



The **DOUBLE EAGLE**  
"Twice the Citizen Army Strong!"

OCTOBER 2014, Vol. 3 No. 7



# CROSLIN WINS DRILL SGT. OF THE YEAR

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## COVER STORY:

Staff Sgt. Christopher Croslin, 95th Training Division (IET), U.S. Army Reserve, tackles the obstacle course during day 2 at the 2014 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition at Fort Jackson, S.C. Croslin is one of two competitors from the 108th Training Command (IET) fighting for the title of Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hamilton/108th Training Command)

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OCTOBER 2014 VOL. 3 No. 7

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
HEADQUARTERS,  
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE,  
FORT BRAGG, N.C.

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS:**

**"BEST IN THE ARMY RESERVE"**  
WINNER: 2012, 2013  
DEPT. OF THE ARMY

**MAJ. GEN. KEITH L. WARE AWARD**  
HONORABLE MENTION: 2013



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Double Eagle back issues.**

# Running deaf

There seems to be a continuing trend of running, walking, and bicycling while wearing headphones or earphones while on Fort Bragg's roadways.

Not only does running with headphones or earphones go against Department of Defense and installation policies, it also stands counter to U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command policies.

More specifically, USAR regulation 385-2, para. 7.4i, dated June 1, 2012 and states, "The use of headphones or earphones while walking, jogging, skating, and bicycling, including pocket bike, motorcycle or moped on Army installation roads and streets is prohibited by regulation."

U.S. Army regulation 385-10, para. 6.5, dated Nov. 27, 2013, emphasizes the same except the wording includes the prohibition on Department of Defense installations.

This practice can not only be dangerous during the day but even more so at night.

In November 2012, an Army Reserve Soldier was struck by an automobile in Kings Mountain, N.C. around 8 p.m. He was wearing dark clothing, on an unlit road, while wearing headphones.

As we ease into Fall, there are less hours of daylight. Taking advantage of cooler temperatures, many runners and walkers will use the opportunity to log more miles on their feet. Doing so while wearing headphones or earphones can prove to be fatal.

While the music in your ears may help you keep a steady pace and help you clear your mind, you need to ask yourself, "Is the risk worth it?"

If you just have to wear them to listen to your favorite tunes, you could also do so on a treadmill at home or your local fitness center.

Wearing headphones or earphones can deafen your sense of hearing what is going on around you.

So, if you are hitting the road, wear reflective clothing and leave the headphones or earphones behind.

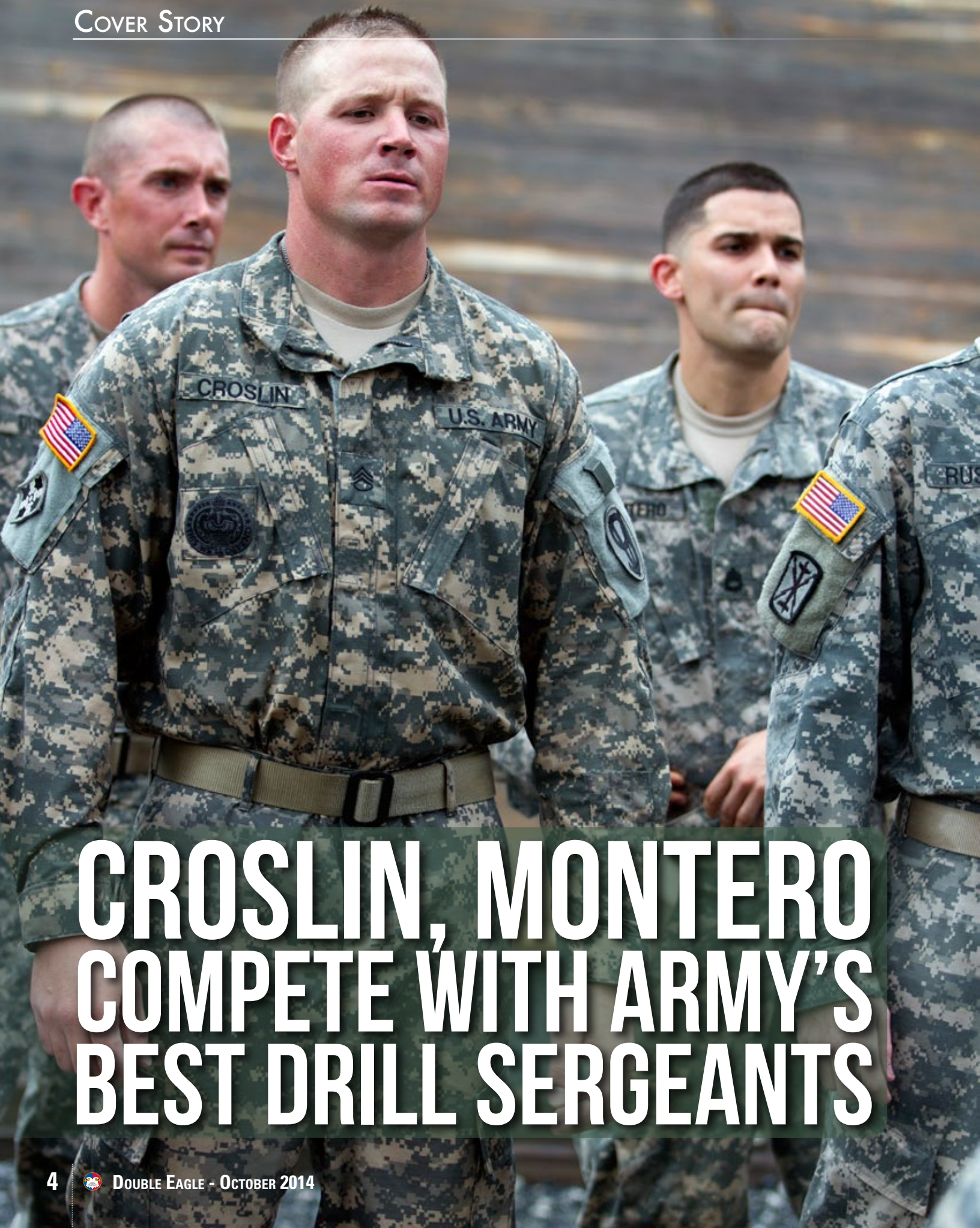
After your run or walk, hearing the sound of your voice walking in the door will be music to your loved one's ears. 🐶



Timothy L. Hale  
Editor



*Timothy L. Hale, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is an award-winning photojournalist and editor of the USARC Double Eagle. He is member of a number of professional organizations to include: Nikon Professional Services, National Press Photographer's Association, and the North Carolina Press Photographer's Association. The views expressed in this column are expressly his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the Department of the Army, and/or the Department of Defense.*



# CROSLIN, MONTERO COMPETE WITH ARMY'S BEST DRILL SERGEANTS



**BEST OF THE BEST.** (FACING PAGE) Staff Sgt. Christopher Croslin, front left, 95th Training Division (IET), U.S. Army Reserve, and Sgt. 1st Class Alex Montero, back right, 98th Training Division (IET), U.S. Army Reserve, prepare to conquer Victory Tower during the 2014 Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, Sept. 8 at Fort Jackson, S.C. (ABOVE) Croslin negotiates the Confidence Course.

Story by Master Sgt. **DEBORAH WILLIAMS**  
Photos by Sgt. First Class **BRIAN HAMILTON**  
108th Training Command

FORT JACKSON, S.C. - The Army's best trained noncommissioned officers arrived at Fort Jackson, S.C., Sept. 8-11, to compete for the prestigious title of the 2014 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year.

The competitors included two U.S. Army Reserve Drill Sergeants, Staff Sgt. Christopher Croslin from the 95th Training Division (Initial Entry Training) and Sgt. 1st Class Alex Montero from the 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training).

But in the end, Croslin was named the reserve component Drill Sergeant of the Year. Staff Sgt. Jonathan Miller, from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, was named the active component winner.

"I studied at every opportunity I had," Croslin said. "During lunch breaks at work, at my son's practice, staying up late, getting up earlier for work and at every opportunity knowing I was up against the active component and they were going to be stellar."

