



The
DOUBLE
"Twice as strong!"

EAGLE

FEBRUARY 2016, Vol. 4 No. 11



WILLS TAKES OVER

PAGE 4



[CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)



table of contents



This page is **INTERACTIVE**.
Click any image to read that story.



4

COVER STORY:

Command Sgt. Maj. James P. Wills addresses the audience during a change of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters, Jan. 8, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Wills takes over the U.S. Army Reserve's top enlisted position from Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas Jr. who will be the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)



8



14

INSIDE:

The Way I See It..... PAGE 3

COVER STORY:

Thomas, Wills Change Responsibility..... PAGE 4

LEADING OFF:

AREC Directors Share Their View of the World .. PAGE 8

ARET-J, JGSDF Reserve Share Best Practices.... PAGE 14

DEPARTMENTS:

“See Something, Say Something” PAGE 18

Army History: Red Ball Express PAGE 20

Safety PAGE 26

Chaplain’s Corner PAGE 28

Family Programs PAGE 29

Around the Headquarters..... PAGE 30

Around the Army..... PAGE 32

DOUBLE EAGLE



FEBRUARY 2016 VOL. 4, No. 11

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

ARMY RESERVE COMMAND TEAM

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley

Chief of U.S. Army Reserve,
Commanding General USARC

Maj. Gen. Megan P. Tatu

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Reserve

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Russell P. Smith

Command Chief Warrant Officer
of the U.S. Army Reserve

Command Sgt. Maj. James P. Wills

Interim Command Sergeant Major
of the U.S. Army Reserve

DOUBLE EAGLE STAFF

Col. William Nutter

Chief, Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. Anthony Martinez

U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs

Sergeant Major

Mr. Marty Martin

Chief, Internal Information

Mr. Timothy L. Hale

Editor, Double Eagle

Mr. Brian D. Godette

Double Eagle Lead Writer

SUBMISSIONS: The USARC Double Eagle invites your story ideas, photographs, and other material of interest to members of the USARC headquarters.

Correspondence can be sent via email to: timothy.l.hale.civ@mail.mil.

Please include Double Eagle Story Submission and your office in the subject line of your email along with a daytime telephone, your email, and contact name.

The USARC Double Eagle is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters, Fort Bragg, N.C. Contents of the USARC Double Eagle are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or U.S. Army Reserve Command. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the USARC Public Affairs Office, Fort Bragg, N.C.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS:

"BEST IN THE ARMY RESERVE"

WINNER: 2012, 2013, 2014

DEPT. OF THE ARMY

MAJ. GEN. KEITH L. WARE AWARD

HONORABLE MENTION: 2013



**CLICK HERE for
Double Eagle back issues.**

Groundhog Day

How on Earth did we, as a civilized people, resort to having a furry, burrow-dwelling rodent predict our weather?

According to National Geographic, the Groundhog, or Woodchuck, *Marmota Monax* if you prefer Latin, is one of 14 species of Marmots. These rodents live a "feast-or-famine lifestyle" gorging themselves all summer to build up fat reserves. After the first frost, they retreat to their burrows and snooze until spring (*What a life!*).

Feb. 2 is the traditional day that groundhogs emerge from their subterranean slumber to take a stroll outside. If the groundhog sees his shadow, it's six more weeks of winter and back in the hole he goes. If he sees no shadow, the spring is just around the corner and he stays above ground.

The most famous of these four-legged weather prognosticators is Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil who has been "predicting" weather since 1887 — not the same groundhog, mind you.

But wait, there are five other furry weather-predicting rodents the Punxsutawney Phil website calls "imposters."

In Georgia, there is General Beauregard Lee; Ohio has Buckeye Chuck; New York has Staten Island Chuck; and Canada rounds out the list with two: Balzac Billy in Calgary and Wiarton Willie near Ontario ("*O Canada!*").

But this tradition is not just relegated to North America. The tradition stems from Europe with Candlemas Day and the days of early Christians there. Clergy would bless candles and distribute them to the people.

An old English song said of this tradition:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go Winter, and not come again.*

After last week's Blizzard of 2016 shut down much of the northeast with foot after foot of snow, and much of North Carolina was blanketed with ice and snow, we all should hope that either Billy, Chuck and Chuck, Lee, Phil, or Willy come out of their winter slumber and see nothing but gray skies.

Of course, there is no exact science to all of this — after all, weather in one are of the nation is rarely an indicator of what it will be in another — but it is a fun way to break the doldrums of winter

Maybe North Carolina should get in the game with their own Groundhog and call him Tarheel Tommy. 🇺🇸



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.

THOMAS, WILLS CHANGE RESPONS



RESPONSIBILITY AT USARC HEADQUARTERS



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

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – A new chapter in the U.S. Army Reserve began Friday as Command Sgt. Major Luther Thomas Jr., passed the reigns to Command Sgt. Major James P. Wills, in a change of responsibility ceremony, Jan. 8.

Thomas, who has served as the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve Command since April 2013, leaves his position to become the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Wills, who enlisted in the Army in 1984 and a native of Beckley, West Virginia, will serve as the interim command sergeant major.

Thomas said he was most proud of those who have served with during his tenure.

“What I’m most proud of are the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve. The men and women, 199,000-plus strong, who stand ready to mobilize and deploy anywhere in the world,” Thomas said.

“I’ll miss the soldiers in the field,” Thomas said. “Soldiers are our most important resource. Without the Army Reserve’s dedicated soldiers, the Army Reserve would not be able to accomplish all it has and all that it will do in the future.”

Thomas praised the U.S. Army Reserve enlisted force describing them as competent, confident, demonstrating character and commitment, despite risks and challenges.

“I will miss the men and women who choose to serve in something larger than themselves,” Thomas said.

The noncommissioned officer corps is called the backbone of the Army and Thomas did everything he

SWORN IN. Command Sgt. Maj. James P. Wills is congratulated by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, chief U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve Command commanding general, after taking the oath of office, with his wife, Lisa, during a change of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters, Jan. 8. Wills takes over the U.S. Army Reserve’s top enlisted position from Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas Jr. who will be the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

See **WILLS** Pg. 6

WILLS

from Pg. 5



OVERCOME. Aaron Wills, above, son of Command Sgt. Maj. James P. Wills, naps on the shoulder of his mother, Lisa, during her husband's change of responsibility ceremony.

could do to ensure that backbone stays strong, according to Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve Command commanding general, who hosted the ceremony.

Talley highlighted many of Thomas' initiatives he implemented during his 35-months as the command's top enlisted soldier to include producing top NCOs who competed and won in the Army's Best Warrior competition.

"Think about that," Talley said. "Three components, 1.1

million people in the Army and the Army Reserve NCO Corps has won NCO of the Year for the Army two out of the last three years. That's pretty impressive."

Talley said Thomas introduced the Command Sergeant Major Knowledge Portal to pass along the latest Army and U.S. Army Reserve information to NCOs across the force, led brigade-level training session to help improve unit readiness, championed a change in Army regulations to speed up promotions from specialist to sergeant, and

**“I will miss the men
and women who choose
to serve in something
larger than themselves.”**

Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas Jr.
12th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve



reminded everyone on how to take care of soldiers.

Wills ascends to his new position with 30-plus years of military service. He most recently served as command sergeant major of the 99th Regional Support Command.

“When I joined the Army 31 years ago, I never had the foresight the Army would lead me to this day and I am most grateful for this opportunity,” Wills said. “My passion is the Soldiers and the Families which we serve.”

He challenged leaders to remember “that the young squad leader we train today may be the first sergeant, command sergeant major or commander of tomorrow leading our very own Soldiers or grandchildren into conflict.”

