



The **DOUBLE EAGLE**

"Twice the Citizen! Army Strong!"

NOVEMBER 2015, Vol. 4 No. 8



MAJ. LISA JASTER
First U.S. Army Reserve
Female Ranger



STAFF SGT. ANDREW FINK
U.S. Army "Best Warrior"
2015 NCO of the Year

**U.S. ARMY
RESERVE RANGERS**
"LEAD THE WAY!"

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COVER STORY:

U.S. Army Maj. Lisa Jaster, 37, completes the Darby Queen obstacle course during the Ranger Course on Fort Benning, Ga., April 26. Jaster, an engineer, wife and mother of two, is the third female Soldier to graduate from the Ranger school. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dacotah Lane)



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DOUBLE EAGLE





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"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!"

The week of October 12 was a big week for the U.S. Army Reserve.

That day, Staff Sgt. Andrew Fink, a healthcare specialist with the 409th Area Support Medical Company, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support), was named the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year after competing in the weeklong Department of the Army Best Warrior competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

Fink, a Ranger school graduate, previously served on active duty with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan as a combat medic in 2009 and 2010.

Maj. Lisa Jaster, graduated from the grueling Ranger school Oct. 16 to become the first U.S. Army Reserve female to earn the black and gold Ranger tab.

Their accomplishments means that our Warrior-Citizen Soldiers are more than capable of competing with our active duty brothers and sisters in some of the most intense training and operational environments.

Fink, who turns 32 this month, is the latest in a growing list of U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and NCOs to rise to the highest rank of success at the Best Warrior competition. He is the second U.S. Army Reserve NCO to win the competition in the last three years.


Previous U.S. Army Reserve winners at the Army-level competition were: Spc. David O Bray, 2008 and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Manella, 2013. In 2006, Spc. John Emmett, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier on active duty in Europe, won the competition but because of his assignment in Europe, USAREUR was credited with the win.

Jaster, 37, along with active duty officers, Capt. Kristen Griest, 26, and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, 25, are the first three women to successfully complete Ranger school. Griest and Haver graduated a month before Jaster.

Fink said he had not met Jaster but he commended her on graduating.

"Those lessons learned through all that tough, realistic training that you get in Ranger school really enables you to be a leader in a complex world," Fink said. "I know she'll feel the same way."

Jaster, a mother of two, said completing Ranger school was a way to show her children that she wasn't afraid to try something hard.

"It's important to try to do hard things, but it's also important to look at the big picture and see how you can add to society and maybe make the world a little bit better," Jaster said. 



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.

"They Will Bury Me

Maj. Lisa Jaster is first U.S. Army Reserve Female Ranger



FEMALE RANGERS. Maj. Lisa Jaster, 37, center, a U.S. Army Reserve engineer officer, hugs fellow West Point graduates and Active Duty officers Capt. Kristen Griest, 26, and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, 25. The three women are the first female Soldiers to earn the distinctive black-and-gold Ranger tab from the combat leadership course. (Photo by Capt. Olivia Cobisky/Department of Defense)

AIRBORNE. Jaster and fellow Ranger candidates, next page, walk off a drop zone after completing an airborne operation at Fort Benning Ga., June 27. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Yvette Zabala-Garriga/ Released)

Here Before I Quit.”

Story by Capt. OLIVIA COBISKY
Department of Defense

FORT BENNING, Ga. - When Maj. Lisa Jaster walked across Victory Pond, Oct. 16 at Fort Benning, she secured her role in history as the first U.S. Army Reserve female officer to earn the distinctive black-and-gold Ranger shoulder tab.

However, the 37-year-old engineer and mother of two children, aged 7 and 3, is the third female to graduate the grueling combat leadership course, joining the ranks of fellow West Point gradu-

ates and active duty officers, Capt. Kristen Griest, 26, and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, 25.

Jaster, an engineer for Shell Oil Co., and a U.S. Army Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Alabama, embodies the dual nature of the leadership attributes and competencies of Army Reserve Soldiers, developed from both their civilian and their military occupations.

“Major Jaster represents the

best of today’s Operational Army Reserve – trained, battle-tested and ready to serve whenever and wherever needed,” said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, chief of U.S. Army Reserve and commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command.

“The Army Reserve couldn’t be more proud of this outstanding Soldier, and I know Shell Corporation, her civilian employer we share her with, is equally proud to have her in their organization,” Talley said.

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JASTER

from Pg. 5

Jaster’s manager at Shell, Hans Hofland, agreed.

“We are very proud of Lisa and her ability to achieve such an extremely demanding goal,” Hofland wrote in a statement released on Monday by company officials. “Her ability to do well under pressure is exemplified in this achievement and it comes as no surprise to us that she was successful.”

Jaster said she joined the U.S. Army Reserve because she missed the camaraderie she found in West Point and the active Army.

“As a civilian, as a mother with a full time job, work/life balance is very challenging,” Jaster said. “Then you add a second job that is much more than a part time job; it’s a career, it’s a calling, it’s something you have to love to do. So it’s not necessarily the time, but it’s balancing your passions of being

an individual, being a mother, being a wife, being an Army Reserve Soldier, and of course, doing your full time job.”

To help find that balance Jaster, a cross-training enthusiast who practices Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, included her husband Allan, a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve officer and their two children in preparing for the physical demands of the course.

“At my age, I’ve done a few things, so I’ve got a deep well of motivation that I can dig down into,” said Jaster, a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan. “Some people worry that having a Family is a detriment or that will demotivate me, but I think having that will make me stronger and will push me though.”

The Ranger course is one of the toughest courses in the Amer-

ican military – 36 percent of students fail in the first four days.

While being a parent of two children may not be rare for a Ranger candidate, Jaster chose to test her physical stamina, determination, and mental toughness at the age of 37, when the average age of those who complete the course is 23.

“I want (my children) to know that their parents weren’t afraid to try hard and do something more,” Jaster said. “It’s a bigger deal than just the Jaster Family and I want them to know that it’s important to be part of the big picture,” she added.

“It’s important to try to do hard things, but it’s also important to look at the big picture and see how you can add to society and maybe make the world a little bit better,” Jaster said. 🇺🇸



DARBY QUEEN. Jaster, above and next page, negotiates the Darby Queen obstacle course as part of her training at the Ranger Course on Fort Benning Ga. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Brooks and Spc. Dacotah Lane)





Fink Named Army's Best Warrior

3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment veteran wins NCO of the Year

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

WASHINGTON – For the fourth time in nine years, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier has been named the U.S. Army's Best Warrior.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Fink, a healthcare specialist with the 409th Area Support Medical Company, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support), was named the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Oct. 12, after competing in the week-long Best Warrior competition held at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

Fink is the second U.S. Army Reserve NCO to claim the title in the last three years.

