

# DEADEYE DISPATCH



Official Newsletter of the 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Fall, 2006



## Denver Reunion Big Success - SLC Eyed for 2007

The first reunion of the new 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association was held in Denver in July and was viewed by organizers as a huge success. Over 500 attended the gathering, which included a large contingent from the 96th Regional Readiness Command.

The 2007 gathering of the 96th Infantry Deadeye Association has been scheduled for July 24-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This event will bring together all Deadeyes--from the WWII 96th Infantry Division to today's 96th Regional Readiness Command--for an event filled with good times, a celebration of our history and the treasured friendships we all share.

### **Salt Lake City: Home of the 96th**

Salt Lake City is a great place to visit, combining all the action of a great city with the adventure and scenery of the mountains. Downtown Salt Lake offers over 100 restaurants, the opera, the symphony, museums and a wealth of shopping possibilities. There's always something fun to do. Salt



*DEADEYES UNITED - PAST AND PRESENT... Current Deadeye Col Jack Skeen and William Hill, veteran of Co. M, 382nd Infantry Regiment that served in Okinawa, enjoy Mountain Quest's Family Day at the Denver Federal Reserve Center in July. (Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Liana Mayo)*

Lake City is also the home of the 96th Regional Readiness Command based at Fort Douglas. With Fort Douglas just up the road, you can bet that today's Deadeyes will make sure that the red carpet is rolled out for our WWII vets and their families.

### **Reunion Headquarters**

This year's event will be held at the

Red Lion Hotel conveniently located in downtown Salt Lake City. The Red Lion is a first class hotel with all the amenities you'd expect, along with excellent shuttle service to and from the airport and other downtown locations such as the new Gateway shopping/entertainment area. On-site dining, exceptional city and mountain views, an outdoor pool, fitness

center, free parking and more provide the comfort and convenience you'll need while visiting Salt Lake City. Best of all, the negotiated group rates will be reasonable and affordable.

### **Deadeyes...READY!**

The 2007 gathering is already shaping up to be a fun and memorable experience for all Deadeyes and their families. The preliminary event schedule provided in this issue of the Dispatch features some of the traditional favorites along with some impressive new events and tour selections. All you need do now is talk to your family and friends to make sure that you and your guests have the dates reserved on your calendars.

### **Watch for Registration Info.**

The Spring 2007 edition of the Deadeye Dispatch will have all the information you'll need to plan your trip to the Salt Lake City reunion. Included will be the complete reunion schedule, tours/activities information, hotel reservation information and the forms you'll need to complete so that you can register.

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## "Deadeye" Veterans Honor Fallen Comrades

By Cindy Otis  
Command Reporter,  
96th Public Affairs Office

**DENVER, Colorado**--It was an emotional morning for veterans of the 96th Infantry Division. As part of a weeklong reunion in Denver, Colorado, former "Deadeyes" from across the country gathered to remember their fallen comrades at a special Memorial Service.

The veterans, most of whom fought in World War II, tearfully listened to the songs sung by a trio of men, recalling both the happy and the bitter experiences.

For 96th veteran Peter Young, the music reminded him of his fellow soldiers who died in Okinawa. "It's hard to dredge up all of those memories, I lost a lot of comrades in that war. I feel like this is a small way I can remember and honor them."

The highlight of the Memorial Service was a speech delivered by Sgt. Andrew Hall, Charlie

Company, 244th Engineers, grandson of "Deadeye" Charles W. Cole. Stressing the importance of past and present Deadeyes, Hall detailed the significant history of the 96th Infantry Division, Regional Support Command, and Regional Readiness Command.

"Time does not stand still, and neither have the soldiers of the 96th. Since September 11, Deadeye soldiers have been mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, supporting homeland security, and have provided communications and security support to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. The Global War on Terrorism has seen 6,200 Deadeye soldiers in over 55 units mobilized and deployed around the globe."

Sgt. Hall also discussed the future of the Deadeyes. "While no one can see what the future holds for the 96th RRC and its soldiers, Americans can sleep soundly knowing that these rough men and women stand ready to meet their country's call. For they are now

and always shall be: DEADEYES! READY!"

As the grandson of a 96th Infantry Division veteran, Hall was honored to be a part of the ceremony. "It was important for me to be able to speak to members of the Association. I felt really close to my grandfather today. I've always admired him, and he's been my hero. Losing him last summer was extremely difficult, but I am so honored to be a part of his Deadeye history."

Incoming President of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association, Maj. Gen. (Retired) Jim Collins, former Commanding General, 96th Regional Readiness Command, was excited to bring together the 96th veterans with the current soldiers during the reunion. "I think this reunion really helped the WWII veterans realize how much their history means to the 96th RRC and how much the 96th RRC soldiers are doing in the Global War on terrorism."



*SGT Hall is greeted by Col. Adele Connell in Denver last July.*

At the end of the service, a bugler played Taps, a haunting melody that evokes memories of life as a soldier. The Memorial Service was just one of the many events that week uniting the 96th soldiers from World War II and the soldiers now serving in the 96th RRC.

See SGT Hall's address on page 11

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DISPATCH

# TAPS.....

Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us



Mack Ashby  
By wife JoAnn

Herman R. Batson  
August 2, 2004  
By wife, Francis

George Blair  
Co. C, 382nd Inf.  
May 21, 2006  
Iowa City, IA  
By Bernita Kleinschmidt

Loren Brinkmeyer  
Co. B, 381st Inf.  
El Dorado, KS  
By US Postal Service

Lavon Dean Burtis  
Imperial, NE  
Co. I, 382nd Infantry  
96th Infantry Division  
October 2, 2005  
By wife, Roma Jean Burtis

Garland (Gar) Comins  
September 18, 2006  
By newspaper clipping  
from Bill Cooper, 7th Inf. Div.

Albert Crook  
Portland, ME  
By US Postal Service

Ray Emmons  
Co. K, 383rd Infantry  
July 25, 2006  
By wife, Beverly Emmons

Lt. Col. John S. Irons  
Crystal, MN  
August 26, 2004  
By Mrs. John Irons

Ernest E. Janssen  
Blackstone, IL  
Co. C, 381st Med Bn  
96th Infantry Division  
May 31, 2005  
By wife Alice J. Janssen  
Also by Alvis Harrell

Joseph E. Kellogg  
Co. E 381st Infantry  
May 20, 2006  
Thornton, CO  
By Inez Kellogg

Rodney Larson  
Co. B, 382nd Inf  
August 6, 2006  
By John Iseli, Jr, Co. B, 382nd Inf.

Leon H. Mannell  
Hdq. Company, 381st Inf. Reg.  
February 20, 2006  
By wife, JoAnn Mannell

Michael Robert Martz  
Yorkville, IL  
Co H, 383rd Infantry  
96th Infantry Division  
April 12, 2005  
By wife, Geraldine Martz

Dale N. McComas  
Co. H 38th Regiment  
July 28, 2006  
Monroe, Iowa  
By Alfred H. Weiss  
Teaneck NJ  
Co. H 381st Regiment

Charles F. Preusser  
Hq. Co., 383rd Infantry  
96th Infantry Division  
June 30, 2001  
By wife, Rita Preusser

Sylvester W. Roedl  
Mason, IL  
Co. D, 383rd Infantry  
96th Infantry Division  
March 30, 2006  
By wife, Louise Roedl

Chester O. Rud  
Montevideo, MN  
Co. D, 381st Infantry  
96th Infantry Division  
December 28, 2005  
By wife, Maryln Rud

Ray Shinkle  
Springfield, MO  
By US Postal Service  
Leonard Soeocinski  
(name changed to  
Secrest after WWII)  
362nd Field Art. Bn.  
August 10, 2006  
By wife Mari Ann

Robert (Bob) Super  
Co. L, 381st Inf.  
April 2, 2006  
By wife, Mary

Carl H. Weber  
Co. L, 381st Reg  
96th Infantry Division  
July 14, 2005  
By wife, Verna  
also by Alvis Harrell

Cecil L. Williams  
Co. F, 383rd Infantry  
June 3, 2006  
By family

Bob Wolf  
Co. A, 381st Infantry  
December 2005  
By Hans Kaufmann,  
Co. A, 381st. Inf

Auxiliary Members  
Norma Barth  
Toledo, OH  
By US Postal Service

Maude Breland  
Langston, AL  
By US Postal Service

Ruth Shinkle  
Springfield, MO  
By US Postal Service

## In Loving Memory...

Margaret M. Rhodes honors her brother, PFC Charles J. Rhodes, 383K, 96th Infantry Division



We lived in a small town, Altamont, Il. Attended grade and high school. For Charles, after one year in high school, he was needed on Grandpa Rhodes' farm where there were two harness horses to pull the plow across the fields.

In 1940, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Our brother, Francis, enlisted in the 261st Ord. Maint. Co., US Army. Our brother, John, enlisted in the US Army Air Corps and trained to be a Flight Engineer on the B-29s.

Although Charles was farming, Uncle Sam called him to help protect our country. He was inducted in the Army and sent to serve in the 96th Infantry Division.

On Charles' return from the South Pacific, he helped to protect our neighbors and community. He got his GED. He was given dinners to honor his accomplishments, as in getting an organization established in Vandalia to help returning veterans.

In 1958, Minor Butler of St. Louis, Mo., wanted to get together with his buddies. With the help of his daughter, 103 buddies met for the first reunion. In 1959, 223 met in Chicago. They brought their wives and children. An auxiliary was organized with the help of Norma Bauer. In the following years, they have met at different cities all around the country.

In 1971, St. Elmo celebrated their Centennial. Charles joined the "Brothers of the Brush," wondering if his buddies would recognize him. He worked for the post office, the postmaster was in the hospital, so Charles did not get to Denver that year. Each year he looked forward to attending the 96th Infantry Division Reunion.

By the time he was 65, his steps began to falter as he went along the way. The Lou Gehrig disease had entered his body, deteriorating all his muscles. No matter what happened to him, he never lost his sense of humor. He just continued on down the road, loving every neighbor as himself.

### A Note from Glendoris Cole...

The loss of a member of our "Deadeye" family presents a difficult time for the immediate family. The Board of Directors would like for a member of the family to notify me so we may support you in your time of need.

This is my contact information: Glendoris Cole, 1323 Park Avenue #18, Canon City, CO 81212. My telephone number is 719-269-3822 and my e-mail is [glen96th@aol.com](mailto:glen96th@aol.com).

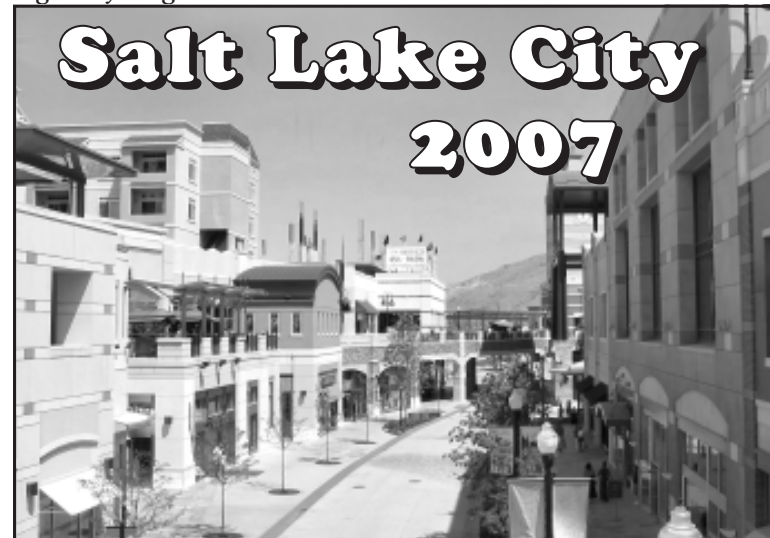
Blessings on you this day - Glendoris Cole, Past President of the Auxiliary

Our Taps information comes from a variety of sources, including emails, notes from family and friends and returned mail from the U.S. Postal Service. We apologize for any information that may be incorrect or incomplete.

To submit a name for Taps, please contact one of the following:

Scott Buffington  
Email: [scott@mainstreetnews.com](mailto:scott@mainstreetnews.com)  
PO Box 908  
Jefferson, GA 30549  
Phone: 706-367-5233

Don Dencker  
Email: [dizzydon@aol.com](mailto:dizzydon@aol.com)  
128 N. Musket Ridge Dr  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
Phone: 608-837-7479



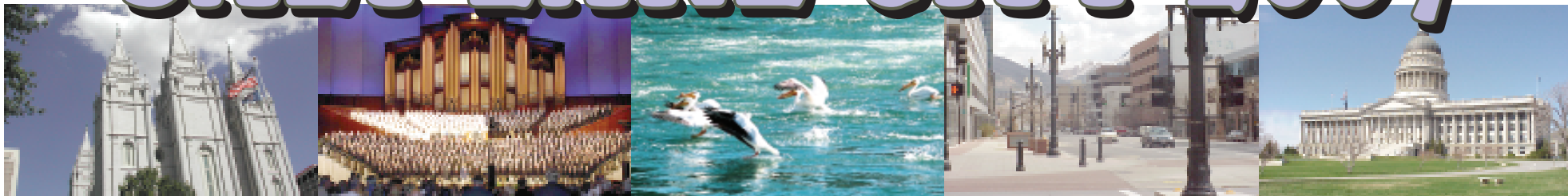
# Salt Lake City 2007

**Make plans now to attend the  
96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division  
Deadeye Association**

**Reunion**

**Salt Lake City, Utah · July 24-28, 2007  
Watch for details!**

# SALT LAKE CITY 2007



The reunion committee is already hard at work planning the 2007 Salt Lake City event. Although it's still early, the preliminary schedule is already taking shape and is provided here so that you can get an idea of what's being planned and how much is in store for you, your family and friends.

Of course, some changes may be expected as events are finalized over the winter, but based on what we already know about the possibilities, you can plan on a first class event with plenty of opportunities for both relaxation and group activities.

The annual gathering of Deadeyes is a great opportunity to see old friends, support the men and women of today's 96<sup>th</sup> and share some quality time with family and friends. We hope to see you there!

### Event Highlights:

The 2007 Reunion is scheduled to begin on Tuesday with an exciting new pre-reunion event: **The Days of '47 Parade is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, July 24.** This parade is third largest in the nation and it celebrates the arrival of the first pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley. Each year the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command participates in this parade. This year special arrangements are being made to secure bleacher seating for 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division vets and guests who'd like to get a bird's-eye view of the festivities. (We may even have a limited number of spots available on a military truck for those WWII vets who'd like to ride in the parade and accompany the marching contingent of 96<sup>th</sup> RRC soldiers led by MG Peter S. Cooke, Commanding General of the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC.) Following the parade, everyone will be invited to Fort Douglas for a Family Day that includes food and entertainment. Fort Douglas is a classic frontier cavalry post built in the 1870s.

If you remember the 2006 banquet hosted by the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC in Denver, you know how impressive it was. **The 2007 Banquet** will be even more so as the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC plans to host it in the Grand Hall of Salt Lake City's famous Union Pacific Depot. The Depot is an historic treasure, a 1908 example of French renaissance architecture with original mural and stained glass artwork depicting Utah's history. In this setting, the Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> banquet will definitely be an evening to remember.

**The Memorial Service** is always an important part of the annual reunion and in 2007 it will be even more so as plans are to hold the service at Fort Douglas with the spectacular Wasatch Mountains as the backdrop for a classic Retreat Ceremony around the flag pole on the 140-year-old parade grounds. The setting will be uniquely beautiful and, as always, the Memorial Service will be a moving, fitting tribute to those who gave so much in defense of freedom. Following the service, the Division Association will host a Dutch Oven Barbecue under the stars. Upon returning to the hotel, there will be an ice cream social and an opportunity to join the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC families for dancing and refreshments until midnight if you want to keep going that late! All combined, this will provide the perfect closing event for the 2007 reunion.

## Memory Books Available

Memory Books of the 2006 reunion are available from Classic Reunions. The cost is \$25.00 plus postage. They are available by calling 1-800-334-6388 or emailing [Clareunion@aol.com](mailto:Clareunion@aol.com). Their web site is [www.classic-reunions.com](http://www.classic-reunions.com)



## 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Reunion - Salt Lake City 2007 Preliminary Calendar of Events\*

### Pre-Reunion Activities

#### Monday, July 23

Time: TBD Early Bird Registration for those arriving to participate in Tuesday events  
Evening on your own

### Pre-Reunion Activities

#### Tuesday, July 24

10:00 am Days of '47 Parade featuring 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
--Bleacher seating will be available  
Noon Family Day at Fort Douglas  
--members/families of the 96<sup>th</sup> are invited as guests of the RRC  
--Lunch, entertainment and activities  
3:00-7:00 pm Early Bird Registration  
Evening on your own

### Pre-Reunion Activities

#### Wednesday, July 25

Time TBD Optional tours to be announced by Armed Forces Reunions  
Time TBD Registration/USO Room/History Room  
Evening on your own

#### Thursday, July 26

9:00 am-4:00 pm Optional tours to be announced by Armed Forces Reunions  
Time TBD Registration/USO Room/History Room  
7:00pm-10:00pm Welcome Deadeyes!  
--Opening event hosted by 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association

#### Friday, July 27

Time TBD Registration/USO Room/History Room  
8:30-10:30 am Board of Directors Meeting  
9:00-11:00 am Good Morning, Deadeyes!  
--Brunch hosted by the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association  
1:00-3:00 pm 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division General Membership Meeting  
1:00-5:00 pm *Family Program (For families of active duty personnel)*  
--Hosted by the Soldier and Family Readiness Support Group of the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC  
6:00 pm-12 am Dining Out  
--Gala banquet hosted by the RRC in the Great Hall of the historic Union Pacific Depot

#### Saturday, July 28

Time TBD Registration/USO Room/History Room  
8:00am-4:00pm *See above Family program info/followed by 7:00 pm Family Volunteer Awards Dinner*  
9:00 am Optional tours to be announced by Armed Forces Reunions  
2:00-4:30 pm Shuttles to Fort Douglas  
3:00 -5:00 pm 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum Tours, Fort Douglas  
3:00-4:00 pm Mass, Fort Douglas Chapel  
5:00 pm Memorial Service, Fort Douglas  
6:00 pm Barbeque, Fort Douglas  
8:30 pm Last Call: Return to hotel for refreshments  
9:30 pm *Music/Dancing hosted by the Soldier and Family Support Group*  
*Join in progress.*

*\*Italicized items refer to those events scheduled specifically for members of the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC Soldier and Family Support Group and relate to special training they will receive. The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division reunion attendees may attend if they are interested in the work of this group, but are under no obligation to do so.*

# Denver Reunion A Huge Success

Major General Jim Collins (Ret.), President  
96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association



The reunion in Denver this past July was a huge success! I believe that most Deadeye Association members were not only very pleased but surprised that the reunion exceeded their expectations. Perhaps the highlight of the reunion was the Banquet with the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command. Officially known as a "Dining Out," the soldiers from the 96<sup>th</sup> wore their dress uniforms and the event included some great military traditions. MG Peter Cooke, Commanding General of the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command, and Colonel John Smith, Commander of the 651<sup>st</sup> Area Support Group, were the hosts for the evening. A color guard posted the colors, we toasted our leaders and families, and we recognized our comrades who could not be with us in a touching and traditional ceremony. We were entertained by a very moving re-enactment of the battle one of our Medal of Honor winners endured. MG Cooke presented a new movie about the history of the 96<sup>th</sup>. Our World War II veterans stood for a special recognition by the 400+ attendees. It was a grand evening.

The good news is we are going to do it again in Salt Lake City during our reunion in July 2007. For those who attended in 2006, I know they will be back to again share an evening of great military tradition with soldiers and families who share a common heritage - we are Deadeyes. For those who could not attend in 2006, please mark your calendar for 27 July 2007.

I am very pleased to be your Association president for this next year. I am excited about the future of the Association and am very optimistic that we can grow the association to include the soldiers and families who served after World War II. The Board of Directors has taken up the challenge to not only grow the Association but to do more than what we have done in the past. This new association was started under the leadership of Tom Roby. He has a lot of prior experience in leading an association and he has a strong interest to see the history of the 96<sup>th</sup> preserved for future generations. All of us can be thankful for Tom's leadership and support of the Association over the last two years. The transition is complete and we are positioned for the future.

The Association now has three objectives: Provide camaraderie for all those who have served in the 96<sup>th</sup>, from WWI to the present; preserve the history of the 96<sup>th</sup>, and provide support to the soldiers and families of the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC who are still on duty. I believe these three objectives gives the Association added relevance and a broader appeal for members and future members.

A major campaign for the next 3 years is membership. The major target group are all those who have served since WWII. But there are soldiers on duty today who want to be part of our association and there are second and third generation families who want to belong as well. Given this diversity of age groups and affiliations, I think the Association is well positioned to offer something of value to each of them.

As the Dispatch is being prepared to go to press, I would like to use this publication to thank Scott Buffington and his staff for preparing and printing the Dispatch. He volunteers his time and offers the services of his printing company at no cost to the Association. His generosity and dedication to the Association's goals are commendable.

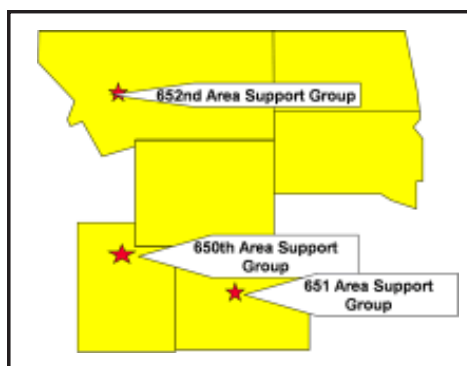
## About the 96th Regional Readiness Command

The United States Army 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command is 7,000 soldiers who live and work in the many communities of the upper plains states and the inter-mountain west.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command is a general officer command, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. It has Command and Control over Army Reserve units in a six-state area (Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming).

The 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command has thousands of citizen-soldiers in these six states [as of 1999 96<sup>th</sup> RSC had approximately 7,000 soldiers serving in about 100 units, located in 33 cities].

The 96<sup>th</sup> RRC is the largest geographical command in the continental United States. The six states encompass more than 572,000 square miles.




For more on the 96th RRC, go to [www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/96rsc.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/96rsc.htm)



# New 96th Inf. Deadeye Assn. Moving Forward

Tom Roby, Past President  
96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association



Ever since we met as a Reunion Association in Arlington in 2005, your elected officers have continued to make our new organization a success. In looking back, we all feel that the Arlington meeting was a fitting climax to the many years of meeting as a reunion association. The arrangers should be mighty proud of their efforts.

In the months following that July '04 meeting, we met once on a face-to-face basis in Denver to scope out the sight for the July '05 meeting. Then, we met three more times on a telephone conference arrangement for the whole Board to carry on the business of the Deadeye Association. We lost a member or two of the new Board and replaced them. We had an active membership program devised by the Committee, and an orderly approach to signing up more soldiers from the RRC is underway.

The annual meeting held in Denver in July of '05 was a huge success. The RRC has a large contingent based in Denver and they organized an event for their families to meet at the same time as we did. While our annual meeting committee, working with the AFRI

did most of the arranging for our group, the RRC program chairs included us in their "Dining Out" experience - with over 500 in attendance at that banquet. The program was well planned and highly motivating. We all enjoyed it. There was also a tour of the Reserve facility just outside of Denver. In all, we are off to a flying start to develop an outstanding organization composed of the original Deadeyes, their families, the soldiers currently serving in the 96<sup>th</sup> and their families and members of the public.

*Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your President during the past year.*  
- Tom Roby

In Denver, we elected Jim Collins (MG, Ret) as our President for the coming year. Gen. Jim has a great devotion to our organization and seeing to it that our mission is accomplished in the years ahead. He is a proven leader, a man of vision who has a commitment to perpetuate the legacies of our accomplishments at Leyte, Okinawa and all of the subsequent engagements in which the 96<sup>th</sup> RRC soldiers, wearing our double-diamond patch, have been and will be involved.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your President during the past year.

## Insignias of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Units during World War II



387th Infantry Regiment



382nd Infantry Regiment



383rd Infantry Regiment



321st Medical Battalion



4th & 5th Infantry, 96th Division Artillery



321st Engineer Combat Battalion



381st Field Artillery Bn.



382nd Field Artillery Bn.



383rd Field Artillery Bn.



96th Field Artillery Bn.



96th Military Police Platoon



96th Signal Company



96th Ordnance Company



96th Quartermaster Company



96th Reconnaissance Troop



96th Division Band

# Denver Piper Honors Men of the 96th



The following article originally appeared in "The Red Fez," a Shrine newsletter based in Colorado. The author, Mr. Tony Owens, was one of the pipers with the El Jebel Pipe Band that played at the memorial service at our Denver reunion in July. His reflections on the 96th are appreciated. Tony's father has a unique story: He was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and also witnessed the Japanese surrender from the deck of the USS Haddo submarine in Tokyo Bay in 1945. Certainly, his father was one of the few Americans to witness both of these events.

**Captain Seymour W. Terry**  
*"launched a 1-man assault... fearlessly ran across 100 yards of fire-swept terrain..."*

**Tech Sgt. Beaufort T. Anderson**  
*"displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty..."*

**Pvt. 1st Class Clarence B. Craft**  
*"as he stood atop the hill, he furiously hurled a total of 2 cases of grenades into a main trench and other positions on the reverse slope of Hen Hill... With great daring, the intrepid fighter..."*

**Pvt. 1st Class Edward J. Moskala**  
*"With utter disregard for his personal safety, he charged 40 yards through withering, grazing fire and wiped out 2 machinegun nests with well-aimed grenades and deadly accurate fire from his automatic rifle..."*

These words are but brief memorials to the courage of four men that faced the enemy without concern for personal safety, each willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and those they loved. These particular men were members of the 96th Infantry Division during WWII. They fought in the Philippines and at Okinawa. These four men were awarded our country's highest recognition, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The El Jebel Pipe Band played at the reunion for the men and families of the 96th on July 29. I find myself struggling to find the words to express what an honor it was for us to stand at attention before the remaining soldiers of this distinguished Band of Brothers. After we had played the

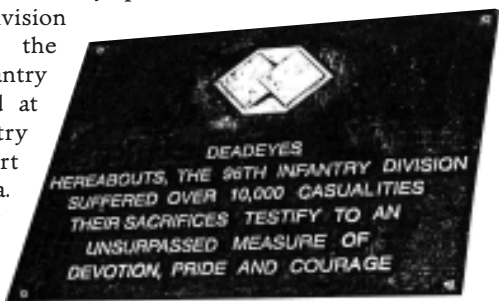
pipes and drums at the memorial service, many of these men came up to us to thank us for being there. I could barely utter the words that it was not them that should be thanking us... it is we, who with deepest conviction, thank them. I looked out at the 98 men that are still with us, bent with age, but pride still gleaming in their eyes. I could not help but wonder how many of those brave

men standing before me might be called home before the next reunion. As we drove away from the hotel, each member of the band knew that he had done his very best to pay but a small tribute to those that had given so much.



## Heritage Fund Monument Appeal

Deadeyes, family members and friends, your contribution is needed so that we may place a 96th Infantry Division Monument at the National Infantry Museum located at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. A 96th Infantry Division Monument, at this very appropriate location, would join the monuments of other famous Infantry units of the United States Army. Our proposed granite monument would complement other 96th Infantry Division Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery, The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and at the site of Camp Adair, Oregon.



The proposed monument would have text honoring the memory of our comrades killed on Leyte, Philippines and Okinawa, Japan and all Deadeyes who fought with valor and distinction to defeat Imperial Japan. This monument would also have inscribed in granite our double diamond patch, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge.

This project is being directed by John Reed, Association Historian, with assistance by Don Dencker. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be contributed to permit monument construction in 2007. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Please make your check payable to:

**The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association with the notation "Heritage Fund."**

Mail to: Mike McCafferty, Treasurer, 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association, PO Box 581254, Salt Lake City, UT 84158

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_

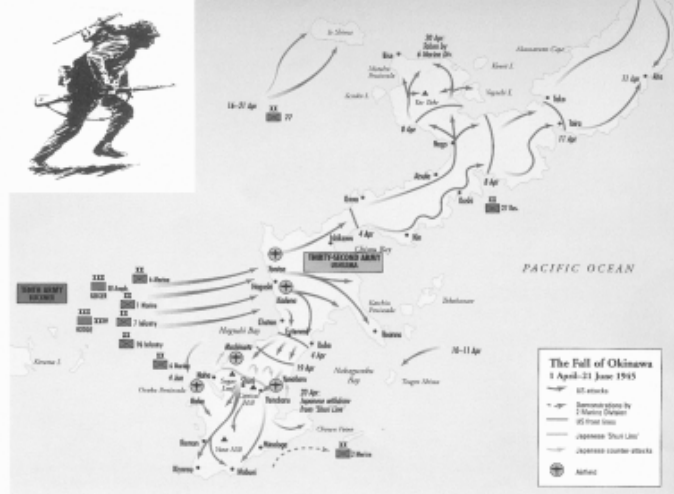


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## Battle of Okinawa June 15 - 22, 2007

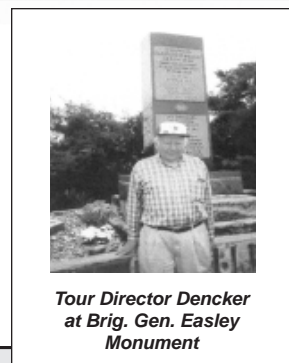
Deadeye Don Dencker, Company L, 382<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division will lead a 2007 Battle of Okinawa Tour oriented toward Army action during the Battle. Special emphasis will be directed toward sites of interest to Deadeye veterans, family and friends. The tour includes round trip air transportation from San Francisco, baggage handling and transfers, hotel accommodation on Okinawa, private sight-seeing coach, tour director, entrance fees, breakfast and lunch every day and welcoming dinner for \$2,800 per person.



Don led highly successful tours of Okinawa in 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005. Places the tour will visit include major battlefield sites such as: Cactus Ridge, Kakazu Ridge, Tombstone Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge and Needle Rock, Zebra Hill, Dick Hill, Conical Hill, Yaeju Dake escarpment (Big Apple) and Yuza Dake escarpment.

Corner of Hell," Okinawa today is a delightfully colorful, safe and friendly place to visit. You will be amazed at the changes that have taken place since 1945.

*(The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is not involved with this tour.)*



**Tour Director Dencker at Brig. Gen. Easley Monument**

The tour will also visit the Brig. Gen. Claudius Easley and Col. Edwin May Monuments at the Gen. Buckner Monument Site, attend ceremonies at the Torii Station Army Base, visit the Cornerstone of Peace Monument where the names of all who died during the Battle of Okinawa are inscribed, including 14,005 killed from the United States. Also visited will be the interesting Japanese Underground Headquarters and the restored Shuri Castle.

*This tour is organized by Valor Tours, Ltd. who have conducted battlefield tours since 1977. For a brochure with details of the 2007 Battle of Okinawa Tour, call or write to:*

**Valor Tours, Ltd**  
 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965  
 1-800-842-4504

**Don Dencker**  
 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
 1-608-837-7479

Once described as a " Ghastly



# Today's Deadeyes... News from the 96th Regional Readiness Command

## 423rd Keeps 'em Moving!

By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster



Moving cargo and servicemembers is a major element of the transportation mission in Iraq.

Soldiers with the 423rd Transportation Company, stationed at Q-West Base Complex (QBC), are new to the transportation mission in Iraq but know they are a key element to supporting servicemembers and civilians in the northern part of the country.

"We are working around the clock," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Hollins, a truck master for the 423rd. "We're trying to get the feel of how things work and we are doing a good job at it."

Hollins instilled the idea of hard work into the operations section of the company. He knew his soldiers would have a demanding workload while they were learning the systems on QBC.

"There were high expectations," Hollins said. "We had big shoes to fill, but we're succeeding in doing that."

Success is hard to measure but Soldiers in the 423rd see their hard work making a difference in the job they do.

"This is a learning experience," said

train," said 2nd Lt. Rebecca Pinyan, platoon leader for the 423rd's 2nd platoon. "You have limited time to ask the right questions and soak up the knowledge, but our soldiers are motivated, which helps."

Motivation allowed the unit to come together during their training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"It took time to get into a rhythm," said Spc. Ben Watson, a transit movement request clerk for the 423rd. "We started off pretty slow. We have unit integrity though. Everybody is working together as a team."

Watson said mobilization was a great experience for the unit and allowed the soldiers to bond. A large group of soldiers trained to be truck drivers while the rest freshened up their warrior skills at the mobilization station. Ninety percent of the unit is cross-leveled, explained Maj. Roger Uhe, the 423rd commander.

"It's pretty exceptional [what we did]," said Watson. "It's a good unit. We have done well starting from zero."

Uhe reiterated Watson's sentiments

enough about the greatness his people have exuded during mobilization and now during their mission in Iraq.

"It's redeeming to watch this company develop into what it has. All different walks of life, backgrounds and areas of expertise come together for a common mission," Uhe explained. "The 423rd has been playing from behind the eight ball. The expectations were lower but we have strong individual attributes. We are fortunate to have soldiers with high levels of professionalism."



Uhe knows the stakes are high on the roads of Iraq, but professionalism is a key characteristic to good soldiers. He said professionals never take on a job with the intention to fail, Uhe and his Soldiers don't aspire to fail.

"The 423rd is very serendipitous," Uhe said. "The enthusiasm of the soldiers is a positive element and because of that this unit doesn't belong to me or the first sergeant. It belongs to the troops."

The 423rd took soldiers from ten states and meshed to accomplish a common goal. They know they have a long road ahead but they are open to making the best of their time and the deployment.

"I want the soldiers to make the most of their Army experience," said Pinyan.

Most importantly, they would like the chance to prove they can do the job well.

"Platoon sergeants are making the missions happen no matter what," Hollins said. "In the words of Ray Charles, we'll make it do what it do, baby."

The 423rd has succeeded in doing that.

about the unit, and explained the uniqueness of their situation.

"It's been like drinking from a fire hose," Uhe said. "It's been a lot of work, work to get up to speed in a combat environment is different than a garrison environment. I'm satisfied with how the soldiers are embracing the opportunity, the opportunity to make the right decisions."

Uhe said he is proud of the work his soldiers have done. He couldn't say



Staff Sgt. Michael Turk, a former Marine and combat logistics patrol commander for the 423rd. "We learn as we go. Having the knowledge you can do it and getting people back safe is the most important part."

Being new to QBC and the 71st Corps Support Battalion inspired the 423rd to be methodical while training with the unit they were replacing.

"Being the new unit is hectic because we know we have limited time to

## OpFor

(Opposition Forces)

Spc. Travis Spychala from the 367th Eng. Bn, disguised as an insurgent has a good shot on an enemy target.

FORT McCOY, Wis. — Years ago, it was not always as dangerous for soldiers in support units such as the medical teams and the water purifiers and the fuel haulers as it is today. In today's war, the battlefield can be anywhere at anytime. The enemy not only attacks our forces but their own countrymen as well. It is just as dangerous to conduct traffic in Iraq as it is to search an insurgent-filled area. There are more civilians on the battlefield. They must be handled in a manner that is sensitive to their culture without endangering their lives and ours and there are more enemy prisoners of war that must be treated according to regulations of the Geneva Convention.

While it is important that soldiers are proficient in their military occupational specialties (MOS), proficiency in combat readiness tasks is life-saving. Opposition Forces, headed by the 367th Engineer Battalion from St. Cloud, Minn., is here to keep units on their toes by behaving as the enemy.

The mission of Opposition Forces is to replicate the current operating environment of Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom. The 367th worked in conjunction with the 85th Training Support Division to identify the necessary scenarios to create a real world environment, explained Lt. Col. Steven Geisen, Commander of the 367th. They also received leadership training during a 10-day leadership validation exercise at Camp Ripley. Collectively with their training and real world experience from one year spent in Afghanistan, 160 soldiers have brought their expertise to Patriot Warrior.

Divided up into four platoons, they are camped outside of each forward operating base in less than desirable living conditions. Before each mission they disguise themselves as civilians in turbans and Arab clothing for the real effect of dealing with villagers. In some scenarios, they will even play Arab music as a distraction.

"We want the Soldiers to get an idea of how the enemy thinks," said Spc. Toran Thornton of the 367th.

OpFor will either play insurgents, civilians on the battlefield, enemy prisoners of war, or casualties. If a member of the blue force, which are the units reacting to OpFor, are killed, the proper medical procedures will take place. The same applies to the *insurgents* or *civilians* if they are killed or injured. OpFor was not allowed to take prisoners but if captured, were held for up to 24 hours by a military police unit until release was approved.

Ambushes are coordinated between the commander of each unit and the observation control team what type of training they want to have such as convoy operations or reacting to small arms fire. The OCT then coordinates those requests with OpFor and random attacks are scheduled. "They may know what types of attacks they will encounter but they never know when," said Staff Sgt. Duane Pierce of the 367th Eng Battalion, Bravo Company and non-commissioned officer in charge.

By Spc. Mekonya Cheefus, 318th Public Affairs Detachment

The MILES system or the Multi Integrated Laser Engagement System is used to alarm soldiers or the insurgency when someone has been shot or killed during an ambush. A halo is worn on the kevlar and a harness is attached to the load-bearing vest. If a soldier has been shot, the MILES goes off to make a high pitched sound. If a soldier is killed, it will sound more like a fire alarm going off.

One medical unit, the 307th Medical Company (Dental Services) requested that OpFor attack them frequently. They endured 50 percent casualties however were successful in killing five of the six 'insurgents' who ambushed them with small arms fire and improvised explosive devices.

"We conducted more convoys than any other medical unit out here," Col. Robert Erlach, operations officer and comprehensive dentist of the 307th Med, proudly stated.

"It was important to train on warrior tasks here, MOS training was secondary. We also treated over 2000 Panamanians during last year's annual training in Panama for the New Horizons training exercise there so we are pretty proficient in what we do," said Erlach who works as a general dentist in private practice as a civilian.

After an attack, the OCT conducts an after-action report with the unit to inform them on how well they performed. Sometimes the observation control member will ask OpFor to join in to give feedback.

"It is good for the units to understand how well they performed," said Staff Sgt. Mick Glackler of the 367th. "Some units need more help than others but other units anticipate our attack which keeps us on our toes."

"Overall, this exercise has been good for my soldiers," said Geisen. "They understand the level of importance it is for their counterparts to receive high quality of training and it means a lot to them that they can be the facilitators of that training."

(Spc. Mekonya Cheefus is a member of the 318th Public Affairs Detachment, a reserve unit from Forest Park, Ill. She is currently supporting the 88th Regional Readiness Command at Patriot Warrior.)



## REUNION NOTES

Things to know about  
Salt Lake City 2007

• The 2007 reunion will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on July 26 - July 30 at the Red Lion Hotel (161 W 600 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. Phone: (801) 521-7373).

• If you have problems with reservations at the Red Lion, contact Jim Judd or Carol in the sales office.

• The VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City will provide FREE wheelchair use, walker use, and on-site nurse if requested in advance. (E-mail [mewsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:mewsmith@yahoo.com))

• The Red Lion Hotel offers a FREE shuttle to and from the airport. The shuttle runs on the 1/2 hour all day and late night if preparations are made ahead of time.

• The hotel is located about four city blocks to Salt Lake's free commuter train service, TRAX. People can go to main downtown interests. If the hotel shuttle is not busy, the drivers will take the people to the tax.

• A "7-11" store and gas station is located less than a 1/2 block from hotel.

Taking Care of 96th RRC Army Reserve Families

## Soldier Readiness + Family Readiness = Mission Readiness

For every Army Reserve soldier called to serve, there is a family - likely to be a spouse and children, for sure parents, friends, and an employer who are all affected by that Soldier's call to service. More than 140,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Tens of thousands are currently deployed, now preparing for deployment or just returning from an extended period away from home. The 96th RRC has mobilized over 6,000 soldiers and currently has over 500 of them deployed. The ripple effect of mobilization and deployment touches hundreds of thousands of Americans who know, love and in some manner support our soldiers.

A 2006 study conducted by the State of Utah on nearly 1,000 Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Reserve, Air National Guard, Navy Reserve and Marine Reserve found that families were the most important reason that soldiers identified for staying in the military. In fact, those individuals who did not have family support did not stay in the Army. So, ensuring that our families are well taken care of is crucial to accomplishing our mission. Without our families, we cannot keep our soldiers.

Meeting the needs of families on the home front is the mission of the Army Reserve Family Programs (ARFP) office. Separation is never easy for the families of mobilized soldiers. The ARFP office recognizes this and offers programs and systems for families to receive information and assistance. The gateway into that information system is the Army Reserve Family Programs Portal. This web-based resource can be accessed by logging onto [www.arfp.org](http://www.arfp.org). It has been designed to give soldiers, family, friends and employers of Army Reserve soldiers an easy to use and easy to remember Web site. It provides information on mobilization/deployment, employer resources, financial readiness, and homecoming/reunions. Just click on the soldiers, family, friends and employers column.

Another great program in support of our soldier's is Operation Homefront. Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit organization that provides emergency support and morale to our military troops, the families they leave behind during deployment and

wounded warriors when they return home.

Operation Homefront can be found at [www.OperationHomefront.net](http://www.OperationHomefront.net). It offers programs in the areas of emergency services, educational services and morale programs -

that provide financial assistance to Army soldiers and their families, as their needs require. Assistance is available to all active duty soldiers and Reserve Component soldiers ordered to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days. Although sponsored by the Department of the Army, AER

Army Emergency Relief  
Attn: Donations  
200 Stovall Street, Room 5-N-13  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0600

AER's contact is Greg Mason, at 703-325-0463 or e-mail [mailto:Campaign@aerhq.org](mailto:mailto:Campaign@aerhq.org).

There are many programs and types of support available for our soldiers and their families. If you are a service member or the family of a service member, take advantage of these benefits, they are there to help you. If you are a veteran, retiree, or the family of veterans or retirees, or just a concerned citizen, there are many areas where your time and resources can be donated to benefit those who are giving so much. If you are so inclined, log on to one of the mentioned websites and volunteer or contribute to these worthwhile programs or services. Knowing that their family back home is being taken care of enables soldiers to have the peace of mind needed to focus on their war-time mission.

The Deadeye Association has established a Soldier and Family Support Fund to accept donations from Association members. The association will work with AER and Operation Home Front to allocate any funds collected for the benefit of 96th soldiers.

### Contact Information

- Army Reserve Family Programs Portal.....[www.arfp.org](http://www.arfp.org)
- Operation Homefront.....[www.OperationHomefront.net](http://www.OperationHomefront.net)
- Army Emergency Relief.....[www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org)  
Army Emergency Relief  
Attn: Donations  
200 Stovall Street, Room 5-N-13  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0600  
Contact is Greg Mason, 703-325-0463  
or [Campaign@aerhq.org](mailto:Campaign@aerhq.org).



with the goal to make a difference in the quality of life for our military families. Operation Homefront has been sensitive to integrate programs alongside those offered by other agencies and strive to achieve the largest impact with the least amount of expended resources. These offerings are continuously monitored and focused to liaison with other relief agencies. Organizers measure success by their improving the quality of life of military families.

OperationHomeFront programs and services include:

Emergency Services... Disaster Relief, Auto Repair and Donation, House and Appliance Repair, Food Assistance, Vision Care, Financial Assistance, Furniture and Household Items, Wounded Warriors, and Moving Assistance.

Education... Spouse Group Support, Counseling, and [CinChouse.com](http://CinChouse.com) (The Non-profit Community of Military Wives and Women).

Morale... ECare packages, Rallies and Events, Computers and Digital Cameras, and "The Jacey Eckhart Show."

Another long-standing assistance resource available for soldiers and their families suffering from financial hardships is the Army Emergency Relief (AER). In partnership with the Department of the Army, AER administers funds

receives no funding from the government and is not part of any government-funded compensation or assistance program. They depend on private donations to resource their assistance. All donations to AER are used to support soldiers and their families. If you are inclined to donate to AER, checks should be made payable to Army Emergency Relief or AER and mailed to:

## [www.96th-infantry-deadeyes.org](http://www.96th-infantry-deadeyes.org)



The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Assn. website, [www.96th-infantry-deadeyes.org](http://www.96th-infantry-deadeyes.org), is up and running! The site is still a work in progress but currently contains the complete Spring 2006 *Deadeye Dispatch*, reunion information and sections which include: *Deadeye Dispatch* information, Association information, service decorations awarded, Deadeye items available, links to Deadeye units. The former Association website also remains active at: [www.96th-infantry-division.com](http://www.96th-infantry-division.com).

# The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association



Scenes from the July, 2006  
Reunion in Denver, Colorado





# Deadeye History... *Our Heritage is Our Strength*

## 62nd Anniversary of the Leyte, Philippines Landing

By Don Dencker

At 10:00 AM on October 20, 1944 (A-Day) the 96th Infantry Division made the amphibious assault landing on Blue and Orange Beaches, Leyte Island, marking the return of U.S. Forces to the Philippines. Our opposition was the Japanese 16th Infantry Division, infamous for taking part in the Rape of Nanking, China and the 1942 defeat U.S. Forces on Bataan.

The landing was textbook perfect against light Japanese opposition. Deadeyes, advancing over almost impenetrable swamps (described in intelligence reports as farmland) defeated the Japanese at Tabontabon and captured strategic Catmon Hill. By October 30th, the 96th had captured their entire assigned beachhead area.

During November and early December 1944, the 96th Division destroyed the remnants of the Japanese 16th Division in the hills and jungle west of Dagami, Leyte.

Between December 6th and 10th, elements of the 96th Division combatted and destroyed Japanese paratroops who had descended upon and captured Buri airfield near Burauen, Leyte. For action during this fighting, Pvt. Ova Kelley, Company A, 382nd Infantry, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

For the Leyte Battle, sadly 514 Deadeyes were killed in action or died of wounds. Almost 500 were wounded, with a like number of disease casualties.

Deadeyes are still well remembered on Leyte, where every October 20th is celebrated as Liberation Day. Hill 120 on Blue Beach 1, where the 3rd Battalion, 382nd Infantry, landed is now the 96th Infantry Division Veterans Memorial Park. There are also four 96th Infantry Division Veterans Memorial Libraries at Jaro, Burauen, Tabontabon and Dagami, Leyte.



96th Division Memorial at Blue Beach, Leyte

## Heritage of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, 1918-2000

By John Reed



The 96th Regional Readiness Command's lineage extends back to the 96th Division of the World War I National Army. Organized in October 1918, the division was training in South Carolina when the war ended, and was demobilized before it could go overseas.

The 96th Division was reconstituted at cadre strength in the Organized Reserves at Portland, Oregon, in 1921. It provided a home for ROTC officers and retired NCOs in the Pacific Northwest to train part-time. During the mid-late 1930s "OR" personnel supported Citizens Military Training and Civilian Conservation Corps camps.

The 96th Infantry Division was reorganized for combat with its reactivation at Camp Adair, Oregon, on 15 August 1942. Its organic combat units included the 381st, 382nd, and 383rd Infantry Regiments; the 361st, 362nd, 363rd, and 921st Field Artillery Battalions; and the 321st Engineer Combat Battalion. During training the Division acquired a nickname, "The Deadeyes," from the emphasis the Division Commander, MG James L. Bradley, and Assistant Commander, BG Claudius M. Easley, gave to individual rifle marksmanship. Between the summer of 1942 and September 1944, the Division trained at Camp Adair and Camp White, Oregon; the maneuver and artillery firing ranges near present-day Fort Lewis, Washington; and several amphibious warfare training facilities in California and Hawaii.

On 20 October 1944, the 96th conducted an

amphibious assault on the Philippine Island of Leyte, as part of the XXIV Corps of the Sixth U.S. Army, commanded by MG John R. Hodge. By mid-December, the Division cleared all Japanese forces from its zone between Catmon Hill and the Dagami Heights. The fighting on Leyte cost the Deadeyes 514 killed and 1,289 wounded, but helped fine-tune the Deadeyes' techniques for the coordination of Infantry, Tanks, and Artillery.

On 1 April 1945, the 96th assaulted the Japanese island of Okinawa, in the last great land battle of World War II. On Okinawa, the Division was again part of XXIV Corps within Tenth U.S. Army, commanded by LTG Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. By early May, the 96th cleared all enemy forces from

its zone north of the main Japanese defensive trace, the Shuri Line. In mid-May, after helping defeat a Japanese counterattack, the Division seized Zebra, Conical, and Sugar Hills, which caused the Japanese to abandon the Shuri Line. The 96th took its last casu-



alties during June 1945, reducing Japanese resistance in the far south of Okinawa, during which period BG Easley and COL Edwin T. May, Commander of the 383rd Infantry Regiment, were killed in action. On

Okinawa, the 96th sustained over 13,000 total battle and non-battle casualties from a table of organization strength of 14,253, including 1,622 killed and 5,614 wounded. Company B of the 382nd Regiment typified the sacrifices of the Division's rifle companies, with casualties that amounted to 146% of its landing strength.

On 10 January 2001, the 96th Infantry Division and all its attached elements were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its decisive contribution to victory on Okinawa, becoming one of only four U.S. Army divisions in history to be so honored. Five Deadeyes were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II: one on Leyte and four on Okinawa.

After World War II, the 96th Division reverted to reserve status, with its headquarters first in Montana and later in Salt Lake

City, Utah. Throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, two of the Division's wartime units, the 383rd Infantry and 321st Engineers, drilled as active reserve units, training with the full range of infantry weapons and engineer construction equipment. As the Sixties wore on and the Vietnam War absorbed more military resources, the "OR" divisions were gradually transformed into administrative headquarters, and most reserve combat units were deactivated. In 1962 and again in 1967, the 96th was reorganized to oversee smaller reserve units throughout the Rocky Mountain West. In 1968, the 259th QM Battalion (Petroleum), Pleasant Grove, Utah, was activated and deployed to South Vietnam. Between September 1990 and February 1991, more than 3,000 reservists in 20 units were mobilized in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. During the mid-1990s, several 96th RRC units supported Balkan peacekeeping

operations. Since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the RRC mobilized over 5,800 reservists in 55 separate units in support of Operations NOBLE EAGLE, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM.



# New Deadeye Association to Focus on Current Reservists



By Cindy Otis, 96th RRC Public Affairs, Command Reporter

The 96th Infantry Division Reunion Association has almost fifty years of keeping the traditions of the 96th Infantry Division alive. With annual reunions across the United States, the Association has worked to preserve the unique "Deadeye" history and camaraderie that began in WWII.

"In recent years," Association President Tom Roby said, "we have developed a kinship with the successor organizations of the old Infantry Division, which was deactivated. We now enjoy a close relationship with the 96th Regional Readiness Command."

As the WWII Deadeyes have gotten older, members of the Association recognized the need for some kind of transformation.

"In 2005 the Reunion Association became the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association," Roby explained. "Essentially, we have formed a new corporate entity to help perpetuate the legacy of both the old Infantry Division and its WWII battles in Okinawa and Leyte and the legacies of current Reservists."

While the old association primarily focused on WWII Deadeyes, the new Deadeye Association adds more elements to meet the needs of current Reservists.

For example, the new Association now invites all current and former members of the RRC, family members, and friends to join.

Major-General (Ret) Jim Collins, President of the Association's Membership Committee, says that including a broader range of membership was a crucial change for the Association.

"Today, the 96th RRC units are at war and creating more history by their heroic actions, dedicated service and outstanding performance in support of the Global War on Terrorism." Collins continued, "We wanted to include them in this new Association because they are a part of the 96th legacy."

With this broader membership base, Collins said, the new Association is working to reach out to the families of soldiers still serving in the 96th RRC.

"The 96th Division Association has been a great family-based organization; this is evident at the reunions where 2 or 3 generations from one family might attend. As the new Association grows and increases its membership base, this same family involvement will continue."

For Roby, 96th soldiers are serving valiantly in some of the world's most unstable hotspots.

"Their families deserve our support," he added.

Currently, the Association is working to achieve a non-profit status so that donations to the Association will be tax-deductible.

"It is going to take some serious cash to do all of the things we have planned," Roby laughed.

For Collins, the 96th's significant involvement around the world from WWII through the current Global War on Terror is a history worth preserving.

"Capturing that history, sharing experiences with those we have soldiered with, and taking care of the families for the soldiers serving today is what the association is all about," Collins concluded.



## The Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication of the  
**96th Infantry Division  
Deadeye Association**  
• Fall, 2006 Edition •

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Thomas E. (Tom) Roby  
Past President

Harriet Nichols  
Secretary

D. Michael (Mike) McCafferty  
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See Page 12 for complete  
contact information for all  
board members

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For stories, letters, Taps, etc.  
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c/o MainStreet Newspapers  
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Jefferson, GA 30549  
706-367-5233  
[scott@mainstreetnews.com](mailto:scott@mainstreetnews.com)

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## Memorial Address to the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

29 July 2006  
SGT Andrew M. Hall, C/244  
ECB(H)

Good morning. For those of you who don't know me, my name is SGT Andrew Hall; I am with Charlie Company, 244th Engineers, of the 96th Regional Readiness Command.

I have the honor of addressing you today because I am both a member of the 96th who has served in combat, and a descendant of a member of the 96th from World War Two. My grandfather was the late Charles W. Cole of Anti-Tank Company, 381st Infantry Regiment.

For nearly 90 years, the 96th Infantry Division and its successor units have played a key role in the defense of the United States and its interests.

Organized in the closing days of World War One, the 96th failed so see combat in that war, and was moved into the organized reserve, a status it retained until 1942. On 15 August of that year, the 96th Infantry Division was reintegrated into the active Army, for service in the Pacific Theater of World War Two.

On the island of Leyte, in the Philippines, and again on Okinawa, Deadeye units proved their nickname by killing over 31,000 Japanese soldiers, with the loss of

fewer than 2,100 of their own number, earning Presidential Unit Citations from both the United States and the Republic of the Philippines, and five individual soldiers being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Following World War Two, Deadeye units have continued to serve with valor and distinction. After several moves and name changes, in 1962 the 96th Army Reserve Command settled into Fort Douglas, UT to oversee all Army Reserve units in the Rocky Mountain West. While no longer organized as an Infantry Division, Deadeye units have continued to take the fight to the enemy, wherever they might be.

In Vietnam, where in 1969 the 259th Quartermaster Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for their work in keeping units in the field supplied with fuel.

In 1991, for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, 96th ARCOM mobilized over 3,000 soldiers in 20 separate units for action in the Middle East and around the globe. This included the only Army Reserve Infantry unit to be activated for that conflict, the Third Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, based here in Colorado.

As the 90s continued, Deadeye soldiers continued to be mobilized

to support Peacekeeping Operations in the Balkans.

Time does not stand still, and neither have the soldiers of the 96th, now a Regional Readiness Command. Since September 11, Deadeye soldiers have been mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, supporting homeland security, and have provided communications and security support to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

The Global War on Terrorism has seen 6,200 Deadeye soldiers in over 55 units mobilized and deployed around the globe.

These included the largest unit contained within the 96th RRC: The 600 soldiers of the 244th Engineer Battalion, based here in Colorado, were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. C Company and attached soldiers from A Company of that Battalion were awarded the Valorous Unit Award for their part in Operation Trailblazer, controlling the Main Supply Routes, hunting for insurgents and their IEDs and weapons caches. Other Deadeye units have shown similar valor and dedication.

While no one can see what the



SGT Andrew M. Hall

"For nearly 90 years, the 96th Infantry Division and its successor units have played a key role in the defense of the United States."

future holds for the 96th RRC and its soldiers, Americans can sleep soundly knowing that these rough men and women stand ready to meet their country's call. For they are now and always shall be DEADEYES! READY!

**DEADEYES!**  
**READY!**

96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association**DIRECTOR CONTACT LIST**

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Command Reporter  
96<sup>TH</sup> Regional Readiness  
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**Bronze Star Medals to be Awarded at '07 Reunion in Salt Lake City**

MG Jim Collins, President of the 96th Infantry Deadeye Division Assn., will be awarding each original member of the 96th Infantry Division who served during World War Two the Bronze Star Medal.

Generally, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service. (Details on the awarding of the Bronze Star Medal can be found online at <http://www.americal.org/awards/achv-svc.htm>)

**Now is the time to...  
Join the Deadeyes!**

**96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association  
Membership Application**

Membership is open to 96th Infantry Division "Deadeyes", their families, friends, and members of the general public who support and are interested in promoting and perpetuating the legacy of the 96th Infantry Division from its beginning in World War I up to the present day 96th Regional Readiness Command.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Those that previously served in the 96th DIV/ARCOM/RSC/RRC and are not currently assigned to a unit:

1 year -- \$18.00  
2 years -- \$34.00  
3 years -- \$48.00

Those currently assigned to a unit in the 96th RRC or those assigned to another command that previously served in the 96th RRC:

1 year -- \$8.00 (yearly renewals are the same amount)

Family members or friends of former 96th Soldiers (WWII or Desert Storm):

1 year -- \$10.00 (yearly renewals are the same amount)

----- Detach and Return with Payment -----

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THAT REPRESENTS YOUR STATUS:**

96th Veteran - Previously served in the 96th Inf Div/ARCOM/RSC/RRC

Current member of a 96th RRC unit

Prior service in a 96th unit and still on duty

Family/Friend of the 96th

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:** 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

**Mail application to:**

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association  
P.O. Box 581254  
Salt Lake City, UT 84158



# Today's Deadeyes... News from the 96th Regional Readiness Command

## Ordnance company takes reins in Iraq

By Spc. Spencer Case  
Staff Writer

**CAMP ADDER, Iraq**—Behind the front lines of Iraq, the Soldiers of 1st Platoon, 592nd Ordnance Company, are "sustaining the line" by making sure units have the ammunition they need.

The platoon, from Billings, Mont., is a Reserve unit of about 40 soldiers who took over manning the Camp Adder ammunition supply point from the 608th Ordnance Company in April.

The new unit is responsible for collecting ammunition from outgoing units, storing it safely in large metal containers called "CONEXs," and redistributing it to other units for training or combat missions. A day's labor usually involves a lot of paperwork and moving around ammunition cans manually or with forklifts. Each load is counted a total of four times before it is given to a unit.

"We have a very important mission to make sure that everybody has the munitions to take care of the safety of this facility and to make sure that they have the munitions to complete all the missions that they are sent out to do," said Staff Sgt. Gary Bruce, an ammunition handler in the unit. "So our mission here is essential to the cause."

One of the immediate challenges soldiers of the 592nd face is the heat. They are often working in the hottest hours of the day, manually moving around crates of ammunition. The transition was especially difficult for the soldiers of the 592nd because just weeks ago they were doing their pre-mobilization training at Fort Riley, Kan., in temperatures so cold that all the water in the water buffalo would sometimes freeze solid.

"I expected it to be hot but obviously not this hot," said Spc. Madison Lanaghan, 20, of Laurel, Mont., who had been helping move ammunition around in temperatures approaching 110 degrees. "You're never prepared for that."

Lanaghan, who left her parents and three younger brothers, said being away from loved ones is "definitely" the hardest part of being deployed.

"I am very homesick. There are a lot of days where you really kind of wish you were back home. But you're out here for a job and you have to do it to the best of your abilities."

However, those who have been deployed before know how much better things are now compared to

conditions in Iraq a few years ago. Bruce, who was with 1st Marine Division, recalled having showers once a week, and a five-minute phone call maybe once every two months if he was lucky. Today, troops have hot meals three times a day, and the opportunity to have daily showers.

"The amenities at the post are way more than we had before," Bruce said. "Keeping in touch with families is so much easier now."

Staff Sgt. Raymond Roberts, the unit's NCOIC, expressed optimism about the unit's mission.

"I'm excited about the mission," said Roberts, who has three children in Dillon, Mont. "I think it's a good challenge for us to get us over here and get in on some of the action that is going on. I know a lot of the guys wanted to come over here and be a part of it, do their part to help out, and this is a great mission to have."



### Foxhole Buddies

This poem was written by T/5 Victor J. Dow, Med. Det. Sp. Trs., 96th Inf. Div.  
It was given to Marvin Reames, Co. K, 383rd Inf. Dow served with Reames on Okinawa in 1946

My buddies and I were dug in Longside,  
A road that led to where the Japs --- died.  
With tunnels and holes in which to sleep,  
Covered over with logs, us safe to keep.  
Our position was so that from where we stood,  
We covered the road and the hillside, good;  
And our job it seemed was to get in the hair,  
Of any Japs that we saw there.  
We fixed our holes for a life of ease,  
With shelves and mattresses and settees;  
And as we'd watch the troops go by,  
They'd look at us with an envious eye,  
As much as to say, "Well, we'll be switched,  
While we're up there fighting to the last ditch,  
You're back here living a life of ease,  
And sitting around on your damn settees.  
Well, it isn't all it's cracked up to be,  
To sleep in a hole with a bunch of fleas;  
With rats and mosquitoes to keep me from sleep,

And water to bail when it gets too deep.  
With ack-ack to dodge as it bursts in the air.  
And artillery shells that hit here and there.  
Now the funniest thing I have seen in this place,  
Were two men that ran a right fast race;  
To a hole they had dug at the foot of a bank,  
To arrive neck and neck and shank to shank.  
Each tried to beat in the one next to him,  
So they shoved and pushed with equal vim;  
To finally get in the lot of rending,  
With cuts and bruises that needed tending.  
Then I laid on the ground and laughed with glee,  
While they ranted and roared and cussed at me;  
But the tide was turned when the next big shell,  
Landed too close and I ran like hell,  
To a hole I had dug. Now I'll tell you true,  
I found it filled with the rest of the crew.  
So for you who think this is a life of ease,  
Just make mine bourbon, if you please.

## Refund or Contribution?

### *The Choice is Yours*

At the 2006 reunion in Denver, many Deadeyes attended the picnic lunch and family day activities hosted at the local Regional Readiness Command headquarters. The individual fees for attending included \$10.00 for lunch and \$15.00 for transportation. (\$25.00 total if both food and transportation were selected.)

Just prior to the Denver reunion and after Deadeyes had already begun submitting their checks to register for events, the RRC made the generous decision to handle all expenses and make no charge for the event. No payments from Deadeyes would be required. As generous as this decision was, it created a difficult situation---Deadeyes who registered in advance for the event had already paid, while those who registered after they arrived in Denver were able to attend without having to pay any fees.

In the interests of fairness, the association board reviewed this situation at their October meeting and voted to correct it by authorizing a refund of these fees to any Deadeye who paid unnecessarily.

If that is your situation and you would like to claim a refund, simply complete and return the form below. A check will be issued to you as soon as possible.

If, on the other hand, you would like to see these dollars put to good use, you needn't do a thing. Any unclaimed refunds will be directed by vote of the board to the Soldier and Family Support Fund of the 96th Regional Readiness Command. These much-needed dollars will then be put to good use supporting the families of our soldiers.

In short, a refund will be made to you if you are due one. Or you can decide to use this as an opportunity to support a worthy cause. The choice is yours and the Board thanks you for your support in helping us correct this situation.

### Refund Request Form

***Yes, I am due a refund for fees paid to attend the 2006 RRC Family Day Event.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people for whom you paid lunch fees of \$10.00 each \_\_\_\_

Number of people for whom you paid transportation fees of \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form by December 31 to:  
McCafferty, Mike, 7632 Cambria, Salt Lake City, UT 84121  
801/656-3659 (Office), 801 656 3657 (Fax), mike.mccafferty@us.army.mil

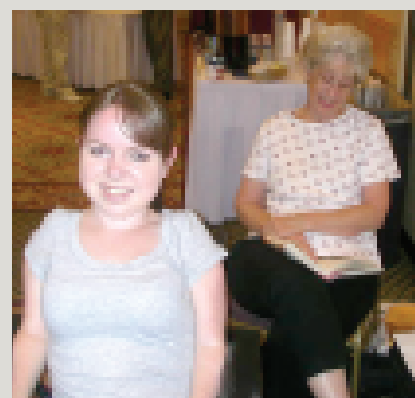
## A Note on Association Membership...

*From President Jim Collins, MG(R)*

Since early this year Cindy Otis has been the administrator of our membership program. She has done a great job in updating our membership data base and is now processing membership applications and sending out dues notices and membership cards. As the association grows, this job will increase and that is good. Cindy, along with Mike McCafferty our Treasurer, keep track of our membership. Sam Wood continues to work with the WWII era members and families. Command Sergeant Major Roger Fadel leads the membership committee for Utah and Sergeant Major Vi Bell leads the membership committee for Colorado. I expect we will have more regional committees formed over the next 6 months.

At the Denver reunion, our members not only signed up over 40 soldiers from the 96th RRC but they paid for their membership as well. We need to keep doing that.

## More Scenes from Denver, 2006





# Today's Deadeyes... News from the 96th Regional Readiness Command

## 96th RRC Deadeyes Reunite

# Military "Family" Remembers, Celebrates and Supports

By: Staff Sgt. Liana Mayo

DENVER, CO -- Outside, it's another hot summer night on the Front Range. Inside the Red Lion Inn, music pulses from behind tall wooden doors that lead to the ballroom where a multitude of people of all ages are celebrating being part of one large team, a team that has incredible heart. Tonight families from near and far gather to visit, laugh, dance and enjoy the bonds they share as members of a proud military family.

For leaders and former members of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, Denver was the place to be for the last five days of July 2006. From July 26th to the 30th, it is highly likely that there were more currently serving and retired 96th soldiers in Denver than ever before in history. ...Or at least a very long time, since the days when the 96th was an Infantry Division.

During those five days, three separate groups associated with the 96th held conventions simultaneously. The groups converged at various times throughout the combined event, called Operation Mountain Quest, to mingle and reunite.

Unit commanders of the 96th RRC, along with their command sergeants major and families, were present to attend a commanders' conference and participate in a variety of family activities. 96th Family Programs volunteers and soldiers were present for a conference of their own, to attend classes designed to help them better assist their soldiers and families. Retired infantrymen of the 96th Infantry Division, many of whom are veterans of World War II, were in attendance with family members and friends for their annual Deadeye Association reunion and banquet.

A highlight on Thursday, opening day of the commanders' conference at the Red Lion Inn, was a commissioning ceremony for Chaplain Lt. John Hoos, officiated by Maj. Gen. Peter S. Cooke, commander of the 96th RRC, and Chaplain Col. Holbrook. Hoos assisted Chaplain Lt. Col. LePietra at the 651st Area Support Group for one year and now awaits orders that will assign him as the 259th Quartermaster Battalion's new chaplain. He received his Master's degree in Divinity from the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

"I am ecstatic that God has called

me to serve in this way," Hoos said. "I look forward to helping soldiers serve God and their country with honor, integrity and courage."

Topics of utmost importance that were addressed in classes and meetings throughout the week were combat and post-combat stress experienced by soldiers



*"Patriotism is often a burst of emotion and then it's over, but patriotism as a steady dedication to a cause, that is who you are."*

- MG Peter S. Cooke

redeploying home, said 651st ASG Commander Col. John J. Smith.

Managing the classes, meetings and general sessions for the Family Programs Academy was Amelia Bourne, Family Program Director for the 96th RRC Family Program Office.

"I couldn't run the program without the help of all our volunteers," Bourne said of the instructors who travel from half a dozen states



An Evening at the Ball Park...(left to right) Lt. Col. Brian Felsch, Master Sgt. Tony Pendley, Lt. Col. Sarah Nordquist, and 1st Lt. Josh Echols all took in a Colorado Rockies baseball game at the reunion this past July.

around the country to volunteer their time to teach soldiers and volunteers how to run excellent Family Readiness Groups at their units. "They love to give back and train others, and I think everyone enjoyed this event."

Each evening, engaging events were held in which all participants were invited to attend, including a baseball game between the Rockies and the Padres, and an elegant banquet with a patriotic program that filled every heart in attendance with pride.

Providing support for Operation Mountain Quest were soldiers of the 651st Area Support Group and other local units within the 96th who lent their areas of expertise, ranging from a color guard team for ceremonies to drivers who provided transportation to and from the events.

One of the most moving experiences of Mountain Quest '06 for Maj. Marcie Toler, one of the primary coordinators of the event, took place during the banquet when a young soldier from the 96th RRC was reading a WW II veteran's Medal of Honor citation, and a man seated at the table behind hers leaned forward and said, "That was my best friend!"

"Our soldiers who worked at the Doubletree Hotel, where the Deadeye veterans were, really got a multi-generational experience, a neat perspective on military history," said Maj. Carrie Acree, the event's Task Force Commander. "It was a great to see their interaction. They were thanking each other for their service, which showed camaraderie between the vets and our

new Soldiers."

Saturday's events included a memorial service at the Doubletree for fallen comrades, featuring a performance by the El Jebel Shrine bagpipe ensemble, of



Denver, and an adventure-packed Mountain Quest family day at the Denver Federal Center.

"The best part (of family day) for me was when I was on the climbing wall and I almost made it to the top," said Leo Lucero, 8, nephew of 651st Human Resources Sgt. Cristal Ontiveros, "And when I dunked that guy (Col. Smith) who was in the dunk booth."

As the combined event drew to a close, students of the Family Program Academy attended one last morning of classes at the Red Lion on Sunday. The 10 courses offered by the instructors covered many areas of support, ranging from How to Energize Your Readiness Group to Family Sponsorship.

After their final classes, the group convened in a ballroom for a general session. Here they received a short and heart-felt address from Maj. Gen. Cooke. The General addressed them as a group, as friends, and as vital members of his command.

"Patriotism is often a burst of emotion and then it's over, but patriotism as a steady dedication to a cause, that is who you are," Maj. Gen. Cooke said earnestly to the group. His address ended on a personal note with a request for all to work together and support his endeavor to provide the soldiers of the 96th with the support they deserve.

Ellen Young and Matt Nepute, the

first two teens to participate in the Army Reserve Teen Panel, a brand-new program and a vital link to the Army's future, spoke and displayed their dedication to our country. Maj. Gen. Cooke thanked the youth and presented both with a commander's coin to express his appreciation for their initiative and patriotism. These youth are an assurance that the foundation provided for them will be secure for generations to come.

"It was absolutely outstanding," Maj. Gen. Cooke said of the four-day combined event. "There is no question in my mind that in this war on terror we have to focus on our families and our soldiers."

Observing this scene, these diverse people gathered from a roadmap of places and times, different generations who have fought different wars, all unflinchingly united as one, this reporter felt humbled and proud to be standing in the same room.

With a common thread: the love and support of our soldiers, these precious few put countless hours into preparing and supporting the families of the 96th for the many issues and concerns during and between deployments. They remember the successes from our past and they look forward with excitement to our future endeavors. As volunteers of the 96th RRC Family Programs, their motto is "Family today, Family tomorrow, Family forever."

# 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSN. ITEMS



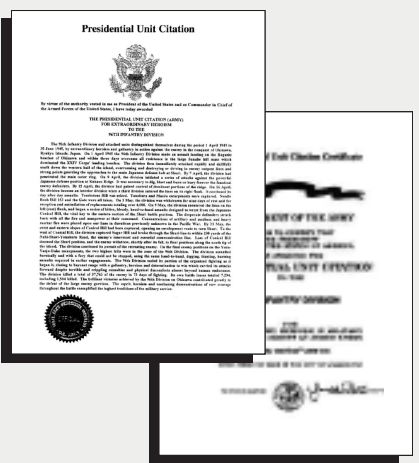
## "Before You Go"

### A Tribute to WWII Veterans

Deadeye Ben Hill (382nd M Co.) submits this web site link to a song every Deadeye will appreciate.

[www.managedmusic.com](http://www.managedmusic.com)

Check out this touching tribute to the veterans of World War II. The song can be purchased from the web site or by calling Managed Music toll-free at 1-888-426-7529. Their address is Managed Music, 6 NE Fisher Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33483.



## 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

Two color photo copies: Presidential Unit Citation Certificate and Presidential Unit Citation Text. Cost is \$5.00 per set of two, postage paid.

Also available: Philippines Presidential Unit Citation. One page, black & white. Cost is \$1.50, postage paid.

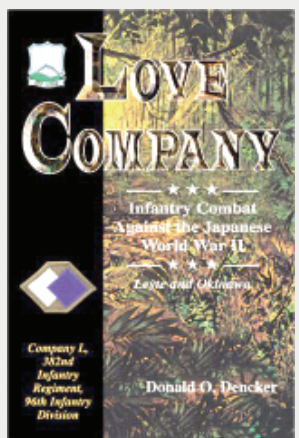
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## Love Company Book

Author Don Dencker has sale copies of Love Company for \$12.50, postage paid. In this 355 page book, there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. The regular retail price of Love Company is \$19.95. Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96th Infantry Deadeye Assn.

To purchase Love Company, send a \$12.50 check made out to: Donald Dencker, 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

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You can read the CD on a home or office computer that has a CD drive and the Adobe Reader software, which you can download free at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). (Sorry, the CD cannot be read on a TV with a DVD player.) You can page through an issue, search any issue (or many at once) for a name, a word or a phrase, or find special stories, poems, etc. in an index. Is the type a little small for you to read? No problem, the Reader software lets you enlarge it! You can print pages to share with friends and relatives.

To order the CD, send the following information to: Marvin Margoshes, 25 Maple Ave., #3B, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706:

- Your name and address
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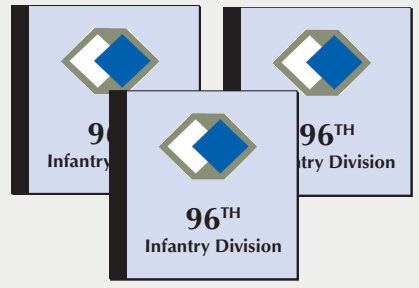
The cost is \$10 for each CD, plus Shipping and Handling of \$3 for the first CD to each address, and \$1 for each additional CD to the same address. Include payment by check or money order, made out the 96th Infantry Deadeye Assn.



## Deadeye Caps

(above art not an exact depiction)  
Cost: \$10

To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap, please send your mailing information, along with your check for \$10 payable to Douglas Burton, 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619



## 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division CD's

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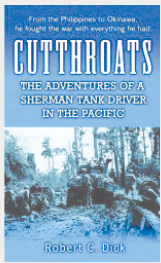
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(Revised-July, 2006)



## Cutthroats

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