

# BRIDGING

## THE GAP



ISSUE 39: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2013



DEPLOYMENT TO  
DJIBOUTI CITY,  
DJIBOUTI



PETR GANDALOVIČ,  
CZECH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES



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**SEP NOTES: WHAT'S NEW?***By LaVonne Rosenthal*

To stay current on upcoming community and Military Department events and other diversity topics, we invite you to "Like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NebraskaSEPGroup](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSEPGroup).

Our SEP Group, along with other Military Department members, are going to begin to focus more on smaller-scale events during the lunch period titled, *Discover Diversity Lunch and Learns*. Heritage events featuring our varied ethnicities will still be held on a quarterly basis.

For our next special event, we are featuring *Holidays From Around the World* on December 4 in an open-house

format in the JFHQ Building Atrium. We are currently contacting community organizations and restaurants to decorate and display items representative of their culture's holiday celebrations. Their displays may include food samples and information about their organization. The Lincoln Northeast High School Jazz Band will be playing a variety of musical selections related to the holidays and other genres.

We are very excited to offer this new Discover Diversity series and are diligently working at bringing in a wide variety of speakers with new and exciting topics during the upcoming year.

**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.*

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

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*Interested in becoming a member of the SEP Group?*

*Please contact LaVonne Rosenthal at the email address listed above.*



# DIVERSITY IS POWER

*By Major General Daryl Bohac  
The Adjutant General  
Nebraska Military Department*



One of the most significant attributes of a successful leader is critical thinking. This can be developed in a variety of ways, but one of the most effective is developing the ability to engage with others, either directly or indirectly, who offer a different perspective or point of view. This strategy is likely to be most effective if you engage with those who do not agree with your point of view or ways of viewing the world. This is where diversity comes in and why the Nebraska Military Department uses a variety of means to create opportunities for all of us to be exposed to different types of cultures and ways of thinking through the people presenting the programs. This includes our special emphasis programs, heritage programs and our emerging Discover Diversity Lunch and Learn events.

An informed critical thinker will often be able to appreciate the different perspectives these opportunities afford and can apply the information to current issues. They can better anticipate and prepare for opposing arguments more effectively. This dynamic is often operant in my relationship with my wife Kris. She tends to be more liberal on some



social issues while we are both fiscal conservatives. I believe that government should have a role, albeit a limited one, in addressing social inequities, and we should partner more with non-governmental organizations in meeting the needs of those among us who are struggling. Conversely, she tends to believe that government should have a significant role in taking care of those less fortunate. Over the years we have had many discussions about this issue and each of us has become better informed by the other. As a result, I believe both

of us are better leaders in our respective vocations.

That is the power of diversity and a power we must embrace if we are to remain a relevant force for the State and the Nation. I remain committed to the power of diversity in our organization and look forward to participating with you in the variety of events and opportunities that will help us all become better informed, better leaders and most importantly, better citizens for the State and the Nation we serve.





# SISTERS IN ARMS PROGRAM

By COL Anita Curington



COL Anita Curington

Col Bobby Buls

COL Georgia Kroese

MAJ Jan Behn

Senior leaders of the Nebraska National Guard are focused on and committed to developing the talent of all our members. To further this effort, the senior female leaders within the Nebraska National Guard began a *Sisters in Arms* program designed to educate, train, mentor and empower female Soldiers and Airmen to be successful leaders through female mentorship. The idea for the *Sisters in Arms* program originated from a compilation of other *Sisters in Arms* programs in the U.S. Army and National Guard as well as a survey conducted within the Vermont National Guard. COL Georgia Kroese, MAJ Jan Behn and I had a meeting to discuss the format of the program. In an effort to open dialogue and determine current issues facing females within our organization, we decided the following:

1. The program needed to be informal, dressed in civilian

attire and the use of first names rather than rank and last name were to be used for better communication. This allows those interested to attend without a mandatory requirement affiliation.

2. The program would occur after duty hours. We do not want to take away from the Command and unit. We discussed the appropriate day/time and realized that family/school/work schedules would always be an issue regardless of day/time chosen.
3. We chose to offer childcare in an effort to have more participants. We know that women tend to bear the responsibility of coordinating childcare.
4. It had to be a Joint program open to all females in the Army and Air

National Guard, thus allowing more experiences, techniques and subjects to be discussed.

5. A book club format would be educational, informative, non-threatening, with open dialogue and become a springboard for the issues participants wanted to focus on.

Our first *Sisters in Arms* meeting was held May 21, 2013 at the General's cabin in Camp Ashland. Childcare was provided onsite through the Family Program Office. We chose Camp Ashland because it was halfway between Lincoln and Omaha. With a large number of military personnel living around these two cities, we felt it would be an ideal location. Additionally, by using Camp Ashland facilities, no one had to clean their house. The Officers' Association provided funding so we could have snacks.

*Continued on Page 9*



# NATIONAL CHILD'S DAY / CHILDREN'S WEEK AND NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

By Pam Makovicka

In October 1953, Children's Day was celebrated for the first time in Geneva, Switzerland sponsored by International Union for Child Welfare. This Children's Day inspired the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim Universal Children's Day in 1954 as a day to promote friendship and understanding among children of the world. It developed into a day that focused attention on the issues and needs of children and their families. It's a time to promote awareness of children's rights and remind us of our community responsibility to advocate for children as citizens, to value our relationships by listening to children and acting genuinely and honestly in response to their needs, ideas and development. Originally it was also to protect children from long working hours and dangerous situations in the workplace. Different countries may observe a different date of Children's Day, but the universal day is in November.

For many years, Florida's Senator Robert Graham (retired) worked on passage of a bill in the U.S. Senate to add National Child's Day to the National Calendar. It would be the first new holiday to be added to the Calendar since Martin Luther King Day was proclaimed.

In 1985, the U.S. government decided to coordinate a national week to include all children and a National Children's Week replaced Children's Day. Children's Week is a program that recognizes the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children. Children's Week will be celebrated October 19-27, 2013.

Children's Week is an opportunity for communities to engage in a variety of activities that facilitate, support and



*Children of Vladivostok, Russian Federation celebrating the International Children's Day*

encourage children and their families to learn and grow together. Children's Week recognizes the rights of children to play and enjoy their childhood.

## ***National Family Week***

National Family Week was founded in 1968 by Sam Wiley, a former teacher and administrator from Indianapolis, Indiana. Wiley partnered with the Alliance for Children and Families around 1970. For more than 40 years, the Alliance for Children and Families has annually promoted National Family Week. The Alliance continues to promote the celebration, which is observed during the week of Thanksgiving by numerous community organizations, schools and universities.

National Family Week's annual celebration will be held November 24 – 30, 2013, celebrating the inclusive spirit of American families and applauding the

commitment of those family members who encourage us to reach new heights. In 2011, National Family Week focused on paying tribute to military families and organizations that support and strengthen them. It recognized that servicemen and servicewomen are not the only ones who go to war and that their families are greatly impacted as well.

National Family Week is designed to build community connections and honor those who strengthen families. Communities regularly host local events that involve families, community residents, area leaders and policymakers. Typical observances include community forums, resource fairs, volunteer projects, seminars and award programs.

This year President Obama changed the name and scope of National Children's Week to National Family Week and a proclamation will be coming soon.





# “THE ‘D’ IS SILENT” - DJIBOUTI

*By SSG Scottie Davis and  
SSG Andrew Singsaas*



*Classroom where SSG Davis and Singraas taught.*

## **SSG Scottie Davis**

In the summer of 2012, SSG Andrew Singsaas and I were informed that we were the two instructors from Nebraska's 209th Regional Training Institute (RTI) selected to go to the Horn of Africa. From August 17, to September 30, 2012, we taught the Warrior Leader Course to deployed Soldiers in Djibouti. Most of them were from the Texas Army National Guard, however, this wasn't the most rewarding part of the trip, by any means.

Several evenings we would travel into Djibouti City, Djibouti (the capital city) and volunteer at different Horn of Africa Schools of Languages and worked with high school and college-aged students, as well as young adults. Our function was to interact with them in English, and help them become better English speakers.

Seeing the classrooms and the limited resources that these young people had, made this a very important "mission" for us. These were all students who volunteer to come in during their free time to learn. And one of the intriguing things that we learned about the students is that most of them can speak six different languages.

The conversations we would have with the young locals varied in topic. Usually the teacher would have several items written on the chalk/marker board, and we would discuss those topics. Such topics included:

- What we/they thought of the traffic lights (as traffic lights were new to the area).
- What would you do differently if you were president?

- Khat - a slow-growing shrub or tree that contains a monoamine alkaloid called cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant, which is legal in a few countries, including Djibouti.
- Inter-marriage.
- Dating (do we/they believe in it).
- Importance of education.
- Who cheats more, men or women (yeah, that was one of their topics).
- Favorite actor/actress.
- Alimony/palimony.

These were just some of the topics that they had written on the boards. Needless to say, we had our fair share of "squirrel" moments throughout the sessions where we would discuss things that just came up.

The most intriguing topics were about being president and about khat. One of the gentlemen was very animated and spoke of how much better he'd make things, starting with getting rid of khat. He said it's a drug and the people of Djibouti, especially the children, should not be subjected to it. What we were told by the locals is that the president of Djibouti and his wife are the ones who furnish the khat and sell it. Khat stands line the streets all over the city.

The students were very grateful that we were there and it was the best time we had while out in the community. On other occasions when we were out in the towns, the locals would follow us everywhere if we were on foot, pulling



*Djibouti continued from Page 6*

on our arms and asking for handouts. If we were trying to park our vehicle, a local would come over and act like he was “ground-guiding” us into the space, then would expect payment for that. At the airport, locals dressed in a jumpsuit-type uniform with badges, would grab bags and carry them 20 feet and then expect \$50. We would go shopping at the local shops and if we went between noon and 4:00 pm, the owners/workers would be passed out, usually on a piece of cardboard. This seemed to be the popular time to use khat.

During the Situational Training Exercise (STX), we would have concertina wire and post guards, as there were locals living in the training area who wanted our food, equipment, brass or our money. The locals in the training area would sit by the wire all day/night. At one point a woman tried to sell us one of her goats. Just before we would leave, we would give the locals all of our leftover MREs and drinks at which time mass chaos ensued and would sometimes result in adults pushing children aside to get to it.

### ***SSG Andrew Singaas***

SSG Scott Davis and I were given the opportunity to represent the 209th Regional Training Institute (RTI) and the Nebraska Army National Guard (NE ARNG) by travelling to Djibouti, Africa, as part of a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to teach a Warrior Leader Course (WLC). The Texas Army National Guard Cavalry Squadron sent a request through National Guard Bureau to have an MTT deployed to the Horn of Africa to further their Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) opportunities. The Louisiana Army National Guard RTI picked up the mission and asked for support from other states. The South Carolina ARNG and NE ARNG were able to answer the call and, in total, sent six Small Group Leaders (SGL) and two senior Cadre.

### ***Basic Facts About Djibouti***

***Djibouti is the capital and largest city in the Republic of Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. Two-thirds of the country's population live in the city. Djibouti City is situated on the coast, on the Gulf of Tadjoura right across from Yemen. In 1891 the French made Djibouti City the capital of French Somaliland. Djibouti gained independence from France in 1977. The population of Djibouti is around 500,000 and they're largely of Somali, Afar and Arab descent. The inhabitants of Djibouti City are predominantly Islamic.***

### ***Claim to Fame***

***Lake Assal, about 100 kilometers from Djibouti City, is the lowest point on the African continent. This salt lake lies at 156 meters below sea level. The salt fields around the lake can reach depths of 65 meters.***

***There aren't any obvious points of interest in Djibouti City except for the Central Market (Marche Central) which buzzes with activity in the mornings. By the afternoon, Djibouti City gets very quiet due to the heat that folks are avoiding and the national pastime - chewing Qat - which begins in earnest. Qat (or Khat) is a mild narcotic. The daily Qat delivery from Ethiopia to Djibouti City arrives at around 1:00 pm in the local markets.***

***<http://goafrica.about.com/od/africatraveltips/ig/Africa-s-Capital-Cities/Djibouti-city---Djibouti.htm>***

After a couple of airport hops and one overpriced café in Paris, we arrived in Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti City, Djibouti around midnight. As they opened the doors on the plane we were met by extreme heat and humidity. We walked across the tarmac and as we filed into the airport it became evident the last maintenance man to touch this place had surely quit in the mid-1970s.

We were greeted by uniformed airport employees as well as what appeared to be the majority of the city's populace. Newcomers were a spectacle to behold at any hour and I can safely say their stares and disapproving head shakes were mutual. As we retrieved our luggage, the ever smiling employees took the handles and followed us to our ride. Upon arriving at the deathtrap of a van that was to be our shuttle, the employees politely refused to let go of our belongings until they had been given an ample tip.

We made our way to Camp Lemonnier, a Naval Expeditionary Base home to

Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) of African Command (AFRICOM). The base entry control point (ECP) was fortified and manned just as well as every ECP in Iraq and neighboring austere locations.

Our first couple of days were mainly schedule an orientation and weather acclimatization. The heat index brought the heat category to Blackflag conditions starting around 0600-2000 hours. So our physical training began promptly at 0430 hours each morning before the

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***Classroom at one school.***



*Djibouti continued from Page 7*

Djiboutian sun peeked over the horizon to scorch our skin. Three times a day we dined in The Galley. Most U.S. Soldiers would affectionately refer to this as the Chow Hall; officially a 'Dining Facility' (DFAC). To the Naval personnel it is The Galley and they will correct you upon hearing any other name given to this establishment as though their career depended on it. Luckily I was rooming with a Sailor and he was able to interpret much of the Naval/Maritime jargon we encountered.

One of the recommendations he made was to go out into the community. He explained that too many service members think of this as a deployed location and are unwilling to go outside the camp and/or afraid of the hassle of ECPs. So, wanting to make the most out of our experience and see Africa for what it was, we sought out the off-base programs. SSG Davis and I felt we should do what we could to better the local's view of Americans as well as just wanting to be able to help someone if it was within our power to do so. We ended up going out to a couple different "schools" (I use the term loosely as these were more like abandoned holes in the sides of buildings where children congregated).

In these schools we spent the evenings discussing questions the children had while at the same time engaging them in actual English conversation. With the older students, about high school age to young adult, we engaged in current event discussions and the ever-changing future of Djibouti.



*Off Base*

These hole-in-the-wall classrooms were eye opening experiences that made us really sit back and admire the hardiness of the people as well as put our lives and daily difficulties in perspective.

During the day we worked in a different type of classroom. Our two classrooms took some getting used to as each was a modular tent section with air conditioning (AC) connected to each front and back end. Both "classrooms" were situated along the flightline that runs the length of the camp. The frequent jet take-offs coupled with the four massive AC units made it a neat, albeit loud, experience.

Though unique, our WLC course went well and the TX ARNG Cavalry troops were more than gracious to us: loaned us vehicles, ensured we received accurate pay (for those who have dealt with combat zone payments, you will understand), established classrooms and provided whatever they could to aid in getting the job done; including running cable and enough power to facilitate 26 laptops, a projector and several rows of lights.

The most exciting aspect of the WLC course was the Field Training Exercise (FTX). The FTX was located in a series of rugged valleys quite a distance out from any major population centers. If you've ever seen Mars rover photographs it is eerily similar: barren ground littered with rocks. The combination of dark sand and rock reflected the sun's heat inside the windless valley walls and made the heat inescapable.

Due to this heat, our FTX was run on an inverted schedule - we would only run night missions and we slept during the daylight. It was a neat experience sleeping amongst wild camels



*Lake Assal (Bahr al Assal) in Djibouti is Africa's lowest geographic point, it lies 515 feet (155m) below sea level. It's a fascinating salt water lake, with beaches literally made of pure salt. The Afar, a nomadic tribe, have been cutting slabs of salt from this lake for centuries and continue to do so today.*

and roaming goat herders. The evening would bring bats and all manner of insects and vermin into our bivouac.

Between WLC cycles we were afforded the opportunity to join some Military Police (MPs) in what are known as Courtesy Patrols. These were outings in which we wore civilian clothing and would visit the establishments of ill repute, mainly brothels and clubs to check for our comrades. Luckily we never found any American Soldiers, and perhaps saw a different side of the French Army. We were also tasked to take a group of Soldiers to Lake Assal (not to be confused with Lake Abbe, also in Djibouti, where they filmed the 1968 Planet of the Apes). Lake Assal lies in the northern tip of the Great Rift Valley. It's the lowest elevation point in Africa and the second saltiest body of water in the world. Not an ideal place for a swimming outing. We only had to stop to miss hitting the troop of Baboons chasing us down the road. But in a strange, desolate way the lake was beautiful. It was a once in a lifetime excursion.

After our two cycles of training junior NCOs and experiencing the Republic of Djibouti, our trip came to an end. We left through the Djiboutian airport, luggage firmly in hand, and passed through the ever-beeping metal detector (quite unnerving being the 15th passenger back and no TSA stopping anyone) to board a bus to take us to the only plane on the runway. Several countries later we were glad to be back in the American heartland.





## DID YOU KNOW? TRIVIA

- How many times do Muslims stop whatever they are doing during the day to pray?
  - 6
  - 3
  - 7
  - 5
- Name the only woman to win awards for excellence in television (Emmy), music (Grammy), movies (Oscar) and theatre (Tony).
  - Helen Hayes
  - Rita Moreno
  - Audrey Hepburn
  - Whoopi Goldberg
  - All of the above
- The Hindu belief that life's fortunes are dictated by good or evil deeds in former lives is called "jnana."
  - True
  - False
- Approximately how many languages are spoken worldwide?
  - Over 20,000
  - 10,000-12,000
  - 6,000-7,000
  - Under 1,000
- In Egypt, leaving food on your plate is a compliment to your host.
  - True
  - False
- It is a Cuban tradition to eat 12 of this type of fruit on New Year's Eve.
  - Plums
  - Strawberries
  - Grapes
  - Cherries
- An ancient Jewish custom requires a father to plant a cedar sapling for a male child during the year of their birth and a cypress (or pine or acacia) for the female child. At what event would the trees be cut down and used as posts?
  - The arrival of their first child
  - Bar / Bat Mitzvah
  - First birthday
  - Marriage
- The oldest board game in recorded history is believed to have originated in Mesopotamia. The name of the game is:
  - Backgammon
  - Chess
  - Checkers
  - Cribbage
- What is the currency of India?
  - Franc
  - Drachma
  - Rupee
  - Euro
- Starting out as a Gaelic tradition, "First Footing" is celebrated by many families in Britain, Scotland, Greece, Georgia and surrounding areas, when starting the New Year. "First Footing" is based on what belief?
  - The first person to enter the house will be the next to marry.
  - The first person to cross the threshold of a home on New Year's Day is a bringer of good fortune for the coming year.
  - Children are to be the first to cross the threshold to bring happiness.
  - The oldest person in the family must be the first to enter the house.

