



84th Division Alumni Bugler

Newsletter of the 84th Division Alumni Association, Ltd.



2008 Steak & Chicken Fry

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 13 September. This will be our annual STEAK & CHICKEN COOKOUT!

This annual event is the most fun event we have. It is the time to let our hair down, those of us who still have hair, and just reminisce about old times, tell bigger stories than we did last year and just have fun.

The event will be held again at the Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449, 3245 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI. The festivities start at 1500 hours; that is 3:00 PM for those that forgot how to tell time.

The menu again this year is tenderloin steaks (don't forget your steak knife), chicken breast, roasted corn on the cob, American & German potato salad, baked beans, veggie and snacks platter and a dessert. There also will be coffee, milk, and soda. Oh! Did I forget to mention beer? The legion bar will also be open as a cash bar.

Again we will have our silent auction on gifts and the many door prizes that make us famous.

Raffle tickets will be available all during the event along with Alumni items, hats, shirts, lapel pins, for sale.

Speaking of raffle tickets any member who brings a new potential member guest will receive a raffle ticket for himself and any potential member guest.

We are asking that each member attending bring a door prize for the silent auction or to be used as a door prize. With that many prizes you will probably get it back anyway.

This will be a "rain or shine" picnic since we have outside picnic tables with sun umbrellas and inside tables in case mother nature rains on our parade.

As with any event, any volunteers would be a great help in setup, auction, takedown, etc.

Any questions? EMAIL or call any board member listed on the last page of the newsletter.

All this for only \$16 per person. See the enclosed flyer for registration information.

Rumors of the 84th Division Leaving Wisconsin! :-)

There have been rumors of the 84th Division leaving the Milwaukee area in the next few years. Well, I received this email from them and I guess it's not a rumor anymore.

Dear Alumni,

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that a decision has been made to relocate the Milwaukee element of the HHC, 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) to Ft. Knox not later than 30 September 2008. All employees interested in the relocation with their positions to Ft. Knox will report not later than 14 Sep 08. Coordination will be made with HRC-St

Louis to PCS AGR personnel to Ft. Knox or other duty assignments where their service is needed. TPU personnel will be offered the opportunity to relocate with the command to Ft. Knox, those not wishing to relocate will be placed with other organizations, transferred to the IRR or retired.

Schuh, Goldie M. Mrs
USAR 84th USARRTC

The status of the 84th at Fort McCoy is unknown at this time. We will keep you posted.

A Change of Command

We welcome the newly elected board members and say thanks to the departing past members. **CSM Don Rosenbauer** has left the board after many years on the board. Newly elected were **Col Peter Pochowski**, **CSM Clarence Brunner**, **SFC Bill Krieger**, and **SFC Peter Schiller**. **CSM Larry Kritz & ISG Ed Marynik** extended their tour for three more years. **COL Bill McKeown** was elected the new President, **LTC Wm. Vanasse, Jr.** took the position of Vice-president and **CSM Dave Gramins** the Secretary.

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Presidents Comments

I am very appreciative and humbled to have been selected by the Board of Directors to serve as your president for the coming year. Rusty Armstrong leaves very big shoes to fill. I hope you will all find the opportunity and time in the coming months to personally thank Rusty for the three years of outstanding leadership and focus he provided during his tenure.

The "agenda" of the organization has yet to be set for the coming year, but certain things will not change. The Steak Fry on 13 September will once again provide all of us with a great opportunity to share great food, and enjoy each other's company. The dining-in is again tentatively scheduled for this coming April, with details to follow in an upcoming newsletter. Beyond that, your board of directors will be meeting in September to discuss the possibility of other events attractive to the membership as

a whole. Please take the time to share any ideas you have with any member of the board; I assure you it will be considered in our upcoming discussions.

Let me close with two thoughts very much on my mind. Our membership numbers can be improved and must improve if we are going to sustain the viability of the organization. Additionally, given the dispersion of our present members and potential members, rethinking our means of interaction and communication is a must. I would love to hear any thoughts you have on these, or any other, issues. I can be reached at 414-577-1728, or mqnpapa@yahoo.com.

Bill McKeown
Colonel (Retired)
President

Secretary Report

At the last meeting of your board on 16 Jul 2008 with 10 board members present. Various subjects were discussed such as the Sep steak/chicken picnic, recruiting trip to Ft McCoy and the Silver Spring Reserve Center, having a recruiting booth at State Fair and marching in the Veterans Day Parade in Milwaukee. Additionally, the dues structure was changed for soldiers who sign up for

the first time and instead of the yearly fee expiring in June, it now expires 31 December. Lastly, with Division HQ leaving, we have been offered some memorabilia.

CSM Dave Gramins (Ret)
Secretary

Bush Signs New, GI Bill into Law

June 30, 2008, - President Bush today signed legislation ushering in a new era in GI Bill benefits. The legislation, which the Senate last week passed overwhelmingly, is part of a \$162 billion war spending bill.

"We are very excited that after 18 months of working on the GI Bill that it's been passed into law," said Patrick Campbell, legislative director for IAVA. "Now veterans everywhere will see their opportunities greatly expanded.

The administration has opposed the new GI Bill on the grounds it would be too expensive, while the Pentagon has been concerned the more generous benefits - including a free four-year college degree program - would inspire more Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to leave after their initial enlistment.

But in signing the bill today, Bush praised the bill, including a provision favored by the Pentagon that permits veterans to transfer unused benefits to spouses and children.

"We also owe a debt of gratitude to our nation's military families. They endure sleepless nights, and the daily struggle of caring for children while a loved one is serving far from home," he said. "So I'm pleased that the bill I sign today includes an expansion of the GI Bill. This legislation will make it easier for our troops to transfer unused education benefits to their spouses and children."

Bush said the expanded benefits will help "to recruit and reward the best military on the face of the Earth."

The new GI Bill was framed by Sen. Jim Webb, D-VA, who has long argued that veterans deserve benefits that match those given to World War II vets. Then, returning GIs were covered for the full cost of tuition and books for whatever college they entered; in addition they were paid a monthly stipend.

Under the new GI Bill, payment rates will go up, but will be based on the college or university costs in the service member's state of residence. Eligible students also will receive a monthly stipend for books of up to \$1,000 per year and a monthly housing allowance of about \$1,000. The housing stipend will be tied to the Pentagon's basic allowance for housing rates.

The new education benefits are forecasted to go into effect in mid-2009 and will be available to all service members and veterans -- including members of the Guard and Reserve -- who have served on active duty for at least 90 consecutive days since Sept. 11, 2001. The benefits are paid in increments which are determined by the amount of time served on active duty.

The bill passed by Congress also provides a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits and \$2.7 billion in emergency flood relief for the Midwest.

The spending bill will bring to more than \$650 billion the amount Congress has provided for the Iraq war since it started more than five years ago. For operations in Afghanistan, the total is nearly \$200 billion, according to congressional officials.

History is key to understanding Tricare for Life

By James E. Hamby, Jr.

We talk a lot about the way Tricare for Life works, but we seldom explain how it came to be — the way its two components, Tricare and Medicare, were linked together. Even though Tricare for Life has existed for several years, there's still a lot of confusion on the subject.

This time, I'd like to introduce Tricare for Life and how it came about. Next time, I'll discuss how Tricare was made to work with Medicare after Tricare for Life was established.

Under Tricare for Life, you have full Medicare coverage plus full Tricare Standard coverage.

Mail from readers reflects a vague belief among some beneficiaries that Tricare for Life involves a "special kind" of Medicare or Tricare Standard.

But Tricare for Life's Medicare coverage is no different from what is available to all eligible people, including civilians. Similarly, the Tricare Standard plan for Tricare for Life beneficiaries is exactly the same as that used by tens of thousands of Tricare Standard beneficiaries who are not yet eligible for Tricare for Life.

All Tricare for Life does is let Tricare work cooperatively with Medicare in a way not legally possible before Tricare for Life was created.

On close examination, one sees that Tricare for Life is an abstraction. It is the name given to the effects of the 2001 law that, for the first time, allowed Tricare beneficiaries to keep their Tricare Standard coverage and combine it with their Medicare Parts A and B coverage when they turned 65.

One common question that reveals a misunderstanding about the above has to do with receiving care overseas. Since Medicare covers care in the U.S. only, will Tricare for Life "fill in" when Medicare cannot pay?

It's true that if you receive medical care outside the U.S. and its possessions, the Medicare portion of Tricare for Life would be unable to pay for that care. In that case, only the Tricare Standard portion of your Tricare for Life coverage could pay for foreign medical care. So, if you receive care overseas, save all your bills, receipts and documents to file a Tricare Standard claim after you get home.

Such a Tricare claim would be subject to all Tricare Standard claims processing rules — including the Tricare deductible, if applicable, as well as cost shares. That's because Tricare Standard would be your only health insurance coverage for foreign medical care.

To understand why Tricare For Life works this way, it helps to understand the program's history. Prior to the creation of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services, or CHAMPUS, in 1966, there was no law authorizing active-duty family members,

retirees, retirees' family members or survivors to get civilian medical care at government expense.

Although a few trial programs of that sort appeared briefly in the mid-1950s, CHAMPUS was the first program to provide such care at government expense. The enabling legislation for CHAMPUS makes clear that the program was never intended to be a lifelong benefit of military service.

Many veterans and retirees argue — validly — that promises of free medical care for life were made to them when they joined the military. That debate is outside the role and scope of this column; my point is that CHAMPUS was intended to bridge the health insurance gap between the relatively young retirement age of most service members and their Medicare entitlement at age 65.

Under the legislation, CHAMPUS eligibility was lost if a retiree, retiree family member or survivor became entitled to Medicare Part A. It was not until a 1991 amendment to the law that such people could retain CHAMPUS eligibility until age 65, as long as they were enrolled in Medicare Part B.

Even so, the 1991 amendment required all CHAMPUS beneficiaries to lose eligibility at age 65 if they were entitled to Medicare Part A. That was true even for those who were enrolled in Medicare Part B. That's not so today.

Next newsletter, I'll talk about the legislation that created Tricare for Life and clear up confusion about how Tricare For Life works with Medicare.

Note to readers

There are four official sources for Tricare information: The health benefits adviser/health care finder at a military hospital; any Tricare contractor; the Tricare Management Activity, 16401 E. Centretch Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9043; and the Defense Department military health system Web site, <http://www.tricare.mil>.

James E. Hamby, Jr. may be reached by writing to Tricare Help, Times News Service, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, VA 22159; or by sending e-mail to tricarehelp@atpco.com. In e-mail, please include the word "Tricare" in the subject line and do not attach files. If using regular mail, include an e-mail address if possible to prompt a faster response.

Note from editor

This article was copied from Army Times magazine with the permission of the author.

This is part one of two parts, I will publish part two in the next newsletter. I would suggest that you at least keep this page until the next newsletter for reference!

Be Smart. Do your Part. Vote!

Reminder - Everyone is strongly encouraged to participate and cast your vote in the 2008 Presidential Elections. Voting is the essence of our democracy and one of our most important Constitutional rights. You can cast an absentee ballot.

New Services on Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

For those who don't know, you do have an email address with the military. Whether you are Active, Reserve, National Guard or Retired. All you have to do is register with AKO, it can be accessed at <https://www.us.army.mil>.

The Army has launched an improved version of its unclassified Web portal as part of the phased transition to Defense Knowledge Online, an evolving single point of entry to Internet sites and services for all the armed forces.

Services available through the updated Army Knowledge Online/Defense Knowledge Online portal include collaboration, such as Web conferencing, instant messaging and chat; a people directory and improved search capabilities.

Col. James Barrineau, AKO/DKO project director, expects the portal will be able to support 2.5 million users by fall of this year and 3.5 million by 2010.

The Army accounts for more than 1 million users, to include soldiers, Army civilians, family members, contractors and authorized guests.

Non-Army users are restricted to select categories from within the Defense Department.

Registration details for access to Defense Knowledge Online are available through a link on the AKO home page.

Congress Honors Last U.S. Veteran of WWI

A 107-year-old West Virginia farmer, recognized as the last living U.S. veteran of World War I, said he was honored to be the last representative of a generation of veterans.

Frank W. Buckles, who enlisted in the Army in 1917 and drove ambulances, cars and motorcycles in France and England during the war, was honored June 18 at a U.S. Capitol event and also feted June 19 in a ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Buckles enlisted at the age of 16 and remained in the military after the Armistice until 1920.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NV, said Buckles had tried to enlist in the Marine Corps and Navy but was turned away. He managed to join the Army when "he found a friendly recruiter who believed the hometown where he was born did not keep birth records, or at least looked the other way."

Reid noted that Buckles, although a civilian during World War II, was living in the Philippines and was one of the Americans held for 3½ years as a prisoner of war by the Japanese.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the oldest serving U.S. senator, was born the year that Buckles began his service. Reid joked that Byrd is young enough to be Buckles' son, and Byrd called Buckles "my role model."

Former Sen. Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican, was one of many people attending the event who said they were there because their fathers had served in World War I and that Buckles represented them.

Dole also joked that as the last surviving veteran of the Great War, "you can tell any story you want. You can say there were 500 enemy troops and you only had one bullet. There is nobody around to correct you, Frank."

Final Issue of the Triad?

The last issue of the Fort McCoy Triad has been published on December 14, 2007.

The newspaper will resume publication January 11, 2008, as "The Real McCoy."

The name change previously was announced as a harbinger of the installation celebrating its 100th

anniversary in 2009. The name change reflects and honors the post's heritage and legacy of service.

The Real McCoy will continue to be printed every second and fourth Friday of the month, except for December when only one issue is printed on the second Friday of the month.

Military Family Friendly Websites

Here is a list of three, of many, websites that are geared toward the military family. I use some of these as reference for my research.

www.MilitaryHomeFront.dod.mil, supporting our troops and their families. is the official Department of Defense web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need!

