

*Puget Sound*



# SUSTAINER

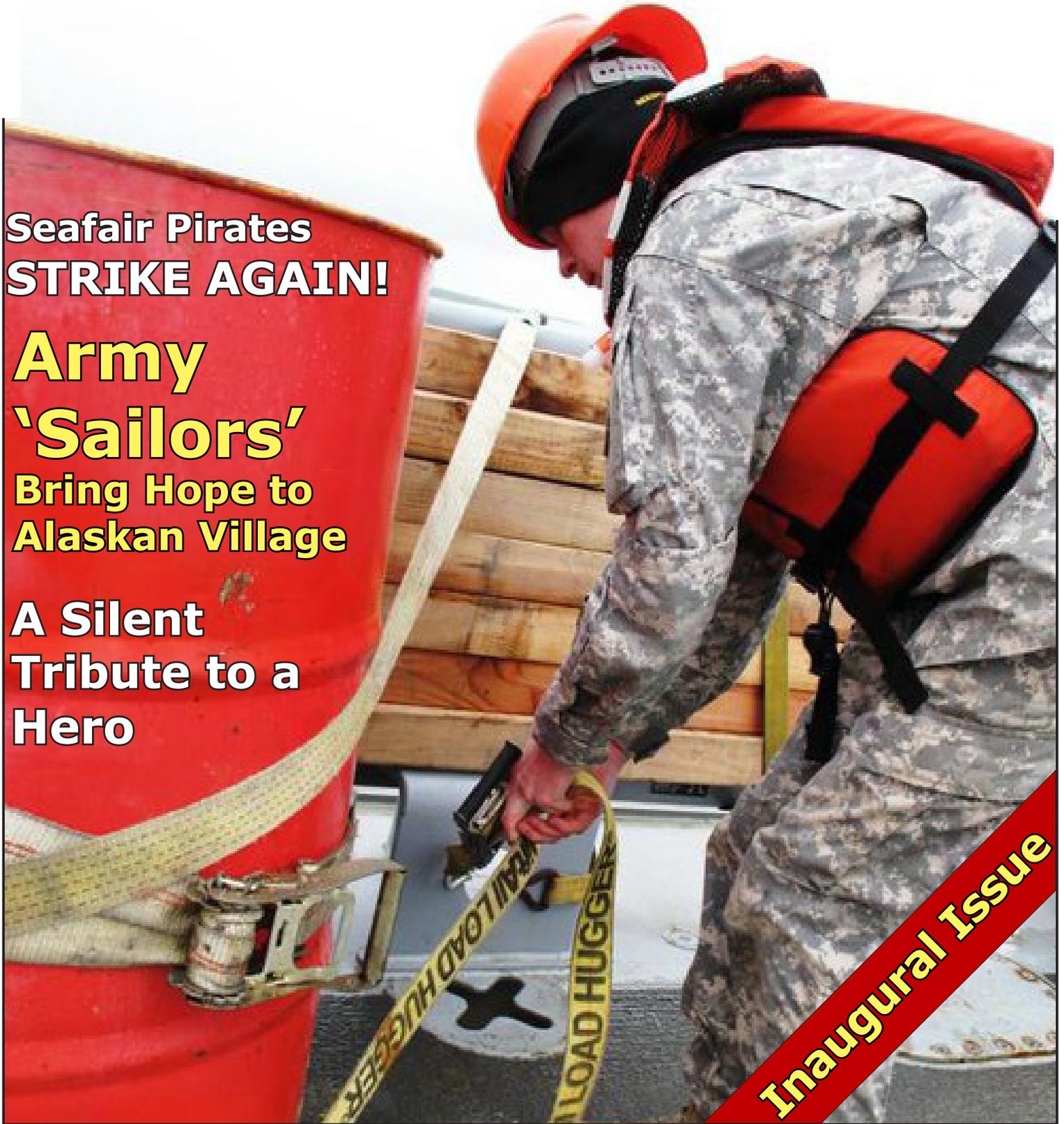
Volume 1, Number 1

Fall 2010

**Seafair Pirates  
STRIKE AGAIN!**

**Army  
'Sailors'  
Bring Hope to  
Alaskan Village**

**A Silent  
Tribute to a  
Hero**



**Inaugural Issue**

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**The CG's Corner**


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## Focus on Readiness

Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives

I'd like to address readiness.

As we move into Training Year 2011, our status as an Operational Reserve, rather than a strategic, standby force is growing. Since 2001, the Army Reserve has become a vital part of Active Com-

ponent combat operations around the world. Our units may be mobilized at any time, for any contingency.

However, some Soldiers still lag behind in some aspects of readiness. One small word, but it covers a wide range of preparedness.

Are your medical records up to date? Medical and dental problems continue to be major showstoppers on the road to war for many reserve units. Take advantage of your unit's assets to correct problems before they start.

How about your financial readiness? Are your money affairs in order in case you're mobilized? Every Soldier is required to be on Sure Pay. However, support payments, allotments, and tax issues are often overlooked. Get with your S-1, finance office, or staff judge advocate section if you have questions that need answered or issues to solve.

Lastly, personnel and legal problems can delay or wreck a unit's readiness. I urge each of you to make sure your Department of Defense Form 93 and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance policies are correct and current. A little preparation now can save a wealth of regret later.

Sustain the Fight!



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### Cover Photo



Spc. Brad Bentow of the 709th Transportation Company straps 55-gallon gasoline drums onto the deck of the USAV Palo Alto for a trip to Bethel, Alaska. (Capt. Christopher Larsen/PS Sustainer)



## A Veterans Day Message from our Chaplain

Maj. Ken Alford  
364th ESC Chaplain

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day. I'm scheduled to participate in four observances in three days at two schools and two city cemeteries.

