

# Duty First!



# 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 BRD 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 First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.  
September 2008 www.1id.army.mil

1st Infantry Division Commander  
Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins

1st Infantry Division CSM  
Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne

1st Infantry Division PAO  
Maj. Nathan Bond

1st Infantry Division PAO OPS  
NCO  
Sgt. 1st Class Jake A. Newman

Editor  
Gary Skidmore

Assistant Editor  
Anna Staatz

Illustrator  
Tammy Dinger

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1st Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office  
ATTN: Editor  
Bldg. 580  
RM 317

Fort Riley, Kan. 66442.  
Telephone number  
COM 785-239-2253  
DSN 785-856-2253  
or visit Duty First online at  
www.1id.army.mil.

Cover Photo  
Spc. Sean Mulrenan, 1st  
Bn., 63rd Armor Regt. Takes  
aim while on the range in his  
full ghillie suit  
Mesmer/I-63

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# Commanding General **Danger 6**

## *Responsibility...*

**Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins**

Our FORSCOM commander recently published his Vision, Imperatives and Enduring Priorities. In the Commander's Intent he outlined eight focus areas. As I studied the focus areas one in particular caught my attention, LEADERSHIP! Having spent 22 years as a military dependent and 25 years as a military officer, I have had the distinct honor and privilege to meet and serve along side some exceptional leaders. As I reflected back on the leadership qualities and characteristics that made them great, one quality resonated loud and clear..... A genuine concern for soldiers and their families. I believe Henri Turenne was right when he stated "You must love soldiers in order to understand them, and understand them in order to lead them".

As a leader in the 1st Infantry Division, I challenge each and everyone one of you to understand your soldiers and their families. Understanding soldiers requires more than just reciting their name, rank, military occupation specialty, or hometown. It means committing oneself to ensure the physical, mental, moral and spiritual well-being of our soldiers and families. What is the first step in carrying out

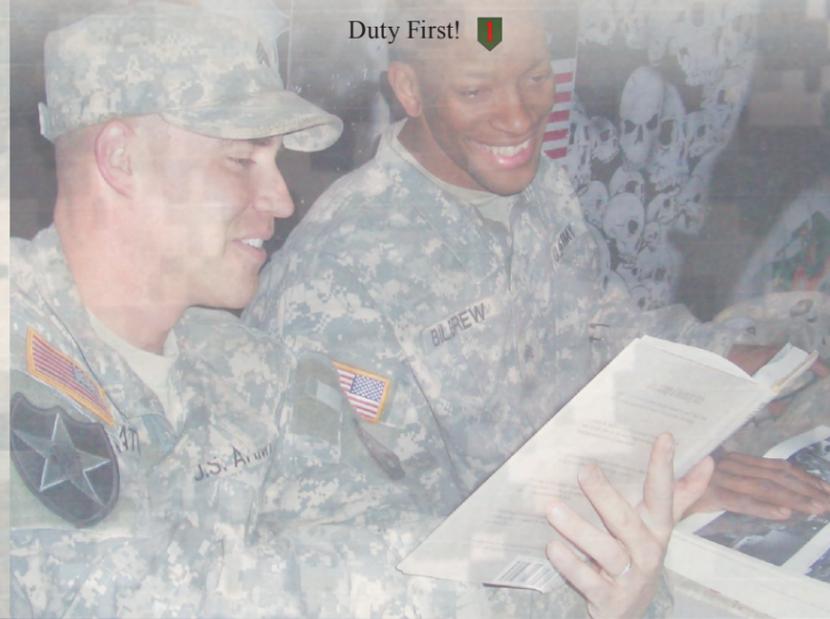


such a commitment? You can start by finding time with each of your soldiers "Under the Oak Tree". Discover what makes them tick, their concerns, ask about their family, any current challenges they are facing, and provide the necessary guidance as a leader whose aim isn't to intrude, but only to ensure their well being.

This type of commitment doesn't stop with the end of the duty day. It's a 24 hour / 7 days a week responsibility, but the time and effort you invest in your soldiers and their families will pay huge dividends for your soldier, their family, yourself, and your unit. Your efforts will be rewarded by instilling a lifelong sense of belonging, commitment and service within the Big Red One Division and the Army.

Understanding your soldiers and their families is key to accomplishing the basic responsibilities of a leader..... Accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of the soldiers. As you strap on the leadership mantle remember that you have been entrusted with this Nation's most precious resource.....America's son and daughters. Our Nation and this division are expecting you to understand your soldiers.

Duty First!



# Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

## *Leadership!*

**Division Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne**

The leadership of today's Noncommissioned Officers in the First Infantry Division dramatically impact each and every one of us every single day. And because you have such a great responsibility, your standards should be an example for all to follow.

It is your job as an NCO to embody the qualities every Soldier should strive to achieve. You as NCOs should take pride in every aspect of military life and be a mentor and example for all Soldiers in the Big Red One.

Your Soldiers success should be your success. You should live the Noncommissioned Officer's Creed, day in and day out. Set the standards that are fundamental to our profession and strive to make our Army better than any other army in the world through your leadership.

There are many great NCOs within the division who 'live' to meet these standards. These NCOs are the epitome of what we want out NCOs to be, know, and do. You as an NCO in the Big Red One are leaders who are both standard setters and team builders. You are builders of our incredibly competent crews, squads, sections and platoons.

The creed of the Noncommissioned Officer begins with the words, "No one is more professional than I, I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers" and ends with the words, "I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget, that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!" These are powerful words that I charge each and every BRO NCO to live up to.

It doesn't matter where you work, at an engineer company leading a squad or a brigade headquarters, setting the example for the 3,500 Soldiers you represent, Leadership is an affair of the heart. NCOs understand the value of standards and have the courage to enforce them. They understand the value of teamwork. They know what it means to take care of Soldiers and their Families. You as an NCO should strive for and routinely achieve the highest order of leadership.

You are the example for our junior Soldiers, the one's that will become the NCOs of tomorrow, the shape of the Army to come.

Now... Get after it!

Duty First!



# Soldier/NCO of the Year

By Anna Staatz  
Duty First! Magazine

Two of the finest in the 1st Infantry Division were recognized July 1 as the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Sgt. Dallas Lockley was awarded the Spc. Ross A. McGinnis Soldier of the Year Award and Staff Sgt. Mathew Carson was awarded the Sgt. James W. Robinson Jr. Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award.

The Soldier and NCO of the Year competition lasted three days, during which Soldiers were tested on warrior skills, weapons qualifications, land navigation, physical fitness, a written exam and an oral board.

