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[Reservist on worldwide tour with All-Army Band](#)

Spc. Kenyetta M. Benson, an Army Reserve truck driver with the 803rd Quartermaster Company, Opelika, Ala., hoped one day to be on top of the world as a professional singer. Little did she realize that she would be traveling the globe singing so early in her career ([See complete story](#))



(Photo courtesy of Paul Adams, 81st RSC, PAO)

Army announces distance-learning program

By Kathy Hoffman
Special to Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, July 11, 2000) –

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera yesterday announced a \$600 million distance-learning initiative to help soldiers complete college "anytime, anyplace, anywhere they can take their laptop."

Caldera called on colleges and universities, Internet companies, hardware and software companies and others to prepare and submit bids to the Army offering technology and extensive curriculum for soldiers.

The resulting program - Army University Access Online - is expected to help soldiers to obtain college degrees or technical certifications through Internet-based courses while they serve using laptop computers and vastly expanded learning opportunities.

"The Army's greatest competition in recruiting and retaining soldiers is not the hot economy but the desire for and availability of higher education to today's young people," said Caldera.

[\(See Army Distance learning\)](#)

Reservist entertains troops on worldwide tour

Story and photo by Paul Adams, 81st RSC, PAO
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – She is no stranger to music. Ever since she was three, or “knee-high to a dove” as she recalls, music has been in her life.

With a grandfather as a recording artist and a mother singing gospel music for the local choir, Spc. Kenyetta (“Kim”) M. Benson, an Army Reserve truck driver with the 803rd Quartermaster Company, Opelika, Ala., hoped one day to be on top of the world as a professional singer. Little did she realize that she would be traveling the globe singing so early in her career.

With her selection this past winter to the elite All-Army Show Band, the USA Express, the 23-year-old Columbus, Ga., native deployed in early April for a one-month tour to the Balkans. The nearly non-stop trip was to include 19 performances in six countries, to an estimated 12,000 troops in less than 30 days.

“I love going places to sing and I am really excited about this tour,” Benson said. Benson is the only reservist in the band.

Singing from place to place was how Benson’s early career got started. She got her big break in 1999 when she saw the Soldier’s Show at Fort Benning, Ga., with her mother and a friend, and afterward handed out her business cards. One card fell into the hands of the show’s non-commissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC), Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Pettermon.

Impressed with her credentials, he told Benson to send in an audition tape. “Sergeant Pettermon soon gave me a call and told me I was accepted into the program,” she said. Impressed with her confidence and enthusiasm, Pettermon brought her into the program right away. The tape arrived later.

Arriving at Fort Belvoir, Va., in late January for six weeks of intense rehearsing under the watchful eyes and ears of music and artistic director Cordell Hall, Benson and her musical co-workers were being prepared for the grueling worldwide tour.

“We had many, many long days starting early in the morning after PT and sometimes rehearsing until midnight doing a number over and over. Mr. Hall would not let us go until we got it right,” Benson said.

“We have built up a good relationship with each other,” Benson says of the group. “Mr. Hall tells us what he wants and we help each other get it done.”

Specialist Laura Whitehead agreed. “Kim is so much fun and is an easy person to work with. She gives me helpful advice and the chills when she sings.”



Secretary Caldera announces Army University Access Online. www.eArmyU.com

(Photo by Roman Grinev, Belvoir Eagle)

Army distance learning (cont.)

Making the announcement at Washington's high-tech Ronald Reagan building, Caldera said the evolutionary distance-learning program will run initially at two or three selected installations to be announced later this summer.

Distance learning is an increasingly popular form of schooling that uses communications technologies to harness the vast array of educational resources available and stimulates the development of life-long learning skills.

The Army has budgeted nearly \$50 million for AUAO and its website, eArmyU.com, in Fiscal Year 2001, with another \$550 million over the next five years. Caldera's goal is to see the program implemented Army-wide.

The potential to reach students is overwhelming at 1 million-plus possible students. The program will be available to all active-duty, Reserve and National Guard members. Soldiers will be provided with such resources as tuition assistance, textbooks, laptops, printers, Internet access, academic counseling, help desk, course offering and a command climate that creates a true life-long learning community.

Expansion of the program could eventually make it available to Army families as well.

Caldera will host an Industry Day Aug. 2, also at the Reagan Building, to seek ways to achieve the plan. A preliminary Request for Proposal will be issued Aug. 11 to prospective industry and education providers. A final Request for Proposal will go out in September, and officials expect a contract to be awarded in December.

“We have specific requirements that need to be met,” Caldera said. “For example, we need to wire barracks and other facilities where soldiers can get easy online access. We also need to provide the optimum technology package to students - equipment that is durable and portable, and ISP service that is reliable and accessible.”

New Horizons 2000

Capt. Teresa Nelson

Joint Task Force Santa Fe, PAO

As the new century rolled in, Army Reservist from the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) and other various RSCs prepared to roll out as Operation Nuevos Horizontes 2000 (New Horizons 2000) geared back up for another year of support and training in El Salvador.

Approximately 100 Army Reservists arrived at the Power Projection Platform at Maxwell Air Force Base to conduct soldier readiness processing (SRP) for deployment to El Salvador.

Units participating included the 469th Medical Company, Wichita, Kan., and the 324th Combat Support Hospital, Perrine, Fla.

The exercise in El Salvador was part of a training operation in Central America for the Army Reserve that involved approximately 2,000 service members from all over the country, many from the Southeast and the U.S. Army Reserve's 81st RSC, including Army National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy and Air Force personnel.

