



FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION AIR ASSAULT

2014 Keith L. Ware Category C: Special Event

555th Parachute Infantry Battalion "Triple Nickles" Monument Dedication



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III stands with the Triple Nickles Honor Guard during a ceremony at Fort Campbell, Ky. The Triple Nickles unveiled a memorial dedicated to the first black paratroopers of 1944-1947.



Left and above - Triple Nickles Memorial Monument on the grounds of the Don F. Pratt Museum, Fort Campbell, Ky.



Table of Contents	
Letter of Endorsement	3
Summary and Background	4-5
Research Phase	6-7
Planning Phase	8-10
Execution Phase	11-12
Evaluation	13
Effectiveness	14-17
Overall Value to the Army	18-19



Men of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, "Triple Nickles," prepping for a jump.





Summary and Background

The Community Relations (Com Rel) section of Fort Campbell's Garrison Public Affairs Office was contacted by Parachute Infantry Triple Nickles retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Griffin in the early part of 2013. Griffin stated the 555th Parachute Infantry Association was in the process of placing a monument honoring the 555th on the grounds of Fort Campbell and wanted to hold a monument dedication ceremony for the unveiling. This was a unique opportunity for both Fort Campbell and the 555th. Active during World War II, the 555th Parachute Infantry "Triple Nickles" were part of a very special unit. They passed rigorous training in 1944 to become members of the first all-black paratrooper unit and were tasked with helping fight forest fires caused by incendiary bombs sent on the jet stream by the Japanese. These men used their parachute skills to participate in firefighting missions on the West Coast of the United States. These skills earned them the nickname, "Smoke Jumpers." In December 1947, the battalion was deactivated and then reactivated as the 3rd Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. This was the first time for an all-black unit to officially join a U.S. Army combat division. From 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Soldiers went on to the 503rd Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion and the 80th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion, and then spread out across the Army, including the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.



Soldiers of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion stand at ease prior to a firefighting mission. The Soldiers of the all-black paratrooper unit were sent to the West Coast during World War II to help battle forest fires caused by Japanese incendiary devices. U.S. Army photo.



Summary and Background

The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was nicknamed the "Triple Nickles" because of its numerical designation and the selection of 17 of the original 20-member "colored test platoon" from the 92nd Infantry (Buffalo) Division. Hence, the origin of the term Buffalo Nickles; the spelling derives from old English. Three buffalo nickels joined in a triangle or pyramid is the identifying symbol.



Right-Third from left-Bradley Biggs, the first commissioned African-American paratrooper officer, with his fellow Triple Nickles at Fort Bragg, 1943.



Left- First Sgt. Walter Morris, 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, Fort Benning, Ga., prepares for his first jump. Morris is considered the U.S. Army's first African American paratrooper.



Research Phase

Research for this project relied on documentation provided from the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc. Similar supported events were conducted at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning and Fort Leavenworth. Representatives from the 555th were tasked with providing input regarding these past events to Fort Campbell Com Rel in order to provide the best possible support on our post. We relied on these past projects as part of our research and overall concept for the event. This research and development propelled us forward in the development of a well-planned and organized event. The 555th provided a digital photo with drawings depicting where the new monument would be placed on the museum grounds. We requested the 555th to complete an event request packet, our official request for support. Once the request packet was received, a legal review was conducted on the 555th for multiple forms of support. Research by legal into the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc, their request for support as well as placement for the new monument resulted in a legally sufficient review. We received the legal review stating its approval and from that point we moved into the planning phase of our event.



Groundbreaking for the new 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment monument took place at the Don F. Pratt Museum on August 12, 2014. Present for the groundbreaking were members of the 555th from left to right, Trooper Lawrence C. Douglas, Trooper Fred Otey, Trooper Sydney R. Brown, Trooper Lewis T. Hatcher, and Trooper Gary Teague.



Research Phase-Legal Review



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT) AND FORT CAMPBELL
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY 42233-5000

AFZB-JA-CAL

4 June 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Ethics Opinion: Request for Bugler, Honor Guard, and Chaplain from the 188th Glider Infantry Regiment, 555th Infantry Airborne Regiment Association at Fort Campbell, KY on 4 September 2014.

1. I have reviewed the above referenced action and find it legally sufficient.
2. Background. The 188th Glider Infantry Regiment, 555th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association requests the 101st Airborne Division Band Bugler and a Chaplain to represent Fort Campbell at the retiring of the Regimental Flags. These Veterans are also requesting the Honor Guard to present the Colors and State Flag at the start of their event. The Bugler is requested to play TAPS, and the Chaplain for the benediction. This is a military, family and community event and is free to the public with 300 people expected to attend.
3. Applicable Law.
 - a. Department of Defense (DoD) 5500.7-R, Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), 17 November 2011
 - b. Army Regulation 360-1, The Army Public Affairs Program, 25 May 2011
4. Analysis. As presented, there is sufficient evidence in this request to meet the requirements of the JER and AR 360-1. Such use of the band/bugler is authorized under AR 360-1, paragraph 7-2 as our support to the event appears to have a substantial community affairs, public relations, and/or recruiting benefit. Participation by the Honor Guard is also appropriate under AR 360-1, paragraph 7-2(c) since this is an event meant to stimulate patriotism. Lastly, a Chaplain may participate in this event provided it does not interfere with his duties to his or her Soldiers, training, or unit readiness. There should be no direct DoD endorsement of The 188th Glider Infantry Regiment, 555th Infantry Airborne Regiment Association.
5. Conclusion. The request is legally sufficient.