"Today's ceremony is not just about the culmination of a competition," said 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne. "It's about something more. It's about recognizing two fine men who exemplify what it means to be a Soldier in the United States Army and not just your average Soldier, but an enlisted Soldier."



**Sgt. Dallas Lockley receives an Army Commendation Medal for being named the Specialist Ross McGinnis Soldier of the Year**

Duty First! Staatz

Champagne and Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, former commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, awarded both Lockley and Carson with an Army Commendation Medal during the ceremony.

Lockley, who has been in the Army for three years, said the competition was "fun." "It's been fun. It's been challenging," said Lockley, who is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Inf. Div. "You're competing against others, but you're also competing against yourself. It's all a mental game, how much you can learn and remember."

Carson, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., said one of the most difficult parts of the competition was the board.

"Most of the competition played to my strengths," Carson said. "I'm an infantryman, so the warrior skills were things we had to know as privates. The challenging part to me was the board. For some reason I always get nervous about those."

Carson said Soldiers who participate in Soldier and NCO of the month or quarter boards should study as much as they can.

"Study, study, study," Carson said. "You cannot know enough. You can think you've studied enough, and they'll ask you a question you've never heard of."

Both Lockley and Carson received numerous gifts donated by community businesses and organizations, including a grill, monetary awards, athletic tickets, plaques and other items.

The Soldier of the Year award was formally named after Medal of Honor recipient Spc. Ross A. McGinnis, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div., who died Dec. 4, 2006.

During a patrol, a grenade thrown by an insurgent fell

through the gunner's hatch of the vehicle his crew was traveling in. Yelling "grenade," McGinnis allowed the other four Soldiers with him to prepare for the blast. He then covered the grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle, absorbing much of the explosion and saving the lives of the four Soldiers with him.

The NCO of the Year award was named after Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. James W. Robinson Jr., who served with the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div. during the Vietnam War.

Robinson saved the lives of many men in his unit during a battle with the Viet Cong by providing suppressive fire and removing them from direct enemy contact and providing first aid. He died when he took two grenades and made his way through intense fire toward an entrenched enemy weapon. He was hit several times during the fight, but made his way to the weapon and hurled the grenades into the enemy gun position while sustaining two additional chest wounds, which killed him.



**Staff Sgt. Mathew Carson receives an Army Commendation Medal for being named the Sergeant James W. Robinson Jr. Noncommissioned Officer of the Year**

Duty First! Staatz

# College Offers Tuition



Central Texas College is offering free tuition through the "Wounded Warrior" Spouse Scholarship Program. Tuition will be provided for up to 30 semester hours a year for spouses of Purple Heart recipients. The spouses may be those of current active-duty Soldiers or those who have separated from the military and reside around any CTC campus.

The program, funded by the CTC Foundation, originated at the CTC main campus in Killeen, Texas. Worldwide, CTC has an enrollment of about 65,000 students taking classes at various extensions.

"About 60 percent of our student body is active-duty Soldiers, and I don't think CTC would exist without the military," said Barbara Merlo, the director of CTC's community relations and marketing office in Killeen.



**Spc. Dennis Leonard, wounded by an IED in Iraq, is presented with a quilt**

"This is our way of giving back to our students.

We've been effected locally and globally by the wars in the last couple of years." To apply for the scholarship, the spouse should apply with the local CTC registrar and provide either a DD214 or military orders that lists the Purple Heart as well provide a marriage license or other proof of marriage. About 100 students take classes at Fort Riley each term, said Tiffany Treloar, the Fort Riley CTC registrar.

According to Anda Arms, the CTC-Fort Riley director, some of the popular CTC programs are in automotive mechanics, various computer training and application classes, early childhood professions, and criminal justice. Many of the classes are "hands-on," particularly those in computers, according to Arms.

# 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.**

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

**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.**

# 1<sup>ST</sup> BDE

## Foreign Language Speakers

By Anna Staats  
Duty First! Magazine

As professionals, they are doctors and engineers, but they put that aside and came to Fort Riley with the goals of helping both their homelands and the country they now call home.

These citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan took various jobs working at Fort Riley with 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, as language and cultural advisors.

1st Brigade's sole mission is training military transition teams – teams which deploy from Fort Riley to Iraq and Afghanistan to train and mentor the countries' military and security forces.

### Classes

Contractors such as Hadier Shenowa, a former member of the Iraqi Republican Guard, teach language and culture classes to members of MiTTs. Shenowa, a chemical engineer, was in Houston working for a medical company when he got a call from Torres Advanced Enterprise Solutions after putting his resume on Monster.com. The company is a government contractor which hired Shenowa as a cultural awareness advisor.

"It's not a money issue," Shenowa said. "Everyone here believes in what they are doing. It's helping make progress for our country. We live here, yes, but we still love Iraq."

Shenowa has been at Fort Riley since April. He spends his days developing an ever-changing course on Iraqi culture and language for the Army.

"We teach classes every other week for six days," he said. "When we are not teaching classes, we take the exams and evaluations from the last class and do research on how we can better meet the needs the Soldiers tell us about. Then we change the course to help in those ways."

Najibullah Sahak, a doctor from the Laghman Province of Afghanistan, said it is important for members of the transition teams to know the realities of the countries they will go to.

"It's important that they listen to the reality of Afghanistan from the citizens of the country," Sahak said. "An American can talk about Afghanistan for a long time, but an Afghan can talk about the country and put much more life and reality into it."

Sahak said religion and culture are also very different in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Soldiers needed to be prepared by those who know the cultural intricacies best. Issues of religion and culture, which can create misunderstanding and cause

more problems in some areas due to some small misunderstanding," Sahak said.

In addition to culture, language and religion, classes also instruct Soldiers on the role of the interpreter and how to best use them in various situations.

### 19 Limas

Classes from Iraq and Afghanistan nationals are only part of the process in quickly acclimating Soldiers to a new culture. The Army also has a specific MOS that focuses on using members of the two cultures to work on the government's behalf.

Spc. Nazir\* and Spc. Ibrahim have been at Fort Riley for about four months. They joined the Army after coming to the United States and their jobs in the Army serve several purposes. Ibrahim lists the roles of interpreter, intelligence and liaison as all responsibilities of his job.

"Right now, we work on scenarios with the Soldiers," Ibrahim said. "Sometimes we are interpreters, sometimes we act as military commanders. In each scenario, we give some cultural advice. Things you are not supposed to do, things that are against what our culture believes. For me, I was in the Iraqi Army, so I can provide insight there as well."

Ibrahim brought his family with him to the United States, and said he joined the Army simply to answer "the call of duty."