The focus of the training exercise was to provide engineer and medical projects in some of the most devastated areas in El Salvador. The mission also provided the Reservists the opportunity to practice their military skills in a real world scenario and better prepared them for mobilization.

"I'm pretty excited about the operation," said Sgt. Connie Perkins, of the 469th Medical Company. "After 10 years of training at the Joint Readiness Training Center and the National Training Center, it's good to finally do a real-world training mission."

On Saturday, Feb. 5th, the soldiers were up at dawn, and after eating breakfast, loaded their bags onto a flatbed truck and prepared to leave. Colonel Clyde Leavelle, task force commander, briefed the soldiers on the upcoming events. His primary message to the troops was safety.

"We have three code words here at the task force," Leavelle said. "Safety, mission, and unity. My primary concern is that everyone who participates in this exercise comes back safely and with good memories of this mission."

Under the command of Joint Task Force Santa Fe, approximately 2,000 service members from more than 55 units deployed from Maxwell Air Force Base to El Salvador from Feb. 5, 2000, through May 27, 2000. Aside from 40 duration staff members, the service members rotated in two-week increments for their annual training.

Leavelle said the training exercise will focused on three different areas. "The first part was the construction engineer portion," he said.

"The second part was the medical readiness teams and the third part was base camp construction."

In addition to the training aspects of the mission, the exercise had humanitarian benefits as well. Three schools and a medical clinic were built, and six drinking water wells were drilled during the four-month exercise. Fourteen medical readiness teams traveled into devastated areas in El Salvador to provide badly needed medical services.

"The mission showed the positive things the military can do at home and abroad," said Sgt. Jody Blaylock, of the 366th Military Police Company, Stillwater, Okla. "We're getting to see a new part of the world and helping people out."

Numerous combat support and combat service support specialties were necessary for the success of the mission. In addition to engineer and medical units, supply, maintenance, military police, public affairs, water purification, postal, civil affairs and others were deployed to support the effort.



(Photo courtesy of Task Force Santa Fe, PAOI)

"A Bug's Life"

Adam Prestridge

Birmingham, AL

Select members of the 452nd Medical Detachment, Perrine, Fla., Preventive Medicine (PM) and Entomology (ENTO) sections were recently detailed to conduct a sight survey at Comalapa Air Base in support of Operation New Horizons 2000 (NH 2000) in El Salvador.

The mission was in direct support of NH 2000, an 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) initiative. The air base was utilized as a staging area for rotational members of the 324th Combat Support Hospital (CSH), a subordinate unit under the 5th Medical Group, and other service members supporting NH 2000. During their mission health care providers from the 324th CSH and other service members traveled to a base camp in Chaltenango to provide health care services to El Salvadorans.

[\(see "A Bug's Life"\)](#)

“Bug’s Life” (cont.)

The 452nd, commanded by Lt.Col. Jamie E. Marlowe, accomplished its mission by detailing two elements to Comalapa, consisting of Preventive Medicine Specialists (91S) and a vector-borne disease officer, 1st Lt. Alan Hicks.

Master Sergeant James Watson and Sgt. Vincent Knowles of the first element conducted the initial sight survey evaluating the status of field sanitation, soakage pits, harborage areas, the landfill, troop housing, soldier health and welfare and the entomological presence.

“Every entomological hazard is here at Comalapa,” Marlowe said. “The potential for disease and non-battle injuries (DNBIs) exists on a grand scale. Individual and unit field sanitation must be a priority to prevent the spread of disease and harborage of disease vectors within the base area.”

Due to the limited time provided to accomplish the mission, the focus of the first element was to submit recommendations to correct deficiencies through the chain of command. Upon return to Perrine, the first element members were tasked to conduct comprehensive briefings to the second element to establish their priorities of work.

“We spent a significant amount of time reviewing the findings of the first element, so that on return to Comalapa, we could utilize our time in the most efficient manner,” Hicks said. “We knew what we needed to take and to do in order to accomplish our mission.”



(Photo courtesy of Lt. Alan Hicks)

The second element arrived on the ground at Comalapa finding that many of the recommendations initiated by the first element had been completed.

During the daylight hours the element members concentrated on tasks such as constructing soakage pits, landfill relocation, solving troop housing hazards, teaching rotational members about climate consciousness and implemented a grounds maintenance program to cut the wild grass known as zacote, which harbors ticks, snakes and rodents.

Some units may call it quits when the sun goes down, but the 452nd continued on to conduct after hours mosquito surveys and small mammal trappings.

“The improvements made between the first and second deployments allowed us more time to conduct entomological surveys for harmful vectors such as the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the carrier of Dengue Fever,” said Sgt. Miguel Alvares, the NCOIC of the second element.

One of Marlowe’s goals was to cross-train the non-rotational medics with 91S skills.

“I instructed the medics to read the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT), to perform routine pest control and to conduct food service and quarters inspections,” said Spc. Carlos SanInocencio.

The second element returned home with all the soldiers accounted for and in good health. Collaboration between Lt. Col. Zacote Palacios, the Comalapa Air Base commander; Maj. James Gates, task force liaison officer; Capt. Willie Green, commander, 191st Maintenance Company; and the 452nd resulted in major improvements in soldier health and welfare in El Salvador.



MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS

Physicians Assistant program

*HQ’s US Army Medical Command
Office of the Chief of Public Affairs*

The Office of the Army Surgeon General announces the opening of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) to all active component Army commissioned and warrant officers.

The intention of this program expansion is to consider all Army personnel who are interested and qualified for the training.

Applications must reach Army Recruiting Command no later than Aug. 21. The selection board for May and August 2001 IPAP classes convenes Oct. 23.

All active duty officers and warrant officers with a minimum of three years active federal service (AFS) but no more than eight by Jan. 1, 2001 may apply. Waivers may be requested for personnel with eight to ten years AFS as of that date.

Additionally, all applications must include a conditional release from respective PERSCOM branch offices. Selected officers will be re-appointed into the Army Medical Specialist Corps and selected warrant officers will remain in their current rank and MOS until graduation.

More information on eligibility requirements or application procedures may be found at www.goarmy.com/job/amedd/paqual.htm

For additional information contact Lt. Col. Martha Davis, (502) 626-0360 or DSN 536-0360.

Force protection is my priority

by William Cohen

As secretary of defense, I make the welfare, health and safety of men and women in uniform my top priority.

That is why in 1998 I accepted the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to require vaccination of all U.S. military personnel against anthrax, a deadly biological-warfare agent.

In making that decision, I put safety first. I determined that vaccination is the safest, most reliable protection from a potential threat that is nearly always lethal to unprotected individuals.

I also put safety first when I ordered supplemental testing, consistent with Food and Drug Administration standards, to assure sterility, safety, potency and purity of the vaccine.

Although the FDA has licensed anthrax vaccine for use, I wanted to make sure that every dose, whether from the stockpile or new production, met the highest quality and safety standards.

When we began the vaccinations, we had a stockpile of FDA-approved vaccine and one manufacturing facility that couldn't make enough vaccine to meet the military's needs.

BioPort, a new company, took over anthrax vaccine production and began to replace the old plant with a modern facility. That facility cannot begin operations until it meets the high standards set by the FDA. We expect approval later this year.

The military conducted the vaccination program with FDA-approved doses from the stockpile. Now, however, we are running low on doses of stored vaccine that have passed the rigorous supplemental testing that I required.

I again put safety first when I decided to slow the anthrax vaccination program until we can start producing vaccine from a new facility that meets the most stringent FDA standards.

To make the best use of doses that have been certified safe and effective, we will vaccinate only those facing the greatest risk in the high-threat areas of Southwest Asia and Korea — those who are deployed on the ground for 30 days or more.

Vaccinations for those deployed to these high-threat areas for less than 30 days will be deferred.

Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines deploying to high-threat areas ashore for more than 30 days will start the standard FDA protocol of six doses over 18 months, plus annual boosters.

Secretary of Defense
William Cohen



We will discontinue shots for those who leave the high-threat area before the protocol is complete, and we will stop shots for others who have started the protocol but who are no longer in high-threat areas. Units are authorized, however, to use remaining vaccine on hand locally to continue the shot series, if shipment of stocks to the high-threat areas is not feasible.

For those whose next scheduled shot is deferred, we expect to resume the series of shots where it was interrupted, rather than to start it anew — provided that the interruption is of reasonable length. For example, this means that those who have had the first three shots will resume the program with the fourth shot.

The FDA does not object to this approach. Even these first few shots begin to provide a degree of protection.

We will resume the full vaccination program as soon as we have a sufficient supply of safe, effective vaccine. The narrowing of the vaccination program reflects a temporary supply shortage — nothing more.

As BioPort, the sole vaccine supplier, works to achieve FDA certification for its new production facility we will look for a second source of the vaccine to help meet future needs.

Anthrax remains the primary biological-warfare threat to our forces. It is cheap to produce, easy to put into weapons, hard to detect and highly lethal when inhaled by those without protection.

At least 10 countries have or are developing anthrax as a weapon. This is why I added anthrax vaccination to our force-protection program.

In the past two years, about 20 percent of our sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines have begun to receive protection against the deadly anthrax threat, with emphasis on those in the highest-threat areas. There have been very few serious side effects. We will continue to concentrate on protecting troops in the highest-threat areas.

Anthrax vaccinations are as necessary to protect our troops as tetanus shots and helmets. The vaccine has a 30-year record of safe, effective use. We will continue to protect troops on long deployments to high-threat areas, and we will quickly resume the full vaccination program as soon as supplies allow.

Troops deserve this protection, and they will get it.

The Vermont National Guard

[Vermont National Guard](#)

Guard prepares for World Military Ski Championships

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

MONTPELIER, Vt. (Army News Service, July 19, 2000) – About 40 members of the Vermont National Guard are spending this summer preparing for an international athletic event to be held next March when towering Mount Mansfield and the rest of the Green Mountains are expected to be white.

Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, Vermont's adjutant general, will host the 49th World Military Ski Championships that will be sponsored from March 6-11 by the Conseil International du Sport Militaire -- the international military sports alliance commonly called CISM.

This week, the CISM Shooting Championships are being held in Ankara, Turkey. In October, Camp Lejeune, N.C., will host the CISM Wrestling Championships.

The skiing championship in Vermont is projected to attract about 576 world-class athletes, coaches and dignitaries from 8 countries.

CISM sporting events are considered as important for their cultural exchange as for their competition, officials said.

"CISM is endeavoring to substitute the playing field for the battlefield," states the alliance that has been promoting "friendship through sports" since it was formed with five countries in 1948. The United States joined in 1951.

Vermont Air National Guard Maj. Richard Lizzari is the project officer for the Olympic-like skiing event that will be held in Vermont and in this country for the third time.

