



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND  
4710 KNOX STREET  
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310-5010

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

AFRC-MH

DEC 11 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, USAR Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Telling the History of Major Army Reserve Commands

1. All Army Reserve general officer commands will establish programs to capture and tell the history of their units. These unit history programs will include any previous unit combat lineage and/or active component lineage. I want to stress the importance for our soldiers and the public at large to understand the history of the US Army Reserve and the history of our individual commands, from inception to today, and into the future.

2. Why is collecting your command history important? Collecting historical documents and using them as part of an active unit historical program can benefit a unit in many ways. Besides proving a backbone for esprit de corps, having the proper documentary evidence will provide the source material for published accounts of the unit's Soldiers in action that can appear on the website and in a variety of publications including *Soldiers Magazine*, *Army Magazine*, and *Military Review*.

3. The noteworthy achievements of many Soldiers and units have never become widely known, in part, because units did not document their actions. Without documents, there is no real proof of what happened. Commanders have a central role—perhaps the most important role—in overseeing the collection of unit historical data. They alone have the authority to appoint or hire a unit historian as the central point of contact in the unit for history. Commanders also provide their staffs and subordinates with their command intent for executing unit historical programs.

4. I expect each commander to immediately appoint a historical officer to accomplish the tasks outlined in this memorandum and provide the officer's name to the Office of Army Reserve History (OARH). The point of contact for this action is the Director of History, Army Reserve, Dr. Lee S. Harford, Jr., at (910) 570-8183 or at email address [lee.harfordjr@usar.army.mil](mailto:lee.harfordjr@usar.army.mil).

This is important  
to me—frankly.  
JW

JEFFREY W. TALLEY  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding