

For Retirees By Retirees



Retired Military Police Officers DIGEST

VOLUME XV, ISSUE III

www.rmpo.org

FALL/WINTER 2011

Special Issue - 36th Reunion in Little Rock, AR



*Your Little Rock Hosts -
Marty and Carroll Dum*



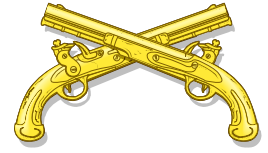


Retired Military Police Officers Digest

P.O. Box 701

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www.rmpo.org



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Features

Reunion Special Issue: 13-pages of photos and stories

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DIGEST Input: News items, personal info, or donations can be sent to the RMPO address above or by email to: RMPOeditor@me.com Deadline for submissions for the Spring 2012 issue is 9 March 2012.

ROSTERS: To purchase a roster, send a \$10.00 check, made payable to Jack Kochenour and mailed to: 201 Canyon View Drive, Lansing, KS 66043. Changes or additions to the roster should may be mailed or emailed to: ltc.jak@gmail.com

Editorially Speaking



Let me start by offering my congratulations to Carroll and Marty Dunn and their volunteers for the tremendous job they did in arranging and running the 36th Retired MP Officers Reunion and in showcasing Little Rock. The beauty of the city was surpassed only by their hospitality.

While I could not attend myself, I was well represented by Jane who gave an update on the DIGEST at the business meeting. I was able to “attend” some of the business meeting by video teleconferencing and address some questions about the DIGEST. I’d like to recap some of the highlights of that discussion.

Going to a color format to give us sharper photographs, meant going to the glossy magazine type paper. This lighter paper subsequently cut mailing costs. There is yet a lighter glossy paper we can move to but that may risk some damage to the DIGEST in mailing so we will stick with what we have for now. We also cut the number of copies of each run of the DIGEST to minimize the waste overages. All together the cost of the magazine went from \$4.10 per copy to \$3.35 per copy.

As everyone knows the DIGEST is supported completely by donations. We look at the donations after each issue to measure the relative health of the DIGEST. After the Winter 2011 issue we received \$6,260; \$4,935 after the Spring Issue and \$2,751 after the Summer issue. On average, 5% of the members donate. This appears to be a cyclical trend in donations that we hope will continue to allow us to continue to provide you with the same quality product you’ve seen over the years. I will add that we benefited from the success of the Little Rock reunion committee by a donation to the DIGEST of \$3,500.00

In related news, we are moving forward on getting the Retired MP Officers incorporated as an association in order to get non-profit organization status under the appropriate portion of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. This will permit donors to receive tax-deductions for their charitable contribution and allow us to receive mail rates for nonprofit groups.

As far as content of the DIGEST, we continue to solicit from all of you articles and pictures. The article from Gary Freedman in this issue is a great example of the type of article we are looking for. We would like to get at least two articles like that to anchor each issue. If you know someone who has an interesting story let us know and we’ll contact them.

In conclusion, my job as a Director for the Association of the US Army keeps me engaged with the issues affecting retirees such as health and pay. There are potentially a lot of changes coming down the road as well as many rumors and misinformation. I’ve included in the Bullentin Board the latest AUSA Torchbearer paper. If you are not a member of one of the professional associations tracking and working on behalf of retirees, veterans and active members of the military and their families I urge you to join to stay informed and engaged.

Your Editors - COL (Ret) John Davies and Jane Davies

Corrections from Spring 2011 issue:
Page 6, Letters from Readers: Charles Hurlburt, should be spelled Charles Hurlbut



Retired Military Police Officers

From our Readers

Keep up the good work.

Dan Silvea
LTC (Ret)
Houston, TX

Too many mentors and friends listed in TAPs. Each name results in memories that brings laughter, tears and longing for times past.

Kenneth Pierce, Jr.
COL (Ret)
Seminole, FL

Several years ago at a RMPO reunion in Branson, Missouri, I had a conversation with COL Pat Lowrey concerning the history of the RMPO. He candidly reminisced about some difficult and lean years for the organization. The thing I gleaned from our conversation is that COL Lowrey felt his wife, Peggy, and the dedication of his RMPO DIGEST staff, kept this unique organization from going out.

I like the crisp and colorful new look of the RMPO DIGEST. I salute you, Jane, and your dedicated staff for the changes. May I encourage everyone in our ranks to make a small donation to help with the printing and mailing costs.

I turned 66 and like COL Arnie Daxe, it seems that I am taking commands from my two granddaughters, Andrea, 15 and Heather, 14. I find myself getting up early and driving the girls at 0630 hours to their high school

for four hours of volleyball conditioning. Their coach and health teacher is also an Army Reservist. He requires the volleyball players to run, do crunches, pushups, and lift weights. Coach Hill is currently at Officer Candidate School. Andrea believes that once he is commissioned, he will return to Active duty next year.

In 2004, Major Don Devaney, PM, at Tripler MC in Hawaii, gave me a copy of the RMPO DIGEST. He recommended that I become a member of this organization. May I encourage everyone in our ranks to reach out to retired MP officers and invite them to join our ranks. In case a fellow RMPO officer has never been thanked, please let me thank you for your service to our nation. Please accept my small donation in honor of our Military Police officers currently serving at the tip of the spear around the world. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

John Hall
LTC (Ret)
Cadiz, KY

Thanks for taking the editors' assignment. I look forward to the DIGEST and enjoy reading about friends and fellow officers. Keep up the good work.

Bart Elfman
LTC (Ret)
Newport News, VA

I'm still teaching at our state Police Academy. Very similar to

teaching at the MP school and trying to keep up with students of their age keeps me on my toes.

And, thank you for accepting the very, very hard shoes to fill of Pat Lowrey.

Wayne Harris
COL (Ret)
Columbia, SC

Enclosed is my annual contribution to the DIGEST. The Spring Issue was excellent.

Oliver O'Kier
COL (Ret)
Oglesby, IL

Received the summer 2011 DIGEST in yesterday's mail and had read it cover to cover before putting it down. It's always a delight to receive it. It's also good to see that the sons and daughters of our fellow officers are achieving great things as well.

Chuck Hurlbut
COL (Ret)
Prince, VA

This is a sad time for me. My wife died 5 Feb 2011 so I'm at a loss. After 67 years together, I just don't know what to do.

I enjoy the magazine and appreciate all your hard work. This is a small contribution but will help you a little.

Wilburn Clifton
LTC (Ret)
Chattanooga, TN

I'm sure you have already heard that our good friend and fellow RMPO, Pete Slusar, died on 22 June 2011 of pancreatic cancer. Pete passed away very quickly. We're all going to miss his smiling face. His energetic way of helping our organization plan and prepare for our annual reunions. He was a wonderful man and good friend.

We are sad today – but when tomorrow comes I think Pete would say – come on, folks! Carry on! Remember the happy times! Love one another more – get on with your lives! Be good!

He was an outstanding man!
Theodore Kanamine
BG (Ret)
Port St Lucie, FL

I am placed on the retired rolls effective 1 August 2011 after 30 years of service and am happy to join the ranks of the RMPO network.

Marguerite Garrison
COL (Ret)
Springfield, VA

Our sincere thanks to COL Pat Lowrey and COL Frank Cohn for all their years of work and selfless dedication for the RMPO. We all owe them a debt of gratitude – so please accept our grateful thanks.

Frank Turner
LTC (RET)
Southern Pines, NC

Thanks for your great effort to make the DIGEST something special.

Theodore Cole
LTC (Ret)
Decatur, GA

The DIGEST improves with every issue. Thanks for the continuing efforts for excellence.

Thomas McGreevy
MAJ (Ret)
Atlanta, GA

COL Davies, thanks to you and your bride for all you do in support of the MP community.

Pete Laguans
LTC (Ret)
Louisville, KY

Keep up the great work! Nancy and I are retiring to Charleston, SC in October.

David Berg
COL (Ret)
Syracuse, NY

I figure I may as well purchase a lifetime subscription to the RMPO DIGEST. That way I won't have to worry about renewing my subscription like I do with the Army Times. If there's any left over, just use it as you deem fit.

Retired Military Police officers must really be a special breed of folks. I find it hard to believe that something like the RMPO DIGEST is produced and distributed solely by volunteers. Hope all is well with you.

Chuck Hurlbut
COL (RET)
Prince, Va

We love the new format! Thanks for the excellent magazine.

Paul Johnson
COL (Ret)
Ogden, UT

Looking forward to participating and contributing to RMPO.

Charles Tennison
COL (Ret)
Ochelata, OK

Please accept the enclosed donation toward the operating expense of the RMPO DIGEST, and related expenses. It is an honor and privilege to be a member of such a distinguished, dedicated and professional organization.

Thank you and all the other volunteers that makes such an organization possible.

James Mercer
CW3 (Ret)
Chambersburg, PA

Thanks to you and Jane for taking on the editorship responsibilities for the Retired Military Police Officers Digest. It continues to be an excellent publication and gets better with each issue. On June 1, 2011 I retired for the second time from my job with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Carla and I are enjoying traveling and spending more time with our five grandchildren. We look forward to working with COL (Ret) Garold Holcombe and his wife, Judy, host the RMPO reunion in Oklahoma City, OK in September 2012.

The attached donation is to help offset the costs of the Digest and is submitted in memory of our fallen comrades.

Fred Liebe
COL (Ret)
Oklahoma City, OK

My son, John Holcombe, is currently in Kobel ,Afganistan,

(his third combat tour) (two to Iraq) here is a picture with him and Ollie North.

Garold Holcombe
COL (Ret)
Oklahoma City, OK

(Ed.- This photo was taken on 23 Jun 2011. CPT Hol-



combe was promoted to major on 1 August.)

Please use the donation as needed for DIGEST expenses. You're (both) doing a wonderful job with it!

Curtis E. Earp, Jr.
COL (Ret)
Tallahassee, FL

Colonel Curtis E. Earp, Jr, MPC, USA (Ret) was recently inducted into the Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice Hall of Fame. This significant honor was largely based on his exemplary accomplishments during his career as a Military Police Officer, followed by a stellar civilian criminal justice career.



Welcome to RMPO

The following retirees have joined the ranks of our group since the last issue of the DIGEST

MAJ Robert M. Traxler, Dorr, MI
MAJ Dave Dalum, Minneapolis, MN
COL Charles Tennison, Ochellata, OK
CW4 David C. Allen, Ada, MI
MAJ Corinna A. Robinson, Alexandria, VA
COL Wayne and Beverly Ruthven, North Little Rock, AR
MAJ Dale A. Meisel, Wercomville, PA
LTC Robert (Bob) and Bev Vogt, Chapin, SC
Mrs. Dennis (Penny) Skog, Riverside, CA
LTC Ronald G. (Ron) and Joyce Rada, Manchester, WA
LTC Donna E. and Rafael Rivera, Stafford, VA

LTC Dick and Glynnda Wong, McDonough, GA
CWO James E. and Betty Mercer, Chambersburg, PA
LTC Tim and Connie Bassler, Tampa, FL
COL Richard and Kathy Swengros, Fredricksburg, VA
LTC Hank and Marta Land, Shawnee, OK
CWO Gary L and Renee Gischbach, Shallotte, NC
LTC Edward M. and Leslie Levy, Warwick, NY



Marie's Medley

by Marie Curry

Marie Curry is a long-time contributor to the DIGEST, offering insights of our active-duty and retired Military Police Officer Family.

I would like to dedicate my column this Fall to COL (R) Paul and Peggy Sowa, who were tremendous mentors to my husband and me, (and to many others), during some critical years in our military history. Steve and I had the chance to see the Sowa's this past June when they were in New England to visit their son, Paul, Jr. We also had the

Paul and Peggy Sowa, who were tremendous mentors to my husband and me, (and to many others), during some critical years in our military history.



pleasure of meeting their sweet granddaughter, Abby. Thanks to this special pair for their mentorship and friendship through the years

COL (R) JC Chambliss returned home to the States in late September 2011 after working for a year in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor with MPRI. He was reunited with his wife, Leesa, and their two children in Mississippi. He is pictured here with LTC Curt Schroeder when the two ran into each other in Afghanistan last spring.



COL Wade Dennis has just completed a yearlong tour in Afghanistan serving as the Senior Advisor to



the Minister of the Interior of that country. His daughter, an AG officer, CPT Jessica Dennis, arrived in Afghanistan in September and their tours overlapped by three weeks before

Wade headed home to the States. Jessica is serving as the Executive Assistant to the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan Chief of Staff, British BG



Mark Dunham. Pictured are COL Dennis, BG Dunham and CPT Dennis. A warm welcome home to Wade and a great next assignment in Colorado!

LTC Michael "Chris" Henshaw returned home to the States in the early summer, after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. He and his wife, Rhonda, and son, Tristan, have moved to Fort Leonard Wood, MO where Chris is now serving as the chief of the DPO (Directorate of Plans and Operations) at the MP School. Rhonda has just landed a job teaching Kindergarten in their new community. Welcome home, Chris, and congrats to you both on your new endeavors.



COL Stephen Green has been serving in Afghanistan since last April. He was working as a senior mentor team leader when he first arrived in Afghanistan but he is serving in a different capacity now. His wife, Madeline, is keeping the home fires burning in Kentucky, and she is looking forward to Steve's return in the spring. The Green's granddaughter, Madison, has just turned a year old.



COL Mark S. Inch was promoted to Brigadier General on the 22nd of September 2011 at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. His wife, Barbara, and his father, Dr. Morris Inch, pinned his new rank on his uniform. The rest of the Inch family also participated in the ceremony. Pictured are the Inch's with their four children as they were preparing to leave their quarters for Memorial Grove, where the promotion ceremony took place. BG Inch is now serving as the new Commandant of the Military Police Corps. He took that position from BG David Phillips, (who has retired from active duty) the day before.



COL Ed Lowe is currently serving over in Kabul, Afghanistan at NTM - A Headquarters (NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan). He will be there for the next year. Ed is serving as the Senior Advisor to the Afghan National Civil Order Police. Pictured are: COL Ed Lowe, the officer he is mentoring, MG Zamarai, LTG Caldwell, and a fellow advisor, COL Kim. Ed's wife and two daughters are remaining in Carlisle, Pennsylvania while Ed is deployed.

COL Dan McElroy is replacing COL Wade Dennis as the new Senior Advisor to the Afghan Minister of the Interior. Dan has apparently worked for the new minister as an advisor in a former position he held in the Aghan Military, so this is a homecoming of sorts for them both. The transition went very smoothly from the former Advisor to the new, as seen in these photos that COL McElroy sent to me recently. Dan presented Wade with one of his old brigade coins as a thank you for the great job he did and as a farewell to his friend. COL Dennis also received a Legion of Merit before he left Afghanistan.



Pennsylvania while Ed is deployed.

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BG David Phillips retired from active duty in September at Fort Leonard Wood, MO as he changed command of the MP Corps to incoming Commandant, BG Mark Inch. Attached are photos of Dave and Dawn Phillips with the awards they were presented by MG David Quantock before the Change of

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Command Ceremony; then the actual change of command; and finally, with the folded flag which MG Quantock presented to BG Phillips which had been

flown over the post on his last day of active duty. We wish the Phillips much happiness in the next chapter of their lives and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the MP Corps and its families. They are currently enjoying a rest at their cabin in Canada and plan to retire to Texas or Florida in the near future.

MG David E. Quantock finished up his command of the US Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, MO on the 23rd of September. He and his wife, Melissa, were presented with several awards by LTG Jack Sterling, the Deputy Commanding General of TRADOC - Fort Monroe, VA

before the Change of Command ceremony that day. The Quantocks have moved on to Fort Belvoir, VA and the general's new



duties include serving as the Provost Marshal General of the Army and the Commander of CID. The Quantock's daughter, Heather, was married to her college sweetheart, Matthew Hartnett, at the post



chapel at Fort Bragg, NC on the 8th of October. The Quantock's had a very busy fall this year. We wish them much happiness in their new assignment in the Wash-

ington, DC area and time to unpack the boxes! Thanks for all you did while you were at Fort Leonard Wood, Dave and Melissa!

The MP Hall of Fame Ceremony was held at Fort



Leonard Wood, MO on 14 Sep 2011. Among the five inductees this year was MG (R) Donald J. Ryder. Don and his wife, Lisa, traveled out to Missouri from their home in northern Virginia to receive the award. Pictured at the ceremony are from left to right: BG David Phillips (MP Commandant), the Ryder's, and Regimental CSM Charles Kirkland.

LTC David Segalla completed his yearlong tour in Afghanistan in July. He was presented several awards by BG Smith, among them a Legion of Merit, before he returned to the States. Dave and his family are now stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO where he is working as the chief of CATD (Command and Tactics Division) at the MP School.

LTC Curt Schroeder was home from Afghanistan on R & R in early September. He spent two weeks with his wife, Heather, and their four children: Justice, Glory, Liberty and Hope, at their home at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Curt was able to stay a third week because he was scheduled to address the folks at the

MP Conference during MP Anniversary Week at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. We ran into the Schroeder's while they were in Missouri attending



the Regimental Change of Command on the 21st of September. What a joy it was to see Curt and Heather and to meet all of their children! Curt is serving as the Provost Marshal for US Forces in Afghanistan and has another half year to go on his deployment.

I had the distinct pleasure of gathering for breakfast with a very special group of MP spouses one morning during MP Anniversary Week at Fort Leonard Wood this past September. Spending time



with these ladies was truly a highlight of the week for me! Some of these ladies are spouses of soldiers

currently stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, and others had come in from other duty posts for MP Anniversary Week activities. Several were wives of retired MP's, and one was the sister of new Com-

mandant's wife, Barbara Inch. Thanks to all who came out that day to welcome Mrs. Inch, and thanks to all MP spouses everywhere (of active duty and retired service members) for the ways in which you support your soldiers and take care of your families and your Army family. You are truly an inspiration to us all! Happy Thanksgiving to our entire MP family.

The MP Corps lost a good friend on the 18th of August. Barbara J. Baker, long time Administrative Assistant to MP Commandants and Assistant Commandants, passed away after a valiant two year battle against cancer. When she passed, she was the Administrative Assistant for a senior leader at Fort



Benning, GA. Barbara was able to attend her younger son's High School Graduation in May and also to see photos of her older son's wedding in June. These were both answers to her prayers. Our heartfelt condolences to Barbara's family and to her best friend,

Kristina DuBois, who was a godsend to Barbara during her courageous fight.

RMPO Webmaster Needed

- COL Mike Tarman

I started and have maintained the RMPO website since the RMPO Phoenix Reunion in 1999. Following my scheduled December 31, 2011 retirement from the Transportation Security Administration, I plan to prepare for and hike the 2650-mile Pacific Crest Trail. I will begin my hike on April 26, 2012 at Campo, California and hope to complete it on or about October 1, 2012 at Manning Park, Canada. (If you would like more information on my hike, check out <http://hiking-the-PCT.com>) I will be unable to keep the RMPO website up to date during the time I am on the PCT. Since I have served as the RMPO webmaster for 12 years and a replacement is needed for a minimum of 5 ½ months, I decided this is an excellent time to give someone else the opportunity to serve as the webmaster. If you are interested, drop me an email (mike_tarman@bellsouth.net) with your

phone number and I will give you a call to discuss the particulars associated with being the webmaster.

RMPO Roster Update

- LTC Jack Kochenour

Thanks to Frank Cohn who did a superb job maintaining the roster and is a tough act to follow.

There are a few minor changes to the publishing of the roster. One change is the process for getting it printed. Also, you will notice that the roster now reflects the day it was printed as a footnote in the lower left corner of every page.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated in keeping the roster accurate. With more than 1750 entries, it can be a chore insuring that all of the information is correct. When a change occurs please notify me. There are two ways to do that and they are listed on page 2 of the DIGEST.

Shared Memories

Submitted by Gary M. Freedman, LTC,
MP (Ret), Jonesboro, GA

My wife, Lynn, and I spend each summer, mid-June thru mid-Aug, at our summer place in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula, enjoying the cooling breezes of Lake Superior. When we depart our home here in Georgia we stop in Indiana for a few days and pick up a couple of our older grandkids, who then enjoy some of the summer with us in Michigan. We have 13 grandkids by our older son Dave and his wife (yes, 13) and they range in age from 6 months to 18 years. While in Indiana one night, on an outing with some of the kids, we stopped at *KFC*. While there the manager told us the last batch for the night was in the oven so we'd be getting the last fixin's. While we were waiting, another customer entered and I told him the last batch was being prepared but we didn't need it all so there'd be plenty for everyone. He was wearing a baseball cap embroidered with the words "VIETNAM VETERAN" and some service ribbons. It was really well made. Told him I was also a Viet Nam vet and he extended his hand and said, "Welcome home, brother." He noticed the scars on my arm and face from wounds received in 'Nam and said "Looks like you had a rough tour." We talked awhile, waiting for our servings and when we received our



Baseball cap given to me
and my old blues

order, paid and headed for the door he called out to me to wait a second. He then came over, took off his cap and handed it to me. He said "we're brothers so I want you to have this." I was shocked! The grandkids were in awe, actually cried, and talked about nothing else

given the cap by a total stranger with whom I had a special bond, and will always treasure it.

Having departed Indiana, and traveling through Michigan with Lynn and a couple of the grandkids (David, 16, and Alia, 13), we stopped in the city of Gaylord to gas-up. The kids, being normal teenagers, were hungry and asked if we could stop at the *Big Boy* visible across the street. I was somewhat reluctant since it was getting past lunchtime and I wanted to reach our summer place before nightfall. But hunger pangs prevailed so we headed for the restaurant. Entering the restaurant's double doors I noticed a man exiting the adjoining doors and he was wearing an outer vest with a small Viet Nam flag and the words "Viet Nam Veteran." I looked up, spoke very briefly to him that I recognized the flag, and then noticed he was also wearing Crossed Pistols, the branch insignia of Military Police, which was my branch in Viet Nam. I stopped and said, "I see you're wearing MP insignia, and I was an MP in Viet Nam, also." His reply shocked me...and will 'til my final days. He said "Yeah, and you're Gary Freedman and you were my platoon leader in Viet Nam in 1968-69." I was stopped in my tracks, in total surprise! He told me his name, Charlie Conn, and I said, "You were a skinny, red-haired guy who always fried in the sun." He smiled, said "Yup, that's me." He now sports white hair, a white beard and no longer lays claim to the "skinny" description, but I remembered him well. Our platoon had trained for a year in the U.S., and was in combat for a year together, so we all knew each other pretty well and our camaraderie was very high. Needless to say, I asked Charlie to have lunch with us and we reminisced for well over an hour. Once again the grandkids were in awe and talked about that encounter all the way to the Upper Peninsula. What a chance meeting. And, as Charlie explained, he wouldn't have been exiting *Big Boy* at that exact time

all the way home. I was honored to have been

but for a woman ahead of him in the pay line dropping her change purse, which delayed him and had him coming out as we were going in. I have little doubt that God had some role in our paths crossing. Charlie and I will stay in contact.

After arrival at our summer place, our grandson David and I were cleaning out the garage one day and came across a hanging clothing bag. We opened it and inside was my old Army Field Jacket, cleaned, starched, pressed and looking brand-new. Young David was impressed how neat it looked and asked about the sewn-on insignia (paratrooper wings, combat patch, unit patch, *US Army* lettering, etc.). He asked if he could try it on and I, of course, said sure. It fit him like it was tailored for him and I said, "It's yours." He was somewhat flabbergasted, stood there for a few moments, and then said "Will you show me how to salute?" I showed him the proper method and he asked that I take his photo while he had the jacket on and was saluting. As I took the photo, he held an excellent salute for over a minute, got a very serious look on his face and said, "I salute my Grandpa who is my hero and who I love very, very much." Two things crossed my mind at that point: first, that I love my grandson, and second, that I, too, once had a 29-inch waist like David carries fittingly on his 6-ft frame. Incidentally, that photo is now the main photo on his *Facebook* wall, and his friends' many comments show that they are impressed, indeed.



Needless to say, this summer was quite unforgettable and had more of a Military Connection than I ever could have anticipated. It's been a great year with memories that will stay with me forever!

This is a new feature for the RMPO DIGEST. If you have an interesting story or experience you would like to share, please submit to the editors (see page 2). Editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.

DIGEST Honor Roll of Donors

Special thanks to the following individuals who have contributed since the last issue of the DIGEST. Your generosity enables the DIGEST to reach the many members of our Retired Military Police Officer family and to touch out to future members.

In recognition of their contributions, here are are current Honor Roll of Donors:

COL David Berg	COL Dana Kierstead
CW4 Samuel Bruce	LTC Edwin Kulo
LTC James Burdick	LTC Pete Laguens
LTC Harry Christiansen	COL Fred Liebe
LTC Wilburn Clifton	Little Rock Reunion Fund
COL Frank Cohn	COL Stan Lobodinski
LTC Theodore Cole	MAJ Thomas McGreevy
Mrs. Alice Duruz	CW3 James Mercer
COL Curtis Earp, Jr.	COL Crispus Nix
LTC Charles Elfman	COL Oliver O'Kier
LTC William England	COL David Patton
Mrs. Stefania Feher	COL Kenneth Pierce
COL Bernard Friend	COL Kenneth Prendergast
COL Marguerite Garrison	LTC John Rackovan
COL Don Greenwald	LTC Dan Silvea
LTC LeRoy Grobe	LTC Herman Statum
LTC John Hall	COL Richard Stevens
Mrs Joan Hall	COL Michael Sullivan
COL Wayne Harris	MAJ Leann Swieczkowski
MAJ Charles Heck	COL Charles Tennison
COL Ray Humphrey	LTC Frank Turner
COL Charles Hurlbut	COL Peter Wojcik
COL Chuck Hurlbut	
COL Paul Johnson	
BG Theodore Kanamine	



**Never too Early -
Plan Now to Attend the
37th RMPO Reunion
September 26 - 29, 2012 in
Oklahoma City, OK**

If you thought Little Rock was great, wait till you get to Oklahoma City!



Colonel Garold Holcombe and Judy Bettinger are the hosts for the 37th Reunion in Oklahoma City. They will lead a great team of retirees to give RMPO members another superb reunion.

Little Rock, Arkansas -
More than You Imagined!

The 36th Retired Military Police Officers Reunion

Story by Jane Davies

Photographs by Lieutenant Colonel Jim Anderson (Ret)

Additional photographs

by Colonel Jack Kochenour (Ret) and Jane Davies

Arriving in Little Rock, Arkansas, attendees at this year's reunion all expressed the same sentiment - Little Rock was more than we imagined!

And that sentiment stayed with the 119 retired Military Police Officers and their family members throughout the 36th Reunion. Everyone enjoyed their stay in Little Rock and the Reunion.

Colonel Carroll Dunn and his spouse, Marty, were the consummate hosts and, along with the entire Little Rock Reunion Committee, went out of their way to ensure a great time was had by all.

During the four-day event, reunion members attended several key activities and took advantage of tours/activities arranged by the Reunion Committee.

Key activities included the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening; the Memorial Breakfast and the Banquet Dinner, signifying the end of the Reunion.

A popular tour was a guided bus trip of Little Rock historical sights such as Central High School,

The Old Mill (pictured above) and a stop at the Clinton Presidential Library. There was also a trip to Hot Springs National Park; a golf tournament; dinner theatre; river boat dinner cruise; and a military tour.

The Hospitality Room was the heartbeat of the Reunion where members could congregate and meet up with old and new friends. Located high on a corner of the Doubletree Inn, the room had sweeping vistas of the Arkansas River and countryside. Of course, a well-stocked refreshment table was very popular, too.

Pictures say it best, and thanks to Jim Anderson (and a few from Jack Kochenour and Ted Kanamine), we have a great pictorial of the 36th Reunion.

Our sincere thanks to the Little Rock Reunion Committee: Carroll and Marty Dunn, Doyle and Judy Herndon, Carol and Jerry Thompson, Mary and Rich Engel, Ralph Turbyfill, Beverly Ruthven, Neil Wayne, Tammy Gore, and Kevin Murphee. Your work was appreciated by all!

We look forward to Oklahoma City in 2012.



*Horace Berry and his daughter,
Andrea Kornblue*



*Renate Anderson, Patsy Fairris,
Donna Jolley, Maryann Kochenour*



*John Valieant, Bob Townsend, Mat
Matassarini, Bob MacDonald*



Bess and John Valieant



*Col Carroll Dunn addressing the
Reception*

Welcome Reception

Greeting and meeting old and
new friends at the first event
of the Reunion



Judy and Doyle Henderson



Bob and Lorraine MacDonald



Ceci and John Mumma



*Tom Sanford, Everett Perrin,
and Carroll Dunn*



Ted and Valerie Cole



*Andy and Marilyn Gray, Reg
Fansler and Al Green*



Renny and Vern Pike



Gathering around the food and beverages



Steve Vass and Bert Edmondson



Watching a video on a laptop



Doyle Herndon and Curtis Earp



Ralph Turbyfill, Carroll Dunn, and Tom Regel



Doyle Henderson, Jim Anderson, Jack Kochenour, Vern Pike



DeWitt Hudson, Bill Larkin, and Horace Berry



Tom and Shirley Regel



Cindy Fairall and John Mentor



Relaxing and visiting in the Hospitality Room

Touring Little Rock

by LTC Jim Anderson



Marty Dunn checking off tour participants at the hotel



Memorial to the Little Rock Nine at Central High School

Fifty-six reunion attendees participated in the bus tour with guide. The first stop was made at the Little Rock Central High School National

Historic Site and Visitor Center. While the site is called the “Central High Crisis” by the world in 1957, Little Rock also became known as the city where the federal government took a stand against segregation. The nation watched as nine African-American teenagers attempted to enter the all-white school only to be turned away by Arkansas National Guard troops. As a way to mark and learn from this period in history, the visitor center offered its reunion guests a historic look at the events surrounding the Central High Crisis.

The second stop was made at one of North Little Rock’s most popular attractions, the Old Mill which is a 1933 recreation of a water-powered gristmill dating to 1828. Also known as Pugh Mill, it was featured in the opening of “Gone With the Wind,” and is home to several sculptures of internationally known Mexico City artist Dionico Rodriquez. Many members of the tour group enjoyed walking over several bridge sculptures and taking photo opportunities.



Viewing the displays at Central High School



Leaving the visitor center for the next stop on the tour

The last stop was a visit to the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum. The Clinton Museum featured two levels of exhibits utilizing photographs, videos, and interactive monitors. Permanent exhibits include a 100-foot long timeline presenting a day-by-day account of the Clinton Presidency, as well as replicas of the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room and a series of alcoves highlighting various foreign and domestic topics. Other exhibits on display allow the visitor to experience “Life in the White House” through the splendor of state events and gifts, the spirit of the holiday festivities, and celebrations with family and friends. Everyone enjoyed the tour.



Renate Anderson and Stephanie Feher at the Old Mill



Edie and Van Holladay



Pat Larkin, Lou Green and Nan Lobodinski



Tom Farris, Bill Larkin, and DeWitt and Elizabeth Hudson



One of several bridge sculptures by Dionico Rodriquez



(above) Our cover photo, depicts the eight timelines of the Clinton Administration; a briefing and the tour begins at the Clinton Presidential Library, shown on the right.



Mary and Ted Kanamine; Stefania Feher; Renate and Jim Anderson, Bill Larkin





Military Tour

This tour took RMPO members to Camp Robinson. Now an Arkansas National Guard post, Camp Robinson was an active-duty post from

1917-1946.

(top left, clockwise) Carroll Dunn ensures the bus is ready with the right people on it; museum curator gives the history of the post; looking at a relief map of how the post used to look; Yvonne Doll, Andy Gray, Reginald Fansler, Don Greenwald view WWII-era memorabilia from some of the 4,000 German POWs housed at the post (Reginald Fansler served as a captain at that time on the post); the group posing in the new aviation facility; touring the helicopters; someone is a good shot; briefing by the sniper school instructors.





Golf Tournament

A great morning of golfing was held at the Camp Robinson golf course. Attending this event were: Doris Anderson, Loren Bush, Tom Fairris, Jerry Jackson, Jack Kochenour, Robert MacDonald, Oliver O'Kier, Everett Perrin, Webster Ray, David Reed, Thomas Regel, Scott Tippin, Bob Townsend, Richard Wistner, and Tom and Barbara Sanford.

Hot Springs National Park

by LTC Jim Anderson

Upon arrival in Hot Springs, the bus stopped at the Fordyce Bathhouse in the middle of Bathhouse Row, which was closed in 1962 and reopened in 1989 as the park visitor center and a museum. In 1915, reviews proclaimed the Fordyce Bathhouse the best in Hot Springs. After extensive restoration, the bathhouse looks as it did in its early years. As the reunion attendees entered the visitor center, they were greeted by a Park Ranger who escorted everyone to the gift shop, followed by a film which orients visitors to Hot Springs National Park and a presentation by the ranger on the hot springs and their use. Then the tour of Fordyce Bathhouse and its 23 restored rooms began with the Park Ranger taking the lead. The tour was impressive and very interesting.

After the tour of the Fordyce Bathhouse, the reunion attendees split up to walk Central Avenue to find a restaurant, do shopping, or attend the Gangster Museum. For those who wanted to experience the traditional therapeutic bathing experience, did so at the Buckstaff that has been in continuous operation since it opened in 1912, and is the only bathhouse on Bathhouse Row that provides the traditional experience.

After a wonderful five-hour bus and Hot Springs tour, everyone boarded the bus for the one hour journey return to Little Rock and shortly fell asleep.





Bill and Pat Larkin and others boarding the Arkansas Queen

View of the bar, seating and buffet areas



View of pedestrian bridge and hotels from the Arkansas Queen; (right) everyone enjoying the cruise



Dinner Cruise on The Arkansas Queen



Loren & Virginia Bush, Dave & Natalie Reed, Joan & Barry Billings; Ted & Valerie Cole



Jane Davies, Lou & Al Green, Nan & Stan Lobodinski, Nancy Davies



Peg Lowrey, Tom Regel, Everett Perrin, Jackie Perrin, Shirley Regel, Pat Lowrey



Pete & Yanghi Wojcik, Bill & Jo England, Cindy Fairall, John Mentor, Steve Vass



Carroll & Marty Dunn, Kevin Murphee, Tammy Gore, Edie & Van Holladay, Rich & Mary Engel, Rich & Mary Hosler



Dick Strauss, Harry & Kathy Allen, Linda Ward, Margo Strauss, Bob & Lorraine MacDonald



Cynthia & Dave Allen, Carol & Jerry Thompson, Judy & Doyle Herndon, DeWitt Hudson, Reese Boyd, Elizabeth Hudson, Joyce Boyd



Pat & Bill Larkin, Dick & Jean Spaulding, Tom & Dorothy MacDonnell



Andy Gray, Reg Fansler, Horace Berry, Andrea Kornblue, Don Greenwald



The buffet line on the Arkansas Queen



Van Holladay and Bill Sondervan



Departing view of the Arkansas Queen and Little Rock

The Memorial Breakfast

On Saturday morning, the Reunion attendees gathered to give a final salute to seventy members of the RMPO.

Introduced by the Reunion host, COL Carroll Dunn, the reading of the names was led by BG Ted Kanamine, COL Pat Lowrey and assisted by COL Pete Wojcik.



Guy Huskerson, Mary Kanamine, Betty Huskerson, Ted Kanamine



Tom Farris, John Mentor, Vern Pike, Jack Jolley, Steve Vass



Shirley and Jerry Jackson



Art Mosley and Sue Hanak



Pete Wojcik, Pat Lowrey, Ted Kanamine and Carroll Dunn



Pat Lowrey and Ted Kanamine; (right) Carroll Dunn



Marsha and Jerry Wellman



Jack Kochenour and Jim Anderson



John Mentor and Cindy Fairall



Charles Borchini, Stefan Pollack, Bill Sondervan



Curtis (Wyatt) Earp and Van (Doc) Holladay



xx, Tom MacDonald, Dorothy MacDonald



OIC#7

36th Reunion Annual Banquet



Marty and Carroll Dunn



DeWitt Hudson, Reese and Joyce Boyd, Elisabeth Hudson



Jo and Bill England



Edie and Van Holladay, Tom and Patsy Fairris



Stan and Nan Lobodinski, Al and Lou Green



Dorothy and Tom MacDonald, Jean and Dick Spaulding



Rich and Mary Engel, Rich and Mary Hosler



Jim Hallihan, Ted Cole, Bob MacDonald, Dave Reed



Jackie Perrin, Barbara & Tom Sanford, Doris Anderson, Mary Kanamine



Shirley and Tom Regel



Neil Wayne, Beverly Ruthven, Pete and Yanghi Wojcik



WWII veterans: Horace Berry, Bill Larkin, Reg Fansler, Stan Lobodinski



Cutting the Cake: Yvonne Doll, Horace Berry, Carroll Dunn, Reg Fansler



Doyle Herndon presents flowers to Marty Dunn, Carroll Dunn (l)



Little Rock Reunion Host Team



Don Greenwald, Doyle Herndon, Carroll Dunn, Reese Boyd, Ted Kanamine



Enjoying the Reunion Banquet!



Carroll Dunn presents the Arkansas Traveler Certificate, commissioning the recipient as an Ambassador of Good Will from the Governor of Arkansas. Receiving are: (l-r) Reg Fansler, Pat Lowrey and Ted Kanamine.



Guy & Betty Huskerson, Ev & Jackie Perrin, Ted & Mary Kanamine



Steffi Feher, Pat Larkin, Mary Kanamine, Lou Green



Art Mosely & Sue Hanak, Pete & Yanghi Wojcik, Jack & Maryann Kochenour

Military Police Remembrance Day



BrigGen Colleen McQuire honored the memories of military police at ceremonies held at Arlington National Cemetery on 11 September 2011. Wreaths were laid at the MP Memorial and the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Representing RMPO were: LTC Jim Anderson, LTC Tom O'Hara, LTC Chase Maglin, COL Frank Cohn, and COL Don Greenwald.



Book Reviews and Recommended Reading by Our Readers

Warrior Police

Just purchased a book, Warrior Police, by LTC (Ret) Gordon Cucullu and Chris Fontana. Having just scanned a few pages seems like a good read....At least so far. According to the back book leaf "Warrior Police" is an action-filled page-turner that illuminates the bravery of a special breed of soldier-Army MPs. These daring and innovative soldiers have performed heroically in the most dangerous corners of Afghanistan and Iraq... Thought I'd pass this on for any interested.

Marshall "Butch" Beall
LTC (Ret)
Salt Lake City, Utah

Unsung Heroes

General Irzyk gave me a copy of his book about three years ago! I've been meaning to bring it to RMPO's attention for far-too-long. Although it obviously focuses on the 716th MP Battalion, I think it's content would resonate with anyone who served in Vietnam (or elsewhere).

Ray Humphrey
COL (Ret)
Naples, FL

Unsung Heroes, Saving Saigon [Hardcover]
Albin F. Irzyk

Unsung Heroes, Saving Saigon, the latest work

by retired Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, recounts the harrowing events that occurred in Saigon during the notorious TET Offensive of 1968. Irzyk, as the leader of Headquarters Area Command (HAC) in Saigon, was the city's unofficial Military Mayor, and was at the heart of the action in Saigon when the Viet Cong forces launched attacks all over Vietnam in the midst of that nation's greatest holiday. Though taken by surprise, the forces that Irzyk commanded, none of whom were trained for tactical engagement, rose to the occasion and courageously helped prevent VC attackers from taking control of key installations in the capital city. Many of these brave men have gone unrecognized for many years, but *Unsung Heroes, Saving Saigon* corrects that grave error by highlighting their amazingly bold deeds. From the U.S. Embassy to dark, dangerous alleys, numerous battles took place in the middle of Saigon. Many soldiers fought. Some were wounded. Others perished. *Unsung Heroes, Saving Saigon* will help ensure that they are never forgotten. Cover photo by Don Hirst

About the Author

Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, USA (Ret.) fought WWII in Europe as a twenty-seven year old tank battalion commander in the famed 4th Armored Division, which spearheaded General Patton's Third Army all across Europe. He was twice wounded, for which he received two Purple Hearts. He commanded the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment along the Iron Curtain at maximum alert during the Berlin Crisis of 1961. From 1967 to 1969, he served in Vietnam. Among his decorations for valor, he holds four Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars, and the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism. He has been married to Evelyn for sixty-one years. They have three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They reside in Florida.

Checkpoint Charlie

My labor of love these past 5 years is now published on-line. A synopsis of the book is on the website ("voiceofnc.com").

The book is about the role of our Berlin MPs (287th MP Company) during the initial crisis period of August 1961-62. They were magnificent!!!

The Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, US-Soviet tank confrontation, Highway Checkpoint operations, Steinstuecken, transfer of Gary Powers, all in the book.

An eyewitness account of just how superb were the 18-19 year old MPs in Berlin in the performance of dangerous and tension-laden operations.

I have been invited by the Berlin government to return there next week to participate in the commemoration ceremonies of the 50th anniversary of The Wall on August 13th.

Verner N. Pike
COL (Ret)
Pinehurst, SC

Review

When Vern Pike chose a two-year stay as an officer in Berlin in 1958, he had no idea that the occu-

pled city and its infamous Wall would become part of his life forever. His two-year stay became indefinite, and indefinite became a twenty-nine-year career, with most of it spent in military police work. His most memorable duty was as a lieutenant in the 287th MP Company sta-

tioned at Checkpoint Charlie. His experiences there at a critical period during the Cold War have made him uniquely qualified to tell the story of the Berlin Wall and the gallant men who secured West Berlin against the Soviets.

After World War II, Germany became a divided country. The Western Allies merged their occupied zones to produce a West German state that, with the help of America's Marshall Plan, rose from the ashes of the war and developed a stable democracy. In the Soviet sector, meanwhile, life was dramatically different under the heel of communism. Seeking a better life, East Germans began a mass exodus into West

Berlin. In August 1961, intent on keeping their citizens in and the Allied forces out, East German authorities began sealing off the Soviet sector of the city, setting off a shock wave across the western world. The East Germans were now prisoners in their own city, and West Berlin an island of freedom separated by an ugly monstrosity known as The Berlin Wall.

