

The TRAILBLAZER



U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Syracuse, NY 2d Quarter FY 03

Trailblazers welcome newest staff members

By Garry Luke

January not only welcomed a new year, but two key staff-members. Hearty Trailblazer welcome wishes go out to MAJ Michael J. and Bonnie Stevenson, and CSM Dorothy M. and Tony Clark.

MAJ Stevenson is a 20-year veteran who enlisted into the Army in 1982, then was commissioned an air defense artillery officer through Officer Candidate School in 1986.

He and wife Bonnie live in Fulton with two of their four children. The major was born in Pennsylvania and served in Berlin as

an enlisted soldier. As an officer, he served at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Drum; Somalia; Haiti, Panama among others.

CSM Clark is no stranger to the Syracuse Bn. She was first sergeant of Syracuse and Fort Drum Companies. She was also a senior guidance counselor in Syracuse. Most recently, she came to the Trailblazer Bn. from 3d Brigade Operations at Fort Knox, KY, where she was the sergeant major.



MAJ Michael J. Stevenson, new battalion executive officer comes to Syracuse from Fort Polk, LA. (DA photo)

PaYS Teammember visits

By Mike Murk

Syracuse Battalion recently hosted a member of the USAREC PaYS team. He briefed the staff and the battalion guidance counselors on the current state of the command's "Partnership for Youth Success."

John Spears, a PaYS marketing analyst from HQ USAREC, visited the battalion last month to discuss the program's evolution and current successes since its inception.

Rolled out in June 2000, PaYS provides some recruits signing Army contracts a guarantee of a civilian job interview upon successful completion of their initial enlistments. Referred to as a partnership, PaYS is designed

as a "unique opportunity for individuals, employers, and the U.S. Army," with employers, representing major firms and corporations, partnering with the Army to provide quality jobs to qualified youth after serving their country.

PaYS identifies qualified applicants who are interested in short term military careers with a plan of returning to jobs in the civilian community. In turn, the program works with companies to ensure soldiers have specific skills relative to their needs.

Presently the battalion has written 36 PaYS contracts this fiscal year.

"We're looking forward to

getting more local PaYS partners into the program," said Syracuse Senior Guidance Counselor MSG Julio Melendez.

"The briefing gives us a better focus on presenting the program to applicants," he added, "Some PaYS partners have a minimum age requirement of 21. We can show a young applicant, who is intent on a single-tour enlistment, a timeline of how his Army training and educational opportunities can help him achieve his goals by the time he becomes age-eligible for the civilian job he's seeking."

SFC Louis Eisenhauer, of the Buffalo Guidance agreed.

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Buffalo "Soldiers" Recruiting Company

By CPT Salvatore Vicari

Congratulations to the Buffalo Soldiers for all their hard work during RSM DEC. Although December is one of the toughest months of the year, the Buffalo Soldiers' dedication to mission accomplishment allowed us to excel. The following soldiers and Stations led the way:

Top Large Station: Buffalo Main

Top Small Station: West Seneca

Top RA Recruiter: SSG Michael J. Murphy

Top USAR Recruiter: SFC Jeffrey A. Klimek

Top New Retr: SGT Anthony J. Almeida

Buffalo Company would like to recognize our Family Readiness Group leader Jennifer Maikranz for all her hard work making our Company Christmas party a huge success. On behalf of the FRG, Jennifer solicited many gifts from local companies for our Christmas party. All the families are deeply appreciative of her efforts.

Buffalo Company announces the retirement of SFC William L. Goble. SFC Goble spent more than 10 years in the Buffalo Company. His record of accomplishments are unmatched by any other USAR Recruiter. He will be missed. We wish the Gobles the best luck.



Fort
Drum

Predators

By CPT Ernest Scribner

Farewell wishes to:

SSG Scott Ruff - after completing a successful tour in recruiting he has moved to Fort Drum.

SFC Dennis C. Marcello - after completing a successful tour in recruiting he too has returned to Fort Drum.

SGT Scott B. Hollenbeck - after completing a successful tour in recruiting he is now attending college full time

SFC Shawn Wilks - LPSC at the Mattydale RS

Welcome: SFC Lynward & Regina Jackson and family. SFC Jackson took over Oswego RS.

Good Luck: SSG Kenneth Ashlee - new Iliion SC

SFC Stephen Mayfield - new station commander at Potsdam

SSG Jason Robert - attending SC Course- he will soon be converting to 79R.

The Oswego and the

Lowville RSs have both moved. There will be a grand opening for Lowville in the near future.

