



CENTENNIAL SALUTE - June 2005 Issue



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
Denver Centennial Chapter of the Association of the United States Army

Call to Duty - 230 Years of Service to Our Nation



Our Army is serving a Nation at war.

The Global War on Terrorism will not be short and it will require deep and enduring commitment. To fight this war and ensure our Nation's security into the future, the Army must provide the Joint Force with relevant and ready capabilities to support the National Security and Defense Strategies. Our Army is a campaign-quality Army with a Joint and Expeditionary Mindset, a proud member of the Joint Force expertly serving our nation and its citizens for 230 years.

The Army provides the Joint Force with the combat, combat support, and combat service support capabilities necessary to conduct sustained land warfare during extended campaigns. This is our unique contribution to the Joint Team and it will be maintained. The challenge we are addressing is how to transform our organizations, processes, doctrine and culture so that we are better able to provide this contribution in a more prompt and rapid manner.

As it has always been, Soldiers, both active and reserve, are the heart of the Army. Embued with the Warrior Ethos, our Soldiers are "Warriors of character" whose seriousness and sense of urgency are characteristic of an Army at war. Our Soldiers will always place the mission first, never accept defeat, never quit and will never leave a fallen comrade.



<http://www.army.mil/birthday/230/default.htm>

Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA Mile High Chapter NDIA

Annual Golf Tournament Omni Interlocken Resort Golf Club

Monday, August 1, 2005

6:30 AM Sign In – 7:30 AM Shotgun Start

Cost: \$115 Individuals; \$105 Military (*Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, Retired*)

Prizes, Catered Lunch, Benefit Auction

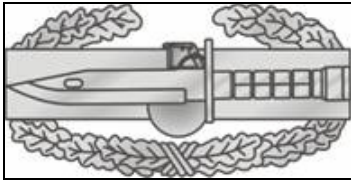
See attached flyer for registration and sponsorship information.

Celebrating America's Freedoms

Celebrating America's Freedoms is a collection of stories describing the origin and history of America's most beloved customs and national symbols. From the story of the Pledge of Allegiance to the correct method for folding the American flag, readers will find this packet both informative and helpful in planning activities to celebrate national observances such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Flag Day.

<http://www1.va.gov/OPA/feature/celebrate/docs/Celam.pdf>

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Combat Action Badge Design Approved

Source: Army News Service

The Army announced the design for the Combat Action Badge (CAB). The design was approved by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff.

The CAB, featuring both a bayonet and grenade, may be awarded to any Soldier performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized, who is personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. Award is not limited by one's branch or military occupational specialty.

"Warfare is still a human endeavor," said Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff. "Our intent is to recognize Soldiers who demonstrate and live the Warrior Ethos."

"The Global War on Terrorism and its associated operations will be the first era of conflict considered for this award," said Lt. Col. Bill Johnson, Human Resources Command chief of military awards. He added: "September 18, 2001, is the effective date for the new award. That is when President Bush signed Senate Joint Resolution 23, authorizing the use of military force against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States."

The CAB will go into immediate production and should be available late this summer or early fall through unit supply and military clothing sales stores.

For more information, contact Maj. Elizabeth Robbins, Army Public Affairs, at (703) 697-5343, elizabeth.robbsins@hqda.army.mil or Lt. Col. Pamela Hart, at (703) 693-5662, pamela.hart@hqda.army.mil.

Online source for ways to support troops

Source: Army Retirement Services Current News

Are you looking for more ways to support the troops? The Army has created an online source that provides links to sites covering activities such as sending packages, letters and messages; donating frequent flyer miles and buying gift certificates; and adopting a Soldier or platoon among other projects.

[Http://www.army.mil/howyoucanhelp](http://www.army.mil/howyoucanhelp) also lists service aid societies and Veterans Services Organizations (VSOs).

AAFES radio messages connect front lines with homefront

DALLAS - The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) recently introduced its Patriot Family Connection program to help connect deployed military members with their loved ones back home.

The new program offers family members and friends of deployed service members a chance to record their greetings, words of support and thanks. Messages can be recorded 24 hours a day, free of charge, and are forwarded to American Forces Network Radio, which is heard at locations overseas including those in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Anyone can record a message simply by calling 1-800-713-1302 and following the prompts. For more information, log on to www.AAFES.com and click on the Patriot Family link.

Free Admission to Sea World and Busch Gardens Parks

As part of its "Heroes Salute" to honor the U.S. Armed Services, Anheuser-Busch is offering free single-day admission to its Sea World and Busch Gardens theme parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen, and up to three dependents throughout 2005. All active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service members or National Guard are entitled to free admission under the program. Servicemembers can register online at <http://www.herosalute.com/> or at the entrance plaza of participating parks. A DoD photo ID is required.

