

Soldiers, Veterans, local community celebrate Army's birthday

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Soldiers, Veterans, Carlisle Barracks and Cumberland Valley community celebrate Army's Birthday

The Army's 238th birthday was celebrated in Army units around the world today. At Carlisle Barracks, home of the Army War College and Army Heritage and Education Center, the event paid homage to Korean War veterans and neighbors.

"I'm glad that we're still here and not under another country's rule," said Arthur Kalcher of Lavale, Md., who served in the 58th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. He was accompanied today by former POW James Dickel of Mount Savage, Md., a "Tiger Survivor" who lived through 38 months in a N. Korea POW camp while 59 percent of the group died in captivity. George Easterly also traveled from Maryland; he served in the 31st Heavy Mortar Company of the 7th Infantry Division.

"This event helps set the example of patriotism because patriotism is an example of what parents and teachers need to pass on to children," said Carl Rebele of Swanton, Md. He served in the 578th Combat Engineers, 40th Infantry Division, in the Korean War. "We were the cause of 'freedom is not free.' And what we accomplished with the South Korean people in both training and services has caused them to be a leader in the world economy and an example of what we should be accomplishing today with other countries," said Rebele.



"I am glad that I could be here to represent the 2nd Ranger Company," said Winston Jackson of Washington D.C., who was a member of the only all-black unit in the Korean War. He attended the birthday celebration with his brothers in arms who made the first black paratrooper combat jumps at Munson-ni with the 187th Infantry Regiment: Herculano "Heavy Duty" Dias of Savage, Md., and Eugene Coleman of Upper Marlboro, Md.

Donald Deshong of McConnellsburg, Pa., served with the 8081st Army Unit Para-Quartermaster Company during the Korean War. He was excited to meet the veterans of the black paratrooper unit

because Deshong had loaded and dropped supplies to Dias, Coleman and their fellow troopers after the jump.

Winston Jackson, Korean War Veteran speaks to the youngest Soldier on Carlisle Barracks Spc. Benjamin Tweedie during the Army Birthday Celebration, Jun. 14 at AHEC.

Other local veterans of the Korean conflict included Walter Weishaupt of Shippensburg who served in F Company, 5th Regimental Combat Team; and Eugene Johnson of Carlisle who was serving with the 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, when he became a prisoner of war.

The Korean War was a "brothers' war" for Koreans north and south, much as the Civil War was for Americans, said Dr. Conrad Crane, AHEC historian, as he described this anniversary of the Army as it was 60 years ago in stories at the strategic, operational and tactical levels of war. To view Dr. Crane's presentation, "A Forgotten Day in a Forgotten War, Sixty Years on: June 14, 1953," go to:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDCVm7y0FmA

During the ceremony, Army War College Assistant Commandant Col. John Salvetti welcomed fellow Soldiers and community members before the traditional cake cutting—with help from a cross section of the Army Family—the post's youngest Soldier Spc. Benjamin Tweedie; oldest Soldier Sgt 1st Class Robert Forbes; Carlisle Army Recruiting Company's newest recruit Pvt. Perianna Brown; Civilian of the Year James McNally; and Korean War veteran Winston "Action" Jackson.

Salvetti pledged that, "The Army will always remain true to its enduring professional values, honoring the sacred trust bestowed by the nation. American citizens have throughout our nation's history have been called to serve in the Army to defend those things we hold important. And nothing we see of the world today should lead us to believe that the next 238 years will be any different.

So as we celebrate the continued strength, professionalism and bravery of our ready and resilient Soldiers in the all-volunteer force, remember America's Army is America's team.

Continuing the honors to veterans, Salvetti said: "Army veterans have always returned home with the new skills, deep-seated patriotism, and dedication to their fellow citizens...and they have served us on school boards, elective offices, small businesses and volunteer organizations.

"Army veterans did so after Korea, and they are doing so now, returning to college in record numbers and taking their place to shape America's great future."

Check out the Army Birthday video on Youtube at: <http://youtu.be/IOBhyzWcUU8>

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