

# Duty **1** First!

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families

June 2008  
[www.lid.army.mil](http://www.lid.army.mil)

Forging Friendships

Battle Readiness

Train to Recovery



**World War I  
Highlighted**



# The Big Red One Creed

**T**EAMWORK is the foundation of the Big Red One. I shall never fail my team, for I maintain the standard. My conduct and self-discipline sets the example for others to follow.

**H**ONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain-of-command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

I have learned to **E**NDURE, to thrive in adversity. The harsh reality of combat gives me the enthusiasm for realistic training. I am physically and mentally strong to meet the demanding situations my unit encounters.

We are one in the Big Red One. Our **B**ROTHERHOOD gives us strength to fight on to any objective and accomplish the mission as our veterans have done before us. I live the legacy of my division.

**R**EADINESS is my priority. To be ready for any mission, anytime, anywhere. My business is first-class training and living high standards of care and equipment, weaponry and tactical and technical competence.

My **O**RGANIZATION is my strength. The BRO is bigger than any one individual. It gives me purpose, self-confidence, competitive spirit, intestinal fortitude and the desire to fight with all my heart.



**Duty 1 First!**

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

June 2008

www.1id.army.

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Photo by: Petty Officer 3rd Class David Quillen

# Commanding General **Danger 6**

## Know our Soldiers...

### Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin

If you glance at our war chart on page 12, you'll see that the 1st Infantry Division is operating at full speed. We're either training for deployment, deploying, or redeploying, but we are definitely not standing still.

This high operating tempo causes stress and strain for all of us Soldiers and our Families – no doubt about it. That stress and strain can turn deadly seemingly at the drop of a dime. Soldiers kill themselves. Soldiers get angry at home and turn on the very Family that normally sustains them.

As leaders or fellow Soldiers, we can say that we never saw it coming, that Specialist So-and-So never showed any indication that he was contemplating suicide or was suffering through bouts of depression or anger. But the truth is that we must assume all of us are susceptible to suicide and causing domestic abuse, because it's true.

Once we accept this, we can then focus on identifying our brothers and sisters who are struggling, and we can understand the importance of helping. Let me be clear: this is a Big Red One Soldier's DUTY, and it is the most important Duty of all. Life is very difficult as it is, and when we ask our Soldiers and Families to also cope with repeated long deployments, some are going to be challenged beyond their personal capabilities.

As leaders, we must know our Soldiers. We must understand that when a Soldier is not performing to standard, it could very well be a problem in his or her personal life. We must care about Soldiers' personal lives. It is not being nosy or infringing on Soldiers' privacy. It is Caring, with a capital C.

As fellow Soldiers, we know our buddies better than anyone. We see the warning signs first. We hear about the Dear John letter first. We know that he or she has lost their appetite. And when we see these indicators, we must act. We cannot think the problem will pass on its own, because usually it doesn't. Too many Soldiers die because someone saw an indicator but did not act quickly enough. Nobody wants to commit suicide or abuse their Family, but if they think nobody cares, then it happens. Be that person who heeds the call of Duty, takes the initiative and saves a life.



It is our Duty – all of us, leaders and fellow Soldiers alike – to be able to recognize the signs of stress and strain, and to know the resources we have available to help ourselves and each other.

The first resource is our own leadership. Nobody knows what you are experiencing like your own leaders who have likely walked the same paths of stress and strain before you. Our leaders can offer guidance and support that fit the individual Soldier, because they know the Soldier well.

Other resources include the unit Chaplain, who offers a private shoulder to lean on, a sympathetic ear, and knows of special resources available to Soldiers and Families.

Some of the most important of those extra resources are:

**Military & Family Life Consultants:** Licensed clinical providers who assist with issues through the cycle of deployment – from separation to reintegration and beyond.

**Family Advocacy Program:** Strengthens Family functioning and self-sufficiency of military Families, and specializes in assistance for domestic abuse situations.

**Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST):** Provides skills that help us identify those at risk of suicide and gives us tangible skills to truly help.

For more information on any of these programs please call (785) 239-9435 at Fort Riley, (254) 286-6774 at Fort Hood, (580) 442-6458 at Fort Sill, and (502) 624-6291 at Fort Knox. If you are deployed, you have special resources available to you. If you are a Soldier or leader, learn what they are and help spread the word about their availability. You may save a life or lives.

The Army has long prided itself on what we have always considered our Duty to "take care of our own." We understand better than anyone those truly difficult challenges we face. We understand our Duty to prevent suicide and domestic abuse.

As a member of the Big Red One Family, it is our most important Duty to take care of our brothers and sisters, to take care of our own. This is what should come to your mind every time you hear these two words:

**DUTY FIRST!**

# Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

## History to be proud of!

### Division Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne

This is a great opportunity to extend my appreciation in being selected as the 20th Division Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Infantry Division.

Since June 8, 1917 the storied Big Red One has represented the American way of life as the premier Division on the battlefield.

It is with great honor and pride that I serve along side of every Soldier – past, present and future – that has worn the Big Red One patch.

The 1st Infantry Division is deep in its history and it continues to write new chapters' everyday while serving in the Global War on Terrorism.

The legacy of our great Division should never be forgotten.

I challenge all Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division to become well versed in its history. I'll be checking.

Also, I ask that all units plant your flags and sing with gusto the 1st Infantry Division Song. Let those who are not familiar with the Big Red One know that your unit is in town.

General Creighton W. Abrams made note of the character of the 1st Infantry Division when he stated "The First Infantry Division, more than any other Division in our Army represents the constancy of these essential values of mankind – humility, courage, dedication and sacrifice.

The world has changed a lot, but this Division continues to serve as it had in the beginning."

These are powerful words from a warrior commander about a Division that continues to embody every Soldier who serves with the Big Red One.

I ask that all 1st Infantry Division Soldiers make every day count and let every day be an opportunity to contribute to the amazing legacy of the Big Red One.



GET AFTER IT!

DUTY FIRST!