The Cook, Minnesota, native earned his spot at the Army-level competition after winning the U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior competition at Fort Bragg, N.C., in May.

Fink, and fellow U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, Spc. Bryce Parker, with the U.S. Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations (Airborne), competed with 24 other Warriors, representing 13 Army commands at the competition.

He said this year's competition had a few surprises.

"We did a prone, unsupported zero with our M4 rifles," Fink said. "Typically, every Soldier

is used to zeroing in the prone, supported position so that was a little surprising. In another lane we had to crawl through a tunnel system, gather some intelligence the commander wanted, then they called, 'Gas! Gas! Gas!' so we had to put on our protective mask and then file our report on what we had observed."

He said the scenarios they encountered throughout the competition were "incredible" and he praised the AWG (Asymmetric Warfare Group) for testing and training us."

Before coming to the U.S. Army Reserve, Fink deployed to Afghanistan as a combat medic with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, serving in a reconnaissance platoon.

"Being a Ranger and serving in the Ranger Battalion has prepared me to be a Soldier and a leader," Fink said.

He also commended Maj. Lisa Jaster, the first U.S. Army Reserve female Ranger who graduated from Ranger school, Oct. 16.

"Those lessons learned through all that tough, realistic training that you get in Ranger school really enables you to be a leader in a complex world," Fink

said. "I know she'll feel the same way."

Now serving as an Active Guard and Reserve Soldier, Fink said competing in Best Warrior was a way to set an example for others in his unit.

"I wanted to show my young Soldiers that if you make a plan, train hard, set goals, and focus on your mission, you can accomplish anything," Fink said.

He added there was also a personal physical challenge to competing this year. In September 2013, Fink underwent a meniscus repair and micro-fracture surgery on his right knee.

"I also wanted to show myself that I could still compete physically and mentally with the best, at a high level, after major knee surgery a year and half ago."

Fink's military service is a continuation of his family's history of military service.

His father, Thomas, served as an infantryman with the D Troop, 1st Aviation Brigade, 17th Cavalry Division in Vietnam in 1972. Thomas' grandfather served in World War I and he had three uncles serve in World War II, including one who was captured by the Germans in Anzio, Italy and

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REACH FOR GLORY. Staff Sgt. Andrew Fink, opposite page, representing the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support), completes an obstacle at the "Little Nasty Nick" obstacle course during the 2015 U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 6. Fink represented the U.S. Army Reserve at the Department of the Army Best Warrior competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia and was named the Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)

COVER STORY: U.S. ARMY RESERVE RANGERS "LEAD THE WAY!"



ARMY BEST WARRIOR. Fink, above, negotiates an obstacle, and plots grid coordinates, right, during the U.S. Army's Best Warrior Competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., Oct. 5. The competition was a grueling, weeklong event that tests the skills, knowledge and professionalism of 26 warriors representing 13 commands. (Photos by Pfc. Christopher Brecht/55th Signal Company (COMCAM))



FINK

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was able to escape.

“With both of us being combat veterans it’s a special bond we both can share,” Fink said. “I’m extremely proud that I’m able to carry on that tradition.”

His mother, Karen, said Andrew has become an instant celebrity in Cook which has a population of about 600 residents.

“He’s been in the paper a couple of times already and will be again, I’m sure,” Karen said.

Both Thomas and Karen attribute their son’s wits and heart to

his military successes.

“He’s naturally smart and really quick and he keeps himself physically fit,” Thomas said.

“He has a lot of heart and is very determined. When he wants something, he just goes for it. He’s very focused and really gives it his all,” Karen said.

Fink said he could hear the excitement in their voices when he called to tell them he had won the competition.

“I know they would have been proud of me whether I won or

lost,” Fink said. “My dad is always pushing me to do my best and I was fortunate enough to come out on top.”

Fink said that he has been fortunate to have leaders in both the active and reserve to give him direction and be mentors to enable him to be successful in his eight-year military career.

“I want to share this experience with my Soldiers and hopefully get them excited about competing next year,” Fink said. “It’s a great learning experience.”

Fink also said without the support of his chain of command and his Family, none of this would have been possible.

“I want to thank my Family, friends, and my girlfriend for sacrificing their personal time to help me out. I couldn’t have done this without them,” he said.

Previous U.S. Army Reserve winners at the Army-level competition were: Spc. David Obroy, 2008 and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Manella, 2013.

In 2006, Spc. John Emmett, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier on active duty in Europe, won the competition but because of his assignment in Europe, USAREUR was credited with the win. 🇺🇸

OVER THE TOP. Fink, pulls his way over an obstacle at the “Little Nasty Nick” obstacle course during the 2015 U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 6. While on active duty, Fink served as a combat medic with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010. He said his time in the Ranger battalion made him a better Soldier and leader. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)





U.S. Army Reserve Culinary Team Earns Silver Medal at Fall Festival

Story & photos by Staff Sgt. JEANA ROUPP
377th Theater Sustainment Command

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Army Reserve Culinary Arts Team earned an overall Silver Medal at the 12th Annual Military Culinary Competition during the Barracks Row Fall Festival, Sept. 26.

They competed against 15 other teams at the competition hosted by the Military Hospitality Association and sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation.

The team has participated in the competition since 2007, the first year that it was held in conjunction with the festival near the Marine Barracks.

This year's team members included: Sgt. Jeffrey W. Vaughan, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), team captain; along with Staff Sgt. Orkie L. Bradley, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); Spc. Nathanael J. Dewey, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); and Staff Sgt. Markos A. Mendoza, 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The team received mentorship and technical advisement throughout the competition from their coach, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Colby S. Beard, 807th Medical Command; and assistance from their runner, Spc. Jason L. Brye, 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The competition does more than draw some of the Army Reserve's most talented culinary professionals. It teaches them how to work well as a cohesive team and hones invaluable skills that Soldiers can apply back in their units, civilian careers, and personal lives.

Dewey, a culinary specialist who serves as an enlisted aide, competed in this competition for the first time this year but is not new to the food service

field or the culinary competition world. During the last six years, he has competed in the annual Military Culinary Arts Competitive Training Event held at Fort Lee, Virginia where he earned a silver medal for his food sculpture centerpiece in March. He also represented his unit this year at the Philip A. Connelly Competition held in Des Moines, Iowa.

