

GREEN CARD SOLDIER

An Historic Adventure Novel

by **Bruce E. Zielsdorf**

Foreward

While Chief of Army Public Affairs, I worked closely with Bruce Zielsdorf when he led the charge to revitalize the Army's public relations effort in New York City – the media capital of the world. With a limited staff and resources, Bruce was relentless in his efforts to tell the Army story through the achievements of Soldiers, veterans and family members across the country and around the globe. It's not surprising, then, his first novel would follow the exploits of a naive Bosnian teen who eventually joins the Army to earn his U.S. citizenship while coming to grips with the horrendous upheavals in his homeland.

Defense Department officials estimate there are currently 30,000-plus non-citizens (about 1.6 percent of the force) serving on active duty. More than 4,100 of these Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine warriors deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Many were wounded in the line of duty and some made the ultimate sacrifice for this great Nation.

Since the Revolutionary War, it's not been uncommon for refugees to take pride in America and want to show their patriotism by serving. Although newspaper, magazine and blog coverage of “green card” troops has been extensive, little has been done to tell the story through the heart and mind of a *Green Card Soldier*. That's what this literary voyage does. The book's theme is as fundamental as the core values of any American Soldier: Life can become richer and

everyone become stronger when we look beyond stereotypes and appreciate each other for the unique individuals we are.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John G. Meyer, Jr.

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Publisher's Note: *General Meyer is a proud and dedicated Soldier with 33 years of distinguished service to his credit. He's also the author of Company Command: The Bottom Line, an authoritative leadership text widely used throughout the Defense Department.*