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Soldiers from the 2nd/85th (TS) demonstrate the observer/controller role in a medical Lane Training exercise.

2nd/85th Hosts Brigade Training Week

Story and photo by Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, Fort McCoy Public Affairs

Brigade Training Week brought together all components of the 2nd Brigade/85th Division (Training Support) at Fort McCoy, WI and provided participants the opportunity to learn new tasks, review ongoing tasks and to share ideas between personnel.

Maj. Karl Wiedemann, 2nd/85th(TS) adjutant, said the training brought the unique mix of 2nd/85th personnel together from Oct. 19-22. The 2nd/85th is comprised of active-component, reserve-component, Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Reserve and AGR National Guard personnel, as well as Department of the Army Civilians and Military Technicians.

The brigade has its headquarters and two battalions at Fort McCoy, with battalions located at Arden Hills, Minn., and Sheridan, Ill.

"It gave us the opportunity to train the trainer. We're a relatively new organization - just one year old - so it gave us a chance to review where we are now and where we are heading in the future," Wiedemann said.

[\(See ' 2nd/85th', p.6\)](#)



Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs
First U.S. Army Commander

First U.S. Army Commander's Message
"Peace on earth, goodwill toward men"...

Most of us know those words by heart but, for some people, in this world, the words have special significance.

During this holiday season, North Carolina National Guardsmen and other reservists are securing the peace in the Balkans as part of Task Force Eagle.

In Southwest Asia, Florida National Guard aviators fly for peace in Operation Desert Focus.

Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade is training at Ft. Stewart, Ga., for a spring deployment to Bosnia, replaced later by Virginia's 29th Infantry Division, already in the throes of intense planning and preparation.

New York's 27th Infantry Brigade faces grueling tests at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft. Polk, La., next summer.

Training support planning is also intense for exercises in Iceland, Kuwait and Central America.

Future humanitarian support missions promise to focus more on sharpening the tactical edge, adding more value to training.

We may be approaching the end of a year, but as soldiers are aware, perhaps more than others, there can be no end to readiness. Peace will not wait. Children continue to be born who deserve to live in a better, more secure world.

Ask a soldier, active, guardsman or reservist when they return from a deployment, if it was worth it. They will reply a resounding, "YES." They have been a part of creating an environment where the guns have been silenced, and little children are beginning to play again. And laugh again and feel safe again. Who could ask for a better present?

[Return to Main](#)

My heartfelt best wishes to all soldiers and families in First Army's 30-state and territory area. You are magnificent. May your holidays be joyous and peaceful. Pause a moment to remember the soldiers and families who are paying the price through separation to ensure "peace on earth, goodwill toward men" are not merely hollow words, but have true meaning.

Remember to keep safety in the forefront of all you do, especially as you travel the highways. Thank you. 

John M. Riggs, Lt. Gen.
Commanding

34th Infantry Division's Commander is Promoted

Story by Pauline Geraci, PAO, 34th Inf. Div.

General Larry W. Shellito, the new commander of the 34th Infantry Division (Red Bulls), Rosemount, Minnesota, was promoted to Major General on Saturday, November 18th, 2000.

General Shellito, from Alexandria, Minnesota, has served in the Army for more than 32 years, including a tour in Vietnam from 1970-1971. Since 1973, Shellito has been a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard, serving in a number of command and staff positions. In his civilian career, Shellito is President of Alexandria Technical College, Alexandria, Minnesota. 



Photo by Spc. Nichol Schiesser

General Shellito is pinned by his wife Evonne and his daughters Elana and Alissa.



Success - The 76th

SIB's Road to JRTC

By Capt. Jenny Lynn Gruehr, PAO, 3rd/85 Div (TS)

Light infantrymen, like all combat, combat service and combat service support soldiers, prepare their entire careers for the possibility of war. When there is no conflict, soldiers cannot sit idle. They continue to train.

At the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), the Army's premier training site for light infantry and special operations, at Fort Polk, La., soldiers learn to sharpen their combat skills performing in stressful and realistic combat scenarios.

Given the opportunity to test soldiers' abilities to effectively operate appropriately, the JRTC experience lets units know where they stand in combat readiness. Can they perform to standards under the pressure of simulated combat against the best trained opposing force (OPFOR) in the world?

This training provides the most stressful and realistic training opportunity for soldiers without engaging in real combat.

The Indiana Army National Guard's 76th enhanced Infantry Brigade (Separate) or (SIB), the Nighthawks, under the leadership of Brig. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, successfully completed its mission in the May 2000 JRTC Annual Training (AT) Rotation #00-07 in the hot and humid temperatures at Fort Polk.

