



NCO Update

A quarterly report from AUSA for Noncommissioned Officers



Caffie sworn in as Army Reserve's top enlisted leader

CSM Leon Caffie was sworn in as the 10th U.S. Army Reserve command sergeant major by LTG Jack C. Stultz, Jr., Chief, Army Reserve/Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, at a ceremony in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes on 30 August.

The ceremony also marked the first time the Army Reserve will have a dual-role command sergeant major. Previously there were two command sergeants major—one served as the enlisted leader of the U.S. Army Reserve Command while another served as the enlisted leader for the Chief, Army Reserve.

"This is symbolic of not only bringing in new leadership," Stultz told the audience, "but also of the fact that we're transforming the Reserve into an operational force from an old-legacy force."

In his new position, Caffie will lead more than 153,000 enlisted Reserve Soldiers and serve as the chief advisor to Stultz on all enlisted Soldier matters with respect to training, leader development, mobilization, employer support, family readiness and support, and quality of life. He will be the Army Reserve enlisted Soldiers' representative at all levels within the Army, the Department of Defense, and Congress and in the media. He will also be an active member of various councils and boards that make decisions and recommendations affecting Soldiers and their families.

"He genuinely cares about Soldiers," Stultz said. "He won't tolerate substandard performance and that's

what Soldiers appreciate—the fact that he demands and lives up to that Warrior ethos and doesn't ask anything of a Soldier that he's not willing to do himself."

Following the acceptance oath, Caffie spoke briefly to the audience, thanking Stultz for giving him the opportunity to serve as the command sergeant major. "The most important part of this job that I'm looking forward to is the interaction I'll have with Soldiers," he said. "My primary purpose is to take care of those young Soldiers, the young impressionable minds of

the 18- and 19-year-old men and women who volunteered to join our Reserve. . . . It's my pleasure to be able to share with them some of the wisdom and experience I've gained throughout the years."

Caffie was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1970 and served in Vietnam. He joined the Army Reserve in 1972, then served in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He holds an associate's degree in general education from Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, FL, and a bachelor's

degree in communications from Regents College in New York. Caffie has also completed numerous civilian law enforcement courses and certifications, graduating with distinction from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. He retired as a major from his civilian position with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office in Florida, where he served as director of Law Enforcement Operations. (From Army News Service.)



CSM Leon Caffie is sworn in as the 10th Command Sergeant Major, Army Reserve. (U.S. Army photograph)

Army providing more mental-health support

To help deploying Soldiers cope with combat and better prepare them for the battle scars they will earn, the Army is emphasizing “battle-minded training,” which recognizes some basic facts about combat: it’s hard, it’s dangerous and it’s scary.

Soldiers who undergo the most intense, realistic training before deploying to combat tend to experience the fewest associated mental health problems. Troops returning from combat deployments demonstrate that combat preparation helps steel them for the stresses they inevitably face. By preparing for those realities, Soldiers are more prepared when they’re exposed to them.

In addition to predeployment training, the Army provides Soldiers mental-health support that begins before they deploy and continues throughout their deployment and after they return to their home stations. Support programs include:

- routine use of pre- and post-deployment health screenings and assessments of Soldiers’ mental and physical health;
- a new post-deployment assessment of mental and physical health three to six months after a Soldier redeploy;
- mental- and behavioral-health specialists in theater who provide education, support and treatment, as needed, for deployed troops;
- mental health advisory teams that have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan four times to assess how troops are doing and how well the Army behavioral health services offered to them are working; and
- follow-up treatment and short- or long-term counseling, as needed, to help Soldiers readjust after returning from a deployment.

To complement the mental-health programs already in place, LTG Kevin Kiley, the Army Surgeon General, will soon cochair a new task force to examine mental-health issues in the armed forces. The 14-member task force, half of its members from within the Defense Department and half from outside, will submit a report to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in May, recommending ways to further improve mental-health care for servicemembers and their families.

As it provides more mental-health services to its members, the Army is helping to erode the stigma that

has been associated for too long with seeking those services. Kiley has noted the irony that a Soldier who thinks nothing of getting long-term treatment for a broken ankle or other physical ailment might be hesitant to care for the most complex and fragile organ, the brain. Making mental-health screenings and services an integral part of the Army’s health-care program is helping to change that culture, and Kiley has set a goal to ensure that every deployed and returning Soldier receives the very best health care they need. (From Army News Service.)

