



Battalion reconfiguration complete

U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Seattle completed its restructuring through the Positioning Analysis Evaluation, or PAE, process. The changes for the battalion took effect on Dec. 19.

The PAE is a process that is scheduled to happen every three to five years and allows the command to adjust where facilities and recruiting noncommissioned officers are placed throughout an assigned area. It allows the command to flex based on factors such as population, economic changes, technology available to the command and assigned personnel strength.

While it will take some time to fully finish the actions identified, this round of the process has the battalion reducing the number of facilities in our footprint and adding to the noncommissioned officer recruiting force.

Overall the battalion drops from 22 large stations and 20 small stations to 10 centers, 14 stations and 17 temporary forward engagement center locations (TFL).

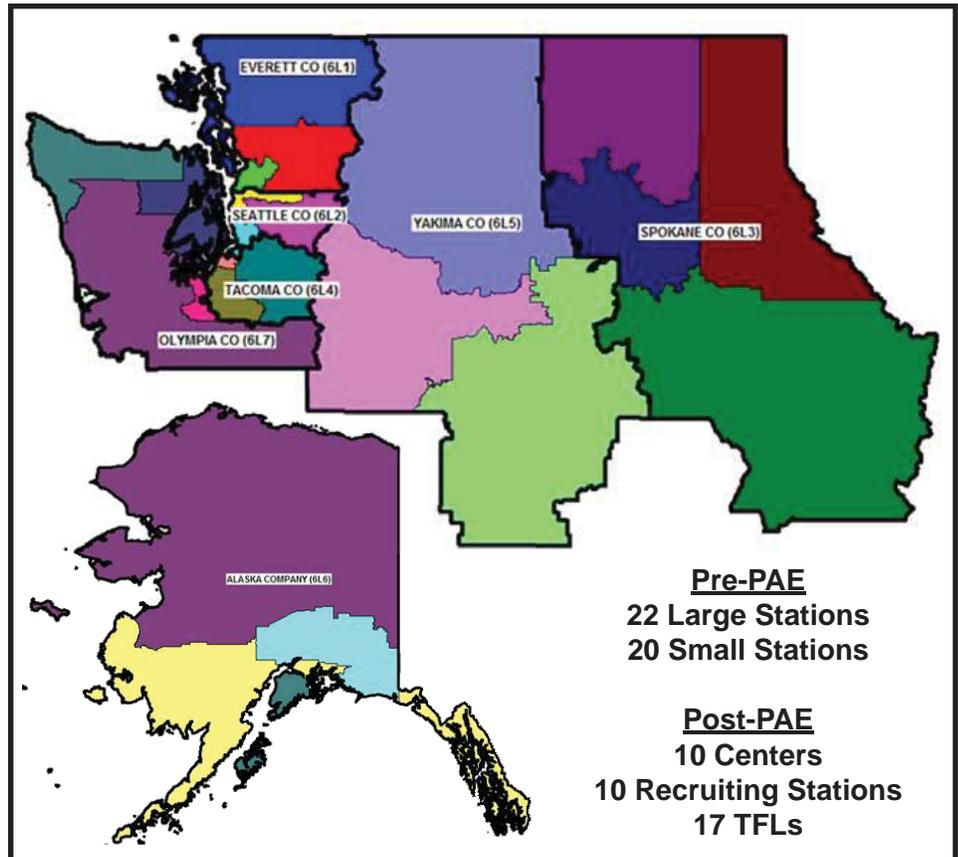
On the personnel side, the battalion gained seven detailed active Army positions through this process. There is a large adjustment of where the positions are located with the adjustment in our facility locations.

Following are the definitions of the types of facilities that we will maintain in the battalion area.

A center typically has eight or more Soldiers assigned to it and runs full spectrum recruiting operations. Centers employ the Small Unit Recruiting concept to include engagement teams, processors and a Future Soldier manager.

Stations are used in isolated market areas of sufficient density that require an established, persistent recruiting presence. The market is not however large enough to support center operations. Stations usually have seven or fewer noncommissioned officers assigned.

