

Soldiers Online

Year in Review 2000

INFORMATION for this chronology was taken from **Soldiers** magazine and Army Times archives, as well as post newspapers and Army "Green Top" reports that record events of particular note affecting the Army.

January

❖ The Army launches a new recruiting effort, emphasizing career and education opportunities available in the 21st-century Army.

❖ The 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div., and 1st Bde., 25th Inf. Div., both at Fort Lewis, Wash., are identified as the Army's interim brigade combat teams in support of the Army transformation.

❖ CSM Riley Miller, former USAREUR command sergeant major, is given an Article 15 for fraternizing with his 20-year-old driver.

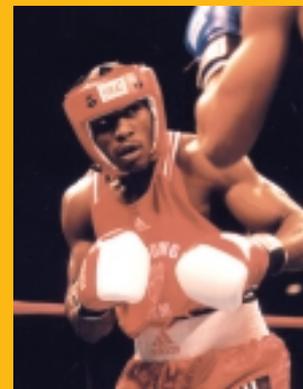
❖ The Army promises an investigation of an alleged mass killing of Korean refugees by American soldiers in No Gun Ri in central South Korea in 1950.

❖ The Navy christens its newest cargo ship, the USNS *Pililaau*, in honor of Army war hero PVT Herbert K. Pililaau of Hawaii.

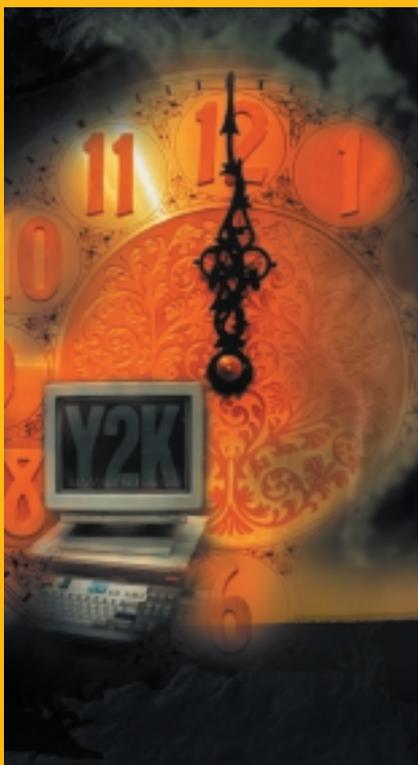
❖ The Pentagon announces it will establish 17 additional National Guard teams to respond to attacks involving nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

❖ A new air assault school opens at Fort Polk, La.

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❖ SSG Olanda Anderson becomes the new light-heavyweight amateur boxing champion of the United States.



❖ Army computers and defense systems remain fully functional through the Y2K crisis.

❖ A Platform Performance Demonstration of 35 potential light-armored vehicles for new combat infantry brigades begins at Fort Knox, Ky.

SSG John Valceanu



February

- ◆ The Army announces two new pilot programs as recruiting incentives: "GED Plus — the Army's High School Completion Program" and "College First."
- ◆ Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera inducts the 38th Hispanic American, Medal of Honor recipient Alfred V. Rascon, into the Hall of Heroes.
- ◆ The Army offers promotable corporals and specialists who re-enlist or reclassify in any of 19 critically short MOSs automatic promotions to sergeant.
- ◆ A new policy becomes effective limiting to 179 days the time both active and reserve-component units may be employed in support of operations other than war or small-scale contingencies.



- ◆ The Texas National Guard's 49th Armored Div. prepares to deploy to Bosnia, where it becomes the first Guard unit to command Task Force Eagle. The division returned in October.



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- ◆ SPC Chad Senior earns a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team after winning the Modern Pentathlon World Cup in Mexico City.

March

- ◆ The Army releases its list of FY 2000 reserve-component unit inactivations and force-structure changes.
- ◆ U.S. and North Korean officials agree to improve procedures for combined recovery operations of remains of American servicemen missing in action from the Korean War.
- ◆ Army Secretary Caldera institutes reforms amid allegations that the Army Corps of Engineers doctored data to justify a project on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.



April

🌀 In response to hurricane disasters, Exercise New Horizons 2000 kicks off in Nicaragua, with Army National Guard elements from Mississippi, Ohio, California and Alabama.

🌀 The Army solicits bids for interim armored fighting vehicles for the new brigade combat teams.

🌀 Eleven American soldiers are treated for injuries they receive in Kosovo after a mob of Serb civilians protest a routine weapons search.

🌀 COL Rose A. Walker, brigade commander for 1st Personnel Command in Germany, becomes the first woman inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

🌀 Fort Riley, Kan., officials sign an agreement with the Pawnee Indian nation to preserve the Pawnee's sacred burial sites.

🌀 The Army officially begins its transformation of the first two brigades at Fort Lewis, Wash., to interim brigade combat teams.

🌀 Soldiers from Fort Lewis' new interim brigade combat teams trade M1A1 tanks for test versions of wheeled, light armored vehicles.

🌀 The Army exceeds its recruiting goal of 12,500 new soldiers for the regular Army in the first quarter of fiscal year 2000, but falls short of its 10,000 goal for Reservists.

🌀 2LTs Marc Messerschmitt and Rick Ahern take first place in the 18th annual Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

🌀 In June 25th Inf. Div. soldiers are in East Timor rebuilding schools burned in August 1999 by Indonesian militia gangs when the East Timorese people voted for independence.



🌀 In April, D.C. National Guard soldiers are called up during protests against the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in the nation's capital.

June

🌀 Thirteen members of the U.S. Army, Alaska, Denali 2000 team reach the top of Mt. McKinley.

🌀 Prototypes of the Army's new brigade combat team vehicles face off at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

🌀 Army health officials test a new malaria vaccine, MSP-1, on humans.

🌀 The Army commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Korean War with events and programs across the United States and in South Korea.

🌀 Army Reservists and National Guard soldiers deploy to El Salvador, Belize and Nicaragua to build schools and clinics and drill wells in the Central American countries.

🌀 Southern European Task Force soldiers from the SETAF Inf. Bde. in Italy become "Sky Soldiers" of the famed 173rd Abn. Bde. when the brigade is activated in Vicenza, Italy.

🌀 The Army celebrates its 225th birthday.





MSG Bob Haskell

May

- The U.S. Postal Service unveils its new Distinguished Soldiers stamps honoring four Army legends: GENs John L. Hines and Omar Bradley, SGT Alvin York and 2LT Audie Murphy.
- Laurie Hiett, the wife of COL James Hiett, former Army commander of drug-interdiction operations in Colombia, is sentenced to five years in prison for money laundering.
- About 13,000 U.S. service members join troops from Thailand and Singapore for the 19th Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand.
- A team of inspectors heads to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to evaluate operational rules and procedures after a nerve agent was detected in the incineration stack.
- The Department of Defense Worldwide Education Symposium in Dallas, Texas, focuses on education needs of service members' children.
- The Army continues its investigation into allegations that U.S. troops intentionally fired on refugees at No Gun Ri during the Korean War.
- More than 1,000 Army National Guard soldiers fight fires raging through Los Alamos, N.M., site of Los Alamos National Laboratories.



- Defense Department officials approve the Kosovo Campaign Medal for service members who served in Kosovo from March 24, 1999 and later.

- CSM Jack Tilley becomes the 12th sergeant major of the Army.
- The Army approves early fielding of protective gear and riot-control munitions, known as the Non-Lethal Capabilities Set, to soldiers in Kosovo.

○ Ten soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit qualify for 11 slots on the U.S. Olympic team.

○ Two West Point cadets receive general courts-martial for stealing from the academy's cadet store.

○ A California company wins a \$300 million contract to renovate family housing at Fort Hood, Texas, under the Army's Privatized Housing program.

○ Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki unveils the Army Vision, moving the Army to a lighter, more deployable and more lethal organization.

○ In June, "The Spirit of America" show is dedicated to Korean War veterans and their families.



SSG John Valceanu



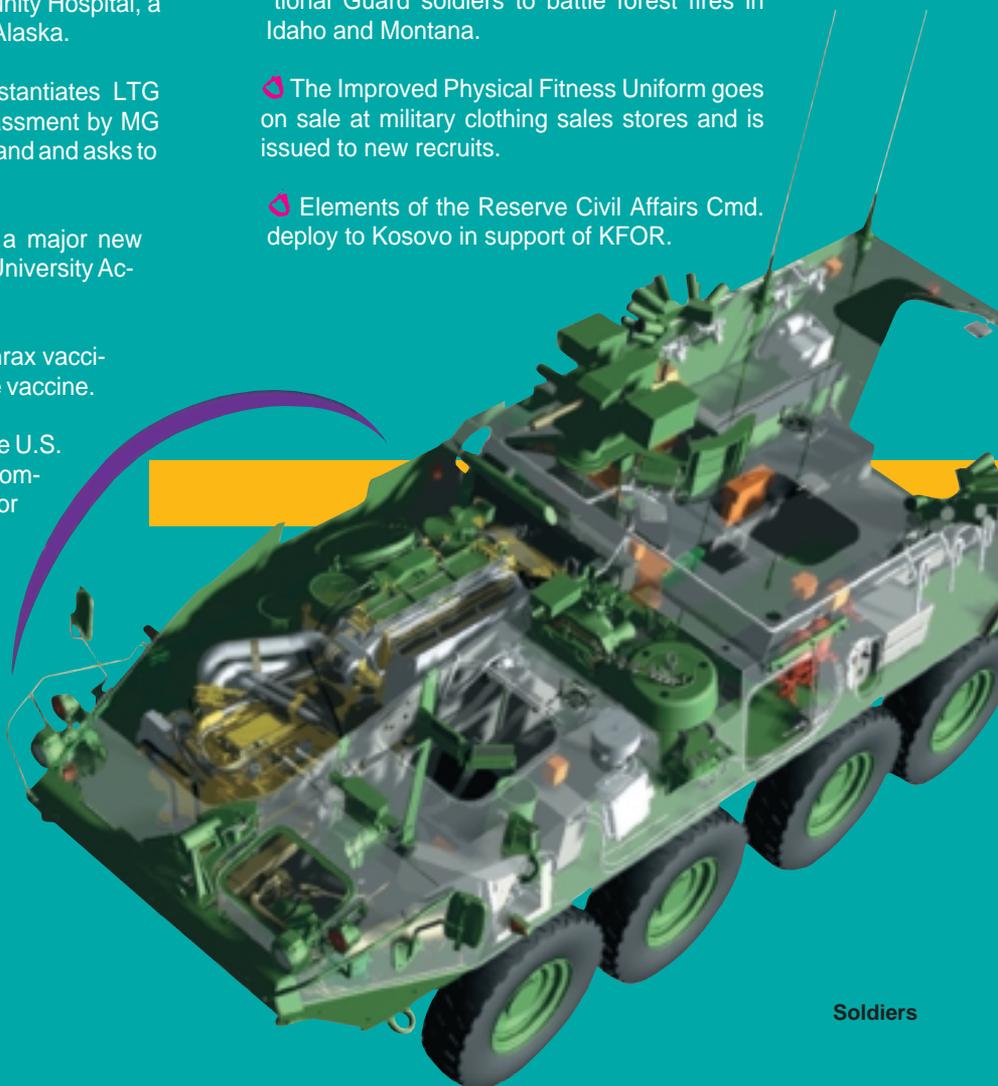
🔗 In July, the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Carson, Colo., receives the improved 2.5- and 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles trucks.

July

- 🔗 More than 160 Army Reservists in Maine and New Hampshire prepare for NATO peacekeeping missions in the Balkans.
- 🔗 Work begins on Bassett Army Community Hospital, a \$133 million facility at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.
- 🔗 The Army's inspector general substantiates LTG Claudia Kennedy's claim of sexual harassment by MG Larry Smith. He receives a written reprimand and asks to be allowed to retire from service.
- 🔗 The Army announces it will launch a major new distance-learning initiative called "Army University Access Online."
- 🔗 The Army temporarily halts most anthrax vaccinations to conserve its short supply of the vaccine.
- 🔗 COL James C. Hiatt, former head of the U.S. military's counterdrug operations in Colombia, is sentenced to five months in prison for laundering money from his wife's drug deals.
- 🔗 IG inspection into violations of the Defense Department's policy on homosexuals at Fort Campbell, Ky., attributes the murder of a 101st Abn. Div. soldier to a poor command climate exacerbated by underage drinking, personnel shortages and an abusive NCO leader.

August

- 🔗 SSG Frank Ronghi, a soldier who admitted to sexually assaulting and killing an 11-year-old ethnic Albanian girl while on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo, is sentenced to life in prison without parole.
- 🔗 About 2,100 active-duty soldiers join National Guard soldiers to battle forest fires in Idaho and Montana.
- 🔗 The Improved Physical Fitness Uniform goes on sale at military clothing sales stores and is issued to new recruits.
- 🔗 Elements of the Reserve Civil Affairs Cmd. deploy to Kosovo in support of KFOR.

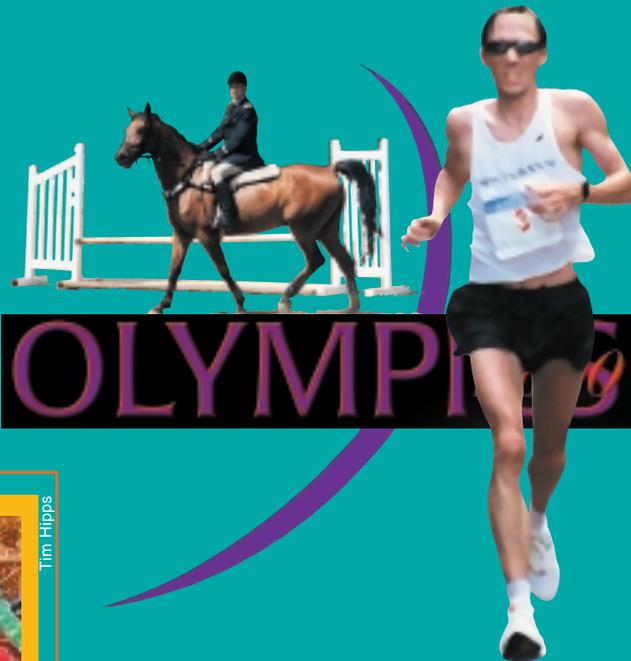


September

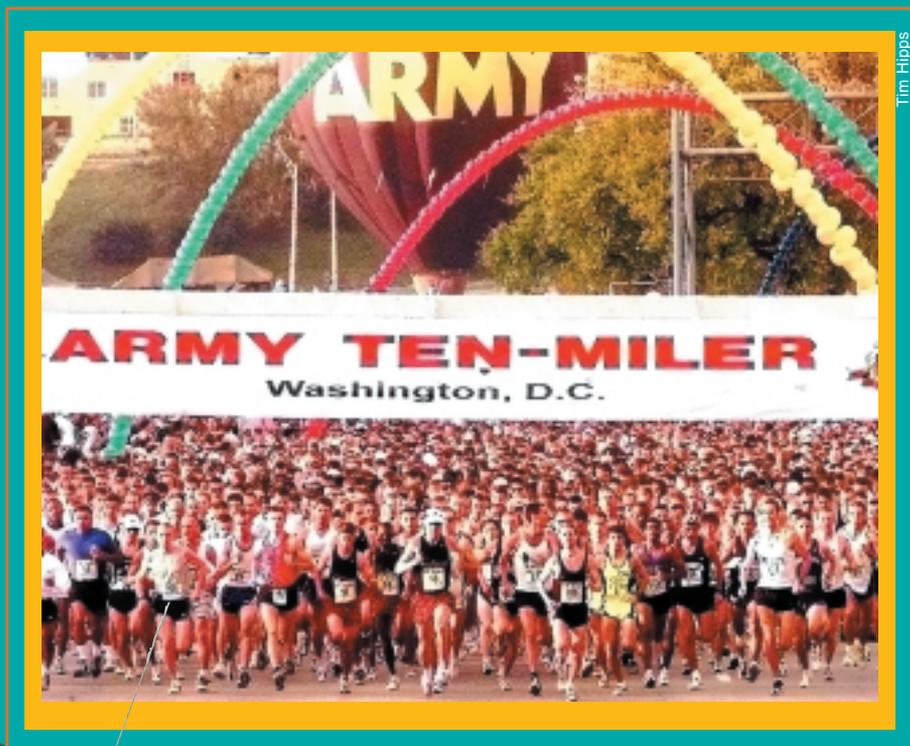


• The first-ever training of a brigade headquarters to command and control battalions during peace-keeping operations under the African Crisis Initiative begins in Dakar, Senegal.

• The Army's Olympic hopefuls in track and field, wrestling, boxing and marksmanship depart for Sydney, Australia, to compete in the 2000 Olympics.



OLYMPICS



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October

• Korean War veterans from the 279th Inf. Regiment reunite at Fort Polk, La., at the train-up site they used 50 years earlier.

• U.S. and South Korean forces conduct Exercise Foal Eagle to test rear-area protection operations and command, control and communications systems.

• The Army announces that the black beret, formerly worn only by rangers, will become the standard Army headgear.

• The Army Ten-Miler, America's largest 10-mile race, is held in the nation's capital.

November

• Veterans Day ceremonies include a presidential wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns to honor America's war dead.

• The wheeled Light Armored Vehicle III is selected as the Army's Interim Armored Vehicle.

December



• The 22nd Army Science Conference, held in Baltimore, is titled "Accelerating the Pace of Transformation."

• GEN Shinseki announced that a universal flash will be worn on the black beret when soldiers don it on June 14, 2001.