Active Army and Reserve Component units, such as First Army, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS) home-stationed at Fort Ben Harrison, Ind., assisted the Nighthawks on their "*Road to JRTC*."

Gen. Eric Shinseki, the Army's Chief of Staff, directed the United States Army Reserve (USAR), the Army National Guard (ARNG), and Active Component (AC) units work hand-in-hand together—as a total force. "We are *the* Army," said Shinseki.

Lt. Col. Bill A. Rivera, S-3 for the 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS), said the 3rd Brigade was eager to assist the Nighthawks in their JRTC training.

Rivera stated the Indiana Army National Guard trained for four years before preparing for "their real JRTC battle at Fort Polk."

"The 3rd Brigade was the leading element in providing the 76th SIB with exercise direction, planning, and evaluation. Our soldiers gave resident dedicated training assistance, support and acted as a synchronized headquarters for the three components. Everyone contributed to the 76th SIB's success," said Rivera.

In 1996, the Nighthawks practiced their movement-to-contact skills. In 1997, the units concentrated on attack missions. In 1998, the 3rd Brigade assisted with the 76th SIB's search and attack missions in preparation for the full dress rehearsal at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in 1999.

During the summer 1998 AT, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) certified the Nighthawks for their chance to test their skills at JRTC.

"The 3rd Brigade, or what was once known as the 205th Infantry Brigade, completely supported Gen. Umbarger's training objectives. We stayed in close coordination with the 76th SIB, Military Department of Indiana (MDI), and the 38th Infantry Division, the Cyclones, for four years---beginning to end---from the administrative and logistics portions of the operation to the tactical requirements to conducting the JRTC exercise," said Rivera.

"We really did function as one element and supported Gen. Umbarger's intent and vision," said Rivera.

Rivera said Lt. Col. Dave Simpson, commander of the 1st Battalion, 335 Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS), and his troops provided the observer/controller (OC) coverage during the Nighthawks' exercise. "These soldiers supported all the live fire and lanes training requirements," he said.

[\(See 'Success', p 4\)](#)

(cont.) **‘Success’**

The 2nd Battalion, 335th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS), provided resident training in the areas of command and control, and military decision making. “Most of the 2^d Battalion soldiers performed a myriad of duties from serving as liaison officers to battle captains, or they provided administrative, logistics, maneuver, and field artillery assistance,” said Rivera.

The 2nd Battalion, 338th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS), provided the Civilians on the Battlefield training within villages and in the Cortinian population in the “Land of Cortina.”

The 2nd Battalion, 337th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS) and the 3rd Battalion, 338th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS) provided the combat service and support lanes training. The 3rd Battalion, 411th Logistics Support, 3rd Brigade, 85th Training Division (TS) provided the logistics and maintenance to the 3^d Brigade.

A close working relationship under Forces Command (FORSCOM) AC/RC Divisional Association program also fostered the 76th SIB’s readiness. Maj. Gen. William F. Kernan, then commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), began this AC/RC partnership. Kernan provided staff assistance visits (SAVs), Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) and protected the 76th SIB’s METL from outside training distracters.

That continued under Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark, who validated the 76th SIB for its JRTC rotation. Both commanders, as well as the 101st Airborne Division staff, integrated and welcomed the 76th SIB officers and NCOs into all the functions, including War Fighter Exercises (WFX), Field Training Exercises (FTX), and JRTC ride-alongs. Screaming Eagle training and goodwill assisted the 76th SIB to its *Road to JRTC*.

In the words of a JRTC senior OC, “The 76th SIB has elevated the bar of excellence to new heights never achieved before by National Guard units.”

Further, the Indiana National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Robert J. Mitchell, was intent on the training experience being as close to combat as possible. Mitchell’s philosophy is simple--- troops must be ready to deploy at a moment’s notice, whether they perform in a combat role in the Middle East or in a humanitarian mission at home or in Slovakia or Romania.

Umbarger was pleased with his brigade’s achievement. “We obtained a level of readiness and set a new standard that even we did not think possible. This was validated during our rotation at JRTC when the senior observer/controller stated to me at Endex, ‘I never thought I would see this level of training from a reserve component unit--- not because you are National Guard--- but just the fact that you only have 39 days a year to train, collectively --- what you have accomplished here is remarkable.’ ”

“This exercise was truly a multiple component success that demonstrates Gen. Shinseki’s vision of one Army. Simply stated, if units are properly trained soldiers can experience success on the battlefield,” said Rivera. 

