



CENTENNIAL SALUTE

4th Quarter 2007
AUSA Annual Meeting & Veteran's Day Issue



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DENVER CENTENNIAL CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY



Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA Attends Annual Meeting and Exposition in Force

Pictured, GEN William S.

Wallace, Commanding General, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, presenting Chapter President Sam Thiessen with Chapter streamers during Regional Breakfasts Awards.

Attending for the chapter were: COL (Ret.) Sam Thiessen, President, Denver Centennial Chapter; LTC Laura Potter (743d MI Battalion); LTC Mike Stowell (COARNG G-1); LTC (Ret.) Russ Kraus (Immediate Past President, Denver Centennial Chapter); COL (Ret.) Mark Grablin (Lockheed Martin); and, Chris Rista (Barber-Nichols).



The Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA Supports Local Unit in AUSA * KBR ARMY Ten-Miler

Sam,

On behalf of all of the other **Birds of Prey** who participated in the **Army 10 Miler**, thanks to you and the **Centennial AUSA Chapter** for supporting our team. Everybody did a great job and had a great time.

Our team placed 15 of 56 in the Active Duty Mixed category.

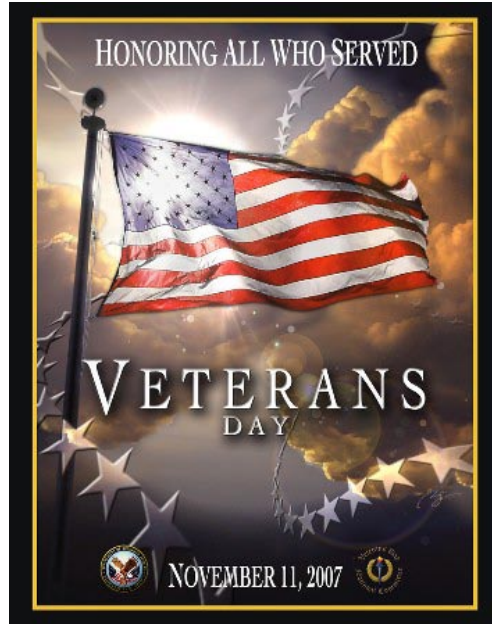
Overall, we placed 128 out of 500 teams. Individually, everyone also did well in their age/gender divisions. Overall, there were 17,628 runners that participated.

LTC Laura Potter - 1:30:17 (183 in Div); **CPT Scott Handler** - 1:13:16 (304 in Div); **CPT Bonnie Kovatch** - 1:18:43 (40 in Div); **CPT Ammilee Oliva** - 1:18:43 (92 in Div); **CPT Calina Snyder** - 1:13:00 (12 in Div); **1LT Aaron Henderson** - 1:18:30 (273 in Div); and, **PFC William Weems** - 1:16:51 (191 in Div)

Again, we really appreciate the Chapter's support of our team.

Best,

Scott



November 10, 2007

2007 Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade
See <http://www.csvetsparade.org/> for details.

November 10, 2007

Veteran's Day Concert, Colorado School of Mines Campus
See

<http://www.coloradoguard.army.mil/webpages/101st/performances.html> for details.

November 10, 2007

Pig Roast for active military personnel and their families
See page 5 of this Newsletter for details.

History of Veterans Day

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>

In this Issue:

Page

<i>Denver Centennial Attends Annual AUSA Meeting</i>	1
<i>Denver Centennial Supports AUSA Army 10-Miler Team</i>	1
<i>Veterans Day – November 11, 2007</i>	1
<i>2007 AUSA Meeting & Exposition Keynote Address</i>	2
<i>Army & Army National Guard agree to rebalance</i>	3
<i>In Memoriam: Lieutenant Colonel Brian N. Delaplane</i> ...	3
<i>Denver Centennial Supports 157th FA Reunion</i>	3
<i>VA Reaches Out to Former Prisoners of War</i>	4
<i>Online Soldier's Benefits Services Program</i>	4
<i>DFAS Update on 2008 SBP Paid Up Provision</i>	4
<i>Tricare now offering Free MRI Cancer Screening</i>	5
<i>SPOTLIGHT: Corporate Companies in Denver Chapter</i> ..	5
<i>Veterans Day Pig Roast Honoring Active Duty Military</i> ...	5
<i>Army Takes on Rival Navy</i>	5
<i>Denver Centennial Thanks 2007 Annual Golf Tournament Sponsors</i>	Cover



2007 AUSA Keynote Address

Secretary of the Army Pete M. Geren kicked off the annual convention of the Association of the United States Army here today with emphasis on America's Army as "The Strength of the Nation" and promises to match Family

members' quality of service with improved services and resources.