Wills called the Army “a team that can’t and won’t be defeated.”

Throughout his career, Wills has served in a variety of leadership positions in engineer, training

commands, field artillery, and logistics.

His significant deployments and mobilizations include Desert Storm, Southwest Asia, Iraq; Training Base Expansion II, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and Operation Enduring Freedom Support, also at Fort Leonard Wood.

Wills is CEO of Appalachian Paving & Excavation, LLC; Beckley Asphalt & Aggregate, LLC, and AP&E Properties, LLC, all located in Beckley.

He is a lifetime member of the Army Engineer Association, lifetime member of the Association of the United States Army, and Society of American Military Engineers.

Wills has earned a host of military decorations and honors throughout his career, most notably the recipient of the Artillery’s Order of St. Barbara’s Medal, Engineer Bronze De Fleury Medal, and Kentucky Colonel nomination. 🇺🇸



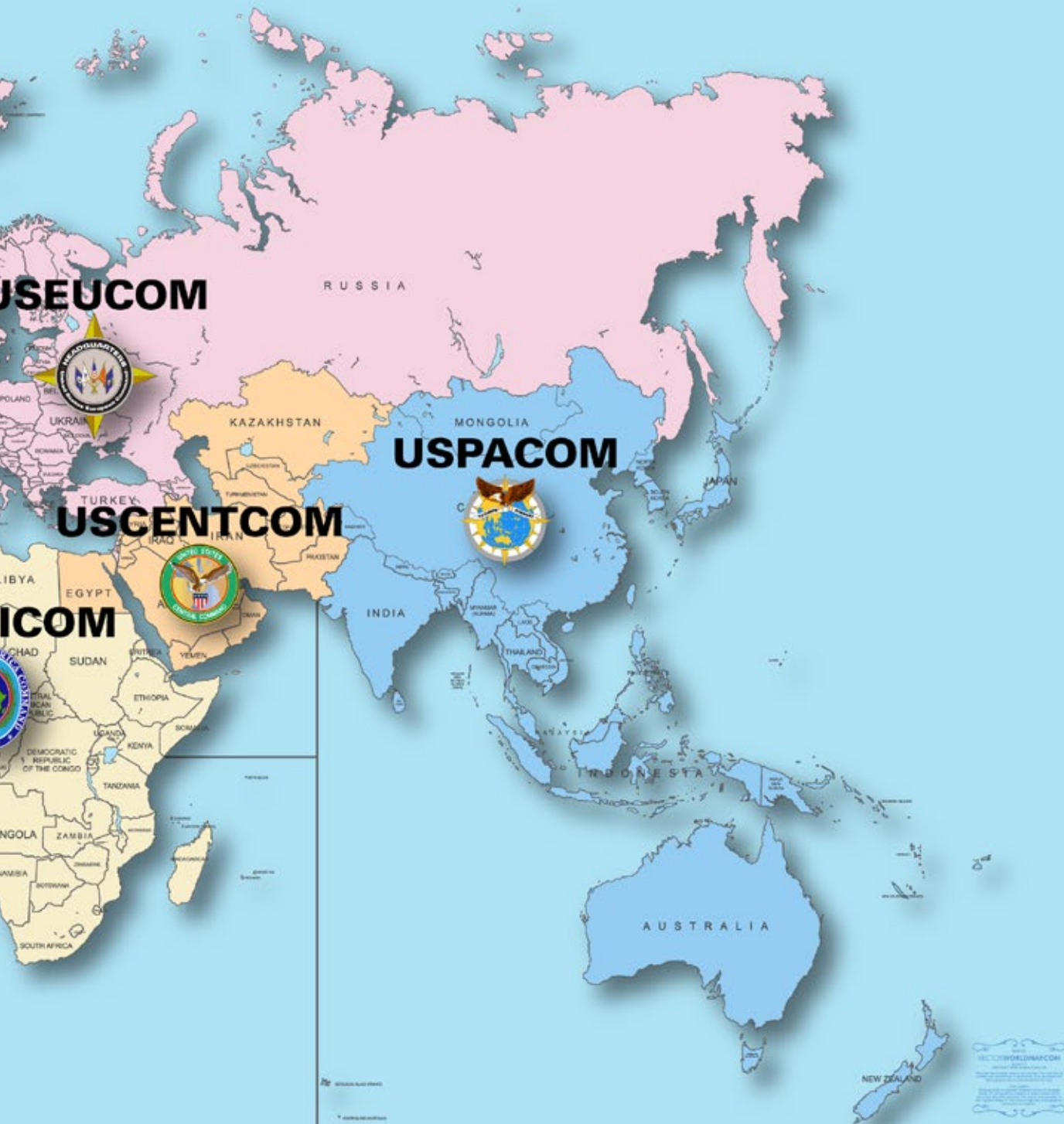
USPACOM



AREC Directors

-  U.S. Army Central
-  U.S. Army Europe
-  U.S. Army North
-  U.S. Army South
-  U.S. Army Pacific
-  U.S. Army Africa

AREC DIRECTORS SHARE T



THEIR VIEW OF THE WORLD

Story Begins on Page 10

(Additional COCOM graphics by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)

ARECs ensure U.S. Army Reserve is engaged on the world stage

Story by **BRIAN GODETTE**
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. —What does it mean to have a U.S. Army Reserve force, globally engaged, impacting the far reaches of the world?

The answer starts with Army Reserve Engagement Cells and Teams. ARECs are technical and tactical experts who provide direct staff planning support to Army Service Component Commands and Field Armies. ARETs are smaller elements that help integrate U.S. Army Reserve capabilities in Combatant Command and Corps-level plans across warfighting functions.

Brigadier generals serve as AREC directors representing six of the nine ASCCs in the Army — U.S. Army Africa, U.S. Army Central, U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Army North, U.S. Army Pacific, and U.S. Army South. On Jan. 7 and 8, AREC/ARET leaders met for a strategic huddle at the U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters to discuss and plan the way ahead in serving the needs of the ASCC commanders and combatant commanders around the world.

“We represent the U.S. Army Reserve and we tell our story (to combatant commanders),” said Brig. Gen. Richard John Torres, AREC Director, U.S. Army South.

The director huddle brought together the minds of leaders who have made it their career to be at the forefront of U.S. Army Reserve initiatives, which ultimately play a part in the U.S. Army Total Force.

“The average active duty Soldier is an expert at being an active duty Soldier, but very few of them know much about the U.S. Army Reserve,” said Brig. Gen. Phil Jolly, AREC Director, U.S. Army Europe. “That’s where we come in.

“We provide the subject matter expertise to explain to them what we can and cannot do with the Army reserve assets, where we can help them. We’re

advisors, not only helping them identify opportunities where we can put reserve assets into the fight but also how to request those assets,” Jolly said.

The opportunity for the AREC leaders to have the huddle at USARC headquarters proved to be a beneficial add-on for everyone there.

“Given that we are doing it here at USARC, with the USARC staff here and available and briefing, it’s an opportunity to raise these issues to give them an update on how our AREC is organized, how it’s being implemented. That is valuable to them in how they support us in the future,” Torres said.



BRIG. GEN. RICHARD J. TORRES
Director AREC, USASO

For two days, the teams exchanged strategies, highlighted achievements, discussed proposals and attentively listened to the insight of their global partners.

“It’s a sharing of best practices that helps us be more effective and efficient in how we bring Army Reserve capabilities to be used and implemented,” Torres said.

“It’s reassuring to me when I can raise issues that I’m seeing in my area of operation that some of them (other AREC directors) might see similar issues, and may be approaching them in a different way, which helps me to resolve my problem,” Torres said.

A visit at USARC headquarters with Lt. Gen.



BRIG. GEN. PHILLIP S. JOLLY
Director AREC, USAREUR



Danish army Soldiers stand next to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Korte, center, a civil affairs noncommissioned officer with Company B, 457th Civil Affairs Battalion, 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, 7th CSC and a native of El Cerrito, Calif., and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Smith, a civil affairs NCO with Company B, 457th CA Battalion, 361st CA Brigade, 7th CSC and a native of Tampa, Fla., June 18, 2015 and their Danish interpreter during the Danish army's Civil Military Cooperation Support Team, 2nd Armored Infantry Battalion's NATO Response Force validation and training exercise Brave Lion 15, held June 8-19, 2015. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Chlosta, 7th CSC Public Affairs Office)

Ben Hodges, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe, one month prior to the huddle, introduced new audiences to the unique capabilities the AREC in his area of operation and the impact on his command's mission.

Introducing more of the AREC directors and the capabilities they provide to their specific area of operation only seemed appropriate.

The war on terror marked the inclusion of thousands of U.S. Army Reserve forces over the span of several continents in an effort to provide support and fight in the war during the 21st century — and U.S. Army Central, or USARCENT, has had an important role to play.

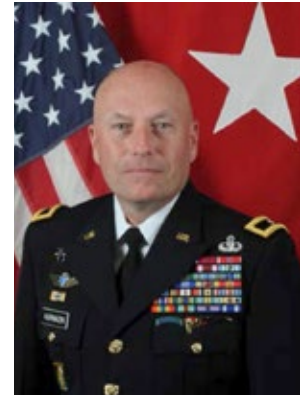
“A lot of us know about U.S. Army Central because it has been in the fight — engaged overseas in some specific areas, under specific named operations since 2001,” said Brig. Gen. Robert A. Karmazin, AREC Director, USARCENT.

“We are a conduit and focal point for the reserve forces with reach-back capability for our regionally-aligned forces that support this command,” Karmazin said.

“For the last 14 and a half years we have been heavily engaged in support of the Army component for the region,” Karmazin said.

The viewpoint from a horizon in another region provided another aspect of ARECs, with similar functions.

“Our AREC is part of the African Horizon strategy for our command, which encompasses all the operations and exercises that our command performs,” said Brig. Gen. Kenneth Moore, Deputy



BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. KARMAZIN
Director AREC, USARCENT

See **AREC** Pg. 12

AREC

from Pg. 11

Commanding General,
AREC Director, U.S.
Army Africa.

“The Army Reserve Engagement Cell better integrates the Army Reserve in to their training, operations, and theater security cooperation activities on the continent of Africa,” Moore said.

The support role the U.S. Army provides in Africa does not go unnoticed. Key roles, performed by Soldiers with different military occupational specialties add to the operations of an entire command.

“The U.S. Army Reserve brings valuable and critical enablers to Africa,” Moore said. “There aren’t too many combat operations going on in Africa right now, and the requirements are really for the enabling forces- the civil affairs, the medical, the signal, the engineer, the military police capability- are critical enablers important to our command.

“Going forward the AREC will be fully manned in March 2016, and we are only 10 months in to our organizational capability. I’m looking forward to seeing what we can really do to better integrate the U.S. Army Reserve into our command’s activities,” Moore said.

A keen example of the U.S. Army Reserve being integrated into a command’s activities would be the current international picture in Europe.

“USAREUR is in a unique fight,” Jolly said. “We have Russia’s aggressive posturing we have to deal with, we have the Syrian (refugee) crisis going on, there’s a lot of concerns in Europe right now.”

Jolly touched upon many of the same points Lt. Gen. Hodges did when praising the U.S. Army Reserve impact on Europe in his discussion a month ago.

“The European command has been pulling assets out of Europe for the last 20 plus years because the



BRIG. GEN. KENNETH H. MOORE, JR.
Director AREC, USARAF

Iron Curtain came down, there is no need for us to have forces placed forward,” Jolly said.

“Well now we are inching ever closer to the situation we had back in the 80’s, but we don’t have the active duty forces there anymore, and that’s where the Army Reserve comes into play,” Jolly said. “We are addressing the mission gaps that we have.”

The Soldier development aspect of ARECs shares equal importance to component commands and the U.S. Army Reserve as the support provided to those component commands.

“We have opportunities for junior leader development, we have opportunities for units to go over and get validated, providing units an opportunity to mobilize, go overseas, interact with Germans, and others in a multi-national scenario,” Jolly said. “Getting that interoperability on an international level can’t be replaced.”

The fundamentals of good leadership was exhibited throughout the huddle and highlighted with the actions taken by the different directors and their teams.

“Our Army North AREC supports the NORTHCOM area of operations by identifying the Army Reserve Plan, Prepare, and Provide model and uses that construct,” said Brig. Gen. Peter Bosse, AREC Director, U.S.

Army North. “We plan for units to participate in exercises, we then prepare them for those exercises, and we provide them for theater security cooperation initiatives as well, all reaching back to receive U.S. Army Reserve capabilities.”



BRIG. GEN. PETER A. BOSSE
Director AREC, USARNORTH

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command, boasts that the ARECs are designed as “one-stop” shops, and across the global region, examples of it are fortifying the claim.

“In our Army North area of operations, which



CONSTRUCTING HOPE. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers with the 322nd Engineer Company from Decorah, Iowa, construct a medical clinic in Barahona, Dominican Republic during Humanitarian Civic Assistance Beyond the Horizon, May 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Bronco Suzuki/982nd COMCAM)

is basically the homeland, Canada, and Mexico, without access to U.S. Army Reserve combat support and combat service support capability they wouldn't be able to do their mission," Bosse said.

"We provide the depth of those resources that are available and direct access to them through the Army Reserve Engagement Cell at ARNORTH," he said.

Brig. Gen. Brian E. Alvin, the AREC Director, U.S. Army Pacific, in an earlier interview at the USARC headquarters, described the mission of his AREC — the first fully engaged cell in the U.S. Army Reserve.

"The USARPAC footprint is 36 countries, half the world's land surface," Alvin said.

"If you envision from the West Coast of the United States to the

western edge of India, that's the USARPAC area of responsibility."

Alvin is also dual-hatted as a deputy commanding general and in that role serves as a direct link in his area for the U.S. Army Reserve at civic and military functions.

"I am a direct representation of what the U.S. Army Reserve can do as a Total Force partner," Alvin said.

"That's my whole posture. That's my mindset. I am always thinking. 'How can the U.S. Army Reserve build more capability and opportunities to plug into that Total Force?' It all nests in my mind. You walk the walk, talk the talk," Alvin said.

The global impact of the ARECs are measured by the Citizen-Soldiers who comprise it, filling the gaps when needed, according to Torres.

What it means is U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers are in the midst of the global stage, providing solutions and making a difference in how the Total Force strives for success in its endeavors. 🌍



BRIG. GEN. BRIAN E. ALVIN
Director AREC, USARPAC



SHARING IDEAS. U.S. Army Col. Luis Pomales (left), a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native serving as the director of the Army Reserve Engagement Team-Japan (ARET-J), explains the U.S. Army Reserve's structure, missions and capabilities to Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Reserve Component service members during a command briefing conducted at JGSDF Western Army's headquarters in Camp Kenjun, Japan, Jan. 15. The meeting was one of several cultural, social and military training engagements designed to enhance the bilateral partnership between ARET-J and the JGSDF Western Army's Reserve Component.

ARET-J, JGSDF Reserve Share Best Practices

Story & photos by SGT JOHN CARKEET IV
U.S. Army Japan

CAMP KENJUN, Japan - When the Army Reserve Engagement Team-Japan's (ARET-J) director and senior enlisted adviser first set foot in Kumamoto prefecture on Japan's southern island of Kyushu, they expected a cordial meet and greet session conducted primarily inside an conference room with their Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Reserve Component counterparts.

