



Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA



2009 - The Year of the NCO

Centennial
Salute
1st Quarter
2009



Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA Annual Golf Tournament Proceeds Presentation

COL (Ret) Sam Thiessen, Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA President and Chapter officers and Executive Board members presented Ms. Hedy Margolis, Director of the Rocky Mountain USO, with a check for \$2,500 during the Chapter's Executive Board Meeting on 4 February. Monies for the presentation we earned during last year's Annual Golf Tournament at Raccoon Creek.

Seated (Left to Right): SGT Elena Marrufo 3650th Maintenance CO COARNG; COL (Ret) Sam Thiessen, DenCen Chapter President; Ms. Hedy Margolis, Director of the Rocky Mountain USO; COL (Ret) Mort Blager, Colorado State President; 1LT Nicole Jensen HQ 193rd Military Police (IR) BN.

Front Row Standing (Left to Right): CPT Michael Colburn, Denver Recruiting BN, USAREC; COL (Ret) Paul Baldwin, DenCen Chapter President Emeritus; COL (Ret) Marvin Leibstone, DenCen Chapter Resolutions Coordinator; Ms. Linda Walters, DenCen Chap Board Member (DoubleTree Hotel, Denver); SGM Joe Thill, DenCen Chapter Secretary; Mr. Steve Ferency, DenCen Chapter Board Member (Renaissance Denver Hotel).

Back Row Standing (Left to Right): LTC (Ret) Kevin Morrissey, DenCen Chapter VP, Programs; CSM William Woods, DenCen Chapter VP, Membership; LTC John Toth, CU Military Science Prof. & Colorado Area ROTC CDR; LTC Glenn Dickenson, CDR, 743rd MI BN.

Standing, Far Back: Patrick O'Flaherty, Executive Director of the Colorado Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

UVC Annual Awards Banquet Sunday, 27 April 2009

Red Lion Hotel
3200 South Parker Road, Aurora, CO

Gen Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the VA is scheduled to speak. This will be a general membership meeting for the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA, and as in the past, we will co-sponsor the event.

Denver Centennial Chapter Corporate Members Recognition Reception

4:30 P.M., Tuesday, 5 May 2009

DoubleTree Hotel Denver

This is a general membership meeting to recognize our corporate members and to invite other corporations to join the Denver Centennial Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

Friday, 15 May 2009

Crown Plaza Hotel DIA
15500 E. 40th Avenue, Aurora, CO

This, too, will be a general membership meeting for the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA, and as in the past, we will co-sponsor the event.

Denver Centennial Chapter Annual Golf Tournament Fund Raiser

Monday, 20 July 2009



Buffalo Run Golf Course
Commerce City

This is our annual tournament fund raiser. Last year's tournament allowed us to donate nearly \$5,000 to worthy causes supporting soldiers and their families. This includes the USO, Fisher House, Army Emergency Relief, Army National Museum, Institute for Land Warfare, Colorado ROTC Scholarship, among others.



AUSA President to Congress: Fully Fund Military and Veteran Healthcare

An item in the 12 January Legislative Newsletter discussed a report published by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) which explored budget reduction options. Included in the report were several options that would negatively impact military and veterans' healthcare.

Specifically, the options would:

--Authorize a \$500 annual health care allowance for active duty families but charge them 10 percent of the cost of care and impose a fee for them to use military health facilities.

--Change TRICARE for Life so it would not cover the first \$525 of Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries' annual cost-share and cover only half of the next \$4,725. This option also would impose charges for those who use military hospitals and clinics.

--Raise TRICARE fees for military retirees under age 65 to more than double the current rates.

--End VA health care eligibility for veterans in categories 7 and 8 (nondisabled vets above certain income levels).

Although AUSA is well aware that the CBO releases these reports every two years regardless of administration and they are not legislative proposals or new administration goals, we felt it was important that we let key members of Congress know how we feel about these options.

AUSA President Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., sent letters to House and Senate leadership urging them not to entertain these unacceptable options as budget-cutting measures.

His letter states, "Congress has provided military retirement and veterans health care benefits that exceed civilian benefits as an essential offset for the unique demands, harsh conditions, and sacrifices inherent in military service, which far surpass the demands made on civilian workers."

"With the nation at war, the Congress must ensure that the military and veterans medical systems are properly resourced. Now is not the time to shift costs to retirees or impose cost penalties on the military and veterans communities who through service and sacrifice have already paid enormous premiums. To break the promise of affordable health care would have immediate readiness and recruiting implications."

We urge you to add your voice to ours. Visit the AUSA website, www.ausa.org, click on Contact Congress, enter your zip code and then click on the AUSA-proposed letter titled, "Preserve

Military and Veterans' Healthcare Benefits." Your voice does make a difference.

Also, to see Gen. Sullivan's thoughts on this subject and view the letter to Congress in its entirety, go to the AUSA website and click on Gen. Sullivan's monthly message "from the president."



25th Army Ten-Miler has 30,000 Runner Cap



The Army Ten-Miler is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2009 and new and expanded programs will highlight the running of this historic, athletic event Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C., with the start and finish at the Pentagon.

Race officials announced that this year's field will be expanded to 30,000 runners.

