

# *LIBERTY TORCH*

Serving the soldiers of the 77th Regional Readiness Command, Fort Totten, N.Y. 11359  
October 2003 Vol. 16 No. 5



**The Fallen  
Remembered**

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**Transforming  
The Force**

# LIBERTY TORCH

## About the cover...

Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, 77th Regional Readiness Command commanding general, and Col. Louis Schultz, president of the 77th Infantry Division Association, lay a wreath in front of the 911 monument in honor of soldiers who perished that day as well as 77th soldiers killed during the Global War on Terrorism.



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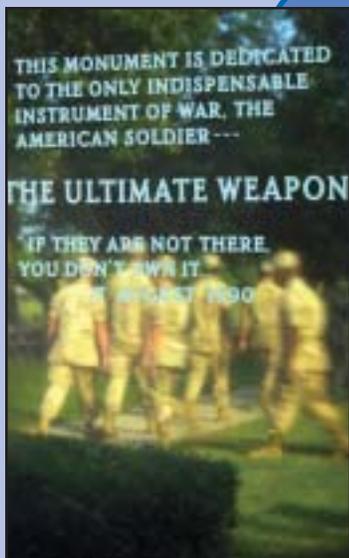
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# Name change merely the beginning



Commentary by  
Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt  
Commanding General

It has been said that the more things change the more they remain the same. What has changed is our name, not our mission. We are no longer the 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command. We are, as of July 15, 2003, officially the 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command. In evaluating needs and capabilities of the Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve, and our country's senior leaders have determined that the Army Reserve needs to be more mission-focused and combat ready. To that end, in simpler terms, our resources will be focused completely on training soldiers and

## The reserve forces must augment the active Army. That's our primary reason for being a reserve force.

ensuring they are ready to "go to war" at all times.

We will now be restructuring our organization and will no longer have direct control or responsibility for some of the functions we have previously performed. That means, at the headquarters level, some personnel support, facilities management and communications support, i.e., computer technology and systems, will be consolidated

under different Army commands, thereby freeing us from some

support requirements and allowing us and you to focus only on individual and unit readiness.

DMOSQ has risen to the top of our priority taskings. Personnel deployability requirements, along with schooling, physical fitness, weapons qualification, equipment maintenance and operational readiness have moved to the forefront of mission capability. Taking care of soldiers requires us to be the best we can be in all areas of soldiering.

This transformation has resulted from the changes in the world situation. The active component cannot fulfill its mission without the use of reserve forces. There are too many "hot spots" in the world that require military intervention or support. The reserve forces must augment the active Army. That's our primary reason for being a reserve force. By reorganizing into readiness commands, we are refocusing our resources and revising our mission so that we can obtain more individual and unit readiness "bang for the buck."

Helmly said, "Numbers tell the story. Army Reserve soldiers have been deployed 10 times in the past 12 years for operations from Bosnia to Iraq. During the 75 years before that, the Army Reserve had been mobilized just nine times. Since December 1995, we have been in a continuous state of mobilization, with an average of nearly 9,300 soldiers mobilized each year. The years after September 11 have seen more than 80,000 Army Reserve soldiers mobilized to fight the global war on terrorism."

The 77<sup>th</sup>, as it has for more than 80 years, will continue to excel and adapt to our nation's changing needs. We are Lady Liberty's Troopers and there are none better in the Army Reserve, or in my opinion, in the Army. I ask each and every one of you to ensure your individual readiness and those of your comrades. We are soldiers of the greatest nation on earth. You keep the torch of liberty and freedom burning even in the dark places of this world. America needs you. Thanks for all you do, thanks to your families for their sacrifices and God Bless you for being a soldier or civilian comrade in the 77th.



To Our Friends and Associates:

The 77<sup>th</sup> is undergoing a redesignation. We will change from a Regional Support Command to a Regional Readiness Command. This redesignation supports the intent of the Secretary of the Army to centralize the management of Army Installations and Networks. It also underscores the changed focus of the Army Reserve's regional headquarters to training and readiness.

This is an unprecedented time for the Army Reserve as it transitions core business processes and forces during a time of war. The 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command will continue in its quest to excel. The name changes but our commitment to excellence remains steadfast.

I look forward to continuing our mutually beneficial alliance.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Colt  
Major General, USAR  
Commanding

# Name changes, backbone duty remains



*Commentary by  
Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Harry L. Lovell, Jr.  
77th RRC Command Sergeant Major*

There was a song popular in the 1960s called the "Name Game." It was a silly tune that used a rhyming formula that applied to every name. It kept part of the original name and changed it to another word. Well everything old is new again. The 77th Regional Support Command has a new name. It kept the Regional part of the name and dropped the Support part. It then added Readiness in its place. It is now the 77th Regional Readiness Command (RRC).

For those of us old-timers who have been here prior to 1996, we remember when we were the 77th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM). If we go back even further we were the 77th Infantry Division. To the NCO Corps, the name change doesn't really make a difference. In all of our 77th history, 87 years, the mission of the NCO has not changed. We remain the backbone of the

**“ Never before has the Army Reserve been asked to do as much as it does today.”**

Army. Our mission is to lead, train, execute and succeed.

The concept of the RRC is to maximize resources. Rather than devote reservists' efforts to providing support to installations, the Army is consolidating many areas in order to focus on training and readiness. Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief, Army Reserve, said, "We do this because we must. Never before has the Army Reserve been asked to do as much as it does today. What was once a 'force in reserve' has become a full partner across the spectrum of operations to satisfy the demands and needs of our country and our Army around the world."

The Creed of the Non Commissioned Officer says, "Competence is my

watch-word." As NCOs, we must diligently ensure our soldiers are trained and ready. The world situation is our reality. The reserve forces were shocked over a decade ago when we were called to duty during Operation Desert Storm. Unfortunately, in the last 13 years, we have again become complacent. Complacency has no business in the Army. Our soldiers are deploying daily into danger. They must be trained mentally and physically. There is no room for error. NCOs are responsible for the lives of our soldiers.

The name of the command may have changed as it did from Infantry Division, to ARCOM to RSC to RRC. The Creed of the Non-Commissioned Officer has not. "I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!

## Chaplain's Corner

# Chaplains launch family relief program



*Story by  
Chap. (Lt. Col.) Marvin L. Mills*

Building Strong and Ready Families (BSRF) is a 3-day pilot training program launched at the end of last month at the Chateau Resort and Conference Center in Tannersville, Pa.

