

BRIDGING THE

GAP

Through Knowledge, Education, Understanding & Insight

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The SEP Group provides opportunities for positive exchange among diverse groups through community outreach, education and cultural diversity awareness.

DIVERSITY AND THE NEBRASKA WARRANT OFFICER CORPS

*By Chief Warrant Officer Five,
Command Chief Warrant Officer Steve Weber*



Diversity has become a central focus in today’s social and political environment. We are at a watershed moment in our history as minority groups grow in the United States. The government, including our educational system, social organizations, the media and business are challenged with creating new methods and policies in response to changing demographics. Our understanding of diversity is being broadened as the Democratic Party experienced an extraordinary slate of demographically diverse candidates in this year’s presidential primary. Although diversity seems like a new focus, the American culture has always had a vast pool of creative ideas and perspectives.

Typically, it is demographics that comes to mind when discussing diversity, including gender, race, age, ethnicity, socio-economic backgrounds, culture and religion. Every individual is included as being unique because diversity also describes the differences among people or groups. It describes the array of abilities, talents and perspectives of each person. When we understand and appreciate diversity then we recognize the interrelatedness of an individual’s contribution

to the whole, whether it be in the family, the workplace or the community. When we acknowledge how the individual contributes to the whole, we also understand that diversity fosters greatness in the team and in the Warrant Officer Corps.

The United States Army Warrant Officer Corps is by its very nature a unique and diverse group of individual

Soldiers. There are more than 40 (aviation and technical) military occupational skills (MOS) that make up the careers of Nebraska Warrant Officers to fulfill the total Army mission. The knowledge, skills, abilities, roles and responsibilities of Nebraska Warrant Officers are comprehensive and diverse. For example, Warrant Officers provide technical support to the Army National Guard in the functional areas of Logistics, Supplies and Services, Explosives Ordnance Disposal, Signal Communication Information Technology, Human Resources, Military Intelligence, Mobility Transportation, Army Bandmaster, Utility Maintenance Engineers, Ordnance Maintenance Technicians, Aviation Supply and Aviator pilots for the Army’s aircraft. The diversity of duties include flying Blackhawk helicopters, managing the Guard Family Program, keeping the computer network

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PART 1: BECOMING CITIZENS OF THE WORLD – ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME! CUSTOMS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

By Colonel Roma Amundson

This article is the first in a series of articles that will feature unique customs and courtesies of different countries.

Socrates, a Greek philosopher, would have felt quite at home in our world. Centuries ago he said, "I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world."

You'd have to be blind if you didn't see globalization in all aspects of our lives – in business, communication, travel, industry and military activities. Just head over to North 27th Street in Lincoln and you will see the various ethnic restaurants and stores and hear the different languages which reveal how other cultures are impacting our cities and towns here in Nebraska. We are indeed becoming "citizens of the world," both here in Lincoln, Nebraska, as well as in all the other cities and countries around the globe.

Dealing effectively with people in other countries is a vital skill that may determine the overall success of a relationship, whether military or otherwise. Nebraska has a long-time

Traditional Czech outfits called "Kroje"

officially recognized relationship with the Czech Republic through a program called the State Partnership Program (SPP). Over the years, Nebraska Guardsmen have exchanged information on a broad range of topics and issues through visits



Czech Soldier and his family with two Nebraska National Guard members

with Czech military members. Among the many activities, Nebraska Guard Soldiers and Airmen have worked on the development of English language

skills through an International

Language School, partnered in a Crisis Management Exercise and collaborated in Chemical Unit Level Exchange activities in a Civil Support Team (CST) setting and hosted the Command Sergeant Major of the Czech Armed Forces in Nebraska.

Similar exchanges will continue in the foreseeable future with Nebraska Guard members participating in these exchanges. For that reason, the focus of this first installment of a series on customs and characteristics of life in various countries is the Czech Republic.

Business Practices:

- In the Czech Republic, the dates are written as day/month/year. For example, October 1, 2008, would be written 1.10.08.
- Russian was the foreign language taught in schools until after 1989. Most people in positions of business authority may require an English translator.
- As a courtesy, make appointments well in advance. Allow two weeks notice for an appointment made by telephone and four weeks for appointments made by mail.
- Business and pleasure are more strictly kept apart from each other than in the

U.S.

- Stores usually close for lunch and are typically only open until noon on Saturdays in smaller towns and villages.

Negotiating:

- Decision-making occurs more slowly than in the United States. Methodical planning with the involvement of many executives is the practice.
- While Czechs are known for their hospitality, they take longer to develop close business relationships. Keep in mind that it takes longer to make friends in the Czech Republic than in the U.S.A.
- Czechs converse longer than what we would do in the U.S.A. before getting down to business. You can expect to talk about your flight, accommodations, your impressions of the country, etc. before turning to business. Topics, such as soccer, ice hockey, hiking, cycling and music are excellent for small talk.
- Coffee is served during business meetings and may already be sweetened. Coffee is frequently Turkish and may likely have grounds at the bottom.

Business Entertaining:

- Although business lunches are becoming more common due to

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Bridging the Gap welcomes your submissions of article ideas and written articles.

To have your upcoming event published in Bridging the Gap, please notify us by September 7, 2008 for the October/November 2008 issue.

All submissions will be considered for publication. We reserve the right to edit submitted material.

Please send your submission to Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez at m.schmidtrodiguez@us.army.mil

Customs in the Czech Republic Continued from Page 2

American influence, be aware that business may be discussed before and after a meal, but rarely during it.

- If you are invited out, you may offer to pay but expect your host to decline your offer. If you have made the invitation, insist on paying.
- If you ask your counterpart to choose the restaurant, be certain to explain that you intend to pay for the meal.
- If with a woman, the man enters the restaurant first.

Greetings:

- Always shake hands when introduced, and always shake hands upon arriving or departing from any meeting.
- Never keep your left hand in your pocket while shaking hands with your right.

Titles/Forms of Address:

- Most business people you meet will prefer to be called by their title or surname.
- When speaking to persons who do not have professional titles, use Mr., Mrs., or Miss and the surname. (Mr. = Pan (pronounced Pahn); Mrs. = Pani (PAH-nee); Miss = Slecna (SLEH-chnah))

Gestures:

- To get someone's attention, raise your hand, palm facing out, with only the index finger extended. Avoid waving or beckoning.
- Don't talk to someone with your hands in your pockets or while chewing gum.

Gifts:

- Appropriate gifts include good-quality pens, pocket calculators, cigarette lighters and imported wine or liquor.
- When giving flowers, they should be unwrapped and an odd number of flowers (but NOT 13). Red roses are reserved for romantic situations and calla lilies are for funerals; an even number of flowers is reserved for funerals.

Dress:

- When going out for the evening, a Czech person is more likely to dress up than an American counterpart, even if the event is simply a concert or dinner. Business wear is appropriate for most formal social events such as parties, dinners and the theater.
- Business dress tends to be conservative; businessmen wear dark suits, ties and white shirts and businesswomen dress in dark suits or dresses and white blouses.
- Casual wear is essentially the same as in the U.S.

Nice/unusual-things-to-know:

- Czechs don't smile at strangers.
- Czechs don't differentiate between fingers and toes.
- Czechs consume the most beer in the world per capita.
- Czechs are more comfortable with nudity than some Western cultures.
- Children can freely urinate in public.
- Tipping is done by rounding up to the nearest round figure and the money is never left on the table, but is paid directly to the waiter or waitress.
- You may have to pay a small sum to use a public restroom.
- If invited to a Czech home, do not offer to help with the preparation of



Czech Defense University graduation ceremony

the meal or anything else. It would be considered rude.

- Be prepared to drink alcohol if a guest. The only excuses for not drinking alcohol are if one is a designated driver or is taking antibiotics.
- Birthdays are celebrated less in the Czech Republic than in the U.S., but "name days*" are celebrated fairly seriously, almost in lieu of a birthday.

Sources:

Morrison, Conaway, Borden, Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands, (Adams Media Corporation, 57 Littlefield Street, Avon, Massachusetts, 1999) pp. 75-82.

MAJ Brenda Fujan, Deputy J5/J7 and State Partnership Program Coordinator for Nebraska, NEANG provided input and pictures for this article.

*http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech_culture/czech_name_days/

— "In the Czech Republic, every day of the year is someone's name day ("svátek" or "jmeniny" in Czech - the latter is more formal). It is a reason to celebrate, wish the person a Happy Name Day, and buy a little present, like flowers and a box of chocolates." 



“LA VOZ” — THE EMERGING LATINO VOICE

By Dr. Marty Ramirez - Vietnam Veteran and

Counseling Psychologist at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Latinos have had a tumultuous journey in American history. In the year preceding the United States (U.S.)-Mexican War (1848), the U.S. and Mexico were two nations headed in opposite directions. The United States, inspired by the concept of Manifest Destiny, aggressively expanded its territories westward. Meanwhile, Mexico struggled to maintain control over the vast expanses of land it had inherited from Spain following its long war for independence.