*Did You Know? Trivia Answers on Page 25*

### *Sisters in Arms continued from Page 4*

The meeting began with introductions, opening remarks from the Adjutant General and then discussions. Our first book was *Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq*. We started out discussing reoccurring themes in the book, but quickly moved into other areas of interest to female military members. It was not a requirement to have read the book. As facilitators (COL Curington, Col Buls, COL Kroese and MAJ Behn), we selected portions of the stories that would lead us into leadership, mentoring, women's issues, etc. This allowed participants to expand on ideas and share. Many items outside

the scope of the book were discussed: educating all leaders about women's issues (pregnancy and breastfeeding issues for example), providing mentorship to each other, not being as critical of ourselves and providing accomplishments on evaluations and career management questionnaires, ensuring we self-police our ranks to stop any stereotyping of females (whether it is a male doing the stereotyping or a female "playing the female card") and why females choose to leave the military (starting a family, balancing civilian/military/family).

The major theme was that, as females, we feel more obligated to make sacrifices

for the family. When we choose work over family we feel guilty. We discussed that many of us have been through those same struggles and can offer advice and techniques to work through that struggle while remaining with the military.

We had 33 women attend and six children utilize childcare. We had a good representation from the Army and Air as well as the officer, warrant and noncommissioned officer corps. We thought it was a good turnout, considering it was our first meeting and no one really knew what to expect. We

*Continued on Page 28*



# WEBSITE REVIEW: THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

<http://www.usflag.org>

Review by Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

This website is dedicated to the  
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
www.usflag.org

Site Key: Click to Listen Click to Print Search:  GO

### The Betsy Ross Flag

Since there was no official flag during the first year of the United States, there were a great number of homespun flag designs. This flag is without question the most well known of those. There are many reasons why this flag is confused with the first official U.S. flag and you can [read about it here](#).

The Betsy Ross Flag is available for purchase from my friends at [U.S. Flag Depot, Inc.](#)

This page is maintained by Diane Swedler. Contact Us!  
Questions or comments welcome!  
This Site Established on 20 November 1994.  
Last Updated 10 February 2005.  
Web Design and Development by Visionary Enterprises



With Veteran's Day on November 11, I felt it would be appropriate to review a website dedicated to the American flag. In searching I found [www.usflag.org](http://www.usflag.org). There were two things that caught my attention on the home page. First was the prominent place given to the words of *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Second was this story by Mike Dalka, "Lesson For Americans."

*My grandfather was a glider infantryman in WWII, an advisor in Korea, and lost one of his sons, my uncle Gary Edwards, in Vietnam. I worked in his auto repair station during high school and he flew his flag in front daily. One day while I was sweeping the oil dry out of the bays it began to sprinkle rain. He told me to go get the flag and I said "gimme a second." He said, "It is raining, go get the flag NOW." Well I popped off my mouth about how he should cool it, it isn't going to melt or some such typical teenage comment.*

*My grandfather is the toughest man I've ever met. He explained once that he thought basic training was some sort of country club during WWII, because he was used to*

*hard work anyway, and at home he didn't have indoor toilets or hot running water! And when I said whatever it was that I said to him, he turned deep crimson and I thought, "God save me, he's going to kill me for talking back." Instead tears welled up in his eyes and he squeaked out "You don't understand what this family has paid for the right to fly that flag." Then he turned his back on me and went out and got the flag. I just stood there feeling like the smallest person to ever live. Those words cut me so deep. I wish the entire country could have heard them.*

*I hope that this Nation might yet have enough people who understand the cost of liberty to turn things around.*

This story moved me to tears as I read it. I am hoping I can instill a sense of patriotism, as is portrayed in this story, in my own son as well.

One other thing I noticed was that the U.S. flag isn't the most prominent feature of the page. At least they did make the site red, white and blue. Also, the site keys at the top of the page labeled "Click

to Listen" or "Click to Print," don't work, which the page administrator might look into fixing or removing altogether.

The tabs on the left-hand side of the page start out with "History of the Flag," which is very appropriate for a site dedicated to the U.S. flag. On this page are links to other pages on the site including the history of the Military Service Flag, the Evolution of the Flag, the History of Flag Day, a section on how the flag became known as "Old Glory" and a short biography on Francis Scott Key. One sentence from the "Old Glory" section states that "This famous name was coined by Captain William Driver, a shipmaster of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1831." To learn more, you will have to go to the site!

The next tab is called "Historic and Current Flags of America." This page has a link to different evolutions of the flag with their picture and history. For example, the first link is to the Betsy



*www.usflag.org continued from Page 10*

Ross flag, with a picture and a link to her biography. One thing I was unaware of is that the first official United States flag was not Ms. Ross' flag but a flag with 13 stars laid out in lines instead of a circle. It became official on June 14, 1777.

The next tab, "Patriotic Writings," has links to writings such as "I Am the Flag," the "American's Creed," songs and hymns, essays, speeches (which include "The Gettysburg Address" by Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream"), poetry, letters and a heartfelt *Pledge of Allegiance* explanation by Red Skelton.

The next tab, "Special Links," has links to such sites as The White House, Senate, House of Representatives and many other very interesting places to continue your reading on historical and present-day information on the United States.

There is also a tab titled "A Salute to Those Who Serve: Past and Present." Very appropriate for a site dedicated to patriotism and the U.S. flag.

I was very interested in the Frequently Asked Questions tab which answered such questions as "Why is the Flag patch on the U.S. Armed Forces uniforms backwards?" and "Where is the Flag flown 24 hours a day by law?" This page also explains flag etiquette and rules concerning the display of the flag at half staff.

There are two remaining tabs full of educational and informative links to related information and sites, including how to buy a flag flown over the Capitol, the proportions of the flag as set down by law, how to properly fold the flag, Vexillology (the study of flags) and America's tallest flagpole, featuring a live cam.

I recommend this site to anyone looking to know more about the U.S. flag, its history and U.S. history in general. It is well laid out, easy to navigate and chock full of useful information.



## FLAG ETIQUETTE

### STANDARDS OF RESPECT

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.





# NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

*By Lieutenant Carla Schreiber  
Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Nebraska State Patrol*

Nebraska became the 29th state in the union to establish a state police agency when they created the Nebraska Safety Patrol in 1937. This later evolved into the Nebraska State Patrol.

The relationship between the Patrol and the military goes back to the very inception of the State Patrol. Patrolmen were trained at Camp Ashland from 1937 to 1967. Much of the training followed military standards and the rank structure of the Patrol was based on a military model which has continued through today.

The first commander of the new Safety Patrol was R. F. Weller. Mr. Weller was a 245-pound former All-American tackle for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Mr. Weller was assisted by Mr. R. T. Schrein whose qualifications included being a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

After Weller departed the Patrol in 1939, Schrein took over as commander. Schrein served in that capacity until 1941 when he left to enter private industry. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served as the Commander of

the Officer Candidate School in Florida. He later became the Commandant of Cadets at Yale University.

In 1940, contingents of ten patrolmen were assigned to patrol in and around Fort Crook, the current site of Offutt Air Force Base. Troopers were assigned to traffic control and security during the construction and operation of the Martin Bomber plant located on the base.

By 1941, the Patrol's strength grew from the original 44 patrolmen to 74. This number decreased to 41 during the war years. Many patrolmen were drafted, enlisted or left the Patrol for better-paying war industry jobs. Staffing remained at that level until the conclusion of the war. Nine of those who experienced active military service returned to the Patrol upon their separation from the military.

Throughout their history, the Nebraska State Patrol and the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard shared responsibilities for response, recovery and rehabilitation. Those instances include natural and man-made disasters, such as tornados, floods, fires, labor strikes, narcotic

***Effective law enforcement rests upon the integrity of its officers and the mutual trust and respect of the citizens they serve. The Nebraska State Patrol addresses the subject of fair treatment in several of its policies.***

***Nebraska State Patrol Rules of Conduct – "Officers shall administer the law in a courteous, fair, just and impartial and reasonable manner, according no person more favorable treatment than others."***

## NEW SERIES

We are pleased to begin a new series of articles titled, Agency Spotlight. The purpose of these articles is to learn about the different units, offices and agencies within the Nebraska Military Department and those closely associated with it. The articles will feature a description of the organization, their people, purpose and places they have been. We imagine people saying, "Wow, I didn't know that!" as they read the stories.

When determining a name for this series, the idea *Know Your Neighbors* came to mind. Immediately following that idea came a mental picture of Mr. Rogers (won't you be my neighbor?). While we have great admiration and respect for Mr. Rogers and his impact on young children, we thought it might be more appropriate to use the idea of spotlighting our different agencies.

Our readers are invited to let us know about their organizations by contacting one of the SEP members listed in the newsletter. In the meantime, we'll be searching the state to find different organizations to feature.

suppression as well as criminal intelligence.

