

Timeline	
December 7, 1941	Pearl Harbor attacked. WW II begins.
February 19, 1942	Executive Order 9066 issued by President Franklin Roosevelt. 120,000 ethnic Japanese placed in internment camps for the duration of the war.
June 12, 1942	100th Infantry Battalion formed.
August 1942	First graduates of MIS linguists deployed in Pacific. One team arrived in Guadalcanal and attached to US Marines.
January 1, 1943	GEN George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, approved the activation of the 442nd RCT.
September 26, 1943	100 th Battalion landed in Salerno, Italy.
June 7, 1944	442 nd arrived at Civitavecchia, Italy. Merged with 100 th .
July 15, 1946	President Truman reviewed 442 nd at outer south lawn of White House.
May 19, 2009	H.R. 347 passed the House of Representatives; S-1055 introduced in the Senate
August 2, 2010	Senate passed S.1055 with MIS amendment.
August 13-14, 2010	National Veterans Network Planning Meeting in Washington DC
September 23, 2010	House passed S.1055 with MIS amendment
October 5, 2010	President Obama signed S.1055 in Oval Office
November 1-3, 2011	Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony and WDC festivities



WORLD WAR II NISEI VETERANS PROGRAM
NATIONAL VETERANS NETWORK
tribute to
100TH INFANTRY BATTALION
442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE



442nd Color Guard, Bruyeres, France

NOVEMBER 1, 2011
10:30 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON D.C.

National Veterans Network

The National Veterans Network (NVN) is a coalition of 25 Japanese American veteran and civic organizations whose mission is to coordinate the events pertaining to the Congressional Gold Medal award in Washington, DC in Fall 2011. The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is the fiscal sponsor of the NVN.

The NVN Chairperson is Christine Sato-Yamazaki, formerly President and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center. She has the advice of a 15-person steering committee, a Fund Raising Committee, three advisors and numerous committees. Coalition members have met four times at Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington, DC to validate the programs and outline future endeavors. On August 13-14, 2010, the East Coast organizations sponsored the fourth National Veteran Network meeting in Washington DC to formalize its operations to work with the U.S. Congress and U.S. Mint and to discuss plans for a national event in Washington, DC that will honor the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service.

Acknowledgements

Department of the Army
Military District of Washington
National Park Service
100BN 442D Inf Rgt, US Army Reserve
Department of Interior
National Park Police
Honor Flight
Southwest Airlines
Chick Fil-A
Erika Moritsugu, Program Creator



WW II Memorial with Lincoln Memorial in background



Spark Matsunaga Elementary School, located in Germantown, Montgomery County, Maryland, is the largest elementary school in the county with 1041 students. Opened on September 4, 2001, this is the first public school in Maryland to be named in honor of an Asian American: U.S. Senator and an officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion, Spark M. Matsunaga.

Since 2001, the school has presented their Veterans Day program to which the public is invited. It features close to 500 fourth and fifth grade students performing patriotic songs honoring our veterans and military members. The Music Director is Mrs. Teresa Potterton and the principal is Mrs. Judy Brubaker.



*A typical linguist team.
Leyte, Philippines*

Meet our Speakers

General Raymond T. Odierno assumed duty as the 38th Chief of Staff of the US Army. A native of northern New Jersey, he attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1976 with a commission in Field Artillery. During more than 35 years of service, he has commanded units at every echelon, from platoon to theater, with duty in Germany, Albania, Kuwait, Iraq, and the United States. He commanded the 4th Infantry Division, leading the division during Operation Iraqi Freedom and later served as the Commanding General, Multi-National Corps – Iraq (III Corps). He also served as the Commanding General, Multi-National Force – Iraq and United States Forces – Iraq. Most recently, he commanded United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM).

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and is currently the U.S. Army's 45th Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, responsible for managing and executing Human Resources plans, programs, and policies for the total Army. Prior to this assignment, he was the Commanding General, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, and the Assistant Division Commander-Maneuver, and then Assistant Division Commander-Support of the 1st Cavalry Division. He deployed with the Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before commanding the Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division, where he was responsible for over \$18 Billion in reconstruction in Iraq.