Vern Pike was stationed in Berlin when the initial barricades began going up. The East Germans expected the Americans to cross the border and destroy the wall, but despite warnings from the MPs and West German authorities, U.S. officials did nothing. The barbed-wire fences and concrete barriers eventually became a wall thirteen feet high, guarded by a "death strip" on its Eastern side and soldiers who shot to kill. It was at this border where many dramatic escapes would take place during the stormy history of the Cold War.

After the Wall went up, the military police of the 287th stood as the thin green line securing West Berlin against the Soviets. Pike and his fellow MPs, together with the German police, were responsible for police and security operations in the city, conducting patrols along the sector borders and ensuring Allied access rights. Their job was made especially difficult by Soviet opposition and by differences in language and philosophy among the four occupying nations. They were frequently subjected to harassment and were often the first to bear the brunt of new Soviet tactics and policies.

When checkpoints were established along the border to control the flow of Allied traffic between sectors, Pike was dispatched to oversee operations at Checkpoint Charlie and was involved in many dangerous incidents that occurred in 1961 and 1962. While taking his new MPs on a post-graduation tour of East Berlin, Pike successfully smuggled two young East Berliners back to the West in the back of an Army tour bus, despite the enormous risk involved. During the tank confrontation in 1961, he leapt into an enemy tank, fortunately unoccupied at the time, to identify it as Soviet or East German. His MPs pulled an East German woman and her infant from a bathtub in the Wannsee River after her husband was shot during their escape attempt. Pike's company commander, then-Lieutenant Gil Jones, describes the



apprehension of an inebriated Soviet soldier that wandered into the US sector of Berlin, his release back to Soviet authorities, and his ultimate, shocking disposition. These and other events serve as testimony to the precarious state of Berlin and Soviet-American relations during this time. The city was a tinderbox ready to light at any moment. Pike recounts his trip to the Soviet Union in 1962 and the stark contrast there with Western Europe and, indeed, West Berlin. The trip started and ended through Soviet checkpoints on the highway connecting West Germany with West Berlin, and provides an incredible example of what happens to a Soviet officer communicating with an American officer.

The men of the Berlin Brigade represented what freedom was all about for West Berliners and for those in the East who could see them. Members of the 287th were specially selected and had to meet strict standards; their appearance and demeanor were world-class. The fact that they were 110 miles behind the Iron Curtain and surrounded by Soviet

forces didn't faze them.

The book closes with an account of Pike's visits back to Berlin in the 70s and 80s, and the departure of all Allied military from Berlin in 1990.

The PRICE OF THE BOOK IS ONLY \$4.99. Click the "Purchase Now" button to go to the "Order Page" where you can decide whether to purchase the book or not and you can choose the download format (MOBI for Kindle or ePub for Nook and other electronic readers or if you just want to read the book on your computer.). For further instructions, see <http://voiceofmoorecounty.com/2011/07/31/e-book-download-instructions-%e2%80%9ccheckpoint-charlie-hot-spot-of-the-cold-war%e2%80%9d-by-col-vern-pike-usa-ret-new-e-books-presented-by-voice-of-north-carolina-ltd/>.

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Major General Ramsey Visits National Infantry Museum, Receives Order of St. Maurice

Long time Society member and former Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment in WWII, Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey visited Columbus, Georgia, and Fort Benning on 10 December 2010. The purpose of his trip was to visit the new National Infantry Museum. Monika and Tim Stoy coordinated the visit to Fort Benning and escorted MG Ramsey



from his home in Roanoke, Virginia.

General Ramsey was greeted at the museum by Major General Jerry White, President of the National Infantry Association and Director of the National Infantry Museum. General White

served under General Ramsey as a Major in the Americal Division in the Republic of South Vietnam in 1969. During the museum tour, General Ramsey was awarded the Order of St Maurice Medal, in the grade of Primericus, the highest level of the award, for his out-

standing services to the United States Infantry throughout his stellar 34-year Army career, including combat commands in WWII and in Vietnam as a Division Commander. His outstanding service to the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division as the Chairman of the Memorial Committee which erected our Division Monument at Arlington National Cemetery in 1990 was included in the award nomination. General Ramsey was not aware he was going to receive this award and was very pleasantly surprised and honored that MG White was the presiding official and awarding officer.

The award presentation took place in the Hall of Valor, which honors all Infantry recipients of the Medal of Honor. Particularly poignant was that the presentation was made under a picture of Tech 5 Robert D. Maxwell, who received the Medal of Honor for falling on a grenade which would have seriously wounded or killed General Ram-

sey during the fighting for Besancon, France, in September 1944. A paver was also dedicated at the museum for General Ramsey, recognizing his Army service.

Society members John and Elizabeth Burke greeted General Ramsey at the museum, and 30 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division provided an honor platoon for the award presentation as well as for the tour of the museum.

MG Ramsey was hosted for lunch in MG White's office, during which Maneuver Center of Excellence Commanding General, MG Robert Brown, also paid his respects, presenting General Ramsey his commander's coin. MG White presented General Ramsey a personalized copy of the Infantry Association's *History of the United States Infantry*.

After the museum visit, MG Ramsey received a vehicle tour of Fort Benning, courtesy of the post protocol office, which included a

stop at the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment's headquarters and a visit to the China Room. Rear Detachment Commander Captain Andrew Lerch and his Soldiers were very proud to show General Ramsey the many interesting and important artifacts to be seen in the China Room. General Ramsey even had his picture taken sitting behind the desk that LTC George C. Marshall used when serving as Regimental Executive Officer in China. General Ramsey concluded his Fort Benning visit by stopping at the 3rd Infantry Division monument outside the old *Infantry Museum*. It was a very full day, but even at age 92 General Ramsey was full of energy and enthusiasm, happy to once again visit Fort Benning where he had served several tours of duty, and to visit the grand, new *Infantry Museum*.

Submitted by John Burke (Reprinted with permission and first printed in The Watch on the Rhine in April 2011)

CID Change of Command

submitted by COL Frank Cohn, USA Ret

On 28 September 2011, MG David E. Quantock assumed command of the Criminal Investigation Command and was sworn in as The Provost Marshal General. The Vice Chief of Staff, General Peter W. Chiarelli transferred the flag from the outgoing Commander, BG Colleen L. McGuire who is slated to become the J-1 at DOD. Attending the ceremony at Fort Belvoir, representing the Retired Military Police Officers and Warrant Officers community were MG John G. Meyer, Jr., MG Donald J. and Mrs. Lisa Ryder, COL Frank and Mrs. Paula Cohn, COL Steven L. Andraschko, LTC William C. Maglin, LTC Jennifer L. Gray, and MAJ Mary E. Keeser. BG McGuire, in her farewell remarks, very graciously thanked all who made her assignment a success, extending her appreciation to include the retired community. MG Quantock, along with his wife Melissa, accepted the good wishes from all in attendance. We wish both MG Quantock and BG McGuire the best of luck and a great tour of duty in their new respective assignments.



National Purple Heart Hall of Honor



Courtesy of William J. Larkin, Jr., Member of Senate (State of New York), LTC, USA (Ret)

Some of us who have retired from the military have entered into second ventures. For me, it has been public service, having spent more than 30 years in municipal and state government. During that time, I have moved toward specific areas of veteran-related issues.

Fourteen years ago, I was asked to join the Genesis Group, which led to the establishment of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York. Eleven and a half years ago, I gathered up friends and associates to form a working group to lobby for a Purple Heart Stamp.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is the only facility in the nation dedicated to collecting, preserving and recognizing the more than 1.7 million service men and women wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States Military.

The Hall of Honor was dedicated in November 2006 and is open to the public year round.

In January 2000 we formed a Purple Heart Stamp Committee. After 3 1/2 years and millions of pieces of correspondence being sent each year to the Postmaster General in support of the stamp, that agency finally notified that the Purple Heart Stamp would be officially issued on May 30th, 2003. On that day, one unveiling took place at Mount Vernon in Virginia and one at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh,

New York. This was no small undertaking. After the initial stamp was issued, every time the postage was increased, we had to fight for the reissuance of the Purple Heart Stamp. We never lost sight of the permanent stamp and, in April 2011, we were officially notified by the Postmaster General that the Purple Heart Stamp would be issued as "forever" stamp. On May 5th, an unveiling took place aboard the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, CA and, on May 7th, at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, NY. The unveiling ceremonies in New York on May 30th 2003 and on May 7th, 2011 were well attended by Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star Mothers, Rolling Thunder, Eagles and many dignitaries.

Everyday brings us pride in our accomplishments and I am so honored to have played a role in establishing the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and the Purple Heart with Ribbon Forever Stamp. As I track what is going on in Iraq and Afghanistan

and see our young soldiers honorably serving our great country, some making the ultimate sacrifice, I would ask that you encourage Purple Heart recipients to enroll in the Hall of Honor. Enrollment is free.

We also need your help. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is now in a campaign to raise \$15 million, due to demand for additional space in the facility to represent the action of all branches of the military. Donations to this cause can be made to the:

Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc.
330 Meadow Avenue
Newburgh, NY 12550



New York State Senator Bill Larkin and then-US Senator Hillary Clinton at the unveiling of original Purple Heart Stamp at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, NY on May 30, 2003



**Are you
in the
National
Purple
Heart Hall
of Honor?**

SHARE YOUR STORY

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is only facility in the national dedicated to collecting, preserving and recognizing the more than 1.7 million service men and service women wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States Military. Located in New Windsor, NY the Hall of Honor is open year-round, Monday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm and Sunday, 1-5pm; please call for Holiday schedule.

To learn about sharing your story and free enrollment in the Role of Honor database, please call 845.561.1765 or visit www.thepurpleheart.com (for convenience, go to the RMPO website)

Bulletin Board: Items of Interest

Association of United States
Army Institute of Land Warfare
Torchbearer Paper

Military Retiree Health Care Faces a Triple Whammy

Introduction

Quality of life and well-being, especially health care, directly affect the readiness of today's All-Volunteer Force. In addition, today's Soldiers (who are tomorrow's retirees) observe and receive advice from current military retirees; therefore, retirees' quality of life indirectly but powerfully affects the readiness of tomorrow's force by influencing such factors as retention and recruiting of younger generations. Health care remains a key factor in sustaining the All-Volunteer Force.

The profession of arms is unique in comparison to civilian employment; it is more than a job. Military professionals earn unique long-term, deferred compensation in the form of health care benefits in return for their unique sacrifice. However, in three major areas this compensation is rapidly shrinking, and the aggregate impact has begun to yield serious consequences for military retirees at stages of their lives when they have little financial flexibility.

Medicare

When a military retiree and

his or her spouse reach the age of eligibility, the Medicare system assumes responsibility for providing their health care. To receive the full range of benefits that they have earned (especially access to the TRICARE-for-Life system, described below), military retirees have to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B and become subject to the same fees and regulations as those citizens who never served a day in uniform. Military retirees and others enroll in Medicare Part A (in-patient care coverage) at no cost, but access to Medicare Part B (out-patient services) requires that they pay substantial monthly premiums. In 2011, these out-of-pocket costs reached an all-time high of \$115 per person per month for new enrollees—nearly triple the cost in 2000.

Three important trends emerge:

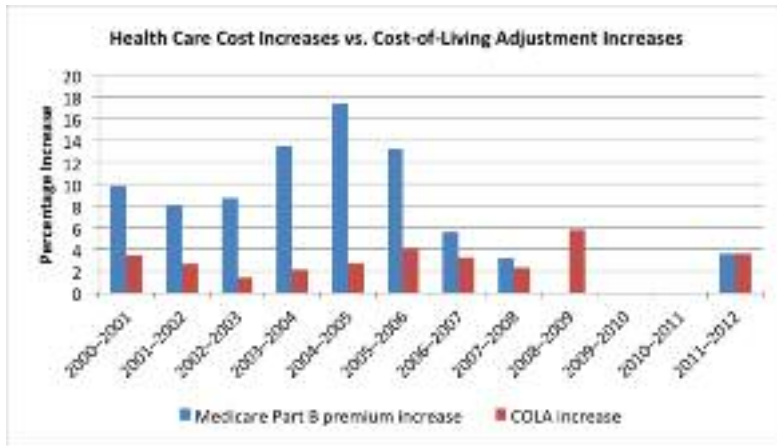
- Annual Part B premium increases have not only been steep but have also proved highly erratic and unpredictable. Between 2000 and 2011, the average Part B premium increase was nearly 9 percent per year, but it fluctuated considerably, reaching a high of 17.4 percent in 2005 and a low of zero in 2009—before spiking again to 14.6 percent for new enrollees in 2010.

- Annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to military retired compensation and Social Security benefits have not even come close to keeping pace with the rapid rise in Medicare premiums. COLA increases averaged only 2.6 percent

per year over the same span; in two recent years, 2009 and 2010, retirees received no increase at all. Military retirees therefore see a steadily increasing percentage of their income consumed every year by health care costs for which they have already paid with their careers of service. Further, serious proposals exist in Congress to begin using a different, smaller inflation index to calculate what COLA is owed to retirees—a change that would immediately reduce Social Security benefits and military retired pay.

- Since 2007, Medicare Part B premiums have been “means-tested”; i.e., retirees with higher individual or family incomes pay even higher Part B rates. Effectively, military retirees who achieved higher rank during their service or succeeded in supplementing their post-retirement incomes are penalized in the health care system for their success and have no other option for accessing their earned health care benefits. The administration's September 2011 recommendation to Congress for debt reduction suggested increasing these retirees' premiums by an additional 15 percent beginning in 2017.

Further, even as the Part B cost trends accelerate, military retirees' access to quality care is increasingly threatened. In an effort to control costs, existing law has triggered a series of reductions over the past decade to the funds that reimburse health care providers for delivering care to



Medicare patients. So far, Congress has passed short-term fixes every year that temporarily postpone the cuts but, at present, a cut of nearly 30 percent is due to go into effect in January 2012. Though Congress has never actually implemented such a drastic cut to Medicare provider reimbursement, there are serious proposals in Congress today to make some form of reduction in this area soon. Any such reduction can only erode health care providers' confidence in the system and could cause a greater number of them to refuse service to Medicare beneficiaries, thereby reducing the availability of quality care for military retirees and their families—especially for patients who are newly eligible.

In short, rapidly rising Medicare premiums have already had a significant impact on the net incomes of military retirees. Though the recently announced 2012 rates grew at a below-average pace, from \$96.40 to \$99.90 for most, and even dropped for those beneficiaries who enrolled in 2010 and 2011, they do not make up for a decade of frequent double-digit inflation in premiums or yield any reliable predic-

tions for future years.

TRICARE Enrollment

While on active duty, servicemem-

bers and their dependents receive no-cost health care through military facilities and the TRICARE Prime network of providers. After retiring from military service, servicemembers and their families have the option to continue their enrollment in TRICARE Prime for a flat annual fee—an option exercised by approximately 1.5 million people at present.

TRICARE Prime coverage ends when military retirees become Medicare-eligible, at which time their health care begins to be provided primarily through Medicare Parts A and B (described above). However, Medicare does not cover 100 percent of its beneficiaries' health care expenses and generally leaves both an annual deductible and a percentage co-pay as out-of-pocket costs for patients. To cover most of these expenses, military retirees automatically qualify for a part of the TRICARE system known as TRICARE-for-Life at no cost. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) that keeps retirees' personnel records is electronically linked to the Medicare enrollment system.

Costs for both TRICARE Prime access and TRICARE-for-Life access could begin to trend sharply higher. In October 2011, the annual enrollment fee for TRICARE Prime increased from \$230 per person/\$460 per family to \$260 per person/\$520 per family. On one hand, this represents an increase of only \$5 per month for a family; on the other hand, that is a 13 percent annual increase and, perhaps, the beginning of fee growth not unlike the Medicare Part B premium increases already described. Also, some in Congress and the administration propose instituting a new annual enrollment fee for TRICARE-for-Life (which currently requires no access fee). Though such a fee, if implemented, would probably be modest at first, it too could be crafted to grow incrementally at a pace similar to health care cost inflation, TRICARE Prime fee hikes or some other index and would only add to the already increasing burden of growing Medicare Part B premiums.

The cumulative effect of such fee increases is consuming an ever greater percentage of military retirees' incomes at a stage in their lives when they may not have much financial flexibility. In contrast, the quality and accessibility of their care is simultaneously decreasing; a 2010 survey by the American Medical Association found that nearly a third of primary care physicians already restrict the number of Medicare (and, therefore, military) patients in their practice and fully half would stop taking new Medicare patients if the government were

to substantially cut their reimbursement rates.¹ Any policies that tend to push military retirees out of TRICARE Prime and toward plans more similar to Medicare—or any policies that add to the uncertainty of Medicare provider reimbursement rates—will only exacerbate the situation.

TRICARE Pharmacy Program

All TRICARE beneficiaries—including enrollees in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE-for-Life and several other variations—have access to the TRICARE Pharmacy Program. Beneficiaries may fill their prescriptions free of charge at military pharmacies, but many beneficiaries do not live close enough to military installations for this to be a reasonable option. Instead, they pay flat co-pay fees to fill their prescriptions via mail-order or a large retail network (see table below).

Pharmacy Type	Generic Drug CoPay	Brand Name Drug Co Pay
Military Pharmacy	\$0	\$0
Home Deliver (Mail Order)	\$0	\$9
Retail Network	\$5	\$12

At present, out-of-pocket costs for military retirees' prescription drugs are not tied in any way to the actual retail cost of the drugs. In 2011, the program changed modestly to encourage beneficiaries to maximize their use of generic versions of drugs via the mail-order system; the out-of-pocket cost for medically necessary generics (Tier 1) purchased via mail-order dropped from \$3 to zero, but the cost for medically necessary generics purchased at network retail pharmacies increased from \$3 to \$5 and the cost of brand-name (Tier 2) drugs purchased at network retail pharmacies increased from \$9 to \$12. Out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions deemed not to be medically necessary (Tier 3) increased from \$22 to \$25.

There is growing support for proposals to partially overhaul the flat drug co-pay system. In particular, the administration's September 2011 recommendation to Congress for debt reduction suggested instituting a percentage co-pay, rather than a dollar figure, of 20–30 percent for network retail purchases and a high deductible for brand-name drugs purchased via the mail-order system. Generic drugs purchased via mail-order would con-

tinue to be free.

The problem with any such overhaul is twofold: (1) not all medically necessary prescription drugs are available in generic versions, especially if they are relatively new to the market and their manufacturers still hold patents for them, and (2) the mail-order system is not ideal for some patients—for example, if their doctors frequently need to adjust their drugs' dosage. Effectively, those TRICARE beneficiaries who most need quality prescription drug coverage—those patients who need the latest brand-name prescriptions or who are under close medical supervision—would be the ones forced to pay substantially more out-of-pocket under a percentage co-pay system.

Overhauling the TRICARE Pharmacy Program in an effort to achieve greater parity with federal civilian employees' and regular Americans' health care plans would have only a very small impact in reducing the nation's budget deficit. However, many military retirees would be hit by yet another increase in their out-of-pocket health care expenses—some of them severely—at a time in their lives when they are potentially vulnerable financially.

Conclusion

To date, no single legislative action or major proposal has placed an unbearable health care burden on the military retiree, but the cumulative effect of numerous small cost increases approaches such a burden. Cost increases have been individually modest but indexed. Collectively, they have already had an impact on retired servicemembers and threaten an even greater impact in the future.

Military careers of sacrifice and civilian employment—and the compensation appropriate for each—are inherently incomparable. The nation can afford to keep its critical All-Volunteer Force and pay for the benefits owed to the select few who earn them. For example, one way of reducing unsustainable growth in Defense Department health care costs without adding further to the burden shouldered by military retirees is to offset any new access fees by reducing retirees' Medicare premiums by like amounts. The nation's debt crisis cannot and should not be alleviated on the backs of those few who answer duty's call.

In Memory of the Members of Our Retired MP Officers Family

LTC Peter Slusar

BG Theodore Kanamine
Port St Lucie, FL

Pete and Val were long time friends from
OA-13 at Fort Gordon
Joan Hall
San Antonio, TX

COL Don Greenwald
Kingman, AZ

Pete was a longtime friend. He was a member of OA-13 and liked by all his classmates. Helpful at all times. He did an outstanding job in sponsoring two reunions in Hampton. He will be missed.
COL Stan Lobodinski
Tampa, FL

Mrs. Alice Duruz
Manitowoc, WI

LTC Peter Slusar

LTC Doyle Craighead

LTC David Bertocci

LTC Arthur Bliss

LTC Bart Elfman
Newport News, VA

COL Doug Cobb

COL Eddie Nix

CW4 David McClure

COL Wayne Harris
Columbia, SC

COL Ivan C. Nelson

LTC Lester Zucker

MAJ Francis Coyle

These officers served in 1955-56 with the

25th ID, Schofield Barracks, HI
LTC Edwin Kulo
Tipp City, OH

Andre "Flip" Feher

COL Benjamin Bonner

COL Bob Hulley

Mrs. Steffi Feher
Port St Lucie, FL

LTC Rex Smith

LTC Pete Slusar

COL Frank Cohn
Alexandria, VA

LTC Edward Lewin

OA Class Number 9, US Army MP School,
September 1955 – May 1956.
COL Richard Stevens
Louisville, KY

LTC John Regan

MAJ Thomas McGreen
Atlanta, GA

COL Ben Bonner

COL Jim George

COL Rodger Hoff

COL Bruce Young

MAJ Jim Booth

LTC Herman Statum
Brentwood, TN

COL Ed Lockwood

COL Phil Suess

Mrs. Al (Dorothy) Mulberry

COL Dana Kierstead, Sr.
Locust Grove, VA

Mrs. Joan Kevorkian

Spouse of LTC Harold (Hal) Kevorkian,

passed away on August 8, 2011. But will always be remembered by my wife, Gail, and me for her generous devotion of time and energy to her family and to the MP Corps.
LTC LeRoy (Lee) Grobe
Springfield, VA

COL Louis J. Klekas
SGM Jack Armstrong
COL Bernard Friend
Rapid City, SD

Our fallen comrades
COL Fred Liebe
Oklahoma City, OK

Final Salute to LTC Peter Slusar, USA (Ret)

September 13, 2011 was a beautiful day at Arlington National Cemetery, but also a sad one. Early that morning, the Provost Marshal General, BG Colleen McGuire had hosted a Memorial Service at the cemetery's MP Marker (Site 55) for the 17 MPs who had died in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past year and she



19 members of the Retired Military Police Officers community in the Washington DC area joined Vel Slusar, along with her son Robert with wife Nancy and son Peter with wife Kim as well as her daughter-in-law Bonnie of deceased son Gary and six grandchildren, in saying a final farewell to her husband LTC Peter Slusar. Joining the Slusar family were Jim Anderson, Bill Boden, Loren Bush, Frank and Paula Cohn, Arnie Daxe, John Fitzsimons, Al and Lou Green, Chuck Hammaker,

Van Holladay, Rex Holt, Pat Lowrey, Chase and Alma Maglin, Tom O'Hara, Carl and Jean Swanson and Ralph Trisko. Those with green jackets formed two columns behind the caisson carrying Pete's ashes and marched the ¼ mile stretch from the Transfer Point to the Columbarium. All joined Vel, who herself was a World War II veteran, in a final salute, as the 21 gun volley reverberated and Taps was blown. With prayers, the urn was then placed into its final resting place. Thereafter the family invited all in attendance to a luncheon reception at the Fort Myer Officers Club. Pete will be long remembered. He had a lengthy military career serving in the



Navy as a submariner during World War II, qualifying for Olympic diving after the war and accepting an ROTC commission in the MP Corps upon graduating from the University of Nebraska. As an MP Officer, Pete served in France, Germany, and in Vietnam twice and retired after serving as the Deputy Provost Marshal, Continental Army Command. Along the way he became a graduate of the Canadian Mounted Police Academy. After retirement, he became the Director of the Peninsula Tidewater Academy of Criminal Justice. Staying true to the Military Police Corps, he sponsored two of our annual Reunions in the Hampton Virginia area, and along with Don Greenwald, convinced many others to sponsor the yearly Reunions in various cities throughout the country. Pete will be greatly missed by the Retired Military Police community.





TAPS

Since the Summer 2011 issue of the DIGEST, we have been notified of the passing of the following members of the Retired Military Police Officer community.

CWO (Ret) Ronald J. Colaprete
CWO (Ret) Benjamin F. "Ben" Malinowski
CW4 (Ret) Teruo Nishimura
CW2 (Ret) Charles R. Ratcliff
LTC (Ret) Randall M. "Rand" Richardson
CWO (Ret) David R. Sage

LTC (Ret) Frank C. Sidella
CW4 (Ret) Elmer E. Snyder
CWO (Ret) James A. "Jim" Squires
CWO (Ret) Lee Roy Stermer
CWO (Ret) Roland W. "Tommy" Thompson
LTC (Ret) Paul G. Zarynoff



RMPO Spouses

Since the Summer 2011 issue of the DIGEST, we have been notified of the passing of the following spouses of the Retired Military Police Officer community.

Mrs. Gail K. Dean
Wife of CWO Clayton L. Dean

Mrs. Joan C. Kevorkian
Wife of LTC Harold "Hal" Kevorkian

Mrs. Lael Dorman
Wife of MAJ Dale R. Dorman

Mrs. Gerry Munroe
Wife of LTC Robert S. "Bob" Munroe (deceased)

Mrs. Doris E. Guidera
Wife of COL Thomas F. Guidera (deceased)

Mrs. Helen Mary Pugliese
Wife of COL Nick Pugliese (deceased)

RETIRED MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS
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Thank You -



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Reunion Committee!**