"What we do serves Iraq, our country," Ibrahim said. "We serve the United States as our country, too. To me, this helps both countries through this."

Spc. Nazir is from Jordan, but he shares a similar sense of duty.

"With what's going on in the world, everyone should stand up and share in this mission," Nazier said. 

*\*Names changed for security purposes*



# Soldier's Creed

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.  
I serve the people of the United States and  
live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and  
proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

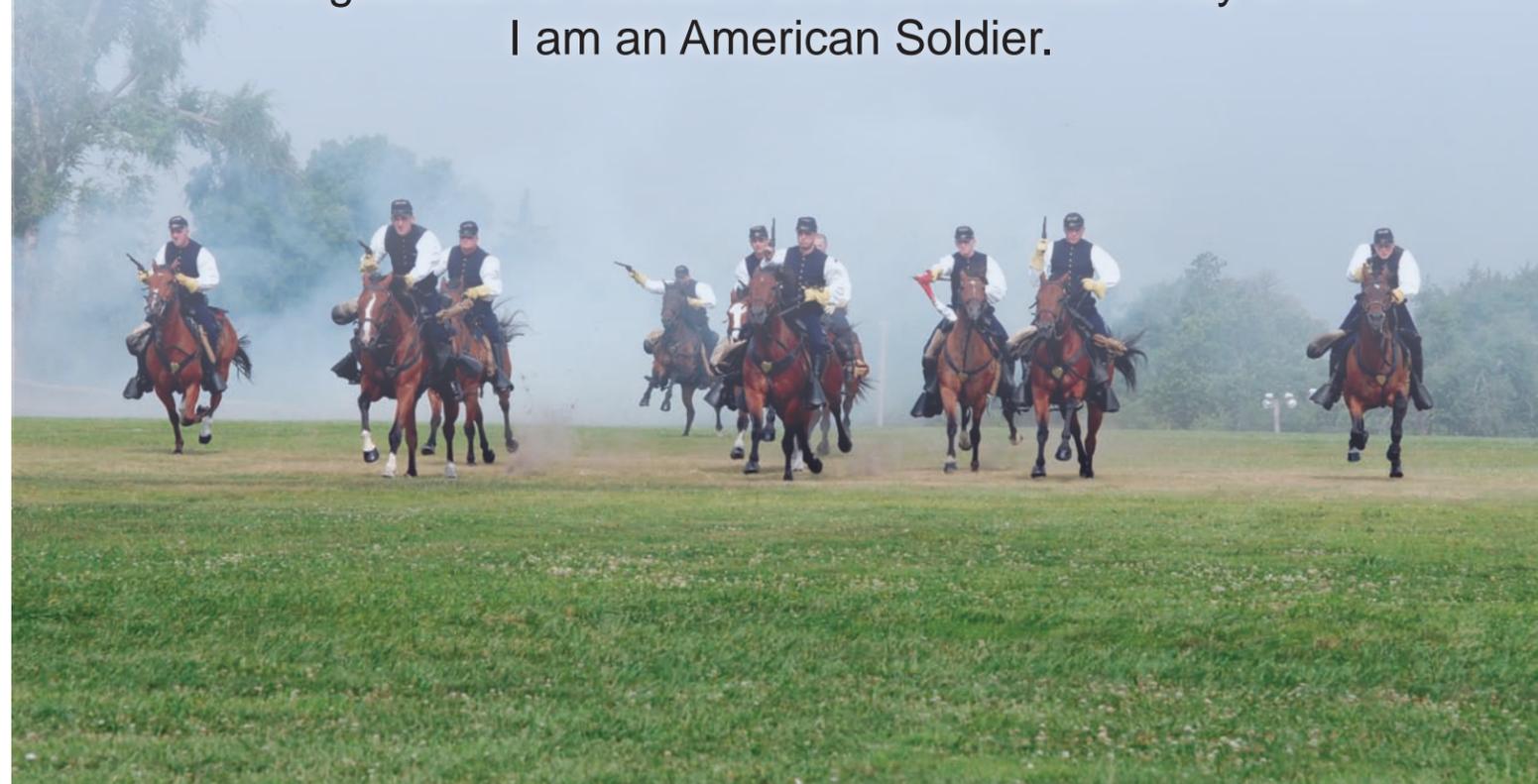
I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the  
United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.



# 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), Iraq

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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Afghanistan

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.

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

Completed rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., in June 2008.

Scheduled to deploy in fall 2008.

# Celebrate The Fall Season With Safety Awareness

School is  
in Session  
Slow Down

Drive Safely through  
school zones



# History of the Big Red One

By Anna Staats  
Staff Writer

Throughout the storied 91 years of the 1st Infantry Division's history, there have always been stories of heroism, courage and bravery. Every once in awhile, the Soldiers who are charged with living those values have stories tied by only the memories of their families, fellow Soldiers and the hopes of someone who has held a missing in action bracelet for years.

Sept. 19, this year's national Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Remembrance Day, members of the military and civilians took time at Fort Riley and installations across the U.S., to remember the Soldiers who haven't made it back.

In the 1st Infantry Division, there are eight Soldiers listed as missing in action, all serving in combat operations during the Vietnam War. Eleven cases of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers listed as missing in action in World War II or Southeast Asia campaigns have been resolved.

## Staff Sgt. Edward Upner

When Mark Upner, of Birmingham, Ala., talked about his father, he called him "a warrior." But to Mark, it was no big deal.

"That's just the way daddy was, you know? He couldn't have done anything else," he said.

Mark's father, Staff Sgt. Edward Upner, joined the Army during World War II. He even lied about his age and found a way to jump through the loopholes to stay in, Mark said.

On the battlefields of France, Edward went missing. Mark said he never fully heard the details of that first missing experience from his mother, Monzia, but knew his father somehow made it back to United States forces. When the Korean War began, Edward was sent to fight North Korean forces.

Mark said his father had decided to leave the Army for a job that was more accommodating to his family of four children and had only days left before his final out-processing when the United States began sending troops to Vietnam. "He thought he should help those kids learn some things," Mark said.

So once again, Edward headed to battle, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

In December 1965, the Army came knocking on the Upner family's door. Edward's unit had been ambushed while traveling back to its headquarters area. He had been injured and because of the tremendous force from Viet Cong units, his fellow

Soldiers had been forced into hasty retreat. A two-day search had yielded his dog tags and identification card, but no body or signs of where enemy forces might have taken him.

## Sgt. 1st Class Ken Abrams

Ken Abrams volunteered for the Vietnam draft. As a 19-year-old private, he was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Abram's unit had been on a several-day mission to rescue U.S. soldiers at a jungle outpost ambushed by Viet Cong forces. On their way back to their main operating base, the Soldiers struck a straight compass line through the humid jungle, finally breaking onto what was commonly called Highway 1. Abrams said the "highway" was really just a thin dirt track.