Army PT uniform available to retirees

Source: Army Retirement Services Current News

Are you a retiree who's still "fit to fight"? Is PT still part of your day? Are you a "mobilization asset", ready to return to active duty? Your Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council asked the Army to recognize this by authorizing retirees to (purchase and) wear the physical fitness uniform and the improved physical fitness uniform. Read more about this in the newly revised AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, available online at http://www.usapa.army.mil/pdf/files/r670_1.pdf. "Wear of the uniform by retired personnel" is Chapter 30-3 of the regulation on page 314 of the document, page 337 of 362 in the online version.

The [Operation Tribute to Freedom](http://www4.army.mil/otf/speakers.html) website contains a database of ready-made speeches available for the use of all Soldiers and Army civilians, active and retired. The new location is: <http://www4.army.mil/otf/speakers.html>.

New law will increase Survivor Benefit Plan annuity for those 62 and older Open enrollment period to start October 2005

Source: Army Retirement Services Current News

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 05 makes the biggest change to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) since the plan started in 1972. Under the new law, SBP annuitants will no longer have their benefits reduced from 55% to 35% of the base amount at age 62. This change is being phased in over the next three and a half years. NDAA 05 will raise the minimum SBP annuity for survivors age 62 and older to 40% of base amount covered as of Oct. 1, 2005; to 45% of base amount on Apr. 1, 2006; to 50% on Apr. 1, 2007; and to 55% on Apr. 1, 2008. (Note: Some annuitants whose benefits were calculated using the older Social Security offset method are already receiving an annuity at or greater than 40% of the base amount elected. These annuitants will not lose any benefits during the phase in period. Their benefits won't change until the phased in percentage is higher than the percentage they're receiving.)

SBP is a program that let retirees choose to receive reduced retired pay so that their elected beneficiary can receive an annuity after their death.

Without SBP, retired pay stops when the retiree dies. The base amount is the part of retired pay that the retiree elects to cover. The base amount can range from \$300 a month to full retired pay.

Open enrollment period: Retirees who are not enrolled in SBP or who are enrolled, but are covering less than full retired pay as their base amount, or who are enrolled in child but not spouse coverage, will have the opportunity to enroll or increase their coverage during an open enrollment period that will run from Oct. 1, 2005 to Sep. 30, 2006. Retirees who want to elect or increase SBP coverage during the open season will have to make a lump sum payment covering all back premiums since retirement, plus interest. We will have more details as the open season approaches.

TRICARE Moves Medications to Non-Formulary Status

Source: TRICARE News Release No. 05-09

The Military Health System's health coverage plan, TRICARE, announced the selection of three medications to be placed in the non-formulary category of its new Formulary: Nexium® (esomeprazole), a medication for ulcers and other stomach problems, and Teveten® (eprosartan) and Teveten HCT® (eprosartan with hydrochlorothiazide), both used to treat high blood pressure.

"With the selection of the first three non-formulary drugs, we have taken an important step in

standardizing formulary management within the Department of Defense," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs and Director of TRICARE.

Effective July 17, 2005, military beneficiaries will pay \$22 for up to a 30 or 90-day supply of these medications, depending on whether they fill the prescription at a TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacy (TRRx) or through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP). Beneficiaries will pay the higher of \$22 or 20 percent in retail non-network pharmacies. Patients currently using Nexium®, Teveten® or Teveten HCT® may wish to consult their doctor.

Beneficiaries may use the Formulary Search Tool for additional information about various medications, their availability and cost at:

www.tricareformularysearch.org

New Handbook Updates Veterans Benefits

Source: VA News Release

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2005)-- A new edition of the popular handbook Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American veterans.

Most of the nation's 25 million veterans qualify for some VA benefits, which range from health care to burial in a national cemetery. In addition to describing benefits provided by VA, the 2005 edition of the 120-page booklet provides an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies.

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents includes resources to help veterans access their benefits, with a listing of toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. The handbook can be downloaded free from VA's Web site at <http://www.va.gov/opa/feature>.

Buckley AFB Retiree Activities Office

460th Space Wing, Bldg 606, Room 140
18401 East A-Basin Avenue Stop 88
Buckley AFB, CO 80011

Telephone: 720-847-6693

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday - 0900 – 1500

<http://www.buckley.af.mil/retirees.htm>

Volunteer Opportunities Available

At the Clinic, Univ. of Colorado Health Science
Center, 5th Floor – Aurora

Program Returns Wounded Guard, Reserve Troops Home to Recover

Source: Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service

When wounded active-component soldiers get sent home from a deployment for medical care, they're generally treated directly at their home bases.

Not so for their reserve-component counterparts. Typically they return to their mobilization stations and get assigned to a medical hold company. There, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of miles away from their homes and families, they receive follow-on medical care that can stretch out for months.

The Army has come up with a solution that's proving to be the best medicine of all: Community-Based Healthcare Organizations.

These new offices arrange for wounded troops to live at home while getting medical care in their communities through a military facility or civilian Tricare provider, explained Lt. Col. Linda Womack, commander of the CBHCO here.

"We're getting these soldiers off the installations and back into their homes with their families," said Womack, whose CBHCO office here is among eight nationwide. "This is the best thing the Army has done in a long time for the Reserve and Guard."