Danger 7





**Spc. Dustin Roberts**  
**1st BDE, PAO**

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – A cloud of smoke fills the air and a convoy of Transition Team members speeds up after an improvised explosive device detonates. Paintballs fly at the vehicles and AK-47 fire echoes through the area. Although the IED and the rounds weren't real, the team's reaction to the ambush was.

Transition Team training, conducted by the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, is a 60-day polishing of individual Soldier skills, teamwork skills and combat advisor skills.

When the training is complete, the 11- to 16-Servicemember teams deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan to mentor and train host-nation security forces.

How does 1st Bde ensure that teams keep their eyes open and their weapons ready throughout the training period? It gives them an "enemy."

Forward Operating Base Army Strong at Camp Funston is the Transition Teams' headquarters. They drive assigned Humvees to conduct various missions on many other training areas on Fort Riley.

As soon as the teams gear up and leave FOB Army Strong, they are subject to attacks from opposing forces.

"The teams don't just go out once. They go out many times and we hit them from different points with different scenarios," said Sgt. Daniel Lehner, the 1st Bde OPFOR noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "We'll set up complex ambushes to help them train for the roads in theater."

The OPFOR team consists of nine Soldiers equipped with AK-47s, paintball guns and "slam kits," or simulated IEDs filled with carbon dioxide and talcum powder.

"We are out there to give them a sense of realism," said Spc. Kent Johnson, an OPFOR Soldier. "They get the bang effect; the loud noise on the battlefield feeling."

When the fight is over the training stops and the Soldiers gather for a standard after-action review.

The OPFOR tells the Soldiers what they did right and what they need to improve on, such as vehicle spacing, returning fire and providing security, Lehner said.

"They learn to react to the different scenarios and it pretty much beats it into their brain on what they need to do and what they should sustain," he said. "The AARs help a lot because critiquing them continuously is the best way to sustain their knowledge on attacks from the enemy."

The OPFOR sets up the mock-roadside bombs and waits in the bushes for a team to travel their way.



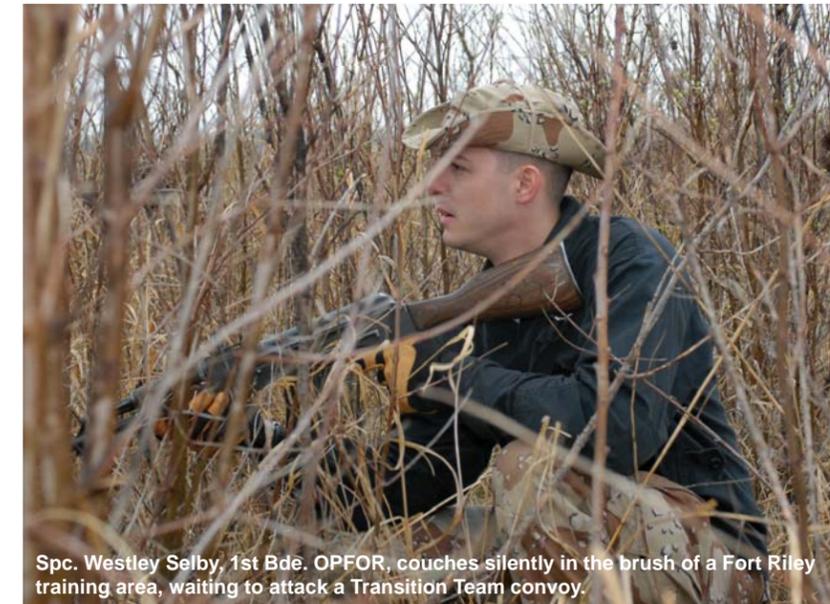
"The element of surprise here is what gets them ready," said Spc. Aaron Johnson, another OPFOR soldier. "When they drive around in theater they will never know what's going to happen. Just that sudden shock of being attacked helps condition a quicker and thought-out response."

The OPFOR Soldiers say they really enjoy pretending to be the enemy and helping Transition Teams maintain the skills needed for the real-world mission.

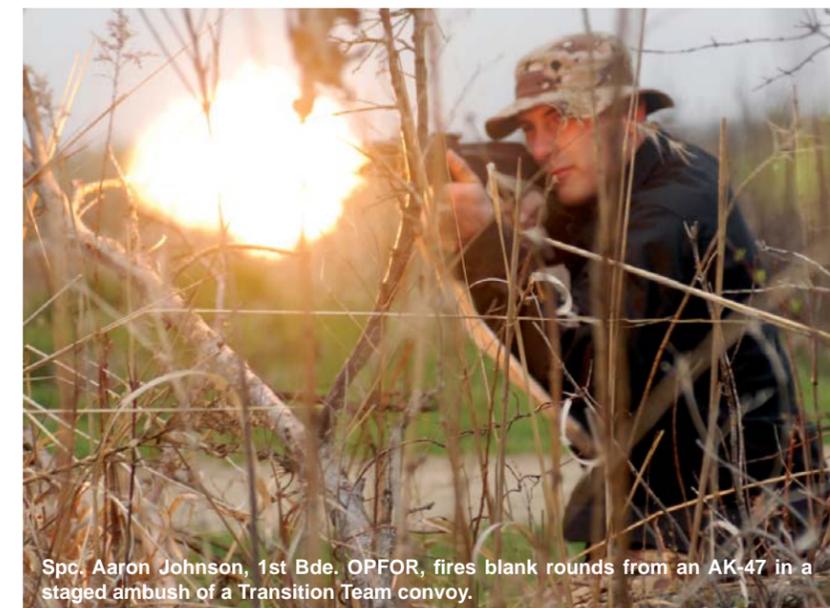
"It's actually a lot of fun and very rewarding to go out every day and shoot at stuff and contribute to giving these guys some training," Johnson said. "Hopefully they'll be a little more prepared for theater." 



Spc. Aaron Johnson, 1st Bde. OPFOR, sets up a mock-IED before a Transition Team ambush.



Spc. Westley Selby, 1st Bde. OPFOR, couches silently in the brush of a Fort Riley training area, waiting to attack a Transition Team convoy.



Spc. Aaron Johnson, 1st Bde. OPFOR, fires blank rounds from an AK-47 in a staged ambush of a Transition Team convoy.



