

The Hamilton Connection

Serving the Fort Hamilton Community Vol. 7 No. 22 June 15, 2012



Fort Hamilton welcomes new CSM

Fort Hamilton bid farewell to its command sergeant major when Command Sgt. Maj. Sylvia Laughlin relinquished her responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Prince during a ceremony on the Bluff June 8.

Laughlin had served as the command's senior enlisted adviser since 2008. The ceremony also served as her retirement ceremony after more than 28 years of service.

"This is the end of one chapter and the beginning of another," said Col. Michael Gould, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hamilton garrison commander. "All of her years of experience before coming here has made her the perfect choice for us here. I'm humbled at having the honor to be her last commander. No commander could ever ask for a better battle buddy."

Laughlin plans to remain in the New York City area as a Christian pastor.

Prince was selected to come to Fort Hamilton from his most recent assignment as the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Command Sergeant Major in Wies-

baden, Germany command sergeant major.

"Though this wasn't my first change of responsibility, this one was by far the most special, because this was the first time many of my family members were able to share this with me," Prince said.

Prince is a native New Yorker, and not only was his wife present, but his mother, mother-in-law, daughters and his Army veteran brother were also present, together for the first time.

"I joined the Army here at Fort Hamilton, and it is an incredible feeling to come here as a private and to return full-circle as the command sergeant major," he said. "It was great to share that with my family. Not everybody gets the opportunity to do that."

Prince entered the Army in 1983 as a personnel record specialist. His military education includes: Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic and Advanced Non-commissioned Officer Courses, Airborne

Course, Air Assault Course, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Officer Course, Special Forces Sniper Course, Jump Master Course, Command Sergeants Major Designee Course, Garrison Command Sergeants Major Course.

Prince is a graduate of Class 54, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He also completed the Manpower and Force Management Course, Senior Civilian Leader Continuing Education Program and Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Leadership Team Awareness Training. Additional assignments include: 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, Mass.; 569th PSC 38th PNA Battalion Neu Ulm, Germany; records supervisor, 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell,

See **PRINCE** on page 4



Spcs. Vishaul Persaud and Yamili Sanchez present bouquet of yellow roses to Jacqueline Prince, Prince's wife and other family members. Photo right, Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Prince accepts the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hamilton colors as its new command sergeant major.



'Big Apple' helps celebrate Army birthday

By C. Todd Lopez

On the day of the Army's 237th birthday, the Army's senior-most officer toured one of the largest cities in America -- New York City -- to tell the Army's story and to thank Americans there and across the United States, for their continuing support of the American Soldier.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno started his morning in the "Big Apple" by addressing the nation in front of television cameras at the MSNBC television studios at 30 Rockefeller Center, during a segment of the popular early-morning television show "Morning Joe."

The general talked with host Joe Scarborough about challenges the Army is facing, in particular with declining budgets. But the general also said that despite looming budget cuts and the challenges that will come with them, America has remained strong in its support of the Army.

"For the last ten years and one of the reasons we have said thank you to the American people, is that we have been given the resources to execute the two wars we've been asked to execute," Odierno said. "And the American public has given us quite a bit and believed in

us, and so it is important for us to thank them for doing that."

Odierno also talked about the challenges of multiple deployments on Soldiers. He told Scarborough how Americans can identify the time a Soldier has spent in combat.

"I always tell people when you meet somebody in the Army, look at their right sleeve, each one of these means six months of combat," the general said, pointing out the gold bars stitched into the sleeve of his Army Service Uniform coat. "So when you go around and look at those, you understand how many times somebody has deployed."

The general himself had eleven bars on his right sleeve -- representing five and half years in combat.

"We have asked a lot of these men and women," Odierno said. "This is the first time we've had such extended combat operations for an all-volunteer Army."

The general said to date, as a result of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, some 4,400 Soldiers have been killed. An additional 32,000 have been injured, he said. Additionally, some of the Soldiers coming back from those wars will continue to suffer from the effects of post-traumatic stress. For those, Odierno said, Americans must continue with their support.

"We will continue to see those who have PTSD as they come back. We'll have to deal with that," he said. "As a nation, we owe it to them to make sure we are able to continue to take care of them because of what we have asked them to do."

In the heart of New York City, Times Square, Odierno addressed a crowd of several hundred who had gathered to witness both a traditional birthday celebration -- with a cake cutting -- and an even more traditional ceremony that involves turning young civilian Americans into new Soldiers -- an enlistment.

The general first thanked New Yorkers for hosting the event, and said he feels the military and the Army have a connection to the city.

"The military and the Army specifically have long and close ties with the city of New York," Odierno said. "And I think it's appropriate, since I consider New York to be the best city in the world and I consider the U.S. Army to be the best fighting force in the world -- so I think we're a good match together."

The general said the celebration there, beneath neon signs and video screens is not just about the 237th birthday of the Army, but also about the millions who have served the United States since the beginning of the nation: from the Revolutionary War, to World War I and World War II, through the Korean War, to Vietnam, then to Desert Storm and finally, the last ten years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As I have had a chance to go around the world, I realize that we have something very special here," Odierno said, referring to the United States. "Our freedoms and our liberties are very unique to any other country in the world, and our Army is here to protect those

See **BIRTHDAY** on page 4

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the youngest and oldest Soldier in the crowd, and Buddy Valastro from the TV show Cake Boss, cut a cake celebrating the U.S. Army's 237th year birthday at Times Square in New York City, June 14, 2012.



President Obama Signs Crowley Bill to Rename Bronx Post Office After Fallen Soldier Into Law

June 5 President Obama signed into law H.R. 3413, legislation authored by Rep. Joe Crowley (Queens, the Bronx) to rename to the post office located at 1449 West Avenue in the Bronx as the "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office".

Private Isaac T. Cortes, an Army soldier and Bronx native, was killed in Iraq in 2007. "I am so pleased that with President Obama's signature the post office at 1449 West Avenue will be renamed in honor of Private Cortes. Like so many brave men and women before him, Private Cortes put his love for our country above all else. For that, our community and our nation are forever grateful," said Rep. Crowley. "It is my hope that by renaming the post office after Private Cortes, we can ensure that his bravery, service and sacrifice will forever be remembered."

Pvt. Cortes was raised in the Parkchester neighborhood of the Bronx and attended Christopher Columbus High School. He enlisted in the Army on November 21, 2006, completed his individual infantry training course in Fort Benning, Ga., and then moved on to Fort Drum before being deployed to Iraq in September 2007. On November 27, 2007, Pvt. Cortes was one of two soldiers killed when an improvised explosive device was detonated near his vehicle in Amerli, Iraq, approximately 100 miles north of Baghdad. In honor of his service, Pvt. Cortes was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Crowley first introduced legislation to rename the post office after Pvt. Cortes in September 2010 during the 111th Congress.

The bill passed the House in December 2010, but the session of Congress expired before the Senate could vote on the bill. In 2011, Crowley reintroduced his bill for the 112th Congress. The bill passed the House on March 5, 2012 and the Senate on May 18, 2012. Details regarding the ceremony to rename to the post office will be provided at a later date.

Emily Toro, Cortes' mother is Fort Hamilton's current Volunteer of the Year.

A vibrant poster for an Independence Day celebration. The background is a mix of purple, blue, and pink, with several bursts of fireworks in white and blue. In the center, a blue gate with a white archway is flanked by two vertical blue pillars. A white starburst pattern is visible on the right side of the gate. The text is white and pink. At the top, it says 'FREE EVENT' on the left and 'PUBLIC EVENT' on the right. Below that, 'Fort Hamilton Family & MWR Presents' is written in a smaller font. The main title 'INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION' is in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, it says 'Concert and fireworks in honor of the troops and their families featuring...'. The name 'ESTELLE' is written in very large, white, stylized letters. Below that, it says 'Fort Hamilton Army Base/ Sunday July 1st' and 'Register today via the website!'. The website 'www.hamiltonmwr.com' is listed at the bottom. There are two small logos: one for the Army and one for MWR.

Editorial Staff

Garrison Commander
Col. Michael Gould

Deputy Commander
Damon Wilford

Garrison Command Sgt. Major
**Command Sgt. Maj.
Hector Prince**

Public Affairs Chief
Alison Kohler

Community Relations Officer
Cathy SantoPietro

Command Information/
Media Relations Officer
Bruce Hill

Fort Hamilton Announcements

Security guard opportunities

Fort Hamilton has many vacancies for security guard positions, GS-0085-04, with a starting salary of \$31,560. For more information, visit <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/315788600>. The closing date is June 15.

Lunch and Learn

Two Lunch and Learn sessions will be held June 19 and 26 from noon —1 p.m. at the education center. The first session's topic will be Stress and Chiropractic Medicine with chiropractor, Dr. Scott A. Schwager. The second topic is "10 Things You Should Know About Estate Planning" with Brendan Murphy. For more information, call Rose Tillona at 718-630-4412.

BIRTHDAY cont. from page 2

As he had done earlier, on television, the general again said that it is the American people, with funding and support, that makes it possible for the Army to do what it does.

"We want to (give thanks for) the incredible support that we get from the people, from all citizens of the United States, that allows us to do our difficult job," Odierno said.

Today, the general said, there are 94,000 Soldiers deployed around the world. About 68,000 are in Afghanistan now. Others are deployed to locations such as Bosnia, Kosovo and the Middle East. Another 90,000, he said, are forward stationed in about 150 countries.

"(Those Soldiers) are representatives of our values, they are representatives of our ethical and moral values, and they are representatives of America," he said. "That's why today it is so important to recognize the sacrifice of many throughout the years, and over the last ten years. We've had over 4,000 Soldiers give their lives for our country, and over 35,000 injured for their country. And they do that because they think it's important that we continue to bring the values of freedom and liberty around the world, and protect our own freedom and liberty."

On the Army's birthday, Odierno said, it is a day to celebrate the entire "Army Family." That, he said, includes active duty Soldiers, Soldiers from the Army National Guard, and Soldiers from

the Army Reserve. It also includes Department of the Army civilians, and the family members of America's Soldiers.

"So as you go about your day-to-day, think about the sacrifices, think about our great Army, and think about how fortunate we are to live in this great country of ours -- there is no country like it," the general said.

On a live video feed from Afghanistan, New Yorkers shared in an Army birthday celebration that happened there in the desert. That celebration happened with the commander of the 1st Infantry Division, deployed now. He cut a cake, along with Soldiers, via the video feed, to share their Army pride with Americans back home.

Back in New York, Odierno cut a cake locally. This cake, shaped like an Army tank, weighed a full 500 pounds, and was prepared for the Army by Buddy Valastro and his staff. Valastro is well-known from the popular television series "Cake Boss" on TLC. Eight members of Valastro's staff took three days to prepare the tank-shaped cake.

Finally, before leaving Times Square, Odierno presided over a ceremony even more traditional, and sacred, than cutting a birthday cake. There, before the military recruiting station that has been in place there since 1946, the general swore 16 young Americans into the Army by administering the oath of enlistment.

During the enlistment ceremony, other Soldiers in the area were also asked to raise their own hands, so they too could recite the pledge to protect the nation.

Odierno's day in New York didn't end with Times Square.

The general continued on to nearby Bryant Park, to witness a traditional tattoo, which included performances by the Army's Fife and Drum Corps and Army Drill Team. Also part of the presentation, the "Soldiers Show," and music from the Army Band.

Odierno closed out his day, and the Army birthday celebrations in the city, by performing a New York City tradition -- he closed the New York Stock Exchange by ringing the closing bell there. Since the NYSE moved to its current location in 1903, trading at the exchange has ended each day with the ringing of a bell. Before that, trading was stopped

with a gong, and before that, with a gavel.

The New York Stock exchange was founded in 1817, making it about 195 years old. It's an old American institution -- but it's still not as old as the Army that protects it.

PRINCE cont. from page 1

Ky.; personnel supervisor, 2nd Battalion 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Ky.; senior personnel supervisor, 6/37th Field Artillery, Camp Stanley Korea; senior personnel sergeant, 2/319th Field Artillery; 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; brigade personnel supervisor, Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion DIVARTY 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg N.C.; division G1 strength manager noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., first sergeant 82nd Airborne Division Replacement, Fort Bragg, N.C.; personnel service battalion command sergeant major 82nd Airborne Fort Bragg N.C.; division G1 strength manager noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., first sergeant 82nd Airborne Division Replacement, Fort Bragg, N.C.; personnel service battalion command sergeant major 82nd Airborne Div, Fort Bragg, N.C.; division G1 sergeant major, 1st Armored Division, Wiesbaden, Germany and USAG Bamberg, Installation Command Sergeant Major. His operational deployments include Operation Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Command Sgt. Maj. Prince is currently serving as the installation command sergeant major for U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

His awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal, 5th Oak Leaf Cluster; the Army Commendation Medal, 6th OLC; the Army Achievement Medal 4th OLC; the Army Good Conduct Medal seven award; the Humanitarian Service Medal; the National Defense Medal with 2 Bronze Stars; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with Numeral 4); Overseas Service Ribbon (with Numeral 2); the Southwest Asia Service Ribbon; the Kuwait Liberation Medal; and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.