



THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

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(Left) Retired LTG Hal Moore, COL Roy Gray, deputy commanding general of the 100th Division, and MG David L. Evans, 80th Training Command (TASS) commander, share stories at the awards dinner. (Right) CSM Donald Stewart helps CSM Ned McWhorter light his candle at the awards dinner memorial service.

The Blue Ridge Review is published periodically for Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the 80th Training Command (TASS). It is an official publication under the provisions of AR 360-1, and published by the 80th Training Command (TASS) Public Affairs Office.

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The editor reserves the right to edit submitted copy for clarity and propriety.

FTS and Leaders War Council

By SSG Anne Lewis

More than 400 Soldiers and civilians of the 80th Training Command (TASS) attended the command's annual Full – Time Support and Leaders War Council held at Virginia Beach from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3.

Representatives from the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Defense Automated Printing Service, and the Army Training Support Center were in attendance, as well as personnel from various divisions including the 94th, 95th, 100th, 102nd and 108th.

MG David L. Evans, commander of the 80th, said the goal for the conference was to share with the training leaders as well as other 80th Soldiers "our vision of the new command as we transform from individual training commands

to the 80th Training Command (TASS)."

Numerous breakout sessions and workshops were conducted during the conference. In the breakout sessions, section leaders gave briefings and instruction with attendees learning about the various aspects of sections within the command. In the workshops, section leaders worked with participants in hands-on training that helped them better understand the increasing training needs and the future of the command.

Many attendees agreed one of the highlights of the four-day conference was meeting and hearing the guest speaker, retired Army LTG Hal Moore, author of the best-selling documentary, "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young." During the awards dinner, 84-year-old Moore

shared with the audience his personal accounts of fighting in the Vietnam War.

"The two most important principles I learned from West Point that I've used my entire life are these: never quit, and there's always one more thing you can do to influence a situation," he said, during his speech.

During the dinner, Soldiers received awards honoring them for their exemplary achievements. Dinner attendees reflected for a moment during a memorial service to remember all 80th Soldiers who died in the past year.

The final day of the council included a prayer breakfast, in which several 80th Soldiers shared their musical talents and spiritually uplifting words.

Conference Awardees



SFC Scott Kallio, AGR of the Year



SFC Matthew LaJon, NCO of the Year



SPC Matthew Rose, Soldier of the Year



SFC Darrell Smallwood Jr.
Instructor of the Year



Mrs. Donica Salley and her son Joshua accept an award for excellence.

Soldiers awarded at conference

The 80th Training Command (TASS) FTS and Leaders War Council awards dinner was held to present several military personnel with awards, plaques, and certificates that recognized their outstanding work over the past year.

SPC Matthew A. Rose received the command's Soldier of the Year award. SFC Matthew C. LaJon received the NCO of the Year award. SFC Darrell

Smallwood, Jr. received the command's Instructor of the Year award and SFC Scott W. Kallio received the award for AGR of the Year. Sara L. Forero, who was unable to attend, earned the MilTech (Military Technician) of the Year award.

MG David L. Evans, commander of the 80th Training Command (TASS), and CSM Donald Stewart, command sergeant major of the 80th Training Command (TASS), pre-

sented the awards to the Soldiers.

Mrs. Donica Salley, wife of CSM Morris Salley Jr. who died late last year, also received an award.

The command presented her with the CSM Morris Salley Jr. award, which will subsequently be given annually to the most outstanding command sergeant major in the 80th Training Command (TASS).

4/108th redesignation ceremony

By MSG Patricia T. Pollard

After 30 years of support to the 108th Division Institutional Training (IT), the 4th Brigade, Combat Support Services (CSS), cased its colors during an inactivation ceremony November at the U.S. Reserve Center in Decatur, Ga.

The ceremony marked the end of an era, and the beginning of a new one for the unit. COL James (Tim) Williams, 4th Brigade Commander, CSM Otis R. Brown and CSM John H. Whittleton Sr., were joined by the Soldiers and family of the 4/108th for the casing of the 108th colors, the uncasing of the new 4th Brigade colors, and the retirement ceremony for one of the Army Reserve's finest Soldiers.

Moments after the 4/108th colors were cased,

COL Williams joined CSM Brown and CSM Whittleton in uncasing the colors of the new 4th Brigade (Personnel Services), 94th Division (Force Sustainment).

The casing and uncasing of the unit colors represented a significant step in the transformation of Army Reserve training. It symbolized the change of 4th Brigade from an administrative unit – which provided limited support to a wide variety of CSS training battalions in the Southeast – to an operations-focused brigade headquarters, focused on a national mission to



CSM John Whittleton Sr. prepares to have the 94th Division colors passed to him in a change of responsibility ceremony last November.

provide human resources, financial management, and chaplain's assistant DMOSQ and NCOES training.

Following the uncasing ceremony, CSM Whittleton assumed responsibility as command sergeant major of the 4/94th, replacing CSM Brown who retired after 30 years of service.

Honoring African American Heritage

African Americans in the Army Reserve have made and continue to make more history than can be confined to Black History Month in February.

The month does make for a suitable occasion, however, to take note of some of the things that African Americans have accomplished in the history of the Army Reserve.

Black Americans have been part of the Army Reserve since World War I. In 1917, history notes, 639 “colored” Reserve officers (as the segregated Army then designated them) were commissioned from the Officers’ Training Camp at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. During the Great Depression, black members of the Officers Reserve Corps served in Civilian Conservation Corps camps.

As they did in World War I, African American reservists served in World War II in segregated units. Segregation ended in 1948 through an executive order signed by President Truman. In reality, integration took time.

Black reservists called up for combat duty when the Korean War broke out found themselves in all-black units such as the 24th Infantry Regiment. The 1954

“Project Clear” study came to the same conclusion that the Army learned by combat experience in Korea: Integration would enhance effectiveness. That same year, the last all-black unit was disbanded.

African Americans today are full and integral parts of the Army Reserve team. Blacks make up 22.3 percent of the Army Reserve today. Just as the Army cannot do its mission without the Army Reserve, the Army Reserve cannot do its missions without its black citizen-Soldiers.

The Army Reserve’s first black general officer was John Q.T. King, a World War II veteran who became a brigadier general Feb. 8, 1974.

In December 1999, COL Bernard Taylor Jr., an African American, became the Army Reserve deputy chief for the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program.

CSM Collin L. Younger, another African American, was the fifth senior enlisted adviser to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs from 1998 to 2000. Previously, he had been simultaneously the command sergeant major of the Army Reserve and the first command

sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta.

Another notable NCO is CSM Sheila Williams, former commandant of the NCO Academy at Fort Lewis, Wash. She was the first black woman to attain the rank of command sergeant major on Active Guard/Reserve status.

CSM Michele Jones is another noteworthy African-American NCO. She was the first female to serve as the command sergeant major of the Army Reserve.

Wherever the Army Reserve is today, from the Balkans to Central America, black reservists make their presence felt.

In the final analysis, when foes and friends look at someone in a battle dress uniform, hospital whites, flight suit or dress greens, they don’t see a black reservist or woman reservist or even an Army reservist. No, what they see are American Soldiers — who will do what America asks, no matter their color, sex or how many days of the week they wear a uniform.

And when these Soldiers do that, they make more history.

Making a difference in the Army Reserve

Do you know a person (veteran, employer, spouse or parent) who made a significant difference in the U.S. Army Reserve during its first 100 years?

If so, nominate that person to be formally recognized at the Army Reserve 100th Anniversary Enlisted Dining Out in Atlanta on March 28, 2008. Everyone nominated will receive recognition and an award; the top selected nominees will receive special recognition.

To nominate an individual, provide the nominee’s name (first, middle initial and last name), rank (if applicable), years of service (if applicable) and a notation whether the person is living or deceased.

When nominating an individual,

include the nominee’s complete mailing address, telephone number and e-mail. Choose a nominee category and select all that apply to the nominee: Veteran/Military; Spouse of a Soldier; Employer of a Soldier; Parent of a Soldier.