Highlights of His Address:

"AUSA gathers us together in our Nation's capitol at a crucial time in the history of our Nation, and in the life of our Army. Yesterday, October 7th, we began the seventh year of combat operations in Afghanistan. We are four and a half years in Iraq.

"This is the third longest war in our Nation's history, behind only the Revolutionary War and Vietnam. It is the only extended conflict since the Revolutionary War that we have fought with an All Volunteer force.

"We have 280,000 Soldiers arrayed around the globe, from the Philippines to the horn of Africa, and Soldiers stationed in CONUS in support of the Northern Command, an ever-present reminder of the global reach of our adaptive and insidious enemy.

"Our 150,000 Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan on the front line, and front of mind for all of us. They have urgent needs, and expect urgent responses from Big Army, to get them what they need, when they need it, to fight the wrath of the adaptive enemy.

"This room is filled with partners in that effort. Civilians, contractors, and industry working together – working together for Soldiers, whatever it takes. I thank all of you for what you do. Thank you for your partnership with the United States Army.

" ... But I want to narrow my focus this morning. I'm going to brag on our Army – brag on our Soldiers and our Family members, our All Volunteer Force.

" ... I'm going to talk about Soldiers and Families. And I will talk about what we have done and must do to sustain the health of this magnificent force – American's Army, the strength of our Nation.

"And finally, I'll invite you to join your Army in a Covenant with Army Families. General Creighton Abrams told us, 'People are not in the Army. They are the Army.'

" ... Over half of our Soldiers are married, with more than 700,000 children. Volunteers all, the strength of our Nation.

"The strength of this Army depends on the strength of the Soldiers and the strength of their Families. And I'm telling you what you already know. This Army is battle-tested and combat-hardened. This Army has had its moment at Kasserine Pass – Soldier and Family, this Army is strong.

"These 1 million Soldiers and 500,000 Families are shouldering a burden for 300 million Americans, and most of the free world.

"Winston Churchill said of British pilots and crew in the Battle of Britain, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

"In this war, the debt of the many to the few grows daily.

" ... Ours is a combat Army. It's a strong Army. However, if we are complacent, if we ignore the lessons learned and warning signs of six years of war, the seams that are exposed in the crucible of combat, in the field or on the home front, our Army Soldiers and Families will wear down.

"We will not let that happen.

" ... Today, formally, your Army pledges to do more.

To that end, General Casey, Sergeant Major of the Army Preston, and I, on behalf of our Army, have signed a covenant with Army Families – the Army Family Covenant.

With this Covenant:

- We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.
- We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.
- We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.
- We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.
- We are committed to building a partnership with Army Families that enhances their strength and resilience.
- We are committed to improving Family readiness by:
 - o Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services;
 - o Increasing accessibility and quality of health care;
 - o Improving Soldier and Family housing;
 - o Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care;
 - o Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.

I ask each of you to join your Army in committing to the principles of this Covenant.

Our All Volunteer Force, Soldiers and Army Families – these few deserve the support of us all, the many.

Source: AUSA Web Page -

<http://www.ausa.org/webpub/DeptHome.nsf/byid/WEBP-77ZUTB>

Army and Army National Guard agree to rebalance force structure and resources

The senior leadership of the active Army and Army National Guard used the Association of the United States Army's Annual Meeting as the forum to sign a memorandum of understanding to rebalance force structure and resources.



Under the agreement, The Army National Guard will retain 17 tactical combat formations and four field artillery units at a cost of \$4.8 billion over the next five years. The money will be coming from the current budget and is programmed for future budgets. Some of the money will be coming from supplemental appropriations.

The Army National Guard is to grow to 358,200 soldiers by Fiscal Year 2013; almost 321,000 of those soldiers will be in the operational force. At the same time, the guard will create a special account for soldiers who are in transit or in school.