My www.ArmyLifeToo.com, an integrated family support network, simulates a community with a blend of civilian and military lifestyles and serves as the website of choice

for Army families providing accurate and up-to-date articles and information on various topics...from Army customs, home and personal safety, managing deployment to understanding military pay.

www.MilitaryOneSource.com, whether its help with child care, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, relocation information, or resources needed for special circumstances, Military OneSource is there for military personnel and their families... 24/7/365!

These along with www.military.com, www.armytimes.com, www.tricare.mil & www.va.gov are sites to remember.

Veterans Don't Tap Into All of Their Education Benefits

President Bush just signed into law the largest GI Education Bill since WW II. With that in mind!

The extent to which today's veterans are exceeding in their education plans is hard to tell. Available data can't tell the whole story, but they raise some questions.

- ❖ While 95% of active duty service members sign up for the GI Bill, as many as 29% of those who are eligible when they separate from the military never use the benefit.

- ❖ Last year, about 7% of service members who separated from the armed forces before 1997 had used up all their benefits by the 10-year limit.

- ❖ Non-Veterans were more likely than veterans (41% versus 15%) to enroll in a bachelor's program.

Keith Wilson, director of the VA's education service, says his office has received funding and hopes to "fill in the blanks"

While the GI Bill provides for 36 months of benefits - roughly a four-year degree - veterans on average use about 17 months of benefits, VA data show. For some, that may be enough; the VA doesn't track whether veterans already have some college under their belts.

Others may stop using benefits not because they couldn't cope, but because their priorities change.

"A lot come back with the intention of going to school but get caught up in getting married, buying a car and having a kid," said Vietnam veteran Manuel Martinez, a counselor at the East Los Angeles Veterans Center, a federal VA program.

Martinez, like other counselors, suspects dropout rates among combat veterans are higher than average if for no other reason than many return home with anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress.

Last June, the Defense Department released findings that show 31% of Marines, 38% of soldiers and nearly half of National Guard troops have psychological symptoms.

Those with physical injuries also face limitations. Under a program created this year by the American Council on Education, a nonprofit group, volunteers are working with veterans at three military hospitals.

Of 156 service members who receive counseling, 49 have sought admission and have been accepted into a program of study this fall. Others are still in recovery, says ACE's Jim Selbe.

Leisure Activities Offered at Fort McCoy

Personnel in the Fort McCoy community can stretch their budgets further by taking advantage of the numerous free or reduced-cost recreation, services or merchandize offers at various Fort McCoy facilities.

Jobi Spolum, the Fort McCoy Marketing director for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR), said the post's DFMWR program offers authorized personnel in the Fort McCoy community a number of activities or locations that offer them free, reduced or conveniently located programs that can save them money.

Two exceptional free-service offers are onsite exercise/recreational opportunities at the Fort McCoy Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122, and the Community Activity Center (CAC), building 2000, Spolum said.

The Fitness Center offers the latest in exercise equipment, including treadmills, stationary bicycles, stair climbers, etc. A weight room, swimming pool, various fitness classes and certified trainers also are available.

The CAC offers a number of video games, computers, DVDs and large-screen televisions, exercise equipment and a Shuffleboard Table, among other recreational activities. Some of these items can be rented for a fee for use outside of the CAC.

Authorized military and civilian personnel also can take advantage of discounts at Pine View Recreation Area, Whitetail Ridge Ski Area (in season) and the Auto Crafts Shop to help enjoy indoor and outdoor recreational activities.

Pine View and Whitetail Ridge are open to the general public.

Fort McCoy also offers a variety of conveniently located dining opportunities, which are open throughout the duty day and may be dependent on the troop populations.

"We have a lot of activities located on post that personnel can enjoy," Spolum said. "It saves them gas costs and other travel expenses. And the profits from these ventures are put back into the community to support the quality of life."

Authorized military personnel and their family members are authorized full use of the Fort McCoy Commissary, building 1537, and the Fort McCoy Post Exchange, building 1538, to purchase grocery, retail and service items.

The Commissary sells items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge (which is used to build and maintain commissaries, support Defense Commissary Agency programs, etc.).

The PX does not charge a sales tax on the products or services sold there.

For more information about MWR activities, call the MWR Events Line at (877) 864-4969 or visit the MWR Web site at <http://www.mccoymwr.com>.

Information about the Fort McCoy Commissary is available by calling (608) 388-3542 in the Fort McCoy community or visiting the Web site <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Information about the Fort McCoy Main Post Exchange is available by calling (608) 269-5574, Ext. 101 or (608) 388-4343 or visiting the Web site <http://www.aafes.com>.

84th Division Alumni Association, LTD

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Home of the 84th Alumni Association



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