



THE CROIX ROUGE FARM MEMORIAL
22 JULY 2023 FRANCE
A GATHERING IN HONOR AND TRIBUTE



Monique Brouillet Seefried, U.S. WWI Centennial Commissioner speaking at this event: "It is always with great emotion that I come to the Rainbow Memorial each year since 2011, and I am always so touched to see how well the city of Fère-en-Tardenois takes care of this monument to the soldiers who liberated her in 1918. I am very grateful to the mayors of both Fère-en-Tardenois and Seringes-et-Nesles for organizing each year this event commemorating not only the battle of Croix Rouge Farm but the days of combat on the River Ourcq. Many Rainbow Division soldiers lost their life on these holy grounds between July 25 and August 3rd, 1918, and nearly 400 of them are buried nearby, at the Oise-Aisne cemetery.

"We remember them today. We also remember the two men to whom we owe this memorial: James Butler, the sculptor, who died on March 26 of last year and Nimrod Frazer, who died on March 7th of this year. He commissioned this monument to honor his father, wounded on this battlefield, and his fellow comrades in the Rainbow Division. We will never forget them. This site is filled with their presence, the presence of the men who fought here 100 years ago, and Jim Butler and Rod Frazer are also with us today...."

Full coverage of this commemoration is found in the August 2023 RAINBOW TRAIL history newsletter posted on the NEWS page at <rainbowvets.org>

*Photos are by French photographer,
Béatrice Dahm*



REVEILLE

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CAMPAIGNS

World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne
World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardenne
War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle – Operation Iraqi Freedom –
Operation Enduring Freedom – Operation Spartan Shield



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings all - It just doesn't seem possible but yet another quarter has passed providing me with so much to report: Another successful scholarship season, our Millennium Legacy Members are turning a page, the new website planning progresses, a Division Dining-Out is just around the corner, and a Change of Division Command is set for January.

I will lead off with a heartfelt congratulations to all of our 2023 Scholarship Awardees. This year, under the leadership of Scholarship Chair, Tammy Moss-Hicks, the committee presented to the Board a list of 14 very impressive scholarship awardees. The Board unanimously approved the committee's recommendation and at top of this year's awardees list was Kiera Swislow, earning the \$5000 General Douglas MacArthur Award! What an impressive showing by all. We are so proud of our young Rainbow family members as they pursue excellence in their field of choice.

I received an important update from Suellen McDaniel on the Millennium Legacy descendants, known since 1999 as first, the Millennium Chapter, and when the Foundation superseded the RDVA, it was called an Association of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division and an Affiliate of the RDVMF. This dedicated group of Millennium members within the RDVF has been guided by Suellen R. McDaniel, Millennium Legacy Secretary for 23 years, past President of the Millennium Chapter, editor of REVEILLE and RAINBOW TRAIL and WWII daughter; Sue Cullumber, Millennium Legacy Treasurer for 23 years and WWII Rainbow daughter; Melanie Remple, past RDVMF Secretary, past Millennium Legacy President and WWII Rainbow grandniece; and Emily Marcason-Tolmie, Millennium Legacy Group President and creator and facilitator of [42nd Rainbow Division--Millennium Chapter | Facebook](#) and WWII Rainbow granddaughter. Today, they will "streamline" the methods they have used successfully in the past 24 years but which have now changed with the times. This sets a clear path in their ongoing support of the RDVMF as our improved communications through the new website will soon become active and this new focus depends especially on the proposed enhanced Rainbow website. Also with their decision to dissolve their original group, they have generously donated the balance of their financial accounts to the RDVF. These dedicated members have always focused on finding, preserving and sharing 42nd Rainbow Division history. While I am sad to see another page turn in this story of the 42nd, I can't help but love their dedication to the mission and charter of our fine organization. And while their organizational name may change, I know their work will remain steadfast. I am so proud to have them in our corner and I look forward to continuing to work with them in achieving our shared goals. Ladies, you are all such an inspiration - Thank you!!

The new website planning and development continues under the website committee leadership of Myles Beecham. Joining him and the committee in this endeavor is Diane Armbruster, current IT and Communications Director at the Joint Force Headquarters-NY. Together they are crafting a formal presentation to

RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Major General Harry J. Collins (Dec)
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PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL

FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

Patrick Macklin, contact info above

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8)

and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS

(\$25/annually; \$50.LIFE for WWII veterans; \$200.LIFE for all others)

be delivered at the Dec 2nd Board meeting by competitive website organizations vying for our business. Once selected, the new website company will provide us with a more intuitive and streamlined experience. Our goal is to have all of our historical information available at your fingertips, an updated membership portal, an online point of sale for memorabilia, and a seamless one-stop scholarship application process to just name a few features.

Also happening on December 2nd is the 42d Infantry Division Dining Out taking place at 1700 at the Albany Hilton, Albany, NY. The RDVF Board and membership are all invited to attend. It will be a great evening of military tradition and camaraderie and I hope to see you there!

And finally, the Adjutant General has officially announced that BG Joe Biehler will assume Command of the 42d Infantry Division from MG Tom Spencer effective 1 January 2024. A change of command ceremony will be held on the first weekend in February. We'll provide more information on this as we get closer. Please join me in congratulating both MG Spencer and BG Biehler!

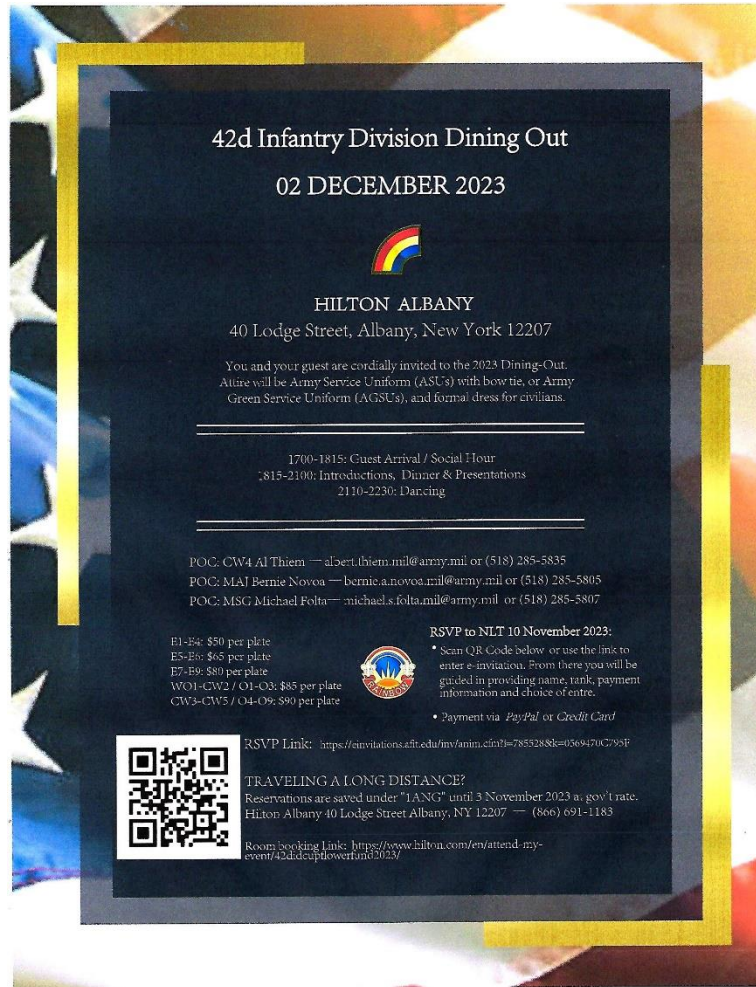
Well, that's enough for this time. Thanks again for your untiring support and dedication to RDVF! **Rainbow, Never Forget!! Gary Yaple, RDVF Chairman**

BATTLE BUDDY

The term "Battle Buddy" is a phrase unique to the Army. Initially, it denoted a pair of soldiers each responsible for the other. Working as a pair, the two would be tent mates, fox hole buddies as one could stay alert as the other slept. In the confusion of preparations, training and battle, each soldier had the responsibility to make certain their buddy was squared away. After all, in combat and in life in general, it is reassuring to know someone is guarding your back.

From the formation of the earliest armies the practice of teaming up was necessary. Soldiers assisted one another in physical training, combat skills, learning tactics, as well as cooking, nit-picking, complaining, and passing the time. The battle buddy became a brother in arms, trusted, respected, and loved. When it comes down to it, we fight for each other and the hope that should we fall, we will not be forgotten.

The army has come a long way over the years. It is not our father's army, nor the one many of us entered not that long ago. Wisely, the Army still emphasizes the need for a Battle Buddy. In basic training soldiers are issued one, forcing them to look past themselves and understand the need to trust and be trusted. It is a pillar for the Army values and a lesson in responsibility. Through this simple step, the diversity of the many individuals coming into the service are amalgamated into a national force. The values shared and the miles traveled together form a bond like no other. It is a transition of a lifetime. Battle buddies are a good thing.



In the Bible, the first story is about Adam. After watching Adam's behavior, God decides it is not good for him to be alone. God creates a partner. I think this is a fundamental truth appropriate in our time. It is not good for anyone to be alone. For veterans and others who have suffered trauma, loss, and grief, being alone is not just unfortunate but dangerous. Even if we don't think so, we need one another to be healthy and have a better quality of life. Veteran suicides remain high to the point of a national crisis. These numbers have risen even more since Covid, and acute loneliness threatens many. So here are a few questions:

Who is your battle buddy?
Who do you trust to square you away?
Who do you trust and who trusts you?
Who are you talking to?

In his book, "War and the Soul", Ed Tick describes the need for soldiers who have been initiated and defined by their experiences to have trusted places to share their story, values, hopes and dreams. In other words, a battle buddy. We don't need to have been in the same fox hole to know the smell of dirt. We don't need to have had the exact same experience to relate to hardship, sacrifice and loss. All we need is to respect and care. I have learned that as it takes great faith to raise your right hand and put your fate in the hands of Uncle Sam, it takes equal courage and faith to be open, honest, and present every day after. We need someone to be this with. Who's your battle buddy?

Chaplain (Col. Ret.) Eric W. Olsen
(former 42nd Div. Chaplain)

A HERO LOST

Cpl. James Arthur Derry
02/05/1920 – 07/25/2023



On July 25, 2023 James "Jim" Arthur Derry received his heavenly wings at the age of 103 years old. Dad was a loving Father, Husband, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather and Great-Great-Grandfather. He drove a tractor trailer the majority of his life, until his retirement. Dad received several million-mile safe driving awards while driving his tractor-trailer. Dad and Mom traveled the Country in their motor home, driving to Alaska several times and then becoming "snowbirds" traveling to Florida.

They settled in Salt Springs Village where they spent many enjoyable years. Dad served in the Army from 1943-1946. He entered the service in August of 1943, did his basic training at Camp Gruber and arrived in Marseille France December 9, 1944.

He served in the 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow Division), 242nd Anti-Tank Company. He received a Bronze Star for his heroic achievement in action on January 9, 1945 near Hatten and Rittershoffen. Two German Divisions were attacking the two towns. He drove a quarter-ton-truck and made four trips between the two towns under heavy artillery and mortar fire. He transferred fused anti-tank mines from Rittershoffen to Hatten in time for them to be used to stop a tank attack. He drove in front of enemy tanks and received several holes in his vehicle from shell fragments. He also received a Good Conduct Medal,

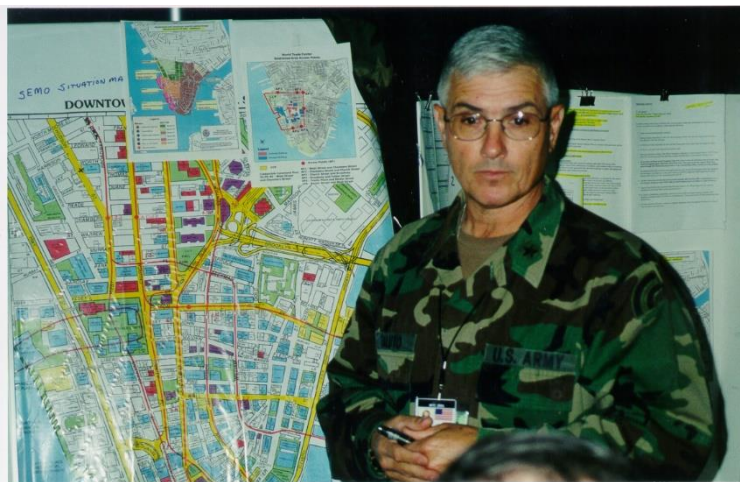
Bronze Star Medal, American Theater Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Dad was so proud of his service to our Country throughout his life. He was quick to talk with anyone who wanted to know about what WWII was like.

He got the chance to visit with his family in Washington State, where he met his first Great-Great-Grandchild, Harrison. He was present when his second Great-Great-Grandchild Raeya was born in May 2023. He was so proud of both of them and all of his Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and Great-Great Grandchildren. He is survived by two sons, James S Derry and wife Charlene Sequim WA, Dennis A Derry and wife Mary Jefferson MD. Three Grandchildren, Shannan, Bradley and Greg, Sequim WA, Dennis A Derry Jr and companion Karen Lucia, Mt. Airy MD and Brandy Keyser and husband John, Jefferson, MD. Four great-grandchildren Evan King and wife Domonique, Ft. Campbell KY, Chase Keyser, Alexa Keyser and Troy Shafer, all of Jefferson, MD, two great-great-grandchildren Harrison James King and Raeya Lynn King both of Ft. Campbell, KY. He will be fondly remembered by Jim and Joanne Wood, Sequim, WA and Gail Christman of Ft. McCoy, FL. He was always my HERO, mentor and role model and will always be.

Dennis A. Derry, Son

GETTING "RAINBOW READY"

By Patrick Chaisson, RDVF Historian



Thousands of 42nd Infantry Division soldiers supported recovery operations in New York City and elsewhere following the attacks of September 11th, 2001. What few folks know is that most of these troops worked for the State of New York during Operation Trade Center.

It was called "State Active Duty," a means by which governors could utilize National Guard personnel and equipment for domestic emergencies such as snowstorms, hurricanes, or civil disturbances.

More Rainbow Division soldiers were brought on duty when the Defense Department ordered National Guard units to help protect military installations across the country. Called Operation Noble Eagle, this Federally-funded mission sent 42nd Inf. Div. troops forward to secure Army facilities in New England, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania for several months in 2001-2002.

During the late summer of 2002, then-Brig. Gen. Joseph Taluto took command of the 42nd Inf. Div. Taluto firmly believed that the Rainbow's future would bring more deployments – possibly

even overseas. Accordingly, he directed his division staff to develop a program designed to prepare individual soldiers for Federal mobilization.

This program, which Gen. Taluto called “Rainbow Ready,” was meant to address the myriad administrative, medical, and family readiness requirements that many units “put on the back burner” after 9-11-01. He assembled a team of experts and sent them to each New York-based battalion in the 42nd Inf. Div. for a drill weekend devoted to improving individual readiness. Everybody hated it.

Unit commanders, now faced with the very real possibility of war, wanted every minute of their soldiers’ training time devoted to practicing combat skills. The troops also wished they were out throwing hand grenades or digging fighting positions – anything was better than standing in line while a clerk updated their life insurance form.

Even the “Rainbow Ready” staff, often working three out of every four weekends per month, began to burn out after a while.

But the program accomplished several important things. Soldiers who were recently married, divorced, or had children could now ensure their families were taken care of. Legal personnel helped draft wills and powers of attorney for any individual who wanted one.

And for those who lost their identification tags, a member of the Rainbow Ready team somehow got a World War II-era “Graphotype” dog-tag machine working again to stamp out hundreds of metal ID discs every weekend.

Medical and dental readiness posed an enormous challenge. At the start of the 21st Century, part-time National Guard members were expected to carry their own health and dental insurance. Some soldiers didn’t have (or couldn’t afford) this insurance, which meant they might have an untreated condition that prevented them from deploying.

Military and contract medical professionals participated in every “Rainbow Ready” event. Each unit member received a physical exam, which occasionally revealed physical problems. The team frequently found cases of diabetes, heart disease, and recent surgical procedures that made soldiers “non-deployable.”

(In these situations, troops could request a fitness-for-duty review or a medical discharge. Some conditions, such as asthma, required the individual to be immediately separated from the service.)



Dental technicians looked at everyone’s teeth. Sometimes their exams led to drastic measures – before he could be considered deployable, one artilleryman needed 13 teeth extracted. (They weren’t all pulled at once!)

As unpopular as these events were, the Division’s senior leaders quickly learned to recognize their value. In a discussion with the author, then-LTC Geoff Slack (1-69 Infantry Battalion Commander) said his unit’s “Rainbow Ready” weekend was some of the most worthwhile training he had ever experienced.

Not long after the 1-69 Infantry’s “Rainbow Ready” experience, that battalion was mobilized for duty in Iraq. Other units – the 1-258 Field Artillery, 42nd Aviation Brigade, and Division Headquarters among them – also received call-up orders for Operation *Iraqi Freedom* in 2003 and 2004.

General Taluto’s vision of a prepared and ready force, taken together with the hard work performed by dozens of administrative, legal, and medical experts within the 42nd Inf. Div., paid many unseen dividends in the months and years to come as the Rainbow Division prepared for its first combat deployment since World War II.



CAPTION ONE: Then-Brig. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto (seen here in New York City during the aftermath of 9-11-01) devised the “Rainbow Ready” program to improve individual soldier readiness for 42nd Infantry Division soldiers expected to deploy overseas as part of Operation *Iraqi Freedom* in 2003-2004. Photo by MAJ Richard Goldenberg.

CAPTION TWO: Capt. Vanessa Simms undergoes her dental screening from Dr. Mike Michuge during the December Soldier Readiness Checks at the Masten Avenue armory in Buffalo. The 42nd Infantry Division’s Third Brigade Headquarters underwent deployment to readiness checks as part of the division’s annual program to review individual Soldier readiness. While the entire process is designed as a tool for commanders to better assess unit readiness, “Rainbow Ready” Soldiers have also used the administrative checks to better prepare for state and federal mobilizations. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Corine Lombardo.

CAPTION THREE: Soldiers from HHC 42nd Infantry Division, Troy, stand tall as they prepare to board the bus heading for Ft. Drum, NY (Photo by Guard Times Staff).

“RAINBOW GIRL”

By Suellen R. McDaniel

Reprinted from the March 2001

RAINBOW TRAIL History Newsletter



I first met Peggy Fleming at the National Rainbow Reunion in Charlotte, NC in July 1999. We were all standing on the sidewalk outside the Adam’s Mark Hotel, waiting out a fire alarm, when I noticed a poised and gracious lady standing just in front of me. She was wearing a name tag which proclaimed her to be “RAINBOW GIRL.” “Excuse me,” I asked. “You are the only one I’ve noticed who is wearing a name tag like this. What does it mean?” “It’s a long story!” she replied.

“At 11:45 the night of 14 July 1918, just at the moment the flaming guns of the Fourth French Army opened the Battle of the Champagne, a baby girl was born in Tennessee.

“Her father lay in the white chalk land of the Champagne, facing the final great drive of the German Army to take Paris. He was an officer in the Rainbow Division, the only American unit of Gouraud’s Fourth Army. The Rainbow Division stood fast, stopped the Germans in their tracks and there launched a bloody counterattack. Paris was saved...



“Peggy Dickinson Fleming, a true daughter of the Rainbow, born at the moment her Rainbow father helped to halt the flower of the German Army, was present at the 25th Annual Rainbow reunion, held at Tulsa, Oklahoma in July 1943, in connection with the reactivation of the Division. Major General Harry J. Collins, Division Commander, sensed at once that she symbolized the close kinship between the old Division and the new. At the annual banquet, 13 July 1943, he proposed that she be adopted by the new Division as “The Rainbow Girl.” His proposal was

immediately and enthusiastically accepted and as The Rainbow Girl, Peggy Dickinson Fleming has cemented closer the already cordial relation between the Division and its veterans.” (reprinted from the 1944 pictorial and review books, Camp Gruber, OK).

For this article, Peggy wrote: “I would like to say a few words about the meaning of ‘Armistice Day.’ After the signing of the peace at Versailles on November 11, 1919, the splendor of the day was commemorated by the term, Armistice Day. I well remember the looming, every fall, every November, of the date, November 11. Parades were organized, town squares were ablaze with flags and the streets echoed with marching feet from countless parades. Those who could march participated and the others such as myself, simply watched in awe and wonder. No one simply stayed home and ignored the day. The trials and torn hearts were still being healed and to go out no matter the weather and honor our ‘boys’ again was simply *the* thing to do. Veterans’ Day, with all its meaning for countless veterans of many wars, does not hold the connotation that Armistice Day did in that faraway time. It was special, it was uplifting and above all, it gave us one last way to remember and promote the memory of those who gave so much to us.”

(Peggy Fleming, daughter of Captain Jacob McGavrock Dickinson, Jr., 149th Field Artillery of the 42d Infantry Rainbow Division, WWI; granddaughter of Jacob McGavrock Dickinson, Civil War veteran and Secretary of War for President Taft, 1909-1911, served as editor of the National Rainbow Auxiliary Bulletin for many years.)

Photo One: family photo printed with memorial tribute in 2014

NEWS | June 14, 2023

Fort Indiantown Gap Hosts Warfighter Exercise

By Brad Rhen,

Joint Force Headquarters - Pennsylvania National Guard
FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – More than 2,100 service members from multiple states participated in a large-scale Warfighter exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap June 2-11.

A Warfighter is a simulated exercise to train and evaluate Army division-sized elements on mission command in large-scale combat operations.

The exercise’s primary training audience was the New York National Guard’s 42nd Infantry Division. About 600 personnel from the 42nd ID participated.

“The 42nd Infantry Division came here with a mission, to use this Warfighter exercise to train and mentor our noncommissioned officers, warrant officers and commissioned officers on taking their specific skill sets and aggregating them together to accomplish our corps commander’s intent,” said Maj. Gen. Thomas Spencer, commanding general, 42nd ID. “We accomplished our mission and trained how we would fight. I am very proud of my Soldiers and am extremely confident that the Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division are ready to accomplish any mission in the service of this great nation.”

Soldiers with National Guard units from Texas, Kentucky, Washington, Kansas and California also participated in the exercise with active-duty Soldiers from First Army, 1st Armored Division and the Mission Command Training Program.

Warfighter exercises focus on command and control rather than large numbers of troops training in the field, said 1st Lt. Tyler Price, Warfighter exercise project officer.

“They bring the headquarters of brigades and divisions, and they actually work their command and control in a simulated environment instead of bringing thousands of troops to a training center,” Price said.

Large exercises like this can pose numerous challenges, Price said. The last Warfighter at Fort Indiantown Gap occurred during the COVID pandemic, so participants had to wear masks, test, eat outside and maintain social distancing.

This year, there was a larger footprint for the exercise because it involved more personnel. Additionally, because smoke from Canadian wildfires created poor air quality, masks were distributed to Soldiers who had to spend time outdoors.

“We’ve overcome some challenges with personnel dealing with real-world issues outside of the Warfighter,” Price said. “The ultimate challenge was communicating with several different units from three different components and seven different states.”

Sgt. Tabitha Hickman, military police support noncommissioned officer, said security can be challenging during such exercises.

“Just ensuring that places are secure, things aren’t brought in that shouldn’t be there and ensuring the overall safety and well-being of those who are on the ground,” Hickman said. “We’ve had a few hiccups, but that’s to be expected at every Warfighter. It’s been mostly smooth, nothing crazy.”

First Sgt. Thomas Nace, mayor cell noncommissioned officer in charge, said the Warfighter involved numerous directorates, including billeting, maintenance, environmental, the community club and police and fire departments.

“The Warfighter project team here at Fort Indiantown Gap was tasked with providing real-life support to all the units participating in the Warfighter, including feeding, housing, transporting and providing security,” Nace said. “While the units have been here, we have been resolving any issue that arose outside the exercise itself in order to provide them with an appropriate environment in which to train.”

Fort Indiantown Gap began hosting Warfighter Exercises in 2016 and typically hosts one per year.



[Reprinted from NATIONAL GUARD, an official website of the United States government]

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Harley Jelis : Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division conduct a command post movement commonly referred to as a jump, June 9, 2023, during a Warfighter exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. This movement allows Soldiers to practice their mobility skills to ensure that the command post can be moved rapidly from one location to another.

2022 RDVF SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Greetings all,

It's my first report as the Scholarship Chair and I'm happy to say we had another successful scholarship year. With the approval of the Board, we were able to present 14 undergraduate students with nearly \$30,000 this year. It was an impressive slate of candidates who provided essays on their career goals, their relationship with their sponsor, and how their sponsor's service with the 42d Infantry Division has impacted their own personal growth and career path choices. These are all very bright young people and we are very proud of them all.

I want to thank this year's Scholarship Review Board, comprised of Patrick Chaisson, RDVF Historian, Kelly Fancher, WO Strength Manager, Patrick Clare, COL, 369th BDE CDR and Albert Thiem, The Scholarship Board Recorder. They did a wonderful job providing a fair, thorough and balanced approach to awarding the scholarships. This is such an important program to the RDVF and we're very proud of the successes we've seen over the years.

Below is the full listing of our Scholarship Awards. Please join me in congratulating them all on a job well done. We wish them the very best in their educational pursuits!

Scholarship Name	Amount	Recipient
MacArthur Award	\$5,000	Kiera Swislow
Stillman F. Sawyer Award	\$4,000	Nicole Elyukin
Edward and Lillian Kaiser Award	\$3,500	Jacob Frank
The Major General Joseph J. Taluto Award	\$3,000	Joseph DelDuca
The News Corp-Robert T. Kennedy Award	\$2,500	Lauren Rautenberg
42nd Infantry Division Association Award	\$2,000	Amy Munson
222d Infantry Regiment Award	\$1,500	Gabriella Fisher
242d Infantry Regiment Award	\$1,500	Natasha Ruffing
Lon and Colleen Peck Award	\$1,000	Tyler Ready
Ted Johnson Award	\$1,000	Christopher Poole
Walter and Virginia Duhascesk	\$1,000	Rayanna Geilhausen
RDVF Award	\$1,000	Dominic Ianni
RDVF Award	\$1,000	Ava Noecker
Ted Simonson Award	\$1,000	Garrett Jensen

Rainbow, Never Forget!

Tammy Moss-Hicks
Scholarship Chair

Our great appreciation for his help to the RDVF in our project of collecting Rainbow Division history for online <rainbowvets.org> accessibility is acknowledged to
Josh Caster, Archives Resource Manager
University of Nebraska – Lincoln
University Archives and Special Collections
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MISSION: BRINGING RAINBOW DIVISION HISTORY ONLINE Through original newsletter issues A Readiness Update

Easily accessible Rainbow Division history to be offered on the forthcoming new <rainbowvets.org> website will include past newsletters documenting stories of Rainbow, the camaraderie of reunions, honored memorials and photos of Soldiers, Veterans and their families of long ago.

Currently, our online Rainbow REVEILLE issues run from September 2012 – present. Soon we will have completed the 1980's, 90's and 2000's.

Headlines from those years include,

March 1945 – Remember?