Since 1937, the Patrol has grown from the original 44 patrolmen to our current authorized strength of 475 sworn troopers and an additional 260 civilian staff, while 41 troopers currently serve in Guard or Reserve units. During the past ten years, 56 troopers have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The establishment of a Joint Operations Center at the Air National Guard Base in Lincoln in 2012 is strengthening the ties and will provide better service and security to our State and Nation.





# AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

The 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB) is a United States Army Brigade whose mission is to collect intelligence and conduct reconnaissance and surveillance for division and corps level commands. The unit Commander is Colonel Brett Andersen and the Command Sergeant Major is Marty Baker. The BFSB has an authorized strength of 991 Soldiers.

The BFSB provides operational and administrative support to subordinate organizations. The headquarters staff is comprised of several functional sections to include Personnel (S-1), Intelligence (S-2), Operations (S-3), Logistics (S-4), Plans Cell (S5), Signal (S6) as well as sections consisting of a Unit Ministry Team, Brigade Surgeon and Staff Judge Advocate. The BFSB operational control consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 250th Military Intelligence Battalion from the California National Guard, 1-134th Cavalry Squadron (Reconnaissance and Surveillance), 234th Signal Company and the 1167th Brigade Support Company. In addition, the BFSB has administrative control of the 402nd Military Police Battalion and the 1-376th Aviation Battalion in Nebraska.

The 67th BFSB has a significant history of service in the Nebraska Army National Guard. It was originally formed from the nucleus of the 2d Battle Group, 134th Infantry and other state separate units. The 67th Separate Infantry Brigade was formed on April 1, 1963. It consisted of the 1-134th and 2-134th Infantry Battalions and the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The Brigade was re-designated as the 67th Separate Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) on March 1, 1964, when it received and was authorized to wear the Pike shoulder patch.

The Pike patch was the vision of the 67th Brigade's first commander, Brigadier General William F. Bachman. The blue background is symbolic of the Infantry.

# 67TH BFSB

*By BFSB Staff*

The white pike hearkens back to one of the first effective infantry weapons, the byl, a long pole with a spear attached. It was used by infantrymen to gain an advantage over opponents wielding swords or riding horses.

The Brigade's numerical designation represents the year Nebraska became a state in 1867. Since the unit was created nearly 100 years past statehood, it became known as both the Centennial Brigade and the Nebraska Brigade.

In 1985, the 67th Separate Infantry Brigade was reorganized into the 67th Infantry Brigade (BDE) (Mech) and placed under the command of the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Because of the reorganization, the 67th BDE lost its designation as a Separate Brigade and was no longer authorized to wear the distinct Pike patch.

On August 13, 2002, the 67th Brigade was once again reorganized, this time into the 67th Area Support Group (ASG). The unit was designated as a state asset and fell under the command of Joint Force Headquarters, Nebraska. This change resulted in the wearing of the distinct Nebraska National Guard patch.



*COL Brett Andersen - Commander 67th BFSB*

In July 2005, the 67th ASG was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom. After several months in training at Fort Riley, Kansas, the 67th deployed to Al Asad Airbase, Al Anbar Province, Iraq. The unit returned to Lincoln, Nebraska, in September 2006.

On September 19, 2008, the unit was reorganized as the 67th BFSB, bringing back the distinctive Pike patch. Just prior to the re-designation ceremony, the 67th mobilized in support of Operation Gustav Provider as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Nearly 1,000 Soldiers from across the state participated in the three-week operation, which was the largest peacetime mobilization of Nebraska National Guard forces in recent history.

In July 2010, the 67th BFSB again mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom, deploying the Headquarters to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq (Tallil Airbase). The mobilization represented the first National Guard BFSB to deploy to the Iraq Theater of Operation. During this deployment, the unit was responsible for multiple source intelligence collection operations in more than 40 locations across Iraq. The 67th BFSB was a key element during the historic transition to Operation New Dawn. The 67th BFSB redeployed to Nebraska in June 2011.



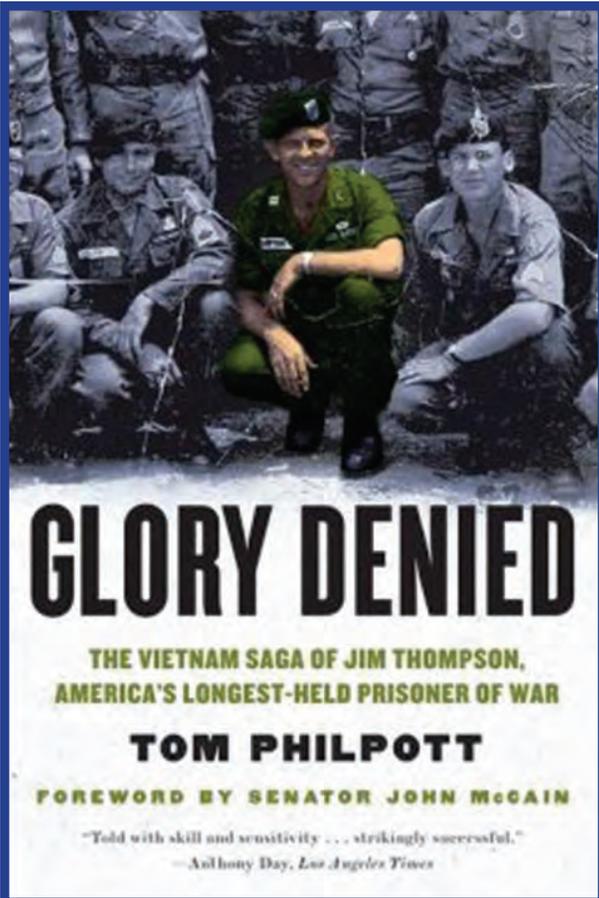


# BOOK REVIEW

*Review by Alisia Lamay*

# GLORY DENIED

*Written by Tom Philpott  
W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.*



*"Dying is easy. Living is the difficult thing," said a Viet Cong camp commander to one American prisoner of war after his capture. For American service personnel held captive during the Vietnam War, faith in country, God and fellow prisoners kept our dream of freedom alive, making life worth living despite freedom's absence. (Senator John McCain, Foreword)*

Sometimes you find lessons in the most unlikely places. You find them in an unexpected detour, the honest words of a child, a military deployment, the death of a loved one and sometimes lessons come in the form of a book you just happen upon one day. That is exactly what happened when I stumbled upon *Glory Denied*. *Glory Denied* is the

amazingly heroic story of Jim Thompson, the longest held and least spoken about, American Prisoner-of-War (POW) in Vietnam. Even now writing this book review, I am troubled with the idea that I will not do justice to the book itself, as no person could ever do justice to the man who inspires us throughout the book. The author not only wrote from interviews with Jim Thompson himself, but from interviews with those closest to him. Some served with Thompson, some were held captive with him and some were his family back home.

Floyd "Jim" Thompson was an Army Green Beret

officer serving with C Company, 7th Special Forces Group out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. A Captain and Team Leader at the time of his capture, he voluntarily took the March 26th recon mission over Khe Sanh in place of his enlisted team members. During the low-flying recon flight, the L-19 Birdog he was riding in, piloted by Captain Whitesides, was shot down by small-arms fire. The pilot did not make it and Captain

Thompson took one round across his cheek.

"I would regain consciousness for a few minutes and pass out again. I recall looking around, seeing the aircraft. The engine was gone, torn off on impact... My first impulse was to get away because I knew the Viet Cong (VC) would be coming in. My second thought was to stay near the aircraft for rescue ships. In fact I had no option. I couldn't move. I couldn't even crawl. I thought my back was broken." (pg. 94)

Captain Thompson was captured March 26, 1964 by VC guerrillas. When he regained consciousness he was tied, spread eagle, to the floor of a Montagnard hut, not knowing how many days had passed since he was captured. The crash and capture would not be acknowledged to his family until October 23, 1964. On April

1, 1969, after more than five years in solitary confinement, he was tossed into a cell with three other Americans. Those five years had turned the 170-pound Special Forces Officer into a "skeleton with hair," as reported by another prisoner. He withstood the unimaginable, the inhumane, and yet still



*Continued on Page 15*

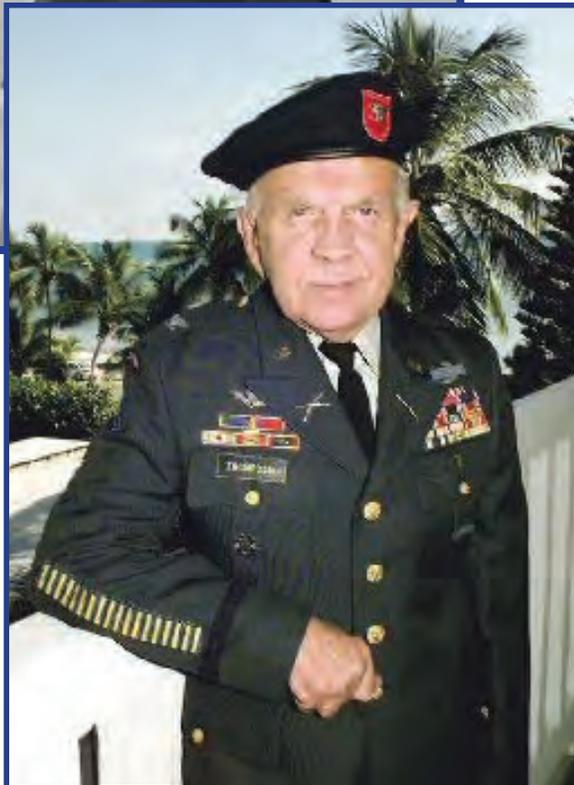


*Glory Denied continued from Page 14*



attempted, unsuccessfully, to escape five times by 1971. The leadership and courage observed by other POWs during Thompson's fifth escape attempt earned him the Silver Star.

*Glory Denied* not only discusses in depth the capture, incarceration and homecoming of a hero, but the sacrifices and decisions of the family he left back home. These difficult decisions made by his wife, Alyce, and his family would forever seal their fates and bind them to the military that they badly wanted to escape. The emotional truths of life and encounters with the unknown can make people do things they never imagined. In both Jim and Alyce's situations this was true. However different and unimaginable their lives were during those years, they survived by any means necessary, whether good or bad. Philpott captures the root of Jim Thompson's years of torture, starvation and deprivation and



the cold hard truth that when returning home, the dreams he survived on would not necessarily be the reality of the return. He covers everything from Jane Fonda's visit to Hanoi, to the effect of the protests on Alyce and the children and the symbolism of politics during the Vietnam War.

On March 16, 1973, two weeks short of nine years as a POW, Thompson returned home. Not to the parade and fanfare that one would expect, but to a country and a family that didn't know him and in many ways had turned their backs on him. Still, through all of the challenges both in captivity and at home, Thompson held steadfast to his dreams of repairing his marriage and reviving his career. When asked about the political correctness of the Vietnam War, Thompson would say, "I am a soldier. Period." Even as he fought to save both his family and his career, through the myriad of challenges, alcohol, distance, time and many other obvious reasons both physically and psychologically, he never blamed the Army or the war for his troubles.

"Clearly Jim is not the perfect hero. Not the perfect person. He freely admits that. But for the fact he survived longer than any prisoner of war in American history, he's like you or me. But being the longest-held POW makes him very special. Vietnam, the war he survived, defines his character. You have to go back to that war to find the basis for Jim surviving all these post-war tragedies... Vietnam taught him a lesson. The same lesson he gets every day at AA: one day at a time. Tomorrow has got to be better than today. And if I live through today, there will be a tomorrow." (Michael Chamowitz, pg. 427)

Lessons: *Glory Denied* is not just a story about Jim Thompson, the longest-held POW in Vietnam. It is about heroism, freedom, flaws, failure, challenges, perseverance, survival and so much more. It is about lessons learned and how we choose to live through them. It is through Jim's persistence of human spirit and truth that we, too, learn lessons from him and those around him both in captivity and in freedom. "*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*" Martin Luther King, Jr. 



# JUNETEENTH... A TIME TO REJOICE

By MSgt Sharon Okra-Goll



How many of us know what Juneteenth is? Many of us know what the Emancipation Proclamation is, but few know that one of the most celebrated African American holidays stem from this proclamation. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862 with an effective date of January 1, 1863. The Proclamation applied to the ten states that were still in rebellion in 1863, and thus did not cover the nearly 500,000 slaves in the slave-holding border states (Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland or Delaware) which were Union states — those slaves were freed by separate state and federal actions. The proclamation gave “power” to the Federal military to move forward upon non-conforming states and enforce the proclamation. As Federal troops proceeded to enforce the proclamation, African Americans joined the war for freedom and victory came closer with each step.

The Civil War was long and even met with much resistance from people in Union states. The biggest hold out, however, came from the state of Texas. Nonetheless, on June 18, 1865, Federal troops led by General Gordon Granger landed on the island of Galveston, Texas to enforce the Emancipation

Proclamation. The Proclamation was signed nearly three years prior and had been in effect for almost two and a half years. There were many slaves who had never even heard of the Proclamation and upon hearing the news, took to the streets of Galveston and celebrated like no other celebrations before.

General Granger stood on the balcony of Ashton Villa and read what the intent of the Emancipation Proclamation was, and more specifically, General Order Number 3:

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.”

From that day forward, Juneteenth celebrations (a combination of the

month of June and the nineteenth day) have taken place across the nation, on or near that day. The day when all slaves were finally informed that they were free!

Lincoln, Nebraska is no different when it comes to celebrating Juneteenth. This year the Malone Community Center put on its 34th annual Juneteenth celebration. Last year, this community event drew over 3,000 people. This year’s celebration was held on June 22, 2013, at Trago Park and was bigger and better than ever before. The celebration was a day-long event filled with games, prizes, entertainment and so much more. Everyone from the community was invited to enjoy and participate in free family-friendly events. Community members were invited to learn, eat, participate and acknowledge our past and move forward toward a brighter future.

This is one of my family’s favorite community events to participate in. Not only was it a beautiful day to get out of the house and do something fun, it was also a day for me to teach my nieces, nephews and younger cousins why this is such an important event in our nation’s history. The kids enjoyed the Kids Corner with face painting, water colors, drawing and stamp art. They also spent numerous hours bouncing in the three bouncy castles and going through the Bootcamp Challenge inflatable obstacle course. When they weren’t busy jumping in the inflatables they were patiently waiting in line to have their face painted and to play games and win prizes. Everyone enjoyed free hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks (while they lasted). There was also an ice cream truck available to purchase items (for a minimal cost). Of course, no outdoor celebration would be complete without the kids being allowed to play

*Continued on Page 17*



*Juneteenth continued from Page 16*



in the water fountains. But not the water fountains that are normally off-limits. Trago Park has a unique spray park where water sprays up from under ground in the park area. The kids were able to cool off while having lots of fun playing on the playground equipment.

As I mentioned before, the celebration was a family-friendly event and not only had a lot of activities for the kiddos, but also for the adults. There was a health and human services fair that provided a showcase for several local businesses and charities. There were booths from Nebraska Health and Human Services, City of Lincoln/Lancaster County Employment, Planned Parenthood, Talented Tenth Scholars and many more. These educational booths had handouts, fun activities and lots of awesome prizes and giveaways. A couple of my favorite booths were the Planned

Parenthood booth with information on a wide range of topics, from how to talk to teens about adult issues to providing free mini first aid kits. I also enjoyed finding information on job searches and resume skills at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Employment booth. Not only did they have strategies to successfully apply for jobs, they also had local listings of job vacancies and took down contact information to email more job announcements to people who were interested.

One of the groups that I enjoyed hearing about the most was Talented Tenth Scholars program and the positive things its young men were doing.

The program is an empowerment program that teaches young men how to draw strength from The Nguzo Saba – seven principals of life. It's an African American cultural idea of "collective work and responsibility." I requested more information on this program for my son and nephew, as the program helps to mentor and guide young men.

During the entire time of walking through the health fair, letting the kids play and eat, there was live entertainment to enjoy. The entertainment stage hosted several individuals who read poetry, others who sang impromptu songs that touched their hearts and even local rap artists

took to the stage. There were also dance routine performances and a live Zumba class, showcasing the popular workout.

The part that I liked best about this Juneteenth celebration was the diverse mixture of people everywhere. This wasn't a celebration just for Black people; this wasn't a celebration to segregate or to be exclusive. This was an all-inclusive celebration that welcomed crowds of people from every walk of life. Old, young, Hispanic, Asian, physically challenged and more. This celebration was about learning from our past and turning what could be considered a negative experience in our history to one of hope and a positive outlook for our nation. I don't always get to participate in Juneteenth celebrations but I am glad that I was able to attend Malone's celebration this year (and to take my niece and nephew). The Malone Community Center did an outstanding job of putting on a celebration that was enjoyed by thousands. The fact that it was free allowed more people to enjoy it, was the icing on top of the cake. If you've never been to a Juneteenth Celebration, I would encourage you to take time out of your busy schedule and go to one. If you have a family (especially young kids), I would encourage you to take your whole family for a day of fun. You and your family will not only have fun but you all will be exposed to an integral part of history and will hopefully learn something new.

Sometimes I am in awe of my African American past. It seems that always through tragedy there is triumph. Instead of slaves being bitter about the years they

were still considered indentured servants, they took to the streets and celebrated. This celebration still continues. There is still much work to be done, but there is always time to celebrate our accomplishments.

*Lift Every Voice and Sing.*

***On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition.***





# MOVIE REVIEW

*Review by TSgt Kevin Krausnick*

# CERTIFIED COPY

*Written by: Abbas Kiarostami and Caroline Eliacheff; Directed by: Abbas Kiarostami*

*Starring: Juliette Binoche and William Shimell*

*Available on DVD, Netflix Streaming, Amazon Instant Video*

*Certified Copy* should come with the following label: “Warning: this movie is much more than it appears. Initial impressions may be misleading.”

Wonderfully written, skillfully made and beautifully acted, *Certified Copy* is a cinematic treat. Occurring mostly in real time, the film follows its two main characters around the streets of a small town in Italy, allowing us to eavesdrop on their conversations. While it seems like conversations that any two intelligent people might have, the film’s apparent simplicity is deceiving. We soon come to see that nearly everything about these characters’ interaction has been pregnant with meaning beyond what their words reveal. In this way, it almost demands (and definitely rewards) repeated viewings.

