

War-time unit reactivates

by Sgt. Jonathan Springer

16th MP Brigade PAO

The proud tradition of the 23rd Military Police Company was on display Oct. 21, as the company was reactivated for the fourth time in its history. This will be the company's first activation since Vietnam.

More than 20 Vietnam veterans and former members of the 23rd MPs traveled across the country to witness the reactivation with members of the 16th MP Brigade (Airborne).

The history of the 23rd MP Co. dates back to May 1, 1943, when the unit was first activated in New Caledonia, South Pacific. They saw action in World War II in the northern Solomons, Leyte and the southern Philippines and were



photo by Sgt. Jonathan Springer/16th MP Bde. PAO

Col. John G. Chambliss, left, commander of the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), holds the guidon as 1st Sgt. William T. Griffin and retired Capt. Ron Sutherland unfurl the 23rd Military Police Company's colors during a reactivation ceremony Oct. 21.

inactivated in December 1945, at the conclusion of World War II.

In December 1954, the company was

See **Reactivation**, page 5A



A SALUTE TO THE FALLEN

A crowd watches the wreath-laying portion of Monday's Memorial Day service at Lions Park in Mt. Prospect.
(Journal Photo by Dan Wessell)

Reactivation

from page 1A

again activated to serve with the 23rd Infantry Division at Fort Amador, Canal Zone, in Panama, until its inactivation in April 1956.

During the Vietnam Conflict, the company was assigned to the Americal Division and took part in every operation the unit conducted, including the 1969 Tet Counter Offensive.

Upon completion of the unit's mission in Vietnam, the company was again inactivated June 28, 1972.

"This is a proud day for me, and this is an unexpected feeling. We've been planning this day for a few months now; this is a great day to be a 'gunslinger,'" said Capt. Karl A. Reuter, 23rd MP Co. commander.

George Todd, who was a sergeant with the 1st Platoon and served with the company from 1968 until 1969, said this was a proud day for him and his fellow compatriots to see the guidon of the 23rd MP Co. unfurled once again.

"We were constantly out there in Vietnam trying to get the convoys through, that was a favorite with the guys. We suffered some heavy casualties but this was a good group; just like a family," Todd said.

Todd went on to say he was glad he could make it to the ceremony, and how much it meant to meet some of the new members of

the 23rd MP Co.

"It makes me proud to be back here and see the company get reactivated, and it makes me proud to see all you Soldiers and know that you are serving our country," said Todd.

Retired Capt. Ron Sutherland, the 23rd MP's former commander, said he looks forward to seeing the unit contribute to the Army.

"We, the past members, are honored that you chose us to be part of this ceremony. It very well may be 30 years before you all realize just how significant this is to all of us," said Sutherland speaking to the newest members of the unit at the ceremony.

Sutherland said with emotion he was very proud of the unit's guidon, its Soldiers and more importantly, proud of the men and women who have fought and died in support of this country.

"Every time this company has been assembled in formation, our nation has been at war, and that makes me proud," said Sutherland.

There are about 16 Soldiers in the company, but Reuter said that number is growing every day. The unit is scheduled to deploy sometime in 2007 to support the War on Terror.

"This really makes me feel good getting a chance to meet all these great heroes and Soldiers. Being commander is something I've always wanted, and it's an honor to lead this company," said Reuter.

Opinion

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2

DRAGON PULSE

Who do you
think has the

1. best



"Female Soldiers.
They have to work



"(Special Forces)
Soldiers"



"The commanders



"The airborne



"The doctors