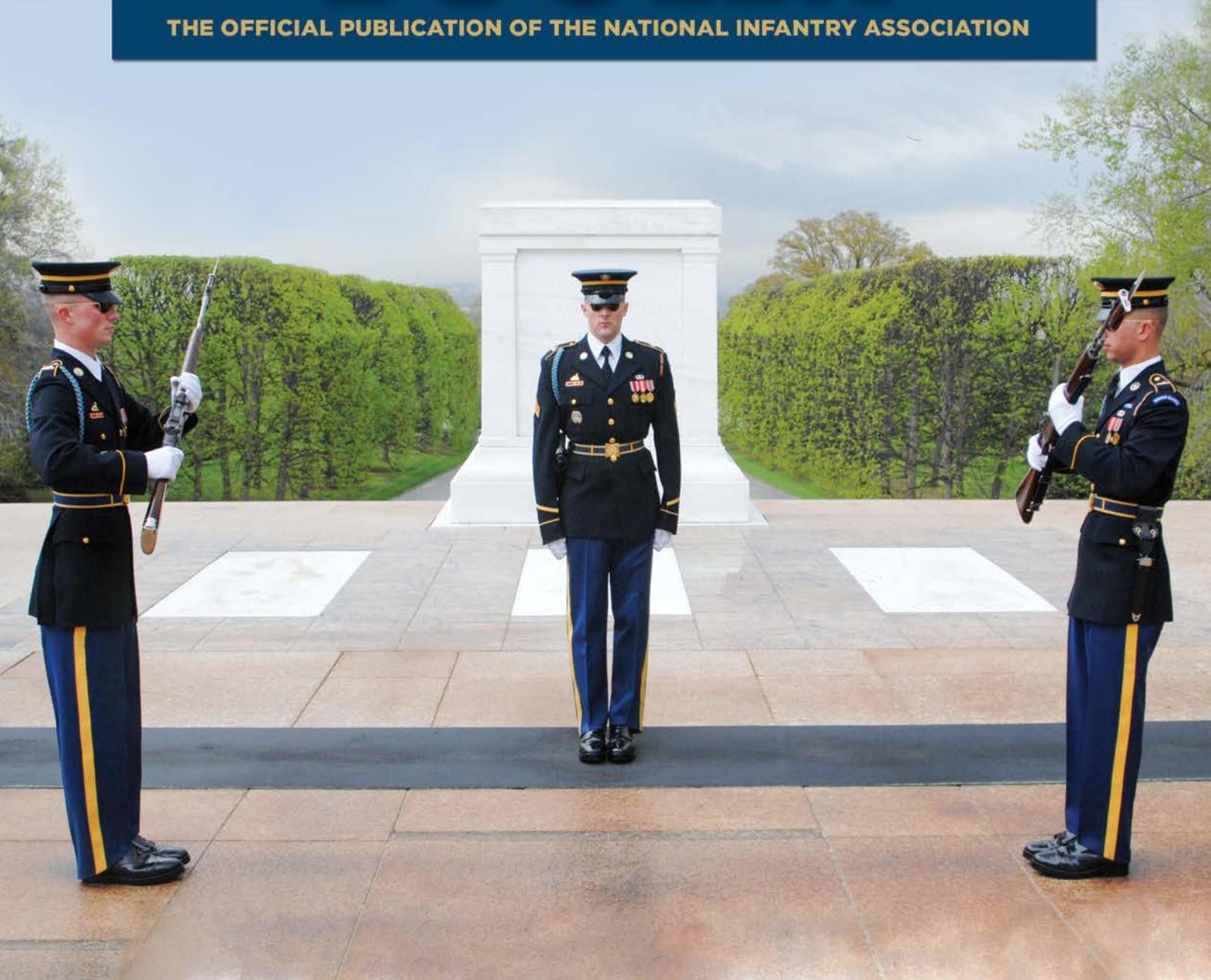


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ON THE COVER: (LEFT TO RIGHT) SGT BENTON THAMES, SGT JEFF BINEK AND SPC WILLIAM JOHNSON CHANGE THE GUARD AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS.
Photo Courtesy U.S. Army

Call for Submissions

Do you have an opinion concerning one of the stories in this issue? We would like to print your responses in our Letters to the Editor column. **Have you researched a topic that is of interest to Infantry Soldiers?** Submit it to us as an article for the *Infantry Bugler*. **Do you have personal experiences or valuable lessons learned that would benefit other readers?** Let us be your vehicle for delivering those thoughts. Send your submissions regarding bugler@infantryassn.com.

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PATENTED AND PATENTS PENDING

From the Chairman



LTG (Ret) Thomas F. Metz

I have had the privilege of working closely with U.S. Marines from individuals to large formations (MEF); thus, in March, I became very interested in the Commandant of the Marine Corps GEN David H. Berger's Force Design 2030 paper. When I read his Bottom Line Up Front words "preparing for the sweeping changes needed to meet the principal challenges facing the institution: effectively playing our role as the nation's naval expeditionary force-in-readiness, while simultaneously modernizing

the force in accordance with the National Defense Strategy (NDS)—and doing both within the fiscal resources we are provided," he had my attention.

I was well aware of the 2018 NDS's shift from countering violent extremists in the Middle East to great power/peer-level competition. From experience, I do know transformation comes from processes, not events; so, with his words that the USMC "must transform our traditional models for organizing, training and equipping the force to meet new desired ends and do so in full partnership with the Navy," I was eager to read further. Within a few paragraphs, I read an unexpected sentence. "The most logical way to approach divestment is to take a systems perspective and reduce infantry battalions while proportionally reducing the organizations dedicated to supporting these battalions." I was half way through page two of a 13-page document, and the Commandant was giving up infantry battalions! I began to read faster, and on page seven I read, "Zero tank companies." As an avid advocate of the Army's "combine arms teams", it was time to return to page 1 and study *Force Design 2030*.

Studying the Commandant's paper instead of speed-reading it paid off. GEN Berger's thoughts, logic, insights and wisdom all came together after carefully studying all 13 pages. I'm confident that the Chief of Infantry, and all those in the chain of command to the CSA, are working hard to get the future as right as possible. For Infantry Soldiers reading this column, I strongly recommend you read the Commandant's *Force Design 2030*, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ullqpb2>.

What follows are some very important points the Commandant makes which apply to not only Infantry Soldiers but also the U.S. Army's combined arms teams with which we will fight and win our Nation's wars.