MICHAEL LEVIN
CPT, JA



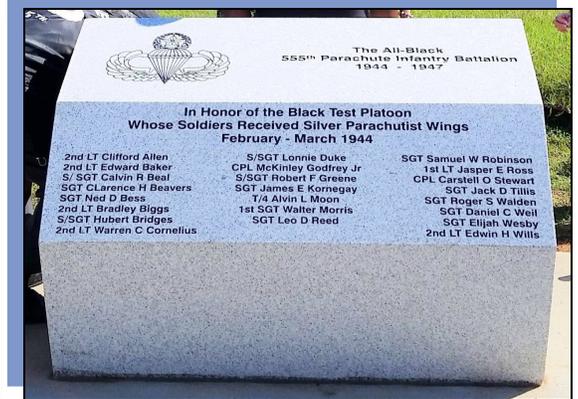
Planning Phase

The planning portion for this event involved legal and command level approval for support for the following: bugler and vocalist from the band, Multi-Media Visual Information Services for PA System, podium, microphone and speakers; post chaplain, garrison commander to give remarks, media coverage, use of museum grounds, Voice of the Eagle for narration for the ceremony, six flag holders and a four star flag from the Honor Guard and 12 Fort Campbell Soldiers to volunteer as ushers for the ceremony. Coordination was also conducted with the Fort Campbell Protocol Office to arrange for tables, tents and chairs for the ceremony. More than 500 invitations including invites to the local community were sent from the Fort Campbell Protocol invite list.

Preparations were made at Cole Park Commons MWR facility located on Fort Campbell in case of inclement weather. Photos were taken of the monument and would be increased to the actual size of the monument. Then photos would be 'unveiled' at Cole Park.

The monument arrived at Fort Campbell on August 19, 2014 and was placed on the platform. The 555th met on 20 and 21 August to do final positioning and area beautification.

A luncheon was planed at Cole Park Commons following the monument dedication. All participating Soldiers were invited at no expense to them.



Planning Phase Continued

Power Point slides were presented to the Fort Campbell Strategic Outreach committee, chaired by the Commanding General, to help plan the execution of support for this event. These slides were briefed to the Commanding General and his staff weekly for more than two months prior to the event to ensure all elements of supports were coordinated. The requests for the Parachute Demonstration Team (PDT) and the Soldiers to be used as ushers were discussed during several Outreach meetings. The discussions were lengthy in regards to logistics for the PDT and legal analysis for the Soldiers to be used as ushers. It was determined that the PDT would not be able to jump due to logistical reasons. Legal stated it would be legally sufficient for Soldiers to act as ushers as long as the Soldiers volunteered and were not officially tasked. The request was made through Outreach committee channels and 12 Soldiers volunteered be ushers for the ceremony.



**555th Infantry Regiment
188th Airborne Infantry Battalion
Fort Campbell, KY**

UNCLASSIFIED

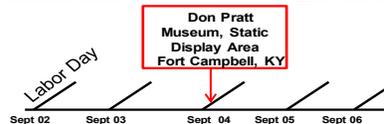
Com Rel

Recommendation: Approve

Narrative: The 188th Glider Infantry Regiment, 555th Infantry Regiment request the 101st Airborne Division Band (Bugler), vocalist to sing the National Anthem, GC, Voice of the Eagle, a PA system with podium and 12 Soldiers to use as ushers. The 555th INF REG Veterans are requesting the Bugler to play TAPS, The Voice of the Eagle to be the Narrator, the GC to speak on behalf of the 555th Regiment and the PDT to jump in with the 555th flag. The 555th will provide their own Honor Guard to present the Colors and the Chaplain (Bishop) for the invocation at the start of the event. The Honor Guard to supply six (6) flag holder and a four star flag on stand by. This is a military, family and community event and is free to the public, 300 people are expected to attend. Media will be invited to cover the ceremony.



Who: 555th Infantry Regiment 188th Glider INF REG Association
What: Band (Bugler), Signer, Sound System (PA), Podium, Chaplain, GC, Media Coverage, Museum, and Voice of the Eagle, Honor Guard to have six flag holder and a four star flag on stand by and the Parachute Demonstration Team, 12 Soldiers to usher.
Where: Fort Campbell, KY
When: 4 Sept 2014, 1000 to 1100
Cost: Fuel: \$00.00 Food: \$00.00
Legal: Pending



1 UNCLASSIFIED Air Assault!



Recommend Approval

UNCLASSIFIED

04 Sept 2014

Event Title & Location:	3 rd Battalion, 188 th Airborne Infantry Battalion, Fort Campbell, KY
Event Purpose:	The 3 rd Battalion, 188 th Airborne Infantry Battalion will retiring the Regimental Flags. The 555 th INF REG Veterans are requesting the Bugler to play TAPS, The Voice of the Eagle to be the Narrator, the GC to speak on behalf of the 555 th Regiment. The 555 th will provide their own Honor Guard to present the Colors and the Chaplain (Bishop) for the invocation at the start of the event. PDT.
Event Support Requested:	101 st Airborne Division
Tasked Unit & POC:	If approved, G3 will task a 101 st unit to provide support
Requesting Organization:	555 th Infantry Regiment
Organization POC:	Gregory M. Griffin gregory.m.griffin.civ@mail , 270-798-8827 or 931-216-3402 (BB)
Organization Website/Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Triple-555-Nickle-Elester-Garner-Chapter/
Has SJA Conducted Legal Review?	Legally Pending
Estimated Attendance?	300
Cost of Admission?	No admission cost
Event Distance from Fort Campbell, KY (miles)?	00 Miles
Will There be Media Coverage?	yes
Sponsor has agreed to provide meals and fund transportation	No

TIMELINE
Before: Outreach Approval
During: 4 Sept 2014
 0915-0930 Enroute to Don Pratt Museum
 0930-1000 Set up
 1000-1100 Participate in event
 1100-1150 Enroute to Fort Campbell
After: AAR comments submitted to CPT Middleton by the tasked unit NLT 0930 hours, 15 Sept 2014.

2 UNCLASSIFIED Air Assault!



Planning Phase Continued

Multiple one-on-one meetings between Com Rel and the Triple Nickles took place weeks before the event. These meetings helped to educate us on the background of the Triple Nickles and to provide us with a clear picture of their requests. These meetings gave us the tools to provide a successful event for the members of the Triple Nickles and all who attended.

Work orders were submitted to Fort Campbell's Multi-Media Visual Information department to ensure official photos were taken and to provide equipment for the ceremony. Numerous meetings were conducted between members of the Triple Nickles, PAO, Com Rel, Protocol and the museum to ensure everything would be in place the day of the ceremony. The work orders were updated and submitted a total of four times due to the changes being made in the ceremony program. In the end, requests were approved for the following;

- official photos
- two podiums-one red and one blue
- three microphones
- one full sound system to accommodate 75- 150 people
- two speakers with all accessories

MULTI-MEDIA/VISUAL INFORMATION (M/VI) WORK REQUEST For use of this form, see AR 25-1; the proponent agency is CIO/G-6.		1. WORK REQUEST #2014007058 Status: CANCEL <input type="button" value="Change"/>
		2. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified
SECTION I - REQUIREMENT		
3. TO (M/VI Activity Name) Fort Campbell VI Center 832 Florida Avenue Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000		
4. FROM (Customer Name) Division Public Affairs Office Commander Bldg. 2574 & 23rd Street Fort Campbell, KY 42223		(Delivery Info.) **Pickup Address: Fort Campbell VI Center 832 Florida Avenue Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000
5. CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NUMBER AFZB-PA		
6a. REQUESTOR'S NAME James B Lawler	6b. GRADE E-7	6c. REQUESTOR'S ORGANIZATION OR APO Division Public Affairs Office Commander
6d. REQUESTOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS james.b.lawler.mil@mail.mil	6e. PHONE NUMBER 270-798-4365	7. DATE REQUESTED 08/19/2014
8a. ALTERNATE POC NAME Denise Shelton	8b. GRADE GS-11	8c. ALTERNATE'S ORGANIZATION OR APO N/A
8d. ALTERNATE'S EMAIL ADDRESS denise.a.shelton.civ@mail.mil	8e. PHONE NUMBER 270-461-1277	8. DATE REQUIRED See below
SPECIAL EVENT		
EVENT NAME Special Event	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 250	
LOCATION Pratt Museum/Outside Memorial Area	START DATE/TIME 09/04/2014 1000	END DATE/TIME 09/04/2014 1100
CD QUANTITY 2	PRINT QUANTITY 12	PRINT SIZE 8 x 10
	FILE N/A	
Send File via Email N/A		
QUOTE REQUESTED No		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS 555th Parachute Infantry Association Monument Dedication. They want a photo of the ribbon cutting and hopefully a few of the members posing in front of the monument.		
JUSTIFICATION 555th Monument Dedication		
		M/VI APPROVAL
COMMENTS N/A		

