

MG KEITH L. WARE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMPETITION

2013 ENTRY FORM

Entry Type: **Award Type:**

Category:

Ensure category corresponds with entry type (1 Print, 2 Broadcast, or 3 Community Relations)

Entry Title:

Publication/Air Date: **URL:**

Unit POC:

(In the below space provided please include rank, name, branch of service, position title, e-mail address, DSN and commercial phone numbers and commander's name):

GS-12, Timothy L. Hale, U.S. Army,
Editor USARC Double Eagle,
timothy.l.hale.civ@mail.mil,
DSN 670-8149, COMM 910-570-8149,
Col. Beth Britt, Chief, Public Affairs

Command/DRU:

Submitting Unit:

(include unit name and complete verified, official mailing address, DSN and commercial phone number and fax number; please spell out all acronyms)

U.S. Army Reserve Command
4710 Knox Street
Fort Bragg, N.C. 28310
DSN 670-8152, COMM 910-570-8152

Award Should Be Issued To:

(enter an individual's name for individual awards only)

Timothy L. Hale

Gender:

Comments/Significant Contributors:

(list up to five for unit awards only and note gender)

Unit/Duty Section:

USARC Public Affairs Office/Internal Information Branch

Supervisor's Name/Title:

BYRON B. MARTIN, Chief Internal Information, GS-13

Supervisor's Signature:

MARTIN.BYRON.BRADLEY.1085
620874

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
4710 KNOX STREET
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310

AFRC-ARC-PA

08 January 14

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware
Public Affairs Competition, ATTN: SAPA-OPD, Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310

SUBJECT: Nomination for Mr. Timothy L. Hale for 2013 Moss-Holland Civilian Print Journalist of the Year

1. As the senior photojournalist and graphic designer for the U.S. Army Reserve Command, Timothy L. Hale has consistently demonstrated his vast knowledge of print journalism, performing well beyond the standard, and leading the way in all areas of Army Command Information.
2. In 2013, Mr. Hale produced 49 bylined news, feature, and sports articles for the USARC Double Eagle monthly online publication and more than 500 high-quality images. He also served as editor of the Double Eagle, producing 12 monthly issues plus he single-handedly produced a special section on Sequestration that included financial and personnel information. He also lead a team of seven 46 series print journalists in producing a 38-page Army Reserve Best Warrior commemorative special section highlighting the accomplishments of this year's Best Warrior candidates.
3. Over the past year, Mr. Hale's articles and images have appeared in multiple military publications to include The Paraglide, Soldiers, NCO Journal, Defenselink, Army.mil, Army Times, Homeland Security Today, and Time.com. Many of his stories and images have been distributed by DVIDS to hometown media outlets and achieved national exposure to include a story of a boy suffering from neuroblastoma, a joint venture between garrison public works and Army Reserve aviation to spot wasted light energy on Fort Bragg, and breaking down the barriers to communication in suicide prevention. His tongue-in-cheek columns highlight his observations about life at the USARC ranging from email migration to preventing your cell phone from burning up in your car in the heat of North Carolina summers.
4. Mr. Hale is one of the best photojournalists (civilian or military) in the Army Reserve. Over the past seven years, his images have garnered him awards from both the Army and Department of Defense. He is continually sought out by other Army Reserve public affairs professionals to assist them with their own command information programs. A consummate professional, he has conducted individual and group training at both the headquarters and on location at other units. Mr. Hale truly wants every public affairs professional to have the same knowledge and experience he has in order to best tell the Army Reserve story.

AFRC-ARC-PA

SUBJECT: Nomination for Mr. Timothy L. Hale for 2013 Moss-Holland Civilian Print Journalist of the Year

5. As a testament to his leadership and knowledge, Mr. Hale developed a monthly online photo contest for Army Reserve 46 series, GS-1035 series, and UPAR/DPAR Soldiers and civilians. The contest is modeled after civilian contests such as the National Press Photographers Association. Judging is done through the members of the Army Reserve Public Affairs Facebook group. Other than the captions, the contest entrants remain anonymous until the judging is completed. It's a not a popularity contest among the photographers but a skills-oriented competition that provides valuable and constructive feedback to each entrant thereby allowing them the opportunity to learn and improve month-to-month.

6. Mr. Hale takes great pride in his work and consistently executes the Army Reserve command information program to keep the American public informed of the mission their Citizen-Soldier sons and daughters. He constantly strives to make his stories and images the best and he keeps the Double Eagle on the cutting edge of current online publication trends. His passion for excellence is boundless and his solid work ethic is one that every Army Reserve public affairs professional should emulate. Mr. Hale's work brings credit to himself and the U.S. Army Reserve Command and he certainly deserves to be selected as the 2013 Moss-Holland Civilian Journalist of the Year.



T. BETH BRITT
COL, SC
Chief, Army Reserve Public Affairs

Encls:

- Cat_X_HALE_Moss-Holland_COY_Bio
- Cat_X_HALE_Moss-Holland_COY_Photo
- Cat_G_HALE_News_Smashing the Barriers
- Cat_G_HALE_News_Searching for Ways to Save
- Cat_H_HALE_HumanFeature_Ayden's Way
- Cat_I_HALE_Commentary_Email Migration
- Cat_I_HALE_Commentary_Cell Phone Monsters

Timothy L. Hale, U.S. Army Reserve Command
2013 Moss-Holland Civilian Print Journalist of the Year nominee

Timothy L. Hale, a Department of Defense and two-time Department of the Army prize-winning photojournalist, brings three decades of commercial print and broadcast journalism experience coupled with more than 10 years of public affairs experience to his position as a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Army Reserve Command, headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. Mr. Hale has held this position since November 2007.

As the senior photojournalist, graphic designer, and editor of the USARC Double Eagle monthly online publication, Mr. Hale's military photographic and written work appears regularly in the Fort Bragg Paraglide, the Fayetteville Observer, Army.mil, DefenseLink, NCO Journal, and many other military and civilian enterprise publications.

Hale, 49, has been instrumental in improving both the written and photographic work of the USARC PAO Internal Information Branch. What started as a monthly online publication for USARC Soldiers and civilians in April 2012, the USARC Double Eagle is now distributed to more than 6,000 Army Reserve personnel across the globe through email, the Defense Imagery and Video Distribution System, and Army Reserve social media. He works independently with USARC directorates for content and is frequently sought out by Army Reserve public affairs professionals for advice and counsel on journalism and graphic design matters.

Prior to working in Army Public Affairs starting in March 2002, Mr. Hale accumulated over 30 years of print and broadcast experience in North Florida, South Georgia, and Virginia media outlets. He received his first working press credential before he graduated from high school.

When he isn't on assignment for the Army Reserve, Mr. Hale manages his own freelance career and is exclusively represented by ZUMA Press, the world's largest independent press agency and wire service. His professional sports, news, and travel images have appeared in commercial newspapers, magazines, and websites around the world to include the New York Post, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Christian Science Monitor, US Weekly magazine, Sports Illustrated.com, Rivals.com, Jimmy Kimmel Show, and E! Entertainment Television.

Mr. Hale is a multiple Army journalism competition winner and the 2009 Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award photojournalism winner. His commercial photojournalism and written work has been recognized with awards from the Associated Press, Georgia Press and Virginia Press associations.

An honorably discharged U.S. Air Force veteran, Mr. Hale is a 2003 graduate of the Savannah College of Art & Design, earning a bachelor of fine arts in graphic design, and a 1989 graduate of Gulf Coast Community College, earning an associate's degree in radio/television broadcasting.

Mr. Hale is a Nikon Professional Services certified photojournalist with memberships in the National Press Photographer's Association, North Carolina Press Photographer's Association, and National Association of Photoshop Professionals.

He is married to the former Natalie M. DiNitto of Hinesville, Ga., who retired in 2010 after serving 35 years as a Department of the Army civilian.



U.S. Army Reserve
“WE CARE”
Celebrating Life

“**W**hen they hear of an issue, they cannot hide that issue. They need to make it known. Because we’re talking about a person’s life.”

— JOSE MOJICA

Army Reserve Suicide Prevention Manager




SMASHING

the

BARRIERS

Story and illustration by Timothy L. Hale/Army Reserve Command Public Affairs





Mojica said the Army Reserve is reaching out to local communities to find out what resources are available to assist Soldiers and their Families.

“It’s about getting the communities involved,” he said. “Because, these are Citizen-Soldiers and the community must also engage, but they cannot engage if we don’t reach out to them and commanders are doing exactly that.”

Mojica said it really is about the whole community coming together to help Soldiers and their Families.

In the end, Mojica said “We Care” involves everyone communicating with each other. If Soldiers are uncomfortable going to a commander, there are other outlets where their voices and concerns can be heard. They include chaplains, battle buddies, or even organizations found in local communities.

“When they hear of an issue, they cannot hide that issue. They need to make it known,” Mojica said. “Because we’re talking about a person’s life.”

He said holding on to potentially negative information could result in more people being seriously injured.

“We cannot afford that,” he said. “I’d rather rule on saying something and saving that Soldier’s life and maybe, saving the lives of others, than holding back.

“Ask the right questions to get the right answers. That’s what it’s all about,” he said. ●

“We need to let everyone understand that it’s all about promoting life,” said José Mojica, the Army Reserve Suicide Prevention program manager at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“When we go to the other extreme, that is all a negative,” he said. “We need to get away from that negative and keep it on the positive side.”

The biggest obstacle has been and continues to be the stigma associated with seeking help, Mojica said.

“To tell you that the stigma does not exist is incorrect; it’s out there,” he said. “We’re trying to get the message out ... that it’s OK to ask for help; it’s not a sign of weakness. As a matter of fact, it should be looked at as being strong, as being courageous to ask for help.”

Despite what many Soldiers may think, Mojica said that commanders are willing to listen and help.

“Commanders are approachable. Do not get intimidated,” he said. “They want to help, they are engaged, but they can’t help if you don’t tell them you need help.”

Mojica said that he and Army Reserve leaders are getting the word out through suicide prevention program managers, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, to let Soldiers, Families, and Army civilians know “it’s not going to hurt anyone’s career if you come out to ask for help.”

He said commanders want to be involved and are willing to “roll up their sleeves” to help Soldiers. However, the geographic dispersion of Army Reserve units and Soldiers serving in those units can be a challenge when they only see Soldiers one weekend a month.

In the first eight weeks of 2013, the Army Reserve suffered the loss of 11 Soldiers from its ranks.

Not from combat deaths but from suicide.

While there are no black or white answers as to why Soldiers, Family members, or Army civilians take their own lives, Army Reserve leaders are focusing on celebrating life while encouraging and embracing those who need help.

The Army Reserve “We Care” campaign is challenging every leader, across the force, to engage in this fight for life.

“We Care” is designed to smash communication barriers in order to help Soldiers, their Families, and Army civilians cope with stress, depression, and family struggles.

U.S. Army Reserve “WE CARE” *Celebrating Life*

*Helpful resources for
Soldiers, Families, & Civilians*

- **U.S. Army G-1 Suicide Prevention**
www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide
(Go here to find links for prevention organizations and programs)
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
1-800-273-8255
- **Army Reserve Fort Family Hotline**
1-866-345-8248 or help@fortfamily.org
- **Military One Source**
1-800-342-9647



Army Reserve, Garrison DPW: *Searching for ways to \$AVE*



The cantonment area at Fort Bragg, N.C. is shown in this night aerial image, Feb. 21, 2013. The image shows vehicles in a brightly lit motor pool after normal duty hours.

*Story & photos by Timothy L. Hale
Army Reserve Command Public Affairs*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – In an ongoing effort to save taxpayer dollars, the post’s Directorate of Public Works reached out to Army Reserve aviation for help.

Garrison energy officials here figured the best way to look for wasted energy was to go up – literally.

Partnering with the Army Reserve’s Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, based here at Simmons Army Airfield, a DPW official boarded a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a previously-scheduled night training mission to find the hot spots on post.

The mission to find wasted light energy was in response to a Jan. 23, 2013 memorandum from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment. The memo outlines the way ahead for installations to save energy costs and holds commanders “accountable for energy use in the facilities they occupy.”

Gregory Bean, the garrison DPW director, said this Army-wide effort ties directly into the utility consumption reports his office sends out to organizations on Fort Bragg.

“If you don’t take ownership of your costs, you will never conserve,” Bean said. “If you don’t know what it costs to operate your facility, it’s not real to you. What we’re trying to do is showcase where we are wasting energy ... and encourage you to conserve energy and conserve costs.”

What is the best way to find who is wasting energy?

Fly over an installation at night, take photographs of areas in question, and see who is unnecessarily burning the midnight oil, so to speak.

Thomas Blue, Fort Bragg, DPW, Operations and Maintenance Division, energy manager, said he is looking at “what buildings, what facilities we would have the potential of simply flipping the switch and turning the lights off.”

Blue said that of Bragg’s \$46 million

annual utility bill, lighting facilities accounts for 20 percent. Heating and cooling facilities accounts for 60 percent, while the remaining 20 percent is from “plug loads” that come from items such as computers, copy and fax machines, refrigerators, and coffee pots.

“We did some calculations and estimated that turning 50 percent of the fixtures off in the interiors of buildings ... that would save roughly \$4.5 million a year, and that’s including the barracks,” he said.

The night flight mission demonstrated how the Army Reserve adds value to the existing active component.

“It reinforces the fact that the Army Reserve is a true force multiplier and part of the total Army effort,” said Addison D. (Tad) Davis, IV, U.S. Army Reserve Command command executive officer.

Davis, who served as Fort Bragg garrison commander from 2000-2003, knows it takes commitment to conserve energy on the sprawling 160,000 acre post.



“This night-time mission, focusing on energy usage on an installation that houses active, guard and reserve organizations, personifies our commitment to being a team player,” he said.

Davis said assisting the garrison also “reinforces our commitment to energy security and energy conservation measures. If we



Hedrick Stadium shines bright at the top of this night aerial image at Fort Bragg, N.C., Feb. 21, 2013. In the foreground is the 18th Airborne Corps headquarters.

can help out the installation by assisting them in determining where energy waste is occurring, that’s a benefit that we can all take credit for.”

One stop on the mission included documenting light energy being used at the U.S. Army Forces and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters. Davis said the images “reaffirmed what we’re doing here at this headquarters to reduce energy consumption as part of the overall Bragg effort.”

Looking down on the post from the air gives the DPW staff a “bird’s-eye-view and the access and the perspective we simply couldn’t get from the ground,” Blue said.

“When you’re up in the air at night, it should become much more obvious than driving around down on the ground,” he said.

And there is plenty of ground to cover.

According to Blue, the main cantonment alone is comprised of 33 million square feet of building space. Add in post housing and the square footage jumps to 49 million square feet.

“That’s a lot of buildings because we don’t have many big buildings – Soldiers’ Support, Marshall Hall, and Womack – those are our three biggest. Our median size of building is about 4,000 square feet. That’s a lot of buildings,” he said.

Once the images are analyzed, Blue said his team would catalog the areas in question, find out who is in the facilities and what the needs are to have those lights on at night.

“We certainly could not afford to hire somebody to take us up for this. This is an incredible benefit,” Blue said. 🇺🇸



The U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters is shown in this night aerial image at Fort Bragg, N.C., Feb. 21, 2013. The building is equipped with many energy saving measures to include lighting that automatically turns off a majority of the interior lights during overnight hours . The Fort Bragg Directorate of Public Works partnered on an existing mission with the Army Reserve’s Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment to see where light energy was being wasted in an effort to reduce the post’s energy consumption.





Ayden Frail, 5, of San Antonio, and his grandmother, Terri Pena, visited U.S. Army Reserve pilots and crew chiefs at Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment at Simmons Army Airfield at Fort Bragg, N.C., Sept. 18, 2013. Ayden was diagnosed with neuroblastoma last year on Thanksgiving Day and Terri also has terminal cancer. "We're just trying to do things together so they (Family) have a lot of memories," Pena said.



Ayden's WAY

Faith, Family, and Patriotism Fuels Little Boy's Fight for Life

Story & photos by Timothy L. Hale
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – If you had to live your life over again, what would you do differently?

None of us can go back and change the past, and we often long for the “good ol’ days” when in reality, those days are right here in the present.

For five-year-old Ayden Atticus Frail, there is no going back, only looking forward with the wide-eyed excitement that most children his age enjoy.

When you look at him, you would think he’s just like any other little boy. But while his eyes may be bright and blue, they hide the scars of a disease that is wrecking his young body.

Ayden is fighting the battle of his life against a childhood killer – Stage 4 neuroblastoma – a cancer that develops from immature nerve cells found in several areas of the body.

News of his cancer arrived at the home of B.J. and Jennifer Frail last year on Thanksgiving Day. The diagnosis set in motion months of multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, and other

treatments at Children’s Methodist Hospital in San Antonio.

“This is the most freedom he has had nine months,” said Terri Pena, Ayden’s grandmother who accompanied him on the trip from San Antonio.

Like Ayden, Terri is fighting her own battle with cancer with tumors on her lungs and heart. She also has Stage 3 breast cancer. Their conditions have formed a strong bond between them as they spend their remaining days together.

“I am terminal as he is,” Terri said. “We’re just trying to do things together so they (Family) have a lot of memories.”

After more than nine months of treatments, coming to Fort Bragg was a big change for Ayden.

But on this day, Sept. 18, 2013, Ayden was living out one of his dreams – to be an Army helicopter pilot – as a guest of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment, a U.S. Army Reserve unit at Simmons Army Airfield on Fort Bragg.

Dressed in a flight suit just his size, he clambered about a UH-60 Black Hawk as if he were scaling a jungle gym – all under the watchful eyes of family

and U.S. Army Reserve helicopter crew members.

“My most favorite thing about helicopters is they shoot and they fly,” he said.

B.J. said his son has heard discussions about their family’s rich military history, especially during World War II. He said it was only natural for Ayden to sense the pride and honor of what it means to serve in uniform.

“He has a flight suit and a regular U.S. Army uniform he likes to wear,” he said. “Sometimes he goes to the doctor with fatigues on. He doesn’t have a fear of anyone’s thought process.”

His uncle, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tom Baker, a U.S. Army Reserve Command Safety officer, is also a helicopter pilot.

Although, when asked if he’d like to fly with his uncle, Ayden said, “he doesn’t even know how to drive!” bringing laughter from those gathered in the hanger.

Capt. Steven Hayes, Alpha Company commander, said having a young child

See **AYDEN**, Pg. 14



Ayden Frail, 5, of San Antonio, tries on a flight helmet while visiting U.S. Army Reserve pilots and crew chiefs at Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment at Simmons Army Airfield at Fort Bragg, N.C., Sept. 18, 2013. Ayden was diagnosed with neuroblastoma last year on Thanksgiving Day.



Ayden Frail, 5, of San Antonio, center of the front row, visits with U.S. Army Reserve pilots and crew chiefs at Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment at Simmons Army Airfield at Fort Bragg, N.C., Sept. 18, 2013. Ayden was diagnosed with neuroblastoma last year on Thanksgiving Day. He visited the unit because he “really likes helicopters.” Capt. Steve Hayes, Alpha Company commander, said, “Sometimes we get wrapped up in our duties and we forget, and maybe, in a sense, we start feeling sorry for ourselves. Then you realize there is somebody who has it a lot worse than we do. It’s our duty to put life into perspective and honor those and give a smile to somebody less fortunate than we are.”

AYDEN

from Pg. 5

like Ayden visit his unit helps put life in perspective.

“Sometimes we get wrapped up in our duties and we forget, and maybe, in a sense, we start feeling sorry for ourselves,” Hayes said.

“Then we realize there is somebody who has it a lot worse than we do.

“It’s our duty to put life into perspective and honor those and give a smile to somebody less fortunate than we are,” he said.

No one knows how long Ayden has, but one thing is for sure – if he beats his cancer, he wants to be a Soldier when he grows up “because they protect people.”

It’s that sense of protection that seems to drive Ayden in his fight.

“He says that God sent him here to show everyone how to love one another,” she said. “He has brought thousands upon thousands of people, through his Facebook page, together ... for one common cause. We’re all about love and Ayden’s gift is to show love to everyone.

“Ayden is the light of our lives, the sunshine in his smile,” Terri said. “He’s a miracle.”

B.J. said Ayden fully understands what potentially lies ahead if he can’t beat the disease. He said his son calls dealing with cancer “his job and he has to take care of that job” just like his mom and dad take care of their own jobs.

“We use the terms ‘fight’, and ‘ready to go at a moment’s notice’, which is why I think he associates with the military so much,” B.J. said. “It’s endlessly inspirational and I could write a book, but the book is still being written.” 🌈

Follow Ayden’s story on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/AydenAtticusAngels>

WHAT IS NEUROBLASTOMA?

Neuroblastoma is a cancer that develops from immature nerve cells found in several areas of the body. Neuroblastoma most commonly arises in and around the adrenal glands, which have similar origins to nerve cells and sit atop the kidneys. However, neuroblastoma can also develop in other areas of the abdomen and in the chest, neck, and near the spine, where groups of nerve cells exist.

Neuroblastoma most commonly affects children age 5 or younger, though it may rarely occur in older children.

SOURCE: www.mayoclinic.com

Falling in love with migration

By Timothy L. Hale
Editor, USARC Double Eagle

In honor of Valentine's Day, let us examine why we should be falling head over heels in love with - Enterprise Email migration.

E.E., she likes to be called that, came into our lives with much hoopla, fanfare, questions, and yes, like any relationship, some headaches.

"When are you going to finish that project?"

"Not now, I have a migration migraine."

Yes, it was sometimes frustrating and painful but, with any growing relationship there will always be some pain. It is these growing pains that make us stronger.

Kudos to the folks in the U.S. Army Reserve Command G-2/6 for pulling E.E. migration off with only minor discomfort to most of us.

I can only imagine their headaches were much worse than any of ours.

First of all, they set-up a 35-person Tiger team made up of Soldiers and civilians from all of the major commands in the Army Reserve.

Operating out of their own "war room" on the second floor, of the USARC headquarters they fielded phone calls from across the force, trouble-shooting problems for those hundreds, if not thousands of miles away.

When I walked into the room, it looked like something from any Cold War-era movie with technicians huddled around terminals in a darkened room waiting for the ICBM's.

I kept waiting to see Slim Pickens riding the bomb like he did in "Dr. Strangelove" on one of the big monitors on the wall.

What I did see was one team member with TWO phones going at the same time!

Talk about multi-tasking!

The second thing they did to help us all through the migration was their mobile Tiger teams.

These roving bands of tech support folks moved throughout the building, helping poor computer-challenged folks like me with any migration issues.

For me, they were the best thing since sliced bread!

Some of you may be asking, "why did we have to migrate in

Army Reserve Tiger team, computer tech support experts, answer calls during the Enterprise Email migration at the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S Army Reserve Command headquarters, Jan. 13, 2013, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Email accounts for Army Reserve Soldiers, civilians, and government contractors associated with the Army Reserve, changed. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/Army Reserve Command Public Affairs)



the first place?"

A good question and here's the answer.

E.E. will make us more efficient.

It leaves no doubt in your mind, who you are dealing with on the other side of the computer monitor.

Users with Dual Personas (or jobs) (i.e.: Civilian/Military, or Contractor/Military) now have multiple personas. I said personas, not personalities!

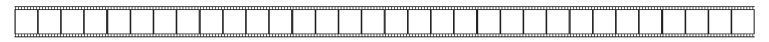
Another advantage is you can find ANYONE in the armed forces, not matter what service they are in.

The other fun thing about it, if you have a common name like John Smith or Sally Jones, now you know how many others are out there because you have a number after your name.

OK, maybe not so funny. The point is, it gives you a quick look at whether your conversing with a service member, civilian, or contractor.

Which leads me to ask, "why hasn't someone thought of this before?"

It doesn't matter because E.E. is here and we should all embrace the love.



Timothy L. Hale, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is an award-winning photojournalist and editor of the USARC Double Eagle. A member of a number of professional organizations to include Nikon Professional Services, he also owns a photojournalism and graphic design service and freelances for an international photo wire service. The views expressed in this column are expressly his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the Department of the Army, and/or the Department of Defense. 🇺🇸





Beware of cell phone monsters

By Timothy L. Hale
Editor, USARC Double Eagle

It appears that warmer temperatures have finally arrived here in the Sand Hills of North Carolina.

Many of us who leave our personal cell phones in cars should know that heat does strange things to them.

I am no expert, but there are some steps you should take so you won't find a molten blob of plastic and circuits waiting to devour you in your car at the end of the day.

Most cell phone manufacturers post optimum operating temperatures on their product websites.

Based on multiple internet searches – because you can *believe everything* on the internet – the standard operating temperatures for cell phones seem to be between about -5 degrees to between 110 and 120 degrees.

If that's the case, anything above 120 degrees must surely turn them into flesh-eating machines.

Keeping Your Cool

But seriously, what is one to do when the heat is on and there sits your cell phone waiting for you to come out to the car and turn on the air conditioner?

Short of cracking your windows – and using the internet as a guide – here are some possible solutions to beat the heat.

■ Leave it at home. Now, maybe not the most practicable solution. Heaven forbid you break down on the Manchester autobahn or some other road on the way to or from work.

I suppose one could work out a some sort of signal or code such as, “if you haven't heard from me at least one hour after I should be at work or home, send out a search party.

■ Store it in a cooler.

No, seriously! There are TONS of websites purporting to keeping your cell phone in a small cooler or a small cooler bag.

Some of these websites even suggest putting a small bag of the blue ice or a zipper bag of ice cubes in the cooler.

That said, other websites said leave the cold packs alone because you're only asking for problems with condensation



which leads to a completely different set of problems, and we all know how well water and electronics play together.

■ Leave it under a seat.

According to one website, if your phone is as low as possible to the ground, the heat there will rise to the upper levels of the car and out your cracked windows, thereby saving your phone.

Maybe storing the phone in a cooler under the seat is the best option.

The Choice is Yours

All this being said, the most common consensus among websites, message boards, and bloggers was this – don't leave it in your car!

But if you do, here were some more nuggets of internet wisdom:

■ Tint your windows, if they are not already

tinted;

■ Invest in one of those windshield sun shades with the silver reflective material and not one with some cutesy-pie image or slogan on it;

■ Keep it out of the glove box or center console;

■ DO NOT leave it plugged into the car charger while you are inside.

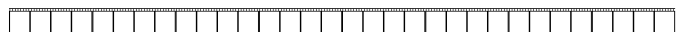
One blogger even suggested keeping your phone in the ventilated seat pocket behind the front seats.

Unless you want your car to serve as an incubator, turning your cell phone into an gooey blob hell-bent on chewing your face off, the choice is ultimately yours.

Don't say I didn't warn you! 🚗



[CLICK HERE](#) for Double Eagle back issues.



Timothy L. Hale, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is an award-winning photojournalist and editor of the USARC Double Eagle. A member of a number of professional organizations to include Nikon Professional Services, he also owns a photojournalism and graphic design service and freelances for an international photo wire service. The views expressed in this column are expressly his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the Department of the Army, and/or the Department of Defense.