"Anyone that was watching us could see where we were going and how long it would take us to get there," Abrams remembered.

Near the rear of the group, Abrams was one of the last to step out of the jungle on Dec. 5, 1965, only to be met moments later with the sound of machine gun fire as a Viet Cong forces charged out of the jungle towards them. He jumped into the ditch on the opposite side of the road, along with many other Soldiers, preparing to fire back. The ditch was booby trapped with grenades, but amazingly, the explosives around him never went off.

"There was several sections of grenades that never went off," Abrams said. "They weren't very efficient when they set that up."

The deadly battle of Ap Nha Mat, as it was later called, drug on for most of the day, with Soldiers fighting hand-to-hand combat in many sections along the road.

"The whole outfit was almost wiped out," Abrams said. "I saw almost every guy around me killed or wounded. It was an act of God I survived. ... It just wasn't my turn to go."

An air strike was called in, giving the Soldiers left uninjured a chance to regroup and gather the dead and wounded to press on towards their camp. Abrams said he picked up the end of a stretcher and started carrying a Soldier down the road. As they were leaving the area, the Viet Cong, who had by this time regrouped as well, came in a second time.

"I had to put him down and get out of there," Abrams said. Setting down the stretcher, he noticed the Soldier he had been carrying was Sgt. Upner. He especially remembered the

Soldier's combat infantry badge, which carried with it a star, signifying he had served in World War II and Korea.

Abrams said he and other members of the unit returned to the area over the following two days to search for the bodies of dead or wounded Soldiers. They found Edward Upner's dog tags and ID card, but nothing more.

## After Vietnam

For years, Abrams said, he thought of the Upner family. He knew that the Soldier had died, due to the extensive head injuries sustained during the battle. Because he wasn't a medic, however, he couldn't formally call a death.

"I did everything I could to get in touch with that family," Abrams said, at one point even contacting Congressman John McCain's office several times for help in finding them.

In Alabama, Mark said his two sisters took the news of his father's missing status "pretty rough."

On Jan. 14, 1966, the Army

formally changed Edward's status from missing in action to dead as a result of hostile action.

"For a couple of years, there was hope that he had survived and would someday come back, like he did before," Mark said. "But you know...we were kids. And we grew up fast and life just kind of went on."

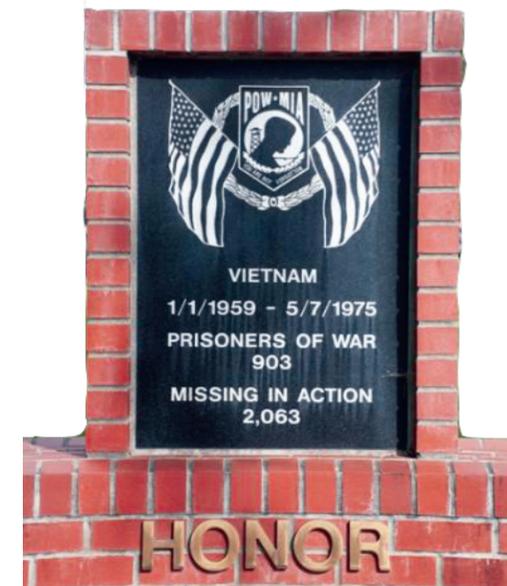
The Upner family had a memorial service nearly two years after the battle of Ap Nha Mat. Monzia Upner never remarried.

"It was unheard of back then for a single woman in the south to raise four kids, but she did good," Mark said.

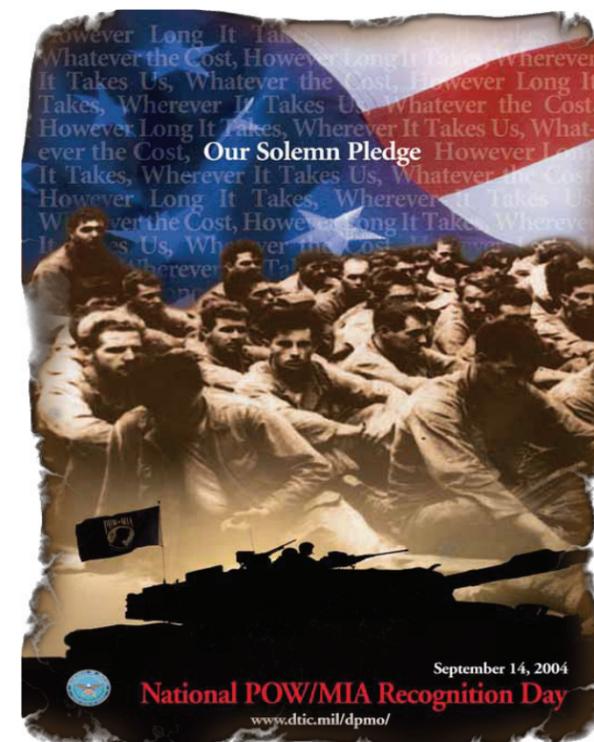
In an odd twist of events, an Arizona judge whom Abrams knew through his job, heard the Soldier's account of the battle and took an interest in it. Judge Lex Anderson even had the opportunity, during a business trip to Vietnam to observe the country's judicial branch, to visit the area where the battle took place. Anderson also visited with the Upner family, recounting the story to them.

"We kind of knew before, but after that, we knew for sure," Mark said.

Abrams got out of the Army after serving two years in Vietnam. However, he later rejoined and served an additional 11 years.



POW/MIA Memorial, Ochoco Creek Park, Prineville, Oregon, USA.  
By Hansenni



# 2<sup>ND</sup> HBCT Can't Leave It Behind!

By Anna Staatz  
Duty First! Magazine

Laptops, iPods, cameras, pictures, books and even a guitar. One by one, they'll end up in the bags of Soldiers in the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, before they set foot on planes bound for Iraq.

Those are the things they can't leave home without – the things that will remind them of home, lull them to sleep at night and distract them from the stresses of a combat zone. They are also the things that will help document the next 12 months of their lives.

Without question, the top two things on the list of personal items Soldiers will pack is iPods -- or some similar form of portable music – and laptops.

"Laptops are good because you can do so much with them," said Staff Sgt. Jason Marquez, Headquarters and Headquarters



Company, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment. "You can watch a movie, play games, whatever."

The brigade's fall deployment to Iraq will be Marquez's second in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Really, it's a matter of taking

what will take your mind off some of the things you will end up dealing with," he said.

Staff Sgt. Chuck Wilson, also of 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., and facing his second deployment, put pictures of his Family at the top of his list. Holding his 9-month old daughter Laynee during a battalion-wide Child and Youth Services registration, Wilson also put pictures from home as one of those things he will look forward to getting, because "she will do a lot of growing up while I'm gone."

"I'm also going to take my guitar," Wilson said. "I had a friend who brought his during the last deployment. I



haven't quite figured out how I'm going to pack it and carry it, but it's going with me."

Books were also a frequent notation on the list of "must haves." Pfc. Malanie Harris said she will pack "as many books as I can." Her favorite author? David Sedaris.

"Books keep me busy," Harris, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, said. "And David Sedaris is a really comical writer, so it will also take my mind of whatever stress I'm dealing with."

For a few Soldiers, the list of what they will bring evoked laughter and a little good-natured ribbing from their buddies.

"I'll bring books and magazines. Some movies," said Pfc. Damien Halbert. "Playing cards. Oh, and I'm bringing Monopoly."

"What? Monopoly?" Spc. Jon Long, HHC, 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., was quick to question the merits of taking Monopoly to a combat zone.

"In a line all by itself should be World of Warcraft," Long said.

Try as they might, few Soldiers will manage to pack everything they need or want, and even if they do, a few things from back home will always be needed.



"Sunscreen is one of the things I will always ask for," Harris said. "Hygiene stuff is always something I ask my Family to send."

"For Marquez, the request is for his favorite Kool-Aid and drink packets.

"But really, it doesn't matter," he said. "Anything they send to you, you're happy to get. It reminds you of home and whatever they send makes the person sending it to you feel closer."



The 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, commanded by Col. Joseph Martin, received orders to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May. The brigade, which is comprised of about 3,700 Soldiers, will leave Fort Riley this fall.



# Truck Tribute

## Nationally Awarded Vehicle Customizer to Build Big Red One Tribute Truck

By Capt. Travis Detmer  
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Those who know will agree that Chip Foose, Carroll Shelby, and the boys from West Coast Customs are arguably the best of the best in the automotive fabrication and customizing world these days. Kept busy with celebrity vehicle builds, television shows, and the international auto show circuit, these are the guys that typically win all the awards. Typically, but not always.

Once in a while a guy comes out of nowhere and surprises everyone. Chris Dicus is not the first name that comes to mind in the who's-who of custom auto builders, but he's made it relatively routine in the last few years to beat out the who's-who with his builds.

In 2004 Dicus, who is from Potosi, Mo., won Ford Racing's Design and Construction Best in Show at the Specialized Equipment Market Association auto show with his custom build of a 2005 Ford F350, beating out the branded builders for the top prize.

The truck was featured in various magazines including Diesel Power, Trucks, and Four Wheeler, and even had television appearances on networks like the Speed Channel, ESPN, and MTV. Dicus was invited to display his truck at the Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, and New York Auto show's, and Ford Motor Company liked the truck so much they displayed it in their VIP lounge at the Indianapolis Powerstroke 200 in 2005. Dicus repeated his performance and

won SEMA again the following year with his custom Ford F150 set on monster tires.

This year, Dicus' main project will be a Big Red One Tribute vehicle built in honor of his father who served the 1st Infantry Division in the early 1970's as a wheeled vehicle mechanic. He eventually left Active Duty to teach Heavy Equipment repair at Fort Leavenworth in 1974. It was here at Fort Riley, and later at Fort Leonardwood, that the senior Dicus gained experience and honed a lifetime trade in the automotive industry that has inspired his son to excellence as a custom vehicle builder.

This project, by his own admission, is Chris Dicus' "build of a lifetime," and one he already knows he'll be most proud of.

Dicus plans to represent the full history of the Division using a 1952 M37 Cargo Truck, a military vehicle produced by Dodge and used by the Army during the Korean and Vietnam wars as his platform. He's already completed a fact-finding trip to Fort Riley by taking in the sites and sounds of Victory Week in July, and plans to visit at least once more before putting the final touches on his build. When complete the vehicle, which was to be unveiled at this year's SEMA show in November, will instead make its public debut at October's AUSA convention in Washington, D.C., a first for that venue, and another first for America's most storied Division.

Pictured is Chris Dicus' F-350 Street Truck that won Ford Racing's Design and Construction top honors at SEMA '04 and was invited on the 2005 International Auto Show Circuit

# Security

## Safeguarding Sensitive Information

By Anna Staatz  
Duty First! Magazine

Whether you are a private patrolling the streets of Baghdad or a colonel working in the Pentagon, when it comes to safeguarding sensitive information the rule is the same: be diligent.

"As we go to the 21st century, things get smaller and smaller," said Sgt. Major Mark Borzain, G2, 1st Infantry Division. "And people get lackadaisical when they get the blackberry's and thumb drives. They become desensitized to the importance of classified information."

Incidents in which laptops or memory sticks containing official or classified information have been compromised have gone up across the Army. Borzain noted his own personal experiences – during the past eight years, he has been notified that his personal information has been compromised six times.

"From a personnel point of view, if that laptop or memory stick is lost or stolen, things like social security numbers, the number of personnel around, where the command group is or deployment information is compromised," Borzain said.

When it comes to working in a combat environment, Borzain said the implications can be deadly. Electronic items holding classified information that is stolen or lost could mean operations and military sources are jeopardized or the lives of fellow Soldiers are endangered.

"Security is everyone's concern," Borzain said. "Even for a private on the ground – the exposure that private has to operations is incredible. Every Soldier is a sensor - which means that we can get a wealth of information from Soldiers, but the responsibility is on them to safeguard that."

The standards for safeguarding secret and classified information aren't difficult. Sgt. 1st Class Jose Armstrong, division operational security manager, said laptops and memory sticks which are classified or secret should be properly safeguarded before leaving your work area.

"There's probably a dozen sticks right now sitting in unlocked desk drawers that no one has any accountability for or knows what information is on them," Armstrong said. "We need to tighten up our systems and ensure we safeguard and keep track of our memory sticks and documents."

Besides keeping track of classified or FOUO documents that you are responsible for, Armstrong said Soldiers should not carry secret laptops out of their offices unless they have the appropriate clearance and needed documentation to carry the laptop.

"Vigilance is the big thing," Borzain said. "If you are going to have memory sticks and computers and other electronic media, that comes with a lot of responsibility. Make sure everything is documented correctly, labeled correctly and protected correctly."

Another important thing to watch, Borzain said, is mixing classified documents with unclassified.

