

# Indianhead

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## CLEAR!



Yu, Hu Son

Spc. Troy Johnson, left, clears his weapon as Pfc. Marc Desravines watches during the M249 portion of training at Rodriguez Range Sept. 30. The Soldiers of the 302nd Forward Support Battalion were out at Rodriguez Range conducting a gunnery exercise. The conditions at the range were rainy.

## The Vote is in: Military Idol is a hit

Story and Photo by  
Spc. Stephanie Pearson  
Area I Public Affairs Office

CAMP CASEY – The Gateway Club was packed Oct. 1 as the final round of the Area I Military Idol competition kicked off.

Backstage, singers paced, warming up their voices, checking their outfits and praying the crowd would love them. In the audience, Soldiers, civilians and family members waited with ballots in hand to choose the first Area I Military Idol.

The Military Idol competition is a Community and Family Support Center program based on, and in coordination with, the popular reality television show “American Idol.”

Soldiers who think they have

what it takes auditioned Labor Day weekend at preliminary round competitions on Camps Casey and Red Cloud, singing without accompaniment for a panel of three of judges. The judges picked 10 hopefuls from each camp to compete in a semifinal round Sept. 30 at the Camp Red Cloud theater.

This time it was the audience members who voted for their favorites, choosing 10 singers to move on to the final round. They showed up to put their talent to the test Saturday.

“As far as Soldiers’ participation and attendance goes, this has been the most successful event in Area I,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Lomax, master-of-ceremonies for the show. “We had more than 300 people come to the semifinals, and about 220

showed up to the final round competition.”

During the hour-and-a-half show, Warrior Country’s best voices sang a mix of rhythm and blues, country and pop songs in an attempt to win over the audience.

When the votes were tallied, Spc. Sonya Hackman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area I, was named Military Idol for her soulful performance of Deborah Cox’s “How Did You Get Here?”

“She put on a great show,” Lomax said of Hackman’s win. “Although she’s an outstanding singer, she also drew the audience in through her performance, which really set her apart.”

As the Area I Idol, Hackman won \$500 and a trip to Fort Gordon, Ga., to compete in the



Col. Michael Feil, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team commander, played the role of “mean judge” Simon Cowell in the Military Idol competition.

Department of the Army-level Military Idol, Oct. 17-22.

The winner of that competition will get the chance to audition for “American Idol.”

Sgt. 1st Class Ken Roberts, HHC, 501st Corps Support Group, took home second place

and \$250 for his rock ‘n’ roll performance of the classic song “Johnny B. Goode.”

Singing Alicia Keys’ “If I Ain’t Got You,” Sgt. Shwon Brooks, Company B, 702nd Combat Support Battalion was awarded \$100 for her third-place finish.



**Soldier represents Warrior Country for rugby**

See story, Page 3



**Puerto Ricans prove valuable assets in Korean War**

See story, Page 6



**Wrestlers compete for championship**

See story, Page 8

# Respect of others off-duty goes a long way

By Spc. Chris Stephens  
Indianhead editor

## COMMENTARY

**W**hy is it that some people can't accept others for who they are?

Is it because they try to put themselves on a higher pedestal than other people? Are they trying to make themselves look better than another person?

Why does one word define a whole race? Why can't one word define us all – something as simple as Americans? Not black, white, etcetera.

Not too long ago, I heard an extremely racist statement that doesn't bear repeating.

Now growing up in Georgia, I heard racist remarks all of the time in school. With the varieties of races and religions in my high school, it was a commonplace to hear comments about someone's race or religion.

Lately, I've thought about where we as Americans have gone in the past 40 years. Sometimes I wonder if we really have gotten ourselves out of the 1950s and 60s where racism was an everyday, natural thing that nobody thought

twice about it.

Another thing that runs through my head is, "Are there people still stuck in the 50s and 60s mentality serving in our Army? Why are they here? Don't they know that all races serve in the military?"

I also tend to wonder how they acquired such a mentality. Did they learn it from their parents, friends or someone else?

I would think that we have all learned that everyone is equal, and no one person is better than another.

When I hear those comments, I think of one of our military values – respect – and how sometimes we can lose total sight of what it truly means.

To me, respect is showing willingness and appreciation for one's race or religion. It's appreciating the value that we are



all different. No two people are the same in this world.

It seems that respect is one of those values that not everybody takes to heart.

It's one of those values broken everyday. Respect seems to be that Army Value that people practice only some of the time. They pick and choose when they'll show respect.

You can look at respect any way you want to. But for me, it all comes down to respecting each other. And that includes respecting someone's background.

Nobody chose what the color of their skin is. So, why should we judge somebody for something they had no control over?

One thing I also look at in myself is why I debated whether or not to say something about it. By just letting it go, I made myself no better than the person who made the comment.

So, what can be done to fix it? Well, to start off with, standing up for yourself is important in a situation like this. If something is said that offends you, even if it's

not directed towards you, you have to say something about it. By keeping your mouth shut and doing nothing, you're no better.

We have to get out of the mindset that we are better than other people because of their race or religion. We need to get to the point where we don't see black, white or any other race. We need to see only one color and that's green.

That's the color of the uniform we put on everyday and that's how we need to see everyone.

We need to get in there and respect everyone for their differences.

It disappoints me as a Soldier who is in the middle of his fifth year in the Army, to see issues of respect so blatantly disregarded.

I always thought that was one of the first values hammered into the brain. I never thought that I would see so many issues of respect when it comes to the race of a person.

Bottom line is – we're all equal. If you don't like it, that's tough. You're going to have to get over it.

## What has been your favorite thing to do/see in Korea?

**Sgt. Cedric Peace, 1-72 Armor**  
"Gunnery – that's it!"



**Sgt. Jennifer Whitty, HQ, 2ID**  
"Shopping."



**Spc. Anthony Acezedo, A Battery 1/43 ADA**  
"I like spending AIP money on electronics."



**Sgt. Hans Felk, 1-72 Armor**  
"Buy cheap CDs."

**Pfc. Neil Carlstrom, HHC 1-72 Armor**  
"Mentoring new people in the Army and seeing Seoul."



**Pfc. Dan Myers, 1/43 ADA**  
"White water rafting on U.S.O. tours."



**Spc. Rodney Roby, HQ, 2ID**  
"Trying something new like rugby."



**Sgt. 1st Class Bill Rausch, HQ 2ID**  
"I ride my bike to Yongsan."



**Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Castoreno, HQ, 2ID**  
"I like working with the Soldiers."



**Pfc. Kim, Do Young, HQ, 2ID**  
"Go visit my family in Seoul."



## Indianhead

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## 21D Soldier earns All-Army Rugby tryout

By Spc. Timothy Dinneen  
Indianhead assistant editor

High in the Appalachian Mountains, under a steel gray sky, a rugby player is playing in his first game.

This former golfer is exhilarated by the non-stop action and ferocity of his newly-adopted sport, even though cold sweat drops from his face as he wanders aimlessly through the mist of crystallized breathing from teammates and adversaries.

Through all the confusion and mayhem of that first game, Pfc. James R. Cameron, a track mechanic with 302nd Brigade Support Battalion, discovered a game that would lead him farther than just down a field, but ultimately to the All-Army Rugby tryouts Oct. 7-16, at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Cameron is among only a handful of players that have been chosen for the tryouts

out of an Army-wide search for talent. The week-long tryout will eliminate hopefuls ultimately fielding a team of 25 to 30 players representing the Army.

The All-Army team will then play in a tournament at Camp LeJeune, N.C., where they will compete against all-star teams from the other branches of the military.

Cameron has been playing rugby for six years splitting time between Appalachian State and a division one men's club in Worcester, Mass. An avid golfer in high school, he changed gears to a more physical challenge when college friends sparked his interest in the rugby.

"It's like a brotherhood," Cameron said.

Cameron said the first thing he looks for when arriving in a new town is getting involved with a rugby team. He arrived at Camp Casey last February and saw a poster about the rugby team on post.

As his play throughout the year improved, he decided to pursue an opportunity and tryout for the team after seeing another poster.

To getting ready for the All-Army tryouts, Cameron said it was a lengthy process of ensuring paperwork was correct and getting all recommendations needed from previous coaches.

"Being selected to tryout for the All-Army Rugby team builds confidence because I look better as a Soldier and an athlete," Cameron said.

He also said playing rugby makes him a better Soldier because it takes a lot of discipline to practice a lot and courage to continue getting up when you're knocked down.

"I support it 100 percent, and the senior leadership supports the event," said Staff Sgt. Erick A. Palacio, squad leader, 302nd BSB.

He said his chances are



Spc. Stephanie Pearson

Pfc. James Cameron, right, shakes an opponent on the field during the Area I Rugby Championships.

pretty good to make the team because of how well he's been playing. He also expects a completely different level of training and coaching.

Time will tell whether or

not Cameron will make the team, but one thing is for sure, he'll continue doing great things as long as he experiences new things and there is a poster pointing him in the right direction.

### News Briefs

#### OHA Survey

The 2005 Overseas Housing Allowance for utility survey will be conducted for Korea-wide Nov. 1-30.

This year's survey will only be made available on the PDTATAC Web site - no paper copies will be made available.

The survey may be taken at home or in the office.

To prepare for the surveys, respondents should have actual bills and maintenance expenses for the past 12 months.

To complete the online survey, servicemembers will be asked for the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. Responses will be held in the strictest of confidence.

#### Town Hall Meetings

Town Hall Meetings are currently scheduled for Area I camps.

Schedule includes:

- \* Oct. 19: Camp Casey Theater, 2 p.m.
- \* Oct. 21: Camp Hovey Theater, 2 p.m.
- \* Oct. 26: Camp Red Cloud Theater, 10 a.m.
- \* Oct. 26: Camp Stanley Theater, 2 p.m.

#### BOSS Fashion Show

The 2005 BOSS Fall Fashion Show will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 29 at the Camp Casey's Warrior Club.

#### Class B DSN Service

Effective Nov. 1, unofficial Class B DSN service to customers in government quarters and barracks will be terminated.

Personnel who have this service need to visit their local phone store to request commercial service prior to Nov. 1.

For more information, call your local phone store.

- \* Camp Casey - 730-2107
- \* CRC - 732-7145
- \* Camp Stanley - 732-5985

#### Boxing Championships

The Eighth U.S. Army Boxing Championships will be held Oct. 20-22 at Camp Casey's Hanson Field House.

The competition is open to active-duty military personnel stationed on 8th U.S. Army installations.

Weigh-ins and medical exams will from 10 to 11:30 a.m. with the competition beginning at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call 732-2322.

**Tune into 21D Talk  
on Warrior Radio,  
88.3/88.5 FM  
3 to 6 p.m.  
Wednesdays to  
hear the latest  
2nd Infantry  
Division news. To  
make a song re-  
quest, call 730-  
6324.**

# Warriors celebrate season with fall fest

Story and photos by  
**Spc. Stephanie Pearson**  
*Area I Public Affairs Office*

CAMP STANLEY – Soldiers and civilians from Area I got together Oct. 10 for a day of music, food, beer and good cheer at the third annual Camp Stanley Oktoberfest.

The Oktoberfest is a celebration held each fall in the German state of Bavaria. The event is known around the world for its large outdoor tents, where friends and family get together to socialize and enjoy the autumn weather.

“We wanted to bring a little bit of Germany to Korea,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Lomax, Area I Better Opportunity for Single and unaccompanied Soldiers advisor.

The Camp Stanley Community Activity Center organized the celebration, which kicked off with another German tradition, the Volksmarch.

A Volksmarch, which means “people’s walk,” is a popular event in Germany where townsfolk walk a specified distance for no other reason than getting out and enjoying the fresh air, said Scott Meredith, Area I director of community activities.

“Volksmarches happen just about every weekend in the fall,” he explained. “Towns will host a 10- to 20-kilometer walk with a fest tent and music at the end. We like doing it here because Korea has such beautiful fall weather, and it’s great to be outside.”

Lomax, who has been stationed in Germany three times, started the

tradition in Area I.

“When I first got here, I noticed all the beautiful mountains,” she said. “I wanted to start a hiking program, and the idea of having a Volksmarch grew out of that.”

Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials decided to host the Oktoberfest in conjunction with the Volksmarch as part of the annual Columbus Day holiday weekend.

The fest featured a 10-kilometer road race, a 10-kilometer Volksmarch and an alternate mountain-climbing Volksmarch event. When the runners, walkers and hikers returned to the CAC parking lot, they enjoyed music, refreshments and camaraderie at the fest tents.

Off-shore entertainment band “Far From Nowhere” provided live music from the MWR stage. Community Activity Center employees sold German brat- and knockwurst with sauerkraut, while the Korean Snack Bar sold local fare kimbap and chicken-on-a-stick. Soldiers from the 61st Maintenance Battalion raised money by selling caramel apples and popcorn.

Not forgetting the most famous element of the Oktoberfest, Reggie’s Club employees were on hand to sell beer.

Other entertainment included a demonstration by the 2nd Infantry Division Tae Kwon Do team, a USO raffle drawing, and an inflatable bouncing castle for children.

“I came for the hike, but stayed to see what else is going on,” said Staff Sgt. Meg Peterson, 2nd Infantry Division Band. “I’m really enjoying it. It’s something different



Col. Jayne Carson, 501st Corps Support Group commander, fills a traditional German beer stein Monday as she kicks off the festivities at Camp Stanley’s Oktoberfest.

for a weekend here, and it’s an event anyone can wander in and out of.”

While guests enjoyed the activities, the weather ended up being the real start of the day.

“You really couldn’t ask for a better day to do this,” Peterson said.

The Oktoberfest originated October 12, 1810, in Munich, Germany. The first fest was held in honor of the royal wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig (later to become Ludwig I) to Princess Therese. Citizens of Munich were invited to celebrate with the Royal Family on the fields in front of the city gates. Horse races marked the end of the event, and the decision to repeat the horse races the next year gave rise to the tradition of



Bratwurst, a German standard, sizzles on the grill.