Congratulations: SSG Joseph Wetzel - Oneida who was Mission Box 1st Quarter

SSG Crystal Cole - Watertown RS - Top USAR Recruiter in the Battalion, and 2d in the Brigade for 1st Quarter.

Fort Drum Company is hoping they have seen the last of the snow for a very long time!

MOUNT-UP!!! Olean Company, ROUGH-RIDERS

By CPT Eric Sorenson

The Southern Frontier is on the move, posting its best performance in Rough-Rider history. Two stations boxed for 1st quarter: Corning, Dunkirk and Jamestown Volumned/overproducing.

The Rough-Riders were the

Top Company in the Battalion for 1st Quarter FY03, achieving 104% total volume, GSA 108%, GSCA 107% and GCA 100%. December- For the second consecutive month the Company led the way in the Battalion. Corning,

Dunkirk and Horseheads hard boxed, and Jamestown volumed.



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Great team effort, special recognition to the following:

1ST Quarter Results

Top Large Station Jamestown
Top Small Station Dunkirk
Top Volume Station Jamestown
 Horseheads

Top RA Recruiter

SSG Franklyn W. Riggs

SGT Matthew H. Rado

Top USAR Recruiter

SSG James L. Jenkins

Top GSA Recruiter

SSG Franklyn W. Riggs

SGT Matthew H. Rado

Top GCA Recruiter

SSG James L. Jenkins

Top Volume Recruiter

SSG Franklyn W. Riggs

SGT Matthew H. Rado

SSG Colin E. Anderson

RSM DEC

Top Large Station Jamestown

Top Small Station Corning

Top Volume Station Horseheads

Top RA Recruiter

SSG Randolph A. Tiikkala

Top USAR Recruiter

SGT Daniel Monheim

Top GSA Recruiter

SSG Randolph A. Tiikkala

SSG Brence A. Jackson

SSG Robert S. Trauger

SSG Franklyn W. Riggs

SSG Matthew H. Rado

Top GCA Recruiter

SGT Daniel Monheim

Top Volume Recruiter

SSG Randolph A. Tiikkala

The CLT and soldiers of the Southern Tier would like to thank the Family Support Group (FSG) for hosting the Company Christmas party. Special thanks to the following: Becky Foster, Maria Smith, Robyne Thayer, Stefanie Jenkins, Jill Robb and Alysia Jackson. Well done.

Congratulations to SSG Raymond Kerr and wife, Katie. She delivered an 8 lbs, 6oz baby boy, Jan. 6. The Rough-Riders welcome our littlest and newest Rough-Rider, Tyrus.

ROUGH-RIDERS: Mount-Up!!!

By CPT Jonathan Schrader

Greetings to everyone in the Rochester Company. Last month has been a very exciting month and January only promises more. There has been great achievements made by this company and I see the trend only continuing.

Congratulations to all of the RSM December company winners:

- Batavia Station – Top Limited Production Station Commander
- Newark Station – Top On Production Station Commander
- SSG Michael Truax, Newark – Top RA Recruiter
- SSG James Davenport, Greece – Top USAR Recruiter
- SSG Daniel Fuetterer, Batavia – Top New Recruiter for

I also would like to recognize all of the stations that Mission Boxed in RSM December:

Batavia, Newark and Canandaigua.

Congratulations to all of the company's December graduates:

- SFC Richard Marsland – ANCOG
- SFC Todd Crofoot – ANCOG
- SSG Roger Simmons – BNCOG
- SSG Kevin Kidd – SC Course

Great job by all!!!

At this time I would also like to add a sad farewell to the company's top soldier. 1SG Jeffery MacDonald has been the company first sergeant since March 2002. In that time, he has made many great contributions to the mission of this company. Under his leadership, this company has known great success. He has made the decision to move to the civilian world after more than 20 years of faithful service. He will be greatly missed.

Rochester Company welcomes 1SG Darol Tucker as the company's interim first sergeant. He will be here until March. 1SG Tucker brings with him 15 years of recruiting experience. He has been a first sergeant for the Buffalo Company for 36 months and comes to us from the battalion operations office. Welcome aboard!

Rochester Company extends a warm welcome to two new recruiters.

SSG John Hadley just left the Buffalo Company to accept the challenge of being the station commander for the Geneva Station.

SGT Antavia Striveson arrives from Redstone

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Arsenal. She is assigned to the mighty Rochester Main.

Again, I would like to thank all of your hard

work and dedication for this month. I know that this quarter and the rest of the fiscal year will prove to be very successful.

