



# ***News Release***

**U.S. ARMY FIELD SUPPORT COMMAND**

**January 24, 2006**

## King's message remains alive



ROCK ISLAND, Ill. -- In a conference room filled with people of every race and cultural background, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s hope for a better America remains alive.

That's the message sent by Col. Barrye L. Price, during the "A Martin Luther King, Jr. Presentation" held on the Rock Island Arsenal Jan. 20.

The theme for this year's Army Field Support Command event was "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off."

Price, who holds a doctorate degree in history, serves as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G1, for the Army Materiel Command in Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Dr. King was a voice of the voiceless, a prolific writer, confronter of the status quo 'Jim Crow' laws. Many held him as a champion for the cause of racial equality in the South. Today, I propose two things. I want to speak about the man behind the legend. I would like to speak of a giant who only stood 5 foot, 6 inches. I want to emphasize the King who lived according to the Army's warrior ethos: He always placed the mission first; he never accepted defeat; he never quit; he never left a fallen comrade behind.

"Secondly and more importantly, I hope to talk about King's role in American history vice African-American history."

Price spoke of a young King noticing his world being made up of two versions: black and white/haves and have nots. King lived in a middle-class African American home located on a hill in Atlanta, away from poverty but not from racism.

"Knowledge, once coupled with truth, opened the world to him," he said.

King had the same thoughts, joys, fears, and general emotions as any other man, Price said.

"His home was bombed. He was arrested. At times, he wanted to quit. He was human," he said.

King realized his greatest strength came from within and through his faith during his darkest hours such as his prison time in Birmingham, Ala.

"Probably his greatest civil rights victory was the Birmingham campaign," he said. "During his prison stay, he wrote his famous letter from the Birmingham Jail aimed at answering clergymen's questioning the reason for the struggle. This is where King said, 'Injustice anywhere is an attack on justice everywhere.'"

Price spoke on how King and other civil rights leaders held non-violence workshops and that King, in fighting for poverty-stricken residents in Chicago, moved his family into a housing project for six months.

Price concluded his thoughts on King, by reflecting on the leader and his life.

"Let us remember that one man can make a difference," he said. "Dr. King received 20 honorary doctorate degrees and he was also arrested over 30 times."

Upon completing his remembrance of King, Price participated in a question and answer session with audience members. One member asked what King would have to say concerning race relations and poverty if still alive today.

"He would be pleased with the progress we have made on many fronts, but he would also be disappointed at some of the leadership. Overall, I believe he would have been pleased with the direction of the country, knowing we could still improve," he said. "That's what's great about America. It continues to be the great social experiment."

In his concluding remarks, the host, AFSC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, said King served as a beacon of light for the world.

"Dr. King is one of a long line of very inspirational people throughout our world's history," he said. "You need people like Dr. King to affect people's heart."

After the event, Johnson presented Price with a plaque and AFSC commander's coin.

AFSC will celebrate Black History Month featuring several events.

**— Darryl Howlett, AFSC  
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