REQUEST #2014007058 Status: CANCEL <input type="button" value="Change"/>	
2. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified	
SECTION I - REQUIREMENT	
3. TO (M/VI Activity Name) Division Public Affairs Office Commander Bldg. 2574 & 23rd Street Fort Campbell, KY 42223	
4. FROM (Customer Name) Division Public Affairs Office Commander Bldg. 2574 & 23rd Street Fort Campbell, KY 42223	
(Delivery Info.) **Pickup Address: Fort Campbell VI Center 832 Florida Avenue Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000	
5. CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NUMBER AFZB-PA	
6a. REQUESTOR'S NAME James B Lawler	6b. GRADE E-7
6c. REQUESTOR'S ORGANIZATION OR APO Division Public Affairs Office Commander	6d. PHONE NUMBER 270-798-4365
6e. DATE REQUESTED 08/19/2014	
8a. ALTERNATE POC NAME Denise Shelton	8b. GRADE GS-11
8c. ALTERNATE'S ORGANIZATION OR APO N/A	8d. DATE REQUIRED See below
SPECIAL EVENT	
EVENT NAME Special Event	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 250
LOCATION Pratt Museum/Outside Memorial Area	START DATE/TIME 09/04/2014 1000
END DATE/TIME 09/04/2014 1100	
CD QUANTITY 2	PRINT QUANTITY 12
PRINT SIZE 8 x 10	FILE N/A
Send File via Email N/A	
QUOTE REQUESTED No	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS 555th Parachute Infantry Association Monument Dedication. They want a photo of the ribbon cutting and hopefully a few of the members posing in front of the monument.	
JUSTIFICATION 555th Monument Dedication	
M/VI APPROVAL	
COMMENTS N/A	

COMMENTS N/A		M/VI APPROVAL
------------------------	--	----------------------



Execution Phase

History was made in the winter of 1943 when 20 young, African-American Soldiers were ordered to active duty to be trained as parachutists. On September 4, 2014 at Fort Campbell, Ky., members of that elite group were recognized for their service. These 555 Soldiers were among the first to integrate 3rd Battalion, 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell in 1950. Fort Campbell Garrison Commander Col. David “Buck” Dellinger provided opening words for the monument dedication ceremony. In addition to Dellinger, Triple Nickles Paratrooper Sydney R. Brown also spoke during the ceremony. The Triple Nickles Honor Guard presented the Colors during the National Anthem.



Top left: Members of the 555th.

Top right: Col. David “Buck” Dellinger.

Bottom right: Trooper Sydney R. Brown.

In order to ensure all possible media would be present, news releases were sent to the entire Fort Campbell media distribution list as well as numerous postings on the Facebook and Twitter. PAO provided media escorts to those media outlets with an RSVP.



Execution Phase Continued

The following Fort Campbell Soldiers volunteered their time to be ushers during the Triple Nickle ceremony.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| SGT Blackwell | PFC Norton |
| PFC Garcia | SPC Olazarra |
| SPC Hartung | SPC Sautter |
| PFC Hildebrand | PFC Schoendorf |
| SPC Marquardt | SPC Spears |
| SPC Mulonzi | SPC West |

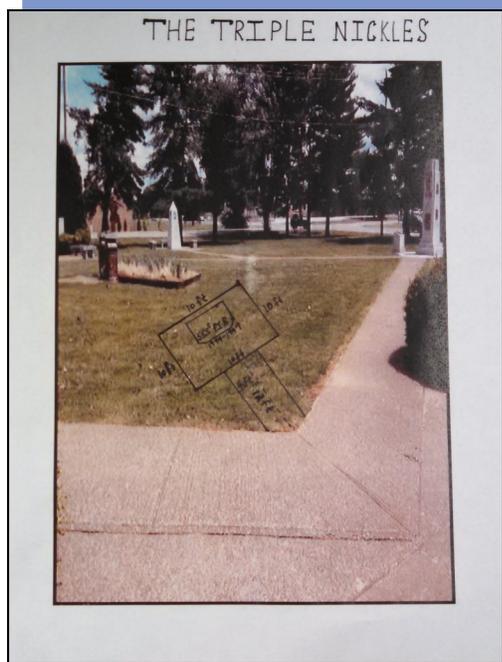


The overall success of this event would not have been possible without the combined efforts of the following agencies:

- 101st Division Protocol
- 101st Division Honor Guard
- 101st Division Band
- Multimedia Visual Information
- Garrison Command Staff
- Garrison PAO to include:
 - Community Relations
 - Media Relations
 - Command Information
 - Social Media



Evaluation Phase



What started as a sketch on paper ended with a monument placed in honor of an elite group of men.



Members of the Triple Nickles were exceptional men, specially selected for the mission. They were former university students and professional athletes, proud citizens of their towns and country. Unlike other Black infantry units lead by Whites, they were entirely Black, from commanding officer down to the newest private. They were unique in that they were the first black Soldiers to break the glass ceiling that separated black servicemen from duty in elite units. On September 4, 2014 a handful of the Triple Nickles gathered at Fort Campbell to attend a ceremony in their honor. They came to Fort Campbell for their yearly reunion to donate and dedicate a granite memorial they themselves paid for. That memorial was officially accepted by U.S. Army Fort Campbell Garrison commander Col. David "Buck" Dellinger. The attention this ceremony received from Fort Campbell and the surrounding area was unprecedented. Facebook posts, tweets on Twitter and numerous local media publications about the event spread quickly and covered a broad area of social media. In attendance at the ceremony was Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III. Upon hearing about the event during a scheduled visit to Fort Campbell, Chandler adjusted his schedule to attend the dedication, took time to speak with the Triple Nickle paratroopers and paused to take photos with them. This speaks volumes to how far reaching this event was to Fort Campbell and the value to the Army.



Left- Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III stands with the Triple Nickle Honor Guard. Chandler's attendance required him to make a major adjustment to his schedule. However, when he was told about the event, he rearranged his day in order to attend the ceremony.



Effectiveness Phase

The event was well received and well attended. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III was in attendance and spent time with members of the 555th. Several media outlets covered the event as well as publishing articles prior to the event date. An assessment slide was created and briefed at the Outreach committee meeting. The slide depicted that more than 14,000 people were reached via social media.

A 555th Association member spoke with Campbell Courier staff writer Megan Locke Simpson about the legacy of the Triple Nickles.

“The legacy – these ... paratroopers that paved the way for the younger guys and gals that came along – it is significant,” said Gregory Griffin, a 555th Association member with 31 years of Army service. “It is also significant that ... Fort Campbell is a part of that legacy.”

As Griffin and fellow members of the 555th Association see it, the on-post monument that memorializes the original Soldiers of the Triple Nickles test platoon will serve as a way to preserve both the unit’s history and the other black Soldiers that followed in their footsteps.

“They now have a point of reference to come to on this installation and visit and bring their children and their grand-children,” Griffin said.





Strategic Outreach Event Assessment
555th Parachute Infantry Association
September 4, 2014

UNCLASSIFIED

Outside Organization(s): 555th Parachute Infantry Association

POC: Gregory M. Griffin, WK: (270) 798-8827 BB: (931) 216-3402
email: gregory.m.griffin.civ@mail.mil

Summary: Members of The 555th Parachute Infantry Association uncovered a monument to honor the first black paratroopers assigned to Fort Campbell in September 1950 during a dedication ceremony at the Don R. Pratt Museum. The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was the Nation's first all-black parachute infantry test platoon, company and battalion. VIP's present were Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Raymond F Chandler and Brig.Gen (Ret) Wendell Gilbert-Guest Speaker. There were approximately 170 guests in attendance. Fort Campbell provided podiums, sound systems, flag stands, GO's flags, tents, chairs, bugler, Voice of the Eagle, script writing, invitation mail out and the event program.

Media Assessment: The Courier produced a story prior to the event titled, "Fort Campbell monument to honor black paratroopers." Leaf Chronicle produced a story prior to the event as well. On the day of the ceremony Channel 5 Nashville, Leaf Chronicle, Tennessee Tribune and Eagle Post were present.

Cost: Event was on post. No pier diem or TDY needed.




1
UNCLASSIFIED
Air Assault!



Strategic Outreach Event Assessment
555th Parachute Infantry Association
September 4, 2014

UNCLASSIFIED

Recommendations: There were too many people from the organization involved in the planning. Recommend that one main POC for events such as these be a mandatory requirement.

Social Media: 234 likes on Fort Campbell page
185 likes on the Courier page
69 share on the Courier page
14,535 people reached.

Unit Tasked: Garrison Commander, Garrison PAO and Com Rel, Protocol, twelve 3BCT Soldiers, band, Honor Guard, Voice of the Eagle.

Prepared by: Denise Shelton, Garrison PAO
270-461-1277 denise.a.shelton.civ@mail.mil



2
UNCLASSIFIED
Air Assault!



Effectiveness Phase Continued

The Fort Campbell
COURIER

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 26 THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014 WWW.FORTCAMPBELLCOURIER.COM

Fort Campbell monument to honor black paratroopers

by Megan Locke Simpson
Courier staff

The Soldiers of the 555th Parachute Infantry "Triple Nickles" were special. They passed rigorous training in 1944 to become members of the first all-black paratrooper unit in the Army, stationed out of Camp Mackall, N.C. It started out as a platoon, with 17 enlisted Soldiers and six officers, and later expanded to a company, then a battalion.

Active during World War II, the unit was never deployed into combat overseas. However, they served an equally important mission.

They were tasked with helping fight forest fires caused by incendiary bombs sent on the jet stream by the Japanese. These men used their parachute skills to participate in vital firefighting missions on the West Coast of the United States, which earned them the nickname, "Smoke Jumpers."