Oktoberfest.

While at the Oktoberfest, revelers could quench their thirst at small beverage stands; in subsequent years, as attendance rose, the stands were replaced by tents,

which would eventually become the main attraction. Today, the horse races are no longer held, but thousands of visitors still descend on “Therese’s fields” in Munich for the annual celebration.



Sgt. Carl Redmond, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area I and Jay Underwood, Area I Recreation Director, enjoy the fall weather as they climb Suraksan Mountain on a Volksmarch Monday.

## West Point offers opportunities for enlisted troops

By Jennifer Downing  
West Point Recruiting

WEST POINT, N.Y. – The mission of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., is to educate, train, inspire and commission leaders of character for today's Army and has been doing so for over 200 years. Finding quality candidates to fulfill that mission isn't always easy.

During this time of war, finding a few good men and women for the academy has become increasingly important.

While high school graduates bring certain traits that admissions officers look for, the most valuable and overlooked candidates for West Point are right in the ranks.

"Soldiers make great cadets and have made the commitment to serve their country," said Maj. Steven Isenhour, a Soldier regional commander. "They understand what it means to follow and they have already been exposed to the best leaders in the Army."

He added that Soldiers bring unique traits to the academy like maturity and experience which not only help them, but enable them to pass those traits on to fellow cadets.

While the process of getting to West Point can be long and sometimes confusing, it is not impossible.

It took Cadet 4th Class Frank Westerband of Miami, Fla., about five years to enter the academy. He applied right out of high school but didn't complete the

application. He missed his congressional nomination interview because of a family issue. As a result he went to community college before joining the Army and also took classes on [www.army.com](http://www.army.com).

"Going through eArmyu was actually beneficial for me," Westerband said. "I had to teach myself the material, which is very similar to the Thayer method used here at the academy."

Additionally, Westerband faced time constraints because he was over the age limit to attend the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. He knew he needed to improve his SAT score, so he retook the test at the Army Education Center and did significantly better. Westerband was directly admitted to the academy even though English wasn't his best subject and was still considered a risk.

"I am proud of what I have done and where I have come from," he said. "Being in the Army first, you are expected to perform with pride and under pressure. It has helped me to get where I am."

Also a combat vet, Westerband knew about 30 people who were West Point graduates.

"They seemed more in control," Westerband said. "West Point gives you the tools to be a leader."

Westerband entered the Army on Sept. 11, 2000. Before he enrolled at the academy, he served in Iraq twice and Afghanistan once and did tours

in 19 countries respectively. He applied for the academy while overseas.

"After working in military intelligence I decided that coming to West Point would be my way to make a difference," he said. "Being in the Army first gave me confidence and taught me the fundamentals."

Westerband also said that prior service cadets are able to provide others with valuable information.

"Cadets ask us what they can expect after they graduate. They want to know how to improve and what the experience is like."

For some it takes awhile to finally make it to the academy, for others, they never even thought about it until after they joined the Army.

Cadet 4th Class Heritier Diakabana is also a combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Diakabana first found out about the academy while watching an Army/Navy football game on television.

"I never expected to come here," he said. "After doing some research, I was impressed with the leaders who had been commissioned from here, the value of education and the traditions of the institution."

Born in Kinshasha, Zaire, and raised in Rhode Island, Diakabana started basic training in June 2002 and was subsequently assigned to Fort Hood, Texas before he even applied for the academy. He eventually applied to West Point with a little help from his drill sergeant. Af-

ter he had been accepted, he was deployed to Iraq one month later in January 2004.

Diakabana said he knew the Army would offer opportunities to continue his education and he really wanted to serve his country.

"I don't think a lot of Soldiers know they can apply," he said. "If there is one thing Soldiers have it is determination. I worked so hard to get here and I don't want to throw this opportunity away."

One constant theme exerted with prior service cadets is the confidence that they bring to their peers.

Diakabana said that joining the Corps of Cadets has really made him exert himself. He went on to say that "being here makes you a more rounded Soldier. I feel like I have the confidence to succeed."

For many Soldiers, high school is a distant memory. There is an alternative for those who feel they may need some assistance in one subject area or another.

The U.S. Military Academy Prep School (USMAPS), currently located at Fort Monmouth, N.J., provides a foundation of academic, military and physical instruction in a structured environment. Those who attend USMAPS will complete a 10-month program before attending West Point. Those interested in attending USMAPS before attending the academy still go through the West Point application process. All Soldiers who

apply are automatically considered for USMAPS if they do not get a direct admit to West Point.

"A majority of Soldiers ask to attend the Prep School before entering the academy," Isenhour explained.

"Soldiers want to succeed here. They know their strengths and weaknesses and know that academics will get them ahead in life."

Those interested in attending the academy go through the same application as their civilian counterparts. Soldiers who apply should at least obtain a nomination from their first-line commander, but it is recommended that Soldiers also try to obtain a congressional nomination.

In addition to the nominations, everyone must complete an application, fill out a cadet questionnaire and complete the physical assessment.

It can be difficult to apply for West Point regardless of whether you are in high school or overseas fighting for our country. Soldiers simply don't realize the opportunities awaiting them. West Point is working hard so our enlisted men and women know they have the opportunity to become leaders of character.

"If I could give advice to Soldiers out there it would be this – you'll never know if you can get accepted unless you try," Isenhour said. "People join the Army to do better for themselves, not worse."

For more information about the academy, visit [www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu).

### Unsuspecting Soldiers receive copycat uniforms

#### Army & Air Force Exchange Service

DALLAS – While Soldiers await the arrival of the new Army Combat Uniform, the Army & Air Force Exchange and Army G-1 Uniform Policy Section are receiving numerous complaints regarding commercial retailers offering look-alike uniforms that do not meet the Army's specifications for quality and design.

"Some commercial outlets are aggressively appealing to Soldiers awaiting the arrival of the official ACU in January," said Military Clothing Sales Store Army Program Manager Maj. Rachel Danielson.

An Army Reserve staff sergeant who received a look-alike uniform advised of numerous problems.

"There was no NSN number on the label," wrote Staff Sgt. Grant Von Letkemann. "The top did not have a

bellowed back, the arm pockets did not have the IR square or the covering tab, there was no pen pocket on the left sleeve, and the zippers were not as described in the PEO one sheet for the ACU. The bottoms did not have a drawstring on the hip pocket, there were cinch straps on the sides, and no drawstring in the front. The flag was not the (correct) size...I looked at the invoice and saw that there was no AAFES logo or letterhead."

Army Regulation 670-1 states, "Soldiers purchasing uniforms, uniform items, or heraldic items from establishments other than the Army military clothing sales store must ensure the items are authorized for wear and conform to appropriate military specifications."

"Soldiers and commanders are responsible for ensuring they are purchasing and wearing uniforms that are authorized for wear," Danielson said.

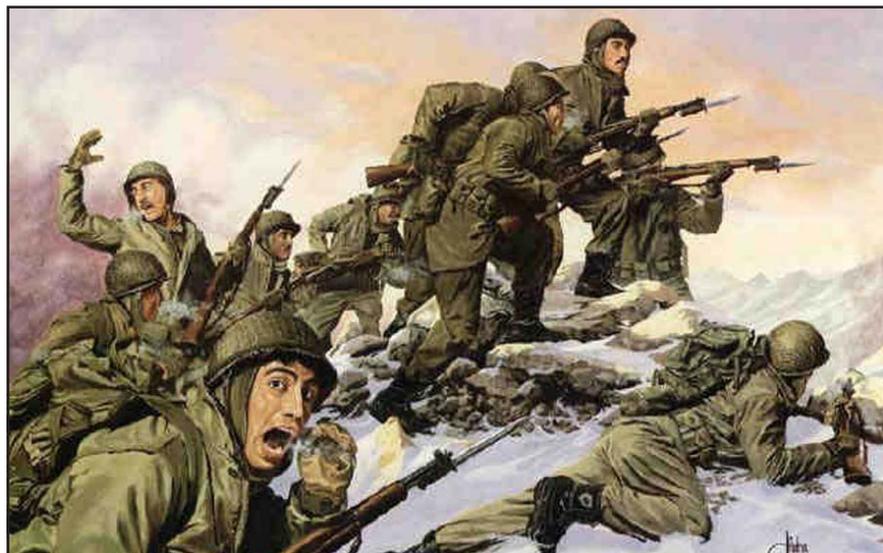
### Final Salute



Yu, Hu Son

18 Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division retired at a ceremony Sept. 28 at Camp Red Cloud's Village Green. The retirees had 387 years of combined service to the Army. They include: Chief Warrant Officer Ronnie Henry; Master Sgts. Melvin Jennings and Scott Stites; Sgts. 1st Class Brian Davis, James Dorner, Elizabeth Fraser, Anthony Harris, Roderick Haynes, Alfonso Kelly, David Murrell, Shawn McLaurin, Jennifer Prophet, Daniel Redmond, Sean Rivers, Jackie Thompson, Jimmie Warren and Richard Weber; and Staff Sgt. Olda Brown.

# Units proves to be asset during Korean War



Courtesy photo

The Korean War battle portrayed in the painting was the last recorded battalion-sized bayonet attack by the U.S. Army.

By Spc. Chris Stephens

Indianhead editor

Throughout the Army's history, there have been all-white and all-black units in combat. But from 1899 until the Korean War there was also a unit comprised mostly of Puerto Rican Soldiers, that hasn't received as much coverage or attention. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, it's important to take a look at past contributions and reflect.

The 65th Infantry Regiment, or Borinqueneers, formed as an all-volunteer regiment in 1899 and served through World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

With the onset of the Korean War, the 65th found themselves scattered among

three different posts in Puerto Rico conducting small-unit tactical training.

Between Sept. 23, and Oct. 31, 1951, the 65th (which included the 58th Field Artillery Battalion, a company from the 10th Engineer Battalion, and a battery from the 3rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion) was engaged in blocking the escape routes north of isolated North Korean People's Army units and in anti-guerrilla operations. The unit's most significant engagement occurred on the morning of Oct. 17, when 500 North Korean Soldiers attacked E Company at Kumpchon. The company killed 79 enemy Soldiers and captured 85 prisoners, while only suffering 11 killed and 13 wounded.

During that time, five Soldiers from the regiment earned Silver Stars

for gallantry.

Responding to a query from Puerto Rico on the state and performance of the regiment in Korea, General Douglas MacArthur, the Far East Command Commander, observed that the unit's men were "showing magnificent ability and courage in field operations."

"They are a credit to Puerto Rico and I am proud to have them in my command," he said.

During January 1951, the 65th participated in "Operation Thunderbolt," a reconnaissance force, and "Operation Exploitation," an exploitation to the Han River.

By the end of the month, the regiment had advanced to a region just south of Seoul and was under orders to seize three hills held by the Chinese 149th Division.

On the morning of Feb. 2, 1951, with the objective within reach, two battalions of the regiment fixed bayonets and charged the enemy positions, forcing the Communist soldiers to flee.

The regiment's performance encouraged MacArthur to write: "The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States and their fervent devotion to those immutable principles of human relations which the Americans of the Continent and of Puerto Rico have in common. They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my

command. I wish that we could count on many more like them."

By the end of 1951 the 65th had suffered more than 1,500 casualties from battle and was credited with 15,787 enemy KIA and 2,169 enemy Prisoners of War. When asked by leaders of the 65th why they had spent so much time up on the front lines, Brig. Gen. Armistead D. Mead, the Assistant Division Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, said that it was "because the unit was the strongest regiment in the division."

"It had arrived in Korea overstrengthened at a time when the other regiments were understrengthened," he said. "In addition, the 65th had arrived two months before the remainder of the division and thus had more combat experience than the other infantry regiments."

Finally, Mead said that the regiment had tended to occupy the best and most defensible terrain, a compliment to the tactical competence of the 65th's leaders.

By the end of 1951, the regiment had thus established a reputation as a well-led, well-trained, and highly-motivated unit.

"Its performance was superb," recalled a Puerto Rican officer in the 1st Battalion. "We were very proud of our regiment's action. There was never any fear or cowardice displayed by anyone in our unit. Leadership was superb and most of the Soldiers were veterans and regular Army. As to discipline, nothing was left to be desired."

**Editor's Note:** Information for this story was obtained from [www.valerosos.com](http://www.valerosos.com).

# MOH recipient experienced hardships earlier

By Beth Reece

Soldier's Magazine

Tibor Rubin knows what it's like to slowly starve to death, how lice itch when crawling over skin and how giving up on life can seem easier than fighting for it.

Nazi guards made sure Rubin understood despair at the age of 13. A Hungarian-Jew, he was forced into the Mauthausen Concentration Camp toward the end of World War II. But Rubin defied odds: He survived.

From the horror of the Holocaust arose a bravery that few can match. Rubin went on to fight in the Korean War and was taken prisoner by the Chinese communists. This time, he breathed life into his fellow captives, who were dying at the rate of 40 a day.

"He saved a lot of GI's lives. He gave them the courage to go on living when a lot of guys didn't make it," said Sgt. Leo Cormier, a fellow POW. "He saved my life when I could have laid in a ditch

and died."

"People ask, 'How the hell did you get through all that?'" Rubin said, now 76. "I can't answer, but I figured whatever I did, I was never going to make it out alive."

At the end of October 1950, thousands of Chinese troops were laying in wait. Masters of camouflage, they blended into the brush and burned fires to produce smoke to mask their movements. When Soldiers of the 8th Cavalry Regiment were stretched before them like sitting ducks, the Chinese swarmed in.

Rubin's buddies say he was a hero, selflessly defending his unit against thousands of Chinese troops.

"The enemy suffered, not only tremendous casualties ... but it slowed the North Korean invading momentum along that route, saving countless American lives and giving the 8th Cav. precious time to regroup to the south," wrote Cpl. Leonard Hamm.

And when Hamm himself later lay fallen, it was Rubin who fought to go back for him when

the first sergeant issued orders to leave him behind.

"Rubin not only saved my life by carrying me to safety; he kept the North Korean snipers off our butts," Hamm said.

When battle ended in Unsan, hundreds of Soldiers were taken prisoner by the Chinese. They were forced to march to a camp known today as "Death Valley," ill-dressed for winter's freezing temperatures, exhausted and hungry. Many of them grew sick with dysentery, pneumonia or hepatitis. Others died.

Years in a Nazi concentration camp had taught Rubin ways of survival that most humans never need know. He knew how to make soup out of grass and that the human body can sometimes prevail if a person's mind is in the right place.

What his comrades needed, Rubin knew, was hope — hope to keep them moving and hope to make them fight for their lives.

"Some of them gave up, and some of them prayed to be taken," Rubin remembers. He held pep talks, reminding the Soldiers of the

families awaiting their safe return home. He stole food for them to eat, nagged them to "debug" themselves of the relentless lice and even nursed them through sickness.

"He'd go out of his way to do favors to help us survive," Cormier said. "I once saw him spend the whole night picking lice off a guy who didn't have the strength to lift his head. What man would do that? But Ted did things for his fellow men that made him a hero in my book."

Rubin thought the best way to overpower his captors was by hitting them where it hurt most — their bellies.

"They didn't have much more food to eat than we did," Rubin said. "One potato would have been worth a million dollars if any of us had had it to give." So when night fell he stole corn, millet and barley. And when the Chinese planted a "victory" garden, he snuck past armed guards to reap the harvest, stuffing his pants full of radishes, green onions and cucumbers.

"The Chinese would've cut

Ted's throat if they'd caught him stealing. It still amazes me that they never did catch him," Cormier said. "What he did to help us could have meant the sacrifice of his own life."

Life as a prisoner under the Nazis and the Chinese are incomparable for Rubin. Of his Chinese captors, Rubin says only that they were "human" and somewhat lenient.

When discussing who the real heroes were, Rubin was quick to point out those who died.

"The real heroes are those who never came home. I was just lucky," Rubin said. "This Medal of Honor belongs to all prisoners of war, to all the heroes who died fighting in those wars."

And Rubin can't forget the Jews who died in vain, or the American Soldiers who made survivors of the rest. To them, he dedicated the best years of his life, becoming an American war hero — a Soldier of uncommon bravery.

**Editor's Note:** This is the second story in a two-part series on Cpl. Tibor Rubin, who received the Medal of Honor Sept. 23.



**By Spc. Timothy Dinneen**  
*Indianhead assistant editor*

Guarding the entrance of the 2nd Infantry Division Museum are two metal monsters from wars past.

The two tanks face each other with cannons arched skyward as if saluting Soldiers of the present who want to witness the roots of their past.

The Warrior tradition began with an Indian scout in the 19th Century of the Kiowa Tribe named Tarborne or Chief I-See-O.

He served as a living symbol of our nation's Indian history and was promoted to sergeant by a special act of Congress.

The museum pays tribute to the legacy of leadership from brave Soldiers that have left an imprint on the division from its first commander in 1917, Marine Maj. Gen. C.A. Doyer, to Maj. Gen. George A. Higgins who is the 88th and current division commander.

The museum tells a story about the origins of 2ID, its many homes and battles fought, and how it came to be here today.

However, the underlying story is how the every day enlisted Soldier has been an integral part in the success of this division.

Pictures line the hallway of enlisted men who could be mistaken for the Soldiers who are performing their jobs today.

"History is people and people are history," said William M. Alexander, museum director.

Alexander said the museum tells a story from a Soldier's point of view.

Soldiers visiting the museum walk back through

time as the sound of machine gun fire and explosions are heard. The bright museum lights are swallowed in the darkness leaving only a soft red glint from a lantern to guide you.

The walls are now cemented together with mud and sand dug into the ground. The World War I trench is filled with war bond posters, trench mirrors, and Soldiers dressed in the era's uniform making the climb over the wall while rats retreat into the trench that they called home.

The exhibit serves as a window through time that Soldiers can not only see through but walk through. This was the war-time environment 2ID Soldiers waged many battles after calling Camp Americain in Bourmont, France, their first home in 1917.

Helping win the "War to end all Wars" the Indianhead Division moved to Fort Sam Houston in 1919. The division would spend the next 23 years experimenting and testing new Army concepts.

Answering the call to return to Europe for World War II, the division was sent to Ireland in 1943 to prepare for "Operation Overlord." Visitors find themselves at Omaha Beach on D-Day + 1, or June 7, 1944. The beach provides routes the division took to reach Germany.

Turning the corner, two Indianhead Soldiers are seen amidst the rubble of buildings during the liberation of Brest, France, hard at work pumping shells into enemy positions.

Within five footsteps Soldiers are seen staring blindly at the snow smoking a cigarette trying to

stay warm at the Battle of the Bulge.

Although the war would end in Europe for the division the end of the war in the Pacific would provide 2ID with a new challenge and a new home. The museum dedicates information and resources telling the story of how hostilities began on the Korean peninsula, the war that followed, and why our presence here today is so vital.

A room encapsulating the pivotal battle Chipyong-Ni provides insight into the kind of war and enemy 2ID Soldiers fought against during the still ongoing conflict.

This vital three-day battle in 1951 was the first victory by the Allies over Chinese Communist Forces who had entered the war after Allied Forces had pushed North Korean Forces back to the Chinese border.

According to the museum, the win at the Battle of Chipyong-Ni gave Allied forces confidence they could whip the elusive and lethal Chinese that had pushed Allied Forces south through relentless night attacks.

The glass encased battlefield gives an aerial perspective of how Soldiers who wore the same patch on their sleeves that Soldiers do today persevered against unfavorable conditions.

Vastly outnumbered and surrounded by the Chinese, a combat team from 2ID and a battalion of French allies repelled repeated night attacks under the leadership of Col. Paul Freeman who won the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during the battle.

Gen. Mathew Ridgway,



Pvt. Amanda Merfeld

**A Soldier trying to stay warm looks out for any approaching enemy during the Battle of the Bulge. Life-like exhibits such as these at the 2ID Museum shows that enemy soldiers weren't the only life threatening elements Soldiers had to deal with when out in the field.**

Eighth U.S. Army commander, was so impressed with the allied performance he said, "These American fighting men with their French comrades in arms measured up in every way to the battle conducted of the finest troops America or France has produced throughout their national existence."

Alexander said the purpose of the museum is to learn the division's history and that the Soldiers who are remembered here are no different than Soldiers serving today who will also one day be remembered by a future generation of Soldiers.

The museum also recognizes the efforts and sacrifices current Soldiers of 2ID are making in the War on Terrorism.

The exhibits that bring visitors back to the future demonstrate that Soldiers wearing the Indianhead patch on their sleeves are determined to carry on their proud tradition of accomplishing the mission.

Today, the Soldiers making up the 2nd Infantry Division are the fruits that have grown from the roots Soldiers have sewn through their actions of wars gone by.

"It's a house of heroes," Alexander said.

## Wrestlers compete for top honors

Story & Photos By  
Pvt. Amanda Merfeld  
*Indianhead staff*

Top competitors stretched on the warm-up mat moments prior to the Warrior Division Wrestling Championship held at Carey Fitness Center on Camp Casey Oct 1.

Some Soldiers were clad in the traditional bright colored spandex, others in torn T-shirts or Army P.T.s, all psyched for the afternoon ahead.

The tournament opened with the Korean National Anthem followed by the Star-Spangled Banner.

With medics on standby, the games were ready to begin.

The championship was open to active-duty Soldiers assigned or attached to camps throughout Warrior Country, and the competition was broken down into six weight classes with plaques awarded to both first and second place in each weight class.

"In freestyle wrestling, you have ten seconds to pin your opponent," said 2nd Lt. Brett Kobes, who placed first in the 213 lb. weight class. "If you can't, then you are back on your feet," Kobes said.

"To get your opponent to the ground, you can trip him, which is one point, or you can throw him, which is between three to five points, Kobes explained. "If you throw him to the ground, that is three points, but if you launch him, that is five points. If you score ten points more than the other person, that round ends."

At the end of each final match, the awards were given, and by the end of the afternoon half the competitors walked away with a plaque and a handshake.

Championship match results:

**139 lb.** – Thomas Moore, B Co., 302nd BSB defeated Aaron Patrick, HQ, 2ID

**152 lb.** – Johnny Ramirez, A Co., 702nd MSB defeated Jeremy Manning, F Btry., 1-43 ADA

**167 lb.** – William Snell, B Co., 302nd BSB defeated John Alvarez, HHSC, STB

**187 lb.** – Bradley Herd, HHSC, STB defeated Patrick Marrill, E Co., 302nd BSB

**213 lb.** – Brett Kobes, E Btry., 1-43 ADA defeated Idris Gant, HHC, 1-72 Armor

**275 lb.** – Ryan Walker, HHS, 1-38 FA defeated Jonathan Loyd, HHC, BTB



Leverage is an important part in wrestling. Getting into a position to control your opponent is key.



A 2ID Soldier uses his opponent's foot to trip and turn him over on his back.