"The race filled in a record 21 days last year so we increased the runner field to allow more people to participate in this year's 25th anniversary race," Jim Vandak, race director, said.

To accommodate the additional runners, the race's two-day packet pickup and EXPO will move to the D.C. Armory, while the well-established and popular pre-race GEICO Pasta Dinner, featuring the United States Army's noncommissioned officer leadership, will remain at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel with an expanded seating capacity.

This year's dinner will be a special event, race officials said, because the secretary of the Army, Pete Geren, and the Army chief of staff, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., have declared 2009 as the Year of the NCO.

Officials also confirmed that the Army Ten-Miler will use a wave start again this year to ensure a safe and competitive race.

"We have been able to incrementally increase the runner's field over the years and maintain safety and quality standards," Vandak said.

The Lead Sponsors for the 2009 race are the Association of the United States Army and KBR, an AUSA sustaining member.

AUSA is also the race's founding sponsor beginning its support at the first race on Oct. 12, 1985, when 1,379 runners crossed the finish line at the Pentagon's River Entrance.

In 2008, the Army Ten-Miler had 18,960 finishers -- with military and civilian runners coming from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Denmark, Brazil, Germany, South Korea, Romania and Canada.

Registration Online registration for the race and pasta dinner reservations opens Wednesday, April 1, at www.armytenmiler.com.





2009 - The Year of the NCO

The Army has just launched the Year of the NCO web site.

www.army.mil/yearofthenco

Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of "life as an NCO" are exemplified by acts of courage, and a dedication and a willingness to do "whatever it takes" to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, Secretary of the Army established 2009 as "Year of the NCO."

Throughout 2009, the Army honors NCOs through initiatives and events that:

- Enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.
- Enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives.

We invite you to join the celebration of one of America's greatest assets, the NCO Corps, the "backbone of the American Army."



Colorado National Guard mourns loss of Soldier killed in Afghanistan

"CENTENNIAL, Colo. - It is with deep regret we announce the loss of a Colorado National Guard Soldier killed in Jalalabad, Afghanistan Nov. 13 (2008) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Spc. Jon Stiles, 38, of Highlands Ranch, Colo., who died as result of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a route clearance mission,

"We've lost a valuable member of our Colorado National Guard family," said Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant General of Colorado, "This tragedy is not only felt by the Colorado National Guard, but our community, state and nation. We will do everything we can to assist the Stiles family during this difficult time."

"Stiles, a Soldier from Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery in Aurora, Colo., was augmenting the 927th Engineer Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard. He was mobilized for Afghanistan in March 2008.

"Stiles was a member of the Colorado Army National Guard State Honor Guard. He was a former U.S. Marine and served on active duty in the U.S. Army prior to enlisting in the Colorado Army National Guard.

"Born July 6, 1970 in Bartlesville, Okla., Jon was a proud patriot and decorated war hero who enthusiastically re-enlisted to serve his country, said his wife, Launa Stiles.

"Jon and Launa would have celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary Tuesday Nov. 18.

"The couple has lived in the Denver area for more than nine years, where they formed many close relationships. Jon was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed golf and fly-fishing with friends, said Launa."

Source: Colorado National Guard Media Release

In lieu of flowers, the Stiles family requested that donations be made to the Colorado National Guard Foundation. Honoring the family's request, the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA donated \$500 in Spc. Jon Stiles' name to the foundation.



Shinseki Sworn In, Vows 21st Century Service to Veterans

Retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki took the oath of office today as the Nation's seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs, assuming the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs following Tuesday's confirmation by the Senate.

"The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the Department of Veterans Affairs a 21st century organization focused on the Nation's Veterans as its clients," Shinseki said.

Shinseki plans to develop a 2010 budget within his first 90 days that realizes the vision of President Obama to transform VA into an organization that is people-centric, results-driven and forward-looking.

Key issues on his agenda include smooth activation of an enhanced GI Bill education benefit that eligible Veterans can begin using next fall, streamlining the disability claims system, leveraging information technology to accelerate and modernize services, and opening VA's health care system to Veterans previously unable to enroll in it, while facilitating access for returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Shinseki, a former Army Chief of Staff, takes the reins of a 284,000-employee organization delivering health care and financial benefits to millions of Veterans and survivors under a \$98 billion budget authorized this year through networks of regional benefits offices and health care facilities from coast to coast.

Retired from military service in August 2003, Shinseki's military decorations include three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

Shinseki succeeds Dr. James B. Peake as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Source: VA News Release



VA Increases Travel Reimbursement

Service-disabled and low-income veterans will see an increase in travel reimbursement from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Eligible veterans will be able to deduct \$3 for each one-way trip, \$6 for each round trip with a calendar cap of \$18. The reimbursement took effect on January 9, 2009.

Source: AUSA Family Programs Up-date



Active duty U.S. military personnel can continue to ride for free on RTD services through December 31, 2009

RTD Board extends existing provision another year

Denver - The Regional Transportation District (RTD) Board of Directors at their last meeting approved a resolution extending through December 31, 2009 the allowance for all active duty U.S. Military personnel to ride free on all RTD services. All active members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves are entitled to ride free on any RTD service including special services such as skyRide and BroncosRide,

To be eligible to ride for free, all active duty military personnel must either:

1. Be wearing the appropriate Class A or Class B uniforms. These types of uniforms are described as:

- The Class A uniform is worn with the dress uniform service jacket and with all decorations, a tie, and rank insignia.
- The Class B uniform is a little less formal, without the dress uniform service jacket and is usually worn with an open shirt collar.

OR

2. Present an active duty military ID card with the words "Geneva Convention identification Card" on the bottom.

For route and schedule information, please call RTD's Telephone information Center at 303.299.6000. Call 303.299.6089 for the speech and hearing impaired. Visit RTD's website at www.RTD-Denver.com.

Source: Scott Reed, RTD News Release



National Guard and Reserve families are now seeing savings on the cost of their healthcare coverage. Monthly premiums for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) member coverage dropped 42 percent as of January 1, 2009. To qualify, candidates must be members of the Selected Reserve and cannot be enrolled for the Federal Employee Health Benefits program. For more information about TRS visit www.tricare.mil/TRS.



Source: AUSA Family Programs Up-date





Army ROTC at the University of Colorado at Boulder

Welcome to one of the most respected ROTC programs in the United States, the University of Colorado at Boulder's Golden Buffalo Battalion!!!

Our Military Science Department invites you to enroll in our exciting program and be a part of our proud ROTC tradition that dates back to 1918. Our program focuses on attracting top quality Scholar-Athlete-Leaders from here on campus as well as from high schools, partnership, and affiliate colleges. We assist students in becoming the future leaders of the United States Army by developing their leadership abilities and instilling responsibility, integrity, and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

The Buffalo Battalion's training program focuses on training cadets in basic military skills and leadership. Our emphasis is to train students to be leaders in the Army, with a major goal of training our cadets to excel at the Leaders Development and Assessment Course. Ultimately we want them to excel as leaders within the Army's Officer Corps. The classroom curriculum develops a cadet's leadership abilities by instilling the necessary values and attributes required of Army Leaders. During our Leadership Laboratory, cadets will learn the basics of marching, individual movement techniques, land navigation, small unit tactics, and marksmanship. We believe this provides the foundation for building competent and confident leaders for our great Army.

Our program also offers additional training opportunities (such as a field training exercise (FTX) each semester and a Ranger Challenge competition) outside of the CU-Boulder campus.

After graduation, the men and women of today's Army possess impressive skills and credentials that also make them valued employees in the civilian marketplace.

Contact Information

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Spotlight: Corporate Companies in the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA
Aleut Management Services * Barber-Nichols Inc. * Circadence Corp. * Coors Brewing Company * Intecon, LLC * Warrior Solutions, Inc.



Circadence Corporation

Circadence Corporation, founded in 1993 as VR-1, Inc., has its origins in the massive multi-



user online simulations industry. Established in Boulder, Colorado, Circadence grew through several acquisitions and the formation of strategic partnerships with industry leaders such as Microsoft, Deutsche Telekom, and Hewlett Packard. A critical component of the Company's development efforts was its Transport Morphing Protocol™ (TMP™), which now powers the Company's Web Assured Response Protocol (WARP) solution. The WARP solution, deployed as either a hardware or software solution, delivers assured network communications to both military and civilian government users, homeland security applications, first responders and enterprises during emergency situations.

Crisis situations and large-scale emergencies can generate significant network stress and degradation that inhibits the utilization of network resources. Circadence's WARP solution enables the



reliance on the existing network infrastructure and assures critical point-to-point Internet communications during emergencies situations.

Circadence markets its WARP solution to the U.S. Military, the Federal government, state and local law enforcement, first responders, users dependent on satellite transmissions, enterprises with remote offices, rural and urban health facilities, research institutions and continuity of operations/government decision makers.

Contact Information

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2009 7th Region AUSA Conference
Hosted by the Arizona Territorial AUSA Chapter

“Support to the Soldier and Family”

3-7 June 2009, Phoenix, Arizona

LTG James D. Thurman, the U.S. Army DCSOPS, is scheduled to attend. Also invited are the Commanding Generals of Ft. Carson, CO, Ft. Irwin, CA, and Ft. Huachuca, AZ



Other key presenters:

- LTG Roger Thompson, USA (Ret), AUSA Vice President
- Family Support Group representatives.
- The State National Guard Adjutant General and Command Sergeant Major
- Local Congressmen
- Arizona Veterans Services Director

The conference will be held at the Biltmore Embassy Suites, 2630 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85016.

Special AUSA rates available through 5 May 2009.
Phone 602.955.3992 to book rooms.



Jim Kumpost, CSM, US Army, Retired
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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

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TREASURER COL (R) Lindy Blackburn
VP PROGRAMS LTC (R) Kevin Morrissey
VP MEMBERSHIP CSM William Woods

EVENTS

27 Apr ... UVC Annual Awards Banquet
5 May..... Corporate Members Recognition Reception
15 May... ACC Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon
3-9 Jun.. 7th Region AUSA Conference
20 Jul Annual Chapter Golf Tournament



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

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