Order uniforms easily online

The latest addition to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s online store makes ordering and assembling uniforms easier with its new “Uniforms Ready-to-Wear” feature. The new site lets Soldiers order uniforms with such add-ons as boots, belts, t-shirts and socks; nameplates, rank, insignia, badges and patches can be sewn on by local alterations contractors. Completed orders are then shipped to the Soldier’s door ready-to-wear.

“This is a great opportunity for active and reserve Soldiers in remote locations to purchase their [Army Combat Uniforms],” said AAFES Army Program Manager, Military Clothing, MAJ Lula Hart-Evans. “Assembling a complete uniform is now as simple as using a pull-down menu.”

The “Uniforms Ready-to-Wear” site was created on 24 July and is available on www.aafes.com. Select “Uniforms Ready-to-Wear” from the drop-down menu. (From Army News Service.)

NCO Update is published quarterly by AUSA’s Institute of Land Warfare to help Army noncommissioned officers keep up to date on matters affecting the military profession and better inform their Soldiers. Reproduction is encouraged.

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Audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show!

The U.S. Army Soldier Show, the song-and-dance extravaganza that provides “entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier,” is seeking active and reserve component Soldiers to audition for the 2007 season. Applications are also being accepted for audio, video, lighting, costume and stage technicians. Soldiers chosen to join the show will perform at Army installations during a six-month tour. The deadline to apply to audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show is 31 December.

Submission packets must include:

- a 10-minute DVD or VHS tape demonstrating your talent;
- a copy of the results of your most recent Army physical fitness test, including height and weight;
- a copy of your updated enlisted or officer record brief;
- an entertainment resume;
- a Department of the Army photo or similar photo in uniform; and
- a letter of intent to release from your chain of command.

The letter of intent to release must state that if you are selected to become a cast or crew member for the show, your unit agrees to release you for a temporary duty assignment to Army Entertainment Division for the duration of the tour, which usually runs early March through late November. It must be signed by your company commander.

The DVD or VHS should include at least two different styles of vocal performance, along with other talents you possess, such as dance or the ability to play musical instruments. Be mindful that the Soldier Show is a family-oriented production.

Nomination packets should be mailed to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attention: 2007 Selection Committee, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. Express courier deliveries should be sent to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attention: 2007 Selection Committee, 6091 Sharon Lane, Building 1434, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Although the 2006 season is winding down, Army entertainment officials urge applicants to attend a Soldier Show and discuss auditions

with folks familiar with the process. This year’s performance schedule and more information are available at www.armyentertainment.net. Specific questions e-mailed to soldiershow@cfsc.army.mil will be answered. (From Army Public Affairs.)

Army logo patch approved for ACU

Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter J. Schoomaker has approved the Army logo patch for wear on the ACU by personnel assigned to Headquarters Department of the Army (assigned to the Army Staff only), U.S. Army Accessions Command (USAAC), U.S. Army Accessions Support Brigade, Initial Entry Training (IET) and One Station Unit Training (OSUT).

The U.S. Army logo is a registered trademark of the Army, visually central to the Army’s branding and trademarked licensing program. The patch is approved for only the ACU and is to be worn on the left sleeve in place of the shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI). The Army logo patch is not considered a distinctive insignia in the same manner as the shoulder sleeve insignia. Soldiers in IET will be awarded their patch during the sixth week of basic combat training. For all other classes of uniforms, Soldiers will wear the SSI currently prescribed by AR 670-1.

For more details about authorization and how to wear the patch, visit <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/Uniform.asp>. The patch is available in military clothing sales stores now.



The Army logo patch is about both the individual Soldier and the collective strength of the Army. It represents the Soldiers’ pride in making a difference for themselves, their families and the nation.

Electronic voting is an option for November elections

In the last several years, DoD has been challenged to reach deployed servicemembers, whose particular circumstances make it hard for them to participate in the by-mail absentee voting process. The Federal Voting Assistance Program ensures the right to vote for military members and their families and for other U.S. citizens living overseas.

On 1 September, DoD launched the Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS), which outlines electronic voting options for residents of all 55 states and territories and provides information on the various electronic ballot requests and delivery alternatives available to U.S. citizens living overseas covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. The IVAS can be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website (<http://www.fvap.gov>) and will be updated to reflect changes to state laws.

