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Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command



Dauntless

99th Regional Support Command

The History of the 99th

The 99th Division was constituted in Camp Wheeler, Georgia, on July 23, 1918. It was reconstituted as the 99th (Checkerboard) Division and assigned to the Organized Reserve in Pittsburgh on June 24, 1921. The 99th assumed a Military Police mission in January 1942. Then, on April 1, 1942, it was reorganized as the 99th Infantry Division.

On November 15, 1942, the 99th was activated and ordered to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, to conduct combat training. The 99th Infantry Division arrived in England, 10 October 1944, moved to Le Havre, France, 3 November, and proceeded to Aubel, Belgium, to prepare for combat. The Division first saw action on the 9th, taking over the defense of the sector north of the Roer River between Schmidt and Monschau. After defensive patrolling, the 99th probed the Siegfried Line against heavy resistance, 13 December. The Von Rundstedt attack caught the Division on the 16th. Although cut up and surrounded in part, the 99th held as a whole until reinforcements came. Then it drew back gradually to form defensive positions east of Elsenborn on the 19th. Here it held firmly against violent enemy attacks. From 21 December 1944 to 30 January 1945, the unit was engaged in aggressive patrolling and reequipping. It attacked toward the Monschau Forest, 1 February, mopping up and patrolling until it was relieved for training and rehabilitation, 13 February. On 2 March, 1945, the Division took the offensive, moving toward Keln and crossing the Erft Canal near Glesch. After clearing towns west of the Rhine, it crossed the river at Remagen on the 11th and continued to Linz and to the Wied. Crossing on the 23d, it pushed east on the Koln-Frankfurt highway to Giessen. Against light resistance it crossed the Dill River and pushed on to Krofdorf-Gleiberg, taking Giessen 29 March. The 99th then moved to Schwarzenau, 3 April, and attacked the southeast sector of the Ruhr pocket on the 5th. Although the enemy resisted fiercely, the Ruhr pocket collapsed with the fall of Iserlohn, 16 April. The last drive began on 23 April. The 99th crossed the Ludwig Canal against stiff resistance and established a bridgehead over the Altmuhl River, 25 April. The Danube was crossed near Eining on the 27th and the Isar at Landshut, 1 May, after a stubborn fight. The attack continued without opposition to the Inn River and Giesenhausen when VE-day came. With the war in Europe over, the 99th conducted occupational duties until returning to America and inactivating on September 27, 1945.

Reactivated as the 99th U.S. Army Reserve Command on Dec 22, 1967, the 99th has since remained in the Army Reserve. While this reorganization of the entire Army Reserve was occurring, American involvement in Vietnam was escalating. There was no significant call-up of Reserve soldiers during Vietnam; however, units and individual soldiers of the 99th ARCOM served with distinction during the war. The 630th Transportation Company was activated on May 13, 1968, served 11 months in South Vietnam and returned home to Washington, Pa., in August 1969. While in Vietnam soldiers of the 630th earned two Purple Hearts and 14 Bronze Stars.

In 1973, the 99th ARCOM underwent reorganization, part of the larger steadfast reorganization that had once replaced the Continental Army Command with the Training and Doctrine Command and the Forces Command. Effective October 1, 1973 the 99th ARCOM lost eight units in Ohio and gained 14 in Pennsylvania. In 1975, the 99th ARCOM moved its headquarters from a commercial rented facility in Mount Lebanon, Pa. to a former NIKE missile site and headquarters in Oakdale, Pa. The site had been formerly operated by the Air Force.

Units and members of the 99th were deployed to Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury in 1983 and in 1989 they were sent to Panama for Operation Just Cause.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, 22 99th RSC units with more than 2,000 soldiers deployed to Saudi Arabia, Europe and other locations. On February 25, 1991, during the last few hours of the Gulf War, a SCUD missile destroyed a barracks that housed members of the 99th Regional Support Command's 14th Quartermaster Detachment. In the single, most devastating attack on U.S. forces during that war, 29 soldiers died and 99 wounded. The 14th Quartermaster Detachment, from Greensburg, Pa., lost 13 soldiers and suffered 43 wounded. The 99th's involvement in operations Desert Shield and Storm ended with the demobilization of the last unit on Sept. 21, 1991.

After the Gulf War, the 99th ARCOM consisted of 83 units and 11,000 soldiers in 70 facilities. It served an area of some 39,000 square miles. From that point to 1995, trends moved consistently downward. By the time it merged into the 99th RSC, the 99th ARCOM had approximately 8,000 soldiers at 71 facilities. The RSC saw the creation of the Contingency Force Pool (CFP) in fiscal year 1992. In 1995, the 99th ARCOM had 21 units designated as part of the CFP. The 99th ARCOM was inactivated on April 15, 1996.