The arrangement takes a lot of the stress off families of wounded Guard and Reserve troops too. Womack said she's heard many stories about spouses quitting their jobs and booking hotel rooms so they could be near their loved ones recovering from injuries far from home.

The CBHCO program also helps relieve pressure on medical facilities and installations, said Lt. Col. Jeanie Mencer, a nurse practitioner.

Now, while living at home, participants can frequently get treatment from their own family doctor, provided that doctor participates in Tricare, said Lt. Col. Toni Walters, a case manager who arranges participants' primary and specialty care.

But for participants, signing on for the program means more than being idle between doctor's appointments. Each gets a temporary-duty assignment near home and reports for duty every day, Womack explained.

Womack's office identifies duty sites, within 50 miles of servicemembers' homes, and lays out the groundwork about what soldiers can and can't do due to their medical profiles. Typically, troops do administrative work, answer phones, conduct inventories, even help local recruiters, she said.

Just wrapping up its first year of operation, the CBHCO staff here is managing 275 soldiers' health care, and Womack said the program is getting "nothing but positive feedback" from participants.

"This program is just great!" said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Weston, a Missouri National Guardsman who just signed on with the program.

Weston's deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, was cut short due to severe back injuries that worsened with constant wear of a flak vest. Back at his mobilization station at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he started undergoing physical therapy and traction. Each weekend, he drove two-and-a-half hours to his home to see his family -- something he acknowledges wasn't the best medicine for his ailing back.

Now that he's joined the CBHCO program, Weston is able to live at home, get his medical care locally, and continue to contribute in whatever way he can to help his fellow guardsmen still in Iraq.

"Stand-To"

The Army Chief of Staff's Strategic Communications Office invites Army retirees to subscribe to a special e-mail newsletter *Stand-To!*

Available on the Web and through subscription by sending an e-mail to: stand-to@hqda.army.mil and typing "subscribe" in the subject line.

Army Echoes

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp>

Write Your Representative

This service will assist you by identifying your Congressperson in the U.S. House of Representatives and providing contact information.

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>



The Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

A private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members.

AUSA offers three types of membership.

--**Individual**- Current and retired Army and reserve component soldiers, cadets, government civilians, Army family members, concerned citizens

--**Corporate**- Companies that support Army communities

--**Sustaining**- Defense industry businesses

<http://www.ausa.org/membership>

SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION: The *Denver Centennial Chapter* of the *Association of the United States Army* thanks **Steve Ferency**, Senior Sales Manager, **Renaissance Denver Hotel** for printing this Newsletter for distribution to our membership.

**Denver Centennial Chapter
Association of the United States Army**

**Mile High Chapter
National Defense Industrial Association**



Annual Golf Tournament
Omni Interlocken Resort Golf Club
500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield, CO 80021



Monday, August 1, 2005
6:30 AM Sign In – 7:30 AM Shotgun Start

Cost: \$115 Individuals; \$105 Military (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, Retired)
Rates include 18 Holes, green fees, cart with Global Positioning System (GPS), range balls, and catered lunch.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: July 25, 2005

Please send checks with registration form. Registration is not complete without payment in full.

Team Contact or Individual Player

Player 1: Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ **Email** _____

Player 2: Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ **Email** _____

Player 3: Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ **Email** _____

Player 4: Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ **Email** _____

Please make checks payable to: **AUSA**
Mail Reservation Forms to: **Cori Ehrhart, 4537 West 69th Drive, Westminster, CO 80030**
(720) 898-7335 - cehrhart@arvadacenter.org

John Schulte, Peak Resources, Inc. **For Additional/Sponsorship Information:** Keith Foley, TEKsystems
(720) 939-8538 - jschulte@peakresources.com kfoley@teksystems.com - (303) 694-7187

Denver Centennial Chapter
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mile High Chapter
NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION



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Prizes – Hole-in-One Competition – Prizes
Lunch, Award Ceremony, and Benefit Auction Immediately Following
Proceeds Benefit Local & National Charities

Omni Interlocken Resort Golf Club is a 27-hole facility, consisting of three individual regulation 9-hole courses designed by Graham & Panks International, the partnership of David Graham (1981 U.S. Open Champion and PGA Senior Tour player) and Gary Panks. The Omni Interlocken Golf Club is also home to the "Sun Microsystems/John Elway Celebrity Classic Golf Tournament" and was ranked third in "Best Resort courses of Colorado".

<http://www.omnihotels.com/golf/denver/main.html>

For Additional/Sponsorship Information Contact:

John Schulte, Peak Resources, Inc.
(720) 939-8538 - jschulte@peakresources.com

Keith Foley, TEKsystems Government Services
kfoley@teksystems.com - (303) 694-7187



Jim Kumpost
CSM, US Army, Retired
9652 South Cove Creek Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129-5775

Denver Centennial – An AUSA Star Chapter

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Cori Ehrhart

EVENTS

August 1, 2005

Golf Tournament - Omni Interlocken Resort Golf Club

AUSA: Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier