



Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA



2009 - The Year of the NCO

Centennial
Salute

4th Quarter
2009



Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA in Pictures
COL (R) Sam Thiessen (below) is recognized on behalf of the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA during the 2009 AUSA Annual Meeting



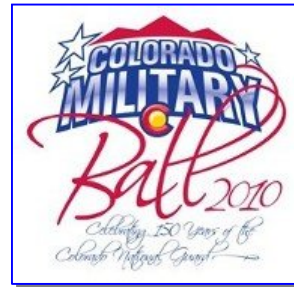
MG Best (below) presents Morrell Awards to SSG Emberley and SSG Walker of the Denver Army Recruiting Battalion. The Glen E. Morrell Award is the ultimate achievement award offered by the United States Army Recruiting Command for recruiting excellence.



SSG Walker receives Morrell Award



SSG Walker receives Morrell Award



Colorado Military Ball
2010

Celebrating 150 Years of
the Colorado National
Guard

Saturday, Jan 23, 2010

Hyatt Regency Denver at
the Colorado Convention
Center

Celebrating our Centennial Year, the National Guard Association of Colorado, Inc. (NGACO) is hosting the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Colorado National Guard.

The venue is the Hyatt Regency at the Colorado Convention Center which is near the initial formation of the territorial militia that occurred on January 23, 1860. The reception hall will be filled with historic exhibits and the evening ceremonies will be replete with military traditions and tributes.

NGACO has secured a block of rooms at a discounted rate for Colorado Military Ball attendees, so make reservations early. Call the hotel at 303-436-1234 and use the code "CMB" to receive the discounted room rate.

- Single/Double occupancy room: \$99/night
- Single/Double occupancy room with 2 breakfast coupons and 1 overnight self-parking pass: \$150/night (approximately a \$30 savings)
- Parking: \$8.00 per hour / \$2.00 each additional hour / \$24.00 max
- Valet Parking: \$17.00 up to 4 hours / \$23.00 4-8 hours / \$28.00 8 hours - overnight

This will be a gala event not to be missed--we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, January 23, 2010!

The National Guard Association of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt corporation under the Internal Revenue Code and is qualified to accept tax deductible contributions pursuant to Section 170(c)(3) of the Code.

Organization Website: <http://www.ngaco.org>

Registration Website: http://www.blacktie-colorado.com/calendar/index.cfm?FuseCalendar_ID=18715&CurrtDate=01/23/2010®ion=1&FUSEACTION=ShowEvent





AUSA Working for you on Capitol Hill

Chapters Ratify 2010 AUSA Resolutions
11/3/2009

The chapters of the Association of the United States Army overwhelmingly approved the AUSA 2010 resolutions recognizing that “a fully-manned, well-resourced Army is an absolute necessity,” and calling for increases in end strength for the active force, Army National Guard and Army Reserve to help restore balance in the force.

“Increasing dwell time is one of the reasons AUSA continues to recommend to Congress authorize and fund the following minimum end strengths: the active Army to 700,000, the Army National Guard to 371,000 and the Army Reserve to 215,000,” the preamble to the resolutions stated.

In the resolutions, AUSA urges Congress to increase defense funding to at least 5 percent of gross domestic product and the Army base budget should be given a greater share of the defense budget – at least 28 percent.

The resolutions also note that the resetting of equipment will last several years beyond the end of military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Noting: “Eight years of combat has stretched our Army, its soldiers, families, and Army civilians. To meet the continuing challenges of an era of persistent conflict, it is imperative to restore balance to the Army, to build resiliency in its people, to modernize the force and to adapt its institutions.”

The preamble thanks Congress for its past support of vital programs for soldiers and their families, and said continued support in these areas is critical to sustain the All-Volunteer Force.

The Army “remains committed to providing [soldiers] with the equipment they need to protect themselves and to maintaining a technological advantage in order to accomplish the mission. Education, training, and leader development cannot be deferred until the conflicts are over.”

At the same time, the resolutions warn against forcing a choice between modernizing the force and personnel programs. “The Army is implementing a modernization strategy that meets the near-term needs of an Army at war and will position the institution for success in the years to come. The funding level for modernization should not place the Army leadership in the position of having to choose between modernization or readiness and taking care of their soldiers.”

Adding, “The coming decades are likely to be

ones of persistent conflict—protracted confrontation among state, non-state, and individual actors who use violence to achieve their political and ideological ends. This era of irregular and hybrid campaigns has mandated that the Army continue to have the central, enduring role in providing land forces to implement the National Security Strategy, and will result in a high demand for Army forces and capabilities. “

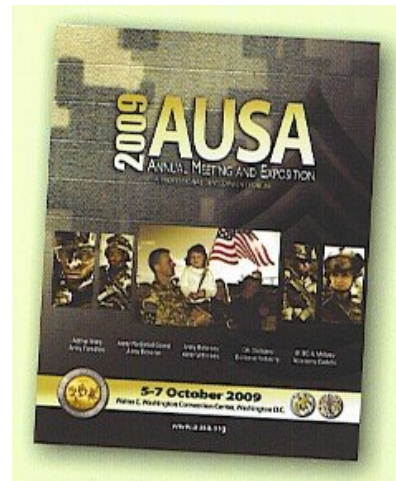
The resolutions state “the defense of the United States of America is a shared responsibility with the people of our nation. Americans must stay engaged. They must continue to shoulder the responsibilities that come with the freedoms we all enjoy.

“One of these responsibilities is to provide the resources necessary to preserve freedom for ourselves and ensure it for those who follow. Make no mistake – if freedom is to endure, this shared responsibility is a moral imperative. Failure is not an option.”

One-hundred seventeen of AUSA’s 122 chapters participated in the voting that ended at midnight Nov. 2. The resolutions form AUSA’s legislative agenda for the coming year.



2009 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition Recap



AUSA's 2009 Annual Meeting & Exposition A Professional Development Forum Recap

5 - 7 October 2009

Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

Visit:

<http://www.ausa.org/news/meetings/annualmeeting/annualmeeting2009/Pages/default.aspx>



Army Graduates First Master Resilience Trainers

What is it?

Though the Army has equipped and trained its Soldiers for the physical rigors of combat for close to 234 years, the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program is taking a deliberate approach to equip Soldiers with the psychological tools to unlock their potential in this era of sustained operations. Comprehensive Soldier Fitness' Master Resilience Trainer course trains Soldiers in critical thinking that aims to increase a person's optimism, self-awareness and mental agility.

What has the Army done?

On 19 November, the Army graduated 180 Soldiers from its first-ever Army Master Resilience Training course. These new certified Master Resilience Trainers attended classes from Nov. 9-19 learning how to lead, train on resiliency issues and teach life skills to others.

The Army got to this point through collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania - customizing its positive psychology program for use within the Army. Participants learn real-time resilience and problem solving, as well as how to identify strengths in self and others, and assertive communication. Classes are taught in different learning environments such as large groups, breakouts and role-play that help participants learn how to apply their knowledge to train others. This new training course emphasizes that the Army is focused on a true prevention model, aimed at the entire force, not just people in the throes of crisis.

What does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army will build and field a cadre of Master Resilience Trainers within five years and complete a training support package that will be used to meet this goal. Eventually, the MRT training will transition to TRADOC.

A similar course is in the curriculum development phase for family members and Army civilians.

Why is this important to the Army?

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness represents the Army's investment in the quality of life of our Soldiers, families and civilians by giving the same emphasis to psychological and emotional strength that we have previously given to physical strength. The \$125 million program, based on 30-plus years of scientific study and results, uses individual assessments, tailored virtual training, classroom training and embedded resilience experts to provide Soldiers the critical skills needed to take care of themselves, their families and their

teammates, enhancing Army readiness in this era of persistent conflict.

Source: http://www.army.mil/standto/archive/2009/11/19/?s_cid=email



VA To Survey Veteran Households

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a national survey of Veterans, active duty service members, activated National Guard and reserve members, and family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services.

"By hearing directly from Veterans and their family members, we gain valuable information to help us serve them better. We hope those who receive the survey will respond to it," Secretary Shinseki said.

In addition to assessing awareness levels, the National Survey of Veterans will collect important health care, benefits, employment, and demographic information that VA will use to inform policy decisions and improve benefits. Recognizing a broader client base than just Veterans, this is the first time VA has included others, such as Veteran family members, in its survey population.

VA is mailing out survey "screeners" to more than 130,000 households to identify potential survey participants. The screener asks if anyone in the household is a member of one of the identified survey groups - Veterans, family members and survivors, active duty, Guard or Reserve members. Eligible survey participants then may be requested to participate in a full-length survey.

Participants will be able to select a preferred survey method: through U.S. mail, telephone or a password-protected Internet address. VA expects approximately 10,000 Veterans to complete the full-length survey.

This is the sixth VA National Survey of Veterans since 1978. The information collected will help VA in its efforts to design and conduct outreach to Veterans. In addition, it will provide a clearer picture of the Veteran population's characteristics to help evaluate existing programs and policies and measure their impact.

Source: VA Media Relations





Army Publishes First National Guard Retirement Guide [LOGO]

The U.S. Army has published the first Retirement Guide for National Guard Soldiers and Families. The 56-page Army National Guard Information Guide on Non-Regular Retirement was written for anyone with an interest in how a member of the Army National Guard can earn retirement points credit, qualify for retired pay for non-regular service and apply for retired pay. The Guide is the result of a collaboration between the Army G-1 Retirement Services Division, part of the G-1's Human Resources Policy Directorate, and the Army National Guard.

The Guide is being distributed through the Guard and is available in the Guard and Reserve section of the Army G-1 Retirement Services homepage <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire>.



Education Aid for Retired Soldiers' Spouses, Surviving Spouses

The AER Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program (SSEAP) is available to spouses of active duty and Retired Soldiers, and widow(ers) of Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, and are residing in the United States. All spouses must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) which can be verified at 1-800-538-9552. This program does not apply to second undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Scholarship awards are based on financial need, as evidenced by the Estimated Financial Contribution (EFC) number provided on the Student Aid Report (SAR). The SSEAP scholarships for stateside students are awarded annually for up to four academic years to attend post secondary school full time as undergraduate level students. Funds are to assist with academic expenses at the attending university/ school and will be disbursed equally between the fall and spring semesters or quarters to assist with tuition, books, fees and supplies.

Scholarship funds will be paid by AER and disbursed to the college or university. Students must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale. Applications for the 2010-2011 academic year will be available online from Dec. 1, 2009 – Mar. 1, 2010 at <http://www.aerhq.org>. Applications must be submitted by Mar. 1, 2010. Other deadlines are in the instructions. Applications and supporting documents are not accepted by FAX or e-mail. Letters mailed in June 2010 will notify on-time applicants about scholarship awards.



Holiday Memories Could Net Share of \$2,500 in AAFES Shopping Sprees

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is encouraging military shoppers to share their memories for a shot at a \$1,000 shopping spree in the "Memories Etched in Images Holiday Photo Contest." From Dec. 1 through Dec. 31, 2009 shoppers can submit their funniest, most creative or heartwarming photos to PatriotFamily@aafes.com with the title "Memories Etched in Images" in the subject line. The top 50 entries will be posted online and the winners will be announced by Jan. 22, 2010. The first place winner will receive a \$1,000 AAFES gift card with \$500 going to the runner-up. Third and fourth place will receive a \$250 gift card and with the next five places earning \$100 each. Complete contest rules and entry details are available at: <http://www.aafes.com/pa/news/09news/09-078.htm>.



Air Mobility Command Unveils Official 'AMC Travel' Site

Prospective Space-A travelers can find a wealth of information at the first Air Mobility Command (AMC) military travel system Web site. People planning to travel the AMC military travel system can go to <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>. At the site, they'll find an updated AMC Passenger Terminal contact list (complete with phone, e-mail and Web links), and more than a dozen travel documents, example letters and brochures, including instructions on signing up for Space-A travel by e-mail.



Keeping Your DEERS Record Updated

Contact your nearest military identification (ID) card issuing facility to update your DEERS record. To locate the nearest military ID card facility, visit the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) web site at:

<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>

or contact the DMDC/ DEERS Support Office (DSO) at: 800-538-9552 for further assistance.

The sponsor or a family member who is on the record may update their contact information via the internet at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mydodbenefits>, or by calling the DMDC/ DEERS Support Office (DSO) toll-free at (800) 538-9552.

You may also write to us at:

DMDC/ DEERS Support Office
400 Gigling Rd.
Seaside, Calif. 93955-6771

or fax the new address to (831) 655-8317.

Please include the sponsor's Social Security Number on all correspondence.





Sustaining Member Companies
supporting the Denver Centennial
Chapter AUSA

Supporting the Army-Industry Partnership

Sustaining Members are major industry leaders, businesses and professional organizations from around the world. Our members are involved in the research, development and production of weapons, equipment and services for the U.S. Army and form the nation's defense industrial base. Through this Program, our members may participate in special events offered by AUSA designed to assist the Army in achieving its goals. By facilitating communications among Army, industry and government entities involved in the defense of the United States, AUSA furthers the Army's goals to remain fully-equipped and modern.

<http://www.ausa.org/MEMBERSHIP/SUSTAINING/>



www.lockheedmartin.com/



Corporate Member Companies in the
Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA

AUSA's Corporate Members are local businesses, large corporations, civic groups, veteran's organizations, societies and local community groups.

By becoming an AUSA corporate member you will demonstrate your support of the Army and AUSA's Mission of Keeping America's Army Strong.

<http://www.ausa.org/MEMBERSHIP/CORPORATE/>



Aleut Facilities Support
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14211 East 4th Avenue,
Suite 215
Aurora, Colorado 80011

<http://www.aleutfacilities.com/>

Circadence Corp.
4888 Pearl East Circle, Ste.
101
Boulder, CO 80301

<http://www.circadence.com/>



Courtyard Denver Stapleton



Courtyard by Marriott
Denver Stapleton
7415 E 41st Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80216

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denca-courtyard-denver-stapleton/>

Dave and Buster's
2000 S. Colorado Blvd, Suite
D OC
Denver, CO 80222



<http://www.daveandbusters.com/>



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and Technology
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<http://www.reitausa.org/>





December 7, 1941 – December 7, 2009



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 Highlands Ranch, CO 80129-5775



DENVER CENTENNIAL CHAPTER AUSA

- Army Birthday
- Family Programs
- ILW
- Take the Hill
- Star chapter
- Merit Chapter
- Support to Recruiting Command
- Army History
- Presidents Club Gold

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- PRESIDENT COL (R) L. M. "Sam" Thiessen
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT COL (R) Charles A. Rodgers
- SECRETARY SGM Joe Thill
- TREASURER COL (R) Lindy Blackburn
- VP PROGRAMS LTC (R) Kevin Morrissey
- VP MEMBERSHIP CSM William Woods

EVENTS

- 7 Dec 09 Pearl Harbor Day 2009
- 23 Jan 10.... Colorado Military Ball 2010



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

<http://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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