Reality surpassed these usual expectations with elaborate social, cultural, and military training engagements culminating into a 24-hour journey that demonstrated a steadfast partnership between the two armies.

"Memorable, face-to-face visits are necessary to develop friendly bonds," said JGSDF Maj. Hisashi Matsumoto, Reserve Component

section leader for the JGSDF Western Army. "They also offer opportunities to exchange ideas on how to enhance the effectiveness of our respective Reserve forces, particularly in the event of a major natural disaster or similar contingency."

"It's essential that my team and I gain a better understanding of our host nation by actively reaching out to our JGSDF

partners,” said U.S. Army Col. Luis Pomales, director, ARET-J. “In the past, it took almost three years for ARET-J to actively engage with each of the five regional armies that make up the JGSDF ... We aim to meet with every senior (JGSDF Reserve Component) leader before the end of 2016.”

Minutes after shaking hands and boarding buses at the Kumamoto Airport Jan. 15, 2016, the ARET-J and JGSDF Western Army leaders disembarked on the pristine grounds of Kumamoto Castle, a 13-structure complex considered by many historians as

one of the three premier castles of Japan. The group shared a traditional Japanese lunch inside the castle keep, embarked on a tour along the castle’s fortifications and sipped coffee at one of the many cafes that encircle the historic landmark.

“I was thoroughly enjoyed the cultural immersion,” said Army Sgt. Maj. Bennie B. Nunnally, ARET-J’s senior noncommissioned officer adviser. “It was refreshing not to get inundated with briefings and instead experience firsthand the Western Army’s unique mindset molded by Kumamoto’s proud history and heritage.”

“We wanted to ensure that our guests understand and appreciate the close connection between the JGSDF Western Army and the local community, said Matsumoto. The ranks of the Western Army consist of the very people who care for our 2,000 year-old culture. Their respect for our way of life helps the Western Army accomplish its missions and garner stronger support from our American partners.”

After an afternoon of casual tours, group photos and gift exchanges, the teams proceeded to Western Army’s headquarters in Camp Kenjun where they changed

See **ARET-J** Pg. 16



IN THE FIELD. U.S. Army Col. Luis Pomales (right), a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native serving as the director of the Army Reserve Engagement Team-Japan (ARET-J), observes an exercise conducted by the 8th Artillery Regiment, Western Army, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) at Kuroishibu training grounds near Camp Kenjun, Japan, Jan. 16.

ARET-J

from Pg. 15



into their respective uniforms in preparation for a bilateral command briefing.

Attended by Pomales, Nunnally, and JGSDF Western Army service members of all ranks and specialties, the briefing introduced both sides to the structure, missions, and capabilities of the JGSDF Reserve Component and the U.S. Army Reserve.

“The (U.S.) Army Reserve and the JGSDF Reserve Component share many of the same qualities,” said Pomales, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico. “Both sides stand on a firm foundation built by professionals who are proud to serve their country and love what they do.”

Pomales, Matsumoto, and their respective teams also pointed out how each side can incorporate one another’s unique strengths to better train, equip and lead their warrior citizens.

“The (U.S. Army Reserve) has developed programs designed to create and maintain close partnerships with the private sector,” said Matsumoto.

“The JGSDF continues to face challenges with recruiting and keeping highly skilled service members ... incentive programs and private-public partnerships like those created by the (U.S. Army Reserve) might mitigate turnover and entice civilian employers to hire (JGSDF Reserve) service members,” he said.

“The JGSDF consistently embeds its service members in U.S. military units and Department of Defense schools through coop and exchange programs,” said Nunnally, an Atlanta native. “One JGSDF sergeant major recently graduated from the U.S. Army’s Sergeants Major Academy in Ft. Bliss, (Texas) ... These exchange programs have enhanced U.S.-Japan relations, (and) I believe the values we cherish as U.S. Army Soldiers would strengthen by embedding our Soldiers in JGSDF units and enrolling them in JGSDF-sponsored courses.”

After a refreshing evening dinner social and a good night’s rest at one of Kumamoto City’s premier hotels, the teams gathered at Kuroishibu training grounds near Camp Kenjun to observe JGSDF active duty and Reserve Component service members from the Western Army’s 8th Artillery Regiment rapidly

deploy a pair of 155 mm howitzers and set up field communication lines.

“I’m impressed how reserve JGSDF service members will train alongside their active duty comrades during their annual training events,” said Pomales. “This practice shares many qualities of the (U.S.) Army’s ‘Total Force Integration’ initiatives.”

“Yet the JGSDF reserve and active duty elements conduct separate initial entry training courses,” added Nunnally. “In the U.S. Army, every Soldier—active duty, Reserve and National Guard—undergo the same nine-week basic training course ... Implementing a similar system may help the JGSDF achieve an even greater level of respect and camaraderie between its Reserve and active duty components.”

The two-day engagement officially closed with a round table discussion featuring a panel of junior enlisted JGSDF reserve service members. The panel asked various questions about the Army Reserve and expressed their individual challenges to satisfy their JGSDF training requirements while simultaneously meeting their civilian employers’ expectations.

“The U.S. has laws and programs that support its Reserve service members,” said Pomales after listening to the panel’s concerns. “Despite these efforts, thousands of Reserve Soldiers must overcome many of the same obstacles you mentioned as they balance work, school, family and Army obligations ... (ARET-J) stands ready to lend its support to have your concerns heard. Ultimately, it’s up to you to work with your leadership to resolve these issues so that you may continue to serve your country with pride and distinction.”

As Pomales and Nunnally said farewell to their gracious hosts, both sides expressed their commitment to enhance their partnership through more frequent bilateral engagements.

“I hope the ARET-J continues to be proactive and visits my counterparts from the other (JGSDF) regional armies,” said Matsumoto. “In the near future, I would like to see all the regional armies unify their efforts to develop a stronger Reserve Component thanks in part to the ideas, opportunities and observations shared by the ARET-J team.” 🌐

LISTENING IN. U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Bennie B. Nunnally (preceding page), an Atlanta native serving as the senior enlisted adviser, ARET-J, listens to a briefing conducted by senior leaders from the 8th Artillery Regiment, Western Army, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF).

"See Something, Say Something"

U.S. Army Reserve Soldier reports suspicious activity at NFL game

Story by **BRIAN GODETTE**
U.S. Army Reserve Command

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—
Turbulent times call for vigilance on the part of every citizen, to ensure the safety of not only the ones they love, but also the public in general.

In a time in our global society where terror attacks have become more frequent, and the wake of its damage threatens life, no matter whose life it is, every small measure to counter it is of significant importance. Most cases of proactive measures begin with "see something, say something."

A Sunday afternoon NFL football game presented a situation for one man to do just that at Levi Stadium, December 21, 2015.

"Saturday evening, my friend gave me his and his wife's tickets to Sunday's 49ers game," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Williams, Unit Administrator assigned to Pacific Division, 75th Training Command.

Williams has been a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier since 1996 and has over 25 years in the Army

to include his active duty service. He currently works as a civilian employee with the 75th Training Command. The years in the military have provided Williams a foundation of training that he credits for his perseverance.

"We had gotten there long before the game started and went to our seats and as we were sitting there, I noticed a man acting very suspicious," Williams said. "Because of my Army training and additional training that I have been through as a Physical Security Officer, I was able to recognize the man's suspicious behavior."

Williams, who attended the game with his fiancé, Eileen Clemens, began to watch the

man closely, noticing the man was looking around himself as to ensure he wasn't being watched.

