

***African American Black History
Month Observance***

***“Walk Against Fear, No-one Can
Hold You Down.”***

Honored Guest: Mr. James Meredith



***Fort Hood Military Police Regimental
Association***

720th Military Police Battalion

89th Military Police Brigade

0645 hours, 25 February 2016

Club Hood, Grand Ballroom

FORT HOOD, TEXAS

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Welcome

Invocation

***Chaplain (Major) Benjamin Ellington
89th Military Police BDE Chaplain***

Opening Remarks

***African American Black History Month
Proclamation***

Sponsor Acknowledgements

Remarks:

LTC Karst K. Brandsma

COL Patrick W. Williams

Closing Remarks/Presentations

COL Ross Guieb

Commander, 89th Military Police BDE

James H. Meredith, a nine year Air Force veteran, applied for admission to the University of Mississippi in January 1961. Denied admission because of his race he sued and won a court battle for admission in June 1962.



The college administration and the state government of Mississippi refused to recognize his court ordered victory and physically barred him from campus. They were joined by a violent mob of local residents and outsiders that supported racial segregation.

US Marshals were ordered to the campus to enforce the court order. They were quickly outnumbered and assaulted by the mobs who at times numbered over 2,000 people. The mob used fire bombs, gunfire, stones and bricks in their attacks. One-hundred and sixty of the marshals were injured while performing their duties. There was even one incident where the chief US Marshal accompanying Mr. Meredith was blocked from the registrar building by the Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi, commanding a platoon of Mississippi State Police.

Local National Guard units were federalized and brought in to assist the US Marshals. Being comprised of local citizen soldiers, they were also ineffective at suppressing the mobs that formed to block Mr. Meredith's access to the campus. It was then that President John F. Kennedy made the decision to federalize the regular military and send them in to gain control the situation.

Before it was over, the unrest resulted in a lightning invasion of Mississippi by 30,000 U.S. combat troops, which was more soldiers than the U.S. had in Korea, and six times more soldiers than were stationed in Berlin, Germany. The operation resulted in 375 military and civilian casualties, 300 civilian arrests, and two innocent civilians being killed in circumstances that are a mystery to this day.

On 30 September 1962 720th MP BN of the 89th MP BDE was one of three regular Army Military Police Battalions ordered to deploy to Oxford, Mississippi in response to President Kennedy's call to federalize the U. S. Military to assist in ending the civil unrest.



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