



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
HEADQUARTERS, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION
HARRISBURG MILITARY POST
14TH & CALDER STREETS
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17103-1297

Exhibit D1

TEDCG

2 February 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR President, State Armory Board of Pennsylvania

SUBJECT: Harrisburg Military Post, Building 1 Keystone Room Name Dedication

1. The purpose of this correspondence is to obtain approval from the State Armory Board of Pennsylvania to rename Harrisburg Military Post, Building 1 Keystone Room after Major General James E. Rudder. As a Lieutenant Colonel, Major General Rudder successfully commanded the 2nd Ranger Battalion during the historic Pointe du Hoc battle of the Normandy invasion and later commanded 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Budge. Major General Rudder was highly decorated during World War II and the Cold War for his gallantry and I strongly support dedicating the Keystone Room in his name.
2. Major General Rudder commissioned into the Army Reserves as a Second Lieutenant Infantry Officer after graduating from Texas A&M in 1932 and was ordered to active duty in 1941. In June 1943, he was assigned to organize and train the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. On June 6, 1944, then Lieutenant Colonel Rudder and 'Rudder's Rangers' assaulted the beaches at Pointe du Hoc. They climbed the 100 foot cliffs, destroyed six 155mm German batteries which threatened the entire U.S. invasion force from Omaha to the Utah beaches, and disrupted German counter-attacks for two days until relieved.
3. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder positioned himself in the lead boat for optimal command and control of his Rangers, despite orders from the 1st Division Commander forbidding Lieutenant Colonel Rudder to move with the offensive. The Rangers used rocket propelled grapnel hooks, ropes, and ladders to scale the cliffs. The German defenders were surprised by the improbable assault and responded by cutting the ropes, dropping grenades down the slope, and placing direct machine gun fire on the Ranger positions. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder and his Rangers continued their assault on Pointe du Hoc and had American Soldiers atop the cliffs within ten minutes of the beach landing. The battalion's casualty rate for the mission was greater than 50 percent and Lieutenant Colonel Rudder was wounded twice during the course of the fight. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder's leadership and the Rangers of 2nd Battalion successfully established a beachhead for the Allied forces. He and his Rangers went on to fight in Brittany, France, and the Hurtgen Forest in Germany. The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions were each awarded a Presidential Unit Citation. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder received the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest military award, for his leadership and heroism during D-Day.
4. In December 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Rudder received transfer orders to become commander of the 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division in Luxembourg. The regiment protected 10.3 miles of the Allies' 75-mile front line. On December 16, 1944, German forces launched an offensive attack with the intention to divide the Allied forces advancing into

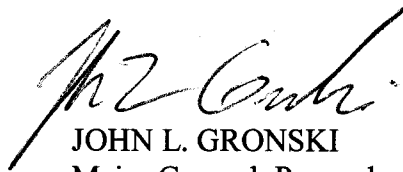
TEDCG

SUBJECT: Harrisburg Military Post, Building 1 Keystone Room Name Dedication

Germany and to cut their supply routes. When the German attack commenced, Lieutenant Colonel Rudder's regiment established strong points in abandoned villages of the Ardennes Forest along the Sûre River, but the 4,985 Soldiers were outnumbered 10 to one by German troops approaching from the river's north bank. Despite the odds, 109th Infantry Regiment held the line by utilizing Lieutenant Colonel Rudder's plan to utilize the high vantage points of the hills and ridges to defeat the Germans. The Battle of the Bulge continued into January 1945. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder, 109th Infantry Regiment, and the Allied forces regained ground from the German advance and German troops eventually lacked sufficient fuel and ammunition to continue. The German forces withdrew their offensive attacks.

5. It is my intent to honor Major General James Rudder's exemplary leadership and courageousness while assigned to 2nd Ranger Battalion and 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division during World War II. A naming dedication for Building 1 Keystone Room is a fitting tribute for this heroic 28th Infantry Division warrior. I request the Keystone Room be named the "Major General James E. Rudder Conference Room."

6. The point of contact for this memorandum is CPT Brian R. Marquardt at 717-787-5113 or email at brian.r.marquardt.mil@mail.mil.



JOHN L. GRONSKI
Major General, Pennsylvania Army
National Guard
Commanding