



News Release

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

Feb. 25, 2008

AFSBn-NEA dedicates new maintenance facility

**By Galen Putnam
ASC Public Affairs**

Rock Island, Ill. – Another jewel was added to Camp Carroll’s crown Tuesday as a new maintenance facility was dedicated in honor of a Korean War Medal of Honor recipient.

The U.S. Army Field Support Battalion – North East Asia conducted a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for its new \$15 million, 26,000 square-foot maintenance facility named for Pfc. Melvin L. Brown, who was killed in hand-to-hand combat near Daegu in the early weeks of the conflict.

The facility boasts 16 maintenance bays, four 30-ton overhead cranes, eight 50-ton floor lifts, centralized lubrication and compressed air. The facility also has space for offices, small arms storage, conferencing and includes an employee break room. In addition, the facility boasts a state-of-the-art communications system.

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DEDICATION

Previously, mechanics had only six undersized bays with limited equipment in which to work. The organization also had to rely on diverted warehouse space.

That's no longer the case, according to Lt. Col. Karl Bopp, AFSBn-NEA battalion commander.

“Opening this maintenance facility is a proud moment in the history of this battalion,” he said to the crowd of distinguished visitors, guests and employees gathered for the event. “This state-of-the-art facility provides capabilities that are commensurate with our world-class workforce. This facility will enable us to continue to maintain Army Prepositioned Stocks-4 at the highest level of readiness and ensure our equipment is ready to fight tonight.”

The facility was built by NAMWHA Construction Co., LTD, of Kwangju under the guidance of the Far East District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seoul. Project funding was provided by the Korean Government under the Logistics Cost Share Program.

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3-3-3-3
DEDICATION

Namesake of the facility, Pfc. Melvin L. Brown, Company D, 8th Engineer Combat Battalion, was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism and gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against enemy forces near Kasan (just north of Daegu), Korea Sept. 4, 1950. *(See sidebar article for his complete Medal of Honor Citation.)*

“Pfc. Brown was in Korea for only about a month, but while here, he gave his all – literally. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his friends and fellow Soldiers, for his country, for the Republic of Korea and for freedom,” Bopp said. “While his heroics are, indeed, the stuff of legend, Pfc. Brown was selected from among many very fitting candidates – in part because he is one of us – he was a combat engineer and diesel mechanic. How fitting is that? In addition, he died just a few miles away from here near Daegu. It is truly fitting that Pfc. Brown be memorialized indefinitely, as we dedicate this facility in his honor.”

Brown’s sister, Sylvia Rich of Moline, Ill., was guest of honor at the ceremony.

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4-4-4-4
DEDICATION

“Yesterday, we visited the battle site where Melvin was killed. The area is now a park – a quiet, peaceful park. I can hardly imagine what it was like so many years ago when Melvin and his friends were fighting for their lives,” she said. “Over the years I have often thought about the sacrifice that so many young Soldiers like my brother made in the name of freedom. It is still painful to think about it after all of these years, but it helps to know that what they did helped lead to such a prosperous nation and freedom for millions of Koreans.”

Rich was particularly pleased the building bearing her brother’s name is a maintenance facility.

“Who would imagine such a beautiful maintenance facility being named after my brother,” she said. “It is fitting though, if you think about it because he really was quite the mechanic. If he had a place like this to tinker as a boy, I’ll bet he never would have come back out!”

Design on the project was initiated in Jan. 2006 and ground was broken in July 2006. The project was completed on time and under budget.

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DEDICATION

AFSBn-NEA's mission is to receive, maintain accountability, perform care of supplies in storage and maintenance for APS-4 stored throughout Korea, Japan and Hawaii and, on order, to issue APS-4 equipment and supplies.

AFSBn-NEA is subordinate to the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade at Camp Henry. The 403rd AFSB's higher headquarters is the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, located at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., a subordinate of the U.S. Army Materiel Command headquartered at Ft Belvoir, Va.

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PFC Brown Medal of Honor Citation:

MEDAL OF HONOR
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MELVIN L. BROWN
MAHAFFEY, PA

Organization: U.S. Army, Company D, 8th Engineer Combat Battalion

Place and Date: Near Kasan, Korea, 4 September 1950. General Order No. 11, 16 February 1951.

MOH Citation: Private First Class Melvin L. Brown, Company D, 8th Engineer Combat Battalion, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While his platoon was securing Hill 755 (the Walled City), the enemy, using heavy automatic weapons and small arms, counterattacked. Taking a position on a 50-foot-high wall he delivered heavy rifle fire on the enemy. His ammunition was soon expended and, although wounded, he remained at his post and threw his few grenades into the attackers causing many casualties. When his supply of grenades was exhausted his comrades from nearby foxholes tossed

others to him and he left his position, braving a hail of fire, to retrieve and throw them at the enemy. The attackers continued to assault his position and PFC Brown weaponless, drew his entrenching tool from his pack and calmly waited until they 1 by 1 peered over the wall, delivering each a crushing blow upon the head, knocking 10 or 12 enemy from the wall. His daring action so inspired his platoon that they repelled the attack and held their position. PFC Brown's extraordinary heroism, gallantry and intrepidity reflect the highest credit upon himself and was in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service. Reportedly missing in action and officially killed in action, September 5, 1950.

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