It will be based at the National Guard's Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho where Vermont already features one of three Internationally licensed biathlon courses in the United States.

That's where the biathlon and cross-country skiing races will take place, explained 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, the Vermont National Guard's public affairs spokesman. Downhill racing will take place at the nearby Stowe Mountain Resort on 4,395-foot Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak.

There is much to do to make ready and to give the 74-year-old, 11,219-acre firing range a facelift that will benefit Vermonters and the National Guard for years to come.

Two-story bathroom facilities are being built for two of the five dormitories where the athletes will be living during their week in Vermont. The three other dorms already have indoor plumbing.

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Walk-in freezers have been installed in the dining hall. A central latrine is being converted into a soldiers' recreation and laundry facility. And two of the open-bay dorms are being partitioned into 29-room units so that all athletes, including an anticipated 85 women, will live alike.

"What you do for one country or participant, you do for all," states a CISM guideline. "You cannot have some teams in a hotel off the base, and the others in barracks, even if they are individual room barracks."

Furthermore, miles of new fiber-optic cable will give participants instant access to results of the races at the different venues.

"The information age is the driving force for much of the renovation," pointed out Army Guard Maj. Tom Zelko II, the training site manager. "We train upwards of 20,000 troops here every year. These changes will make the place a lot better."

There is plenty to do to keep the games diplomatically and culturally correct for the delegations who will represent such diverse nations as Argentina, Canada and Russia and to feed and care for athletic stars from such lands as Austria, France, Germany and Italy.

English and French, for example, are CISM's two official languages. Linguists will be needed for an estimated 70 percent of the participants. People from some countries will have to be housed apart for political considerations. National anthems for the 28 countries will have to be available.

Medical personnel, protocol officers for visiting dignitaries, security people, and volunteers to serve at the airport and to escort the teams must be lined up.

Vermont does have experience in this sort of thing. The state hosted the international ski championships in 1989 and again in 1993. Vermont became the backbone of the U.S. Military Biathlon Program in 1972, and ran the National Guard Bureau's first biathlon championships in 1975.

That event is now held in the Green Mountain State and in Minnesota on alternating years.

Knowing what must be done, therefore, is making the job of preparing the Vermont National Guard's facilities that much easier this summer in the Green Mountains, well before they turn white.

(Editor's note: Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is a staff member of the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs office.)



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UNITED STATES ARMY

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

21 July 2000

Everything we are called upon to do in the Army requires teamwork, and teamwork is built on a foundation of trust and confidence within units - - between soldier and soldier, between leader and led, and between units who see themselves serving side-by-side. That trust and confidence emerges from our daily commitment to our Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Without trust, there can be no dignity and respect for the individual soldier, and cohesion and morale in our units would suffer.

In the Army, we know that, on our most difficult days, our lives may depend upon the ability and the willingness of the person next to us to perform his or her duty. In combat, soldiers fight for each other. They die for each other. And they carry their fallen comrades out on their backs. The essential questions that are asked in evaluating our peers, our subordinates, and our superiors are simple and fundamental: would I be willing to go to war with you? Would I be willing to put my life on the line for you? Would I be willing to die for you? And when the answers are yes, that is a powerful statement of commitment. There is no higher compliment that one soldier can pay to another.

The answers to those questions rest upon the quality of trust in a unit. Trust is the confidence that soldiers have in the willingness and abilities of their fellow soldiers to faithfully do their duty when the time comes. It is about standing and delivering on one's duty to one's fellow soldiers. Teamwork and confidence building are everyday devotions in the Army. We have learned, through some trying times, that those questions are the matters of fundamental importance in building trust soldier-to-soldier. And out of those individual relationships of trust grow the bonds that build unit cohesion. When individual dignity and respect are violated, mutual trust and unit cohesion erode. Harassment of any kind violates individual dignity and tears at the fabric of this trust and the cohesion of our Army. It will not be tolerated for any reason.

Commanders are responsible for the readiness of their units. Quality of trust in a unit directly impacts on that readiness. Commanders will:

- ensure that all soldiers are treated with dignity and respect and that harassment of or threats to soldiers for any reason are not tolerated. Those who engage in, ignore, or condone harassment or threats will be held accountable.
- ensure that the members of their commands are trained to standard on DoD and Army policies of consideration of others, dignity and respect, harassment prevention, and equal opportunity to set the conditions that foster teamwork.
- review distribution plans for authorized grade fills for company and platoon leadership positions and establish priority of fill to these positions to assure sufficient leaders are available to build unit cohesion.
- review policies related to the chain of command's responsibility for barracks life and alcohol consumption and take appropriate action to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- review funding priorities for Well Being initiatives with the intent of identifying those areas that will improve good order and discipline within units.

The Commanding General, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel will review the current policies and training materials for compliance with DoD and Army directives and guidance, in particular the Homosexual Conduct Policy, for adequacy, clarity, and appropriateness of training for different target audiences. Army training will be "audience appropriate," reflecting the varying ranks and levels of responsibility necessary to understand and implement the policies. Training must be designed to provide our soldiers an understanding of how Army policies and values relate to the treatment of others and their responsibilities. Training must enable soldiers and leaders to recognize behaviors that are harassment and understand the available avenues for reporting harassment. Teaching Army values will continue to be incorporated in Consideration of Others Training. The revised training packages will be available on the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel WebPage.