"I learned about the competition and what all it entails. If I do it next year, I'll know what to expect," said Dewey. "I didn't know exactly what to expect coming to this competition. Now I know that I need to work on learning more skills, like learning how to cook exotic fruits, which were in the mystery basket."

The competition also marked a first for Mendoza, an advanced culinary NCO. He has ten years of culinary experience as a civilian and has been honing his craft with the U.S. Army Reserve for the last five years. Like Dewey, Mendoza competed this year at the Fort Lee competition earning a bronze medal in the table-setting event.

"I wanted to elevate my skills as an U.S. Army Reserve cook, so I took on this challenge," said Mendoza. "One of our biggest goals was to learn how to work as a team, how to communicate with each other and how to take culinary skills back to our Soldiers to increase morale and effectively succeed in our unit missions."

One of the unique challenges for this team is that they don't get to train as a team on a regular basis. While other teams work together and often train for these competitions for months, the U.S. Army Reserve team trained together for only five days prior to the event under the direction of Beard and Chief

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COOKING UP A STORM. Sgt. Jeffrey W. Vaughan, preceding page, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) cuts slices of bacon during the Military Culinary Competition held during the Barracks Row Fall Festival in Washington, D.C. Sept. 26. Vaughan, the team captain, competed in the event for the fifth time.

CULINARY

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Warrant Officer 2 Danny Wolf, the senior culinary program manager for the U.S. Army Reserve. Beard and Wolf ensured that the team practiced completing all of the competition requirements, while sharing lessons that they have learned from their own military and civilian culinary careers.

“One of my goals is to increase the skill level of all culinary specialists in the U.S. Army Reserve. We can do that by sharing our passion, drive and striving for additional training opportunities, such as this competition,” said Beard.

The team had 30 minutes to view the mystery basket and write a menu for a four-course meal plus an additional 15 minutes to set up their kitchen. They had two hours to organize and arrange all of the menu ingredients then cook and serve the meal for four people. The team was provided with a common pantry and a mystery basket that was not revealed until immediately before their menu development. All mystery basket items had to be incorporated into the meal.

IT'S A MYSTERY. (From top) Staff Sgt. Markos A. Mendoza, 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), sorts through items in the mystery basket while Sgt. Jeffrey W. Vaughan, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the team captain, discusses menu development with the team. Spc. Nathanael J. Dewey, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), stirs the couscous pilaf, which was served with baked honey herb chicken and sautéed julienne vegetables for the third course of the team's meal submission. Dewey and Vaughan prepare ingredients for their competition entry.



“The group mindset changed when we saw what was in the basket. We had to change our whole menu (from our preparation menu), except for the dessert,” said Dewey.

In addition to the surprise of the mystery items and time constraints, the team had to prepare the entire meal without electricity, a freezer, or ice while operating in a small space under an awning on 8th Street and I Street of the Barracks Row neighborhood.

The Military Culinary Competition is considered a “W,” also known as a customized wildcard event. Teams are evaluated on organization, cooking skills and culinary techniques, and taste.

By winning a silver medal, each team member earned 12 continuing education hours for the year and an official certificate from the ACF.

Beyond earning additional credentials that will assist team members in their military careers, the Soldiers expressed that their love of food, passion for the culinary arts, and the experience of creating and enjoying good food that will create lasting memories is what really drives them to compete.

“Food plays a dynamic role in the creation of memories. I want to be a part of that. I want to impact morale and have food be a part of the Army experience that Soldiers remember and talk about,” said Mendoza.

The team is already planning training for next year’s competition. Members encourage fellow U.S. Army Reserve culinary specialists with the 92G or 68M military occupational specialties and a passion for learning through competition to become involved. 🇺🇸

Bradley Helps Team Win Silver

Story by Capt. JOSIAH FISHER
451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command

WASHINGTON – One 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command Soldier displayed his culinary skills and helped the U.S. Army Reserve Culinary Arts Team win an American Culinary Federation silver medal at the Military Hospitality Alliance’s 2015 military culinary competition Sept. 26.

As part of the team, Staff Sgt. Orkie Bradley, from the 535th Transportation Detachment in Manhattan, Kansas, ran the dessert station and couldn’t have been more excited after hearing the announcement.

“We did amazing. I wasn’t expecting us to do this well. We worked our tails off, and it paid off,” said Bradley. “Hopefully we’ll come out next year and score higher.”

Bradley’s background is a little different than the rest of the competitors. His primary military occupation specialty is a transportation management coordinator. But for this competition, he leaned on his previous experience as a culinary specialist and mentorship from Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kim Shiner, who is now a food advisor for the U.S. Army

Reserve Command.

“As a 92 Golf (culinary specialist military occupational specialty), I asked to learn more about food service, and Chief Shiner was my food manager at the time,” said Bradley.

After expressing his interest, Shiner had him attend competitions and training events.

After these experiences, Bradley joined the four-man cooking team, and this was his second year competing in the MHA competition. In addition to Bradley’s dessert station, there were preparation, protein, and vegetable stations ran by the other team members. The team also had an advisor and a runner that assisted throughout the event.

The team has changed since he joined, as it replaced two cooks and a runner this year. However, that didn’t stop this group from coming together quickly.

“I just met half of the team four days ago. So, we came together pretty well,” said Bradley. “We got along, and everyone fit in their place. And, we got the job done.”

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BRADLEY

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During the competition, the team competed against 15 other teams representing various organizations from each branch of service – Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and the Coast Guard. Unlike their active-duty counterparts, who have the ability to train as a team for months in advance, the U.S. Army Reserve team had a very limited time to build team cohesion.

“We’ll get together a week in advance, five days in advance, and just practice over and over again with each other,” said Bradley.

MHA also added in some extra challenges to increase the stakes. Each team received an identical mystery basket filled with ingredients that they were unable to see until right before they began cooking. The teams could make whatever they chose from the basket, but they had to use some portion of each item in their menu.

To add more pressure to the situation, the competition was part of the Barracks Row Fall Festival on Capitol Hill. The cooks had to perform in front of thousands

of spectators who passed by their cooking stations.

While this may have intimidated some, Bradley thrived in this situation.

“This is actually my favorite event, coming out here to the Marine Barracks. It’s a challenge. It’s a black box, and you don’t know what you’re getting. So, it’s hard to prepare,” said Bradley. “It’s fun. The skill level is a lot higher than your basic cooking competition.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Colby Beard, the team’s advisor, said the mystery box challenge is a



SWEET DESSERT. Staff Sgt. Orkie L. Bradley, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), puts the final touches on his white chocolate crème dessert, which accompanied macerated blueberries and crème brûlée as the fourth course of the meal the U.S. Army Reserve Culinary Arts Team prepared at the Military Culinary Competition held during the Barracks Row Fall Festival in Washington, Sept. 26. Bradley is a second year competitor at this event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeana Ruopp/377th Theater Sustainment Command)

great teaching tool for all culinary specialists in the U.S. Army Reserve. He added it teaches them to improvise with the food they have instead of relying on the Army Food Management Information System to order additional food to create their meals.