After Mexico's defeat in the U.S.-Mexican War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo granted to the Mexican people (those living in the states of California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas) rights of citizens of the United States, but also left a legacy of hostility toward the U.S. and mistrust for the Mexican people. The conquest transformed Mexicans from a position of citizens and owners of land to a colonized people. A gradual disruption to the way of life for the Mexicans was now shaping their social, educational, economic and political voice. For decades following the Mexican War, this voice was almost non-existent, politically; they were economically powerless.

Following the Mexican Revolution of 1910, many Mexicans came north to the United States in pursuit of a better life. During the post depression era, Mexicans and other Latinos continued to struggle, working in the fields, meatpacking plants, on the railroad, in the mines and in the factories. At times, one would hear a faint voice of protest of their plight with no results.

World War II saw many young Latino



Soldiers of the 65th Infantry training in Salinas, Puerto Rico, August 1941



Left to right: Major General Geiger, Corps Commander; Colonel Silvertorn, Corps Chief of Staff and Brigadier General del Valle, Corps Artillery Commander, examine a plaster relief map of Guam on board the USS Appalachian

men serving honorably and heroically. Despite their service, Latino veterans were still being subjected to racism and discrimination. Dr. Hector Garcia, a veteran and founder of the American Government Issue (GI) Forum, a

Mexican American veterans group, began

to address the concerns of Mexican American veterans who were segregated from other veterans groups and being denied medical services by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In one incident, the refusal by a “white cemetery” to bury a Mexican American



Hector Garcia

veteran caught the attention of then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson. This incident became part of the movement for the Latino voice to be heard on a national level.

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled (*Hernandez v. Texas*) that Mexican Americans and all other racial groups in the United States had equal protection under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Following this decision, Latino communities across the country now felt more confident in voicing their concerns related to the issues of education, employment, discrimination and lack of services.

Cesar Chavez, migrant farm worker activist of the 1960's, saw that the working conditions of the migrant farm workers were unjust. Unlike Dr. Garcia, Cesar galvanized civil rights activists, clergy, politicians, grass roots organizations and Latino communities across the country in protest of the injustice toward migrant farm workers. This period was also witness to a movement that emphasized Latino community wide involvement and activism.

Prior to the 1960's, the Latino voice had been seen silent and invisible. More recently, Latinos recognized that their silence and invisibility should not remain the status quo. The initial release of Ken Burn's recent 14-1/2 hour Public Broadcasting Special (PBS) special, “The War” did not include Latino Veterans, an absence that resulted in a national Latino community uproar. Recognizing



Caesar Chavez

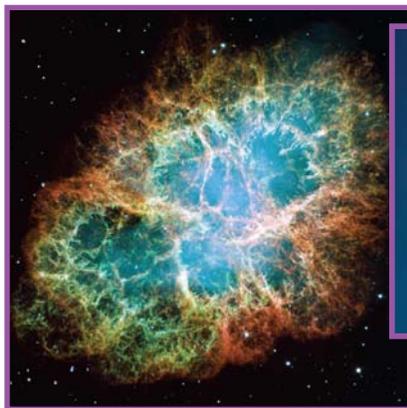


HISTORY OF NON-WESTERN SCIENCE

By MSgt Kim Davila

There is a constant divergence in the true history of science that may surprise many of us who have been taught that most scientific discoveries were made by Western cultures in the last one thousand years or so. In the last two decades, there has been a rise in scientific literature that seeks to correct or diversify the true cause and origin of scientific discovery. Many of the major discoveries of modern science have roots in non-Western societies and cultures. It is suggested by some in the scientific community that Western science exists because of the early discoveries by non-Western cultures. For example, in Western science history, the European astronomer Copernicus is credited with establishing the sun as the center of our solar system rather than the earth. A number of cultures had already posited this same fact: the Greeks (Western) as early as the third century B.C., the Eastern Indian philosophers also understood the workings of a heliocentric system some two hundred years prior to that and the Mayan civilization also recognized this fact by 1000 A.D.

In the field of invention and discovery, these very early cultures posed inquiries that are only re-discovered through modern science in the West during the Renaissance period beginning around 1500 A.D. Four major civilizations share or take turns in discovery and inventions. They are Asian (Chinese), Middle Eastern (Arab), Eastern Indian and Pre-Columbian (Mayan). In mathematics, many basic concepts predate Western science in instances such as the number zero, used by Indians and also invented by the Mayans one thousand years before Europeans ever used it. The sixty minutes of an hour is a base sixty system the Babylonians used in the third millennium B.C. and Pi was first utilized



Crab Nebula



The Sun

by the Egyptians and later refined by the Chinese another

thousand years before it was defined by modern science.

Another area of interest that ties into mathematics is astronomy. Each of the previously mentioned cultures all had their own methods and computations used to map the ancient skies, some creating their own math to track and predict events connecting religious practices and rituals, production of crops and even when to attack an enemy. With sophisticated computations, the Mayans were able to calculate astronomical positions in the past and in the future, with great precision. This may seem fundamentally easy but their astronomical discoveries were made primarily as a secluded culture with no outside influence until thousands of years later. On the other side of the world, India also brought forth amazing discoveries. Ancient texts indicate theoretical discussions on the earth's

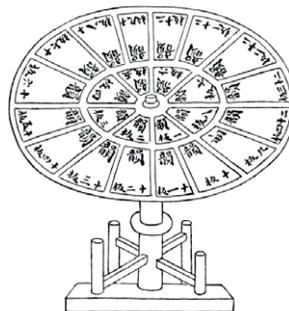
axial rotation and planets with elliptical orbits, again approximately a thousand years before the astronomer Kepler would finally acknowledge this through his own re-discovery. Even more amazing is the exactness, down to the second, of the length of the year in days and hours the Indian astronomer Aryabhata calculated. He was actually less than a day off.

Indian astronomers also understood an attractive force which kept objects fixed to the ground, much later called gravity by Isaac Newton. And yes, the world was round to the Indians many years before Columbus came to that same conclusion.

It is said that one of the greatest inventions of the West is the invention of the printing press, empowering the many and the few and advancing the European continent on a whirlwind of knowledge. But in 1086 Pi Sheng had already invented movable type in China. By 1456 when the Gutenberg Bible was printed, the Chinese already had printed book collections in the thousands. Thankfully, we

now have the ability to clarify the history of non-Western science and, through the practice of acknowledgement, we can understand the diverse intelligence, creation and major contributions of non-Western science.

Source: Lost Discoveries. The Ancient Roots of Modern Science from the Babylonians to the Maya. By Dick Teresi. Simon & Schuster Paperbacks 2002.



A revolving table typecase with individual movable type characters arranged primarily by rhyming scheme, from Wang Zhen's book of agriculture, published 1313 CE.



Selected Teachings of Buddhist Sages and Son Masters, the earliest known book printed with movable metal type, 1377. Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris.



HISTORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

By Pam Makovicka



Prague

Although a Czechoslovak state did not emerge until 1918, its roots go back many centuries. The earliest records of Slavic inhabitants in present-day Czechoslovakia date from the fifth century A.D. The ancestors of the Czechs settled in present-day Bohemia and Moravia, and those of the Slovaks settled in present day Slovakia. The settlers developed an agricultural economy and built the characteristically circular Slavic villages.

At the turn of the 20th century, the idea of a "Czechoslovak" entity began to be advocated by some Czech and Slovak



leaders. The concept that Czechs and Slovaks shared a common heritage was hardly new. As the two nations developed, the Slovaks were intent on demonstrating the legitimacy of Slovak as a language separate from Czech. In the 1890s, contacts between Czech and Slovak intellectuals intensified. The Czech leader Masaryk was a keen advocate of Czech-Slovak cooperation. Some of his students formed the Czechoslovak Union

and in 1898 published the journal *Hlas* (The Voice). In Slovakia, young Slovak intellectuals began to challenge the old Slovak National Party. Although the Czech and Slovak national movements began drawing closer together, their ultimate goals remained unclear. At least until World War I, the Czech and Slovak national movements struggled for autonomy within Austria and Hungary, respectively. Only during the war did the idea of an independent Czechoslovakia emerge.

At the outbreak of World War I, the Czechs and Slovaks showed little enthusiasm for fighting for their respective enemies (the Germans and the Hungarians) against fellow Slavs, the Russians and the Serbs. Large numbers of Czechs and Slovaks defected on the Russian front and formed the Czechoslovak Legion. The independence of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed on October 28, 1918, by the Czechoslovak National Council in Prague. Only

several years before, an independent Czechoslovakia had been the dream of a small number of intellectuals. The transformation of the dream into reality was a formidable task. While the creation of Czechoslovakia was based on certain historical precedents, it was, nevertheless, a new country carved out of disparate parts of the old Hapsburg Empire. Several ethnic groups and territories with different historical, political and economic traditions had to be blended into a new state structure. In the face of such obstacles, the creation of Czechoslovak democracy was indeed a triumph. But the Czechoslovak Republic suffered internal constrictions, which, when coupled with foreign aggression, destroyed it.

The new nation had a population of over 13.5 million. It had inherited 70 to 80 percent of all the industry of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, including the china and glass industries and the sugar refineries, more than 40 percent of all its distilleries and breweries, the Skoda works of Plzen, which produced armaments, locomotives, automobiles and machinery and the chemical industry of northern Bohemia. Seventeen percent of Hungarian industry that had developed in Slovakia

during the late nineteenth century also fell to the republic. Czechoslovakia was one of the world's ten most industrialized states.

The Czech lands were far more industrialized than Slovakia. In Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, 39 percent of the population was employed in industry and 31 percent in agriculture and forestry. Most light and heavy industry was located in the Sudetenland and was owned by Germans and controlled by



Dancing House



Czechoslovakia Continued from Page 6

German-owned banks. Czechs controlled only 20 to 30 percent of all industry.

The constitution of 1920 approved the provisional constitution in its basic features. The Czechoslovak state was conceived as a parliamentary democracy, guided primarily by the National Assembly, consisting of the senate and the Chamber of Deputies, whose members were to be elected on the basis of universal suffrage. The National Assembly was responsible for legislative initiative and was given supervisory control over the executive and judiciary as well. Every seven years it elected the president and confirmed the cabinet appointed by him. Executive power was to be shared by the president and the cabinet; the latter, responsible to the National Assembly, was to prevail. The reality differed somewhat from this ideal, however, during the strong presidencies of Masaryk and his successor, Benes.

To a large extent, Czechoslovak democracy was held together by the country's first president, Masaryk. As the principal founding father of the republic, Masaryk was regarded similarly to the way George Washington is regarded in the United States. Such universal respect enabled Masaryk to overcome seemingly irresolvable political problems. Even to this day, Masaryk is regarded as the symbol of Czechoslovak democracy.

During World War II, Czechoslovakia disappeared from the map of Europe.*

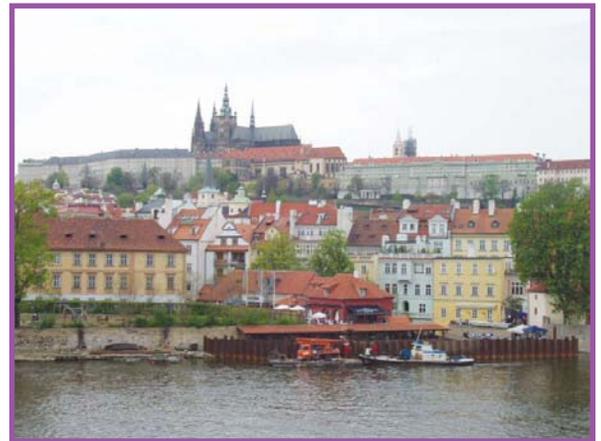


The re-emergence of Czechoslovakia as a sovereign state was not only the result of Allied policies but also an indication of the strength of the Czechoslovak idea, particularly as embodied in the First Republic. But Czechoslovakia now found itself within the Soviet sphere of influence - a fact

that had to be taken into account in any postwar reconstruction. Thus the political and economic organization of postwar Czechoslovakia was largely the result of negotiations between Benes and the Communist party of Czechoslovakia (KSC) exiles in Moscow.

Nearly 42 years of Communist rule ended with the nearly bloodless "velvet revolution**" in 1989. Václav Havel, a leading playwright and dissident, was elected president of

Czechoslovakia in 1989. Havel, imprisoned twice by the Communist regime and his plays banned, became an international symbol for human rights, democracy and peaceful dissent. The return of democratic political reform saw a strong Slovak nationalist movement emerge by the end of 1991, which sought independence for Slovakia. When the general elections of June 1992 failed to resolve the continuing coexistence of the two republics within the federation, Czech and Slovak political leaders agreed to separate their states into two fully independent nations. On January 1, 1993, the Czechoslovakian federation was dissolved and two separate independent



Palace



The Jewish cemetery in Prague is a very, very old one. There are graves here dating back to the middle ages. Many famous Jewish scholars, writers and rabbis are buried here. What makes the atmosphere special is the absolute jumble of the place. Headstone upon headstone, some fallen over completely, some broken, partly buried themselves, some leaning on each other. Hundreds of tombstones, one more beautiful than the other, some so worn by time that they are now totally unreadable.

Why is it such a jumble? Space here was expensive. For centuries Jews could not be buried outside the ghetto and this meant burying people almost right on top of each other. It is a place ideal for contemplation and remembrance.

countries were established—the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined NATO in March 1999.

The beautiful Czech Republic lies in central Europe, to the southeast of Germany. The Czech Republic is a neighbor to Poland in the north, Austria to the south, Germany in the northwest and west and Slovakia in the east.

The Czech Republic is a densely populated state. With an area of not more than 78,000 square miles, it has a population of more than ten million.

One of the biggest attractions of the Czech Republic is its capital city, Prague. Prague is the largest city of this nation. It alone nestles a population around 1.2 million people. Prague, also known as the Golden City, is categorized among the

Continued on Page 8



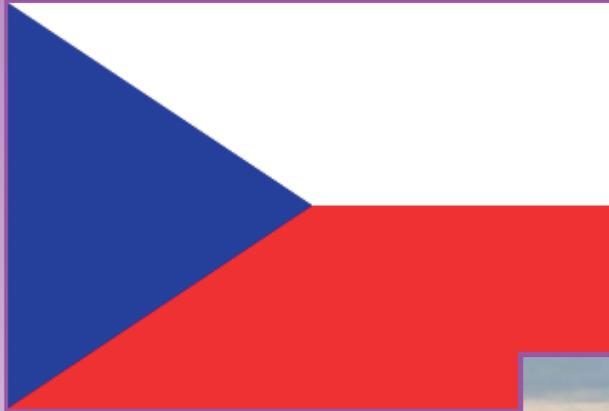
MY CZECH HISTORY

By Pam Makovicka

My grandparents were both Czech and spoke the language most of the time. They enjoyed sharing the stories of their Czech history. I would like to share with you a few things I remember most.

My Grandmother and mother were excellent cooks and enjoyed making kolaches. A kolache is a fruit filled roll that was originally a Czech wedding pastry and is now a favorite national dessert throughout Czechoslovakia and the world. I have learned to make them too, but they are a whole day project for me. Czech recipes originated from the staples produced in European gardens and farms. They are straightforward, simple, tasty and nourishing. Pork, hearty bread, cabbage, dumplings with gravy and sauerkraut were always my favorites.

The Czech people are hard working and believe in taking care of family. My Grandfather came to America with his mother from Prague to Nebraska. My Great Grandmother Katie wanted a better life for her sons. Her husband had been killed in the Hungarian Revolution and



she did not want her sons to die in the war, too. She homesteaded property near Bruno, Nebraska and worked hard to provide her family with a good life. My dad still owns the farm that was homesteaded in the late 1800's.



Christmas was a very special holiday in our family. The Czech traditions for Christmas are that on Christmas Eve, families sit down to a large dinner of soup, salad, vegetables and fish with a special Christmas cake made of currants and almonds for dessert. There is an old belief that says there should be an even number of people sitting around the table and that if anyone leaves the table early,

it is a sign that they will pass on in the next year. Therefore, everything is prepared and placed on the table beforehand so that there is no need to get up from the table. Another Czech custom is cutting a branch from a cherry tree and putting it indoors to bloom. If the blooms open in time for Christmas, winter will be short and good luck will abound.



My Grandfather taught me about the Czech flag being red, white and blue. The white is the traditional color of Bohemia, the red is the color of blood shed for the freedom of the state and the traditional color of Moravia and the blue is the color of Slovakia and the color of imperialism and sovereignty.

As my Grandfather and father have taught me, and for most Americans of Czech descent, achievement lies in their ability to participate in the mainstream of American life and still maintain our strong ethnic identity.

Czechoslovakia Continued from Page 7

most beautiful cities of the world. Prague is also a paradigm (a clear example) of the evidence of the history of the Czech nation.

*In the fall of 1941, the Reich adopted a more radical policy in the protectorate. Reinhard Heydrich was appointed Reich protector of Bohemia and Moravia. Under his authority Prime Minister Alois Elias was arrested, the Czech government was reorganized, and all Czech cultural

organizations were closed. The Gestapo indulged in arrests and executions. The deportation of Jews to concentration camps was organized, and the fortress town of Terezin was made into a ghetto way station for Jewish families. On June 4, 1942, Heydrich died after being wounded by an assassin. Heydrich's successor, Colonel-General Kurt Daluege, ordered mass arrests and executions and the destruction of the village of Lidice. In 1943 the German war effort was accelerated. Under the authority of Karl

Hermann Frank, German minister of state for Bohemia and Moravia, some 30,000 Czech laborers were dispatched to the Reich. Within the protectorate, all non-war-related industry was prohibited. The Czech population obeyed quiescently up until the final months preceding the liberation.

**<http://archiv.radio.cz/history/history15.html>

Sources: Wikipedia, Library of Congress, Internet Info Please



RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE THAI HOUSE RESTAURANT

610 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska; 402-475-0558

By Captain Richard Jones

Most native Midwesterners limit their experience with Asian cuisine to restaurants that have either “buffet” or “all you can eat” in their names. These hesitant souls quake at the thought of entering an Asian restaurant that does not even have “Chinese” on their sign. They fear the thought of having to order from a menu full of strange words while their noses are tempted with exotic fragrances that were never around their grandmother’s kitchen.

For Nebraskans who know that a great meal sometimes means traveling to new worlds, smells and tastes, the Thai House Restaurant is for you.

Located on the east side of 27th Street, just south of Vine Street in Lincoln, this family-owned restaurant has been in business for over sixteen years. They also own the Oriental Market next door in the same building. The restaurant is very clean and the service is beyond reproach. They have a lunch menu, served Monday through Saturday, 11:30am to 2:00pm, with specials at \$5.95 that include a spring roll, one chicken satay (chicken on a stick) and rice. They will even give you a small cup of complimentary hot and sour soup while you wait for your order.

On almost a weekly basis, I assemble a group of hungry co-workers at the office and we “attack” the Thai House Restaurant in force. SGT Heather Springer and SFC Barry Urtel share my love for their cooking, and immediately



volunteered to help me with this review.

SGT Springer ordered her tried and true favorite, Ginger Chicken.

She smiles as she adds “What’s the point in straying from a good thing?” A chicken satay in peanut sauce and a vegetarian spring roll with citrus sauce frame the plate. Steamed white rice is perfectly placed next to a steaming, heaping pile of ginger chicken. Sliced chicken is tossed

with a myriad of vegetables (green pepper, onion, baby corn and shitake

a large metal warming dish and a large bowl of steamed rice. No one person can finish this bowl of soup, so it is easily shared between two or even three people for lunch. The soup may be eaten from a small bowl with a spoon, or poured over rice on a plate.

I chose one of the standards found in any Thai kitchen, Chicken Pad Thai. Priced at \$6.95, this generous serving of pan-fried noodles may be split between two average appetites, or well enjoyed by someone that likes a hearty lunch. The dish combines small, fried rice noodles with chicken, egg, bean sprouts and crushed peanuts in a very rich, slightly sweet sauce. There may be an occasional spicy surprise as you work your way through the huge plate of noodles and fresh vegetables, but nothing too spicy for most people. This is a great meal for anyone to try as their first Thai food.

As far as Thai restaurants go, The Thai House restaurant prepares their dishes in a very mild, “westernized”

spice level that most people will find very easy to enjoy. For those of us who seek “the fire” of spices, ask your waitress to have your dish made “extra” or “extra-extra” spicy. You will be happy! If available, I recommend requesting the small red Thai peppers with your order. Have them with your lunch and you will feel like you are sitting in

a hot tub the rest of the afternoon.

Try this place out with friends for lunch sometime. If you like the lunch, take your family for their even better dinner menu. Two thumbs up for their food and another two thumbs up on their always friendly service. Make sure that you bring cash, as they do not accept checks or plastic. You may also want to have a place to hide from your boss after lunch to sneak a nap. No one leaves this place hungry. 



Chicken Pad Thai



Ginger Chicken

mushrooms), then covered in their signature sauce. The sauce is slightly sweet, with a hint of salt and a bit of a spicy kick.

SFC Urtel ordered one of the incredible main course soup offerings found on the back side of the lunch menu, “Tom Yum Goong.” Priced at \$9.95, this outstanding soup is made with shrimp, onions, mushrooms, bamboo shoots and lemon grass, served in a spicy and sour soup base. It arrives at your table in



BLACK MUSIC TRIVIA

Compiled By Peggy Brown

On May 30, 2008, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation which states that June is Black Music Month. In this proclamation, he encourages all Americans to learn more about the history of Black music and to enjoy the great contributions of African-American singers, musicians and composers. The trivia below is just a small portion of fascinating facts about African-American music. I hope this trivia sparks an interest in music and encourages you to read more about the contributions African-Americans have made to the music we enjoy.

- This music genre, one of the few arts that can be considered truly American, started about 1900.
 - Bebop
 - Jazz
 - Rhythm & Blues
- This individual is considered to be the "Father of Gospel Music."
 - Duke Ellington
 - Ray Charles
 - Thomas A. Dorsey
- What type of musical style was created in response to the hardships endured by generations of African-American people?
 - Blues
 - Jazz
 - Rap
- Jazz has many different styles. Which of the following are jazz styles?
 - Fusion, Ragtime, Hot Jazz
 - Vocalese, Blue Grass, Swing
 - Chicago Style, Kansas City Style, Spiritual
- Born Ellas Otha Bates; he was an influential rock & roll and blues musician. To what did he later change his name?
 - Muddy Waters
 - Little Richard
 - Bo Diddley
- This music style was developed in the American South and has its roots in the spirituals composed and sung by African slaves in the 18th and 19th century.
 - Gospel
 - Vocalese Jazz
 - Rap
- Michael Jackson is also known as what?
 - The Prince of Pop
 - The King of Pop
 - The King of Motown
- This child prodigy was signed by Berry Gordy at Motown Records in 1962.
 - Michael Jackson
 - Stevie Wonder
 - Marvin Gaye
- She had a career that spanned over six decades and is referred to as "The First Lady of Song."
 - Mamie Smith
 - Aretha Franklin
 - Ella Fitzgerald
- Dubbed the Queen of Soul, this singer made her first recording as a gospel artist at age 14.
 - Aretha Franklin
 - Diana Ross
 - Mamie Smith

Trivia Answers on Page 18

"La Voz" Continued from Page 4

the ramifications of this protest, Burns altered his special to include the stories of Latino veterans. This inclusion clearly demonstrates the impact of a newly emerging Latino voice.

As the country heads into the upcoming November 2008 presidential election, millions of Americans will be exercising their right to vote. In the midst of these millions, government leaders and politicians are paying special attention



Lieutenant General Pedro del Valle

to the enormous presence of the Latino vote. The Latino vote of 2008 clearly demonstrates the influence and independence of Latinos and is now being recognized as a key piece in the electoral process. Latinos continue to recognize and understand how much can be accomplished when their voices speak assertively, and that this brings with it added responsibility.



2nd Lt. Carmen Lozano Dumler



Puerto Rican nurses in Camp Tortuguero

Since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, many have attempted to define the Latino experience. Whatever the definitions might have been, Latinos are now demonstrating that they are comfortable and confident with their culture, their bilingual voices of English and Spanish and that they must continue to refuse a status of invisibility, slumber and silence. And so, as our journey continues, the Latino voice will remain alive and well.

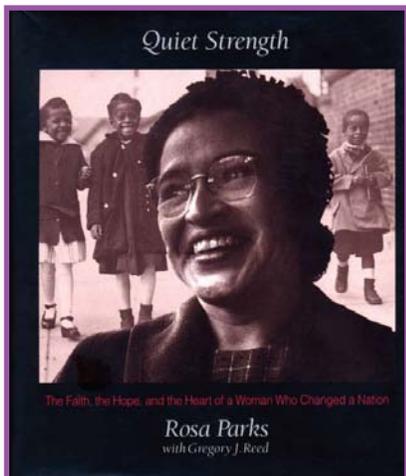
BOOK REVIEW:

QUIET STRENGTH: THE FAITH, THE HOPE, AND THE HEART OF A WOMAN WHO CHANGED A NATION: REFLECTIONS BY ROSA PARKS WITH GREGORY J. REED

Zondervan Publishing House, 1994 — Book Review by LaVonne Rosenthal

“Rosa Louise Parks is nationally recognized as the mother of the modern-day civil rights movement in America. By refusing to surrender her seat to a White male passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus on December 1, 1955, she set in motion a chain of events that were felt throughout the United States. Her quiet, courageous act changed America and redirected the course of history.”

Readers of this book will be captured by the simple, yet powerful strength of Rosa Parks and her actions in December 1955. Historians continually analyze the actions and reactions of a young Black woman



who was arrested for not giving up her seat on the bus during a time of segregation in Alabama. Following her release, a boycott began on the city bus line. “For 381 days, Blacks either walked or arranged their own rides throughout the city rather than taking the bus.... The bus boycott ended on December 21, 1956, after the United States Supreme Court declared bus segregation unconstitutional.”

This book, a compilation of Mrs. Parks’ personal reflections, covers topics such as fear, defiance, injustice, pain, character, role models, faith, values, youth and the future. In the chapter titled, “Defiance,” Mrs. Parks tells of the procedures for

Blacks riding the bus. “The custom for getting on the bus for Black persons in Montgomery in 1955 was to pay at the front door, get off the bus, and then re-enter through the back door to find a seat.” There were times when the bus driver would pull away while the Black person was walking to the rear door, leaving them behind.

This short book is filled with memorable remarks by Mrs. Parks. In the chapter titled, “Character,” Mrs. Parks says, “Human dignity must be respected at all times. I would have compromised my dignity if I had buckled one more time to the White establishment and relinquished my seat. This mistreatment would have continued. I also would have compromised my dignity if I had resisted violently.” Those who read “Quiet Strength” will truly feel the calming and dedicated presence of Mrs. Rosa Parks. 

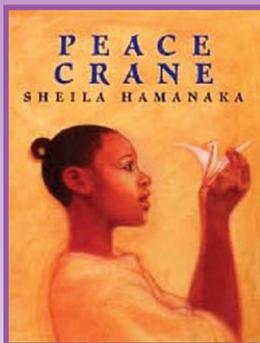
CHILDREN’S BOOK REVIEW: PEACE CRANE

by Sheila Hamanaka (Author and Illustrator); HarperCollins Publishers, August 1995

Book Review by Denise Anderson

On a recent hot Sunday afternoon, my husband and I took our daughters to the library to pickup new books. As a child, going to an air conditioned library was something I always enjoyed, so treating my daughters to this is a pleasure.

I picked up the book, Peace Crane, because I was fascinated by the dedication. It said “This poem is dedicated to the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and to all children everywhere who long for peace.” In 1945, the United State dropped atomic bombs on these two cities in Japan. Thousands of people were killed instantly, but many who survived died later due to radiation. One little girl who survived, Sadako Sasaki, was two years old when the bomb was dropped. Ten years later she was diagnosed with leukemia. In Japan, it is



her city at night. She hopes the person that is shot is not a friend or herself. She dreams of the Peace Crane picking her up and flying her around the world (past ancient trees and singing whales) and when the flight is over, she asks the Peace Crane to stay. The crane is unable to stay because it is needed in other places for other people in need. As a result of her encounter with the Peace Crane, she is

said that if you fold 1,000 paper cranes, you will be granted your wish for health. Sadako folded over 1,000 paper origami cranes. She died October 1955.

The poem deals with a little African-American girl who is thinking of Sadako and is afraid because of shootings in

now able to see it around her by listening to all the different people who also want a safe environment in which to live.

As I read Cable News Network (CNN) on the web, there always seem to be a lot of stories with a similar theme, about adults and children being hurt or killed around the world. After reading these stories, I mentally fold a peace crane and I always say a prayer that the people are safe and pray for a safer world for everyone.

The last line of the poem says, “We long to be a part of a world without borders, of a world without guns, of a world that loves its children, each and every one.” I hope it comes true soon.

For more information on Sadako Sasaki, folding paper cranes and the World Peace Project for Children, please see: <http://www.sadako.org/> 



WEBSITE REVIEW: PRECIOUS CHILDREN

by Denise Anderson



Since my daughter Anna became a kindergartner, I have had to explain to her that people are, at the same time, different and the same. I grew up in Hartington, Nebraska. There was not a lot of diversity in my home town. I did not meet many minorities until I went to Army basic training in 1984.

I personally would like to teach Anna that not everyone has the same skin color or looks the same but that we should appreciate differences in all people.

To help accomplish that, I found this wonderful website called Precious Children (<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/preciouschildren/index.html>). This Public Broadcasting System (PBS) website is about the Precious Children documentary: "As a parent and an advocate of early childhood education, Washington State First Lady Mona Lee Locke recently embarked on a project close to her heart: encouraging a cross-cultural exchange on early education by leading a delegation of 60 United States teachers to China. KCTS-Seattle producer Susan Han and videographer Valerie Vozza document the 10-day visit in Precious Children, a one-hour presentation that reveals how this nation of 1.2 billion people is preparing its children for the future."

In the 1970s, "One Child One Family" was put into effect and changed the way

the Chinese raise their children. "The one child policy in the People's Republic of China is altering family roles and child-rearing practices, raising concerns about the possible harmful effects

of too much attention and pampering. A study of single child families in the Beijing area found that these 'little emperors and princesses' were more egocentric, less persistent and less cooperative than children with siblings (Jiao, Guiping & Qicheng, 1986). The one child policy has strengthened the emphasis upon education for young children and the families' strong involvement and investment in their only child. Teachers report that not only are parents very interested in their child's school success, but they are also very quick to criticize teachers if they feel their child has been treated unfairly or too harshly." [Early Childhood Education in China By JoAn Vaughan]

There is a link on the homepage to an area which discusses diversity in the classroom. The different topics include activities and teaching methods for parents and educators to promote racial awareness, deal with insensitivity, teach kids to resist bias, celebrate different holidays, talk about linguistic and cultural diversity and help children learn responsible behavior.

The more we can show our children to respect others, the better everyone will be. This website has a lot of great information that can steer us in just this direction. So, please check it out. Everyone can benefit from the information.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY THE NEBRASKA WOMEN'S COUNCIL

CRITERIA:

The scholarship(s) will be awarded to a woman (women) currently employed by the U. S. Government in the State of Nebraska, in a permanent position, who:



1. Is attending an accredited college or university;
2. Is enrolled in a course/courses directly related to current job, career advancement, or is seeking a degree.
3. Demonstrates financial need; and
4. Has a grade point average of 3.0 or above in course work.

INFORMATION:

1. Amount: May vary up to \$500 (Minimum - \$150.00)
2. Purpose: To assist one or more female Federal employees who are presently pursuing an education and need assistance.
3. Opening Date: 1 July 2008
4. Closing Date: 15 August 2008
5. Application Form is available from Pam Makovicka, our agency's Federal Woman's Program Manager.
6. Mailing Address:
Pam Makovicka
Chair, Scholarship Committee
Nebraska Military Department
1234 Military Road
Lincoln, NE 68508
7. Notification Date: 1 September 2008
8. Contact for additional information:
Pam Makovicka, Chair
Scholarship Committee
402-309-7511



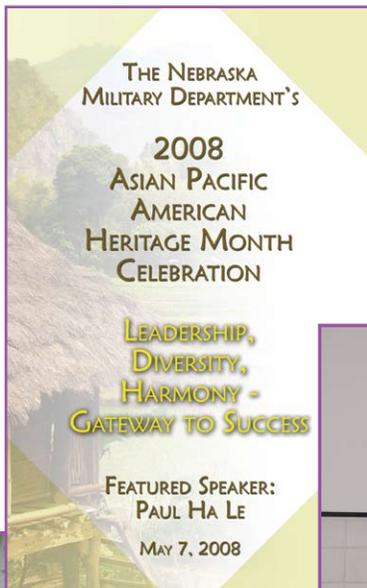
ASIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION – RECAP

Compiled By LaVonne Rosenthal

This year's Asian heritage celebration was held May 7, 2008 at Penterman Armory. Almost 100 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians had the unique opportunity to hear Paul Le tell his family's story.

Paul Ha Le was born in Da Nang, Vietnam on March 7, 1975. His father, Hoa Quy Le, served as the chief criminal investigator for the South Vietnamese Forces. His mother, Anh Le, was at home, taking care of their five children. In April, 1975, the fall of Saigon caused a major life change for millions of people across the world, including the Le family.

On the morning of April 30, 1975, Paul at two months old, fighting tuberculosis and pneumonia, with his two-year old brother, three sisters (age 7, 10 and 13), his parents, grandparents, and about seven aunts and uncles, fled the shores of South Vietnam. Dodging missile attacks on a small fishing boat, they were eventually discovered by a large commercial ship, taken to a refugee camp in Guam and then flown to Fort Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania, United States of America. The trek from Vietnam to the United States was filled with harrowing experiences and frequent evidence of guardian angels keeping the Le family



safe. It was from Pennsylvania that Mr. Le's family was sponsored by a loving family in Omaha, Nebraska. On August 1, 1975, Paul and his family arrived at Eppley Airfield and were greeted by their sponsors and eventual life long friends, Bill and Hattie Smith. It was here, under the guidance of the Smith's and their own children, where Paul and his family's new life began. Paul's father worked as a bookkeeper for Mr. Smith's auto supply store. Mrs. Le learned how to drive and the entire family had to learn how to speak English. The children attended Catholic schools and after high school graduation they completed various college degrees.

As Paul prepared his remarks for the Asian celebration, he was able to gain incredible insight into the challenges his family endured in the trek from Vietnam to Guam, then to Pennsylvania and ultimately Omaha, Nebraska. Many of the stories Paul's father shared with him had never been verbalized before. The

fortitude it took to sustain a family as they traveled by boat was evident as we heard Paul's often emotional retelling of his family's stories.

We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear this intimate sharing of one family's personal story of how they fled their home country, came to a new and strange place and made it their new home. I'm sure they would tell you how important their sponsor family has been to their success in Omaha. Our hats are off to Bill



and Hattie Smith for their generous spirit in opening their home and their lives to the Le family.

Thank you to SFC Colin Jones for connecting us with Paul so we could hear his wonderful story. This is just one example of the tremendous connections our Guard members have with the variety of cultures represented in Nebraska. Our Special Emphasis Program Group extends an invitation to other Guard members and employees to let us know of their own or other peoples' stories that represent the diverse cultures that surround us.

We are excited to announce that Paul will be writing a series of articles for our newsletter, retelling and expanding on his family's story for us in printed format. Please watch for this very important piece of American and Vietnamese history in upcoming issues. 

A SECOND CHANCE: 37-YEAR-OLD PRIVATE KEEPS EYES ON GOALS

By Major Eurydice Stanley — Adjutant, Professional Education Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

What would you be willing to do to turn your life around?

Would you be willing to be treated like a private at 37 years of age and spend every minute of every day under direct supervision of Drill Sergeants with 17-25 year olds who are now considered your peers, in pursuit of a dream – obtaining your General Education Diploma (GED)?

Seem like too much?

Not so for Private (Pvt.) Migdoel Flores of Queens, New York. “This is a second chance from life in general. I get to start all over with a GED and get to serve my country,” said Flores, affectionately referred to as “Pop” by his classmates.

Flores was one of 97 enlistees attending the National Guard Professional Education Center (PEC) GED Plus Program during the dedication of the new state-of-the-art training center. It was dedicated 20 September 2007 by the Director, Army National Guard, Lieutenant General (Lt. Gen.) Clyde Vaughn, Colonel (Col.) Richard Guzzetta, G-1, Col. Michael Jones, Chief, Strength Maintenance and Col. Kenneth Newton, Commandant, Professional Education Center (PEC).

GED Plus students attend 21, 16 or 12 day courses designed to encourage, motivate and equip enlistees to pass the GED test with personal tutoring and military indoctrination training to prepare them for Basic Combat Training (BCT). The GED Plus course essentially takes a regular six month GED program and condenses it into three weeks or less.

“I got a lot of help on math, it helped a lot,” said Flores.

The routine day for enlistees consists of



physical training (PT) at 0515, classes from 0730 – 1830 with individualized instruction, 1900-2000 soldierization training in preparation for military life and studying – no television or cell phones, only studying. It is an extremely disciplined program.

“Our primary mission is to ensure that these new Warriors receive their General Education Diploma,” said Drill Sergeant Keith Wheeler, Program First Sergeant. “After that, we take advantage of every opportunity to prepare these Soldiers to become honor graduates from Initial Entry Training (IET) and ensure they receive the right start as future leaders in the Army National Guard.”

“I am looking forward to a career in the Guard and higher education. My kids will be proud of me,” said Flores.

Flores has an 18 year old daughter and an 11 year old son in Queens. He is a maintenance engineer for a hotel in Queens and a member of the operating engineers union. He dropped out of high school because he was offered a job while

in the eleventh grade and, according to Flores, “...took the stupid route.” He found out about the GED Plus program from his recruiter.

A GED Plus complex is projected in the Director, Army National Guard’s (DARNG) fiscal year (FY) 08 Military Construction (MILCON) project. It will build a facility on the PEC campus which is projected to produce 10,000 graduates annually from states across the country. “This program will benefit the entire nation,” said Vaughn.

Vaughn is often asked what can be done to influence disadvantaged youth in America. “We’re giving youth a chance to turn their lives around,” said Vaughn. “Others talk about it, we’re doing it.”

The diversity representation at the GED Plus program reflects that of America, with 68%

Caucasian, 13% African-American, 8% Hispanic, 7% Native American and 3% others attending the program. “Our program reflects the accessions of the Army National Guard,” said Wheeler, “with 90% male and 10% female Warriors. Individuals are brought in from all walks of life and we begin the molding process, developing them into America’s finest – members of the Army National Guard,” said Wheeler.

The pass rate for the GED Plus Program is 96%, exceeding any similar program in the country. To date, more than 6,000 enlistees entered into the National Guard since the program inception in 2005.

“I got to speak to a three-star general today – probably the last time in my life,” said Flores.

Given his drive and determination, that is not likely to be the case. 





SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

SFC Melissa Oehm- Personnel Sergeant

I am of German and Irish descent and was born in Emerson, Nebraska, a very small farming community in Northeastern Nebraska. Our town had a population of approximately 890 people, which didn't have a diverse ethnic population. This town is so small, there are no stop lights. The one thing that stood out about Emerson was that it was the only town located in three distinct counties with Main Street dividing the three counties.

When I left for college I did not know where my life would take me. I spent my freshman year at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. During my sophomore year, I transferred to Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, pursuing a career in Criminal Justice. After the first two years of not really studying, I needed some discipline to get me back on track. I went to the Wayne recruiting office and met Sergeant First Class (SFC) Brad Wieland. I enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard on 1 May 1989, to pay for college. That was over nineteen years ago.

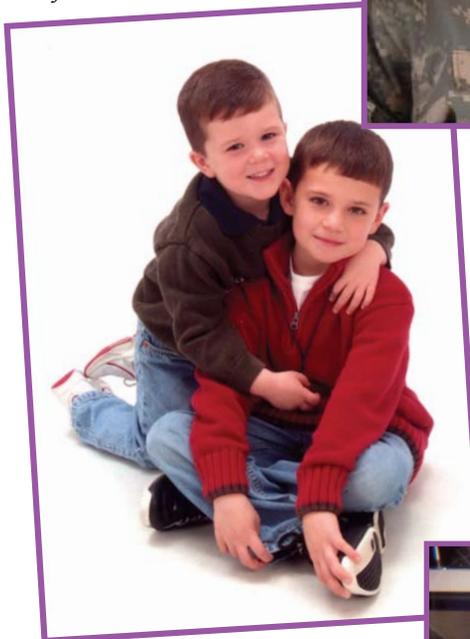
When I graduated from college in May 1992, I had a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. I started active duty for special work (ADSW) orders in February 1993. I will have over sixteen years of Active Duty in August 2008, and I will retire on 30 September 2012.

My military career has brought about many changes in my life. The friends I have made through the years are priceless. I went to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) a few years ago and became an EOA (Equal Opportunity Advisor). This four-week course was really challenging and opened my eyes.

I currently work in the Human Resources Office in the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Branch. I in-process new AGR's into the program, transfer them to different jobs and separate and retire soldiers. It is a very busy job but I enjoy my work. I joined the Special Emphasis

Program (SEP) group in 2005.

In July 2008, my husband, SSG Michael Oehm, and I celebrated twelve years of marriage. Michael is also full time in the Nebraska Army National Guard on ADSW orders. Being a dual military family, we are constantly busy. We have three beautiful boys. Tyler is eight years old and is very active in soccer, flag football, basketball, baseball and motor-cross racing. Next is Joshua who turns five in July, and will start Kindergarten this fall. Joshua can also



ride his PW 50 motorcycle, but has not mastered riding his bicycle without the training wheels. He is following in his brothers footsteps with all the sporting events. Last but not least is DJ who is eight months old. His older brothers are having fun with him. It is really a joy watching him grow, along with his older brothers, as they never stay little for long. 



EUROPEAN FOOD TRIVIA (FROM EUROPEAN HERITAGE PICNIC)

Compiled By Peggy Brown

- What is the number one beer drinking nation, per capita?
 - Germany
 - United States
 - Czech Republic
 - Australia
- What country eats more cheese than any other nation (for a total of about 45 pounds per person)?
 - Spain
 - Italy
 - Germany
 - France
- This German city/region is the home to the world's oldest brewery.
 - Bavaria
 - Hamburg
 - Berlin
 - Stuttgart
- A seafaring nation, the Netherlands has many traditional foods from the depths of the North Sea. Which seafood is their most popular?
 - smoked eel
 - salted herring
 - cod cheeks
 - cured salmon called "gravalax"
- What European nation consumes more spicy Mexican food per capita than any other?
 - Norway
 - England
 - Spain
 - France
- What animal's milk is used to make authentic Italian mozzarella cheese?
 - cow
 - sheep
 - water buffalo
 - goat
- Traditional Italian pesto is made from basil, olive oil and which nut?
 - walnut
 - pine nut
 - almond
 - pistachio
- Which ingredient is not used in a traditional Greek-style salad or horiatiki salata?
 - tomato
 - feta
 - cucumber
 - cabbage
- On which holiday are Dutch doughnuts known as "oliebollen" traditionally served?
 - New Year's Eve
 - The Queen's Birthday
 - Christmas Day
 - Easter Sunday
- Where would you normally expect to be served colcannon?
 - Wales
 - Cornwall
 - Isle of Wight
 - Ireland

Trivia Answers on Page 17

DIVERSITY DATES: AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

August 1.....Confederatoin Day (Switzerland)	August 18.....Shab-e-Barat (Islamic)	September 14.....Chung Ch'iu (China)
August 1....Emancipation Day (Trinidad & Tobago)	August 24.....Independence Day (Ukraine)	September 15.....Independence Day (Central America)
August 1.....Lughnasadh (or Lamas Day) (Celtic,Pagan)	August 24.....Janmashtami (Hindu)	September 15.....Keiro-no-Hi (Japan)
August 2.....Illinden (or National Day) (Macedonia)	August 25.....Independence Day (Uruguay)	September 16.....Fiesta Patrias (Mexico)
August 3.....Independence Day (Niger)	August 25.....Summer Bank Holiday (U.K.)	September 17.....Citizenship Day (U.S.)
August 4.....Independence Day (Jamaica)	August 26.....Women's Equality Day (U.S.)	September 18.....Independence Day (Chile)
August 4.....Summer Bank Holiday (Ireland)	August 27.....Independence Day (Moldova)	September 20.....Oktoberfest (Germany)
August 4.....Verslunarmannahelgi (Iceland)	August 30.....Victory Day (Turkey)	September 21.....Independence Day (Armenia)
August 4.....Civic Holiday (Canada)	August 30.....Shab-e-Miraj (sundown) (Islamic)	September 21.....International Day of Peace (U.N.)
August 5.....Independence Day (Burkina Faso)	August 31.....Shab-e-Miraj (Islamic)	September 21-27.....National Deaf Awareness Week (U.S.)
August 6.....Independence Day (Bolivia)	August 31..Independence Day (Trinidad & Tobago)	September 22.....Equinox (International)
August 9.....National Day (Singapore)	August 31.....Merdeka Day (Malaysia)	September 22.....Mabon (Celtic, Pagan)
August 10.....Independence Day (Ecuador)	August 31.....Solidarity Day (Poland)	September 22.....Autumnal Equinox (International)
August 11.....Independence Day (Chad)	September 15-October 15.....Hispanic Heritage Month (U.S.)	September 22.....Family Day (U.S.)
August 13.....Independence Day (African Republic)	September 1.....Labor Day (U.S.)	September 24.....Heritage Day (South Africa)
August 13.....O-Bon (Japan)	September 1.....Labour Day (Canada)	September 24.....Our Lady or Las Mercedes Day (Dominican Republic, Peru)
August 14.....Independence Day (Pakistan)	September 1.....Ramadan (sundown) (Islamic)	September 27.....Maskal (Ethiopian Orthodox Christian)
August 14.....V-J Day (U.S.)	September 2.....Ramadan (multiple days) (Islamic)	September 27....Lailat ul-Qadr (sundown) (Islamic)
August 15.....Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Christian)	September 2.....Independence Day (Vietnam)	September 28.....Lailat ul-Qadr (Islamic)
August 15.....Brazzaville (Congo)	September 3.....Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)	September 28.....Confucius's Birthday (China, Taiwan)
August 15.....Independence Day (India)	September 6.....Somhlolo (Swaziland)	September 29.....Rosh Hashanah (sundown-multiple days) (Jewish)
August 15.....Korea Liberation Day (North and South Korea)	September 7.....Grandparent's Day (U.S.)	September 30.....Botswana Day (Botswana)
August 16.....Restoration of the Republic (Dominican Republic)	September 7.....Independence Day (Brazil)	
August 17.....Proklamasi Kermerdekaan (Indonesia)	September 8.....International Literacy Day (U.N.)	
August 17.....Shab-e-Barat (sundown) (Islamic)	September 11.....Enkutatash (Coptic and Ethiopian Orthodox Christian)	
	September 11.....Patriot Day (U.S.)	
	September 14.....Ch'usok (North and South Korea)	





*Diversity and the Warrant Officer Corps
Continued from Page 1*

secure, accounting for federal property or conducting a Federal Recognition Promotion Board.

Diversity in the Warrant Officer Corps helps us succeed and we must strive to capitalize on our differing abilities and perspectives. Yet, the demographics of Warrant Officers themselves is not quite as varied as the jobs we are required to do. Although I am confident that the culture of the Warrant Officer Corps is inclusive, the Corps must continue to embrace the growth of demographics that are rising in our nation. Although the ages in the Nebraska Warrant Officer Corps span five decades, only ten percent of the Nebraska

There are many factors that slow advancement of minorities into the warrant officer ranks that occur regardless of our attempts to recruit. Examples include life changes, physical injuries, career changes and limited job opportunities. Another issue is that all warrant officers are selected and appointed from the enlisted ranks. The more diverse our enlisted ranks become, the better success we will have in improving warrant officer diversity. Fortunately, recent force structure changes have increased the number of positions available for enlisted female Soldiers, which in time will provide a larger pool of experienced qualified enlisted female Soldiers. We must not stop there.

Like many of you, I have attended diversity training, been involved in meetings and heard commanders' discussions on the topic of diversity and the need to recruit and build our National Guard to more accurately reflect the demographics of Nebraska. Some think it's a matter of survival as an organization. I agree with that sentiment. Diversity is a necessary goal and is worthy of our attention and action.

There are many approaches to assist in achieving diversity. In order to achieve this, we must have a plan of action. The concept of putting a plan into action is not as easy as it seems. What are a few practical steps to encourage diversity within your own team and/or recruit demographic minorities into the ranks? The following three simple steps are recommended as part of your action plan:

1. Recognize our interdependencies.
We must rely on one another to be successful. Show respect on every occasion for the individual and their perspective. Did you know that behavior inspires attitude? Of course you know that. We teach our children to say "thank you" so they will have an attitude of respect and appreciation. Find ways to demonstrate respect and

your attitude toward diversity will grow, as will the mutual respect you encourage for yourself and the Guard.

2. Genuinely listen so that you can understand different perspectives.
We don't understand what we don't know. Listening is the number one leadership skill for a reason. By understanding a new perspective first, you will know what information will be meaningful to others and can communicate effectively. When you respond, help others to understand the benefits and rewards of being a Guardsman and a Warrant Officer.
3. Form a positive environment.
In your workspace, home or anywhere, make diversity an opportunity. Make the environment one where all may exchange and offer diverse talents, perspectives and ideas. When diverse perspectives are the norm, then trust can build. When trust builds, you then become an influence that can invite others into the organization.

These three steps are not inclusive. Actually it is your diversity that will make a difference in gaining the commitment of others to enlist and grow. As the Nebraska Army National Guard recruits to 4,500 members strong, it will be extremely important that leaders consciously create teams of diverse Soldiers. I encourage all Warrant Officers as well as all National Guard members and leaders to commit to making a plan which will encourage diversity. 



Warrant Officer Corps is made up of minority Soldiers, which does not reflect changing national demographics. Ten females represent 8.5 percent of Nebraska's Warrant Officer Corps and the remaining minority groups represent 1.5 percent of the Corps. These numbers are a slight improvement when compared to seven percent in 2002.

Warrant Officer recruiters are fully aware of our shared vision to purposely engage minority Soldiers and offer them our full support in preparing them to qualify to become a warrant officer. As our organization seeks to improve its diversity and to achieve a greater number of minorities in our ranks, which will more accurately represent the demographics of our Nebraska communities, everyone in this organization will need to strive to work together as advocates of diversity.

*European Food Trivia Answers Continued
from Page 16*

1. c – The Czech Republic
2. d – France
3. a – Bavaria
4. b – Salted herring
5. a – Norway
6. c – Water buffalo
7. b – Pine nut
8. d – Cabbage
9. a – New Year's Day
10. d – Ireland



Continued from Page 10

BLACK MUSIC TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. b – Jazz. Founded primarily in the south (New Orleans) during the 1800's, this form of music was the first significant African-American contribution that would be heard all around the world. The sound began to travel across the United States in the 1920's, becoming popular in cities such as New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. Jazz is characterized by strong prominent meter, improvisation and syncopated rhythmic patterns.



2. c – Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993), composer of such standards as “There Will Be Peace in the Valley”, is considered by many gospel devotees to be the “Father of Gospel



Music.” The son of a minister, Dorsey was a consummate musician and as a young man accompanied some of the most famous blues singers of all time, specifically, Bessie Smith (1894-1937) and Ma Rainey (1886-1939). He also arranged and composed blues tunes. His penchant

for bouncy tunes and bawdy lyrics did not keep him from attending the annual meetings of the National Baptist Convention. A 1994 Score magazine article titled “The Father of Gospel Music” posthumously quoted Dorsey as saying, “When I realized how hard some folks were fighting the gospel idea, I was determined to carry the banner.” Carry it he did. “I borrowed five dollars and sent out 500 copies of my song, ‘If You See My Savior,’ to churches throughout the country... It was three years before I got a single order. I felt like going back to the blues.” He didn’t. With pioneer singers such as Sallie Martin (1896-1988) and Mother Willie Mae Ford Smith (1904-94) propagating his music, he stayed the course long enough to write over 800 songs and hear his music ascend from the first row pews to the choir stand, where it previously had been banned.

3. a – The blues originated in the rural Mississippi delta at the beginning of the 20th century. Descended from earlier work shouts (arhoolies), blues is primarily a vocal narrative style featuring solo voice with instrumental accompaniment. Blues has contributed to the development of jazz, rock music and country and western music.

4. a – Fusion, Ragtime, Hot Jazz. There are many styles of jazz; fusion, ragtime, hot jazz (made famous by Louis Armstrong), classic jazz, free jazz and swing to name a few. Visit www.apassion4jazz.net to read about the many different varieties of jazz.

5. c – Bo Diddley (December 28, 1928- June 2, 2008) was born Otha Ellas Bates (later known as Ellas McDaniel) in Mississippi.

Known as an American rock and roll singer, songwriter and guitarist, he is often cited as a key figure in the transition from blues to rock and roll.



He would later adopt the stage name Bo Diddley. The origin of the name is somewhat unclear, as several differing stories and claims exist. Some sources state that it was his nickname as a teenage Golden Gloves boxer, while others claim that it originates from the one-stringed instrument called the diddley bow. He was also known for his characteristic rectangular guitar.

6. a – Gospel music combines Christian lyrics, often taken from the Methodist hymnal, with American musical forms including jazz, blues, ragtime and bluegrass. Gospel music has its roots in the spirituals composed and sung by African slaves. During the period of slavery in the United States, slave owners sought to divest their slaves of their African customs and forced them to adopt Western habits – one of which was the Christian religion.

7. b – King of Pop. Michael Joseph Jackson (born August 29, 1958) is an American musician and entertainer. The seventh child of the Jackson family, he debuted on the professional music scene at the age of eleven as a member of The Jackson 5. Jackson later began a solo career in 1972; he became a pop icon and was named the “King of Pop” in subsequent



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIRST FEMALE FOUR STAR GENERAL

23 June 2008



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced on 23 June 2008, that the President has nominated Lt. Gen.

Ann E. Dunwoody of the Army for appointment to the grade of general and assignment as commander, Army Materiel Command.

“Women continue to achieve great success and make invaluable contributions to the defense of this nation. This is an historic occasion for the Department of Defense and I am proud to nominate Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody for a fourth star,” said Secretary Gates. “Her 33 years of service, highlighted by extraordinary leadership and devotion to duty, make her exceptionally qualified for this senior position.”

Lt. Gen. Dunwoody was commissioned in 1975 and has served in several positions of command, to include commanding general of Army Combined

Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, and deputy chief of staff, Logistics.

Lt. Gen. Dunwoody is currently the deputy commanding general/chief of staff, Army Materiel Command. If confirmed by the Senate, she will be the first female four-star general in American history.

The first female service member to achieve the rank of Brigadier General was Col. Anna Mae Hays, chief of the Army Nurse Corps, on June 11, 1970. There are currently 57 active-duty female general officers in the Armed Forces, five of whom are lieutenant generals.

Black Music Trivia Continued from Page 18

years. Jackson is one of the few artists to have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice.

8. b – Stevie Wonder. Blind from infancy, Wonder signed with Motown Records as a pre-adolescent at age twelve and continues to perform and record for the label to this day. He has nine U.S. number-one hits to his name and album sales totaling more than 100 million units. Wonder has recorded several critically acclaimed albums and hit singles, and writes and produces songs for many of his label mates and outside artists as well. A multi-instrumentalist, Wonder plays the piano, synthesizer, harmonica, congas, drums, bongos, organ, melodica and clavinet.



9. c – Ella Fitzgerald’s (April 25, 1917 – June 15, 1996) career spanned over six decades. She was the most popular female jazz singer in the United States for more than half a century. In her lifetime, she won thirteen Grammy awards and sold over 40 million albums. Her voice was flexible, wide-ranging, accurate and ageless. She could sing sultry ballads, sweet jazz and imitate every instrument in an orchestra. She worked with all the jazz greats,



from Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Nat King Cole, to Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie and Benny Goodman. The era of big swing bands was shifting, and the focus was turning more toward bebop. Ella played with the new style, often using her voice to take on the role of another horn in the band. “You Have to Swing It” was one of the first times she began experimenting with scat singing and her improvisation and vocalization thrilled fans. Throughout her career, Ella would master scat singing, turning it into an art form.

10. a – Aretha Franklin. Born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1942, Aretha Franklin is one of the giants of soul music, and indeed of American pop as a whole. More than any other performer, she epitomized soul at its most gospel-charged era. Franklin’s roots in gospel ran extremely deep. With her sisters Carolyn and Erma (both of whom would also have recording careers), she sang at the Detroit church of her father, Reverend C.L. Franklin, while growing up in the 1950s. In fact, she made her first recordings as a gospel artist at the age of 14.



Link to the White House and the Presidential Proclamation:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/05/20080531-2.html>

Websites:

www.afgen.com/gospel1.html
www.wisegeek.com
www.bo-diddley.com
www.wikipedia.org
www.ellafitzgerald.com

www.blues.org
www.apassion4jazz.net
www.michaeljackson.com
www.rockhall.com
www.aretha-franklin.com



Flan is a vanilla-infused custard with a sweet caramel top layer, but, like all custards, it easily embraces other flavors. Chocolate, coffee, orange, cinnamon and coconut are all delectable variations. The website <http://www.allrecipes.com> has many different flan recipes. Depending on the density and consistency you prefer, you may want to experiment with several different recipes until you find the right combination. Some flan is made with milk or cream, while others add cream cheese for a more cheesecake-like texture.



Whatever you prefer, take a tip from Latin America and finish a spicy meal with cool, creamy flan.

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|---|--|
| 1 cup white sugar | 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk |
| 4 eggs | 1 tablespoon vanilla extract |
| 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk | |



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Hint: Keep your baking dish warm/hot in the oven while you make the flan, so that when you do pour your caramel (melted sugar) into it, the caramel doesn't harden as quickly. Individual ramekins can also be used.

2. In a medium saucepan, over medium-low heat, melt sugar until liquefied and golden in color. Carefully pour hot syrup into a 9-inch round glass baking dish, turning the dish to evenly coat the bottom and sides. Set aside.

Hint: Melt the sugar with a drop or two of lemon juice. Do not stir the sugar while it's melting, just swirl in the pan occasionally. As soon as the caramel reaches a deep golden brown, remove it from the heat and pour it into the dish or dishes in which you will be baking the flan. (It will continue to cook once you pull it off the heat, so don't let it get too dark or the caramel will taste bitter and burnt.)

3. In a large bowl, beat eggs. Beat in condensed milk, evaporated milk and vanilla until smooth. Pour egg mixture through a sieve or strainer into your baking dish or ramekins. Cover with aluminum foil.

4. Bake in a water bath in a preheated oven approximately 60 minutes. If using ramekins, bake about 30 minutes. Let cool completely.

Hint: Baking custards in a water bath is crucial, due to their delicate nature. The water insulates the custard and keeps it from cooking too fast, which causes cracks in the finished flan and a rubbery texture. Lay a dishtowel on the bottom of a roasting pan, place the flan dish or dishes on top of the towel, and then fill the pan with boiling water about halfway up the sides of the custard cups. The flan is ready to be removed from the oven when it has begun to set. Gently shake the pan: the centers of the custard should jiggle slightly. You can also insert the tip of a knife into the custard near the center; if the flan is still liquid, it needs more time in the oven. When the flan has begun to set, remove the roasting pan from the oven, being very careful not to spill the hot water. Let the flan cool while sitting in the water bath, until cool enough to handle. Refrigerate before serving.

5. To serve, carefully run a butter knife or paring knife around the edge of the baking pan to release the flan. Invert your serving plate on the pan and carefully turn it over.

<http://allrecipes.com/HowTo/Perfect-Flan/Detail.aspx> 

THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT VALUES DIVERSITY

The purpose of the SEP Group is to work with leadership and management in carrying out their joint responsibility to identify barriers to the recruitment and advancement of special emphasis groups, devise solutions and draft plans to implement the solutions.

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MSgt Kim Davila	SFC John (Jack) Murphy	2LT Carlos Van Nurden
Kari Holman	SFC Melissa Oehm	Denise Wald

Interested in becoming a member of the SEP group? Please contact one of the members with an email address listed above.