Under a force structure reorganization from the Department of Defense, the 99th ARCOM became the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) on April 15, 1996. The 99th RSC assumed responsibility for the units and facilities of the former 79th ARCOM

headquartered at Willow Grove, Pa., and 97th ARCOM headquartered at Fort Meade, Md. The 99th's area of responsibility expanded to a five-state region, including Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and Washington DC. The 99th RSC's mission was to provide command and control and full service support for assigned units and facility management.

On December 23, 1996, the 99th RSC mobilized the first of six units for deployment to Operation Joint Endeavor in support of peacekeeping missions in Bosnia. The command supported the effort with further deployments through 1999 as the name of the operation changed to Joint Guardian and then Joint Forge.

In 1997, the 99th RSC deployed 36 units comprising 1,121 soldiers to Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo. Throughout 1998, the command deployed individuals as "fillers" for the effort in the Balkans. The mobilization trend then was for the theater command to request either individuals (by skill, not by name) or "derivative" parts of units. While this provided challenges for the command to maintain the overall readiness of the units affected, it served the mission of both supporting active contingencies and maintaining a capability to respond when called for other contingencies.

The 99th RSC continued to support operations in the Balkan Republics while making a major contribution to the relief of the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America and providing refuge to those fleeing Kosovo as they sought temporary recovery in the United States.

From 1996 to 1998, the 99th RSC was also forging a unified command and concentrating on improving the levels of readiness for its units. One of the major issues in the 99th RSC during this time was building a new standard of excellence in the areas of support and oversight across the newly merged region where the three former Army Reserve Commands had exercised different approaches to training and support.

Brig. Gen. Karol Kennedy took command of the 99th RSC from Maj. Gen. Rodney Ruddock on May 5, 2001. In doing so, she became the first female soldier to command an Army Reserve Regional Support Command. The command prepared to train its soldiers to respond to the nation's Army Reserve needs.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks the 99th responded immediately with the mobilization of large numbers of Army Reserve soldiers. While the 99th was fully involved in this large mobilization, the headquarters moved from Oakdale, Pa., to its newly completed facilities in Coraopolis, Pa.

In 2002, under the command of Maj. Gen. Kennedy, the 99th Regional Support Command continued to respond to the needs of both the deployments in the Balkans and to homeland defense requirements. At the same time the command first mobilized and then partially demobilized soldiers in support of the war in Afghanistan.

In fall 2002, the 99th RSC began focusing on preparing designated units for a potential war with Iraq. Throughout the year the pace of operations increased and the staff became more proficient in processing units and soldiers. Screening and cross-leveling soldiers and laterally transferring equipment became paramount tasks for the command.

In January 2003, the 99th RSC started mobilizing units for projected operations in Iraq; these organizations began deploying to the Persian Gulf region during March and April. On July 16, 2003, the Command was redesignated as the 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC), placing additional emphasis on training, readiness and mobilization. The 99th RRC continued to provide command and control for assigned units and support for the ongoing deployments. Mobilizations for the Iraq and Afghanistan areas of operation continued at a brisk pace.

In 2005, the Army Reserve began its latest transformation under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) directive and "lessons learned" from eight years of deployments in support of the Global War on Terror. To facilitate support of operations, the Army Reserve reorganized its units by type into Operational and Functional Commands. The 10 geographically-based RRCs, including the 99th, were to be inactivated. In their place would be four regional base operations commands. The 99th was selected as one of these new regional support commands to administer and support the Northeast Region, comprising the former 99th, 77th and 94th RRCs areas that spanned 13 states from Virginia to Maine.

In September 2005, the 99th Regional Readiness Command mobilized assets in support of the four-month Hurricane Katrina humanitarian relief mission.

In September 2007, the 99th RRC was in the process of releasing command and control of its units to the newly established Army Reserve Operational and Functional Commands. Construction began on a new headquarters facility at Fort Dix, NJ, the future home for the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) which for the first time since 1967, was essentially without actual command and control (C2) of Army Reserve units. The 99th Regional Readiness Command started scaling-down operations, assisting with the mobilization of the 316th Sustainment Command, administering unit inactivations and implementing BRAC facility directives. In preparation for the transition to Fort Dix and establishment of the new 99th RSC, the 99th RRC assumed administrative responsibility for the former regions of the 77th and 94th RRCs, which had inactivated.

On September 17, 2008, the 99th Regional Support Command was activated at Fort Dix, N.J. The 99th RSC's mission is to provide base operations functions for the assigned 13-state Northeast Region. The former 77th, 94th and 99th Regional Readiness Command regions were redesignated as 99th Regional Support Command (East), (North) and (West), respectively.