



Centennial Salute

2d Quarter
2008



AUSA 7th Region Conference Albuquerque, New Mexico, 3-5 April

Hosted by the MG John S. Lekson Chapter, AUSA, this year's 7th Region conference, "Support to the Guard and Reserve," was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 3-5 April.

Attending the conference from the Denver Centennial Chapter were COL (Ret.) L. M. "Sam" Thiessen, President, and his wife, Jane; COL (Ret.) Charles A. Rodgers, Vice President, and his wife, Donna Jean; COL (Ret.) Paul S. Baldwin, President Emeritus, and his wife, Evelyn; and COL (Ret.) Morton B. Blager, Colorado State Chapter President, and his wife, Florence.



LTC (Ret.) Jack J. Isler (left), Region VII President, and LTG (Ret.) Tom Rahme (right), AUSA VP for Finance and Administration, present COL (Ret.) "Sam" Thiessen (center), a "Soaring Eagle" award for his role as President of the Denver Centennial Chapter.



COL (Ret.) Victor Conner (left), President, Phoenix Chapter, and COL (Ret.) Paul S. Baldwin (right), present LTC (Ret.) Jack J. Isler (center), a "Soaring Eagle" award for his role as President of AUSA Region VII.



The Army's 233rd Birthday

Two hundred and thirty-three years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our Nation. From the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror, our Soldiers remain Army Strong

Locally, the 743d MI Battalion once again hosted an Army Birthday Ball at the Renaissance Denver Hotel to celebrate the event.

with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 233rd birthday commemorated America's Army – Soldiers, Families and Civilians – who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong both here and abroad.

[See <http://www.army.mil/birthday/233/> for more on how our Army and our nation celebrated the event.]



The Army had barely been established before the Declaration of Independence was signed and the fight joined.

Our America has since grown from a loosely organized confederation of colonies scattered along the Atlantic seaboard to a global superpower.



The U.S. Army has grown with the nation it has served so well. Our Army has been an essential part of America's rise, first as the defensive shield of the republic during its early vulnerable years and later as a means to protect American interests around the world.

Today, with America fully engaged in the fight against terrorism, reliance on the Army is greater than ever. At this very moment, 260,000 Soldiers are deployed or "forward stationed" in nearly 80 countries overseas. In this era of persistent conflict, these quarter-million-plus men and women are exposed to great stress and pressure. Yet they, and the entire Army, are strong, combat-seasoned, competent and resilient. They are Army Strong, the strength of the nation.



Aviation stands alone: 2-135th named Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year
Story by Army Capt. Robert Bell

Did you know that the Army aviation branch is only 25 years old? As we celebrate this silver anniversary of Army aviation excellence we recognize the 2-135th aviation battalion, Colorado Army National Guard, for being selected as the Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year.

The unit, recently commanded by Lt. Col. Chris Petty with help from his Command Sgt. Maj., Douglas Imfeld achieved remarkable success. The 2nd Battalion 135th Aviation Regiment, a general support aviation battalion of the COARNG, deployed as Task Force Blackjack with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade. The 2-135th Aviation was part of the theater aviation brigade in support of the Multinational Corps in Iraq.

The unit distinguished itself by not only deploying and transforming to a new force structure, but effectively assembled a diverse team of assets from Colorado, Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska and Utah. The team, consisting of more than 670 Soldiers and 46 helicopters was a formidable force that represented the best of Army National Guard aviation. Blackjack accumulated numerous achievements in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most notably, they conducted 111 night air assault missions in support of the Joint Special Operations Task Force, inserting more than 15,500 Troops into landing zones across Iraq. Blackjack's crews flew 23,000 combat hours, 16,000 of which were under difficult night vision systems operations.

They launched and recovered more than 5,400 combat missions; and conducted medical evacuation flights for over 6,600 patients, 1,700 being "urgent" life-saving missions.

All of this was accomplished without any loss of life or any significant non-enemy induced aircraft damage. A few notable standouts include Sgt. Heather Springer, a flight Medic from C Co, who was awarded a Bronze star with 'valor' for her actions under enemy fire attending to the wounded. Chief Warrant Officer Scott Upton, a pilot, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions saving his crew and passengers after his aircraft was shot down by enemy fire. The battalion also awarded three Purple Hearts to crewmembers who received wounds from enemy fire in flight. The Soldiers of the 2-135th Aviation clearly demonstrated their incredible strength, experience and the "can-do" spirit of the Guard, earning the Army Aviation Association of America's Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year.

Army Increases Activity to Encourage Small Business Programs

The Secretary of the Army issued a memorandum encouraging Army leadership to increase efforts to award contracts to small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. In 2007, the Army awarded \$916 million in contracts to small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. The new 2008 goal is to increase the contracts by 3%. For more information, visit the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) website at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/programs/veterans/index.htm>.



2008 Military Handbooks Now Available

Military Handbooks has announced the release of its latest 2008 FREE handbooks for military personnel.

These handbooks, written specifically for military service members, include a variety of information about pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military. To receive your own copies of these handbooks, simply go to their Web site - www.militaryhandbooks.com.

2008 Base Installation Directory (New!): The Base Installation Directory, our newest handbook, provides contact information for every military installation in the United States. From information about military housing to the commissary to the base dental clinic, you'll find the contact numbers and addresses you need in one easy to access guide.