Most states allow at least part of the voting process by fax, and states are slowly embracing the use of e-mail for ballot requests and delivery. Currently, 50 voting jurisdictions allow the use of fax for the registration process; 34 states allow the faxing of blank ballots to the voter; and six to 10 states are interested in using web technologies for the voting process.

DoD has developed two web-based tools that states can use in the voting process. Both involve an online, automated version of the Federal Post Card Application, which is the form used for voter registration and request of absentee ballots, and both are designed for individuals who are already registered to vote in their home states. The first tool would allow registered voters covered under the overseas act to log into a secure website, fill out automated Federal Post Card Applications, and e-mail them to their local election officials. The second tool would allow registered voters to upload the completed applications to a secure server, where the local election officials can log on and download the forms and then possibly upload blank ballots to the same site for the voters to access.

Both of these tools would be open only to military members and their families and DoD civilian employees and contractors stationed overseas. Security

of this site would be ensured because individuals in these categories already have unique identifiers from DoD that could be used for verification.

In addition to electronic voting options, DoD continues to work with the U.S. Postal Service and the military postal system to ensure ballots are delivered on time to military members and U.S. citizens living overseas. DoD officials have been encouraging state and local election officials to send ballots out early so overseas voters have plenty of time to complete and return them. (From Army News Service.)

Army releases new interrogation manual

The Army has published a new Field Manual 2-22.3, "Human Intelligence Collector Operations," replacing Field Manual 34-52, which was published in 1992 and focused entirely on interrogation operations. The new manual is broader in scope and provides plainly worded doctrinal guidance across the full range of human intelligence collection operations.

Field Manual 2-22.3:

- clarifies military intelligence and military police roles and responsibilities;
- specifies requirements for non-DoD access to detainees under DoD control;
- specifies that commanders are responsible and accountable for compliance with provisions of the manual and for ensuring humane detainee treatment; and
- notes that all military personnel are responsible and accountable for immediately reporting suspected detainee abuse.

The new manual, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, explicitly prohibits torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and is in complete compliance with the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005.

"The new FM builds upon previous doctrine, incorporates lessons learned, and provides clear and specific guidance to commanders and Soldiers in the field on the conduct of HUMINT operations," said Thomas Gandy, director of Counterintelligence, Human Intelligence, Foreign Disclosure and Security. The full text of Field Manual 2-22.3 is available at <http://www.army.mil/references/FM2-22.3.pdf>. (From Army News Service.)

Kids of deployed military parents need consistency

A long deployment for military parents isn't hard on just the Soldiers, it's hard on the whole family. Dr. Frederic Medway, psychology professor at the University of South Carolina, said his work has shown that while children of different ages have different needs, if parents offer a consistent environment, their kids tend to fare better.

"Set the tone early," he says, "[and] try not to make many big changes while deployment happens." This method is easiest to do with young children. Parents should foster an environment of safety and stability because other challenges abound. Common childhood fears of things like animals and thunder often get compounded when children are thinking about a parent in a hostile zone, and explaining away those fears is tricky. "Younger children won't understand abstract concepts such as time," he said. Checking off dates on a calendar or explaining "Mommy comes home in a year" may not make much sense to them, so keeping big changes to a minimum helps them feel better.

With school-age kids, the situation becomes more complex, because they have more going on in their lives. Offering a consistent environment can be difficult for the parent at home, especially if the parent is working as well as raising the child.

As children reach adolescent age, parents must be especially sensitive to what they are going through. "I think the teen years are especially tough because teens are notorious [for] not talking to their parents about things," Medway said. Young teens also have access to information and an ability to understand it that younger children do not. For example, hearing rumors on CNN can make them worry.

For these reasons and others, setting the tone early in terms of communication is critical to creating consistency for children. Medway recommends opening communication at age 4, because children can shut down as they get older, and communicating with a recalcitrant teenager is much more difficult.

Families who have a parent deployed can see long-lasting effects due to separation and sacrifice. These are lifelong consequences that will change the course of where that family is going, but not always for the worse. For example, military kids often learn to be more independent and outgoing than their peers.

In addition, each phase of deployment poses different challenges, and families who educate themselves tend to do better. "I think it's so important to be informed, and that really means going to all the briefings that your unit has," Medway said. He also suggests getting supports in place long before separation starts, which means talking with friends, parents, grandparents and on-base family services.

The months surrounding homecoming often offer the biggest challenges. Research during the 1991 Persian Gulf War revealed that children's behavior often got worse during the reunion stage than it was during deployment. "The child was responding to one parent," Medway said. "When you bring a second person back in . . . that can throw the kids for a loop."

