

Preface

Navy Lieutenant Delmy Cordon, Director of Resource Management at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), conducted the necessary research to prepare this report. This publication—and others that support national observances—are posted on the Internet at: <https://www.deomi.org>.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author, and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, or the Department of Defense.

Cover design by Mr. Pete Hemmer, Ki Corporation, contractor with the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

LOCAL REPRODUCTION IS AUTHORIZED AND ENCOURAGED

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Early Military Involvement.....	1
World War I.....	2
World War II.....	3
Peace Time Draft	3
The Home Front.....	3
The Navajo Code Talkers	4
Coming Home.....	5
American Indian Heroes of World War II	5
Korean War.....	8
American Indian Heroes of the Korean War	8
Vietnam War.....	9
Present Military Involvement	10
Conclusion	10
References.....	11
Appendix A: Timeline: American Indians in the 20 th Century.....	A1

Introduction

When it comes time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home. - Chief Aupumut (1725), Mohican.

Courage, wisdom, and honor are traits that have characterized the American Indian Warrior for centuries. When referring to the American Indian as a “warrior,” it is not meant to concur with the typical Hollywood image of the American Indian Warrior. Such image has been distorted with stereotypes and exaggerated traits that have created a sensationalized and unrealistic representation of the historical and cultural American Indian Warrior. From inter tribal conflicts to military wars, American Indians have demonstrated their uncanny courage in defending their land, family, and way of life. In keeping with the 2006 American Indian Heritage Month theme, A Warrior’s Tradition: Contributing to Our Nation’s Freedom, this publication concentrates on the American Indian military involvement and their contributions in combat. Please note that the Medal of Honor citations in the publication are transcribed directly from the official records.

Early Military Involvement

American Indians were involved in U.S. war campaigns as early as the American Revolution, where they participated on both sides of the conflict. During the Civil War, American Indians fought on the Confederate side as well as the Union side. The Army started a practice of recruiting American Indians for different reasons including: serving as “secret-service” agents (i.e., spying and acting as provocateurs); scouting for the troops and civilians with duties such as interpreting and translating; carrying dispatches and mail; trailing; patrolling and guarding the railroad lines; “peace talking;” hunting; providing escorts for hunting parties and scientific expeditions; and engaging in combat with hostiles (Smits, 1998).

On the Confederate side, Brigadier General Stand Watie, a Cherokee, distinguished himself for his gallant valor and versatility. Watie and his troops were involved in 18 battles during the Civil War, including Cowskin Prairie (April 1862), Old Fort Wayne (October 1862), Fort Gibson (May 1863), Cabin Creek (July 1863), and Gunter’s Prairie (August 1864). He was the last Confederate Army General to surrender to the Union (<http://www.civilwarhome.com/watiebio.htm>).

On the Union side, Lieutenant Colonel Ely S. Parker, a Seneca-Iroquois American Indian, fought alongside the famous Union General, Ulysses S. Grant. The name Parker was adopted by his family to use around the white settlers in the area. In 1863, Grant appointed Parker as the captain of engineers in the U.S. Army. He later participated in the Union Victory of Vicksburg, Mississippi alongside Grant. Soon after, Parker served as Grant’s aide-de-camp against Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, and played a critical role in the drafting of the surrender papers signed by General Lee in April 1865 at Appomattox, Virginia. Parker distinguished himself not only as a Civil War soldier, but also a tribal leader and champion for American Indian rights. After the Civil War, he obtained the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S Army (http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ely_S._Parker).

During the short Spanish-American War, American Indians served as advance guards and scouts. They also served in non-combatant roles by being part of the First Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, sometimes referred to as the Rough Riders. After the Spanish-American War, American Indians served in the Filipino Revolution (1898-1902) and in Asia during the Boxer Rebellion (Britten, 1997).

War World I

From all over the West we now stand ready 50,000 Indians between the ages of seventeen and fifty-five. We beg of you, to give us the right to fight. We guarantee to you, sir, our hearts could be for no better cause than to fight for the land we love, and for the freedom we share. - Chief Red Fox in Washington addressing Secretary of War Newton D. Baker -1917.

On June 5, 1917, the first call for men to register for the draft arrived. American Indians—but only those who were considered citizens—had to register as well. For an American Indian to be considered a citizen, he had to meet one of the following four criteria: (1) those whose trust or restrictive fee patents were dated *prior* to May 8, 1906, as provided in the Dawes Act of 1887; (2) those whose trust or restrictive fee patents were dated *after* to May 8, 1906 and had received patents in fee for their allotments, as part of the Burke Act; (3) those born within the territorial limits of the United States, and had voluntarily lived apart from their people and adopted a “civilized life;” and (4) minor children whose parents were citizens upon allotment, and also children born to American Indian citizens (Britten, 1997).

Even though some American Indians resented some aspects of the draft, most of them registered without protest, supporting the war efforts by enlisting by the thousands. Approximately 12,000 to 15,000 American Indians—which at the time made up 25% of the entire adult male population—served during the war, including 14 Native American women who served as members of the Army Nurse Corps. American Indians served as sailors, infantrymen, pilots, medics, etc. An overwhelming majority served with distinction.

American Indian casualties were high. It was estimated by Russell Barsh that 5% of all Indian servicemen lost their lives, compared with 1% for the allied forces. American Indians were welcomed home as heroes by their people and loved ones. American Indian veterans gained a new perspective as a direct result from the war. They felt a sense of acceptance and national belonging. Wartime experiences had broadened their horizons, and many were able to translate their training and newly acquired skills into better jobs, and enjoyed a future with new opportunities (Britten 1997).

Up to the very end of World War I, the United States had to face the recurrent problem of intercepted communications by the Germans. To solve this issue, the United States tried different approaches including the use of trench codes, but the Germans would eventually decode them. The use of messengers also failed to address the problem, since most of them were captured.

Finally, the Army recognized the complexity of the American Indians' languages. At the end of World War I, during the Mousse-Argonne campaign, the U.S Army utilized eight Choctaw American Indians as the first “Code Talkers,” realizing incredible success. The eight Choctaw Indians were Mitchell Bobb, Ben Carterby, James Edwards, Solomon Lewis,

Pete Maytubby, Jeff Nelson, Robert Taylor, and Calvin Wilson. This represented just a prelude to what would prove to be an advantageous tactic during World War II (<http://library.advanced.org/28005/flashed/timemachine/courseofhistory/choctaw.shtml>).

World War II

Peace Time Draft

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 granted all American Indians citizenship. In September 20, 1940, Congress passed the first peace time draft law making all American Indian males eligible to be drafted. American Indians demonstrated their patriotism and dedication, and answered the call to duty once again. They often stood for hours in bad weather to sign their draft cards, and some of them even carried their own rifles so they would be ready for battle when they joined.

The enlistment of American Indians jumped from 7,500 in the summer of 1942 to 22,000 at the beginning of 1945. According to figures reported by the Selective Service in 1942, at least 99% of all eligible Indians, healthy males aged 21 to 44, had registered for the draft. This surpassed all expectations, and demonstrated the extent of American Indians' patriotism. By the time the war ended, 24,521 American Indians from reservations—including officers—and another 20,000 off-reservation American Indians served in the military (http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/NAWWII.html).

In his book, World War II and the American Indian, Kenneth Townsend explained the different reasons why American Indians enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II:

Common to all explanations was the belief that Indians would receive something of a personal gain-inclusion to white society, as sense of self-worth, pride in a renewed warrior spirit and its link to Indian heritage, evidence of patriotism and loyalty for the United States, financial return, a contribution to common welfare and salvation of human kind, or simply the defense of tribal lands. Perhaps that is what made World War II so important to American Indians-their conscious personal decision to enlist represented a choice, an element of self-determination that would directly influence their post-war lives (Townsend, 2000).

World War II brought about the integration of American Indians and whites into all the branches of the military. Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, vehemently opposed the creation of all American Indian units, and believed that by integrating American Indians with white soldiers, it would aid in the “eventual absorption of Indians into the mainstream of American life” (Bernstein, 1991).

The Home Front

By 1945, an estimated 150,000 American Indians had directly participated in industrial, agricultural, and military aspects of the American war effort (http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/NAWWII.html).

They also contributed to the war effort by purchasing Treasury Stamps and Bonds. It is estimated that by 1944, War Bond sales to American Indian had reached \$50 million. American Indians also made generous donations to the Red Cross and other organizations,

giving what little they had, despite being at the bottom of the economic ladder (<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/wwii.html>).

American Indian women also made their mark during the war, serving in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, Women Army Corps, and Army Nurse Corps. On the home front, American Indian females helped the war cause by working as welders in aircraft plants, sewing uniforms, and growing victory gardens. They also volunteered for the civil defense, Red Cross, and American Women's Volunteer Service. The YWCA estimated that 12,000 young American Indian women had left the reservations to work in defense industries (http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/NAWWII.html).

The Navajo Code Talkers

Using Choctaws as Code Talkers at the end of World War I led the Army to experiment with the Comanche language. Inspired by these experiments, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Thomas Holcomb, and Major General Clayton B. Vogel embarked in a project that would revolutionize military tactics. Moreover, they would lay the foundation for the creation of the only unbroken oral code in military history (McClain, 1994).

Interest was soon drawn to the Navajo language and its intricate complexities. The Marine Corps believed that the military code could be constructed from Navajo, and listed the four criteria to follow to make it happen: (1) construct an alphabet; (2) select words that have accurate equivalents; (3) select short terms for rapid transmission; and (4) memorize all terms. In April 1942, the Marine Corps requested the recruitment of 30 Navajos. The prospective recruits were not initially told the reason for their recruitment. After two weeks of interviews, 29 Navajo recruits were told to report to Fort Wingate in New Mexico for induction. On May 4, 1942, the Navajo recruits, referred to as the "First 29th," were sworn in the U.S. Marine Corps (McClain 1994).

The all-Navajo 382nd Platoon graduated on June 27, 1942. Colonel James L. Underhill, Commanding Officer for the Recruit Department, gave a heartfelt speech on graduation day:

This is the first truly All-American platoon to pass through this recruit depot. It is, in fact, the first All-American platoon to enter the United States Marine Corps.

The rest of us in the Marine Corps are American, but our Americanism goes back no more the 300 years. Your ancestor appeared on this continent thousand of years ago-so long that there is no written record of them. Through your ancestors you were Americans long before your fellow Marines were American.

Yours has been one of the most outstanding platoons in the history of this recruit depot and a letter has gone to Washington telling of your excellence... The Marine Corps is proud to have you in its ranks, and I am proud to have been the Commanding Officer while you were here. You are now to be transferred to a Combat organization where you will receive further training. When the time comes that you go into battle with the enemy, I know that you will fight like true Navajos, Americans, and Marines (McClain 1994).

The Navajo Code Talkers first saw action with the assault on Guadalcanal in August 1942. They played a major role in every major engagement in the Pacific Theater. They were strategically based in command centers, on board ships with the Navy, with field commanders, and on the front lines. Many worked around the clock performing their duties.

As the war progressed, the Code was improved and became more refined, making it faster and more accurate. The greatest changes involved adding terms, expanding it from 236 to 400. These terms were taught and learned orally, using no codebook. At the end of the war, over 400 Navajo code talkers served throughout the Pacific, and seven died because of wounds suffered in action (http://www.thenavajocodetalkers.com/history_codeinwar.htm).

Coming Home

World War II provided new opportunities for American Indians. As a result of the war, thousands of American Indians left the reservations. Many of them settled permanently in major cities and adapted to mainstream American society, but never left behind their culture and traditions. Many thousands went back to the reservations and resumed their old lives. There is no doubt that World War II became a turning point for both American Indians and whites. Whites believed that the war had facilitated the integration of American Indians into mainstream American society.

On the other hand, American Indians, for the first time, had a glimpse into a non-Indian world that simultaneously attracted and repelled them. Some of the positive perspectives involved a higher standard of living, including education, health care, and job opportunities. The negative aspects included the lessening of tribal influence, and the threat of forfeiting the security provided by living on the reservation. American Indians didn't want to lose their identity in exchange for equality. After the war, the beginning of a new era opened up for American Indians, with the realization that they could aspire to walk successfully in two worlds (<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/wwii.html>).

American Indian Heroes of World War II

Several American Indians earned the highest honor bestowed upon the bravest of the brave. These American Indian men went above and beyond their call of duty and earned the Medal of Honor.

BARFOOT, VAN T.

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Carano, Italy, 23 May 1944. Entered service at: Carthage, Miss. Birth: Edinburg, Miss. G.O. No.: 79, 4 October 1944. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 23 May 1944, near Carano, Italy. With his platoon heavily engaged during an assault against forces well entrenched on commanding ground, 2d Lt. Barfoot then Tech. Sgt.) moved off alone upon the enemy left flank. He crawled to the proximity of 1 machinegun nest and made a direct hit on it with a hand grenade, killing 2 and wounding 3 Germans. He continued along the German defense line to another machinegun emplacement, and with his tommygun killed 2 and captured 3 soldiers. Members of another enemy machinegun crew then abandoned their position and gave themselves up to Sgt. Barfoot. Leaving the prisoners for his support squad to pick up, he proceeded to mop up positions in the immediate area, capturing more prisoners and bringing his total count to 17. Later that day, after he had reorganized his men and consolidated the newly captured ground, the enemy launched a fierce armored counterattack

directly at his platoon positions. Securing a bazooka, Sgt. Barfoot took up an exposed position directly in front of 3 advancing Mark VI tanks. From a distance of 75 yards his first shot destroyed the track of the leading tank, effectively disabling it, while the other 2 changed direction toward the flank. As the crew of the disabled tank dismounted, Sgt. Barfoot killed 3 of them with his tommygun. He continued onward into enemy terrain and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. While returning to his platoon position, Sgt. Barfoot, though greatly fatigued by his Herculean efforts, assisted 2 of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank fire are a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers.

CHILDERS, ERNEST

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: At Oliveto, Italy, 22 September 1943. Entered service at: Tulsa, Okla. Birth: Broken Arrow, Okla. G.O. No.: 30, 8 April 1944. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 22 September 1943, at Oliveto, Italy. Although 2d Lt. Childers previously had just suffered a fractured instep he, with 8 enlisted men, advanced up a hill toward enemy machinegun nests. The group advanced to a rock wall overlooking a cornfield and 2d Lt. Childers ordered a base of fire laid across the field so that he could advance. When he was fired upon by 2 enemy snipers from a nearby house he killed both of them. He moved behind the machinegun nests and killed all occupants of the nearer one. He continued toward the second one and threw rocks into it. When the 2 occupants of the nest raised up, he shot 1. The other was killed by 1 of the 8 enlisted men. 2d Lt. Childers continued his advance toward a house farther up the hill, and single-handed, captured an enemy mortar observer. The exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire, and conspicuous gallantry displayed by 2d Lt. Childers were an inspiration to his men.

EVANS, ERNEST EDWIN

Rank and organization: Commander, U.S. Navy. Born: 13 August 1908, Pawnee, Okla. Accredited to: Oklahoma. Other Navy awards: Navy Cross, Bronze Star Medal. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Johnston in action against major units of the enemy Japanese fleet during the battle off Samar on 25 October 1944. The first to lay a smokescreen and to open fire as an enemy task force, vastly superior in number, firepower and armor, rapidly approached. Comdr. Evans gallantly diverted the powerful blasts of hostile guns from the lightly armed and armored carriers under his protection, launching the first torpedo attack when the Johnston came under straddling Japanese shellfire. Undaunted by damage sustained under the terrific volume of fire, he unhesitatingly joined others of his group to provide fire support during subsequent torpedo attacks against the Japanese and, outshooting and outmaneuvering the enemy as he consistently interposed his vessel between the hostile fleet units and our carriers despite the crippling loss of engine power and communications with steering aft, shifted command to the fantail, shouted steering orders through an open hatch to men turning the rudder by hand and battled furiously until the Johnston, burning and shuddering from a mortal blow, lay dead in the water after 3 hours of fierce combat. Seriously wounded early in the engagement, Comdr. Evans, by his indomitable courage and brilliant professional skill, aided materially in turning back the enemy during a critical phase of the action. His valiant fighting spirit throughout this historic battle will venture as an inspiration to all who served with him.

MONTGOMERY, JACK C.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near, Padiglione, Italy, 22 February 1944. Entered service at: Sallisaw, Okla. Birth: Long, Okla. G.O. No.: 5, 15 January 1945. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 22 February 1944, near Padiglione, Italy. Two hours before daybreak a strong force of enemy infantry established themselves in 3 echelons at 50 yards, 100 yards, and 300 yards, respectively, in front of the rifle platoons commanded by 1st Lt. Montgomery. The closest position, consisting of 4 machineguns and 1 mortar, threatened the immediate security of the platoon position. Seizing an M1 rifle and several hand grenades, 1st Lt. Montgomery crawled up a ditch to within hand grenade range of the enemy. Then climbing boldly onto a little mound, he fired his rifle and threw his grenades so accurately that he killed 8 of the enemy and captured the remaining 4. Returning to his platoon, he called for artillery fire on a house, in and around which he suspected that the majority of the enemy had entrenched themselves. Arming himself with a carbine, he proceeded along the shallow ditch, as withering fire from the riflemen and machinegunners in the second position was concentrated on him. He attacked this position with such fury that 7 of the enemy surrendered to him, and both machineguns were silenced. Three German dead were found in the vicinity later that morning. 1st Lt. Montgomery continued boldly toward the house, 300 yards from his platoon position. It was now daylight, and the enemy observation was excellent across the flat open terrain which led to 1st Lt. Montgomery's objective. When the artillery barrage had lifted, 1st Lt. Montgomery ran fearlessly toward the strongly defended position. As the enemy started streaming out of the house, 1st Lt. Montgomery, unafraid of treacherous snipers, exposed himself daringly to assemble the surrendering enemy and send them to the rear. His fearless, aggressive, and intrepid actions that morning, accounted for a total of 11 enemy dead, 32 prisoners, and an unknown number of wounded. That night, while aiding an adjacent unit to repulse a counterattack, he was struck by mortar fragments and seriously wounded. The selflessness and courage exhibited by 1st Lt. Montgomery in alone attacking 3 strong enemy positions inspired his men to a degree beyond estimation.

REESE, JOHN N., JR.

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company B, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division. Place and date: Paco Railroad Station, Manila, Philippine Islands. 9 February 1945. Entered service at: Pryor, Okla. Birth. Muskogee, Okla. G.O. No.: 89, 19 October 1945. Citation. He was engaged in the attack on the Paco Railroad Station, which was strongly defended by 300 determined enemy soldiers with machineguns and rifles, supported by several pillboxes, 3 20-mm. guns, 1 37-mm. gun and heavy mortars. While making a frontal assault across an open field, his platoon was halted 100 yards from the station by intense enemy fire. On his own initiative he left the platoon. Accompanied by a comrade, and continued forward to a house 60 yards from the objective. Although under constant enemy observation, the 2 men remained in this position for an hour, firing at targets of opportunity, killing more than 35 Japanese and wounding many more. Moving closer to the station and discovering a group of Japanese replacements attempting to reach pillboxes, they opened heavy fire, killed more than 40 and stopped all subsequent attempts to man the emplacements. Enemy fire became more intense as they advanced to within 20 yards of the station. From that point Pfc. Reese provided effective covering fire and courageously drew enemy fire to himself while his companion killed 7 Japanese and destroyed a 20-mm. gun and heavy machinegun with handgrenades. With their ammunition running low, the 2 men started to return to the American lines, alternately providing covering fire for each other as they withdrew. During this movement, Pfc. Reese was killed by enemy fire as he reloaded his

rifle. The intrepid team, in 2 1/2 hours of fierce fighting, killed more than 82 Japanese, completely disorganized their defense and paved the way for subsequent complete defeat of the enemy at this strong point. By his gallant determination in the face of tremendous odds, aggressive fighting spirit, and extreme heroism at the cost of his life, Pfc. Reese materially aided the advance of our troops in Manila and providing a lasting inspiration to all those with whom he served.

Korean War

American Indian participation in the Korean War is not as well documented as their involvement in World War II. It is estimated that 10,000 to 15,000 American Indians served in the Korean War. Once more, American Indians were ready to lay down their lives for their country. Like their counterparts in World War II, American Indians participating in the Korea War adopted the philosophy that exemplary service in the military would lead to greater equality and opportunity once the war ended. Three American Indians earned the highest military distinction during the Korean War (Davis, 1994).

American Indian Heroes of the Korean War

As in World War II, American Indians earned the highest honor bestowed upon the bravest of the brave in the Korean War, the Medal of Honor.

GEORGE, CHARLES

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Songnae-dong, Korea, 30 November 1952. Entered service at: Whittier, N.C. Born: 23 August 1932, Cherokee, N.C. G.O. NO.: 19, 18 March 1954. Citation: Pfc. George, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of 30 November 1952. He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. Pfc. George shouted a warning to 1 comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The two soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound. Pfc. George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service.

HARVEY, RAYMOND

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, Company C, 17th Infantry Regiment. Place and date: Vicinity of Taemi-Dong, Korea, 9 March 1951. Entered service at: Pasadena, Calif. Born: 1 March 1920 Ford City, Pa. G.O. No.: 67, 2 August 1951. Citation: Capt. Harvey Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. When his company was pinned down by a barrage of

automatic weapons fire from numerous well-entrenched emplacements, imperiling accomplishment of its mission, Capt. Harvey braved a hail of fire and exploding grenades to advance to the first enemy machine gun nest, killing its crew with grenades. Rushing to the edge of the next emplacement, he killed its crew with carbine fire. He then moved the 1st Platoon forward until it was again halted by a curtain of automatic fire from well fortified hostile positions. Disregarding the hail of fire, he personally charged and neutralized a third emplacement. Miraculously escaping death from intense crossfire, Capt. Harvey continued to lead the assault. Spotting an enemy pillbox well camouflaged by logs, he moved close enough to sweep the emplacement with carbine fire and throw grenades through the openings, annihilating its 5 occupants. Though wounded he then turned to order the company forward, and, suffering agonizing pain, he continued to direct the reduction of the remaining hostile positions, refusing evacuation until assured that the mission would be accomplished. Capt. Harvey's valorous and intrepid actions served as an inspiration to his company, reflecting the utmost glory upon himself and upholding the heroic traditions of the military service.

RED CLOUD, MITCHELL, JR.

Rank and organization: Corporal, U S. Army, Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Chonghyon, Korea, 5 November 1950. Entered service at: Merrilan Wis. Born: 2 July 1924, Hatfield, Wis. G.O. No.: 26, 25 April 1951. Citation: Cpl. Red Cloud, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him. Springing up he delivered devastating pointblank automatic rifle fire into the advancing enemy. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault and gained time for the company to consolidate its defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained his firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire. Refusing assistance he pulled himself to his feet and wrapping his arm around a tree continued his deadly fire again, until he was fatally wounded. This heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded. Cpl. Red Cloud's dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.

Vietnam War

My people honored me as a warrior. We had a feast and my parents and grandparents thanked everyone who prayed for my safe return. We had a special [dance] and I remembered as we circled the drum, I got a feeling of pride. I felt good inside because that's the way the Kiowa people tell you that you've done well. - Kiowa Vietnam Veteran

During the Vietnam conflict, it is estimated that close to 90% of the 86,000 Indians who enlisted actually volunteered to enter the service, distinguishing Americans Indians with the highest record of service per capita of any ethnic group. Over half served in combat (<http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/swensson/nativeamericans.html>).

Unlike past American war campaigns, Vietnam proved to be more challenging and less rewarding. The task of locating the enemy was almost impossible, and there was no

discernable difference between combatant and civilian. Also, the use of unconventional war tactics, such as foot traps and mines made it difficult to fight the enemy (<http://www.snowowl.com/histvietnam.html>).

Despite the fact that American Indians continued to excel in combat, there was disappointment among Vietnam veterans, because this conflict did not provide better economic opportunities. Like many other Vietnam veterans, American Indians were generally not treated as heroes upon their return home because of the war's unpopularity. As a result, many American Indian Vietnam veterans emerged as leaders of Indian rights organizations, especially the American Indian Movement (Davis, 1994).

Present Military Involvement

American Indians have continued their military participation into the 21st century. There are more than 35,000 Native Americans, Active Duty and Reserve, currently serving in the U.S. military (August, 2006, EO Report 3035 from Defense Management Data Center). Current war operations including Iraq and Afghanistan have demonstrated American Indians' unwavering devotion to country and freedom. Such was the case of Private First Class (PFC) Lori Piestewa, the first American Indian (Hopi) to die in combat during the Iraqi conflict. Piestewa's company was ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq. At the onset, they considered her Missing in Action (MIA) until it was confirmed that PCF Piestewa and several other members of her company did not survive the ambush. (<http://www.hud.gov/local/shared/working/r10/nwonap/participation.cfm?state=wa>).

Conclusion

Historically, American Indian men and women have volunteered to fight in U.S. military campaigns at a per capita rate three times higher than non-Indians. In the 21st century, American Indians will continue to contribute in the defense of our nation's freedom. Their courageous efforts have left behind an honorable path for others to follow. Their centuries-old warrior tradition will carry on, and the U. S. military can be expected to provide many opportunities for American Indian men and women. History has witnessed their fighting spirit, exceptional leadership, and intrepid actions. Their valorous military involvement has spread a sense of perpetual inspiration to fellow soldiers, their tribes, and America.

We honor our veterans for their bravery and because by seeing death on the battlefield, they truly know the greatness of life. - Winnebago Elder

References

- American Indian Medal of Honor. n.d. Retrieved September 6, 2006, from <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/honor.html>
- American Indians Timeline of events. n.d. Retrieved October 12, 2006, from <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/NA-Timeline6.html>
- American Indians World War II. n.d. Retrieved October 10, 2006, from <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/wwii.html>
- Ault, Jon. Native Americans in the Spanish American War. Retrieved September 29, 2006, from <http://www.spanamwar.com/NativeAmericans.htm>
- Bernstein, Alison, R. (1991). *American Indians in World War II: Toward a New Era in Indians Affair* (1st ed.). University of Oklahoma: Norman Publishing.
- Britten, Thomas, A. (1997). *American Indians in World War I: At War and at Home* (1st ed). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Choctaw Code talkers. n.d. Retrieved September 30, 2006, from <http://library.advanced.org/28005/flushed/timemachine/courseofhistory/choctaw.shtml>
- Davis, Mary, B. (1994). *Native Americans in the Twentieth Century* (1st. ed.). New York and London: Garland Publishing.
- Gilmore, Gerry. Seneca Chief Fought Greed, Injustice. Retrieved September 20, 2006, from <http://www.pentagon.gov/specials/nativeam02/injustice.html>
- Long tradition of participation. n.d. Retrieved September 10, 2006, from <http://www.hud.gov/local/shared/working/r10/nwonap/participation.cfm?state=wa>
- McClain, S. (1994). *The Navajo Weapon* (1st ed). Boulder: Books Beyond Borders Inc.
- Morgan, Thomas, D. (Fall, 2005). Native Americans in World War II. Retrieved August 12, 2006, from http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/NAWWII.html
- Native American Vietnam Vets. n.d. Retrieved September 23, 2006, from <http://www.snowowl.com/histvietnam.html>
- Native American Women. n.d. Retrieved September 12, 2006, from <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/americanindian/women.html>
- Navajo Code Talkers. n.d. Retrieved September 8, 2006, from http://www.thenavajocode talkers.com/history_codeinwar.htm
- Parker, Ely S. n.d. Retrieved September 30, 2006, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ely_S._Parker

- O'Donnell, James, III. (1997). *Southern Indians in the American* (1st ed). Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.
- Smits, D. S. (1998). Fighting fire with fire: the frontier Army's use of Indian scouts and allies in the Trans-Mississippi Campaigns, 1860-1890. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 22, 73-116.
- Townsend, Kenneth W. (2000). *World War II and the American Indian* (1st ed). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- The Vietnam Conflict. n.d. Retrieved from October 01, 2006, from http://deanza.edu/http://deanza.edu/faculty/swensson/native_americans.html
- Watie, Stand. (1806-1871). n.d. Retrieved Oct 01, 2006, from <http://www.civilwarhome.com/watiebio.htm>

Timeline: American Indians in the 20th Century

Appendix A

1924	<p>Indian Citizenship Act This Congressional Act extended citizenship and voting rights to all American Indians. Some Indians, however, did not want to become U.S. citizens, preferring to maintain only their tribal membership.</p>
1928	<p>Indian Health Division Congress established the Division to operate under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).</p>
1941	<p>The Indian New Deal The brainchild of BIA director John Collier, the New Deal was an attempt to promote the revitalization of Indian cultural, lingual, governmental, and spiritual traditions. This blueprint for reform was written by non-Indians who felt they knew how to champion Indian rights.</p> <p>Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) The IRA was the centerpiece of the Indian New Deal. It encouraged Indians to “recover” their cultural heritage, prohibited new allotments, extended the trust period for existing allotments, and sought to promote tribal self-government by encouraging tribes to adopt constitutions and form federally-chartered corporations. In order to take advantage of IRA funding, tribes were required to adopt a U.S. style constitution. Tribes were given two years to accept or reject the IRA. Tribes who accepted it could then elect a tribal council; 174 tribes accepted it and 135 drafted tribal constitutions. However, 78 tribes rejected the IRA, most fearing the consequences of even further Federal direction.</p>
1942	<p>World War II During the course of the war, about 25,000 American Indians served in the Armed Forces; another 40,000 Indian men and women were employed in wartime industries. Key among the American Indians participating in WWII was the Navajo and Comanche Code Talkers.</p>
1944	<p>25,000 Indians served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including 800 women In the Philippines, a Choctaw scout escaped from the Japanese at the battle of Corregidor, and led underground guerrilla forces until the war ended. The Oneidas, Chippewas, and Comanches blocked Japanese decoding of military information by dispatching messages in their tribal languages. Navajo Code Talkers were instrumental in the landing at Guadalcanal, where they sent and received reports from field commanders.</p>
1953	<p>Trujillo v. Garley Supreme Court decision In response to the allegation that many states had successfully prohibited Indians from voting, the Court ruled that states were required to grant Native Americans the right to vote.</p>
1961	<p>Public Law 83-568 This Congressional law transferred responsibility for American Indians and Alaskan Natives’ health care from the BIA in the Department of Interior, to the Public Health Services within the Department of Health and Human Services.</p>

Timeline: American Indians in the 20th Century

Appendix A

1968	<p>Vietnam War At least 43,000 American Indians fought in the Vietnam War.</p>
1969	<p>Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) This Congressional Act revised Public Law 280 by requiring states to obtain tribal consent prior to extending any legal jurisdiction over an Indian reservation. It also gave most protections of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment to tribal members in dealings with their tribal governments. The ICRA also amended the Major Crimes Act to include assault resulting in serious bodily harm.</p>
1972	<p>Nixon’s “Special Message on Indian Affairs” President Nixon delivered a speech to Congress which denounced past Federal policies, formally ended the termination policy, and called for a new era of self-determination for Indian peoples.</p>
1992	<p>Native American Languages Act This Congressional Act made it U.S. policy to “preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages.” Consequently, the Federal government encourages and supports of the use of native languages as a medium of instruction in schools; recognizes the right of Indian tribes to give official status to their languages for conducting their own business; supports proficiency in native languages by granting the same academic credit as for comparable proficiency in a foreign language; and encourages schools to include native languages in the curriculum in the same way as foreign languages. Today, many American Indian languages have been lost; less than 100 languages currently are spoken by Indians.</p> <p>Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act This Congressional Act requires all institutions that receive Federal funds to inventory their collections of Indian human remains and artifacts, make their lists available to Indian tribes, and return any items requested by the tribes.</p>
1994	<p>Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) This Congressional Act stated that state governments “shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion” except if such exercise of religion conflicts with “a compelling government interest.” On June 25, 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court declared RFRA unconstitutional as it applied to the states.</p>
1996	<p>American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Amendment This Congressional Act protected the rights of American Indians to use peyote in traditional religious ceremonies.</p>
1999	<p>National American Indian Heritage Month President Clinton declared November of each year to be National American Indian Heritage Month.</p>

Source: <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/NA-Timeline6.html>