A TFL is a facility that is expected to close when the center is able to be physically consolidated with its managing



center. These facilities cannot be closed due to co-location and/or lease requirements. None of the facilities identified as TFLs are expected to close in the immediate future.

Following are the changes that each of our companies will undergo as we move through this process.

Everett Company adjusts from seven stations to two centers (Burlington and Lynnwood), one station (Marysville) and four TFLs (Monroe, Everett, Bellingham and Oak Harbor).

Seattle Company adjusts from five stations to three centers (Bellevue, Northgate and Tukwila) and three TFLs (Issaquah, Woodinville, and Federal Way).

Spokane Company has converted from six stations to two centers (Spokane North and Spokane Valley), two stations (Hayden and Pullman) and two TFLs

(Cheney and Collville).

Tacoma Company goes from six stations to three centers (Spanaway, Tacoma Mall and Puyallup) and two TFLs (Lakewood and Kent).

Yakima Company had six stations and now consists of one center (Kennewick), two stations (Yakima and Wenatchee) and three TFLs (Walla Walla, Pendleton, and Moses Lake).

Alaska Company adjusts from six stations to one center (Anchorage), three stations (Wasilla, Fairbanks and Soldotna) and one TFL (Anchorage South). Juneau will close and be covered down on by Anchorage Center.

Olympia Company goes from six stations to two centers (Olympia and Silverdale) two stations (Lacey and Port Angeles) and two TFLs (Port Orchard and Chehalis).

COMMAND CORNER

Soldiers, Civilians, and Families,

We are pleased to resurrect the Battalion Newsletter in an attempt to keep everyone informed, highlight what we are doing, and recognize the hard work and sacrifices of the Trailblazer team.

The proverbial train never stops in United States Army Recruiting Command. The new recruiting year is a time of change as we realign the Battalion footprint in order to gain efficiencies and maximize our effectiveness to support recruiting the Army's personnel strength requirements.

Great Soldiers have departed for another assignment or a much earned retirement, while new Soldiers report and the team is reformed. The one constant is change.

Unlike the operational force at Army installations, our Soldiers have to meet mission requirements monthly. There is no down time, dwell time, refit, reorganization, etc....

We reload and continue to promote the opportunities and benefits of serving in the Army Reserves and Regular Army. Training is conducted in conjunction with executing our very real mission.

As many of you know, our Army, and Nation for that matter, are operating in a fiscally constrained environment.

We can anticipate less resources in the foreseeable future and request everyone be good stewards of the resources on hand. It's our tax dollars in play.

At the same time, visiting high schools, community colleges, picking up the telephone, and reaching out to local commu-



nities really doesn't cost anything. The business of recruiting continues relatively unchanged; be creative.

The 1st quarter is complete and we have many success stories across the battalion. I'd like to highlight we were the only battalion in 6th Brigade (entire West Coast) to improve in Army Reserve enlistments for the 1st quarter compared to fiscal year

2012; well done!

In closing, I'd like to thank the spouses and families who were able to attend the Annual Training Conference. They enable success in the Profession of Arms.

Trailblazers!

~LTC Ron Henry

As we look at the lessons learned from the 1st quarter of this fiscal year, speed through the 2nd quarter, and look at the way ahead for the 3rd quarter I would like to discuss a few key topics.

I would like to welcome to the Seattle Recruiting Battalion, 1st Sgt. Crittendon, Tacoma Recruiting Company and 1st Sgt. Blancett, Seattle Recruiting Company and congratulate 1st Sgt. McVey, Yakima Recruiting Company as he assumes that position from the Training Shop. Many thanks to 1st Sgt. Curry, 1st Sgt. Watkins, 1st Sgt. Crofoot, and Sgt. 1st Class Tilford for your service to the battalion and the companies that you led.

The implementation of Small Unit Recruiting has come and gone. As we continue to grow as a team we must all look at how we, as a team member, contribute to the success of our recruiting center. Each team member has been assigned as a member of an Engagement Team, Recruiting

Support Team or Future Soldier Leader for the centers operating under SUR. In order for all levels to achieve success, we must all remember that we are all prospectors in support of the assigned mission.

