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Veterans Day honors those serving, past and present

On Nov. 11th, our Nation will pause to observe Veterans Day, remembering those in uniform who have fought for and preserved our freedom in the past, and honoring those who serve today. INSCOM soldiers, who proudly celebrate our 25th anniversary this year, have always been in the forefront, never hesitating to do what must be done. You and those who have gone before have shown the courage, dedication, and sacrifice that have built our superb reputation in the intelligence and defense communities. Together, past and present, you have helped provide the eyes and ears that protect our Nation.

This Veteran's Day, I join you in paying tribute to all who served our great Nation in the past. I also extend my thanks to those of you serving today, regular and reserve, deployed and stateside, in Europe, the Pacific or CONUS. Each day that you wear your uniform, you live a different kind of life, often facing sacrifice and hardship in preserving our Nation's security and in helping to spread freedom and democracy around the world. As wreaths are placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery this year, we will remember all those who served so well in the past, and we also honor the efforts of all those in uniform today.



Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander

Fast Facts:

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars' annual free phone card program is gearing up for active-duty, Guard and Reserve military members serving overseas. For more information, go to http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2002/n10312002_200210314.html
- Who are the most wanted terrorists? Find out more about them at <http://www.fbi.gov/mostwanted/terrorists/fugitives.htm>
- Open season for the Long Term Care runs through Dec. 31. Federal civilians, active duty, retirees and certain family members are eligible. You can request an Open Season kit, calculate premiums for your area, and find out more information on this program at the Long Term Care Home Page: <http://www.ltcfeds.com/>
- Open Season also runs for the Thrift Savings Plan through Dec. 31. An online copy of the Open Season Brochure is available at <http://www.tsp.gov/forms/ocupdate0210.pdf>

202nd MI soldiers receive Bronze Star for OEF

By Spc. Brian Lamar

513th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

In a time of war and heartache for families and friends, the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion broke the rough times with an award ceremony that boosted the morale and gave families and fellow soldiers an idea of the important work 202nd soldiers did in Afghanistan.

In Alexander Hall this past Aug. 15, ten soldiers of the 202nd MI Bn. stood tall as Col. Jon Jones, the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade commander, presented them the Bronze Star Medal for their excellence in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

"These soldiers have definitely earned these awards and all of our respect," said Jones. Although the event was geared toward recognition of the soldiers, Jones expressed appreciation for the sacrifices of the soldier's families too.

"I also give my thanks to the spouses and children. It is easy for soldiers to identify with what other soldiers go through, but we can't truly identify with what the families go through," Jones explained.

The soldiers who received the award performed many duties in Afghanistan, from setting up communication systems to interrogating the enemy.

"These soldiers succeeded not only by excelling in performance; but they also had to overcome the real world challenge of excelling in a dangerous environment," said Maj. Charles E. Edge, the battalion executive officer.

Although the soldiers are among the first INSCOM soldiers honored during Operation Enduring Freedom, they are part of a legacy of thousands of soldiers who set the example in the past.

The Army authorized the use of the Bronze Star Award to recognize efforts of soldiers in service in 1944. The award is used by the Army to recognize and display acts of heroism, meritorious achievement or service and used to award a single act of merit or meritorious service.

The command of the 202nd believed the soldiers did just that.

"The soldiers performed magnificently while in harm's way," said Lt. Col. Frank Abbott, the battalion commander.

202nd soldiers also received numerous Army Commendation Medals and Certificates of Achievement putting a positive edge on a huge deployment. "This was truly a great opportunity to see these soldiers put there training into real world practice," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert W. Irvin, battalion CSM.



Col. Jon Jones presents the Bronze Star to Staff Sgt. Knott

Bronze Star Recipients

Maj David H. Carstens
 Chief Warrant Officer Deanna L. Couch
 Chief Warrant Officer Daniel L. Duval
 First Sgt. Sandra J.B. Rosiere
 Staff Sgt. Todd Campau
 Staff Sgt. Elton J. Robert
 Staff Sgt. Brian T. Knott
 Sgt. James D. Richardson
 Sgt. Jamie K. Roth
 Cpl. Frank T. Demma

66th MI Group's provisional status ends

By Staff Sgt. Eric Reinhardt

66th MI Group Public Affairs

The 66th Military Intelligence Group shed its provisional status Oct. 16 to become a full-fledged unit in an activation ceremony at Kelley Barracks here.

In the same ceremony, the 66th MI Group's operations battalion, formerly the 533rd MI Battalion (Provisional), was redesignated as the 2nd MI Battalion.

The changes give the group its own Modified Table of Organization and Equipment, or MTOE, giving it more direct ownership of its manning and equipment requirements.

"What this means is that the Army has recognized the myriad of significant contributions this great team of soldiers and civilians have made in the recent past," said 66th MI Group Commander Col. Gus E. Green Sr. in remarks "But more important is the recognition that this team has a crucial role from now until well into the future."

The 66th MI Group and 2nd MI Bn. are headquartered in Darmstadt, Germany with MI detachments throughout the USAREUR theater. The group's 105th MI Bn. is based in Bad Aibling, Germany. About 830 soldiers and civilians are assigned to the group.

The 66th MI Group is organic to the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, but falls under the operational control of U.S. Army Europe.

The unit's history dates to 1944 when it was formed as the 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Its first mission was screening German refugees in France during World War II. The 66th was on constant assignment in France and Germany until the end of the war.

In 1959, the 66th CIC Group assumed responsibility for all MI operations in southern Germany. It took on other intelligence disciplines besides counterintelligence, and was redesignated the 66th Military Intelligence Group.

In 1968, the unit relocated to Munich to support intelligence operations that were now expanded to include all of Germany.

In 1977, the 66th MI Group was reassigned to support the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, and was renamed the 66th MI Brigade. In 1992 the group's headquarters moved to Augsburg, Germany.

Due to the Base Realignment and Closure act and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the 66th downsized and relocated its headquarters to Darmstadt in 1998.



Col. Gus E. Green, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven K. Faucette of the 66th Military Intelligence Group unfurl the unit's new colors in an activation ceremony Oct. 16 at Kelley Barracks in Darmstadt. The event marked the end of the Group's longtime "provisional" status, making it a full-fledged unit. The 2nd MI Battalion, formerly the 533rd MI Bn., was also activated in the ceremony.

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Senior Staff Profile

A series to introduce leaders in INSCOM



Colonel Gerard M. Walsh, INSCOM's Assistant Chief of Staff, G1, explains his philosophy on providing support to the Command. (US Army photo)

"I'm a people person," says Col. Gerard M. (Rod) Walsh, the new Assistant Chief of Staff, G1, for the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. With several Army Personnel Command assignments under his belt, the new INSCOM personnel "guru" feels he has the requisite experience to take on the G1 issues—people and otherwise—within the Command. And he knows about people. "People like to be informed; they don't like to be kept in the dark. Open communications is vital to the success of an organization. People who are informed become active participants in the work planning process."

Col. Walsh has a unique military background. He was commissioned as a Signal Corps officer, and later branched transfer to Field Artillery early in his military career. As a Field Artilleryman he has served in command and staff positions of increasing responsibility. Prior to arriving at INSCOM he served on the Joint Staff, J5, as the Assistant Deputy Director for Political-Military Affairs, Asia. So, like many others outside of the military intelligence arena, coming to INSCOM was a new experience for him.

"Coming into this job, I felt somewhat like a brand new second lieutenant because I had to learn all about the MI branch from a different perspective. As a combat arms officer I was familiar with the role of MI at the tactical level, but I had no idea what went on at echelons above corps!" Walsh said. "I am very impressed with this organization and just didn't realize the magnitude of the things this command is responsible for on a daily basis."

Walsh is very proud of his G1 staff: "They are all great! I'm really impressed with their 'can do' attitude. They're all team players and they understand that it's the G1's mission to provide nothing but the best personnel management support to the Commanding General as well as to the major subordinate command commanders."

Walsh is looking forward to meeting and getting to know all the other members of the INSCOM team. "If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to give me a call. I'm here to serve. Hooah!"

INSCOM Safety Awards Nominations Due to HQ

It's time to submit nominations for the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's safety awards. The Commanding General's award for safety excellence recognizes the unit that has made the most significant contributions and achievements in promoting accident prevention and safety awareness for units having assigned strength of 300 plus. Competition for the INSCOM safety award, for units with fewer than 300 personnel, also includes individual battalion accomplishments.

Nomination packets are to describe the unit's safety performance. This discussion should include commander's support of the INSCOM safety program, methods used to effect or sustain accident reduction, risk management incorporation initiatives, accident statistics, major accomplishments, and safety performance objectives for fiscal year 2002. Nomination packets are due before Nov. 30 to the INSCOM Safety Office at IAPE-HR-S, 8825 Beulah Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5246.

Safety is an integral part of what we do. Take this opportunity to recognize and reward those who go beyond the routine to ensure that at INSCOM safety is a way of life. (Courtesy INSCOM Safety Office)

205th MI Bn tests, exercises force protection in Vigilant Blade 02

By Sgt. Nicole Alberico, 500th MI PAO

Wherever the U.S. military may travel, force protection is one of its highest priorities. Exercises such as Vigilant Blade 02 afford all services of the military, along with foreign allied countries, the opportunity to train and execute force protection tactics, techniques, and procedures.

This year, U.S. Army Pacific soldiers led the way during the annual joint-combined force protection exercise Vigilant Blade 02.

Soldiers and equipment from the 205th MI Battalion, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and Counter Intelligence Detachment – Japan represented the 500th MI Group and USARPAC on Australian soil in mid-July 2002 ready to train and execute.

The Vigilant Blade/Shield exercise series began in 1995. The exercise site alternates between Australia and the United States. This year, northern New South Wales, Australia hosted the fictional city, “Bravo City,” a key location in the force protection scenario.

For the United States, many factors of Vigilant Blade 02 distinguished itself from past VB exercises.

“This year is the largest U.S. Army contingent that has deployed in the Vigilant Exercise series,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Winne, commander of the 205th MI Bn and the exercise’s U.S. Army Forces Commander.

Aside from having the largest Army representation, Col. Gary Royster, USARPAC G-2, observed other differences during his visit to the area of operation.

“The U.S. Army’s significance during this year’s participation was not only in numbers, but also the large role the ranks and leadership played,” said Royster, “it shows the commitment of the U.S. Army to Allied intelligence efforts in this theater.”

The exercise’s focus was the teams in the field. 500th MI Group provided three teams to act as the U.S. Army Force, or USARFOR. The exercise afforded the U.S., Australian, and British soldiers an opportunity to come together to train and execute tactics important for protecting their forces.

The mission of the soldiers during Vigilant Blade was to prevent a suspected bombing in the city. Joint surveillance, combined investigation, and document exploitation were just a few skills the Australian and U.S. soldiers utilized to accomplish the mission. Scenarios during the exercise allowed the two countries to swap soldiers to get the most out of combined training.

According to U.S. Special Agent Selena Bastine, training directly with the Australian military was an awesome experience.

“Learning what everyone had to bring to the table, including our sister services is something that is invaluable in force protection these days,” said Bastine.

Preparation from Vigilant Blade 02 began months before the July 15th launch date.

“Training objectives were developed during the year,” said Winne, “both combined and internal Army objectives.”

Between the three units under the 500th MI, they were able to successfully deploy a Combined Intelligence Support Element, automation support, a TROJAN Light communications system which enabled a TROJAN Light and RASP interface proof of concept, an Operation Control Element, and exercise scripters and controllers.



U.S. Army Warrant Officer Charles Clark, 205th MI Battalion, explains the TROJANLYTE to a British soldier. The exercise’s static display gave foreign militaries an opportunity to learn about each others equipment.

Veterans Day commemorates Armistice signing, honors all veterans

by Capt. Scott Gibson

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 31, 2002) — I have to confess that before I joined the Army I was one of those people who always got Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day mixed up. I knew that the Jerry Lewis Telethon was always held during one of them, but I had a hard time remembering which was which.

All of that changed for me with my first big assignment as a brand new Army Journalist in Washington, D.C., in November of 1989 when I met Gilmer T. Carter and his buddies.

Carter was 93 years old when we met at Arlington Cemetery. He was the national commander of the Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc., and it was his organization's turn to conduct the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington. Responsibility for the ceremony rotates between more than 18 veteran organizations, and because of the average age of World War I veterans, everyone knew that this would be their last opportunity to host the ceremony that was originally created to honor those veterans of "the war to end all wars."

Ninety-three years of life had taken its toll on Carter's body, but his mind remained as sharp as a tack as he explained the importance of the Nov. 11. He was very clear as he recalled to me the incredible joy that he felt when he heard of the signing of the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month back in 1918—the exact time the document was signed that ended World War I. Even though 71 years had passed, his eyes still filled with tears as he spoke of it. "This day will always be 'Armistice Day' to me," he said. "When I heard the Armistice had been signed, it was the best news I had ever heard."

Three years after the signing of the Armistice, World War I veterans gathered for a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery to bury the remains of an unknown American soldier at the spot now known as the Tomb of the Unknowns, and Carter was there. In 1918 he was just a spectator, but in 1989 he laid the wreath at the tomb and you could see the importance of the event in his face.

All of his buddies were equally proud to take part in the event. Orval M. Hooten, Lewis E. Watson, H. Louis Brooks, and John Pavlik each took part in the event, and each left a lasting impression on me.

Perhaps the most poignant moment of the day came when Pavlik, the youngest of the group at 89, stood in front of a packed Arlington Amphitheater with tears streaming down his face and recited the poem "Flanders Fields," from memory.

It seemed as if he was speaking directly to me as he quoted the lines, "Take up our quarrel with the foe. To you from fading hands we throw, the torch be yours to hold it high."

I had heard the poem before, but until that moment I never really got it. Our veterans have done their part, and now it's our turn to carry the torch.

Of the 4,734,991 Americans who took part in World War I, about 100,000 were still alive when I did my story in 1989. Today, that number is down to an estimate of barely more than 500 doughboys, and all five of my buddies from 1989 have passed away. The oldest surviving veteran is 116 years old, and the average age is over 110.

Armistice Day officially became Veterans Day following World War II when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation that Nov. 11 should honor veterans of all wars. Although the name of the holiday has changed, it remains the only national holiday that commemorates an exact moment in time - the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I.

As for me, at 11 a.m. on Monday Nov. 11, you can be assured that I'll be thinking of my doughboy buddies and the lesson they taught me back in 1989. Never again will I confuse Veterans Day with any other day.

(Editor's note: Capt. Scott Gibson is assigned to 7th Army Training Center Public Affairs.)