Consequently, I am thinking a lot about veterans as I write this. I came across a story in my files from the Army News Service that highlights appropriate respect in the memory of veterans.

One day, a colleague, Chaplain John Rasmussen, was late for physical training. Traffic was moving way too slowly in torrential rains at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He grew more and more impatient as the pace slowed to a standstill near Memorial Grove, the site built to honor the soldiers who died in the 1985 Gander, Newfoundland, airplane crash, the worst redeployment accident in the history of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

In respect, a small American flag had been placed in the ground next to each Soldier's memorial plaque.

Just as the traffic was getting started again, the car in front of Rasmussen stopped.

A private had jumped out of his car in the pouring rain and ran over toward the grove. This 'knucklehead' was holding up everyone for who knows what.

Horns were honking. The Soldier was getting soaked to the skin, and his uniform was plastered to his body.

People watched as he ran to one of the memorial plaques, picked up the small American flag that had fallen to the ground in the wind and the rain, and set it upright again.

Then, slowly, he came to attention, saluted, ran back to his car, and drove off.

That unnamed Soldier teaches us more about duty, honor, and respect than a hundred books or a thousand lectures ever could.

That simple salute -- that single act of honoring his fallen brothers and flag -- encapsulates all the Army values in one gesture.

It says, "I will never forget. I will keep the faith. I will finish the mission. I am an American Soldier."

May all veterans, living or fallen, be duly respected during this day and age, when a new generation of combat veterans are forged.

# Leading the Way

## 364th ESC takes command of downtrace units

Capt. Christopher Larsen  
364th ESC

The 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, headquartered at Seattle's historic Fort Lawton, began a new era Oct. 1 as it assumed command and control of Reserve units in seven states.

The 364th ESC took over command of the units from the 311th ESC, headquartered in Los Alamitos, Calif., as part of a major reorganization of reserve forces in the Western half of the United States.

As the major Army Reserve command in the Pacific Northwest, the 364th ESC oversees more than 40 units located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. The units have more than 4,000 Reserve Soldiers and more than 345 full-time Soldiers and civilian employees.

"This is a major step forward for the Army Reserve in the Pacific Northwest, and in the Western states," said Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives, the 364th's commanding general. "The capabilities and experience these units bring to the table mean we're able to provide logistical support to operations anywhere, at any time."

The 364th ESC's new major subordinate units include the 654th Regional Support Group in Tacoma, the 652nd Regional Support Group in Helena, Mont., and the 96th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives, commander of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, takes his oath of office at Fort Lawton's Trailblazer Field July 10. (Capt. Christopher Larsen/ PS Sustainer)

## 364th ESC Commander Receives First Star

Spc. Christopher Bigelow  
364th ESC

Cannon fire and the 204th Army Band could both be heard at Fort Lawton, in a ceremony rich with tradition being held to commemorate the promotion of Col. Jonathan G. Ives, commander of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, to the rank of brigadier general.

Ives, commander of the 364th ESC, was promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony held at the Fort Lawton's trailblazer field July 10.

Ives, a Seattle-area resident for more than 25 years, assumed command of the 364th ESC in October 2009. He recently finished two active duty tours in Regional Command East, Afghanistan, and at European Command, and has more than 29 years of continuous commissioned service.

"It is my honor, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you and the nation," said Ives as he addressed the Soldiers of the 364th and his distinguished guests, all mentors and friends of Ives and the Army Reserve.

As a brigadier general, Ives re-

ceived an 11-gun salute from Joint Base Lewis-McChord's field artillery honor unit, the Salute Battery of the 51st Signal Battalion, that could be heard throughout the Magnolia and Ballard areas.

General officers are entitled to cannon salutes upon arrival to an installation or during a promotion ceremony. Ives was presented with an empty cartridge as a memento of the occasion of being promoted to general, or "flag" rank.

Intermingled with the sound of the cannons, the 204th Army Band provided all music for the ceremony.

"Gen. Stonewall Jackson said, 'you can be whatever you resolve to be.' Whether I ever thought I 'resolved' to be a general officer, I don't know. I did my duty, I executed the missions to the best of my ability for all the leaders, Soldiers, and family members that stood with me," said Ives.

"Today I stand here so honored to be selected to serve you, the 364th Sustainment Command as your first general officer," Ives said.



Sgt. Lee Gilchrist and Sgt. Jason Zwettler, of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry help a young guest try on body armor and an Army Combat Helmet at the Fall Fishermen's Festival. (Sgt. Randy Ichiyama)

## Army on display at Seattle's Fall Fishermen's Festival

Spc. Christopher Bigelow  
364th ESC

An estimated 1,200 children and more than 635 adults visited an Army Reserve Landing Craft, Mechanized, and an Army Stryker Combat Vehicle Saturday, Sept. 25 at Seattle's Fall Fishermen's Festival.

"The intent was to display various pieces of Army equipment and it ended up being a chance for the Army, both regular and reserve, to strut our stuff," said Sgt. Randy Ichiyama, the noncommissioned officer in charge with the 175th Transportation Company.

On Sept. 24, the 175th used its 'Mike boat' to transport the Stryker and its crew from Joint Base Lewis-McChord to the festival grounds in Seattle, where they set up the vehicle displays and prepared for the festival

the following day.

"This was the first known time that a Stryker had been transported by a LCM," said Ichiyama.

"This event also provided an opportunity for the regular and reserve components to operate together in new ways and develop future possible joint training events," he said.

The festival officially kicked off at 11:00 a.m. Sept. 25, and the LCM and Stryker crews began escorting people around the equipment and answering any questions they had, while other Soldiers helped visitors try on pieces of Army combat gear.