Syracuse Company



"Big Dawgs"

By CPT McKinley Cunningham

Happy New Year to everyone. First Sergeant Lary Stuhlmiller and I would like to thank all the soldiers and family members who came out to support our holiday party. A special thanks to Mary Arnold for her efforts that made the evening a success. We would like to plan another event for the Syracuse Company family to take place in March or April. I invite all soldiers and spouses to attend the next Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting in Cortland on Feb. 8, 2003. We will plan our next event at this meeting. Children are welcome. The time and place will be announced after we determine how many participants to expect.

December turned out to be a great volume production month. We contracted more

than 100 percent (net) of our Regular Army (RA) and combined (RA and USAR) volume mission. It was very good work for a short production month with the holiday vibe in the air. December helped push Syracuse Company to second in the battalion for combined volume with 92 percent mission accomplishment. Not bad, but our goal is to be the top company in this battalion with more than 100 percent mission accomplishment in all categories. And, we will meet this objective this fiscal year.

To make the necessary comeback, we need more people doing what SFC Kevin Green of Mattydale Recruiting Station has done this month. SFC Green has already contracted two hi-grads this month and is

working on a third contract. Outstanding job. Two of our newest recruiters are setting exemplary standards as well: SSG Namond Travis of Vestal RS and SGT Rachon Montgomery of Ithaca RS have both written quality contracts this month—their first. Congratulations to you both and keep up the good work.

An organization is no better or worse than what its members make it. As I've said before, 1SG Stuhlmiller and I consider ourselves very fortunate to serve with the outstanding team of professionals in this company. We are also ever mindful of the sacrifices endured and support provided by the families. Thank you for all your seldom-recognized contributions to mission success.

Continued from page 1 PaYS

"It's another solid proof of the Army's concern for our soldiers' well-being before, during and after their enlistment." He added that he's seen the PaYS process get more streamlined over time, as well as a jump in local area jobs forecasted in the local area.

There are currently 31 companies in the

PaYS program with eleven of the companies having a presence in the Syracuse Battalion area.

Mr. Spears says that USAREC is looking forward to the feedback from the first PaYS soldiers leaving the Army and going to their first job interviews with their PaYS Partner Companies in the next few months.

Missed Connections: On-line colleges complain about traditional institutions' tough credit-transfer policies

By Dan Carnevale

Columbia Southern University is attracting growing numbers of students with its respected distance-education programs, especially in business and management.

But those students often get a rude surprise if they try to transfer to a traditional college: Its course credits don't count toward anything at many traditional institutions.

The problem is that Columbia Southern is accredited by the national Distance Education and Training Council, not the regional accreditation agency for its headquarters in Alabama, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Even though the Education Department recognizes the distance-education council, many

traditional institutions don't trust it and other national accrediting agencies, and so refuse to accept course credits from nationally accredited on-line institutions.

Columbia Southern enrolls more than 2,000 students. About a quarter of the few hundred students who attempt to transfer their course credits to another institution every year are being denied, says Tommy Boothe, the university's provost.

Many other on-line institutions have run into the same problem. A large number of their students are initially rejected but can eventually persuade the traditional institution to accept their credits — but some find that ulti-

mately they cannot do so, and that the time and money they spent has been wasted. Because federal aid is involved in some cases, taxpayer dollars may be wasted as well. The policy also may be scaring off potential students, slowing the growth of on-line education.

The bottom line: Be wary and check thoroughly before committing to a total on-line course to pursue your degree — it could save you lots of pain and anger later on. Measure carefully.

Dan Francis, Education Services Specialist

Credit: Copyright 2003, The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Army Adds 12 Colleges to Distance-Education Program

By Dan Carnevale

The Army's distance-education program, called eArmyU, has significantly increased the number of colleges it works with. Officials of the program said the expansion will help meet a rising demand for on-line courses from soldiers serving around the world. In addition to the 20 colleges already participating, eArmyU officials have selected 12 more institutions to join the program. The new institutions plan to bring in an additional 68 degree programs over the next six to nine months.

Three Army installations have also been added to the list of posts providing on-line courses: Fort Bliss, TX; Fort Knox, KY.; and Fort Sill, OK.

Started in January 2001, eArmyU now offers more than 100 degree programs and enrolls more than 30,500 soldiers (<http://www.earmyu.com>). The men and women take courses on-line while serving at more than 20 Army bases in the United States and overseas. With the popularity of the program growing, officials said, eArmyU will enroll about 80,000 soldiers by 2005. IBM Business Consulting Services operates eArmyU under a contract with the Army. Barbara J. Lombardo, associate partner for IBM Business Consulting Services, said the 12 institutions will be merged into the eArmyU program slowly throughout the year.

