

DDSP Co-hosts Armed Forces Day

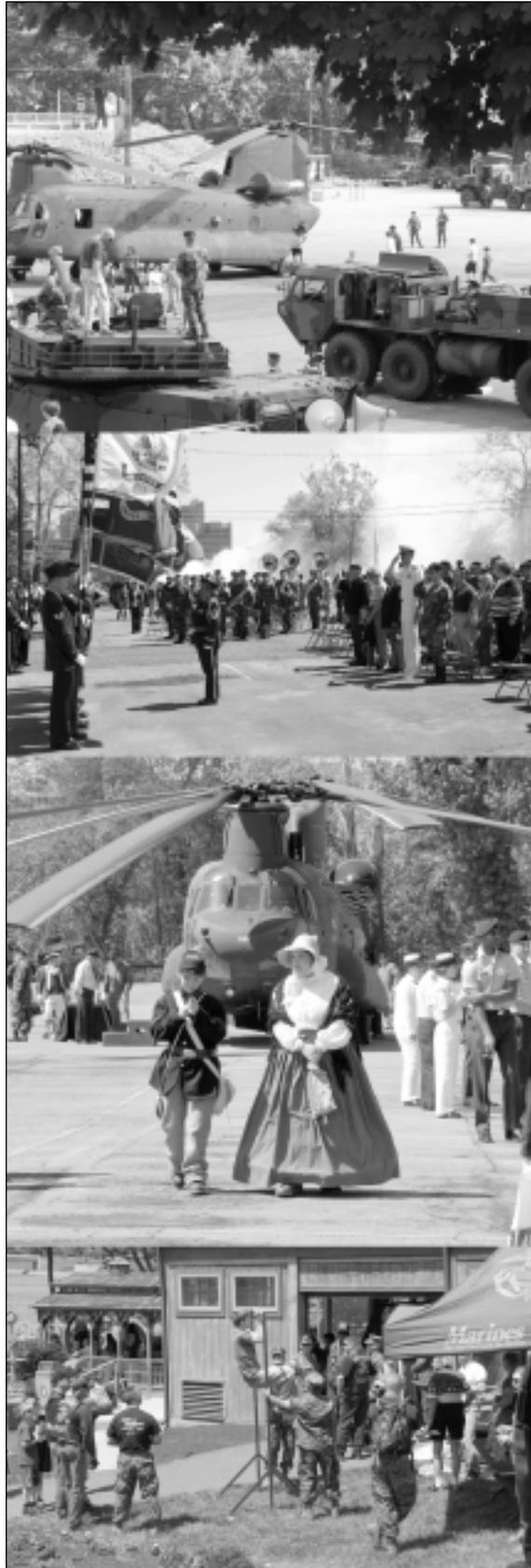
“We Salute Our Military at Home and Abroad” was the theme for Central PA’s 4th Annual Armed Forces Day celebration at Harrisburg’s City Island in May. The joint services military event was co-hosted by the City of Harrisburg and the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) and supported by local reserve/guard units and military commands.

The opening ceremony featured remarks by Harrisburg Mayor Steven R. Reed; MG Karol A. Kennedy, USA, Commander of the 99th Regional Readiness Command; and Pennsylvania Congressman Tim Holden. To close the ceremony, LtCol Joseph P. Innerst, USMC, Commanding Officer of the Harrisburg Military Entrance Processing Station conducted an enlistment. It was a proud moment for friends, family and attendees as civilians were sworn to service.

The event featured military-related demonstrations, displays, and music. The 99th Regional Support Command displayed operations of reserve units as in the field including the 365th Engineering Battalion and the 453rd Finance Battalion based at New Cumberland, PA. The Pennsylvania Army National Guard exhibited various tracked and wheeled vehicles such as an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, CH-47 Chinook and Blackhawk Helicopter.

Interactive and competitive exhibits included a popular obstacle course challenge featuring energetic drill sergeants. Music was provided by the 307th Army Reserve Band who held auditions with local high school musicians. A career center displayed services of local military recruiters, agencies and related organizations including the Defense Distribution Center (DDC), New Cumberland Federal Credit Union, and DDSP Family Advocacy Program.

Military-related groups, including Unit Family Readiness Groups and the DDC Blacks in Government, sold food to the attendees. Civil War re-enactors demonstrated what life was like for the families of infantry units. In comparison, active Army Airborne Riggers displayed parachutes from the



DDSP Air Delivery and Textile Branch. The Riggers were also very popular, painting children’s faces in camouflage.

DDSP Commander CAPT Jim Naber, SC, USN, and Chairman of the event remarked, “I am proud DDSP played a part in providing local military personnel a chance to interact with our supportive central Pennsylvania community and to display how they operate in the field of duty.”

More than 10,000 people visited the island for the National Armed Forces Day celebration.

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