The memorandum is to be reviewed through FY 2013.

Speaking before the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, said, "What a great day for all of us. ...As an Army we have come a long way."

In explaining the changes, he said, "We don't need to grow a lot of force structure. We've got to fully man, train and equip our organization." Adding, the agreement recognizes "The equipment is out there for this; the money is out there for this."

Vaughn said that the new "Active First" recruiting campaign, where a potential soldier would serve 30 months in the active force and finish his or her obligation in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve, would be a great help in growing all three components.

He said that the discussion that led up to the signing could be a model for the future. "This is the way we need to go in [solving] some of the hard things."

Source: AUSA Web Page - <http://www.ausa.org/webpub/DeptHome.nsf/byid/WEBP-77UHKG>



In Memoriam
Lieutenant Colonel Brian N. Delaplane

Lieutenant Colonel Brian N. Delaplane passed away suddenly on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 in New York following a pulmonary embolism. He was a Logistical Officer in the United States Army currently serving as The Professor of Military Science at Saint Johns University in Queens, NY.

Brian Neal Delaplane was born on May 6, 1960 in Glenwood Springs, Colorado to Helen and David Delaplane. He graduated in 1970 from Glenwood Springs High School. He joined the Army in 1984. He received his Bachelors Degree from Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO and his Masters Degree from St. Bonaventure University, Olean, NY. He continued his career in the U.S. Army for 23 years and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He received multiple medals and accommodations to include the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Brian was a man of distinction, character, and integrity and was known for his compassionate leadership, mentorship and friendship.

Brian married Pamela Mackowiak on May 22, 1999 in Olean, NY who survives him and lives in Colorado Springs.

LTC Delaplane is survived by his wife: Pamela, his parents: Helen Delaplane of Silt, Colorado and David Delaplane of Denver, Colorado. Pam's children: Molly, Matthew and Sarah, children by his first wife: Matthew and Jessica, and his brothers: Timothy, Mark and Glen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:00 AM on Friday, October 19, 2007 at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, 8755 Scarborough Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920.

Graveside services with full Army Honors followed at Evergreen Cemetery.



The Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA Supports 157th Field Artillery (Colorado Army National Guard) Reunion

The Board of the Denver Centennial Chapter, AUSA voted unanimously to pick up the tab for the admission of all the WW II 157th FA veterans who visited the Military History Museum in Colorado Springs, while attending their Reunion 4-5 October 2007.

The distinctive unit insignia (pictured) was originally approved for the 157th Infantry Regiment, Colorado National Guard on 12 June 1924. It was redesignated for the 157th Field Artillery Regiment, Colorado Army National Guard on 28 August 1972.



VA Reaches Out to Former Prisoners of War

WASHINGTON - Do you know any former prisoners of war (POW) or their family members? If so, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) needs your help.

VA is once again reaching out to former prisoners of war not currently using VA benefits and services, urging them to contact the Department to find out if they are eligible for health care, disability compensation and other services.

"One of VA's highest priorities is meeting the needs of former prisoners of war," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "They are extraordinary men and women who have endured captivity, suffered extreme deprivation and sacrificed their own freedom to preserve the freedom of all Americans."

VA estimates more than 25,000 former prisoners of war are alive today. VA is trying to contact the remaining POW's not receiving any benefits or health care through an outreach program that includes asking citizens to pass the word to veterans they know.

VA also extends a helping hand to the surviving spouses and family members of former POWs, who may be eligible for certain benefits and services.

In recent years, VA has expanded benefits to all former POWs with strokes and certain common heart diseases. More than a dozen other diseases were already covered.

The government's effort to inform former POWs about improvements in benefits faces a particular hurdle with older veterans who may not have been in touch with VA for decades.

A majority of former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their military service was before the use of Social Security numbers as military "service numbers." As a result, it is difficult for VA to track down those who have not been in contact with the Department in recent years.

During recent years through a nationwide outreach campaign that included direct mailings and the help of news media and veterans organizations, VA has added hundreds of former POWs to its compensation rolls, people who had not previously been receiving benefits to which they were entitled.

If you know a former POW, please ask him or her to contact VA at 1-800-827-1000. Details about benefits and services available to former POWs and family members are available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm>.

