



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

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Number 4

Save Sunday, 10 April 2011

**Occasion: The 45th Annual Sunday
Brunch of the 63d
Infantry Division
Association, USAR**

Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1500
South Raymond Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92831

(Raymond off-ramp from the
Riverside (91) Freeway in
either direction [the hotel is
visible from the freeway].
Turn north on Raymond.
Turn right into the hotel just
before the railroad tracks.)

Time: Social Hour – 1100 hours,
Buffet – 1200 hours

Attire: Dress blues with white shirt
and four-in-hand tie, or
business suit

Speakers: MG Paul E. Mock AUS (Ret),
Former Commander of the
63rd RRC

Subject: The Global War on Terror
–What We Are Doing to Take
Care of the Military Families

You need to:

Complete the attached Reservation Form (on last page) and mail it to the Treasurer, BG Charles K. Ebner AUS (Ret), 619 Jasmine Avenue, Corona Del Mar, CA 92625. The price is \$45.00 per person if you get your reservation in **by 15 March 2011**, \$55.00 per person after 15 March 2011.

From Your President

Dear Members and friends,

We are excited about our Annual luncheon on 10 April and looking forward to seeing you there. This is a once a year opportunity to get together with old friends and comrades from the 63d. Our guest speaker for this event is MG Paul Mock, the former commander of the 63d Regional Readiness Command. One of the highlights of this event has always been the fund raising raffle. This year we are trying something new and looking for your support. You will have the opportunity to bid on the gift or gifts of your choice. All gift donations should be unwrapped or marked so with a jar placed in front of each one. When you buy your tickets, you will place tickets in the jars for the gifts you want to win. Drawings will be made from each cup. Tickets for any very large items will be sold separately. Help us out, use your imagination and donate a gift to the new raffle. Thank you for your support.

See you there and remember to invite your friends who are not members too!

God Bless America,
LTC Bev Houghton, AUS (Ret)

Joseph L. Hamilton Passed

Joseph L. Hamilton passed away at home on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, with his wife, Marilyn, by his side. Joe was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa, on Nov. 30, 1933. He was preceded in death by his wife, Christine; daughter, Diana J. West; grandsons, T.J. West and Jesse Simpson; great-grandson, Sean Howe; brothers, Jim, Homer and Bill; and Dad and Mother.

Joe is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughters, Lynette Metcalf of Santa Rosa, CA, Denise and husband Gene of Arroyo Grande, CA, Linda J. Montgomery of Taft, Calif., Ron Bell of Northridge, Calif., and Melisa Bell of Tehachapi, CA; a sister, Mary of Emmetsburg; brothers, Pete of Des Moines, Iowa, Tom of Kansas and Bob from Clear Lake, Iowa. Joe has many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. He leaves many other relatives and friends and will be greatly missed. He will also be greatly missed by his faithful companion, Isabel)

He graduated from high school in 1952 and joined the U.S. Army on Dec. 30, 1952. After active duty, Joe worked for the Army Reserve in a civil service status. Joe had approximately 42 years of service, attaining the rank of chief warrant officer. Upon retiring, Joe entered into a partnership and built C&H Storage in Arroyo Grande, Calif. While operating C&H Storage, Joe and two other partners started JFR Demolition. JFR Demolition entered into a contract to demolish the Santa Maria Ice House and Packing sheds for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Joe obtained control of C&H Storage and sold it several years later to pursue other interests.

Joe was an active member of the Eagles, Moose, Elks, VFW, American Legion, Reserve Officers Association, 63rd Army Reserve Command and an avid NASCAR fan.

His family and many friends shared in a celebration of Joe's life at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4536 Patsy Drive, Kingman, AZ.

Joe was interred with a military graveside service at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the National Cemetery in Bakersfield, CA.

63d Infantry Division Association

Memorabilia Project Update

By LTC Beverley Houghton

As many of you know we, the 63d Infantry Division Association USAR, took ownership of items that had been in MG Theodore Paulson's possession. This was done with the intent that they would be inventoried and hand receipted to the historian of the current 63d RSC for display and storage at the new headquarters building at Moffett Field. Over the past months the items were inventoried and items relating the 63d Infantry Division and the 63d USAR organizations have been handed over to LTC Christianson, the current historian for the 63d RSC, and he will initiate the display in the showcase space that he has already allocated to our belonging at the new headquarters. Records received relating specifically to our association are currently in my possession and will be further inventoried for future preservation and storage.

I wish to thank MG Paulson for contributing these valuable records and memories to our association, to LTC Thomas Christianson for his support and assistance with the project and to COL Al Diaz and LTC Jim Wright who joined me at my dining room table a number of times to go over many, many pictures and other documents and inventory them to complete this worthwhile project.

AFTER THE WAR

A Book Review

MAJ Ray Edgerly

Persons interested in the Civil War or whatever happened to so and so—will not be able to put this gem down. This has included my wife, Dortha.

David Hardin has recently published a winner consisting of eleven stories revealing the "explosive, romantic and emotional lives of some Civil War personalities and their relatives. Among these are: Jefferson Davis'

daughter; Gen. Sherman; Mary Lincoln and her son, Robert; Libbie Custer and seven others. He points out "their lives did not end with Appomattox," but had dissimilar, ironic outcomes—After the Shooting Stopped!

Did you know?

By Rosemary Murray

In April 1965, a popular rebellion in the Dominican Republic toppled the remnants of the U. S. backed Trujillo dictatorship setting the stage for the master tinkers of America's Cold War machine. In his book, "Rag-Tags, Scum,. Riff-Raff and Commies: The U.S. Intervention in the Dominican Republic, 1965-1966", Eric Thomas Chester carefully reconstructs the events that followed into a thriller of historical sweep, and creates a stunning portrait of how the U. S. government—from President Lyndon Johnson on down used the Dominican Republic as a tool of its imperial arrogance.

He explains how the U.S. intervention was in the tradition of gunboat diplomacy as well as a consequence of Cold War ideology, and the Cuban Revolution. After the withdrawal of U. S. troops from Haiti in 1934 and the initiation of Roosevelt's so-called "good neighbor policy", the United States had refrained from sending its own troops to intervene in Latin America. The result was that by early May 1965 with more than thirty thousand troops deployed, there was a greater U. S. military presence in the Dominican Republic than in South Vietnam.

From Rosemary Murray: Why I got interested in this is that a young Marine. William Brown, joined the Marines about the same time my son joined the Air Force. They were buddies and I knew Bill died in the service to his country. I presumed he was killed in action in Vietnam and tried to find his name on the Vietnam Wall. It wasn't there. While back east this summer I was talking to some Veterans and they suggested he might have been in the Dominican Republic. I went to Barnes and Noble and did some research and found the above mentioned book.

I remembered that in some of my archives I had a newspaper clipping about William Brown. I found it. Headline in the Bridgeport, CT. Post read, "Nation

Mourns Southport Marine, First to be killed in Santo Domingo. He was with I Company, Third Battalion, Second Marine Division.

Forty-four American soldiers died and 172 were wounded. It is estimated that 6 to 10 thousand Dominicans died, mostly civilians. My question is, "How do we pay homage to these Veterans?"

Washington Examiner

February 14, 2011

Pg. 27

Citizen Soldiers Are Key To Pentagon's Future

By James Jay Carafano

The Melvin Laird, the Wisconsin congressman knew what he was getting into when President Nixon tabbed him as secretary of defense. Laird would have to wind down an unpopular war and thread the needle among a paranoid White House, a restive Congress and a powerhouse personality known as Henry Kissinger.

Despite these obstacles, Laird excelled during his tenure at the Pentagon. Few have proved a better steward of our men and women in uniform during difficult conditions.

President Reagan and his defense secretary, Cap Weinberger, are rightly credited for resurrecting a demoralized and "hollow" military in the 1980s. But it was Laird who laid the foundation for that renaissance.

It was Laird who introduced the idea of the "total force." Previously, the National Guard and the reserves had been mere afterthoughts in the Pentagon -- underfunded, underequipped, and ill-prepared to do much more than gather on weekends for parades and barbecues.

Shortly after taking office, Laird, embarked on an initiative to kill the draft and establish an all-volunteer military. For that to be workable, Laird knew that all the military forces -- active and reserve alike -- would have to be ready to serve the nation when needed.

From now on, he told the services, "a total force concept will be applied to all aspects of programming, planning, manning, equipping and employing National Guard and Reserve forces." They were to be considered equally vital parts of the armed forces.

Laird's total force policy has proved itself during the Long War. U.S. troops have been deployed and fighting without quarter since 9/11 – a feat possible only because the Pentagon could rely on the Guard and Reserve.

Today, the military faces an uncertain future, much like the days following the fall of Saigon. The American economy is sick, and some want to cure it by cutting defense.

But after a decade of war and two decades of severely underfunding equipment replacement and modernization programs, cutting the Pentagon's budget now will just leave us a military ill-equipped to meet future challenges. That raises the odds our troops will have to pay a steeper, unnecessarily higher butcher's bill down the road.

Nor can we afford to focus on preparing only active-duty troops. If we don't take care of the Guard and Reserve, we'll have no "safety net" for the next fight.

Before slashing the Pentagon's budget, Congress and the White House should read "The Independent Panel Review of Reserve Component Employment in an Era of Persistent Conflict." Written by three former senior army officers, including former Army Chief of Staff Dennis Reimer, the report makes the case that, in the future, the Reserves will be more important to maintaining military readiness than ever before.

Reserve forces, they argue, must be "consistent and sustained over time instead of the past paradigm of fight-win-demobilize-return to garrison and subsequently mobilize for another conflict -- at huge cost in people and money."

The Reimer report includes many common-sense ideas for maintaining what is arguably the most cost-effective part of the military. Congress should be reading this type of informed, well-reasoned report rather than empty-headed "penny-wise, pound-foolish" proposals to slash the defense budget.

The department responsible for national defense is not just any agency. Protecting a nation of 300 million requires a large budget.

Politicians looking to burnish their cost-cutting credentials should look elsewhere. The way to shrink big government is not to put the nation at greater risk, but to cut programs

that enrich a few while doing little to give us greater security or liberty.

Examiner Columnist James Jay Carafano is a senior research fellow for national security at the Heritage Foundation.

We need your current email address!

Please send us your email address. This will help us to get information out to you when we have time sensitive information to share or news of members or families in need of your support. Send it to our membership chairman, CW4 Lee Carson at LACMenifee@aol.com.

Along the same line, each time we have to discover that you moved with the Post Office "Address Correction Service", we have to pay full first class postage to have your newsletter forwarded to your new address and receive the notification of your change. The Post Office usually will not forward our newsletters even if you only changed apartment numbers. Send your address change to our membership chairman, CW4 Lee Carson, 28535 Jenny Lane, Menefee, CA 92584-9237.

Our costs are going up and most of you are on Lifetime Memberships where you paid \$50.00 for your membership years ago so we are not getting any further income from you. **Help us to keep our costs down and if you can, send us a tax free donation to help keep us going.**



Give one of these membership applications to a friend. Anyone who has served in the 63rd Infantry Division either in WWII or the USAR, or any of its successor units (the 63d Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), 63d Regional Support Command (RSC), and/or 63d Regional Readiness Command (RRC), and their subordinate units) is eligible to join.



Membership Application 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Rank/Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____
Street _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____
City/State _____ Zipcode _____

Spouse's Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

Present or former assignments in 63d Inf Div 63d ARCOM 63d RSC/RRC

Life Membership \$50 3 Years \$25 1 Year \$10

Make check payable to 63d Inf Div Assn USAR

Send application and payment to

CW4 Layland A. Carson, 28535 Jenny Lane, Menifee, CA 92584-9237

63d RSC Grand Opening Ceremony 16 February 2011 By LTC Bev Houghton

On 16 February 2011 I attended the Grand Opening Ceremony for the 63d Regional Support Command Sergeant James Witkowski Armed forces Reserve Center at 230 RT Jones Road, Mountain View, CA. The official party included BG Jon D. Lee, Commander 63d RSC, BG William j. Gothard, Chief of Staff, US Army Reserve Command, Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Barbara Witkowski, parents of SGT James Witkowski, his sisters, Mrs. Tracey Ankrom and Mrs., Randi Ledingham and SGM (Ret) Jon P. Souza, who was on the convoy with SGT Witkowski. Remarks were made by BG Lee, BG Gothard, Mrs. Witkowski and SGT Souza. The formal ceremony included the unveiling of the plaque honoring SGT Witkowski and the ribbon cutting for the official opening of the building. The event was well attended by family and friends of SGT Witkowski, community leaders, numerous flag officers including former commanders of the 63d MG Paulson and MG Osterberg. Also attending were two WWII veterans who are members of the 63d Infantry Division Association WWII.

SGT Witkowski was awarded the Silver Star "for gallantry under fires as a gunner on a combat logistics patrol in the 729th transportation

company during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 26 October 2005, Sergeant James Witkowski is cited for heroic action against anti-coalition forces when his convoy encountered a complex attack. Without regard for his own life, he provided suppressive fire on the enemy and absorbed the full brunt of a hand grenade thrown at his gun truck saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. His supreme sacrifice and bravery reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

During the open house I was able to view the displays that have been started and include items that our Association has loaned for display representing the 63d Infantry Division, USAR and follow on 63d commands and units. (Photos will be available on our website).