Laurie F. Nortz, marketing and public relations officer at Jefferson Community College, in New York, said the college has had a long history of offering courses to members of the Army, with about one-third of the college's students being soldiers. "We're pretty much the home institution for the 10th Mountain Division, in Fort Drum, NY."

Ms. Nortz said the new partnership with eArmyU will help Jefferson offer its courses to soldiers elsewhere as well. The newly added institutions are Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing, NJ; Coastline Community College, Fountain Valley, CA; Grambling State University, Grambling, LA; Hampton University, Hampton, VA; Indiana University at Bloomington; Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY; Pierce College at Lakewood, in Washington state; Southern Christian University, Montgomery, AL; Southwestern College, Wichita, KS; University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa; University of California at Los Angeles Extension; and University of Maryland University College.

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Oneida County

By Garry Luke

Oneida County is just east of Syracuse and just loaded with outdoor activities. So, outdoor activities include fishing, hiking, and not too far from the Adirondack Preserve, the first of its kind in the U.S.

From boating and fishing to canoeing and swimming outside Oneida county has plenty to do. Walleye pike are plentiful in eastern Oneida Lake. And while in the eastern section of the lake, there is a small amusement park, Sylvan Beach Amusement Park. Nearby is a New York State Park -- Verona Beach State Park, complete with camping and beach facilities.

Erie Canal Village - Open 9:30 am - 6 pm daily May-Sept. 1. Weekends, Sept. 6 - Oct. 12 and by group reservation. Packet boat or train ride A created 1840s canal village on the site where the first shovelful of dirt was turned for the Erie Canal on July 14, 1817. A collection of historic buildings, museums, demonstrations, restaurant, tavern, canal store, and gift shop. *Rt. 46 & 49W, Rome 13440; (315) 337-3999; (888) 374-3226*

Fort Stanwix National Monument - Open Apr. 1 - Dec. 31. Entrance Fee \$2.00 (16+) Originally built by the British in 1758, Fort Stanwix was rebuilt by the Americans in 1776 to protect the Mohawk Valley from British attack from Canada. In 1777, it successfully withstood a 21-day siege by the British forces which ultimately contributed to the larger victory by American forces over the British at Saratoga. The fort has been reconstructed on its original site and to its appearance. The park has a museum, orientation film and historic interpreters in period clothing. *112 E. Park St., Rome 13440 (315) 336-2090*

Saranac Brewery - offers tours June through August, Monday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and September through May, Thurs. - Sat. 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Closed all major holidays, except in summer months, we do request that you call in advance to make reservations for tours, which run an hour. *Brewhouse Square; Utica, New York; (315) 732-0022 or (800) 765-6288*

Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute - Open Tues.-Sat. 10 am - 5 pm; and Sun. 1 - 5 pm. Museum of Art-Renowned collection, fascinating exhibitions, and education for all ages. Distinguished gallery building designed by Philip Johnson, and historic Fountain Elms, a superbly restored 1850 Italianate landmark mansion. Performing Arts-Celebrated superstars, rising stars, children's entertainment, outdoor festival concerts and special events. The Institute also has art and music libraries and an Art Shop Gift Gallery. *310 Genesee Street, Utica; 13502; (315) 797-0000; fax: (315) 797-5608*

Oneida County Historical Society Museum - Open Tues.-Fri. 10 am - 4:30 pm. OCHS offers a museum, historical and genealogical reference library, programs and book-gift shop in Utica's landmark. Suggested donation: Adults \$2; Children \$1; library fee of \$5 also includes museum admission. Special programs for groups by reservation. Call for current information, special events and any change in schedule. *1608 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13502; (315) 735-3642*

Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site - Open Memorial Day-Labor Day. Free admission. Visit the battlefield where 800 men and boys fought heroically to preserve their land and freedom. Open to the public for walking tours and picnicking. *Rt. 69, Oriskany 13424; (315) 492-1756*



Rome Historical Society - Open Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm. The Rome Historical Society houses a museum, genealogical-research library and gift shop at 200 Church St. Exhibits trace the history of Rome and Central New York from the Glacial Period to recent past. Special presentations are available by reservation for groups. Free admission. Bus groups welcome. Weekends by appointment. *200 Church St., Rome 13440; (315) 336-5870*

Shako:wi Cultural Center - The Oneida Nation museum tells the story of the Oneida People. Clothing, baskets, books, wood carvings and musical instruments made by the Oneidas are the backbone of the collection. Exhibits detail the Oneida lives. Guided tours are available. Gift shop features Iroquois artists exclusively. **Open daily 9**

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Army presence at tracks continues

Official Military Partner NASCAR and Sponsor of the Army 01 Winston Cup Pontiac

FORT MONROE, Va. – After two successful seasons sponsoring a drag racing team, the U.S. Army has upped the ante by expanding to NASCAR Winston Cup racing. In addition to sponsoring the MB2 Motorsports team, the U.S. Army today announced a formal partnership with NASCAR that will provide even more opportunities for re-



Jerry Nadeau, right discusses with crew chief Ryan Pemberton.

cruiting efforts, including the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series. The U.S. Army racing team also unveiled the official black-and-gold number 01 Pontiac that will debut at the 2003 Dayton 500 driven by Winston Cup veteran Jerry Nadeau with a new crew chief Ryan Pemberton.

“Every year we have a crucial mission of recruiting more than 110,000 bright young men and women to serve in our transforming and high-tech U.S. Army. The Army’s continued involvement in high profile sporting venues and events like NASCAR racing allow us to showcase the unique door-opening opportunities of the U.S. Army to young Americans and their families,”

said LTG Dennis D. Cavin, commanding general, for the U.S. Army Accessions Command.

U.S. Army racing, which already includes the successful partnership with Schumacher Racing and the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), helps raise awareness among America’s youth of what the Army has to offer including cutting-edge training on the latest technologies. The NASCAR partnership and MB2 Motorsports sponsorship will expand further the Army’s outreach to the sport’s 75 million fans. The Winston Cup is among the highest rated regular season sports on TV,

according to NASCAR statistics. “NASCAR is proud to share in the U.S. Army’s recruiting mission. Through its NASCAR Winston Cup Series team sponsorship of MB2 Motorsports and driver Jerry Nadeau, its involvement with the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series Presented by Dodge, and several other initiatives, NASCAR will help the Army connect with millions of Americans,” said Jim Hunter, NASCAR’s Vice President of Corporate Communications. “As the official military partner of NASCAR, the Army also will work with NASCAR to develop diversity initiatives that integrate with our existing efforts and reach out to all Americans,”

Hunter added.

Army driver Jerry Nadeau, who came up through Kart racing and the NASCAR Busch Series, is already committed to more than just winning races. In late December, Nadeau spent some time with soldiers in Afghanistan and he plans to do much more during 2003 to further the U.S. Army recruiting mission.

“Spending time with soldiers in Afghanistan was a transforming experience for me. My father served in the Army, so I understand their values. But seeing those values in action was incredible and provided a vision of what the Army 01 racing team should be,” said Nadeau.

The U.S. Army will be the primary sponsor on the MB2 car at all 36 Winston Cup circuit races. MB2 Motorsports is headquartered in Concord, N.C., and headed up by General Manager Jay Frye, an 11-year veteran of the NASCAR Winston Cup circuit. The Pontiac car is black with a giant gold star and carries the number 01 for a reason.

“We chose the number 01 to reinforce our slogan ‘An Army of One’. The individual talents of each soldier are melded to create a single-minded team. NASCAR fans understand that value because they see it in action every weekend in the pits. I firmly believe through our participation in NASCAR, they’ll begin to understand that the U.S. Army lives it everyday,” said Cavin.

For more information about the U.S. Army and its racing programs visit WWW.GOARMY.COM.

Personnel Activities

Information provided by the Battalion Personnel Actions Center

Welcome to our newest Trailblazers and their families:

MAJ Michael J. & Bonnie J. Stevenson, Bn. HQ
CSM Dorothy M. & Tony Clark, Bn. HQ
SSG John & Amy Gueli
SGT Robert & Faith Dillon
SGT Scott & Tabatha Reed
SGT Joseph & Kate Weeks

SSG Jesse & Rayvette Lee
SSG Ernest & Sonja Williams
SGT Isaac Alford
SGT Scott B. Hollenbeck

The U.S. Army has entrusted the following Trailblazer with a promotion:
SFC Samuel Watkins

The Battalion farewells the following Trailblazers

SFC Gerald & Brigit Adams, retiring
SFC William & Kelly Goble, retiring
SFC Darrell & Marcee Thompson
SFC Sherry Wilkinson, retiring
SSG Brence & Alyssa Jackson

The U.S. Army recognizes the following soldiers for their outstanding achievements:

SFC Darrell W. Thompson, ARCOM
SSG Michael H. Truax, ARCOM

*MSM: Meritorious Service Medal;
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal;
AAM: Army Achievement Medal*

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