

Chicago Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Assn Newsletter

June 2020



2020 Chicago Chapter Officers:

- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Service Officers: Mark Mueller and Glenn T. Granat

Upcoming Events:

- Chicago Veteran's 20 Mile Ruck March: This event has been postponed to September 2020. When a specific date has been announced, this will be sent out to all chapter members.
- **13 June 2020:** Second annual Airborne Fishing day at Tampier Lake in Orland Park, IL, hosted by Chicago Chapter Vice-Chairman Glenn T. Granat. 08:00-14:00. See Chicago Chapter Vice Chairman Glenn T. Granat for additional information.
glennggranat@yahoo.com.
- **14 June 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting online once again. 14:00-16:00.
- Please check the Chapter Web Site at www.chicagoairborne.com for the complete calendar of events and meetings.

In addition to Chapter and Association updates, there is a monthly history report, static display of very cool Airborne item and quarterly Airborne trivia event. There is also plenty of social time to meet and connect with other Airborne Troopers!

Important AIRBORNE days in June

- **6 June 1944:** D-Day, the Allies Invade Normandy France.
- **8 June 1942:** 1st Ranger Battalion formed.
- **14 June:** Flag and U.S. Army Birthday.
- **19 June 1952:** 10th Special Forces group formed.
- **23 June 1945:** Operation Gypsy, Philippines.
- **27 June:** National PTSD Awareness Day.
- **30 June 1949:** 187th AIR formed.

June 2020 History Report: As there will be no All American Week this year, it seemed fitting to take a look at Fort Bragg which I know holds many memories for all 82nd Airborne Paratroopers.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina



Fort Bragg is the largest military installation in the world (by population) with more than 50,000 active duty personnel. It is named for Confederate General Braxton Bragg. It covers over 251 square miles and is the home of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division and is the headquarters of the United States Army Special Operations Command, which oversees the U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Command and 75th Ranger Regiment.

Camp Bragg was established in 1918 as an artillery training ground. The original plan for six brigades was abandoned after World War I ended.

Camp Bragg was renamed Fort Bragg on September 30, 1922. From 1923 to 1924 permanent structures were constructed on Fort Bragg, including four barracks.

By 1940, during the population of Fort Bragg had reached 5,400. The following year, that number ballooned to 67,000. The population reached a peak of 159,000 during the war years.

Following World War II, the 82nd Airborne Division was permanently stationed at Fort Bragg. In 1961, the 5th Special Forces Group was activated at Fort Bragg, with the mission of training counter-insurgency forces in Southeast Asia. Also in 1961, the "Iron Mike" statue, a tribute to all Airborne soldiers, past, present and future, was dedicated. More than 200,000 young men underwent basic combat training at Ft. Bragg from 1966–70. The 3rd Brigade, (Golden Brigade) deployed to the Dominican Republic in 1965 and Vietnam from February 1968 to December, 1969.

In the 1980s, there was a series of deployments of tenant units to the Caribbean, first to Grenada in 1983, Honduras in 1988, and to Panama in 1989.

The 82nd was also on point in the first Gulf War, participating in the route of the Iraqi Army. Currently, the 82nd is serving in Iraqi, Afghanistan, Poland, and other NATO Nations. The 82nd Airborne has been serving in the War on Terror since 11 September, 2001.

There are five major drop zones at Fort Bragg named for the 82nd Airborne Division World War 2 battles: Sicily, Normandy, Salerno, Holland and Nijmegen.