

SitRep

YOUR WORLD THIS WEEK www.armytimes.com

[HERE'S WHY]

Why do troops use the phrase "Bravo Zulu" to mean "great job"?

It's not because "Bravo" is itself an accolade, borrowed from Italian.

"Bravo Zulu" comes from the Allied Naval Signal Book, an international maritime code adopted after NATO was created in 1949.

The book is organized by one-flag signals, two-flag signals and so on. Two-flag signals were sorted by general subject: AA through AZ, BA through BZ, etc.

"B" signals were designated for administrative messages, and the last entry on the page was BZ, for "well done." In the phonetic alphabet, the initials become "Bravo Zulu."

[TRUE STORY]

It's probably the first time in history that cuddly teddy bears have defeated military generals.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's office said two generals were sacked after a Swedish light plane intruded on the authoritarian state's airspace and dropped hundreds of teddy bears carrying



slogans supporting human rights and media freedom.

The Associated Press reported that officials in the ex-Soviet state denied the July 4 incident until Lukashenko called a government meeting near the end of July to scold authorities for allowing a "provocation."

On July 31, the Belarusian ruler fired the nation's air defense chief and the head of the Border Guards service and reprimanded several other top security officials.

Lukashenko has ruled the nation of 10 million since 1994. He has stifled dissent and independent media, earning the nickname "Europe's last dictator."

[FIVE THINGS]

EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Army Training Network

The Army Training Network, the first-stop online portal to help leaders and units plan and conduct training, is gearing up to become increasingly popular as the Army's deployment schedule eases up and soldiers have more time at home.

"Business is really picking up for us," said Jimmy Davis, team lead for the Army Training Network. "The paradigm for training has changed a little bit. Now units are having to manage their training, and because they haven't done that in the last 10 to 12 years, if ever in their careers, [leaders] are going to the Army Training Network to find out what they need to do."

Here are five things every soldier should know about the network, run by the Training Management Directorate within the Combined Arms Center-Training at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.:

1 Quick and easy. The idea behind the network was to give soldiers a "Web-based, easy to change, easy to use" resource, Davis said. "We are the first stop soldiers can use when they're doing any kind of training. We've got all of the how-tos on how to implement doctrine, how to manage training in their units, videos. If a soldier were to spend five minutes running through the navigation bar ... they'll get more information than they can probably imagine."

2 Mandatory training. The Army Training Network features material on mandatory training topics – suicide prevention and drug and alcohol training, for example – and material that covers current issues such as traumatic brain injury and female engagement teams. It also has guides on how commanders can implement training doctrine and step-by-step guidelines for how they should manage and track training within their unit, including how to build a training plan and figure out

what resources you need, Davis said.

3 New features daily. Something new is added to the network every day, Davis said. One key addition is the NCO Corner, targeted to serve noncommissioned officers. The page was added after Davis and his team received feedback from sergeants major who were preparing to be battalion command sergeants major, Davis said.

"It became obvious there was a shortcoming in the information that's out there," he said. "So we decided we were going to put together a page that just dealt with NCOs ... and information that NCOs would use."

4 The extras. The network offers extras only available online, Davis said. For example, the doctrine publications on the network feature hyperlinks that provide readers with all available information relating to a specific topic.

"It's not just a book you can download," Davis said. "We've put

hyperlinks in it, so all the information you'd find on a topic in [Field Manual] 7-0 we have links on the document. It's a lot better than using that version of 7-0 you've got on your desk."

The site also has an "Ask a Trainer" feature, where soldiers can submit questions to Davis and his crew.

"Our goal is to get an answer back within 72 hours," he said. "For the most part, we answer it within 24 hours."

5 More to come. "As units settle into the garrison routine and being away from deployments, they'll need more and more training management information and more training products," Davis said.

The site averages about 250,000 hits and sees about 6,000 product downloads every month, he said. The site has had 5 million hits in three years, and he expects business to get busier.

— Michelle Tan



[BY THE NUMBERS]

A look inside this issue.

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Years a service member averages between moves. **Page 8**

54 percent

Service members who committed suicide in 2010 who had not deployed to a combat zone.

Page 12

7 cents

Amount from every sale of a 21-cent "victory stamp" that would benefit vets, under a new bill. **Page 14**



\$517 million

Cost of a project to develop and build one big blimp, if "all options are exercised."

Page 32



100

Meters our fitness expert typically pushes a truck during this strength exercise. **OffDuty Page 6**



[ROLL CALL]

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[ONLINE MULTIMEDIA]

Follow the video blog of Lance Cpl. Geoffrey West, an infantryman with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, as his unit comes under fire during operations in Afghanistan.

militarytimes.com/multimedia
Video keyword search: **West blog**



[NEWSMAKER]

'The abuses have been rare among our fighting forces, but they became huge flash points that threatened to undermine our entire mission...'

Who: Defense Secretary Leon Panetta **Context:** Announcing a task force to review how allegations of harm to war-zone civilians have been handled. **Page 9**



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