"He then turned sideways, which is when I noticed he had a very small camera on a little stick that as he held it, rested on his hand," Williams said. "I also noticed he had some other very small electronic device in the other hand and after he took a picture he would use the other device, which I believe was allowing him to send the photos to whomever he was communicating with."

Again, military training and a sort of "spidey sense" to always be aware of surroundings and to notice the slightest thing out of the ordinary, kicked in for Williams.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Williams, and his fiancé, Eileen Clemens, enjoy a game at Levi Stadium, Dec. 21, 2015. Clemens reported a man acting suspiciously taking pictures of the stadium with what appeared to be a small camera and some sort of transmission device. Stadium authorities detained the man and confirmed Williams' suspicions, stating the FBI and Homeland Security officials were holding the man for further questioning. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Brian Williams)



“The man moved about 10 feet down and did the whole procedure over again. After the third time of him doing this, that is when I told my fiancé that something isn’t right and that I was going to go report it,” Williams said.

Williams made his way to the nearest security office and reported what he saw. Security officers called in the report, and within minutes had the suspect surrounded, talking with him and later escorting him to an area downstairs.

The gravity of the situation was heightened due to Levi Stadium being the home of the upcoming Super Bowl 50, an event that brings in tens of thousands of spectators with millions more watching worldwide.

The FBI held a security training exercise at the stadium in November for that particular reason, and coincidentally before the deadly terror attacks in Paris.

Williams and his fiancé returned to their seats after reporting the incident to watch the game they came to see. It wasn’t long before security officers came back to the couple.

“Several security officers came to me thanking me and gave me an update,” Williams said. “The FBI, Homeland Security and police were questioning him and they saw that the man had been taking photos of the stadium and made some calls, so they were tracing the numbers.”

They kept thanking me for being vigilant about it

and reporting it. The officers presented me two passes into the clubs at the stadium where only elite people go and told my fiancé and I to go and enjoy ourselves and tour the facility,” Williams said.

The couple did just that; amazed at how quickly the officers responded to the report and at the gracious treatment they received.

“I feel very strongly that every citizen could have the same effect with or without training. If someone sees something that doesn’t look right, report it,” Williams said. “We need to stand together and protect one another by being vigilant and not being afraid to report suspicious activity.

“My advice to others who could potentially find themselves in a similar situation would be – follow your heart and feelings. If you are feeling something is not right, don’t ignore it,” he added.

As a Soldier, Williams did as he was trained, and as a citizen, he followed his heart. The combination of the two highlights the commitment of U.S. Army Reserve Citizen-Soldiers.

“I’m humbled to see the effect my actions have made and to know that I may have saved thousands of lives and might have thwarted an attack. I feel more confident than before, knowing I made a difference, especially in these days,” Williams said.

“On the way to the game I told my fiancé ‘that I have a feeling there is a reason I am to be there. Now I know why.’” 🇺🇸





DANGEROUS TRAVEL. This painting, titled "GANGWAY," by Charles Waterhouse illustrates the Red Ball Express convoys barreling across Normandy, France. (Courtesy of American Legion Magazine via the U.S. Army Transportation Museum)

RED BALL EXPRESS: KEEPING THE WHEELS OF WAR TURNING

“It was dusk, somewhere in France in the autumn of 1944. A jeep carrying a first lieutenant in charge of a platoon of trucks crested a hill. Instinctively, the young officer scanned the horizon for enemy aircraft that sometimes swooped in low for strafing runs. The skies were empty. But as far as the eye could see, ahead and to the rear, the descending night was pierced by specks of white and red light—cat eyes, the blackout running lights of hundreds of trucks that snaked along the highway.”

— **David P. Colley**

from the book “On the Road To Victory: The Red Ball Express”

Story by **JENNIFER FRIEND**

Museum Specialist, Office of Army Reserve History

The convoy described above is that of the famous Red Ball Express trucking operation in the European Theater of Operation during World War II in the late summer and fall of 1944.

Army General George S. Patton’s advance across France in 1944 is credited historically as a significant contribution to the Allied victory in Europe in World War II. The impasse that ensued shortly after the Normandy invasion became critical, launching Operation Cobra into action on July 21, 1944 to break the stalemate. The operation called for a massive aerial bombardment along a small stretch of the Germany defensive lines.

Although the results had the intended effect on the enemy, it also created significant and unforeseen consequences for the Allies. The German Army retreated so rapidly, the Allies were forced to scramble after them. The breakout from Normandy and parts of France started a race to Paris and points north and east. With the railroads damaged from Allied efforts

and the port of Cherbourg almost unusable because of German sabotage, Patton stretched his supply line to near-collapse. Temporary harbors were established, and 24-hour trucking operations began. The Red Ball Express was born!

The term “Red Ball” originated with the railroad. It was used to describe express cargo service dated at least to the end of the 19th century. Around 1892, the Santa Fe railroad began using it to refer to express shipping for priority freight and perishables. The trains and tracks cleared for their use were marked with red balls. The term grew in popularity and was extensively used by the 1920s.

In the beginning, there were not enough trucks or drivers so the Army raided units that had trucks and formed provisional truck units for the Red Ball. Soldiers whose duties were not critical to the war effort were asked, or tasked, to become drivers. Because African-Americans were still primarily relegated to non-combat roles at this time, the majority of these

See **RED BALL** Pg. 22

RED BALL

from Pg. 21

3903d Transportation Corps Truck Company (Troop)(Old)
 3903d Quartermaster Truck Company (Old)
 Company C, 514th Quartermaster Truck Regiment (Old)(Formerly)
 Company C, 514th Qm Regiment (Truck-Army)(Old)(Formerly)
 578th Motor Transport Co., VII Corps (Formerly)

| STATIONS AND MOVEMENTS | PERIOD COVERED | | CHARACTER OF DUTY |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|
| | From- | To- | |
| Ft. Geo. G. Meade, Md. | 3-19-43 | 7-31-43 | |
| Cp Pickett, Va. (P) | 7-31-43 | 2-6-44 | |
| Shipment 1644-00(Cp Kilmer, NJ) | 2-6-44 | 2-21-44 | |
| NYPE "HMS PASTEUR" | 2-21-44 | 2-21-44 | APO 9490 (NY) |
| England | 2-28-44 | | |
| France | | | |
| Belgium | | | |
| France | | | |
| Belgium | | | |
| France | | 4- 2-46 | |
| Le Havre "SEA FIDDLER" | 4- 2-46 | 4- 2-46 | |
| Cp Kilmer, N.J. | 4-11-46 | 4-12-46 | INACTIVATED |

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 016
 February 1, 1941

drivers were young African-Americans – approximately 75 percent. When the Red Ball Express ended Nov. 16, 1944, truckers had delivered 412,193 tons of gas, oil, lubricants, ammunition, food, and other essentials. By then, 210,209 African-Americans were serving in Europe and 93,292 of them were in the Quartermaster Corps. Many of which, were all-black companies as well as Organized Reserve, such as the 513th and 514th Quartermaster Truck Regiments.

They were given a few hours of instruction and told they were qualified. Phillip A. Dick, a scout corporal with Battery A, 380th Field Artillery, 102nd Division, one of the few white Soldiers who volunteered for the Red Ball, recalls, "Everybody was stripping gears, but by the time we got back to the company area we could make the trucks go."

The Army established a priority route to alleviate heavy traffic delays that consisted of two parallel highways between the beachhead and the city of Chartres, just outside Paris. The northern route was designated

See **RED BALL** Pg. 24

ORGANIZED RESERVE. 3903d TC Co: lineage/history of the 514th. There is still some confusion as to which units were Organized Reserve during the war. According to the card above, the 514th was constituted as Reserve and remained as such throughout the war. The "Organized Reserve" stamp on the card was put there during the war, not after, so that is how they thought of the unit at the time. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center for Military History)



LONG HAUL TRUCKERS. Members of C Company, 514th Truck Regiment. From left, James H. Bailey, Clarence Bainsford, Jack R. Blackwell, and John R. Houston. John Houston is the father of the late singer/actress Whitney Houston, and runs a company created by her. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Transportation Museum)



RED BALL VETERAN. James Rookard, 84, of Maple Heights, flanked by a display case of medals and mementos from his service as a truck driver during World War II, remembers the grueling pace of the Red Ball Express as a great experience but hopes "I don't ever have to go through anything like that again." (Courtesy of Brian Albrecht)



UNIT IDENTITY. Unofficial shoulder patches, like the one above, were worn by some Soldiers. Each truck in the convoy was marked with a red disk at least six inches in diameter. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Transportation Museum)

RED BALL

from Pg. 23

one-way for traffic outbound from the beaches. The southern route was for return traffic. As the war moved past the Seine and Paris, the two-way loop route was extended to Soissons, northeast of Paris, and to Sommesous and Arcis-sur-Aube, east of Paris toward Verdun.

The men drove night and day, regardless of the weather or enemy coming at them, making sleep deprivation a normal, but dangerous routine. Each truck contained a two-man team and even

though they would not see combat on route, they were armed with carbines and machine guns, just in case; ambushes and low flying enemy aircraft were daily occurrences. Lack of sleep and nighttime were the driver's worst enemy.

James Rookard, 84, a Red Ball driver with the 514th Quartermaster Regiment (Organized Reserve), remembered how the truck headlights were masked to narrow "cat's eye" slits so convoys couldn't be spotted by their lights and attacked – it also added to

the dangers of the night runs. The drivers were frightened and with good reason; the loads they were carrying contained ammunition and jerry cans filled with gasoline turning the trucks into motorized bombs just waiting for a spark. In some places, the front was only five miles away. Rookard recalled, "My worst memories of the Red Ball Express were seeing trucks get blown up. There were dead bodies and dead horses on the highways after bombs dropped."

Additional hazards and delays



ROADSIDE STOP. The American Red Cross supplied eight club-mobiles to provide hot coffee and sandwiches to drivers. Medics operated aid stations along the route, and Ordnance units set up maintenance and repair shops. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Transportation Museum)



consisted of wandering livestock, theft, and starving civilians who would stand in the trucks' path to beg for food, and the trucks took terrible abuse. Batteries dried up, engines overheated, motors burned out for lack of grease and oil, transmissions were overstressed, bolts came loose, and drive shafts fell off.

In the first month of operation, Red Ball trucks wore out 40,000 tires. Although, after three months, the continuous use of both drivers and trucks took its toll, but the Red Ball Express was a military success.

According to the Army Transportation Museum, the Red Ball Express was conceived in a 36-hour brain-storming session. It lasted only three months from August to November 1944, but without it, the campaign in the European Theater could have dragged on for years.

Many of the Soldiers in these truck companies left the Army after the war to continue their lives as civilians.

However, without their sacrifices and willingness to serve their country, during a time of civil unrest, the war may have turned out very differently. 🇺🇸

REPAIR AND REFIT. Members of the Red Ball Express repair a 2-1/2 ton truck, while a crewman at a machine gun keeps watch. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Transportation Museum)

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE. James Bailey, "Before the war, I drove a tractor-trailer for the government's 8662nd Depot. After I was drafted they asked who could drive a truck. I said I could, and then they taught me to drive the Army way – not only hauling supplies and troops, but learning to navigate by compass and dodge enemy aircraft and snipers!" James Bailey was from Dayton, Ohio and returned to a pre-war trucking job for 25 years, then went into administration. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Transportation Museum)



Additional Duty Safety Officer/NCO

Who is the ADSO/NCO?

The Commander's appointed representative

Where are ADSO/NCO appointed?

All levels including Company and Separate Detachment

What does an ADSO/NCO do?

- Manage and implement the commander's safety program
- Aids the commander's decision making process
- Preserves the commander's limited resources

The Unit ADSO/NCO is the commander's representative and is familiar with the commander's safety expectations and priorities. Every ADSO/NCO has face-to-face access with the commander, whenever needed, to resolve safety issues. The ADSO/NCO is an advisor and active participant in the commander's Safety and Occupational Health Council meetings. In addition, the ADSO/NCO and commander meet often (daily, weekly, monthly) to review and plan for safety.

The ADSO/NCO develops (and/or assists other staff with development of) safety briefings for the commander. Briefing topics are relevant to the mission and the content clearly communicates the commander's safety concerns and expectations.

Common topics include:

- Heat injury prevention; prior heat injury identification
- Environmental hazards (insects, animals, plants, weather)
- Convoy operations and safe driving (Crew rest, spot checks, speed, ground guides, seatbelts)
- Training area evacuation plan, fire prevention and response procedures (Rehearsals required!)
- Accident reporting procedures (Who to notify? When? What reports are required?)

- MEDEVAC procedures and plan
- Points of contact (Safety Office, Range Control, Emergency Services)

The ADSO/NCO reviews and/or develops safety procedures that are incorporated into a variety of unit guidance. The ADSO/NCO inspects for compliance and assists correction.

For example:

- **Vehicles:** Ground guiding, blackout driving, refueling operations, speed in tactical/non-tactical areas
- **Specialty Vehicles:** Gator speed, seat belts and personal protective equipment requirements
- **Weapons:** Blank ammunition, blank adapters, minimum stand off distance
- **Explosives:** Pyrotechnics safety, unexpended ammunition procedures
- **Electrical:** Placement and grounding of field generators and communication antennas
- **Cargo:** Railhead and truck loading/unloading, Materials Handling Equipment safety
- **Accidents:** Accident/Incident reporting IAW higher command guidelines

"Readiness in 2016" For more information on ADSO/NCO daily duties, meet with your Commander regularly and contact your Higher Safety Officer/NCO for Company, Battalion and Brigade requirements and resources.

Love and Sacrifice

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

February is the month that we think to show our love and affection for those that we love and that are in our lives. We do this by giving cards, saying how much we love and appreciate them and in many other ways as well.

But love is also willing to sacrifice for those that we do love and that is not always easy to do.

I'm reminded of a story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion and he was the only match to his sister's blood type.

The doctor and parents went to the boy and asked him if they could give his blood to his sister or she would die.

He thought it over for a bit and agreed to it. The wait on saying yes confused the doctor and parents,

however the blood transfusion proceeded.

After the procedure was completed, they told the boy that everything went well and that he could go home. He looked at the doctors and his parents and asked "I don't have to die?"

In his confusion about the process he thought he would have to sacrifice his life so his sister could live which is why it took him a few minutes to agree to the blood transfusion. He demonstrated true love that he was willing to give up his life for his sister.

How many of us are willing to make such sacrifice for those in our lives?

I pray that you have a blessed month and that your relationships with those around you will continue to strengthened in the days ahead. 🙏

Thought of the Month:

"There is no remedy for love but to love more."

— Henry David Thoreau

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



Take a step forward with your tax refund

Story by Contributing Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—Tax season can be an excellent opportunity to get ahead on saving for the New Year, or maybe reducing some debt.

According to CNN Money, nearly eight in 10 taxpayers can improve their financial situation with their tax refund. Also, according to the IRS, the average tax refund is \$3,000. Using it toward long-term financial goals rather than short-term splurges will enable a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier and Family to take a huge step toward their personal finances.

“It’s important that if (Soldiers and their Families) have a refund coming in ... to use (the refund) for the future,” said Chris Morrow, certified financial counselor, U.S. Army Reserve Survivor Outreach Services (SOS). “Something like a Roth (Individual Retirement Account), where their money can grow tax-free.”

The tax season proves to be an excellent time to jump start your plans to change your saving habits. Soldiers and Families are encouraged to visit www.militarysaves.org to join others in taking the pledge to become a military saver. Savers who take the Military Saves pledge can opt to receive financial tips and information to continue their efforts of starting small and thinking big, starting with tips for the tax season.

Save for Emergencies

An emergency fund provides a buffer to costly surprises such as a major car repair, a leaky roof, or travel to visit an ill Family member. It preserves your ability to pay your regular budgeted expenses, and

to maintain and improve your credit. Most financial experts recommend saving at least three months of essential living expenses in an emergency fund. A \$3000 tax refund is a great start!

Save for Retirement

Divert all or part of your refund to your IRA, 401K, or myRA and watch it grow. You can also purchase savings bonds with your refund, which will provide low-risk growth for up to thirty years.

Get Out of Debt

By paying off credit card or other debt, you may not be saving, but you are reducing the amount that you owe, and the amount on which you are charged interest. Once that bill is paid, you’ll have that money to put toward your other financial goals - whether those are saving or spending.

Multiple Goals

If you are saving for multiple goals, let the IRS do the work of splitting and depositing your refund with Form 8888, Allocation of Refund. This allows you to direct deposit part of your refund in up to three different accounts and financial institutions. Set a goal. Make a plan. Save automatically - with your tax refund!

For more information about the programs, service and resources available to you, contact the Army Reserve Family Programs’ Fort Family at 1-866-345-8248, your command’s Family Programs director or coordinator or visit www.arfp.org. We Inspire and Empower. Anytime. Anywhere. 24x7x365. 🇺🇸

TAKE THE PLEDGE
TODAY!

What are **YOU** saving for? www.arfp.org

MILITARY SAVES
START SMALL. THINK BIG.

ARMY RESERVE
FAMILY PROGRAMS

Visot honored at military/civilian retirement ceremony



FAREWELL. In a retirement ceremony held on Jan. 16, co-hosted by the U.S. Army Reserve and the University of South Florida, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, chief of the Army Reserve, recognized Maj. Gen. Luis Visot for his more than 37 years of service to the U.S. Army and the Nation. Maj. Gen. Visot and his wife, Dr. Cindy Visot, were both honored for their extensive time and contributions to their community, to their civilian occupations and to the Soldiers, civilians and Families of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Story & photos by MAJ. ANGEL WALLACE
Office of the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve

TAMPA, Fla. – In a retirement ceremony held Jan. 16, co-hosted by the U.S. Army Reserve and the University of South Florida, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve and commander of U.S. Army Reserve Command, recognized Maj. Gen. Luis Visot for his more than 37 years of service to the U.S. Army and the nation.

“I can think of no other individual in the Army Reserve who has held such a wide variety of command and staff positions,

performed so exceptionally in each of them, and done as much to advance the efficiency, readiness and mission of the Army Reserve as Major General Visot,” said Talley.

Visot, born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1978. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee and a Masters in Education from the University of Georgia in Athens. Visot received a Masters in Strategic Studies

from the United States Army War College.

He has commanded at every level from platoon to his final assignment as the Chief of Staff, United States Army Reserve, where he maintained responsibility for the synchronization and integration of the Army Reserve staff and leading its strategic and operational planning, activities and execution.

It is understood throughout the military that behind the success of every Soldier and

leader is an indispensable family that supports them, and Visot's wife, Dr. Cindy Visot, was recognized with flowers by her husband and presented with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the Department of the Army for her extensive contributions to Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families.

During Talley's remarks, he shared a conversation he had the night before with another key family member in Visot's life, his father, Dr. Luis Visot.

Dr. Visot was scheduled to give the invocation and benediction for his son's retirement ceremony the next day and Talley asked him what he thought of his son's pending retirement. Dr. Visot replied, "My car is full." Dr. Visot went on to explain that the car was a metaphor for his heart which was overflowing with thankfulness and pride at his son's accomplishments and the joy of being able to be a part of such an important occasion.

Dr. Judy Genshaft, president of the University of South Florida System, presided over the civilian portion of Visot's retirement ceremony, recognizing him for his 35 years of dedication to the university and its students.

Genshaft affectionately referred to Visot as "her general" when she discussed the extensive accomplishments during his tenure with the university which began in 1981 when he served as a



A FATHER'S LOVE. Dr. Luis Visot, Maj. Gen. Visot's father, gave the invocation and benediction for his son's retirement ceremony, but spoke briefly of his pride in his son's accomplishments before closing the ceremony in prayer.

resident instructor with the Department of Housing and Auxiliary Services and culminated with his final assignment as executive director for the Joint Military Leadership Center at USF.

"You cannot recognize Major General Visot for one aspect of his career here at USF without recognizing his other very considerable professional achievements as a leader in the United States Army Reserve.

"What's remarkable about Major General Visot is that either of these two endeavors would've been a complete life's work, but only someone of his energy and drive could've carried out both simultaneously," said Genshaft.

She went on to share tales of Visot's unconventional techniques to reach his students and how one particular initiative involving soap, water, and a hallway in Residence Hall earned him their immediate trust and the title at the university as the "Dean of Fun."

Among the many awards and presentations dedicated to Maj. Gen. and Dr. Visot, retired U.S. Navy Cdr. Paul Matthews, representing Congressman David Jolly, paid tribute to Visot's career by sharing a portion of the congressman's entry into the congressional record on Dec. 16, in honor of Visot's exceptionally distinguished service culminating in his assignment as chief of staff of the U.S. Army Reserve.

"I am grateful for his and his Family's life of service to the United States Army Reserve ... as with all our citizen Soldiers, it is important we acknowledge the University of South Florida for their outstanding support as general Visot's civilian employer. It is because of their cooperation and understanding during his many tours on active duty that he was able to make a positive impact in the Army Reserve," read Matthews.

As Visot addressed the audience, he thanked his wife and those in attendance for the many wonderful memories experienced together, and closed with a rule he tries to live by.

"Never miss the opportunity to connect with others. Nothing in life is guaranteed," he said.

His father returned to the podium to give the benediction to complete the ceremony, but before he began the prayer, he looked back to his son and said, "My car isn't big enough." 🇺🇸



(Photo illustration by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)

HIGH ANGLE RESCUE. An Army Reserve Soldier with the 108th Training Command (IET) is lowered down from the roof of a five-story building by probationary firefighters in their second week of training during roof-rescue-drills at the New York City Fire Academy on Randall's Island, Jan. 6.

**Story & photos by SFC BRIAN HAMILTON
108th Training Command (IET)**

NEW YORK - True success can only be achieved through teamwork and collaboration. That has been the fundamental driving force behind business and organizations for centuries and it is no different for the Army today.

So, when former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, and New York City Fire Department Commissioner Daniel Nigro engaged in a brief conversation about training challenges while riding in an elevator, an alliance was formed and a lasting partnership forged.

"They were discussing some of the training dilemmas they had, which went from that elevator conversation to TRADOC; from TRADOC to IMT; and from IMT to the Drill Sgt. Academy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lamont Christian, United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy commandant.

For close to a year now, the New York City Fire Academy at Randall's Island and the Drill Sergeant Academy on Fort Jackson, South Carolina, comprised of Drill Sergeant Leaders from the active and reserve components, have engaged in exchanging best practices and lessons learned on a wide range of topics including physical fitness, to drill instruction and instructor development.

Christian, along with two of his Drill Sgt. Leaders, Sgt. 1st Class



LOOKING ON. Sgt. 1st Class Tanya Green (right) and Staff Sgt. Autumn Beaty (left), both drill sergeant leaders with the United States Army Drill Sgt. Academy located at Fort Jackson, S.C., observe as New York City firefighters work to extinguish flames from a burning building during a live-fire exercise at the New York City Fire Academy.



DOING IS LEARNING. Capt. Matthew Cregin, an instructor with the New York City Fire Academy, assists probationary firefighters at the school on Randall's Island in New York City, Jan. 6. The new firefighters are performing a drill known as motivation alley in which pairs of two firefighters must travel 100 feet down a road from a kneeling position carrying a charged 1¾-inch fire hose to put out a mock flame.

Tanya Green and Staff Sgt. Autumn Beaty, traveled to the Fire Academy in January for a closer look at training in the Probationary Firefighter School.

FDNY maintains a uniform force equal roughly to the Indiana Army National Guard, all compressed in about 468 square miles.

Training challenges can be enormous and not unlike those in the United States Army.

Employee attrition through retirement or other means in addition to challenges unique to firefighting in America's most populace city add an extra burden to maintaining a well-trained and ready force.

At the Fire Academy, or "The Rock" as it is known, initial recruit training begins at Probationary Firefighter School. When the schoolhouse began to refine and perfect their drill instruction and initial training practices, who better to turn to than the Army's Drill Sergeant Academy to help? After all, the Army's been doing the job for more than 50 years.

"We develop a good product but we were looking to make it better without re-inventing the wheel," said Lt. JonPaul Augier, Executive Officer to the Chief of Training. "The Army has been doing this for a lot longer than us and so by having this exchange it has helped save us some growing pains. From my experience the product that the Probationary Firefighter School turns out is second to none, but that's not to say we can't get better, and the

See **FIRE** Pg. 34

FIRE

from Pg. 33

Drill Sergeant Academy is here helping us do that.”

While neither organization expected a major overhaul in how business is conducted on a day-to-day basis, minor changes and adjustments have taken place and the improvements are noticeable; like the addition of the concurrent training model.

“You saw one group that was talking about how to don their self-contained breathing apparatus, while another group was off to the side in a rope corral, tying knots. In the past, historically what would have happened is that group would have been standing off to the side waiting for their opportunity to don masks,” said Christian. “Little things like that are what the Firefighter Academy here are able to bring into their methodology now.”

But as in every partnership, collaboration is a two-way street and the Army and FDNY seem to be thriving on it.

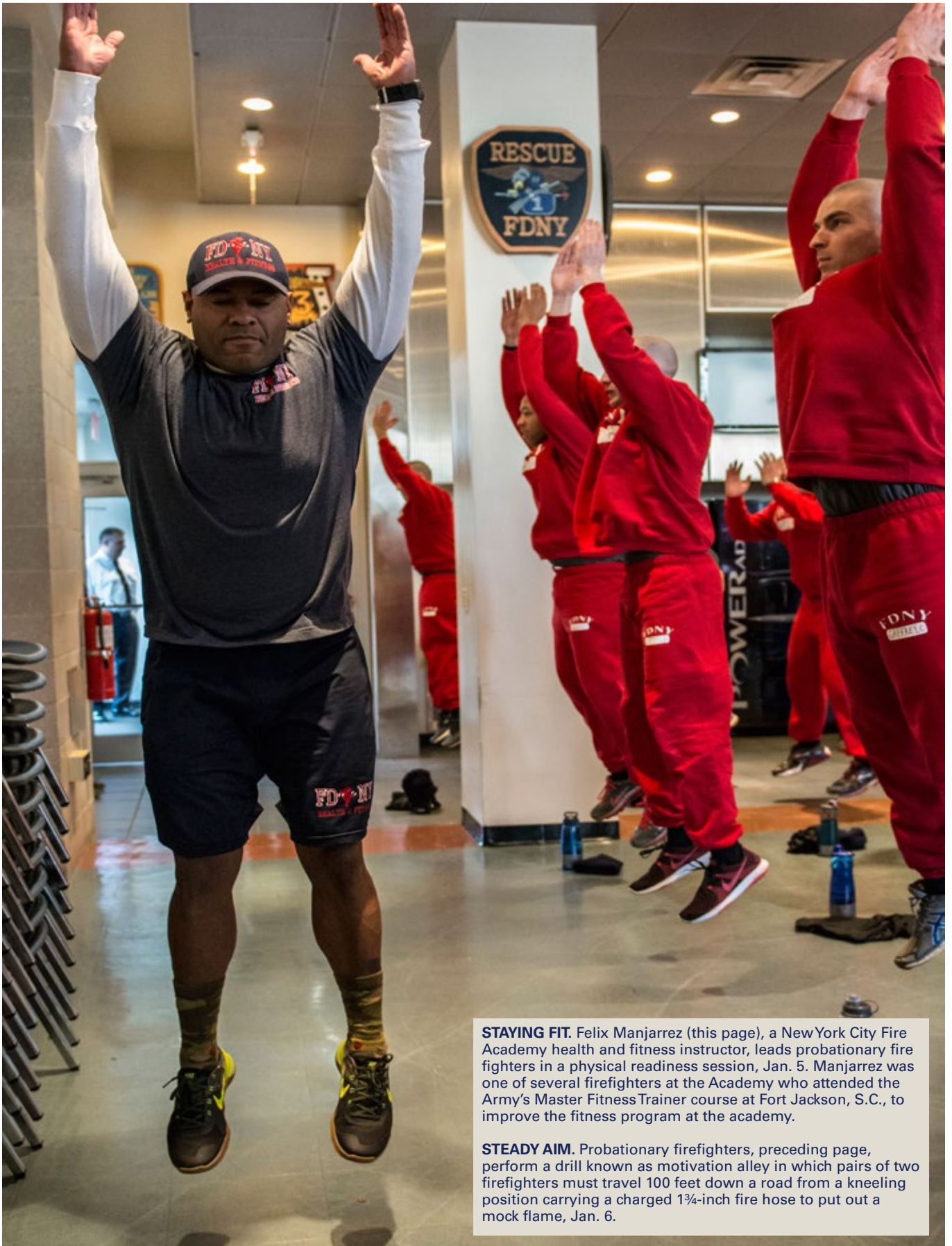
“We’ve adjusted some things in our Drill Instructor program here at the Rock. At the same time, I think some of our practices would work well for the Army. They’re now trying to take tidbits of that back to their schoolhouse to use. It’s been a nice healthy exchange,” Augier said.

Only time will tell if this partnership forged from casual conversation in an elevator leads to other efforts by the military and their public partners, but Augier for one, has hopeful expectations.

“This concept feels very unique to me,” Augier said. “We’re only about a year in but thus far I will say that our experience with the Army has been more than successful and we have hit well beyond the mark that we were looking for.

“I don’t know if other agencies plan on collaborating like this, but it has certainly benefited us and the United States Army,” he said. 🇺🇸





STAYING FIT. Felix Manjarrez (this page), a New York City Fire Academy health and fitness instructor, leads probationary fire fighters in a physical readiness session, Jan. 5. Manjarrez was one of several firefighters at the Academy who attended the Army's Master Fitness Trainer course at Fort Jackson, S.C., to improve the fitness program at the academy.

STEADY AIM. Probationary firefighters, preceding page, perform a drill known as motivation alley in which pairs of two firefighters must travel 100 feet down a road from a kneeling position carrying a charged 1¾-inch fire hose to put out a mock flame, Jan. 6.

Celebrating the Contributions of African-Americans in the U.S. Army



African-American Heritage Month



(Image Courtesy Library of Congress via the U.S. Department of Defense)