

Training for future readiness needs

Signaleers,

As I write this note I am closing out a powerful week that included our semi-annual face-to-face meeting of the Senior Warrant Officer Council and the Army Training and Leader Development Conference. At the ATLDC were GEN Raymond Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, GEN John Campbell, vice chief of staff of the Army (who also attended the 95th anniversary of the Army warrant officer ceremony earlier in the week), GEN Robert Cone, commanding general U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, GEN Dennis Via, commanding general U.S. Army Materiel Command, LTG Susan Lawrence, U.S. Army chief information officer/G-6, LTG David Perkins, commanding general U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, LTG Mary Legere, U.S. Army deputy chief of staff/G2 and many other general officers.

As the main focus of this edition of the *Army Communicator* is the Total Army School System, several comments and thoughts came together during this week that demonstrate how we must engage the foreseeable future.

The CSA spoke about the draw down and our

immediate future relative to resourcing; even with a rapid reduction to the Active Component combat brigade structure, we might need to cyclically manage unit readiness levels to ensure we have adequate numbers of troops fully prepared to defend our national interests at a moment's notice. There is also the concern of a rapid loss of Reserve Component operational readiness due to fewer deployments. How can we not only mitigate these challenges but even use them in a manner that benefits both?

I spoke with the command chief warrant officers of both the Army Reserve and the National Guard and we are formulating a concept that capitalizes shared resourcing and experience in a mutually beneficial manner. While neither the USAR nor the ARNG will walk away from the next few years of resourcing challenges unscathed, because their funding sources have different nuances than the AC, there will be times when a RC unit will have greater resources available than a like AC unit. At the same time, because our AC Soldiers have the benefit of being engaged 24/7/365, AC units may have a greater experience base than sister RC units. A mutually beneficial arrangement may include the RC unit funding the inclusion of AC unit personnel at annual training events. This would leverage the AC expertise with the RC training resources to ensure the RC event is successful and give the AC further opportunities for collective training.

There is no telling if such a plan would be approved, but this is the kind of critical and creative thinking that will ensure we remain a ready and relevant force through the challenges of the next few years. Please take an active part as we look to out-of-the-box solutions to push and pull resourcing, personnel, and experience load-sharing in the future.

Again, thank you for your dedication and service in being ever Watchful for Our Country.

Pro Patria Vigilans!



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