[\(cont.\)](#)

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The Commanding General, TRADOC will also incorporate appropriate training during Initial Entry Training and all leader development courses of instruction. Training must equip our soldiers and leaders with the necessary tools to fulfill their responsibilities. Training will distinguish between inquiries and investigation. It will provide greater clarity on what is credible information. It will provide leaders with the spectrum of responses available to address violations of DoD and Army policies. It will provide guidance on implementation of DoD Homosexual Conduct Policy and what to do when a soldier is suspected of claiming homosexuality solely for the purpose of attaining separation.

The Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) will inspect units and validate the effectiveness of training, and conduct periodic visits to assess whether the training meets the Army's needs and whether soldiers at all levels understand the policies well enough to be able to comply with them. Training effectiveness will be evaluated in three areas: knowledge, behavior and climate. Particular attention will be directed toward determining the extent to which the implementation of the DoD action plan are effective in addressing mistreatment, harassment, and inappropriate comments or gestures. Inspections and evaluation will be continuous.

The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel is developing The Army Well Being Campaign Plan. Issues identified in the DoD and DAIG reports relating to the well being -- medical treatment, after hours recreational activities, on and off post housing, barracks life and underage drinking -- will be specifically addressed as part of the plan. Additionally, DCSPER will develop policies and procedures to reduce the risk to soldiers and the command while protecting individual privacy during the processing of separation actions pursuant to AR 635-200, Enlisted Personnel, and while conducting inquiries and investigations.

All reviews required by this directive will be conducted within 30 days. All actions directed or required at the conclusion of the reviews will be fully implemented within 90 days of the date of this directive.

ERIC K. SHINSEKI
General, United States Army

First U.S. Army Key Personnel Transitions

Deputy Commanding General, First U.S. Army

Incoming - Maj. Gen. Colby M. Broadwater III
(last assignment, DCG, IIIrd Armored Corps and Fort Hood)

Outgoing - Maj. Gen. Allen D. Johnson, reassigned as
Commanding General, U.S. Army Japan

Deputy Commanding General/Assistant Division Commander, 24th Infantry Division

Incoming - Brig. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski (last
assignment Chief, Office of Military Cooperation for
Kuwait, American Embassy, Kuwait)

Outgoing - Brig. Gen. Antonio Taguba reassigned as
Commanding General, Community and Family Support
Center

Deputy Commanding General, First U.S. Army (RC)

Incoming - Brig. Gen. Robert C. Hughes (last
assignment, Commander, 48th Infantry Brigade
(Mechanized)

Outgoing - Maj. Gen. M. John Bowen, Jr. (to retire)

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](#)

[July 2000 Military Pay Scale](#)

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Guard units return to Drum for gunnery

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
HQ's New York National Guard

It's summer in North Country, and once again, the New York National Guard has returned for their annual training. Almost as soon as the 4th of July holiday was over, members of the New York Army National Guard began arriving on post.

Nearly 400 members of the Western New York-based 1st Battalion, 127th Armor Regiment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division and attachments had established residence at Range 23. Tank gunnery and qualifying tank crews through the Army's Tank Table eight were their goals.

When the 1-127th Arm. Regt. is finished with its training, New York's other 3rd Brigade armor unit, the 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry Squadron arrives for their training.

Before July is over, more than 50 four-member tank crews will have fired hundreds of expensive 105mm training rounds and thousands of machine-gun bullets into wooden targets at the post's most modern range, Range 23.

Range 23 opened last year to the delight of tankers and their commanders. To them it's the "Cadillac" of ranges, a veritable master gunner's paradise. The complex includes a fenced motor park and maintenance garage, designated bivouac, ammunition and refueling areas, a large tower with two-floor observation and sophisticated range management suite, and a spacious firing range with reliable pop up and moving targets.

In addition, the range configuration enables two tanks to negotiate the firing course simultaneously. Even though only one tank is allowed to fire upon an engagement at a time while the other crew waits, the overall pace of the training is quick. There was no rushing around; everything was done cautiously and deliberately.

"This is a great range, better than Fort Knox's," said Maj. Keith Wrisley, the 1-127th Arm. Regt. commander. "And, the range support staff are very supportive and helpful," he added. His entire battalion arrived to fire.

Normally, National Guard armor units use an alternating training regimen allowing companies to undergo gunnery training once every two years. Due to difficulties last year at Fort Knox ranges, some of 1-127 Arm. Regt.'s crews couldn't complete gunnery training. Wrigley arranged for those crews to come back to Fort Drum to make up for last year.

"We usually have two companies doing gunnery and the other two companies doing maneuver training in any given year. But last year was not a good gunnery year for Companies B and C because Fort Knox kept having trouble with its range and weather conditions and support staff. They kept shutting down the range on us and it kept us from completing the night phases.

So, I brought those crews back here to (Fort) Drum in a long drill status tacked onto the battalion's annual training period so they could fire and get back into sync," said Wrisley.

"Those crews completed maneuver training in Fort Knox's simulators as planned. Then, they came here to shoot," he said. The battalion's goal is to qualify 33 crews.

"Tank Table VIII has six day time engagements and four night time engagements," said Capt. Dave Dunkle, assistant battalion operations officer. "To qualify, tank crews must obtain satisfactory on at least seven engagements and achieve a combined minimum score of 700 points." Army guidelines authorize two alternate engagements if needed, explained Dunkle.



[42nd Infantry Division homepage](#)

[New York Army National Guard Homepage](#)

Table VIII tests a crew's ability to acquire and engage targets effectively under simulated combat conditions. Each engagement reproduces an expected firing situation a crew could face, and includes engagements from both a fixed defensive position as well as firing on the move at multiple targets.