At all levels we must first discuss prospecting before we discuss processing. Retired Command Sgt. Major Ruby Bradford-Taylor taught me this when she was the 3rd Recruiting Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

Prospecting is the fuel that keeps the recruiting train rolling. If prospecting is going as planned we will have the processors needed to make the assigned mission. Conversely, if our first focus is the processors then once they have all finished processing there will be no fuel left to keep the recruiting train rolling.

Standards and discipline continue to be an Army focus and as NCOs you have been on the frontline in your prior assignments ensuring that the Soldiers in your charge were



performing to the highest standards in these areas.

"I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself" is not just a line in the NCO Creed. This is the minimum standard expected of all of us that are part of the NCO Corps. Look out for each other and lift each other up every day.

As we prepare for the 3rd quarter, high school gradua-

tions and Future Soldier ship surges are on the horizon. Ensure that those Future Soldiers in your charge are on track to graduate, you have prepared them physically for Basic Training and you have told what to expect when they arrive. Involve their key influencers in the follow-ups that you are doing on a regular basis.

Lastly, I look forward to hearing from you on innovative ideas to improve anything in the battalion. Soldiers are encouraged to send me an e-mail and place in the subject line "Suggestion". Although I can't guarantee that all suggestions will be implemented, I will guarantee that you will receive a written response from me on the results of your suggestion. Please keep it professional in nature and those that will have the most immediate results will be those that address changes that are controlled at the Seattle Recruiting Battalion level or below.

Trailblazers!

~CSM McKinley

HS awards program information

The U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award Program will kick off in late February when a letter from Lt. Col. Henry, information on the program and the nomination forms will be sent to all high schools in the battalion.

The objective of this program is to recognize and honor two students who are either a Junior or Senior and who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in Varsity or Intramural sports while maintaining at least a "B" (3.0) average.

The students are selected by high school counselors, principal and athletic directors for this award and then the school returns the selection form back to Advertising and Public Affairs, who prepares the awards. In past years the award included a certificate signed by the chief of the Army Reserve and the battalion commander and a medallion.

Due to the current budget situation, the Olympic-style medallion may not be available this year. As we get closer to the presentations APA will let centers and stations know if they will be available.

Recruiters should contact guidance counselors at each of their priority schools to confirm participation. Selection forms must be returned A&PA not later than June 1. Arrangements can be made for those that need an extension.

Most Awards are presented at high school award assemblies near the end of the school year, to include sports awards banquets and graduation ceremonies.

Since its inception in 1981, over 12,000 students annually receive this recognition. The Army Reserve believes that young people should strive for excellence in all areas of their lives and the Scholar/Athlete Award Program is our way of recognizing and rewarding selected students who are doing just that, excelling in the classroom and on the athletic field.

For schools with an Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, two cadets can



be nominated by their Senior Army Instructor for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Award for JROTC.

To be eligible for this award the cadets must be in the second year of a three- year program or the third year of a four-year program; be in the top 25 percent of the academic class; demonstrate leadership; participate in extracurricular activities; possess an understanding of JROTC training; and, have not received the award previously.

Taking advantage of Military OneSource Tax Services

Military OneSource provides free access to the H&R Block At Home (R) Basic online tax filing service. The service allows you to complete and electronically file your federal and up to three state tax returns or filings. Your calculations are guaranteed to be 100% accurate or H&R Block pays the penalties and interest. The H&R Block At HomeR Basic tax filing service protects the security and confidentiality of your personal information by using industry-recognized security safeguards. You do not have to complete the return all at one time. When you begin, you create a secure user ID and password, which enables you to log on, save, close and return to the program as needed.

In addition, Military OneSource provides year round access to tax consultants who can help you and your family find answers to your tax questions and maximize your refund.

To learn more about Military OneSource Tax Services, call 1-800-342-9647 or go online.

