



Vol. 1 Issue 9

38th Parallel

A publication to remember, honor and thank the Korean War Veteran

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Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Faces of time

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" at Fort Myer, Va., wear the uniforms from the Korean War and other eras as they march on The Ellipse in Washington, D.C., during the Military District of Washington's Twilight Tattoo. The show traces the history of the U.S. Army.

Department of Transportation joins commemoration program

After signing on the dotted line to become a Korean War Commemoration Partner, the Department of Transportation (DOT) honored Korean War veterans August 7.

In a ceremony outside its headquarters building, the transportation department teamed with the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee to present the Republic of Korea's Korean War Service Medal to soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines connected to the DOT and the Coast Guard.

Service members also received lapel pins and certificates in addition to the foreign service medal they earned

50 years ago. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta praised the veterans of the armed forces.

"Thank you for the months and years that you gave to make the world a better place," said Mineta, whose gratitude extends to those in the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard operates under the secretary's command in peacetime.

Mineta said the Coast Guard was in South Korea before the war, training its forces in coastal defense. In addition to performing search and rescue missions, he said the service moved millions of tons of cargo during the war.

One of "the greatest lifesaving voy-
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Contents in the 38th Parallel are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. Visit our web site address at <http://www.korea50.mil> to learn more about Korean War veterans.

Committee Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Rebecca Tester

Hometown: Arlington, VA

Current job: NCOIC Fulfillments

Synopsis of job: Responsible for the Management of a DOD warehouse facility Responsible for ordering, stocking, packing, shipping, receiving and inventory control of Korean War commemorative items. Supports over 6,000 customers.

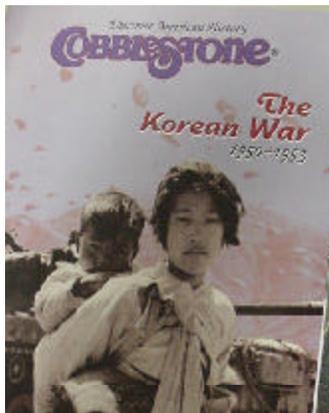
Hobbies: Golf, Softball, Gardening, Reading and Camping

Past assignments: Clark AB Philippines, National Military Command Center Pentagon, 89th Supply Squadron Andrews AFB, and Prince Sultan AB Saudi Arabia.

Most rewarding aspect of the job: The most rewarding aspect of the job is pinning veterans pins on the veterans.

Most difficult aspect of job: The most difficult aspect of the job is returned mail because we have numerous address and committee chairperson changes.

Korean War Hero: All Korean War veterans are my heroes. Each and every one of them holds a special place in my heart.



38th Parallel Editorial Staff

Maj. Gen. Nels Running (USAF Ret.)
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Editor

Upcoming Events

Pigeon Forge Celebrate Freedom

Aug. 11-25, 2001
Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention

Aug. 18-24, 2001
Milwaukee, Wisc.

American Legion National Convention

Aug. 24-30, 2001
San Antonio, Texas

Battle of the Outposts

Sept. 6-7, 2001
Republic of Korea

Air Power Day Commemoration

Sept. 23, 2001
Republic of Korea

Korean War POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept. 22, 2001
Chicago, Ill.

Grand Canyon State first with “perfect attendance”

Arizona became the first state to have every one of its Veterans of Foreign Wars posts become Commemoration Partners. The 100 percent participation of all 86 posts in the Grand Canyon State reflects Arizona’s strong support of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee’s grass roots program. South Dakota is second with 37 percent. Twenty-six of South Dakota’s 71 VFW posts are Commemoration Partners.

The VFW was founded in 1899

and has 1.9 million members located in over 9,500 Posts worldwide. About 700,000 members are Korean War veterans. The VFW assists all veterans and their families obtain veterans’ entitlements and other services. In addition, the veteran service organization works for the well being of those serving on active duty, in the National Guard and the Reserves.

The VFW has many programs, which annually provide \$139,500 in scholarships to high school students.



States with most VFW posts signed

Wisconsin 122
 Arizona 86
 California 72
 New York 63
 Missouri 53

This Date in History

July 30, 1952: The largest single target bomber strike of the war occurred when 63 B-29s attacked the industrial complex near Sinuiju.

July 29, 1950: As the United Nations forces formed the 150-mile long Pusan Perimeter, Lt. Gen. Walton Walker issued the controversial “stand or die” order to Eighth Army.

July 24, 1950: After 19 days of continuous combat, the US 24th Infantry Division had been driven back 100 miles, suffered more than thirty percent casualties, and had more than 2,400 men missing in action.

July 22, 1950: The Department of the Army asked reserve officers to volunteer for active duty.

July 22, 1953: Maj. John H. Glenn, future astronaut and US senator, claimed his third MiG kill in the last aerial victory of the Korean War by a Marine pilot.

1st Lt. Sam P. Young, 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, was credited with the final MiG kill of the Korean War.

July 20, 1950: The US 24th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division was bloodied in an ill-fated counterattack at Yechon.

Sgt. George D. Libby, C Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, earned the first Medal of Honor for action in the Korean War.

July 20, 1953: US Air Force Maj. Stephen L. Bettinger qualified as the 40th and last ace of the Korean War. Bettinger, who was captured, was not officially credited with his fifth victory until after his repatriation.

Twilight Tattoo salutes veterans

Korean War veterans were given a special tribute when the Military District of Washington showcased its Twilight Tattoo July 27 at the Ellipse in Washington. The veterans were special guests at the show that highlights the U.S. Army's evolution from the Revolutionary War until the present.

The veterans received an ovation from the crowd after they were introduced. They were then treated to a rare view of the Army's finest, the 3rd Infantry "Old Guard."



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey



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ages," Mineta said, was when the U.S.S. Meredith Victory, a Merchant Marine ship, evacuated 14,000 refugees from Hungnam in late December 1950.

About 3,000 members of the Coast Guard served in Korea.

Did you know...

Staff Sgt. Ambrosio Guillen of 1st Marines Division earned the last Medal of Honor of the war.

Naval Task Force 77 aircrew flew 538 offensive and 62 defensive sorties, a record number for a single day.

Thailand was the first Pacific nation to offer to send 4,000 ground troops to Korea.

DACOWITS to Visit Pacific Bases

The Executive Committee of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services' (DACOWITS) visit to military commands and meeting with service members in Alaska, Korea, Japan, and Hawaii ended in July.

DACOWITS members met with military women and men in focus groups to better understand the special concerns of service members who serve overseas, and to note their observations in areas such as force development and utilization, equality management, and quality of life. At the conclusion of the trip, DACOWITS reports to the Secretary of Defense on the broad issues raised during their visits that have impact on the utilization

of women, readiness, and morale.

The purpose of the DACOWITS committee is to advise the Secretary of Defense about policies and matters relating to personnel, specifically those matters relating to women in the Services.

DACOWITS was formed during the Korean War. Established by Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall in 1951, the DACOWITS is composed of 36 civilian members selected for their achievements in business, their professions, and civil and public service. For more information, visit the DACOWITS Web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dacowits/>. (*DoD News Service*)

Committee salutes African American veterans

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va., July 24, 2001 — DoD honored African American Korean War veterans here July 23 in a three-part commemoration starting at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

A wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb was followed by tree planting and a plaque dedication at another site on the grounds. The latter two ceremonies included remarks by South Korean Ambassador Song-chol Yang, Korean War veteran retired Army Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton, and Army Secretary Thomas E. White.

Becton, who entered active duty in 1944 as a private and retired in 1983, said many African American servicemembers 51 years ago were already in Korea, en route or alerted to go.

“All of us were soldiers in a segregated Army, notwithstanding the fact that President Truman had signed his Executive Order 9981 two years earlier integrating the armed forces,” he said.

“Some of us didn’t have the foggiest idea where Korea was,” Becton said. “Others of us were veterans of World War II, and some too old. Some of us were youngsters and untested, but entirely too many of us were not ready for the rigors of combat.”

The 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, arrived in Korea by July 13, 1950. The unit was comprised of all black enlisted men and mostly black junior officers, while senior officers were mostly white, Becton noted.

He arrived with the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division shortly thereafter. Becton said the all-black 3rd Battalion, with its white commander and executive officer, was immediately sent on a separate mission to Pohang — in order to prove itself.

“During the battle inside the Pusan Perimeter, its subsequent breakout and crossing the Naktong River, the 3rd Battalion proved its mettle,” Becton said. The real test came in November 1950 near Kunu-ri, North Korea, when the Chinese entered the war.

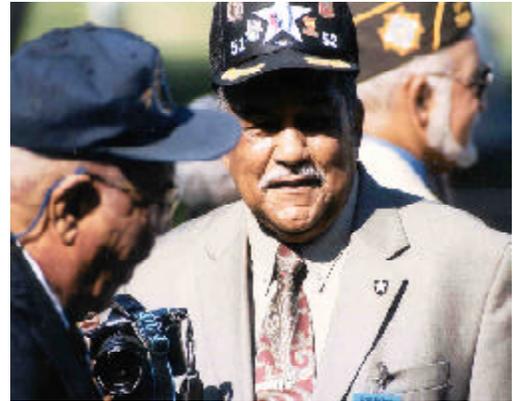
“Many of the men we honor today paid the supreme price during that period,” Becton said. “We went to Korea as a segregated Army and came out with the realization that our diversity could be a combat multiplier. Clearly, the 24th and 9th Infantry Regiments laid the foundation for much of the success our Army has experienced in the follow-on 50 years.

“I’m delighted that the black Americans and the ‘Forgotten War’ are finally getting the recognition so richly deserved,” Becton said.

Yang said, hundreds of thousands of African Americans served in the Korean War, and for their contributions, the Republic of Korea will be eternally grateful. “We will always remember what you sacrificed for our country, for peace and for the Free World,” he added.

He said the sacrifices and contributions of African Americans during the war enabled Korea to achieve freedom and stability.

“With their sacrifice and courage they cemented the foundation of Korean American friendship,” the ambassador said. “They paid dearly for peace and taught us that freedom is not free.”



Vet remembers Korean War during symposium

Hundreds of U.S. and international participants gathered June 26 to 28 for the Korean Air Warfare Symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. The Pacific Air Forces-sponsored event included U.S. and international veterans, their spouses, active-duty military members and historians.

The event featured many veterans recounting their Korean War experience. Retired Maj. Gen. Philip Conely was one of the veterans who took part in the symposium.

At 17, Conely begged his dad to let him enlist in the Air Force during World War II, but that was not to be. By the time the Korean War began, Conely said he was ready to fight for his country.

He chose the Navy and graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1950. Because of the demobilization the military experienced after World War II, the Navy did not need pilots. Thirty-five percent of his graduating class elected to fly for the Air Force, Conely said.

He went through the rigors of flight training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he learned to fly in the T-6 Mosquito.

“Training was tough,” he said. “About half of the men from my academy class washed out of flight training. When it came time to graduate, all my buddies were assigned to fly F-86s while I was assigned the T-6. I was pretty disappointed at the time, but I was

happy to be able to serve my country. I ended up getting a lot of satisfaction from those missions in Korea.”

Conely served at a base called K-6 located about 30 miles south of Seoul, Korea, from February through November 1952.

In the dead of the Korean winter, Conely arrived with just fatigues and no winter gear.

“A medical officer gave me a winter flight suit — a blue suit made out of nylon,” he said. “If the aircraft would’ve crashed and burned that suit would’ve melted on me. If I were to crash and make it out alive, I didn’t know of any blue trees to camouflage me. But overall, I felt I was in good shape when I arrived. There were 55-gallon drums used as heaters and Quonset huts to live in. Those were far better conditions than those who came before me.”

It did not take Conely long before his T-6 pilot training was put to work.

“The Mosquito pilots were gung-ho about the job they were assigned to do,” Conely said. “We were forward air controllers sent out to find a target and mark it with a rocket so the fighters could come in and destroy it.”

The T-6 Mosquito was used as a gunnery trainer during World War II and modified with rocket rails for the Korean War.

“The airplane seemed to move pretty slow,” he said. “I believe I survived by not ever flying in a straight line. I figured if I didn’t know where I

was going to be in 20 seconds, how would the enemy. We ended up with a lot of bullet holes in that airplane. All the maintenance guys would have to do is patch it with a piece of metal and it was ready to fly again. I have to credit the ruggedness of the airplane with keeping me safe.”

The camaraderie with other members of the U.S. armed forces and other NATO nations supporting the war effort stayed with him throughout his 33-and-a-half years in the military, Conely said.

“I often wondered what my Irish ancestors would think of me working side-by-side with the British pilots.”

Conely believes the Korean War was dubbed the “Forgotten War” because World War II overshadowed it and the Vietnam conflict came on its heels.

“I don’t believe anyone who stayed in the military after the Korean War felt it was forgotten,” he said. “If anyone wanted to remember the Korean War, they couldn’t because of Vietnam. Those of us who stayed in the military were kept busy. The one thing Korea did was let the world know was that we had a real problem with communism.”

Conely retired in 1983 and also served two tours in Vietnam, the first as a major in 1966 and the other as a colonel between 1970 and 1971. (*Tech St. Barb Lavigne, HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Courtesy of Pacific Air Forces News Service*)

Lab Seeks Items

The Life Sciences Lab of Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, is asking for donations of military uniforms or equipment from the Korean and Vietnam wars. Donations should be mailed to: Attention Dave Lanthorn, 311 HSW/YACLC, 1901 10th Street Building 63, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-7605.