See **DSoy**, Pg. 6

# DSoy

from Pg. 5

“After being here, I know that the reserve component was represented very well by Drill Sgt. Montero and myself,” Croslin said. “We ran beside the active duty the entire time, performing all tasks to standard, just as the active component did. After this competition, I feel the Army Reserve can stand next to the active component as equals.”

The Drill Sergeant of the Year competition is one of the most mentally and physically demanding challenges any Soldier can face in a U.S. Army competition. For four days, competitors performed all associated tasks and drills from Basic Combat Training.

The days were long and exhausting. The drill sergeants were required to perform the same tasks as the trainees they lead, evaluating their endurance, stamina, and character.

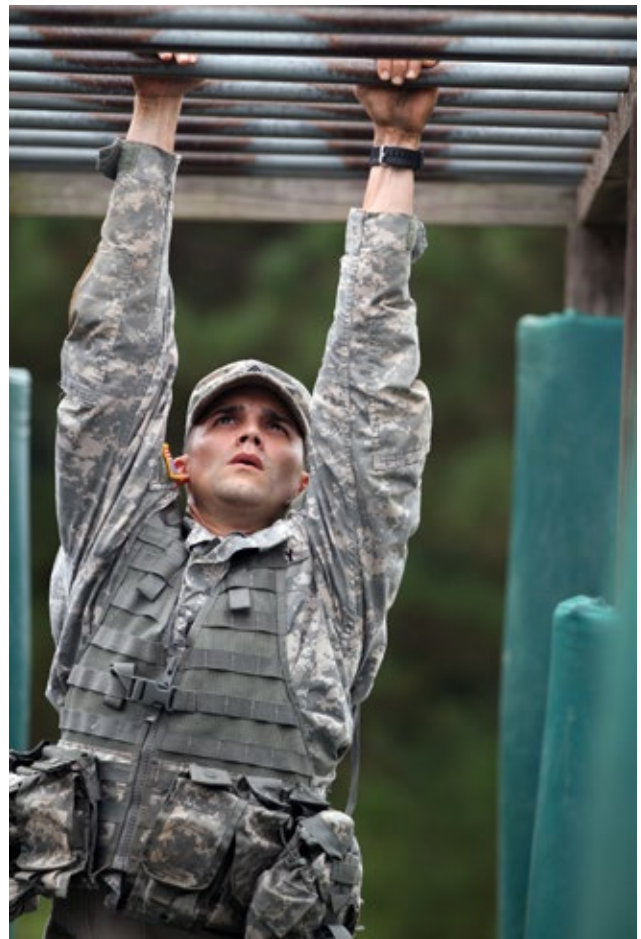
“You have to continue to maintain motivation and drive on through a lot of physical, as well as mental stress,” explains Montero, “but you also feel a sense of accomplishment knowing you are entrusted to train Soldiers and future Soldiers in the Army.”

During the selection process, the competitors were graded and timed on several events to include: numerous ruck marches, a confidence course, the Army Physical Fitness Test, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, weapons qualification, day and night land navigation, written exams and essays, and finally an appearance in front of a Sergeants Major Board.

“The overall competition level has been challenging,” Croslin said. “You get hit with the physical tasks followed by the mental tasks. Sometimes you are so drained, you know the answers, but can’t remember them. You just have to fight through it.”

To win, and be named the Drill Sergeant of the Year, they must not only be experts in training Soldiers, but also be the best of the best and rise above the competition.

“When these contestants got up this morning and looked in the mirror, they saw honor and pride,



**PROVING THEIR WORTH.** Montero (top) tackles the obstacle course while Croslin (bottom) demonstrates hand and arm signals during the second day of the competition.

but a shadow of discontent was in the back of their minds,” said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Carpenter. “They knew they had put forth their best effort in the tasks, and the tasks were complicated and challenging, but that little bit of disappointment was still there.”

The final event of the week was the awards ceremony, Sept. 11, 2014, at the Fort Jackson Solomon Center. None of the candidates knew who the winner was until the announcement was made at the ceremony.

“Right now these candidates are full of hope, they feel honor, but at the same time in the back of their minds, they’re wandering about that little bit of disappointment. There is no room for disappointment in this group, whether they come out first or last, it doesn’t matter. They should be honored because they are here,” added Carpenter.

Those selected will move on to different positions, those not selected will go back to their unit and

continue with their every day jobs. “They need to go back and hold their heads high and be proud. There are no losers here, they are all winners. They will always remember this day. This is a historical event,” concluded Carpenter.

Command officials describe drill sergeants as “top-quality, professional noncommissioned officers from virtually all branches of the Army”. What makes these individuals vital to the Army is their passion for the profession and their ability to transition civilians into Soldiers.

The winning Croslin received the Ralph Haines Jr. Award. Haines was commander from 1970 until 1972 of the Continental Army Command, the forerunner of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Miller received the Stephen Ailes Award initiated in 1969. Ailes was Secretary of the Army, from 1964 to 1965, and was instrumental in originating the first Drill Sergeant School at Fort Leonard Wood. 🇺🇸



**PROUD WINNER.** Croslin accepts the trophy for being named 2014 Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year from Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis J. Woods, U.S. Army Initial Military Training command sergeant major.



To find out more about the annual U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, visit their website at

[www.army.mil/drillsergeant/competition.html](http://www.army.mil/drillsergeant/competition.html)



**PILOT, SAFETY DIRECTOR, BISHOP** Dr. Bob Jangro, the director of Army Reserve safety, will retire for the second time in December. He previously retired from the Army as a helicopter pilot and is also a consecrated Bishop in the Old Catholic Church. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve)



# Pilot, safety director, and bishop: Jangro retiring after 42 years

Story by **TIMOTHY L. HALE**  
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - In 1971, young Bob Jangro fulfilled a dream, a higher calling to serve in the U.S. Army.

Forty-two years later, Jangro is saying goodbye to the Army, for the second time.

The son of a Navy man, Jangro jumped ship from wearing Navy blue choosing to serve in Army green.

“As far back as I can remember, I wanted to join the military,” Jangro said. “My dad and both of my brothers were in the Navy and I was the odd man out who joined the Army.”

Growing up as a child in Scotia, N.Y., Jangro frequently watched a television show called “The Big Picture” which featured documentaries produced by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The show featured weapons, battles, and biographies of famous Soldiers.

“Watching it impressed me and when it came time, I joined the Army,” he said.

He said he never intended to make a career of the Army but his fascination with aviation kept him in uniform.

Jangro spent much of his youth hanging out at the local airport in Schenectady County. There, he was a frequent visitor to the air traffic control tower. It only seemed natural that he should become a controller in the Army.

After serving three years at Fort Rucker, Alabama and Seoul, Korea, Jangro left the Army. But after six months, the pull of military service called to him. He rejoined but this time as an aviation warrant officer.

“Not only did the Army allow me to fly but they paid me to fly and I couldn’t beat that,” he said.

Not only did he want to fly but he wanted to fly big aircraft, specifically the CH-37 Mojave, a large reciprocating engine helicopter. But those went out of service.

His next choice was the CH-54 Skycrane helicopter but those too went out of service within the active Army.

The next biggest aircraft in the Army inventory was the CH-47 Chinook.

Jangro has flown most of the helicopters in the Army but he said most of his time was in the Chinook.

See **JANGRO**, Pg. 10

# JANGRO

from Pg. 9

Some of his most rewarding missions came as a Chinook pilot to include flying missions in Honduras in 1978.

“We were there for six months and the missions were so varied,” he said. “We would fly over the ocean and sling load supplies to Navy ships to delivering doctors, dentists, and nurses to remote villages. There was a lot of job satisfaction there.”

Another one of his flying highlights was piloting an AH-64 Apache at Fort Hood, Texas for the 1990 movie “Fire Birds” featuring Nicholas Cage, Tommy Lee Jones, Sean Young, and Dale Dye.

“I was in most of the flight scenes for that movie,” he said. “We served as extras in scenes at the officer’s club and out on the airfield. Meeting the actors was fun and they got to know us. Nicholas Cage is a hoot!”



**VICTORY DIVISION PILOT.** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bob Jangro, above, as a UH-1 Huey pilot at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga. Below, Jangro pilots a OH-58 Kiowa at at Fort Stewart, Ga. (Photos courtesy of Bob Jangro)



Months later after the filming was complete, Jangro said they were celebrating one the Soldier's birthday and Cage and his entourage showed up to celebrate with them.

"It showed me that he (Cage) had a human side that many in Hollywood sometimes don't have," Jangro said. "He remembered this guy's birthday and showed up unannounced."

After 20 years, Jangro retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4, Three months later, duty called again, this time as an Army civilian.

Jangro started his civilian career as an aviation safety manager with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Even though he was a civilian, he said it wasn't much different than being an Army aviator.

"The transition from military to civilian wasn't that difficult for me as it was for others," he said. "I was allowed to fly as a civilian. I usually wore a flight suit every day. I looked like a Soldier and was pretty much treated like a Soldier. I was still dealing with Army aviators so I felt a part of that fraternity. The transition was smooth because I was basically doing the same type of work that I did in the military."

Perhaps his most lasting legacy over 42 years will be his last four years as the U.S. Army Reserve safety director.

In that time, Jangro said that Army Reserve accident rates have dropped dramatically during this time – the lowest the Army Reserve has ever seen and the lowest of all three components. So much so, the Army Reserve was recognized with the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army Headquarters Safety Award for FY 2013.

Jangro said these lower numbers are a direct result of his staff.

"That's a big accomplishment," Jangro said. "It's the first time the Army Reserve has ever achieved that – it's the first either of the reserve components have been recognized with the award. Receiving the award speaks to the command climate here for safety. There are a lot of people doing good things across the Army Reserve."

He said his job, as safety director, is made easier by his staff.

"Everyone in here is a professional. We work well together and we are friends. The working relationship here is outstanding and our accomplishments are

outstanding. They know what they are doing," he said.

In addition to answering the call to military and civilian service, Jangro has answered the call to ministry.

Jangro holds Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. He was also consecrated a Bishop in the Old Catholic Church in 2006.

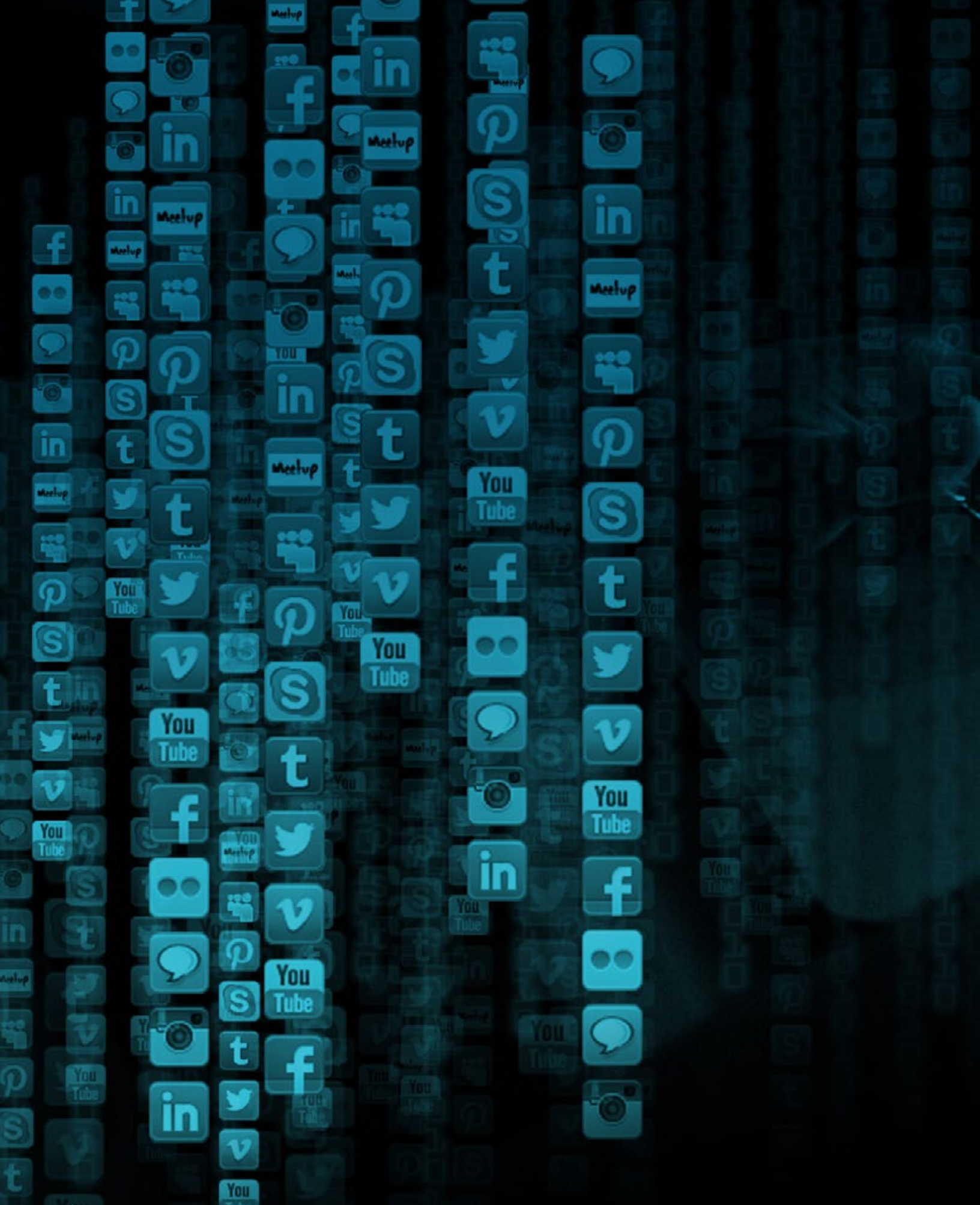
As he looks toward retirement in December, he and his wife, Mi Ok, are looking forward to serving the church in a larger capacity.

He will return to their home in Atlanta and will become more active in the church and hopes to start a parish there.

Through it all - pilot, safety director and now bishop - Jangro has made it his life's work to answer a higher calling. 🙏



**HOLLYWOOD FLYER.** Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bob Jangro, was one of the AH-64 Apache pilots featured in the 1990 movie "Fire Birds." (Photo courtesy of Bob Jangro)



# WINNING THE CYBER SECURITY WAR

PART 1 OF 3-PART SERIES

Story By Chief Warrant Officer 3 SHARON M. MULLENS  
USARC G6-Cyber Management Technician

The world we live in has changed greatly with the advent of technology.

Today technology encompasses every aspect of our lives; through our smart phones with instant messaging, video chat, banking, home climate control, online shopping, gaming, and there are even refrigerators that send their owners e-mails if there is any abnormal drop in temperature or if the door was left open.

With all of these technological advances, there is a downside and that is unknowingly exposing yourself to potential threats with every application that you use over every network that you touch.

See **CYBER**, Pg. 14



## CYBER

from Pg. 13

Have you ever been confused by pop-ups you've never seen before? Does your network drop, lag, or frustrate you? Do you sometimes feel apprehensive when filling out forms on your personal computer and wonder whether the information that you supplied may have repercussions?

These are just a few emotions that a person may feel when using the Internet in light of recent cyber security incidents that have occurred in large retail organizations such as Target and Home Depot.

Never before in history has technology linked people to so many activities online. This connectivity to the Internet has bridged national boundaries, initiated uprisings, spread the exchange of ideas, and promoted businesses alike.


Unfortunately, this new world does not come without some inherent dangers. Just as the Internet and the web have created opportunities for legitimate functions, nefarious actors have found this new world to be ripe for their illegal practices as well. Like chess pieces moving around a chess board, cyber criminals are relentlessly maneuvering to create sophisticated threats to gain access to Personal Identifiable Information, or PII, banking account information, as well as other sensitive information.

