



Volume 8, Issue 3

December 2008

Happy Holidays

https://www.md.ngb.army.mil/XHTML/Organization/Army/JFHQ_Units/581st/581st.html

Happy Holidays!

Notes from the Top

LTC Birckhead
581st Battalion Commander

Thanksgiving is upon us. Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday dating back to our colonial times. Each November, Americans gather together family and friends to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great land. It is also a time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful. I just wanted to pause for a few minutes and wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

As we all sit down at our dining room tables to give thanks for all our blessings LET US GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS to all our fellow comrades who like you protect our way of life, but will not be with the loved ones this holiday season.

Welcome and thank you to all the new soldiers of the Maryland National Guard. You are the organization's life line. I commend you on your decision to join the MDARNG. You are a valued member of this organization and to that end I want you all to have a safe and happy holiday season. I will see you in

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Drill with your Unit for December

January 2009.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the RSP staff for your continued support and hard work. Your efforts ensure our new soldiers are the best they can be and equip our new soldiers with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful throughout their army career.

I want to put extra emphasis on safety during the holidays in an effort to ensure all of you return safely.

Everyone – please be safe over the holidays and throughout the year, use common sense and simple risk management. Rest before you decide to drive and give yourself adequate driving time. It is important to know your limits! Please celebrate and have a wonderful time – do not let your good time impair your judgment.

Best wishes and have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS DRILL

RSP Soldiers	All RSP Soldiers will Drill with their home unit or split train with their Recruiter
RSP Cadre	Annual Mandatory Briefings, Holiday Meal with Families
Gateway	Incoming Soldiers only will drill on Saturday

Communication is the Key to Success

TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) premium rates are established annually on a calendar year basis in accordance with I0 U.S. Code 1076d and 32 Code of Federal Regulations 199.24. The TRS monthly premiums for calendar year 2009 shall be the amounts listed in the table below.

Type of Coverage	Monthly Rate
Member-only	\$ 47.51
Member & family	\$ 180.17

The premiums for 2009 have decreased compared to calendar year 2008. Member-only premiums were \$81.00 for 2008
Member and family premiums were \$253.00.

Command Policies

Leaders please review the current Command Policies in effect and inform your Soldiers. The following policies are posted on the unit bulletin board: Commander's Open Door Policy, Attendance Policies for Cadre and Non-prior service Soldiers, Treatment of Non-prior Service Soldiers Policy, and Uniform Wear and Appearance and Grooming Standards Policy.

Training Dates

Drill with your Unit in December
Cadre 13-14 Dec 2008
24-25 Jan 2009
21-22 Feb 2009
21-22 Mar 2009
18-19 Apr 2009
16-17 May 2009
27-28 June 2009
18-19 July 2009
15-16 Aug 2009
19-20 Sep 2009

RSP Purpose Statement

The Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) provides an overview of actions necessary for success. The RSP receives and indoctrinates ARNG Warriors with the skills required to successfully MOS qualify and return to their units, fit, trained and ready to deploy in support of the ARNG mission.



www.guardrecruitingassistant.com

Take a step toward earning additional income while assisting the ARNG in meeting future manpower requirements. (Now you can earn \$2000.00 for every enlisted soldier that ships and up to \$8500.00 for every qualified officer that enlists)

Quote of the Month:

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

-- (John) Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

Uniform Policy

Remember to do your pre-checks when preparing for drill; review your packing list. Soldiers need to ensure they have their issued black gloves, black or green knit cap, and winter IPFU for physical fitness training.

The Patrol Cap is our standard headgear.

Weather Outlook: Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low to mid 40s.

