



Founded in 1922, and chartered by Congress in 1950, ROA's mission is to "...support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate National Security."

www.roa.org

For Reservists, Deployments Mean Sacrifice

By Army Sgt. David Turner

CAMP VICTORY, Dec. 29, 2008 - Soldiers serving in the Army Reserve long had the stigma of being second-class soldiers. "Be all you can be ... one weekend a month," was a taunt used by drill sergeants for reservist recruits.

A transformation in the role of the Reserve and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan make frequent deployments a reality for these "weekend warriors," and many reservists are looking at their part-time service more as a second career.

"It's good to have the Reserve as a cushion, a back-up in case something goes wrong. I don't have a 40-hour a week job to go back to," said Sgt. John Coogen of the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, currently stationed here.

After completing an 8-year stint in the Marine Corps, Coogen enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2006. In his civilian career, he is a self-employed audio-visual technician back home in Palm Springs, Calif., mostly installing home theaters.

"If I would have had that going strong, I wouldn't have signed up for the Army Reserve. The military is always a good thing to go into, Reserve, active (duty), it doesn't matter. The economy is really bad back home now. My buddies back at home, doing the same thing I do, they're not making it," he said.

Though Coogen plans to resume his business when he redeploys in early 2009, he is also hedging his bets. After seeing the kinds of income his civilian counterparts are making in Iraq, he's applying for a job as a contractor, perhaps to return here. **Continued, Page 14**

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing

ABOUT BARRETT FIREARMS, Continued:

Barrett Firearms Manufacturing recently moved into our new multi-million dollar corporate headquarters that features expanded research and development, manufacturing, quality control and shipping. By focusing on improved operations, the results are higher productivity, morale, and ultimately a better product for our customers. We never rest on our laurels and that "it's always been done this way".

Our company believes that business success is measured far more than with our new state of the art facility, our largest workforce ever and a good return on our investment. Success is spelled out in the letters and emails that we receive. The following is an example:

- Shaun Smith, "I'm with the United States military serving in Iraq. I just want you to know that I carry your XM107. Thank you for supporting the troops and for building a great firearm. I plan to buy one when I get back to the States."
- Richard Deitke (Ohio) "I am a proud owner of one of your rifles. Keep up the good work."
- Clay Conley, "Aloha from Baghdad. Thank you for making the world's greatest .50-caliber sniper rifle. Everyday that we're on patrol, our sniper watches over us with his trusty Barrett."
- Don Dietz (New Mexico) "Thank you for your efforts in trying to educate the public, politicians and bureaucrats regarding the .50 Caliber. If they succeed in demonizing the .50 Caliber, the road to more restrictive firearms legislation is made easier. I'm a retired Navy weapons specialist. Your pioneering work has been of great benefit to the military services and police departments and has certainly saved many lives. Best wishes to you."

A personal letter dated October 5, 2006 from Colonel Harry K. Stringer (United States Army) says it well.

The name Ronnie Barrett will go down in the American History Firearms Hall of Fame along with Samuel Colt, John Browning, and John Garand as one of the great inventors of "Firepower for Freedom" in this incredible country of ours. Your greatest testimony is written on the hearts of dozens of U.S. Infantrymen and Snipers I've talked to upon their return from Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them while recovering from combat injuries, when they enthusiastically describe the precision accuracy and devastating effectiveness of the "Barrett Gun" as they call it. In honor of God and country, I salute you.

Ronnie Barrett is a patriot and true-to-life Horatio Alger who dreamed big in 1982 when a dream was almost all he had. That dream has become a legacy.

The legacy of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing is being perpetuated by another generation; son Chris and daughter Angela Barrett who are also active in the business helping to take the company, its products and services further into the 21st Century to meet the needs of an ever-expanding market.

Check Out:

THE TAILGUNNER'S GAZETTE

www.freewebs.com/tailgunnersgazettenews