Chaplain (Major General) Donald L. Rutherford assumed duty as the 23rd Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army on 7 July 2011. He graduated and received his commission through ROTC from the State University of New York at Albany in 1977. He was ordained as a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany that same year. His assignments included the 88th Airborne Division and the Multi National Corps in Iraq.

Christine Sato-Yamazaki, the granddaughter of a 442nd RCT veteran, is Chairperson for the National Veterans Network. She has provided strong leadership to develop a program to honor the Nisei WW II veterans. Prior to this role, she served as the President and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center since 1997. A Californian by birth and education, Christine resides in Torrance, CA.

George Joe Sakato was born in Colton, California. He volunteered to serve in the 442nd RCT. During the battle to liberate the Vosges region of northeastern France, Sakato's unit was subjected to intense enemy fire. Disregarding his own safety, he led his men in a charge that turned defeat into victory. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, which was upgraded to the Medal of Honor on June 21, 2000.

Gerald H. Yamada, Esq. is Chair of the Washington D.C. WWII and Japanese American Memorial Program Committee, NVN. He is President of the Japanese American Veterans Association. Born at the Jerome War Relocation Authority Camp, Arkansas, he is a Vietnam War-period veteran. He resides in Vienna, VA with his wife, Nancy Mizokami Yamada.

Quotes

President Ronald Reagan, August 1988, national apology for internment, August 1988: "Here we admit a wrong, here we affirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."

GEN George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, US Army, "I will say about the Japanese American fighting in these units we had: They were superb! That word correctly describes it: superb! They took terrific casualties. They showed rare courage and tremendous fighting spirit..."

President Bill Clinton, at White House MOH Award ceremony: "Rarely has a nation been so well-served by a people it has so ill-treated. The Japanese Americans of the 442nd Combat Team, including the 100th Battalion, became the most decorated unit in Army history."

Bill Mauldin, WW II cartoonist: "No combat unit could exceed the Japanese American unit in loyalty, work, courage and sacrifice."

GEN Joseph W. Stilwell: "The Nisei bought an awful big hunk of America with their blood. We cannot let a single injury to be done them without defeating the purposes for which they fought."

President Harry Truman, July 15, 1946: "You fought not only the enemy but you fought prejudice and you won."

LTG Mark W. Clark, CG, 5th Army: "Their record in battle have been marked by one outstanding achievement after another. They have written a brilliant chapter in the history of American fighting men."

BG Ralph Tobin: "They were the most alert soldiers... I never heard of a case of AWOL among them."

MG Alfred M. Grunther, personal representative of Secretary of War Stimson at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, June 1946: "Your outstanding record of major decorations was unsurpassed by any other unit of comparable size."

German Private Joseph Schwieters, describing his encounter with the 442nd RCT on October 29, 1944, 1/2 mile from the trapped Texas Battalion: "They [Nisei] took not a single backward step. They were a suicide squad. I assume that all died."

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz: "Before World War II, I entertained some doubt as to the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry in the event of war with Japan. From my observations during World War II, I no longer have that doubt."

GEN Eric Shinseki, 1998: "You have taught us what strength and courage and citizenship are all about. Your actions in World War II purchased future opportunities for all Americans but especially for Americans of Japanese ancestry. Today, the members of my generation enjoy the fruits of full citizenship... you elected to remove all doubt and prove the loyalty of all Japanese Americans."

Wreath Bearers

Sam Fujikawa, 100th Battalion Company C. Born in Alameda, CA, interned at Topaz, UT, served in Maritime Alps and Po Valley campaigns. Returned with Regiment for review by President Truman. Career position: Hughes Aircraft.

Shinyei Rocky Matayoshi, 442nd RCT, Company G. Native of Kauai, Hawaii. Resides in Chicago, IL. Awarded DSC for knocking off four enemy machine gun nests on Mt. Belvedere, Italy. 2 Silver Stars, 2 Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, CIB.

Ranger Roy Matsumoto. Born in Laguna, CA. Resides in Friday Harbor, Washington. Interned in Jerome, AR. Served in Merrill Marauders in Burma. Vital intelligence information he provided saved his battalion from annihilation.

Calvin Ninomiya, Esq. Born in Seattle, WA. Resides in Chevy Chase, MD. Interned Minidoka, ID. WW II Army service. Brother of Ban Ninomiya, KIA (Died in rescue of Lost Battalion, France, 10/29/44)

Program

Pre-Ceremony Concert | US Army Band

Welcome Opening Remarks | Gerald Yamada, Master of Ceremonies

Presentation of Colors | Army Color Guard

National Anthem | Spark Matsunaga Elementary School

Invocation | Chaplain (MG) Donald Rutherford, Chief of Chaplains, US Army

Retiring of Colors

Welcome Remarks | Christine Sato-Yamazaki
Chairperson, National Veterans Network

God Bless America | US Army Band

Remarks by a Nisei Veteran | George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor

Introduction of Keynote Speaker | LTG Thomas P. Bostick,
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, US Army

Keynote Speaker | General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, US Army

Presentation of Bronze Star Medals | General Odierno

Laying of the Wreaths
100th, 442nd, MIS, KIA

Taps

Closing Remarks | Gerald Yamada

Benediction | Chaplain (MG) Rutherford

America the Beautiful | Spark Matsunaga Elementary School

442nd Song and US Army Song | US Army Band

Post-Ceremony Music | US Army Band

Bronze Star Medal – AR 600-8-22

On February 4, 1944, retroactive to December 7, 1941, an executive order was issued that awarded the Bronze Star Medal to individuals. While serving in the US armed forces in a combat theater, these individuals displayed heroism, outstanding achievement or meritorious service. GEN George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, was seeking to reward line troops whose ranks suffered the heaviest casualties and were forced to endure great hardships during the conflict. Soldiers who were awarded the combat infantryman's badge or the combat medic's badge qualify for the BSM Award.

Bronze Star Medal Awardees



442nd. Moving up to the front lines



Two Nisei interpreters and an intelligence officer interrogate a Japanese POW (right). Papua, New Guinea.



Akira Akimoto
Nagatoshi Fujita
Taira Fukushima
Katsumi Hikido
Sumio Ito
Arthur Iwasaki
Kiyomi Kobashi
Ben N. Matsui
Don Miyada
Richard Sadao Murashige
Richard Nakagawa
Frank Ken Nishimura
Yoshinobu Oda (P)
to Cathy Oda Grodzins, daughter
Ted Kaoru Ohira (P)
to Chizuko Ohira, spouse
George Otsuki
Goro Sakaguchi
Haruo Sakaji
George T. Sakato
George Shiba
Benjamin Tada
Jim J. Tokushige, (P)
to Karri F. Kane, granddaughter
Tokuji Yoshihashi

Hiroshi Asai
Harry J. Fukasawa
Sam S. Furukawa
Robert Iso (P)
to Brian Iso, nephew
Takeo Kingi
Don K. Masuda
James Mita
Peter T. Miyashiro (P)
to Theresa M. Sonoda, daughter
Yoshio Nakamura
Kazumi Oda
Takashi Okamoto (P)
to Rev Toshio Okamoto, brother
Eiichi Oki
Itsuki Oshita (P)
to Elsie Oshita, spouse
Ryosuke Sakaguchi, (P)
to Henry Sakaguchi, brother
Shizuo Sakurada, (P)
to Ronald Sakurada, son
Mitsuru Takahashi
Saburo Tsuboi
Sam Yokota

Japanese Americans in Military Service During WW II and Their Legacy

Some 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the US Military during World War II. When war broke out on December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 which established two military zones, the west coast of America and the Territory of Hawaii. Martial law was imposed giving the military governors full authority, including internal security. The commanding general of the western zone discharged all Japanese Americans from the Army and sent 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, over one half of them American citizens, to internment camps guarded by Army sentries. In Hawaii the military governor decided mass internment was not necessary and sent the 1,432 Nisei in the Hawaii National Guard to Wisconsin for training and subsequently deployed them to Italy as the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate). The loyalty of every ethnic Japanese, including citizens, was questioned.

In February 1943, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was activated. Four thousand volunteered, including 1,500 from the internment camps. They volunteered to prove their loyalty. General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, personally witnessed the final training maneuvers, declared them fit for combat, and the 442nd was deployed to Italy, where the 100th merged into the brigade-size 442nd Combat Team. They were given tough assignments such as the rescue of a trapped Texas battalion in the Vosges forests of north eastern France and the breach of the "impregnable" Gothic line in Italy that held off the Allied forces for five months.