The event officially ended at 7:00 that night, but the large crowd of visitors kept the Soldiers busy well after closing time.



2nd Lt. Edgar Nicolau is congratulated by his wife, Jenet Januto, and children, Jamie Nicolau and Dylan Nicolau after his ceremony. (Capt. Christopher Larsen/PS Sustainer)

## From Sea to Shore: former sailor becomes Army officer

Spc. Christopher Bigelow  
364th ESC

Edgar Nicolau, a naturalized U.S. citizen, received a direct commission to second lieutenant in a ceremony at Fort Lawton on Sept. 12.

Originally from the Philippines, Nicolau earned his bachelor's degree in nursing from Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, and became a naturalized citizen in 1996.

"After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, I decided that I wanted to serve my new adopted country, so I joined the Navy," Nicolau said.

Nicolau spent eight years in the Navy Reserve, and deployed for six months to Iraq at Logistics Support

Area Anaconda in Balad.

So why did Nicolau decide to 'jump ship'?

"I wanted to be able to do more for my men, and I felt that I could do the most for them as an officer," he said.

Nicolau joined the Army Reserve as a staff sergeant in December 2009. As an officer with no break in service, he will be assigned as an ordnance officer with the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

"I'm looking forward to being a leader in the Army Reserve, and taking my first steps toward a hopefully long career as a U.S. Army officer," said Nicolau.

# Troops help Seafair pirates strike again



The Seafair Pirates, a motley crew of scallywags and swashbucklers on board the Army's LCM-8560, prepare to storm Seattle's Alki beach to kick off Seattle's annual Seafair, the region's largest summer festival. The pirates have been part of the festival since 1949.

(Spc. Christopher Bigelow/PS Sustainer)

**"We love this. If it warn't fer the Army we couldn't do this e'ery year."**

- *Captain Kidd XVI*

Spc. Christopher Bigelow  
364th ESC

SEATTLE -- Armed to the teeth and carrying swords, muskets, and even cannons, 30 men and women overtook a pier near Seattle's Alki beach late in the morning of July 10.

The men forced a crowd of bystanders - including innocent women and children - into violent bouts of laughter. The scurvy sea dogs were on a mission to pillage and plunder, seemingly out to destroy every drink in their paths.

The buccaneers' plans were to be loud, REALLY loud, using swashbuckling language from the 17th century and screaming obscure, off-the-wall threats at local passersby as they waited for their ship to arrive.

The men were on their

annual mission to storm Alki Beach and kick off Seattle's Seafair celebration. And with the help of the 175th Transportation Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Tacoma, Wash., nothing could stand in their way.

There were no sails, but the Landing Craft, Mechanized - known as a Mike boat - provided a stylish arrival for the rowdy band.

"We love this. If it warn't fer the Army, we couldn't do this ev'ry year," said Mike Knowlton, known as Captain Kidd XVI to the Seafair Pirates.

The 175th's Soldiers have made a tradition of assisting the pirates with their beach-raiding shenanigans every year for as long as some of the troops can remember, said Sgt. Randy Ichiyama,

the boat's coxswain and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the day's mission.

"This mission provides fun, good training for our Soldiers, and it puts a good face on the Army and the military," Ichiyama said.

The Seafair Pirates' goal is to raise people's spirits and to kick off Seattle's summer festival. They visit nursing homes and hospitals, and during the height of Seafair, they appear at several events and parades each day.

But beneath their rough, tough, and gruff exteriors, the pirates have another reason for storming Seattle's shores every July.

"It's all about charity; we're here for the kids," Captain Kidd said.

This year the motley crew of scallywags and scoundrels added a new mate to their pirate band.

In an event coordinated with the local chapter of a Make-A-Wish Foundation, Joseph Rackham, a youngster from Ellensburg, Wash., was made an honorary Seafair pirate.

During a ceremony on board the *Lady Washington*, a ship used in the hit movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*, he was knighted Captain Kidd, Jr., something that had never been done before.

"I was born a pirate," Happy Joe declared. "I just like how they live and make an adventure out of life."

Captain Kidd XVI had kind words for the Army boat crew that enabled the pirates to hit the beach in style.

"We greatly appreciate the support from the military," he said. "It's very cool. Without it, we couldn't do what we do at Seafair."

Bergstrom said the competition among his unit's Soldiers to be part of the crew supporting the pirates was fierce.

"My men volunteer to go on missions like this," he said.

"It's very good training," Bergstrom said. "The Soldiers get a great experience, not only with the pirates, but doing their job in the military picking up and delivering an asset."

Ichiyama agreed.

"This event is the highlight of the year for our troops," he said. "It's fun and it feels good, helping the community, and seeing the people waving when we bring the pirates up to the beach," he added.

# Postal Unit Mobilized for Service in Afghanistan

Capt. Christopher Larsen  
364th ESC

Surrounded by local dignitaries and high-ranking officers, ten members of the 909th Human Resources Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit headquartered in Bothell, Wash., were mobilized for duty in Afghanistan during a ceremony on July 16.

Del Spivey, a Bothell city council member and fireman, said his profession shared much with the Soldiers'. "It's a calling," he said. "You are here today because you felt called to serve."

Spivey emphasized the sacrifices made by the Soldiers and their families, noting that both will have to make adjustments during their year-long separation.

"Just as you have to sacrifice to do your jobs," he said, "they will be making sacrifices at home to you can perform your mission."

The soldiers, all from the 909th's plans and operations section, will run Army post offices during their time overseas. They are capable of offering a full range of postal services, from ordinary mail, shipping registered items, money orders, and coordinating mail transportation.