Lastly, answer the question of how this nominee positively changed the Army Reserve.

When submitting your nominations, also include your own rank, name, address, e-mail and phone number.

Send your nomination to SGM Troy Falardeau at troy.falardeau@usar.army.mil. Deadline for submission is February 15, 2008.



News

Retroactive Pay for Troops

A Pentagon official says that active duty troops will receive retroactive earnings this month, followed weeks later by a supplemental payday for non-active personnel. The hike is 0.5 percent higher than an executive order Bush signed Dec. 28 to increase pay by 3 percent, which took effect Jan. 1, 2008.

In mid-February, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will pay active duty troops the extra 0.5 percent raise earned since the start of 2008. A deputy undersecretary for military personnel policy said non-active members will receive the retroactive pay "a couple weeks later."

Wounded Warrior Pay Management Program

DFAS ensures erroneous debts for wounded Soldiers are suspended to allow for a review of the Soldiers' accounts and forgiveness of eligible debts. Since August 2005, DFAS and the Army have forgiven \$12.93 million in debts for 13,826 Soldiers, thus preventing many Wounded Warriors from incurring financial hardship. More information on the program is available at <http://www.dfas.mil/mil-news/january2008/armywoundedwarrior.html>

Thrift Savings Plan Aids Retirement

Many service members are taking advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) as a financial management tool. It's an attractive investment option for military members. Service members can sign up for TSP online 24/7 at www.mypay.gov or through their branch of service. Learn more about the retirement and savings benefits of TSP at <http://www.dfas.mil/mil-news/january2008/tsp participation.html>

Gold Star Lapel Pin Authorized for Uniforms

The Gold Star Lapel Pin has been authorized for wear on the Army green uniform by Soldiers who have lost an immediate family member in combat. While Soldiers always have been eligible for the pin, Army regulations had restricted its wear to civilian attire.

Under the recent change in policy, the pin is authorized for wear on the green uniforms of Soldiers who have lost a spouse, mother, father, child or step-child to combat.

An interim change to Army Regulation 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms), requires enlisted Soldiers to wear the pin centered vertically and horizontally on the left lapel of the green uniform.

Officers should wear the pin centered on the left lapel one-quarter of an inch below their branch insignia.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Love is in the Air!

My 19 years in the Army Reserve have proved many times to keep me away from loved ones. Whether it was a monthly battle assembly or annual training, it never failed to keep me away from those special moments and events in our life such as birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, graduations and so on. Thankfully, February has always provided that hallmark moment to tell that special person(s) that you love them.

I recall my first mobilization away from home. I started to panic as I realized Valentine's Day was approaching fast and I had not yet purchased a card for my wife or kids. With no vehicle or time to get the PX, I was saved by a web browser that allowed me to send an E-card. While I was at it, my next purchase was a dozen roses guaranteed to get there by the next day.

Since then, I have been a little more proactive in taking care of matters before I am called away by Reserve activities. My hope is that you can learn from my procrastination and will do some good forward thinking

to plan for such events like Valentine's Day and other special days that come around *each and every year*. If you have been mobilized or deployed in the past, I suggest signing up for a marriage or single retreat.

The Army is finding new and creative ways to help rekindle the flames of love. If you are married like me, your spouse will love the opportunity alone with you over a weekend with all expenses paid. Why have we spent so much time PMCSing our equipment and neglecting the very thing — marriage — that has held us together? If you are a single Soldier, why not take advantage of an all expenses paid get away with other Soldiers who speak the same language as you do.

Regardless of your situation, let this month be the month you learn to say to three simple words...I love you!

May the Lord make your love grow and overflow to each other and to everyone else, just as our love overflows toward you. 1Thes. 3:12

CH (MAJ) Brian Harki

Upcoming Events

Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat

Williamsburg, VA
14-16 March 2008
Charleston, WV
28-30 March 2008
7 Springs, PA
2-4 May 2008

Singles Retreat

Longbranch, NJ
28-30 March 2008
Niagra Falls, NY
11-13 April 2008

National Capitol

Reenlistment Ceremony
Washington, D.C.
23 April 2008