

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 79TH SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT COMMAND

THE

FALCON



"To Do For Country"



**TRAINED, READY, COHESIVE, WELL-LED
SUSTAINMENT UNITS FOR WORLD-WIDE DEPLOYMENT**

THE FALCON

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79TH SSC COMMAND TEAM

COMMANDING GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM D. FRINK, JR.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROBERT N. ROBERSON, JR.



COMMAND EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. ANDREA M. BREYTON

COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 SCOTT M. JACKSON

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/79SSC

79TH SSC PAO TEAM

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OIC
LT. COL. WILMER MOORE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC
SGT. 1ST CLASS COREY L. BEAL

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
CAPT. KALEN M. ARREOLA

79TH SSC IN-BRIEF



LORRAINE 1918

MEUSE-ARGONNE 1918

NORMANDY 1944

NORTHERN FRANCE 1944

RHINELAND 1944 - 1945

ARDENNES-ALSACE 1944 - 1945

CENTRAL EUROPE 1944

ESTABLISHMENT

The 79th Sustainment Support Command was activated at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, Calif., Dec. 1, 2009 and assumed command and control of the 4th, 311th, and 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Commands on Oct. 1, 2010.

MISSION

Execute Army Reserve responsibilities as a two star command responsible for aligned subordinate commands, to include training readiness oversight and mobilization support as required in the commander's area of responsibility.

RE-STATED MISSION

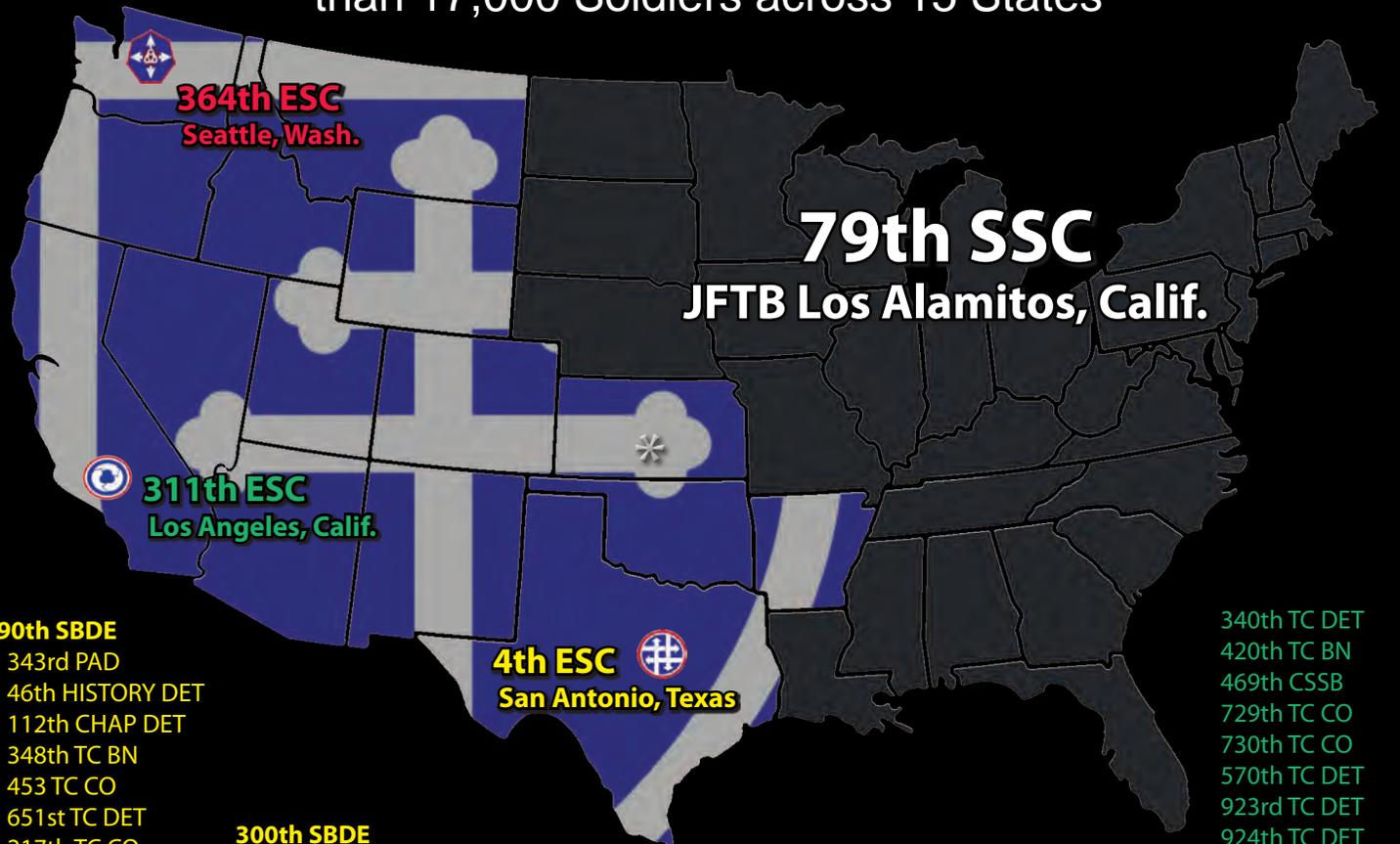
Execute all command and control requirements for Army Reserve combat sustainment support units in up to four subordinate Expeditionary Sustainment Commands in the Western area of responsibility. The SSC will effectively support the collective training, mobilization, deployment and redeployment of CSS units dispersed over significant geographic distances.

VISION

Provide trained, ready, cohesive, well-led Sustainment units for world-wide deployment to meet the U.S. Army's rotational and contingency mission requirements in support of the National Military Strategy.

79TH SSC FOOTPRINT

As of March 2011, the 79th SSC has command and control of three Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, consisting of more than 17,000 Soldiers across 15 States



90th SBDE

343rd PAD
46th HISTORY DET
112th CHAP DET
348th TC BN
453 TC CO
651st TC DET
217th TC CO
373rd CSSB
1002nd QM CO
215th QM DET

164th QM GP

316th QM BN
910th QM CO
418th TC DET
481st TC DET
600th TC DET
327th TC DET

211th RSG

345th PAD
90th HISTORY DET
319th CSSB
288th QM CO
812th QM CO
961st QM CO
370th TC CO
971st QM DET
519th TC DET
851st TC CO

* **451st ESC** (Activation 16 Sep.)
Wichita, Kan.

300th SBDE

513th QM DET
328th AG CO
350th AG CO
645th QM DET
363rd QM BN
340th QM CO
238th OD CO
223rd OD CO
141st QM CO
381st AG BN
800th AG CO

647th RSG

809th QM DET
372nd QM BN
877th QM CO
985th QM DET
471st TC DET
601st TC DET
974th QM CO
383rd QM BN
263rd QM CO
900th QM CO

4th ESC
San Antonio, Texas

96th SBDE

478th HR CO
395th FMC
358th PAD
50th HISTORY DET
117th CHAP DET
191st CSSB
786th TC CO
872th TC CO
419th TC CO
146th TC CO
423rd TC CO
651st QM DET
652nd QM DET
889th TC DET

652nd RSG

411th OD BN
592nd OD CO
889th QM CO
1016th QM CO
651st QM CO
949th TC DET
823rd TC DET

654th RSG

382nd CSSB
737th TC CO
291st TC DET
970th TC DET
971st TC DET
804th TC DET
385th TC BN
175th TC CO
467th TC CO
709th TC CO
805th TC DET
653rd TC DET
380th AG BN
909th AG CO
959th AG CO
235th AG CO
123rd CHAP DET

326th FMC

651st RSG

311 SC SPT UNIT

304th SBDE

155th QM DET
201st PA DET
606st QM DET
806th AG DET
155th CSSB
137th QM CO
250th TC CO
555th TC DET
693rd QM CO
926th TC DET
371st CSSB
329th QM CO
380th TC DET
304th TC DET
376th AG CO
950th MAINT CO
419th CSSB
163rd OD CO
478th TC CO
968th QM CO
1017th QM CO

340th TC DET

420th TC BN
469th CSSB
729th TC CO
730th TC CO
570th TC DET
923rd TC DET
924th TC DET
975th TC DET
211th TC CO
483rd TRANS BN
481st TC CO
711th TC CO
201st TC DET
932nd TC DET
238th TC CO

653rd RSG

63rd BSB
301st PAD
452nd QM CO
655th QM DET
314th CSSB
257th TC CO
645th TC CO
948th TC DET
957th TC DET
336th CSSB
348th TC CO
289th TC DET
974th TC DET
418th QM BN
208th TC CO
925th TC DET

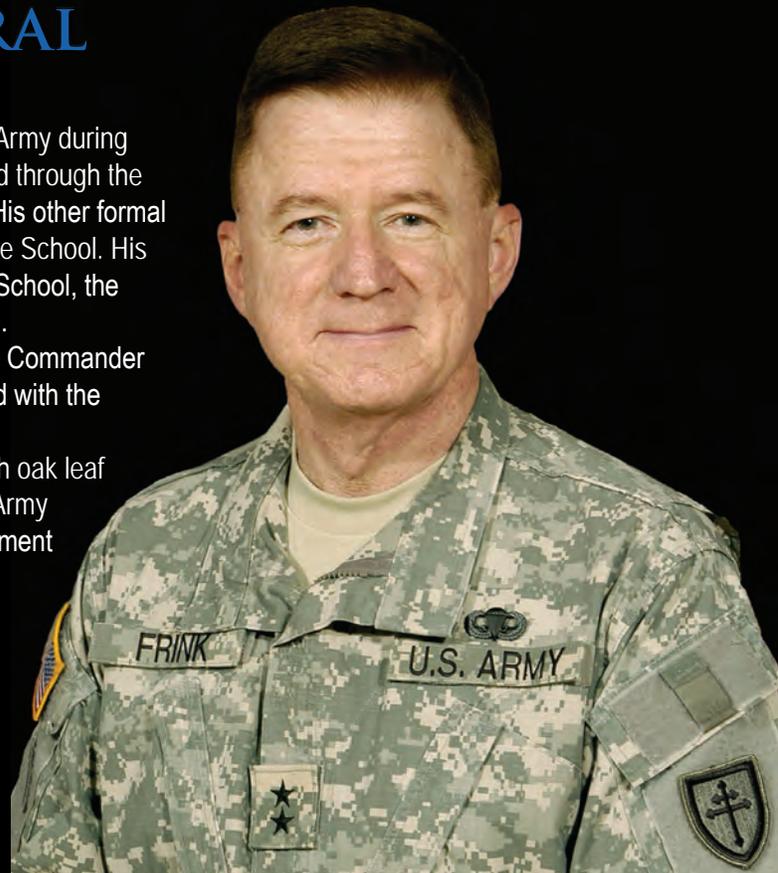
COMMANDING GENERAL

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM D. FRINK, JR.

Maj. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr. has served at every level in the Army during his more than thirty three years of service. He was commissioned through the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Marion Military Institute. His other formal education includes Auburn University and the Naval Postgraduate School. His military education includes the Air Defense School, the Infantry School, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Prior to Assuming command of the 79th SSC, he served as the Commander of the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and deployed with the command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Frink's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), National Defense Service Medal (with bronze service star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with bronze hourglass and M device), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, and Parachutist Badge.



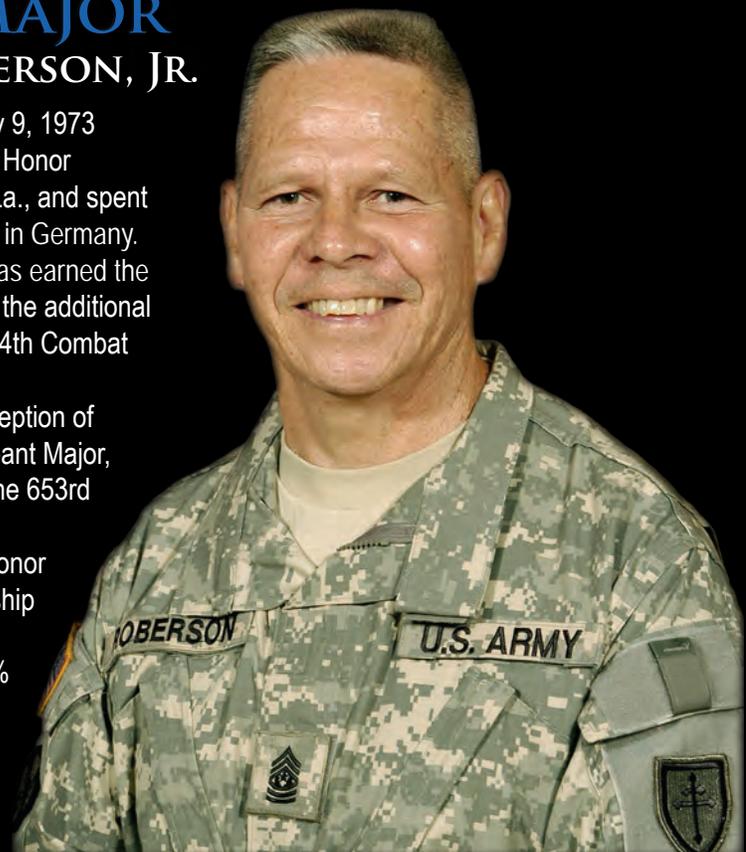
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROBERT N. ROBERSON, JR.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Roberson entered the Army on July 9, 1973 at Fort Ord Calif., where he completed basic training, graduating as Honor Graduate. He completed advanced individual training at Fort Polk, La., and spent two years on active duty assigned to the 509th Artillery Detachment in Germany. He transitioned into the Army Reserve on May 9, 1976. Roberson has earned the military occupational specialties 11B, 42L, 62J, 63B, 91B as well as the additional skill identifiers H, M, and 2S. He deployed to Balad, Iraq with the 164th Combat Support Group, headquartered in Mesa, Ariz.

He has held every Noncommissioned Officer position with the exception of Battalion CSM. After two tours as a Brigade Operations Staff Sergeant Major, he was appointed over his peers to the position of Group CSM for the 653rd Area Support Group, March Air Force Base, Calif.

Roberson's military education includes: Basic Combat Training (Honor Graduate), Advanced Individual Training (Infantry), Primary Leadership Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, First Sergeant Course (Top 10% Graduate), Battle Staff Operations Course, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Force Protection Unit Advisors Course, Senior Enlisted Equal Opportunity Course, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, and the Command Sergeant Major Designee Course.



LINEAGE OF THE 79TH SSC

The 79th Infantry Division was first activated on August 1917 and after a year of training the division sailed overseas July 1918. The 79th Infantry Division saw extensive combat in the Meuse-Argonne area where it earned the name of "Cross of Lorraine" for their defense of France. The division was inactivated June 1919 and returned to the United States. Throughout its entire World War I campaign, the division suffered some 6,874 casualties with 1,151 killed and 5,723 wounded.

During WWII the 79th reactivated on 15 June 1942. After training in the United Kingdom, the 79th ID landed on Utah Beach, Normandy, 12-14 June and entered combat 19 June 1944, with an attack on the high ground west and north-west of Valognes and high ground south of Cherbourg. The division took Fort du Roule after a heavy engagement and entered Cherbourg, 25 June. It held a defensive line at the Ollonde River until 2 July 1944 and then returned to the offensive, taking La Haye du Puits in house-to-house fighting, 8 July. On 26 July, the 79th attacked across the Ay River, took Lessay, crossed the Sarthe River and entered Le Mans, 8 August, meeting only light resistance. The advance continued across the Seine, 19 August. Heavy German counterattacks were repelled, 22-27 August, and the division reached the Therain River, 31 August. Moving swiftly to the Franco-Belgian frontier near St. Amand, the division encountered heavy resistance in taking Charmes in street fighting, 12 September. The 79th cut across the Moselle and Meurthe Rivers, 13-23 September, cleared the Forêt de Parroy in a severe engagement, 28 September-9 October, and attacked to gain high ground east of Embermenil, 14-23 October, when it was relieved 24 October.



After rest and training at Lunéville, the division returned to combat with an attack from the Mignevine Montigny area, 13 November 1944, which carried it across the Vezouse and Moder Rivers, 18 November-10 December, through Haguenau in spite of determined enemy resistance, and into the Siegfried Line, 17-20 December. The division held a defensive line along the Lauter River, at Wissembourg from 20 December 1944 until 2 January 1945, when it withdrew to Maginot Line defenses. The German attempt to establish a bridgehead west of the Rhine at Gamsheim resulted in furious fighting. The 79th beat off German attacks at Hatten and Rittershoffen in an 11-day battle before withdrawing to new defensive positions south of Haguenau on the Moder River, 19 January 1945. The division remained on the defensive along the Moder until 6 February 1945. During February and March 1945, the division mopped up German resistance, returned to offensive combat, 24 March 1945, crossed the Rhine, drove across the Rhine-Herne Canal, 7 April, secured the north bank of the Ruhr and took part in clearing the Ruhr Pocket until 13 April. The division then went on occupation duty, in the Dortmund, Sudetenland, and Bavarian areas successively, until its return to the United States and inactivation.

Continuing a distinguished history, the 79th Sustainment Support Command was activated 1 December 2009 on Joint Forces Training Base, at Los Alamitos, Calif. Today the 79th builds upon its historic foundations by providing trained, ready, cohesive, well-led sustainment units for world-wide deployment to meet the U.S. Army's rotational and contingency mission requirements in support of the National Military Strategy.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

CARLOS C. OGDEN

May 9, 1917 - April 2, 2001

Rank and organization:

1st Lt., U.S. Army, Company K,
314th Inf., 79th Inf. Div.

Place and date:

Near Fort du Roule, France,
25 June 1944.

Entered service at:

Fairmont, Ill.

Born: 19 May 1917, Borton, Ill.

G.O. No.: 49, 28 June 1945.

Citation: On the morning of 25 June 1944, near Fort du Roule, guarding the approaches to Cherbourg, France, 1st Lt. Ogden's company was pinned down by fire from a German 88-mm. gun and 2 machineguns. Arming himself with an M-1 rifle, a grenade launcher, and a number of rifle and hand grenades, he left his company in position and advanced alone, under fire, up the slope toward the enemy emplacements. Struck on the head and knocked down by a glancing machinegun bullet, 1st Lt. Ogden, in spite of his painful wound and enemy fire from close range, continued up the hill. Reaching a vantage point, he silenced the 88mm. gun with a well-placed rifle grenade and then, with hand grenades, knocked out the 2 machineguns, again being painfully wounded. 1st Lt. Ogden's heroic leadership and indomitable courage in alone silencing these enemy weapons inspired his men to greater effort and cleared the way for the company to continue the advance and reach its objectives.

He died at age 83 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.



JOHN D. KELLY

July 8, 1923 - November 23, 1944

Rank and organization:

Tech. Sgt. (then Cpl.), U.S. Army,
Company E, 314th Inf., 79th Inf. Div.

Place and date:

Fort du Roule, Cherbourg, France,
25 June 1944.

Entered service at:

Cambridge Springs, Pa.

Born: Venango Township, Pa.

G.O. No.: 6, 24 January 1945.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. On 25 June 1944, in the vicinity of Fort du Roule, Cherbourg, France, when Cpl. Kelly's unit was pinned down by heavy enemy machinegun fire emanating from a deeply entrenched strongpoint on the slope leading up to the fort, Cpl. Kelly volunteered to attempt to neutralize the strongpoint. Arming himself with a pole charge about 10 feet long and with 15 pounds of explosive affixed, he climbed the slope under a withering blast of machinegun fire and placed the charge at the strongpoint's base. The subsequent blast was ineffective, and again, alone and unhesitatingly, he braved the slope to repeat the operation. This second blast blew off the ends of the enemy guns. Cpl. Kelly then climbed the slope a third time to place a pole charge at the strongpoint's rear entrance. When this had been blown open he hurled hand grenades inside the position, forcing survivors of the enemy gun crews to come out and surrender. The gallantry, tenacity of purpose, and utter disregard for personal safety displayed by Cpl. Kelly were an incentive to his comrades and worthy of emulation by all.

Kelly was buried at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Épinal, France. His grave can be found in plot A, row 44, grave 7.

ROBERT E. GERSTUNG

August 6, 1915 - June 17, 1979

Rank and organization:

Tech. Sgt., U.S. Army, Co. H,
313th Inf., 79th Inf. Div.

Place and date:

Siegfried Line near Berg, Germany,
19 December 1944.

Entered service at: Chicago, Ill.

Born: 6 August 1915, Chicago, Ill.

G.O. No.: 75, 5 September 1945.

Citation: On 19 December 1944 he was ordered with his heavy machinegun squad to the support of an infantry company attacking the outer defense of the Siegfried Line near Berg, Germany. For 8 hours he maintained a position made almost untenable by the density of artillery and mortar fire concentrated upon it and the proximity of enemy troops who threw hand grenades into the emplacement. While all other members of his squad became casualties, he remained at his gun. When he ran out of ammunition, he fearlessly dashed across bullet-swept, open terrain to secure a new supply from a disabled friendly tank. A fierce barrage pierced the water jacket of his gun, but he continued to fire until the weapon overheated and jammed. Instead of withdrawing, he crawled 50 yards across coverless ground to another of his company's machineguns, which had been silenced when its entire crew was killed. He continued to man this gun, giving support vitally needed by the infantry. At one time he came under direct fire from a hostile tank, which shot the glove from his hand with an armor-piercing shell but could not drive him from his position or stop his shooting. When the American forces were ordered to retire to their original positions, he remained at his gun, giving the only covering fire. Finally withdrawing, he cradled the heavy weapon in his left arm, slung a belt of ammunition over his shoulder, and walked to the rear, loosing small bursts at the enemy as he went. One hundred yards from safety, he was struck in the leg by a mortar shell; but, with a supreme effort, he crawled the remaining distance, dragging along the gun which had served him and his comrades so well. By his remarkable perseverance, indomitable courage, and heroic devotion to his task in the face of devastating fire, T/Sgt. Gerstung gave his fellow soldiers powerful support in their encounter with formidable enemy forces.

He died at age 63 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

TWO STAR NOTES

On MENTORSHIP

By Maj. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr.

79th Sustainment Support Command, Commanding General



In our profession, one of our greatest responsibilities is to develop and prepare those who will take our place. Through consistent mentorship, we can ensure the success of our future leaders.

Army Regulation 600-100 defines mentorship as “the voluntary developmental relationship that exists between a person of greater experience and a person of lesser experience that is characterized by mutual trust and respect.”

Mentorship is an essential tool we can use to develop leaders beyond coaching and counseling alone.

Mentorship is not teaching someone how to complete a task or rating their performance. It is going above and beyond to provide a person with the advice and counsel they need to further advance in their professional and personal growth.

In doing so, we are developing the best possible leaders of tomorrow’s Army. This is not only good for the individual – it is essential for the organization.

Simply put – mentorship is good succession planning.

The Army created a mentorship program in 2005 to encourage Soldiers to engage in mentoring activities beyond the chain of command. As with the Army Mentorship Program, the 79th Sustainment Support Command Mentorship Program is voluntary, and serves to promote learning and development among the Army’s future leaders.

Sharing our accumulated knowledge with those less experienced

effectively bridges the gaps between generations, and allows them to achieve more through our personal investment.

The strength of the mentoring relationship is based on mutual trust and respect – this cannot be forced or contrived – but must be cultivated and refined. It is not simply earned by rank or position.

“This is not a block to be checked; it is a way of giving back...”

To be most effective, mentorship requires a mutual passion for learning and personal development. It can sometimes represent a significant investment of time and energy – with some relationships spanning well past formal, professional ties.

Mentorship must be provided without the expectation of feedback, reward, or ever seeing the fruits of your guidance for years to come – possibly never. Do not allow self-interest or pride to interfere. Be aware that mentorship defies quantification.

Additionally, do not put a limit on who can or cannot be a mentor. Mentor-mentee relationships can and do transcend backgrounds,

technical fields, position, and rank. For example, a junior officer’s first mentor is often a senior NCO.

While everyone can be a mentor to someone, assess where you will be most successful. Remember those who most influenced you in your progression. Critique their methods; what did they do right and what could have been improved? Use this perspective to help select your own mentorship tactics and potential mentees best suited for you.

A mentor must be able to provide their mentee with the best candid and relevant guidance possible; this can be achieved through counseling.

Proper counseling is imperative to development, and is the bedrock of mentorship. Only by establishing present performance and potential, mentors can lay the best path for their mentees.

Mentees also have responsibilities in the mentorship process.

I urge every Soldier to rededicate themselves to their own self-development. A critical part of this is initiating the search for mentors. Do not wait for a mentor to choose you, but seek out those best equipped and most willing to invest themselves in you and your future.

This can be done through actively seeking council and outwardly showing your commitment to your own progression. A mentor needs to know his or her efforts will be received with the same care and attention with which they are offered.

You must honestly assess where you are now and where you want to

“All leaders have a responsibility to develop those junior to them to the fullest extent possible.”

AR 600-100 (c)

be in the future. A good mentor will assist you in achieving those goals. In turn, you must be willing to accept and act on his or her guidance. Sometimes this may include duties, schools or assignments that might not be preferred now, but will be of benefit in the long-term.

A key to success for any mentee is good listening skills. Some mentorship is subtle and – if you are not listening – you may miss it. The guidance they provide was not learned quickly or concisely, so pay attention and grasp it when it is offered.

Unlike counseling, a time and place for effective mentorship may

not fit into a schedule. Too often senior leaders get tied up in accomplishing the mission and their own careers to actively mentor Soldiers. Do not fall into the trap of overscheduling your day so you don't have time to talk with people.

Remember, it is a mistake to sacrifice the development of a team for the accomplishment of short-term goals and missions. The future success of that team depends on planning for the future and investing in the people who make the short-term missions possible.

In a recent survey of Soldiers, 90 percent said they had a men-

tor; 58 percent said their mentor has helped them personally and professionally; and 72 percent said they mentored their subordinates. Although this is encouraging, 80 percent of those surveyed wanted a stronger emphasis on mentorship in the Army and their unit.

I personally challenge every leader to mentor one or more Soldiers on a regular basis. This is not simply a block to be checked or a counseling statement to fill out. It is a way of giving back to the Army and grooming the next generation of Soldiers to take over where you leave off. 

AR 600–100 • 8 March 2007

Chapter 1-8

c. All leaders have a responsibility to develop those junior to them to the fullest extent possible. In addition to institutional training and education, leaders can facilitate development through the knowledge and feedback they provide through counseling, coaching, and mentoring.

(1) Counseling. Counseling is a standardized tool used to provide feedback to a subordinate. Counseling focuses on the subordinate by producing a plan outlining actions the subordinate can take to achieve individual and organizational goals. It is central to leader development and should be part of a comprehensive program for developing subordinates. A consistent counseling program includes all subordinates, regardless of the level of each ones potential.

(2) Coaching. The original meaning of coaching refers to the function of helping someone through a set of tasks. In the military, coaching occurs when a leader guides another persons development in new or existing skills during the practice of those skills. Unlike mentoring or counseling where the mentor/counselor generally has more experience than the supported person, coaching relies primarily on teaching and guiding to help bring out and enhance current capabilities. A coach helps those being coached to understand and appreciate their current level of performance and their potential, and instructs them on how to reach the next level of knowledge and skill.

(3) Mentorship. Mentorship is the voluntary developmental relationship that exists between a person of greater experience and a person of lesser experience that is characterized by mutual trust and respect. The focus of mentorship is voluntary mentoring that extends beyond the scope of chain of command relationships and occurs when a mentor provides the mentee advice and counsel over a period of time. Effective mentorship will positively impact personal and professional development. Assessment, feedback, and guidance are critical within the mentoring relationship and should be valued by the mentee in order for growth and development to occur.

For more information, visit <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/mentorship/>. This site provides valuable links, references and a mentorship training video. You can also sign up for the online Army Mentorship Program.



RE-SHAPING THE FORCE

BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROBERT N. ROBERSON, JR.

HOOAH Soldiers,

It wasn't too long ago that the 79th Sustainment Support Command was but a concept, brought to life by innovative, motivated and dedicated Soldiers, our Civilian workforce, and with support from our Families. Sixteen months later, in the midst of our Army's transformation, we stand strong serving more than 17, 000 Soldiers and their Families, geographically dispersed within the western half of the United States and growing. Be proud and thank you... HOOAH!!!

As important to our mission is remembering the sacrifices of our Fallen Warriors, Wounded Warriors, Warriors and our Civilian workforce still in the fight, and their Families. So take a moment just for them, and remember. Thank you.

Over the course of these publications, and as I serve as your Senior Noncommissioned Officer of our organization, I intend to use this forum as a sounding block to focus on HOT topics that impact YOU and those

around you. Let's open with the CARs "Reshaping the Force" initiative. Just what is it?

In mid 2010, Lt. Gen. Jack C Stultz, Chief, Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, began discussing in various forums and venues the Army Reserve's strategy to "Reshape the Force" to meet an Operational Army Reserve. Simply put, with the allocated resourcing, Leadership is held accountable to reshape our future Army with the right Soldiers, in the right places, with the right training and equipment.

The direction was clear and basic. Start with our senior ranks. Determine their relevance and if they no longer meet the requirements, provide one of five courses of action: (1) Reassignment to a valid vacancy which the Sol-

dier is qualified (not double slotted), (2) MOS/AOC reclassification (with some exceptions to policy), (3) reassignment to an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) vacancy, (4) transfer into the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), (5) or discharge. Though the individual Soldier may elect to choose the applicable course of action, the actions may also be initiated involuntarily.

Commanders and Senior Noncommissioned

Officers will have to understand what impact "Reshaping the Force" strategy will have on their authorized strength.

This forward thinking strategy involves more than just "checking the box". It involves a total spectrum cultural change to our approach on how we do business within our commands, a change from the legacy Army Reserve.

Some examples of these changes are the practice of double or triple slotting Soldier's against a specific paragraph and line number

on the Unit Manning Roster. With very little exception, this will not be authorized.

Also, the placement of Soldiers above or below the authorized rank or grade on the Unit Manning Roster can no longer be a fanciful move. It will require the command team to consider the impact their decision will have on the upward mobility of Soldiers and specifically future promotions. Leaders will have to ensure scheduling and strict enforcement of Soldiers attending their Primary Military Education requirements. This is a must to remain competitive.

Bottom line, command teams need to take complete responsibility for the balance of the total work force, to include our TPUs, AGRs, and Civilian employees.

"It involves a total spectrum cultural change to our approach on how we do business within our commands, a change from the legacy Army Reserve"

“...are you postured for success?”

So Soldiers, where do you fit in this picture, and are you postured for success? Are you MOS/AOC qualified? Do you have your Primary Military Educational requirements? If not are you scheduled? Are you positioned in the correct grade? APFT/weapons qualified? Medically and physically prepared for future missions? Do you meet Army standards? If you answered “no” in any of the areas, you’ll have lost the competitive edge to be part of our future Army. Your goal is to ensure you meet the Army Standards. Our goal is to ensure you have a balanced, successful and meaningful career with the Army Reserve. Leaders take ownership and make a difference.

To understand the total spectrum of our future Army Reserve and the impact to you, your Family and your Employers, I encourage each of you to find time to read “Army Reserve 2020 Vision and Strategy,” by Lt. Gen. Jack C Stultz, Chief, Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command. The report is referenced on page 27 and can be found on the USAR web site, www.usar.army.mil.

Soldiers, as I close out, know that our Army, Leaders, Families, employers and communities have invested their trust and confidence in your commitment to being that Citizen Soldier. Whether you’re in uniform or not, stand tall when you’re out there. Know too how proud I am to serve along each and every one of you. Stay focused and be safe...HOOAH!!!

As stated - this is a sounding board. If you have a topic you would like to discuss, you can e-mail me at: 79th_Soundingboard@usar.army.mil. I encourage and look forward to your comments.

CSM
PMA!!!

**PMA stands for Positive Mental Attitude, an acronym I have used to sign off for more than 25 years. It is a personal motto “borrowed” from a solid mentor of yesterday. PMA is an attitude that paves the way forward, no matter the challenge and regardless of gender, religious belief, or ethnicity...HOOAH!!!*

CREED OF THE NCO

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as “the Backbone of the Army.” I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit or personal safety.

Competence is my watch-word. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind – accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a noncommissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

ESTABLISHING MOBILIZATION PREDICTABILITY WITHIN THE 79TH

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS C.L. BEAL, 79TH SSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Q&A WITH THE 79TH SSC READINESS OFFICER

The Army is out of balance. Demand for Forces continues to exceed the sustainable supply. Consequently, Soldiers are deploying far more frequently and with less predictability than the Army can sustain over the long haul. To provide a sustained flow of trained and ready forces at a tempo that our All-Volunteer Force can sustain, the Army Reserve adopted a rotational deployment model called Army Force Generation in 2005.

The 79th Sustainment Support Command assumed command and control of the 4th, 311th, and 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Commands on Oct. 1, 2010, with a vision to provide trained, ready, cohesive, well-led Sustainment units for world-wide deployment to meet the U.S. Army's rotational and contingency mission requirements in support of the National Military Strategy.

This vision provides the 79th an azimuth to guide its units successfully through ARFORGEN.

Maj. Aaron R. Rodgers Sr., 79th SSC Readiness Officer explains the 79th's role, ARFORGEN, and deployment predictability.

FIRST, WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE 79TH SSC IN TERMS OF PREPARING UNITS FOR MOBILIZATION?

The 79th SSC is the integration and coordination piece of the mobilization process for our down trace units. We essentially direct traffic, and validate mobilization requirements. Provide personnel, training, and logistics support to Mobilizing units within the 79th SSC.

WHAT IS ARFORGEN?

ARFORGEN is a rotational readiness model and process that cycles units through three force pools: reset, train/ready and available. The force pools are available at varying time intervals, based on their readiness levels.

WHAT DOES ARFORGEN DO?

The ARFORGEN process increases predictability for Soldiers, families, employers and communities. It allows the Army Reserve to remain an integral element of the operational Force, while providing the Nation with the strategic depth and operational flexibility to meet unexpected contingencies. That's because every deploying Army unit can expect to cycle through ARFORGEN on a regularly scheduled basis with an assured time spent deployed followed by assured time spent not deployed.

WHAT SHOULD SOLDIERS ASSUME THERE TIME DEPLOYED VERSUS TIME NOT DEPLOYED BE?

Soldiers should expect a dwell ratio of four-to-one, meaning one year deployed to four years not deployed - but there are anomalies to this.

WHAT ARE COMMON "ANOMALIES" THAT PREVENT PREDICTABILITY OF DEPLOYMENTS?

Most common are units in a 99 status. These units are constantly available for deployment because of critical shortages. These usually include smaller units with very specific capabilities.

The below graph illustrates the ARFORGEN model. A unit begins at RESET immediately upon return from mobilization. Each TRAIN/READY phase includes its own training requirements. It is important to note that a unit in TRAIN/READY 3 is available for deployment.



RESET
FORCES RETURNING FROM
DEPLOYMENT

TRAIN/READY 1
FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL
TRAINING TASKS

TRAIN/READY 2
FOCUS ON PLATOON
TRAINING TASKS

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS HAVE YOU SEEN IN THE PAST YEAR?

The military, as a whole, has become much better at communication and providing assistance to Soldiers and the families through events like Yellow Ribbon, and Strong Bonds. These events are insightful and they provide tremendous resources for both deploying and redeployed Soldiers and families.

ARE THERE ANY ISSUES WITH ARFORGEN?

Yes, it has challenges, one to note is the "one size fits all concept." It does not always provide the same amount of assured time spent not deployed. However at the time of this article, the Army Reserve has just released Army Regulation 525-29: Army Force Generation. This regulation will erase some previous vagueness that has been prevalent in ARFORGEN and can be viewed at http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/r525_29.pdf.

IS PREDICTABILITY FOR DEPLOYMENTS INCREASING OR DECREASING?

We are getting better at giving predictability to units. Some prove more challenging than others. Larger units like Combat Support Battalions, Support Brigades, and Expeditionary Support Commands typically have more predictable deployment cycles. Small units with specific mission capabilities tend to come up on the radar with far less warning.

WHAT TRENDS ARE YOU SEEING IN DEPLOYMENT OF RESERVE UNITS?

Right now we see a decrease in the number of units deploying - but the types of specialty units deployed has expanded.

ARE THINGS BETTER NOW THAN YEAR AGO IN TERMS OF MOBILIZATION PREDICTABILITY?

Yes. Communication has increased significantly between the Army Reserve, National Guard and Army. This increased communication has helped tremendously in terms of mobilization planning and projection.

Also, we now have an end date to the Iraqi campaign. This will allow for longer dwell times for our Army units.

HOW CAN SOLDIERS BETTER UNDERSTAND WHEN THEY MAY DEPLOY?

It is critical that Soldiers know what their UIC (Unit Identification Code) is and where their unit is in the ARFORGEN cycle. This is the best way a soldier can prepare family, friends, and employers.

Educate yourself more on ARFORGEN by reviewing Army Regulation 525-29: Army Force Generation, which can be viewed at http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/r525_29.pdf.

ARFORGEN EXPLAINED

Army Force Generation, better known as ARFORGEN, is a rotational readiness model and process that cycles units through three force pools: reset, train/ready and available.

The force pools are available at varying time intervals based on their readiness levels and provide operational and strategic depth.

The ARFORGEN process increases predictability for Soldiers, families, employers and communities.

It allows the Army's Reserve component to remain an integral element of the operational Force, while providing the Nation with the strategic depth and operational flexibility to meet unexpected contingencies.

That's because every deploying Army unit can expect to cycle through ARFORGEN on a regularly scheduled basis with an assured time spent deployed followed by assured time spent not deployed.

TRAIN/READY 3
FOCUS ON COMPANY
TRAINING TASKS

AVAILABLE
FORCES PREPARED FOR
DEPLOYMENT



JOURNEY TO THE TOP



4TH ESC NAMES TOP SOLDIER, NCO OF THE YEAR

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Robert R. Ramon, 4th ESC Public Affairs Office

The 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command named its Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year after the week-long 2011 4th ESC Best Warrior Competition came to a close at Camp Bullis, Texas March 4.

Spc. John Diaz, from the 647th Regional Support Group in El Paso, Texas was named 2011 Soldier of the Year while Sgt. Ananda Trul-

ley, from the 164th Quartermaster Group in Broken Arrow, Okla. was named 2011 NCO of the Year.

"It's been a tremendous experience," said Trulley. "I've never been a part of something like this."

The competition allowed each competitor to showcase his basic Soldiers skills while competing against other top Soldiers within the 4th ESC.

They're all "the cream of the crop," said Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Williams, 4th ESC command sergeant major. "They're the leaders of tomorrow and are all winners just by being here."

The competition included events such as a Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills assessment, board appearance, written essay, Army Physical Fitness Test and a 12-mile road march.

"It was fast and furious," said Sgt. 1st Class Elias Gonzalez, the 2011 4th ESC BWC NCO in charge. "It takes a lot of resilience and each must be very well rounded."

2011 USARC BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

JUNE 19-24, 2011
FORT MCCOY, WI



In the early morning darkness, Soldiers prepare to make their way through the land navigation course during the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command 2011 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Bullis, Texas Mar. 1.

The winners will represent the 4th ESC as each advances to the 79th Sustainment Support Command Best Warrior Competition. The ultimate goal is to compete against the best of the best within the Army later this year.

"This is the beginning of the competition that goes all the way to the Department of the Army," said Brig. Gen. Les Carroll, 4th ESC commander. "We haven't got time to accept mediocrity."

Mediocrity was nowhere to be seen throughout the competition according to Trulley.

"My fellow competitors are definitely fighters," said Trulley. "They were picked to compete for a reason and I can tell that they're definitely a step above your average Soldier."

The general consensus among those involved in the competition, from the cadre to the competitors, is that preparation is the key to success.

"It's not only physical but it's very mentally challenging as well," said Master Sgt. Jose Caraballo, a BWC evaluator from the 4th ESC logistics office. "It takes a well-prepared Soldier just to come here and compete."

Carroll reminded the participants that the BWC is about more than the spirit of competitiveness.

"Whether you're going to the next level or not, the real thing is you can take it back and you can teach what you've learned from your experience here," said Carroll to the competitors.

"This is serious; it's not just competition," he continued. "Go after excellence because it could someday save your buddy's life." 



FAMILIES IN THE FIGHT

FACES OF THE ARMY RESERVE VOLUNTEER

STORY BY SHERRY RALLIS, 79TH SSC COMMUNITY OUTREACH ASSISTANT

Association of the United States Army and Family Programs Staff in Southern California partnered to recognize the "Face of the Volunteer" during the 2010 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz and Maj. Gen. Paul Mock (RET) honored Family Programs Volunteers with words of inspiration and presented AUSA Certificates of Appreciation and Army Reserve Family Programs Awards at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony. Biola University hosted the event in La Mirada, Calif. The University's Rosemead School of Psychology also received an award of recognition for mental health research on reintegration provided by Soldier-Graduates who collaborated at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Some of the new faces became registered volunteers only weeks prior, and some veteran volunteers came with many years of service. The hours of service the volunteers recorded ranged from 50 hours to 3000 hours.

These volunteers hail from many different personal perspectives and relationships to Soldiers. They include Army parents, spouses, children, and veterans who all serve as volunteers to support Soldiers, as well as their units.

These volunteers all started just like you, as someone who loves their Soldier and hopes to find a way to stay connected, while making a positive difference. They soon became a valued strength for the Army Reserve Family, while developing personally and professionally, and building friendships that will last forever. They are more eager than ever to embrace new volunteers who uphold the same esprit de corps and family-focus that has made our FRG so successful.

Jacque Patton is an Army mom of a deployed Reserve Soldier with the 63rd Regional Support Command. She is a certified Army Community Services instructor and master trainer. She has more than 1100 hours of serving Soldiers and families at Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program



Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, gathers with Family Program Volunteers who were recognized and awarded during the 2010 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony held in La Mirada, Calif.

For more information on Family Programs please visit www.arfp.org

courses on communication, making marriage deployment-ready, and stress reduction.

Destiny Brooks is a teenage Army Reserve daughter who serves as an FRG Volunteer for her dad's unit in the 311th Expeditionary Support Command. During her dad's two deployments in the last five years, she connected with Army life by taking Army Family Team Building classes. In 2010 she became our youngest Army Community Services Certified Instructor, inspiring many attendees who were surprised to learn of her young age after she led several out-briefs during the weekend training.

In contrast to our teen volunteer, Linda Crisp is a Soldier's mom who has volunteered in FRG meetings, unit support, care packages and ceremonies for more than 20 years. Her efforts began before formalized funding and structured support for many programs existed, and before Destiny was born.

Generational diversity is a very strong asset to the Army Reserve FRG. John Blehm is a Vietnam/Korea Army Veteran Retiree who volunteers with his wife, Karen, as Military Ministry volunteers, ACS Master Trainers, and dedicated instructors for YRRP and mobilization/de-mobilization ceremonies for the 311th ESC. Together, John and Karen reached out to more than 4000 Soldiers and family members last year.

Kelly Bolar is the surviving spouse of a Soldier killed in action with the 155th Quartermaster Detachment, 311th ESC in 2007. She and many other Army Reserve spouses

represent today's military family in bringing our priorities and concerns to the forefront of local and national discussion. It is not only our our Soldiers that sacrifice every day, but also our children and marriages, which must weather many storms to keep our Soldier, our Army and our Nation strong.

To keep up this fight, your FRG and your Soldier's unit need you, to speak as the voice of the Army Reserve family and to represent the face of all whom sacrifice today. Many volunteers started by attending a Family Programs event and meeting someone who inspired them to see the bigger picture of the Army Reserve Family. Others took the initiative on their own to contact their unit Family Programs Office.

If you would like additional information on how to become involved, visit www.arfp.org or contact one of your Family Programs Staff points of contact listed below to get connected.

Whether you have 5 hours, 50 hours or 500 hours to give this year, your support will benefit your Army Reserve household, your Soldier's unit, and the entire Army Reserve family.

Commanders and Family Programs Staff can also nominate individual FRG volunteers for these and other awards during ARFP Volunteer Appreciation Week, scheduled for 24-30 April 2011, and the AUSA Volunteer Appreciation Awards Luncheon scheduled to be held in Long Beach, Calif. on 3 June 2011. 

Contact your local Family Programs Staff for more information and ways to become involved:

79th SSC:

COA: Sherry Rallis 562.795.2721 sherry.rallis@usar.army.mil

4th ESC:

COA: Amelia M. Harris 210.221.4014 amelia.m.harris@usar.army.mil

FRSA: Carla Anderson 972.343.4292 carla.a.anderson@usar.army.mil

YRRP OIC: Maj. Louis Woodson 210.221.3711 louis.woodson@usar.army.mil

311th ESC:

FPC: Theresa Olson 310.235.4129 theresa.olson@usar.army.mil

COA: Lauren Duncan 310.235.4223 lauren.duncan@usar.army.mil

YRRP NCOIC: Master Sgt. Catherine Sherman 310.235.4232 catherine.dubosesher@usar.army.mil

364th ESC:

YRRP POC: Maj. Belinda Martin 206.301.2137 belinda.martin@usar.army.mil

Bishop Johnson 206.301.2231 bishop.johnson@usar.army.mil



FAMILIES IN THE FIGHT

ONLINE ARMY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Army Reserve Family Programs, www.ARFP.org, is one of your best information portals available for family programs and resources to include mobilization and deployment support, counseling, homecoming and reunion information, and financial readiness



Connect with families in your unit and keep in touch during deployments



Virtual Family Readiness Groups

The primary objective of the Virtual Family Readiness Group (vFRG) website is to empower Soldiers, their families and extended families, who are experiencing frequent and long deployments, and enable them to become more knowledgeable and self-reliant.

[Get Connected Online!](#)

New to the Military? Become Acquainted with Military Life



Army Family Team Building Training Courses

Army Family Team Building is an educational training program. The primary objective is to improve the overall readiness of the force by teaching and promoting personal and family readiness. This is achieved through standardized, progressive and sequential education to family members.

[Start Training Online Now!](#)

Take an extensive course on mobilization preparation



Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a conference created to prepare Soldiers and Families for mobilization, sustain Families during mobilization, and reintegrate Soldiers with their Families, communities, and employers upon redeployment or REFRAD.

[Sign up for an Event Today!](#)

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY • ONE TEAM

Take an extensive course in strengthening couples relationships



Strong Bonds

Strong Bonds events are unit-based, chaplain-led conferences which assists commanders in building individual resiliency by strengthening the Army Family. The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier and Family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

[Sign up for an Event Today!](#)

Learn to deal with deployments and homecomings



Deployment and Homecoming Briefs

Getting prepared for deployment is a very busy and stressful time for Families. The mobilization briefing can add to this stress. Therefore, the Army Reserve Family Programs office is now offering Family Mobilization Briefings online and via teleconference.

[Start Training Online Now!](#)

Report issues and problems encountered in military life to Army leadership



Army Family Action Plan

AFAP is an Army-wide program to improve Army quality of life. Through AFAP, we provide a forum for you to voice concerns to Army leadership and make recommendations for change. All members of the Army, including Active, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers, family members, retirees, surviving spouses, DA Civilians, and military technicians are free to report issues.

[Make Your Voice Heard Now!](#)

Find programs and events connecting military youth



Child, Youth, and School Services

Make a difference in the lives of Army Reserve youth! Adults and children can get involved locally in programs with our partner organizations. Also, free Summer Camps help develop valuable leadership skills, and help shape a positive future for Army youth.

[Get Involved or Sign up for Youth Summer Camp!](#)

Receive direct and immediate help with issues that come up in military life



Warrior and Family Assistance Center

The Warrior and Family Assistance Center was formed to help all members of the Army Reserve Community work through the challenges of military life. You can call or email the team members for assistance to many of these challenges we all face.

[Call or Email for Immediate Assistance!](#)

REPEAL OF DON'T ASK - DON'T TELL

TEAM,

The official repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell will occur 60 Days after the President of the United States (POTUS), Secretary of Defense, and the Chief Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that the Services are prepared to implement it. In the coming months each of you will receive training from your Chain of Command on the repeal of DADT, its effect on Department of Defense policies, and how these changes may affect you, your organization, and the military community.

When repealed, statements about sexual orientation or acts of homosexual conduct will no longer be a bar to military service. Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual orientation is no longer a disqualifying factor for entering the military or grounds for administrative separation. However, some things have not changed.

The Defense of Marriage Act still prohibits same-sex partners of military members from claiming status as a dependent. As a result dependent medical coverage, dependent-rate Basic Allowance for Housing, and dependent-based travel, transportation and separation allowances are not authorized to a Soldier in a relationship with a same-sex partner. Nor will Survivor Benefit Plan annuities be paid to any non-dependent when death of the Soldier occurs on active duty.

Certain benefits, such as Service members' Group Life Insurance, and Thrift Savings Program are open to any named beneficiary regardless of relationship. Soldiers will continue to be eligible for world-wide assignment without consideration of sexual orientation. Soldiers assigned to duty, or otherwise serving, in countries in which homosexual conduct is prohibited will abide by the guidance provided to them by their local commanders.

Sexual misconduct, regardless of sexual orienta-

tion, that violates a service standard, rule, regulation, policy or law, is still subject to administrative or legal action, to include possible discharge. The Army's sexual harassment policy is found in AR 600-20, and the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell has no impact on existing policy. The classes protected from unlawful discrimination; race, color, religion, gender, and national origin; remain unchanged. DoD and the Army will not make sexual orientation a protected class. Despite this, the Army expressly prohibits sexual orientation from being a factor in accession, promotion, or other personnel decision-making. Individual merit should be the only factor in those decisions.

Service in the military makes it necessary at times for you to accept living and working conditions characterized by little or no privacy. Examples of areas with limited privacy may include: showers; dressing areas; and billeting. The Army will not establish quarters assignment regulations or policies that segregate Soldiers according to sexual orientation. However, commanders retain the authority to alter billeting assignments on an individualized, case-by-case basis, in the interest of maintaining morale, good order, and discipline, consistent with performance of the mission. All applicable male/female segregation requirements remain in effect.

The bottom line is that all Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians are responsible for upholding and maintaining the high standards of the U.S. Army at all times and in all places. As Military Professionals, we must never forget that our Army Values guides our personal conduct, defining who we are, what we do, and what we stand for. Harassment, bullying or victimizing of any kind will not be tolerated.

PROVIDED BY THE 79TH SSC INSPECTOR GENERAL



WELCOME HOME WARRIOR CITIZENS

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS C.L. BEAL, 79TH SSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers of the 326th Financial Management Center were honored in front of family, friends and employers during a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen ceremony at the General George S. Patton U.S. Army Reserve Center in Bell, Calif., March 13.

The Soldiers of the 326th Financial Management Center recently returned from a year-long deployment in support of Operations in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. During their deployment, they provided technical oversight of all theater financial management operations, established theater policies and enforced regulations and guidelines.

The Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen ceremony is a Soldier-recognition program that was established in December 2004 to thank Reserve Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The program was signed into law by President George W. Bush to ensure that Reserve Soldiers receive tangible recognition for their combat and non-combat service.

"The Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Ceremony gives us an opportunity to bring all the Soldiers and family members back together and thank them both for their service and sacrifices," said Col. Arthur Turnier, Director of the 326th FMC during its deployment.

"It also helps soldiers know that in the Army Reserve they are part of a larger family than they might think. It lets a new soldier know that they are not just a finance specialist by themselves – they are part of a family that will take care of and appreciate them," explained Turnier.

This recognition is invaluable said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Capps, Command Sergeant Major of the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

"The problem we face as Reserve Soldiers is that we usually don't get recognized by the local communities when we come back from deployments. These events give our soldiers and families that recognition and show them thanks for their sacrifices," said Capps.

Maj. Gen. William D. Frink Jr., Commanding General of the 79th Sustainment Support Command, and guest speaker of the event, said it was an honor to welcome home the Warrior Citizens and recognize them for the successful mission they carried out in answer to their nation's call.

"The 326th truly brought the brainpower and skills needed, when our country needed it," said Frink. "We are all honored and blessed that the men and women standing before us today volunteered to serve our nation."

During the ceremony, Frink individually thanked and presented the Soldiers and their families with tokens of appreciation. They included a U.S. Flag in a wooden case with their name engraved on the front, a commemorative Warrior Citizen coin, a lapel pin set for the soldier and family members, and a Warrior Citizen wel-

come home flag.

"These are good and positive things, and I think they mean a lot to the Soldiers and Families who receive them," said Capps. "It's much better than in the old days when they would just give us a pen that didn't work."

Staff Sgt. Roberto Cuellar, a financial management analyst in the 326th FMC, said he wished they would have had these kinds of events the first time he deployed.

"I think they are a big help in making soldiers feel appreciated for what they have done," said Cuellar. "The Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Events really do make a difference." 

*"The Welcome Home
Warrior Citizen
Ceremony gives us an
opportunity to bring
all the Soldiers and
family members back
together and thank
them both for their
service and sacrifices."*

**Col. Arthur Turnier,
Director of the 326th FMC
during its deployment**

For more information on the Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award, as well as other available awards for Army Reserve Soldiers, visit: www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/Reserve/Soldiers/soldierservices/pay/awards.htm



UPDATED FM 7-0 GOES HI-TECH

STORY BY CAPT. KALEN ARREOLA, 79TH SSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As we head into the eighth year since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom I in 2003, during Army Transition, much of our operations have adapted to our ongoing mission requirements, so it makes sense that our policies and procedures are evolving as well.

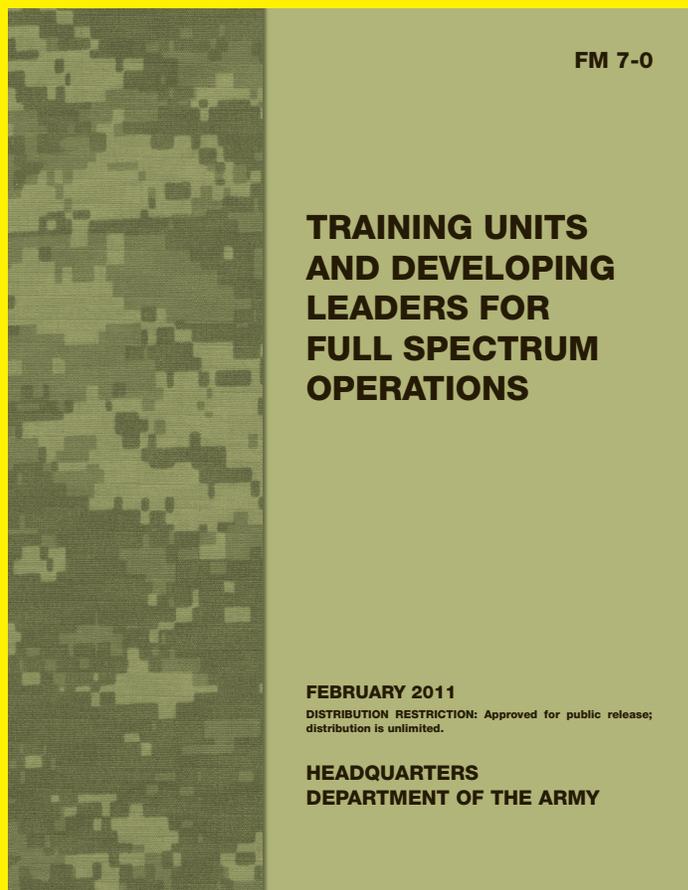
The Army's Combined Arms Center-Training's Collective Training Directorate has released the newest version of Field Manual 7-0: Training Units and Developing Leaders for Full Spectrum Operations (FSOs) – and has taken the document into the technological age.

The new manual is designed to support the recently updated FM 3-0: Operations field manual, and is a shorter, 38-page document that is now supplemented by a new online portal. Not only can you read through the paper copy of the field manual, you can log into Army Knowledge Online and access the Army Training Network portal to access videos, documents, best practices, and other valuable resources.

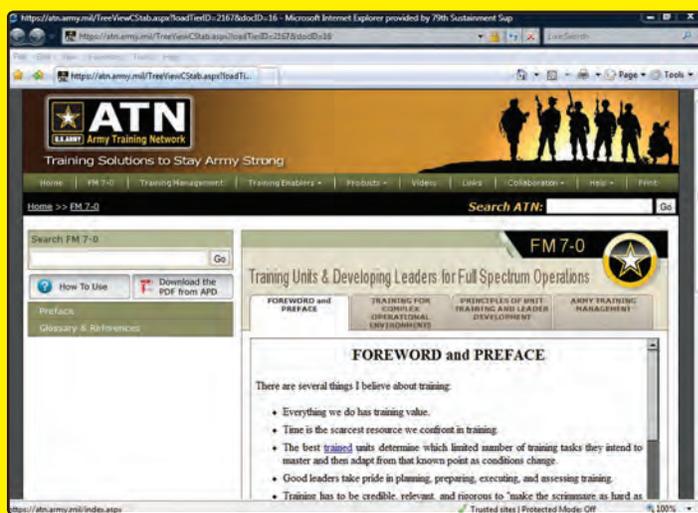
Some of the most significant changes in FM 7-0 include replacing Core Mission Essential Task Lists and Directed Mission Essential Task Lists with FSO METLs. The new manual also emphasizes the need for commanders to collaborate on overseeing unit training, as well as explaining the Training Management Process as an intellectual process that should focus on the mission command concept, versus a step-by-step process to training that exists today.

The online portal also enhances the ability for Soldiers to adapt to changing training requirements and future field manual releases. 

To find out more about the new manual, visit: www.ATN.army.mil



FM 7-0 can be viewed on ATN which provides users with interactive navigation, extensive links, and direct integration with all available Training Management materials



The Army Training Network (www.ATN.army.mil) is a new initiative that brings together the entire training spectrum, and highlights the newest training resources and information available.

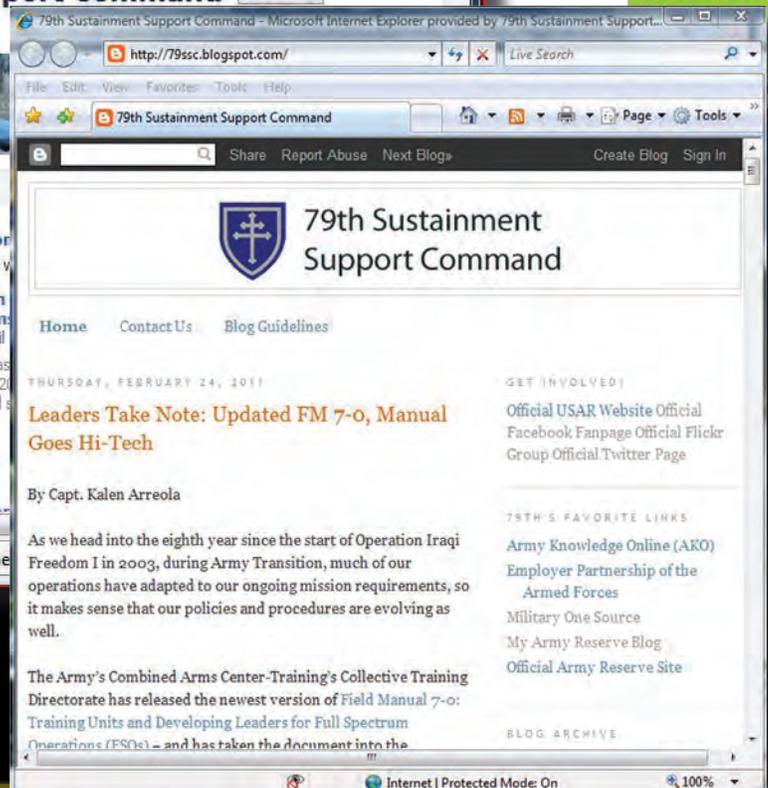
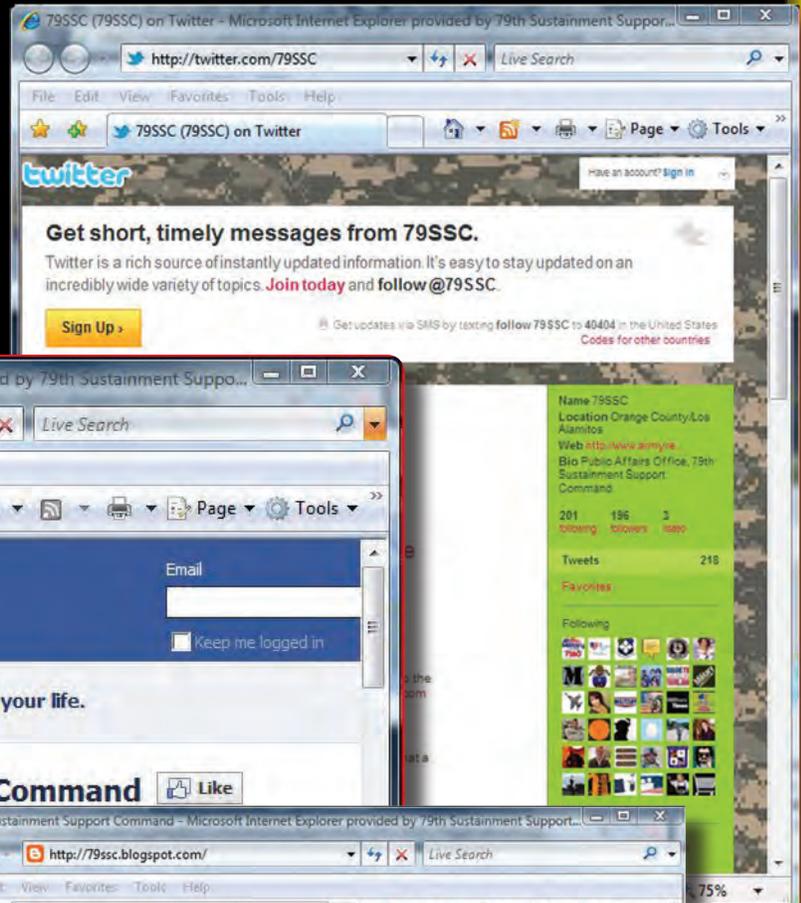
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Get all of your 79th SSC Updates from our social networking sites:

www.facebook.com/79SSC

www.79ssc.blogspot.com/

twitter.com/79SSC



NEW PORTAL LINKS SERVICE MEMBERS, SPOUSES WITH EMPLOYERS

Story by Terri Moon Cronk, American Forces Press Service

Unemployed veterans, wounded warriors, reserve-component service members and their spouses searching for jobs can find one-stop shopping at a Web portal designed just for them.

Operated by the Army Reserve, the military-friendly Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces at www.EmployerPartnership.org lends assistance not only to those looking for a job, but also to public and private employers who are ready to hire former service members and help to support the troops, said Maj. Gen. Keith L. Thurgood, deputy chief of the Army Reserve.

"It's all about connecting supply and demand," Thurgood said.

Employers are attracted to veterans because they are

highly skilled leaders from the finely tuned military atmosphere, the general explained.

"That's the crux of the program," Thurgood said. "It's a mutually beneficial program where the employer gets someone who's drug-free, understands collaboration, [and] can think strategically and act at a tactical level to get the job done."

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a longtime advocate of hiring veterans.

"Veterans bring a maturity. They bring leadership. They bring a life experience," he said last year. "They bring a dedication they may not have had when they were 17, 18 or 19 years old, when they were coming out of high school or in the first couple years of college."

Thurgood said the portal, launched on Veterans Day, is still in its infancy, but already has 7,500 registered users.

"We've got over 1,300 [employers with job openings], including 95 Fortune 500 companies," he said.

While many job websites exist on the Internet,

Thurgood said, veterans should know EmployerPartnership.org offers a personal touch, such as a resume-building feature that translates military language into civilian terms. Deciphering "military speak" is a common concern for human resources people in the corporate world, the general added.

"We take [a military specialty] and translate it into something an HR professional can understand," he said. "That's a very important piece of what we do."

And it's not just about the military, Thurgood said.

"It's about a national program we need to put in place to share this great resource that we call people, because if you look at the unemployment rate,

and the demographic of 18-to-24-year-olds, and then break that down into veterans, it's higher than the national average."

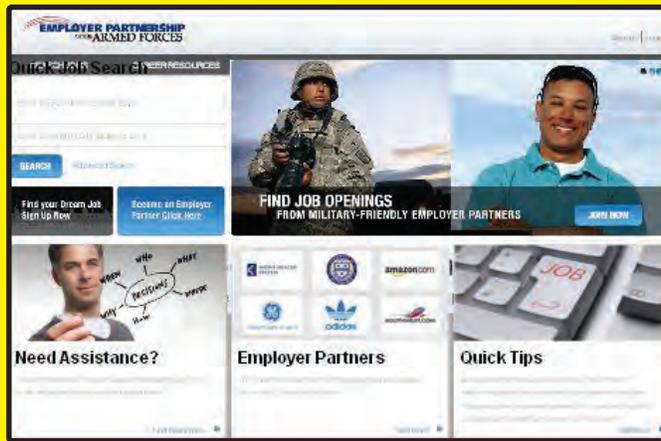
And sometimes, he added, the rate of unemployment among veterans is twice the rate as that among civilians.

"We have the ability to reach out to you personally to help you get your resume right, help you through the interview process, and make the right connections with employers," the general said. "The personal touch is something we provide that nobody else does."

The portal also has advice for veterans who want to start a business, Thurgood noted, offering training that explains how to become a smarter business person and entrepreneur.

"It's free, it's easy, and it's a great way for us to connect the great skill sets that we bring to corporate America," he said. "In my opinion, our great military does two things well: it delivers results and grows leaders. That's exactly what America needs."

Visit the Employer Partnership website at <http://www.employerpartnership.org/>.



This new, state-of-the-art portal helps servicemembers and their families land jobs with employers who value military experience. The site address is: <http://www.employerpartnership.org/>.

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ARMY RESERVE UNVEILS VISION, STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Army Reserve Vision & Strategy

2020

An operational force providing strategic depth in an era of persistent conflict

LTG Jack C. Stultz
Chief, Army Reserve,
and Commanding
General, US Army
Reserve Command
2 February 2011

"This document details my vision for the Army Reserve as an operational force and serves as a broad blueprint for achieving it. The Army Reserve must be an enduring operational force with refined institutional processes, adaptive leadership, and a commitment to meeting the sustained demand for deployments, contingencies, and steady-state security cooperation missions. We must be prepared organizationally, doctrinally, technically, and intellectually. We are committed to providing a trained, cost effective, ready, and relevant source of combat support and combat service support enablers necessary to negotiate tomorrow's uncertain security challenges. Achieving these milestones will require demanding and measurable performance standards. Army Reserve Soldiers, with strong support from Department of Army Civilians, Families, and Employers, will continue to remain a vital part of the enduring operational force, provide strength to the Total Army, and remain a positive investment for America."

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz,
Commanding General of the Army Reserve

Find out more at:

http://www.usar.army.mil/arweb/mission/AR_2020_Vision_and_Strategy/Pages/default.aspx

GET PREPARED NOW: NEW PT TEST IS COMING SOON

Story by Rob McIlvaine, Army News Service

For the first time since 1980, the Army's physical fitness test is being overhauled. It will be replaced by both the Physical Readiness Test and the Army Combat Readiness Test.

Over the next few months, the two tests will be conducted at eight installations as part of a pilot program, where standards will be also developed. The new tests could go Army-wide in October, said Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Initial Military Training, at Fort Monroe, Va.

"Today's PT test does not adequately measure components of strength, endurance, or mobility," Hertling said.

Hertling and Frank Palkoska, director of the Army's Physical Fitness School, began discussing the need for better physical fitness tests while together at West Point's department of physical education in the early 1980s. But it was the progression of sports science that led to development of the new Army Physical Readiness Test and Army Combat Readiness Test.

"We needed to come up with a program for the incoming young Soldiers who were not as focused on health, fitness and nutrition," Hertling said.

The two tests align with the new Army Physical Readiness Training program, outlined in Training Circular 3-22.20, that began Army-wide implementation in August.

The new training involves anaerobic exercise.

Used by athletes to promote strength, speed and power and by body builders to build

muscle mass, anaerobic exercise leads to greater performance in short duration, high-intensity activities.

Aerobic exercise includes lower intensity activities performed for longer periods of time.

The Army, said Hertling, has been on an ebb and flow of physical fitness training for the last 60 to 70 years.

"Every time prior to combat, our fitness regimen and fitness testing is very different to what we do after we've experienced combat. But right after Vietnam, some of the fitness mavens, like Ken Cooper, sold the military on aerobic training. But this isn't necessarily the way we do things in combat," Hertling said.

One of the initial concerns on changing the test, Hertling said, anticipated comments such as, "Why are we changing? It's been good enough for 30 years."

"In fact, just the opposite is happening. Soldiers enjoy a challenge and many have come up to me and said, 'Thank you for fighting for these changes,'" Hertling said.

The old test required completion of three events: two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of

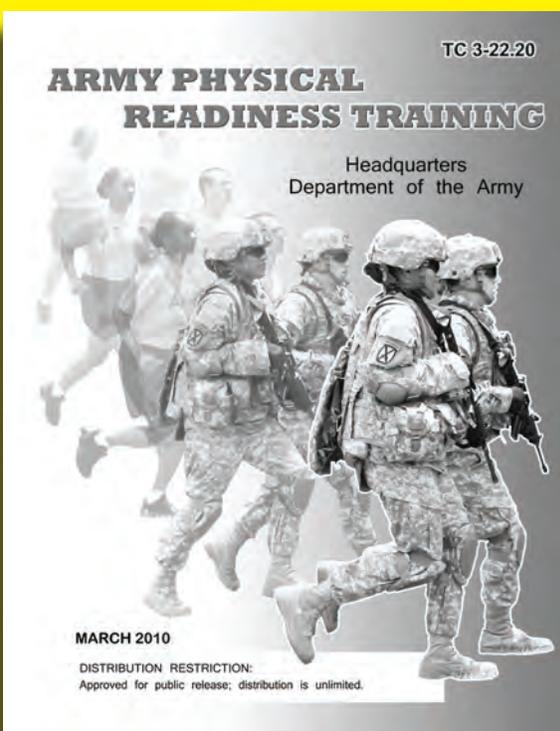
sit-ups and a two-mile run.

The new Army Physical Readiness Test has five events:

- 60-yard shuttle run measures lower body muscular strength and anaerobic power, assessing speed, agility and coordination

- 1-minute rower, a variation of a sit-up, measures total body muscular endurance and assesses total body coordination

- Standing long jump measures lower body



The new tests align with the Army Physical Readiness Training program as outlined in TC 3-22.20. TC 3-22.20 replaced FM 21-20 August 2010 and now serves as the Army's guide for physical training. View your online copy at www.armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_aa/pdf/tc3_22x20.pdf.

muscular strength and assesses lower body power

-1-minute push-up measures upper body muscular endurance and assesses trunk stability

-1.5-mile run measures lower body muscular endurance and aerobic capacity and assesses speed stability

The new Army Combat Readiness Test has five events:

-400-meter run assesses upper body muscular endurance and anaerobic power, coordination, speed, and stability

-Individual movement techniques assess upper and lower body muscular endurance, agility, balance, coordination, speed and stability

-Ammo can shuttle sprint assesses total body muscular strength and endurance, agility, coordination, speed, stability, and power

-Casualty drag assesses total body muscular strength and endurance, agility, coordination, speed, stability, and power

-Agility sprint assesses lower body anaerobic power, speed and power

In order to develop these tests, Hertling asked Palkoska to look both inside and outside the Army for subject-matter experts to help develop a test which is gender neutral and age specific.

Experts on the advisory board include Chip East, professor of physical education at West Point; Neal Bumgartner, program director of Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; and Tim Bockleman, sports medicine coordinator at the Marine Corps' Parris Island.

"Also, we couldn't develop a test that required buying equipment," Hertling said. "All you need is a track and some graders to administer the test."

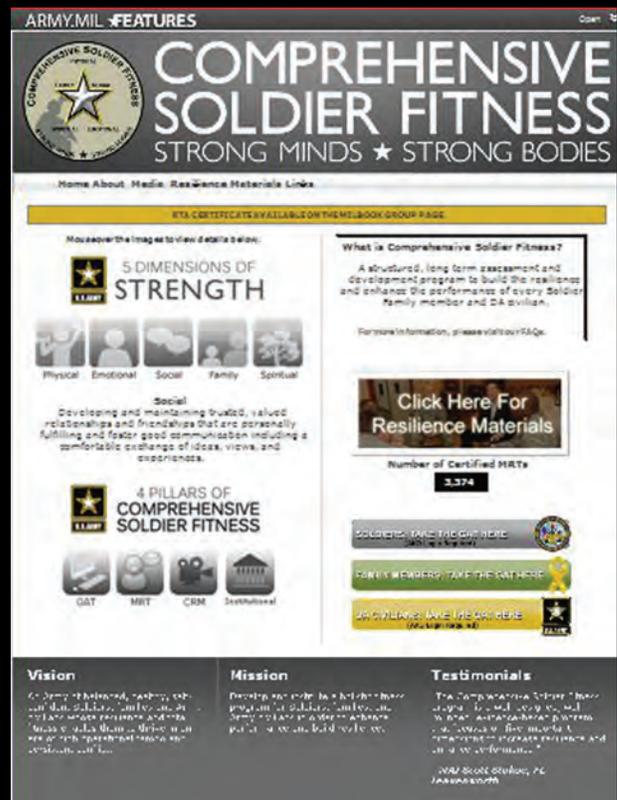
Following the Army Physical Readiness Test portion, participant Danica Foster, an instructor at the Army Physical Fitness School at Fort Jackson, S.C., had only one piece of advice, "get in better shape."

After taking the Army Combat Readiness Test portion, Sgt. 1st Class Cornelius Trammell, also an instructor at the school, had one thought on his mind: "My quads are on fire," he said. "I consider myself in great shape and always do well in distance running, but this was a challenge and made me breathe hard."

"This is what anaerobic training is all about," Hertling said. "It's like a boxer in the first and second round, just like in combat with all the stress and before you can relax and take in oxygen." 

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Visit CSF.army.mil to find out more

CONNECTING WITH KIDS

THE 4TH ESC PARTICIPATES IN LOCAL CAREER FAIR

Story by Capt. Ruth Castro, 4th ESC Public Affairs Officer

Members of the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command met and interacted with approximately 300 eighth-grade students at Christa McAuliffe Middle School on San Antonio's south-west side Feb. 3.

aware of the educational benefits and various careers in the Army.

School social worker Barbara Chandler said it was great opportunity for the students to receive

that there is an ROTC program at their high school campus which provides students with experience that they can utilize which helps them prepare for the future.

The students learned that there are specific requirements that are needed in order to join the military; most students thought that they could join without a high school diploma.

"We had more girls with questions than boys," said Soto. They were happy to know they were treated equally in the Army and that promotions and other opportunities are based on your potential and hard work, not gender."

The Soldiers shared stories and their experiences in the Army. Soto described how even though he grew

up on the west side of San Antonio, he is one example of how the Army creates a variety of opportunity for anyone who works hard and puts their mind to their success in life.

Chandler said that career day was a benefit to the students in that they begin thinking about what is to come in their future. To Soto, this career day proved that kids want to know what the Army does.

He emphasized how in today's society, middle school students need to understand that the Army is not for kids who get in trouble and then try to straighten out.



Sgt. 1st Class Raymundo Soto and Spc. Nokita Moore interact with students while answering their questions about the military during the McAuliffe Middle School career fair.

The 4th ESC was one of 24 organizations to participate in the career day, as students were able to meet with representatives from the Army and Air Force, local colleges and other business professionals.

Sgt. 1st Class Raymundo Soto and Spc. Nokita Moore from the 4th ESC met with students to answer any questions they may have about joining the military. When asked what kind of impact this career day had on the students, Soto said eighth grade students were mostly un-

some direction while they are in middle school.

"Our school is focusing on College Readiness", Chandler said. "Each classroom is responsible for adopting a college and gathering all the information available about the college. This includes everything from the mascot to their location and specialty."

Chandler said that McAuliffe has a high dropout rate and hopes that this will motivate the students to think beyond middle school and high school. She also mentioned



Sgt. 1st Class Raymundo Soto and Spc. Nokita Moore motivate Mcauliffe Middle School students by doing push-ups during their career fair. Students got to experience a slight taste of what they would encounter if they decided to join the military.

It's the choices they make in high school can have an impact on whether or not they can even join the Army," Soto said. "Having a female present and able to professionally answer any questions and having a Latino Soldier who was from the area created a window of opportunity for conversation."

Targeting middle school students is not something that is normally done. Many high schools have career fairs to inform students of their options upon graduation.

Typically, eight grade students get speakers in their classroom to get them thinking about what they could see in their future. Chandler says this is the second year that they hosted a career fair for their middle school and hope that as the years go by, the participation rate will grow. 



Sgt. 1st Class Raymundo Soto and Spc. Nokita Moore interact with students while answering their questions about the military during the Mcauliffe Middle School career fair.

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HAVE YOU HAD A CLOSE CALL?

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND HELP PREVENT A SERIOUS INCIDENT!

BY MR. RICKEY PAYNE, 79TH SSC SAFETY DIRECTOR

In keeping with the concept of always improving our safety posture, the 79th SSC Safety Office is developing a Close Call/Near Miss Reporting Program. In preparing to establish the program, it is important that everyone understand what a Close Call/Near Miss is and what a reporting program can do to improve our total Safety Program.

Background: A close call is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage - but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage. Although human error is commonly an initiating factor, a faulty process or system invariably permits or compounds the harm, and should be the focus of improvement.

Promotion of Safety: Close Call programs improve Environmental, Health and Safety performance through the identification and utilization of accident precursors. By remedying precursors that signal the potential for an accident, accident rates may be reduced.

Close Call Reporting: A Close Call event reporting system includes both mandatory (for incidents with high loss potential) and voluntary reporting by the person who experienced the incident or witnesses a close call event. A key to any Close Call report is the "lesson learned". Close Call reporters are in a position to describe what they observed about the genesis of the event and the factors that prevented loss from occurring.

Mandatory reporting is for incidents that could have resulted in class "A" or "B" accidents (Permanent Total/Partial Disability including Death) and should include all requested personal information.

Voluntary reporting only needs the incident reported, no personal information is required. However, providing personal information may assist in resolving the incident.

Initial/Individual reports by reporters can be made on a locally developed Close Call (Initial/Individual) Report.

A locally developed Close Call Follow-up and Investigation Form should be used by the Safety Office to investigate all Close Call reports.

NEAR MISS PYRAMID



Report your "Close Call" to your local Safety Officer or MR. Rickey Payne at rickey.payne@usar.army.mil.

Send your report to The Falcon staff at 79SSCPAO@usar.army.mil and it could be featured in the next issue.

(Left) The Near Miss Pyramid illustrates statistics showing for every serious injury, there are 10 minor injuries, 30 property damage incidents, and 600 "near misses" where no injury or damage occurs.

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MOTORCYCLISTS

THE ARMY RESERVE WILL PAY FOR YOUR MOTOR CYCLE SAFETY COURSE!

Each Regional Support Command Occupational Safety and Health Office has been directed to manage the motorcycle funding program for all military and civilian elements within their area of operations. Motorcycle training is an Army requirement and commanders are not authorized to waive or defer the training.

Only training received by a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) vendor meets Army standards. MSF certified training is the only type of training that will be paid for by the 63rd RSC OSH office.

Priority for training is the Basic Rider Course, but motorcycle riders may also attend the Basic Riders

Course-2 (formerly known as the Experienced Riders Course) to improve riding skills.

OSH office's cannot reimburse any vendor for training that was not pre-approved. Individuals who pay for training on their own will not be reimbursed.

Training is to be completed "on duty." Soldiers and civilians must complete this training while on a paid-duty status. A Soldier drilling for retirement points is not acceptable. Civilian supervisors have the authority to adjust work schedules to allow for this training to be conducted on duty. No overtime or comp time should be used for this training.

For more information contact your local Safety Officer or visit:

<https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety>

GOT SAFETY QUESTIONS?

Visit the US Army Combat Readiness Safety Center for everything safety. At this site you can get current news, training, tools, statistics and more.

<https://Safety.army.mil>

USERRA

UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

PROVIDED BY THE 79TH SSC STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

What is the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act?

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 was signed into law on October 13, 1994. USERRA clarifies and strengthens the Veterans' Reemployment Rights (VRR) Statute. The Act itself can be found in the United States Code at Chapter 43, Part III, Title 38. USERRA is intended to minimize the disadvantages to an individual that occur when that person needs to be absent from his or her civilian employment to serve in this country's uniformed services. USERRA makes major improvements in protecting servicemember rights and benefits by clarifying the law and improving enforcement mechanisms. It also provides employees with Department of Labor assistance in processing claims. Specifically, USERRA expands the cumulative length of time that an individual may be absent from work for uniformed services duty and retain reemployment rights.

What are the basic re-employment rights when an employee returns following military service?

The employer must promptly reemploy the service member. "Promptly" means within days, not months. Generally the reemployment position should be the one the person would have attained had they remained continuously employed during the period of military service.

Must employers grant leave to employees called up by the Army Reserve?

Yes, an employee must be granted a leave of absence to perform military service.

What is the law that applies to the job rights for Guard and Reserve members being called up for the current national emergency?

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act can be found at title 38, U.S. Code, sections 4301 to 4333.

Does the USERRA apply to part-time employees?

Yes, both part-time and probationary employees are covered by USERRA.

I believe my veterans preference rights may have been violated. Where can I file a complaint?

Preference eligibles who believe their rights under any law or regulation relating to veterans preference have been violated may seek information or file a complaint with the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. Complaints must be filed in writing and within 60 days after the date of the alleged violation. A directory of VETS offices is located at www.dol.gov/dol/vets/public/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm.

“Yes, an employee must be granted a leave of absence to perform military service.”

Does USERRA apply to very small employers?

Yes. USERRA applies to all public and private employers in the United States, regardless of size. It also applies in overseas workplaces that are owned or controlled by U.S. employers.

Where can I go for assistance concerning my employment and reemployment rights as a veteran or member of the Guard or Reserve?

Employment and reemployment rights for veterans and reservists are provided by the USERRA. The Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service administers and enforces USERRA. You should contact your local VETS office for help (www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm). You can receive USERRA information from VETS or file a complaint if you believe your rights have been violated. Another resource for National Guard and Reserve members is the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an organization within the Department of Defense that can provide information and informal mediation services. www.esgr.org.

Does USERRA require that an employee receive pension credit while absent to perform military service?

USERRA applies to a wide range of pension plans including defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Upon reemployment following qualifying military service, an employee must be treated for vesting and benefit accrual purposes as if he or she had been continuously employed. If benefits are tied to employee contributions, the employee must be allowed a specified period of time to make up contributions missed during the period of military service.

I think I didn’t get a job because the employer didn’t want to hire veterans. Is there anything I can do?

Yes. USERRA prohibits all employers from discriminating against any veteran, reservists, or National Guard members because of his or her past, present, or future military obligation. The law also requires that employers provide reemployment rights after a period of active duty or training. If you think your rights have been violated contact your state director of veterans employment or visit www.dol.gov/dol/vets/public/aboutvets.

**Got Questions
for the SJA?**

Chances are you are not the only one with the same question. Speak up and get answers for everyone. Your question could be featured in the next issue of “The Falcon” magazine. Send in your questions to the magazine staff at 79thSSCPAO@usar.army.mil

STORIED PAST OF THE 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION



STORY CAPT. KALEN ARREOLA, 79TH SSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On the night of Sept. 11, 2010, a group of folks – young and old – were on hand to enjoy dinner and dancing in the basement of a run-of-the-mill hotel in Branson, Mo. At the surface, the 11 veterans in attendance were ordinary people enjoying some food, drink and music. If you didn't dig deeper, and start a dialogue with them, you'd never know what sacrifices they've made for the United States during World War II.

It was rather ironic, seeing this particular group of men and wom-

en together on such a historic date, because they themselves were each a chapter of history in their own right.

The lineage of the 79th Infantry Division reaches back to World War I, then covers WWII, was brought back as an ARCOM (Army Reserve Command) and now the 79th Sustainment Support Command, where the unit was formed specifically to go to war, fight and come home. Although an Army Infantry Division, the 79th was a Reserve unit during most of its long history.

There were only a handful of veterans in attendance, as the numbers had dwindled down to 11 from more than 30 participants last year. Some vets couldn't attend because they didn't live close to the financial burden, the reunion's location, and traveling has become difficult for some.

Named the world's "Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw, these men and women make up the remaining Families that endured months and years with no communication, until they returned home,

Soldiers of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 314th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division pose in front of a glass factory near Cheb, Czechoslovakia 1944.



Photo courtesy of Dan Love

often to children they've never met before. Wives and children did their part back in the states while dreaming of the day when they could see their spouses again.

After interviewing each of the vets about their experiences, you could see their youthful perspective in everything they talked about. Many of the Soldiers in the 79th were drafted. The women talked about young love, staying strong and being lonely; the men talked fondly about the funny times, with a glimpse into some of the darker days.

Pauline Briscoe, widow of Earl Allen Briscoe, spoke a lot about how her experiences as an Army wife can relate closely to what women go through today, and she offered some of her own advice. "I think about young people today," she said. "They [young military couples] need the greatest support, but no one blubbering. Couples need to find something to laugh about."

She said the key to her marriage after the war was being strong, letting her husband relieve stress in his own ways, and not crying about

it. They were married for 65 years.

Robert J. Mikulec talked about his time in the service, where he said the weather was one of the biggest threats. "I walked the whole time we were over there," he said. Mikulec recounted the time he was traversing a minefield with his squad and was nearly picked to be the one leading the march, and then they chose someone else. The other guy was killed, while he suffered minor injuries from shrapnel to the face and nose. He calls himself lucky and said

-Storied Past Continued on Page 34-

he was “just trying to get through” the war day by day.

During WWII, explained almost every single veteran in attendance, there were two ways to travel – by foot or by vehicle. Most of the guys who traveled by foot had trench foot, frostbite or hypothermia. They said there was no complaining, but when they had a chance to sleep in a warm house or shelter, they didn’t think twice about doing it.

“My first day in France I was asked to dig a slit trench for an officer. I flat out said ‘no’ because mine wasn’t dug yet,” said Joseph W. Campbell, who was drafted in 1943. He said he had to check his feet regularly to make sure they were not too badly injured. His main job was to lay telephone wire, which required him to traverse dangerous areas to get communications lines established or repair existing lines.

Two of the men at the reunion share a special connection – George Zwahlen and J.J. Whitmeyer deployed together as part of G Company, 314th Infantry Regiment, 79th ID. Whitmeyer was Zwahlen’s company commander during WWII and they shared a lot of stories about their time overseas.

“I met J.J. in 1942, but then I was wounded,” said Zwahlen, who was drafted for WWII. “I’ve never told anyone anything about the war until now.” He said he suffered shrapnel wounds early on in the fighting, and then was sent back into the combat zone after he was treated. He said his time in WWII was rough, and

explaining his experiences was difficult.

“One day I was talking with a buddy during the war and he said, ‘I dreamt last night that I was going to get killed and Lieutenant Kaufman was going to get killed,’”



said Zwahlen. “An hour later I saw him lying in a field. I asked him if I could help him and he said, ‘no I’ve been hit by a sniper and I am filling up with blood.’”

“Anyway, later that day he died. I’ve never said anything – not even to my daughters – about the war. Of course there were good days that I speak about but the others – when you see your buddies and talk to them and the next minute they’re gone.”

On occasion he lit up to tell how he was a bit of a troublemaker and used to write and approve his own

passes to get some time away. He joked that he ended up getting a few court martials – mainly for fraternizing.

Whitmeyer speaks fondly of Zwahlen, and when they interact, the brotherhood is obvious. Whitmeyer – a volunteer in the Army – is still as strong today as he was back then. When he spoke about his time as a commander, he is purposeful and proud. He admits he “went by the book” and read up on every battle drill before being sent into combat.

During his deployment in WWII, he said he had more than 600 replacements – and he still has that bearing a burden on his conscience.

He joked about a time when he was in command and his plan didn’t go as he expected, even though he was very proficient in military movements and tactics. “Once I ordered all my men to charge this area in a bayonet attack,” he said. “My men refused to do it.” After going into the area where he thought German paratroopers were located, he realized there was nothing there.

“If we would have charged the area, we wouldn’t have attacked anyone,” he said with a quick chuckle.

One of his scariest moments was when he was in a pillbox – a German defensive position on the beach – and he said he started getting attacked. At the time, he had no idea that it was friendly fire from a Naval vessel.

Of all the interviews done during the reunion, one of the most

“Well, I was drinking a beer and a German came up to me and broke a beer bottle over my head. When I woke up, General Patton was pinning on my Purple Heart and the war was over.”

-Phillip “Philly Phil” Slack’s tale to his grandchildren when asked how “he” ended the war -

memorable was by Phillip “Philly Phil” Slack. He said his time overseas was pretty good compared to others who had to dig trenches and walk for miles. He said because he was with a mechanized unit, he was always moving out to the next location and trenches weren’t necessary.

His favorite tale to tell was the one he made up for his grandchildren, who ask him how “he” ended the war. He said, “Well, I was drinking a beer and a German came up to me and broke a beer bottle over my head. When I woke up, General Patton was pinning on my Purple Heart and the war was over.”

Although Slack joked about his service, he was an actual Purple Heart recipient, along with most of the veterans there, and when he explains that story, he says, “We were getting fired at and I ducked down

with my hands on my head and shrapnel skimmed over the top of me and one more inch I would’ve been gone. That’s the way it goes, though, my time over there was still pretty good.”

Over the course of the interviews with some of the last 314th’s veterans, it was clear that they have dealt with the same issues today’s vets deal with now, apart from communication with families. Their families went for months with no word, and when they did receive a letter back, so much of the information was blanked out, that they only got to read about five or six words.

These men are a glimpse into the way life was back in the Army before female Soldiers were fully integrated, and how they functioned during heavy deployments. Units – as they are today – were pieced together

with troops from all over the United States and reassembled as casualties were replaced with new Soldiers.

Many were drafted to fight, and the folks back home worked hard to support the men overseas. They talk about how their return from war was bittersweet. They felt happy to see their families and they were well received with large celebrations for all. When the celebrations stopped and families reintegrated, there were issues with depression, post-traumatic stress, and substance abuse.

Although they dealt with all the same post-war issues as we see in our ranks today, the “pull up your bootstraps” mentality is evident. They are strong, grateful and highly patriotic generation of Americans who still understand and appreciate the value of freedom – and the price it has for all of us. 



WWII veterans (From left to right) Edward Elsea, Joseph W. Campbell, Richard C. Yates, Phillip Slack Jr., Robert J. Miculek, Ralph Gonzalez, J.J. Whitmeyer, and George Zwahlen, sit gathered during a 79th Infantry Division reunion Branson, Mo. held Sept. 11, 2010.

The Cross of Lorraine



at Montfaucon

The following is excerpted from "The Cross of Lorraine Division: The Story of the 79th," a small booklet covering the history of the 79th Infantry Division. This booklet is one of the series of G.I. Stories published by the Stars & Stripes in Paris in 1944-1945.

...Montfaucon—the falcon's mountain! The very name bespoke towering peaks and inaccessible heights. From its formidable summit the enemy controlled the entire Meuse-Argonne sector, strategically the most important on the Western Front. There had been no major action in this sector since the German assaults on Verdun in 1916 and the French counterattacks in 1917.

The enemy had used the year of quiet to strengthen his already strong defenses. Preliminary Allied moves against the summit were stopped in their tracks. Then, in the chill, grey light of dawn Sept. 26, 1918, another unit—the untried 79th—moved into the jump-off spot.

Under the cover of thunderous artillery, men of the Cross of Lorraine moved from the deceptively shallow valley of the Meuse against the awesome height of Montfaucon. Inch by inch they slugged their way up the sheer face of the crest, battling with a fresh fury that the enemy had never known. For 30 terrible hours they pushed and fought and bled and died—and they captured Montfaucon.

The German tide from that hour was measured in defeats. Men of the 79th had turned that tide—had kept it turned. From Montfaucon they punched and slashed

and hacked their way through fiercely contested German lines and strongpoints. They captured Nantillois. They stormed Borne du Cornouiller, the famous "Hill 378." On Nov. 9, they enveloped Danvillier, Crepion, Wavrille, Giberoy, Etraye and Moirey. On Nov. 10 they occupied Hills 328 and 329.

On Nov. 11, under cover of dense fog, they were inching slowly but inexorably up the western slopes of the final German stronghold in the sector when the order came to cease firing. The armistice had been signed.

Division Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Kuhn said simply that "they have done the impossible." And, indeed, they had. Short on training, long on fighting spirit, they had wrested overwhelming victory from the cream of the Kaiser's warriors. They had gouged a salient into the German lines deeper than at any point on the entire Western Front. They had broken a deadlock in the greatest human conflict the world had ever known.

This was the magnificent heritage of the men of the new 79th. This was the fighting spirit, steeped in bloody combat and immortal victory, inherent in the men who landed on Utah Beach on June 14, 1944.