units (10 U.S.C. § 12303); under active-duty agreements (10 U.S.C. § 12311); for disciplinary/courts-martial (10 U.S.C. § 12315); or for muster duty (10 U.S.C. § 12319).

Qualifying active-duty service performed after Jan. 28, 2008, the date on which the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act was enacted, is creditable. The law does not provide credit for time served on or before that date.

Here's an example of how these new guidelines work. A Reservist performed five days of active-duty service on MPA orders in February 2008. He then volunteered for active duty beginning June 1 and ending Nov 30 (leave, reconstitution and post-deployment/mobilization respite absence included, as applicable). The Reservist performed a total of 127 days of active-duty service in fiscal year 2008 and 61 days in fiscal 2009.

Under this scenario, all of the active-duty time the Reservist performed could be credited toward reduced retirement age eligibility because it was active-duty time performed under circumstances permitted under the new law (i.e., orders for voluntary service, 10 U.S.C. §

12301(d)). However, because time credited must total 90 days or must be in multiples of 90 days in the aggregate during a fiscal year in order to correspondingly reduce his retirement age by three months, or multiples of three months, the Reservist will be able to reduce his retirement age by three months for fiscal 2008. Had he performed 53 more days of active-duty service after Jan. 28 and before going on active duty June 1, he would have accumulated 180 total days for fiscal 2008 and thus would be able to reduce his retirement age by six months.

Similarly, because the Reservist has so far served on active duty 61 days in fiscal 2009, he must perform an additional 29 days of active-duty service some time during the year in order to reduce his retirement age by an additional three months.

All Reservists are encouraged to ensure their orders specify the statutory provision under which their active-duty service is performed. Reservists are also encouraged to keep track of their active-duty service and orders to ensure they receive proper credit and they meet the cumulative 90-day thresholds to reduce retirement age.

Chief of Staff corner

Albert Einstein said, "Try not to be a person of success but rather try to become a person of values." The Army has incorporated the Army core values: loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, selfless service and personal courage. These Army values comprise your moral compass in the Army and in your civilian life.

On Sunday December 7th, I honored those who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor. It is imperative that we, in the military, remember this date. December 7th galvanized the Nation and became the rallying cry "Remember Pearl Harbor."

It is essential that we remain flexible and adapt to changes in Army requirements. As Chief of Staff, I held my first senior leadership team meeting. This meeting consisted of lieutenant colonels, colonels, sergeant majors, the command sergeant major and the first sergeant

to discuss long range plans and protocols.

As we make decisions, I assure you that your chain of command will keep you informed. We must maintain our readiness and support those units that depend on us for their readiness.

Part of taking care of Soldiers includes making sure they receive proper evaluations. Capt. Lloyd Jackson and Sgt. 1st Class Stirel Harvey will begin the "fast track" program in January to expedite the writing and submission of officer and non-commissioned officer evaluation reports.

As we begin the new year, I am confident that our leaders will take care of their Soldiers to ensure they are ready, willing and able to perform their mission, and to ensure they have done the things they

need to do to ensure that their family is ready in the event of a mobilization and deployment.

I pray that each of you remain safe during the holiday's, that the new year brings many blessings upon you and your family, and that our troops deployed stay alert and stay safe.

God bless and Happy New Year!



Soldiers awarded in December



Col. James Snyder, 332nd Commander presents Welcome Home Warrior awards to three of the finest medical warriors, and two Army Commendation Medals to First Sgt. Erik Olafson, and Spec. Davis in December 2008.

Holiday lunch snapshots



Medical Warriors and family members enjoy a nice Holiday lunch together during the 332nd Medical Brigade's family day weekend. As seen from the smiling faces the food was great and the camaraderie bountiful. (Continued on page 8)

Public Law 110-389 brings favorable changes to VA Home Loan Program

IMPLEMENTATION OF LOAN GUARANTY PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 110-389

1. **PURPOSE:** On October 10, 2008, the President signed Public Law 110-389, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. This circular addresses the changes to VA's Loan Guaranty Program that were included in that law.

2. **EXTENSION OF ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGE AUTHORITY:** VA's authority to guarantee adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) and hybrid adjustable rate mortgages (HARMs) was scheduled to expire on September 30, 2008. Section 505 of Public Law 110-389 extended this authority through September 30, 2012. All VA program requirements related to ARMs and HARMs remain in effect.

3. **ENHANCEMENT OF REGULAR REFINANCING LOANS:** Section 504 of Public Law 110-389 made changes to VA's regular ("cash-out") refinancing loans. Effective immediately, the maximum guaranty amount for regular refinancing loans is the same as the maximum guaranty amount for purchase loans. Regular refinancing loans are now available for up to 100 percent of the appraised value of a home, which is an increase from VA's previous threshold of 90 percent. All other VA program requirements for regular refinancing loans remain the same.

4. **GUARANTY AMOUNTS:** Section 501 of Public Law 110-389 provides a temporary increase in the maximum guaranty amount for loans closed January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2011. During this period, the "maximum guaranty amount" set forth in this circular should be substituted for the maximum guaranty amount specified at 38 U.S.C. 3703(a)(1)(C), 38 CFR §§ 36.4302(a)(4) and 36.4802(a)(4), and in the VA Lender's Handbook. Please note that, if a veteran has previously used entitlement that has not been restored, the guaranty amount for that veteran must be

reduced accordingly.

a. **Loans for \$417,000 or Less Are Unaffected:** The guaranty amount for loans where the original principal loan amount is \$417,000 or less remain unchanged. On these loans, VA will continue to guarantee the amounts specified at 38 U.S.C. 3703(a)(1) and the VA Lender's Handbook.

b. **Loans for More Than \$417,000:** If the original principal loan amount is greater than \$417,000, VA will guarantee 25 percent of the original principal loan amount, up to the maximum guaranty amount. The maximum guaranty amount varies depending upon the location of the property.

(1) For all locations in the United States other than Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the maximum guaranty amount is the greater of 25 percent of (a) \$417,000 or (b) 125 percent of the area median price for a single-family residence, but in no case will the guaranty exceed 175 percent of the Freddie Mac loan limit for a single family residence in the county in which the property securing the loan is located. This translates to a potential maximum loan amount of \$1,094,625.

(2) In Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the maximum guaranty amount is the greater of 25 percent of (a) \$625,500 or (b) 125 percent of the area median price for a single-family residence, but in no case will the guaranty exceed 175 percent of the Freddie Mac loan limit for a single family residence in the county in which the property securing the loan is located. This translates to a potential maximum loan amount of \$1,641,937.50.

c. **Annual Adjustments:** The maximum guaranty amounts set forth above will be adjusted annually. The first adjustment will affect loans closed on or after January 1, 2010.

5. **CALCULATING THE MAXIMUM GUARANTY FOR LOANS OVER \$417,000:** The applicable maximum guaranty amount may be calculated using data available online from the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). To calculate the maximum guaranty amount for a particular property:

a. go to <http://www.fhaoutreach.com/>;

b. scroll to the bottom of the page;

c. select the state where the property is located;

d. type the name of the county where the property is located in the box labeled "County";

e. click "Submit"; and,

f. multiply the resulting "Median Price" for the appropriate county by 1.25.

g. If the resulting figure is:

(1) less than \$417,000, use \$417,000 to calculate the maximum guaranty amount;

(2) greater than \$417,000, but less than \$1,094,625 (or \$1,641,937.50 in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), use the result to calculate the maximum guaranty amount; or,

(3) greater than \$1,094,625 (or \$1,641,937.50) use \$1,094,625 (or \$1,641,937.50) to calculate the maximum guaranty amount.

6. RESCISSIONS

a. Effective immediately, Circulars 26-08-15 and 26-08-16 are rescinded.

b. This circular is automatically rescinded January 1, 2010.

ROA trains joint officers

Fellow Army Reserve Officers:

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) is conducting the Reserve Components Joint Officer Professional Development Seminar (RCJOPDS) for O1-O4s and the Warrent Officer Professional Development Seminar (WOPDS) for all WOs in conjunction with the ROA's mid-Winter Conference and Reserve Component Expo 1-4 Feb 09 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC.

Officers across the Army Reserve are encouraged to attend these events as a professional development opportunity.

The RCJOPDS offers a unique joint services professional development experience for today's serving Reserve Component members, the National Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Public Health Services (USPHS), and advanced standing ROTC cadets and midship-

men (following a special ROTC track). The seminar gives officers an unparalleled opportunity to network with peers and superior officers from all uniformed services. Attendees can also meet with service senior leadership, including the Chief of the Army Reserve. Enrollment is on first come basis with online registration closing 16 Jan 09. After that date, all registration and payment will be on-site.

Enrollment guidance and full attendee details are posted on the ROA webpage with can be accessed through this link:

www.roa.org/rcjopds.

Already on the RCJOPDS agenda:

Professional development session with LTG Jack C. Stultz, Chief, Army Reserve

Maj. Gen. William A. Cohen, USAFR (Ret.), PhD, (invited) president of the Institute of Leader Arts and author of *The Stuff of Heroes: The Eight Universal Laws of Leadership*

(attendees will receive a copy of one of his books).

Enlisted Perspectives on Leadership, a top-notch panel of Senior NCOs from the respective services presented by the Reserve Enlisted Association

Understanding Behavioral Diversity, an examination of why people do the things they do and how to work with these individuals in both the military and civilian world, by Dave Otto, consultant and trainer with Career Training Concepts in Snellville, Ga.

You can access information on the RCJOPDS at www.roa.org/rcjopds and on the ROA Mid-Winter Conference (including registration guidance) at <http://www.roa.org>.

Send RCJOPDS questions to Col. Tom Obenland, USAF (Ret), RCJOPDS Program Manager, at obenland@earthlink.net, or call 360-895-2720 (Pacific Time).

Holiday lunch snapshots, continued from page 6



Medical Warriors and their families enjoy a nice Holiday luncheon together and even a bit of fun with Santa Claus.



ASDRS improves dental readiness

By Col. Kevin Carter

On October 1, 2008, the USAR implemented an initiative to provide examinations and essential dental treatment to dental Class 3 soldiers regardless their AFORGEN cycle.

Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System has the potential to greatly improve the USAR's ability to quickly convert dental Class 3 soldiers to a fit status when mobilizing and improve the overall dental readiness of the force by virtue of reduction of severe dental disease in soldiers not currently mobilizing.

Care is provided through the Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP) (formerly FEDS HEAL) who has contracted with Logistics Health, Inc. (LHI) to deliver medical/dental services via a network of private sector providers. This net-

work consists of over 6000 dentists spanning across all 50 states.

Treatment is limited to examinations and identification and elimination of Class 3 dental pathology. Care beyond this scope may be acquired utilizing the Tricare Dental Program or other private means.

Care via the ASDRS may be triggered two ways:

1. -UA creates voucher via Automatic Voucher System (AVS), based on MEDPROS or request from soldier.
-Voucher is automatically forwarded to LHI who contacts soldier to schedule treatment with a provider within a 50 radius of their home or workplace.
2. -LHI provides annual exam via mass exam event or soldier's Post

Deployment Health Assessment (PHA) will create a Voucher for care.

Impact of ASDRS will be initially limited until funding is approved for 'Medical/Dental Readiness Training Days' (MUTAs) which puts soldiers on orders to receive requisite treatment. Leaders should discourage soldiers to rely on ASDRS as a substitute for continual comprehensive care.

Uninsured Reservists should take full advantage of their available benefits and utilize the subsidized lost-cost Tricare Dental Plan (TDP) (United Concordia) to provide the necessary continual preventive care to keep soldiers continually healthy and out of the Class 3 (unfit) status.

All soldiers have ultimate responsibility to maintain their health as they would their equipment as proclaimed in the Soldiers Creed.

New 2008 Guard and Reserve military handbook out

From Mr. Stirel Harvey

ARLINGTON, VA - December 10, 2008 - Military Handbooks has announced the release of a new 2008 handbook for military personnel, the 2008 Guard and Reserve Military Handbook.

This handbook, written specifically for members of the Reserve Component, includes a variety of information about military pay, benefits, and education.

To receive your own copy of this handbook, simply go to our Web site - www.militaryhandbooks.com and submit your request.

Don't forget to tell all of your military colleagues about this free handbook!

About the 2008 Guard and Reserve Military Handbook: This unique handbook, written specifically for

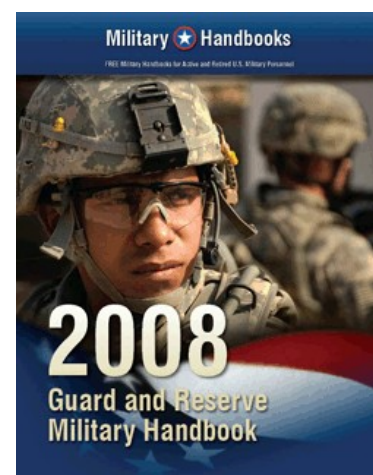
the National Guard and Reserves, gives you everything you need to know about serving in the Reserve Component, including: drill pay and enlistment bonuses; allowances like BAS and BAH; re-employment rights; education and training benefits specific to the Guard and Reserve; health care; and retirement.

Understanding the benefits you receive from serving in the Reserve Component can be tricky, especially if you don't know where to go for more information. This handbook combines it all into one easy to use guide.

To download your own FREE copies of the 2008 Military Handbooks, please visit: <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>.

Please note that if you received an error message while attempting to

download the handbooks, it is due to the large volume of requests we are receiving. Simply try your request again in a few hours.



Holiday message from the CAR

As we celebrate the holiday season and look forward to the New Year, I commend the continued service and commitment of the nearly 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers who proudly defend our Nation at home and abroad.

The work of the Army Reserve is a vital component for ensuring our Nation's security. Currently more than 28,000 Soldiers are mobilized for operations in the United States and in more than a dozen countries around the world.

I am honored to represent a force that commits selfless acts of valor and displays the steady confidence needed to complete our missions.

During the holidays, we are pointedly reminded of the values we treasure as Americans and why we continue to strive for the safeguard of our Families and our Nation's future. From democracy's courageous beginnings to today's Global War on Terrorism, our country has

depended on the ability of Warrior-Citizens to serve and protect. As General George Washington stated in 1775, "When we assumed the Soldier we did not lay aside the citizen."

As were the volunteer militia of the Revolutionary War, you are Soldiers of courage and conviction who I am humbled to serve alongside.

For our deployed troops, the demands of being in a foreign environment, removed from Family and friends, particularly during the holiday season are not trivial. For this and the many other personal sacrifices, you and your Families make, the Nation expresses its sincere gratitude for your steadfast service to our country.

Whether you spend this holiday season at home or abroad, rest well knowing that you have the full faith and support of the American public.

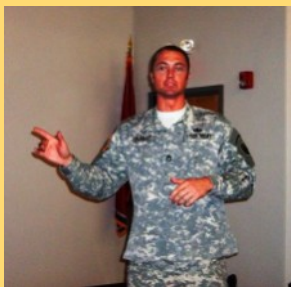
I want to thank each of you for your dedication, commitment and support during 2008. Especially, this time of year, we remember our fallen comrades and their Families and our Soldiers recovering from injuries.

May God continue to protect all those who have volunteered to wear the Army Reserve uniform and may He continue to bless your Families and loved ones during this holiday season.

Have a happy and safe holiday.

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz
Chief, Army Reserve and Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command

Holiday lunch snapshots, continued from page 8



Medical Warriors receive mandatory training and enjoy their holiday lunch on December 7 in Nashville, Tenn.



CSM comments, continued from page 3

Use the following link to get educated on the 68W Transition and Sustainment: <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/68w/hotlinks/Transitionpathway.html>

Fitness should be a priority on every Soldier's list. Most Soldiers' take their fitness responsibilities seriously while others wait until it's too late. Don't let this happen to you in 2009. Adopt fitness as your lifestyle and reap the benefits of healthy living. Be a fit Soldier in 2009 and watch great things happen for you. Check out this website sponsored by the Army National Guard: <http://www.hooah4health.com/4You/apft.htm>

Leadership courses within the Non-commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) are undergoing more than just name changes! The Army recognizes that NCO Leadership development must be in step

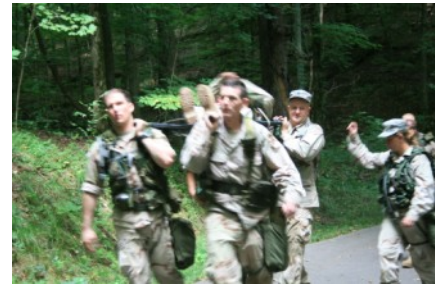
with the operational needs of the Army whether that is combat or garrison operations.

Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) is now the Advanced Leadership Course (ALC) and Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) is now Senior Leadership Course (SLC). Warrior Leadership Course (WLC) remains the same in title only.

ALC curricula will provide the junior NCO the skills required to successfully function at the squad and platoon level; SLC teaches the NCO to lead both platoon and company level operations as well as providing fundamental First Sergeant training. Implementation of the new NCOES was 1 October 2009.

The "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer" is not just a title; it's recognition by our Senior Leadership that

there is no one more professional than the NCO.



First Sgt. Erik Olafson is an NCO who sets the example for others to follow and his accomplishments prove to be the model other Soldiers can aspire to emulate.

Retired Gen. Eric Shinseki nominated as VA Secretary *Statement by current VA Secretary Dr. James B. Peake*

WASHINGTON - "I worked for General Shinseki when he was Army Chief of Staff and am proud to count him as a friend. He is a soldier who has dedicated his life to serving this nation. He knows service men and women, he knows large organizations, and he knows Washington.

"The more than 270,000 VA employees serve veterans of all generations with great dedication, and, with record funding over the past eight years, they deliver outstanding care. General Shinseki will be a great leader for them and a strong advocate for our veterans."



VA Secretary, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James B. Peake, left, makes favorable comments on December 7 about Gen. (Ret.) Eric Shinseki, right, who was nominated by President elect Barack Obama to be the next VA Secretary on the Presidential Cabinet.