

OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 4

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

NOVEMBER 2010

"IT IS MORE NOBLE TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

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Honor et Fidelitas

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Notes from The CINC

Ninety-two years ago this month on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns of World War I fell silent. Time and again, men and women have answered the call to serve our Nation in extraordinary ways so that the world around us could have freedoms like we have. We owe our veterans and active duty troops a tremendous debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made and are making. On Veterans Day, I will have the privilege to be on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to represent our Order at the National Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Later in the afternoon, I'll be at the special MOWW ceremony at the grave of General Pershing honoring his service. I am proud to be part of the MOWW to fulfill our debt of gratitude to all of America's veterans. Many of our chapters around the country will be involved in local Massing of the Colors or parades. Be sure to show that you are a member of the Military Order of the World Wars and a veteran.

November is also time to exercise another freedom we have: to vote for the person who will represent you in your national, state, and city government. The person elected represents the one the majority of the citizens in your community have chosen. Accept the outcome and work to improve or help them in their quest to lead. The Order is not a place to express your personal political position to others.

In the photo below left, Danny Sheehan is being awarded our Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition. Danny's project was to register 56 Purple Heart recipients into the National Purple Heart Hall of Fame at New Windsor, N.Y. I am sure Danny would be glad to help any of you who received the Purple Heart and have not been registered to be put on their rolls. I share Danny's view that it's extremely important that we preserve the memory of each recipient, and that we honor them and appreciate the sacrifices they made.

The second photo (below left) is taken at the Dallas Chapter's YLC and JROTC awards luncheon. I had the honor to pass out outstanding participant certificates to seven students sponsored by the Chapter. Two of the students, pictured with Past CINC CAPT R. M. "Rollie" Stevens, were tops at their conference and are candidates for the Phoenician Award for 2011. The young lady, Shelby Smith, has applied to West Point, and the AF JROTC Cadet, David Meier, hopes to go to Air Force Academy. These are some of our future leaders. Last week, I spent four days at Huntsville, AL, at their YLC Conference and was their kick-off speaker. I would like to recommend, if possible, every new companion to attend one of these conferences or be on an interview team to meet some of the bright and energetic youth attending. The local chapter also awards Bronze Patrick Henry awards to outstanding JROTC cadets from their joint school cadet summer camps. Like the YLC, we are looking for the leaders at these summer programs. Companions who are camp directors or advisors select those cadets. This can be another patriotic education area for your chapter to consider.

I hope when the membership numbers come in for September we will have turned the negative number back around from the minus five to a positive position again. Our membership chairman, John Hayes, had an article in the October and has one in the current issue. I challenge you to look at my goals published in the September issue and bring your Chapter or Region/Department into the 21st century and the second decade. Who will follow us as leaders of this Order? What kind of Order will they inherit? We must work together to modernize and improve our Order. I am announcing the forming of an ad hoc committee to work with the Chief of Staff as he updates the current National web site. The Chairman will be: Capt Leo Goodsell, and members, LTC Don Munson, chairman of Information and Publicity, CDR Robert Rawls, and LTC Ruth Hamilton. We're looking for your suggestions.

Jackie and I hope you have a Thanksgiving spent with warm and loving family and friends sharing time together over food and drinks. Enjoy the holidays together and remember our troops in harm's way somewhere around the world. Pray or think about them.



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TAKE TIME TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY

NOVEMBER 2010

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U.S. shot GRABLE of
Operation Upshot-Knothole, 25 May 1953.

Atomic Annie

Belle of the 1953 Presidential Inaugural Parade

By CAPT Richard H. Miller, USN (Ret)

The 280mm M65 Atomic Cannon (“Atomic Annie”) occupies an interesting niche in the history of the U.S. Army Field Artillery because it holds several firsts in design, size and capabilities. Up to this point, the US Army’s very heavy guns had been on disappearing carriages, in casemates or on railway mounts.

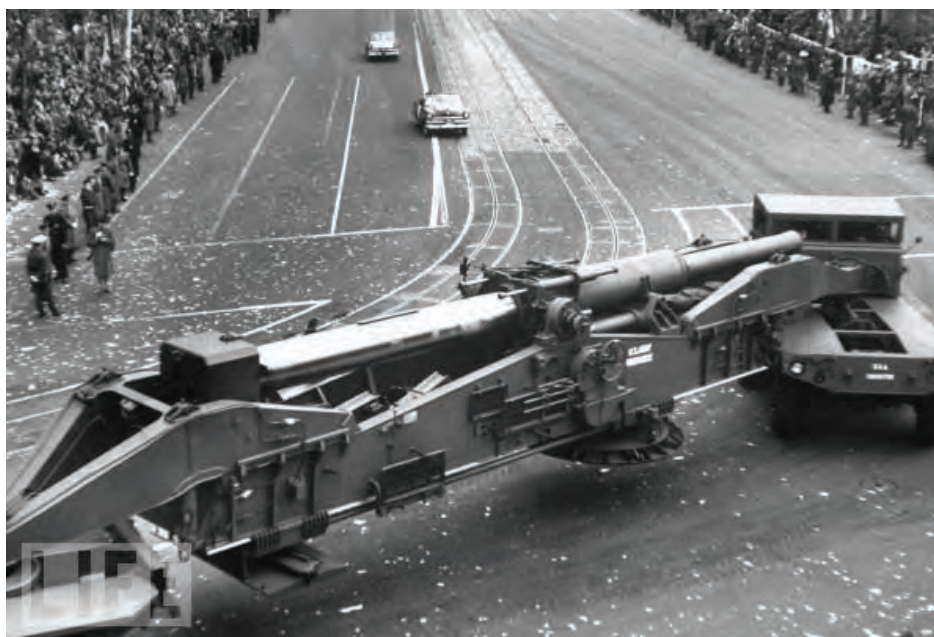
In 1949, Picatinny Arsenal was tasked to create a nuclear-capable, road-mobile artillery piece.¹ The project proceeded quickly enough to produce a demonstration model to participate in Dwight Eisenhower’s inaugural parade in January of 1953. Dwight David Eisenhower took the US Presidential oath of office on Tuesday, January 20, 1953. It was

the most elaborate inaugural pageant ever held. About 22,000 service men and women and 5,000 civilians were in the parade, which included 50 state and organization floats. There were also 65 musical units, 350 horses, 3 elephants, an Alaskan dog team and, of course, the 280-millimeter M65 Atomic Cannon.² The appearance of “Atomic Annie” in the parade seemingly served as a notice to North Korea that things could get serious should the truce talks then in progress not continue to make progress.

Several months later Annie fired an atomic shell in Nevada and the message was delivered by the U.S. Army. Operation Upshot-Knothole (code-named *Shot GRABLE*), took place at the Nevada Test Site on 25 May 1953. “The gun-type fission warhead was fired 10,000 m (6.2 miles) and detonated 160 m (525 ft) above the ground with an estimated yield of 15 kilotons.”³ About 21,000 military personnel participated in Upshot-Knothole as part of the Desert Rock V exercise.



A demonstration model of the M65 Atomic Canon in Dwight Eisenhower's inaugural parade. The M65 was transported by two specially designed 375 horsepower tractors, with independent steering. Photo from Life Magazine.



This test was conducted at Frenchman's Flat, Nevada Proving Grounds, Nevada.⁴ [YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2RO6lo84Hc>] This event caused quite a stir, and was the first and only nuclear shell to be fired from a cannon. Shortly thereafter the weapon was deployed to 7th US Army in Germany and later, "secretly," a firing battery was sent to South Korea to help persuade the Communists to speed along the peace process then in process. The atomic cannon test was history's first atomic artillery shell fired from the US Army's new 280-mm (11-inch) artillery gun.

Atomic Annie Herself

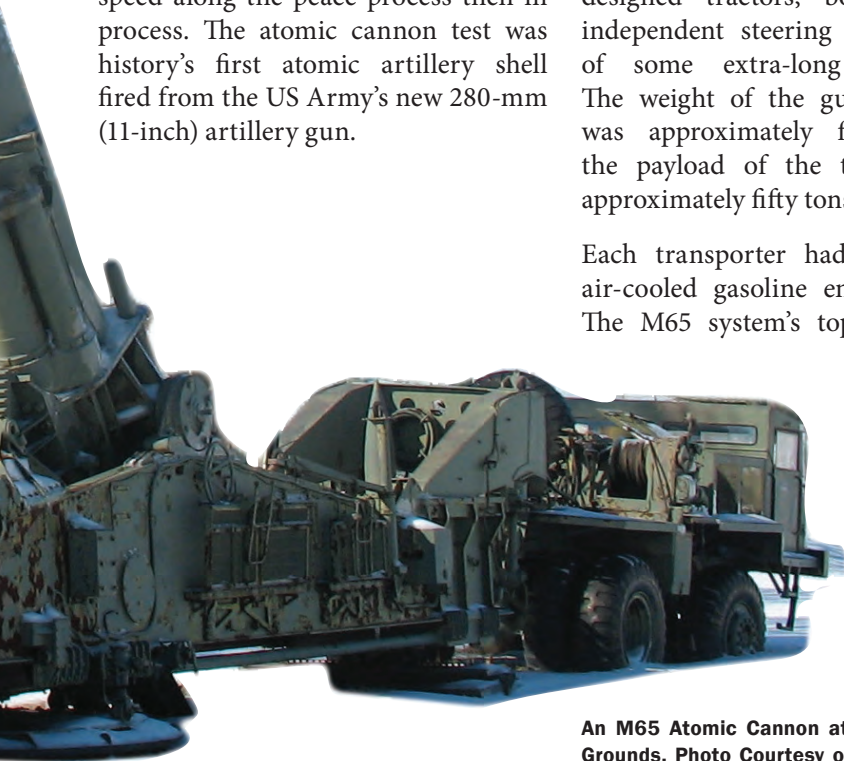
Subsequent to the successful test, there were at least 20 of the cannons manufactured at Watervliet and Watertown Arsenals, at a cost of \$800,000 each.⁵ The "M65," the Army's largest artillery gun, was based on the design of the 280mm (about 11") German K5 Railroad Gun.⁶ The M65 was transported by two specially-designed tractors, both capable of independent steering in the manner of some extra-long fire engines. The weight of the gun and carriage was approximately fifty tons, and the payload of the transporter was approximately fifty tons.

Each transporter had a 12-cylinder, air-cooled gasoline engine (375 HP). The M65 system's top speed ranged

from 35-45 MPH and it could negotiate a right-angle turn on 28-foot-wide, paved or packed roads.⁷ The artillery piece could also be unlimbered in 15 minutes and then returned to a traveling configuration in 15 minutes more. The drivers of the vehicles communicated with each other by means of a built-in telephone system. It proved to be a highly mobile weapons system and adaptable to most road conditions.⁸

Two transporters carried the gun and carriage as a single load (gun retracted). The carriage had two independent recoil systems—one for the gun and one for the top carriage.⁹ Ninety percent of the M65's entire emplaced weight actually recoils. The weapon had both power and manual elevating and ramming mechanisms. This weapon was four times more accurate at long ranges than any mobile artillery piece developed prior to World War II.

The M65 system had a crew of 5-7 and could fire and accurately deliver an atomic shell or a conventional 600-pound high explosive (HE) shell to a target at a range of approximately 18-20 miles. The M65's dimensions were: Length 84 feet; Width 16.1 feet; Height 12.2 feet. Its gun and carriage weight was 83.3 tons. To put "Atomic Annie's" sheer size into perspective,



An M65 Atomic Cannon at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army, United States Ordnance Museum

her Watervliet Arsenal barrel weighed some 21 tons. Essentially, “Atomic Annie” was a coastal gun on wheels. German influence was seen in the dual recoil system the Germans used in their WW II Krupp designs. The sophisticated recoil system is the secret to Annie’s accuracy and portability.

The manufacture and development of the 280mm gun and transporters required the combined efforts of many contractors under direction of U.S. Army Ordnance. The gun manufacturer was Watervliet Arsenal, and the carriage manufacturer was the Watertown Arsenal. Six years after the development of strategic atomic weapons, this road-transportable cannon gave a tactical atomic capability to US land forces. The first atomic cannon went into service in 1952, and was deactivated in 1963.

A surprising number are still on static display. Number one, the M-65 that fired the first atomic shell, is on display at Fort Sill, OK. Number two (muzzle threaded for a brake) is on display at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, right next to the German railroad gun “Anzio Annie,” as retrieved by General Mark Clark from Italy.

Annie’s Atomics



Picatinny Arsenal received the mission to develop an artillery shell able to carry nuclear payload in 1949. Her atomic shells went through several design changes, but ours weighed 600 pounds, came in a huge steel container and “required some assembly”

(which took approximately 45 minutes). Yields were variable, ranging from quite low up to a Nagasaki-level yield, all depending upon how much active, as opposed to depleted, uranium was placed in the shell. *[Editor’s note: Nagasaki’s “Fat Man” gravity bomb, which required a Boeing B-29 Superfortress to convey it, was an implosion type plutonium-239 fission bomb in the 20-22 kiloton range.]*



The M-65 280mm “Atomic Annie” cannon on permanent display at Fort Sill, OK (without its prime movers). This gun is the one that fired the test atomic munition at Frenchman Flat, NV, May 1953.

Other than the complexity of assembly and the weight of the shell, there were no “modern” safeguards, e.g., combination locks or comparable devices. Basically the shell was derived from a Los Alamos “Thin Man” uranium design, reduced to an eleven inch diameter, with charge four (158 pounds of coarse powder). As mentioned, we could fire it about 18 miles with surprising accuracy, after allowing for earth spin and powder temperature in the process. The physical steps of emplacement, loading, pointing and firing “Atomic Annie” were in themselves a huge safeguard. This complex process prevented an intruder from doing anything unpleasant. Additionally, all gunners were armed and were aware of the process, thereby providing an additional safeguard. For safety there were internal detent mechanisms which were spin activated, a great comfort for the crew, as firing an atomic shell was enough to contemplate by itself. As a side note, Los Alamos also designed and built about fifty 16-inch atomic rounds for battleship use. The US Navy round was the upscale Mark 23 shell, which was based on the US Army’s 280mm shell.

Unfortunately, a stateside incident gave the weapon a bad reputation when, due to a series of blunders, a 600 pound High Explosive (HE) shell was fired into a trailer park in Lawton, OK. This reputation made being a the Safety Officer during battery practice a stressful job. Adding to this reputation were several illustrated articles in the Stars and Stripes newspaper, which depicted the M65 jammed in a village street or other undignified positions, such as being inverted in a field.

You Want Me To Do What?

My assignment to Artillery Branch and to command a 280mm gun platoon came as a complete shock to me, but the rules were that a new Ordnance Regular was required to serve two years in a Combat Branch. However, in my case it was a second Combat Branch since I was a graduate of US Army Armor School at Ft. Knox. No artillery school for me! Instead, my next duty station was at Dachau, just north of Munich. After some preliminaries, I was sent to B Battery, 3rd Gun Battalion, 39th Artillery Regiment—a separate battery some distance from our Headquarters at Nuremberg. Headquarters kept the staff, motor pool and other support, leaving us pretty much on our own, although we did keep a supply of live atomic shells. The 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 37th Artillery Regiment (commanded by LTC Marlin Camp) was the senior unit on post and they took us orphans under their wing.

The battery itself was comprised mostly of draftees and Reservists, but with our atomics, we may have been the most heavily armed separate unit in Europe (Captain Cecil Davis, commanding). We traveled to the Grafenwoehr ranges by road once a year for battery exercises and also several times a year to the Hof Gap (a planned Warsaw Pact approach into West Germany) where we assumed a blocking position behind the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Colonel Siginous commanding. We always had atomic weapons with the battery and moved at 45 mph on the Autobahn,

sometimes with West German air cover. When behind the cavalry screen, we may have been the furthest forward nuclear delivery unit around.

In the field, our tactics were to hide out during daylight, then after nightfall move single platoons forward to a "local hide" on the radio command "Scramble." The command "Tallyho" would send one gun to a pre-surveyed firing point, from which the crew would fire and scoot. As to scooting, you'd be surprised how quickly a motivated bunch of draftees and a worried junior officer can bail out of a firing position at night. Speed was required as the M65 muzzle flash lit up the sky and counter-battery fire would have been quickly expected in combat.

Actually firing the M65 usually involved a raw draftee with a 50 foot lanyard, just for a little troop seasoning. As in all Army units, my NCOs guided and protected me, but for SGT Lindsay and CPL Miracle, I may have been paying for a large cannon for a long time. SGT Lindsay made us look so good that the platoon was chosen as the NATO exhibition team for the 280mm gun. Our main mission was complicated in that if the Warsaw Pact moved, we were assigned to the West German II Corps as their atomic fire support. This would have the effect of keeping our atomic capability under US command while waiting for weapon release, if ever. There were contingency plans to leap frog back to and across the Rhine River in some cases, as well as

actual border patrol with 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Unlike most small units, we had a real moral and professional problem, accentuated by the fact that our Battery in garrison was right next to the Dachau Concentration Camp. Consequently, we were reminded daily of how things could go wrong in central Europe. In essence, the problem was that we had atomic warheads, the ability to assemble and fire them on our own, all without safeguards or official release. This matter became acute when we were on border patrol, only about 20 miles from the fence with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment screen to the front. We were provided no anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) or local security support, so it was lonesome in our squad tents up on the steppe.

Given the potential speed of a Soviet armored spearhead, with a confusing multiplicity of US levels of command, the question arose of just what we were to do if the Soviets were about to overrun our position before weapon release orders arrived? Were we to retreat without orders or go atomic without orders? Stand and die? A faulty local decision could have either escalated a mere border raid into a worldwide nuclear exchange, or the surrender of atomic weapons. Fortunately, the actual situation never arose.

Postscript

As for me, I was in Law School within two years after this experience. While

I later rejoined the Reserves, it was not US Army Reserves. Instead, I retired as a Naval Reservist from Naval Intelligence in 1994. I am still wondering if artillery duty was the high or low point in my military career, but I do suspect I was the senior "Atomic Annie" gunner still in any uniform some 32 years after the fact. Regardless, I do miss that jeep with red lights and a siren that I was issued at Dachau. ★



CAPT Richard H. Miller, USN (Ret) is a member of the Santa Fe, NM, chapter of the MOWW. He is a former Regular Army officer who commanded a 280mm M-65 in the Seventh Army. He is also a graduate of The Citadel (1957) and the University of South Carolina School of Law (1966). He is retired from Naval Intelligence, the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court and the University of California (Los Alamos, NM). He is active in the Baker Street Irregulars.

¹Wikipedia, "M65 Atomic Cannon."

²GlobalSecurity.Org, "M65 Atomic Cannon."

³Yenne, Bill. "Secret Gadgets and Strange Gizmos: High-Tech (and Low-Tech) Innovations of the U.S. Military", MBI Publishing Company, 2006, p. 44. (ISBN-13: 9780760321157)

⁴Ibid, GlobalSecurity.Org.

⁵Op.Cit., Wikipedia.

⁶Op.Cit., GlobalSecurity.Org <http://mil-mod.nl/html/atomcann.html> ("The U.S. Army Modeling Site").

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.



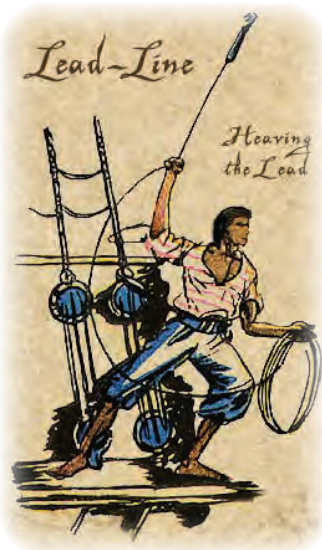
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NOTE: Please include your rank, name, service, mailing address, daytime telephone number, E-mail address and your chapter affiliation with any materials submitted.



A Deep Problem

BY CAPT LEROY REINBURG, JR., USCG (RET)

In February 1970, the ship I commanded, the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Ponchartrain* (WHEC-70),¹ departed from its home port of Long Beach, California, for a ten month deployment to Vietnam. Unlike the majority of previous cutters built before World War II, the 255-foot cutters, launched and commissioned between 1944 and 1946, were constructed as heavily armed warships. Owasco Class cutters carried two twin 5"/38 dual purpose guns as its main battery and a heavy anti-aircraft armament consisting of two quad 40mm/60 cannons and four 20mm/80 cannons. Their anti-submarine armament consisted of 2 depth charge tracks, six "Y" guns and a hedgehog. Their displacement was similar to a Fletcher Class destroyer, but was 122 feet shorter and three feet wider.

We were to join four other High Endurance Cutters which composed *Coast Guard Squadron Three*.² There had been a flurry of activity prior to this, which included three weeks of refresher training at the U.S. Navy Fleet Training Group (San Diego, CA). We were also very busy brining on board a complete inventory of spare parts for all equipment—no small effort!

In addition, there were commissary supplies to bring on board, plus fuel and a wartime allowance of ammunition. All of these activities were time-consuming, and they came amid the personal family arrangements everyone

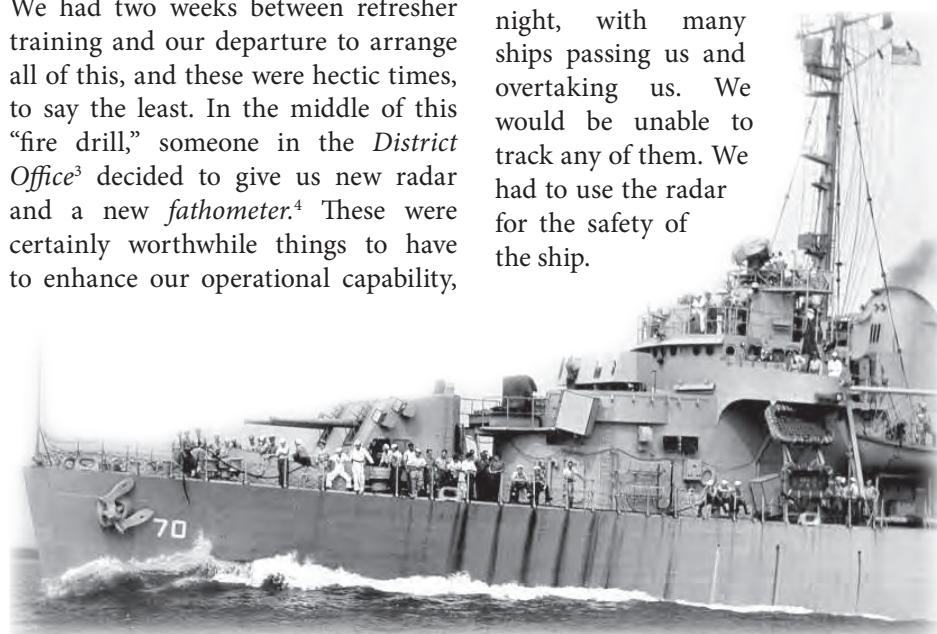
on board had to make to ensure their loved ones had what they needed for our long absence.

My wife Marge had our six children to care for, and although she had endured my long absences when we were in Hawaii, this one was twice that long. I was apprehensive about what problems she might have to face alone. Personnel on board US Coast Guard and US Navy ships now have access to e-mail and ship-to-shore telephone. This was not so in those days. We weren't completely out of touch, but other than by mail, communications with family was difficult to arrange except on an emergency basis.

We had two weeks between refresher training and our departure to arrange all of this, and these were hectic times, to say the least. In the middle of this "fire drill," someone in the *District Office*³ decided to give us new radar and a new *fathometer*.⁴ These were certainly worthwhile things to have to enhance our operational capability,

but for reasons unknown spare parts to keep these new pieces of equipment maintained didn't show up prior to our departure. We were assured that they would be shipped air freight with the highest priority, and we would have them prior to our first combat patrol. Results proved otherwise.

The air conditioning in the radar room failed while we were transiting the Verde Island Passage and the Sibuyan Sea (the route of the Spanish Galleons), at night with heavy ship traffic all around us. The electronics officer wanted permission to shut down the radar, which is very heat sensitive. I gave him a flat "NO!" We were in pilot waters on a dark, clear night, with many ships passing us and overtaking us. We would be unable to track any of them. We had to use the radar for the safety of the ship.



USCG Cutter *Pontchartrain*-First Underway Trial-C. G. Yard, Curtis Bay, Md.-3 August 1945



Coast Guard Squadron Three Insignia



USCGC Pontchartrain Patch

At daybreak, our radar failed and we had no spare parts to fix it. However, the emergency was over for the moment and we arrived at Subic Bay, Philippines, that morning. When we arrived, neither the “priority air freight” (our replacement radar parts) had materialized, nor had our replacement parts for our fathometer. Only then were we advised that our fathometer was so new, we were only one of two ships to have it, and that spare parts were not in the Navy inventory. What a great way to start our combat mission!

The time came to depart for our first combat patrol. I told the Squadron Commander (known irreverently as the “Squad Dog,” after his *signal hoist*),⁵ that the spare parts had not arrived for our radar, and this would seriously degrade our combat capability. He ruminated on this report for a few minutes, and then said, “Well, Christopher Columbus didn’t have radar.” This, then, was my answer, and we left the following morning. It wasn’t until well into our second three week combat patrol off the coast of Vietnam that we received the radar parts and we were back in business again.



Captain Reinburg is a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy (1948), and a graduate of the US Naval Postgraduate School and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He commanded USCGC Pontchartrain

during a deployment to Vietnam. During his career, he served on six different USCG ships, commanding three of them.

We completed our deployment of ten months without ever getting the spare parts for our fathometer, which, predictably failed after our first patrol. We were frequently operating in very shallow water for our gunfire missions, and not having a fathometer was not only irritating, but hampering our operations. To illustrate,

as we came into our first firing position, I asked the *Officer of the Deck (OOD)*⁶ what the depth of the water was. He replied that the fathometer was inoperative. I said: “I know that, but how deep is the water?” He told me that there wasn’t any way to determine it. Technology had come so far that he didn’t even know what a *lead line*⁷ was. I found to my astonishment, that the first lieutenant didn’t know either. What was even more unsettling, the chief boatswain’s mate (the most versatile member of the USCG operational team and a master of seamanship), had over twenty years of service and he did not know what I was talking about!

I broke out my copy of Knight’s *“Modern Seamanship,”*⁸ a standard text that I had used when I was a USCG Academy cadet twenty years before. I showed them all of them what a leadline was, how to mark it, how to arm it (you put soap in a recess in the bottom of the lead weight, and this allows you to tell what the bottom is composed of), how to swing it, and the fact that “chains,” a small platform rigged outside the “eyes of the ship,” i.e., the top deck on the bow of the ship, were needed to allow the leadsman to swing the lead clear of the

ship. A “leadsman” is a sailor who uses a lead line or sounding line to determine water depth.

After much embarrassment on the part of the first lieutenant (the officer-in-command of the Deck Department) and the chief boatswain’s mate, somewhere in the dark reaches of the first lieutenant’s locker (i.e., a storage location for material used by the deck force), a lead line was found. I guess no one knew what it was so they were afraid to throw it away. Leadlines had been used to determine the depth of the water since Columbus’ time or before, but we had become so accustomed to electronic fathometers that we had forgotten all about them! After this, as we approached shoal waters, the OOD gave the order: “Man the chains!” Miraculously, we had a way to determine the water’s depth! ★

¹ USCGC *Pontchartrain* (WHEC-70), an “Owasco” class high endurance cutter (WHEC), was assigned to USCG Squadron Three, Republic of Vietnam, from 31 Mar-9 Nov 70. It was commissioned in 1945 and scrapped in 1974.

² USCG Squadron Three was formed at Pearl Harbor (1967) after the USN asked the USCG to provide WHECs for coastal surveillance. It operated from bases in Da Nang, Cat Lo and An Thoi. Ultimately 30 WHECs were assigned during its existence (Apr 67-Jan 72).

³ The USCG is divided into Atlantic and Pacific Areas, with the Atlantic Area having five districts and the Pacific Area having four.

⁴ Charted ocean floor landmarks (e.g., submarine trenches, canyons, ridges) assist mariners in determining position and in navigation. Echo-sounding equipment identifies such landmarks and is the most common fathometer found on naval vessels.

⁵ Signal flags (“hoists”) are a means to communicate information relating to safety, distress, medical, and operational information, especially when language difficulties arise. Each flag has a unique and complete meaning.

⁶ Officer of the Deck (OOD) is the captain’s direct representative having responsibility for the ship. In port, the OOD is stationed on the quarterdeck. At sea, the OOD is stationed on the bridge and is in charge of navigation and ship safety.

⁷ A “lead line” or “sounding line” is a length of thin rope with a plummet (generally lead) at its end. Sounding lines were used in navigation until echo sounding was developed. Ultrasonic depth sounders provide an accurate graphical profile of seabed depth.

⁸ Knight’s *Modern Seamanship*, 18th Edition (ISBN: 978-0-471-28948-7), is a comprehensive text on skills required by those handling big ships. It addresses navigation, loading, trim, maneuvering in close quarters, rescue operations, oceanography, weather, etc.



Photo above, a lead line. Photo Credit: Mariner’s Log: http://www.vos.noaa.gov/MWL/aug_08/navigation_tools.shtml

Illustration page 8: Heaving the Lead From *The Pirate’s Treasure*, P. F. Volland & Company ©2003 www.clipart.com

HONOR ET FIDELITAS

BY MG LUIS E. GONZÁLEZ VALES, USA (RET)

In the 19th and 20th centuries, our nation has been involved in a series of wars. American servicemen have fought to preserve our freedom and the American way of life. To be born free is an accident, but to remain free and die free is a lifelong pursuit. Freedom should never be taken for granted; freedom must be constantly renewed and preserved. Let us not forget that the freedom we enjoy today was bought at the cost of the sacrifices of many, who stood up to repel aggression and to defend our liberties.

In 1898 the United States fought a war with Spain. At that war's end our nation found itself with a number of far-flung possessions in the Caribbean and in the Pacific. The United States had made its debut among the great powers of the world. The Spanish-American War marked our emergence as a world



power. It was indeed a first step in the road to becoming the most powerful nation in the world. America began its ascendancy and the past century, has become “the American Century” pretty much in the same way that the 19th century was the British’s.

For Puerto Rico, the events of 1898 have enormous significance. The United States’ victory in the war with Spain marked the end of four centuries of relationship between our island and Spain. By virtue of the Treaty of Paris of 10 December 1898, the sovereignty over Puerto Rico was transferred to the United States. One of the implications of this relationship has been the participation of Puerto Rican soldiers in all the wars our Nation has fought since from the First World War to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. In this process the 65th US Infantry regiment, Puerto Rico’s own, played a major role.

If I were to characterize the role played by Puerto Rican Servicemen throughout these years, I could not think of two words that express it better than those words inscribed in the regimental crest that identifies

the 65th Infantry Regiment: *Honor et Fidelitas*. Indeed, honor and fidelity are the hallmarks of that service.

So that we may never forget, let's go back and look at the record and assess what the 65th meant to all Puerto Ricans and how we have met our obligations as citizens of this great nation.

Military history has not been extensively cultivated by those who devote their time and effort to the study of Puerto Rican History. In some of the few instances in which military history has been written, the writings have generally been politically biased. We still lack a well-researched, sound book on the Military History of Puerto Rico from the Spanish times to the present.

As one looks back at the history of Puerto Rican participation in the US Armed Forces, it is necessary to go back to the Spanish-American War to find the first instances of such participation. The Centennial of the War of 1898 has made many of us go back to the literature written contemporary to the events, or in the subsequent decades.

As far as the war in Puerto Rico goes, the classic account still is the book published in 1922 by Captain Ángel Rivero, titled "*Crónica de la Guerra Hispano-Americana en Puerto Rico*." A fairly balanced book, it is based on extensive research in Spanish and American archives and on the personal recollections of its author, a Captain of Artillery in the Spanish forces and commander of the Artillery of Fort San Cristóbal.

One important part of this book is Rivero's campaign diary in which he records his perspective on events of the war. One of its chapters is devoted to the participation of Puerto Rican Scouts, which rendered valuable assistance to Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, AUSA, and the commanders of the four columns organized to conquer the island. A group of these scouts preceded the Schwan Brigade as it swept through the southwestern portion of the island, "from Yauco to Las Marías".

Karl Stephen Hermann, a Bostonian who was an artilleryman in the Schwan Brigade, published a delightful little book titled, "*From Yauco to Las Marías*," in which he describes the role of the scouts as follows:

Our source of information at this and other important times was a small body of native scouts, numbering from 6 to 11 men and commanded by Lugo Viña (Eduardo), a swarthy, wizened little Puerto Rican, who looked like General Gómez and was taciturn as an Indian. He was considered by General Schwan to be a man of great character and force. These scouts were well mounted and accompanied the brigade during its entire march, rendering most important and efficient services.

Once the war ended the United States established a Military Government, which lasted to May 1900. It was during this period that the initial steps were taken to recruit Puerto Ricans into units of the US Army.

Allow me a small digression: between the Navy and the Army, it was the latter one that more actively pursued the integration of Puerto Ricans to its ranks. That relationship was greatly strengthened by the activation of the 65th Infantry Regiment. I would say that there is hardly any family in

Puerto Rico who has not had one of its member's serve, at one time or another in the Army.

On May 20, 1899, Brigadier General George W. Davis issued General Order No. 65 which authorized the establishment of the Puerto Rican battalion, a military organization composed of enlisted Puerto Ricans. The unit, when fully organized would consist of four companies (A, B, C and D), and "will be organized as prescribed for an Infantry Battalion in the Permanent Military establishment." The companies were not to exceed 100 men. The non-commissioned officers were to be appointed as company commanders subject to approval by the commander of the Military Department of Puerto Rico. The lineage of the 65th Infantry Regiment goes back to this first unit. A few years ago we celebrated the centennial of the Regiment.

Major General Guy V. Henry, who preceded General Davis as Military Governor, laid the groundwork for the recruitment of the members of the Battalion in a circular (No. 6) dated March 24, 1899. In it, he ordered the commanders of the various posts on the island to recruit, equip and train twenty five men each, including one Sergeant and two Corporals "as United



General Nelson Miles and other soldiers on horseback, Puerto Rico, July 1898. The United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division under the digital ID cph.3c17207



Troops of 65th Infantry ready for action at maneuvers, Salinas, Puerto Rico. 1941. Photo Credit: Center of Military History

States Soldiers.” They had to meet the physical requirements of a soldier in the US Army and as far as possible “should be able to speak the English language.” The term of enlistment was for two years and they were to receive the same pay and allowances as soldiers in the US Army. The Battalion and companies were to be officered by American officers at least for the present.

Soon the Army took steps to appoint Puerto Rican officers and established procedures to do so in Circular 29 of August 30, 1899. By doing so the way was opened for Puerto Ricans to join the officer ranks. Several made use of this opportunity. The first to command the Puerto Rico Battalion was Major Lorenzo P. Davison and on December 1, 1899 he was replaced by Major Eban Swift.

The battalion’s recruiting success prompted the organization of a mounted battalion, who together formed the Puerto Rico Volunteer Regiment (GO 34, Mil Dept of PR 12 Feb 1900). The units of the new battalion were designated E, F, G and H. A few days later the unit was re-designated “Porto Rico Regiment US Volunteers” (GO 38, 20 Feb-1900). The mounted battalion was assigned to Camp Henry Barracks in Cayey. Three years later Henry Barracks became a permanent post. Its name is closely tied to the 65th Infantry.

The next step in the evolution was the Regiment’s reorganization and re-designation as the Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry, which was comprised of two battalions (one being mounted.) Although reorganization was effected in 1904, the Regiment remained as such until 1908.

Until then the officers were appointed by the President without the advice and consent of the US Senate, thus they were not considered in the Regular Army. In 1904 Congress legislated to reorganize the Regiment and extended its existence for four more years. The act also required that all officers in the rank of Major or above be selected from the Army. All others officers were discharged but the President, with the consent of the Senate, was allowed to reappoint them for a period of 4 years, subject to satisfactory completion of mental, moral and physical examinations.

The Act provided that examinations be given to Puerto Rican civilians. Upon their successful completion, those civilians would be commissioned as second lieutenants for a four year period. Enlistments were restricted to native Puerto Rican citizens. The only one that passed the exams that first time was Jaime Nadal. His brother Blas Nadal, reputed to have been the first Puerto Rican officer of the Regiment, had died on December 1, 1901.

When the examinations were administered once again in January 1905, seven Puerto Ricans passed them and were commissioned second lieutenants (Henry C. Rexach, Pedro J. Parra, Eduardo Iriarte, Teófilo Marxuach, Eugenio C. de Hostos, Luis S. Emmanuelli and Pascual López Antongiorgi). The door was now open for Puerto Ricans wanting to join the Army as career officers.

In 1908, by virtue of an Act of Congress of 27 May, the Regiment was incorporated to the Regular Army under the designation of Puerto Rico Regiment of Infantry USA. Three years later, when general Frederick D. Grant (Commander of the Eastern Department), visited Puerto Rico to inspect the Regiment, he remarked “it was one of the best regiments he had ever seen, there are very few as good and none better in the Department....” A reputation was beginning to emerge.

When the United States entered the First World War, the Puerto Rico Legislature asked Congress to extend application of the Selective Service Act to the Island. This was done by Presidential Proclamation in May, 1917. In response to the call, 236,853 registered and 18,000 men saw service.

Camp Las Casas was organized by LTC Orval P. Townshend, the Regimental commander. By 20 July the Camp had trained and commissioned 706 officers. By Armistice Day the Infantry Brigade of Camp Las Casas had attained a high degree of proficiency and was ready for overseas service.

Meanwhile the Regiment was authorized to go up to war strength on 3 May 1917, and to embark on the “Buford” destined for duty in the Canal Zone in Panamá. While in Panamá the regiment performed a variety of security missions and continued training in preparation for movement to Europe. However the Armistice put an end to the dreams of many. Consequently, the Regiment returned to Puerto Rico and continued its normal duties.

On 4 June 1920 the unit was reorganized once more and was designated as the 65th Infantry Regiment USA. Life in the Regiment, in the period between the two world wars largely followed the pattern of all units in the Regular Army at that time. Athletics, firing matches, marches, support of Civilian Military Training camps (CMTC) and other such activities marked the history of the Regiment. These were years in which a close bond developed between the Regiment and Puerto Rico. Fort Brooke in San Juan, Henry Barracks in Cayey and Fort Buchanan housed the units of the Regiment during this period.

By 1940 the Regiment, like all units of the Army, was raised to war strength. The unit had high standards of discipline and performance. When the United States entered the war after the Imperial Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the 65th and recently activated Regiments of the National Guard (295th and the 296th Infantry) performed duties protecting the island coasts against a possible invasion.

On 7 January 1943 the Regiment was deployed to Panamá, once again, to provide security to the Panamá Canal. While in Panamá the unit underwent intensive training in jungle warfare. Some of its members served as instructors for officers and men of Latin American armies sent to Panamá for training.

On 30 December 1943 the Regiment moved from Panamá to the United States, and continued training for possible deployment to Europe. By March of next year the Regiment was in North Africa. From there the Third Battalion moved to Italy (Corsica) and finally led the Regiment into France, arriving at Marseille in September of 1944. On 13 December 1944 the 3rd Battalion entered combat in the Maritime Alps, where it experienced its first casualties—47 killed and wounded in action.

As part of the US 7th Army, the Regiment served in southern France and by the end of the War had reached



Puerto Rican infantrymen seek cover in an enemy trench captured during Operation Piledriver, 1951. Photo Credit: U.S. Army Signal Corps

Germany, where it remained until its redeployment to Puerto Rico. While the Regiment was in Europe, the Regiment's command was given to COL Salvador T. Roig, its first commander. When the unit returned to Puerto Rico, it received a hero's welcome.

During the Second World War, 65,034 Puerto Ricans served in the various services, experiencing 165 wounded in action and 33 killed in action (12 KIAs in Europe). Of those some 30,000 are still living. In combat, the soldiers of the Regiment earned one Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, 22 Bronze Stars, 90 Purple Hearts, and 1,367 Combat Infantryman's Badges—all of which attests to their performance in combat.

Back on the Island the unit settled down to its normal duties and participated with the Atlantic Fleet in a series of exercises held in 1947, 1948 and 1949. Acting as aggressor forces in Vieques, their defensive positions were so strong that the unit was ordered to pull back so as to let the Marines land and continue the exercise. It was during the Portrex maneuvers that the 65th fought against the US 3rd Division—the same unit it ended up being assigned to during the Korean War.

When war broke out in Korea, in the

summer of 1950, the 65th Infantry was alerted for deployment and became one of the first units to reach the theatre to reinforce the UN Troops in the Peninsula. COL W. W. Harris, who at that time commanded the Regiment, took it to Korea. It was in Korea that the 65th Infantry covered itself with glory and evidenced the true spirit of the Puerto Rican soldier.

The Regiment left the island on 26 August and transited the Panamá Canal where it picked up the 3rd Battalion of the 33rd Infantry—an all Puerto Rican Unit stationed in the Canal Zone. The unit was re-designated 3rd Battalion, 65th Infantry.

The Regiment arrived at Sasebo, Japan, on September 22 and that same night departed for Pusan, Korea, where it disembarked on the 23rd. From there the Regiment moved to a concentration area some 50 miles north of Pusan. On 25 September the regiment was placed under operational control of X Corps, although it was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division. The Regimental combat group was completed with the assignment of the 58th Artillery, an anti-aircraft artillery battery, Company C (18th Engineer Battalion) and the 3rd Air Controller Group. The Regiment was assigned 648 soldiers from the



A light machine-gun team from the 65th Infantry engages Communist troops holding out on a nearby hilltop in Korea. Photo Credit: U.S. Army Signal Corps

Republic of Korea.

The first tactical mission assigned to the unit was to relieve the 2nd Battalion of the 9th Infantry near Hill 409. Second Battalion moved to its position and the 65th suffered its first six casualties on the September 28.

During this period, operations consisted primarily of intensive patrols in the sector of responsibility of the Regiment and frequent encounters with North Korean guerrillas. On 17 October an enemy force of approximately 500 attacked the positions held by Company "E" near Kunpchon. In the ensuing action, the enemy lost 79 killed and the unit captured 85 prisoners, while it lost 11 killed in action and 13 wounded in action.

On November 5 the Regiment was in Wonsan, North Korea, after deploying by sea from Pusan. After taking positions near Yonghung on Nov. 6, the 2nd Battalion suffered an attack early the next day. The enemy withdrew after sustaining heavy losses while the battalion losses were light.

In November 1950 Chinese Communist forces entered South Korea and the war took a new turn. The two most important missions assigned to the Regiment in North Korea involved rescue of the First Marine Division

near the Chosin reservoir and the establishment of a beachhead in Hungnam, through which the rest of the UN Forces in North Korea would be evacuated. Colonel Harris and the Regiment earned the praise of the Commanding General, 3rd Division, and the Commanding General, X Corps, for their actions. General Edward M. Almond the Corps Commander presented COL Harris the Silver Star for bravery. COL Harris accepted the medal in recognition of the valor and heroism displayed by the men of the Regiment. The evacuation was successfully completed on 24 December 1950, and the 2nd Battalion was the last unit to pull out.

After refitting and retraining near Yonghang-ni the 65th moved north once more in the direction of the Han River. The first units to encounter enemy resistance were the 1st and 2nd Battalions when a large communist force attacked the positions held by the Regiment.

On Saint Valentine's Day, 1951, a complete North Korean Regiment attacked the 65th's positions near Kosan-Cong. After a fierce battle that lasted all day, Communist forces withdrew, leaving behind 537 dead and 268 prisoners. The Regiment only lost 1 killed in action and 6 wounded

in action. The Regiment was the first to cross the Han River and continued advancing north destroying the enemy positions. On 25 March General Douglas MacArthur visited the 65th in the western front.

In a letter written to Mr. Eugene Wright of the "Puerto Rico News," General MacArthur said this about the performance of the 65th and of Puerto Rican soldiers:

The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefield of Korea by valor, determination and resolute will to victory give daily testament to their invincible loyalty to the United States and the fervor of their devotion to those immutable standards of human relations to which the Americans and Puerto Ricans are in common dedicated. They are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have many more like them.

I know of no finer tribute that could be made to recognize the outstanding contributions made by the 65th Infantry and its fine soldiers to the success of the nation's efforts in Korea. Puerto Ricans paid their toll in blood as 756 men were killed in action. Proportionate to the Puerto Rican population, this was one of the highest per capita losses of any state in the Union. Before the war ended 61,000 had served. One needs only to walk into Fort Buchanan to see a group of proud veterans wearing caps inscribed Korea and showing the replicas of the service ribbons earned in battle. When the colors of the 1st Battalion are carried in a parade, nine battle streamers are silent reminders of the 65th's exploits on Korean battlefields.

One more incident bears remembrance. At 0400 hours of 13 August 1952, the then commander of the 65th Infantry in Korea, the late General Juan Cesar Cordero, raised the Puerto Rican flag on top of Hill 346. The Regimental band played "La Borinqueña" and a jubilant group of soldiers felt the pride of seeing the Puerto Rican flag flying

The Military Order of the World Wars



Army Sgt. Leslie Acevedo, a member of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard deployed in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, stands guard outside his humvee during a training exercise in Camp America, Nov. 20, 2008. Photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson)

besides that of our nation. That historic flag was presented to the Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico on 25 October 1952 for display at the University Museum.

On November 19, 1954 the colors of the 65th Infantry Regiment came back home once more. In an impressive ceremony, the colors were received by Governor Luis Muñoz Marín, and military and civilian authorities. They were then presented to the unit that up to that moment was known as the 296th Regimental Combat Team.

Two years later, on April 10, 1956, the 65th Infantry Regiment was disbanded, ending momentarily more than half a century of being Puerto Rico's own. Two years later, once again the flags were unfurled and, the colors so dear to us Puerto Ricans, felt the tropical breezes of our island. From then on, the Regiment became a unit of the Puerto Rico National Guard where its traditions live on.

Little more than a decade after Korea, the United States was involved in the Vietnam War. Once more Puerto Rican soldiers answered the call to duty. Before the war ended 48,000 men were in uniform serving in all types of units. Now they did not form a distinct unit

but the fighting spirit of the 65th was still in them.

Of those who served in Korea, 33,000 are still alive. Once more Puerto Rican blood was spilled defending the democratic ideals and the liberties we hold dear. By the end of the Vietnam war, 332 soldiers had made the ultimate sacrifice.

During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, five Puerto Rican men earned the Medal of Honor posthumously. In Korea, PFC Fernando L. Garcia (USMC), Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced) earned the Medal on 5 September 1952. In the Vietnam War, four Puerto Rican soldiers earned the Medal posthumously. They are: PFC Carlos James Lozada, (USA), Company A, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (20 November 1967); CPT Euripides Rubio (USA), HHC, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division (8 November 1966); SPC-4 Hector Santiago-Colon (USA), Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) (28 June 1968), and; CPT Humbert Roque Versace (USA) Intelligence Advisor, Special Operations (26 September 1965).

In this age of the All-Volunteer Department of Defense, many Puerto Ricans still serve in the Active, National Guard and Reserve Components. When the United States came to the rescue of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf War, units of the Army Reserve and the National Guard from Puerto Rico were activated and sent to the Gulf where they formed part of the forces commanded by GEN Norman Schwarzkopf, USA (Ret). Approximately 4,300 soldiers served and one was killed in action. As part of the War on the Terrorism now being fought in Afghanistan and Iraq, several Puerto Rican units from the National Guard and the Reserve—including the 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry—were activated and deployed to various parts of the world. Puerto Rican troops were part of the largest mobilization since World War II.

Since September 11, 2001, the 92nd Infantry Brigade (separate) and its subordinate units have been involved in the "Global War on Terror," supporting OPERATIONS Guardian Marine, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In addition, many Puerto Ricans have served in all the military services, the Reserves or in National Guard units deployed in the combat zone.

Honor et Fidelitas is the motto of the 65th Infantry Regiment. These words describe better than anything I could say about the spirit of the 65th and the commitment of all Puerto Rican soldiers. Through their deeds, Puerto Ricans have earned the right to stand up and be counted among the countless numbers of American veterans who earned and preserved for us the liberties we enjoy.

However, the work to protect and preserve freedom is never done. That is why Puerto Ricans constitute the largest Hispanic group in the service of our great country. Today, as was the case over one hundred years ago, Puerto Rico can proudly call out, "Present and ready to serve," when the rolls are called! ★



Dr. González Vale, a military historian, served as Adjutant General of the Puerto Rico National Guard and as a professor at the University of Puerto Rico, where he also held administrative posts in

the 1990s. As Adjutant General, Dr. González Vale bid farewell to His Holiness John Paul II as the pontiff departed PRANG Muñiz Base, Puerto Rico on October 12, 1984. Along with Cardinal Luis Aponte Martínez, he was the keynote speaker at a State Department of Puerto Rico exhibition in March-April 2009 of memorabilia of the Pope's visit to Puerto Rico. He hosted a major international convention of historians in April, 2008 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Airman Awarded Medal of Honor Four Decades Later

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Chief Master Sergeant Richard Etchberger was posthumously inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes in a ceremony September 22, following presentation of the Medal of Honor during a White House ceremony the day before.

"Today, we bring honor to Chief Etchberger's memory and our nation's highest tribute to his service," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, who presided over the induction ceremony. "His name will join 17 other U.S. Air Force Airmen who have received the Medal of Honor, 13 for action during the war in Vietnam. His story will join theirs in an unbroken line of service, of courage, and valor."

Chief Etchberger was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions he took to hold off enemy forces and save three of his Airmen during a battle that ended his life March 11, 1968. The battle took place when North Vietnamese Army special forces overran the then-highly classified Lima Site 85, in Laos,

following heavy artillery bombardment of the site.

"From a jungle perch only 12 miles from North Vietnam, a team of 40 Airmen controlled hundreds of airstrikes into North Vietnam and northern Laos during the 1968 Rolling Thunder campaign," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy. "For his heroic actions, Chief Etchberger was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross, although the details of his mission were kept secret for decades because the United States officially denied any offensive presence in Laos."

Following the 1986 declassification of the mission and acknowledgement of U.S. activity in Laos, the process to upgrade Chief Etchberger's Air Force Cross to the Medal of Honor began.

His decoration marks an additional milestone for the Air Force. Including the Army Air Corps and Army Air Force, the Air Force's predecessors, 159 Airmen have received the Medal of



President Obama presents CMSgt Etchberger's Medal of Honor to sons Steven, Cory and Richard. Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

Honor, only six of whom were enlisted.

"Since Congress created the E-8 and E-9 pay grades in 1958, no other E-9, in any of our other military services, has been awarded the Medal of Honor," Chief Roy explained. "Chief Etchberger is the first." Because Chief Etchberger's mission was classified, it took 42 years for this historic milestone to take place....

Cory Etchberger, the chief's youngest son, accepted a plaque and Medal of Honor flag on behalf of the family. After the presentations, Mr. Etchberger, who was nine years old when his father

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Chief Master Sergeant Richard Etchberger

was killed, shared a number of comments from those who had served with his father....

"My father...had a strong sense of duty and motivating burden of responsibility, and I truly believe that his biggest fear was failing the men he served with," Mr. Etchberger said.

Secretary Donley said the heroic, selfless actions of a model Airman on a Laotian hilltop will never be forgotten. "Already part of our Air Force family, already a part of our Air Force history, Dick Etchberger's name is now enshrined in our Hall of Heroes, creating a deep and unbreakable bond not just with our history, but with our heritage," the secretary said...."



CMSGT RICHARD L. ETCHBERGER'S MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on March 11, 1968, in the country of Laos, while assigned as Ground Radar Superintendent, Detachment 1, 1043d Radar Evaluation Squadron. On that date, Chief Etchberger and his team of technicians were manning a top secret defensive position at Lima Site 85 when the base was overrun by an enemy ground force.

Receiving sustained and withering heavy artillery attacks directly upon his unit's position, Chief Etchberger's entire crew lay dead or severely wounded. Despite having received little or no combat training, Chief Etchberger single-handedly held off the enemy with an M-16, while simultaneously directing air strikes into the area and calling for air rescue. Because of his fierce defense and heroic and selfless actions, he was able to deny the enemy access to his position and save the lives of his remaining crew.

With the arrival of the rescue aircraft, Chief Etchberger, without hesitation, repeatedly and deliberately risked his own life, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire in order to place three surviving wounded comrades into rescue slings hanging from the hovering helicopter waiting to airlift them to safety. With his remaining crew safely aboard, Chief Etchberger finally climbed into an evacuation sling himself, only to be fatally wounded by enemy ground fire as he was being raised into the aircraft.

Chief Etchberger's bravery and determination in the face of persistent enemy fire and overwhelming odds are in keeping with the highest standards of performance and traditions of military service. Chief Etchberger's gallantry, self-sacrifice, and profound concern for his fellow men at risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



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MOWW was founded based on ideals expressed by General of the Armies John J. Pershing, AUS (Ret), and was financed through the generous gifts of Vice Admiral George C. Dyer, USN (Ret), and others. As was the case with your predecessors, your legacy giving will help continue the great MOWW traditions and programs for Companions who follow you.

The MOWW Treasurer General is leading the effort to develop a "MOWW Charitable Giving Guide" (available 1 January 2011). This "how to" guide to charitable giving will be user-friendly and available on the MOWW Website (can be down-loaded).

Let us know when you have added the Order to your estate planning documents so you can be recognized in "Officer Review®"

If These Stones Could Talk

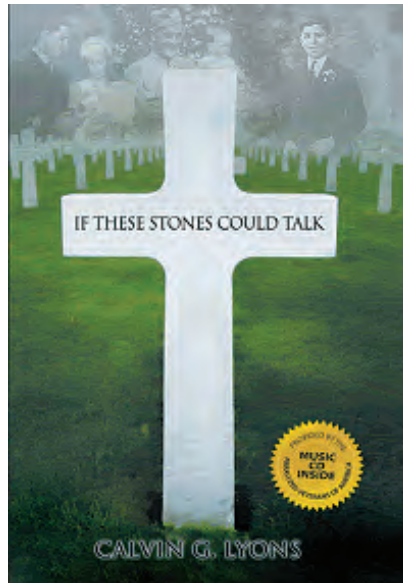
COL Calvin G. (Jerry) Lyons has recently published a book titled *"If These Stones Could Talk."*

COL Lyons was moved to write the book after visiting the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France. While there, he saw a WWII veteran emerging from the chapel in tears, probably remembering his friends who had died on the beaches or in the hedgerows of Normandy.

The book contains over 35 vignettes about World War II veterans, most of whom are buried in overseas cemeteries in eight foreign countries and Hawaii, or are listed as Missing in Action or Buried at Sea.

The book, which took over six years to research, write and publish, vividly portrays the manner in which those men were killed. It tells of the families who lost their husbands, sons and fathers, and considers what the men might have become. The book also has a chapter which describes the manner in which battlefield casualties were recovered, buried in temporary cemeteries, and eventually interred in permanent cemeteries in accordance with the expressed wishes of their families. Other chapters describe each of the overseas World War II cemeteries, tell about the missions of the American Battle Monuments Commission and the American World War II Orphans Network. An appendix describes the overseas World War I cemeteries.

The book also contains a free CD of patriotic music provided by the Paralyzed American Veterans organization. Former military leaders such as Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., USMC (Retired), ADM Stanley R. Arthur, USN (Retired), and Lt Gen Claudius E. Watts III, USAF (Retired), have recommended the book for readers interested in learning more about the "Greatest Generation." ★



More information is available at www.ifthesestonescouldtalk.com.
The book can be ordered from amazon.com or by e-mail at cglyons34@tds.net

"Counter to the book's title, Colonel Lyons has given voices to the headstones of those heroes and ordinary soldiers about whom he writes. The lives they might have had will never be known to us, but who they were and what they did comes alive through the author's tireless research and moving accounts. To generations of Americans increasingly distant from the sacrifices and contributions of those who saved the world in the decade of 1940, *If These Stones Could Talk* should be required reading."

~Gen Carl E. Mundy Jr., USMC (Retired) was the 30th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1991 to 1995. He also served as President and CEO of the USO following his retirement from the United States Marine Corps.



Meet the Author



COL CALVIN G. LYONS

Calvin G. (Jerry) Lyons was born in Oak Hill, Ohio. He attended public schools in Jackson, Ohio, graduated from Ohio University in 1956, and received an MBA degree from the University of Alabama in 1968. He served on active duty in the Army for over 26 years with assignments in Germany, Korea, Vietnam, and Saudi Arabia. He also served a 4-year tour on the Army Staff.

He graduated from a number of service schools, including the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. After retirement from the Army in 1981, he served over 15 years as Vice President for Finance and Business Administration at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, followed by two-years as Secretary to The Citadel Board of Visitors.

Jerry has been married to the former Helen Beckley, also from Jackson, Ohio, for over 52 years. They have two children and four grandchildren. After retiring from The Citadel in 1999, he and Helen moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where they still live in the community of Halls Crossroads. He is a member of the United Methodist Church as well as numerous organizations related to the military.

COL Calvin Lyons is an MOWW perpetual member, a retired Army Colonel, a 26-year veteran of active duty, and a Vietnam Veteran (1968-1969).

Technical Intelligence In “Low-Tech” War

By Lt Col Bruce M. Bailey, USAF (Ret)

Intelligence requirements dictate the type and technical capabilities of our reconnaissance equipment. The US Air Force was constantly modifying its aircraft to keep pace with developments in enemy systems and tactics. Quite often we would be tasked to satisfy a requirement beyond our capabilities. We would modify, borrow or combine systems in an effort to get by until new equipment could be designed and produced.

We got involved in a war between Chad and Libya¹ to some extent and did an Electronic Order of Battle (EOB), which was released to various users. The Libyan government got it somehow, but discarded it as useless.

The Libyans were not interested in radar, fire control, etc. They did not put much weight on number of troops or deployments either. The main piece of intelligence they wanted was how many Toyota pickups the Chad military was operating. We had no equipment that could detect and identify Toyotas.

The Libyans pressed their attacks with Russian T-54 tanks, a potent weapon, expecting to destroy the Chad military with them. Chad forces countered with



Libyan T-54 Tank
<http://www.fas.org>

Toyotas. Chad forces mounted rocket launchers in the pick-up beds and went hunting for tanks.

A Toyota truck could run circles around the T-54—much faster than the tank could turn its turret. The truck would run around the tank until the gun was pointed in the opposite direction. Then the truck would stop and fire a rocket into the tank, destroying it. Chad forces disabled many Libyan tanks with that tactic, and when the Chad military's rocket-equipped Toyotas worked in pairs, they never failed to destroy Libyan tanks. ★

¹The war began with the Libyan occupation of northern Chad in 1983, when Libya's leader Muammar al-Gaddafi, refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the Chadian President Hissène Habré, militarily supported the attempt by the opposition Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) to overthrow Habré.

The plan was foiled by the intervention of France that, first with Operation Manta and later with Operation Epervier, limited Libyan expansion to north of the 16th parallel, in the most desertic and sparsely inhabited part of Chad.

The Toyota War is the name commonly given to the last phase of the Chadian-Libyan conflict, which took place in 1987 in Northern Chad and on the Libyan-Chadian border.

The 1987 war resulted in a heavy defeat for Libya, which, according to American sources, lost one tenth of its army, with 7,500 troops killed and 1.5 billion dollars worth of military equipment destroyed or captured. Chadian losses were 1,000 troops killed.

Source: Wikipedia



Lt Col Bailey was an Air Force Electronic Officer (EWO). After receiving his wings and completing Electronic Warfare School, the young lieutenant learned of a weird outfit flying secretive missions in strange-looking aircraft. It was a perfect match. He was assigned to the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing and the next 20 years was involved in what is commonly referred to as “Spy Flights.” Wherever his group went, they were isolated from all others and were referred to as “Brand X.”

As Strategic Reconnaissance crews, we were accustomed to being tasked to determine the most intricate, technical details of various weapons systems.

We would dream up real science fiction devices to satisfy those requirements.

Then we got a good taste of “Low-tech” warfare when Libya and Chad went to war.



Toyota pickup loaded with Chad warriors, equipped with a rocket launcher in the bed.



EVER TO MAINTAIN LAW & ORDER

By Colonel Roy E. Gray, USAMC (Ret)

If someone walked up to you and asked, “Just exactly what does the Military Order of the World Wars do and what does it stand for,” how would you reply?

Every Companion of MOWW should know what we do, what we stand for, and what he or she does personally to make their chapter ever more successful. However, articulating what MOWW is and what it stands for may not come so easy at a moment’s notice. For this reason, I always carry copies of Military Order of the World War “Preamble” in my briefcase to present to interested individuals.

Our Preamble is the single document that lays out the answer to this type of question. The fact that our Preamble outlines what our organization is and stands for is why we read it before every meeting. To listen to it being read by a powerful reader surely makes a Companion’s heart pump a little harder.

The Preamble contains the “tenets” or purpose for our Order’s existence. It defines in simple

terms what everyone—from national officers to the individual Companions at the chapter level—is supposed to be doing to support the MOWW mission. This includes law and order.

Our MOWW Policy Handbook was developed around the contents of our Preamble. From the Preamble, as promulgated by our Order’s Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Handbook, comes the requirement for our 120 chapters to establish committees or work groups in support of Preamble tenets. These numerous Committees are listed in the MOWW Policy Handbook’s appendices. Some chapters take on all committees or those that they think they can master. Unfortunately, many chapters choose few or none.

The favorite tenet supported by MOWW chapters usually is “To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation.” Most chapters support this tenet vigorously and do extremely well. There are other favorites too. I won’t begin to argue which tenet is the most important.

However, today I’d like to discuss one tenet or a piece of a tenet where we can do much better: “[Ever to maintain law and order] and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States.” Key to this is recognizing excellence in law and order, i.e., all 120 MOWW chapters nominating individuals and organizations for chapter Law & Order Awards.

The Military Order of the World Wars’ 2010 Law Enforcement

Committee had only four submissions for the Chapter Law and Order Awards. This is out of the 120 chapters in our nationwide Order. Awards were presented to the submitting chapters with little or no competition.

In 2010, out of 120 chapters there were only six submissions for the National Law Enforcement Distinguished Service Award and only ten submissions for the Outstanding Performance Award. Most of the submissions for the individual officer awards were from chapters that submitted packages for the chapter awards. We must do better in recognizing those that represent the “first responders,” and the maintainers of local law and order.

As the Chairman, National Law and Order Committee, for the next two years, I know we can do better. We must. Creating a solid Law & Order Program in your chapter is easy if everyone follows some basic guidance. Law and Order Project Guidance are found in the MOWW Handbook, Appendix K. In addition, here are some helpful hints that can also help make your law and order efforts even more successful:

1. *Establish a Law Enforcement Committee with a chairman and members.*
2. *Establish a list of goals in support of law and order.*
3. *Establish a Law & Order Awards Committee.*
4. *Provide local and national Award Program for law and order officers and agencies.*
5. *Offer services to local law enforcement when or where applicable.*
6. *Attend law enforcement memorial services (and wear your Order and military medals, neck ribbon and MOWW cap, as appropriate).*



El Paso Chapter Commander Major Ralph Mitchell presents Officer Ricardo Yanez with the National Law & Order Award at the September 2010 Chapter Meeting.

7. Include law enforcement at your chapter's "Massing of the Colors."

8. Invite law enforcement officers to speak at MOWW functions.

9. Document all interaction with law enforcement with photographs, letters or newspaper articles. Provide that material to the MOWW Chief of Staff so he can publish what you're doing in the Officer Review.®

10. Review local news articles and news shows for heroism or humanitarian support by law enforcement officers for local or national award submissions.

11. Join or attend local civilian advisory groups, if offered by law enforcement agencies.

12. Participate where possible with city/county emergency Operations Centers, Community Response Teams, etc.

This list is not all inclusive. I encourage you to develop what works for your chapter, but then I also ask you to share



The El Paso County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presents colors at the 2010 National Convention in El Paso.

your techniques and successes with me so I can share them with other chapters.

If you need help in establishing a Law & Order Program in your chapter, I am

available to help.

Please call or email me at 915-842-0737 or roygr0619@aol.com.

The key is to get involved with your local law enforcement agencies. Your support can make a difference! Plus... you will get some great recognition for MOWW in your community by supporting the first responders that maintain law and order. And please, don't forget your local fire departments. Let's get better in supporting the tenet of "Maintaining Law and Order." Make it happen! ★



Colonel Roy Gray served in the United States Marine Corps for 33 years. Roy retired with his wife Peg to El Paso, TX in 2001. He has served as a Junior Vice, a

Senior Vice, and a Chapter Commander for two years. Recently Colonel Gray was elected as a General Staff Officer (GSO) while being assigned to Region XI.



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SCHEDULE (2010-2011)

DATE

EVENT/LOCATION

- October 22-24, 2010 Region XIII Arizona Department
- October 27-30, 2010 MG Wheeler Chapter (YLC); Huntsville AL
- November 10-12, 2010 Veterans Day; Arlington, VA
- November 14-17, 2010 Charleston SC area
- November 16, 2010 GEN Westmoreland Chapter Luncheon; Charleston, SC
- November 17-19, 2010 Sun City Center Chapter Military Ball, FL
- December 8-10, 2010 Maj Gen Wade Chapter Luncheon, Washington, DC
- December 10-12, 2010 Gen George Meade Chapter Dinner, Maryland

- December 21, 2010 Santa Fe Chapter (Informal) Dinner, NM
- January 14-16, 2011 CPT Dillworth Chapter Formal Dinner, TX
- January 21-23, 2011 Apache Trail Chapter Luncheon, AZ
- January 27-30, 2011 MOWW EX COM Meeting; Dallas, TX
- February 11-13, 2011 California (South) Department San Diego, CA
- February 13-14, 2011 San Diego Chapter Luncheon, CA
- March 22-24, 2011 Fort Snelling Chapter Luncheon, MN
- April 1- 3, 2011 Region VII Meeting Little Rock, AR
- May 20-22, 2011 Region VIII Meeting Plano, TX
- June 1- 3, 2011 Philadelphia Chapter (Speaker/ Officer Installation), PA
- June 24-26, 2011 Red, White, Blue Ball Simi Valley, CA



SUPPORTING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A.

By Joy Ozier (HPM)

What Are You Doing?

Our Order has been working successfully to expand our relationship with the Boy Scouts of America—from the national to the local level. This includes presenting the MOWW “Certificate of Recognition” in ever increasing numbers to Eagle Scouts, either at their Eagle Court of Honor or during special programs held by their local councils.

The Girl Scout’s “Gold Award,” equivalent to the Boy Scout’s Eagle Scout Award, is equally demanding to earn. However, Girl Scouts earning Gold Awards often do not receive comparable MOWW recognition.

As an Order, we need to better support the Girl Scouts of the USA. As we do for the Boy Scouts of America, we need to routinely recognize the Girl Scout’s hard work, citizenship and patriotism. At the Region level, but especially at the Chapter level, we must actively reach out to local Girl Scout Councils and work to establish a relationship comparable to the one we have with the Boy Scouts.

Chapter Scouting Coordinators, this is where you come in.



Joy Ozier is a Hereditary Perpetual Member (HPM). She is the MOWW Girl Scouts of the USA Representative (MOWW National

Scouting Committee.) She is also the Historian of the Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, and the Chaplain for the Department of Arizona.

Generally, the Girl Scout Gold Award is not presented at an individual Court of Honor. Instead, it is often presented at a Region or Council Gold Award Banquet. Each Chapter must contact their local Girl Scout Council and seek the opportunity to present the MOWW’s Girl Scout “Certificate of Recognition” to those Girl Scouts who earned the prestigious Gold Award.

“The Military Order of the World Wars will endeavor to establish, strengthen and expand its relationship with the Girl Scouts of the USA, and support mutually beneficial programs....”

MOWW-GSA
“Resolution of Cooperation”

Let’s Build Bridges!

Now is your chance to build those bridges. In addition to the Gold Award presentations, at least one Chapter is working with their local Girl Scout Council to provide mentors to assist Girl Scouts whose Gold Award projects involve some type of activity involving our military veterans.

Another Chapter participates by manning an information table during the local Girl Scout

Council’s annual Kick-off and Program Exposition. Companions distribute information on the Order’s involvement with the Girl Scouts, as well as provide invitations to the Chapter’s annual Massing of the Colors Program. These kinds of activities represent the very things we need to do more of as an Order.

In the near future, MOWW’s National Scouting Committee will establish a MOWW Scouting Report. Chapters will submit this report through their respective Regions, and will outline their chapter’s involvement with the Boy and Girl Scouts. (This report’s suspense date will be adjusted based on the 2011 Convention being held from 18-24 July 2011.) The information in this report will be invaluable to our Order further enhancing its partnerships with the Girl and Boy Scouts.

If you have any questions regarding the Girl Scouts, please contact me at: rjozier@msn.com. ★





New Troops

By Capt John M. Hayes,
USAF (Former)

My last article in the *Officer Review*® (Oct 2010) provided you basics about “selling” our Order. I hope it gave you some ideas you are now implementing in your chapters to recruit and retain members. I also hope it also sparked your desire to become a leader in this vital area.

Communicate

Several Chapters have been successful with their websites. A website can give the prospective member a great deal of information about the chapter, including its history, activities, leadership, meeting information, accomplishments, goals, etc. It can also be a key tool in your recruiting efforts.

Renew The Order

Another key focus area is recruiting younger members. A “younger member” is someone 50 years of age or less. Prospective younger members mention several concerns. Individuals in this age group are generally still employed and have families. This makes it difficult for them to attend certain chapter activities and meetings. Chapters need to consider ways to include these Companions (and their families) in activities. Sometimes this requires us to “think outside the box.”

Some Chapters have evening meetings/dinners, especially during the holidays. They also schedule weekend activities. These can be planned and conducted by the younger members. This gives

us the opportunity to include family members.

Two other groups of potential members are ROTC cadets and newly-commissioned officers. If your Chapter is near a college ROTC unit, consider becoming a liaison/mentor to that unit. Work with the ROTC instructors (the instructor officers will be perfect candidates for MOWW membership) and the coordinators for the unit’s national ROTC honorary society. *[Editor’s Note: See VCINC LTC Engen’s article on ROTC support in this issue.]*



The National Society of Scabbard and Blade, the National Society of Pershing Rifles, and the Arnold Air Society all have Resolutions of Affiliation with MOWW. Chapter members can be speakers and mentors to the ROTC cadets, and we can conduct joint activities. We need to inform the cadets what MOWW represents and what it does. We need to “sell” the Order and instill in them that desire to be part of our Order after they are commissioned even as they move to their many duty stations.

Sponsor Members

Consider the MOWW Membership Scholarship program which Past CINC COL Jim Elmer initiated. COL Elmer recommends the senior ROTC instructor select those newly-commissioned officers who are to receive the MOWW

Membership Scholarships, and a chapter Companion presents the memberships at a special ceremony. This makes the memberships a memorable award for the new officers. The ideal membership, though, is a Perpetual Membership (PM). Every new annual member should be encouraged to become a PM. This would mitigate challenges resulting from dropped memberships, e.g., we have one chapter that pays a portion of the new Companion’s Perpetual dues, and the member pays the chapter back on a schedule. Clever.

Try Old & New Things

Don’t be afraid to try new ideas and adopt changes. Search for ways to publicize the Order in the media, community, etc. One chapter created an MOWW Chapter T-shirt. When you wear MOWW shirts, nametags, hats, lapel pins, ties, etc. you will be asked about the Order. Another Companion mentioned attendance at our luncheons/dinners. Achieve good attendance by offering a great program or speaker, because there is nothing more negative to prospective members than to be in a nearly empty meeting, in one that conducts no business or where Companions do not recognize visitors.

Remember, renewing our Order can be done. It will be challenging, but it also can be enjoyable. It is one of the most vital things you can do for MOWW. ★



Capt John M. Hayes is a Vice Commander-in-Chief, and the Chairman, Membership Committee. He flew for Braniff and US Airways, retiring as a Captain with over 24,000 flying hours. While in the US Air Force, he was a C-141 “Starlifter” aircraft commander. He was also an EC-47 “Skytrain” instructor pilot at Danang AB, Republic of Vietnam, where he flew 166 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.



SUPPORTING ROTC—BUILDING THE OFFICER CORPS

By VCINC LTC Gary O. Engen, USA (Ret)

Supporting Senior and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs is a great way for chapters to be more involved with tenets of MOWW's Preamble.

What is the health of your chapter's ROTC support? Do you have a viable ROTC Committee? What follows below are just few of many suggestions chapters can adopt to improve their support of ROTC programs, enhance MOWW's image in local communities and bring new members into chapters.



First, every Sep-Oct your chapter ROTC Committee should review the *MOWW Policy Handbook* (e.g., Appendix C) and the ROTC Guide (see the MOWW website: www.militaryorder.net). The chapter ROTC budget should be prepared early during the year to insure funds are available for annual awards, etc.

The chapter should assign Companion liaisons to one or more ROTC/JROTC units to establish a familiar face with the school and ROTC cadre. These chapter liaisons should call the ROTC instructors they support and determine what the chapter can do to assist ROTC units through the year.

In addition to presenting ROTC awards, chapters should consider assigning Companion "volunteers" to assist with other activities such as hosting annual ROTC lunches/banquets, speaking at local schools, hosting drill meets/rifle matches,

assisting at JROTC Summer Camps, providing Cash/Savings Bond Awards, or assisting with scholarships for deserving Senior ROTC cadets.

In Jan-Feb, chapter liaisons should send emails or letters to each senior JROTC/ROTC instructor offering support and requesting information about their annual awards ceremony. This will help the chapter determine how many additional ROTC medals must be ordered from HQ MOWW. The unit liaison could ask ROTC instructors to identify cadets to attend chapter-supported Youth Leadership Conferences.

From Mar-May the chapter ROTC Committee should establish an award ceremony schedule, including photo coverage, presenters and award preparation. The chapter should also start preparing its ROTC Report, which must be signed and mailed by 15 June. (This report will be discussed in a future *Officer Review*® article.)

How does a chapter identify the ROTC units within their reach? Chapters should search the individual military service's ROTC/JROTC website where unit locations are listed by state. These website addresses are listed at Annex C (ROTC) of the *MOWW Policy Handbook*.

Probably the easiest way is identify ROTC unit locations is to simply do a "Google" search from your computer. For example, to find Air Force JROTC locations in your state, Google "Air Force JROTC." You will find a link to their programs and an

interactive USA map where you can click on any state (or overseas area) of interest. By doing this your chapter may be able to support ROTC units not supported by an MOWW chapter.

Many chapters are already doing most of what I have mentioned, or they provide comparable support to ROTC. On the other hand, perhaps this discussion will stimulate some additional action to enhance your chapter's involvement in developing the United States' officer corps through ROTC Program support. ★

To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag

To promote and further patriotic education

To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science

EXTRACT FROM:

THE PREAMBLE
The Military Order of the World Wars



LTC Gary O. Engen is a Vice Commander-in-Chief and Chairman of the ROTC/JROTC Committee. He taught ROTC at Ol' Miss in his last Army assignment

and was a JROTC instructor after retiring. As a 28-year artilleryman, he served in assignments ranging from Battery XO supporting the 1st Division (Republic of Vietnam) to Headquarters Commandant, United States Transportation Command. He is a Master Parachutist (132 jumps) and earned the US Ranger Tab.

Library of Congress Veterans History Project—A Project for MOWW Chapters

BY LT COL GORDON BASSETT, USAF (RET.)

When recruiting members we too often hear the comment, “I was not involved in a world war and cannot belong to your organization.” We then find ourselves explaining who we are.

I explain to potential members that our WWI founders’ ideal was to perpetuate the values for which they had fought. The Preamble to our Order’s Constitution reflects these values. Further, I explain, our Preamble states, amongst other principles, that we are “To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity” and “To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars”—*thus our Order’s name, which personifies these principles*. In addition, our Order acquires and preserves records of individual service. War service is not a prerequisite for membership.

These MOWW tenets mentioned above fit “hand in glove” with the objectives of The Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP). The goal of the VHP is to cherish the veterans’ memories, preserve their oral records and commemorate their service in our country’s wars. MOWW should adopt this project and participate in it. I propose that MOWW resolve to support the VHP.

In October 2000, the US Congress voted unanimously to create the VHP at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Its purpose is to honor American war veterans by preserving stories of their services to our country. The Library depends on people such as us to record and submit first-person narratives by wartime veterans.

The Sun City Center Chapter adopted this project. Since February 2010, this author, CWO4 Richard Wallace (USA, Ret) and Dr. Ken Barringer (a non-member, retired clinical psychologist and



Companions of the Sun City Center, Florida, Chapter participated in the Veterans History Project.

Navy WWII veteran) and videographer Bob Swing have been conducting interviews. To date we have recorded 14 wartime veterans. Most of them are WWII veterans. I state at the beginning of each veteran’s video that this is a project sponsored by the local MOWW Chapter. Thus, this preliminary MOWW statement and the veteran’s story are recorded for perpetuity.

This history project in itself is very gratifying and certainly a worthy cause. It has served as an enormously successful publicity tool and gained favorable press coverage throughout the area for our Chapter. Because of the Chapter’s involvement with the VHP, other groups have requested that I speak to them about it.

Our Sun City Center Chapter believes that well publicized, worthy causes are an attractive avenue to increase membership. It certainly works for us. Today we find that we do not need to explain who we are. We are now identified as the “premier veteran’s organization in the community” largely because of our Information and Publicity Program and

adopting worthy causes like the Veterans History Project. We make an effort to tell the community what we do. Other Chapters should adopt this publicity-to-membership approach and this project as well. Remember, our WWII veterans are dying 1,000 per day. It is predicted they will all be gone by 2020.

For additional information, contact Donna Borden at the Library of Congress at 202 707-4916. Tell her you are from MOWW, she will know who you are. ★



Lt Col Loyal G. “Gordon” Bassett, USAF (Retired) was a command pilot and served in the Republic of Vietnam from 1968-1969. Following his combat tour, he

was assigned to the USAF Strategic Air Command (SAC), piloting the Boeing KC-135 “Stratotanker” and the General Dynamics FB-111 “Aardvark.” Lt Col Bassett is currently the Commander, Region VI, and a General Staff Officer (GSO) at large.

Chapter Updates

FORT WORTH (213), TEXAS

Operation Calling Card/Thank a Soldier

BY BG NATHAN VAIL, USA (RET.)

The “Thank a Soldier” program began in 2006 with an objective of providing a telephone calling card with one hour of talk time for each of the enlisted soldiers of the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), stationed in Iraq. After meeting this goal within a year we decided to maintain the momentum and continued collecting funds for phone cards.

Since that time cards have been sent to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery in Kirkuk, Iraq, to wounded soldiers being treated at Balad Air Force Base in Iraq, and to an MP Guard group based out of Grand Prairie, and to units deployed from NAS/JRB Carswell.

We have negotiated a discount with the local Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth where we receive a 10% discount on AT&T calling cards, eliminate the sales tax expense, and

the exchange mails the cards on our behalf. One hundred percent of all funds go directly to phone cards. The miscellaneous administrative costs are our contribution.

While the distribution of cards has varied based upon the situation, they are typically sent in boxes of 25 to commanding officers or chaplains with a note indicating the source of donations. Those individuals assist in identifying enlisted personnel who have the greatest need (e.g., limited access to other communication methods) and facilitate delivery. We frequently receive pictures or thank-you notes.

In addition to individual donations we have set up donation booths at cook-offs, retail stores, and American Legion events. We have presented this program to multiple Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs, resulting in additional

contributions. Significant donations have also been obtained annually from local Sam’s Clubs and last year from Chesapeake Operating Company. We initiated and supported the efforts of other organizations such as the TCU sororities through their Pan-Hellenic Council and a very effective drive at Cleburne High School. All of these drives have resulted in over 5,000 phone cards sent with the \$32,000 raised since 2006.

We continue to look for other individuals and organizations to join in this program. This continues to be an extremely rewarding experience for the Chapter. LTC (Dr.) Pat Higgins and his wife, Deborah, have operated this program since the outset, and they continue to generate calling cards for enlisted personnel world-wide—and all in the name of The Military Order of the World Wars. ★

...Prepaid Cards Needed!

FROM THE DOD WEBSITE

U.S. Army Spc. Polacek, assigned to 1st Platoon, Apache Company, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, negotiates the price for a stack of Roshan cell phone prepaid cards with a local Afghan salesman while patrolling the bazaar in the Tangi Valley in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan, Aug. 29, 2009.

All Soldiers from Apache Company are stationed at COP Tangi, which lacks a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center with phones or internet. This situation forces Soldiers to call home using their pre-paid phones. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Teddy Wade / Released)



COLUMBIA (036), SOUTH CAROLINA

Recognition For Companions

BY MRS. BARBARA ZANDER



During its regular meeting on June 17, 2010, the Columbia Chapter recognized and congratulated three of its perpetual members, (L-R) LTC Wayne Smith, USA (Ret), Lt Col Frank Zander, USAF (Ret), and Lt Col John Marcucci, USMC (Ret).

These three Companions have done an excellent job of presenting MOWW awards to youths exhibiting outstanding leadership in 2009-2010. The awards presented included awards to JROTC and ROTC cadets in South Carolina high schools, colleges and universities, awards to new Eagle Scouts, Indian Waters Council (Boy Scouts of America), and recipients of the Gold Award of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina. ★

SUN CITY CENTER (226), FLORIDA

Region and National Award Winners Garner Publicity

BY LT COL HARRY R. LASCOLA, USAF (RET.)

Region and national awards for FY 2010 were presented at the chapter's September meeting. Three national awards and four region awards, plus two additional streamers, were presented in one ceremony.

Shown with National awards are (L-R): Sheila Greason (Newsletter); LTC Harry Lascola (Publicity); CWO4 Richard Wallace (with one of the accompanying certificates); current Commander, LtCol Frank Zahrobsky; and, previous Commander, Lt Col Gordon Bassett, who brought home the awards. Four Region awards and two streamers were also presented.

The awards were presented singularly, with photos taken for local publicity, which will be in four local newspapers. ★





"VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation now so the agency can begin development of their claims."

Have You Heard?

BY KEVIN SECOR
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY SHINSEKI
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to access quality health care and qualify for disability compensation under a final regulation that was published on August 31, 2010 in the Federal Register by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The new rule expands the list of health problems VA will presume to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures to add two new conditions and expand one existing category of conditions.

"Last October, based on the requirements of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and the Institute of Medicine's 2008 Update on Agent Orange, I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to award presumptions of service connection for these three additional diseases," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It was the right decision, and the President and I are proud to finally provide this group of Veterans the care and benefits they have long deserved."

chronic lymphocytic leukemia to include all chronic B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their medical problems and their military service. By helping Veterans overcome evidentiary requirements that might otherwise present significant challenges, this "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process and ensure that Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

The Secretary's decision to add these presumptives is based on the latest evidence provided in a 2008 independent study by the Institute of Medicine concerning health problems caused by herbicides like Agent Orange.

Veterans who served in Vietnam anytime during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

review approximately 90,000 previously denied claims by Vietnam Veterans for service connection for these conditions. All those awarded service-connection who are not currently eligible for enrollment into the VA healthcare system will become eligible.

This historic regulation is subject to provisions of the Congressional Review Act that require a 60-day Congressional review period before implementation. After the review period, VA can begin paying benefits for new claims and may award benefits retroactively for earlier periods. For new claims, VA may pay benefits retroactive to the effective date of the regulation or to one year before the date VA receives the application, whichever is later. For pending claims and claims that were previously denied, VA may pay benefits retroactive to the date it received the claim.

VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation now so the agency can begin development of their claims.

Individuals can go to a website at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm> to get an understanding of how to file a claim for presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure, as well as what evidence is needed by VA to make a decision about disability compensation or survivors benefits.

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services for Veterans exposed to the chemical is available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

The regulation is available on the Office of the Federal Register website at <http://www.ofr.gov/>. ★



Drums containing Dioxin stockpiled in Vietnam. Photo Credit: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. Collection, The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University

The final regulation follows Shinseki's determination to expand the list of conditions for which service connection for Vietnam veterans is presumed. VA is adding Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease and expanding

More than 150,000 Veterans are expected to submit Agent Orange claims in the next 12 to 18 months, many of whom are potentially eligible for retroactive disability payments based on past claims. Additionally, VA will



THE SURGEON'S TENT

By Surgeon General
Captain (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin,
MC, USA (Former)

Welcoming Returning Vets, A Survey, And Suggestions

A key component of Veterans' health care is how we welcome them from deployment.

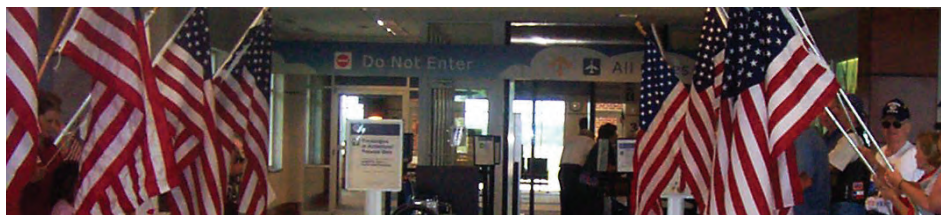
In addition to being the Surgeon General to the Order, I am commander of the Department and State Commander's Council. As such, I have attempted to ascertain the procedures that various chapters use to welcome home returning veterans. It should be as different from the welcome we got on our return from Vietnam as possible!

I did this survey electronically, and although the response was far from total it was useful. The purpose of this article is to show what's possible and make suggestions for uniformity, or at least a "universal recognition" of heroes.

The question is, "What is your department doing for returning veterans?"

Here's what some Chapters are doing:

a.) "We join City Welcome Home Committees. Place flags lining the



Welcome Home Soldiers. Photo: easttexasmilitaryfamilies.com

highway and hang banners from overpasses."

b.) "We accompany remains of local KIA veterans, lining the hearse's route to the grave sites and positioning ourselves to keep protestors at bay."

c.) "We work with the ROA Chapter to adopt a Company and provide family support while the unit is deployed to the war zone."

d.) One chapter "awards Certificates of Appreciation to returnees."

e.) Another chapter supports the long-standing Veteran Service Organizations' programs.

f.) Some report that "We do not have a current program to honor returning service men and women. This is being done by the Governor and the Dept. of Veteran Affairs. All veteran organization members are encouraged to attend."

g.) "On several occasions some of the chapter members have gone out to welcome the returning airmen at the local Air Force Base, but this effort has been sporadic at best."

h.) "Each month the Chapter provides signed thank you cards for the

wounded warriors that arrive at the Naval Medical Center to be placed in their welcome kit."

i.) Another chapter participates in the Hospital Auxiliary (Heartbeat) Fundraiser every year. This is an organization that provides material objects the hospital needs that are not hospital funded.

j.) Many of our MOWW companions send large packages of necessities to our service people in The Middle East several times each year and assist returning heroes in many significant ways.

My point is that all welcoming efforts are to be commended, but I suggest some uniformity. Examples: joining the blue star mothers in an airport welcome; providing a certificate of appreciation from your chapter; inviting returnees to attend chapter meetings as guests; recruiting officers to become members; paying for "Welcome Home" advertisements in local papers; scheduling returnee speakers at chapter meetings.

I welcome your thoughts. Please contact me via e-mail:

remhtssqps@earthlink.net ★

Mail Call



Letters
to the
Editor

Thank you for the generous gift used to honor the Outstanding Cadet in Western Languages. This year's award recipient was Cadet First Class Austin McKinney (now 2Lt McKinney). He was selected from 223 cadets minoring in foreign languages in the class of 2009,

and the competition was tough. Second Lt McKinney is an outstanding scholar in Spanish. His superlative language abilities allowed him to study abroad during the summer in Nerja, Spain and at the university in Queretaro, Mexico for one semester. Austin was a Management major who will be attending the University of London to pursue a Masters in Latin American Studies. He is a true leader with a global perspective!

Graduation slipped quickly into a summer full of opportunities for cadets to participate in more language

and cultural activities. Our Office of International Programs sent 376 cadets and escort staff and faculty on 38 language and cultural immersion trips to foreign countries. No doubt the cadet who will win next year's Outstanding Cadet in Western Language Minor Award was in the group.

Once again, thank you very much for your support and generous gift to your Air Force Academy.

—Col Daniel Uribe, USAF,
Professor and Head,
Dept. of Foreign Languages
USAF Academy Colorado

Reveille

NEW MEMBERS

RANK/NAME/(SERVICE)

Maj Lloyd R. Duncan (AF)
 CDR Clyde L. Carter (N)
 MAJ Walquiria T. Sanchez (A)
 1st Lt John B. Vandervoort (AF) *
 Lt Col Lester Tucker (AF)
 CDR Lloyd A. Cole (N)
 LTC Urey W. Alexander Jr (A) *
 Shirley K. Bain (H) *
 COL Maurice A. Ottinger (A)
 LTC Norman E. Sowell (A)
 CPT Patrick Gavin (A)
 Brig Gen Arthur B. Morrill III (AF) *
 Capt John M. Hayes (AF) *
 COL Clay C. LeGrande Jr (A) *
 Capt Deborah A. Kash (AF) *
 CPT Robert E. Mallin (A) *
 LTC Wayman J. Johnson (A) *
 LTC William E. O'Neill (A)
 CDR David T. Bailey (N)
 Capt Daniel J. Kash (AF) *
 Col A. Martin D'Arcangelo (AF)
 1LT Albert G. Roberto (A)
 CPT Lyle M. Digby (A)
 BG Fernando Fernandez (A)
 CAPT Robert D. Winesett Jr (N)
 MAJ Norman Briggs (A)
 Col Robet L. Dodge (AF)
 LtCol Jack R. Harkins, Jr (MC) *
 Mathilde K. Flood (E)

CHAPTER

Austin TX
 Baton Rouge LA
 CAPT Dilworth TX
 Col Woods-Oklahoma City OK
 Col Woods-Oklahoma City OK
 Dallas TX
 Dallas TX
 Fort Worth TX
 Gen Wade DC
 Greater Kansa City
 Greater Kansa City
 Hann-Buswell Memorial
 Hann-Buswell Memorial
 Hann-Buswell Memorial
 Hann-Buswell Memorial
 Hann-Buswell Memorial
 Harvey Latham OR
 Hill Country TX
 Joseph H. Pendleton CA
 Middle GA
 Narragansett Bay RI
 North Texas
 Puerto Rico
 San Diego CA
 San Diego CA
 San Diego CA
 San Diego CA
 Santa Fe NM

SPONSOR

McVeigh A. COL
 McGarry, S. LTC
 Sanchez, R. CW3
 Peters, O. LTC
 Peters, O. LTC
 Darelus, D. CPT
 Forest, R. COL
 Bain, J. COL
 Whidden, S. COL
 Snyder, P.
 Snyder, P.
 Peschek, A. CWO4
 Peschek, A. CWO4
 Peschek, A. CWO4
 Byrne Jr, W. LtCol
 Peschek, A. CWO4
 Titus, D. LTC
 Kuhlman, C. LTC
 Hobberlin, J. COL
 Kash, D. Capt
 Clark, K. Col
 Odell, K. LTC
 Holden, T. BG
 Negron, R. LTC
 Harris, R. Col
 Col Harris, R.
 Kash, D. Capt
 Hays, W. CAPT
 Shrecengost, P.

New Members—September 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 *Denotes Perpetual Member

Taps

DECEASED MEMBERS

RANK/NAME/(SERVICE)

Lt Col Henry S. Banks (AF) *
 LT Marvin J. Rosvold (A) *
 LTC Donald H. Graham Jr (A)
 Maj John G. Brady (AF) *
 Lt Col Erwin A. Wuester (AF) *
 Maj John G. Brady (AF) *
 LT Stanley S. Wilkinson (A) *
 Maj John G. Brady (AF) *
 COL John J. MacGregor (A) *
 Florence I. Lombaes (H) *
 Maj John G. Brady (AF) *
 MAJ Charles F. Lindsley (A) *
 Col William L. Simpson (AF) *
 CAPT E. James Kohl (N) *
 LTC Jacqueline L. Cooper (A)
 LTC Robert R. Knox Jr. (A)
 COL Richard H. Magers (A) *
 CAPT Joe D. Adkins (N) *
 LTC Oberlin J. Evenson (A) *
 Maj John G. Brady (AF) *
 LT Eugene F. Sullivan (A) *

CHAPTER

Bethesda MD
 G/A Omar N Bradley CA
 Gaylord Dillingham Memorial HI
 Gen J P Holland CA
 Granite State NH
 Hann-Buswell Memorial
 BG Bultman (Headquarters)
 Joseph H Pendleton CA
 Joseph H Pendleton CA
 Joseph H Pendleton CA
 Ltj John M Wright Jr CA
 Narragansett Bay RI
 Northern VA
 Philadelphia PA
 San Antonio TX
 San Antonio TX
 San Antonio TX
 San Diego CA
 San Diego CA
 San Fernando Valley CA
 Space Coast-Indian River FL

Deceased Members—September 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 *Denotes Perpetual Member



Padre Bill

CDR (Chaplain) William J Houston, USN (Ret)
MOWW Chaplain General

Greeting to all Companions:

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for my selection as your Chaplain General. It is a great honor and I shall do my best to fulfill this office to the best of my abilities.

Despite divisions occurring in our society at present, we are an example of people with different interests and backgrounds coming together in a unifying experience committed to realizing common goals.

Our unity in diversity is an example we need to continue to model as an example to others. Right now our nation needs an example like this and we are it—not just religiously but politically as well. When we left military service we did not quit. We changed the way we serve, and serving others is still what we are about.



Please keep our new leadership in your prayers as they take up their responsibilities in the turmoil of today. They need our deep and continuing support as we join together and continue honoring God, our country and our Order.

Blessings on all of you.

“Padre Bill” ★



The U.S. Army Band, “Pershing’s Own,” at General Pershing’s grave, Arlington National Cemetery, during the annual MOWW-sponsored memorial service on Veterans Day, honoring General of the Armies John J. “Black Jack” Pershing.

The MOWW memorial service will be held again this Veterans Day on November 11, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. in Section 34, Arlington National Cemetery. It is open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.



www.MilitaryOrder.net

LEXINGTON + SARATOGA + YORKTOWN
BARBARY WARS + LAKE ERIE + NEW ORLEANS
MONTEREY + VERA CRUZ + BULL RUN + SHILOH
ANTIETAM + CHANCELLORSVILLE + GETTYSBURG
INDIAN WARS + SANTIAGO + MANILA
BELLEAU WOOD + MEUSE - ARGONNE + MIDWAY
GUADALCANAL + ANZIO + BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC
NORMANDY + ARDENNES - ALSACE + IWO JIMA
BERLIN AIR LIFT + PUSAN + INCHON + SEOUL
GULF OF TONKIN + ROLLING THUNDER + DAK TO
KHE SANH + TET OFFENSIVE + COLD WAR
GRENADA + PANAMA + GULF WAR I + BOSNIA
SOMALIA + KOSOVO + TORA BORA + KANDAHAR
FALLUJAH + SADR CITY + BASRA

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Veterans Day



November 11, 2010