The set-up is simple enough: British author James Miller, played by William Shimell, is in Tuscany promoting his new book, from whose title the film takes its name. He accepts an invitation to meet with Elle, a French woman played by Juliette Binoche, who has attended his lecture. After meeting at her small gallery, these two apparent strangers tour a nearby village together, discussing philosophies of art, life and love along the way.

For a time, it seems as though this will simply be a film about ideas. Miller’s book puts forth the argument that an original work of art has no more value than a copy, that only our perception of an object gives it its value. Elle questions this idea, and thus begins an examination



of these ideas from two different points of view.

As the conversation progresses, however, a much deeper level of emotional complexity reveals itself. It is soon evident that the film is as much about the inner lives of these characters and their approach to relationships as it is about theories of art. Then midway through the picture, just when we think we’re finally getting a handle on things, a pivotal scene occurs that challenges everything we thought we knew up to this point. From then on, to some degree,

we’re left guessing. What is real, and what is a fabrication? What is authentic, and what is a “copy?” And to what degree does it matter? I’m being deliberately vague – to reveal more would ruin the fun.

The director, Abbas Kiarostami, an Iranian filmmaker directing his first film outside of Iran, handles all of this beautifully. By using long takes and simple camera movements, he creates a sense of immediacy without being obtrusive. We are simply there with these characters, and it becomes easy to forget

that you’re not actually in the room with them. He also makes clever use of reflections throughout the film, sometimes using a casually placed mirror to give us information that would otherwise be left off screen. The reflected image reveals some truths that our view of the “original” does not.

This style of direction (long takes, sharp dialogue, extended close-ups)

depends heavily upon the actors for success, and both leads more than come through. William Shimell, a well-known opera star in Europe, is utterly believable as James Miller. The fact that this was his first feature film makes the subtlety of his performance all the more impressive. Juliette Binoche is even better, imbuing Elle with intelligence, soul, humor and deeply

*Continued on Page 20*



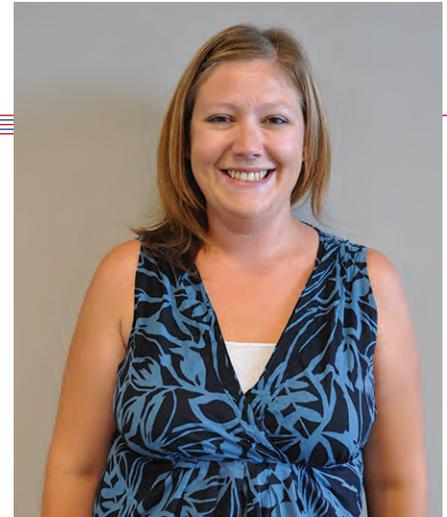
# A VIEW OF DIVERSITY FROM WHERE I STAND

*We are a nation of communities... a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky.*

*-George H. W. Bush*

*In this, our second iteration of "View" we again highlight three individuals who work for the Nebraska Military Department to hear their own personal definition of diversity.*

*"A View of Diversity From Where I Stand" presents individualistic viewpoints, and that we "stand" for ours and each others' rights for respect and appreciation of our uniquenesses.*



In thinking about diversity and what it means to me, I think about what it meant to me as a child versus what it means to me now as an adult. I used to believe that diversity meant having a group of people from a variety of races and backgrounds, and that everyone should be treated the exact same because everyone is equal.

As an adult I realize that while my younger self was not entirely wrong, that definition did not encompass all of what I have come to believe. While I will always believe that everyone should be treated with an equal amount of respect, I think treating everyone the exact same is a rather narrow-minded approach.

I now know diversity to be a concept that incorporates acceptance and respect regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, or socio-economic status. It takes into account that everyone is an individual with their own characteristics and recognizes differences. I believe diversity is recognizing the broad spectrum of which each individual can fall within each of those categories, and supporting and encouraging others to be themselves.

Miranda Rogers  
Hazard Mitigation Planning Specialist  
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



My individual definition of diversity:

Diversity is acceptance - acceptance of differences whether it is race, religious, culture, gender, sexual orientation, social economic status, education, age, or political beliefs. In the National Guard, we are one dedicated team that is focused on the successful completion of the mission, not focused on our differences.

LTC Shane M. Martin  
State Recruiting and Retention  
Commander  
Nebraska Army National Guard



My personal definition of diversity is having a team of people of different race, culture, ethnic background, values, and political points of view that will give different opinions, thoughts and ideas to help build a consensus that everyone can agree on.

SMSgt Gregory L. Malina  
Propulsion Supervisor  
Nebraska Air National Guard



# RESTAURANT REVIEW

## DAFFODIL MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE AND CATERING

*In business since November 2012*

*5740 Old Cheney Road, Suite 17, Lincoln, Nebraska 68516*

*402-570-3840; [Facebook.com/DaffodilMediterranean](https://www.facebook.com/DaffodilMediterranean)*

*Review by SFC Jenna Schneider*

*Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 11:00 am to 7:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm*

I like food - A LOT. My husband and I are always on the hunt for new places to try and are typically drawn to the hole-in-the-wall type establishments. Recently we stumbled upon Daffodil

Mediterranean. At first glance, it is kind of small with six to eight tables nestled into the strip mall on 57th and Old Cheney. Don't let that deter you from stepping inside. The owners, Narges Montazer and her husband have transformed this quaint little nook into a "home away from home" for their patrons. Montazer prepares all of the dishes herself, fresh and from scratch every morning. And if you aren't quite sure what to order, just ask for a taste. Seriously.

My all-time favorite dish to order is the gyro and their Persian Saffron Tea. The gyro is fresh naan stuffed with organic meat, lettuce, tomato, onion, green olive, feta, jalapeños and tzatziki sauce. The amount of meaty-goodness that is piled on the plate is well worth more than the low price we paid. The pomegranate walnut chicken with rice and the meatball marsala with rice are both pretty amazing as well. We can never leave without a few slices of homemade baklava (I recommend the pistachio).



*Lamb Shank*

The morning menu includes made-from-scratch scones, turnovers, croissants, pastries, baklava, biscotti and naan. For lunch and dinner you can expect to see the pomegranate walnut chicken, gourmehsabzi (a Persian stew), meatball mixed berries, meatball marsala, eggplant parmesan, lamb shank, various types of soup and of course, the gyro. On

*Certified Copy continued from Page 18*

felt longing. I've rarely seen an actor communicate so many things at once without saying a word. Her performance alone makes the film worth watching.

*Certified Copy* is, in a sense, a puzzle. But as we follow these two characters through the streets, trying to fit the pieces into place, a funny thing happens. As its various threads weave together, we start to see that the film is, as much as anything, a carefully crafted mirror. As James and Elle walk and talk, they don't just argue with each other; they compete for our sympathies. They



*Rose Baklava*

weekends they serve up grilled chicken and beef kabobs, falafels, kotlet, sambusa and spinach pies. Both the sambusa and spinach pies are absolutely incredible.

If you are in the mood for a change, give Daffodils a try. You won't be disappointed.

offer two ways of walking through this world: one detached, self-centered and emotionally protected; the other open to commitment and intimacy, and all of its attendant joys and dangers. By the time we reach the film's simple, yet powerful closing scene, we're left to ponder in which camp we truly stand, and whether or not that's where we want to stay.

*Certified Copy's* smart writing, masterful acting and beautiful locale provide much to enjoy for any filmgoer looking for a ninety-minute escape. But it should come with one more warning label: "This film may result in serious self-reflection. View at your own risk."



# SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

## LIEUTENANT CARLA SCHREIBER

**Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Nebraska State Patrol**

I was born in and still reside in Lincoln, Nebraska. I have one son who lives in Omaha and is attending Creighton Law School. I am a graduate of Waverly High School and I received my Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from Concordia University and my Master's Degree in Management from Doane College.

In 1990 I joined the Nebraska State Patrol and I currently hold the rank of Lieutenant. I have held numerous positions within the agency, including Field Services Division - Trooper and Sergeant, Investigative Services Narcotics Division Rural Apprehension Program, Criminal Division Investigator and Sergeant, Lieutenant of the Joint Terrorism Task Force, Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Division, Cold Case Division, Internet Crimes Against Children Division, Hazardous Devices Division, Intelligence Division, Criminal Identification Division and Nebraska Information Analysis Center Deputy Director.

A few of my accomplishments include successfully completing Police Staff and Command School through Northwestern University, Leadership in Police Organizations Command School, Intermediate Fusion Center Analyst Training (IFCAT) and the Emergency Management Institutes Professional Development Series. I am also a Certified Polygraph Examiner and a member of the Nebraska Association of Polygraph Examiners and the American Association of Police Polygraphists.

***“Pro Bono Publico”  
is the NSP motto and  
is Latin meaning  
“For the Good  
of the Public.”***

I currently serve as the Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Nebraska State Patrol. As such I am the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Coordinator and Instructor for the agency. In addition, I am the Governor's Designee for receiving advance notice of radiological shipments (10 CFR Parts 71 and 73) coordinating routing and security and the state coordinator for Emergency Response Guides (ERG).

I currently serve on a number of boards and committees as part of my role as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator: Western Governors Association (WGA) Board, Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB), High Level Radioactive Waste (HLRW) Board, State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) Board, Department of Energy Transportation Plan Working Group, Department of Energy Section 180° Working Group, National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) Security Communication Protocol Ad Hoc Working Group,



Hostile Action Based (HAB) Planning Committee, FEMA Region VII Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) Preparedness Subcommittee, Nebraska Department of Agriculture Homeland Security Board and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Livestock Movement Planning Team.

I am also an international instructor for the Laboratory for Scientific Interrogation specializing in Detection of Deception through Scientific Content Analysis. In July I returned from teaching a course in London, England.

I enjoy traveling and the occasional round of golf. I will be eligible to retire in 2 ½ years and am looking forward to the next phase of my life.





# CZECH REPUBLIC AMBASSADOR LUNCHEON

By COL Anita Curington

The Nebraska National Guard hosted a luncheon featuring Petr Gandalovič, Czech Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Gandalovič discussed the Czech Republic's partnership with Nebraska and their role in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) along with emerging initiatives and partnerships in the European Theater.

Ambassador Gandalovič has been in the United States since May 20, 2011 and presented his credentials to President Obama on July 7, 2011. He was born in Prague, Czech Republic in 1964. He has served in a variety of political positions throughout his career.\*

Approximately 35 members of the Nebraska National Guard along with several State employees, the media and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry attended the event. Congressman Fortenberry invited Ambassador Gandalovič to Nebraska to discuss the mutual benefit between Nebraska and the Czech Republic. Nebraska has been affiliated with the Czech Republic since 1993 when we started the State Partnership Program. Specifically, Fortenberry requested the visit for several reasons including:

- The cultural ties between Nebraska and the Czech Republic. They visited Prague, Nebraska after the luncheon.
- Showcase the Student Partners Program (SPP).
- To further develop our two countries, European-U.S. trade agreements.

The Ambassador discussed how Nebraska has assisted the Czech Republic over the last 20 years in transforming their military from a Gulf War military to a fully integrated member of NATO

with current weapon systems and the ability to communicate. The Czech Republic is now a reliable partner that has fought alongside the U.S. in Afghanistan and Kosovo. The Czech Republic is concerned about Afghanistan post-2014 and what missions/operations will be in the future with the current war deployments winding down.

Ambassador Gandalovič opened the floor for, and addressed questions about, the missile defense program within Europe, and the Czech view of European economies given the Greek euro situation. During the Bush administration, the Czech Republic was approached about a missile defense program which would place missiles in their country. Due to apprehension from the Czech population about having a foreign missile installation within their boundaries, the concept was revised from missiles to radar. The Obama administration changed the plan and moved the installation to the east and south. Ambassador Gandalovič personally regrets the decision of the Obama administration, but still supports the concept and the Czech Republic continues with research and development. They also continue to work with Fort Rucker, Alabama on helicopter training.

The second question asked was about the Czech's view of the economies in Europe with the euro situation within



Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Ambassador Gandalovič, Maj Gen Daryl Bohac.

the European Union, specifically Greece. Ambassador Gandalovič started off by saying the Czech Republic is not part of the euro-zone, which means they do not use the euro as their currency, but the Czech Republic is a part of the European Union. The euro-zone consists of 35 countries that use the euro as their currency. Ambassador Gandalovič's opinion is that the euro-zone was a hasty project that included diverse economies and promoted economic prosperity. But it did not take into account the contributions of the various countries and the effect of fast prosperity. The introduction of the euro as a single currency led to the decline in the interest rate of many euro-zone countries which translated into rapid economic growth through a credit surge. The euro-zone ran into debt quickly through over-lending and extending credit. This created the current debt crisis which is currently affecting the countries of the euro-zone. Ambassador Gandalovič does believe there is value from pursuing other avenues of European integration, just not from the concept of a single currency.

\*[http://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/about\\_us/our\\_ambassador/index.html](http://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/about_us/our_ambassador/index.html)



# LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) PRIDE MONTH LUNCH AND LEARN

By SGT Heidi Krueger

*“Now, therefore, I Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2013 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month,” from the Presidential Proclamation for 2013. “I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.”*

In awareness of June being LGBT Pride Month, all Nebraska Military Department employees and members were invited to attend a panel discussion lunch and learn featuring people associated with the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Omaha on June 27 at the Operations Auditorium on the Air National Guard Base in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The event, hosted by the Nebraska National Guard Special Emphasis Program Group, started with an informative and descriptive presentation of PFLAG. Then the panel members shared personal stories. After that was all done the floor was opened up for questions and answers.

“We changed our tag line a little bit because we have found that we also have a whole spectrum of orientations and sexual identities that we help support,” said the panel leader and a member of PFLAG Omaha who headed the presentation during the lunch and learn. “So we adopted a new tag line, ‘Parents, Families and Friends of Allies united with LGBT people.’”

“There are 363 chapters across the country,” added the panel

leader. “And we have a three-prong mission: support, advocacy and education.”

PFLAG Omaha promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

According to several attendees of the event, they enjoyed learning about all the different things PFLAG does along with how to understand the different orientations and sexual identities. That was the real purpose of the lunch and learn: to educate people about the realities of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay people by countering stereotypes and negative images in a non-confrontational style.

***We promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends through: Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.***

***-PFLAG Omaha***



The personal stories told by members of the panel helped Nebraska Military Department employees truly understand how hard it was and still is for those service members to tell family and friends about their sexual orientation and gender identity.

For some people of the LGBT community they still keep it a secret and for others telling their friends, family and co-workers made a huge difference.

“I felt like I could actually have my two lives the same again,” said one panel member, an active duty Air Force pilot. “I didn’t have to have two personalities. And it’s been since then that I actually found myself again.”

The SEP Group appreciated the support of those in attendance, as well as the panel members who were willing to share their stories. 



# EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SPECIALIST COURSE CONDUCTED AT PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE

*By LaVonne Rosenthal*



for further discussion and to work on special assignments. Our final project was to study demographic reports and analyze data from a fictitious company's annual statistical report (Management Directive 715) and provide a report of barriers and triggers for our group facilitator. The other mainstay of DEOMI courses

The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Air Force Base (AFB), Florida, hosted the Equal Employment Opportunity Special Course (EEOSC 11-13) from August 5-15, 2013. I was fortunate to be one of 40 students from around the nation who came together to gain more knowledge about our responsibilities as EEO professionals.

Subjects included Fundamentals of EEO, Workplace Harassment, Complaints Analysis, Alternative Dispute Resolution Overview and Complaints Update provided by an administrative judge from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). We also received an enthusiastic briefing from the coordinator and manager of CAPS, Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (<http://www.cap.mil>), which provides assistive devices for individuals with disabilities so they are able to be successful on the job and in daily life activities.

As is often done in DEOMI courses, students were divided into small groups

***CONCEPT OF DIVERSITY***  
***Different***  
***Individuals***  
***Valuing***  
***Each other***  
***Regardless of***  
***Skin,***  
***Intellect,***  
***Talent or***  
***Years***

– the dreaded comprehensive test – was conducted with all students receiving a passing grade.

DEOMI provides a variety of training programs on site at Patrick Air Force Base, or sends mobile training teams to various off-site locations. Their website (<https://www.deomi.org>) provides a listing of courses (under education & training) along with a plethora of information about diversity and equal opportunity.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to travel again to DEOMI, having attended courses and conferences there numerous times. Their instructors and staff consistently provide professional and current training. I'm also getting to know the best restaurants and shopping venues in the area, advancing beyond the moniker of tourist to being one of the locals. The next course on my training requirements list is the EEO Officer course, scheduled for next spring, and I look forward to returning to the sunny state of Florida.





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## DID YOU KNOW? TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. D. Muslims observe five formal prayers each day. The timings are spaced evenly throughout the day, so that one is constantly reminded of Allah and given opportunities to seek His guidance and forgiveness.



*View of the worship hall of the Great Mosque of Kairouan considered as the oldest mosque in the Western Islamic World. At the bottom of the central nave of the prayer hall there is a niche (the mihrab) indicating the qibla.*

**Fajr (pre-dawn):** This prayer starts off the day with the remembrance of Allah; it is performed before sunrise.

**Dhuhr (noon):** After the day's work has begun, one breaks shortly after noon to again remember Allah and seek His guidance.

**'Asr (afternoon):** In the late afternoon, people are usually busy wrapping up the day's work, getting kids home from school, etc. It is an important time to take a few minutes to remember Allah and the greater meaning of our lives.

**Maghrib (sunset):** Just after the sun goes down, Muslims remember Allah again as the day begins to come to a close.

**'Isha (evening):** Before retiring for the night, Muslims again take time to remember Allah's presence, guidance, mercy and forgiveness.

2. E. All of the above.

Helen Hayes' career in entertainment surpasses most others in years as well as in achievements. She began acting at the age of five and didn't stop until she was 85. In 1983, the Helen Hayes Awards were established, encouraging other aspiring actors and



actresses to reach for their goals as she had done. Helen picked up an Academy Award for Best Actress for her first movie role in *The Sin of Madelon Claudet*, the story of a poor woman forced to commit crimes to support her son.

Born Rosita Dolores Alverío in Humacao, Puerto Rico on December 11, 1931, Rita Moreno is a singer, dancer and actress. She is the only Hispanic to have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony, and was the second Puerto Rican to win an Academy Award.



Filmmaker Robert Wise, who was chosen to co-direct the movie version of the smash hit Broadway musical *West Side Story* cast Moreno as "Anita", the Puerto Rican girlfriend of Sharks' leader Bernardo, whose sister Maria is the piece's Juliet. For her performance, Rita Moreno won a well-deserved Oscar as Best Supporting Actress. Her performance was an integral component of one of the most successful film musicals in history. During the seventies, Moreno won a 1972 Grammy Award for her contribution to *The Electric Company* soundtrack album, following it up three years later with a Tony Award as Best Featured Actress in a Musical for *The Ritz* (1976), a role she would reproduce on the Big Screen. She then won Emmy Awards for *The Muppet Show* and *The Rockford Files*.

Audrey Hepburn was born on May 4, 1929 in Brussels, Belgium. Her father was a wealthy English banker, and her mother, a Dutch baroness. After her parents divorced, Audrey went to London with her mother where she went to a private girls school. While vacationing with her mother in Arnhem, Netherlands, Hitler's army took over the town. It was here that she fell on hard times

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*Did You Know Trivia continued from Page 25*

during the Nazi occupation. Audrey suffered from depression and malnutrition. After the liberation, Audrey went to a ballet school in London on a scholarship and later began a modeling career. Audrey gained immediate prominence in the U.S. with her role in *Roman Holiday* in 1953. This film turned out to be a smashing success as she won an Oscar as Best Actress.



Whoopi Goldberg was born Caryn Elaine Johnson in the Chelsea section of Manhattan on November 13, 1955. She worked in a funeral parlor and as a bricklayer while taking small parts on Broadway. She moved to California and worked with improv groups, and developed her skills as a stand-up comedienne. Goldberg first came to prominence with her starring role in *The Color Purple* (1985). She received much critical acclaim, and an Oscar nomination for her role, becoming a major star as a result. She made her mark as a household name and a mainstay in Hollywood for her Oscar-winning role in the box office smash *Ghost* (1990). Whoopi Goldberg was at her most famous in the early 1990s, making regular appearances on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1987). She is the first African American to have received Academy Award nominations for both Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress. She has received eight Daytime Emmy nominations, winning two. She has received three Golden Globe nominations, winning two.



***“If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.”***

***~Margaret Mead (1902-1978)***

She won a Grammy Award in 1985 and a Tony Award as a producer of a Broadway musical. She has won three People's Choice Awards.

3. B. False. Jnana means the knowledge of the eternal and real. Karma is the term that comprises the entire cycle of cause and effect of good and evil.

Karma is not punishment or retribution but simply an extended expression or consequence of natural acts. Karma means “deed” or “act” and more broadly names the universal principle of cause and effect, action and reaction that governs all life. The effects experienced are also able to be mitigated by actions and are not necessarily fated. That is to say, a particular action now is not binding to some particular, pre-determined future experience or reaction; it is not a simple, one-to-one correspondence of reward or punishment.

Karma is not fate, for humans act with free will, creating their own destiny. According to the Vedas, if one sows goodness, one will reap goodness; if one sows evil, one will reap evil. Karma refers to the totality of our actions and their concomitant reactions in this and previous lives, all of which determines our future. The conquest of karma lies in intelligent action and dispassionate response.

4. C. Between 6,000 and 7,000. You may be surprised, but it is a very difficult task for linguists to give the correct answer to the question, “How many languages are there in the world?” Before they can start counting, they have to solve some other problems. What can be defined as a separate language? Should dialects be added to the general number? Can you always understand the difference between a language and a dialect? How many people must speak the language? Is it obligatory for a language to be written? This list of questions can be very long. If you do not want to go into detail, just trust in professionals’ opinions, which state the following:

There are from 6,800 to 6,900 distinct languages in the modern world.

Even scientists are not able to give a more or less exact number. The Ethnologue organization lists approximately 6,900 languages, and specialists from the National Virtual

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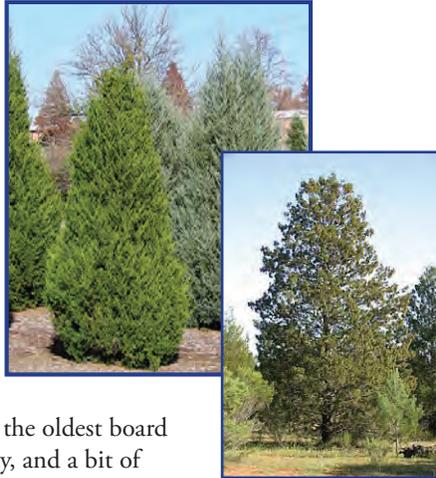
*Did You Know Trivia continued from Page 26*

Translation Center agree with that number. The Linguistic Society of America says that there are about 6,800 spoken languages.

In fact, from time to time different languages disappear, because peoples speaking them die out or assimilate with other peoples. Thus, their languages become extinct.

5. A. True. Eating everything is impolite and leaving some is a symbol of abundance.
6. C. Grapes. One is eaten for each month of the new year to ensure health and prosperity.

7. D. When the child is to marry, the trees are cut down and used as posts for a traditional wedding canopy. The custom of planting a "marriage tree" at the birth of a child is called *neti'ah shel simchah*, "a joyous planting."



8. Backgammon is one of the oldest board games still around today, and a bit of backgammon history might deepen your appreciation for the game.

Backgammon's origins were traced to Mesopotamia, now the present-day Iran-Iraq-Syria region. The game was played using sticks or bones for pieces, and the game boards were made of wood.



Back then the game was a favorite of kings and noblemen, and numerous excavations have revealed the popularity of the game among the upper social classes in Rome, Greece and the Far East.

9. C. The Indian Rupee is the original official currency of India. The English translation of "Rupee" is "silver," and the name exists because it was previously a silver coin.
10. B. The belief is that the character of the first person entering the house after midnight affects the family for the

upcoming year and will bring good luck or a good omen.

Immediately after midnight on New Year's Eve, open the back door of your home to let the old year out and welcome the "First-Foot" into your home, bringing with him good fortune for the coming year. The First-Foot is the first person to cross the



*The Indian Rupee*

a friend or neighbor's home with symbolic gifts of salt, coal and a silver coin. The coal represents heat and warmth, the coin wealth and the salt guarantees a supply of food.

The First-Foot should not be a family member, must not have been in the house at midnight, and must not leave the house by the door through which he entered or without a gift.

The nuances and rules of First-Footing vary greatly. Wealth could be represented by a silver coin or salt. In England, the food was normally bread, but regional variations ranged from red herrings to fruit cake. Sometimes the food was replaced by or supplemented with drink - a glass of wine or whiskey. Equally varied is the type of person doing the First-Footing. Long ago, it could have been a chance caller, but now people make sure of their luck. Often a member of the family or someone at a New Year's party will go outside before midnight to come back to perform the ceremony, or a neighbor or friend is enlisted. In most places the First Foot will be a man, but in some parts women are preferred. In some areas the First-Foot must be tall and dark-haired, while in other places blondes are allowed

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BTG  
DIVER-CIPE  
CORNER

GWUMPKI

Submitted by  
SSG Erin Youngblood

*There are several different ways to spell it, but only one way to say it: Go-wump-key, which literally means little pigeons.*

*Like my mother, the first time we remember having this dish was as little children. The meal itself takes us both back to warm, heartfelt feelings of home.*

*The Polish tradition is to serve this dish at family reunions and holidays.*

*As stated in Wikipedia: Polish myth holds the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland Casimir IV Jagiello fed his army with golabki before a key battle of the Thirteen Years' War outside of Marienburg Castle against the Teutonic Order, victory stemming from the strength of the hearty meal.*

### Ingredients

- 10-12 potatoes
- 1.5-2 lbs of hamburger
- 15 slices of bread soaked in water
- 1 medium/large onion
- 2 heads of cabbage

### Instructions

Peel potatoes then cut in half and place in bottom of a large pot.

Mix hamburger and soaked bread (squeeze out water before mixing with hamburger).

Chop up onion. Add to hamburger and bread mixture. Salt and pepper to taste.

Shape into balls approximately the size of a golf ball.

Remove core from cabbage. Clean off outer leaves. Wrap hamburger balls in cabbage leaves. Set in pot on top of potatoes. When finished wrapping, lay leftover cabbage on top.

Fill pot with water to where it is barely covering the top of the food. Salt and pepper the cabbage on top.

Set on stove for approximately 20 minutes at medium heat.

Once cabbage has softened turn off stove and let cool for 5 minutes.



*Sisters in Arms continued from Page 9*

all agreed that for the Omaha/Lincoln area folks, that Camp Ashland and the General's cabin were great locations.

Since the first meeting, I have had several people schedule mentoring sessions with me. I have also had folks tell me how good it was to be able to discuss female issues without worrying that they would be viewed as complaining or making excuses. Some folks enjoyed just meeting women from other units and developing new friendships and networks. Others, who could not attend, have received feedback from those who attended and are asking about the next meeting and the next book.

Our next meeting was held in the Kearney area in early August. We are attempting to ensure we have a book club meeting in different areas around the state that have Battalion-level organizations so we can have enough female participants. The book discussed was *Lean in: Women, Work and the Will To Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg. *Lean In* will also be the book for the next Camp Ashland discussion.

Ultimately, we would like to determine any issues as well as develop a road ahead (more group meetings, changing format, developing a mentoring program, etc).

For anyone who did not attend the first meeting, please join us at future book club meetings. We look forward to meeting all of you and helping you develop your talents.