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Reserve Unit Zone up and running

The screenshot displays the Reserve Unit Zone web application. The browser address bar shows the URL <http://ikrome.usaac.army.mil/group/reserveunitzone>. The page features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Manage', and 'My Launcher' options. The main content area is titled 'Reserve Unit Zone' and includes a search bar, a 'Welcome, GS09 Donald Wrenn' message, and a 'Unit List' on the left. The selected unit is 'WQWMAA', with details for 'Unit Location' (13613 40TH AVE NORTHEAST, MARYSVILLE, WA 98271) and 'Unit MOSs & AOCs'. The page footer contains copyright information for 2012 US Army and a 'Settings' button.

The Reserve Unit Zone is the replacement for UF 1149 TPU folders. Once all the data is up to date it will be the location that you will find unit locations, phone numbers and current MOS vacancies.

FSA Newsbits

MyMilitaryLife App

Now introducing our brand new smart-phone app for military families: MyMilitaryLife!

MyMilitaryLife was created to help military spouses navigate the many adventures of military life. Download the app, fill out a brief questionnaire, and receive personalized to-do lists and resources to use along the way to meeting your goal.

Search "MyMilitaryLife" in the App Store or on Google Play, or visit www.militaryfamily.org/app to download.

Employment site focuses on military, vets, family

Employment info for spouses and es-

pecially for those getting ready to separate and even reserves/guard. Take a look at the site, <http://recruitmilitary.com/>, they have over 400K job opportunities throughout the United States and more. The site also has great information about the events coming up in 2013. These are corporations which are in search of candidates with military background and experience to fill all types of career fields.

Teen program available for Reserve families

Army Reserve Families that have teens (ages 14-17) living in WA, OR, ID, CA, AZ, and NV--please read the attached announcement. This Youth Leadership

Education and Development (YLEAD) summit for the Pacific Coast is an excellent opportunity for your teen (and will look great on their resume/college applications)! The YLEAD is being held in Portland, Oregon, January 31 - February 3, 2013.

There is no cost to the parent other than to take your teen to the airport. Teens will be put on travel orders. If you know other Army Reserve Families with teens (ages 14-17), and if they have not attended a YLEAD in the past, please pass this information on to them!

The sign up will be first come, first serve. Go to <http://cyssevents.com> to register. If your teen has already attended YLEAD, they will be waitlisted.



Everett Company



Capt. David Eyre administers the oath of enlistment to Staff Sgt. Alberto Pena during a career fair at Anacortes High School.



Staff Sgt. Alberto Pena pictured with the winners of a set of tickets to the Seattle Seahawks .vs New England Patriots during spirit day at Anacortes High School.



1st Sgt. R Hewins and Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Cooper participate in the Susan G. Komen Breast cancer walk. The walk was 72 miles from CenturyLink Field through Redmond and Bellevue and finishing at the Space Needle.



Staff Sgt. Patrick Pierre-Louis received his Masters Degree in Transportation and Logistics Management from American Military University.



LEFT: Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Cooper pictured with the winner of a skateboard from a visit of a national asset to area schools.



Seattle Company



Capt. Derek Clark congratulates Max Browne of Skyline High School on his selection to play in the 2013 Army All-American Bowl. Browne was recognized as the U.S. Army Player of the Year while in San Antonio for the game Jan. 5.



Capt. Derek Clark reenlists Sgt. 1st Class Rafael Morales, Northgate Army Career Center and Staff Sgt. Yen Khanh Doan, Tukwila Army Career Center, at Carey Park in Seattle on Oct. 15.

Spartan Arrivals

Evalyn Tran born Oct. 6 weighing in at 7 pounds 2 ounces to Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Kevin Tran.

Wesley Alexander Burnett born Oct. 16 weighing in at 7 pounds 12 ounces to Staff Sgt. and Mrs. David Burnett.





Spokane Company

The past few months have certainly been eventful for the Spokane “Wolf Pack.” We had a change of command, where Capt. Emily Green turned over command of the Wolf Pack to Capt. Jonathan Emery.

Change of command time is usually a tumultuous time for any Army company there are many inventories and meeting to be accomplished. The noncommissioned officers of the Spokane Army Recruiting Company have continued moving forward with the mission despite all of the distractions associated with a change of command event.

The “Wolfpack” has also had the opportunity to conduct some special events. Thanks to Staff Sgt. Swarnes, the Pullman Army Career Center Commander, we were able to coordinate for several of our Future Soldiers to swear in at half time of a University of Idaho “Vandals” football game.

Oddly, the station with the highest participation in this event was our Spokane North Army Career Center. Several of our Future Soldiers traveled from the Coleville, Wash. area to participate in this very special event.

We also bid farewell recently to a great NCO, Staff Sgt. Michael Haas has left our ranks to begin the rest of his career as an Electronic Warfare Specialist. He did hang around long enough to have Capt. Green come in and conduct his re-enlistment at the Spokane Valley Army Career Center.

Thanks to both Staff Sgt. Haas and Capt. Green for their contributions to Spokane Recruiting Company.



Spokane Company in formation during the change of command ceremony between Capt. Emily Green and Capt. Jonathan Emery.



Capt. Emily Green reenlists Staff Sgt. Michael Haas outside Spokane Valley Army Career Center.



Future Soldiers swear in during the University of Idaho Vandals game.



Tacoma Company



The Washington High School senior visit to the 214th Aviation Regiment, U.S. Army Reserve, Joint Base Lewis McChord happened Oct. 17 with Spanaway Army Career Center. There were 24 Seniors that participated and all 24 wanted to be in the Military once they graduated HS. The students got briefs about the Unit and the history of the CH-47D Chinook. They also got to go inside a Chinook and ask questions to the Pilots and Crew chiefs.



Spanaway Army Career Center supported the local high school JROTC Drill Meet (Fall Classic) held at Spanaway Lake HS. NCOs were judges for the events that included an Army Physical Fitness Test, Armed and Unarmed Drill and Ceremony, Color Guard, Armed and Unarmed Inspections.



Tacoma Mall Army Recruiting Center conducted a team building event with the Army JROTC program at Lincoln High School in November.



Clint Albert Keith Conant was born Oct. 1 to the proud parents of Staff Sgt. Clint Conant and Geena Conant. Clint Albert Keith Conant came in at 8 pounds 6 ounces and 19 inches.



Maj. John Faust reenlists Staff Sgt. Gabryl Sisneros. Sisneros committed to five more years in the Army and will move to Alaska later this year.



The Tacoma Titans conducted a high school blitz with the Interactive Semi 2 from Fort Knox in October. The semi visited high schools in each of the three center's areas and pulled more than 220 leads.



Yakima Company

Yakima company command group is happy to continue to thank the families of the company for their continued dedication in assisting us in our recruiting mission. The unwavering love and support you show your Soldier reflects in their continued dedication and enthusiasm at work and we cannot thank you enough.

The company participated in many great recruiting efforts throughout the area but one of the most notable was Yakima center's involvement during the Central Washington State Fair. The entire station volunteered to support local veteran groups in Yakima with the fair's American flag raising ceremony and honored a crowd of over 500 onlookers.

Despite the natural rhythm in the Army for Soldiers to move into and out of the company, it is bittersweet for us to announce the near departure of a few of our dedicated recruiters:

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Franz from Kennewick station will be leaving us in January with his wife Ruth, and best friend's Millie and Max and soon to be born baby. They will be moving to Yakima where he is looking to begin new career aspirations in the Yakima area and potentially work with our neighboring reserve unit at 737th Transportation Company at Yakima Training Center. We wish them all the best in their move and the transition to the new career.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Bastian from East Wenatchee station is currently attending Senior Leader Course and departed the company in December with his family for a new assignment at Yongsan, Korea. We wish them all well on their exciting overseas assignment.

Sgt. 1st Class Eric Fierro and his wife Tiffany and children Antonio, Angelo and Isabella will leaving the company while he attends Ranger Assessment and Selection Program training at Fort Benning, Ga.

We are extremely excited to introduce two new arrivals to the company:

Staff Sgt. Lance Allen most recently



Yakima Army Career Center assists the Central Washington State Fair in raising the U.S. flag to kick off the fair activities for the year. Approximately 500 people were present for the ceremony.

joined the company to begin working out of East Wenatchee station with Staff Sgt. Jerome McCloud.

Staff Sgt. David Strong recently joined Kennewick station with his wife Rebecca, and sons Calvin, Everett and Levi.