Military families are encouraged to seek help early from the mental health services in the community. Teachers, school psychologists and school counselors are often great resources for kids, while military assistants, family doctors and chaplains can do a lot for parents. (From American Forces Press Service.)

Spouses eligible to receive scholarship

Military spouses looking to further their education are receiving a helping hand, thanks to the National Military Family Association (NMFA). Their Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship provides \$1,000 to spouses of Soldiers studying for professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. The funds can be used for tuition, fees, books and school room and board, according to the NMFA website. Spouses of active duty, reserve component and retired Soldiers are eligible, as are surviving spouses of deceased Soldiers.

Thanks to program sponsor General Dynamics, 20 military spouses received the scholarship when it began in 2004, 35 in 2005. NMFA expects the number to continue to increase, allowing more military spouses the opportunity to further their education.

The award is given to select recipients who complete a comprehensive application prior to the 15 April deadline. The final decision is made by a panel of judges consisting of NMFA volunteers with military backgrounds: active duty, retired and spouses. For more information, visit www.nmfa.org. (From American Forces Press Service.)

Army launches new podcasts

The Army has added two new podcasts to its lineup: "Army Today" and "Soldiers' Forum." "Army Today" is a daily, two-minute audiovisual feature produced by Soldiers Radio and Television. "Soldiers' Forum" is a weekly show in which SMA Kenneth Preston addresses issues concerning enlisted Soldiers.

"This is a great way to keep Soldiers in the United States, and those deployed to some 120 countries, informed on issues affecting them," Preston said. "So far, we've produced spots on motorcycle safety, the BOSS program and the Wounded Warrior Program."

Podcasting technology is similar to Internet broadcasting, a method of publishing audio and video broadcasts normally seen on television via the Internet. The term "podcast" comes from the use of iPods to watch the shows, but now podcasts can be viewed on a computer or downloaded to a portable media player that is capable of storing and playing audio/video media. This portability allows users to pick the content they want without the website graphics, then download and view it at their convenience.

To download podcasts, users must have on their computers RSS-recognition (Real Simple Syndication) software such as iTunes (www.itunes.com), Juice (juicereceiver.sourceforge.net) and Happy Fish (thirstycrow.net/happyfish). After installing the software, Soldiers can subscribe to Army podcasts at www.army.mil/rss.

The Army began producing podcasts in March 2006 with "Army Racing," a weekly series that follows the exploits of Army NASCAR driver Joe Nemechek, Army Top Fuel dragster Tony "The Sarge" Shumacher and pro stock motorcycle speedsters Angelle Sampey and Antron Brown. The Army's second podcast was "Army Newswatch," a biweekly video program produced by Soldiers Radio and Television. (From Army News Service.)

Vietnam hero awarded Silver Star

On 29 August 2006, SFC Class Richard L. Smith, USA Retired, was presented the Silver Star for his heroism in the Vietnam War, more than forty years after his heroic actions.

In 1965, then-SPC5 Smith was serving as crew chief of a UH-1D helicopter assigned to B Company, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. During a battle in the Ia Drang Valley, he voluntarily departed twice from his position in his helicopter to run into an open field under fire, risking his own life to drag wounded Soldiers onboard for evacuation. "We brought ammo in and took the wounded out," Smith said. "The grunts on the ground would bring their wounded over. . . . Some wounded were standing out there and didn't know what to do. It was just instinct. They were there; I saw them and went and got them." He earned the Silver Star for his "gallantry in action" on 17 November 1965.

However, the reason for the delay in presenting the medal is still unclear. A friend telephoned Smith in July and told him he would be receiving a Silver Star. The 69-year-old from Lumberton, NC, said he has no idea who nominated him for the Army's third highest award for valor. "I have my suspicions, but I have never been told who did it. I'd like to thank them for it." (From *Army Times*.)

Letters to the Editor . . .

I have been reading *NCO Update* since my retirement in 1992. I know that the publication is written primarily for active duty NCOs; however, the articles keep me informed about what is going on in our Army today. Thank you for sending it to me.

Christ Kondos
Sergeant Major, U.S. Army retired

NCO Update would like to hear from you. We want to know your opinions and possibly publish them in future issues. Please send your letters to Editor, *NCO Update*, AUSA, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. Letters are also accepted via e-mail at dgiovannelli@ausa.org with the subject line "Letters to the Editor."