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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.

## Troops reenlist on anniversary

On April 23, 2008, the Army Reserve marked its 100th birthday with a mass reenlistment on the front lawn of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. LTG Jack Stultz and CSM Leon Caffie, respectively the Army Reserve chief and commanding general, and command sergeant major, participated in the reenlistment ceremony.

To symbolize the 100 year anniversary, 100 Army Reserve Soldiers raised their right hands, pledging their service to the nation. Representing the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS) was SGT Jorge Benitez-Fernandez, SFC Scott



CSM Donald Stewart, SGT Jorge Benitez-Fernandez, SFC Scott Gould, SSG Daniel Cardona, SGT Walesca Burgos-Lopez, MG David L. Evans, and BG Robert Stall meet at the National Reenlistment Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Gould, SSG Daniel Cardona, and SGT Walesca Burgos-Lopez.

"Today's Army Reserve Soldiers represent the values upon which our country was founded. They are citizens

who are willing to put their lives at risk when called upon," said LTG Stultz. "That's why we call them Warrior-Citizens. They represent the fabric of this nation."

## Welcome Home ceremony honors Soldiers

By SGT Travis Edwards

The 80th Training Command (TASS) held its twenty-first Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen ceremony last month at the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Attending the ceremony were a U.S. Congressman, an Army Reserve Ambassador, a USAA representative, five World War II veterans representing the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association, several members of the descendants of the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, two dozen families, and more than 35 Warrior-Citizens.

The WHWC program was authorized by the President of



80th Training Command (TASS) Soldiers are honored at the Welcome Home Warrior Citizen ceremony at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

the United States and the U.S. Congress to ensure Army Reserve Soldiers are recognized for their service in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"I thought it was great that the Soldiers and their families were recognized," said Marie

Adams, wife of SGM Jerry Adams, one of the recipients. "I thought the award presentation was the best part because each member of the official party took time to make that a personal presentation to each Soldier."

# 7th Brigade bids farewell

By SSG Anne W. Lewis

“It is a somber but proud day as we case these colors with their campaign and decoration streamers,” said COL David Oaks, commander of 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS), at the brigade’s inactivation ceremony held at the Army Reserve Center at Fort Pickett, Va., last month.

COL Kenneth Nielsen, the command’s deputy chief of staff, G3, LTC Samuel Woolwine, commander of troops, and CSM David Garwood, command sergeant major of 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, were joined by Soldiers at the casing of the colors.

Retired SFC Ellis Allen, a quartermaster veteran of combat service, attended the ceremony as a special guest. COL Oaks presented SFC Allen with a framed case of the brigade’s colors at the ceremony “as a representative for our quartermaster forebears.”



CSM David Garwood cases the colors as COL David Oaks holds them steady at the 7th Brigade’s inactivation ceremony.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade was constituted on Aug. 5, 1917, in the National Army as the 305<sup>th</sup> Supply Train and assigned to the 80<sup>th</sup> Division. The brigade demobilized at Camp Dix, N.J. in 1919. After 17 years of inactivity, it was reconstituted in 1936 in the Reserve and was consolidated with the 405<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Regiment, an element of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division. After several more redesignations, inactivations, and moves, the brigade’s final home has been in Salem, Va., since 1996.

Saying goodbye to the

brigade represents the significance of the command’s major transformation, which began last October and will be completed in October 2008.

“The 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade will not be forgotten,” said COL Oaks. “Our organizational colors will be retained by the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command with the command’s other historical holdings at their headquarters in Richmond. And for the Reserve Center in Salem, a framed likeness of the brigade colors will be displayed there to honor our memory.”

Saying goodbye to the brigade represents the significance of the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command’s major transformation.

## Former 80th Soldier recalls Holocaust

By SSG Anne W. Lewis

Jay M. Ipson, co-founder, president and executive director of the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond, Va., thinks no one ever really learned anything from the Holocaust. “It’s still going on in Iraq and Afghanistan and so many other parts of the world,” he says.

Ipson gave a presentation at the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS) headquarters at a Holocaust Remembrance Day luncheon last month. There, Ipson spoke of what life was like for

him and his Lithuanian family during the Holocaust.

When the Germans invaded Lithuania in 1941, they placed Ipson and his family in a concentration camp. He escaped with his parents in 1943 and returned to their home in Lithuania where they were under Soviet occupation. At the age of 12, Ipson fled to the U.S. with his parents and made their new home in Richmond.

In 1954, Ipson enlisted in the Army Reserve and served as an instructor with the 2079<sup>th</sup> Judge Advocate General Corps, under

the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Division.

Ipson said he began public speaking about the Holocaust in the early 1980s because “the ignorance of what happened is what fosters hate and discrimination.” When he founded the Virginia Holocaust Museum in 1997, his main goal was and continues to be tolerance through education.

“I hope that through our work, children will teach their children, and ultimately we will eliminate hate,” said Ipson.



Chaplain (MAJ) Brian Harki, command chaplain, presents Jay M. Ipson with a framed plaque in appreciation of being the guest speaker at the Holocaust Remembrance Day luncheon.

# Chaplain speaks at National Day of Prayer

Chaplain (MAJ) Brian Harki, of the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS), was selected to participate in the National Day of Prayer earlier this month in Richmond, Va., on the state capitol grounds.

The public and a few local dignitaries gathered to observe and participate in this national ceremony. There were seven areas of prayer: government, military, media, business, education, churches, and family. Chaplain Harki gave

the prayer for the military.

In 2007, approximately 40,000 events were held nationwide. Local volunteers and coordinators held a variety of activities ranging from breakfasts, Bible reading marathons, prayer concerts, and observances held in sports stadiums. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, in-

cluding people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The day of prayer is founded on the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion and can be celebrated by all Americans.



*Chaplain (MAJ) Brian Harki reads Scripture at the National Day of Prayer.*

# Health care offered to combat veterans

Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade.

The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medi-

cal conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military - even decades later - for medical care for service-connected health problems.

The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush early this year applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient

clinic or nursing home.

The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

For more information, visit VA on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/opa>.



## Command visits Fort Dix TASS Training Center

The Fort Dix, N.J., TASS Training Center (TTC) personnel were honored with a recent visit by members of the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS) command staff during a TTC inspection.

MG David L. Evans, commanding general of the training command and CSM Donald Stewart, command sergeant major of the command, visited the TASS Training Center.

During the visit, under the direction of COL Ray Lindsey, the TTC Headquarters staff, MSG Anthony Young, senior logistics NCO, and SFC Ray Garnett, senior human resources NCO, conducted a Command Assistance Visit Inspection of the hu-



*MG David L. Evans and CSM Donald Stewart visit the Fort Dix, N.J., TTC human resources and logistics sections as part of a Command Assistance Visit Inspection.*

man resources and logistics sections.

On the last day of their visit, MG Evans and CSM Stewart held group sessions providing updated information regarding the command's transformation.

"The audience morale was high, and they were very receptive to the information by all parties," said MSG Young. After the visit, the TTC staff conducted training regarding corrections noted from the inspection.

**Head Gear for 80th's Change of Command**

The soft field cap is the required head gear for all military personnel involved in the 80th Training Command (TASS) change of command ceremony on May 17, 2008, at Fort Lee, Va. The beret and soft field cap are required for the command's May 16-18 battle assembly.

**SSG Matthew Maupin laid to rest**

A memorial for SSG Keith Matthew Maupin was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 27, 2008, at the Great American Ball Park. He was captured by Iraqi insurgents on April 9, 2004, while serving in the Iraq war after his convoy came under attack by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire near Baghdad. On March 30, 2008, SSG Maupin's father told local news media that the remains of his son had been found. He states that an Army general told him DNA was used to identify the remains. A tip from an Iraqi citizen led to the recovery of SSG Maupin's remains.

**Operation Purple Camp**

Operation Purple Camp is a nationwide program of the National Military Family Association to provide a free week of camp to military youth. There are more than 62 camp locations around the country. Applications will only be accepted online at [www.operationpurple.org](http://www.operationpurple.org) through May 5, 2008. All families who submit a completed registration form will be contacted by May 12 to confirm acceptance. For more information, contact the NMFA at 800-260-0218.

**Chain Letters Prohibited**

Forwarding chain letters and other information of an unofficial nature to multiple addressees is a violation of Army Regulation 25-1. Chain letters and spam deplete the usable bandwidth which degrades network performance and detract from organizational efficiency and productivity. If you do not know the sender please delete the email immediately. Do not reply or forward to anyone. If the problem continues, please submit a ticket through <https://esdhelp>

**Volunteers needed for inauguration**

The U.S. Army needs 200 volunteer reserve component Soldiers, USAR, TPU, IMA, IRR, ARNG, or Retiree Recall, to volunteer to support the 2009 Presidential Inauguration to be held in Washington, D.C. Opportunities are available for captains through lieutenant colonels and specialists through sergeants major. Tours of duty range in duration from 30 to 365 days. Soldiers or unit commanders who want to volunteer should contact LTC Larson at 703-697-4777, [creighton.larson@conus.army.mil](mailto:creighton.larson@conus.army.mil), or Chris Davids at 703-697-4798, [chris.davids@conus.army.mil](mailto:chris.davids@conus.army.mil).

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER****The Start of Something New**

Two women walking down the street spotted a frog. The frog said to them, "I use to be a Soldier, adorned with medals and accolades. If you kiss me, I will become a great leader and command legions of armies." One lady stooped down and placed the frog in her purse. The other lady asked, "Aren't you going to kiss the frog?" She replied, "Nope; it's more fun to have a talking frog." Many people are afraid of change for fear of what the unknown will bring. A few welcome the change for hope of something new, a fresh start; others feel comfortable staying the course.

This month we will hail a new commander to the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS) and farewell our current esteemed leader. Intertwined with the change of command, our units remain face to face with transformation. Some have received the call early on, and others are following closely. The reality is much like the lady's decision to not kiss the frog, for the fear of transformation

brings to the forefront the reality of many tense and stressful times. This is a time where leaders aspire to become a part of history and excel when faced with challenges.

I believe now more than ever, with this command and others facing the same giants in transformation, prayer is the key in providing a spiritually healthy, morally resilient and mission-focused command. Jesus went to the mountain and prayed prior to selecting the disciples to whom he would eventually turn over his mission (Luke 6: 12-13). As I remain in prayer for this command and the leaders who run it, I ask that you also join me in prayer. I leave you with a scripture verse given to me by the director of reserve components, chief of chaplains office. "There is nothing permanent with us except God, His love and the family. Nothing has to be permanent except the Lord. Only He changes not." (Malachi 3: 6).

CH (MAJ) Brian R. Harki  
Deputy Command Chaplain

**Upcoming Events****Public Services Recognition Week**

*National Mall, Washington, D.C.*  
4-7 May 2008

**Joint Services Open House**

*Andrews Air Force Base, MD*  
16-18 May 2008

**80th Training Command (TASS) Change of Command**

*Fort Lee, VA*  
17 May 2008

**Wall of Honor Ceremony and Dedication**

*Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, VA*  
22 May 2008

**Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat**

*Niagara Falls, NY*  
30 May-1 June 2008  
*Arlington, VA*  
13-15 June 2008