Alaska Company

Highlights

- The Battalion Command Group visited Alaska Company Nov. 13-16.

-Company Commander Capt. Thomas Andersen swears his oldest child into the Army and sends him off to basic training.

Anchorage Recruiting Stations

Anchorage South said goodbye to Staff Sgt. Khalid Jurdi after almost two years of loyal service to the Alaska Recruiting Company. Jurdi was selected as a Warrant Officer Flight Training Candidate and we could not be more proud. He was a great asset to his station and the company and will be deeply missed.

Staff Sgt. Virginia Ahrens of the Juneau Recruiting Station had a birthday on Nov. 20 turning 31.

We would also like to congratulate one of our Future Soldiers on their new baby boy. FS Yosulet Ramos had his son born Nov. 16 and came in and showed the Anchorage North.

Wasilla Recruiting Station



Ava Monroe Ferris

We are sending congratulations to Sgt. Robert Ferris and his girlfriend on their new addition! On Sept. 13 they were blessed with a new baby Girl. They named her Ava Monroe Ferris. Ava weighed 9 pounds 10 ounces and is a happy, healthy baby.

Our new recruiter, Staff Sgt. James Jolicoeur wrote his first contract! He enlisted a Senior Alpha and we are very proud of him and what he has accomplished for us thus far.

This month, we continued to attend the rest of the local college career fairs. We met with many possible applicants and are hopeful about what is to come from this.



Daniel Andersen, oldest son of Capt. Thomas Andersen and his family pictured following his enlistment in the U.S. Army Oct. 19.

Fairbanks Recruiting Station

Fairbanks Station has hit the ground running with their new Center Commander Sgt. 1st Class Carl Prucker. Prucker has had the station involved in a few new volunteer projects. Fairbanks helped with the March of Dimes Organization for mothers and babies who need extra help. They assisted in raising more than \$80,000 for the project.

Along with the March of Dimes, they also assisted the Army Medical Recruiters in their Medical College Career Fair at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. They talked with many parents and students and were happy to help out a fellow friend.

Soldotna Recruiting Station

Happy birthday to Center Commander Sgt. 1st Class Chad Wolff who turned 35 on Nov. 19!

To finish up the month, we attended the last college career fair in Kenai. There were plenty of students who went and joined in on the activities the fair had to offer. We even enjoyed ourselves as well.

Along with the career fair, we had two table setups and presentations at Skyview High School. We are becoming very familiar to the students and staff at the school and are going to continue the excellent relationship for the future.



Olympia Company



Capt. Christopher Lum swears in 10 Future Soldiers during pre-game activities of the Seattle Seahawks Game in November.



1st Sgt. James Mendelson was selected as the top First Sergeant in 6th Brigade.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Tristan Ryan for being selected for promotion.

Sgt. 1st Class Katteri Franklin was promoted and has chosen to convert to a 79R.

Sgt. 1st Class Jessie Justice has re-enlisted indefinitely, was promoted and has PCSed to Prescott, Ariz.

Battalion snapshots



The battalion's top performers were recognized at the Annual Training Conference Banquet in December. The awards presented were: Top Overall Company, Tacoma (Alaska has since been identified as co-Top Company due to a miscalculation); Most Improved Company, Everett; Top Special Mission Company, Olympia; Top RA Company, Olympia; Top USAR Company, Tacoma; Top SA Company, Olympia; Top FS Company, Tacoma; Top Overall Center, Puyallup; Most Improved Center, Anchorage; Top RA Center, Bellevue; Top USAR Center, Anchorage; Top SA Center, Cheney; Top FS Center, Anchorage; Civilian of the Year, Cheech Shen; and Staff Member of the Year, Master Sgt. Billy Schneider.



Maj. Gen. David L. Mann, U.S. Army Recruiting Commanding General, visits with Soldiers of Seattle Recruiting Company during his visit to the battalion area in December.

Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKinley receives the sabre from Lt. Col. Ronald Henry during the Change of Responsibility in November. The passing of the sabre signifies his receipt of the duties as senior enlisted advisor for the Seattle Army Recruiting Battalion.