"Things such as moving classified information to a memory stick. Then it's not marked properly and it gets used on unclassified terminals. That's a problem," Borzain said.

Finally, Borzain and Armstrong said Soldiers should watch what they put out on Web sites such as Facebook, Myspace, Youtube, blogs or other information sharing forums.

"One person may not put all the information out, but taking a lot of different sources, you can create a picture," Armstrong said. "By taking all these bits of information the enemy can become aware of our plans."

If a laptop or memory stick assigned to you is lost or stolen, Borzain said to report it to the police, immediate supervisor and G2.

"Bad news doesn't get better with time," he said. "There are certain steps and actions we can take to reduce the threat and reduce the loss."

# 4<sup>TH</sup> IBCT Dragon NCOs Inducted

By Anna Staatz  
Duty First! Magazine

Twenty-two noncommissioned officers, all members of the recently redeployed 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club at Fort Riley.

To become a member of SAMC, Soldiers must be between the ranks of E-5 and E-7, be sponsored by a current member of the club, submit a packet and go through a process similar to a promotion board.

First Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne said today's noncommissioned officers face many unique challenges.

"It's their ability to adapt to these challenges that makes our NCO corps the best on the battlefield," Champagne said. "These warriors exemplify the example set forth by Sgt. Audie Murphy. They go above and beyond the call of duty. They are respected by their supervisors and peers alike."

Champagne and Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, former commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, awarded each Soldier with the Sgt. Audie Murphy medallion.

"Nothing that we do is more important than the recognition we provide to these great warriors," Durbin said. "It is because of great warriors like you that I have

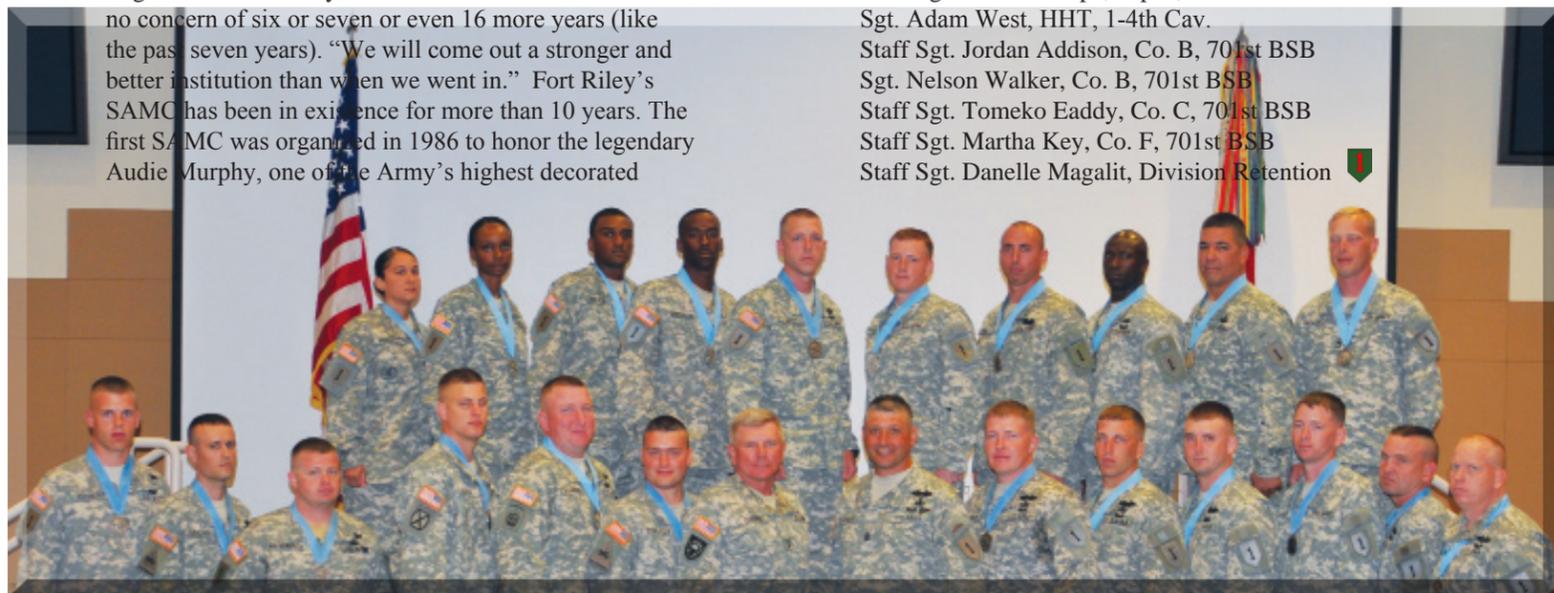
no concern of six or seven or even 16 more years (like the past seven years). "We will come out a stronger and better institution than when we went in." Fort Riley's SAMC has been in existence for more than 10 years. The first SAMC was organized in 1986 to honor the legendary Audie Murphy, one of the Army's highest decorated

Soldiers, who was also an actor, song writer and poet.

For more information on the club, e-mail 1st Sgt. Ray Chase at ray.chase@conus.army.mil

## Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Inductees

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Swoder, Co. A, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Edward Latta, Co. A, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Jon Clark, Co. A, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Justin Weathers, Co. A, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Lemon, Co. A, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. William Shomaker, Co. A, 1-28  
Sgt. Matthew Edwards, Co. C, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Jason Brannan, Co. C, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Haynsworth, Co. C, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Duncan, Co. C, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Reinhardt, Co. C, 1-28  
Sgt. 1st Class Loyd Rhoades, HHC, 1-28  
Sgt. 1st Class Mike Quintana, HHC, 1-28  
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Ward, HHC, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. Justin Puls, HHC, 1-28  
Staff Sgt. James Kampe, Trp B, 1-4 Cav.  
Sgt. Adam West, HHT, 1-4th Cav.  
Staff Sgt. Jordan Addison, Co. B, 701st BSB  
Sgt. Nelson Walker, Co. B, 701st BSB  
Staff Sgt. Tomeko Eaddy, Co. C, 701st BSB  
Staff Sgt. Martha Key, Co. F, 701st BSB  
Staff Sgt. Danelle Magalit, Division Retention



# 4<sup>TH</sup> IBCT Mobile Team

By Sgt. Nathaniel Smith  
4th IBCT PAO

In the past, Soldiers returning from deployment who needed to attend schools would have to sacrifice another month with their Families to get the education needed for advancement.

A Mobile Training Team out of Fort Benning, Ga., has set out to fix that problem by taking the training to 82 infantrymen with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division who have recently returned from a 14-month tour in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Brian Ratel, a small group instructor with the infantry branch's Noncommissioned Officer Academy, said in addition to the extra time with Families, there are other benefits to the program.