There are stationary targets and targets which move and even engagements requiring the crew to wear protective masks. Scores are assigned to reflect the crews proficiency in spotting the target, rapidly engaging and hitting it using appropriate crew procedures. To be effective the tank crew, including tank commander, gunner, loader and driver, must work as a team.

"Our biggest challenge is keeping our tanks and optical systems fully operational through a firing run," said Dunkle, who added that New York's M1 Abrams are among the oldest in the Army system. "Just last night we had a tank getting ready to make a run and all of a sudden the thermal sight just went blank and the crew could no longer see anything. Every one of our tanks has some problem with it. It is really tough to try to train this way," he said.

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Brigade of new AC/RC division goes to battle at NTC

FORT IRWIN, Calif. (Army News Service, July 23, 2000) -- The Army's chief of staff praised National Guard soldiers for persevering in the harsh desert and quickly learning the tough lessons of modern war when he visited a brigade of the Army's new active-reserve-integrated 24th Infantry Division at the National Training Center July 22.

"You're to be congratulated for the improvements this brigade has made during this rotation," Gen. Eric Shinseki told Brig. Gen. Earl Brown, a civilian pharmacist and commander of nearly 5,000 citizen-soldiers in the 218th Brigade Combat Team, South Carolina National Guard.

The 218th is one of three Army Guard enhanced maneuver brigades that make up the active Army's recently reactivated 24th Infantry Division based at Fort Riley, Kan. The two other Guard brigades are located in North Carolina and Georgia.

The 24th Infantry Division at Riley and 7th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., both reactivated last year, are the first Army organizations that combine both active-duty and reserve-component soldiers in one military headquarters. The divisions each consist of three Army National Guard enhanced brigades with an active Army headquarters.

For the 218th Brigade Combat Team, the last three weeks in July have been crucial. The soldiers have spent two years preparing for their unit's first full-scale training rotation in southern California.

"Recognizing the situation and making the transition is the art of the business," Shinseki said, encouraging the brigade's bone-weary staff during the afternoon after the Guard troops had taken on the tough opposing home force, the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, for the third morning in six days.

Shinseki has taken every opportunity to tell the Army National Guard and Army Reserve they are full partners in America's Army since becoming chief of staff 13 months ago. He delivered that message to members of the Texas Army Guard's 49th Armored Division last November at Fort Polk, La., as they were preparing for this year's command and control mission in Bosnia.



[To see more photos of the South Carolina NTC rotation click here](#)

His trip to the National Training Center in California reinforced his support for giving the Guard tough, realistic training.

"There is no better way to replicate the fog of war than here at the National Training Center," acknowledged Lt. Col. Greg Batts, commander of South Carolina's 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry, one of the brigade's major units.

The brigade, supported by nearly 2,000 more citizen-soldiers in the Palmetto State Task Force, has already trained in many ways to pull off what is said to be the largest peacetime deployment of National Guard forces in history. More than \$21 million has been budgeted for the entire exercise, South Carolina Guard officials reported.

Although South Carolina has fielded the bulk of the force, citizen-soldiers and airmen from 26 other states are engaged in the cross-country mission that will end on July 30.

More than 1,800 tanks, armored fighting vehicles and other pieces of equipment were hauled from South Carolina to California on railroad cars and trucks. Seven Apache attack helicopters were flown down from Idaho to beef up the brigade's 373-soldier aviation task force. Still other helicopters were flown from the east coast on C-5 cargo planes.

The vast array of ground vehicles were unloaded in Yermo, Calif., and convoyed across the desert to Fort Irwin for two weeks.

[South Carolina National Guard Homepage](#)

It is, however, the citizen-soldiers who are improving the brigade's combat capabilities every day while living the Spartan life of the infantry.

They are sleeping under the Milky Way on cots beside their trucks and tanks. They are eating combat rations and drinking all of the water and Gatorade they can carry. Heated meals in the evening and the tons of ice shipped to the field every day to fill their coolers are among their few luxuries.

"This gives you the chance to escape from the complexities of life and get out here and live very basically. Most people never get the chance to do that," said South Carolina Army Guard Sgt. Steve Legette, 25, a high school physical education teacher and football coach from Charleston.

A handshake and a few words of encouragement from the Army's top soldier on July's final Saturday made it clear to many of the Army Guard soldiers that their long days and nights in the desert are paying off.

(Editor's note: Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is a member of National Guard Bureau Public Affairs and he compiled this report with the help of Sgt. 1st Class Dan Brazell.)



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

" You can fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize it, pulverize it and wipe it clean of life but if you desire to defend it, protect it, and keep it for civilization you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman Legions did, by putting your young men in the mud." T.R. Fehrenbach

We are deep in our annual training cycle - our training support divisions and brigades are superbly providing vital training support to thousands of National Guard and Reserve soldiers in tough training environments from the hot desert of the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif., to the muggy heat of the Joint Readiness Training Center at Ft. Polk, La. At the same time we are readying troops for mobilization to Bosnia and Southwest Asia in an ongoing mission. We could not perform these missions without intense planning and synchronizing from this headquarters down to platoon level.

We stand ready to meet likely disasters, particularly during this hurricane season; again intense planning and training continues in those areas from the top down.

I see the sweat and fatigue on your faces when I visit in the field. I know the hours you give up for your families - all of you, yet despite those conditions, I still see superb teaching, coaching, mentoring and soldiering. I am very impressed with the professionalism I encounter from the leadership and soldiers in the divisions, brigades, battalions, National Guard and Army Reserve units.

Our tempo is not lessening. I don't expect it to. Our strength lies in our ability to change to meet contingencies and maintain our standards. We don't have room in this Army for anyone who cannot do the job. I appreciate your sacrifices and hard work for our Army and nation.

Soldiers with boots on the ground are the unmistakable message of our nation's intent, and it is this command's intent to never send an unprepared soldier into harm's way. We are all partners in this vital endeavor.

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Fort Benning seeks your opinion

The Infantry School Course Feedback Survey is now available on the Fort Benning web site. The purpose of this survey is to obtain feedback from Infantry School graduates and their commanders/supervisors. The Infantry School command, staff and instructors rely on your professional opinion of the effectiveness in producing graduates whose technical, tactical, leadership skills and physical abilities meet the need of the 21st century land warrior. The web address is:

<http://www-benning.army.mil>

or

<http://www-benning.army.mil/ISCsurvey/feedback.htm>

2/87th TSD conducts training conference

by Major James Reddick

2d Brigade 87th (Training Support) Division conducted its first ever training association conference/clustering 18-19 July 2000 in Orlando, Florida. The conference was held at the Orange County Army Reserve Center.

The conference was hosted by the Brigade Commander, Col. Richard B. Waterhouse. Invitee's included: all the Training Support Battalion Commander's and S-3's, S-3 representatives from the FLARNG, PRARNG, VIARNG, 143rd TRANSCOM, 65th RSC, 81st RSC, First U.S. Army, 87th Division, United States Army Reserve Command, 18th Airborne Corps, 82d Airborne Division and the 1st Brigade(Simulation) 87th Division.

The focus of the conference was to present opportunities and ideas on how to "Cluster" Reserve Component units and promote informal "Training Associations" between like Active Component - Reserve Component units. We also took the opportunity to brief our capabilities under the TS XXI implementation plan.

Training Associations and Clustering afford the opportunity for fully integrated Combined Arms Training Exercises. In order for our Army to stay "Ready" to fight and win the next war we must learn to do more with less. Clustering and informal Training Associations are two ways to get more bang for our buck and train our Reserve Forces as they will fight in combat.

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1st Army Soldiers in Action

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Sgt. Randy Knoll, a member of Co. A, 120th Infantry Battalion, North Carolina Army National Guard, of Jacksonville, N.C., passes through a check point at the units base camp at Fort Stewart, Ga., Wednesday, June 7, 2000, during a training exercise as the 120th prepares for a deployment to Bosnia. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Jordan, 382nd MPAD, NCARNG)

Members of Co. B. 252nd Armor Battalion, North Carolina Army National Guard, of Sanford, N.C., march to a blackhawk helicopter at Fort Stewart, Ga., Tuesday, June 6, 2000, to be airlifted to their base camp during a training exercise. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Jordan, 382nd MPAD, NCARNG)



1st Lt. Travis Stone, right, a member of Co. B, 252nd Armor Battalion, North Carolina Army National Guard, of Sanford, N.C., negotiates with mock Bosnia military personal at a weapons storage site as a helicopter gives him aerial support during a training exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., Thursday, June 8, 2000, as the 252nd prepares for a deployment to Bosnia in September. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Jordan, 382nd MPAD, NCARNG)



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Combined Federal Campaign 2000

Visit the CFC website at:
[CFC Website](#)



Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera signs his contribution pledge sheet for the Combined Federal Campaign. Meta Waller, the Army's CFC administrator for the National Capital Region, and Bill Wortley, campaign manager for the Army Secretariat, observe.

The 2000 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will launch its annual campaign for contributions on September 12, 2000.

The CFC mission is to support and to promote philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Fundraising for charitable organizations in the Federal workplace can be traced to the late-1940's. Prior to the 1950's, on-the-job fundraising in the federal workplace was an uncontrolled free-for-all. Agencies, charities, and employees were all ill-used and dissatisfied. As far back as 1948, the then existing Federal Personnel Council attempted to add uniformity and stability to the fundraising effort. However, the Council had no enforcement authority and the departments and agencies continued to follow their own inclinations in the conduct of on-the-job solicitations.

Serious consideration began to be given to both a system of payroll deduction and the possible consolidation of solicitation efforts into a single campaign.

In 1964, the first "combined" campaigns, officially called "Combined Federal Campaigns, or CFC" were conducted as experiments in six cities, consolidating all drives into one. The result was a substantial increase in contributions and a highly favorable response within the federal community: Agency managers were pleased with having to deal only with a once a year effort; federal employees responded with favor to a single solicitation.

Did You Know?

- \$2** A Month Can Remove 100 Pounds of Trash From A Beach.
- \$5** A Month Can Provide Sports Equipment for Fifteen Children at the Local Youth Activity Center.
- \$9** A Month Can Bring Food and Shelter for the Night to Eight Homeless People.
- \$13** A Month Can Bring a Nurse to a Stroke Victim's Home Three Times.
- \$26** A month in a Refugee Camp Can Keep 40 Children Warm With 40 Blankets.

The 1999 Combined Federal Campaign collected a record **\$218** million. A very special thanks to the federal employees who continually prove to be the most generous people in the world. You should be proud of your success. Please give again this year.

KNOW THE BASICS ABOUT TRICARE CLAIMS

Whether you or your provider files a claim for payment of your medical bills under TRICARE, you need to know some basic rules to avoid claims processing problems. Leaders at TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) recognize that simplified claims processing is a key to beneficiary satisfaction with TRICARE, and they continue to implement improvements to claims processing procedures.