“The Marine Barracks competition is the best hands-on training to learn how to work with what you have available. Many times at the reserve centers, you’ll go in

and you’ll inventory what they have, and there are three or four meals worth of product. But, some cooks can’t see that,” said Beard. “That’s one of the reasons this training is so valuable. They can take this hands-on training, go back to the reserve center, help balance their accounts, and reduce food costs for the U.S. Army Reserve.”

Bradley said he plans to compete with the team in the

near future, and he welcomes his fellow reserve Soldiers to join the U.S. Army Reserve Culinary Arts Program as well.

“We’re always looking for people. The more the merrier. You get to learn things that you never would’ve dreamed of learning just by being a cook in a regular dining facility,” said Bradley. “Get out and go to some of this training. We always have the ability to put new people on the team.” 🌍



TOPPING OFF. Bradley puts the finishing touches on one of his dessert items during competition. Bradley’s background is a little different than the rest of the competitors. His primary military occupation specialty is a transportation management coordinator. But for this competition, he leaned on his previous experience as a culinary specialist. (Photo by Capt. Josiah Fisher/451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command)

PRACTICE POSTAL SECURITY EVERY DAY AT WORK, HOME

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

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – It's that time of year again when cards, letters, and packages are delivered to homes and offices across the country and around the world.

Given the risk of potential terrorism against military members and their loved ones in recent months, it is a good idea to review how to identify suspicious letters and packages that may find their way to your mailbox or doorstep.

According to the U.S. Postal Service Inspection Service, in 2014, inspectors responded to more than 2,546 incidents involving suspicious items, substances, powders, or liquids in the mail or at postal facilities. Of those, 83 involved potential improvised explosive devices. No injuries or fatalities were reported.

Because of this persistent threat, Anthony Perry, the U.S. Army Reserve Command postal and official mail manager, has a few tips to use not only this holiday season but throughout the year.

Perry, who retired as a U.S. Army postal operations master sergeant, served as the U.S. Army Europe postal inspector and postal training specialist before coming to USARC in 2009.

He said that suspicious packages and letters have been common throughout American postal



USARC's MAIL MAN. Anthony Perry, the U.S. Army Reserve Command postal and official mail manager, poses for a photo in the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters mail room, Oct. 8, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Perry said postal security should be everyone's business every day not only in the workplace but at home as well, especially during the busy holiday mail season.

history well before the 9/11 attacks on America. He cited letter and parcel bomb attacks aimed at American personnel stationed in Europe during the 1980s primarily by the Red Army Faction.

“We all have to be vigilant and understand what the indicators are of suspicious letters and packages,” Perry said. “Taking the risks involved, we need to know how to handle official military mail as well as personal mail at our homes.”

Perry said, everyday in the U.S. thousands of pounds of mail are processed and delivered.

“When you look at that, it’s very easy to see how someone could place something inside the mail that shouldn’t be there, with the main focus to cause bodily harm or property damage,” Perry said.

He said Family members should be aware as well, especially with the holidays right around the corner.

“This is the time of year where the frequency of mail begins to pick up. So, the bad guys surely understand this is a high peak season,” he said.

Perry said, many times the postman or other delivery services leave packages on doorsteps and the neighbors will think nothing of it.

“So what is to stop someone placing a suspicious package on a doorstep?” he asked.

Perry said if you were not expecting a package at home that should be your first warning sign. He advises visually inspecting the package without touching or picking it up.

Some suspicious package indicators include: no return address, excessive or no postage, improperly spelled name, signs of leaking liquids or powder, no official postal markings or delivery service markings, and lopsided or poor wrapping. Perry said excessive weight could also be an indicator that something is amiss. Most letters weight 1-3 ounces, effective mail bombs will weigh more than 2 ounces and will usually be thick in size – 3/16 of an inch or larger.

“Mail bombs are rugged,” Perry said. “They are designed to pass through the mail system without activation while being processed and transported.”

Perry said if you suspect a suspicious letter or package at your home, call 9-11. He did caution that cell phones could trigger some bombs, so it may be best to move away from the home before making the call.

In a reserve center, unit official mail clerks and managers, Perry said, must be trained and have a

working knowledge of handling suspicious mail.

“Senior leaders receive mail all the time,” Perry said. “If you have been doing mail operations for awhile, you should know where mail normally comes from in your chain of command and who it would be addressed to. In addition to checking the letter or package as you would at your home, you need to check it for proper spelling, titles, and addresses. If something looks suspicious you need to contact your supervisor or physical security personnel in your facility.”

For more information about postal security at your home, contact your local postmaster. For postal security in the workplace, contact your unit’s official mail manager.

Additionally, Perry may be contacted at 910-570-8829 or anthony.perry.civ@mail.mil. Unit mail operation managers may contact Perry for handling suspicious mail training materials. 🇺🇸

SUSPICIOUS MAIL OR PACKAGES

Protect yourself, your business, and your mailroom.

If you receive a suspicious letter or package:

- Stop. Don't handle.
- Isolate it immediately.
- Don't open, smell, or taste.
- Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.

Restrictive markings, No return address, Sealed with tape, Misspelled words, Batty typed or written, Unknown powder or suspicious substance, Possibly mailed from a foreign country, Excessive postage, PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW, CHEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE, 222 N. HARVEY ST, PHILLIPSBURG, NJ, Operations Manager, 6032 D 15T, Annapolis, MD, PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW, Operations Manager, 6032 D 15T, Annapolis, MD, Excessive tape, Oily stains, discolorations, crystallization on wrapper, Strange odor, Incorrect title or addressed to title only, Rigid or bulky, Liquid or powder, Prohibiting areas.

If you suspect the mail or package contains a bomb (explosive), or radiological, biological, or chemical threat:

- Isolate area immediately
- Call 911
- Wash your hands with soap and water

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

(Graphic courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service)



A FRIENDLY VOICE IN TIME OF NEED. A telephone operator with the U.S. Army Reserve Command Family Programs telephone call center, works the overnight shift at Fort Bragg, N.C., Aug. 8, 2012 file photo. The operators provide informational resources to U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and Family members 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)

Fort Family responds to historic flooding

Story by Contributing Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—When catastrophic flooding struck South Carolina last month, Army Reserve Family Programs' Fort Family Outreach and Support Center was ready. Its staff responded quickly by providing assistance to U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and Families in the affected areas and assisting the Command in accountability and damage reporting.