While 13,000 Nisei served in the 442nd, some 3,000 Army-trained linguists served in the Asia Pacific Theater. Some 60 of them were already in language training when war broke out. They were assigned to every unit that required a linguist, served as translators of captured enemy documents, interrogators of prisoners of war, communication interceptors, entered caves to persuade the enemy to surrender, and in the special forces in Burma. Intelligence information produced by the Nisei were vital, such as the report of a communications interceptor that resulted in the destruction of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's air convoy. He was commander of Japan naval forces in the Pacific and architect of the Pearl Harbor attack. Following the War, another 3,000 linguists served in the Occupation to build Japan as a democratic power allied to the US.

The contributions of other Nisei should not be overlooked, such as the some 200 Nisei women who served in the MIS, WAC, and Nurse corps; the 5 Nisei who served as gunners in bombers, including Ben Kuroki, who flew 58 combat missions in Europe and over Japan, one who served with the 2nd Ranger Battalion in Operation Overlord on D-Day at Utah Beach.

When the war was over, the Army told the 442nd their combat performance record "has not been surpassed" and President Harry Truman, in a review at the outer south lawn of the White House, validated their loyalty when he said "you fought the enemy abroad and prejudice at home, and you won". The combat performance record of the Nisei and the Tuskegee Airmen contributed to Washington's decision to reform the armed forces thereby leveling the playing field for minorities to compete for any position and rank in the armed forces.

During WW II, the highest rank of a Japanese American was Major and there were only four. Fast forward to the Vietnam War when you see them in sensitive war planning positions, in the cockpits of fighters and bombers as pilots and navigators and other positions that previously were off-limits to them -- all with ranks of Majors, Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels. Following the Vietnam War some 43 of them would be promoted to flag rank with one serving as Chief of Staff of the Army wearing four stars. Another 60 Asian Pacific Americans were also promoted to generals and admirals.

Reforms on the civilian side were equally impressive such as the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that resulted in President Ronald Reagan offering a formal apology for the internment. More recently the US Senate selected a Japanese American to the position of President Pro Tempore of the Senate -- position that puts him fourth in line, constitutionally, to serve as President of the United States. Only 70 years ago this Japanese American was considered by his government as enemy alien, unfit for military duty. This is an American Story, which speaks of the Greatness of America.



MG Merrill awarded the Legion of Merit to Staff Sgt Roy Matsumoto. Burma.

Military Intelligence Service

Assignment

7 Military Commands at 48 locations
Six Allied military units

Unit Awards

Distinguished Unit Citation 2

Major Individual Awards*

Ranger Hall of Fame..... 3
Military Intelligence Hall of Fame 10
Distinguished Service Cross 1
Distinguished Service Medal 1
Presidential Unit Citation (to individuals) ... 6
Purple Heart..... 7

Silver Star 18
Legion of Merit ... 3
Soldier's Medal ... 2
Bronze Star Medal 132
Air Medal..... 2
British Empire Medal 1
Letter of Commendation ... 98
Combat Infantryman's Badge 35

** These numbers are understated because many MIS personnel who received awards were assigned to temporary units as linguists, and MIS did not have a central organization to collect this information. Number of awards to MIS personnel is still being collected. These figures were based on Seiki Oshiro's compilation.*

100th Battalion and 442nd RCT

Major Campaigns 8

Unit Awards

Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation.....7
Meritorious Service Unit Plaque2
Army Commendation36
Division Commendation.....87

Major Individual Awards

Medal of Honor21
Distinguished Service Cross29
Distinguished Service Medal1
Silver Star354+
Legion of Merit.....17
Soldier's Medal.....15
Bronze Star Medal.....848+*
Air Medal.....1
Purple Heart Medal4,000+
Croix de Guerre (France)20 +
Croce Al Merito Di Guerra (Italy)2
Medaglia De Bronzo Al Valor
Militaire (Italy).....2
Soldier's Medal (Great Britain)1

** AR 600-8-22 awards the BSM to a WW II holder of the CIB or Combat Medics Badge. This number does not include many qualified 442nd men.*

Source: Orville C. Shirey, 1946 (as updated). Shirey was the G-2 and Historian of 442nd.



President Harry S Truman reviewing the 442nd Regimental Combat team at the Ellipse, outer south lawn of the White House. July 15, 1946.