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Letters

'Our Honored Dead, Overseas'

■ As a U.S. Army officer who has served most of my near-30-year career overseas, I found BG John Brown's "Historically Speaking" article in the May issue to be a very good summary of the cemeteries and monuments abroad that honor the many Americans who died for their country in foreign lands.

I have visited many of the cemeteries mentioned in the article. One note, however, caught my eye. He wrote, "Since World War II we have returned our dead to the United States rather than burying them overseas." Technically this is true, but I'd like to point out one cemetery not mentioned by BG Brown: the U.N. Memorial Cemetery Korea (UNMCK) in Busan, South Korea.

The UNMCK honors U.N. soldiers from 16 countries who were killed in battle during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. There were 21 U.N. countries that participated in the Korean War. Seventeen nations suffered casualties during that conflict, and 11 nations, including Korea, have their dead interred at the UNMCK. Approximately 11,000 were interred there between 1951 and 1954. There are currently 2,300 at the UNMCK, including Korean soldiers who fell as members of U.N. troops. After the war, most were repatriated home; Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia,

Greece, Luxemburg, the Philippines and Thailand have taken back all of their expatriates. The United States with the highest number of casualties during the war—took all of their fallen

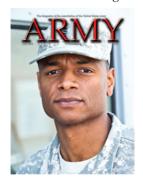


Chaplain (MAJ) Kevin Pies, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, stands outside the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, South Korea.

home soon afterwards. There are 36 U.S. servicemembers or veterans, however, currently interred in UNMCK, most of whom participated in the Korean War and expressed their wish to be buried there during the years after the war.

This Month's Cover

CW4 Kali Pettigrew is chief engineering officer aboard the U.S. Army's Logistics Support Vessel (LSV)-1, the GEN Frank S. Besson Jr. The LSV-class vessels are the largest ships currently operated by the Army. CW4 Petti-



grew was accepted into the Army's warrant officer candidate program from the Navy. He said he was looking for challenge and opportunity, which the warrant officer field offers. Warrant officers, he says, combine leadership, mentorship and technical expertise, and the Army's warrant officer education system encourages professional growth. Army warrant officers trace their lineage to the sea and still proudly serve on it. The story begins on page 38.

(Cover photograph by Dennis Steele)

These Americans who chose to be buried in a foreign country where many of their comrades lost their lives are now honored on a daily basis by the Koreans. In fact, the UNMCK is one of the best-maintained and most beautiful military cemeteries, as Koreans still remember the huge price the United States and other U.N. countries paid to ensure the freedoms they enjoy today.

COL KENNETH JOHNSON Stuttgart, Germany

'My Longest Day'

■ William P. Baxter's April article, "My Longest Day," was very interesting, but the last paragraph made me jump out of my chair, having experienced similar treatment but with far better results.

I served six years in the Vietnam War with a first tour of four and a half years starting in January 1966. I was assigned as an infantry intelligence and reconnaissance NCO to the 1st Air Cavalry but was emergency-reassigned to the MACV [Military Assistance Command, Vietnam] J2 while at Oakland, Calif., Army Terminal.

After arriving in Vietnam, I was tasked with starting an intelligencedata-handling system in a collateral unit with the Vietnamese in less than 90 days. I was also told there would be no authorized funds or personnel until the new fiscal year, more than nine months away, which I took to mean that I was to create this unit by "midnight requisitioning."

Eventually I ran into an old friend, SPC Ray Holley, at Saigon Port, who was able to "hook me up" with everything I needed. In less than 45 days the unit was operational. Working more than 14 hours a day—except Saturday, when I did my laundry, got a haircut, etc.—I created numerous files, one of which was radio intercepts of enemy units assigned animal names (only our U.S. Army MI lieutenants knew the actual unit IDs). I picked a VC [Viet Cong] local force battalion as my "pet unit" to track.

One Saturday evening I was sitting in my favorite bar across from my billet when a Green Beret SFC walked in and took a seat beside me. He was assigned

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to SOG [special operations group] and was training Cambodian mercenaries. I told him about my VC local force battalion near him and that it followed the same route from Cambodia into Vietnam and then back into Cambodia. He grew very interested and said he wanted to test his newly trained men on this unit. The next day I printed all of the data (without sources), classified it as "secret" and mailed it via APO registered mail to him. He planned a horseshoe ambush, which wiped out

Like LTC Baxter, who, upon visiting the USARV [U.S. Army Vietnam] G2, discovered it had prior knowledge that the battle would ensue but could not tell LTC Baxter or his advisors because they did not have high enough security clearance, I found my SFC was in the same situation and immediately decided to find a way to get the intelligence to the men at the sharp end of the spear.

I contacted several advisory teams next to airfields in the Mekong Delta (IV Corps). I printed sample pages of each of my files with coordinates close to each team and booked Air America flights to each airfield. (I put the pages in a plastic folder and pinned it inside my fatigue jacket. I smoked and carried a Zippo lighter. If the situation required it, I would light the plastic and the pages would quickly burn up.)

Meeting with each unit, I briefed them on the information I had. They were flabbergasted that such data was available and was not being sent to them. We came up with a code for a verbal or typed message to me that would tell me the coordinates they needed for their next operation. A few hours after receiving their requests I would mail them the information they needed and later, when I had that capability, map overlays.

I told all MACV advisors and SOG teams on my mailing list to spread the word, but that it was not to get back up to MACV headquarters. They kept their word, and while I was never "tapped on the shoulder" for this activity, I was eventually put under house arrest for "stealing" \$187,000 worth of equipment and supplies from Saigon Port. After the Criminal Investigation Division officers left me, I quickly made my way to the J2's office, and he had the investigation cancelled.

Why were our men in the field facing the enemy on an almost daily basis not given all of the intelligence available? Many lives were lost—including Vietnamese and our allies-because of someone's decision in an "ivory tower" not to give one or more men on each team clearances and access to read the intelligence, destroy it and then act on it. How many good men did we lose?

MSG HOWARD A. DANIEL III, USA Ret.

Dunn Loring, Va.

'Improving Officer Evaluations'

■ When I read the "Improving Officer Evaluations" letter to the editor in the May issue of ARMY, I was reminded of a humorous incident that occurred when about 45 other colonels and I were selected for brigadier general (BG) in the spring of 1975. We attended what at that time was "charm school" for newly selected BGs in the Pentagon. For three days we were briefed by the Army staff on current and future plans and how we were expected to behave as generals. The deputy chief of staff for personnel at that time was LTG Harold (Hal) G. Moore, who started his briefing by describing certain precautions that we as new generals needed to be aware of.

"Now that you are going to be gen-

erals," he said, "you will be expected to act with more decorum and dignity than perhaps many of you have in the past. For example, if someone brings an absolutely nutty idea to you for action and you realize immediately the idea won't fly, as colonels you might and probably would dismiss it with a simple bull ——! Now that you are going to be generals, the expected response should be something more subtle, more in keeping with what the Army expects among its generals. Instead of a blunt bull ----, as general officers you need to substitute that with a word like incredible."

As LTG Moore continued his briefing, he announced in an almost confidential and you-are-among-the-first-to-know whisper, "After many months of study and analysis, we have developed and recently approved a new version of the Army Officer Efficiency Report that will ensure a more accurate and comprehensive evaluation of an officer's performance and potential."

Moore had hardly gotten the words out of his mouth when an incredulous voice from the middle of the group of soon-to-be-generals hollered out, "Incredible!" We couldn't stop laughing, and neither could Hal Moore, who, having realized he'd lost it, just waved his hand and left the stage.

MG GUY S. MELOY, USA RET. Georgetown, Texas

Ranger Uniforms

■ The picture that accompanies the May "News Call" article "Coalition Will Stay the Course in Afghanistan" has 1-75 Ranger Regiment NCOs wearing MultiCam uniforms with Sta-Brite badges and full-color unit patches for their ceremony. I haven't checked the regulations on this, but I think it looks great. It takes me back to the uniforms from the World War II era, when the Army had similar standards in garrison. When we first came out with the Velcro patches, I remember making the same comment.

I think Army leadership should look at options like this when making uniform decisions. Simple changes to the presentation of current uniforms in garrison with badges and patches that are already in the inventory will boost unit morale while keeping the cost to soldiers and the Army at a minimum. Once again, Rangers Lead the Way.

JOE SCHOTZKO

Fort Campbell, Ky.

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