Online Soldier's Benefits Services Program

What is it? The Soldiers' Benefits Services (SBS) Web site is the most robust, current, information-filled benefits website available on the Internet today.

What has the Army done? The Army has created its official one-stop web-based resource for all benefits information.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future? Administrators will continually update the Web site as new information and user feedback become available.

The SBS Web site features include:

- * Benefit Resources- Local benefit resources at all major Army installations worldwide.
- * Survivor Planning- A calculator that projects the Family's benefits as they would be delivered to the Soldier's beneficiaries.
- * Retirement Planning- A calculator to "project" your retirement. Both the Retirement and the Survivor Planning features allow Soldiers to perform "what if" drills to see how one's retirement is affected by performance over a period of time.
- * Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Assistance- A calculator and interactive tool to calculate a Soldier's estimated disability rating and disability retirement income based upon combat and combat-related injuries as listed.
- * Casualty and Survivor Assistance- This feature enables Casualty Assistance Officers to provide surviving Family members with a clear, accurate and integrated benefits report.
- * Fact Sheets- Customized by Army component and Soldier status, these fact sheets contain essential benefits information on more than 100 topics.

The SBS Web site can be accessed at <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

DFAS update on October 2008 Survivor Benefit Plan Paid Up Provision

Participants in the Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for retired military members have a milestone to mark on their calendars.

Effective Oct. 1, 2008, SBP participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in "Paid-up SBP" status.

Paid-up SBP provisions were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 1999. The law also established a paid-up status, also beginning on Oct. 1, 2008, for participants in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) once they reach 70 years of age.

More information on Paid-up SBP, should be available at the DFAS Web site <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html> within the next several months.



Tricare now offering some free MRI cancer screenings

Women facing a high risk of breast cancer can now get free Magnetic Resonance Imaging screening through Tricare, as part of an effort to more quickly detect and treat the disease.

Tricare already covers mammograms, but health experts say the MRI screening provides a more thorough check for many patients.

But the procedure is also much more expensive, typically costing upwards of \$1,500. Mammograms often cost about \$200, and most health insurance plans already cover that bill.

On Wednesday, officials announced coverage for troops and dependents who fall in the high-risk category as defined by the American Cancer Society: women with a family history of breast cancer, who have been identified with the gene mutations associated with the disease, or who suffer from an illness that predisposes them to cancer.

It also includes women who received radiation therapy to the chest when they were between 10 and 30 years old.

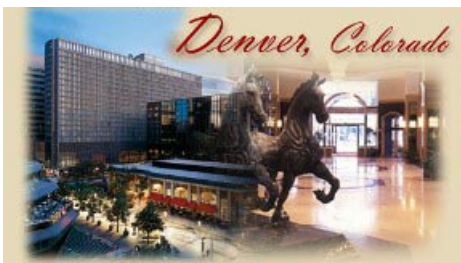
The move is also retroactive to March 1, meaning any patient who paid for the procedure out-of-pocket can apply for reimbursement from the health care system.

For more information on who qualifies as a high-risk patient, visit www.tricare.mil or www.cancer.org.

Source: Leo Shane III, Stars and Stripes, Mideast edition, Friday, October 19, 2007

Spotlight: Corporate Companies in the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA

Adams Mark Hotel * Aleut Management Services * Barber-Nichols Inc. * Circadence Corp. * Coors Brewing Company * Gerald H. Phipps, Inc. * HF Designworks, Inc. * Intecon, LLC



Adams Mark Hotel

1550 Court Place, Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 893-3333 / Fax: (303) 626-2542
<http://www.adamsmark.com/denver/>



**AMERICAN LEGION
Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. POST
11-11**

**9959 Wadsworth Blvd.
Broomfield, CO 80020
303.466.1278**

American Legion Post 11-11 will sponsor a Pig Roast for active military personnel and their families to honor their service to our country and to acknowledge their great sacrifices.

When: Saturday, November 10, 2007

- 1:00 PM Social Hour
- 2:00 PM Invocation
- 2:15 PM Meal served until gone
- 1:00 PM to ? Music, karaoke and dancing

Where: American Legion Post 11-11

9959 Old Wadsworth Blvd.
Broomfield, CO 80020

A contest to name this annual event will be held with the winner chosen at 5:00 PM.

Please bring a picture of your service member to place on the "Thank You for Your Service" board.

Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Auxiliary membership information will be available.

If you are active military or are a family member of one who is currently serving and you would like to attend this event, please RSVP by November 8, 2007. Space is limited so please sign up soon.

RSVP: 303-466-1278 with your name, phone number and number attending.

★ WE DARE REMEMBER ★★ SO NO SERVICE PERSON IS FORGOTTEN ★



Army takes on rival Navy at 12:00 P.M. (Eastern) on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, MD. This will mark the 108th competition between these two

challengers.

The first Army vs. Navy football game in 1890 was at West Point, and Army lost to Navy, 24-0. The second game in 1891, which Army won 32-16, was at Annapolis and was the first-ever time the Army cadets were allowed to leave the West Point campus for a sporting event.



**Denver Centennial
Chapter AUSA
Annual Golf Tournament
25 June 2007**

**Thanks this Year's Tournament Sponsors
for their Generous Support!**

Hole Sponsors

Aleut Management Services	Lloyd Davis
BPOE #17 - Denver	Lockheed Martin
BPOE #566 - Boulder	Marriott Hotels
CH2M Hill	RockyNet
Coldwell Banker	USAA
Doubletree Hotels	Warrior Solutions
Horne Engineering Services	

Luncheon Sponsors

Adams Mark Hotels	Lockheed-Martin
Aleut Management Services	Wal-Mart
Coors Brewing Company	

Prize Donors

Atlanta Tourist Bureau	Keystone Resorts
Bass Pro Sports	KING Soopers
Beaver Run Resort	Marriott Hotel
Big 5 Sporting Goods	Omni Interlocken Resort Golf Course
Brinker Restaurants	Omni Interlocken Resort Hotel
Chase Bank	Raccoon Creek Golf Course
Coal Creek Golf Course	Safeway
DoubleTree Hotels	Southwest Air
Fitzsimmons Golf Course	Sportsman's Warehouse,
Fitzsimmons Credit Union	Aurora
Fossil Trace Golf Course	Sportsman's Warehouse,
Golfsmith	Littleton
Green Valley Ranch Golf Course	Texas Roadhouse
Gunther Toody's, Littleton	Vail Resorts
Hawaii Tourist Bureau	Wal-Mart
Hyland Hills Golf Course	Westminster Westin
Inverness Golf Course	



**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.

Check out the advantages of: Individual Membership
Corporate Membership
Sustaining Membership

www.ausa.org

Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier



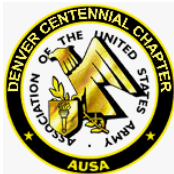
**The Denver Centennial
Chapter of the AUSA**

thanks

**Steve Ferency
Senior Sales Manager,
Renaissance Denver Hotel**
for printing its Newsletters

Renaissance Denver Hotel

3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Co 80207
Telephone (303) 399-7500 – Facsimile (303) 336-5353
www.renaissancedenver.com



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

Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA

***"HOST - AUSA SPRING REGION MEETING - 2007"
CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE***

***STAR CHAPTER - SUPERIOR CHAPTER - MERIT CHAPTER
AWARD FOR BEST NEWSLETTER***

***INSTITUTE OF LAND WARFARE HONOR ROLL
232ND ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SUPPORT
ARMY HISTORY SUPPORT***

***BEST SUPPORT OF RECRUITING COMMAND
HONORABLE MENTION FOR BEST WEBSITE***

***HONORABLE MENTION FOR GREATEST INCREASE IN CORPORATE
MEMBERSHIP***

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	COL (R) L. M. "Sam" Thiessen
VICE PRESIDENT	COL (R) Charles A. Rodgers
2ND VP	COL (R) Richard L. Little
SECRETARY	MAJ Alan Smith, USAR
TREASURER	COL (R) Lindy Blackburn

EVENTS

11 Nov 2007	Veterans Day (See Events List Inside)
1 Dec 2007	<i>Go Army! Beat Navy!</i>
2-6 Apr 2008	Region VII 2008 Conference, Albuquerque, NM

AUSA: Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier!

Catch us on the Web: <http://chapters.ausa.org/denver/>