"The Soldiers you see here today are shining examples of the Warrior Citizens that have sustained our nation in times of conflict since 1775," said Col. Martin Spann, operations officer for the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Los Alamitos, Calif.

"The unit will be responsible for literally millions of pieces of mail. As a soldier who has been deployed, I don't have to tell you how important that link to home is for our warfighters who are downrange, serving at the tip of the spear."

For some of the soldiers, this will be their first deployment; for others, their second or third, said 1st



Col. Martin Spann, the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command operations officer, addresses members of the 909th Human Resources Company during their mobilization ceremony July 16 in Bothell, Wash. (Capt. Christopher Larsen/ PS Sustainer)

**"The Soldiers you see here today are shining examples of the Warrior Citizen."**

*-Col. Martin Spann*

Lt. Dean Buchanan, the section's officer in charge.

"We're ready to go," Buchanan said. "We've gone through a lot to get here, and we're ready to do our mission."

The 909th soldiers will go through additional training at Fort Dix, N.J., before heading to Afghanistan. Their deployment is expected to last a year.

*At the time this story was written, the 909th was a subordinate unit of the 311th ESC.*



Soldiers from the 96th Sustainment Brigade tour the UPS and Sportsmen's Warehouse Salt Lake City distribution centers to learn from the companies' logistics expertise as part of the unit's Training With Industry day.

## Soldiers Eye Civilian Perspective on the Job

Sgt. Ruth Harvie  
358th PAD

SALT LAKE CITY – Army Reserve Soldiers from the 96th Sustainment Brigade toured two commercial logistics facilities and discussed logistics best practices Oct. 8 as part of their Training with Industry Day.

United Parcel Service and the Sportsman's Warehouse opened their Salt Lake City distribution centers and logistics expertise to the Soldiers of the 96th in order to facilitate learning between Soldiers and civilians in the logistics career fields.

Senior logisticians from the 96th discussed topics such as transportation forecasting, maintenance operations, and safety with UPS and shared ideas on inventory decisions, warehouse management systems, and storage security with Sportsman's Warehouse. The learning process involved both prepared presentations by industry professionals and question and answer sessions with the Soldiers.

Brent Campbell, director of retail accounts for Sharp Transportation, and Lt. Col. James J. Groark, the 96th's support operations officer,

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came up with the idea of having Soldiers train with their civilian counterparts.

“We’re not a business driven by profit and growth, but we have a lot of business-like processes,” Groark said.

Some of the processes discovered during the day can be easily applied to planning and executing the 96th SB’s wartime logistics mission, Groark said. During his recent deployment, Groark used such commercial industry tools as quantitative forecasting techniques and value stream mapping.

Campbell said Soldiers bring new skill sets to civilian business.

“Soldiers are seeing [with] a fresh set of eyes different ways of doing things,” he said.

Training with industry takes Soldiers out of the world they are used to seeing and allows them to find better ways to support their military customers. Since many wartime logistics capabilities are executed by commercial contractors, these training events help the 96th SB benchmark industry performance standards when conducting their contractor oversight mission.

“I think it’s beneficial,” said Sgt. Tim Chen, a logistics specialist with the 96th. “The civilian sector provides a practice of adjusting the logistic process with income in mind, unlike the procedures practiced by Soldiers, where effectiveness is the key.”

Groark said the TWI day was designed to show Soldiers new and different ways to do their jobs.

“Ultimately, this is about finding better ways to get Soldiers in the foxhole their stuff [logistics] when and where they need it,” he said.

And like UPS and Sportsman’s Warehouse, the Deadeyes of the 96th SB continue to look for new and better ways to improve support to their customers.

# Deadeyes Roll into Shop Class

## 96th SB Soldiers Take Their Show on the Road



96th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers show Box Elder High School students a 5-ton wrecker. Along with explaining the technical aspects of soldiering, troops stressed how the technical side of Army training can be used in the civilian market.

Lt. Col. James Groark  
96th Sustainment Brigade

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah – Students immediately began firing questions as the 5-ton wrecker rolled into Box Elder High School’s automotive shop class Oct. 7.

“Is that a Cummins engine?”

“How much can it lift?”

“Can we take it for a ride?”

Soldiers from the 96th Sustainment Brigade’s special troops battalion shared their maintenance expertise with automotive and shop class students at the school, located north of Salt Lake City.

“Along with explaining tactical aspects of soldiering, we stress the technical side of Army training that can be leveraged in the civilian world,” said Sgt. Aaron Pitkin, the 96th STB’s maintenance sergeant.

As part of the 96th SB’s ongoing partnership with recruiters from the Salt Lake City Recruiting Battalion, 96th STB Soldiers brought a hands-on approach to describing the many job opportunities resident in the Army Reserve.

“We stress ‘learning is doing’ during our weekend battle training as-

semblies,” said Spc. Kenneth Miller, an STB mechanic.

Miller, along with Spc. Tysin Davis, demonstrated the necessary training and safety requirements to operate the 5-ton wrecker.

On the other side of the automotive shop, Sgt. Brent Anderson and Pfc. Jorgen Tuck explained some of the features of the up-armored Humvee they’d brought along.

As Box Elder students moved in and around the vehicles, 96th STB Soldiers stressed the importance of safety during both operating and maintaining this equipment.

“Safety is of utmost importance during every training event in the Army Reserve,” Anderson said.

During the event, many of the school’s students found a way to migrate to the automotive shop area and try their hand at the rock-climbing wall the recruiters had brought along and try on some military gear, such as individual body armor.

By the end of the day, Box Elder High School students realized the Army Reserve have many training opportunities fitting a wide range of personal interests and goals.



USAV Palo Alto beaches at Punxsutawney Pier, Camp Mertarvik, Alaska. The boat is crewed by members of the 709th Transportation Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Tacoma, Wash. The pier is named in honor of Pennsylvania's famous Punxsutawney Phil and the movie 'Groundhog Day,' because, according to one Soldier, "it's the same here every day." (Capt. Christopher Larsen/PS Sustainer)

## Army Reserve 'Sailors,' Joint Forces Bring Hope to Remote Alaskan People

Capt. Christopher Larsen  
364th ESC

ABOARD USAV PALO ALTO – Plugging along at 10 knots in the Bering Sea off the coast of Alaska, this 174-foot-long Army landing craft is heading for Bethel, a town of 6,000 along the Kuskokwim River.

The boat is manned by Soldiers of the 709th Transportation Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Tacoma, Wash. Many of the soldiers went to Alaska in June, taking part

in Exercise Alaska Move, an ambitious five-year project to relocate a native Yup'ik village located deep in the bush. The exercise ran until September.

The village of Newtok, located some 450 air miles from Anchorage, sits on the banks of the Ninglick River. Studies conducted by the state of Alaska over a period of more than 30 years concluded that Newtok was threatened by erosion caused by the

river, permafrost degradation, and seasonal flooding. Plans to move Newtok's inhabitants to a new village, called Mertarvik ('getting water from the spring' in Yup'ik) began in 1994.

The military kicked off a five-year series of operations to assist with the relocation in 2009. Part of Innovative Readiness Training, the exercise, called Alaska Move, would gradually create

and build infrastructure around Mertarvik.

The area around the new town is mostly uninhabited. There is no electricity, telephones, Internet, or roads. Everything must be brought in by air or boat, and that's where the reservists of the 709th fit in.

*Palo Alto*, a Landing Craft, Utility, belongs to the 481st Transportation Company at Mare Island, **Alaska**

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Calif. As part of an equipment-sharing agreement, the vessel was loaned to the 709th for the exercise. *Palo Alto* left Tacoma in early June and headed for Bethel; the trip took about 12 days.

“It takes awhile when you only move at 10 knots,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brett Radford, *Palo Alto*’s skipper for the mission.

Radford said the fully-loaded *Palo Alto* ran into storms on the sail northward and had to anchor in Dutch Harbor until they passed. With its flat bottom, *Palo Alto* rolls in heavy seas, and it made sense to wait awhile, Radford said.

Once *Palo Alto* reached Bethel, its crew made ready for the first of many trips they would make to Mertarvik over the next several months. On *Palo Alto*’s deck was lashed more than 100 tons of

equipment, including diesel-powered generators, forklifts, and a full-size dump truck. Every bit would be needed for the mission in Mertarvik.

Re-provisioning took place in Bethel. The LCU has a full-service galley for its crew of 13; Bethel is the only place with a grocery store for miles in any direction.

“It costs about \$2,000 to provision the boat every time it’s here in port,” said Staff Sgt. David Valdes, the 709th’s supply sergeant. “Grocery prices here are extremely high, since everything has to come in by air or boat.”

As a demonstration, Valdes pointed out some prices: \$6.99 for a gallon of milk; \$9.99 for a bag of chips; \$12.49 for a 12-pack of soda.

## River Navigation Brings Challenges

If *Palo Alto* had a hard time dealing with the

ocean waves, navigating the rivers brought another challenge: the tides. As the water recedes, broad mud flats dominate the river, and the boat often has to anchor for hours before the tide comes back in.

Taped near a window on the bridge was a note reminding the crew to leave for and depart from Bethel several hours before the tide came in or went out.

“We have to time going up and down the rivers with the tides,” Radford said. “There are a lot of shallow spots in the rivers, and sometimes the water under us is only five feet deep. We have to stop or we’ll be grounded.”

Another issue, Radford said, was that navigation charts for the area are old and in serious need of updates.

“The chart data we’re using is from 1957,” he said. “The river bed can shift from day to day because of the sand and silt, and we have to be careful.”

To make sure *Palo Alto* stayed on course through the shallow water, it uses the latest in GPS technology. With the help of a computer program that stores and tracks *Palo Alto*’s path, the crew uses previous trips up and down the rivers to avoid grounding.

Avoiding the sandbars and mud flats takes precise navigation, and course corrections of as little as two degrees are common. Steering the 174-foot-long craft takes planning.

“You learn to anticipate the turns,” said Staff Sgt. David Kartchner, first mate on *Palo Alto* for this mission. “Instead of making one big correction, you do it gradually. It’s something that comes with time and experience.”

The trip from Bethel to Mertarvik often takes close to 36 hours, depending on tides, weather conditions, and the amount of equipment the boat is carrying. One voyage took 41 hours; the same trip took less than an hour by helicopter.

At Camp Mertarvik, the sailors, Marines and airmen working at the village site waited for *Palo Alto*’s return trips. Since the camp is supplied entirely by the boat, any delays in the trip could bring difficult circumstances.

Electricity is supplied by diesel generators located at different areas of the camp. The fuel comes in tanks lashed to *Palo Alto*’s deck or, more commonly,

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Tents at Camp Mertarvik, Alaska. Strong winds in excess of 25 knots are common, and tents have been blown away during strong gusts. It isn’t all bad, though; soldiers say the wind keeps mosquitoes away. (Capt. Christopher Larsen/PS Sustainer)



A heavy forklift moves pallets of Durabase mats, used to build a road across the tundra at Camp Mertarvik, Alaska. Each mat weighs more than 1,000 pounds. (Capt. Christopher Larsen/PS Sustainer)

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### Tons of Equipment for Site

pumped from the boat's fuel tanks. On one recent day, the camp's fuel supply had dwindled to the point that only one generator was operating, providing power only to essential systems.

By running a hose from *Palo Alto's* fuel bunkers, the crew was able to transfer 1,150 gallons of diesel fuel to the Marines' tanks, ensuring they would have power, hot food, and hot showers for the next four to five days, enough time for the boat to make another trip to Bethel and back. Over the course of the exercise, *Palo Alto* had provided 6,400 gallons of diesel fuel and 500 gallons of gasoline to the troops on the shore.

"We've got plenty of fuel on board, and can eas-

ily spare that amount," Radford said. *Palo Alto* can cruise for up to 6,500 nautical miles when heavily loaded, and 10,000 unloaded.

Unloading *Palo Alto* takes skill and time. Again, the boat – and the troops on shore waiting to assist – is at the mercy of the tides.

"The boat needs high tide to be able to unload," said Capt. Chad Hailey, a Marine reservist and commander of Headquarters and Support Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion. Hailey was in charge of the Mertarvik project during this rotation.

*Palo Alto* beaches to unload; the skipper basically drives the bow onto land, drops the ramp, and cargo is off-loaded. With anchors at the front and rear of the boat, it can remain fairly stable. By dropping the stern anchor some distance from the beach, *Palo Alto's* crew can use the boat's

winch to literally pull it off the shore, especially in shallow water where it may be difficult to use the engines.

On one recent trip to Mertarvik, *Palo Alto* had difficulty beaching due to the river current; water was flowing at almost five knots, enough to push the boat away from its intended landing target. The rapidly-flowing water made it hard for the anchor to get a foothold, and it kept slipping away from the riverbed.

After five or six attempts, Radford decided to give up until the next day, as the tide was going out and *Palo Alto* wouldn't be able to reach the beach. At low tide, the shoreline is several hundred yards away, across a wide expanse of deep, sticky mud.

The next day, with the tide in and slightly better weather, *Palo Alto* beached without difficulty,

and the activity began. Marines, sailors and Soldiers had come down to the beaching area, bringing with them several heavy-capacity forklifts.

As equipment and supplies were taken off *Palo Alto*, other items waited to take their place: empty barrels, extra field rations, even trash that had been generated by the camp's occupants; it would be moved to Bethel for recycling and disposal.

On the bridge, the crew currently on watch (the shift changes every four hours) was keeping *Palo Alto's* engines slightly forward, to make sure the boat stayed beached during on- and offloading. LCUs are also equipped with bow thrusters that use mechanical pumps to shoot water at high pressure on the port or starboard sides of the craft, enabling sideways movement and increased maneuverability.

The port bow thruster was applied throughout that day's operations to counteract the effects of the river current.

Once off-loaded, Radford moved *Palo Alto* out into the Ninglick to wait for the correct tidal stage. Radford said the tide charts are fairly accurate, but there will be fluctuations.

"The tide goes in and comes out every 12 hours," he said, "and we plan our movements around that."

That meant some unusual sailing times. For one recent trip back to Bethel,

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# Every year, a silent tribute to a hero



2nd Lt. Robert R. Leisy in Vietnam

Capt. Christopher Larsen  
364th ESC

“The weather this year sucks, but the beer is still cold,” reads the handwriting on the card. “We’ll hoist one for you.”

For more than 30 years on Memorial Day, notes, cards, and flowers – along with a single bottle of beer – have been left at the door to the U.S. Army Reserve Center at Fort Lawton.

The building is named after 2nd Lt. Robert R. Leisy, a native of Seattle’s Magnolia neighborhood, who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously after sacrificing his life in 1969 to save those of the men he led in Vietnam.

For more than 20 years, no one at Fort Lawton knew where the tributes came from; the notes were signed simply, “Susie” or “Tom.”

Bob Leisy was 24 when he died. A member of Seattle’s Queen Anne High School class of 1963, Leisy graduated from the University of Washing-

ton in 1968. A member of Army ROTC at UW, Leisy was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry.

He arrived in Vietnam late in September 1969, and was assigned as a rifle platoon leader in Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, part of the famed 1st Cavalry Division.

Like soldiers have for generations, Leisy sent a steady flow of letters back to his family and friends in Washington. Many of them are preserved at Fort Lawton and UW.

Leisy’s letter home to his parents, dated Dec. 1, suggested he might choose a different career path after he got home and finished his Army commitment.

“I want to tell you I don’t think I will stay in the Army,” he wrote. “There are a great many things I like about the particular job I have now. But I think the promotions after the war is over will be extremely slow....”

That letter would be the last Leisy wrote.

The next day, Leisy’s platoon was conducting a reconnaissance patrol in Phuoc Long Province. One of the squads was attacked by a heavy North Vietnamese force and pinned down. Leisy took the rest of the platoon – about 30 men – and moved to rescue the trapped squad.

An Army after-action report would later estimate that Leisy’s platoon was outnumbered 10-to-1.

As the troops

moved through the jungle, Leisy spotted a North Vietnamese soldier preparing to fire a rocket-propelled grenade at his men. Without time to shout a warning, Leisy jumped on his radio operator, Bernie Baillargeon, shielding him from the explosion and protecting the platoon’s communications.

B Company’s three platoons were spread out across the area. If the radio had been hit, unit cohesion would have been lost, and chances of the entire company being wiped out were very real.

One of Leisy’s hands was almost torn off by the explosion. He had sustained a severe wound to his thigh, and was losing a lot of blood. Leisy’s Medal of Honor citation tells the rest:

“Despite his mortal wounds, 2nd Lt. Leisy calmly and confidently continued to direct the platoon’s fire. When medical aid arrived, 2nd Lt. Leisy valiantly refused attention until the other seriously wounded were treated.”

The platoon’s medic was unable to save Leisy, and he died from his injuries. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard

Nixon in 1971.

The Robert Leisy Army Reserve Center at Fort Lawton was built in 1972. Leisy’s parents, now passed away, were present for its dedication and opening.

According to longtime Fort Lawton employees, sometime during the 1980s a single bottle of beer, sometimes accompanied by a note, a card, or flowers, began to be left at the door to the reserve center on Memorial Day.

For more than 20 years, the identities of the person or persons leaving the memorials at the reserve center were unknown. But some investigative work by a Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* reporter in 2004 tracked them down: Tom Weingarten, and his sister, Susie Weingarten, who had grown up with Leisy in the 1950s.

“The whole point of my anonymity is that this is not about me,” Susie Weingarten said at the time.

## Hero

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## Alaska

from page 10

Radford ordered the engines started at 2:30 a.m., for a 3:00 a.m. departure. Leaving in the middle of the night in the pitch-black Alaska wilderness presents its own set of challenges, as spotlights mounted on *Palo Alto* are shined back and forth across the river's surface to make sure nothing gets in the boat's path. But it's for good reason that Alaska is known as 'The Land of the Midnight Sun;' in late July, the sun didn't set until almost that time.

"This was easier in June and early July," Radford said. "The sun never really went down at that time; it'd sit on the horizon and start coming back up."

Although *Palo Alto* moves slowly, it would have been impossible to mount this exercise without it. By the end, Radford estimated, the Army Reserve boat crew would have transported more than 600 tons of equipment to and from Mertarvik.

Even after the exercise ends, however, there's still the long sail back to Tacoma to off-load the equipment returning from Mertarvik. From there, *Palo Alto* will sail back to its home port of Mare Island.

All told, Army Reserve soldiers will sail thousands of miles and work thousands of man-hours in a harsh environment, all without the creature comforts they'd enjoy at home.

Just to bring hope and a new life to some people in Alaska they'd never met.

## Hero

from page 10

"It's about Leisy and people like Leisy. Memorial Day is when you are supposed to honor the war dead.

"That's why I do it," she said. "It's not that hard."

This year's card was left by Tom Weingarten.

"Susie is off sailing this year," it reads, "but you are still in our thoughts."

Tom Weingarten said the memorial was started by Susie in the 1970s, after the Leisy Army Reserve Center was dedicated.

"There wasn't really any planning to it," he said. "It's something that just happened and kept on going."

Tom Weingarten said the yearly tribute is a way to remember the sacrifices made by Leisy and others in the service.

"It's our way of remembering Bob and acknowledging the reserve unit," he said.



Mementoes to Leisy on display in Fort Lawton's Leisy Army Reserve center.

## "Despite his mortal wounds, 2nd Lt. Leisy calmly and confidently continued to direct the platoon's fire."

The era of the Leisy Army Reserve Center will soon be coming to a close, however.

Fort Lawton, the installation on which the center is located, was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list in 2005. The 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, the Leisy building's current occupant, is scheduled to move to a new facility in Marysville sometime in 2011. A final decision about relocating the memorials and tributes to the building's namesake has yet to be made.

"We've been in coordination with the University [of Washington] about a lot of the items," said Howard Graves, who handles protocol issues for the 364th. "Since he was a UW graduate, it'd be fitting."

Every year, the memorials are gathered and added to a display case in the building's lobby, a remembrance of Bob Leisy more than 40 years after his death.

Photos from his childhood; photos from leave in Seattle before shipping out to Vietnam; photos taken after arriving in-country. Some show him sporting a mustache, like cavalymen

of the Old West.

There are other things, too: G.I. Joe figures, copies of letters and postcards Leisy sent from overseas, bottles of beer and notes from years past, the program from his White House Medal of Honor ceremony in 1971.

"It would have been wonderful," Leisy's mother Josephine said at the time, "if Robert could have experienced it."

Until the center closes its doors for the final time, Bob Leisy's childhood friends will continue to remember the fallen soldier in their special way on Memorial Day.

"They put you on a memorial at UW," reads the card, "fitting for such a faithful Dawg!"

Stay cool -Tom."



Active and Reserve Soldiers loading the Stryker onto the landing craft for transport to the Fishermen's Festival in Ballard.

## Festival

from page 4

"The mission was a resounding success," said Ichiyama

"The enthusiasm, professionalism, and patriotism of the soldiers was evident throughout the event and it was returned with a lot of smiles, handshakes and heartfelt words of "thank you for your service," he added.



## 2010 Proves Banner Year for Recruiting

Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press  
Service

WASHINGTON – The military services had a banner year for recruiting and retention in fiscal 2010, Defense Department officials said here today.

The services met their overall numbers, and exceeded qualitative goals, said Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The Army had the highest recruiting goal with 74,500 new soldiers, and it recruited 74,577.

All of the reserve components made their fiscal-year goals, with the exception of the Army National Guard. The Army Guard intentionally missed its recruiting goal in order to stay within end-strength limits.

The services also set quality records with 100 percent of the recruits in the Army and Marine Corps having a high school diploma. In the Air Force, the percentage with at least a high school diploma was 99 percent and in the Navy, 98 percent.

## Deadline for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Extended

Department of Defense

The deadline for eligible servicemembers, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay has been extended to Dec. 3.

The change allows personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned, officials said.

To apply, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to [www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss). Soldiers can also go directly to the Army's website at [www.stoplosspay.army.mil](http://www.stoplosspay.army.mil).

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by Presi-

dent Barack Obama in October, providing funding for federal government operations through Dec. 3, 2010.

"The ... extension is great news for our Soldiers and veterans eligible to receive Stop Loss Special Pay, but have yet to file their claim," said Maj. Tim Beninato, spokesperson for the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1. "We encourage those who are eligible or think they might be, to go check out the Army's website today, and see if you qualify."

The RSLSP was established to compensate military members whose service was involuntarily

extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009.

"It's important that all those eligible for this benefit take the opportunity to apply for what they've earned," said Lernes Herbert, acting director, DoD Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We encourage those eligible to apply as soon as possible, to avoid the last-minute rush, which can increase processing time."

Eligible members or their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

The original deadline for claims was Oct. 21 of this year.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts throughout the year.

Efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility, officials said.

# Army Establishes Cyber Command

Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – Maj. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez has assumed command of the U.S. Army Cyber Command here during a ceremony officiated by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli.

ARCYBER headquarters will be located in the National Capital Region and will realign Soldiers and Civilians into essential ARCYBER headquarters positions. The total command strength of 21,000

Soldiers and Civilians will be located around the globe.

ARCYBER is the Army's service component command to U.S. Cyber Command, a sub-unified command under U.S. Strategic Command.

ARCYBER's mission is to plan, coordinate, integrate, synchronize, direct, and conduct network operations and defense of all Army networks. When directed, ARCYBER will conduct cyberspace operations in support of full spectrum operations to ensure U.S. and allied freedom of action in cy-

berspace, and to deny the same to adversaries.

Before the command's establishment, the Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Command, under Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, had led the Army's cyberspace operations in support of U.S. Cyber Command. The establishment of ARCYBER brings a unity of effort and synchronization of Army Forces operations within the Army cyber domain, officials said.

"Today is a historic day for the Army, Department of Defense and the nation," Hernandez said dur-

ing the ceremony. "Today, Army Cyber Command assumes the cyber mission and brings unprecedented unity of effort and synchronization of all Army forces operating within cyberspace."

NETCOM/9th Signal Command and portions of the 1st Information Operations Command (Land) will be subordinate units to the new command. Additionally, the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command will be under the operational control of ARCYBER for cyber-related actions.

# Army Reserve postures for 'uncertain' future

Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – With tough budget decisions on the horizon and the changing military missions in the Middle East, an uncertain future awaits the Army Reserve, the organization's commander said.

Speaking to Army Reserve soldiers in a town hall meeting at the Pentagon, Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz talked about the state of the Army Reserve and what he's doing to help evolve the force to better meet the needs of tomorrow's military.

"Everyone is trying to figure out what the future will look like and plan accordingly," Stultz said. "There's a lot of uncertainty out there."

Stultz cited "uncertainty" in how the Army

Reserve's mission will change with the drawdown of forces in Iraq and the troop surge in Afghanistan. He said he also recognizes the effects unemployment and the national deficit will have on future fiscal budget requests.

"The natural tendency is to wait and see and let somebody tell us what the future is," the general said. "My push from my position is to push our staff, our commanders [and] our leaders to not wait. We're going to continue to move forward with the vision that we have for the Army Reserve and the things we need to do to shape the future for us."

In the future, Stultz said, the active Army and the Army Reserve will not have separate missions.

The idea will help ensure

the Army is more fiscally efficient and streamlined, he explained. Most importantly, he added, it will ensure the Army Reserve is an effective tool for combatant commanders throughout the armed forces.

The mission in Iraq now requires fewer troops, and the same will eventually happen in Afghanistan, Stultz said. But because Army Reserve units are made up primarily of combat support and combat service support skills, a need exists for reservists outside of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, he said.

"I've seen Army Reserve forces doing a lot of great things in security operations, theater engagements [and] nation building outside of opera-

tions Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom," he said. "There's a goal for forces in the future to do great things for our nation around the world, not necessarily associated with kinetic operations."

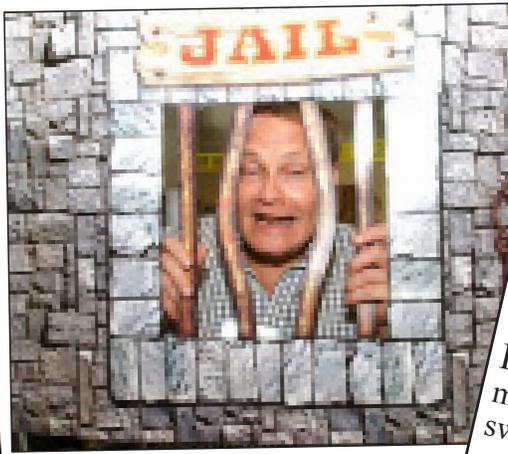
Stultz also talked about the Army campaign to manage resources and eliminate redundancy within the force. That includes military and civilian personnel and programs, he said.

"We can't afford redundancy," he said. "We can't afford two guys doing the same job. We've got to work for efficiency."

Despite these challenges and future changes, the one thing that's remained constant is the quality of Army Reserve soldiers, Stultz said.



Master Sgt. Inez Hollman paints a young troop's face to raise money for the 364th ESC FRG.



364th ESC commander Brig. Gen. Jonathan Ives was stuck in the slammer during the 364th ESC Family Day.



Killing the Paper Man - Family members waited their turn to take a swing at the Family Day pinata.



Maj. Jackie Rossen trying to escape the Family Day clink.



Kids scramble for goodies after the Family Day pinata is shattered.



Brig. Gen. Ives tries to talk a very young troop into bailing him out of the pen.



Sgt. 1st Class Heather Moran gives her son, Ryan, some advice on throwing the pigskin at the 364th ESC Family Day.

# 364th ESC Family Day a HUGE SUCCESS

Troops and their families came together during September's battle assembly to raise funds for our Family Readiness Group, with face painting, piñatas, and even jail time - for a good cause, of course!