



# THE DISPATCH

U.S. ARMY DUGWAY PROVING GROUND



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2B

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February 2017



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AND MUCH MORE

# DUGWAY'S FIRST COMMANDER AND WIFE WERE EXCEPTIONAL PAIR

By Al Vogel  
albert.c.vogel.civ@mail.mil

Dugway's first commander was Maj. John R. Burns of the Army Chemical Warfare Service, a quiet and affable Southerner with a reputation for thoroughness. Tasked with finding a remote, unproductive, but accessible, area to test chemical warfare munitions, Burns left Washington, D.C. to meet with the U.S. Grazing Service in Salt Lake City. Following the meeting, the Grazing Service recommended an area 85 miles from Salt Lake City. Burns visited the area with the Army's district engineer then returned to Washington to enthusiastically recommend it.

On Feb. 6, 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive order transferring 126,720



public acres to the War Department. Burns, accompanied by Lt. H.E. Dyer, soon returned to Utah and took over a recently abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Simpson Springs, south of Dugway. The two Soldiers officially activated Dugway Proving Ground on Mar. 1, 1942.

When the local Army engineer asked Burns where he wanted the new camp built, the 39-year-old major replied, "Anywhere on the desert." The engineer chose Government Wash, near an abandoned wooden bridge that once served the nation's first transcontinental highway. First named "Dog Area," the area is

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## COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

### Transformation

With the reality of our mission today and decreased resource capabilities, we have a critical need to transform. So as we look into the future in mission support, we must look at how we can transform our processes and systems to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the Senior Commander and the mission of Dugway with the resources we have available.

Transformation is defined as a process of profound and radical change that orients an organization in a new direction and takes it to an entirely different level of effectiveness. Installation Management Command is transforming to meet the challenges of our current operational environment.

The Army is having to make tough decisions to balance available resources (money, manpower, time and leadership) on installations to support priorities that enable a ready Army to rapidly deploy

combat formations to fight and win anywhere in the world.

The Army is getting smaller; there will be less people at IMCOM Headquarters, directorates, and garrisons to integrate and deliver base support to enable readiness for a globally responsive Army. Manpower reductions are commensurate with the shrinking Army. IMCOM has a realistic understanding that acknowledges with fewer personnel and less funding, it must divest non-essential tasks and operations to meet mission-essential requirements within existing resource allocations.

The IMCOM CG's priorities are Infrastructure, Supporting Readiness, Supporting Training, Soldier Programs, and Family Programs. To help illuminate how we support these priorities and the mission of Dugway, I thought it would be important to mention the Common Levels of Support the Garrison provides to installation customers and these have discrete and

measurable Service Support Programs that define the elements of service and standard level of service to be delivered. There are a wide range of services from Child Care within Family and MWR to Facilities Maintenance within DPW and these are set at Directed Capability Levels from IMCOM Headquarters. What this does is help articulate what missions we perform and what our resource capabilities are.

Further, as a reminder, IMCOM transformation included realigning two Continental United States geographic Regions to three IMCOM Directorates collocated with Army Commands—U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and U.S. Army Material Command. In Nov 2016, these three new IDs achieved Initial Operational Capability. Dugway now falls under the IMCOM Sustainment Directorate which aligns with AMC. I am excited

By Aaron D. Goodman

Installation Command Sergeant Major



about this transformational change as I hope it will lead to more continuity and service similarities with garrisons like us.

Thank you to all of our outstanding Dugway professionals. I greatly appreciate what you do as a team every day to support the Senior Commander and the mission of Dugway. We have an exciting and challenging future ahead and working together we will continue to make this an exceptional place to work, live, and play.

EMPOWERING THE NATION'S DEFENDERS



# FIRST COMMANDER...

Continued from Page 1.

now "Ditto Area," for Maj. Gen. Rollo Ditto of the Army Chemical Corps.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1942, Burns and his wife Lucy lived in a tar paper-covered building, their living room doubling as the commander's conference room. The two bedrooms served as the commander's office and their private quarters. There was no kitchen; meals were taken in the mess hall.

Lucy did her best to offer some comforts to the Soldiers and civilians. When lumber and plywood buildings began replacing tarpaper structures in 1943, Lucy "requisitioned" paving material to create a patio. She also grew a 9X12-foot patch of lawn, and thriving roses and tomatoes. Lucy mowed the grass on her knees with garden shears. The colonel purchased hundreds of sapling shade trees and had them planted throughout Dog Area. When Dugway was deactivated after World War II, the trees were removed and replanted at Deseret Chemical Depot.

For months, Lucy was the only female Dugway inhabitant except for two secretaries who drove 50 miles of dirt road daily from Tooele. By early 1943, Utah's first company of Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) arrived to do traditionally male jobs (motor

pool, meteorology, photography, lab work) to free up men for the war. They performed exceptionally, and Lucy was pleased to have full-time feminine companionship.

In 1944, Burns was assigned to the South Pacific, and later the postwar occupation of Japan. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1954, retiring from the Army in 1956.

They moved to Lucy's hometown of Charleston, South Carolina where Burns worked as a business executive until retiring in 1970. He died Dec. 27, 1980 at 78. Lucy died Mar. 16, 1993 at 88. They are buried together at Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina.

Seventy five years after Dugway Proving Ground's first buildings were erected "anywhere on the desert," Ditto Area still has reminders of its early years: the old hangar completed in 1945, and the wooden Lincoln Highway bridge that the colonel and Lucy crossed in their evening walks.

In 2007, Burns' Class of 1926 U.S. Military Academy ring was returned to West Point, to join the molten gold to cast Class of 2008 graduate rings. Perhaps those West Point graduates carry within their ring a few 1942 molecules of Utah sand and sagebrush from, "anywhere on the desert."

Lucy Burns, left, wife of first commander of Dugway Proving Ground, Utah (Lt. Col. John Robert Burns, 1942-1944), with their daughter Lucy Ann Burns. Clipping believed to be 1944, publication unknown. Lucy stayed at the remote, fledgling Army post deep in the Utah desert, while her daughter attended Rowland Hall private school in Salt Lake City. Little is known of their daughter. A 2002 obituary of her first husband listed her as a survivor and indicated she had remarried. Dugway Public Affairs, scanned clipping



Mrs. John R. Burns and her daughter, Lucy Ann, who left Monday to make their home in Charleston, S. C.

## 2016 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

### 2016 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR MISSION

#### MR. DUANE E. SHIELDS



Mr. Shields' work demonstrated excellence in program management. Mr. Shields' work to provide the National Ground Intelligence Agency ground truth test support for sensor and data library development provided lifesaving tools and improved intelligence for the warfighter. His work with multiple agencies to support material solutions

demonstrated excellence in adherence to the Civilian Creed and Army values. Mr. Shields' dedication to the mission and selfless service give great credit to himself, Special Programs, the West Desert Test Center Dugway Proving Ground, Army Test and Evaluation Command and the United States Army.

### 2016 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR MISSION SUPPORT

#### MS. CAROLANN J. UTTECH



Ms. Uttech coordinated and managed multiple visits by executives and dignitaries that took place in association with SK Challenge, Jack Rabbit II and other events with protocol levels ranging from GS-14, GS-15, to SES/GO at the 1-, 2- and 3-star levels, including a U.S. Senator. The events came one after another in rapid succession with minimal

reset time in between visits, and some visits and events overlapping and occurring on the same day(s). Ms. Uttech's exemplary service brings great credit upon herself, Dugway Proving Ground, Army Test and Evaluation Command, and the United States Army.





# SUPER BOWL PARTY





# DUGWAY STORIES

Photo: Utah Division of State History

## P-T A Seeks Funds For Dugway Room

South high school's P-T A has gone "all out" for the 250 lone-some doughboys stranded at the Dugway proving grounds.

The organization has bested the local USO and other societies by launching a campaign designed to give the men at the base adequate furnishings and books for a government-erected 50 x 35 foot recreation room and library. The project is being developed aside from regular P-T A activities, according to Mrs. Stephen T. Gillmor, president, who voiced an appeal for good furniture and suitable books for the hall.

Heretofore, the army camp has contained little more than sagebrush, sand, cactus, and a motion picture house, lone recreational facility and Sandblast,

the appropriately named camp newspaper, verifies.

Major A. J. Mottern, morale officer, has been in consultation with Mrs. Gillmor and Miss Winifred H. Dyer. Miss Dyer and Mrs. Gillmor visited the chemical testing ground last week, driving the 74 miles past Tooele, closest town, into Rush Valley, site of the camp.

Already equipped with a radio contributed by Mrs. F. C. Middlemass and a few pieces of furniture donated by the Granite and South East Furniture companies, the dayroom is yet woefully barren, Mrs. Gillmor stated.

Committees are planning activities to raise fund and encourage contributions.

From the *South High Scribe*, September 4, 1942.

### MilTax: Free Tax Services from Military OneSource

No need for service members to pay for outside tax assistance or risk missing specific military tax breaks. Soldiers--Active and Reserve Component--and their military families can use MilTax software and support services for free at Military OneSource to complete their taxes. Prepare and file taxes online with the easy-to-use software.

Register online at: [https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-and-legal/taxes?content\\_id=295240](https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-and-legal/taxes?content_id=295240).

For more information contact:



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Legal Assistance Attorney  
435-831-3336

### CORRECTION

In the story "OUTDOOR SIMULANT TESTING AT DUGWAY TO BE MORE EFFICIENT, MOBILE" which appeared in the Vol. 3, No. 2A, February 2017 issue of The Dispatch, a statement appeared which read: "Funding for the multimillion dollar system is provided by the Department of Defense's Joint Project Manager for Chemical and Biological Defense".

The statement should read: "Funding for the multimillion dollar system is provided by the Department of Defense's Joint Project Manager for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense".

We apologize for the error.

## THE DISPATCH

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the Dugway  
YouTube Channel

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- Native American Heritage
- Innovation/Glovebox Update
- General and Olympian
- CSM Change of Responsibility

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