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1-204th ATB celebrates its 30th anniversary

by Sgt. Brandon Thomason



1-204th Armor Training Battalion personnel—current and past—pose for a group photo during the unit's 30th anniversary celebration. Photos courtesy 1-204th ATB

The 1-204th Armor Training Battalion celebrated its 30th anniversary Sunday May 4 at Gowen Field.

Originally named RCTCC (Reserve Component Tank Commander's Course), the institution taught its first course in May 1984. At the anniversary ceremony, Lt. Col. (retired) Bob Udem – RCTCC's first commander, and Lt. Col. (retired) Rick Johnson – former Combat Vehicle Transition Training Team commander, were guest speakers. They reminded everyone how the school made do without many of the amenities it enjoys today.

Following the guest speakers, the recently constructed tank shelters were formally opened for use with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Finally,

the Idaho Army National Guard said farewell to one of its finest members, Sgt. Maj. Robert Segal. The Vietnam and Iraq veteran retired after 26 years of faithful service. It was only fitting that the 1-204th had the honor to conduct his retirement ceremony; Sgt. Maj. Segal had been assigned to the 204th RTI in various positions for 13 years throughout his career.



Upon his retirement, Capt. Benjamin Cook presents Sgt. Maj. Robert Segal the U.S. flag in recognition for 26 years of faithful service.

Many former RCTCC, Armor Training Battalion and Combat Vehicle Transition Training Team personnel attended the festivities and ended up refreshing old memories at the GFAC after the ceremony.

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