TRICARE participating providers are required to file claims for beneficiaries, and providers submit 97 percent of all TRICARE claims. However, if the provider is non-participating, the beneficiary may need to file the claim.

Beneficiaries and providers should submit claims as soon as possible after the delivery of care. They must be filed within one year of the date of service, or within one year of the date of an inpatient discharge. When the beneficiary files a claim, it should be submitted using DD Form 2642 (patient's request for medical payment). Forms are available on the Military Health System/TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/ClaimForms/, or from beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators (BCACs)/health benefits advisers at military treatment facilities, TRICARE regional contractors (or one of their TRICARE service centers), or TRICARE Management Activity, 16401 E. Centretch Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9066. Access to TRICARE contractors' Web sites can be obtained through the TRICARE site.

The beneficiary may also need to include a non-availability statement for inpatient care (obtained from the MTF), an explanation of benefits (EOB), or denial, from other insurance. Claims filed by the beneficiary should include photocopies of fully itemized bills from the provider, showing the cost for each service or supply provided, the patient's name, diagnosis or symptoms, place of service, number/frequency of each service, and date of care. Canceled checks or cash register receipts are not acceptable as itemized bills.

With claims for prescription drugs, the provider or beneficiary must include the pharmacy's billing form, showing the name, strength, amount and cost of each drug, prescription number, date filled, and the name and address of the prescribing doctor and the pharmacy.

A beneficiary who receives the services of a private duty nurse at home or in a hospital, must submit the nurse's daily notes with claims, the name of the doctor who is supervising the care, and prescriptions for medical supplies and durable medical equipment. Claims submitted for someone in the Program for Persons with Disabilities must include a copy of authorization for services, and a list of supplies or equipment received.

Persons filing claims should send copies of receipts. They should include the sponsor's Social Security number on all pieces of correspondence and attachments to claims. They should circle information rather than use a highlighter or marker on documents. Before submitting the claim, they should make sure the correct claim form has been completed, double-check all information for completeness, provide signatures where necessary, and include all necessary documentation listed above.

Beneficiaries and providers must mail claims and the accompanying documentation to the TRICARE contractor for the region where the patient lives. Address for filing claims may be found in the beneficiary handbook or on the TRICARE Web site. Active duty service members stationed overseas, and their families, file claims with Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS).

When all necessary information is submitted with the claim, contractors are required to complete processing within 30 days. When they need additional information, claims processors will call or write to the beneficiary or provider, who must supply the information requested before the claim can be processed. To avoid delays, beneficiaries should keep copies of claims and the originals of all other documents sent to the claims processor or to TRICARE. When providers file claims, beneficiaries should keep copies of providers' bills.

Beneficiaries should verify that their information is correct in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data bank. Beneficiaries can review information in their DEERS file at most offices that issue military identification cards. They may also call DEERS, toll-free, at one of these numbers: 1-800-538-9552 (Continental U.S.), 1-800-334-4162 (California residents only), or 1-800-527-5602 (Alaska and Hawaii residents only) or write to DEERS Support Office, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

Beneficiaries who believe their claims have been incorrectly processed or denied, may refer to instructions for disputing a decision and filing an appeal that appear on the back of every TRICARE explanation of benefits. For more information about filing and appealing claims, beneficiaries can check with a BCAC at an MTF or regional lead agent's office, with a health benefits adviser at the MTF, with a TRICARE service center representative, with the appropriate TRICARE managed care support contractor or with a debt collection assistance officer, if credit or collection issues are involved.

Additional information on TRICARE benefits, claims filing and follow-up may be obtained through the Military Health System/TRICARE Web site at:

www.tricare.osd.mil

Combat Units Deploy for Balkans Peacekeeping Mission

By Major Robert Jones, Public Affairs Officer

In July two units from the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade mobilized and deployed to Fort Stewart to complete their training for Bosnia. Company A, 1st Bn, 120th In from Morehead City and Jacksonville and Company B, 1st Bn, 252 Armor were selected for the mission almost a year ago.

The two units were given send-off ceremonies on 16-17 July at their armories. Company A deployed 90 soldiers and Company B deployed 74 soldiers. The units are the first National Guard heavy combat units to serve in the recovering war torn region.



State Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Walker and Maj. Gen. Rudisill present a N.C. flag to CPT Rob Bruderer (Left), 1st Lt. Matthew Stapleton (Right of Bruderer), 1st Sgt. Billy Spencer (holding left corner of flag).

They will deploy with the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga and serve in the brigade combat team during their October through March rotation. They will be part of what is called the Stabilization Force or "SFOR". The SFOR mission is part of the NATO Peacekeeping Force charged with bring peace and progress to Bosnia.

North Carolina units will conduct patrols in their assigned areas as well as perform checkpoint operations and other security missions in and outside their base camps.

Both units have trained thoroughly for the task at hand. They began intense training during weekend in January.

"We realize that peacekeeping is different for what our normal mission has been. We're ready for the mission and look forward to getting started," said Capt Don Swiney, Commander of Company B, 1-252 AR, Sanford, NC.



Staff Sgt. Pope, 440th Army Band sings "Proud to Be an American" to the men of Company A, 1st Bn, 120th In at their departure ceremony. It has become tradition for Staff Sgt. Pope to sing this song for all units deploying to Bosnia and Kuwait over the past five years.

[\(see photo's of the North Carolina NG deployment prep\)](#)

First In Deed

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