



The Blue Ridger

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The Official Newsletter of the 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association - Post #50 of the 80th Division Veterans Association

June 2010

New Media, New Communications Tools Setup To Aide In Recruiting, Communications

By Travis Edwards

Public Affairs committee member

During the 2009 annual meeting, the Association directors made it clear that there was a general lack of awareness of our organization among current and past members of the 80th legacy units.

Several potential remedies were discussed and the task was given to the public affairs committee to develop and execute a plan to help address the challenge.

The public affairs committee has now, with the assistance of Paul Hoppes and several directors launched a new information awareness campaign that will engage members of the 80th Training Command in the blogosphere, online, and through legacy communications. One such legacy communication device, is the reinstatement of the Blue Ridger newsletter. This newsletter title was prevalent through most of the years of which our members served in the 80th Division.

Annual Meeting Set For August

Association Notes

We are planning our 9th annual meeting in conjunction with the 80th Division Veterans Association Reunion and the 80th Training Command's Commanders Conference to be held at the Sheraton National Hotel at 900 So. Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204. The telephone number is (888) 627-8210. The dates of the convention will be from August 11-15, 2010. The room rate is \$89.00 per room per night plus taxes. The rate has been extended for three days prior to the convention and three days after for those wishing to extend their stay in Washington, D.C. The rooms offered are single thru quad with two queen beds or one king bed per room. Non-smoking rooms available upon request.

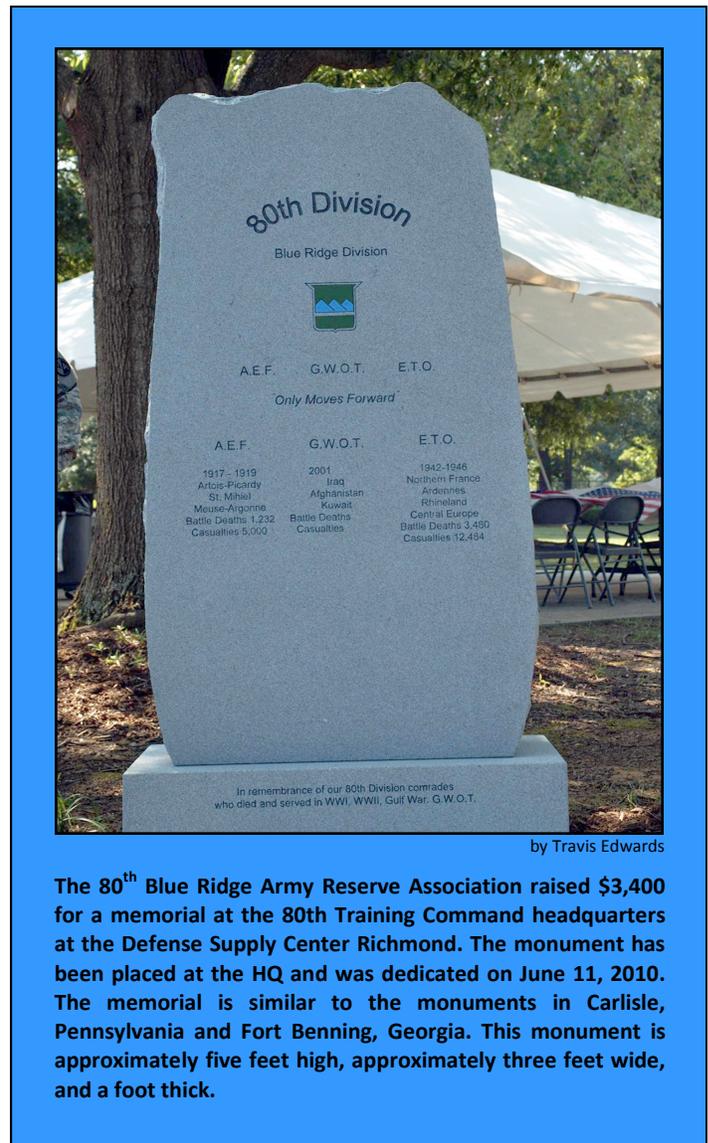
Complimentary parking is available in the hotel garage (RV at an adjacent parking area). A complimentary shuttle to and from the Ronald Reagan airport to the hotel will be provided along with a complimentary shuttle to and from the Pentagon City Metro stop. During our business meeting we will be electing five directors and four officers. Nominations for these positions can be sent to Grant Porter—the Nominations Committee Chairman. The term length of these positions is for two years. Current officers and directors in these positions are President Paul Hoppes (ret), Vice-President Col. Rick Littleton (ret), Secretary Lt. Col. Keith Brisson (ret), Treasurer Col. Ed Polonitza (ret), Director Col. Carol Deverell (ret), Director Master Sgt. Edmond Herbert (ret), Director Col. Paul Linkenhoker (ret), Director Chief Warrant Officer Phil Culbertson (ret) and Director Lt. Col. Grant Porter.

Association Granted Post Status

By Retired Col. Paul Hoppes

Blue Ridge Association President

In February 2010, the Association sent a letter to the 80th Division Veterans Association requesting inclusion of the 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association into the Division Veterans Association as a Post. On March 29, 2010 we received confirmation that we were officially granted post status and on April 3, 2010 we received notification of our official Post number — Post 50. This unification represents a new chapter in our history and lineage. I know we all look forward to a strong partnership as we continue our work for both organizations.



by Travis Edwards

The 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association raised \$3,400 for a memorial at the 80th Training Command headquarters at the Defense Supply Center Richmond. The monument has been placed at the HQ and was dedicated on June 11, 2010. The memorial is similar to the monuments in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and Fort Benning, Georgia. This monument is approximately five feet high, approximately three feet wide, and a foot thick.

Monetary Awards

Association Notes

In January 2010, during the 80th Training Command's annual commanders conference in Virginia Beach, the Association presented several monetary awards to members of the Command and the local USO. Awards were presented to Instructor of the Year Sgt. 1st Class Jeffreyonner (102nd Division); Soldier of the Year, Spc. Joshua Cole, (100th Division); Military Technician of the Year, Mr. John Brown, (8th Bn., 4th Bde., 94th Div.); Active-Guard-Reserve of the Year, Master Sgt. Hobert Park (800th Logistics Support Brigade); and NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Martin Rodriguez, (102nd Division). Also, a \$1,500 check was presented Pat Jordan of the Richmond USO.

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