Literary Collection looks for books

The Joint Transportation Command Reserve Unit and the Reserve Officers Association will dedicate a collection of books to the Scott Air Force Base Library in Illinois on Sept. 7 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

Donated books will be personalized with a bookplate in honor of a specific veteran or military unit of choice. The Veterans Literary

Collection logo will appear on the spine of the book. Books should be based on military history, military unit history, biographies, or other books you feel would be appropriate for the collection. Mail donations to:

Scott Base Library
520 Ward St.
Bldg. 940
Scott AFB, IL 62225

U.S. and South Korea reaffirm ties

WASHINGTON, June 22, 2001 - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Republic of Korea Defense Minister Kim Dong-shin discussed the long-standing U.S.-South Korea relationship during a June 21 meeting in the Pentagon.

Rumsfeld said the ministers talked about a number of topics including the threat North Korea poses to peace in Northeast Asia and the policies the United States and South Korea have coordinated in respect to the North.

The two ministers also spoke about the import of the defense review the Bush Administration is currently performing. This was the first meeting between the men since the Administration took office.

Minister Kim said through an interpreter that he was pleased with the meeting. "We exchanged our frank and honest opinions on major issues of mutual concerns," he said.

He said the conversations reemphasized the importance of the U.S.-

ROK alliance. "The security alliance changes with the advent of a new era," he said. He said he and Rumsfeld discussed U.S. engagement policy toward North Korea following the Bush Administration review of the policy.

"It is necessary to maintain U.S. Forces Korea on the Korean Peninsula in the long term so that we may continue to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula as well as Northeast Asia," Kim said.

He said the two men agreed to strengthen military capabilities against North Korea and further develop South Korean-U.S. combined posture for the 21st Century.

The secretary and minister expressed America's "strong support for President Kim Dae jung's engagement policy toward North Korea."

U.S. and South Korean officials agreed to continue to consult on South Korea's military confidence-building measures with the North.

"North Korea is posing threats to

the security of the Korean Peninsula and the region right now through its nuclear and missile programs," Kim said. "In this regard, we agreed that it is necessary for North Korea to accept an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and for the issues concerning North Korea's missile program to be resolved as soon as possible."

The United States wants to include limiting conventional forces in discussions with North Korea on the nuclear and missile technology. Rumsfeld said there has been no progress in including conventional forces in the agenda. North Korea has more than a million soldiers along the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas.

Rumsfeld said that while he cannot give specifics about the size or composition of U.S. forces in South Korea, "throughout this process everything I have seen reinforces the importance of the U.S.-ROK relationship and our involvement in that important part of the world. (*Jim Garamone, AFIS*)

Remains of eight U.S. Servicemen recovered in North Korea

The Department of Defense announced today that remains believed to be those of eight American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War were repatriated in formal ceremonies at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday, July 10. The remains were flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, under the escort of a uniformed United Nations Command honor guard.

A joint U.S.-North Korean team operating about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, recovered the remains during operations that began in June. The area was the site of battles between Communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

The 28-person U.S. team was composed primarily of specialists from the Army's Central Identification Labora-

tory in Hawaii. The Defense Department's POW/Missing Personnel Office negotiated an agreement with the North Koreans last year that led to the scheduling of this operation.

This year's work in North Korea promises to be the most productive yet, with 10 individual operations scheduled, including some near the Chosin Reservoir. Twenty-one joint operations, resulting in the recovery of 118 sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers, have been conducted in North Korea since 1996. Eight have been positively identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Another 10 are nearing the final stages of the forensic identification process.

Of the 88,000 U.S. servicemembers missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.



Courtesy DVI

HONOR ROLL



*Cornelius H. Charlton

Rank: Sergeant

Organization: U.S. Army, Company C, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Chipo-ri, Korea, June 2, 1951.

Entered service at: Bronx, N.Y.

Born: 1929, East Gulf, W. Va.

General Order No.: 30, March 19, 1952.

Citation: Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company C 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on 2 June 1951, near Chipo-ri, Korea. His platoon was attacking heavily defended hostile positions on commanding ground when the leader was wounded and evacuated. Sergeant Charlton assumed command, rallied the men, and spearheaded the assault against the hill. Personally eliminating two hostile positions and killing six of the enemy with his rifle fire and grenades, he continued up the slope until the unit suffered heavy casualties and became pinned down. Regrouping the men he led them forward only to be again hurled back by a shower of grenades. Despite a severe chest wound, Sergeant Charlton refused medical attention and led a third daring charge which carried to the crest of the ridge. Observing that the remaining emplacement which had retarded the advance was situated on the reverse slope, he charged it alone, was again hit by a grenade but raked the position with a devastating fire which eliminated it and routed the defenders. The wounds received during his daring exploits resulted in his death, but his indomitable courage, superb leadership, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the military service.