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

The U.S. Army’s Homosexual Conduct Policy Brochure

Copies of the tri-fold brochure are now available for requisition through normal publications resupply channels. Resupply requisitions must be transmitted electronically, using the U.S. Army Publishing Agency’s Internet site at [<http://www.usapa.army.mil>]. The requisitioning nomenclature is “Misc Pub 600-4,” the publication’s identification number (PIN) is “078221-000,” and the unit of issue (UI) is “PK50.” 

Alabama CASA Receives Award

Story by David Meaders, First U.S. Army PA Office

At the recent November breakfast meeting of the Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Mr. Richard F. Allen, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Alabama, was presented the National AUSA Certificate of Exceptional Service Award. This award recognizes Allen's diligent efforts in promoting statewide awareness and involvement regarding the Commemoration of the Korean War. Lieutenant General John M. Riggs, Commanding General, First U.S. Army, nominated him for the award.

Allen has worked with Governor Siegleman and local municipal governments throughout Alabama to establish Korean War Commemorative Communities. The commemorative community program is a nationwide effort to recognize and honor the contributions of those Americans who served their country fifty years ago in the Korean War.

Allen is a strong advocate for honoring and protecting the rights of all veterans. He has visited hospitalized Korean War-era veterans in hospitals throughout the state in order to personally present them with the Korean War Commemorative lapel pin distributed as part of the national program.

In discussing his activities as a CASA, Allen said, "I believe one of the best ways to ensure a positive attitude toward our Nation's armed forces today is by recognizing and honoring the past sacrifices of our veterans. All Americans should be aware of the debt they owe to our fellow citizens in uniform – both past and present."

Allen currently serves as the Deputy Attorney General for Alabama and is a retired Brigadier General in the Army Reserve. He is also a 2000 recipient of the Patrick Henry Award from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) in recognition of his patriotic service to his country and his dedicated efforts in support of its uniformed services.

As a Civilian Aide, Allen serves as the local advisor to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and senior Army commanders whose areas of responsibility involve Alabama. He primarily advises these leaders on how the civilian community perceives the Army and its current activities, and serves as a spokesperson to the civilian community regarding Army missions, programs, and objectives.

Civilian Aides represent each state plus the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They are normally appointed to two-year terms and serve without pay. They participate in training exercises and Army conferences to enhance their awareness and understanding of today's Army. First U.S. Army, with its Headquarters located in the Atlanta metro area, administers the program in the 27 states and three territories east of the Mississippi River and in the Caribbean region on behalf of Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera. 



Photo by David Meaders

Mr. Richard F. Allen, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Alabama, receives the National AUSA Certificate of Exceptional Service Award.

First In Deed Links

To further assist and inform you we have added the following links to important First Army web pages and others.

[First Army Phone Directory](#)

[FORSCOM Home Page](#)

[US Army Home Page](#)

[US Army Reserve Home Page](#)

[-US Army Reserve Command](#)

[National Guard Homepage](#)

[TRICARE](#)

(cont.) **2nd/85th**

The brigade's missions include assisting units with training and helping the units improve their training programs. The 2nd/85th (TS) also has the mission to help prepare units mobilizing and deploying from Fort McCoy. The brigade currently is involved with supporting, evaluating and validating units deploying to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The 2nd/85th (TS) has the on-order mission of Military Support to Civil Authorities, as a Defense Coordinating Element providing coordination assistance between civilian governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Defense assets during a declared disaster or emergency, such as flooding, tornadoes or other natural or man-made disasters.

Col. Rick Fink, the 2nd/85th (TS) commander, said Fort McCoy was an excellent location to hold the training. McCoy is centrally located between the three sites. Personnel at the outlying sites rode in buses to Fort McCoy and watched training videos on the way to the installation to maximize the use of their time.

At Fort McCoy, the personnel received good billeting and dining opportunities as well as good field training opportunities, Fink said. As Reserve sites, neither Arden Hills nor Sheridan can match the total facility and training opportunities available at McCoy.

The training also brought more than 400 personnel to McCoy who used the installation's high-tech facilities, such as the Wisconsin Military Academy and the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, to conduct in-depth classroom training.

Many of the 2nd/85th (TS) personnel took advantage of the opportunities on post to improve their driving skills or to obtain their military licenses. Fink said McCoy offers varied driving terrain opportunities, such as hilly areas off the main roads, which are not available at Arden Hills or Sheridan.

The training also allowed the personnel to share many lessons learned or good ideas among each other, Fink said.

