

FG&C

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



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Comments and/or articles are welcome and should be sent to the attention of the managing editor at editor@verbaloxygen.com. Include your full name, complete mailing address, telephone and email address with all entries. Items submitted by mail will not be returned unless you include a self-addressed envelope, stamped. Stock photographs used in this publication are obtained from Photos.com unless otherwise noted.

The National Service Organization is the official military-relations office of the Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide resources and spiritual support for Seventh-day Adventist military-related personnel.

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*Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.
Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments
of my God.*

*Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me
not be ashamed of my hope.*

PSALMS 119:114-116

“Telling The Military”

By Gary R. Councell, Associate
Director/Military Endorser

On the wall near the door of our house hangs a small needlepoint picture my wife, Joyce, made for us while I was on active duty. Above the picture of our house and car are the words, “Home is where the Army sends you.” Over 32 years of active duty only once was my “dream sheet” of station preferences honored, and that assignment was our third choice! Yet, to be honest, the personnel directorate did better at picking our locations than we did. Some people have asked Joyce who we knew in high places to get such wonderful bases. She answered truthfully, “Nobody.” We did not particularly like all the locations, but we believed that God would guide in finding His purpose for us wherever we served.

During this quinquennium of 2005 – 2010, your Church has chosen as its vision to “Tell the World” about Jesus and His soon coming. “Tell the World” is more than a program or slogan. This imperative to selfless service is an individual and corporate commitment to live out the key values of (1) quality of life, (2) unity and (3) growth in God’s family. Your Church has identified seven areas on which to focus its resources, energies and prayers: (1) spiritual growth, (2) community involvement, (3) personal witness, (4) city outreach, (5) church planting, (6) evangelistic programming, and (7) media ministry. Each of the seven areas can be implemented in our military setting.

Joyce and I recently returned from Europe, where we assisted with the annual religious retreat at Garmisch, and I made numerous official staff assistance visits to chaplains and commanders on various installations of the Air Force and Army. We saw little public evidence of the Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups that are faithfully active in Germany and Italy. If we had been new in country and trying a place to worship, we would have had to diligently inquire to locate one. This is true in other countries as well.

Listed below are a few suggestions that may make our telling the world “heard” easier.

1. When you first arrive on any installation, go meet the chaplains and their staff. Let them know you are an active Adventist Christian who wants to support the overall religious program and desires to worship with other Adventists. Inquire if there is an Adventist chaplain in the area, or an Adventist church nearby, or a group meeting on post. The chaplain may even put you in contact with other Adventists on the base. Ask how you may be able to volunteer or help with the chaplain’s program. In doing so you will be enhancing your own spiritual growth, getting involved in the community, witnessing and reaching out to your installation.

2. Keep ACM informed of your best duty and home mailing address. ACM wants you to have devotionals, church journals and other religious resources to enhance your spiritual well-being. As you meet other military-related Adventists, encourage them to contact ACM and attend Sabbath services. Someday, when you are deployed, knowing other Adventists can be a source of encouragement and support when you are separated from your family and Church and situations get tough.

3. Organize a study group or Sabbath services when none exist in your area. Years ago when I first arrived in Wurzburg, Germany, I sat alone in the chapel on Sabbath morning for several weeks before the first person responded to advertisements about Adventist services being started. Slowly the group formed and grew to over forty persons. That group stayed active for nearly thirty years through all the ups and downs of PCSes and deployments. You, too, can be instrumental in planting a Church. ACM has many resources to assist you in organizing a study or worship group.

4. You may wish to become involved in the Collective Protestant chapel program by helping with the youth, teaching a class, organizing an outing or even playing the piano or organ. Caution: your primary objective should be to show that Adventists are Christ-centered Christians who are part of the overall body of Christ, rather than proselytize distinctive denominational beliefs. Too often Adventists tend to associate only with other Adventists. This limits opportunities for outreach and to demonstrate what I call “the Adventist advantage” of our faith in applied, practical, holistic living. Jesus called His disciples, “salt” and “light.” In order to have any influence we must be lit up and mingled. Again, ACM has some excellent resources that would be appropriate for offering classes to any chapel parish program; i.e., “Celebrations” (a complete set of PowerPoint presentations on healthful living), “In the Footsteps of Paul” (22 DVD lessons on the book of Acts), etc.

No doubt you are already doing much more than what I have suggested above. If you have experiences or ideas that you would like to suggest, please share them with FG&C. You have been planted where “Uncle Sam” believes you can best help fulfill the military mission of your service. Regardless of the location, pray that God will make your assignment the best possible place you have ever served. Ask Him to give you a vision and purpose for being there. Then seek open doors for you to tell your friends, work peers and installation about Jesus and His soon coming.



Pace Faces Tough Questions From Young Citizens

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii, June 6, 2007 – Marine Gen. Peter Pace has faced tough questions from the president, the National Security Council and members of Congress. The toughest questions, however, seem to come from the nation's youngest citizens.

During a town hall meeting here yesterday, for example, 8-year-old Katherina Daul asked General Pace, "Why do soldiers have to deploy so long?"

Pace came here specifically to meet with family members whose loved ones are among the first to be extended under the Army's new policy. He was on his way back to the United States from a trip to Singapore and Malaysia.

Katherina came out to the base theater to see the chairman with her mom, Carol, and her 13-year-old brother Jeremiah. Katherina's dad -- Army Capt. Kevin Daul, a chaplain assigned to the 45th Special Troops Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade -- is due to return to Schofield at the end of this month or beginning of July. He's been deployed in Iraq for 11 months. His unit was not affected by the extension.

"It hasn't been easy going thru even a 12-month separation," Carol said. "I don't fear for his safety, it's just hard being apart for so long." Schofield Barracks is the family's first duty station and it's the first deployment they've gone through, she said.

"We've been married for 15 years this August and we've never been separated for so long," she said. The children have taken it fairly well, she said, but "sometimes there have been some emotional upsets that I know



Jeremiah and Katherina Daul and their mother, Carol, meet General Peter Pace.

are because their daddy is gone."

After listening to about 45 minutes of questions and answers by the adults in the theater, Jeremiah raised his hand to ask Pace a question. In a gentlemanly fashion, he thanked the chairman for meeting with them and offered a suggestion. Jeremiah said that along with rest and recuperation back home, the Army should send soldiers from Iraq for R&R at military resorts in Germany and then send the families to join them.

"That's a great idea," Pace said. "It would be a great way to show that we value the families. I'll look into that." Pace also reassured Jeremiah that he is doing everything he can to make sure that military parents have more time to spend with their children.

After a few more questions by the grownups, Pace turned to a tiny hand in the air. "Are you trying to upstage your brother?" he teased Katherina.

The youngster took the microphone and slowly and clearly asked, "Why do soldiers have to deploy so long?"

Pace's answer seemed to resonate with the audience as a reminder of why they were all there in the first place. "Soldiers have to deploy so long sometimes, because soldiers love their daughters," the chairman replied, drawing applause. "And as much as your daddy would prefer to be here right now hugging you, he wants to make sure that you get to grow up in the same United States that he got to grow up in," Pace said. "There are bad people out there who want to change that. Your daddy is going to make sure that they don't."

THE GREAT PROTECTOR

By CH (CPT) James Hall

Sometimes the prospect of war changes our priorities in life. This certainly became truth to PV2 Trent Larson of 2-16 Infantry, 2-2 IBCT. On 9 March, 2007, PV2 Larson decided to show his commitment to Christ through baptism. At 12 noon, PV2 Larson went into the watery grave at Freedom Chapel, Camp Rustamiyah, Iraq.

His comments after the baptism showed his priorities. "I discovered that I didn't know Jesus like I should. I realized I had no one looking over me here. I decided to let Jesus in my life. Now I know I have someone protecting me."

PV2 Larson, a native of Muscatine, Iowa, was assigned to 2-16 Infantry (Rangers) in early January, 2007. Fresh from 11B AIT at Fort Benning, GA, Larson arrived at Ft. Riley with a deployment to Baghdad staring him in the face. He began thinking of the prospect of going to war not knowing Jesus and His saving power. At Camp Beuring, Kuwait, a few days after arriving from Ft. Riley, PV2 Larson saw the 2-16 IN Battalion Chaplain. He asked if he could talk to him about his spiritual life. The Chaplain was happy to facilitate the discussion.

In their first meeting, PV2 Larson discovered that

Jesus had given His life for him. On that day, PV2 Trent Larson decided to give his life to Jesus Christ and accept Him as his Savior and Lord. The chaplain and he decided on a date to be baptized. Of course, this was tentative based on the mission.

Finally, the day came when the "Rangers" arrived in Iraq at FOB Rustamiyah. PV2 Larson continued daily bible study with the chaplain. They completed the final preparation for PV2 Larson's baptism. Once they discovered the date they would execute the Transfer of Authority (TOA) and begin combat operations in Iraq, PV2 Larson requested baptism earlier than planned. "I want to be baptized before I go out of the wire the first time", he told the chaplain. His wish came true—he is now baptized.



An Easter Miracle

By CH (CPT) Jorge Torres

They say that every day is Sunday here in the desert because, as soldiers, we tend to do the same thing over and over again on a daily basis. But this one Sunday wasn't any ordinary Sunday. It was Easter Sunday morning and as our paratroopers from Bravo Company were getting ready to leave on a convoy we were attacked with mortar rounds being launched inside our FOB. Mortars travel fast and don't have a sound to their flight as rockets, so when they hit, you are at the mercy of where it lands. When there are multiples landing, it's even more dangerous to be outside.



a drain system, which caused the mortar to only have a partial explosion. PV2 Prigge had shrapnel land only two feet from his right leg. "If the mortar had been just two inches from the barrier, we would have all been seriously injured," said Prigge.

Six mortars landed that day. None touched a single soldier. That Easter Sunday will never be the same for these paratroopers. They

PVC Hubbert was 10 feet away, SPC Bucknam about 5 feet away. PV2 Prigge was around 30 feet from the explosion that landed right behind a barrier and into

faced death and yet were given life. That's what the Easter message is all about. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power. 1 Peter 1:3-5

MY CHRISTIAN JOURNEY AS A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

By Dr. Tom Waters

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is Part Three of a four-part series that For God and Country will feature during 2007. *Part III - Another Trial – Air Force Lieutenant*

Upon re-entering active duty as an officer, I had no Sabbath problems during Technical Training as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer. However, when I reported to my first base (a pilot training base at Columbus AFB, Mississippi) I quickly learned that flying for six days was not uncommon. I knew however, that I could find officers willing to “split weekends” with me. They would work Saturday on both our weekends and I would work Sunday on both weekends. If Monday holiday work was available (a 3-day weekend), I would work all Mondays.

I visited Salem SDA Church in Columbus that first weekend and met the pastor (Elder Gerald Pennick) and the local elder (Sgt.-E4- Fred Hawkins and his wife Marilyn). I asked Fred about Sabbath problems and he advised me that if I had any I should contact my 1st Sergeant. It was obvious that, at that time, Fred was not aware that I was a lieutenant. Even with the difference in military rank we became the best of friends.

I had no real problems my first year at Columbus AFB because the Deputy Commander for Maintenance (DCM) had no problem with me splitting the working weekends with other officers. I worked on the T-37 flightline that also included the T-37 maintenance hangars. After six months, I was elevated to the T-38 flightline and hangars. Six months later (now a First Lieutenant) I was moved to the propulsion branch where, according to the Wing Commander (Col Anderson), I continued to excel.

Now, enter Col. Larry Garrison, the new DCM. There are always changes with new leadership and I've learned to adapt to most leadership styles. However, Col. Garrison let us know right away that there would be NO special favors for anyone. I decided to talk to him and explain how I worked “split weekends” with other officers so I could attend church. I made an appointment with his secretary and while I was there, he asked me to come in. I had prayed and rehearsed what I would say but as soon as I began, he stopped me with, “I'll talk to all of the officers and I will speak to you later.” Then I was dismissed. As the *only* SDA aircraft maintenance officer in the Air Force, I knew then that I needed to speak to an SDA chaplain. After conferring with Pastor Pennick, I contacted the local conference (South Central) where I received the number of Chap. (Navy Lt) Barry Black.

I had not met Chaplain Black but he and I spoke several times on the phone as he searched for alternatives for me. The only options available to me, as an officer, were to cross-train to the chaplaincy or medical fields. Since I wasn't qualified for either option, we had to trust in the

Lord. We prayed on the phone as I waited for the call to meet with Col. Garrison.

One of the working weekends was approaching and I had split the weekend with Capt. Marvin Price. On Friday at approximately 1500, I was asked to report to the DCM. I reported as ordered and stood in front of his desk at attention. He asked me to “stand at ease” and then stated that he would visit me tomorrow at 0700 at my office. I explained that I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and I honor the Biblical Sabbath of sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. I also explained how I split the weekends with other officers. He said, “You are a member of that funny religion and you're going to have trouble in the Air Force. I have decided that you will have that trouble with me. So, I am ordering you to be at work tomorrow at 0700. Dismissed!”

I was shocked and dumbfounded at his abruptness but I saluted, did an about face and left his office. Even though I was praying for guidance, I was also asking why God would put me in a position to be court-martialed for disobeying a direct order. I didn't know what to do so later I prayed with Pastor Pennick and we agreed to leave it with the Lord.

Sabbath morning – 0700 – found me in uniform, in my office, with my Bible and Sabbath School quarterly open on my desk. Col. Garrison walked in promptly at 0700, obviously checking on me first. I stood up and recognized him and said, “Good morning sir.” He asked me how things were going in the engine shop. I said, “Sir, I am certain everything is okay in the shop. I give instructions on Friday since I am not normally here on Sabbath. I have placed the Superintendent (SMSgt Morgan) in charge and the NCOs and Airmen know their responsibilities and carry them out quite well. I check in on Sunday to review the logs and work accomplished and to ensure that we are always prepared for Monday's flying schedule. And sir, since I have been here, we have had NO flights cancelled because of lack of serviceable engines from this shop.” He said that he would look around for himself and left my office to walk around the entire propulsion branch.

Again, I prayed that God would work a miracle but I didn't know what to ask for. I also prayed that everything really was okay in the shop area since I hadn't been there since Friday. It seemed that Col. Garrison was gone for several hours when, in reality, it was only 20-25 minutes. When he re-entered my office, I stood up and waited for him to say something. I felt he would order me into the shop area or something else to dishonor the Sabbath.

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Field Personnel Changes

ACM Restructures Military-related Support in Pacific Rim

During 2007 three Adventist Military Support Center (AMSC) Directors served as your chaplain-pastors in Germany, Japan and Korea. With the passing of time tours of duty end and several changes in personnel have occurred.

Pastor Christopher Fritz directed the work of the AMSC-Korea in Seoul for nearly three years. After he graduated with a Master's degree in Family Life, he applied to the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University to pursue studies towards a doctoral degree. This necessitated his moving to the United States last June. Chris and his wife, Gold, are greatly missed by the worship group that meets on Sabbath at the International Servicemen's Center.

Pastor Ted Pae made many pastoral visits to the various Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups that meet on bases from Okinawa and Iwakuni in the south to Misawa way up north, where he led Sabbath services, organized religious retreats, counseled and fellowshiped with military-related members and provided spiritual leadership. Ted and Sue Pae were both former Army captains. They opened their house to many guests, whom Sue graciously hosted. At the end of July, they returned to the Loma Linda, California, area where Ted works at translating denominational publications into Korean and Sue works as a nurse.

Chaplain (Captain) James K. Herndon volunteered and was selected to become the Military Support Director for Korea and Japan. He began a two-year tour of service on 1 August at the AMSC-Korea. In addition to his duties as an ACM Field Representative for the Northern

Asia-Pacific Division region, he is also a military chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserve.

After much study and coordination church administrative bodies approved closing ACM operations in the International Servicemen's Center in Seoul, Korea, effective 1 August 2007. At the end of the year Chaplain Herndon

will transition to Japan and provide pastoral care for Korea and Japan from a location near an Air Force base in Japan.

Military-related Adventists assigned in Pacific Rim countries will continue to receive full support from ACM. Along with Chaplain Herndon four Adventist military chaplains are assigned or will be assigned to the Pacific region (see below). Increased support will be provided to Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups, and the chaplains have been asked to plan

and conduct annual religious retreats. You are remembered by ACM.



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Again, silent prayers over and over and over. "Lord, Your will be done, not mine."

He looked at me, my Bible, my Sabbath School quarterly as if inspecting my uniform and the items on my desk. He had been silent for what seemed like an eternity. When he finally spoke, he said only, "Why don't you go to church." I said, "Thank you sir" but I was thinking, thank you Lord.

Every working weekend after that, Col. Garrison would say at the maintenance meeting, "I want to see all of you here at 0700 tomorrow, except you Tom, and let's

have a good weekend." When people asked my why I didn't have to work on Saturday I just told them that they would have to ask Col. Garrison, but I am certain they never did.

Again, I am living proof that "where there is *no* way, God finds a way." God continued to bless me. While stationed in Mississippi, I was ordained as an elder by Elder Robinson (Editor of Message Magazine) on January 11, 1976 at Salem SDA Church in Columbus Mississippi. I also received my M.Ed. Degree from Mississippi State University in August 1976. God truly is good.



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HONOR

*“Never give in, never give
in, never; never; never; never
- in nothing, great or small,
large or petty - never give
in except to convictions of
honor and good sense”*

BY WINSTON CHURCHILL