

The Big Picture – Operation Mercy

Master Sergeant Stuart Queen: To deter war and to support the cause of peace and goodwill among men. That is the why of the United States Army. To meet its responsibilities, American soldiers today stand guard throughout the free world, a constant reminder that aggression will be met promptly by the full force of American arms.

There is another side of the contribution of the American soldier to peace and goodwill, the human side, which we saw when the Army was assigned Operation Mercy.

Not so long ago thousands of Hungarian Freedom Fighters and their families were helped toward sanctuary in the United States. For them the gates of Camp Kilmer in New Jersey represented the end to a way of life they had found oppressive – the beginning of a new life of hope and opportunity.

And surely there are no better words to begin our story of Operation Mercy than those of the President of the United States in his second inaugural address.

President Eisenhower: The divisive force is international communism and the power that it controls.

The designs of that power, dark in purpose, are clear in practice. It strives to seal forever the fate of those it has enslaved. It strives to break the ties that unite the free. And it strives to capture – to exploit for its own greater power – all forces of change in the world.

Yet the world of international communism has itself been shaken by a fierce and mighty force: the readiness of men who love freedom to pledge their lives to that love. Through the night of their bondage, the unconquerable...