It is now more important than any time in the world's history to be able to identify and counter these threats. One of the countermeasures that the U.S. Army Reserve is implementing is to raise awareness to these issues by celebrating "Army Cyber Security Awareness Month" in October.

On an annual basis, the month of October is dedicated to Cyber Security Awareness, this initiative will provide commanders at all levels an opportunity to conduct cyber awareness activities within their respective commands.

This year's training plan will focus on four major training areas: Leadership (what leaders can do to implement and foster good cyber security activities within their organizations), Individual Awareness (how individuals can support the organization's overall policies as a micro level), Collective (how individual subsections of an organization can do their part to support cyber security), and Home/Family cyber security practices (which

completes the training by having individuals promote cyber security when at home using banking applications or just keeping their e-mail and personal computers secure).

This vital training event will allow commanders to educate their personnel on the importance of Cyber Security through threat recognition, mitigation, and reporting. These awareness training activities will ensure Soldiers, Army civilians, and contractors are trained and held accountable for incorporating cyber-security risk management activities into their missions and during off-duty activities. All units will develop individual internal training plans with a focus on leader education, train them on the importance of Cyber Security threats unique to each of their respective organizations, and make them aware of all available resources to them. 

*EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the leaders on the forefront in the Army Reserve's fight against cyber terrorism and cyber criminals is Col. Margaret (Meg) Roosma, USARC headquarters cyber director.*

*Roosma's lengthy career as a Signal Corps officer makes her well versed in combating Cyber Security threats.*

*As Col. Roosma prepares for retirement, she will be replaced by Lt. Col. Terri Borrás.*

*Borrás, who has been selected for promotion to colonel, recently relinquished command of the North Central ARISC, and has an equally diverse background in Military Intelligence, Information Operations and cyber security.*

## **CYBER SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH COL. MARGARET (MEG) ROOSMA U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND CYBER DIRECTOR**

### **WHY IS CYBER SECURITY VITAL TO OUR MISSION?**

Cyber Security, like OPSEC, is an essential consideration in everything we do. So much of our daily lives at work, at home, and places in between, involves sharing information over some kind of electronic format. Protecting that information is a grass-roots activity that involves everyone. Cyber Security activities ensure our critical information stays out of the hands of our adversaries, including terrorist organizations and trans-national criminal groups.

### **WHY DOES IT NEED TO BE PART OF OUR RISK MANAGEMENT EFFORT?**

It is easy to assume that our information is safe. After all, we have passwords and CACs at work, and a team of highly skilled cyber security experts protecting our network. But each of us can be the weakest link if we don't use good security practices on our personal or home devices, when out in public, and even when sitting at our work desk.

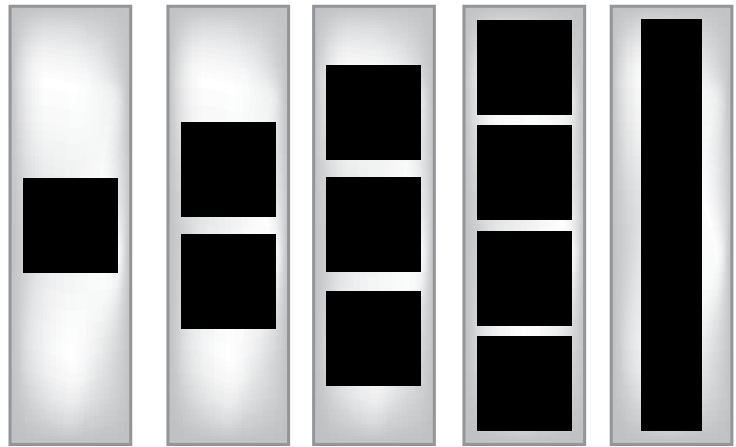
### **WILL CYBER SECURITY TRAINING EQUATE TO REDUCING THE NUMBER OF THREATS AND MAKING OUR NETWORK LESS VULNERABLE?**

Cyber Security training works if each person takes it seriously, not only paying attention during the training, but afterwards putting into practice the techniques that were shared. New threats to the network and the individual user are created daily. We all must do the right thing every day, every time we use a device or pass information. The enemy only has to be effective once. Regular training helps everyone do a better job at Cyber Security.

We already provide a significant number of Cyber Security professionals to the Army, from the Cyber Security team within the USARC G-6 that protects our network on a daily basis, to the Army Reserve Cyber Operations Group and the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, who bring civilian acquired skills to regular deployments and mobilizations within the Army Cyber Command and Regional Cyber Centers.

In the near future, we will expand our support to the Army, providing even more Cyber Security expertise in both the operational and training arenas. This Cyber training could not have come at a more opportune time for the Cyber Command. On Sept. 1, the United States Army Cyber Branch was established as a basic branch of the Army by the Secretary of the Army. This training is one of the command's first missions since its inception. The new Cyber Branch, 17 series, will identify the most highly skilled professionals in both the active and reserve components, paving the way for exciting opportunities for those who have the kinds of IT skills that the Army needs. Initially the 17 series will be a shortage MOS as we test and train Soldiers to be the next generation of "Cyber Warriors," but we are confident that our ranks will swell constantly as we are called upon.

# WARRANT WATCH



## Today's Warrant Officer: Leader and Expert

Chief Warrant Officer 5 **PHYLLIS J. WILSON**  
U.S. Army Reserve Command Chief Warrant Officer

For most of its 96 years, the Army Warrant Officer Cohort has held to a tradition of keeping out of the leadership spotlight while occupying the position of subject matter expert in his or her area of technical expertise.

Warrant officers have been accepted as the authority on regulations pertaining to their field, providing their commanders a thorough understanding of issues while being known as “the quiet professional.”

From its inception in 1918, the Army Warrant Officer Cohort has become a mysterious group, falling in the ranks between officers and noncommissioned officers, with many outside of the Cohort not really understanding what a warrant officer actually does.

But ask any Commander who he or she calls on when a question or issue arises that has them stumped, and, many times, it will be “my warrant.”



stemming from those years as an NCO.

These warrant officers also have the leadership skills inherent in being an effective NCO. As the Army streamlines and becomes a more mobile force, warrant officers are being called on regularly to serve as both leaders and subject matter experts.

Having served through the years in an army at war, warrant officers are seasoned professionals at an early point in their careers as an officer. As a result, they are often asked to fill the role of a small-group leader. No

longer are commanders looking only to their officers, from lieutenants to colonels, to act as managers.

Warrant officers must be ready and willing to take on the responsibility of leading subordinates, collaborating with their peers, and advising superiors with realistic and attainable courses of action. Today's warrant officers are prepared more than ever to lead.

### ROLES ARE CHANGING

Because the vast majority of technical warrants come from the NCO ranks, there is a depth of knowledge

### DEVELOP PROFESSIONALLY

Warrant officers and officers are expected to meet and exceed standards of the Army profession. Offi-



cers receive many hours of instruction in leadership and mentoring in their Professional Military Education courses. These courses are structured to help officers progress to levels of leadership abilities that are expected of their rank.

In the past, Warrant Officer PME was geared more toward technical expertise. That has changed.

Designers of Warrant Officer Programs of Instruction are adding in and updating modules that specifically address the leadership skills that a warrant officer will need as they achieve higher grades within the Warrant Officer Cohort.

Warrant officers also have associations, such as the United States Army Warrant Officer Association, with local chapters where they receive mentoring and guidance to develop the traits needed to be an effective leader.

Warrant officers need not be isolated, but should develop collegial relationships with other successful warrant officers who share the characteristics of a leader.



## BE A LEADER

Put yourself in the position to lead by continuous self and professional development.

This includes attending town halls, Officer Professional Development opportunities, and Army e-Learning courses such as Skillport.

Pursue PME regardless of time in grade. If your career manager tells you there are no available seats, contact him or her regularly for updates, and be prepared to go if a seat becomes available.

Enhance your civilian skills with focused education. If you are Troop Program Unit, Individual Mobility Augmentee, or Individual Ready Reserve, your civilian career competencies are a huge factor in making you relevant to the Army.

Stay in top shape physically, mentally, and emotionally by practicing the principals of resiliency. Exercise your mind and body every day.

In keeping with the Performance Triad, <http://armymedicine.mil/Pages/performance-triad.aspx>, incorporate good nutrition, adequate rest, and physical activity into your three-pronged wellness plan.


Keep things in perspective, and seek help when you are struggling emotionally.

Most of all use your best resources: the successful warrant officers, officers, and NCOs who came before you or who are in your periphery.

Learn from their best practices, and incorporate those into your own tool kit. 🇺🇸

**LEADING BY EXAMPLE.** U.S. Army Reserve Warrant Officer 1 Jacob Grobler, assigned to the 481st Transportation Company, supervises as the crew conducts operations on the deck of the United States Army Vessel Paulus Hook in Kodiak, Alaska June 10, 2013. Grobler, a native of Vryburg, South Africa, is a vessel master trainee and serves as the current vessel master's assistant during the Mertarvik Innovative Readiness Training. The crew of Army mariners, in partnership with U.S. Marines and local Alaskan authorities, are supporting the inter-agency task force by transporting personnel, equipment and supplies between various locations in order to help construct essential infrastructure to facilitate Newtok's relocation efforts. Newtok is a Yupik Eskimo village of about 400 people on the Ninglick River in western Alaska, which is threatened by erosion, and melting and sinking permafrost. (File photo by Sgt. Scott Akenewich/201st Public Affairs Operations Center)

# THINGS THAT GO BOOM!



**BOOM! (This page and facing page)** An M1271 Medium Flail Mine Clearing Vehicle clears a path during a recent field demonstration. The MCV is equipped with a rotating flail and 72 chains with fist-sized balls, or hammers, at the end of the chains. As the vehicle drives backwards over the designated area, the flail rotates and the chains dig into the ground tearing mines apart or detonating them. The driver is protected by a deflector shield of armored steel, protecting the both the driver and vehicle against blast pressure and mine fragments. (Images courtesy of Military-Today.com)

# U.S. Army Reserve engineers field new mine clearing vehicle

Story by **TIMOTHY L. HALE**  
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The U.S. Army Reserve has fielded the first two M1271 Medium Flail Mine Clearing Vehicles, or MCV, with the 364th Engineer Platoon, located at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The MCV is a manned vehicle designed to clear paths through minefields and provides area clearance using a motorized flail system to detonate mines in a safe manner.

The MCV is equipped with a rotating flail and 72 chains with fist-sized balls, or hammers, at the end of the chains. As the vehicle drives backwards over the designated area, the flail rotates and the chains dig into the ground tearing mines apart or detonating them. The driver is protected by a deflector shield of armored steel, protecting both the driver and vehicle against blast pressure and mine fragments.

“At the end of the day, it’s saving Soldiers lives,”

said Daniel Carroll, a systems integrator for engineering equipment, U.S. Army Reserve Command G-4. “It’s a capability that wasn’t needed before Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of the other military forces serving there had this equipment, but our own military did not.

“We’ve always had the area clearance capability, but with the flail, it lets us do it more efficiently - in less time and a safer manner.”

USARC continues to coordinate the field and training of the 11 remaining Army Reserve engineer platoons which will receive two MCVs per unit.

Carroll said, the Army Reserve will field 12 out of 15 units, giving the Army Reserve 80 percent of all MCV capabilities for the entire Army for FY 2014.

This technology is not new. In World War II, many tanks and other armored vehicles were outfitted with a similar flail system. 🇺🇸



# Army Reserve TPU with dental needs? Free dental care is now available

By COL. JAMES R. HONEY

USARC Surgeon's Office - Dental Surgeon

In 2007, the Army mandated a higher level of Soldier readiness in the U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

Since poor dental health was a major obstacle to Soldier readiness, the Army directed the establishment of the Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System, or ASDRS, in 2009 as a means to improve reserve component "dental readiness."

Since 2009, the Army Reserve and National Guard have implemented ASDRS to provide dental care at home station for over 558,000 non-mobilized reserve component Soldiers dispersed throughout the United States and U.S. territories. ASDRS provides dental examinations and Dental Readiness Class (DRC) 3 treatment. DRC 3 treatment through ASDRS is the only medical treatment that the Army Reserve Component is authorized and funded to provide. As such, Army Reserve Soldiers must maximize the use of this tremendous benefit.

Dental readiness is an important enabler of over-all force readiness. Dental emergencies can result in degraded unit capabilities. Soldiers classified as DRC 3 are non-deployable and have an over 75 percent chance of experiencing a dental emergency within one year. Dental emergencies while deployed detract from mission accomplishment and often require medical evacuation, potentially endangering the dental casualty and others. Soldiers must be DRC 1

or 2 to be dentally ready; the Department of Defense Total Force dental readiness standard is 95 percent dental readiness. Also, DRC 3 Soldiers are counted as non-available on commander's Unit Status Reports.

From 1990 through 2008, reserve component dental readiness levels remained below 50 percent. Many initiatives used to address this problem were unsuccessful. The most challenging barriers to improving readiness levels are the large population and geographic dispersion of the reserve component Soldiers and insufficient funding.

In FY 2006, over 10,000 training days were lost at federal mobilization stations, as over 8,500 reserve Soldiers were provided "just in time" dental treatment. In FY 2007, the figure was over 6,000 days lost. The establishment of ASDRS was designed to reduce these numbers.

ASDRS sought to ensure electronic tracking across the continuum of care using the Active Army Dental Care System, or AADCS, and the Army Dental Digital Repository. The Army Reserve and National Guard then consolidated the use of DEN-CLASS dental recording and tracking software. DENCLASS is linked with AADCS tracking (and MEDPROS) to validate dental readiness at the federal mobilization platform.

Under ASDRS, the Army Reserve employs the Reserve Health Readiness Program-Logistics Health

**“Army Reserve Troop Program Unit  
Soldiers can call 877-437-6313 to  
schedule appointments.”**

**— Col. James R. Honey**

*USARC Surgeon's Office - Dental Surgeon*

Incorporated as the contract vehicle of choice to deliver networked “in-office” dental care as well as group event support. Army Reserve Troop Program Unit Soldiers can call 877-437-6313 to schedule appointments. Commanders may also put Soldiers on pay status to attend their in-office appointments using the Army Reserve Medical Dental Readiness Days program, initiated in 2010.

Once a Soldier reports to the federal mobilization site, they are no longer eligible for ASDRS care; the AADCS provides limited remedial care for mobilized Soldiers. Since ASDRS was implemented, the need for remedial dental readiness care at mobilization stations has steadily declined with more Soldiers now arriving “dentally” ready to deploy.

ASDRS implementation has led to notable improvements across the reserve components. Dental readiness has increased from less than 50 percent up to a high of 89 percent—the highest in documented history. For Soldiers arriving at mobilization stations, it has increased from 45-60 percent to an unprecedented more than 95 percent. This has reduced mobilization costs, saved training days, reduced cross-leveling, and helped to maximize “boots on the ground” time - signifying an enhanced operational force.

Even though ASDRS has vastly improved dental readiness, there is a need to improve command enforcement.

Operational Functional Training and Support command surgeons and medical readiness coordinators should continue to inform their respective commanding generals of these robust resources and make the point that ASDRS is a commander’s program that requires nametag enforcement.

Increased command enforcement of ASDRS will help to maximize the readiness of America’s Citizen-Soldiers.

This supports a key imperative of Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley’s Rally Point 32.1 - keeping the Army Reserve operational and ready to its fullest capacity as a mission-ready force of the U.S. Army. 🇺🇸



**FREE DENTAL CARE FORTPU SOLDIERS.** Under the Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System the Army Reserve employs the Reserve Health Readiness Program-Logistics Health Incorporated as the contract vehicle of choice to deliver networked “in-office” dental care as well as group event support. Troop Program Unit Soldiers can call 877-437-6313 to schedule appointments. Commanders may also put Soldiers on pay status to attend their in-office appointments using the Army Reserve Medical Dental Readiness Days program, initiated in 2010. (File photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve)



**DESTROYED ANTIQUITIES.** Two women walk past the huge cavity where one of the ancient Buddhas of Bamiyan, known to locals as the “Father Buddha”, used to stand June 17, 2012, in Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan. The monumental statues were built in 507 and 554 AD, and were the largest statues of standing Buddha on Earth until the Taliban dynamited them in 2001. (File photo by Sgt. Ken Scar/7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

# Saving the world’s culture and history

Story by **JENNIFER FRIEND**

Museum Specialist, Office of Army Reserve History

Since 1993, the U.S. has celebrated October as National Arts and Humanities month. The observance was introduced to encourage Americans to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives, and to begin a lifelong habit of participation in the arts and humanities.

The arts are not only sources of aesthetic beauty to be appreciated and enjoyed, but they are sources of communication and healing, promote creativity and imagination, and serve as a catalyst for learning.

We live in a world today where science and technology are at the forefront and the arts and humanities have taken a back seat. However, there is much we can learn if we utilize a holistic approach and incorporate them together.

## Army Reserve to lead the way

As a global power active on every continent, the United States has a fundamental national interest in developing cultural and scholarly programs that increase our understanding of other cultures and peoples.

According to recent news reports, residents of Iraq and Syria, and their historical cultures, are being threatened and destroyed by the terror group, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL. Their aim is to erase 5,000 years of history and relics while illegally selling looted artifacts to fund their operations.

Several military, national and international organizations are presently working together to save and

protect as much as humanly possible. Its members are made up of cultural heritage and military specialists.

These actions may seem familiar to many, especially to those who are familiar with the famed Monuments Men.

The Monuments Men were a part of the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives section of the Civil Affairs Division in World War II, made up of curators and professors. They were famous for their heroic efforts in saving tens of thousands of priceless works of art and the cultural heritage of many people and nations. Many of the individuals responsible were Army Reserve Soldiers.

A new Army Reserve organization is developing to form a similar and modern monuments, fine arts, and archives program. The idea is to have military and civilian cultural heritage professionals working together in the U.S. and internationally. The primary goal will be to save, preserve, and protect cultural heritage throughout the world in areas of armed conflict and natural disasters that threaten the arts and humanities of the world.

### Humanities in Foreign Relations

According to the article, "The Humanities: What Keeps Us Human", by Sarah Piper, the U.S. government issued the "Call to Action for National Foreign Language Capabilities" in 2004, which acknowledges the need for the humanities in foreign relations. It further states, "not only does the study of the humanities help us to better understand other cultures, but it also gives us a better understanding of our own nation and what we stand for and support as a country."

Many individuals would still claim the arts and humanities do not play a significant enough role to warrant serious consideration in saving funding for institutions and organizations that promote these qualities.

"Anyone who says 'no one ever died of the humanities' has not thought much about what happens when states claim the right to define what humanity is, or who is good and who is evil, and therefore justify movements like ethnic cleansing," said Gabrielle M. Spiegel, professor of history at Johns Hopkins University.

This is evident in many areas throughout the

world where cultural heritage sites are being destroyed almost daily. Destroying a group's culture is like destroying the group's identity.

"The humanities encourage understanding of other cultures' ways of living and to emphasize the importance of every human life, which is something that should never be devalued," Piper said.

So, in honor of National Arts and Humanities month, celebrate by visiting any number of cultural centers, museums, galleries, concert halls, or merely rave over a child's artwork or story, encouraging the next generation of artists. 🌍



**RELIGIOUS DESTRUCTION.** The city of Aleppo has experienced some of the heaviest fighting of the Syrian civil war. A report, published by AAAS in August 2013 documented the effect of the war on the city as of 26 May 2013. Since that time, two additional craters have appeared along the eastern wall of the mosque. The nearby Suq al-Madina was also heavily damaged, as were many other structures. Between 6 December 2011 (top) and 14 July 2014, the roof of the Suq al-Madina was damaged (green arrow), the minaret of the Great Mosque was destroyed (red arrow) and two craters appear on the eastern wall (blue arrows). In addition, multiple nearby structures were heavily damaged (yellow arrows). (Photos provided National Museum of the Army Reserve via DigitalGlobe, NextView License | Analysis AAAS. Coordinates: 36.19N, 37.15E.) For full study and research, go to, <http://www.aaas.org/page/ancient-history-modern-destruction-assess-ing-current-status-syria%E2%80%99s-world-heritage-sites-using>

# BRING IT HOME: WEAPONS SAFETY AT HOME

Story By **RICHARD CUNNINGHAM**  
USARC Safety Office

The Army Reserve uses demand and response to enhance weapons safety.

Everyone has the responsibility to handle Army weapons safely and ensure the weapon's chamber is empty.

Qualified leaders are at the clearing barrel issuing directions from written weapon specific instructions. Soldiers respond by implementing the exact instruction. Noncommissioned officers are always present for critical operations, influencing Soldier thought and thereby eliciting behaviors that eliminate negligent discharge, or ND. The result is disciplined, or "Safe" weapons handling at all times.

Negligent discharge, even at home, is preventable. NDs rarely occur in stressful situations like combat or self defense. Many occur during routine clearing, cleaning, and similar low threat environments. Lack of discipline, very often with concurrent alcohol use, is the major contributing factor in Army Reserve private weapons fatalities.

In your home, you and your spouse are the leaders, the officer in charge, and the NCOIC. Establish private weapons handling as a demand and response operation. While the weapons and even their function may be different, your military weapons training and discipline will protect your Family from accidents with firearms.

Place the highest emphasis on weapons status and treat it as if it's always loaded! Maintain muzzle awareness; weapon barrels too easily cross body parts and other Family members or friends. Never lose situational awareness, children are often oblivious to hazards and may position themselves at the muzzle end or handle unsecured weapons.

Your privately-owned weapons "Standard Operating Procedure" is the step-by-step commercial instruction manual. Read it and know exactly how to safely handle and store your weapon. If you and your Family need to know more, enroll in firearms safety training. There are many organizations that offer firearms training for

adults and children. Take the time to train all Family members on weapons safety procedures just like you have been trained on duty.

Make sure children can "Recognize, Retreat and Report" (to an adult) an unsecured firearm. Set the expectation that all Family members will be skeptical of weapon status until proven safe and will correct each other on the spot.

You and your Family must have zero tolerance for your own and each other's indiscipline and lack of proficiency. Clearly, if every other safety discipline and mechanical safety is bypassed, severity is reduced when an ND occurs in a "safe" direction.

You are trained and qualified to expertly and safely handle military weapons.

"Bring It Home" – Demand uncompromising leadership from yourself and respond by securing your home and family against negligent discharge.

Remember, the most effective weapon safety is a critically thinking Citizen-Soldier. 🇺🇸

## ARMY RESERVE FACT:

From FY2013 to date, the Army Reserve has successfully remained free of Privately Owned Weapon negligent discharge fatalities. In prior years the Army Reserve suffered with approximately 5 percent of its annual "Not in a Duty Status" fatalities being due to negligent discharge of privately owned weapons.

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE BEHIND**



# HALLOWEEN: The Deadliest Night of the Year for Children

Story By **RICHARD CUNNINGHAM**  
USARC Safety Office

Halloween is a light hearted, kid-focused and absolutely fun-filled holiday, right?

Maybe not.

Not implying there are no real concerns. But for a moment, set every other Halloween warning aside including razors in apples, poison in candy, and child abductions, and consider a real and proven danger for American children every Halloween evening.

This danger is quite similar to the daily Number One killer of Army Reserve Citizen-Soldiers. This danger is motor vehicle accidents.

Each year the Army Reserve sees an average of 79 percent of its fatal accidents (On, Off and Not in a Duty Status) occur during private vehicle operations.

And, according to a recent study by insurance and research industry experts, each year for the past 21 years Halloween is the deadliest day of the year for America's child pedestrians.

On October 31st, each year, every year, in one single day, the national average of 2.6 pedestrian fatalities per day doubles to more than 5 children dying in pedestrian-fatal accidents!

Consider these Halloween-related vehicle versus pedestrian facts from the past 21 years:

- Halloween is the deadliest day of the year for child pedestrians. The national fatality rate doubles for child pedestrians every Halloween.
- The deadliest hour is from 6 to 7 p.m. Nearly one-quarter of all the day's child fatal accidents occur during this single hour.
- The middle of the residential block is the most dangerous area. More than 70 percent of the day's child pedestrian fatalities occur AWAY from intersections and crosswalks.
- Children most at risk of being killed by vehicles are 12-15 year-olds, followed by 5-8 year-olds
- The most deadly driver is young! Drivers 15 to 25 years-old account for about one-third of child pedestrian fatalities each Halloween.
- The least deadly group of drivers is aged 36-

40 and 61-65 accounting for only 8 percent of the fatalities over the 21-year study.

The study reveals the real risks for Halloween. Knowing them, parents and drivers must develop and implement the countermeasures that protect those least able to protect themselves.

If you are the driver, stay focused, slow down for little monsters and if you can, stay off the road altogether.

It's possible you may have your own 'lil demons in the car with you and you are their protector.

So, light them up, keep them close, and stay off the street.

Together, parents and drivers must keep Halloween light-hearted and safe for all our children! 🎃

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

### By the Letters

- S** Swords and Similar? Soft and Short!
- A** Alone? In Groups with Adult!
- F** Fasten? Reflective tape to costumes!
- E** Examine? All treats for choking hazards and tampering!
- H** Hold? A flashlight for everybody!
- A** Always? Test makeup for allergy!
- L** Look? Both ways before crossing streets!
- L** Lower? Risk of eye injury by eliminating decorative contact lenses!
- O** Only? Walk on sidewalks or edge of road facing traffic!
- W** Wear? Well fitted costumes to avoid blocked vision and trips!
- E** Eat? Only factory wrapped treats!
- E** Enter? Only with a trusted adult or only the home of trusted friends!
- N** Never? Walk near lit candles, always wear fire resistant costumes!

# Exercise Your Right to Vote!

By MAJ. ANNE K. BROPHY  
USARC Staff Judge Advocate's Office

While many of us are exercising and getting ready to take the fall physical fitness test, November also brings another opportunity to exercise – your right to vote.

Elections for all 435 U.S. House of Representative seats, 35 U.S. Senate seats, and 35 state governorships are coming up at a polling station near you.

Members of the U.S. Army are encouraged to participate in the political process. Soldiers may register to vote and express their personal political opinions in an individual capacity. Soldiers may make financial contributions to a campaign and join political clubs or parties. Soldiers may also express personal opinions about candidates, issues, and sign nominating petitions.

However, Soldiers on active duty may not engage in partisan politics. The key point is Soldiers may

have no activity in connection with a political party or candidate. Soldiers can't engage in political activity when on duty, in a government office, wearing an official uniform, using a government vehicle, or using government email or other communication platforms.

Soldiers not on active duty should avoid the appearance their activity is endorsed by the Army. (See DODD 1344.10) DOD personnel may not engage in activities that associate the DOD with any partisan political activity, campaign, or election. Soldiers in any status are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaigns and election events.

So, get out and exercise not only your body but also your right to vote this November.

If you have questions, contact your local Staff Judge Advocate office. 🇺🇸

**OUR COUNTRY...  
OUR FUTURE...**

**YOUR VOTE...  
IT COUNTS!**

HELP KEEP OUR COUNTRY AND OUR ARMY STRONG.  
EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE.

FIND OUT MORE AT FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AT:  
[HTTP://WWW.FVAP.GOV](http://www.fvap.gov)

# The cost of transferring Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits

Story by **TEDDI EMBREY**  
Team Lead, Army HRC GI Bill

Are you one of the 30,000 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers who transferred some, or all, of your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to one or more of your eligible dependents?

If you are, then you most likely incurred an additional duty service obligation as a result of the transfer of benefits approval.

The additional duty service obligation is also known as the Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Obligation End Date (OED).

So where will you find the TEB OED?

Go right now to the TEB website located at: <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil> to see if you have a service obligation or not.

Soldiers are encouraged to check their TEB OED date as a reminder they agreed to serve on active duty or continue participating in the Selected Reserve for the entire period covered by the TEB OED date.

Why is the TEB OED date so important?

If a Soldier transferred benefits to their spouse and/or children, the Soldier must remain on active duty and/or continue participating in the Selected Reserve until at least the TEB OED to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs will pay benefits to the dependents.

What if a Soldier doesn't fulfill the TEB OED?

Soldiers need to realize if they separate from the military or transfer to the Individual, Standby, or Retired Reserve before completing their TEB obligation, they (and their dependents) could be subject to



recoupment of all tuition, fees, and stipend benefits paid to them by the VA.

Based upon the total number of entitlement months used and total amount of tuition, fees, and stipend payments received, individuals could be facing recoupment of thousands of dollars.


Already some Reserve Soldiers have incurred overpayments in the tens of thousands of dollars. Some Reserve Soldiers' dependents no longer have education benefits available to them because their sponsoring

Reserve Soldier didn't fulfill the TEB OED.

If a Soldier decides they want to voluntarily separate or retire early, or transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, or Retired Reserve before fulfilling the TEB OED, they can revoke TEB and have the TEB OED removed, but only if no transferred benefits have been utilized by their dependents.

Even if only one month of transferred benefits has been used, Soldiers are not eligible to have their TEB OED dates removed.

So, visit the TEB website, <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>, now to see if you're one of the Soldiers who will maintain TEB or not.

If questions arise, U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers may reach out to the HRC GI Bill Team at 1-800-872-8272 or email your question to their group email box, [usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post911gibill@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post911gibill@mail.mil). 

# Are you hiding from God behind a mask?

By CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) RICHARD SAVAGE  
USARC Chaplain's Office

Halloween is an interesting time to see what costumes are popular and to observe who or what people pretend to be for the occasion.

When people wear costumes, they can pretend to be something or someone else that they can act like or want to be for the day.

In our daily lives, we may not wear a costume, but we may hide who we truly are or some hurt within our lives. Some people are professionals wearing masks and putting up fronts.

There may be many reasons why people wear masks: Some people may do it because of the expectations of others or to try and maintain a certain image; others may do so because of a hurtful situation in the past or something they are not proud of and don't want exposed.

In the book of Malachi, God was telling the nation of Judah that they acted like they were His

followers and wanted a close relationship with Him. But in reality, there were those who didn't follow through with genuine worship and obedience, they put on a great show, but their offerings and other acts of worship were merely a front. The nation of Judah suffered a heavy price in that they were conquered by other countries and lost their freedom as a nation.

Let's make a commitment to avoid wearing costumes or putting up fronts. Be sincere, genuine, and straightforward in words and deed. Continue to be honest with who we are and accept others for who they are as well.

God can enable us to love ourselves and to love others as we strive for excellence in all we do. This effort requires us to take off the costumes and tear down the fronts as we recognize who we are and grow to become all we are called to be... while loving our neighbor as ourselves. 🌍

## **FORSCOM/USARC Christian Bible Study**

**U.S. Army Forces Command and  
U.S. Army Reserve Command  
hosts a weekly Christian Bible study.**

**Studies are held each Tuesday,  
starting at 11:30 a.m., Room 1901 near the USARC G-4.**

**Please come and share a time  
of fellowship and worship with us.**

**“All Scripture is breathed out by God  
and profitable for teaching,  
for reproof, for correction, and for  
training in righteousness, that  
the man of God may be competent,  
equipped for every good work.”**

*Second Timothy 3:16-17*



DRILL SERGEANTS STRENGTHEN THEIR MINDS.  
CHAPLAINS STRENGTHEN THEIR SOULS.





## USARC Newcomer Orientation for 2014

The U.S. Army Reserve Command Civilian Personnel Management Office has scheduled the following personnel orientation dates for all new USARC personnel.

The final orientation for 2014 is Nov. 20.

Orientation starts at 8 a.m. and will be held in Room 4901 unless otherwise posted.

This training is mandatory for all military and civilian employees assigned to the USARC headquarters.

For more information, you may contact Danny Sampson, orientation planner, at 910-570-8343, or via email at [danny.s.samspon.civ@mail.mil](mailto:danny.s.samspon.civ@mail.mil).

## Fort Bragg's All-American Trail closes Oct. 1 for hunting season

Fort Bragg's All-American Trail closes Oct. 1 and will remain closed due to hunting season.

The trail will reopen Jan. 2, 2015, when the hunting season ends.

Fort Bragg cannot stress enough the importance of not using the trail between Oct. 1 and Jan. 2. Approximately four years ago, a runner was accidentally killed by a hunter who mistook the runner as wild game.

Runners and off-road bike riders are also asked not to use the roads in the training areas for running routes.

These areas are used for training purposes and the presence of runners

and riders can disrupt training events and become a safety hazard.

Runners and riders also may face trespassing charges if found in the training areas.



(Hunter and Bear Graphic courtesy of Vector Art Explosion)

# Mandatory supervisor training continues

The Army Reserve continues to track the completion status of the Army mandated training for supervisors of civilian personnel.

At this time, the SDC #1-250-C53 course is the only Headquarters, Department of the Army-approved training available.

The course is a distance learning course and must be completed within one year of assignment to a supervisory position.

The SDC is also required for Supervisors as refresher training every three years. This course takes approximately 39 hours to complete which includes a final exam.

Course topics include: Workforce Planning, Position Management and Classification Hiring, Merit System Principles

and Personnel Practices, Performance Management, Training and Development, Recognition, Incentives and Awards, Coaching, Counseling and Mentoring, Leave Administration, and many other topics.

Enrollment for the SDC is through the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System, or CHRTAS, at the following URL site: <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas>.

Once you complete the registration process, your supervisor will receive a system-generated email with instructions to approve your training.

If your supervisor does not receive an email immediately, on your profile make sure that their email address is the new enterprise

mail.mil address.

If they do not have a profile in CHRTAS than their AKO account email forwarding address must be updated to the mail.mil address.

The wrong email address continues to delay student's registration.

As you read this article take time to update your profile in AKO to ensure you have the correct address – you may not be getting your mail forwarded from AKO.

A status report of completed training for all supervisors that supervise civilians is required no later than 25th of each month. A yearly report is provided to HQDA at the end of each fiscal year. 🇺🇸



## 82nd paratrooper “living the dream” in Army Reserve



**LIVING THE DREAM.** Army Reserve Spc. Michael Edwards provides security while Soldiers load a casualty onto a UH-60M during a medical evacuation exercise while participating in an urban training event at Camp Blanding, Fla., located near Jacksonville. Edwards, an infantryman, assigned to the 810th Military Police Company, is from Wesley Chapel, Fla. The Soldiers are assigned to the 724th Military Police Battalion, based at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Soldiers assigned to 724th spent the day training with the Florida Army National Guard helicopter crews on movement and medical evacuation techniques during their annual training. The 724th is assigned to the Fort Meade, Md.-based 200th Military Police Command which commands more than 13,000 Soldiers living in 44 states and is the Department of Defense's largest law enforcement organization.

Story & photos by SGT. 1ST CLASS MARK BELL  
200th Military Police Command

CAMP BLANDING, Fla. – “The Army Reserve is a great way to feed that itch.”

That’s how a former paratrooper from the 82nd Airborne Division describes his decision to return to service in the Army Reserve after a short break.

Spc. Michael Edwards, from Wesley Chapel, Florida, calls the transition the “the best of both worlds.” He is currently assigned to the 200th Military Police Command’s 810th Military Police Company in Tampa.

“You have the opportunity to serve with the U.S. Army on a part-time basis, while also going to school or fulfilling your role in society and in your community,” Edwards said.

Edwards, a self-described late bloomer, said his military career started in 2007. “I felt like I had something left on the table,” he said. “I know people join the military when they are a lot younger, so I figured if I didn’t join then, I probably never would.”

After spending several years jumping out of military aircraft and deploying into harms’ way, Edward eventually came off active duty to



complete his bachelor's degree. He is now halfway through his Master of Business Administration at Saint Leo University.

"I was able to complete four years of school in two years by using my G.I. Bill benefits with the Yellow Ribbon Program," he said. "After I finished my bachelor's degree, I switched my priorities and took on a full time job, and now I go to school part time."

With that itch needing to be scratched, Edwards drove over to a nearby Reserve center to see what the Army Reserve had to offer.

"Now I am looking at the options to pick up another MOS as a military police Soldier," he said.

Edwards works as claims adjustor for a national insurance company and recently spent two weeks on annual training developing new friendships and mentoring the Army Reserve's newest members.

"I love being with Soldiers," he said. "I have a lot of experience to bring to the unit, and they have something to teach me as well."

Edwards encourages others who have left or plan to leave active duty to consider service in the Army Reserve. "I would definitely look into it," he said, adding that brotherhood and sisterhood in the military cannot be replicated in the civilian sector. "We all miss it eventually.

"We are all used to a certain way of life, and it's tough to find that in civilian world," he said. "A lot of civilians can freak out or get upset over small things, but after one deployment, we have a different view of life and can handle confrontation or discomfort differently than those who have never served."

Sgt. Maj. Bennie Nunnally, the operations sergeant major for the 724th Military Police Battalion, based in Fort Lauderdale, said Edwards has been a great asset to the Army Reserve and Military Police Corps.

"He may think he's old, but his heart is young and his passion for his country is indescribable," he said. "One day, he's going to be a command sergeant major for the Army Reserve. He has that drive and leadership qualities we, as senior leaders, dream to mentor."

Maj. Gen. Phillip Churn, the commanding general of the 200th, said as the Army downsizes, the transition of active component Soldiers is a win for the total Army.

Churn said the total Army will look to the Army Reserve to pick up missions previously handled by the active duty.

Churn said a benefit to joining the Army Reserve is that it gives Soldiers the opportunity to train in career fields that are compatible with private industry.

He said the Army Reserve would not only train Soldiers in career fields more compatible with private industry but will also assist a Soldier with finding a civilian job.

For Churn, a strong Army Reserve family is a key component to the success of a unit. The 200th MPCOM has more than 13,000 Soldiers living in 44 states and said the number one priority for any leader is taking care of the Army Reserve family before, during and after a deployment.

"Active Duty Soldiers transitioning to the reserve may keep their Families grounded in local communities while still being a part of the total force," he said. "The private sector can leverage their leadership and technical skills they acquired while on active duty. It's a win for employers, the Army Reserve and their communities."

Whether attending college or beginning a new career, Churn said Soldiers can move forward with confidence in the Army Reserve and create a strong future for themselves, their families and their communities.


Churn said as the Army reduces its forces, those active duty Soldiers would add significant value to the Army Reserve.

"Soldiers get to maintain that spirit of camaraderie that they experienced on active duty, and Soldiers often don't realize how much they will miss being around other Soldiers," he said.

Coming from active duty to the Army Reserve is an avenue to continue their military career and service to their country, he mentioned.

"It allows us to retain combat readiness that has been hard-earned over more than a decade of war," he said. "That experience is crucial as we face today's global threat environment."

Edwards, whose mother is from the Caribbean and father is from England, said the Army gave him an opportunity to become an American citizen in 2009.

"Today, I am living the American dream," he said. "Who could ask for anything more?" 



The Association of the United States Army  
cordially invites you to our

## **MILITARY FAMILY FORUMS**

during

**AUSA'S 2014 ANNUAL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 13-15, 2014**

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Washington, D.C.

*Can't attend in person? Join us online at [www.ausa.org/family](http://www.ausa.org/family)*



AUSA Family Readiness presents three Military Family Forums during the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting. These forums will highlight important issues and programs and will address health and wellness and connectivity in the military community. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ausa.org/family](http://www.ausa.org/family).