The flash flooding began in early October after a cold front tapped moisture from Hurricane Joaquin bringing heavy, continu-

ous rain to the southeastern States. Most of the rainfall and flooding was concentrated in South Carolina. According to media reports, flooding from the nor'easter killed 25 people, 19 in South Carolina including the Family member of an Army Reserve Soldier. Nearly 30,000 people across the state lost power. This storm was the worst to strike South Carolina since 1989, when Hurricane Hugo killed 27 and, according to reinsurance company Aon Benfield, caused \$9.5 billion in economic losses.

During a press conference,

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley strongly suggested residents evacuate four counties—Georgetown, Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester. Fort Family reached out to U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and Families in these counties to refer them to local shelters and other resources.

As of Oct. 19, Fort Family's outreach and support specialists had made over 4,000 disaster assistance calls primarily to South Carolina. Primary needs were clothing, financial, food, housing, and transportation. Fort Family

helped connect affected U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and Families in the flood areas with immediate and necessary resources provided by United Way Disaster Relief Assistance, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“In times of crisis, it’s ‘all hands on deck,’” said Donna Brown, manager of the outreach and support center. “Even as a manager, I was right there on the phones making and taking calls.”

Brown recalls one particular master sergeant from the 412th Theater Engineer Command who told her he wasn’t evacuating because he’s a fire and rescue responder and he wanted to stay and help flood victims in Georgetown.

“He said to me, ‘You don’t know how much we appreciate the call,’” Brown said. “It made me feel validated because it’s tangible feedback on the mission we are so passionate about at Fort Family.”

A routine part of the Fort Family process is for the outreach and support specialist to make sure local area Family Programs directors and coordinators are informed of situations or calls from their command. Assisting the local command teams in their readiness and resiliency mission, the Family Programs directors and coordinators will follow-up with the command’s Soldiers and Families on all issues identified.


Fort Family

As the “rally point” and gateway to U.S. Army Re-

serve Family Programs, or ARFP, Fort Family, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, is ideally suited to perform disaster outreach and support to U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and Family members. In addition to disaster response, Fort Family bridges Soldiers and their Families to other people and resources to assist, providing a clear path to the information or resources required. Fort Family’s fully trained professionals routinely provide Soldiers, Family members and U.S. Army Reserve civilians with responsive information and direct connections to relevant Family Programs’ services.

“I love helping the Soldiers. At the end of the day, it’s not about us, it’s about the Soldier,” said Kim McGillivray, outreach and support specialist, “They’re not stuck where they were after talking with us.”

ARFP is in the initial stages of an information campaign, and unveiled Fort Family as the Rally Point for Family Programs at the Association of the United States Army’s, or AUSA, annual meeting in mid-October. Maj. Lisa Yanity, program manager for Fort Family, presented the outreach efforts of Fort Family at one of the AUSA’s five Family Forums.

“Every opportunity to present the Fort Family story is another opportunity for Soldiers and Families to know we are here for them,” Yanity said. “When Service members know their Families are taken care of, it’s easier for them to focus on mission.” 

November is Military Family Appreciation Month

While taking care of Families is a daily focus for U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs and Fort Family, in November the entire Family Programs staff joins the nation and the command in expressing our appreciation for the strength, resilience and sacrifices of our Military Families during Military Family Appreciation Month.

The Armed Services YMCA established Military Family Appreciation Month in 1993.

The U.S. Government has recognized the occasion every year since.


“We are able to do what we do as Soldiers in the Army Reserve because of the support of our Families,” said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, chief, U.S. Army Reserve and commanding general U.S. Army Reserve Command. “We need everyone to

join us in our efforts to recognize the sacrifices and support of the Families of Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard members around the world.

“A sincere ‘thank you’ delivered and received with grace and humility is always welcomed and never out of place,” Talley said.

Throughout the month, community leaders, businesses and garrisons are teaming up to recognize military Families.

Army Reserve Family Programs – We Inspire and Empower.

Anytime. Anywhere. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – call your command’s Family Programs director or coordinator or 1-866-345-8248. 



SAFETY

BRING IT HOME:



(FILE Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Lisa M Litchfield, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Holiday Fire Safety



Story by **BRETT BLOUNT**
USARC Safety Office

Even today, smoking remains a leading cause of fire-related fatalities with cooking as the primary cause of residential fires.

The demographic groups most at risk are family members least able to understand and remove themselves from danger; our children under 4 years and our senior adults ages 65 and over.

While the number of deaths due to residential fires has decreased in recent years most of the deaths that do occur are completely preventable. We owe it to our Families, as well as to ourselves, to bring our professional discipline and fire prevention skills into our homes.

Your training and professional discipline motivates you to do the right thing while in uniform and applies even when you are “Not in a Duty Status.”

Smokers light-up in their homes because it is where they are most comfortable. Most smoking-related fires that resulting in a fatality are started in living rooms, family rooms, dens and in bedrooms. If possible, quit smoking but at least, smoke outside and never smoke in bed!

Even cooking poses risk of a serious accident. The leading cause of cooking fires is inattention. While in the kitchen, maintain a “kid free zone” of at least three feet around the stove and anywhere you may have to carry hot food. And, if you must leave, turn off the stove and take the children with you.

Candles are popular and perhaps even part of your home emergency supplies and are especially

prevalent during the holidays. Small open flames can ignite just about anything in your home that can burn. More than half of all reported candle fires occur not from the candle falling over but simply because they are not used carefully and placed too close to other flammable items. Keep them away from anything flammable, out of reach of children and blow them out when you leave the room.

Army Reserve training has equipped you and your household to actively manage fire risk and eliminate fire hazards.

Develop and practice home pre-fire plans. Fire-proof your children. You know many countermeasures already. Teach family members where and what the fire risks are, how to initiate emergency responders and when to leave the home. Practice the plan as a team, just like you have with the U.S. Army Reserve. Use Risk Management to inventory your home for hazards and supervise the countermeasures. For example, do not use defective electric cords, secure or remove flammable chemicals from the home and post emergency phone numbers. Finally, consider the physical abilities of your most at risk family members, the very young and the old or infirm. It may be they can't even walk away from a fire without some form of assistance.

You are a professional and a leader. You are the most qualified “Fire Chief” in your home.

“Bring It Home” and protect the lives of your cherished Family all year long. 🇺🇸

ARMY RESERVE FACT:

In recent years, the Army Reserve has suffered zero TPU Not in a Duty Status fatal accidents due to in home fires. However, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention fire-related injuries are the third leading cause of death in the home.