"First and foremost, it saves the Army and the units a lot of money," Ratel said.

"It also saves the unit a lot of time. They can start getting those (noncommissioned officers) pushed through the academy by setting up home station MTTs."

Staff Sgt. Adrian Lopez, a squad leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th IBCT, agreed with Ratel.

"I think it's a good idea to bring the course to us; they sent a good team here," he said. "These guys seem to know what they're doing. It's well-planned out, which makes it easier for us."

Lopez added he was excited when he found out he could stay at Fort Riley to complete his Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course.

Staff Sgt. Allan Russell, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., said he liked that he did not have to be away from his Family after the long deployment.

"It's a lot more convenient while I still get the training and education, and I get to go home and be with my Family," the father of one said. "I don't have to deal with any of the hardships of being away."

Aside from the added convenience and cost-effectiveness of the course, Lopez said the training itself is still up to standard.

"I'm looking to sharpen my NCO skills; no matter who you

are, where you've been, how long you've been in, you can always learn new things," he said. "Every time you get together with fellow NCOs, no matter what you think you know, you can always learn things from the people around you."

"You come here thinking you know all these things, but those skills are perishable. It's important to have people come here to refresh those skills."



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SB Bottled Water

By 1st Lt. Mustafa Kamalreza  
62nd QM Co., 553rd CSSB, 1st Sust. Bde

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Water resources in and around the Baghdad area are becoming increasingly precious as temperatures continue to rise. Fortunately, the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion has a unique weapon in its arsenal to combat the withering effects of 120 degree days; the largest bottled water plant in Southwest Asia.

The 62nd Quartermaster Company, 553rd CSSB, are

forces.

The water is pumped out of Zee Lake inside Victory Base Camp, Iraq. Next, the water is treated with chlorine and filtered to remove particles as small as one micron (most viruses are twice as large). After that, the water undergoes reverse osmosis



responsible for oversight of the Oasis Bottled Water Plant at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Over the past 13 months, the plant has produced an estimated 12.6 million cases of bottled water, with more than 12.4 million of those cases going out in support of coalition



and then passes through a carbon filter. The filter uses carbon particles with a positive charge to pull negatively charged particles from the water. Finally, the water passes through an ultraviolet light filter, which disables the reproductive processes of any remaining microscopic organisms. The water is tested every two hours throughout the purification process to ensure

# Relief From the Heat

its pH level – a measure of how acidic or alkaline a liquid is – remains balanced.

Upon completion of the sterilization process, the water is pumped into a sterilized tank and infused with ozone. This last step removes anything that may have survived the previous filters and also removes any odors. The ozone completely diffuses into the water after two to four hours, leaving behind nothing but the pure drinking water you see in every coalition force refrigerator.

The one liter plastic bottles that fill the refrigerators are made in the Oasis Bottled Water Plant as well. Tiny beads of plastic resin are inserted into one of two machines that melt down and blow the plastic into a bottle. Combined, the two machines have produced nearly 250 million bottles since the facility began production in May 2005. After the

bottles are filled and sealed, a laser inscribes the water's date of production and the code for which water purification system

produced it. All bottles produced on Camp Liberty have the code, "WPS-06."

The facility has 181 customer accounts open, and the 62nd QM Co. is responsible for the issue of bottled water to those customers. The company coordinates materiel handling equipment assets, monitors the loading process, maintains accountability of each case and supervises the quality of the

operation. Approximately 500 pallets of water are distributed across the area of operations in Baghdad every day. Under 62nd's watch, several improvements have been made to the plant, including grating and graveling the storage yard and the implementation of new phone and Internet lines. These enhancements add to the efficiency of the operation, improving overall customer support.



# 1<sup>ST</sup> CAB Two Scoops of Hooah Please!

By Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez  
1st CAB, PAO

COB Speicher, Iraq – The hot scorching desert sun can be quite unforgiving for service members serving in northern Iraq. The yearning of everything American like baseball, hotdogs and ice cream can create feelings of homesickness among those deployed.

However, no matter how dismal conditions may get in Iraq, Soldiers always seem to know how to brighten each other's day. That is exactly what the Soldiers of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion at Contingency Operating Base Speicher did this past fourth-of-July; they paraded an ice cream truck through base drawing smiles and laughs from the Soldiers on the COB.

Searching for ways to improve moral and keep his Soldiers occupied on something positive, Lt. Col. Donald Nitti, battalion commander for the 601st ASB, asked his Soldiers to see if they could find the resources to build an ice cream truck or van just like the ones from hometown America.

Within weeks, Nitti's Soldiers located a vehicle, freezer and sound system. Then with some careful innovation and meticulous creativity, the Soldiers from the 601st bomb team, command and automations section, began to make Nitti's vision of an ice cream truck slowly materialize.

"To achieve the mission, we needed to find a truck body that would support the basic frame of a typical ice cream truck. Therefore we began to look for a box model vehicle," said Capt. Scott Davis, Headquarters Support Company, 601st ASB.

"The idea was to come up with a vehicle with sliding windows, PA system and design that represented an everyday ice cream truck down to the smallest detail," added Davis.

The HSC members quickly contacted a logistics yard and located an old Air Force boxed van with sliding doors and panel sides.

big box van at a reutilization yard on post," said Spc. Casimer Rzanca, a driver for HSC.

"For a while we did not know what kind of truck we were

going to use. However, the motor pool found a box van at a reutilization yard on post," said Spc. Casimer Rzanca, a driver for HSC.

"When the civilian employees working for directorate of logistics at COB Speicher heard about what we were trying to do; they decided to donate an old Air Force box van for our use," said Davis.

"The DOL donation was deeply appreciated and really helped the project take off."

The resourcefulness of Soldiers is something that should not be underestimated especially in a war zone. The HSC Soldiers hand crafted ornamental details, and added some decorative accessories, all to help bring the old faded van to life.

"So after bringing the van to the unit, I started with the idea to add the giant 12 foot magnum bar to the top of the van. Sgt. Patrick Stundahl from Co. A, suggested we add the chocolate drips to the bar," said Rzanca.

"I then added some detailing to the fenders in the form of classic flames. Sgt. Stundahl suggested we add some wooden ice-cream decoratives to the hubcaps too," added Rzanca.

"Then I added a sign board and an actual ice cream menu," said Rzanca. "In addition, I came up with a 'caution running Soldiers' sign for the back of the van."