Across the Siegfried and into Dahn

Miracle on 42nd's Street

General Collins' Midnight Ride

The Lion and The Rainbow

Shootout in Sessenheim

What's the Point of Contact? (Forward Operating Base Summerall Bayji Iraq 2005)

Marne and Rainbow Soldiers Receive Combat Patch (Forward Operating Base Dagger Tikrit Iraq 2005)

Rainbow Division Looks Eastward in 2009 (Troy NY)

Easter in Iraq 2005

15 Years Ago 42nd Alerted for Combat Mission

Easter in Iraq Sunday 27 March 2005

...and so much more!

Earlier issues back to the 1920s are planned!

Also complete for now are all biannual issues of RAINBOW TRAIL, the RDVMF Millennium Chapter/Legacy group history newsletter, all 46 issues 2000-2023 filled with history, current and past and more to come – next issue February 2024. The latest issue, August 2023 is posted on <rainbowvets.org> on the same NEWS link as is REVEILLE.

NY NATIONAL GUARD LEADER RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

LATHAM, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guard Col. Peter Mehling, a Ballston Spa, N.Y. resident and veteran of Iraq, Kuwait and Bosnia with more than 26 years of military service, received the Army's Legion of Merit during his retirement ceremony held at the National Guard Headquarters in Latham, N.Y.

"If you heard his resume, he never had an easy job," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Spencer, the commanding general of the 42nd Infantry Division, and presiding officer for the retirement ceremony. "He's always taken on the tough jobs."

As part of the ceremony, Spencer awarded Mehling the Army's Legion of Merit, the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal, the Army Artillery Association's Honorable Order of Saint Barbara, and a frame of the 42nd Division colors with photographs of historic moments in the



unit's history and lineage.

"Your dedication, sacrifice and devotion are an enduring legacy that will continue to shape the future of the 42nd Infantry Division," reads the inscription to Mehling. "We wish you the best in your retirement and future endeavors."

Mehling was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer in January 1997. He served on active duty in Korea, at Fort Drum, and Fort Riley. While serving on active duty, he deployed to Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge and then Operation Iraqi Freedom in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

In the New York Army National Guard, Mehling served as the operations officer, executive officer and then commander of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment before then as operations officer and chief of staff in the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, National Defense Medal with one Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Korean Defense Service Medal and the NATO Medal.

He also has earned the U.S. Army Ranger Tab and the Army paratrooper badge.

Mehling resides in Ballston Spa, N.Y. with his wife Jennifer, sons Willie and Charlie and daughters Ellie and Katie.

Spencer spoke directly to the Mehling family, acknowledging their support and service.

"We volunteer to serve, to wear the uniform," Spencer said, "but they are drafted into service."

Mehling also thanked his family for the love and support over the decades of service.

"My family is my rock," he said, "they watched me leave for Korea in 1997 and have patiently waited for this day ever since. Their support through the years with sage advice and a sympathetic ear have been sustaining. I feel it is important and appropriate to mention that their service compelled my own."

Mehling then turned directly to his children, saying "Willie, Ellie, Katie and Charlie, they say your Soldiers are your credentials. I feel the same way about you – you have all made me proud. You are a credit to your mom and dad and will do great things for the world."

"Jen, it's our privilege to give him back to you," he joked.

Mehling concluded with remarks to the assembled Soldiers from across the state headquarters, division headquarters and former artillerymen.

"That's it, that's 26 years," Mehling said. "I'm retiring from the Army knowing it is in good hands. The people in this room are the best of us and are well suited to the task at hand. I'm grateful and proud to have been a part of this team."

*Story and photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg NYARNG
Reprinted from DVIDS (Defense Visual Information Distribution Svc)*

42nd INFANTRY DIVISION BAND Rock and Roll Ensemble Performs for U.S. Embassy Israel 3 July 2023

Story by Eric Durr; photo courtesy New York National Guard

JERUSALEM--Nine Soldiers assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division Band spent their July 4 holiday weekend in Israel, performing at a reception hosted by the American Ambassador to Israel, Thomas Nides.

The eight musicians, and a sound engineer, provided the background music for a July 3 party held at the Israel Museum, the country's most important archeological museum located in Jerusalem.

The musicians, who make up the "Rock Band" of several musical performance teams that the 40-member band can break down into, played a two-hour set for the reception in the museum's garden.

Those attending included Israeli legislators, the mayor of Jerusalem, Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience," said Staff Sgt. Drew Gansz, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Rock Band.

"It went pretty great," he added. "There were a lot of moving parts, but it worked."

"This was easily the coolest event we have ever played," said Spc. Noah Martella, the percussion player. "I never expected to do something like this when I enlisted with the 42nd Infantry Division Band."