Spc. Bryan Warriner, 1st Bde. OPFOR, works on a mock-IED while preparing to attack Transition Teams in training.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> HBCT BATTLE READINESS

**Sgt. Brian Tierce**  
2nd HBCT, PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – Recently, the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted its first exercise under its new designation. The warfighter exercise was a test of the brigade’s battle readiness and tested the brigade and its subordinate battalions in a number of combat-critical areas.

One of the critical elements of the exercise was the addition of a special guest to the brigade combat team. Retired Gen. William W. Crouch, former vice chief of staff of the Army, served as the senior mentor to Col. Norbert B. Jocz, commander, 2nd HBCT. Throughout the exercise Crouch not only observed the training, he also shared his knowledge with each part of the organization.

“The brigade staff mirrors the same level of professionalism and cohesion that I have seen inside the command group,” said Crouch, “As long as you are a part of that type of an organization, you can do anything.”

The exercise itself was a simulated invasion of a fictitious nation by another nation, similar to that of the

Gulf War. The brigade then conducted an operation to free the overwhelmed nation from the invading forces.

“The decisive operation was civil security; you all embraced that and ran with it,” said Brig. Gen Keith Walker, 1st Inf. Div. assistant division commander of operations.

“Everything you did in terms of planning and preparation and execution, that was superb.”

Some of the battle simulations that tested the skills and knowledge of the brigade, battalion and squadron leadership included a sand table simulation, casualty tracking, media interaction and fire support.

“You can mass power and effect on a decisive point, stay focused the way that you have been and you will be just fine,” said Crouch.

Following the exercise, a final review was conducted where each member of the brigade staff, as well as the battalion leadership, described the challenges they faced during the exercise.

Each leader also described what they think will be the key to helping the brigade commander see the whole battlefield during the upcoming National Training Center rotation and beyond.

“The Army has provided you with the resources for two events. This is one of the two, the other is NTC,” said Walker. “You took full advantage of those resources. The brigade met all of its training objectives, so very well done on that.”

Col. Norbert Jocz, former commander, 2nd HBCT, speaks to the battalion commanders of the brigade during a sand table exercise.



**U.S. ARMY**

*Be* **ARMY STRONG**

# 3RD IBCT

# MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION

**Staff Sgt. David Hopkins**  
3rd IBCT, PAO

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – Big Red One Soldiers competed in the 2008 All Army Small Arms Championships and showed off some of their battle skills earlier this spring at Fort Benning, Ga.

Six Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, and 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, ran, crouched, crawled and shot for 12 days against competitors from around the country.

"Of the 34 teams that started, only 18 finished. The 'Duke' Brigade Team finished in ninth place (in the novice category) and was first among the three active duty units (3/1 ID, 3/25 ID, and 3-75 Ranger)," said Lt. Col. Brett Jenkinson, commander 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt.

The team consisting of Staff Sgt. Archie Rollins, Co B., 1-26; Sgt. Craig Tanner, Co. B., 1-26; Sgt. Brandon Farley, Co. A, 1-26; Spc. Alexander Couret, Co. F, 1-26; Pfc. Lemine Dia, Co. F, 1-26; and Cpl. Richard Marshal, Trp. B, 6-4 Cav. competed in three different events during their time at Fort Benning. Each event challenged the Soldiers in different ways, but each event called upon all their skills with weapons.

"We competed against everyone from West Point, to Bradford University; it was a really big variety of shooters," Rollins said.

One-hundred sixty participants, making up 34 teams, competed in the competition. They were divided into three levels by their experience. The novice class was for shooters who have never competed or haven't competed in the past two years. The open class was for shooters who competed at some point in the past two years, but haven't won a competition. The pro class was for shooters who competed and won in the past two years.

"The six representatives from 3/1 competed in the novice category, taking ninth place in this category," Rollins said.

Adjusting to the level of competition was tough for some of the Soldiers in the beginning of the contest, but they adjusted as the days wound down and rounds were fired.

"For the first two days, the intimidation factor affected the younger guys; they were just nervous. You could tell by the way they were shooting...nerves," Rollins said.

"By the end of the match they weren't intimidated anymore and even were taking tips and guidance on how to shoot better."

There were different phases the Soldiers competed in, each stage challenging different shooting skills and each one more difficult than the previous. They also had the additional challenge of firing two weapon systems, the M-4 carbine and a pistol.

For the next phase of the competition, the Commander's Cup, only the top 18 teams were able to compete. This stage consisted of the competitors running 1.5 miles wearing full battle gear and then firing their weapons on a move-and-shoot range. They had three 10-round magazines in this event and could fire from any body position, but Soldiers had to move quickly to be competitive.

The Soldiers did more than show off their shooting skills during their time at Fort Benning; they also learned some lessons and honed their skills, skills they can take with them and use in other competitions and on the battle field.

"The thing I've learned the most is patience and confidence. If you have confidence in yourself and the weapons system you can shoot anything," Rollins said. "There were a lot of things that were brought to light and they take those things and make it better next year." 



Sgt. Craig Tanner, Co. B 1-26, fires his M-4 during the 2008 All Army Small Arms Championships at Fort Benning, Ga. Six Soldiers from the 3rd IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., competed in the competition, which included firing rifles and pistols at targets of various ranges and from various body positions.



A Soldier from 3rd IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., focuses on his target as a spotter checks to see where his rounds are hitting the target at the 2008 All Army Small Arms Championships at Fort Benning, Ga. The six-Soldier team finished 9th in the novice level of the competition.



**Spc. Francisca Vega**  
1st Inf. Div., PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – Many more Big Red One patches can be seen on the right sleeves of Soldiers stationed at Fort Riley.

Since the return of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, “Dragon” Soldiers have been busy reintegrating with their Families and community. But with another deployment on the distant horizon, the resetting phase of post-deployment will serve to get the brigade back on mission’s track.

“Resetting is a time to make sure all your administrative ducks are in order and get back into the garrison groove,” said Capt. Kirk Olson, a newly-redeployed physician assistant with 1st Sqdn., 4th Cavalry Regt.

Half-day schedules are common for newly-redeployed units so Soldiers have enough time to get individual issues, like medical and dental, taken care of.

“You don’t get the chance when you’re down there because you’re busy all the time,” said 1st Sgt. Ralph Miller, first sergeant for Headquarter and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. “So this helps everybody get their issues resolved if they have any.”

After Soldiers have “taken care” of themselves, platoons and company-level units can start to benefit

from resetting.

“Company systems will start to be re-established,” said 1st Sgt. John Williamson, first sergeant for Special Troops Battalion, 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div. “PT test, urinalysis, height and weight: it’s all a part of resetting and will all have to be re-established.”

Individual training is also highlighted during the reset phase. Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) training, along with leadership enhancing training and civilian education takes precedence during the reset phase.

Soldiers will have training in their specific MOS field during the reset phase, added Williamson.

Because resetting is for bringing not only unit personnel back to combat capabilities but also unit equipment up to standard, time is needed to ensure proper maintenance is performed.

“Without proper resetting we wouldn’t be able to train and be focused for our next mission,” said Capt. Chad Edlund, company commander for 4-1 STB. “Right now we are at 100 percent combat veterans, but a lot of our key personnel will be moving and we will get a lot of new Soldiers.”

The current time allotted for a standard reset phase is 180 days, but daily operations don’t stop there.

“At the end of six months we’ll be ready to train for deployment,” Williamson said.



# 1st Infantry Division at War

## 1st Infantry Division

Oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army. Over 8,000 Soldiers in three brigades and multiple subordinate units deployed.

Primarily located in Fort Riley, Kan.; training responsibility extends to three other states: Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas.

Preparing for modularization in summer/fall FY09, with deployment thereafter.

### 1st Brigade, Fort Riley

Trains transition team. So far more than 7,000 servicemembers trained and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 1,200 redeployed.

Transition Teams live and work with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Afghan National Army (ANA).

Scheduled to modularize FY09.

### 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Knox

Returned from deployment in fall 2006.

Provide theater logistics command and control for the theater commander supporting the Army Forces (ARFOR) and Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) mission.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom May 2008.

### 75th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill

Integrates attached ground and air maneuver forces and on order functions as a maneuver headquarters in support of full spectrum operations.

Separate battalions currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Re-deployed from support of Operation Iraqi Freedom April 2008.

Recently completed combat and civil military operations in conjunction with Iraqi Army and Police in the Rashid District of Baghdad to restore and ensure long term peace and stability in that region.

### 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley

Preparation for rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., in early summer 2008.

Scheduled to deploy in summer/fall 2008.

### 1st Combat Aviation Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Conducts 360-degree battlefield operations with cutting edge technology to support ground troops.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom October 2007.

### 1st Sustainment Brigade, Iraq

Provides logistic, human resource and financial management for 80,000 Soldiers and 20,000 civilians and contractors throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad and area support for Multi-National Division-Central.

Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom September 2007.

### 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Hood

One of the Army’s newest brigades, recently returned from the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

Deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom June 2008.



# History of the Big Red One

History from the Society of the 1st Infantry Division webpage

**WORLD WAR I** – The First Expeditionary Division was constituted in May 1917 from Army units then in service on the Mexican border and at various Army posts throughout the United States. On June 8, 1917 it was officially organized in New York, N.Y. This date is the 1st Infantry Division's official birthday. The first units sailed from New York and Hoboken, N.J., June 14, 1917. Throughout the remainder of the year, the rest of the Division followed, landing at St. Nazaire, France, and Liverpool, England. After a brief stay in rest camps, the troops in England proceeded to France, landing at Le Havre. The last unit arrived in St. Nazaire on Dec. 22. Upon arrival in France, the Division, less its artillery, was assembled in the First (Gondrecourt) training area, and the artillery was at Le Valdahon.

On the July 4th, the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, paraded through the streets of Paris to bolster the sagging French spirits. At Lafayette's tomb, one of General Pershing's staff uttered the famous words, "Lafayette, we are here!" Two days later, July 6, the First Expeditionary Division was redesignated the 1st Infantry Division. On the morning of Oct. 23, the first American shell of the war was sent screaming toward German lines by Battery C, 6th Field Artillery. Two days later, the 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., suffered the first American casualties of the war.

By April 1918, the Germans had pushed to within 40 miles of Paris. In reaction to this thrust, the Big Red One moved into the Picardy Sector to bolster the exhausted French First Army. To the Division's front lay the small village of Cantigny, situated on

the high ground overlooking a forested countryside. It was the 28th Infantry who attacked the town and within 45 minutes captured it, along with 250 German soldiers, thus earning the special designation "Lions of Cantigny" for the regiment. The first American victory of the war was a First Division victory.

The First Division took Soissons in July 1918. The Soissons victory was costly - more than 7,000 men were killed or wounded. The 1st Infantry Division then helped to clear the St. Mihiel salient by fighting continuously from Sept. 11-13, 1918. The last major World War I battle was fought in the Meuse-Argonne Forest. The Division advanced seven kilometers and defeated, in whole or part, eight German divisions. This action cost the First Division over 7,600 casualties. In October 1918, the Big Red One patch as it is now known was officially approved for wear by members of the Division.

The war was over when the Armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918. The Division was then located at Sedan, the farthest American penetration of the war. The Division was the first to cross the Rhine into occupied Germany, where it remained until the peace treaty formally ending WW I was signed. It deployed back to the United States in August and September.

By the end of the war, the Division had suffered 22,668 casualties and boasted five Medal of Honor recipients. Its colors carry campaign streamers for: Montdidier-Noyon; Aisne-Marne; St. Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne; Lorraine 1917; Lorraine, 1918; Picardy, 1918. 

**DUTY FIRST**

MONTDIDIER - NOYON 1918

AISNE - MARNE 1918

The first wave of the 28th Infantry in the attack on Cantigny



Gun placements for the Soisson Battle



ST. MIHIEL 1918

MEUSE - ARGONNE 1918

U.S. Soldiers waiting to receive treatment as a result of their being gassed



Bringing in German Prisoners of War

LORRAINE - 1917

LORRAINE - 1918

PICARDY - 1918

Fighting in the Argonne Forest



1st Engineers returning from the Argonne Forest



Photos courtesy of the 1st ID Museum

# 1<sup>ST</sup> CAB

# A Million Gallons

**Spc. Michael Howard**  
1st CAB, PAO

**....these “pit-stops” to restock fuel and ammunition are made possible by the Soldiers of the COB Speicher FARP.**



Spc. Kristopher D. Pope, a fueler with Company B of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, rearms an AH-64D Apache Longbow.

**COB, SPEICHER, IRAQ** – Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald C. Porter may not be a millionaire, but he did happen to be the pilot to receive Contingency Operating Base Speicher’s millionth gallon of fuel, courtesy of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion’s dedicated Forward Arming and Refueling Point Soldiers.

How did it feel to be the lucky pumper?

“Pretty much a lot like pumping the first one and every one after,” said Spc. Kristopher D. Pope, a fueler with Company E of the 601st ASB.

When troops on the ground need the help of attack helicopters, it is essential those aircraft spend as little time away from the fight as possible. For the aircraft of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, these “pit stops” to restock fuel and ammunition are made possible by the Soldiers of the COB Speicher FARP.

The COB Speicher FARP is manned by the Soldiers of the 601st. In a best-case scenario, pilots call the FARP over the radio with their arrival time and detail the needs of their aircraft - which range from refueling and loading rockets to light maintenance such as unjamming a gun or de-arming an aircraft for test flights. However, the fuelers and armors don’t always receive that notice.

“We always have to be ready to go at a moment’s notice. In between missions, when all they need is fuel, we’ll have them in and out within two minutes. As soon as they are ready to land, they’ll call us up and let us know they’re coming. We’ll be out there waiting for them when they arrive and start fueling right away,” said Sgt. Gary A. Ruiz, a fueler at the COB Speicher FARP.

With no warning, time from touchdown to takeoff usually depends on the needs of the aircraft and its pilots. If the pilots only need fuel, the time is roughly three minutes. The fuelers achieve this speed by “hot-fueling,” or fueling the aircraft while its engines are still running. If they need rockets, missiles, or ammunition, the touchdown to takeoff timeline is about five minutes, depending on what and how much they need.

The armament section’s mission is twofold. They work on the aircraft outside of the standard refuel and rearm mission. Armament Soldiers can do aircraft or standard rearming, but either way, they work specifically on weapon systems. “They’ll arm different kinds of missiles and rockets. They do the headspace and timing on the .50 caliber (machine gun). Armament only works on Apaches and Kiowas. For the Black Hawks and Chinooks, they don’t come out,” said Spc. Martin C. Berend, a fueler with Co. B, 601st ASB.

When fueling, Soldiers attach a special nozzle, the D1, to the helicopter to begin fueling. The D1 keeps vapors from escaping; this reduces the chances of a fire breaking out.

While Soldiers are loading the aircraft with rockets and flares, a fire would be a calamity. With so much explosive potential, the FARP Soldiers use an array of safety measures to prevent disaster.

“The inherent danger brings about different challenges, mostly safety and issues with visibility, so we have to

practice vigilance in those situations using our personal protection equipment,” said Pope.

The Soldiers’ PPE ranges from glow sticks and eye protection to hearing protection and clothing, which is usually made of fire-retardant Nomex material.

“We double check these things for each individual. We also check our hoses, our fuel pumps, and our trucks, and ensure that those are in working order before we start operations,” said Berend.

Berend said he didn’t always enjoy his job as much as he does now, after a year and a half at the pump. Knowing the big picture and the part the FARP plays in the mission of the CAB makes his job much more fulfilling, he said.

“We’re it. That’s just the truth of the matter. I don’t intend any cockiness; it’s just that what we have, the brigade needs. We are that fuel that the squadron needs to accomplish their missions, no matter what those missions entail. These birds can’t fly without us. We’re just a small piece of the pie, but we’re important nonetheless,” said Berend.



# Forging Friendships

Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude  
1st SB, PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Earlier this spring, it started with a handshake between the 1st Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Kevin O’Connell, a native of Clinton, Md., and the Taji Base Commander, Staff Brigadier General Abdul Mahady Sharaque Sabah, a native of Diyala, Iraq.

“Today was the first meeting between the 1st Sustainment Brigade Commander and the Base Commander of Taji,” said Lt. Col. Mark Meyer, a native



1st Sustainment Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, trades contact information with the Taji Base Command Sgt. Maj. Saleh.

of Neillsville, Wis., and the senior advisor to the Logistics Military Assistance Team for Coalition Army Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, who was responsible for setting up the meeting. “It was important to put a face to the coalition side of Taji,” stated Meyer.

The two leaders sat down in Brig. Gen. Sabah’s office with some of their key staff and shared chai tea, discussed needs, and got to know one another. Sabah is a 27-year veteran of the Iraqi Army and was assigned to the role as Base Commander of Taji six months ago.

“We look forward to a partnership with General Sabah to improve the support he gives to his customers, the Iraqi units on Taji and in the surrounding area,” O’Connell said.

Taji is the largest Iraqi Army base in Iraq, with maintenance depots, supply depots, the 9th Division, and all their schools. General Sabah’s span of control and responsibility is huge, and his resources are scarce, O’Connell said.

“I have so many challenges; water, ice, fuel for power,” Sabah said. “But I am hopeful. I am looking forward to working with my counterparts in the 1st Sustainment Brigade.”

“We’re here in a partnership role to assist in teaching, coaching, and mentoring General Sabah’s staff in identifying their shortcomings, and then through training, to help develop a plan to improve their mission readiness posture,” O’Connell said.

“We’re trying to synergistically use the resources that the Iraqi Army has inherent to what they are doing and what they’ve built up for themselves over the last five years, and then linking Col. O’Connell and the 1st Sustainment Brigade’s Soldiers, resources, and expertise in an effort to marry these two groups up; again, with the goal of increasing General Sabah’s capabilities,” Meyers said.

“It’s a great team effort here; if only to help the base commander move forward with things that we can do to help with capabilities where we have expertise like supply,

maintenance, distribution, medical, and things that we share in our comparison roles,” said O’Connell.

The meeting lasted more than two hours and already there are plans for more meetings between the two respective commanders and their staffs in an effort to get the partnership moving and producing results.

“The 1st Sustainment Brigade was like a breath of fresh air coming in here to help; ‘We’re here to help you.’ They are partnering with their Iraqi neighbors here on Camp Taji. Everyone, from the brigade commander to the specialist I’ve run into, has been totally team-oriented,” stated Meyer.

“The Iraqi Soldiers work with very little, but they do a good job. They do their very best. They love their country,” stated Sabah. “It is my hope that our army will be equipped to the same level as the rest of the good Armies of the world, and that we will be powerful enough to protect our people and our country.”



Staff Brig. Gen. Abdul Mahady Sharaque Sabah, a native of Diyala, Iraq, and the base commander for Taji, greets Col. Kevin O’Connell, a native of Clinton, Md., and commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, outside Sabah’s office on Taji. “We look forward to a partnership with General Sabah to improve the support he gives to his customers; the Iraqi units on Taji and in the surrounding area,” stated O’Connell.

1st Sustainment Brigade Iraqi Security Force cell, officer in charge, Capt. Randall Weiser, along with Lt. Col. Mark Meyer, the senior advisor to the Logistics Military Assistance Team for Coalition Army Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq is offered a cup of chais tea at the office of Staff Brig. Gen. Sabah in Taji.



Taji Base commander, Staff Brig. Gen. Abdul Mahady Sharaque Sabah, discusses his needs with the command team of the 1st Sustainment Brigade. “I have so many challenges; water, ice, fuel for power,” stated Sabah. “But I am hopeful. I am looking forward to working with my counterparts at the 1st Sustainment Brigade.”





# 3RD ESC

## ALMOST HOME MILITARY CARE PACKAGE MISSION

**Pvt. Amanda Tucker**  
3rd ESC, PAO

**FORT KNOX Ky.** – Three college students stood for the first time in front of the Army formation – but not as part of the unit.

University of Louisville students Leslie Hall, Elizabeth Dowell and Monet Duke stood outside Gaffey Hall and handed out packages to Soldiers of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The packages were filled with items such as socks, CDs, magazines, candy, lotion, Girl Scout cookies, and much more as part of the Almost Home Military Care Package Mission in which the students were participating.

Each of the three addressed the Soldiers about their project.

“Please enjoy these packages,” Hall said. “They may not be much, but they signify a lot more.”

“Each item in the package has been touched by many people, all of whom came together with unity and patriotism to support the 3rd ESC and all the men and women that work to protect the very life we live,” she added.

The students’ mission was announced on seven Louisville-area radio stations and as a result, donations for care packages came from five counties.

“This project has been a wonderful experience for us to involve others in the community,” said Dowell. “By reaching out for help from different companies and organizations, we were able to spread the blessing received (by) serving others.”

“We invited our communities to join our cause through appearances on WHAS-11 (TV) news, and interviews and public service announcements on 88.5WJIE and 104.3 WXBC (radio). Very soon, we had more support than we had ever imagined possible and donations began to pour in from various locations.”

River City Bank, Farmer’s Bank, and Commonwealth Machining agreed to serve as donation drop-off locations.

The donations allowed the trio to achieve their goal of assembling and distributing 200 packages.

“For me, this project has been a chance to give back to an outstanding group of Americans who are largely unappreciated for the work they do to maintain the values this country was built on,” said Dowell.

The small group received generous donations from several churches, local companies, and organizations, in addition to national companies who donated items such as 300 tubes of Chapstick, 56 pounds of taffy, and 150 boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

About \$100 was left over from the cost of preparing the boxes and it will go to the Girl Scouts to purchase more cookies for the Soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, the 3rd ESC commander, awarded each of the students a 3rd ESC coin in recognition of and appreciation for their hard work.

“It made me feel great. I was so impressed with the effort that they put into it,” said Capt. Byron Kemp, the officer in charge of the 3rd ESC inspector general office. 



# TT MISSION

Transition Teams advise, teach, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces and the Afghan National Army



Transition Teams provide direct access to Coalition capabilities such as air support, artillery, medical evacuation, and intelligence gathering.



Transition Teams are critical to the transfer of security responsibility to the Iraqi and Afghan governments.



Dedicating the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and one of the Division’s Brigades to the Transition Team mission demonstrates full commitment by the US Army.



The consolidation of training at Fort Riley provides standardization of high quality training and effective use of resources.



# 75TH FIRES BDE



## Army Strong Bonds Training

Sgt 1st Class Kelly McCargo  
75th Fires, PAO

FORT SILL, Okla. – In a day and age when the military is experiencing increased deployments, the toll on the military family is a silent battle.

In an effort to put a professional ear to any silence, the 1-17 “Copperheads” Unit Ministry Team brought 72 spouses and their children to a Strong Bonds Training Event at Branson, Mo.

“I thought it was an awesome opportunity to get out of the town and spend some time with family and get some of the family wellness training,” said Amy Mclsaac, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Family readiness support assistant. “It’s important (to do this type of training) because sometimes there are people out there who may not be getting the help they need or questions answered.”

Strong Bonds is an Army program executed by



1st Bn., 17th FAR FRSG spouses pose for a quick photo during the Strong Bonds Army training event at Branson, Missouri

Chaplains designed to provide life training to young Soldiers and Families.

“This was really the brain child of my battalion commander,” said Chap. (Cpt.) Todd Cheney, 1st Bn., 17th FAR, unit minister. “He really feels that our Families are paying the toll for all of these in-lieu of missions. Because of the turbulence and unpredictability of the different missions, he said, ‘Can you think of training for the wives and dependants do something that will train up the families on some good life skills?’ Me and ... Amy Mclsaac talked it through.”

“(But) we also wanted to also give them some time to enjoy themselves too,” he said. “We planned a four-day Strong Bonds training event and we selected Branson because there are a lot of attractions there and it’s out of the Lawton/Fort Sill area—(the Families) were extremely receptive of it.”