This training event was generated and supported by the Office of the Chief of Chaplains. It is designed to provide assistance to families as they experience the effects of frequent mobilizations, deployments and financial hardships that may be the factors that lead to stress, abuse and violence within

families.

Marital enrichment/therapy is a chief component of this chaplain-led training, which can assist those families who are undergoing such marital difficulties.

Marriages under strain deprive soldiers and families of preparedness. Family readiness is a major part of mission readiness and it requires support from the total force. BSRF training is also designed to assist those families who are not categorically at risk, but desire to enrich and strengthen their marriages. As a result of this training couples improve their marriages as well as their

quality of life. The overall objective is to strengthen families, maintain readiness and support retention of troops.

The following training topics were covered during last month's training: Marriage and Enhancement (Chaplain), Legal Issues (Staff Judge Advocate), Health Assessment and Family Wellness (Surgeon) and Financial and Retirement Planning (Family Readiness).

This year, the 77th Regional Readiness Command became one of two military reserve organizations to receive a \$5,000 grant from the United States Army

Reserve Command (USARC) to initiate a BSRF training. Along with this grant and supplementary funds from the 77th, the chaplain section will plan, organize and implement a pilot program of BSRF to serve as a paradigm for USARC.

Approximately 35 couples were selected, primarily from the 77th RRC Headquarters, to participate in this pilot program. More families can expect to receive this training, which will substantially contribute to the well being of their marriages and overall family life.

# 35th Army chief reveals past, preps future

Story by  
Gen. Peter J. Shoomaker  
Army Chief of Staff

**I** recently stood in the office of the Secretary of the Army and was sworn in as the 35th Chief of Staff of the Army. Thirty-four other distinguished leaders have preceded me — well-known stewards of our Army. It is a great honor to walk in their footsteps.

Twenty-three years ago I stood in another place — in the Iranian desert on a moonlit night at a place called Desert One. I keep a photo of the carnage that night to remind me that we should never confuse enthusiasm with capability. Eight of my comrades lost their lives. Those of us who survived knew grief... we knew failure... but we committed ourselves to a different future.

There were some important things we did not know about the future that night. We did not recognize that this was a watershed event... that the military services would begin a great period of renewal that continues to this day. We did not know that we were at the start of an unprecedented movement to jointness in every aspect of our military culture, structure, and operations... a movement that must continue. We also did not realize that we were in one of the opening engagements of this country's long struggle against terrorism... a struggle that would reach our homeland and become known as the Global War on Terror.

Today, our Nation is at war and we are a critical part of the joint team — an Army at war. This is not a new war. Our enemies have been waging it for some time, and it will continue for the foreseeable future. As the President has stated, "This is a different kind of war against a different kind of enemy." It is a war we must win, a war for our very way of life.

War is both a physical reality and a state of mind. War is ambiguous, uncertain, and unfair. When we are at war, we must think and act differently. We become more flexible and more adaptable. We must anticipate the ultimate reality check — combat. We must win both the war and the peace. We must be prepared to question everything. What is best for the Nation? What must endure? What must change?

This war has demonstrated that our Soldiers, civilians, and families are up to the task. It has also provided new insights into the current operating environment. Can we sustain our high performance with our current methods of preparation? Can our Combat Training Centers better reflect the joint context in which we will fight? Are we organized for the long haul? We must answer these questions and more. We need to be

mindful that the world has changed and it will never return to what we knew before. As my great friend, Dick Meadows, always said, "The Army ain't like it used to be... and it never was."

Sustained engagement of our Army will be the norm, not the exception. How do we man the Army in a way that provides cohesive, high performing units in this reality of continuous engagement?

Our recent combat operations reinforce the requirements for units and echelons that are flexible and tailorable. Can we balance our force structure and develop increased modularity so as to enhance our critical role in effective joint contingency operations while maintaining our campaign qualities?

We have already shown that we have innovative and adaptive leaders. But our enemies are adapting as well. Will our development programs continue to produce leaders who can meet this challenge?

Leadership and courage are easily recognized as prerequisites at the tactical level, but they are essential at the operational and strategic levels as well. Are we developing the George C. Marshalls for the new era?



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***Our soldiers are paramount and will remain the centerpiece of our thinking, our systems and our combat formations.***

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**T**he National Guard and Army Reserve are indispensable, full members of the team. Do we have the proper mix of both active and reserve units? Are we properly balanced? Is all of our structure readily accessible to meet the requirements of this and future wars?

As we transform the Army from the current force to the future force we must ask these questions and more. While some things will change, others will not.

The American Soldier remains indispensable. Our Soldiers are paramount and will remain the centerpiece of our thinking, our systems, and our combat formations. As General Creighton Abrams taught us, "People are not in the Army, they are the Army."

We are, have been, and will remain a values based institution. Our values will not change and they are non-negotiable. Our Soldiers are Warriors of character. They exemplify these values every day and are the epitome of our American spirit. They are the heart of the Army.

As long as the United States Army has ex-

isted we have transformed... and we always will. For four years under General Shinseki our Army has asked hard questions and made tough choices. We will continue to go where the answers to those questions take us. Our azimuth to the future is good. The Army must remain relevant and ready.

Our Army has much to be proud of. It is the preeminent land force in the world — and continues to be respected by our friends... and feared by our enemies. We set the standard. We were part of the joint team that defeated the Taliban in Afghanistan and took down a brutal regime in Iraq. Today we are deployed and conducting contingency operations at an unprecedented pace. Our Soldiers, civilians, and their families set the standard every day for selfless service.

The Army continues to serve our great Nation well and faithfully as it has in the past. For more than 228 years, the Army has never failed the American people, and it never will. As an American Soldier, I have never left your ranks; but it is a great privilege to wear our uniform once again.

# New commander takes 800th MP's reins

Story and photo by  
Spc. Rachel Brune

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait —

Brig. Gen. Janis L. Karpinski formally took command of the 800th Military Police (MP) Brigade from Brig. Gen. Paul H. Hill in a ceremony here last summer.

Representatives from the brigade's subordinate units stood in crisp formation in the Camp Arifjan Zone 1 gym as the formation was called to attention by Col. Alan Ecke, brigade deputy commander, and the invocation was given by Chap (Capt.) Micheal Pope, 724th MP Battalion.

The order was then given for the color guard to post, and the brigade colors were brought forward by Sgt. Enrique Navarro, a military policeman.

Command Sgt. Major Roy Clement passed the colors from Hill to Maj. Gen. David Kratzer, 377th TSC commander, who passed them to Karpinski, symbolizing the passing of responsibility for the brigade's 3,000 soldiers.

In his remarks to the assembled soldiers, Kratzer praised the accomplishments in its internment/resettlement (I/R) mission. He enumerated the tasks the unit has accomplished, praising the soldiers for their professionalism and dedication to duty.

"You have conducted complex military police and psy-ops missions in a superb manner under harsh, dangerous and austere conditions," said Hill to his troops in his farewell remarks. "When the call to arms came, you answered magnificently. I couldn't be prouder."

Karpinski then took the microphone for her first address to the troops as new commander of the 800th. In her speech she praised the efforts of the troops up to this time and spoke of the future of the brigade in its new mission of confinement operations for all of Iraq.

The speeches were followed by the benediction, given by Chaplain Pope, and the retiring of the colors, accompanied by the Army Song. Refreshments and socializing followed in the Camp Arifjan community center.



**Maj. Gen. David Kratzer, 377th Theater Support Command Group commander, passes the brigade colors to Brig. Gen. Janis L. Karpinski as she assumes command of 800th MP Brigade. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Bill Sutherland)**

## Honoring a hero

Members of the elite 77th Regional Readiness Command Honor Platoon march pass a large portrait of Cpl. Raheen T. Heigher during a candle light vigil in his honor in his hometown of Bayshore, N.Y. Heigher, 22, served with the 82nd Airborne Div., was killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Referring to this ceremony, his mother, Cathy Heigher said, "It helped. It really helped."  
(Photo by Bruce Hill)



# Trans team takes Iraqi tour to heart

Story by  
Capt. David O. Miller  
961st MCT, USAR

**O**n Feb. 3, 2003, soldiers of the 961st Movement Control Team (MCT) received an awakening few of us would ever forget. We were going to war! For the 12-person team of Army reservists based at Fort Wadsworth, N.Y., this was quite a shock.

Only a couple of the soldiers had any deployment experience and for the most part none of us had yet to work with each other. More than half the soldiers were either in college or barely out of high school. Some of the soldiers were not even U.S. citizens. For some, English wasn't their native language. Although there was tremendous diversity among the members of the 961st, we all had the same anticipation, anxiety and yearning to do our duty.

The deployment process was supposed to take only a few weeks. The unit spent three months at Fort Dix, N.J. During this time the soldiers were prepared for the chal-

lenges that lay ahead. Although the future was uncertain, the questions were always the same. "What will we be doing? Where will we be doing it?" The answer was an unwavering "Port operations in Kuwait."

Once in theater, the 961st spent only six days in Kuwait. The unit then traveled to Iraq and was moved to four different locations within the country. Not once did the 961st work in a port of any kind. This may or may not be the typical experience of a small Army reserve unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mobility and flexibility were words we lived by.

Shortly after our arrival in Mosul, Iraq, the 961st was informed it would be running rail operations for the Mosul Central Rail Station. The primary tasks would be the reception of cargo shipped from Umm Qasr, a major port city in Iraq, and the discharge of empty containers heading south. It began as a mere two-day per week detail, but has evolved in to a seven-day-a-week operation. The 961st was then at a critical area on

the Operation Iraqi Freedom landscape. This was all very unexpected.

Early in the war, members of the 961st found themselves sitting in container yards watching the same digital video disks (DVDs) over and over again. Suddenly our mission changed. We were now rising early in the morning, escorting host nation cranes and equipment and conducting movements to and from the Mosul Rail Station. At the same time, we were constantly overcoming language and cultural barriers with host nation drivers, not all of whom follow instructions. Invaluable assistance with our mission came from elements of two active duty units, the 101st Corps Support Group (CSG) and the 561st Corps Support Battalion.

**T**he 961st found itself in the forefront of documenting inbound and outbound cargo, as well as contracting with the Iraqi Railroad and movements to and from Umm Qasr.

A typical download from the rail station normally

consisted of 10 to 30 20-foot containers of Class I (Subsistence) usually water. Yet the trainloads became more diverse, with several trains carrying Class IV (Construction Materials) all different kinds of unit equipment, and even rolling stock. Downloading this equipment took anywhere from two to four hours. On several occasions we found ourselves at the rail yard late at night.

During each trip to the rail yard there were several empty containers sent back on rail cars. So far the 961st has sent hundreds of containers south on trains carrying up to 15 wagons full of empty containers.

Though not the mission we trained for, officers, NCOs and enlisted soldiers of the 961st grew to enjoy the rail mission. We finally felt like an integral part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The achievements at the rail station were not just military in nature. Each trip to the rail station was also a practical exercise in international relations. Members of the 961st were met each day with throngs of cheering children, all anxious to shake hands, take pictures, teach Arabic, and sell food. Host nation truck drivers frequently opened truck trunks to reveal not mechanical equipment, but tea pots and china. They often brought local food and tea which they brewed and shared with their American bosses.

We all missed home. Although we came to Operation Iraqi Freedom to do a different job, the railhead experience in Mosul gave the 961st a unique opportunity that few soldiers get. While the 961st adopted the motto, "We move in; we move out; we're gone!," early in our deployment, when we do go home, every soldier will know we left a much greater impression.



## Rolling back home

*The 920th Transportation Company renders salutes as the 77th Regional Readiness Command Honor Guard, post the colors during the unit's welcome home ceremony. Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, 77th commanding general, presented awards to all of the soldiers who were mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Chet Marcus)*



*The Caven Point Reserve Center will look a little different in years to come. (Photo by Chet Marcus)*

## Decade of talks nets \$8 mil *Caven Point Center due for facelift*

*Story by Bruce Hill*

**P**atience is a virtue, good things come to those who wait, or even, if it was meant to be, it'll be. Either one of these cliches would work when applied it to the joint venture the 77th Regional Readiness Command, the State of New Jersey and Jersey City, N.J. completed recently.

After more than 15 years in the making, the transfer of 50 acres at the Caven Point Reserve Center to Jersey City has become a reality.

Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, commanding general of the 77th Regional Readiness Command, and New Jersey Rep. Bob Menendez, Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, joined New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner Jack Lettiere, and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers and local governments for the transfer ceremony to mark the settlement of the Exchange Agreement contract for the Caven Point Army Reserve Center with Jersey City and the State of New Jersey.

"I am pleased to be here today to mark the end of a very long and challenging journey and the beginning of a new development," said Menendez. "Today's signing ceremony is the historic culmination of a more than 15 year process. It was a journey that has provided us with insights and experiences that have worked to develop a new relationship between the city and her neighbor, the Army, and that will result in a new development that will improve transportation in the state of New Jersey and will provide a new recreational facility for local residents."

In 1987, Congress passed legislation, specifically Section 130 of the

Fiscal Year 1988 Military Construction Appropriations Act, Public Law 100-202, to authorize the transfer of a large portion of the property on which the Caven Point Army Reserve Center is located to the City of Jersey City and the State of New Jersey.

After almost 20 years of active negotiations, the Exchange Agreement, signed on July 2, 2003, provides for conveyance of 50 acres of vacant land from the Caven Point U.S. Army Reserve Center the State of New Jersey and Jersey City for \$8.5 million, which will be used towards the renovation of the center. Of the 50 acres, 10 acres are earmarked for an expanded right of way for Route 185. The remaining 40 acres will be used as part of the Port Liberté development, primarily a golf course to be developed by the Applied Development Company.

"The completion of this project will serve as another example of a military facility reuse in Hudson County that will continue and assist in the redevelopment and revitalization of our communities," concluded Menendez.

# Path to make world's mightiest

## *Army's transformation plan wave of future*

Story by  
Maj. Bernd Zoller

**M**anaging the Army's new transformation program is like juggling three crystal balls worth billions of dollars each, while walking a tight rope 100 stories high without a safety net in a blizzard with the confidence of a master acrobatic performer.

It is a process that consists of three major components. The first part of the process involves refurbishing the current force structure, commonly referred to as the Legacy Force, to a like new condition. Secondly, an interim force known as the Stryker Force is fielded to meet midrange intensity conflict requirements that the Legacy Force currently cannot. Lastly, the centerpiece of the transformation process is to field the future force known as the Objective Force to meet all mission requirements through the full spectrum of military operations.

The transformation will change every dimension of the Army simultaneously, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Mockensturm, the Army's lead analyst for Science and Technology programs within the Program Analysis and Evaluation Division in the Pentagon. The Army's "Big 5," the Abrams M1 main battle tank, Bradley infantry and cavalry fighting vehicle, multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) and the Apache and Blackhawk helicopters are mainly using 1980's technology and are fast approaching an even battlefield measure with many allies and unfortunately some potential adversaries. Imagine the Army in 2010 with silent moving hydroelectric vehicles that use the same chassis whether for armor, infantry, field artillery and service support and able to meet the full spectrum of operational capabilities.

The Legacy and Stryker Forces together will meet the Army's timeline requirements to provide national, strategic and tactical capabilities for all levels of military operations in today's environment.

The Objective Force part of the

Army's Vision 2000 will incorporate many of the latest leading-edge technologies from the laboratories and put them to use on the battlefields of the future. This transformation is a key process to keep America's Army the premier force among all of the global forces today and perhaps into the next two decades.

The transformation, which is scheduled to evolve within the next five to seven years, has no resemblance to the Legacy Force. The new force will be more mobile, harder to find and engage and super protective of its most precious cargo, the soldiers.

"If some in the Army don't like change, they'll find they like irrelevance a lot less," said Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, former chief of staff of the Army. "The Army, while aspiring to be the most esteemed institution in the nation, we will remain the most respected Army in the world and the most feared ground force to those who would threaten the interests of the United States."

**T**he largest thrust of the transformation deals with bringing the Objective Force platforms under a 19-ton weight cap and the ability to fit these platforms within the cargo space of a C-130 Hercules aircraft, yet deliver a punch and take a hit like the Legacy Force. Join this with the vision of deploying combat forces anywhere in the world in 96 hours after liftoff, and soon you will recognize the complexity of the task at hand — brigade combat teams for stability, support for war-fighting operations, a division in five days and five divisions in 30 days. "See first — decide first — act first and finish decisively is the motto," said Mockensturm. "The Objective Force has an onion-skin-layering dynamic of combat superiority where each layer interacts

with the future combat system that provides a combat capable network of other systems."

Col. Kirk D. Lamb, deputy chief of staff of operations for the 77<sup>th</sup> RRC, summed it up best at a recent conference. "Although our soldiers may hear the word, change, a lot here in the near future, let's not forget that our basic mission to provide the nation with trained and ready forces and furnish our customers with superior service has not changed. Our exterior make-up may look different in relation to MTOEs and force structure, but the method of how we get there remains the same."

The future Army will look dramatically different than today's globally superior force, but Army leaders will transform and translate this Objective Force to match what the former chief of staff of the Army laid out in his keystone speech back in October 1999.



stronger paved





As the names of the fallen grace his reflection on the monument, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Harry Mott III, former deputy chief of Army Reserve, prepares to place a folded flag at its base. (Photo Ira Cohen)



Sgt. George Uribe, drummer for chime for each honored soldier call.

# Fallen heroes memorialized, Iraq vet



Brandon Nater, 13, plays "Amazing Grace" for the ceremony.

Story and photos by  
Bruce Hill

Quiet tears were wiped away and long, melancholy sighs of grief could be heard throughout the crowd of family, friends and guests of the soldiers who were honored in a 9/11 memorial ceremony last month at Fort Totten, N.Y.

The ceremony remembered the six 77th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) soldiers who perished in the 9/11 attacks two years ago, as well as four soldiers who died in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Today is a day to remember and celebrate the



*Families and friends of the honored pay close attention.*

*...r the 319th Army Band, rings a  
...as his name is called during roll*

## ts return

legacy of our family, for we all are part of one family, bound together by shared experiences and values," said Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, 77th RRC commanding general. "We mourn together, remember together and celebrate together. We are united as one family."

"Just as it happened more than 200 years ago, these soldiers heard the trumpet and answered the call," said Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Harry Mott, former deputy chief of the Army Reserve. "They, indeed, lived up to the reserve motto Twice the Citizen. They were heroes and served their fellow man."



*Members of the 77th Regional Readiness Command Funeral Detail prepare to fold the flag that was later placed at the base of the monument.*

# 623rd returns home to heroes' welcome

Story and photos by  
Spc. Neil McCabe

The soldiers of the 623<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company bade farewell to Fort Dix, N.J., and each other at a July 25 ceremony held at the post's Infantry Park. They were joined by family members and the Deputy Commanding General of the 77<sup>th</sup> Reserve Readiness Command, Brig. Gen. William Terpeluk.

The ceremony marked the end of a truly unique experience. The company started late January with a small cadre from Fort Totten, Queens, N.Y. Then more than 140 soldiers from 19 different units from six states joined the 623<sup>rd</sup>, said Capt. Thomas P. Sullivan, company commander.

The most difficult thing was getting soldiers from varied backgrounds and experiences to work together as a true unit, Sullivan said.

Specialist Eric M. North, originally from the 125<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, Lexington, Ky., remembers getting the phone call with the news that he would be joining the 623<sup>rd</sup>. He said that the voice on the other end started with, "Are you sitting down?" Three days later he was at Fort Dix.

When Sgt. John M. Barry got the word, he was working on a computer at his school, Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, N.J. Barry, originally from the 146<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, Fort Totten, remembers answering his cellular phone but doesn't remember a single word the voice told him, he said.

The real test of the company coming together was its success at the Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE), which is required before any unit can deploy. The MRE was not only a test of teamwork, equipment and readiness, but for the 623<sup>rd</sup>, a test against severe winter weather conditions. First there was eight inches of snow, then the next day freezing rain. The 623<sup>rd</sup> suffered eight cold weather casualties, but it was the first unit at Fort Dix to pass the MRE on its first try, he said.

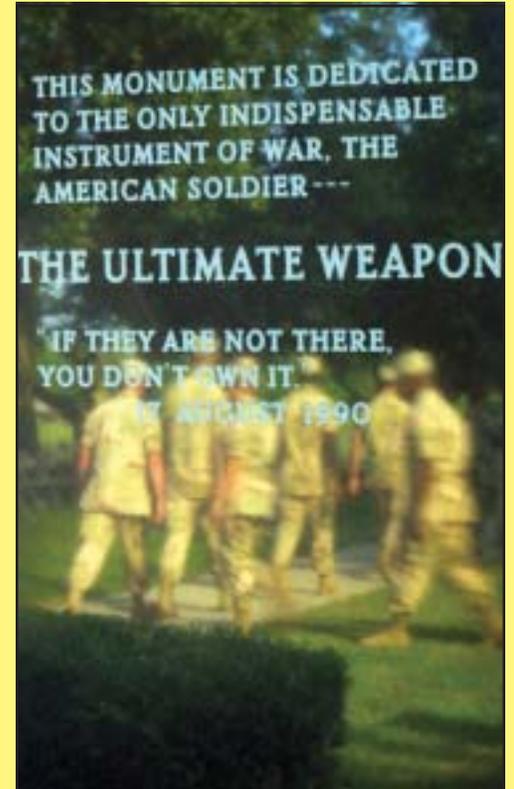
"The weather was brutal for the MRE," said Spc. Birmania Romero, unit guidon bearer for the farewell ceremony. In Grand Rapids, Mich., where she lives, she got use to harsh winter weather, "but nobody in Grand Rapids stays out in the snow, sleet and wind in tents and foxholes," she said.

**“ The reason the enemy quit was because he knew there were more highly trained and motivated soldiers like us, waiting, ready to go.”**

The soldiers of the 623<sup>rd</sup> drive 18-wheel tanker trucks that carry roughly 5,000 gallons of aviation fuel, said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alison G. Brahms. "The company was expected to join coalition forces of Operation Enduring Freedom in Turkey," said Brahms. "After the plans to go to Turkey were changed, the soldiers continued to prepare the trucks for deployment. After the trucks were loaded on to ships, the soldiers waited for the orders to deploy that never came," she said.

In his formal remarks at the farewell ceremony, Sullivan told the formation and guests that while there was disappointment, there should be pride that no unit was better prepared to deploy than the 623<sup>rd</sup>. Once the trucks were shipped off, the soldiers took advantage of every training opportunity on Fort Dix, including logging over 40 miles in road marches, shooting thousands of rounds at the firing range, and tackling the six-story repelling tower.

Standing underneath the shade of the trees, Barry looked around at his comrades, "I just want to say one thing, the reason the enemy quit when he did, is because he knew that no matter what he did, there were more highly trained



**The Ultimate Weapon monument at Fort Dix, N.J. reflects the dedication of the 623<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Co.**

and motivated soldiers like us, waiting, ready to go.”



**Soldiers of the 623<sup>rd</sup> transportation Co. are honored as family and friends watch.**

## Taking the high road



Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, commander, 77th Regional Readiness Command, speaks to 25,000 spectators participating in a 77th RRC birthday ceremony at Shea Stadium. Early in the day, New York State Legislators officially renamed the Clearview Expressway in Bayside, Queens to the U.S. Army 77th Infantry Division Expressway. The Mets highlighted the event in the pre-game ceremony honoring the 77th and its history. (Photo by Ira Cohen)

## Striking at home

Spc. Daniel Beck, left, and Sgt. Heriberto Vidro of the 773rd Transportation Co. both throw out the first pitch, for the Mets during the 77th Regional Readiness Command Appreciation Day on August 18, 2003. Mets fans also celebrated the 773rd Transportation Co. return and homecoming from Iraq. (Photo by Bruce Hill)



# Test of leadership allows more time

## Vying for stripes less stressful

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Klye Reeves

**S**ergeants and specialists had the opportunity to be part of the U.S. Army Reserve's new Primary Leadership Development Course's (PLDC) Pilot Program which ran last month at Fort Dix, N.J.

Unlike the present PLDC training set in place, Army reservists, in the future will have less pressure to cover a 32-course instruction in a two-week training period. "They will have more time to study and prepare to become more effective NCOs like their active-component soldiers who receive 30 days of training," said Master Sgt. Curtis Watts, PLDC Course Manager, United States Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy. Fort Dix was the first military installation to launch this prototype.

The course had two phases. The first, the distant learning phase, was the electronic portion of the training. Soldiers were allowed to access course material via the internet in the comfort of their own homes at their own pace and were given six months to complete it. They were not allowed to advance to the second phase without completing the first. The second phase, or the resident

training, was the hands-on-training at the fort. After completing the two-week training, soldiers received their DA Form 1059.

As this type of training is tentatively set to replace the present PLDC training, more emphasis will be put on the soldier's reserve unit to ensure that their soldiers are prepared before going on to Phase II, according to Staff Sgt. Anthony Dibias, small group leader/PLDC instructor. "It will be unit's job to see that the soldiers are getting routine CTT/ITT training and their physical fitness scores are above average and to counsel soldiers if they should fall below standard."

**S**taff Sgt. Daniel A. Fierro, PLDC instructor recommended that soldiers practice or hone their map reading and land navigational skills prior to entering PLDC. "Very little time is spent on instruction during Phase II," he said. "Soldiers are expected to be prepared before coming to the resident training portion of the training. That is why we are giving six months to prepare. The distant learning portion will help you to recognize areas you need help on."

Out of the 117 soldiers who initially began the program, eight were dropped after failing the Army Physical Fitness Test, leaving 109 soldiers to meet the challenges set by the course.

Sgt. Talanta Clarke, 237<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company, felt that she was more prepared as a result of the on-line program. "It

alleviated some of the pressure off the test taking," said Clarke.

Some soldiers were able to transition over to the pilot program more easily because of perpetual training set by individual soldiers or their reserve units were fortunate to have Pre-PLDC.

"I strongly recommend it," said Sgt. Marie D. Colvert, who is with the 305<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, N.Y. She is currently on active duty at Fort Dix. "The training has been very good," she said. "I was able to find my deficiencies and work on them before doing the program."

While the academic portion presented some demands, some soldiers were also stumped by the hands-on training.

"I wasn't very good at terrain features before the hands-on," said Clarke. "Every day the terrain changes and you have to be prepared to adapt. The most difficult part was going through the swamps. There are areas that are deep that you aren't aware of until you step down."

While proficiency varied among soldiers, they were, however, appreciative of the training they got from the program. "I have gained a lot of confidence as an NCO by taking the course," said Colvert. "I enjoy being a leader and helping out. This course will help me to be more attentive to my soldiers."

The program will be put on hiatus while it is evaluated to determine its success and to ascertain whether any improvements need to be made before permanently putting it place after this fiscal year.



**Spc. Earl Johnson, third squad leader, is seen during a hasty ambush during the field training.**



**Spc. Jacob Long, team leader, is seen with his team as the search for the enemy.**



*Leader, gives final instructions before setting his team on a training exercise.*



*Sgt. Sandra Thesisen, left, gets instruction from Spc. Jacob Long on how to check an M60 machine gun.*



*Leads the members of his firing line.*



*Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Fierro, instructor, evaluates the students during a mock gas attack.*



*Sgt. Hope Owens-Henry leads a class on first aid for heat casualties.*

# 445th takes 'er

*First unit to test m*



*Sgt. 1st Class Mark A. Evans lowers a drum for depositing water waste upon completion of the exercise.*



*Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Jenkins, 445 QM platoon sergeant, puts his wet battle dress uniform in the LADS.*



*Spc. Chris Layer connects a hose that leads from the Laundry Advanced System to the collapsible water tank during field training exercise.*



*Soldiers a field tr*



*A valve is connected to a collapsible tank.*

# m to the cleaners

## new field laundry system

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Kyle Reeves

**F**or soldiers of the 445th Quartermasters Company, a training day is laundry day as they train on the new Laundry Advanced System (LADS) during their routine field training exercise. The 445th is a mobile laundry unit which provides laundry services to military personnel during deployment. In addition, they also supply running water to ensure that soldiers receive adequate hygiene while out in the field. The 445th QM Co. was the first unit in the 77th Regional Readiness Command to receive this equipment.

"This is a great addition to the unit," said Maj. Richard A. Osterfeld, 77th RRC Force Integration Officer. "For the soldiers of the 445th, it's like a new toy."

The new equipment replaces the old M-85 series, which washes 280 pounds less

than the newer model. The LADS can hold a 400-pound load. The equipment requires very little manpower and can be operated by two people in a 10-hour shift.

"We have six machines in total," said Osterfeld. "That will be a total of 2400 pounds per load. It will accommodate 500 soldiers a day."

The machines, which cost about \$400,000, are assembled on a 40-foot trailer transported by M-915 A3 tractors, compliments of the 920th Transportation Company.

The equipment uses a 300-gallon collapsible tank. The pumps recycle the water, which makes the system environmentally sound.

At 7:30 am, the unit assembled at the training site to test the new machines. Troops began by unloading hoses, tanks and other essential equipment from the trucks. A large catwalk was lowered and frames were assembled to provide support, shelter,

mobility and access to the controls. A hose was connected to a water source that ran to the collapsible tanks that ran to the LADS. As water was forced into the bags, the tanks expanded into a large oval shape. Once filled, the machines started and soldiers began to fill them with clothes. Water readings and wash cycles were displayed on a digital console. Some soldiers used the opportunity to throw in a few items of their own.

**T**he machines load from the front and have the added convenience of not only washing but drying without moving clothes to a separate dryer.

"Everything is self-contained in this equipment," said Sgt. Calvin Seward, laundry and textile noncommissioned officer. "The machines makes our lives a lot easier. The generator and fuel tank are all part of the washing unit. This would reduce the time spent setting up and make us more efficient."

Advance Design Corporation, who manufactured the equipment, provided service professionals to help the soldiers transition to the equipment with little or no difficulty.

"The instruction has been great," said Osterfeld. "The service people have been very helpful making sure that the soldiers have a full understanding on running the equipment."

Spc. Antoinette Simpson, laundry and textile specialist, whose past difficulty mastering the old M-85 left her with some apprehension, concurs. "I not only understand this equipment, I also feel confident about teaching it to others," she said.

The unit performed the training with ease and was having a good time with the training.

"This is a fun unit to work with," said Simpson. "The people here make the job something worthwhile."

As a prior service reservist, Seward has been performing laundry and fabric services since his time as an enlisted Marine in 1979. When he made the transition from active to Army reservist, he chose the same occupation. While many wouldn't consider the occupation as glamorous, Seward stresses the importance of his job as with any other occupation in the military.

"Most people wouldn't think highly of the cook's position, but when you are hungry, who do you expect to feed you, but the cook," said Seward. "Same as my position. After a week in the field without bathing and the same dirty cammies, who do you look for to see that you have running water and your clothes are washed — me."



Members of the 445th Quartermaster Co. began to set up the Laundry Advance System during training exercise.

# Workshop eases anxiety for med units

Story by

Cpl. Kyle Reeves

**S**oldiers from the 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command, Office of the Command Surgeon and 8<sup>th</sup>

Medical Brigade were hosts to the Medical Readiness Training Workshop that took place last month at the Crown Plaza Hotel, East Elmhurst, N.Y.

The training was offered to all units under the 77<sup>th</sup> RRC, 78<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> Divisions located in the states of New York and New Jersey.

The purpose of the workshop was to fulfill two goals. One goal was to train the units' key medical personnel on how to maximize the use of the current procedures and changing management systems of the reserve and readiness components. The other was to heighten the importance of command emphasis on medical readiness prior to deployments in order to ensure a more relevant U.S. Army Reserve force that will meet the basic readiness and deployment standards.

More than 200 soldiers were present for this event as they listened to keynote speakers, watched slide presentations and read literature concerning the restructure of the Army Reserve Regional Readiness Commands (RRC).

The RRCs are currently undergoing a transition as they are being reduced in number. Many of the organic medical units are taking on a new shape and form under

the Medical Reengineering Initiative (MRI). Additionally, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) community will become a separate functional medical command, AR-MEDCOM, and will assume command and control over all Army Reserve medical units. It will consist of four regional medical readiness commands that will be aligned with the existing regional medical commands in the Atlantic, Southeast, Great Plains and Western regions. The restructuring will improve the mobilization process and enhance the quality of training and readiness for the Army Reserve.

The speakers reassured participants during the training that the changes taking place were for the better as concerns were raised that these changes would affect the jobs that could be lost from downsizing.

"These changes will have zero effects to soldiers' occupations," said Brig. Gen. Robert Kasulke, commander, 8<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade, Fort Wadsworth and a guest speaker at the workshop.

"The goal of this restructuring is to make the Army Reserve more efficient," said 1st Lt. Peter Barret, aide to Kasulke. "The changes should eliminate much of the past administrative procedures that have become out dated or obsolete.

"The changes have already gone into effect this fiscal year," said Kasulke. "Almost all the changes will occur by 2006."

Many of the participants were appreciative of the plethora of information the workshop provided.

"The workshop proved very informative," said Col. Peter C. Wei. Wei, commander of 300<sup>th</sup> Medical Co., Shoreham, N.Y., whose unit will undergo the transformation. "It gives us a heads up on what's happening," he said. "I will be able to walk away with a plan on how to conduct our operations and to prepare our soldiers for the mission ahead."

Preparedness was the key issue among the guest speakers as they stressed that the soldiers are trained and the initiatives are set in place by their units.

Sgt. 1st Class. Claudette Williams is with the 1174<sup>th</sup> USA Transportation Battalion, Fort Totten, N.Y., but is a nurse in her civilian occupation. "I found the workshop pretty good," she said. "My reason for coming is the readiness issue. We need to get our soldiers squared away in the event they have to deploy."

According to Barret, these changes will significantly change the role of Army reservists. "No more will the reserve be considered just a weekend occupation where a soldier comes in, does a drill for one weekend a month and forgets about it until next month," said Barret. "Reservists will be required to maintain their proficiency as the Army becomes more high-tech if they wish to remain in the Army Reserve and advance in rank."



## Visiting Afghanistan

*Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, right, 77th Regional Readiness Command commanding general, addresses soldiers in Afghanistan. Although 77th RRC soldiers had already left the region, the general visited the troops in Afghanistan in September to show support and to commend them for their service. (Photo by Capt. Patrick O'Malley)*

**Torture  
no more**



*Capt. Warren Ferdinandsen of the 800th Military Police Brigade walks through the empty prison cells used as torture chambers at the Abu Ghraib prison just outside Baghdad, Iraq. The United States is holding in Iraq six prisoners who claim to be Americans and two who say they are Britons. The general in charge of detention centers, Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, commander of the 800th, said the eight were considered security detainees who attacked or helped carry out attacks against coalition troops, and were being interrogated by military intelligence. Karpinski said they are being held at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, 12 miles west of Baghdad, one of the most potent symbols of Saddam Hussein's regime. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)*



**Going the  
distance**

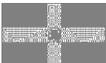
*1st Lt. Eileen Pawloski, left, aide to Brig. Gen. William Terpeluk, 77th Regional Readiness Command deputy commander, and Maj. Virginia Rea, secretary, general staff, prepare to challenge the treacherous yet scenic 10-mile route through Washington D.C. in this year's Army 10-Miler competition. Rea also celebrated her birthday that day. (Photo by Maj. Bernd Zoller)*



# Hispanic American contributions noted

Compiled by  
**Billy Morales**  
Equal Opportunity  
Adviser

Throughout American history, the Medal of Honor has been awarded 38 times to Americans of Hispanic heritage. More than 88,000 Hispanic-Americans served in the Civil War. During the Spanish-American War, several Hispanics served with Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders." Approximately 250,000 to 500,000 Hispanics served during World War II. During the Korean conflict, the Puerto Rican 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's served and participated in hostile action against the Chinese. The Vietnam conflict escalated and 80,000 Hispanics served and 18 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor. In August 1964, Navy pilot Lt. Everett Alvarez, who took off from a United States carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin, had to jump from his damaged plane but his parachute failed to open. He survived but was imprisoned by North Vietnam.

|  |   |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <br>ARGENTINA  | <br>VENEZUELA              | <br>URUGUAY            | <br>PUERTO RICO | <br>PERU         | <br>PANAMA    |
| <br>BELIZE     | 15 SEP-15 OCT IS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH   |   |  |   | <br>NICARAGUA |
| <br>BRAZIL     | THE THEME FOR THIS YEARS CELEBRATION IS:  |   |  |   | <br>MEXICO    |
| <br>CHILE      | <b>"Hispanic Americans:<br/>Honoring Our Past,<br/>Surpassing Our Present,<br/>and Leading Our Future."</b> |   |  |   | <br>HONDURAS  |
| <br>COLOMBIA   | THEME FOR THIS YEARS CELEBRATION IS:  |   |  |   | <br>GUATEMALA |
| <br>COSTA RICA | <br>CUBA                   | <br>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | <br>EQUADOR     | <br>EL SALVADOR |   |

## General RICHARD E. CAVAZOS (Retired), U.S. Army First Hispanic Four Star General in the U.S. Army



# 77th RRC News notes

## Old gray PT uniforms out for good

Beginning Oct. 1 the Army's old, gray physical fitness uniform will no longer be authorized, and all soldiers must own the improved PT uniform, which hit the shelves three years ago.

The decision to put soldiers in a uniform that was lighter, washes better and sharper looking was made in 1999 by retired Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, former chief of staff of the Army.

Soldiers were given a grace period of more than three years to purchase the new Improved Physical Fitness Uniform, but some are still scurrying to a Military Clothing Sales Store to purchase the five-piece ensemble.

"I have members of my squad who still have to purchase the new PTs, said Pfc. Brian Knolen from Fort McPherson, Ga. However, Knolen doesn't have to worry about meeting the deadline. He is among the soldiers who entered the Army after May 2000, and was issued the uniform after graduating from Initial Entry Training.

The improved uniforms hit Military Clothing Sales Stores October 2000, and most store managers said sales have been continuous with no peak, even though the deadline approaches.

"I always keep a back order in the stock room, but I haven't seen an increase in sales," said Estella Gholston, the store manager at Fort McPherson, Ga.

A local store manager at Fort Belvoir, Va., said she didn't expect to see more purchases and didn't order extra to meet an increased demand.

"Since 2001, my store has already been meeting a high demand for the new PTs, and we've been helping to get the word out," said Savannah Hudson, the assistant manager at the Fort Belvoir store.

To make sure that every soldier is in the right uniform Oct. 1, the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1, printed the wear-out date for the old PTs in the revised Army Regulation 670-1. But some junior soldiers, who look for guidance from supervisors, said they aren't sure what the cut-off date is.

"I know that the cut-off is approaching, but I haven't heard when," said a specialist from Fort Riley, Kan. "I don't have anything to worry about though because I've been wearing the new uniform for over a year."

The IPFU includes a t-shirt, long sleeve shirt, jacket, pants and shorts. The suit costs almost double the old uniform that was first issued to Soldiers in 1986. The total cost is about \$140, according to a price list on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web page.

## New education web-site launched

The Army Continuing Education System launched the In-State Tuition Web site Sept. 15.

"The site provides information on state policies and laws regarding in-state tuition eligibility requirements for military personnel and their families," said Mike Tevnan, education specialist at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command. The site will also track the initiative's progress to achieve common policies in all states, Tevnan said.

The Army contacted each state asking them to consider their residency requirements for in-state tuition in light of the Army's goals for common policies. The desired outcome, Tevnan said, is eligibility for in-state tuition rates under each of the following conditions: in-state tuition for soldiers and family members within the state of legal residence; immediate in-state tuition for soldiers and family members in the state of assignment; and continuity of in-state tuition once established.

Users of the new Web site will be able to tell

whether a particular state meets all three criteria by simply clicking on "Summary by State." A map will then pop onto the screen and users can click on the state of interest.

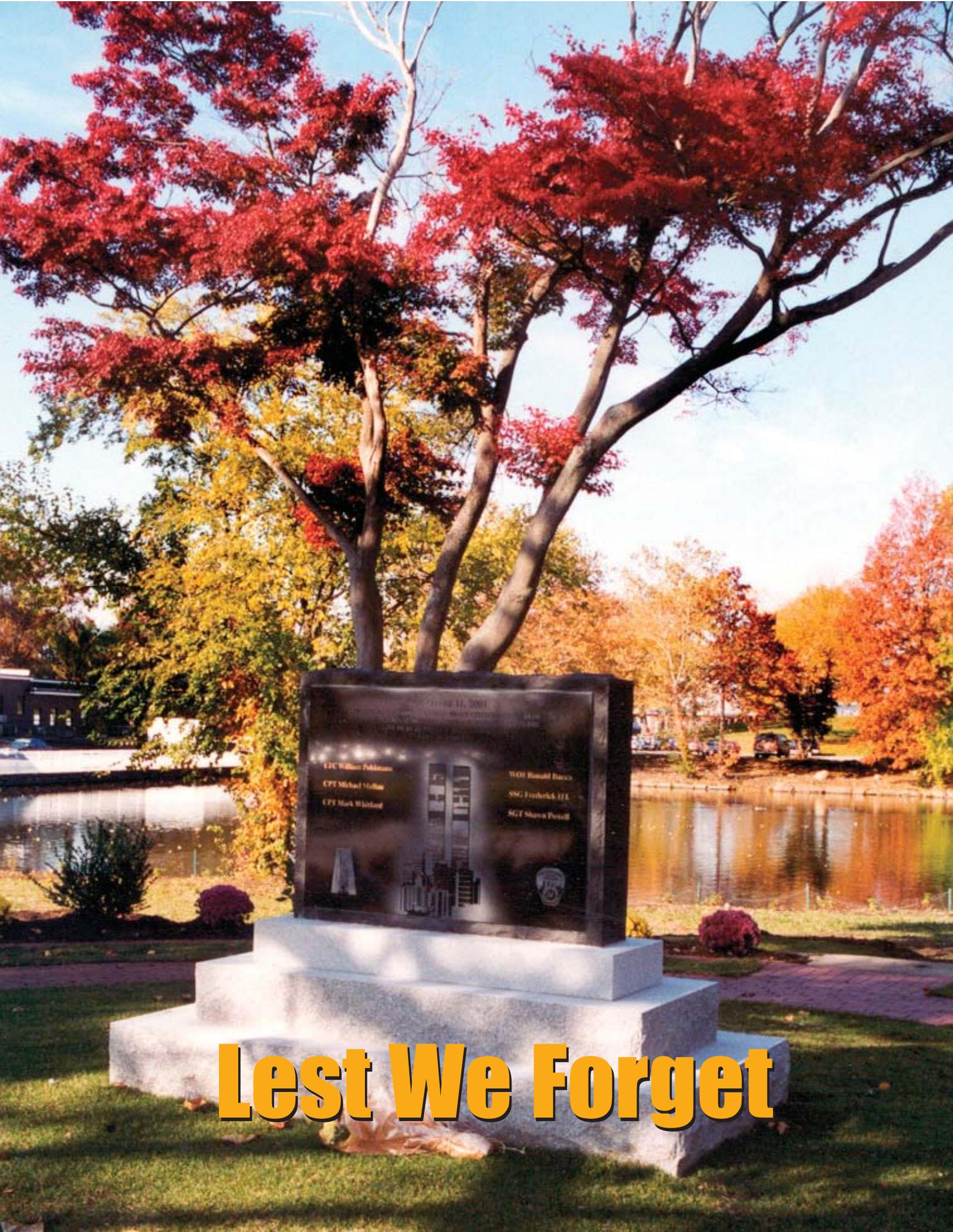
Other features of the Web site include a section of "Frequently Asked Questions," which can serve as a starting point for those accessing the site, Tevnan said.

In addition, a news section on the home page discusses any new developments or updates related to in-state tuition, and the references section will provide links to military education Web sites, scholarship Web sites, and other important information that may be of further assistance.

Currently, 43 states have policy or legislation that meets two of the three goals, 19 of which meet all three criteria of the model policy, Tevnan said.

Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia still have policies that are unfavorable to the military or no policy at all, he said.

The In-State Tuition Web site can be accessed by logging onto the ACES Web site:  
[www.armyeducation.army.mil/InState/index.HTM](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/InState/index.HTM).



**Lest We Forget**