His musicians had prepared to play classic American pop tunes, Gansz said. They were ready to go with everything from Bruno Mars songs to Steely Dan and even the Bee Gees, he said.

It was good to be ready, he said, because they got a lot of requests.

"We had to adjust fire many times throughout the gig," Gansz said.

For example, they had to extend their set so that they would be playing when the Israeli prime minister arrived, said Sgt. Alexandria Johnson, a guitar player like Gansz. So, they added improvised solos to the song to make it last longer, she said.

The band worked well together, according to Sgt. Tejera-Velasquez Napoleon, the sound engineer.

"It was poetry in motion to see everyone execute what was necessary to achieve a successful mission," she said.

The rock band members left for Israel on June 30 and returned on July 5 on board a C-17 Globemaster III flown by the New York Air Guard's 105th Airlift Wing.

There was a lot going on, but they did have time to visit key sites in Jerusalem, to include the Wailing Wall, as well as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and Mount Zion.

The 42nd Infantry Division Band got into the embassy entertainment business because of the New York National Guard's bilateral relationship with Israel's Homefront Command, according to Maj. David Myones, the New York National Guard's State Partnership Program coordinator.

The embassy usually asks for an active duty band for this annual event, Myones said. In 2022, there was no active military band available, so the embassy staff reached out to the New York National Guard.

Then, a week out from July 4, there was no time to respond, Myones said.

This year, the Central Command Band said no to the embassy staff in March, so they turned to New York, Myones said.

"We were able to support with 90 days' notice because we are going to be doing it on the cheap," Myones said.

The band's annual training event — a week of rehearsals and a week-long performance tour across New York — was already scheduled for that period, he said. And the 105th Airlift wing was able to provide transport on one of their C-17s.

So, while most of the band play concerts in Seneca Falls, Lewiston and Tonawanda, Gansz and his ensemble traveled to Israel.



It was stressful getting everything ready, but it was worth it all, Gansz said.

"The audience was incredibly receptive to our performance, and once we were done with our work for the night, it seemed that there was an endless flow of people trying to talk to us, take photos with us, and ask us about what we do," Gansz said.

Story and Photo reprinted from DVIDS (Defense Visual Information Distribution Svc)

WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST

Deaths Reported Since July 2023

BAKER, Dan Franklin H/242 Infantry
CALDWELL, William St. John A/T Co./242 Infantry
DERRY, James A. A/T Co./242 Infantry
FUCHS, Otto L. Jr. I/222 Infantry
GRANT, Louis W. HQ/42nd Division
JANOSIK, John M. 132nd Signal Company
KAMINSKY, Michael R., Jr. unit unreported
KARPIEL, Edward J. unit unreported
MIDKIFF, Dr. H. Marvin Midkiff 42D DIV MP Plt
STAVROS, George E. B/232 Infantry
TAYLOR, Robert Lyle I/232 Infantry

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RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS' FOUNDATION, INC.

Contributions 10 July 2023 – 30 September 2023

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C/149th F.A. WWI
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- 250. Carol Weiden in memory of John Janosik 132 Signal Co
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National WWII Rainbow Auxiliary Deaths: *Barbara C. Eberhart, President National Auxiliary 1999-2000; wife of Dee R. Eberhart, I/242 Infantry

*These are the first three paragraphs of the 12-page testimony written on his own letterhead stationery in 1994, of **ELI HEIMBERG**, former Assistant Chaplain to Chaplain Rabbi Eli Bohnen, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division World War II (courtesy of Josh Caster, Archives Resource Manager, U of NE Lincoln Archives and Special Collections):*

LIBERATORS AND HUMANITARIANS -THE MEN OF THE RAINBOW DIVISION

"Beside the fact that the Rainbow Division of World War II completed its military mission successfully and also liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp, little note is made of its other great achievement, that of the humanitarian efforts and the attempts to rehabilitate the victims of the Holocaust. I witnessed that.

"Because of the foresight and sensitivity of its Commander, Major General Harry J. Collins, its officers, and many of its enlisted men, I saw renewed hope and spirit awakened in the souls of these unfortunate people. This history should not be left untold in the archives of the "Rainbow."

"Despite the horrors we saw at Dachau and other such hell holes, there was a feeling, at least the unfortunate survivors would be nursed back to health, and through some miracle would be united with the remnants of their families or relatives...."

Mr. Heimberg concluded his letter, "In war, the "Rainbow" liberated men. In peace, men of the "Rainbow" became humanitarians by renewing the hope of those who had found only despair. Let us all be proud to have been part of that magnificent "Rainbow."

[The entirety of his letter will be printed in the February 2024 issue of the RAINBOW TRAIL History Newsletter]