"We named the different ice creams after our sister units; Demon Pop, Nightmare Bar, Fighting-six Cone, Guardian Bar and Eagle Cone," said Rzanca, referring to the other units of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Bomb team Soldiers then installed a freezer, while members of the automations shop ripped appropriate sound and music tracks to further bring this once dormant vehicle to life.

"I helped compile some of the ice-cream truck sound bytes like pop-goes the weasel and various chimes and sounds. However, it was Spc. Rzanca that actually put together the 'Happy Music' sound



track together for the ice-cream truck," said Sgt. Melanie Allen, HSC automations section

On one of the hottest days in Iraq, with temperatures well over 100 degrees, the newly painted, shiny blue ice-cream truck took to the streets of COB Speicher, blaring its wide assortment of music, sounds and chimes including the song, "Don't Worry Be Happy."

"As we drove the truck around, the Soldiers we encountered were astounded and could not believe what they were seeing and hearing. Many were astonished and actually thought the ice cream truck was a joke," said Rzanca.

"However, after some of the first customers walked up and saw we were actually passing out ice cream, they came over and laughed and smiled with us."

The Soldiers seemed ecstatic about the whole ice-cream truck affair.

"I thought it was the best morale booster yet. It even had my theme song going on," said Capt. Kemetta Gary,

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, CAB.

"There were a lot of smiles among the Soldiers as the truck drove up playing 'Don't Worry Be Happy'. I felt like a little kid again because I actually found myself running up to the ice cream truck along with the other Soldiers. The whole event definitely brought back some childhood memories," said Gary.

"The project reminded me of how Frosty the Snowman came about. Everybody helped Frosty come to life, just like everyone helped bring the ice-cream truck come to life," said Rzanca.

"I think it is a good thing we are doing with the ice cream truck. It puts a lot of smiles on the Soldiers' faces and you can tell it is good for morale. We actually drove the truck around throughout the CAB areas and we are now planning to drive the ice-cream truck around every Friday," said Rzanca.

So if you want to boost the morale of your unit, Spc Rzanca said, "build an ice-cream truck, it will definitely put a smile on their faces." 



Taking a break and enjoying an ice cream

1st Cab/Vasquez

# Victory Week Celebration

By Anna Staatz  
Duty First Magazine

In a week that paid homage to the legacy created by veterans and fallen heroes of the Big Red One, the 1st Infantry Division's current Soldiers took part in athletic competitions, hosted former division commanders and veterans, said goodbye to a commander, and honored 418 comrades who paid the ultimate price in the war against terrorism.

"It is a special day and a special week when Soldiers past and present gather to commemorate the storied history of the 1st Infantry Division," said Gen. Charles Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command, who spoke during a division review and change of responsibility ceremony July 17 at Fort Riley. "For many decades, Soldiers have marched on Cavalry Parade grounds. In all those years, when our nation has been tested, American Soldiers have dispatched an answer to our nation's call. The Soldiers on the field represent tens of thousands of Soldiers who do our nation's bidding and assemble a part in our nation's history when we as a nation and as a people confront a ruthless and determined enemy who would do harm to our country."

Campbell commended the service of Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, outgoing commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley. Durbin took command of the division just shy of one year ago. Durbin has been nominated for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as special assistant to the chief of staff, Army, for enterprise management, Washington, D.C.

"He is a Soldiers' general," Campbell said. "He is a leader of straightforward philosophy built on a central truth: That the division's mission was, is and will be in the future to prepare Soldiers, leaders and units to fight and win our nation's wars."

Campbell also praised Diana Durbin's service to Fort Riley and the surrounding communities.



The Flag is passed to signify the change of responsibility

"We will miss your graciousness, your humanity and your servant's heart," he said. Durbin said that while many outgoing commanders say the change of command is a "bittersweet" moment, it was not so for he and Diana.

"We have truly enjoyed and embraced each and every day that we have had the honor and privilege to be the command team and part of the command team at Fort Riley," Durbin said. "To the warriors on the field ... I am in awe of your performance as individuals. I am in awe of your performance as a unit. You have my personal thanks and you have my professional admiration for the service you provide to our great nation."

Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, 1st Inf. Div. assistant commander for maneuver, assumed command of the division, until Durbin's replacement is named.

## Veterans visit post

Durbin told those attending the division review and change of responsibility ceremony that Victory Week wasn't about a change in leadership. Instead, he said, respect should be paid to the veterans and past division commanders and command sergeants

major visiting the post.

"This week is about the greatness of this superb division," Durbin said. "And for those who have served and led and set the pace for our legacy. What we have done for the past year is labored to ensure that we are living up to the legacy that you have created for us."

Among the former commanders who attended events throughout Victory Week was retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, who commanded the 1st Infantry Division 1988-89 and later became chief of staff, U.S. Army.

"I was just looking forward to just being with the Soldiers and being here at Fort Riley," Sullivan said about the week. "And I have not been disappointed as I knew I wouldn't be. This is a special place blessed in many ways."

## Victory Park Dedication

Following the division review and change of responsibility, a ceremony was held to dedicate Victory Park near the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters. During the ceremony, the Spc. Ross A. McGinnis memorial stone and the Fallen Soldier Memorial Plaque and stones were unveiled. The names of service members deployed by the 1st Infantry Division who died in combat during the past two years were read as their memorial stones were unveiled.



Soldiers reveal the Fallen Soldier stones

"This memorial speaks to the very core of their character and fortitude," Durbin said during the ceremony. "Their dedication and duty superseded any self-serving feelings they may have had."

McGinnis was memorialized on a Medal of Honor memorial stone at the foot of the Lady Victory statue. McGinnis, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, died Dec. 4, 2006.

During a patrol, a grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch of the vehicle his crew was

traveling in. Yelling "grenade," McGinnis allowed the other four Soldiers with him to prepare for the blast. He then covered the grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle, absorbing much of the explosion and saving the lives of the four Soldiers with him.

McGinnis' parents, Tom and Romaine McGinnis, were escorted by Durbin and 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne to unveil their son's memorial stone.

"It really brings home the fact that his death wasn't in vain," Tom McGinnis said. "People are going to remember him a long time for what he did."

Tom McGinnis said he was a "little" surprised when he first learned what his son had done, but his surprise was short lived when he learned a little more about the Army.

"It did surprise me until I learned about how the Army Soldiers bond when they're in combat," he said. "They depend on each other for each other's lives. ... They form a bond so close, that it's really not surprising he would do something like that."

Families of other fallen Soldiers were also honored guests during the ceremony.



Spc. Ross A. McGinnis Medal of Honor stone

Photos By  
Anna Staatz-Duty First!



Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley gives a hug to Romaine McGinnis as his father Tom stands beside her

# Looking for Big Red One Information



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