DON'T LEAVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE BEHIND

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



CYBER SECURITY

IS EVERYONE'S
BUSINESS,
EVERY DAY

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



USARC receives 'Excellent' rating on Command Cyber Readiness Inspection

Leads the way in FORSCOM with a score of 84.5

STAFF REPORT

In August, the United States Army Reserve Command completed an in-depth Command Cyber Readiness Inspection, or CCRI, that was a true success for the Command.

The inspection itself, which lasted a full week, was a culmination of over one year of preparation and a concerted focus on the cyber posture of the entire U.S. Army Reserve and component network.

The USARC led the way among U.S. Army Forces Command units for Cyber Security by passing the CCRI with a score of 84.5.

Officials said this was a total Army effort to include USARC leadership, FORSCOM, Army Network Command, and 7th Signal Command (Theater) to support the USARC's efforts in ensuring our network is secure.

"The task of maintaining the security posture of USAR, is of paramount importance to all," said Lt. Col. Elugino Vegacasiano, USARC Cyber Security division deputy. "We not only want to secure our enterprise and continue to remove identified vulnerabilities, but perform due diligence daily in maintaining that posture to secure the citizen soldier, their data and the Army mission."

The CCRI was performed by a team from Defense Information System Agency, or DISA, and included a thorough evaluation of a command's Cyber readiness and its overall security posture.

The inspection was not only administrative in nature, with thorough review of policies and procedures, but was also an in-depth technical review of systems, network devices, technical controls.

They reviewed physical security, access control, as well as vulnerability management processes and procedures.

The USARC Cyber Security Division, Network Infrastructure, Data Services and Applications

Branch as well as all USARC divisions worked diligently for the past year, to not only identify enterprise vulnerabilities, but to remediate and remove those vulnerabilities from the USAR environment.

This has taken a cohesive team effort, superb leadership and constant and comprehensive communications.


The inspection team noted the security of the USAR enterprise was of a minor concern, based upon rigid scoring criteria, but received a passing score well above any other DOD command group.

USARC officials attributed this passing score to the continued focus on the security posture, people, processes and the due diligence of the entire command.

"We will continue to be as diligent in the future as we have been in preparing for this CCRI inspection and ask that each USAR unit, unit commanders and their staff, as well as government employees and vendor partner remain abreast of current threats to our environment, the enterprise as well as their personal computing devices," Vegacasiano said.

"Cyber security in everyone's responsibility, and with your continued focus, USAR will not only maintain our security posture, but will remain secure in our computing environment," he said.

"Everyone can continue to assist in this effort by ensuring systems are on the network and updated with required patches regularly, following established policies and procedures, and being a good steward of the services and capabilities that USAR provides," he said.

"We must be prepared to face our enemies daily, and strive to maintain a high alert and our security posture. It takes every person to maintain cyber security, and only one incident to ruin it," Vegacasiano said. 

Giving Thanks All Year Long

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) RAYMOND W. LEACH
USARC Chaplain's Office

Greetings! Thanksgiving is a great American holiday that began initially when the Pilgrims celebrated a plentiful harvest with their Native American friends after nearly dying of starvation in the previous year.

Many gave thanks to God for life, provision, protection and abundance. The Pilgrims most likely read scriptures about giving thanks, such as, Psalms 100 and 1st Thessalonians chapter 5.

President George Washington affirmed Thanksgiving with his proclamation in 1789. He wrote: "Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country..."

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. He wrote: "The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of

Almighty God..."

People, in general, who choose to be thankful, usually feel happier, more peaceful, optimistic, and hopeful for the future.

Having a thankful attitude does wonders in combating negativity, stress, and depression. It also increases our strength and endurance as we face some of life's toughest challenges ahead. Most importantly, God is more likely to bless those who are truly grateful and give Him thanks.

Lincoln was right when he said that people are prone to forget where their blessings come from.

Being thankful is a choice, and we as Americans have a lot to be grateful for individually and corporately as a nation.

If we take time to recognize all that we have been blessed with, we can truly be thankful to God.

In closing, time and again Sgt. Maj. Wayne Henderson and I have heard our U.S. Army Reserve and Army leaders say how thankful they are for Soldiers and Families like you who faithfully serve our nation – we are so grateful for you!

It is our hope that you will apply this timeless truth to your everyday life and enjoy the great benefits that will surely follow! We hope that you are encouraged, God bless and stay strong!

On behalf of our Command Chaplain Team . . .
Happy Thanksgiving! 🇺🇸

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.**

El Directorado Capellan de USARC se enorgullece en anunciar la version Español del " Battle Buddy" APP y que ya esta disponible para usar



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/battle-buddy-spanish/id1033719749?mt=8>



ANDROID



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mil.army.battlebuddy.spanish>



<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/us-army-reserve-battle-buddy-spanish/9nblggh5x131>

The USARC Chaplain Directorate is proud to announce that the "Spanish Version" of the Army Reserve Battle Buddy APP is now available.

English Version Continues to be Available

U.S. Army Reserve Fitness Challenge Continues

Story & photos by BRIAN GODETTE
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The U.S. Army Reserve Fitness Challenge for Soldiers and civilians continues to gain momentum, as more and more participants take part in the fitness program.

Designed by the U.S. Army Reserve command team as a way to promote individual fitness, unit readiness, and encourage esprit de corps across all U.S. Army Reserve formations, the second iteration of the fitness challenge is now past the mid-way point of the 10 week goal.

“I think it’s a fantastic program, and anything we can do for fitness, enhances our readiness,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Russell P. Smith, U.S. Army Reserve Command Chief Warrant Officer.

Each individual in the challenge becomes their own personal trainer, tracking their progress and staying motivated.

“The participants set goals, keeping their eye on how they’re doing, and it makes them accountable,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jennifer Wolfe, USARC fitness challenge program manager.

Since its inception, the fitness challenge has seen the number of participants rise exponentially.

“We’re getting the message out there that this thing exist,” Smith said.

“When I’m going out and engaging with the leaders, I’m always emphasizing the fitness challenge as a tool we can use,” he said.

Smith shares the sentiments of Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel A. Dailey, reinforcing the importance of physical fitness standards and being a Soldier.

“Physical fitness is a number one priority,” Smith said. “It’s just as important as being able to fire your weapon.”

Senior Leaders at USARC encourage the participation of all individuals in the force.

“Once they finish the fitness challenge, they’ll get a certificate signed by all the command team members, to include Lt. Gen. Talley, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas, Mr. Balocki, and myself, letting them know that the leadership is aware of them taking that extra step to improve themselves,” Smith said.

To all those who haven’t join the challenge yet, Smith had one message.

“Get out there and get fit,” Smith said. 🇺🇸



(File photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)

Moon, Moore are the Faces of USARC

NAME: Jodi Moon, USARC G-37 Administrative Officer.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASSIGNED TO USARC? I've been with USARC since January, 2012.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE ARMY RESERVE? Most days I love my job, the variety of work that an admin officer gets to do and the people we support. Some days I just like it because of our proximity to the ocean.

TELL US ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU THAT YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW. I've been here since 2012 but I have a history with the federal agencies. I've worked for the FDSC, the FDA, NASA, the Forest Service, and the Corps of Engineers.

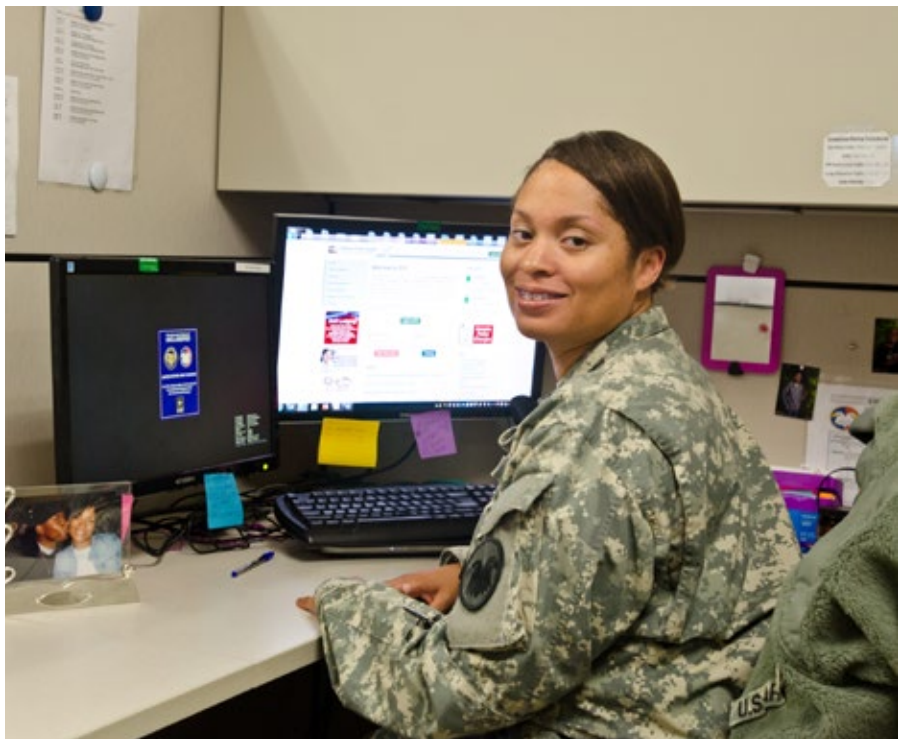


NAME: Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Moore, USARC G-38 operations noncommissioned officer.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASSIGNED TO USARC? I have been here just over 1 year.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE ARMY RESERVE? Why do you continue to serve in the Army Reserve? I continue to serve because I enjoy being in the U.S. Army Reserve. It's a great opportunity for me to develop my leadership skills, provide to my community, interact with other Soldiers, and move forward.

TELL US ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU THAT YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW. One thing that people don't know about me is that I want to be a speech pathologist, and work with those who are deaf.



The dynamics of DIMA: How U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers take the lead in the Land of the Rising Sun

Story & photo by Sgt. JOHN CARKEET IV
U.S. Army Japan

CAMP ZAMA, Japan – A vast majority of the approximately 198,000 men and women serving in the U.S. Army Reserve adhere to the “one weekend every month, two weeks every year,” commitment.

Although true for most Soldiers who balance their full-time civilian professions with their part-time military obligations, this blanket statement does not apply to every Warrior-Citizen.

Thousands of Army Reserve Soldiers don ACUs nearly every waking hour to support their Active Duty counterparts on yearlong deployments or serve full-time in various units in the Active, Guard, Reserve (AGR) force. Although these classifications are well known and respected throughout the Army Reserve,

a small group remains shrouded in unintentional secrecy.

Within these subdivisions lie a team of handpicked subject matter experts compress a year's worth of training and mission support in a single month. Of those, a tiny fraction have the honor of spending this intense yet memorable 36-day experience in Japan thanks to the region's active Drilling Individual Mobilization Augmentee, or DIMA, program.

According to the U.S. Army Human Resource Command, the DIMA program facilitates the rapid expansion of the Army's wartime structure by meeting military manpower requirements. In the case of U.S. Army Japan, or USARJ, a relatively small command that manages mission-critical assets throughout a country

nearly as large as and three times more populated than California, the DIMA program provides much needed logistical and technical support by supplying subject matter experts in key leadership positions.

“This is especially true while USARJ conducts major bilateral training missions with its Japanese Ground Self-Defense force partners,” said Lt. Col. Brett A. Gailey, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier who served as a watch officer for USARJ's intelligence section from Aug. 6-30. “While the command temporarily shifts its resources to these large-scale exercises, it simultaneously plugs (DIMA Soldiers) into positions who handle real-world assignments.”

Gailey, a former National Guard Soldier and Iraq War vet-

SHARING KNOWLEDGE. An Army Combatives instructor from the U.S. Army Reserve demonstrates how to properly pull a handgun out of a holster in a close quarters combat situation Aug. 27, in Camp Zama, Japan. Master Sgt. Steven R. Yach, a Drilling Individual Augmentee (DIMA) Soldier who served as an operations sergeant for USARJ's training division earlier this summer, helped coordinate travel, lodging and training facilities for the instructors who flew into Japan from the United States to train their active component counterparts. Yach was one of more than a dozen DIMA Soldiers temporarily assigned to U.S. Army Japan (USARJ) whose specialized skills, knowledge and experience enhanced the Command's strategic and operational capabilities. USARJ depends on the DIMA program to fill key leadership roles to ensure the command boasts the talent and manpower necessary to manage the numerous logistical missions and bilateral engagements conducted throughout Japan.



eran who now serves and protects the citizens of Everett, Washington, as a member of the city's SWAT team, recently became aware of the DIMA program's existence last year.

"I found out about the DIMA program during a casual visit to the HRC website," said Gailey. "I then reached out to a friend with first-hand knowledge of the program, and he told me that DIMA is the best kept secret in the Army ... I tend to agree."

After applying to several DIMA positions throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa, Gailey began his first of three rotations to Camp Zama, Japan, beginning in May 2014.

"It was like applying for a civilian job," said Gailey. "I sent my resume, official photo and my three most recent OERs (Officer Evaluation Reports) to U.S. Army Reserve Component teams around the world."

"It's a competitive selection process," added Master Sgt. Steven R. Yach, a DIMA Soldier who served as an operations sergeant for USARJ's training division earlier this summer. "USARJ's manpower is stretched thin during these large-scale bilateral training missions. It doesn't have the time to train new arrivals, especially those who are only in the country for a few weeks. That's why ARET-J (Army Reserve Engagement Team-Japan) spends hundreds of hours advertising open positions, reviewing applications and interviewing candidates to ensure it selects Soldiers with the right skill set and mindset to begin working immediately with little supervision."

In their latest DIMA tour, Gailey and Yach applied their respective knowledge to support USARJ during Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, a multi-national exercise that simulates the defense of South Korea from an invasion by its northern neighbor.

"It was an eye-opening experience," said Gailey. "I got to see firsthand how our forces in the Pacific work together at the strategic level ... I truly began to understand and appreciate the operational nuances among our Japanese and Korean allies."

"There was rarely a dull moment," said Yach. "If I wasn't in the Operations Center coordinating travel for units inbound from the U.S. to participate in UFG, I was in the G3 training office mentoring other Soldiers."

Despite the numerous demands from their superiors, subordinates, and allies, the enriching experience gave both men time to reflect on DIMA's significant contribution to USARJ's overall readiness.

"(The U.S. Army Reserve) should be proud of the DIMA program," said Gailey. It shows that all Soldiers – active duty, reserve, and National Guard – wear the same uniform and accomplish the same mission. It also highlights the U.S. Army Reserve's vast pool of talent that can accomplish any mission."

"We also offer a fresh perspective," said Yach, who has since returned to his civilian position at California State University (Fullerton) working as the recruiting operations officer for the university's Army ROTC program. "Instead of doing things doctrinally, DIMA

Soldiers can offer new ideas and implement effective practices from their civilian careers."

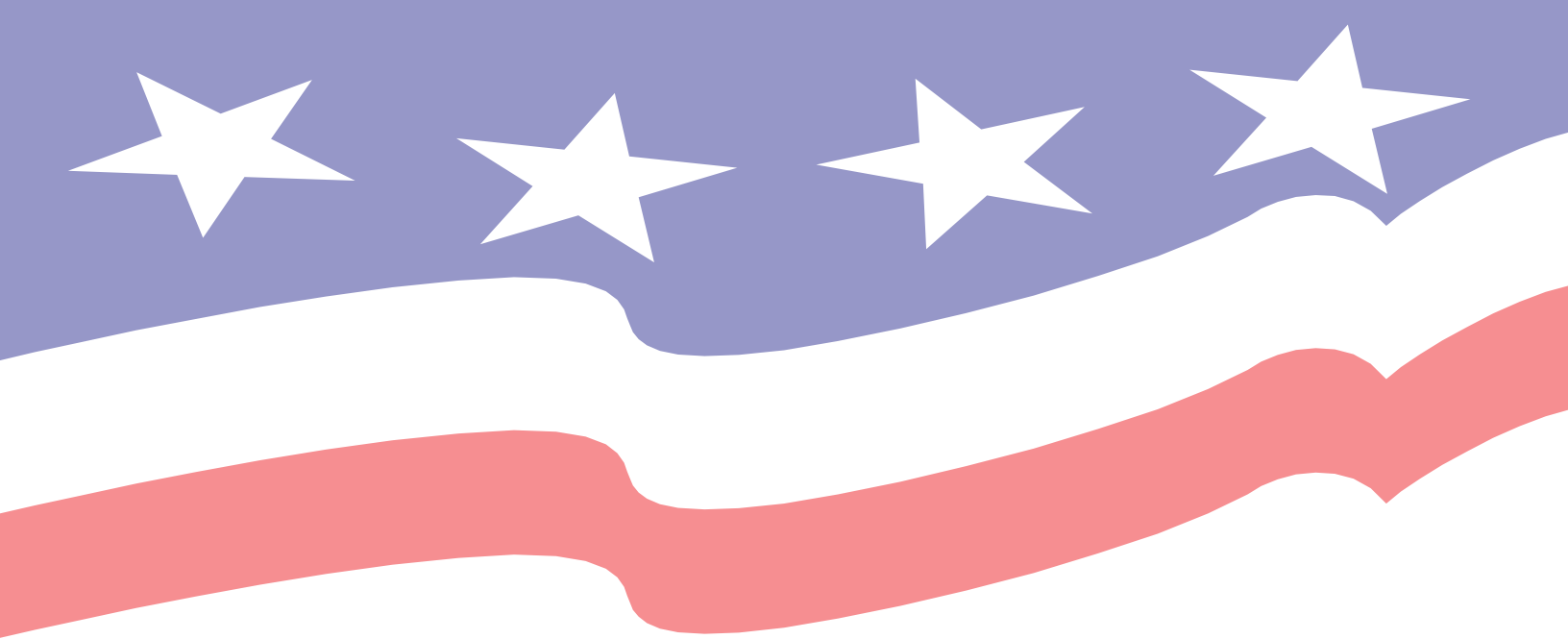
This "fresh perspective" also enticed the pair to offer ideas to improve the DIMA program.

"The Army Reserve could enhance its marketing efforts by training Soldiers on how to sell DIMA," said Gailey. "It could equip recruiters and career counselors with the latest tools and knowledge to entice Soldiers and their civilian employers to accept a month-long block of leave rather than spreading training days throughout the year."

"Some DIMA Soldiers suffer from the 'out of sight, out of mind,' syndrome," Yach admitted. "It's more difficult for them to track their career progression since, unlike TPU Soldiers, their superiors do not see them every month. Since the DIMA program demands that its Soldiers are ready to lead the moment they arrive (in Japan), consistent communication between DIMA candidates and their respective sections remains essential to tracking records, relaying news, and coordinating training throughout the year."

Gailey and Yach also recommended increasing funding for the DIMA program to completely cover its Soldiers' meals and lodging expenses and offer airfare for two round trips between the U.S. and Japan.

"These measures would entice junior Soldiers to participate in the program while giving all DIMA Soldiers the opportunity to break their 36-day commitment to two 18-day stays that encompass a greater number of bilateral missions." 🇺🇸



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OUR FUTURE...
YOUR VOTE...
IT COUNTS!**

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