The event was financed by the Army Strong Bonds Program, which was specifically designed for such events. It’s a way for the Army to say “thank you” for the sacrifices military families make every day, according to the Strong Bonds website.

During the mornings of the four-day training event, Cheney and Mclsaac conducted five family wellness seminars: Parents in a Healthy Family, Children in a Healthy Family, Adults in a Healthy Family, Change: in the Army Family, and Passing Family Values.

“During a Change survey of the families, over half of them said they have already experienced two deployments; some have even seen three or four deployments,” said Cheney.

Children 11-years-old and younger stayed with childcare providers, but the older children were welcomed to participate in the training alongside their parent.

“We had them do role-plays, on how to ask their mom and dad for things. We trained the parents on looking for and finding the positive and good things in their kids by getting to know their kids more—we had a lot of fun.”

I liked everything about it—me and my 12-year-old son have formed a better relationship,” said Crystal Abbott, 1st Bn., 17th FAR, spouse.

Prior to the training, Abbott’s eldest son had difficulty communicating his true feelings and seemed a little “distant,” she said.

“My sons had a great time, and they still talk about it,” Abbott said. “Branson was wonderful, and I recommend everyone goes there. I would definitely give it a ‘10’ and we would do it again!”

During the afternoon, Families and their children took in the sights of Branson, he said.

“There are so many attractions there, go carts and shows—so many fun things for the families to get involved in—Branson was the perfect location,” Cheney said. “At night, the Families took advantage of the hotel pool.”

While all entertainment during the trip was at their own expense, some of the Families attended the Haygood Family show, who provided special discounts to the military, as do many Branson attractions.

A seven brother and one sister act, the Haygood Family entertains audiences with musical acts and acrobatics. Their family act has been performing in Branson for about 16 years.

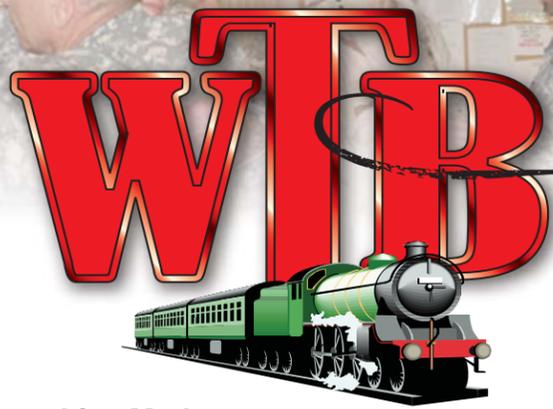
“We had a lot of fun going to the Haygood Family show. One of the ladies (in our group) was pulled on stage to perform in the show!” Mclsaac said. “The feedback we’ve been getting

from the Families has been very positive. Everyone enjoyed themselves and they are very appreciative to the battalion for taking the time to do this.”

Cheney is in the process of planning additional Strong Bonds but the Copperhead command has their “ear to the wall” for insight into the military spouses’ silent battle at Fort Sill and are looking for ways to aid in everyone being heard.



1st Bn., 17th FAR children are all smiles during a photo opportunity at Strong Bonds Army program at Branson, Mo.



# Train To Recovery

**Lisa Medrano**  
**IACH, PAO**

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – Meet Sgt. 1st Class Roy Hahn and his Family...and his extended Family. Hahn is part of a growing population of Soldiers being recognized by the Army community for contributions by him and his Family.

Hahn was on his fourth deployment to Iraq when he sustained serious injuries. His injuries have changed his life and that of his Family.

In 2006, during his third tour, his wife Miriam, fearing and planning for the unknown, employed her Family's strength to help during her husband's absence.

As the stars began to line up, Miriam's parents decided to sell their property and move to Kansas to be near the Hahns. Aaron and Sylvia Greenawalt were originally from South-central Pennsylvania and ready to retire.

"We have three daughters, and sometimes during Roy's deployments, I needed private time to cry and melt down. I did not always want the girls to see me at my weakest, so having my parents near has helped all of us," said Miriam.

As it worked out, Hahn finished the third tour and started another one. "It was during that tour, I learned my husband sustained three concussions and I began to notice his slurred and irregular speech.

Miriam begged Hahn to seek medical treatment, which he resisted, citing he had to take care of his Soldiers and lead missions.

So, how did Hahn wind up as a medical evacuee to Germany and Brooke Army Medical Center?

"I guess I fell down in front of the wrong people one too many times," said Hahn. Since his arrival back at Fort Riley and reassignment to the Warrior Transition Battalion, Hahn and his Family now focus on his recovery.

Because of Hahn's balance and equilibrium difficulties,

and frequent immobilizing migraines, Miriam quit her job to drive him to appointments. Hahn attends physical therapy three times each week and speech therapy twice a week.

When Miriam and Hahn are gone, the Greenawalts keep the home running and provide stability for the girls.

Hahn has noted the greatest improvements in his speech rehabilitation at Geary County Hospital.

"When I first got back to Fort Riley, I was a senior non-commissioned officer who was too embarrassed to speak," said Hahn. "I slurred everything I tried to say, or I could not say the words that were in my head."

Hahn – soft spoken, but serious – now speaks with confidence and determination. He is determined that his 14-year Army career will not end because of the temporary setback caused by his injuries.

"We have too much time invested, but we also love the Army and it is our way of life," said Miriam.

In the WTB, Hahn now hosts weekly luncheons with his 24th Transportation Company members who are also in the WTB. "Even though we now have the Army Medical Action Plan and the one-stop service center of the WTB and the Soldier and Family Assistance Center to help us, moving through medical boards, treatment plans and transitions is nothing less than daunting and intimidating," said Hahn.

Hahn holds the informal luncheons to help keep younger Soldiers focused and motivated throughout their medical proceedings.

"It is easy to lose sight of the importance of a worthy and meaningful daily routine when you are sick or ill. That is where self-doubt and pity set in and I hope to encourage younger Soldiers to stay focused on their new job—getting well again." 