We must acknowledge the complexity of multi-domain warfare and the "impacts of proliferated precision long-range fires, mines and other smart weapons, and seek innovative ways to overcome these threat capabilities." We will overcome these threats via realistic, demanding training as we did the USSR threat the 1980s. In addition, we must concurrently train across all domains as each influence the other domains. The challenge will be cost-effective training and operational solutions.

Infantry Soldiers and Leaders should agree with the Commandant that joint forcible entry operations are not "irrelevant or an operational anachronism; however, we must acknowledge that different approaches are required given the proliferation of anti-access/area denial (A2AD) threat capabilities in mutually contested spaces." For the Army, combat, combat support and combat service support units must get to the fight on time, ready to fight—always a daunting challenge especially in INDOPACOM.

Just as our fellow Marines, Infantry Soldiers must "possess the physical and mental toughness, tenacity, initiative and aggressiveness necessary to win in close combat, along with the intellectual and technical skills required to innovate, adapt,

Continued on page 3

From the President



COL (Ret) Robert E. Choppa

The U.S. Army Infantry has proved that it can take on The Good, The Bad and the Ugly. We have a distinguished history of winning the close fight. As we take on the COVID-19 pandemic, Our Infantry is currently deployed fighting those who would try to impose on our freedoms. Our Infantry is currently forward stationed and training to ensure we have the readiness to deploy, fight, and win.

Let's start with the good. As this edition goes to press, we will have a cohort of Infantry Officers heading to Benning to start their Infantry Officer Basic Leader Course. They are coming from the USMA (200+), OCS (several companies' worth), and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) from across America. They will come into the Army wearing face masks. They will come into the Army having to meet all of the current graduation requirements in a virus-ridden world. They will be developed in operational assignments and institutional programs. They will become leaders, Commanders and General Officers. Alongside them, our Soldiers will attend NCOES courses and become the backbone of our Army, the NCO Corps. These will combine to be our future Infantry. NIA wishes all of them the best.

We also got a new publisher for our *Infantry Bugler*. It is a local business and will give us phenomenal support. Finally, it is great that our Infantry continues to have success as we fight and protect our strategic priorities in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, in Eastern Europe and in Africa.

Now, the bad. COVID-19 has caused cancellation of several functional and officer/NCO Infantry leader courses. It caused the cancellation of Infantry Week. It caused our Infantry units to adjust deployments, adjust or cancel training and postpone PCS, changes of command/responsibility and school attendance.

We have also seen the passing of several seasoned Infantry veterans. We are sad to report the death of GEN John Foss, former Commanding General of TRADOC, XVIII Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Army Infantry School and Fort Benning, and a Doughboy Award recipient. We also lost CSM Bennie Adkins. Bennie was a frequent visitor at the National Infantry Museum. He was trained as an 11C, Indirect Fire Infantryman, who became a Special Forces legend and Medal of Honor recipient. He was featured in our Spring 2020 Bugler. There are hundreds of other Infantrymen who have died in this pandemic.

We have also had to cancel several NIA efforts, conferences, graduations, meetings, unit visits and social events. These will impact our financial readiness and our goals to increase membership. Our Board of Directors could not meet in April and our National Office has been working from home.

The ugly is the unknown. The COVID virus still has no vaccine. We know that it will impact the Defense Industry. We do not know how it will impact the Soldier Lethality evolution. We know that the virus has impacted all Infantry families, but we don't know to what extent. Our Infantry veterans from World War II and Korea are at the greatest risk and we want to keep them on our Infantry roster for the future. We, the Infantry and the NIA, will continue to fight the close fight. I know we will Lead The Way! Follow Me!

Meeting the Challenge: Still Producing the World's Best Infantry



BG David M. Hodne

As I penned this column, I reflected on the necessary cancellation of the 2020 Infantry Week in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the incorporation of the International Sniper Competition into an already exciting series of All-Army Combatives, Best Mortar and Best Ranger Competitions, this 2020 event would have kicked off the decade in an exceptional manner. However, given the pandemic, in lieu of the traditional Monday award ceremony for the Best Ranger Winners, CSM Fortenberry and

I travelled to 6th RTB to join the Ranger Class currently patrolling in the swamps. I share this observation to offer that while this pandemic has brought the world to a pause, here at Fort Benning we continue to build and train our Infantry.

Our Army made difficult decisions and suffered short term readiness impacts while fighting World War I during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. Today's Army has made similar difficult choices while still conducting operations around the world. Here in TRADOC, your Infantry School continues to train Rangers, parachutists, Officer Candidates, Infantry Officers, NCOs and Soldiers in order to meet the readiness demands of an unrivaled Army. Since 1 March, we continued to train more than 10,000 Soldiers, Officers and NCOs in a variety of PME and functional courses. The current Infantry OSUT trainee population—well over 8,000 Soldiers—has trained continuously since the start of the COVID outbreak in the United States. We continue to receive more new trainees in the coming weeks, and the School implemented measures to ensure their safety both during training and while en route to their follow-on assignments. I am incredibly proud of the entire team of leaders, instructors and cadre who remain focused on our mission of ensuring Army readiness.

Formally organized after the Spanish Flu was waning in the late spring of 1919, the U.S. Army Infantry School's historical records offered no advice in responding to pandemics. Lacking this historical precedence, the School instead turned to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) doctrinal framework to assume a deliberate posture necessary to protect our student/instructor populations and their families from COVID-19 infection (a biological threat). The tenets of this doctrinal framework emphasize two major tasks. The first, and primary task is "CBRN protection" essentially shielding trainees and students from the threat of COVID-19. The second

task is "Contamination Mitigation" responding quickly to incidents involving possible infection. Within this framework we categorized courses and students into the CBRN categories of "clean" (not infected), "unknown" and "dirty" (possibly infected or known to have come in contact with a COVID-19 positive individual). At the time when the Department of Defense implemented travel restrictions, our entire population of Infantry OSUT trainees had already been isolated in training on Sand Hill for longer than the two-week incubation period associated with COVID-19. This posture allowed the School to ruthlessly protect this population by establishing "clean" spaces and routes to avoid infiltration of "dirty" or "unknown" vectors. All of our training brigades implemented procedures for "decontamination" for cadre and instructors before interacting with student populations to further reduce possibility of infection.

Given contributions to Army readiness, in addition to Infantry OSUT, the Infantry School designated Airborne School, Ranger School, OCS and Jumpmaster School as mission essential training with similar frameworks for conduct of the course. In addition to isolating student populations, inbound students were subject to a two-week quarantine before entering the course. Where other Schools across our Army pursued distance learning opportunities, the skills intended to close with and destroy the enemy require repetition, hands-on training and shared hardship under arduous conditions. Most Bugler readers also know it is impossible to achieve "social distancing" during a jumpmaster inspection, while loaded in aircraft, or while executing patrol base activities. All of these factors warranted disciplined adherence to a strict approach (wearing masks, pre-course quarantines, in course isolation, etc) to ensure the safe conduct of mission essential training.

While the School continues to sustain training in these important "mission essential" courses, out of an abundance of caution some of our hallmark programs of instruction were suspended for almost two months—the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course, Sniper Course, Bradley and Stryker Leader Courses, Pathfinder School and a host of other courses did not occur during the height of the pandemic.

In the months ahead, and perhaps in the context of a resurgence of the pandemic in the fall, your U.S. Army Infantry School continues to "fight" through this unique problem set. As our Branch has always moved under fire to close with and destroy our enemies, we will do what's necessary to produce the most lethal, disciplined and physically fit Infantry Soldiers in the world.

I am the Infantry! Follow me!

Continued from page 2

and succeed in the rapidly changing 21st century operating environment." These requirements must be built and maintained by NCOs and Company grade officers who demand and achieve the best from their Soldiers.

Easily seen leads to easily attacked; thus, almost two decades of operating from "forward bases and stations and fixed infrastructure" must change in battles against peer forces. "Mobility inside the weapons engage zone (WEZ) is a competitive advantage and an operational imperative."

As the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Commander, I spent significant time on sustainability, and agree with the Commandant that it "is both a critical requirement and critical vulnerability. Forces that cannot sustain themselves inside the WEZ are

liabilities."

Lastly, I had the privilege of being involved with the Army's Force XXI Experiments at Fort Hood, Texas; thus, I strongly support the Commandants call for modeling, simulation and live force experimentation. Parallel with these initiatives, we must modernize our training from initial entry-level to live simulation training at company, battalion and brigade combat team levels and virtual simulations at division and corps levels.

Within the Commandant's Force Design 2030, he has created a complementing vector for Army Infantry Soldiers and Leaders to winning our Nation's Wars. Hooah to him and his Marines!



THE ETERNAL MISSION: To Prevent Desecration or Disrespect

For the past 95 years Soldiers of the United States Army have stood eternal vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. To thousands of our nation's visitors each year, these men and women are the only American service-member they may encounter. It is the hope of each Sentinel who is assigned to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Platoon that these visitors look past them, past the immaculate uniform and precision of manual of arms to what they stand watch over: the final resting place of unnamed Americans who fell in the defense of their country and others who could not defend themselves. No other platoon in the Army has such a mission requested by Congress.

The history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier starts with House Joint Resolution 426 which was first proposed on 21 December 1920 by Congressman Hamilton Fish (NY). Fish, a combat veteran of World War I (WWI) serving with the 369th Infantry Regiment "Harlem Hellfighters," had seen firsthand the devastation "modern" warfare inflicted upon his Soldiers. In July of 1918, he witnessed one of his orderlies

become severely gassed to the point of unconsciousness by enemy shells. Stretcher bearers were sent forward to recover the wounded orderly when an artillery shell fell directly on top of the group, immediately killing three of the stretcher bearers as well as the orderly who they had been sent to retrieve.

Before these men could be recovered, another shell landed directly on the group leaving no bodies to bury. Their remains, what was left of their corpses, were later buried by the French, but with no identification to put upon the field cross except "Unidentified American Soldier."

Motivated by his war time experiences, Fish proposed legislation that would provide ... "for the bringing to the United States of a body of an unknown American, who was a member of the American Expeditionary Forces, who served in Europe and lost his life during the World War, and for the burial of the remains with appropriate ceremonies."

Congressman Fish strongly felt that the Unknown Soldier "... should not be taken from any particular battlefield but should be so chosen that nobody would know his identification

or the battlefield he comes from. He should represent in himself the North, the South, the East and the West ... no distinction whatever either in the matter of rank, color or wealth."

President Woodrow Wilson approved the legislation on 4 March 1921, and Secretary of War John Weeks was authorized and directed to begin the process of bringing home the Unknown Soldier. Four candidates were selected from four American cemeteries in France and brought to the Hotel de Ville in Chalons-sur-Marne (today called Chalons-en-Champagne) where Army SGT Edward F. Younger, a veteran of WWI assigned to the Army of Occupation, made the final selection on 24 October 1921. From this point until his burial in Arlington National Cemetery, the WWI Unknown Soldier was never alone, constantly being watched over by Soldiers and an American Legion member in uniform, setting the standard that all future Tomb Guards have held themselves to.

After spending the night in Paris, the World War I Unknown Soldier was transported by train to the Port of Le Havre, and the Army passed responsibility of guarding the Unknown Soldier to the crew of the USS Olympia (C-6) and the Marines assigned especially for the mission of returning him home.

On November 9, 1921 the USS Olympia (C-6) arrived at the Navy Yard where troopers from the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment assumed responsibility for the Unknown Soldier and escorted him to the U.S. Capitol where he lay in state until his burial in Arlington National Cemetery on 11 November 1921. No provision had been made to continue the guard and the Unknown Soldier grave site remained unguarded until 17 November 1925.

Due to numerous visitors to Arlington National Cemetery using the Unknown Soldiers grave as a picnic table and the area around his grave becoming misused, civilian watchmen from the Quartermaster Department were assigned during the daytime to ensure the public treated this grave with respect. The Watchmen were formed into two reliefs, with two watchmen on duty when the cemetery was open to the public. One of their instructions remains part of the current Tomb Guards mission whose "special duty it is to prevent any desecration or disrespect."

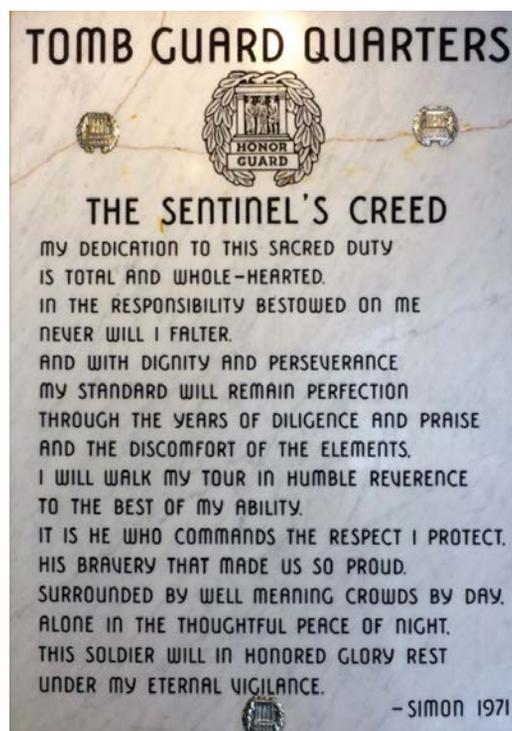
A memorandum of orders directed that watchmen assigned to the first relief would go on duty at 0800hrs. "each and every morning of the year." The second relief would then replace the first at 1230hrs. with the cemetery closing hours fluctuating each month throughout the year. Watchmen who were not on duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier would be responsible for the west side of the Memorial Amphitheater to regulate traffic and guide visitors along the "proper routes of ingress and egress" as indicated by posted signs.

By 1926 there was interest brewing to replace the civilian Watchmen with military guards. Congress recognized that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was "America's shrine emblematic of our heroic dead who gave their lives for their country during the World War" and that among the thousands of visitors to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were "some who fail to conduct themselves with proper reverence due it." House Joint Resolution 185, dated 2 March 1926, directed the

War Department to form a "military guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington."

This "special guard armed and equipped as for field service during the World War" would be given the duty to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from "sunrise to sunset" and that a bugler "shall sound taps each evening just prior to the dismissal of the guard." Civilian Watchmen would still be in place to provide information to the public as the guards were under strict orders to not "talk to with anyone, except members of the guard, at any time while on post." This order stands today, and the public is genuinely surprised if the Sentinel must direct disrespectful visitors to maintain decorum while visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Secretary of War Dwight Davis sent a letter to John M. Morin (PA), the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the House of Representatives, stating that in his opinion, House Joint Resolution 185 did not need to be signed into law as he had directed the commanding general, District of Washington effective 25 March 1926 to place a "special guard" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



The day prior, orders had been received by the commanding general, District of Washington to establish the formation of a "military guard, armed with a rifle, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery." This guard would post one Sentinel from "the hour of the opening of the gates to the cemetery each morning until the closing of the gates each evening". Tomb Guards would be rotated from units in the District of Washington command between the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Myer; 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry

Regiment at Fort Washington; and the 5th and 13th Engineer Battalions at Fort Humphreys.

As early as 1932 requests were made to expand hours to 24hrs a day, but they were denied due to lack of troops. However, on midnight 2 July 1937, the guard post hours were extended to 24-hrs a day by order of the Washington Provisional Brigade Commander and the strength of the platoon increased to three (3) non-commissioned officers and nine (9) privates.

Over the next 11 years additional units would be responsible for providing Tomb Guards including the 703rd Military Police Battalion, the Ceremonial Detachment of the 7011th Army Service Unit, and finally the 3d United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) assuming duties on 6 April 1948.

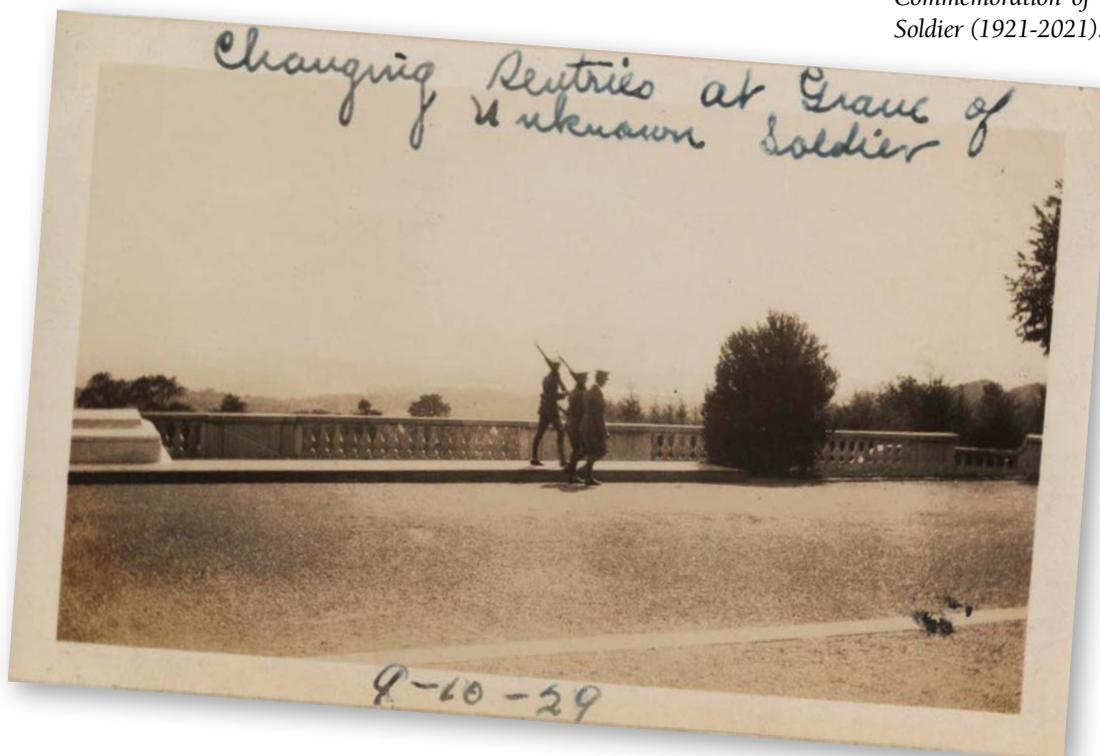
As the Centennial of the burial of the WWI Unknown Soldier approaches in 2021, it is important not only to remember the burial of the World War I Unknown Soldier, but to reflect on what the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier means to America as a whole. On three instances since 1921, the remains of unknown servicemen have been interred at the west base of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, each within their own crypt. The remains of the Vietnam Unknown Soldier were removed in 1998 after modern science identified the serviceman. That crypt remains empty, but a marker was placed honoring all those still missing in action (MIA/POW) which underscores the larger purpose of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and rings true to the legislation by Fish who viewed the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as a focal point to bring all Americans together—that its meaning not be limited to the Great War and the exclusive claim of that War's veterans.

The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) is actively developing educational programs, lectures and events to support the Secretary of Defense's efforts as they plan for, and conduct, a program to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as directed by Congress under the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. The Society was founded by veterans in 1999 as a non-profit 501(C)(3) educational organization, created by current and former members of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Honor Guard to support mission of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier platoon and the members of the Honor Guard.



Soldiers of the 3d Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) carry on this sacred duty, keeping alive the traditions and history of the first Tomb Guards and the mission passed to them in 1926: to honor the Unknown Soldiers buried on the east plaza of the Memorial Amphitheater, educate our nation and its visitors about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, commonly and erroneously referred to as "Tomb of the Unknowns," and what this shrine means to the millions of Gold Star and MIA/POW families.

SGM (Ret) Gavin McIlvenna is president of the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) and is working with the government and various non-governmental organizations on the Centennial Commemoration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (1921-2021). ★



Army Officer Candidate Schools 78 Years of Excellence



“You have to lead men in war by requiring more from the individual than he thinks he can do. You have to lead men in war by bringing them along to endure and to display qualities of fortitude that are beyond the average man’s thought of what he should be expected to do. You have to inspire them when they are hungry and exhausted and desperately uncomfortable and in great danger; and only a man of positive characteristics of leadership, with the physical stamina that goes with it, can function under those conditions.” GEN George Marshall in testimony to Senate Military Affairs Committee in 1940.

In 1940, GEN George Marshall recognized the absolute importance of establishing rigorous training facilities for new officers. The Officer Candidate School (OCS) was established in early 1941 when the Secretary of War, the War Department and the Army Chief of Staff agreed that a training program was needed to quickly commission new officers. By the spring of 1941, the Selective Service draft had brought nearly a million men into the Army. Leadership was needed desperately and OCS stepped forward to fill that need, just as it has in every conflict or era since then.

The first class graduated in September 1941 at Fort Benning,

Georgia. Later that month, the War Department announced that OCS would be expanded to 10 branch schools—Infantry, Signal Corps, Armor, Artillery, Coast Artillery, Quartermaster, Medical Corps, Engineering, Cavalry, Ordnance—with an initial total enrollment of 2,300 men.

Those who survived the ordeal were commissioned second lieutenants—the famed “90-day wonders” of World War II. The momentous decision to start a shortened commissioning program proved to be very wise, as OCS became the leading source of commissioned officers during the war. Of the 800,000 or so officers who served in the Army during World War II, more than half were OCS graduates and well over half the combat leaders were products of that system.

At the end of World War II, the troop level of approximately eight million was reduced to less than 20 percent of that strength in one year and down to seven percent in three years. Commensurate with that reduction, by the end of 1946 all OCS training was transferred to the Army Ground General School at Fort Riley, Kansas. Officer production slowed to a trickle until 1950.

The officer requirements of the Korean War resulted in the reactivation of six branch OCS programs in 1951: Infantry,



Photo courtesy U.S. Army

Every training event is approached with a “Crawl - Walk - Run” methodology. Here, candidates are developing communication and teamwork skills by controlling their movement as a team.

Artillery, Signal, Engineer, Ordnance and Antiaircraft. By the end of 1952, a combined total of 16,800 candidates had graduated from the six schools. Korea did not require as many new combat leaders because so many were available with World War II experience. All the reactivated schools except Infantry, Artillery and Engineer were closed by the end of 1952. The Engineer OCS closed in June 1954.

The Army expanded in 1965 from 1 million to 1.5 million to fight in Vietnam. The Army needed 40,000 to 50,000 new junior officers for this expanding force. ROTC production declined and West Point commissioning was slow, so six new OCS schools were opened—making eight in total—to produce the numbers needed for the Vietnam War.

During the height of the Vietnam conflict, Infantry OCS produced about 7,000 officers annually from three battalions at Fort Benning. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the company grade officers who fought in Vietnam were OCS graduates. The program was reduced to two battalions toward the close of the conflict and presently maintains a single battalion. In April 1973, the Branch Immaterial Officer Candidate Course was created at Fort Benning to replace all other OCS courses except the Women’s Army Corps OCS which remained at Fort McClellan until 1976, when it too merged with the course at Fort Benning.

In the decades since the OCS branch immaterial program was implemented in 1973, OCS continues to provide commissioned officers to the total force for all basic branches of the Army. The demand for well-trained junior officers has expanded and contracted over the years to support major conflicts such as the 1991 Gulf War, peacekeeping operations in the Balkans, the Iraq War and continuing operations in Afghanistan. Overseas contingency operations continue, as U.S. forces are a vital part of the intervention against the Islamic State.

On 12 June 1998, to further integrate the total force, the Army National Guard OCS Phase III candidates began training alongside their active duty counterparts at Fort Benning. Officer

candidates from the National Guard conduct the final phase of training before commissioning during their two-week annual training period. Over 650 future officers were trained for the Army in the first year, with similar numbers being trained in subsequent years.

Notable and distinguished OCS graduates include Casper Weinberger, Secretary of Defense during the Reagan administration; Robert J. Dole, former U.S. Senator from Kansas and presidential candidate; John O. Marsh Jr., Secretary of the Army during the 1980s; William F. Buckley Jr., political commentator; Winthrop Rockefeller, former Governor of Arkansas; GEN John Shalikashvili, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; GEN Tommy Franks, former commander of U.S. Central Command; GEN Frederick Kroesen Jr., former commander Seventh United States Army;



Photo by Marleigh Horace, MCoE PAO Photographer

Bob Dole at an OCS graduation ceremony

National Infantry Association Outreach in 2020

Hello from the NIA headquarters! I hope all of you and your families are safe and well during these difficult times. The health and safety of our members and staff has been our biggest priority as we have adapted to the current state of affairs.

Prior to the pandemic, the NIA was actively seeking out and planning new ways to support the Infantry community. Although some of these actions have been altered, or postponed, we were able to implement a few.

In February the NIA team, along with several employees of the National Infantry Museum Foundation, participated in Run Ranger Run. We were challenged to run 565 miles in the month of February to help support Rangers and their families. Due to our team's dedication we were able to run 686 miles and donated \$700 to GallantFew, a veteran nonprofit organization that provides individual transition services and counseling to veterans, service members and their families. A huge thank you to the NIA and NIMF participants for completing this challenge, and we look forward to next year's Run Ranger Run in hopes of raising more awareness and funds.

The NIA is reaching out to all Infantry OSUT trainees and graduates, speaking to the trainees during their soldier tour at the National Infantry Museum. Once they graduated we offer them a free one-year membership to the NIA. New graduates can also visit our tent at graduations where we offer some NIA gear and the opportunity to talk with the NIA team about how we will support them during their Infantry careers. This is a great way to reach younger Infantry Soldiers. We look forward to hosting our tent again when graduations commence again. In the meantime, we are working on a new NIA store for our website and are excited about the new merchandise



Assistant Director of Education for the NIMF Tiffany Hoffmann (left) and NIA Director of Operations Stephanie Haveron participated in the Run Ranger Run event on 1 February.

that will be available there soon.

We also had plans to visit several different Army installations to help spread information about the NIA before the current travel stipulations were put into place. Last year we visited the 4-6 Infantry Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas. The Old Ironsides Chapter was recently reactivated and we hosted NIA Night, awarding several Infantry Soldiers and spouses with the Order of Saint Maurice and Shield of Sparta. We spoke about the NIA and had several Soldiers join. It was a great night and we hope to travel to more installations later this year. The NIA is always looking for driven Infantry Soldiers that are interested in forming or reactivating a chapter.

The recent COVID-19 outbreak has presented new challenges for our country and the NIA is no exception. Working remotely, we have continued to process awards, memberships and everything in between while doing what we can to prevent the spread of the virus. New initiatives include: offering members the choice to receive the Bugler digitally versus in the mail; offering to ship awards directly to the nominee; and eliminating the limit on how many nominations a member can submit to help boost morale throughout the Infantry and Army.

We have also started to hold the awards boards digitally every other Thursday. This allows our board members to view the nominations at home to employ with social distancing. We have not allowed COVID-19 to slow down the NIA.

Prior to the outbreak, we had the honor of having COL (Ret.) Ralph Puckett volunteer with the NIA one day per week. It's a privilege to work with COL Puckett and we are so thankful for his continued support to the Infantry and the NIA. He is reaching out to our members that we had not heard from in a while to update contact information. You may have received a phone call or letter from him recently as he contacted more than a thousand members in just a few weeks. As always, he seems happy to help, no matter the task and enjoyed talking to fellow Infantry Soldiers.

One of the biggest challenges we have at the NIA is keeping our database up to date due to the constant relocation of Army personnel. To help make things easier, our new website has created accounts for current members to log in and update their information, submit nominations and view the *Bugler* online. If you have not received the any correspondence from us lately, you may need to update your information. Go to InfantryAssn.com for more information on your account.

We've upped our social media game using it to reach former, current and future Infantry Soldiers. Follow us on Facebook at "National Infantry Association" as well as our Facebook group, our Instagram @infantryassn and our Twitter @infantryassoc. On these platforms we offer up-to-date information on the NIA. We are always looking for Order of Saint Maurice and Shield of Sparta ceremony photos plus articles to publish in the *Bugler* and to post on our social media.

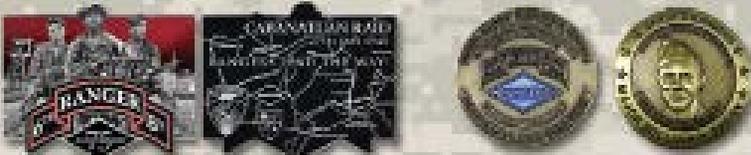
We will continue to support the Infantry community, the Chief of Infantry



COL (Ret) Ralph Puckett volunteers at the NIA office calling members to update their contact information.

and the National Infantry Museum, no matter the challenge. I want to extend my sincere thanks to the NIA team members for their perseverance and determination to overcome the challenges we have faced lately. Thanks also to our members for their continued support. Without you we would not be the great association that we are! ★

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Awards Honor Infantry Soldiers & Supporters

From the early days of our Army, GEN George Washington established a system of honoring those who fought valiantly in the Continental Army. In 1782, the Badge of Merit was established as the forerunner to the Purple Heart. Today, Army leaders have many more options to choose from when deciding to recognize Soldiers in the outstanding performance of their duties, meritorious achievements and valorous conduct in battle. Additionally, members of the NIA have an option to recognize those who make outstanding contributions to the Infantry. This recognition comes as the Order of Saint Maurice (OSM) and Shield of Sparta (SOS) medals, which are awarded by the National Infantry Association and the Chief of Infantry.

OSM and SOS recognize the significant contributions made by Infantrymen, Infantry supporters and spouses. Starting in June, there will be six levels of the OSM. The Cohort level has been added to the Primicerius, Centurion, Legionnaire, Civis and Peregrinus. The Cohort is for junior Infantrymen who have contributed significantly to the Infantry—2LT-CPT, Corporal-Sergeant, honor grads of Infantry professional military education. Details about each level and requirements for the awards are located on the National Infantry Association's website at InfantryAssn.com/Awards.

The Nomination Process

To begin the process, members should log onto the website. Nominators must be active NIA members. To become a member, join on our website under the "Membership" tab. There are several ways to nominate individuals.

The first and most preferred method is by clicking on the "Online" tab under "Nomination Forms" in the lower right hand corner of the NIA awards page. The online process allows members to complete the nomination, upload the narrative and submit payment for the award. This method ensures the reviewer that the information provided is legible, neat and complete.

Another method is to download the current forms from our website and complete the process by either mailing the nomination to the NIA or sending it via email to Awards@InfantryAssn.com with payment information enclosed. Once



Order of St. Maurice medals recognize the significant contributions made by members of the Infantry and Infantry supporters. They are awarded around the globe like this presentation to 1SG Adam McMurray (right) at Operating Base Fenty in Afghanistan.

received, all information listed on the nomination form is verified to include membership number and status of the nominator and nominee.

If the nominee is Infantry, they are required to be NIA members. If there are issues during the nomination process, the nominator will be contacted to clarify and correct them. Issues that are not corrected will prevent the nomination from going before the awards board. Please submit all nominations at least five days prior to the board convening to allow adequate preparation time.

The normal processing time for awards is 30 days. If awards are needed sooner, within 30 days, a charge of \$20 is required to expedite the processing, such as additional fees for engraving and handling. The rush fee does not cover expedited or express shipping. If express shipping is requested, the nominator will incur the additional cost. For more information regarding this, contact the NIA.

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The Awards Board

The Awards Board convenes every other Thursday of the month. Please contact the NIA for a list of dates for upcoming boards. The Awards Board consists of the NIA President and a minimum of two other NIA Board members. These members are all retired Infantry Colonels and Command Sergeants Major. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the NIA has migrated to an online board where the members review and cast their votes remotely. Prior to the awards board, the awards manager, though not a voting member reviews all narratives to ensure the nominee meets the criteria for the award the nominee is being recommended. The awards manager receives feedback from the Awards Board members regarding contributions to the Infantry, duty descriptions and other information.

Printing and Engraving

Once the board process is complete, all approved nominations are assigned an order number in our database. The board information is compiled and forwarded to one of our three engravers. Depending on the number of submissions, the engraver will usually have all the medallions completed and returned to the NIA within seven to 10 days. NIA employees conduct the printing of orders and certificates in-house.



Order of St. Maurice medal and certificate

Shipping, Handling and Records Management

Once the engraver returns the medallions to the NIA, employees will then package the medallion with lapel pin, orders and the certificate together and send it to the nominator at the address provided on the nomination form. We have two methods of shipping our awards to the members in the field—United States Postal Service (USPS) and United Parcel Service (UPS). Depending on the location, UPS is the preferred method of shipping as the rates are often cheaper than the USPS. For shipments within the State of Georgia, Alaska, Hawaii, APO and overseas addresses, USPS is the only shipping option. It is important that the address provided is a verifiable street address to ensure prompt delivery of the awards. Unit mail addresses and post office boxes are not authorized. Once the awards are shipped, all information regarding the award is captured in our awards database, to include tracking and shipping information. Due to the high volume of awards, the NIA will provide shipping information on a case-by-case basis.



Shield of Sparta medal

AWARDS NOMINATIONS DOS AND DON'TS

- **Do** list all significant leadership and command positions, such as Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Operations Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major, Company/Battalion/Brigade Commander.
- **Do** list significant Infantry skill badges to include Expert/Combat Infantry Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Senior/Master Parachutist, Ranger Tab.
- **Do** include significant contributions made while deployed.
- **Do** submit the write-up in a narrative format.
- **Do** refer to our website and the specific levels of the OSM when completing a nomination
- **Do not** include Enlisted Record Briefs or DD214s.
- **Do not** exclude information such as unit names and designations, especially when serving in key leadership positions.
- **Do not** use old and outdated forms. Download a current form from our website.
- **Do not** omit presentation dates.
- **Do not** hesitate to contact the awards manager with questions.

The NIA is here to serve and support the Infantry Community. We take the Chief of Infantry's vision and apply it to what we do every day. The NIA is here to assist you in recognizing those making the significant contributions to our Branch. You are the reason we are here, and without you, our association would not be successful. ★



SCALING DOWN & SHAPING UP

How soldier evaluation is reshaping diverse equipment

Your Humvee has been hit, rolled over and you need to get out fast. PEO Soldier has developed the Torso Extremity Protection (TEP) system, which will assist with expediency when exiting the vehicle. Soldiers from Charlie Company 1st Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord are the latest participants of the next evaluation phase of protective equipment. The Soldiers were tasked to test out the latest developments of the Soldier Protection System (SPS), to include the TEP and Vital Torso Protection Hard Armor Plates (VTP).

The TEP system, which includes the Modular Scalable Vest (MSV), the Ballistic Combat Shirt (BCS) and the Blast Pelvic Protector (BPP), is designed to provide Soldiers with modular, scalable protective equipment that allows customization for mission requirements. PEO Soldier recognizes that missions differ and therefore

equipment capabilities should allow for the agility of movement, while reducing weight, yet offering increased protection. The TEP system was not only created for modularity and scalability, but also with female and small statured Soldiers in mind. Prior to the development of the female Improved Outer Tactical Vest (F-IOTV) in 2012, female Soldiers typically wore equipment sized for males, which caused discomfort on long convoys and during certain combat movements. Three additional vest and plate sizes will be added to the Army's inventory to address smaller statured troops: extra small short, small short and small long.

Soldiers spent the week participating in road marches, obstacle courses and

tactical movement drills including Close Quarters Combat Techniques (CQB) to provide feedback for the Human Factor Evaluation. Soldiers were fitted in variations of the IOTV and TEP system, then provided feedback on each variation. PEO Soldier utilizes Soldier feedback in the testing and the evaluation process to influence the design and capability of the gear.

SFC Kenneth Purvis, Charlie Company 1st Platoon, 2-3 Infantry Regiment, when asked about the scalability of the MSV stated that he liked how the equipment fit, and how the gear can be modified to fit the mission requirements.

“The scalability of the MSV is awesome,” Purvis said. “I like how you can scale it depending on the threat level of the environment that you’re in, and the commander can choose to go down to the just the plate carrier with the soft armor or the full blown MSV. I think that is a huge component.”

Compared to the old IOTV, Purvis stated that MSV provides a faster, easier experience when configuring load distribution that allows for a more efficient, survivable and lethal Soldier.

“I also like how the soft armor fits in the MSV,” he said. “So if you take apart the IOTV and you take out the soft armor, it’s a pain to get it back in the way it’s supposed to be, but with the MSV I can take the armor out and put it back in and it takes about 30 seconds. It’s super easy.”

Female Soldiers play an integral role in close combat operations for the Army. Therefore, they require equipment that allows them to be lethal while still being comfortable and maneuverable. PEO Soldier is working to address the need of female and small statured Soldiers by expanding sizes to develop a tighter fit for all shapes and sizes. That development also led to the creation of the BCS, which has soft armor ballistic inserts (SABI) within the shirt allowing for handgun and fragmentation protection. The Ballistic Ancillary Torso System (BATS) offered the same protection, but required the system to be placed over the combat shirt.

“The MSV was definitely more fitted,” said SGT Taylor Glynn, Integrated Family of Test Equipment Operator and Maintainer, 296 Brigade Support Battalion. “It felt like it moved with me. The MSV sits higher on the hips, which I think is important for females.

“I was able to take the side plates and move them up higher, because when you’re moving, your hips are moving with you and want those side plates to sit high and snug off your hips while still having the same amount of protection,” Glynn said, in reference to the scalability of the torso protection system.

The Army is a diverse force and having equipment that is comfortable and with proper fit allows Soldiers of all shapes and sizes to excel in performance. Having gear that can be modified and scaled to mission requirements allows Soldiers to focus on the mission at hand. As for the female force, SGT Glynn emphasized how vital the Army’s development is in outfitting the female Soldier to ensure that they are equally as lethal and survivable as their male counterparts.

“I think it is extremely important,” Glynn added. “Considering that in 2015 they allowed females into combat arms. I think it is good that they are realizing that females are now doing the same thing that these males are, and you cannot necessarily use the same equipment because we have different body types”.

The Soldiers from Charlie Company 1st Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment have scaled up and down throughout the evaluation process and by participating in the event, they can rest assured that their invaluable feedback will assist in shaping the future of Soldier protective equipment for the U.S. Army.

David Jordan is a U.S Navy veteran of five years. There, he served as a Mass Communications Specialist conducting operations in the seventh fleet region. He has been in the communications field for more than 10 years serving the military and Department of Defense and is currently a staff writer for PEO Soldier. ★



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America's Best Free Museum

After a spring of isolation, people are hungry to get out and about this summer. Assuming the National Infantry Museum (NIM) has reopened, we hope you'll include it in your getaway plans!

What you'll discover is that the NIM is **AGAIN** America's Best Free Museum, as voted by readers of *USA Today*. The museum has held the trophy since 2016 when it won the first Best Free Museum contest. So the stakes were high when *USA Today* again asked its readers to choose the best in 2020.

This time around, the NIM also was nominated in the category of Best History Museum, and won an impressive and unexpected third place finish.

USA Today travel writers nominated 20 museums from across the country in each category, including many that are more well known than the NIM, such as the Smithsonian and the Holocaust museums in Washington, D.C. and the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

The contest ran in January and February. The NIM sat in or close to first place throughout the month in the familiar Best Free Museum category. To avoid confusion—not to mention tough competition with world-renowned history museums—the NIM downplayed its nomination as a Best History Museum. Yet, despite little publicity, the museum vaulted from eighth place to third place in the closing days of the contest.

"Just like they always say at the Oscars, we were proud just to be nominated," BG (Ret) Pete Jones, president and COO of the National Infantry Museum Foundation (NIMF), said after being notified of the wins. "But to come away with first and third place wins—nationwide!—is testament to just how exceptional this museum is. Our visitors already know it, travel experts know it and now this award will help us make sure everyone knows it."



NIMF President Pete Jones, Columbus Mayor Skip Henderson, Army Museum Enterprise Regional Director Dave Hanselman, PVT Giovanni Crook and CSM Martin Celestine cut the cake to celebrate the NIM's big win.



The museum's "Twice as Nice" party featured local Carver High Marching Tigers, an unveiling of banners boasting of the museum's awards and the Columbus mayor's proclamation naming March 4 National Infantry Museum Day.

As a private, non-profit organization, wide-reaching attention like this is priceless. Spending money on marketing is often a luxury for non-profits, and can only be considered after the power bill, employees, maintenance and other critical needs are funded. But the exposure gained from being at the top of *USA Today*'s 10 Best list is free marketing, and has a value that far exceeds anything the museum could afford to buy.

Jones hopes the recognition will remind people that the museum, although off the beaten path in Columbus, Georgia, is a national museum and deserves a top spot on every American's bucket list.

"The National Infantry Museum doesn't just teach history," Jones said. "It helps us understand why everyday Americans put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedom. It teaches us who the real heroes are. After a visit, you'll leave with a lump in your throat and an enormous sense of pride in your heart."★

Ronald Eugene Rosser:

A Family Tradition of Service



PFC Ronald E. Rosser notches his carbine to show the 13 he killed in one engagement in Korea.

Born on 24 October 1929 in Columbus, Ohio, Ronald E. Rosser was the oldest of 17 children. He joined the Army in 1946 at age 17 shortly after World War II for a three-year term of service.

In an interview for the library of Congress, he was asked why he joined the Army. He shared this anecdote: “One day my brother and I were walking toward our home and one of my sisters hollered, ‘Ron, Mom had twins!’ And I looked at my brother and I said, ‘Well, there goes my place at the table. I’m joining the Army.’ And so, I went in and joined the Army a couple of days later. But, I was going to join, anyhow.”

After his three-year enlistment was up, he returned home to work in the coalmines, until one of his brothers was killed in the early stages of the Korean War, and he re-enlisted. He requested to be sent into combat.

“I had made up my mind, you know, before I went there, that ... you can’t kill my brother and get away with it. So I went over there with kind of “vengeance is mine” kind of attitude. And that’s I why wanted to go up on line.”

He was deployed to Korea with the heavy mortar company of the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On 12 January 1952, Rosser, by then a corporal, was acting as a forward observer with Company L’s lead platoon during an assault on a heavily fortified hill near Ponggilli. When the unit came under heavy fire, Rosser went forward three times and attacked the hostile positions alone, each time returning to friendly lines to gather more ammunition before charging the hill again. Although wounded himself, he helped carry injured soldiers to safety once withdrawal became necessary. For these actions, Rosser was awarded the Medal of Honor.

★ MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION ★

Cpl. Rosser, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty. While assaulting heavily fortified enemy hill positions, Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, was stopped by fierce automatic-weapons, small-arms, artillery, and mortar fire. Cpl. Rosser, a forward observer was with the lead platoon of Company L, when it came under fire from 2 directions. Cpl. Rosser turned his radio over to his assistant and, disregarding the enemy fire, charged the enemy positions armed with only carbine and a grenade. At the first bunker, he silenced its occupants with a burst from his weapon. Gaining the top of the hill, he killed 2 enemy soldiers, and then went down the trench, killing 5 more as he advanced. He then hurled his grenade into a bunker and shot 2 other soldiers as they emerged. Having exhausted his ammunition, he returned through the enemy fire to obtain more ammunition and grenades and charged the hill once more. Calling on others to follow him, he assaulted 2 more enemy bunkers. Although those who attempted to join him became casualties, Cpl. Rosser once again exhausted his ammunition obtained a new supply, and returning to the hilltop a third time hurled grenades into the enemy positions. During this heroic action Cpl. Rosser single-handedly killed at least 13 of the enemy. After exhausting his ammunition he accompanied the withdrawing platoon, and though himself wounded, made several trips across open terrain still under enemy fire to help remove other men injured more seriously than himself. This outstanding soldier’s courageous and selfless devotion to duty is worthy of emulation by all men. He has contributed magnificently to the high traditions of the military service.

After leaving the Army, Rosser lived in Florida where he was a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. He now lives in Roseville, Ohio. The Rosser family tradition of Army service has been carried on, though. Three generations have served as members of the 101st Airborne at Fort Benning, Georgia: Rosser, his daughter and his granddaughter. ★





On 8 March 2020 at 2-108th Infantry Bn headquarters in Utica, New York, MAJ Gary M. Clark presented the Order of St. Maurice to SFC Martin Cozens.



On 6 March 2020, PVT Frederick Brooks, a World War II veteran of F Company 2-327th Glider Regimental, was presented the Order of St. Maurice at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy's Quarterly Distinguished Service-member Recognition ceremony. Presenting the award was MSG Tyler Benge and joining Brooks for the ceremony were Acting Director of the Sergeant Major Course SGM James Halchishick and Brooks' grandson MSG Michael Knowlton.



On 2 March 2020, 1SG Humberto Moreno (right) presented the Order of St. Maurice to SFC Daniel A. Moreno at Fort Irwin, California.



In the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, social distancing required that Army traditions were modified. After graduation from The Citadel, 2LT Jake Choppa received his commission via Zoom.



WHY BELONG TO THE NIA?

- To support the work of the ONLY organization representing the entire Infantry and the Chief of Infantry. The combined strength of our membership ensures that the Infantry voice is heard by decision makers.
- To share the camaraderie of like-minded soldiers and citizens who believe in maintaining the Infantry spirit, and to help recognize outstanding Infantrymen.
- To grow professionally through participation in Association activities, programs and publications.
- To support a new, expanded National Infantry Museum and the educational values associated with its contents.

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