

CENTENNIAL SALUTE – 4th Quarter 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

DENVER CENTENNIAL CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY



Army Strong

10 October 2006

To the Army family:

For 231 years our Army has been the vanguard of freedom around the globe. Our ability to fulfill this vital role for the nation depends on each of you, and on the work you do every day. It also depends on our ability to fill the Army's ranks in the future with committed and capable volunteer Soldiers.

On Monday, 9 October, I announced the beginning of our effort to inform you about the **Army Strong** Ad campaign at the **Association of the United States Army Annual Symposium** in Washington, D.C. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Pete Schoomaker, and I are confident that the new **Army Strong** campaign captures the unique character of the Soldier. As we all know, you become a stronger person by becoming a Soldier. This is a special kind of strong... it's **Army Strong!**

We will take a full thirty days to explain this campaign as well as possible to help you - our Soldiers, Army Civilians, Family Members and our community champions understand what it is and the meaning behind it. **Army Strong** stands for a big idea. It speaks to the truth about the U.S. Army - that Soldiers develop mental, emotional and physical strength forged through shared values, teamwork, experience and training... that by making the decision to join the Army, an individual is choosing to recognize potential strength within him or herself and develop it further... that an individual Soldier is choosing to take charge of his or her future and career... that Soldiers actively choose to make a difference in their lives, their families, their communities and for their nation.

I firmly believe **Army Strong** is the truth. I speak often with Soldiers as I know you also do. In different words and in different ways, over and over again, I hear the story of strength.

General Schoomaker and I are asking for your full support of this important campaign. Every time you go into your community... you are the most effective demonstration of the **Army Strong**. We are asking you to represent **Army Strong**

You are **Army Strong**.

Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army

Catch the video at (Media player required):
<http://www.dvidshub.net/vjump.php?vid=17825>

Denver to Host AUSA Region VII Conference

The 2007 **AUSA Region VII Conference** is being hosted by the **Denver Centennial Chapter**.

Region VII President Jack Isler has announced the dates and location for the conference to **AUSA National Headquarters** and to our fellow Region chapters. The dates are, starting Thursday morning, April 12, 2007, at the **Omni Interlocken Resort Hotel** in Broomfield, Colorado.

Details regarding the agenda, hotel arrangements, and related activities will be provided to our chapter members in our next newsletter.

You are highly encouraged to participate as you can. Interesting and informative speakers have been scheduled for the conference and **AUSA President General Gordon Sullivan** is scheduled to be present.

If you can get involved as a volunteer, please let Charles Rodgers, (303) 652-2219, or Paul Baldwin, (303) 972-3546 know. We'll need all the help we can get, and we want to get maximum participation from our membership and show the **Denver Centennial** colors and spirit!

<http://chapters.ausa.org/denver/events/>

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Military, Industry Cooperation Bring 'Incalculable Benefits' for Soldiers

One of the Army's senior leaders said the cooperation between the military and the defense industry ... has brought "incalculable benefits" for the modern soldier.

Gen. Burwell B. Bell, the commander of United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/US Forces Korea, recalled Dwight Eisenhower's 1961 warning about the "military-industrial complex."

"Since then, conspiracy theorists have thrived portraying a variety of nefarious ways that the military and industry have been in collusion for self-interest rather than the interests of the nation. Perhaps in those days he was right, I can't say," he said. "Today ... we, the military and corporate America, are and must be engaged with one another in a vital partnership, not in an insidious 'complex.' Our military-industrial partnership has been incredibly positive and has brought incalculable benefits to our soldier."

Speaking Oct. 9 at the **Association of the United States Army's Annual Meeting**, Bell named several recent and ongoing technological developments that aid soldiers now or will in the future.

SOURCE: AUSA Web Page

Keys to Meeting Recruiting Mission in FY 2006

The commander of the Accessions Command said that the reasons for the Army's success in meeting its recruiting mission of 174,000 soldiers for all components in Fiscal year 2006 can be traced to adding 1,000 recruiters, launching the recruiter incentive program to exceed monthly mission and the continuing success of the Army College Fund.

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, speaking today at the **Association of the United States Army's Annual Meeting**, said the college fund "is still the number one reason people join."

He said that recruiting quality remains high - 81 percent hold high school degrees and more than 60 percent of recruits are in the high mental category.

Van Antwerp said the officer mission for the fiscal year is 4,500. Most officers come through the ROTC program.

"The silver bullet in officer recruiting is the scholarship" and he wants to offer scholarships to 60 percent of the freshmen in the program, up from 40, and to 80 percent of the juniors, up from 60.

The Military Academy contributes 950 officers and Officer Candidate School, 1,450.

He said that retention of junior officers has improved through a program that guarantees officers either a master's degree, branch of choice or assignment of choice if they will commit to the Army for an additional three years as their four- or five-year commitment is ending.

SOURCE: AUSA Web Page

Reserve Soldier Selected as the Department of the Army Soldier of the Year

A year comprised of several oral board appearances and a multitude of related events, culminating with the Best Warrior competition at Fort Lee, Va., Oct. 2 to 6, has earned an Army Reserve Soldier bragging rights for the next year.

Spc. John Emmett, a signal support systems specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 21st Theater Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany, was selected as the 2006 Department of Army Soldier of the Year.

Emmett, a Reserve Soldier on active duty since January, is pursuing a double major in geography and economics from Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis.

Emmett received his award at the Sergeant Major of the Army luncheon Oct. 9, 2006, hosted by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, the U.S. Army's top enlisted member.

SOURCE: Sgt. Danny McCormick, U.S. Army Central, Third Army Public Affairs Office

For all AUSA ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES:

<http://www.ausa.org/webpub/DeptHome.nsf/byid/JR AY-6UDKVM>

Army activates IMCOM to improve Soldier support

The Army activated the Installation Management Command Oct. 24 to consolidate and strengthen installation support services to Soldiers and their families through the full authority of command.

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson assumed the IMCOM command at a Pentagon ceremony hosted by Lt. Gen. James Campbell, director of the Army Staff. The new command places the former Installation Management Agency, the former Community and Family Support Center and the Former Army Environmental Center under a single command as a direct reporting unit.

Under IMCOM, CFSC is renamed the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, and becomes a subordinate command of IMCOM, commanded by Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney. The AEC is now the Army Environmental Command - also a subordinate command, commanded by Col. Michael O'Keefe.

The new command, currently headquartered in Virginia and Maryland, will relocate in 2010 to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in accordance with requirements of the 2005 BRAC round.

The new command also will consolidate the four Installation Management Agency regions within the continental United States into two. The Western Region will stand up in November at Fort Sam Houston, with consolidation taking place over the next few years. The Eastern Region will locate at Fort Eustis, Va., in 2010.

SOURCE: Army News Release

Denver Centennial Chapter Donates To the Rocky Mountain USO

The Denver Centennial Chapter has presented \$2,000 to the Rocky Mountain USO at DIA. The donation came from proceeds collected at the chapter's 2006 annual golf tournament fundraiser held this past July 31st.

Chapter President Sam Thiessen expressed the collective sentiment of the chapter's golf tournament committee that we hope to be able to build upon our donation to the USO this next year.

Rocky Mountain USO Director Hedy Margolis expressed pleasure and her deep appreciation in receiving the chapter donation.

This is the first full year of operation for the USO at DIA. Their first-rate facility is located on the "A Concourse. Please stop by and see what they are doing for our troops when you can.

Phyllis Adkins Recognized By the Denver Centennial Chapter

Earlier this year, long-time chapter member and corporate representative, Phyllis Adkins, was recognized by the Denver Centennial Chapter at the United Veterans Committee (UVC) Annual Awards Banquet. Chapter President Sam Thiessen presented Phyllis with a plaque expressing the chapter's appreciation for her dedicated and professional service during her years of AUSA membership.

Phyllis recently retired from Omni Interlocken Resorts, with whom she was a corporate representative to the chapter. She remains an individual member of the Denver Centennial Chapter and we look forward to her stopping in to chapter board meetings as an ex-officio member of the board.

Congratulations and thank you, Phyllis, for your gracious service to our chapter!

VA Urges Vets to Wear Medals on Veterans Day

The Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and leaders of major veterans organizations today called on America's veterans to help kindle a new spark of patriotism on Veterans Day by wearing the medals they earned during military service.

In announcing a "Veterans Pride Initiative," Nicholson said, "We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in ... as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security."

VA is offering information about the campaign on its Web page, <http://www.va.gov/veteranspride/>, where veterans also can obtain information about how to replace mislaid medals and learn how to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled.

SOURCE: VA News Release

For the Record: Capturing American Veteran's Experiences of War

Veterans of America, Uncle Sam wants you, again. More specifically, he wants your story. Veterans of every war have a story to tell, and the Veterans History Project (VHP) at the Library of Congress American Folk Life Center is collecting soldiers' letters, diaries, photographs, taped and video interviews and anything else that helps to tell the story of Americans at war.

Begun in October 2000, the VHP collects whatever memorabilia it can from veterans from World War I to the present war on terrorism. Civilian volunteers, support staff and war industry workers' stories are also sought.