***He is determined that his 14-year Army career will not end because of the temporary set back caused by his injuries.***

# Assisting Fort Riley

*Spc. Francisca Vega*  
1st Inf. Div., PAO

**JUNCTION CITY, Kan.** — White walls, white floors and white doors are not going to be what you see when you walk into Geary Community Hospital.

With its newly-renovated building and expanding addition designed with its patients' mood in mind, GCH is taking an added interest in patient comfort.

"The building wasn't comforting," said Cyndy Platt, director of Public Relations. It causes a lot of anxiety for the patients and their families, so the hospital is going with a more welcoming earth-tone design.

"We want the patients to feel like they are being pampered by a ritzy hotel when they come here," Platt added.

But a nicer interior is not the only thing Soldiers will have to look forward to. For many Soldiers with high hospital bills, GCH is looking at solving any possible issues with finance up front with their "Point of Service" program, in which some financial questions will be asked to determine the best available funding for the visit.

The financial questions will be asked at the beginning of the visit instead of at the end, which is common, said Mary Austin, assistant administrator of Physician Services.

People are apprehensive about receiving charity care, or other such aid sometimes, Austin continued. "They want to pay, but sometimes it's at the cost of other areas of their lives, or they don't pay at all."

This will hopefully eliminate sending people to collections, or having to send them unpaid bills, Platt added.

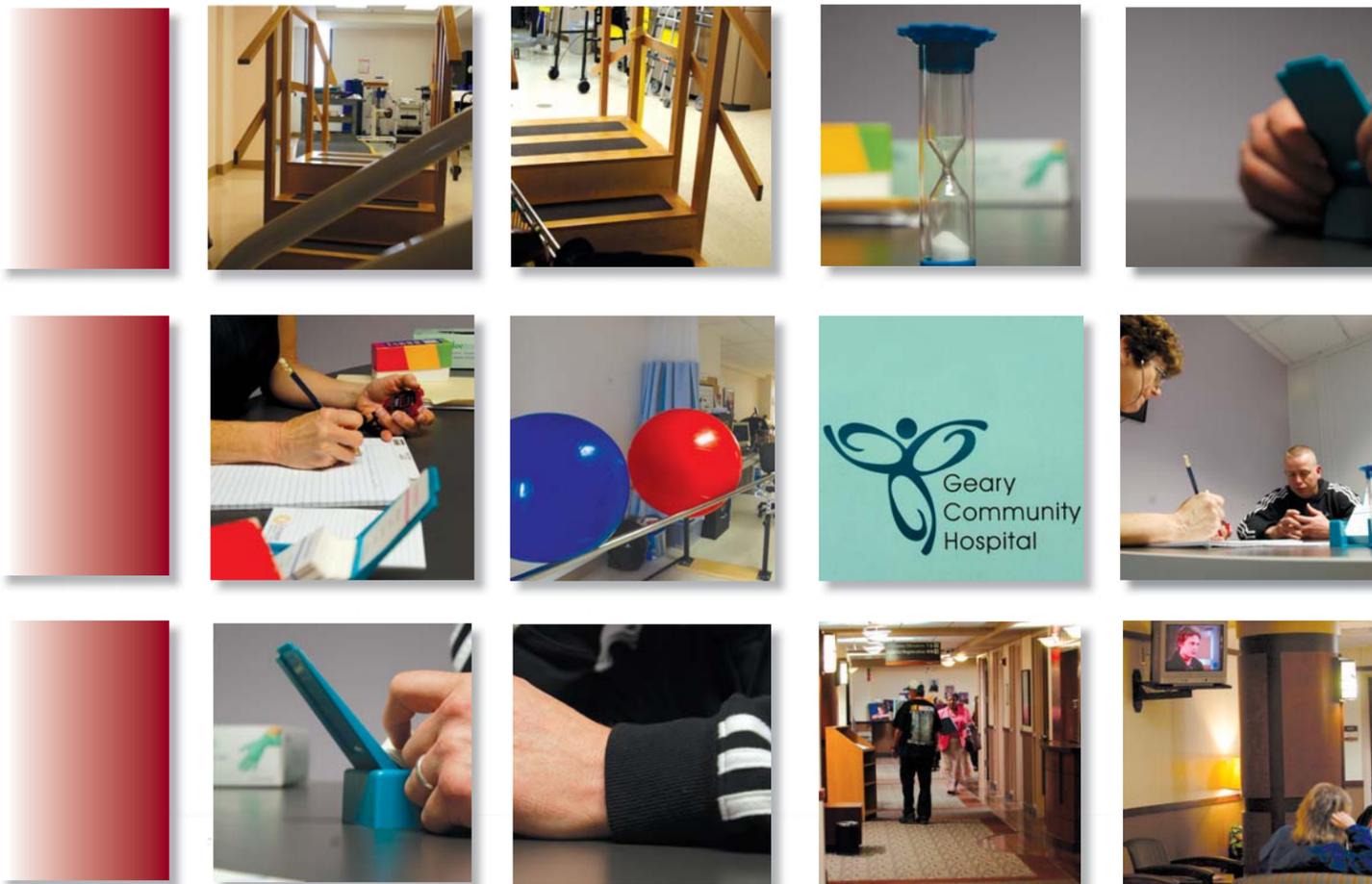
There are a lot of Soldiers who need added help even with TRICARE, pointed out Austin. Sometimes Families will come in here and their kids will have TRICARE, Medicaid, and still need a little bit more, so this will help determine their financial condition sooner rather than later."

As if assisting the individual Soldier wasn't enough, GCH also helps Irwin Army Community Hospital when they are in short supply of beds, medicine or doctors.

"We've sent surgeons down to Irwin when they have been short of doctors and have needed help," said Lynne Addair, registered nurse and chief of the Department of Nursing. "We've also given Irwin some beds when they needed extras."

Geary Community Hospital also assists IACH with many services that simply cannot be done at Irwin because of limited facilities or personnel. Some of those services include speech therapy and sleep studies.

"JC and Riley grew up together," Addair said. "We feel a responsibility to Soldiers" 





Find out what's up in the Big Red One  
go to  
[www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil)