



PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Denny Hair, dressed as Gen. George Patton, hears a war story Friday from Bill Johnson, a veteran and member of the 90th Infantry Division, during the rededication of the division's headquarters at Fort Sam Houston. The building was memorialized as the Gen. Richard G. Stilwell U.S. Army Reserve Center.

## Stilwell, 90th ARCOM honored

By Jim Hutton  
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The 90th U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters in San Antonio was memorialized Friday in honor of Gen. Richard Stilwell, a commander in the 90th Infantry Division in World War II.

As part of South Texas' continuing events heralding the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, a ceremony honoring Stilwell was held at the same time "Tough 'Ombre" veterans of the 90th Division association were enjoying their 77th reunion in the Alamo City.

As many veterans wore their crimson and white hats bearing the "T-O" patch, U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, gave the keynote address in front of the 90th ARCOM headquarters, on Harry Wurzbach Highway near Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

"General Stilwell and thousands of privates (in the 90th Infantry Division fighting in Europe) gave us a world of hope," Gonzalez said in his speech.

The congressman referred to events in September 1945 as either "the twilight of peace or the dawn of humanity" as the war ended after the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and the Cold War eventually started.

"But today we have hope, knowing the price of war is high and the benefit of peace is higher," Gonzalez added in his speech.

With the general's widow, Alice Stilwell, and their grown children in attendance, a dedication plaque was unveiled at the entrance of the headquarters.

It read: "Soldiering is the only profession I know. Service to my country in war and peace, at home and abroad has been the alpha and omega of my exist-

ence," Stilwell wrote on Nov. 1, 1976.

The headquarters, also dedicated as the Gen. Richard G. Stilwell United States Army Reserve Memorial Center, was presented an oil painting of Stilwell to be placed in the foyer.

Stilwell was assigned to the 90th Division at the outbreak of World War II, serving in several command positions. His military career spanned 39 years and 14 campaigns in three wars — World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

When the 90th ARCOM was established in 1967, more than 60 percent of its personnel had served in the 90th Division. The first ARCOM commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Travis, had been the last 90th Division commander.

Many of the 90th Infantry Division Association members watched the dedication from bleachers set up near the headquarter's entrance.

"We have 5,000 members in the association," said Travis Hall, association president from Neola, Iowa.

"We held another reunion in San Antonio in 1991 when General Stilwell spoke to the group," Hall added. Stilwell died on Christmas Day in 1991 at the age of 74.

"This is a special event in itself," Hall said, referring to the dedication ceremony, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and the reunion in San Antonio, the home of the 90th Division.

The division was activated during World War I at Camp Travis near Fort Sam Houston.

But Hall said association members were sad about the 90th ARCOM headquarters move next year to Little Rock, Ark., as part of Army Reserve restructuring.

The 90th ARCOM in San Antonio will become the 90th Regional Support Group.