2008 U.S. Military Retired Handbook: The United States Military Retired Handbook is designed to assist all U.S. Military personnel who have retired or who are planning to retire. This unique guide covers everything from the nuts and bolts of computing your Retirement Pay to the detailed explanations of retired military health care, TRICARE, Social Security, VA, SBP, taxes, insurance, travel, and survivor benefits.

2008 Benefits for Veterans and Dependents Handbook: This complete benefits handbook covers: health care benefits, disability compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education and training, home loan guarantees, life insurance, burial benefits, survivor benefits, overseas benefits, workplace benefits, miscellaneous programs, and more.

2008 U.S. Military Handbook: The United States Military Handbook is designed to help all active duty military personnel by giving them the most accurate and complete information available anywhere on pay, allowances, taxes, health care and TRICARE benefits, Veterans and Social Security Benefits, travel, transportation, SBP, retirement, Space-A and more.



Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Coming to Thornton for Independence Day

With great pride the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation announces Thornton will be the host for the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

The Foundation, working in conjunction with the city of Thornton, has arranged to have this extraordinary memorial present from July 3 to July 7, 2008 - most fittingly during the city's Independence Day celebration.

The Wall will be available for public viewing 24 hours a day on those dates at the multipurpose fields at the Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center (11151 Colorado Boulevard, Thornton, CO 80233).

[The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. It covers 288 feet with each wing being 144 feet in length and is over six feet tall. It is engraved with the over 58,000 names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.]

For details see: <http://www.travelingwall.us/> or <http://www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org/news/all/about.html>



Bill would allow TRICARE Standard for "Gray Area" Retirees

Rep. Robert Latta, R-Ohio, recently introduced H.R. 6185, the TRICARE Continuity of Coverage for National Guard and Reserve Families Act of 2008. AUSA, along with its counterparts in the Military Coalition, supports this bill.

H.R. 6185 would allow members of the Guard and reserve in the "gray area" to purchase TRICARE Standard health care coverage. "Gray Area" individuals are Reserve component retirees under the age of sixty with 20 years or more of faithful and honorable service who are qualified for non-regular retired pay at age 60. There are approximately 220,000 members currently in the "gray area", with 12,100 members retiring and entering this status per year.

The legislation would allow qualified individuals to purchase TRICARE Standard coverage for 100 percent of the premium. Spouses and dependents can continue purchasing TRICARE at 100 percent of the premium if the retired reservist passes away before reaching age 60 and the member had been eligible at the time of death for TRICARE Standard coverage.

Source: AUSA Legislative Newsletter 19 June 2008

Spotlight: Corporate Companies in the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA

Adams Mark Hotel * Aleut Management Services * Barber-Nichols Inc. * Circadence Corp. * Coors Brewing Company * HF Designworks, Inc. * Intecon, LLC * Ophir Corporation * Warrior Solutions, Inc.



Aleut Facilities Support Services, LLC

The history of Aleut Facility Support Services (AFSS) is a short success story. As one of the Aleut Management Services subsidiaries, AFSS continues to grow and prove itself as a positive force in the Federal Government Information Technology and Communications marketplace.

AFSS was established in 2005 and was certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as an 8(a) Small Disadvantaged Business in September 2005. Since opening its doors, the AFSS Team has been successful at proving itself as a premier small business providing Grounds Maintenance and Facility support services to several mission critical operations.

Gary L. Bress
President/Chief Operating Officer

Gary Bress assumed his present position at the start up of the company. His varied and diverse civilian and military background includes service with the United States Army, the Colorado Army National Guard, Colorado Law Enforcement and work as a government contractor.

Kenneth J. Gardiner
Operations Manager

Kenneth J. Gardiner (Ken) has approximately seven years combined employment with the Aleut family of companies working in a number of different capacities. Ken served in the United States Air Force as a Civil Engineer, retiring in 2000 in the senior non-commissioned ranks. His final assignment brought him to Colorado with his posting to Buckley AFB, Aurora, CO.

Contact Gary or Ken at 303.341.1420

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www.aleutfacilities.com

The Denver Centennial Chapter
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Annual Golf Tournament - 28 July 2006



7301 West Bowles Avenue - Littleton, Colorado
Phone: 303.932.0199

Entry Fee: \$125 per Person

Includes Lunch, Prizes and Cart w/Global
Positioning System

For Additional Details, Hole & Sponsorship
Information, and Registration Forms

See <http://chapters.ausa.org/denver/events/>
Or Contact

Linda Walters 303-262-7726, Sam Thiessen 303-
669-4785, or Paul Baldwin 303-972-3546

AUSA is an IRS registered Non-Profit
Organization. Proceeds of this
tournament are used to promote the
United Services Organization (USO),
together with the welfare Active
duty, Reserve/National Guard and
retired military personnel and
veterans.



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
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www.ausa.org

Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier!



The Denver Centennial
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thanks
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for printing its Newsletters

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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

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

3-7 July . Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall,
Thornton, CO

4 July..... Happy 4th of July!

28 July... Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA Annual
Golf Tournament, Raccoon Creek, Littleton, CO



AUSA: Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier!
Catch us on the Web: <http://chapters.ausa.org/denver>