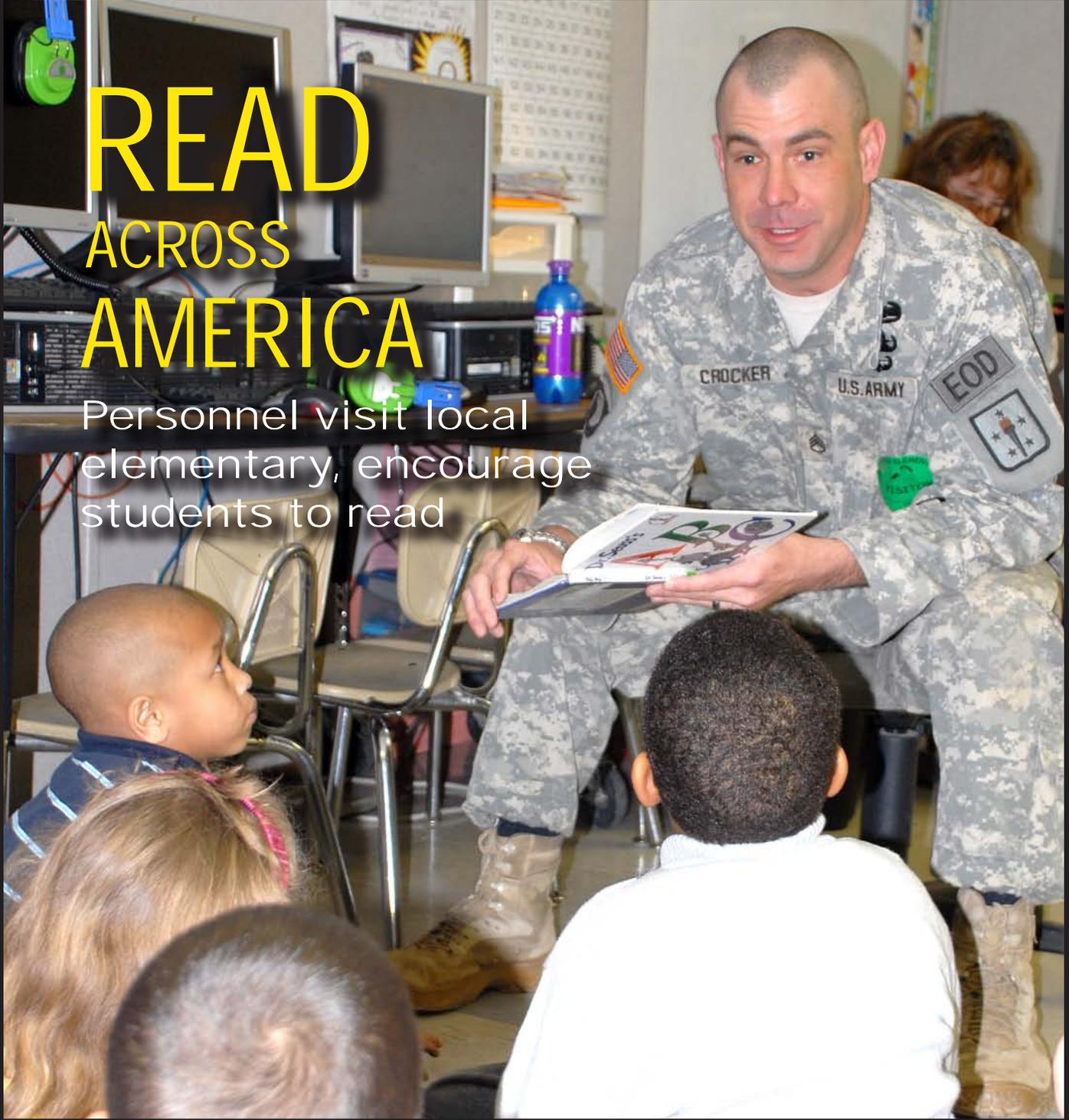


READ ACROSS AMERICA

Personnel visit local elementary, encourage students to read



Granddaughter's research yields Bronze Star for WWII hero

By Eric Kowal

Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs Office

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- The family of a New Jersey World War II-era Veteran received a posthumous Bronze Star commending the heroic actions of their relative, Technician 5th Grade John F. Morgan Jr., during an awards ceremony Feb. 18, in Denville, N.J.

Picatinny Senior Commander Brig. Gen. Jonathan A. Maddux presented the award to Morgan's son at the Franciscan Oaks Senior Living Facility.

On the night of Sept. 24, 1944, Morgan was in Vechel, Holland, when a large force of enemy infantry and tanks severed vitally important wire communications between division headquarters and a parachute infantry regiment.

It was paramount that the wire communication be reestablished. Despite enemy fire, intense darkness and unfamiliar roads and terrain, Morgan and his fellow Soldiers laid wire around the flank of enemy positions, restoring communication before daybreak.

In a memorandum dated Nov. 3, 1944, and signed by Col. R. D. Millener, chief of staff of the 101st Airborne Division, Morgan and six other men in the Signal Company, as well as six men in the 327th Glider Infantry unit, were to be commended for their heroic actions.

Although Morgan received a copy of the paperwork, he never received the award. He inquired about the memorandum while recovering from illness at a hospital at Camp Upton, NY.

A letter dated October 1945, from the assistant adjutant general of the 101st Airborne Division, stated that they had no records of Morgan receiving the award. No explanation was given, and Morgan

never pursued the matter.

Morgan passed away in 1992 at age 71.

His family said he never really spoke about the war much less about the award he never received.

Then last autumn, when 16-year-old

Lora, Morgan's granddaughter, was researching her grandfather's military service during World War II and stumbled across Millener's memorandum.

With some intuitive investigating, Lora discovered that two months after the letter was dated, Millener had been killed at the Battle of the Bulge. The mystery of what became of the paperwork may never be known.

During that time, servicemembers were

issued a serial number or service number for identification rather than their social security number.

Lora discovered several inconsistencies with her grandfather's service number, which could explain why the adjutant's office had no record of Morgan earning an award.

After Lora's discovery, her father and Morgan's son, Richard, contacted New Jersey Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen's office, which then contacted the Secretary of the Army.

Nearly 70 years after Morgan's heroic action in World War II, the Army finally presented the hero's award. The Morgan family requested that a military officer present the posthumous award to Morgan's wife, Mary, at the Franciscan Oaks Senior Living center where she lived. However, she passed away just a few days before the ceremony.

The Morgan family continued with the award presentation at the senior living center. Before a room full of Mary's friends and family, Maddux presented the posthumous Bronze Star medal to Richard on behalf of the United States

Army in recognition of his father's service. Morgan in turn presented the medal to his daughter.

"If it were not for Lora, we would not be here today. In a way, she earned this medal," he said.

The Morgan family doesn't know if the other 12 men had received their awards.

Lora will continue her research to help other families recognize the heroic actions of their relatives during World War II.



Photo by Todd Mozes

Lora and her father, Richard Morgan, hold the Bronze Star posthumously awarded to her grandfather.

Garrison Commander

Lt. Col. John W. Haefner

Garrison Command

Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel E. Reyna

Public Affairs Officer

Jennifer Erickson

Editor / Photojournalist

David San Miguel

2009

Department of Defense
Thomas Jefferson Award

2009, 2004

Department of the Army
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Award

2010, 2009

U.S. Army Installation Management Command
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Award

2008

U.S. Army Installation Management
Command - Northeast Region
Liberty Bell Award

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CSA designee pledges to serve Soldiers every day



U.S. Army photo

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey
Army Chief of Staff designee

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Soldiers expect their leaders to provide them with the tools they need to do their jobs, something the general nominated as the next Army chief of staff says he'll focus on every day.

During testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, March 3, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey answered questions about his fitness to serve as the next chief of staff of the Army -- a position he was nominated for in January by President Barack Obama.

"I sit before you today with confidence that whatever challenges confront us in the future, your Army will respond with the same courage and resolve that has characterized it for the past 235 years," Dempsey said.

The general currently serves as the commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, a position he has held since December 2008.

Dempsey told senators that Soldiers from all components of the Army -- active, Guard and Reserve -- are deployed overseas today defending the United States.

"We are truly one Army, and we serve

America proud," he said.

And stateside, he said, the Army brings in some 75,000 men and women, each year. Each, he said, is committed to the Army -- and the Army is committed to develop them as Soldiers and leaders.

The general also said he knows Soldiers, he knows their families, and he knows wounded Soldiers and their families as well. Of the Soldiers who serve, Dempsey said, their needs are simple.

They understand the challenges we face as an Army and as a nation, Dempsey said. "Their expectations of us are as simple as they are profound. They trust that we will provide the resources necessary for them to succeed in the fights in which we are currently engaged and they trust that we will have the wisdom and resolve necessary to prepare them for the missions unknown to us today, but will surely await us."

"If you confirm me as the Army's 37th CSA, you can be sure I will act to earn their trust every day," he said. "I will work to match their drive, their sacrifice and their resolve. And I will partner with the Congress of the United States of America and this committee in particular, to ensure we remain worthy of the title 'America's Army.'"

Panel says rescind policy on women in combat

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- A commission established to study diversity among military leaders is recommending that the Defense Department rescind its policy that prevents women from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade level.

In the report, the Military Leadership Diversity Commission recommends that the department and the services eliminate combat exclusion policies for women, as well as other "barriers and inconsistencies, to create a level playing field for all qualified servicemembers."

Retired Air Force Gen. Lester L. Lyles, who chaired the commission, said the recommendation -- one of 20 in the report and the only one specific to women -- is one way the congressionally mandated body suggests the military can get more qualified

women into its more-senior leadership ranks.

"We know that [the exclusion] hinders women from promotion," Lyles said. "We want to take away all the hindrances and cultural biases" in promotions.

The commission was established as part of the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act to evaluate and assess policies that provide opportunities for promotion and advancement of women and racial and ethnic minorities in the armed forces.

The 1994 combat exclusion policy, as written, precludes women from being "assigned" to ground combat units, but women have for years served in ground combat situations by serving in units deemed "attached" to ground units, Lyles said. That distinction keeps them from being recognized for their ground combat experience -- recognition that would enhance their chances for promotion, he said.

"If you look at today's battlefield, in Iraq and Afghanistan, it's not like it was in the Cold War, when we had a defined battlefield," Lyles said. "Women serve -- and they lead -- military security, military police units, air defense units, intelligence units -- all of which have to be right there with combat veterans in order to do the job appropriately."

Women serving in combat environments are being shot at, killed and maimed, he said. "But they're not getting the credit for being in combat arms [and] that's important for their consideration for the most senior flag ranks -- three stars and four stars, primarily."

In the commission's outreach to military leaders, Lyles said, at least a couple of service leaders thought there would be little interest among women to serve in combat.

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Casey: Guard very different from 30 years ago

By Sgt. Darron Salzer
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Every Guard brigade has deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, and more than 300,000 Guardsmen have deployed in this war, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. said Feb. 28.

"You are fully engaged, to include fully burdened, with more than 600 Guardsmen killed and more than 5,000 wounded," he told senior National Guard officers and noncommissioned officers at the Senior Leadership Conference here.

"It's a fundamentally different Guard, and because of that, it is a fundamentally different Army

today, and we can't go back."

Casey added that the Guard is in the process of transforming all 114 of its brigades, about half of the total Army brigades, into modular designs that are more relevant to the needs of the future.

"Being such an equal partner in the transformation of the Army is another reason why we can't go back [to the way it used to be]," he said.

Casey said he feels there needs to be an emphasis on resiliency for the long haul.

"The challenges that we are

facing are real," he said. "I ask that everyone take a look at the online Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, because it is a proven tool that works."

He also talked about the new Army Force Generation, or ARFORGEN, cycle, and what that could mean for the Guard, as well as the Active Component.

"ARFORGEN is a fundamentally different way for building readiness in the Army," he said.

"Starting Oct. 1 of this year,

we will be in a position," Casey said, "where Guard and Reserve Soldiers deploying after Oct. 1 of this year can have an expectation of four years at home after they return, and active Soldiers can expect two years at home."

He added that because of these dwell time ratios, ARFORGEN's predictability is more important for the Guard and Reserve.

"We had to get there," he said. "Studies show that it takes a minimum of 24 to 36 months to recover from a combat deployment."

"The reality of it all is that we cannot go to war without the Guard and Reserve," he said.

"The reality of it all is that we cannot go to war without the Guard and Reserve."

WOMEN IN COMBAT

continued from page 3



Photo by Air Force Capt. Peter Shinn

Specialist Lauren Hyman, and armored vehicle driver for the 64th Military Police Company, based at Combat Outpost Fortress, Afghanistan, greets an Afghan child during a foot patrol in Noor Gal district.

But when the commission brought in a panel of commissioned and enlisted women from different services, "that's certainly not what we picked up" from talking to them, he said.

"I didn't hear, 'Rah, rah, we want to be in combat,'" he said, "but I also didn't hear, 'We don't want to be in combat.' What they want is an equal opportunity to serve where their skills allow them to serve. Removing the barriers for that, and removing the barriers to them getting credit for that, was our Number One focus."

Defense Department spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said department officials "will thoroughly evaluate" the panel's recommendations as part of their ongoing review of diversity policies.

Meanwhile, she said, "Women will continue to be assigned to units and positions that may necessitate combat actions within the scope of their restricted positioning -- situations for which they are fully trained and equipped to respond."

Women make up about 15 percent of active-duty servicemembers; 18 percent of National Guard and Reserves; and ten percent of Iraq and Afghanistan combat Veterans; and 10 percent of those who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters, Lainez said.

READ ACROSS AMERICA



Photo by David San Miguel

An instructor with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Complex, Staff Sgt. Jeff Crocker reads to a captivated audience at Madison Elementary during the school's "Read Across America" Program held March 3.

Employees participate in program to inspire, encourage youth to read

By David San Miguel
Editor

Joining a host of adult readers nationwide, several representatives from Fort A.P. Hill gathered in the quiet confines of a school library to participate in Madison Elementary School's "Read Across America" program, March 3.

The handful of readers had volunteered to participate as part of the installation's community outreach initiative to inspire and encourage the area youth to read.

"Read Across America" is an annual motivation and awareness program initiated 14 years ago by the National Education Association on the anniversary of the children's author Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, to promote good reading habits among the nation's youth.

According to Margaret Dellaripa, the school librarian, the program is a "good way to get children to realize the importance of reading in their lives."

"It was a really nice to have individuals from Fort A.P. Hill come to our school," she said. "The response was very well received. As soon as the boys and girls found out that Soldiers were coming, they were very, very excited. Of course, they always are very open to have people come into their classroom."

Dellaripa added that she hopes the school "could do many more activities with personnel from Fort A.P. Hill.

"They provide such good role models for everyone here," she said. "The fourth and fifth graders especially liked the discussion time with the Soldiers and the other personnel to learn about a career they may want to look into. It's such a great resource that we have right here in the county."

Evelyn Fells, school reading specialist, added that it was a great opportunity for the children to see that men do read.

"The children see their teachers read, most of which are women, but today they got an

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READING

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Photo by David San Miguel

Sergeants 1st Class Jeff Truex and Jesse Krone, instructors with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Complex, stroll through the halls to their next reading assignment.

opportunity to see some men read,” she said. “It was very interesting for the kids to realize that men do read. So that was really encouraging.”

“It was perfect. The children were thrilled and focused on reading all day,” the reading specialist said. “So, the children got a chance to see how really important reading really is.”

Fells added that “the visitors made reading fun and exciting for the children.”

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Krone, instructor with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Complex, admitted being a little nervous about reading any Dr. Seuss book to a room full of young students.

“But it definitely was a good experience,” he said. “It felt good to interact with them and I hopefully inspired them to continue reading.”



Photo by David San Miguel

Jennifer Erickson, installation public affairs officer, shares her story-telling talents as part of the “Read Across America” Program.

CSA recognizes Army's premiere ceremonial unit

By Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez
3rd U.S. Army Infantry Regiment
(The Old Guard)

JOINTBASEMYER-HENDERSON HALL, Va. -- Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. personally recognized more than 350 Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), March 7, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.

Casey expressed his gratitude for The Old Guard's support in conducting more than 14,000 ceremonies during his 4-year tenure as Chief of Staff of the Army.

He specifically thanked the Soldiers who maintain a 24-hour vigilant watch at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington

Soldiers in The Old Guard are personally selected ... to be a part of this historic and elite unit.

National Cemetery and commended the Old Guard's precision in rendering final honors to our fallen comrades from every single U.S. war to date.

Additionally, Soldiers of The Old Guard perform in General Officer and Department of the Army retirement ceremonies, arrival ceremonies for visiting foreign dignitaries and serve as the only Army unit to fulfill the honorable duty of escorting the remains of fallen servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan, from Dover Air Force Base, Del., to their final resting place at Arlington

National Cemetery.

Elements of the Old Guard include the Tomb of the Unknowns, the Presidential Salute Battery, the Caisson Platoon, the Continental Color Guard, the U.S. Army Drill Team, the Commander-in-Chief's Guard and Fife and Drum Corps.

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) is the Army's official ceremonial unit and escort to the President of the United States.

Soldiers in The Old Guard are personally selected from throughout the Army to be a part of this historic and elite unit, which remains committed to maintaining the traditions of the U.S. Army and defending the dignity and honor of our nation's fallen comrades.

Viewpoints ...

How was your experience with 'Read Across America'?



Evelyn Fells
Reading Specialist
Madison Elementary

"It was wonderful to have the students see men read. The children were thrilled and focused on reading all day. This program made reading fun and exciting. It's all tied to learning good habits and I hope it continues!"



Bill Hinson
Installation Safety Officer

"It was a very rewarding experience. I think I enjoyed it just as much as the students did. It was refreshing to hear some of the questions they asked ... and it is always fun to answer those type of questions as well."



Margaret Dellaripa
Librarian
Madison Elementary

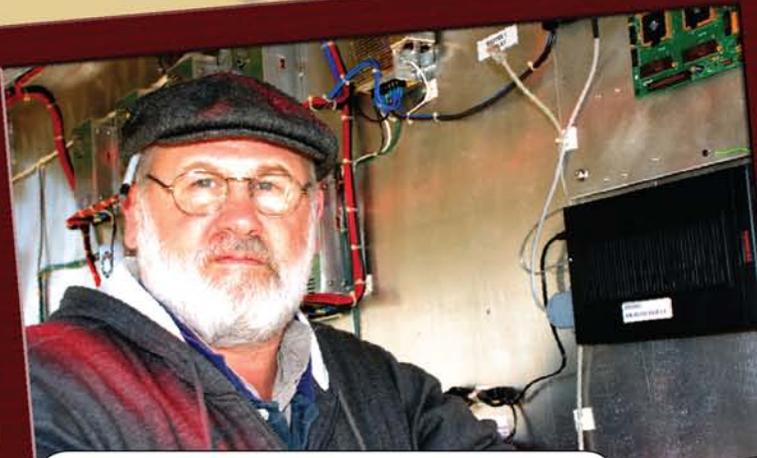
"It was really nice to have personnel from Fort A.P. Hill participate. The program was a great way to encourage students to read in schools and at home. The fourth and fifth graders enjoyed the opportunity to meet with some real life role models!"



Sgt. 1st Class
Jesse Krone
Instructor
Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Training Complex

"It definitely was a good experience to meet with members of the local community, especially the children. It was a great opportunity to inspire them to read and to interact with them in a positive way."

OUR FORT A.P. HILL *Family*



TURNING ON THE SWITCH! -- Donald Ballentine, electrician, Directorate of Public Works, has worked a decade here. He says he likes the feeling he gets when he turns on the switch -- "I feel like Thomas Edison! Fort A.P. Hill is a great place to work!"



HERE TO SERVE! -- Karin Nason, recreation assistant, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, has enjoyed three years working here. She agrees that Fort A.P. Hill is like family. We're all here to serve and support the Soldier, the families and the civilians!



WORKING TOGETHER! -- Latasha Woolfolk, program analyst, Directorate of Human Resources, enjoys answering the needs of the customer. Serving here the past eight years, she says Fort A.P. Hill is like one big family. Everyone works together to get the job done!



MISTER FIX-IT! -- Kenneth Bouren, maintenance mechanic, Directorate of Public Works, has served here two years. He enjoys the environment and a job that gives him an opportunity to work outside, meet Warriors and observe the units training.