

84th Division Alumni Bugler

Newsletter of the 84th Division Alumni Association, Ltd.



Headed for the Border?

Beginning in July 2009, a birth certificate or military ID will no longer suffice as proof of citizenship for American travelers ages 16 or older who re-enter the country by land or sea from Mexico, Canada, Bermuda or the Caribbean. The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requires a passport or equivalent papers.

The list of acceptable documents for land and sea travelers includes the following:

Passports: The standard citizenship proof for travelers, recognized worldwide.

Passport cards: They're cheaper and look like a driver's license, but they require the same background information as a passport. The card is accepted at land and sea ports for travelers from Canada and Mexico but is not allowed for air travel.

Enhanced Driver's Licenses: Michigan, New York, Vermont and

Washington state issue special motorist licenses embedded with technology that refers border agents to a stored record in a government database.

Trusted Traveler cards: Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection cards allow expedited passage through border crossings from Mexico for pre-approved applicants who have undergone extensive background checks.

Special groups: Children under 16 may use birth certificates as proof of citizenship when entering the U.S. at land and sea ports from contiguous territories.

Service members: Troops traveling in uniform with official orders can still use their military IDs to re-enter the country; service members in civilian clothes will need one of the forms of ID previously listed.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Now You Know...

Why is the US flag worn reversed on the right shoulder sleeve of the Army Combat Uniform?

Though it may look backwards to some, This "gives the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer

moves forward", according to Army Regulation 670-1. Think back to Civil War movies like "Glory" or "Gettysburg." When the flag bearers charged into battle, the flag would stream back behind them.

Upcoming Special Events

This is going to be a busy late summer and fall for our association, so mark your calendars well.

12 September is our annual "steak & chicken fry". This is always been a fun time for all who attend. Where else can you have a great meal, win prizes, attend an auction, see old friends and be informed by a great speaker. All for a price that can't be beat.

Next on 11 November have another great meal with your friends and, sadly to say goodbye to a World Famous Organization. The 84th Division Flag is leaving our great state and is headed for Fort Knox, KY.

For more information on both events see the enclosed flyers.

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Presidents Comments

I would like to address three topics in these remarks.

First of all, a sincere apology to those who were unaware of the details concerning the general membership meeting held on 25 June 2009, or to any who were inconvenienced by uncertainty as to the details. There was a lack of communication this year on those points which will not be repeated.

Next, enclosed with this abbreviated newsletter are two flyers that should be of interest. The first concerns our annual steak and chicken fry, scheduled at the Stenz-Griesell-Smith Post 449 in Brookfield on 12 September 2009 starting at 1500. All the preparations are in place for great afternoon of food, beverages, and camaraderie. Please take a moment when receiving this newsletter to reserve your place now.

Finally, while I realize that many of you have already received at least informal notice concerning the "Farewell to the 84th" to be held on 7 November 2009 at the Country Springs Hotel, and many of you have already reserved your places for the event, the Alumni Association wants to ensure that any and all whose past includes the 84th Division have an opportunity to be present for what promises to be a very memorable evening. Accordingly, a flyer describing the event and providing the opportunity for sign-up is also enclosed. The response to this point has been very encouraging, and we hope no one is turned away.

As always, I am available to hear any thoughts or suggestions you have. I can be reached at 414-577-1728, or [mqnpapa@yahoo.com](mailto:mqnppapa@yahoo.com).

Bill McKeown, Colonel (Retired), President

A Salute For Service - An Editorial Worth Repeating

While at the post office, I heard a voice boom out, "Good morning!" I turned around and saw an elderly man sitting in the passenger seat of a pickup truck. He was holding his right hand in a perfect parade ground salute. He was wearing a World War II veteran ball cap and looking right at me.

I was wearing my "Army Strong" ball cap with my Army retiree pin. It dawned on me that this elderly vet was saluting me! Luckily, my instincts kicked in and I returned his salute.

As I drove home, I reflected on this event. When this elderly vet saw me exit the post office, he made an immediate decision to salute another veteran.

He did not know – or care – about my rank, MOS, location or dates of service. All he knew and cared

about, from seeing my hat and pin, was that I am a fellow military veteran.

Congress recently passed legislation allowing veterans to salute the American flag. (Many of us have done this anyway without this new law.) This World War II veteran decided to render the salute honor to me in order to honor all other veterans. Yes, it is an honor to receive a salute from a fellow veteran. It is just as much an honor to return the salute. Let's continue to honor our country's military veterans – everyday.

Lt. Col Bob Thompson (ret.)

Baton Rouge, LA

I saw this editorial in Army Times and thought it was worthy of repeating. Ed

Raising the Bar Back Up

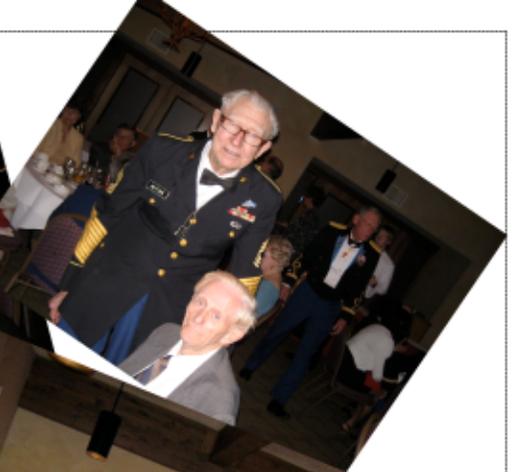
For the past five years or so, Army leaders have insisted they were not lowering the bar by signing up recruits who were felons, drug offenders and high-school dropouts. In 2006 and 2007 alone, more than 1,000 felons joined the active Army. Young people make mistakes, Army leaders said, and can go on to be good soldiers and solid citizens — they deserve a chance to serve their country, too.

That's what they said then. Now, they're singing a different tune. In March, the Army stopped granting waivers to felons. Likewise, recruits who test positive for drugs during entrance processing are now being flatly turned down. More than 1,200 of them were sworn-in in 2006. And high-school dropouts, who made up 21 percent of new recruits in 2007 and 17 percent in 2008, are now down to just 7 percent so far in fiscal 2009.

The truth is the Army *did* lower the bar during the worst of the Iraq war. It had no choice. Huge financial incentives were not enough. Now that the violence in Iraq is largely quelled and the U.S. job market has collapsed, however, more young people are giving the military a chance. The turnabout is tacit admission of the obvious: Felons and dropouts are last-resort options. Granted, there are some diamonds in the rough. But the numbers don't lie: They are more likely than other recruits to have discipline problems, be under-performers, and sap time and attention from their leaders. Many soldiers who came in on waivers in recent years are serving with distinction. But many will also require a disproportionate amount of oversight by busy NCOs and officers who cannot afford the time.

It's good to see standards rising again. Let's hope we can keep them that way.

Your Alumni



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