"We go to all the training sites to help them train; we saw different ways to do the same things, so we brought back the best ideas and introduced them to all of the participants," he said.

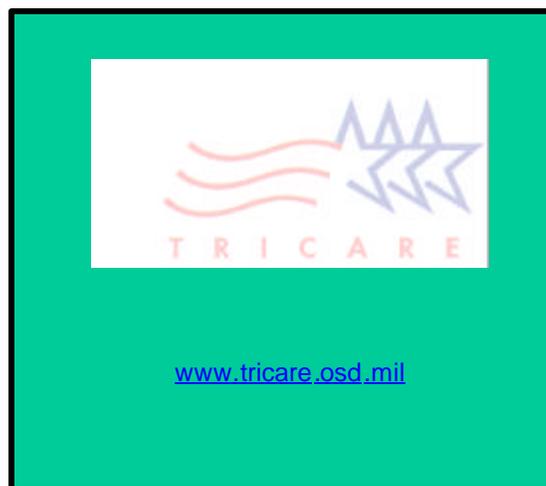
Fink said the training stations allowed the training to be broken down step-by-step so the personnel could see, touch and examine what it looked like at each stage.

For example, a fighting position was shown at various stages of completion, from a hasty fighting position normally constructed in 15 minutes, to the final product that offered cover and concealment from ground troops as well as overhead protection against shrapnel, he said.

The fighting position was one of a number of courses, which included Lanes Training and After-Action Reviews, that were taught in this manner.

"Some of the personnel with 18 to 20 years of service came up to me afterward and said it was the best training they've ever had," Fink said. "It was an excellent way to get training to a lot of folks and a big bang for our buck."

Fink and Wiedemann said the event also included several team and morale building events, such as sports round-robin competitions, and an informal reception and formal dining out at McCoy's. 



DFAS To Field Enhanced Military Pay Information Line (IVRS)

From DFAS Center Indianapolis

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will shortly be fielding an enhanced military pay information line (also known as Interactive Voice Response System or IVRS) for all military services. This article is to inform field commanders of the system fielding, basic information about the system and its enhancements, and provide points of contact (POCs) for more information.

IVRS is a telephonic automated system that soldiers may use to access individual military pay information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without having to visit or contact their local Defense Military Pay Office (DMPO) or Finance Office (FO). The capabilities of the system are as follows:

A. Active duty soldiers may inquire about net pay and direct deposit information, current allotments, current bonds, tax information, and standard leave balance information.

B. Reserve components soldiers may inquire about net pay and direct deposit information, servicemen's group life insurance (SGLI) election information and tax information.

C. Recently separated soldiers may inquire about their final account audit status, final pay information and Form W-2 (tax) information.

D. All soldiers can receive general information regarding the actions to take for the nonreceipt of an allotment, information on bonds in safekeeping, reporting procedures for lost or stolen bonds, and inquiries regarding estimated earnings for the purpose of civilian retirement. Soldiers will also have the option of speaking directly to a bond technician.

Enhancements to the system (over the currently available version of IVRS) are as follows:

A. IVRS will be accessed via a CONUS toll free number (1-888-PAYARMY). The system may also be accessed by calling DSN 699-0665 or commercial (317) 510-0665. Toll free overseas numbers are currently under development with a fielding date to be determined.

B. System information is now updated daily instead of twice monthly.

C. Active Component soldiers (only) may now access information on bonds in safekeeping.

D. Reserve Components soldiers (only) may now access SGLI information. They may now access current and previous payment and direct deposit information (this capability was previously limited to active component soldiers only).

The system can only be accessed with a personal identification number (PIN). Every Active Component and Reserve Components soldier will soon receive a letter containing his or her unique PIN and information about the system.

Every Active Component and Reserve Component soldier will also receive an IVRS information pamphlet. The pamphlets will be distributed to active component soldiers by their servicing DMPO or FO. The pamphlets are being mailed directly to United States Army Reserve (USAR) units and National Guard United States Property and Fiscal Offices (USPFO's) for distribution to Reserve Components soldiers.

Your local servicing DMPO or FO is the POC for additional information on IVRS.

Until the enhanced system is activated, soldiers may continue to use the current IVRS system by calling DSN 699-0299 or commercial (317) 510-0299. The enhanced IVRS system will be activated when the enhanced system PIN letters are mailed and distributed. A message advising of activation of the enhanced system will be posted concurrently on the current system.

The POC is Ms. Lorraine Schrader, DFAS Indianapolis Center, DSN 699-3230 or commercial (317) 510-3230. 



Junior Grade Officer Speaks

Story By MGS Dorothy Young, First U.S. Army PA Office

Recently, articles have been published that point to a mass exodus of junior-grade officers from the military, in particular from the Army. Reasons for leaving have ranged from long and frequent deployments to questionable leadership. A booming economy offering trained former soldiers high salaries and perks hasn't helped the Army hold onto soldiers or recruit new ones.

In an "Army Times" article published earlier this year, active duty majors and captains assigned to the reserves last year were selected for promotion at rates considerably below their contemporaries in regular Army units. This adds to the challenge of keeping these officers on track to remain competitive for promotion with their contemporaries not assigned to reserve units.

Capt. Charles Lewis of the 78th Division, 1st Brigade, 1st Simulation Exercise Group in New Jersey, happens to be one of those active duty captains who works in an Army Reserve unit. He also happens to be happy in his job as the chief air defense artillery trainer for the SEG.

"I'm in a job where I feel I'm giving something back to my country," said Lewis. "I've met a lot of great people both in the officer and enlisted ranks."

During a typical year, the SEG conducts six simulation exercises where National Guard and Reserve units train in an effort to improve their ability to run a tactical command post.

"We train the staff by observing and offering recommendations as they track the current battle using the information sent from the commanders who are engaged in a computerized battle.

"In a typical exercise, dozens of computers are used to provide a realistic battle scenario complete with opposing forces. We typically begin scheduling two years out and periodically meet the units we support prior to the exercise to ensure that the unit is effectively planning for a successful exercise," Lewis said.

Between exercises, the core SEG staff consists of a dozen Active Component soldiers. During weekend drills, both Reserve and active soldiers conduct classes for unit members on the issues relevant to upcoming exercises. "One interesting additional duty I have as a member of the 78th Division is the mission to train soldiers deploying to Kosovo, Macedonia, and Bosnia on media awareness. The classes are held at Fort Benning prior to their departure as part of their Theatre Specific Individual Readiness Training. "The TSIRT training focuses on mine awareness, reaction to snipers and conducting searches of civilian trucks and vehicles. However, dealing with the press is also an important part of any deployment," he said.

During the TSIRT training, Lewis videotapes interviews with selected soldiers and unit members critique the interviews.

"Most soldiers find the interview process more challenging than they expected," he said.

Lewis said he feels his career is on track. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1993 with a degree in international relations. His last assignment was an 18-month stint as an Avenger/Stinger Battery commander as part of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y. As a platoon leader in Hawaii, he deployed to Haiti in 1995 under former First U.S. Army commander, Lt. Gen. George Fisher.

"The Army has been great for me. After being a platoon leader and a battery commander, this particular assignment is a change of pace. The job is rewarding because I can really see the improvement in a unit within a short training period.

"Though I work many weekends because I'm working with the reserves, there is adequate free time as well. I'm currently taking classes at Monmouth University," he said.

For his next assignment, Lewis has been selected to become a foreign area officer for the Middle East and North Africa. His training will include an intensive 16-month course in Arabic at the Defense Language Institute at Monterey, Calif. He'll also receive in-country training in the Middle East and attend graduate school for Middle Eastern studies.

"I look forward to a long career in the military. I love what I'm doing." 

First Army Soldiers in Action

2nd/85th hosts Brigade Training Week



Photo by Lou Ann Mittelstaedt

Wisconsin Military Academy program shows officer candidates what to expect in training.



Photo by Lou Ann Mittelstaedt

Soldiers participating in the 2nd/85th (TS) Brigade Training Week learn how to construct a fighting position according to Army standards.



Photo by Lou Ann Mittelstaedt

A soldier defends a perimeter during a Lane Training demonstration as part of Command Force XXI.



First In Deed is an electronic publication published bi-monthly by the First Army Public Affairs Office. FID encourages submission of articles and photo's with detailed cut-lines. Contact Ms Gayle Johnson at DSN 797-7327 for more information. Deadline for submission for the February edition is 19 January 2001.

Gayle.Johnson@gillem-emh1.army.mil

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Lt. Gen. John Riggs-Commanding General

Lt. Col. Robert Saxon—Chief, Public Affairs

Capt. Michael Sennett-Command Information/Editor

Ms. Gayle Johnson--PAO Assistant

First U.S. Army

Public Affairs Office

4705 N. Wheeler Drive

Forest Park, GA 30050-5000

DSN 797-7327 Comm. (404) 362-7327

Fax DSN 797-3101 Comm. (404) 362-3101