

Newsletter

5th Edition Winter 2009



Edward Soriano, LTG US Army (Retired)
Mayor Lionel Rivera, Lynn Rivera
Ginger Perkins, MG David Perkins, Cmdr, 4th ID and Fort Carson



Rosanne Gain
Ginger Perkins
El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark



Maj. Gen. Bill Hodgkins, USAF (Ret.)
Maj. Gen. Wes Clark, USAF (Ret.)
Edward Soriano, LTG US Army (Retired)
MG David Perkins, Cmdr, 4th ID and Fort Carson
Maj. Gen. Larry Fortner, USAF (Ret.)

Photos courtesy of Bob Stovall

MG and Mrs. Perkins Receive Warm Welcome from Community

About 175 local civic, business and Fort Carson leadership joined the Mountain Post Historical Center Association (MPHCA) at a welcome reception for MG David G. Perkins, Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson on October 26. Airplane Restaurant owner Steve Kanatzar opened his aviation memorabilia-filled restaurant and generously donated a delicious spread of food.

Terry Sullivan, MPHCA, Vice President made opening remarks and introduced LTG (Ret.) Edward Soriano, MPHCA President, who gave a brief history and progress report of the Mountain Post Historical Center (MPHC) project.

MG Perkins provided insightful and complimentary remarks regarding his previous time at Fort Carson and expressed his appreciation for the community's support of the Army's presence at Fort Carson. MG Perkins emphasized the importance of the MPHC project to our Soldiers, families and surrounding communities.

The MPHCA along with the surrounding communities wish MG and Mrs. Perkins an enjoyable and successful command with the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson.

Contents

- Page 1**
MG and Mrs. Perkins Receive Warm Welcome from Community
- Page 2**
Veteran Spotlight and Kids Corner
- Page 3**
MPHCA –Thanks Troops Charitable Fund Golf Tournament Well Attended

Adventure Training Turns Vietnam Era Soldiers Into Mechanized Infantrymen

By COL (Ret.) Dave Hughes



There was a problem facing the Fort Carson command in 1968, after the legendary 4th Infantry Division was organized and converted into the 4th Mechanized Infantry Division. Carson had only been a boots-on-the-ground Infantry post for the first 47 years of its existence. The challenge: how to retrain soldiers returning from Vietnam - where they

only knew jungle boots-marching and helicopter-assaulting - into mechanized infantrymen.

The answer came in the form of Adventure Training, which the spirited 60's era soldiers soaked up. It was based on traditions known by us Colorado natives, who were then commanders at Fort Carson.

'Mech Infantry' was a true historical military descendent of the Civil War Army 'Dragoons' - men who rode to battle on horseback but fought on foot. Not cavalry, not infantry, but 'mounted infantry.'

So we proceeded to make Fort Carson the Home of the 'Iron Horse Division.'

We devised very challenging 'Mechando Courses' in which every officer and enlisted man -from general to private- had to get into the driver's seat of an M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier. Then alone, buttoned up, peering only through the driver's periscope, the soldier had to first negotiate a heart stopping 'Fire Run' while live frangible fire was directed at him. He had to climb the steepest hill, span the widest ditch;

control the sharpest downgrade that tracks could negotiate. All against time. And then do the Water Run, plunging into Teller Reservoir, swimming as they would have to while crossing the Elbe River under fire, and crawl out. Then the Night Run ran through woods using only black-out lights following fast moving, track-experienced NCOs who had served in Europe.

All of these exercises turned our Mechaneers into aggressive, competent, mechanized-infantry war-fighters. As each 'qualified' via the course, they were awarded a black GI glove with a flared cuff reminiscent of the Dragoons' distinctive riding gloves, but with their name steel-die stamped into it. The proud Mechaneers' equivalent of the Ranger tab, or airborne jump wings. We thus prepared for any war from jungle to desert.



Photo's Courtesy of Dave Hughes



In My View...

By: Lauren Natali, age 14



Leadership, Strong Will, Bravery,
These are just some of the characteristics our military have.
Fighting for freedom, for honor,
for our nation, for the God they respect.

We watch our brothers and sisters enlist,
day after day they serve.
For all of us here in America,
we stand as one for their safety.

Everyday, around the world, they give their best,
but some don't come back.
It's those who serve their country, and those who sacrifice,
that we should honor the most.

MPCHA – Thanks Troops Charitable Fund Golf Tournament Well Attended



The Mountain Post Historical Center Association (MPHCA) partnered with Thanks Troops Charitable Fund to present the 2nd annual Thanks Troops golf tournament on August 6, 2009 at the Valley Hi Golf Course in Colorado Springs, CO.

Participants - including 238 sponsors, wounded warriors and veterans - enjoyed the beautiful day. It was a chance to have fun, meet new people and honor the men and women of all services.

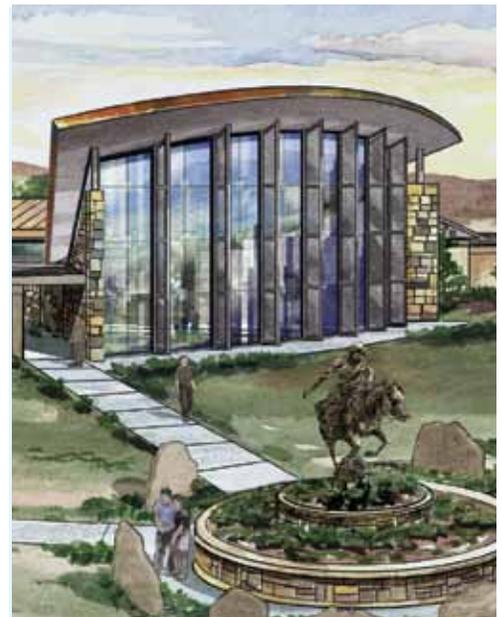
Tournament proceeds will support projects such as recreational activities for wounded warriors and their families, recreational equipment for wounded warriors, scholarships for sons and daughters of wounded warriors through the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Mountain Post Historical Center project.

We are pleased to announce that MPHCA and Thanks Troops will partner on the 3rd Annual Thanks Troops golf tournament for 2010, exact date and location to be announced. We look forward to your support of this important and worthwhile event.

For more information on how you can support this event in 2010 please contact us at (719) 633-2867 or by email info@MountainPostHistoricalCenter.org



Mark Ramey, Chairman, Thanks Troops Charitable Fund
George T. Sakato, Medal of Honor Recipient, WWII
C. Scott Gray, Founder, Thanks Troops Charitable Fund



Fort Carson Facts

Fort Carson is the second largest employer in all of Colorado. In fact Colorado Springs was smaller than Pueblo by a long shot before the Fort opened its gates in 1942. Here are some amazing facts about Fort Carson and its impact on our community.

Population

- **Military:** 18,106 (which by the end of this year will be 24,600)
- **Family Members:** 27,600 (growing to 37,400 by end of 2009)
- **Civilian Employees:** 4,500
- **5th largest military retiree community in the U.S.** (18,940)

Economic Impact (Based on FY08 Data)

• Military Payroll	\$950M
• Civilian Payroll	\$67M
• Local purchases/GPC	\$192M
• Utilities	\$18.6M
• Military Construction	\$428M
• Tuition assistance/Grants	\$4.7M
• Rent & Lease Payment	\$57.6K
• TRICARE Payment	\$141.5M
TOTAL	\$1.8B

Fort Carson and its soldiers have a huge, positive impact on our community! A donation to the MPHCA tells them just how much you appreciate their service, commitment and sacrifice.

Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado \$25,000 challenge grant matches funds raised through February 24, 2010



The challenge grant awarded to the Mountain Post Historical Center Association by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado will help to build the Mountain Post Historical Center (MPHC).

Money raised will help operations, stimulate donor base

The \$25,000 challenge grant will be used to raise operating support funds. It will also act as a catalyst by adding to the Mountain Post Historical Center's base of contributors so vitally needed to build the state of the art facility. The deadline for this challenge grant is February 24, 2010 so donate now to "double" your donation.

For more information about participating in this matching grant opportunity, contact us at (719) 633-2867, info@MountainPostHistoricalCenter.org or visit us at www.MountainPostHistoricalCenter.org

Enterprise zone designation makes honoring the military even more rewarding!

With the MPHC's Enterprise Zone designation, individuals and business who make cash contributions of \$250 - \$100,000 will receive a 25% state tax credit for their donation. In-kind contributions of \$250 - \$50,000 qualify for a 12.5% state tax credit.

Send your check to:

Mountain Post Historical Center
c/o 515 S. Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

If your donation qualifies make your check payable to "El Paso County Enterprise Zone," write "MPHC" in the memo line.

Note: You will receive Colorado Department of Revenue form DR0075, "Certification of Qualified Enterprise Zone Contribution," in the mail from MPHC in time to file with your Colorado State Income Tax forms.

For more information on the Colorado Enterprise Zone, consult "Tax Information Index for Contribution to Enterprise Zone" at www.TaxColorado.com

For more information on the MPHC call 719-633-2867, email Info@MountainPostHistoricalCenter.org or visit www.MountainPostHistoricalCenter.org

The Mountain Post Historical Center Association (MPHCA) is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to support the efforts to build the Mountain Post Historical Center (MPHC), a dramatic, State-of-the-art facility to be located outside the gates of Fort Carson.

To be removed from the MPHC newsletter mailing list—email info@MountainPostHistoricalCenter.org or call (719) 633-2867. Provide your name and address to be promptly removed.

HELP the MPHC go GREEN—To receive future editions of the MPHC newsletter via email visit our website at www.mountainposthistoricalcenter.org

Privacy Policy—The Mountain Post Historical Center Association, Inc. is dedicated to protecting the privacy of individuals. We do not share your information with anyone without written permission nor will we ever sell your personal information to anyone.

THE
MOUNTAIN
 **POST**
HISTORICAL CENTER

c/o 515 S. Cascade
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



Construction of the Mountain Post Historical Center will undoubtedly heighten awareness of the level of patriotism and enthusiasm for service faithfully displayed by Mountain Post Soldiers since the Post's creation. The recognition of past, present, and future Fort

Carson Soldiers not only offers assurance to the public that the service of these great patriots will be honored, but it also lets our brave soldiers know that their service and sacrifice will forever be immortalized.

Latoya Lucas