"They were attached to the United States Forestry Service out in Chico, Calif., to fight forest fires," said 555th Parachute Infantry Association member Sidney Brown, a retired command sergeant major. "They did that from the first part of 1945 until the end of the war."

For Jordan J. Corbett, a 555th Soldier, paratrooper training was a whole new experience.

"The first day I ever jumped that was my first time I'd been up in a plane, and I had to jump out," he remembered. "... That was quite exciting. Of course the first jump for me was not the best. I think I was so excited I forgot the position I was supposed to be in. That chute opened and I was yanked so hard,



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Soldiers of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion stand at ease prior to a firefighting mission. The Soldiers of the all-black paratrooper unit were sent to the West Coast during World War II to help battle forest fires caused by incendiary devices sent across the Pacific Ocean by the Japanese.

I thought I saw confetti all around me. That's the honest truth. My position was so bad, but the next four were perfect."

All-in-all, the 555th is "an outfit I'll never forget," Corbett said during a telephone interview from his Bartow, Fla., home.

"They were tough, they seemed to be well-educated, and they wanted to make sure that we were well-informed, well-trained and that we followed the regulations of the Army," he said, of the unit's officers.

Thomas McFadden, 92, joined the 555th Parachute Infantry in summer 1944. He remembers the standards were exceedingly high for those hoping to join the unit, but the 555th Parachute Infantry Soldiers were up for the challenge.

"My own impression is that initially, it was set up so that it was intentional for those of that group to eventually fail," McFadden said. "One of the questions ... was whether or not they had the intelligence to be able to be successful as a paratrooper."

"It was my opinion that actually the Army at that time was not really interested initially in a successful, black unit."

In December 1947, the battalion was deactivated and then reactivated as the 3rd Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

This marked the first time for an all-black unit to officially join a U.S. Army combat division.

see MONUMENT, Page 3A

Fort Campbell Courier Staff Writer Megan Locke Simpson published an article on August 28, 2014 about the upcoming Triple Nickles ceremony. The article was well received and served as a proactive move to help raise awareness about the event, and increase attendance. Her article was picked up and published on Army.mil. Photo on page 18.

MONUMENT

Continued from Page 1A

From this regiment, Soldiers went on to the 503rd Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion and the 80th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion, and then spread out across the Army, including the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.

It is believed that the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, and the subsequent units birthed from it, helped to promote integration within the U.S. Armed Forces. Because of this unique place in history, members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion formed the 555th Parachute Infantry Association to preserve the unit's legacy.

"As you know, the news is full of still apparent uneven distribution of rights and so forth and so on, so that the victory is not won yet," McFadden said. "We have to be vigilant, and along with all of our other professions, we have to kind of do some things [that are] going to contribute

to the greater good of all persons, regardless of what their pigmentation is and so forth. I think many of us are trying to do that."

This legacy remains strong at Fort Campbell, where the 3rd Battalion, 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division, integrated the installation in the early 1950s. As a nod the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion's role in the Army's integration, the 555th Association will be dedicating a monument at Fort Campbell, Sept. 4, in honor of the first black paratroopers. The monument cost \$10,000, and it was donated to Fort Campbell by the 555th Association.

"The legacy - these ... paratroopers that paved the way for the younger guys and gals that came along - it is significant," said Gregory Griffin, a 555th Association member with 31 years of Army service. "It is also significant that ... Fort Campbell is a part of that legacy."

As Griffin and fellow members of the 555th Association see it, the on-post monument that memorializes

the original Soldiers of the Triple Nickles test platoon will serve as a way to preserve both the unit's history and the other black Soldiers that followed in their footsteps.

"They now have a point of reference to come to on this installation and visit and bring their children and their grandchildren," Griffin said.

The monument dedication ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. in front of Fort Campbell's Don F. Pratt Museum. Attendees can expect remarks from Garrison Commander Col. David "Buck" Dellinger, as well as 555th Association National President Joe Murchison.

This monument is not the first. The 555th Association has worked diligently to dedicate similar monuments on installations across the country, including Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Benning, Ga., among others. The purpose of the monument is to maintain the legacy of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion Soldiers, and the change they fostered throughout the Army.

"What this monument represents are those black Soldiers, black paratroopers, who were in the United States Army from 1943 to 1944 - when the first black guy went to jump school - until 1952, when the Army integrated," Brown said.

Brown came to what was then Camp Campbell in September 1950. He first served with Company I, 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Abn. Div., then joined Company K, 511th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Abn. Div. He experienced the integration of troops at Fort Campbell in September 1952.

"That's just the way it was," Brown said.

"That time I don't think can be forgotten, because these guys went through a very tough time in the Army. I caught a little bit of that here in 1950 when I came here. So I can imagine what they went through in 1944 and 1945 during World War II."

In the days before integration, Fort Campbell's black Soldiers had their own PX and club, and were

only allowed to stay from 11th Street and south. The white Soldiers stayed on 12th Street and north, Brown recalled.

"A lot of people don't want to talk about things like this, because it brings back I guess some hurts for some people, but that's the truth," Brown explained. "We are trying to maintain this legacy. A lot of people don't want to do that anymore. But the Army was segregated in those days. We had two Armies. We had the black Army and the white Army - no doubt about it."

"That's why guys like me, who came in a little bit later on, we all chug to the Triple Nickle ..."

The monument dedication is one portion of the 555th Association's 35th annual reunion, which is being held in Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday through Sept. 7. A luncheon at Cole Park Commons is scheduled after the monument dedication, and members can participate in a golf tournament and formal ball Sept. 6. For more information about the reunion, call (813) 238-2305.



Effectiveness Phase Continued

Fort Campbell monument to honor black paratroopers

August 29, 2014

By Megan Locke Simpson, Fort Campbell Courier

0 Like 6,085 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Megan Locke Simpson's article received 6,085 likes from the Army.mil posting.

The screenshot shows the Army.mil website interface. At the top left is the U.S. Army logo and the text 'WWW.ARMY.MIL THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'. A navigation menu includes Home, News, Features, Media, Info, Leaders, Army Life, and Join. A search bar is on the right. The main content area features the article title 'Fort Campbell monument to honor black paratroopers' with a sub-header 'Homepage > News Archives > Article'. Below the title is the date 'August 29, 2014' and the author 'By Megan Locke Simpson, Fort Campbell Courier'. Social media sharing options for Google Plus and Facebook are visible. A 'Story Highlights' box contains a quote: 'The legacy -- these ... paratroopers that paved the way for the younger guys and gals that came along -- it is significant. It is also significant that ... Fort Campbell is a part of that legacy.' -- Gregory Griffin, a 555th Association member. A large black and white photograph shows soldiers in full parachute gear standing in a line on an airfield. A caption below the photo reads: 'Soldiers of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion stand at ease prior to a firefighting mission. The Soldiers of the all-black paratrooper unit were sent to the West Coast during World War II to help battle forest fires caused by incendiary devices sent across the Pacific Ocean by the Japanese.' At the bottom left, a partial caption reads: 'FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. -- The Soldiers of the 555th Parachute Infantry "Triple Nickles" were special. They were the only unit in 1944 to become members of the First'. A 'Related Links' section is partially visible at the bottom right.



Effectiveness Phase Continued

The Leaf-Chronicle located in Clarksville, Tenn., covered the ceremony and published the article in both print and online. The online posting had 123 Facebook likes and 2 tweets on Twitter.

THE LEAF-CHRONICLE
A GANNETT COMPANY

Search [] SUBSCRIBE to get full ac

HOME NEWS FORT CAMPBELL SPORTS LIVING OBITUARIES OPINION PHOTO-VIDEO USA TODAY TPA PUBLIC NOTICES

Fort Campbell embraces black airborne pioneers

Philip Grey, The Leaf-Chronicle 8:01 p.m. CDT September 4, 2014

123 Facebook likes, 2 tweets

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Historic Fort Campbell added to its legacy on Thursday when post officials received a monument dedicated to the pioneer black paratroopers of the 555th "Triple Nickel" Parachute Infantry Battalion.

(Photo: THE LEAF-CHRONICLE/PHILIP GREY)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- A Thursday ceremony at Fort Campbell unveiled a memorial to the first black paratroopers
- The memorial was donated by the 555th Parachute Infantry "Triple Nickel" Association.

MORE STORIES

- Administrator named for Clarksville's veterans home**
Dec. 18, 2014, 1:45 p.m.
- CPD get first place in Team Street Survival Seminar**
Dec. 18, 2014, 1:17 p.m.
- Daughter's purse stolen while trying to help sick mother**
Dec. 18, 2014, 12:55 p.m.

The Triple Nickel began as a test platoon in the winter of 1943-1944 at Fort Benning, Georgia. The 16 soldiers who completed the training to get their silver jump wings were the first black soldiers to break the hard color line that separated black servicemen from duty in elite units.

In time, the platoon became a company, and then a battalion, and a few years later, the veterans of the 555th fathered other black airborne units, including the 3rd Battalion, 188th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.

And a short time after that, President Harry S. Truman signed the order that did away with black pioneers who made the order possible were not

News Channel 5 News Weather On Air Investigates NewsChannel 5+ Talk of the Town iContribute

News

Video by NewsChannel5.com Auto Start: On | Off

1st All-Black Parachute Infantry Honored After 70 Years

By Adam Ghassemi. CREATED Sep 4, 2014

FT. CAMPBELL, Ky. – They served their country despite remarkable obstacles. Young black soldiers in the 1940s simply didn't get the same privileges as their white counterparts. Now a group that didn't let those odds stand in their way is finally being honored.

The 555th Parachute Infantry was the first-all black group of its kind, also known as the "Triple Nickels."

They were 17 soldiers who secretly helped stop the Japanese from destroying parts of the western United States while white soldiers were sent off to fight abroad.

"Never before in the segregated military had African Americans soldiers been given such a prestigious assignment," said Ft. Campbell Garrison Commander Col. David Dellinger.

Ninety-one-year-old Jordan "JJ" Corbett is one of last surviving "Triple Nickels."

"The type of training and discipline that they put us through, it still dwells in me," Corbett said Thursday.

The group became known as "smokejumpers." Corbett and others were sent to the Pacific Northwest, and jumped to stop forest fires started by balloons sent by the Japanese.

"At the time we didn't think much of it, but over a period of time I realized how

News Channel 5 out of Nashville, Tenn. covered the ceremony. They ran a story on one of their news-casts as well as posting the story on their web site.



Overall Value to the Army



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Lawler, Com Rel NCOIC

Certificates of appreciation were presented to members of the Fort Campbell Public Affairs Office by Clarksville Triple Nickles Association president Sgt. Maj. Fred Otey.



Master Sgt. John Hinternish,
Garrison Command Staff



Cpt. Eric Schlieber, Garrison Command Staff



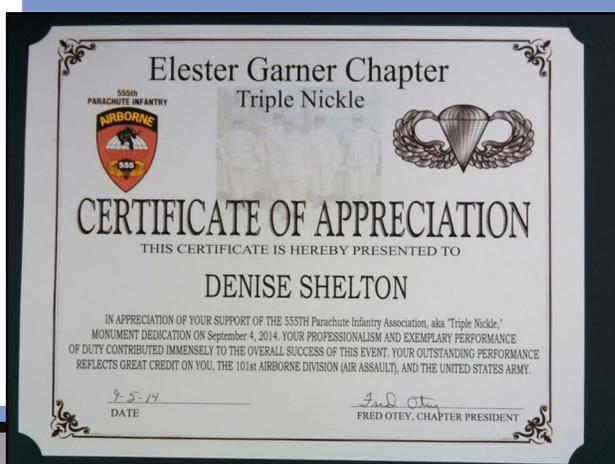
Megan Locke Simpson,
Courier Staff Writer

**555th
PARACHUTE INFANTRY**



Overall Value to the Army Continued

Each member of Fort Campbell Public Affairs Office received this certificate in their name.



Sgt. Johnathon Neat, Com Rel Staff



Brendalyn Carpenter, Deputy Public Affairs/Command Information Officer



Michele Carlton Vowell, Courier Editor



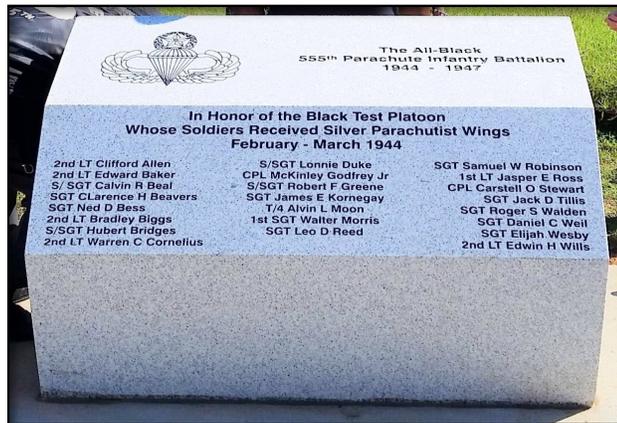
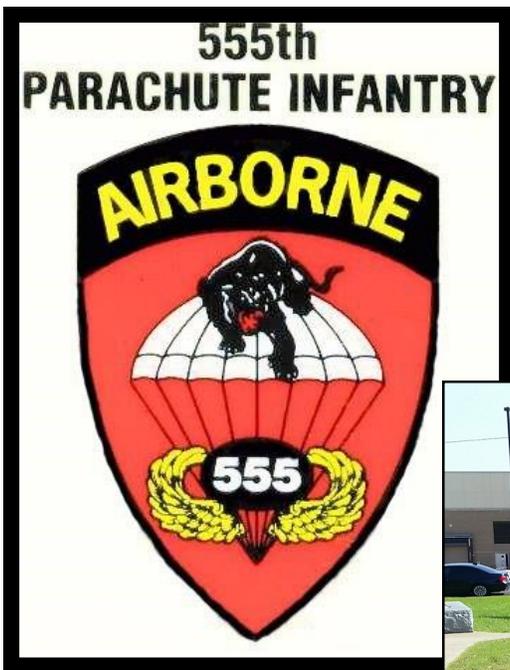


FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION AIR ASSAULT

2014 Keith L. Ware Category C: Special Event

555th Parachute Infantry Battalion "Triple Nickles" Monument Dedication



Air Assault!!