The VHP has designed a field kit which includes interview guidelines, instructions on submitting materials and several required forms for submission. To obtain a kit, veterans or volunteers can go to the VHP web site at www.loc.gov/vets and click on "Participate in the Project."

SOURCE: Kevin M. Hymel, ARMY Magazine

Army Outreach Web Site

Announcing the implementation of the Army Outreach Web Site. The full launch of the site for the public will be November 7, 2005. The new site will serve as a resource for public affairs officers to help better connect the Army with our citizenry.

Features of the outreach Web site are:

- * A comprehensive, searchable, interactive calendar of outreach events.
- * For the public, this resource will increase awareness of and ability to participate in the hundreds of outreach activities taking place across the country.
- * The calendar will provide the Soldiers, leaders, civilians and families throughout the Army with a view of the enormous amount of community relations and outreach initiatives taking place Army-wide - including activities they may wish to include in their own schedules.
- * Easy access to installation Web sites that have links posted on the calendar.
- * Snapshots of the Army's many ongoing Outreach programs.
- * A photo gallery with images that can be used to promote local events.
- * Answers to questions ranging from Army benefits to requesting Army assets, to obtaining lost medals or military records.
- * A directory of Army Outreach professionals ready to respond to customer needs.

See www.army.mil/outreach and review the Web site now during the pre-launch period.

Veteran's Day: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>

Army's last MASH becomes a CSH

Ending its almost eight-year run as the last of its kind, the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital became the 212th Combat Support Hospital Oct. 16 on Miesau Army Depot in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

"You can be assured that if you are wounded on the battlefield and you make it to the 212th CSH, you will live. That's how great Army medicine is, and that's how well equipped and confident the Soldiers of the 212th CSH are," said Col. Angel Lugo, the last 212th MASH and first 212th CSH commander, during the conversion ceremony.

The 212th's conversion involves more than \$5 million worth of the latest medical equipment and almost doubled the staff from about 130 personnel to more than 250. The conversion is a part of the Army Medical Department's Medical Reengineering Initiative, and mirrors the Department of Defense's transformation to brigade combat teams.

"Normally, a MASH just had the intensive surgical capabilities without primary care – no pediatricians, no OBGYNs (obstetrics and gynecology), no internal medicine, no family practice," said Maj. Soo Lee Davis, 212th CSH executive officer. "A CSH already has that built into it, so it prevents you from having to task-organize right before you get to the deployed mission."

SOURCE: Christine June, Army News Service

Most retirees to get 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007

Social Security payment recipients and most military retired members will receive a 3.3 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) starting in January.

The same COLA will also be seen by Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants and those getting Veterans Disability Compensation and Dependency Indemnity Compensation.

The COLA will not be the same for all military retired members. Service members who retired during calendar year 2006 will receive a somewhat smaller, partial COLA for this year only. The reason is that their retired pay is based on the January 2006 military pay tables, which resulted in a higher retired pay than if their pay had been based on the 2005 pay rates.

The 3.3 percent COLA will begin with payments that nearly 49 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2007.

For retired members and SBP annuitants, the increase will first appear in the January 2 pay check.

SOURCE: Release No. 10-9-06

Army Referral System for the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team

Retired Soldiers are eligible for a \$1,000 recruiting referral bonus for referring someone with no prior military service (not an immediate family

member) to an Army recruiter if that referral results in enlistment in the Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. The bonus payments to retired Soldiers who participate in this pilot program will not be offset against retired pay. All retired Soldiers are eligible, including "gray area" Reserve retired Soldiers who are not yet age 60 and not yet collecting retired pay. For more information or to make a referral, go to <https://smart.goarmy.com>.

Any questions regarding the Referral Bonus Program should be directed to 1-800-223-3735, extension 6-0473. For referrals to the Army National Guard, referring Soldiers should call 1-800-GoGuard (1-800-464-8273), or go to: <http://www.1800goguard.com/esar>.

Operation Gratitude Gears Up to Send Holiday Care Packages

While donations have been arriving at Operation Gratitude's headquarters for some time, the group's Holiday Drive 2006 officially kicks off on Veterans Day weekend, the group's founder said.

Four weekends, eight days total, have been set aside to pack up and ship the boxes, Carolyn Blashek said. Those weekends include Nov. 11-12, 24-25 and Dec. 16-17 and 30-31.

Operation Gratitude is a member of America Supports You, a Defense Department program highlighting ways Americans and the corporate sector support the nation's servicemembers.

Blashek estimates that more than 2,000 volunteers will help pack the 50,000 care packages the group expects to send servicemembers overseas. <http://www.opgratitude.com/>

SOURCE: American Forces Press Service

U.S. Army All-American Bowl

The U.S. Army is proud to sponsor opportunities that help individuals achieve their potential. The sponsorship of the All-American Bowl is an obvious choice because of the Army's commitment to strengthening individuals now – and in the future – through development in training, values and experience. The talented football players playing in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl share many of the characteristics that make Soldiers so strong.

On January 6, 2007, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl showcases the best high-school football players in the country who show great physical strength on the field and mental strength in the classroom. The game features tomorrow's college and NFL stars in a classic East vs. West match-up.

On the team: **Ryan Miller, Columbine High School, Littleton, CO**, Offensive Line/Defensive Tackle.

http://www.goarmy.com/events/aab/aab_overview.jsp

Freedom Team Salute

The Army recognizes that in this time of war, we are all Soldiers for freedom. We, as Soldiers, respond to the Call to Duty, which binds us to our service and guides our actions as guardians and defenders of freedom. This service would not be possible without a strong support network. Freedom Team Salute recognizes those supporters who make it possible for Soldiers to serve our country. FTS provides all Soldiers - Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve - with the opportunity to recognize and honor our parents, spouses, and employers who make our service possible. FTS additionally recognizes and honors veteran Soldiers of all generations for their legacy of freedom, duty, and honor to our country and for their continued support of the Army mission.

Log on to www.freedomteamsalute.com today!

Thank you for what you do for our Army and our nation.

With great respect, *Colonel T. Scott Lloyd*,
Director, Freedom Team Salute

ACAP On-Line

ACAP, in partnership with the Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) program, assists our injured Soldiers who desire to obtain employment subsequent to their medical retirement. If you'd like to offer jobs to these Soldiers, or are aware of employment opportunities for our Soldiers and spouses, consider becoming an ACAP employer by registering at <http://www.acap.army.mil/employer/employer.cfm> and, for AW2 employment opportunities, logging on to <http://www.AW2soldierconnection.army.mil>.

VA Facilities Locator & Directory

To locate VA facilities and services in your area, an online directory is available at <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>. This directory may be used to obtain contact information for various VA offices and services.

My HealtheVet Web Site

My HealtheVet (MHV) is the gateway to veteran health benefits and services. It provides access to:

- Trusted health information
- Links to Federal and VA benefits and resources
- The Personal Health Journal
- Online VA prescription refill

In the future, MHV registrants will be able to view appointments, copay balances, and key portions of their VA medical records online, and much more! My HealtheVet is a powerful tool to help you better understand and manage your health.

The My HealtheVet web site is available at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/>. (Click on 'Go to My HealtheVet' or 'Continue on to My HealtheVet').

Accessing the myPay System is Safe and Convenient

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is proud of its core values of integrity, innovation and service moving to become a world-class provider of finance and accounting services. To lead the way in operating excellence, all customers who receive payments from DFAS are encouraged to become active members of myPay.

Learn more about accessing the myPay system: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Updated TRICARE Reserve Select Web Site

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act extends the opportunity to purchase the TRICARE Reserve Select health plan to all members of the Selected Reserve. Open season for qualifying and purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 will begin Aug. 1, 2006, and coverage becomes effective October 1, 2006. Members who qualify for TRS Tier 1 should consult their Reserve Component personnel office for details about qualifying.

To get to the TRICARE Reserve Select Web Site, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm>

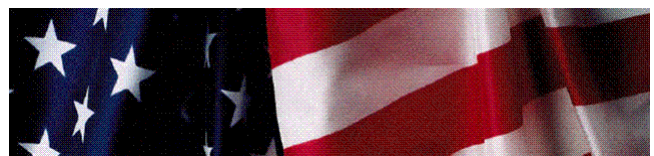
New TRICARE Standard Handbook Released

TRICARE is making a handbook available to all beneficiaries covered under TRICARE Standard. This new manual goes into much greater detail than the old booklet, making it as useful as the TRICARE Prime and Prime Remote handbooks.

Starting in early October, beneficiaries may ask for copies of the TRICARE Standard handbook or the summary of beneficiary costs flyer from their regional contractors or from a local TRICARE Service Center, or view the documents on the TRICARE Smart Site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TRICARESmart>

SOURCE: TRICARE News Release

TRICARE Formulary Search Tool web site: <http://www.tricareformularysearch.org>



Denver Centennial Chapter of the AUSA
 extends its sincere thanks to the organizations
 which contributed to the success of our **2006 Golf
 Tournament:**

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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.

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EVENTS

11 November 2006 – Veterans Day
12 April 2007 – AUSA Region VII Conference

CATCH US ON THE WEB: <http://chapters.ause.org/denver/>