

# THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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## Harden named new wing commander

### Byrne to be Air Guard advisor

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Col. Michael L. Harden is the new commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Maj. Gen. Robert L. DeZarn announced at a gathering of Air Guard members here earlier this month.

DeZarn, Kentucky's adjutant general, praised the accomplishments of the 123rd and asked those assembled for the June 1 ceremony to support the commander as he called Harden to the podium.

Harden, the first traditional guardsman to hold the position in 14 years, is an attorney in private practice. He is a master navigator with more than 5,000 hours in the C-130, RF-4, T-43 and T-29.

Harden also flew more than 200 combat sorties in the C-130 during the Vietnam conflict. A member of the 123rd for 19 years, he has served as a flight leader, squadron operations officer, and squadron commander.

"I thought I'd be squadron commander for life," Harden joked, referring to his five years as commander of the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron and its successor, the 165th Airlift Squadron.

Harden's next assignment was spent as a student of the Air War College, where he also served as the National Guard command sponsored research fellow. Harden returned to Kentucky after graduating and was wing vice commander for the last two years.

"We've got new airplanes. We've got a new base. The thing we're going to do now is focus on the people."

— *Col. Michael L. Harden*

As base "warlord," Harden directed wing preparations for the upcoming operational readiness inspection. During the invasion of Haiti by U.S. forces, he also served as commander of the contingency support staff in Washington, D.C.

Harden explained his leadership style as one that emphasizes teamwork. "It's not what I'm going to do for you, but what we are going to do together," he said. "The one constant in this unit is the people. We've got new airplanes. We've got a new base. The thing we're going to do now is focus on the people."



KyANG photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

**Col. Michael L. Harden, a master navigator with more than 5,000 flight hours, told guard members June 1 that he looks forward to continuing the Kentucky Air National Guard's tradition of excellence.**

Harden replaces Brig. Gen. Stewart R. Byrne, who was selected as Air National Guard advisor to the Pacific Air Forces commander. In his new position, Byrne will advise the PACAF commander on the status and capabilities of Air National Guard units which come under PACAF's operational control during exercises and contingencies.

Byrne will retain his position as air commander until a full-time successor is named. The position will go up for bid, DeZarn said.

Harden praised Byrne's accomplishments as commander for the last three years. "I'm not sure everybody is aware of the lengths that he went to to keep our aircraft and keep our jobs," Harden said. "We all need to shake his hand and thank him for that."

During Byrne's tenure, the unit has maintained a spotless flying safety record, received a new fleet of C-130H aircraft, consistently earned high marks in every higher headquarters inspection and been the most active and visible airlift unit at virtually every hot spot on the globe.

Byrne also presided over the negotiations, design, construction, and relocation of the new \$45 million base at Standiford Field.

# Farewell Message: Thank you, good luck and Godspeed

**C**ol. Mike Harden is your new wing commander. We are fortunate to have someone who is so well trained and talented to step into this important position. Mike is a practicing attorney who took a year away from his practice to complete Air War College in residence. He was asked to head the contingency support staff at the Air National Guard Readiness Center during the Haitian crisis and he has led the wing in preparation for our next operational readiness inspection. He has been an integral part of the decision-making process for the wing for some time and I am certain that he is well prepared to meet the challenge.

The past three plus years that I have served as your commander have gone by very quickly and I have certainly enjoyed every minute. We have all worked hard and we have achieved a great deal for which we can all be proud. We have delivered humanitarian relief to needy people around the world; we have changed our culture to be more considerate of our customers and the quality they deserve; we have designed and built a new base; we have maintained our strength and combat readiness at the highest levels while increasing our real world participation; and most importantly, we have done it safely without a single mishap.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the care and support each and every one of



**Brig. Gen. Stewart R. Byrne**

*ANG Advisor to PACAF commander and previous 123rd Airlift Wing Commander*

you have given to me during this period. As I look back, it becomes apparent that I did very little. All I did was present the challenge. You made the decisions and put forth the effort to assure success. You volunteered when you were needed and took the risk that comes with being away from your place of employment to serve your country. You deserve all of the credit for these achievements and you deserve my deepest grati-

tude. Thank you.

There is never an ideal time to change commanders but I would have preferred to stay until next spring to see us through the operational readiness inspection. We still have a lot of work to do but we are well on our way and I am sure you will be ready when the time comes. Take full advantage of your deployment to Savannah and don't hesitate to challenge yourself with additional exercises this fall. My new job will allow me to continue to fly with you so I will be available to help as you see necessary. It is very important to me that the unit continues to prosper and I will do everything possible to assure your success.

Thanks again for your support and friendship and don't hesitate to call on me if I can be of assistance. Good luck and Godspeed.

## Editor's Note

Retirees who wish to remain on the Cargo Courier mailing list should return the postcard they received with the May issue. If you misplaced your postcard, please call Chief Master Sgt. Jim Turpin in Frankfort at (502) 564-8489 and let him know you want to remain on the mailing list. Thank you.

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Call the wing PA office if you have a story idea, photo or article to submit. The deadline for our next issue is June 26 and our office is in the new HQ building.

# Base pistol team hits mark at competition

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin  
123rd Wing Historian

The base pistol team has once again fired its way to the top of nearly all the state's shooting teams at the annual Kentucky pistol meet, held at Ft. Knox, Ky., April 28 - 29.

Participants were split into teams of four members each, with two teams representing the Kentucky Air National Guard. Individual and team scores were kept.

Four KyANG members shot exceptionally well, with Maj. Mike Johnson, Tech. Sgt. John Martin, Staff Sgt. Jim Berger and Master Sgt. John Forbis all hitting in excess of 100 points, with scores of 132, 131, 106 and 105 respectively — good enough for second place in the team match.

By the end of the competition, the KyANG members had shot well enough to

earn four of the top ten spots for the state team, which will represent Kentucky at the national match in Little Rock, Ark., in October.

The Ft. Knox competition began with a day of practice for all shooters. Personnel were split into teams of approximately four members, with Johnson, Martin, Forbis and Berger comprising one KyANG team.

The second team was made up of Lt. Col. Gary Napier, Senior Airman Craig Smith and Senior Airman Tim Jackson.

The next day, each shooter was given 36 rounds to fire at four targets. Those with the highest scores earned places on the Kentucky state team.

While KyANG members did well with their sidearms, the real star of the KyANG team was not a pistol shooter, but a machine gunner.

Senior Airman Jason Lainhart of the

123rd Security Police Squadron earned the top machine gun award that same weekend.

It was an honor not easily obtainable. To win in this category, gunners were paired in teams of two. One team member carried the M-60 machine gun while the other packed its tripod over a two-mile long course of uneven terrain.

After the run, shooters had to fire and hit a series of targets at a range of nearly 1,000 meters. The winner was the one who finished the run the quickest and hit the most targets.

Though it was Lainhart's first year of competition, it was actually a feat that he duplicated at the Winston P. Wilson National Match last October, when he earned accolades while filling in for a sick team member.

This time however, Lainhart is officially the top machine gunner in Kentucky for 1995.

## Now is the time to get legal affairs straightened out

By Lt. Col. Gary Napier  
Staff Judge Advocate

One of the many changes occurring in the Air National Guard is the way we do mobility processing.

We now focus on the individual to be responsible for preparing for deployments. You must make sure that you are immediately ready to deploy worldwide.

That means you can no longer count on getting your legal matters in order in a mobility processing line. As a practical matter, you should not expect to obtain complicated legal services in a processing line.

You may, however, receive free legal advice, including the preparation of wills and powers of attorney at the base legal office on UTA weekends.

The office is located on the second floor of the Wing Headquarters Building. No appointment is necessary.



KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer

**BEYOND THE CALL:** Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild accepts a \$1,000 check from Lt. Terri Smith, left, and Tech. Sgt. Florine Curtis of the 123rd Medical Squadron during the May UTA. The unit raised the money, which will go to the Kentucky National Guard's Easter Seals campaign, by holding raffles, selling snacks in mobility lines and charging members for the opportunity to wear civilian clothes in their duty sections.

# Chaplain helps ministers deal with stress



OK ANG Photo by Senior Airman L. Brakebill

The devastated Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is a haunting image to many of the National Guard volunteers who served there.

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Few of the family members, friends, rescue workers or millions of Americans touched by the Oklahoma City bombing will soon forget the tragedy and overwhelming sense of grief it brought them. Yet only days after the bombing, the Rev. Billy Graham declared, "Let the healing begin."

One KyANG member had the opportunity to help start that healing process for several National Guard volunteers.

Chaplain (Maj.) Charles "Spike" Smith went to Oklahoma City in May as part of a trauma team to help caregivers deal with the emotional stress of the rescue efforts. For three intense days, Smith helped other chaplains deal with the pressures of ministry during the disaster and begin their own personal journeys toward healing.

The National Guard Bureau conducts stress debriefings for volunteers after every disaster or trauma, Smith explained.

"People want to tell their story — over and over again," Smith said. "And they want someone to listen."

Smith said he and his coworkers had three objectives to help the ministers: "First, we wanted to let them know we were glad they were there. Second, we wanted to let them know they were doing a good job. And third, we wanted to make them aware of the symptoms of

post traumatic stress."

Some of these symptoms, which can surface after any traumatic incident, include insomnia and flashbacks.

Smith said he told the volunteers they would feel very different when they returned home. They had, Smith told them, experienced life and death up close in Oklahoma City. Their congregations would probably be unable to understand the full impact that these experiences have made on their pastors, Smith said.

Smith and his partner, Chaplain (Col.) Frank Mitolo, are uniquely qualified to help volunteers deal with post traumatic stress syndrome. Smith worked with families of the Evansville, Ind., plane crash victims, both military and civilian. As the chief of chaplain services for the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, he also regularly ministers to veterans who face post traumatic stress syndrome.

Mitolo, a catholic priest, volunteered as chaplain for the Sept. 1994 U.S. Air crash in Pittsburgh.

"I noticed that the chaplains had similar stories," Smith said of his counseling efforts in Oklahoma City. "Similar to what Chaplain (Thomas) Curry and I experienced at Evansville, but on a larger scale."

Smith and Mitolo visited the chaplains at their worksites, beginning with the site of the



OK ARNG Photo by Sgt. Al Newmeyer

Chaplains Mitolo (second from left) and Smith (fourth from left) pose with other volunteers at a memorial erected near the bombed Federal Building.

bombing. Many of the chaplains witnessed heart-wrenching scenes as bodies were recovered, Smith said. One of the chaplains was there when several Marines removed the body of one of their fallen comrades. They removed the insignia from his uniform, wrapped a flag around his body and solemnly carried him out.

The chaplain told Smith he would never be able to forget those images.

Smith also visited with the Chaplains who worked in the Family Center. Their job was to assist the families and be with them if

they were notified of a loved one's death. The chaplains got to know the families over time, Smith said, and it was very difficult for them to break the news to a family when a body was found, he said.

One chaplain had to deal with an especially overwrought family, Smith said. He was comforting the victim's mother and told her what a good person her son was. She lashed back at him, asking how he could know anything about her son. He explained that he really did know and admire her son — he had recruited the young man before he be-

came a chaplain.

"It looked like things fit together," Smith said of the incident. "There were a lot of coincidences like this. It just shows you how God can bring good things out of the bad."

Although Smith spent only a short time in Oklahoma City, he said the experience of sharing the burdens of his fellow chaplains made a strong impact on him.

"I appreciate things," he said quietly. "We had a memorial service at the VA hospital when I got home. I told my story at the ceremony. I needed to tell it."

## *Survivor asks, 'Why am I here?'*

By Darla Booker  
Air Force News Service

**TINKER AFB, Okla.** — Robert Dennis is used to climbing hills in Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains with only life's necessities strapped to his back. He's used to brushing up against heaven-reaching trees, and making his way across untamed shrubs and tall grass, toward sparkling rivers beneath deep blue skies.

He knows that world...and now, he appreciates it more.

Dennis was one of hundreds of people fatefully positioned in the midst of evil's consequence here April 19 at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. At the time of the explosion, he was standing at the elevator on the first floor, unknowingly within 50 feet of a bomb that was about to explode. Fire officials say he should have been dead. Instead he walked away with little more than minor wounds, the kind you'd expect after spending a few days backpacking and camping.

Amid life's stress and daily problems, many often ask the profound question, "Why am I here?" Beyond that, at a higher level, Dennis, a 51-year-old Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel, now asks, "Why am I still here?"

"I have cried a few times in thinking about it," he said. "Not loudly...but I've certainly had my moments. What makes me really teary-eyed is the magnitude of it and the suffering people endured. People are seriously hurt, people are dead. Especially the children. You can't help but get emotional, choked up. You wonder, why did I get to live, why did I get to walk out of there?"

He said he has deeper faith and belief in God: "Life carries a little more special meaning for me now. I'm a little bit more aware of things around me..."

Dennis has been very busy since the bombing. His big desire



USAF photo by SMSgt. Boyd Belcher

**Volunteers from Tinker AFB sift through rubble after the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City.**

now is just to get away, get out into the wildlife, out into the woods. Get somewhere quiet, peaceful where he can just calm down.

"I've been so busy, I haven't really had a chance to think much about it," Dennis said. "I think there is a need to. I think you can't just suppress it forever, you've just got to deal with it...sometime."

# Flight Plan

Maj. Brad Greschel verifies his mission planning before flying an afternoon sortie during the May UTA.

KyANG photo by Staff Sgt. Dale Greer



## 165th crew flies Big Drop

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Assistant Editor

While most Kentuckians were making plans for the running of the 121st Kentucky Derby, Lt. Col. John Bolli was already riding in Derby 55.

That was the call sign of the aircraft Bolli and his crew flew May 4 to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., as part of "Big Drop II," an air-lift exercise that deployed the largest airborne invasion force since World War II.

More than 60 C-130s and C-141s from six active duty, nine guard and seven reserve units participated in the Derby weekend exercise, dropping 587 tons of equipment and about 2,500 Army paratroopers on Pope Air Force Base in just less than nine hours.

Bolli and his crew, Capt. Mike Wood, Capt. Steve Bullard, Senior Master Sgt. Steve Rogers, Chief Master Sgt. Dan Spradling and Tech. Sgt. Roy Brown, flew

as part of an 18-ship package tasked with airlifting both troops and equipment.

The KyANG crew hit its drop zone in the first wave of the 18-plane formation, dropping a 30,000 pound pallet containing a helicopter refueling station and JP-8 jet fuel.

Bolli said the exercise, which was held at night and designed to simulate real combat experiences, provided good training for everyone involved.

"It was a larger formation than we routinely fly in," Bolli said, "and the load was a complicated load. When that much weight goes out at one time, you want to be on your toes."

"If something goes wrong, then you've got a load hanging out the back and you can have an uncontrollable airplane."

Plans call for making future Big Drop exercises more realistic by adding bomber, fighter and gunship support, Bolli said.

## Group memberships should be examined

(AFNS) — In the aftermath of the April bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Secretary of Defense William J. Perry has asked the services to reiterate policies on joining groups.

Groups that advocate supremacy, discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, religion or those that use force or violence to deprive people of their civil rights are not compatible with military service.

Service members should check with local legal officials before joining any suspect organization to avoid facing actions that could include court martial.

## Office monitoring AmEx purchases

Guard members who have a government American Express Card are reminded that the card is not authorized for personal expenses.

The Accounting and Finance Office currently is receiving a monthly activity report from the American Express Corp. This report lists individuals who have used their cards in the last month, as well as what was purchased.

## Winner named for base club drawing

Master Sgt. Wanda Riggs won the use of box seats at Churchill Downs in the May club drawing.

A general membership meeting of all club card holders will be held today at 1500 hours in the base dining hall. New officers will be elected.

# Navy taking over Looking Glass mission

## Budget crunch cited as cause for change

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Shock  
Air Force News Service

**OFFUTT AFB, Neb.** — In a move designed to consolidate missions and save defense dollars, Department of Defense officials announced that Navy E-6 TACAMO aircraft will begin replacing the EC-135 Looking Glass sometime in FY98 as the aerial platform for U.S. Strategic Command's Airborne National Command Post mission.

TACAMO stands for "Take Charge and Move Out."

According to DOD estimates, the transition will result in a one-time cost avoidance of \$1 billion and annual savings of nearly \$250 million.

Before the current E-6A fleet can assume its new role, however, each aircraft must complete a series of modifications now under way, including installation of battle staff modules, said Navy Capt. Vern Lochausen, chief staff officer of Task Force 124, Tinker AFB, Okla., the E-6's operational parent organization charged with carrying out the TACAMO mission.

When all modifications are complete, the aircraft will be redesignated as E-6Bs.

"We expect to support the first E-6B at

## B-2 stealth bomber to appear in Paris

**MCCONNELL AFB, Kan. (ACCNS)** — The B-2 Spirit's first global power mission will take it to the Paris Air Show this month.

But first, the aircraft will fly a trans-Atlantic sortie to drop munitions on a bombing range in Scandinavia as part of a demonstration of America's tactical reach and firepower.

Offutt beginning in late 1997, but only in a training capacity," he said.

"As E-6Bs follow on, we'll begin conducting joint operations with the EC-135s. When the fifth one arrives, we will complete the ABNCP mission transfer."

To man the new detachment, Lochausen said the Navy plans to assign approximately 30-40 more people to Offutt, mostly aircraft maintenance workers.

To coordinate the aircraft beddown, the Navy's Offutt Beddown Team began meeting with their Offutt counterparts early this year, said Lt. Col. L. Patrick Wray, 55th Wing TACAMO conversion project officer.

The team consists of members of Task Force 124 and Strategic Communications Wing 1, the E-6's administrative parent organization that provides resources and train-

ing.

According to Lochausen, the Navy plans to rely as much as possible on the existing support structure already in place here.

"Our view is a change to 'Navy blue' for logistics and maintenance, while other areas remain 'Air Force blue,'" he said.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Keck, 55th Wing commander, said the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's experience assimilating other Navy units here would help smooth the beddown process.

"Joint warfighting with a down-sized military is the way we do business now," he said.

Keck stressed the EC-135's continued importance to national defense.

"The EC-135 will continue to perform its vital contingency roles, such as its recent participation in Operation Uphold Democracy," he said.

## Uniform changes finalized

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** — More than 55 uniform changes have been approved by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman based on recommendations from the Air Force Uniform Board.

The changes

- permit the wear of a pull-over sweater without a tie or tab
- alter women's long-sleeve shirt for cuff links
- call for physician assistants to wear two-line name tags
- permit the wear either of BDU or blue outergarments with white service uniform
- permit security police to wear SP arm band with commander approval
- call for the wear of metal grade insignia or chevrons on all outergarments except raincoat
- allow the mixing of regular size occupational badges with miniature size wings, missile badge and fire

protection badge

- call for colonels and below to wear half-inch blue braid on coat
- require majors and above to wear clouds and darts on service caps
- mandate that flight caps be stored under the belt, but not folded over
- make the service cap optional for captains and below
- allow for the wear of brown leather flying gloves with A-2 flight jacket
- permit the wear of the new tie with old service dress uniform
- allow bags with straps to be carried over the left shoulder
- introduce more flexible standards for optional handbags
- permit oxfords with low wedge heels
- authorize athletic shoes for recruits
- mandate that some or all ribbons will be worn with the service coat.

# Significance of V-E Day not forgotten

By Tech. Sgt. John Martin  
123rd Wing Historian

On May 8th, 1945, Europe's most destructive war came to an end.

Unmatched before or since in both casualties and the number of nations involved, the merciful end came at 2:41 a.m. in a modest schoolhouse in Rheims, France.

Since the Normandy Invasion of France 11 months earlier, both the American troops, advancing from the west, and their Soviet counterparts coming from the east, held Germany in a tight grasp while they pushed toward Berlin.

Victory did not come easily. Americans held off a desperate month-long counter attack by German panzer and infantry divisions in December 1944 near the Belgian town of Bastogne in what was to become known as the Battle of the Bulge.

But Germany's fate had been sealed. City after city throughout the country lay in ruin, the result of heavy bombing by British and American flyers. In fact, by March 1945, the Allies called off all bombing raids.

Most German cities had been heavily damaged, and nothing remained of any strategic importance. Meanwhile, American and Soviet armies were rapidly pushing toward Berlin.

Within a period of 10 days, from the last few days of April into the first week of May, fascism in Europe collapsed, and, with it, its infamous leaders.

First to go was Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, caught while trying to escape from Italy with his mistress, Clara Petacci.

Both were shot by an impromptu firing squad on April 28th, and the bodies were hung for public display in the streets of Milan.

The next to go was the war's chief instigator, German Chancellor Adolph Hitler. While Gen. Eisenhower did not allow the American Army to advance any further into Germany than the Elbe River, advancing Soviet troops soon entered Berlin from the east. Hitler knew his time had come.

On April 30th, he, his wife of one day, Eva Braun, and most of Hitler's chief ad-

advancing Soviets.

By May 5, Eisenhower secured a complete cease-fire from German Army forces.

Eisenhower refused to witness the actual signing of the surrender at the schoolhouse by Field Marshall Alfred Jodl, but he sent emissaries from England, France, Russia, and the United States to accept the unconditional surrender. The ceremony was repeated the next day in Berlin, the official day for Victory in Europe, or V-E, Day.

As fast as news could travel, people everywhere began to celebrate the end of the war

in Europe. In Moscow, thousands swarmed into Red Square as a thousand guns fired 30 rounds each to signal the victory. Anyone who wore a uniform was mobbed, hugged, and showered with tremendous praise. Even foreigners were paraded about the square as if they were conquering heroes. A huge red banner was flown saying: "Long live Truman, Long live the great Americans."

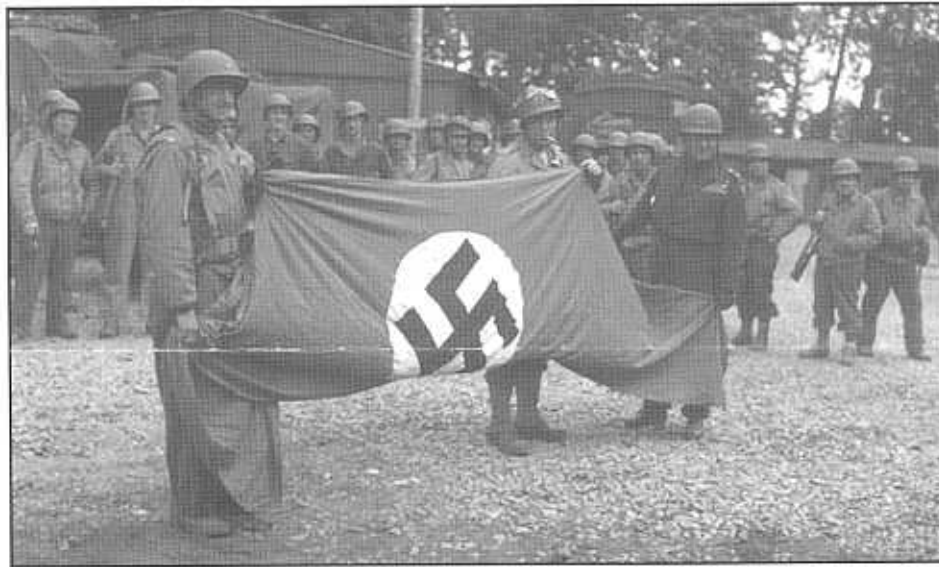
Londoners paused at Trafalgar Square

to acclaim Winston Churchill in the biggest celebration ever witnessed by the city.

Across the United States, joyous men, women, and children celebrated wildly on the sidewalks and streets of American cities.

With bells, horns, and sirens loudly proclaiming the end of the European conflict, every American knew V-E Day had come.

Three more terrible months of war with Japan stood between V-E Day and complete victory. But for now, Americans could, for the first time in nearly four years, rejoice. The war was coming to an end and the boys would soon return home.



Air Force historical archives

**Army Air Force troops across Europe began celebrating the continent's liberation 50 years ago by taking down Nazi flags.**

visors committed suicide inside the chancellery that served as his headquarters below the streets of Berlin.

The day before, Hitler dictated his will to his chief lieutenant, Martin Bormann, and named Admiral Karl Doenitz as head of the Reich and as his successor.

Doenitz's first and most likely only official act in that capacity was to surrender to the Allies. Bormann, however, escaped without a trace.

Over the next several days, thousands of German civilians fled into the countryside, hoping to escape the onslaught of the