

# Arkansas Military History Journal

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## Black History

*Trail Blazing a Path for the Future of Black Soldiers*

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**Cover Photograph:** Copyright is held by National Archives. Brig. General B.O. Davis and Buffalo Soldiers at Camp Robinson, 15 March 1943.

## *Message from the Editor*

We begin our second edition of the resurrected *Arkansas Military History Journal* covering the Arkansas National Guard Museum's Black History Month panel discussion that was facilitated by COL (ret) Joe Davis in February. This was a lively discussion and if you were unable to attend, this article is the next best thing. The ARNG Museum has a temporary exhibit that runs through June 24, 2016, covering the 153<sup>rd</sup> and 206 regiments that were stationed in the Aleutians during WWII. To help commemorate their sacrifices, we include an article on these units compiled by COL Damon Cluck. In addition, we provide a piece by Arkansas National Guard Command Historian Anthony Rushing on lineage and honors. Finally, our recurring article on a featured artifact by MAJ Matthew Anderson investigates the WWII "Jeep."

As I wrote in the last issue, we hope you enjoy the new *Arkansas Military History Journal* and please let us know your comments.

Dr. Raymond Screws  
Editor/Arkansas National Guard Museum Director



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## ***Trail Blazing a Path for the Future of Black Soldiers***

*The Arkansas National Guard Museum hosted a celebration of Black History Month on 26 February 2016. The panel discussion was facilitated by retired Army Colonel Henry Joe Davis, who goes by Joe Davis. The discussion panel consisted of six current and retired members of the Arkansas National Guard.*



***Colonel (Ret) Henry Joe Davis** was born in Memphis Tennessee and graduated from the University of Tennessee-Martin in March 1979. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Education and was commissioned second lieutenant in the Chemical Corp. He served as the G3 for the Soldier Biological and Chemical Command and Chief of Staff for the US Army research command in Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Currently the colonel is assigned to the Office of the Inspector General for the State of Arkansas as the Assistant IG.*

## ***THE PANELISTS***



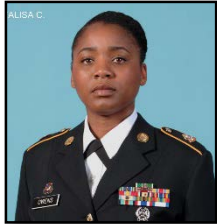
***Lieutenant (LTC) Erica Ingram** is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff G1 at Camp Robinson and has been in the Arkansas Army National Guard since 2000. As LTC Ingram told the audience, "I'm not a lifer in the Guard, I didn't grow up in the Guard, but I came to the Guard as a Captain."*

***Brigadier General (Ret) William Johnson** spent 36 years in the Arkansas Army National Guard and retired as a BG General. He was the first African American General Officer in the Arkansas National Guard.*



***Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) Pamela Huff** has been in the Arkansas National Guard for 41 years, joining in 1975. Chief Huff has worked at Camp Robinson since 1983. General Johnson jokingly commented that "she entered the Guard when she was 12 years old."*

*Master Sergeant (MSgt) Theresa James has been in the Arkansas Air National Guard since 1987, and full time since 1989. She is with the 189th at the Little Rock Air Base and currently works in the communications area.*



*Sergeant (SGT) Talisa Owens joined the Arkansas Army National Guard 8 years ago. She currently works at DSPER as the officer promotion NCO. She has been full time in the Guard since 2012.*

*Sergeant (SGT) Hubert Goines works at the Education Office and has been in the Arkansas National Guard for about 10 years and a full time in the Guard for close to 6 months.*



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*The Arkansas National Guard Museum Director, Dr. Raymond Screws, introduced the program and COL Davis.*

**COL Davis:** Thank you Dr. Screws for that introduction and we would like to give you a hand for the great work you're doing at the Museum. We had our best folks looking for a historian and this gentleman right here retired Brigadier General Johnson was responsible for hiring him.

Will have a short time to hear the answers from the panel so we're going to move right along [with] our discussion in support of Black History. At this time [I'm] going to have each of the panelists introduce themselves and tell us a little bit about who they are and how long they've been in the guard.

*The panelists then introduced themselves.*

**COL Davis:** Now the reason why I've asked them to identify how long they've been in the Guard is because of the experience level. So we expect that the longer you have been in the Guard the more experience you'll have. But we want every comment to be [absorbed] so we can learn from them and allow the younger Guardsmen to learn from the older Guardsmen so they don't have to repeat those things.

*COL Davis then turned to the discussion questions.*

**QUESTION:** As members of the Arkansas National Guard in the 1970s through today [there have been] challenging [issues] for each of you as black males and females. Briefly discuss some of your most challenging experiences.

**LTC Ingram:** I guess being full time in the Guard some of the challenges probably come from expectations on both sides because I think sometimes people expect you to side with them on a particular issue because you look like them. Since I'm the senior full-time person on the officer side [females especially] have addressed me with issues. Or I have people come to me and want me to address them as a female, so basically my challenge is balancing females and letting them know that at the end of the day, yes I'm African American, yes I'm female...but



yes, there are standards and sometimes I'm going to look at you and tell you that you're wrong. I've had some people stop talking to me, but they usually come around and if they don't that usually means I'm right and I don't let that bother me because that's my personality. But still knowing that the expectation is out there is probably my biggest challenge.

**General Johnson:** [In the 1970s] my experience was much different than [LTC Ingram]. I want to back it up a little bit. ... I've had two or three years to...reflect on some of the things that occurred while coming through the ranks of the military. I can tell you that it took a while for a lot of it to surface, but in the last couple years I...was thinking about the time that I first walked into the armory saying I want to be a member of the Arkansas National Guard, till I rolled out of here in 2012.

One of the most difficult things that occurred to me [that] I'm going to share...with you [is] because [it is] one decision [that] if I would have made...one way or the other I probably wouldn't be sitting here talking to you about this topic today. I walked into the armory and wanted to be a member of the Arkansas National Guard. I was sitting there filling out my paperwork [across from] a Warrant Officer, who was a very nice officer. But because of the culture and the environment of the Arkansas National Guard at that time, there was an AST that was [an] Administrative Supply Technician who was in the back room and he was dropping the N bomb. This seemed normal for this environment, like this is what we do, but he did not realize I was sitting there trying to join the Guard...I heard it and I kind of just put my pen down and said "I got a decision to make pretty quickly." The warrant officer said "You know what? You have a right to be in this Guard just as much as we do. Don't let that bother you. Just a minute." He then stepped away, went to the backroom, and he addressed the matter and then I heard the individual say "I'm sorry about that." And the warrant officer said "if you work hard you can do whatever you want to do and be whatever you want to be in the Arkansas National Guard. Just remember that." So at that time I calmed down and completed the paperwork. Had I just walked out my life would have probably been different. I'm sure it would have. I probably would have never showed back up. So that was one of the major incidence I faced.

The second one is when I got hired in the Arkansas National Guard. [The Guard] had just lost a federal case in court with Correna Taylor, who was hired for recruitment and had undergone some very terrible things. They reduced her and put her in the mail room and she said [that] this [was] not right, while leadership turned their backs on her. She took her case to federal court and the Arkansas National Guard lost the case. As a remedy, she was brought back, but she never saw the full remedy because due to the stress of the case she died at an early age. The remedy was they had to make right some of the wrongs that had been done prior to the case. The hiring process changed and...the full-time work force had to [increase] to 16% [African American]. So at first, for every two hires one had to be black and eventually it [was] for every three hires one had to be black. So now the application or the job announcement would go out. Now put yourself in my position. A lieutenant applying for the position, and [I] got the job. A Battalion Commander called me and wanted to meet me at Phillips Armory. This meeting took place in one of the backrooms and we spent 2 hours in there with him trying to talk me out of taking the job. He was saying "you can walk out, you can leave, no harm no foul." I was a second lieutenant, and I was in this room for 2 hours. And all I know is I wanted to work, I wanted to take care of my family, and I wanted to do the best that I [could]. That's all. That's all we can do. And so I had to endure that and then I had to go into the battalion and try to work as a "black hire" because that's what they called you, a "black hire."

Those are the two major challenges I can recall at this time. There were more but these were the two major ones.

**QUESTION: As black leaders what challenges did you face then and now? Are they the same challenges or have they changed?**

**CW5 Huff:** I joined the guard in 1975, and when I joined [it was] in a medical unit. After looking at all the other organizations out there it was a little easier because there were...more females there and I was treated relatively...fair. One of the challenges as a leader in the unit [was when] I became sergeant first class during the time of the Chaffee relocation. We were activated and mobilized and we had several Cubans come over to Fort Chaffee. I was the lead dental tech at that time and there was a lot of rumors about the history of the Cubans in regards to criminal activity and we worked directly on the Cubans both the dental side and the medical side while they were here so I was responsible for the NCOs while they went in and out of the dental clinic. One of the challenges was to make sure that I held up my end of the responsibility and ensure...the NCO's well-being [that were] assigned to the organization down at Fort Chaffee.

One of the challenges as a black female leader within this organization is to stay positive.... What I see now, there is actually no formal mentorship plans – correct me if I'm wrong – no formal written mentorship plans in the Guard, and this is the 21st century. The organizational leadership culture for blacks both male and female are relatively slim. Why do I say that? Because the makeup of the overall organization, the major leadership, the major commands, we have no black major commanders over the major commands. If I'm incorrect please correct me. When I say commands, and I mean from the Hill, we have no black command group member. So, yet today we still face challenges. We have written policies plans and climate surveys out there that are constantly taking place but until implementations, actions, and results [that] come from [leadership] they are just plans on paper. So we still have challenges.

Our facilitator, retired Colonel Davis, commented [about this]. In my mind, I'm trying to formulate a continuum because when I got to the Guard there were black leaders around. I talk about retired General Johnson, Walter Jones, and a few others. The question would be how did the gap occur? Because right now if you look across the board...we have some up and coming senior leaders, but what happen in the gap?

How many people remember the 212 Signal? Because this is nothing new when you go back and study what happened to the 212 Signal. I use the 212 Signal because a lot of black soldiers went into the Signal Corps. What happen is, after it was over...the question [was]; what happened to the people? Well we found them jobs, but there's an impact when you don't tell the young soldiers coming up through the ranks. So to the captain who is going to become lieutenant colonel, we have to tell them that there is no battalion to command. So you have to be thinking forward and when we were doing what we did, we missed. It wasn't intentional but we missed it. It was one of those major things that we ran into later on [because] we had officers progressing but we found out that we don't have anything to command.

**COL Davis:** Chief Warrant Officer Huff [makes a] valuable point. Where is...the effective mentorship programs [and] will [they] come into play and help with situations like these in the future?

Sergeant Owens you know what mentorship is about, right? As a young E5 do you have an E6, E7 or lieutenant that you look too?

**SGT Owens:** I'm going to have to agree with Chief Huff. We don't have a mentorship program in place. [It] would be great [if] we had one in place? Yes. But in reality sometimes we have these leaders in these positions

and they say we're going to put them in place to mentor the soldiers. But how can they be effective in mentoring when they lack the skills of being leaders themselves?

**COL Davis:** Point well taken.

*Sergeant Owens went on to share how a mentorship program would be great because she has not experienced any since she came in to the military. She stated that she has had to learn the lessons on her own, but if she had a mentor it would have made her ride a lot smoother.*

*Colonel Davis addressed Sergeant Goins, who works in the Education Center and has four months as an AGR. Sergeant Goines was asked if he had any mentors in his area. Sergeant Goins stated that, yes, he feels he has individuals who assist in leading him in the right direction. It's something positive that he can take from them either as a fellow AGR or just a full time person in the Guard that he can incorporate into his career.*

**COL Davis:** The biggest problems in the National Guard [were] incentives and it's because we didn't put the right horsepower in there, in the leadership...so now we're gradually moving more people in [leadership] to help those, [such as Sergeant Owens] to get that job done and it has really made a turn around. In the last month we have not had a complaint about incentives. What that means is we're getting it under wraps. We're putting the right management on it and doing a good job and we are taking it [to a point that] it becomes insignificant...

### **Dr. King advocated equality between the races; Malcolm X advocated equal but separate. Which was right and why?**

**MSgt James:** [I believe] that Dr. King's approach for equality between races [was correct] because he wanted blacks and whites to unite together in peace. He was trying to open doors for everyone, not just for this set of people or [that] set of people, and not trying to set any group apart. He was trying to pull us all together – at the same time, by putting us all on the same playing field. At the end of the day that's what we were all striving for...that same ultimate goal.

**LTC Ingram:** [I also agree with] Dr. Martin Luther King, because [he believed] wholeheartedly separate cannot be equal. I think we've proved that before and I don't think that we can argue diversity and inclusion if we're not together.

You hear those keywords, diversity and inclusion. Don't forget that because those are the kinds of things that will get you in trouble whether you're thinking about it or not. Colonel Davis shared that [about] when he was in the 89th military Police Brigade as a young captain. I had a brigade commander say that “I have one, if I have a black, Hispanic, or white, I want...on my flag detail.” And he made them live by that. “You better not find one in my brigade that you overlooked.” He was all about the soldier. Why? Because when you're deployed...and you have to look to [the] soldier to your left and to your right, which one do you want? He just wanted to make sure that you [were] qualified to do the job professionally.

[Take] up this question [with] the audience here. What is the number one problem we have in the Guard?

*One of the audience members stated that ranks are being mixed today, and he went on to explain that that everyone is now enlisted and there are no NCOs. He said if he chooses, he can sleep next to a colonel in the barracks. That used to be unheard of.*

**COL Brad Cox (from the audience):** What do we expect out of mentoring? As I came up I had a lot of mentors. I had one luxury that everyone doesn't have, my father was a senior officer in the organization. So I could always go to him and cry on somebody's shoulder. But I had a mentor, but it wasn't "what do I need to do with my life?" It was then Lieutenant Colonel [William] Johnson who had that tough word of "hey look Lieutenant Cox, I know you liked it at FMO, shut up fly right and go to Malvern." I remember each of those instances – that's mentoring. It wasn't [that] I sought him out. He stopped me...if he saw an opportunity and was able to make a difference to keep [a] young officer's mouth from damaging his future. I think that's an important piece of mentoring that we often overlook. We want somebody to come in and tell us what we've got to do to be successful and there's not an answer to that question.

*COL Davis thanked the group for the comments:*

**COL Davis:** The number one and the number two issues [are] communication and counseling. If you can't solve those two you're not going to solve the mentoring problem. We don't talk to each other, and it's not just the Guard. It's a breakdown of how we do business. Just think when you go to [a] restaurant. Everyone orders their food and then they grab their cell phones and begin to play with them. We are losing the art of communication! If it's not up front, how are we going to get that from mentoring?

**A comment from the audience:** When it all goes down to the basic principle of soldier and care, we don't care for each other like we need to and that's the overall problem that goes into the communication that you are speaking [about].

How can it be that you come out of a war fighting [for a] decade, are we tired? I don't know. Fighting is tiring and exhausting.

**Another comment from the audience:** How can you mentor me when you don't look like me? How can you relate to the issues I have as a black soldier when we don't have many black people in the position that I can go talk to you when I have a problem?

*This question was deflected back to General Johnson.*

**General Johnson:** [I come] from two different perspectives. I agree that you have to have a strong mentoring program. One of the things I really tried to do when I [was in the] Guard...it didn't matter whether I [was] the first lieutenant, captain, major or so on. I reached back to get somebody to help pull up. I did that because that's how [or] the only way we could survive. Most of you are much younger than me so you don't understand the struggle that [we] had to go through just to maintain a job. So we didn't have the same issues as you do now. You're saying you don't have a mentor. We didn't have anybody to mentor us so we had to work with each other. We would have meetings at night – I would call some of my fellow Officers just to figure out; are we getting the same information that's been put out? Are you hearing this, are you hearing that? This is what I was told, just [to] make sure it was all the same information being shared. And then not having the benefit [of having] someone to actually teach you how to do it. We had the time to work through it ourselves and had to spend lots of nights just working through it so we [could] be just somewhat even. If we were [scheduled for] a meeting, we would meet the day before to make sure we had all the requirements in place.

Now...I have mentored many, not just black soldiers. I know there are some in this forum that I have had the opportunity to mentor, not just necessarily black soldiers and officers. I pride myself in trying to mentor all ranks and all people willing to get what information that I have to share. I've come across a lot, it is important and I heard it being pushed, that you do have somebody, sometimes, that you feel more comfortable talking about certain issues. And sometimes it has to be that person at that senior level...you can just run some things by. First thing, [you wonder], am I...going in the wrong direction? You need that senior person to tell you [that] you just need to be patient. Or you need to hear tough love and hear some things that you have to work through first. Or sometimes [as a mentor] you just need to sit there and show them how to do it.

Now just because some of the issues that we had to come through in the [Correna Taylor] court case, there were some positions that I was [placed in which] I was scared to death...because there wasn't any other African Americans before me that [was] put in that position to talk about it. Then I had to interact with people that I wasn't raised...to interact with because I came from that society that was separate and unequal. So, now you're riding in a car with a two star general. What do you talk about? Even though I didn't have a formal mentorship, I guess this was one of the best jobs I had because he had a job to turn the Guard back on its feet and he shared some things with me that he probably wouldn't share with anyone else. We got a chance to talk about some real issues and I [had] a chance to see people perform – got to see other commanders, brigade commanders, in briefings, so I started to emulate those good [practices]. So just having the opportunity, some people call it having a seat at the table. Mentoring, I think is important and it is equally as important if you have someone at the senior level to share with you.

*COL Davis reiterated that we have to be people persons, and that we are professionals. He explained that in the military beyond everything else, "you are professional." COL Davis also said "When integration started, where did it first start? In the military. We should never forget that. It is an arm of our society that's going to test it first."*

### **QUESTION: As a black soldier, what do you think of morale in the Arkansas National Guard?**

**SGT Owens:** When I first got in, my morale was extremely high. But now it's not at the level it was before, it's kind of stagnate at this point. I say this because when you're [part-time in the Guard] you don't get to see a lot of things that go on. But when you become full-time, it's not that you want to see [the issues], but it's there. You see how things are really done and how things are really set up in place to help someone else get ahead and you're busting your butt to get ahead and try to do [a] good [job] and working extremely hard and you know you're confident in what you do. But you're not succeeding, so that makes your morale go down. With all that being said, I do believe that one day the morale level can return to where it was when I first started.

*SGT Goins shared that at times morale can be low. He shared that the position he came from prior to coming to Joint Force Headquarters, would require him to do a lot of tasks, but when a reward would come from doing the hard work, he was basically passed over to someone who didn't have any input into the situation as far as details. The fact that he was overlooked caused his morale to be low. COL Davis said he realized that the word inclusion was not being exercised in these practices.*

**COL Davis (to the audience):** How many remember or heard of the R.O.C.K.S? A few people in the room [are] familiar with this black organization, but not many. *He asked General Johnson to explain.*

**General Johnson:** R.O.C.K.S. was a type of mentoring program where senior officers would meet and discuss matters with the younger officers. They would have discussions about different matters. This program started at the Pentagon, but is now nationwide.

**COL Davis** *emphasized that reason for mentioning this program was because it was a formalized mentoring program:* When you do run into a senior officer, you have to be ready to ask the right questions. I have witnessed situations when there have been a bunch of majors and they see a three star general, or here's General Powell, and the majors go to him and say, "Hey General, how did you make general?" These situations used to irk me and would almost make me want to slap those asking that type of question.... He can't tell you that in five minutes, but he would always have the right answer – "Work hard no matter what you are doing." That's what makes you move ahead. Makes people trust you in whatever you are doing.

*COL Davis moved on to the next question.*

### **QUESTION: The Affirmative Action Plan, what is it and did it work?**

**CW5 Huff:** The Affirmative Action Plan is actually a policy that, regardless of race and gender, provides equal opportunity for all military personnel....Also it's designed to provide an environment that is free of illegal discrimination. I believe there is an Affirmative Action Policy in place, no doubt, because it is a requirement. I believe there still needs to be work within that policy and plan to ensure that it is implemented accurately and effectively.

**COL Davis:** The directive and direction of the TAG (The Adjutant General) [requests] transparency in whatever we do. The TAG focus is on diversity and inclusion. What do you think about this, is it working?

**General Johnson:** Affirmative Action works. You have to understand what Affirmative Action is, it wasn't a numbers game; we did mention numbers earlier in reference to a situation. Affirmative Action is improving opportunities and ensuring opportunities for all. Let's use Chief Huff as an example. I'm going to give her an opportunity for a position. Sometimes that takes guts. In the 70s it took guts. We were initially forced to do it by giving William Johnson, Nate McGhee, Walter Jones and some others the position by force. We knew it was by force but we felt that if we got the opportunity of getting in, we were going to work our behinds off to make sure that people like the ones sitting in here right now have the opportunity that when your application comes in, it doesn't say "black only hire". It says I want a position and I want the position filled; and someone takes the affirmative action of saying "I'm hiring Capt. Ketchum" or whomever. But we knew, and I almost fell out of my chair when I heard these young people say that morale was low. We knew that no matter what job it was that we weren't working for ourselves. We were working for the young soldiers and officers that were going to be coming in at a future date, so that you can sit in these seats and have good AGR jobs and good technician jobs and you don't have to worry about someone taking you out back, either jumping you or kicking you out, or something like that. Affirmative Action is just giving the opportunity. The numbers comes in when a situation occurs or the courts say you have to get 16-18 percent. I worked at the phone company and they had the same problem [with] the numbers game and people got that mixed up with Affirmative Action.

**LTC Ingram:** People sometimes get confused that Affirmative Action's preference is because of what you look like. You still have to be qualified for the position, but Affirmative Action is just trying to make the playing field equal. I think one of the things was the first job I applied for, maybe it was the second job, which was the actual job I got hired for at that Army National Guard. [It] was a training technician position at the 212 Signal Battalion,



I was already a MDay (traditional drilling once per month) soldier in aviation for about eight or nine months and I had worked [with] then Sergeant First Class Ester Crocket as a MDay S1. I was working on some orders because we were getting ready for an IG inspection. Sargent Major Crocket had moved to Troop Command as the brigade NCO, and I just happened to be in the office visiting. Well, I had been called and told that I was going to have an interview.

I knew that I was qualified to do the job, [but I] may not have been the best qualified because I'm active duty. I was a S3, that's what I needed, so I knew the training, [but was] not sure if I knew anything else.... I had my interview.... [Afterwards] I [was with] a group of people [who didn't know I had interviewed] and the conversation was, "well you know they're trying to figure out who to hire for that 212 Signal Training Position." I was just sitting there because I was there with somebody else and...just listening to the conversation. Well there was a name that was [mentioned], a white male that they were leaning toward because they were familiar with him and knew his history, experiences and qualifications. He was the top candidate because they had probably worked with him before, etc. So I sat there and [thought], "Okay Erica you're not going to get a call for that, we will just try again next time." Well the next thing I know, I'm the one that got the call and I knew for a fact that I was the person.... The interview panel took a chance and thought I was the most qualified and they went against the person that someone else wanted them to select. So there are opportunities out there that happen like that. Before then, I may have been one of the people to tell you "well no, they already have preselected and they are going to hire who they want to, regardless." The one thing I can tell you is that if you don't put in the application for the job, or you don't apply yourself...then no you're not going to be selected.

**QUESTION: As a senior leader, if you had to mentor these young people, how would you mentor them into preparing themselves to get jobs like that? Or to interview for jobs like that? Or to prepare to interview for jobs?**

**LTC Ingram:** Preparation probably is the key. You have to seek out people. It is hard sometimes to seek out people that don't look like you, but if that is the person that is the...expert then you have to step outside your comfort zone and seek that person out. You have to make sure that your resume is comparable to the people you are competing with; PT, that's something that takes practice no one can take that from you. The working out is the practice, so at the end of the day it has nothing to do with what we look like. If I'm not doing well on my PT, then that's my fault. So what we have to do, I think, is take ownership for the areas that we are weak in and seek to improve and become strong in them.

**General Johnson:** [I agree] with LTC Ingram that preparation is key. You have to be prepared in those things that you can control. You can't control who's going to hire you. Some of the things I have witnessed and gone through are so far back in my mind until I start hearing situations, and it comes back to [me]. I remember I applied for a certain job and I should have known then that I wasn't going to get it because [in the] interview all the interviewer spoke about was hunting and fishing. No questions about the job whatsoever. I came prepared to talk about the job and he [talked] to me about hunting and fishing; and I'm not a hunter or a fisherman. I knew then that I just made a trip for nothing. What I encourage you to know is that you're not going to get every job you apply for and the only thing that you can do is be prepared and do the best that you can. First thing, make sure you have the qualifications. Make sure that you are capable of doing the skills. Know the job that you are applying for – don't walk in without knowing [the job]. Try to be familiar with the leadership, the type of jobs and see what you can find out about that position. Those steps will put you ahead. You have to make it hard for them to make the decision...even if it's you or not you. You have to do the best you can do. Also, get outside of your comfort zone.

**CW5 Huff:** You should take advantage of your educational requirements and always remember that you're only a failure if you think you're a failure. Take the initiative and never pass up an opportunity to do more than you are required to do. Learn the organizational structure that you are a part of and seek a successful mentor. Successful as in someone who has done something and has gone somewhere – look ahead, look above. Remember that to whom much is given, much is required. Be responsible and take responsibility for your actions.

**MSgt James:** [I agree] with everything the other panel members shared thus far. [But I will add] take note of your appearance when you go for a job interview. Don't go in there with your hair different colors or a mess. Go in there with your appearance the way it should be. Go in there with an attitude that you deserve this position that you're seeking. A lot of times I think we go into situations thinking because of our color we should receive whatever, but if you don't apply yourself and you don't have the right attitude in the beginning, I don't care what color you are, red, green, whatever, you have to realize that your attitude begins with you. If you walk in with a good attitude, good things are coming.

### **QUESTION: SGT Owens and SGT Goins what is it that you would like to see from the senior leaders that will help you most?**

**SGT Owens:** [I'm] not looking for someone to give [me] a step by step, but more so looking for someone to encourage me and have someone to be there when I need someone [in which to] confide. [I'm] looking for positive feedback and even if I'm not doing what I'm supposed to do [I want a senior leader to] be able to come to me and say I need you to do better in this area. Just having a good leadership does a lot for a soldier and it will boost morale more than you would ever know. So just to have someone in your corner, just giving you that positive feedback and showing you that this is the path that I took, let me help you take a different route so you can make your career go a lot smoother.

**SGT Goins:** [I agree] with Sgt. Owens. If you see me doing something that should not be done, [help] me up and tell me this is what you should do, this is what I did. Seeking input [for] something that will be beneficial to us all.

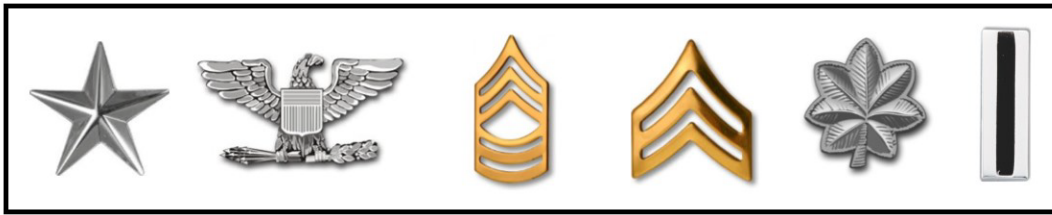
**COL Davis:** We are all responsible for members of the Guard, so when we find someone who is also off duty doing the wrong things [we need to intervene]. Case in point, one of my fellow company commanders, who just happened to be a white soldier, called me and told me that he saw two of my soldiers down on 15<sup>th</sup> street. This was in Anniston, Alabama. I said, "What?" He said, "Yeah you need to look into it." I know you're asking what is 15<sup>th</sup> Street. There were only two reasons why you went to 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Anniston, Alabama; that was buying a catfish dinner or you're buying some dope. So when my two people came in, who just happened to be black soldiers, my supply sergeant and my clerk, I told them, "You have one breath to tell me why you were down on 15<sup>th</sup> Street."

We must be serious about leadership. I believe LTC Ingram's response about mentorship was right on point! Our young officers/NCO's need to learn to use mentors correctly. Don't seek out mentors when you get in trouble, learn to get your mentor's input in your decision making to minimize problem issues and bad decision making.

Last thing. I had one officer who was one of our detailed IGs and he came to me and said, "Hey sir, I need to be able to get a lot of practice in briefing." I said... "Don't get in front of that flag [and] officer and start heehawing. I need you to have your facts and if he asks you something you can't answer, you look at me and I'll have your



back. What he used to do is, I'd come by his office and his door would be almost closed and he'd be in there practicing his delivery. [I thought], that's good. He was an infantry officer and turned out to be a great IG and moved on up.



## ***CLOSING COMMENTS***

**COL Davis:** In closing, we thank the panel for being with us today.

**General Johnson:** I really appreciated the opportunity to sit here and do this. I know that sometimes it may seem a little uncomfortable just discussing this, but I can tell you that this is the first time this type of conversation that I have ever sat in on in my 36 years in the Arkansas National Guard [in which] people are willing to come together and talk about certain things. And I wish we [could] have this opportunity to do it during a time when we [could] receive questions. I know there are a lot of questions to be asked, but we don't have the time to address them in this forum. I can really appreciate this and out of the worst stories [we] can think about, I have never regretted a day being in the Arkansas National Guard. I have stories, I think about them, but I never regretted it. Even the worse day that I had was still a good day.

**LTC Ingram:** Personally for me, morale fluctuates depending on the day, what you're going through, and things that you're hit with. I have had a lot of conversations with Col. Johnson and Col. Jones when they were here, but at the end of the day, the one thing I always think about and ask myself is, "is the situation that I'm in now, is it anywhere near what they encountered?" This puts it in perspective for me and I am able to manage.

**CW5 Huff:** I will piggy-back off Retired General Johnson and after all the years I've been in the Guard, I have no regrets. I truly feel blessed and I know that I am highly favored. One of my favorite Bible verses is "I know I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" and I know that is who I can lean on. I lean on God. God has brought me to where I am, not man. If you rely on man, you're going to lose every time. So remember who actually brings you through.

**MSgt. James:** One thing to close with is to remember who you are and remember who's you are because no one is here by accident. We are here for a reason. You may be in your position to bring salt to that position and... people around you who may not be where they need to be. So don't think you're here or that you're looking for someone for your morale. You're your own morale. It's your attitude that will lead you to where you want to be. I just want to leave you with that because I hear from younger people and they will come and speak with me and I will listen to them and when they finish, I just say "wait a minute," and begin to ask them questions. What is your plan in that? What is your part in that? [Because] we can blame this person and blame that person, but ultimately it starts with you, [your]self.

**SGT Owens:** Even though we face challenges now and we'll still face them in the future, we have to be confident who [we] are. You are your biggest fan despite any situation. You have to believe in yourself and know that you are going to progress. It may not be now, but eventually your time will come.

**COL Davis:** How many people think God made a mistake when He made you? *As the audience was scanned there were no hands raised.* When you get ready to stand in front of Him, you better be able to say, I took care of my brother and I took care of my sister.

*Dr. Screws ended by thanking everyone for attending and reported that we had approximately 78 attendees; which sets a record for attendance for the History Roundtable events since the program was revived in January 2015.*

# The 153rd Infantry Regiment and 206th Coast Artillery Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard through WWII

## Compiled by COL Damon Cluck

In 2016, the Professional Education Center (PEC) of the National Guard Bureau at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, renamed Roosevelt Hall, Aleutians Hall. In conjunction with the name change, the Arkansas National Guard Museum created a temporary exhibit commemorating the sacrifice of those who served in the 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 206<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment during World War II. These Arkansas National Guard units served in Alaska's Aleutian Islands during the War, where they fought the elements and the Japanese. The exhibit includes items from the ARNG Museum collection, and those on loan from the University of Alaska, Museum of the North.

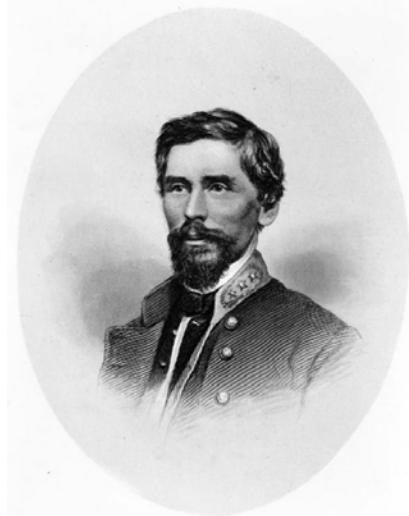
The exhibit runs through 24 June 2016.

## 153rd Infantry Regiment

The 153rd Infantry Regiment (First Arkansas) is a United States infantry regiment, currently represented in the Arkansas Army National Guard by the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, headquartered at Malvern, Arkansas, and 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, headquartered at Searcy, Arkansas, elements of the 39th Brigade Combat Team. The regiment was also represented by the 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment headquartered at Warren, Arkansas until that unit was deactivated on 5 September 2005. The regiment was activated as the 1st Arkansas Volunteer Infantry for the Spanish-American War, but did not deploy overseas. The regiment was activated for World War I, redesignated as the 153rd Infantry and shipped to France as a part of the 39th Division, but became a replacement division and personnel were reassigned to other AEF units. The regiment was activated for World War II and deployed to the Aleutian Islands, participating in the Aleutian Islands Campaign. Recently, elements of the regiment have participated in two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, in 2004 and again in 2008.

## Formation of the 1st Arkansas, State Troops

Two units claimed the name "1st Arkansas" during the American Civil War, one Confederate and one on the Union side, but neither have a direct connection to the 153rd Infantry. These units were each recruited in the state by national governments for service in their respective army. Neither of them had any connection to the militia units of the State of Arkansas.



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*COL Patrick Cleburne, Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas State Troops, 15<sup>th</sup> Arkansas, Confederate State Army*

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No connection between the 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment (1st Arkansas State Troops) and the 1st Infantry, Arkansas State Guard, from which the 153rd Infantry Regiment was created, is formally recognized by the United States Army Center of Military History. Arkansas militia units were very active during the Reconstruction era, but interest in the militia waned in the years after Reconstruction ended and very little activity occurred above the local level for many years.

## Post-Civil War

While the State Militia was heavily engaged in numerous civil disturbances following the Civil War, most notably the Brooks Baxter War, very little is known about the regimental organization of the units involved in these Reconstruction era conflicts. Officially, the state militia of the 1880s and early 1890s consisted of the 1st and 2nd Infantry regiments, one battery of artillery, one troop cavalry, and one signal unit. The Arkansas State Guard did not begin to take its modern form until the late 1890s. It was organized between 1890 and 1894 in the Arkansas State Guard as the 1st Regiment of Infantry, with its headquarters in Little Rock.

In reality, interest in the state militia had waned following Reconstruction, and the state legislature failed to appropriate any funds to support the militia. The legislature had even abolished the office of adjutant general, so the only effective organization during this period was at the company level. Local militia units that existed were supported with private funds: local militia companies, such as the McCarthy Light Guards in Little Rock, participated in drill and ceremony competition; all their funding for travel, uniforms and equipment came from private sources.

## Reorganization of 1891

In 1891, Captain E. D. Thomas, of the 5th Cavalry was ordered to make an inspection of Arkansas State Guard on behalf of the Inspector General of the Army. Upon reaching Little Rock, Captain Thomas found that the only Arkansas military organizations in existence at that time were at the local level. Captain Thomas indicated that regimental and brigade level organizations had not been maintained for several years. Thomas said that the existing local companies were supported through benevolence and that the state had not even applied to utilize funds for the support of the militia, which had recently been approved of by Congress. Captain Thomas' visit apparently spurred the state into action because he indicated that an order from the Executive Office, Headquarters Arkansas State Guard, reorganized the Guard.

## Reorganization of 1897

In January 1897, Governor Daniel W. Jones took office and although the position of adjutant general had still not been re-authorized by the state legislature at this time, Jones appointed Brigadier General Arthur Neill as his private secretary and acting adjutant general. The new governor and adjutant general began a massive reorganization of the Arkansas State Guard; two new regiments of infantry, another troop of cavalry, and another battery of artillery were added. The state was divided by the Arkansas River into two military districts. The 1st Regiment, Arkansas State Guards was assigned to the Southern District.

## Spanish–American War

On 25 April 1898, President William McKinley called upon the State to supply two infantry regiments for the Spanish American War. As none of the regiments were in acceptable condition to deploy – only two companies were determined fit to be mustered into service intact – the decision was made to create two new infantry regiments from the available manpower. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Regiments of Infantry, Arkansas State Guard, were reorganized, redesignated and mustered into federal service between 14–25 May 1898 at Little Rock as the 1st and 2nd Arkansas Volunteer Infantry.



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*COL Elias Chandler, 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Volunteer Infantry*

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The newly formed 1st Arkansas Volunteer Infantry did not see combat during the Spanish American War. The regiment, commanded by Colonel Elias Chandler, along with the 2nd Arkansas Volunteer Infantry was sent to Camp George H. Thomas at Chickamauga Park, Georgia in May 1898. The 1st Arkansas Volunteer Infantry was still there participating in basic training when the war effectively ended with the fall of Cuba and the signing of an armistice in early August. The 1st Arkansas Volunteer Infantry mustered out of Federal Service on 25 October 1899 at Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Militia Act of 1903 (32 Stat. 775), also known as the Dick Act (after U.S. Senator Charles W. F. Dick, a Major General in the Ohio National Guard), organized the various state militias into the present National Guard system. The act was passed in response to the demonstrated weaknesses in the militia, and in the entire U.S. military in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

## Mexican Border Campaign



*Company A, First Arkansas Infantry, on the skirmish line near Deming, New Mexico, during the 1916 Mexican Expedition.*

In July 1916, the entire Arkansas National Guard was mobilized for federal service on the Mexican border. The 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments were stationed near Deming, New Mexico, as part of support troops for the “Pancho Villa Expedition,” led by General John J. Pershing. The 1st Arkansas did not engage in Mexico and returned to Little Rock in February, mustering out of service 19–24 February at Fort Logan H. Roots. This mobilization

of the National Guard along the Mexican border was the training ground for many future leaders of the Arkansas National Guard – many of the officers who led Arkansas National Guard units in the early years of World War I and World War II began their service on the Mexican border.

## World War I

When the United States declared war on Germany 6 April 1917, less than two months had passed since the 1st Arkansas had completed mustering out from duty on the Mexican border. In March, 1917, the Arkansas National Guard had been in danger of having its federal recognition withdrawn due to poor enlistment levels.

While Congress was debating the declaration of war, the 1st Regiment was mobilized 31 March 1917, and began reporting to Fort Roots in North Little Rock. With the increased speculation of the entry of the United States in the war in Europe, plans for mobilization were published. The War Department initially called the 1st Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard into federal service for the purpose of police protection in March 1917. Later in 1917, the entire Arkansas National Guard was federalized. By 4 April 1917, the 1st Arkansas Regiment was ready to move to Little Rock. Policies were established to cope with men unable to pass physical examinations. It was determined that these men would be mustered into Federal service, their status remaining the same as those men passing the physical examination. After being mustered into Federal service, the men who did not pass the physical examination were discharged and given free passage home. The 1st Arkansas Infantry had a discharge rate of only 12 per cent because of physical defects. When the 1st Arkansas Infantry was mobilized for duty on the Mexican border the discharge rate was 50 per cent.

On 18 July 1917, the 1st Arkansas was assigned to Camp Beauregard (Alexandria, Louisiana), for training as the Eighteenth Division. By 24 July 1917, Company “B” from Beebe was the only unit of the 1st Arkansas National Guard having a full war quota of men after physical examination for Federal service. On 26 July 1917, the first guardsman was killed when James



Voinche, Company I, 1st Arkansas Infantry, was killed by a streetcar in Little Rock.

## Movement to Camp Beauregard

In late September, 1917, the Arkansas National Guard moved to Camp Beauregard. Upon reaching the Louisiana Camp, all National Guard units were stripped of their state designations and renumbered under a new federal system. The 18th Division was redesignated as the 39th Division, which included the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The 1st Arkansas Infantry Regiment became the 153rd Infantry Regiment. The 39th was called the "Delta" Division, and the 153rd was part of the Seventy-Seventh Infantry Brigade, along with the 154th Infantry, and the 141st Machine Gun Battalion.



REGIMENTAL STAFF

One Hundred and Fifty-Third Infantry, Thirty-Ninth Division, U. S. A.

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*Regimental Staff, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana 1918.*

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In January, 1918, the National Guard Reserve was transferred to the active list. However, in the same month, Alexandria, Louisiana, was made off limits, and visits by other regiments were banned due to an outbreak of meningitis. During this time, the soldiers were instructed in the use of deadly gases and then exposed to tear gas. The curfew concerning Alexandria lasted until 6 March 1918. The soldiers complained about the bugs and were anxious to go to France. By March 1918, the soldiers received new Enfield rifles.

## Deployment to France

Due to a lack of replacements for units already in combat in Europe, five thousand enlisted soldiers of the 39th Division were offered the opportunity to volunteer to deploy before the rest of the division. In June 1918, these volunteer enlisted personnel from the 153rd (old 1st Arkansas) and 154th (composed of part of the old 2nd and 3rd Arkansas) Infantry, began arriving in France. The movement consisted of only twenty per cent of each organization, and the officers did not accompany their troops but remained at Camp Beauregard with the other eighty per cent still in training.

The 39th Division, less its artillery units, left Camp Beauregard 1 August 1918, and sailed for overseas service on 6 August 1918. The units of the 39th Division arrived in France between 12 August and 12 September 1918. The unit was then sent to the St. Florent area, southwest of Bourges, where it was designated as a replacement division. In November 1918, it moved to St. Aignan. There, several of the units were transferred to combat divisions. The Division was never a front line division; therefore, it never advanced any miles, captured any prisoners nor received any replacements. The Division was designated as the Fifth Depot Division on 14 August 1918, and moved to Charost and Mehun-sur-Yèvre Area southwest of Bourges. The units of the Division for the most part were training cadres whose duties were to receive, train, equip, and forward replacements of both officers and men for the infantry units, machine gun units, and for ammunition and supply trains. On 29 October 1918, orders directed that the Division be attached to the 1st Depot Division at St-Aignan-Noyers and Loir-et-Cher. While the 153rd Infantry did not see combat as a regiment due to its use as replacements, several of its soldiers did participate in combat.

## Demobilization

Most former Arkansas guardsmen began returning to the United States during January and February 1919. The Division returned to the United States for demobilization during the period between 30 November 1918, and 1 May 1919. The Division demobilized the

following month at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. With the war ended, the 153rd Infantry landed in Hoboken, New Jersey on 27 February 1919, making the crossing aboard the USS President Grant.

## Between the World Wars, the 5th Arkansas

As it became clear that the Arkansas National Guard units mobilized for World War I would not simply revert to state control but were, in fact, being disbanded upon demobilization, the state petitioned the War Department to be allowed to establish several new units: Arkansas was initially authorized to form the Fifth Regiment, Arkansas Infantry.

By 1921 the state had been authorized to reconstitute its war time units. The 5th Arkansas Infantry was reorganized as the 153rd Infantry and the 141st Machine Gun battalion.

## 206th Field Artillery Regiment

The 206th Field Artillery Regiment is a United States artillery regiment, currently represented in the Arkansas Army National Guard by the 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery, and Headquartered at Russellville, Arkansas. The 1-206th FA is an element of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The regiment's history begins with the creation of the 3rd Arkansas Infantry in 1917, as a part of the expansion of the guard following the Mexican Expedition and just before World War I. The unit was reorganized for World War I as the 141st Machine Gun Battalion, an element of the 39th Infantry Division. The unit deployed to France but did not see combat before the end of the war. Between World War I and II, the unit was reorganized as the 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) and many of its units were stationed at state colleges. The 206th CA was mobilized for World War II and participated in the Battle of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on 3 and 4 June 1942. Following World War II the unit was reorganized as the 206th Artillery and served as the Division Artillery (DI- VARTY) for the 39th Infantry Division.

## World War I

The National Defense Act of 1916, provided a massive expansion of the National Guard, from a force of just over 100,000 to over 400,000. While a 3rd Arkansas Infantry had existed in the Arkansas State Guard prior to the Spanish–American War, the unit had been deactivated and never reorganized following the war with Spain. On 17 April 1917, plans for the 3rd Arkansas Regiment were formulated: new units were to be raised in sixteen cities to support the new regiment. On 16 May 1917, it was announced that Little Rock was one of the cities to be allowed a new infantry company which would be part of the 3rd Arkansas Regiment. Enlistments were to be for the duration of the war.

To qualify for a commission in the Guard, an individual had to be a former officer or private of the Guard, officer on reserve or unassigned list, active or retired officer of the regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps; graduate of the United States Military or Naval Academy or graduate of a school, college or university where military science under a regular army officer was taught. Recruitment for men in Little Rock was carried out by seventeen girls wearing badges bearing the words, "If You Are A Real Man Enlist." The girls distributed buttonhole tags with, "Are You A Slacker?" The other side of the tag read, "Are You A Man?" The girls worked until 5 June 1917, when the draft law became effective.

## Mobilization

The 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment mobilized 5 August 1917, and was encamped around the new state capitol by 8 August.

The 2nd and 3rd Infantry Regiments were examined for Federal service on 6 August, at Ft. Brough (located on the Capital grounds). The regiments, under the control of General Wood, were sent to Ft. Roots and moved to Camp Pike in North Little Rock by 24 August 1917. The Commander of the supply company of the 3rd Arkansas received instructions from the Augusta Arsenal to go into the open market and buy mess kits to

complete the equipment needed for the new regiments. In mid-September the Arkansas units were notified that they were to be part of a newly created division, initially called the 18th but later re-designated as the 39th Division, as with the 153rd. The 3rd Arkansas Regiment used sixty coaches, three standard Pullmans, six baggage cars, twelve boxcars, and one stock car, and set off on a train journey to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. They mustered into federal service 27 September – 18 October 1917.



BATTALION STAFF  
One Hundred and Forty-First Machine Gun, Thirty-Ninth Division, U. S. A.  
(FORMERLY FIRST SQUADRON OF FIRST MISSISSIPPI CAVALRY)  
Major E. Ross Smith    Captain Hugh C. Longino    First Lieutenant Oscar B. Robbins    Adjutant

*While the caption indicates that the 141<sup>st</sup> MG BN was formed from a Mississippi unit, the unit was actually formed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas Infantry Regiment.*

The Arkansas troops were reorganized after their transfer to Camp Beauregard under a new national system for numbering army regiments. The 1st Arkansas Infantry became the 153rd Infantry Regiment, the 2nd Regiment (minus its Machine Gun Company) became the 142nd Field Artillery Regiment. The 3rd Arkansas Infantry, which had reported to Camp Beauregard with over 1800 soldiers, was divided into two new units. The 154th Infantry Regiment and the 141st Machine Gun Battalion were created, from the old

3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment.



One-Hundred and Forty-First Machine Gun Battalion, Thirty-Ninth Division, U.S.A.

The 141st Machine Gun Battalion was composed of members of the former 3rd Battalion, 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment and the Machine Gun Company from the 2nd Arkansas Infantry. The 18th Infantry Division was re-designated as the 39th "Delta" Division, U.S.N.G., and the Arkansas units were assigned to the 77th Infantry Brigade (153rd Infantry, 154th Infantry, and the 141st Machine Gun Battalion).

## Deployed to France

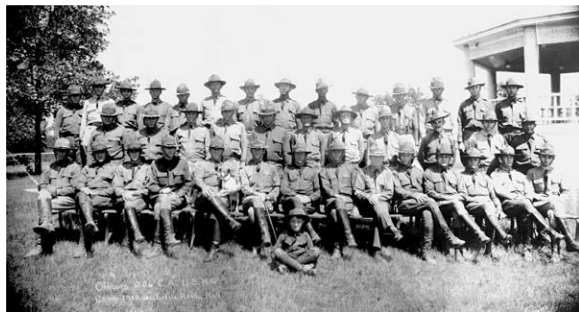
The first unit of the 39th Division arrived in France on 12 August 1918, and the last unit arrived on 12 September 1918. It was then sent to the St. Florent area, southwest of Bourges, where it was designated as a replacement division. In November 1918, it moved to St. Aignan. There several of the units were transferred to combat divisions. The 141st Machine Gun Battalion was deployed to near Chaumont, Department of Haute-Mame, France. Soon after reaching its billets an order was received from G. H. Q. designating this unit as the 141st Anti-aircraft Machine Gun Battalion and ordering it to proceed to Langres, France for training. The organization finished the war at Noigent waiting for transportation. The unit returned to the United States and was discharged in 1919, and demobilized 13 January 1919 at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.

## Birth of 206<sup>th</sup>

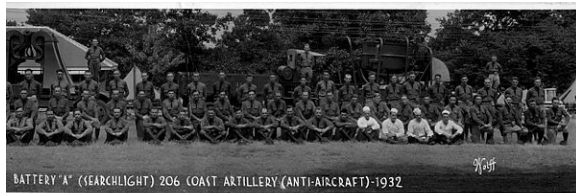
The 141st Machine Gun Battalion (Anti-Aircraft) was reorganized and redesignated in 1923, as the 206th



Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft). The units of the former 141st became the 2nd Battalion of the newly formed 206th Coast Artillery. MAJ Charles Garrett, who had commanded the 141st Machine Gun Battalion was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and designated as the Regimental Executive Officer of the newly formed, 206th Coast Artillery. The 206th Coast Artillery took its coat of arms from Chaumont, one of the principal towns in the Department of Haute-Marne, France, where the 141st Machine Gun Battalion was stationed during World War I. While the 2nd Battalion headquarters initially remained at Nashville, this changed in the mid-1920s when several of the 206th Coast Artillery units were restationed in order to place them at the state's colleges. The 206th batteries stationed at state colleges were made up of the cadet corps for the newly formed Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) located at the colleges. Often the officers of these batteries were drawn from the college faculty while the soldiers were students.



*Officers of the 206<sup>th</sup> C.A. U.S.N.G. Camp McRae, Little Rock, 1920s*



*Battery A (Searchlight) 206 Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) 1932, Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas*

## World War II

The 206th Coast Artillery Regiment (CA) was inducted into federal service 6 January 1941, at home stations as a part of a one-year mobilization of the National Guard in preparation for World War II. Later the regiment moved to Fort Bliss, Texas and conducted its initial training.

### “To the Nickel”

The 206th (CA) competed with the Artillery from New Mexico to determine which would deploy to either the Philippine Islands or the Aleutian Islands. The Aleutians are an island chain off the southwest coast of Alaska. The 200th CA was a former cavalry unit recently converted to coast artillery. The 206th CA actually provided cadre to assist with the training of the 200th CA, however many of the members of the 200th CA spoke fluent Spanish, which would be a great advantage in the Philippines. According to legend, the final determination was made by the flip of a nickel. The 200th CA won the coin toss and was selected to deploy to the Philippine Islands. The 200th CA was decimated in the fall of the Philippine Islands and its survivors participated in the Bataan Death March. To this day, members of the 206th traditionally offer the toast “To the Nickel” at all formal gatherings in memory of this fateful decision.

## Battle of Dutch Harbor

The Battle of Dutch Harbor that included the 206th took place on 3-4 June 1942, when the Imperial Japanese Navy launched two aircraft carrier raids on Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and U.S. Army Fort Mears at Dutch Harbor on Amaknak Island, during the Aleutian Islands Campaign of World War II.

In this battle, a Japanese aircraft carrier strike force under Kakuiji Kakuta launched air attacks over two days against the Dutch Harbor Naval Base and Fort Mears in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. The attacks inflicted moderate damage on the U.S. base. Shortly thereafter, Japanese naval forces under Boshiro Hosogaya invaded and

occupied Attu and Kiska islands in the Aleutians.

## Background

On 3 June, a Japanese carrier strike force, under the command of Rear Admiral Kakuji Kakuta, comprising the carriers Ryūjō and Jun'yō, plus escort ships, sailed to 180 mi (160 nmi; 290 km) southwest of Dutch Harbor to launch air strikes at the United States Army and United States Navy facility to support a Japanese offensive in the Aleutians and in the central Pacific at Midway. The Japanese planned to occupy islands in the Aleutians in order to extend their defensive perimeter in the North Pacific to make it more difficult for the U.S. to attack Japan from that area.

Dutch Harbor was ringed with anti-aircraft artillery batteries from the 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft), Arkansas National Guard. The 206th CA (AA) had been deployed at Dutch Harbor approximately four months when the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December. The 206th CA was equipped with the 3-inch Gun M1918 (an older model with a vertical range of 26,902 ft. (8,200 m)), .50in (12.7mm) M2 Browning machine guns, and 60 in (150 cm) Sperry searchlights. The 206th had one radar in position at Dutch Harbor at the time of the attack.



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*3 inches anti-aircraft gun section from Battery D, 206<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery at its second position during the Battle of Dutch Harbor, 4 June 1942.*

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## Battle

Shortly before dawn at 02:58, given the geographic latitude and longitude, Admiral Kakuta ordered his aircraft carriers to launch their strike, which was made up of 12 A6M Zero fighters, 10 B5N Kate high-level bombers, and 12 D3A Val dive bombers, which took off from the two small carriers in the freezing weather to strike at Dutch Harbor.

The planes arrived over the harbor at 04:07, and attacked the town's radio station and oil storage tanks causing some damage. Many members of the 206th were awakened on 3 June by the sound of bombs and gunfire. While the unit had been on alert for an attack for many days, there was no specific warning of the attack before the Japanese planes arrived over Dutch Harbor. With no clear direction from headquarters, other than an initial cease fire order, which was quickly withdrawn, gun crews from every battery quickly realized the danger, ran to their guns stationed around the harbor and began to return fire. In addition to their 3 in (76 mm) guns, 37 mm (1.46 in) guns and .50 in (12.7 mm) machine guns, members of the unit fired their rifles and one even claimed to have hurled a wrench at a low-flying enemy plane. Several members reported being able to clearly see the faces of the Japanese aviators as they made repeated runs over the island. The highest casualties on the first day occurred when bombs struck barracks 864 and 866 in Fort Mears, killing 17 men of the 37th Infantry and eight from the 151st Engineers.



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*Buildings burning after the first enemy attack on Dutch Harbor 3*

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When all the Japanese planes were recovered, there were erroneous reports of enemy ships in the vicinity, but search planes found no ships within the area. During the search, four Nakajima E8N2 “Dave” two-seat reconnaissance planes—launched from the cruisers Takao and Maya—encountered U.S. fighters searching for the departing Japanese squadron. Aerial combat ensued and two of the reconnaissance aircraft were shot down and their two-man crews were captured by a U.S. patrol boat, while the two others were damaged. The two remaining Japanese planes managed to return to their ships, only to crash-land in the water. The crews of both were rescued. The first day of the Dutch Harbor air raid had inflicted little damage on the U.S. forces in the area.

The 206th CA spent much of the night of 3/4 June moving guns down off the mountain tops surrounding the harbor down into the city of Unalaska and into harbor facilities themselves. This was partially as a deception and partially to defend against an expected land invasion. Civilian contractors offered to help and were put to work filling sandbags to protect the new gun positions.

On 4 June, the Japanese carriers steamed to less than 100 mi (87 nmi; 160 km) south of Dutch Harbor to launch a second attack. At 16:00, a second airstrike of nine fighters, 11 dive bombers, and six level bombers took off and attacked the U.S. facilities at Dutch Harbor again less than an hour later. More targets were damaged including some grounded aircraft, an army barracks, oil storage tanks, aircraft hangar, and a few merchant ships in the port. When the Japanese returned on 4 June, the Zero fighters concentrated on strafing the gun positions while their bombers destroyed the fuel tanks located at the harbor. One wing of the military hospital at the base was destroyed. After hitting the fuel tanks, the enemy dive-bombers and high-level bombers concentrated on the ships in the harbor, Fillmore and Gillis. Driven away from these two targets by intense anti-aircraft fire, they finally succeeded in destroying the station ship *Northwestern* which, because of its large size, they

mistakenly believed was a warship. *Northwestern* was actually a transport ship, which had been beached and used as a barracks for civilian workers. Although in flames and badly damaged, firefighters managed to save the hull. Its power plant was thereafter being used to produce steam and electricity for the shore installations. An anti-aircraft gun was blown up by a bomb and four U.S. Navy servicemen were killed.

Two Japanese dive bombers and one fighter, damaged by anti-aircraft fire, failed to return to their carriers. On the way back, the Japanese planes encountered an air patrol of six Curtiss P-40 fighters over Otter Point. A short aerial battle ensued, which resulted in the loss of one Japanese fighter and two level bombers. Four out of the six U.S. fighters were lost as well.

## Aftermath

During the 4 June raid, one above-mentioned Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero was damaged by ground fire and crash-landed on Akutan Island, about 20 mi (17 nmi; 32 km) northeast of Dutch Harbor. Although the pilot was killed, the plane was not seriously damaged. This Zero—known as the “Akutan Zero”—was recovered by American forces, inspected, and repaired. The recovery was an important technical intelligence gain for U.S., as it showed the strengths and weaknesses of the Zero’s design.

The following day, Admiral Kakuta received orders to break off further attacks and head for the central Pacific to support the Combined Fleet, which was retreating after being defeated at Midway. Two days later, a small Japanese invasion force landed and occupied two of the Aleutian islands, Attu and Kiska, without further incident.

## Breakup and Reorganization

With the threat to the Aleutian Islands at an end, the regiment was redeployed to Fort Bliss in March 1944, deactivated and personnel reassigned. The 1st Battalion was redesignated the 596th AAA (automatic weapons), but was broken up after a month and its personnel used as replacements. The 2nd Battalion

was redesignated the 597th AAA (automatic weapons) and participated in the Central Europe and Rhineland campaigns. The 3rd Battalion, which was created in Alaska, was redesignated the 339th Searchlight Battalion but was disbanded in less than three months and its personnel used as replacements. Several hundred former members of the 206th became infantry replacements, most being assigned to the 86th and the 87th Infantry Divisions. The 597th AAA was inactivated 12 December 1945 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

## The 153<sup>rd</sup> in World War II

The 153rd Infantry Regiment was ordered to active duty 23 December 1940, as a part of a one-year mobilization of the National Guard in preparation for World War II and spent the next 10 days at what is now the University of Central Arkansas. The 153rd then moved to Camp Robinson and completed basic training. Moving to Camp Forrest, Tenn., the regiment spent six weeks in maneuvers and returned to Camp Robinson for a few days of leave before shipping out to Camp Murray, Washington, on 20 August 1941.

The 153rd, along with the 206th Coast Artillery Regiment arrived in Alaska in August 1941. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were posted to Annette Island and Seward, Nome and Yakutat, Alaska. The 2nd Battalion was stationed on Umnak Island, west of Dutch Harbor and took part in the occupation of Adak Island and the assault on Kiska on 15 August 1943, as part of the Aleutian Islands Campaign. The Japanese had secretly abandoned Kiska only days before the invasion by U.S. forces. The recapture of Kiska brought the Aleutian Islands campaign to a close.

The 153rd returned to Camp Shelby, Miss., on 21 March 1944, and was deactivated on 30 June 1944; its soldiers assigned to other units as replacements. Many returned to Camp Robinson as cadre.

## Conclusion

The Aleutians Campaign is not a well-known struggle in the annals of WWII history. In addition, when many think of those who fought for the United States during the War, National Guard units are not the first that came to mind. But the men of the 153rd and 206th of the Arkansas National Guard participated in a forgotten or unknown campaign of the Second World War, and their sacrifices should not be lost to history. In their book *The Williwaw War*, the authors, Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon write: “The boys of the 206th and 153d left Arkansas as boys and returned as men. They went to a forgotten place to fight a forgotten war. What they did was not romantic; it was dull, boring, hard, and cruel, but it had to be done.”

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## Lineage and Honors: What Is It And Why Should We Care?

MAJ Anthony Rushing, Command Historian



With the ongoing deployments of the Arkansas National Guard units in support of the war on terror and other US military operations, an item of importance that tends to be overlooked or ignored is the updating of a unit's Lineage and Honors certificates. Mostly this is a result of the increased operational tempo and the constant shuffling of personnel after deployments. However, it is of significant importance for each and every unit to ensure efforts are made to capture past activities and operations.

The Lineage and Honors Certificate (L & H) of a unit, usually referred to as its "Lineage," captures and documents important dates of organization, campaigns, and honors for the unit. The certificate is a legal document with specific words and phrases that have important and specific meaning. It is the genealogy, or "birth, graduation, wedding, and death" leaders can determine which unit awards should be represented by ribbons on members uniforms, and which streamers should be displayed on colors, standards, and guidons.

Each certificate establishes a chronological "statement of events" followed by the official named campaigns in which that particular unit served. This is known as its Campaign Participation Credit (CPC). A corresponding streamer on the unit's flag or guidon reflects this credit for each campaign on the L & H certificate. Each streamer reflects the same ribbon of Soldiers' campaign medals. However, proper awarding of Campaign Participation

certificate" of that unit. Of equal importance is the fact it keeps track of a unit's awards and battle honors. This document is vital to create and maintain the "esprit de corps" of each unit that is authorized an L & H certificate. The certificate establishes the continuity of a unit through its various changes in designation and status, and verifies its entitlement to honors, heraldic items, historical property, and files.

Most MTOE units that are authorized a color, standard, or guidon will have L & H certificates prepared by the Center of Military History (CMH). As changes or operations occur these are updated to reflect the additional information. However, it is the responsibility of the unit to initiate these updates. This is important to Soldiers and leaders in that Soldiers will find information regarding their unit's past achievements, while

Credit is one of the largest issues units have faced in the recent past. Typically the active duty higher headquarters fails to complete the process or never corrects any issues after redeployment, and Guard units return home with no official credit.

Unit awards received are also reflected on the L & H certificate. Awards most commonly found on a unit's lineage are the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC), Presidential Unit Commendation (PUC), and Valorous Unit Award (VUA).



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*MUC 1-153, 2-153, 3-153, and 1-206 for Iraq 2004-2005*

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*VUA-A\2-153 Baghdad and Najaf 2004-2005*

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In quite a few instances units are nominated for the award but demobilize before the award is finalized. Again, the higher headquarters may fail to complete the loop and contact the unit to inform of the award or send the streamers when received. In some cases mistakes are made and units are not notified in a timely manner, if at all. The information provided will explain the process for completing requests for updated L & H certificates.

### **PROCESS FOR OBTAINING MISSING CAMPAIGN CREDIT OR MISSING UNIT AWARDS**



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*Campaign Participation Credit*

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Before any update to an L & H certificate is requested, permanent orders (PO) for CPC and/or unit awards must be obtained from Human Resources Command (HRC) to reflect the unit's participation and subsequent awards. CMH prepares and creates all L & H certificates but only utilizes federal orders to substantiate what any given unit is authorized on their certificate. Both CPC and unit awards can be obtained after the fact but it is a lengthy and

often difficult process. These will be detailed before the explanation of L & H request process.

The processes for completing the retroactive request is detailed in MILPER and ALARACT messages, and units should work with the state awards NCO in DCSPER or the Command Historian in order to streamline the process. There have been recent successes in awarding both CPC and unit awards ten years after the deployment so there is hope with perseverance.

The first step is for the unit to determine if it is missing its CPC or any award thought to have been presented. If the unit does not have an HRC permanent order awarding either, the unit must begin the process to request these.

For CPC, MILPER message 12-253 details step by step process for requesting credit for GWOT, Iraq, and Afghanistan or Kosovo campaigns. The required documents are mobilization and demobilization orders; memorandum from brigade commander of the wartime chain of command requesting CPC for unit; verification memorandum from general officer within wartime chain of command; and a unit list in an excel spreadsheet with all required unit information.

The packet must then be submitted to State Awards NCO to forward to NGB through eTracker. NGB will verify the packet is complete and forward to HRC where the process will occur. Once approved, HRC publishes a permanent order awarding CPC to the unit and forwards to TACOM. TACOM creates the official CPC certificate and proper streamers and forwards the packet to NGB who sends to DCSPER Awards section.

Unit awards follow much the same process. In most instances a unit is recommended for an award by its higher headquarters but administrative errors hold up the process. If the unit has returned to the US it may not receive



notice of errors. It requires the unit to be proactive if it is aware of an award nomination to track its status themselves. If not, the time suspense may not be met and the lengthy process to resubmit begins.

The list of required documents are prepared and forwarded in the same manner as CPC to the State Awards NCO for transmittal via eTracker to NGB. The documents consist of completed DA Form 7594 with all corresponding information and wartime chain of command signatures; memorandums from nominating higher headquarters commander regarding explanation of lateness, MTOE strength participation, and statement of punishments under UCMJ; and Congressional Waiver request. NGB verifies packet is complete and forwards to HRC where the process is completed. If awarded, a permanent order is published and certificate and streamers are created and presented in same manner as the CPC process.

#### **REQUESTING AN UPDATED LINEAGE AND HONORS CERTIFICATE**

Once PO's for CPC and unit awards are received, the unit is ready to request an updated certificate. CMH has designated each state Command Historian as the conduit to request and process packet for submittal. Again, the required documents must be federal orders to include organization/reorganization changes; mobilization and demobilization orders; CPC and awards PO's. All units currently in existence have an L & H certificate on file with CMH which is the base document worked from. The packet is sent to the Command Historian for verification of completeness and forwarded to NGB and on to CMH for processing. When completed, the new and updated certificate is sent to Command Historian for transfer to the requesting unit.

Arkansas National Guard units have been mobilized continually since the beginning of the Global War on Terror. Many have mobilized and deployed multiple times while others continue to deploy. In the past some units were awarded campaign streamers that simply stated "IRAQ" or "AFGHANISTAN". These are now unauthorized due to individual campaigns being established for different time periods and operations. Any unit with either of these should request through supply channels with the Institute of Heraldry for a replacement with the proper campaign. A permanent order for that CPC from HRC must be on record in order to obtain the proper campaign streamer.

Lineage and Honors is vital to the strength and morale of a unit. It builds pride and devotion within its members and organization. It displays the achievements of past Soldiers for all current and future members of the unit to emulate and celebrate. It is the "family pride" of their Guard family. Units should pursue this endeavor to assist in recruiting and retention and become proactive in ensuring the tasks are completed within time limits to eliminate the difficulties in correcting issues and obtaining their much deserved credit and recognition.

For questions or assistance regarding Lineage and Honors contact State Awards NCO at DCSPER. References regarding topics discussed are provided below.

MILPER Message 12-253 – Clarification on Processing Procedures for Campaign Participation Credit, dated 8 August 2012.

MILPER Message 15-072 Afghanistan Campaign Medal-Revised Campaign Expeditionary and Service Medal Guidance dated 4 March 2015

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AR 840-10, Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates, dated 1 November 1998.

AR 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures, dated 21 September 2007.

## Featured Artifact: ¼ Ton, 4x4, Truck “Jeep”

By MAJ Matthew Anderson



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*The jeep in the Arkansas National Guard Museum is a Ford GPW serial number 238458 with a date of delivery of December 9<sup>th</sup> 1944.*

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“The Sun Never Sets on the Mighty Jeep” was the Willys-Overland slogan for their 1945 advertising campaign. It was not an overstatement. By 1945, the jeep was serving with every Allied Nation on every continent. Even the Germans were ordered to use captured jeeps rather than destroy them. Having created such a versatile vehicle for the war effort, Willys-Overland began to prepare for the post war economy by sending out a brochure lauding the jeep's wartime accomplishments and the post war practical applications for farmers, ranchers, hunters, fisherman and families in rural areas. With millions of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines returning home from WWII to farm and field with their own testimony to the legendary dependability and versatility of the mighty jeep, it was sure to become a peacetime success.



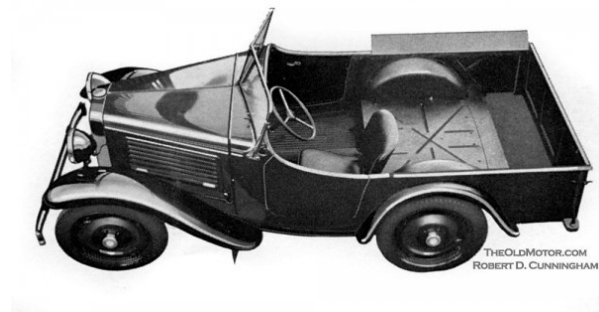
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*1945 advertising brochure from Willys-Overland (Willys Export Corporation)*

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Following WWI the Army saw the need to motorize its force. Many articles were written in professional military journals in the 1920s and 1930s of the concept of mobility and mechanized warfare. What would a horseless cavalry look like? What types and composition of vehicles would be needed for Armored Forces, for Infantry? Motor transport vehicles were being used but they were too large and cumbersome to use in the reconnaissance role. Cars on the other hand were just not sturdy enough for off road use. Motorcycles were initially seen as a possible solution but others felt something more was needed. A vehicle with a low profile for easy concealment that could carry three to four Soldiers with equipment and a light machine gun would be ideal.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Jeep, but the history of the jeep generally starts in 1938 with the Quartermaster Corps requesting three Bantam built American Austins for evaluation due to the lightweight design of these vehicles. Also the Pennsylvania National Guard acquired several and had used them with some success as light weapons carriers during their annual maneuvers.



*Bantam Car Company American Austin Truck*

In May 1940, the Quartermaster Corps presented design improvements to Bantam that it wanted to see incorporated into a command reconnaissance vehicle. Then on 27 June 1940, the Army put out a request for bid to 135 auto companies for 70 vehicles that met the design specifications. The vehicle had to be four wheel drive, empty maximum weight 1300 lbs., payload of at least 600 lbs., 80 inch wheel base, 36 inches high, 47 inch wheel track, ground clearance of 6.5 inches and carry four personnel. Designs had to be in by 22 July

with the first prototype available in 49 days and 70 prototype vehicles available 75 days later. Bantam, having already seen the requirements, was well ahead of the others and was the only one able to put out their prototype called the BRC (Bantam Reconnaissance Car) in 49 days. Willys-Overland was the only other company to even submit a bid. The Quartermaster Corps put the Bantam BRC through its paces at Camp Holibird, MD on 23 September 1940. After a 15 minute drive on an obstacle course Major Herbert Lawes the army test driver stopped and announced "I believe this unit will make history".

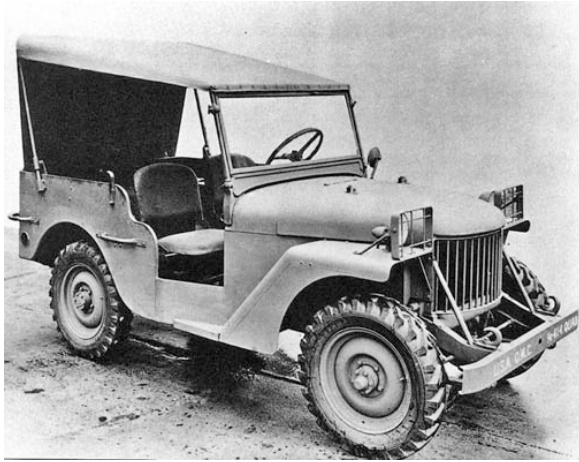


*Bantam BRC at Camp Holibird (Quartermaster Corps)*

For the next three weeks the Army drove it over grueling terrain and obstacles for about 3,000 miles purposely trying to break the vehicle. One such obstacle was a four foot high ledge cleared at 30 mph. It eventually did break but the Army knew it had the makings of a great vehicle. About 20 improvements were requested as a result of the trials, one was that the BRC was still too heavy since it was 600 lbs. over the 1300 lbs. requirement. This problem was solved when a very large Cavalry Officer walked over to the rear bumper and lifted the back off the ground. Everyone finally agreed that weight was not an issue. The Army having accepted the design now owned the design. It directed Bantam to build not only the additional 69 with 8 of those having four wheel steering but also directed soon after that 1500 more be built. The Army also handed over the plans to Willys-Overland and Ford who had been at the trials taking notes. While Bantam was building its improved Bantam BRC-40, Willys-Overland and Ford each built their own prototype variants with their own money in case Bantam, which was a small struggling company, could not meet the production deadlines. By mid-November 1940, both companies returned with their prototypes. The Willys-



Overland Quad and the Ford Pygmy were each put through their paces.



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*Willys-Overland Quad with the L-134 60 hp "Go Devil" Engine that would eventually become the engine of the standardized jeep (Quartermaster Corps)*

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Both of these vehicles had significant problems but each had several features the Army liked. The flat hood and several body features of the Ford, while the Willys-Overland 4 cylinder L-134 "Go Devil" 60 hp engine was clearly seen as the best engine of the three. With several improvements shared between the three companies, they each now had a contract for 1500 vehicles. Bantam now was building the BRC-40 (40 was for 40hp), Willys-Overland built the MA and Ford built the GP.



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*Ford Pygmy in trials at Camp Holibird. Several of the Ford body features would be incorporated into the standardized jeep (Quartermaster Corps)*

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*Bantam BRC-40 (Quartermaster Corps)*

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*Willys-Overland MA (Quartermaster Corps)*

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*Ford GP with prototype four wheel steer at Camp Robinson, Arkansas with Lt. A. Seabury and Lt. R. Buchanan of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Signal Photo Corps. Camp Robinson was one of several designated test sites in the final phase of testing. Only eight of these were built. (Army Signal Corps)*

In June 1941, a bid went out to all three for a single winner to build 16,000 Command Reconnaissance Cars. On 23 July 1941, Willys-Overland won the contract with its improved design now designated the MB coming in with the lowest bid \$739.00 per unit thus the standardized jeep was born.



*1942 Willys MB at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Captain C. R. Goodwin, Special Projects Officer, 66<sup>th</sup> Division rides as jeep being used by Soldiers as make shift sled for football practice Nov 1943 [www.history.army.mil](http://www.history.army.mil)*

The Army was concerned that if the Willys-Overland plant in Toledo, Ohio was sabotaged it would cripple jeep production so on 10 November 1941, it offered Ford the next highest bidder at \$973.34 per unit a

contract to build 15,000 of the standardized jeep. Ford designated theirs the GPW. While the jeep was standardized there were still differences between the MB and the GPW, but the parts were fully interchangeable. Bantam, the original brain child of the jeep, would never receive a contract. In all Bantam made 2,675 BRC-40s and BRC-60s most of which were sent over to Russia as part of the lend lease contract. Both Willys-Overland and Ford continued to receive additional contracts for the jeep throughout the war. In all Willys-Overland built 340,000 MBs and Ford built 277,896 GPWs by 1945. Ford also received a contract to build an amphibious jeep, it was designated the GPA. At the height of MB production in 1943, Willys-Overland was rolling out a MB every four minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week!



*The Amphibious Jeep designated the Ford GPA "Seep"  
([www.wheelsage.org](http://www.wheelsage.org))*

The standardized jeep weighed about 2,400 lbs. and had a payload of 800 lbs. The fuel capacity was 15 gallons and got about 20 miles to the gallon on open road for a range of about 300 miles. The jeep could climb 60% grades. Jeeps were built to perform a variety of tasks, the main task being that of a reconnaissance car. For this task a plate was built into the cross member of the frame so that a M31 pedestal could be installed in order to mount a M1917, M1918, M1919A4 .30 Cals or a M2 .50 Cal.





*1942 Willys MB jeeps at the Willys-Overland Factory in Toledo, OH (Life Magazine)*



*Willys-Overland Company Plant in Toledo, Ohio 1942 (Life Magazine)*

The Infantry soon came out with a M48 machine gun mount that could be installed on the dash so that the passenger could fire a .30 Cal MG while seated with the windshield down. Suppression kits were installed in some jeeps so they could have radio equipment installed. A pintle hook was standard so that the jeep could tow a

37mm anti-tank gun, trailers and other equipment. Guidance in artillery units even showed how in an emergency two jeeps could be used to pull a 155mm Gun. A canvas cover was provided so that in the tactical environment the windshield could be covered and folded down to prevent glare. A canvas convertible top was also provided so that some protection from rain, wind and cold could be provided in rear areas. Spare tools and parts sufficient for all operator level tasks, a shovel, axe, spare tire and a 5 gallon gas can came standard. For Desert Operations a desert kit was available that provided a radiator surge tank and a power driven air compressor with tire gage.



*In 1943 communities, schools and civic organizations were rallied to conduct war bond drives to sell enough war bonds to buy a jeep. Sometimes jeeps would be delivered to the front with plaques stating which school raised the funds to build the jeep. (www.ewillys.com)*



*Jeep as delivered overseas being removed from a shipping crate (www.ewillys.com)*



G.I.'s quickly found the jeep to be versatile in ways the manufacturers and Quartermaster Corps never imagined. The following is a collection of photos showing Soldier ingenuity at work in the field.



1942 Willys MB. Early on the British SAS found the jeep to be well suited for their long range hit and run tactics in the desert of North Africa where they attacked Rommel's fuel and ammunition depots with devastating effect. (IWM - Sgt. Currey, No 2 Army Film & Photographic Unit)



Early 1942 Willys MB has been modified by installing M3 37mm Anti-Tank Gun. This reduced the time necessary to place the gun in action. Also note the M48 dash mount on drivers side with water cooled M1917 .30 Cal MG. A jeep similarly equipped was credited for stopping a Japanese armored assault of four tanks in the Pacific. (Army Signal Corps)



A Willys MB on the left and a Ford GPW on the right have been fully prepared and loaded on landing craft for the invasion of Normandy. Asbestos paste was applied to areas designated per instructions to prevent salt water from getting into critical areas. Pipes were installed on the muffler for deep water fording. US Flags pasted to windshields for recognition by the French people. National star was encircled for better aircraft recognition called an "Invasion Star". The yellow between the star and the circle is Gas Detection paint which would turn orange if exposed to poison gas. (www.g503.com)



This vehicle is with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 351<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Italy. The metal bar sticking up in front of the jeep is a wire cutter. This was a field modification after it was found that Germans were stringing wire across roads to decapitate or strangle jeep

drivers. (Life Magazine)

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Medics also modified their jeeps to increase the casualty evacuation capabilities of their units. ([www.med-dept.com](http://www.med-dept.com))

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In 1945 the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne had several jeeps modified with the addition of armor plate, long range radios, and repositioning the M31 pedestal mount for the M2 .50 Cal to the front passenger location. These vehicles were used for long range recon and to flush out small pockets of resistance in Germany. ([www.g503.com](http://www.g503.com))

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This jeep has armor plate installed and two M1A1 2.36in Rocket Launchers "Bazooka" mounted on to a M31 pedestal mount to take on enemy light armored vehicles. ([www.g503.com](http://www.g503.com))

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If you could fit it in or strap it down the jeep would get it there. Millions of miles of communications wire were laid by jeeps similarly equipped with wire spools. ([www.g503.com](http://www.g503.com))

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Two mechanics at Camp Robinson work on an early 1942 Willys MB with a "Slat Grill" The term slat grill refers to a grill that was welded together rather than the later simplified stamped grill. (Public Domain)



Jeep maintenance in the field ([www.g503.com](http://www.g503.com))



Forward Observer in North Africa calls for fire on enemy positions. One forward observer earned a Silver Star Medal using his jeep. Waiting on a hill top for HQ to give him the ok to open fire with smoke to cover the assault, the call did not come when expected. With no response from HQ, he drove his jeep, exposing himself to a hail of mortar and artillery fire, back to HQ to find it destroyed. With his jeep already riddled with holes, he returned to his position through enemy fire and directed devastating fire on the enemy positions. (Life Magazine)



Jeeps were carried into combat by gliders. Training in North Africa 1943. (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne)



Jeep being unloaded from a C-47 Skytrain. Bumper had to be removed in order to make the tight turn through the door.



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*When they did not have an amphibious jeep, they improvised by using a large piece of canvas wrapped around the jeep to float it. ([www.g503.com](http://www.g503.com))*

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*Jeeps used as trains to transport supplies  
([www.g503.com](http://www.g503.com))*

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The following are just a few examples of how the jeep was used in combat as written in the citations for the Silver Star medal of Soldiers who served in WWII.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 8th Armored Division, General Orders No. 95 (September 7, 1945)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Technician Fifth Grade Paul J. Malpass (ASN: 39327377), United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy while

serving as a Medical Aidman with the 741st Tank Battalion, 8th Armored Division, in Germany on 14 April 1945. Speeding across some 1500 yards of open ground completely exposed to withering enemy artillery and small arms fire, Corporal Malpass went to the rescue of three seriously wounded soldiers despite the fact that four other jeeps had been knocked out and their occupants captured in previous attempts to get through with ammunition. Unaided, he placed the wounded in his jeep and again made the perilous trip to return them to safety and vital medical attention. Corporal Malpass' courage and complete disregard for his own personal safety reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 75th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 196 (1945)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Technician Fourth Grade Glenn E. Mahaney (ASN: 38503351), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 291st Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, in action in connection with military operations against the enemy on 5 April 1945, in the vicinity of Rutgers, Germany. An enemy artillery barrage destroyed a vital communication line near a battalion observation post. Although pinned down with his wire crew in a shell hole by the continuing barrage, Technician Mahaney went forward alone in his jeep to repair the line after ordering his men to stay behind in the safety of the shell hole. An artillery air burst hit his jeep wounding him. He started to repair the line and was again hit with shrapnel in the neck, chest and arm when another artillery air burst hit overhead. Despite his wounds, this gallant soldier persisted in repairing the line and successfully established the vital communications. The indomitable fortitude and aggressive courage of Technician Mahaney under are in accordance with the finest traditions of the United States Army.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 42d  
Infantry Division, General Orders No.  
129 (1945)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Private First Class David E. Steele (ASN: 15359752), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Company, 222d Infantry Regiment, 42d Infantry Division, in action on 1 April 1945, near Vockenrot, Germany. When the platoon in which Private Steele was a driver was ambushed, the cross-fire of two machine guns was concentrated on his jeep. Knowing that the heavy machine gun mounted on his vehicle was badly needed in the fight, he remained at the wheel, clearly silhouetted against a burning building, and maneuvered his jeep into a position from which his gun could be brought to bear on the enemy. In the course of this act, Private Steele was wounded four times. His courage and disregard for his own safety enabled his platoon to make use of its most effective weapon in extricating itself from the ambush.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 42d  
Infantry Division, General Orders No.  
124 (1945)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Private First Class Custer B. Kilpatrick, Jr. (ASN: 34678601), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Company, 222d Infantry Regiment, 42d Infantry Division, in action on 1 April 1945 near Vockenrot, Germany. When his platoon was ambushed, Private Kilpatrick was wounded by a German hand grenade that struck his jeep. Attempting nevertheless to evacuate the radio operator, who had been seriously wounded, he found that the return route had been cut by the enemy. Skirting hostile positions and occupied foxholes, while the Germans concentrated heavy fire upon him, Private Kilpatrick brought his vehicle through the enemy lines. His courage and disregard for his own safety saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 42d  
Infantry Division, General Orders No.  
XX (XXXX)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Second Lieutenant (Infantry) Raymond L. Keplinger, Jr. (ASN: 0-555892), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with the Anti-Tank Company, 242d Infantry Regiment, 42d Infantry Division, in action on 9 January 1945 near Hatten, France. Lieutenant Keplinger was with the third squad of his anti-tank platoon protecting the flanks of two battalions when ten hostile armored vehicles approached the squad's position from a woods. Realizing that the squad would soon exhaust their ammunition Lieutenant Keplinger drove his jeep under intense fire to the other gun positions, loaded it with ammunition and returned in the face of heavy fire from the tanks. Although wounded three times by shell fragments, Lieutenant Keplinger directed his platoon's fire so skillfully that four Mark IV tanks and two personnel carriers were destroyed and more than sixty enemy killed. His courageous and gallant leadership was responsible for breaking up a determined hostile attack.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 82d  
Airborne Division, General Orders No.  
14 (February 2, 1945)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Staff Sergeant Norman B. Angel (ASN: 20365654), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division, in action on 20 December 1944, near \*\*\*\*\*, Belgium. During the height of an attack on \*\*\*\*\*, Belgium, the First Battalion had expended nearly all of the basic load of ammunition and was in danger of being without ammunition for the defense of its hard-won position. Staff Sergeant Angel, Headquarters Company Supply Sergeant, realizing this and with complete disregard of his personal safety made repeated trips in a jeep over an exposed section of road about 1,000 yards long which was continually swept by fire from enemy cannons, machine guns, and



small arms to deliver ammunition to a point 50 yards behind the foremost riflemen. From this point he personally carried the ammunition to the individual riflemen and machine gunners of the entire battalion, crawling as much as 200 yards under intense small arms fire to reach the battalion's flanks. Despite the fact that his vehicle was frequently hit by hostile fire, Staff Sergeant Angel never hesitated or faltered in his assigned task. By his unselfish devotion to duty, he played an important part in the successful accomplishment of his battalion's mission. The heroism and gallantry displayed by Staff Sergeant Angel upheld the highest traditions of the United States Army.

### **General Orders: Headquarters, 106th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 23 (February 20, 1945)**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Technician Fifth Grade [then Private First Class] Marshall W. Walker (ASN: 34608075), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Medical Company, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, in action on 15 December 1944 in Germany. During an intense German attack on his battalion's position, Private First Class Walker, a Medical Aidman, valiantly driving a jeep across a road junction constantly pounded by enemy artillery and mortar fire, made three trips to rescue wounded comrades between our lines and the enemy's. Fastening the litters to the hood and another across the back seat of his vehicle, Private First Class Walker, heroically disregarding his own safety, successfully evacuated a maximum number of casualties to the battalion aid station. By his inspiring courage and exemplary actions, Private First Class Walker materially heightened the morale of those witnessing his deeds and was instrumental in aiding the many casualties he evacuated.

You can see from these accounts that the jeep was depended upon by Soldiers to get into and out of tight spots. It was used to move men and material to save lives and quickly gain the advantage at a decisive moment.

Most jeeps in the US today never left the states during WWII. Willys-Overland specifically requested that the

military not bring back the jeeps from overseas since that would undermine any chance of Willys-Overland surviving in the post war economy if the military released jeeps as surplus. For the military at the end of WWII it would have been impractical to do so.



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*The jeep in the Arkansas National Guard Museum is a Ford GPW serial number 238458 with a date of delivery of December 9<sup>th</sup> 1944. Only seven days later the Battle of the Bulge would begin. It is one of 5,715 Ford GPWs that were made that month. The engine is Willys manufactured with serial number MB-61120 from 1942, and indicates that the engine was replaced at some time in the jeep's history. Ford made L-134 60hp engines using the Willys "Go Devil" design. In Ford GPWs the engine serial number and the frame serial number would match when the jeep left the factory.*

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Instead, jeeps overseas were collected in depots where local civilians were hired to sort through and work on them. Jeeps were then parted out to rebuild post war



militaries and police organizations. Other jeeps were handed over to the UN to use in agricultural programs to help farmers increase their yield. Jeeps that could not be rebuilt or were excess to these requirements were sold or handed over to a country as scrap metal that could be used to build other things in the post war world. As a result, jeeps that are found overseas are more likely to have a combat history although it is not always able to be determined unless original paint markings can be found under the layers of paint. WWII jeeps such as the one in the ARNG Museum stayed in service for a time then were gradually released as surplus in the late 1950s and through the 1960s. By then Willy-Overland had produced the Civilian CJ-2A, CJ-3A, the Military M38 and created other popular recreational vehicles. Mr. Richard Harrison restored and donated the Ford GPW that is in the museum. It is marked on the bumper as being the 7<sup>th</sup> vehicle in B Company, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



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*The jeep in the Arkansas National Guard Museum is a Ford GPW serial number 238458 with a date of delivery of December 9<sup>th</sup> 1944.*

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So be sure to stop by the ARNG Museum in July and wish the jeep a Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Also take a moment to think about the millions of allied Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who depended upon the mighty jeep to get the job done.

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## Featured Photograph

### Camp Robinson, Arkansas during WWII



These photos were taken for Independence Day, Camp Robinson, Arkansas, 3 July 1942.

Signal Corps Photos  
#162-42-1807 and #162-42-1809 by Mitchell,  
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Located at:  
Camp J.T. Robinson  
Lloyd England Hall  
Building 6400, Box 58  
North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600  
Phone: 501-212-5215  
Fax: 501-212-5228