

Duty First!



Leading The Army For 92 Years

The Big Red One

Creed

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

HONOR 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 **ENDURE**, 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 **BROTHERHOOD** 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.

READINESS 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 **ORGANIZATION** 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 **1** First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

June 2009

www.riley.army.mil

1st Infantry Division
Commander
Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

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

1st Infantry Division PAO
Lt. Col. Matt Hackathorn

Editor
Anna Staatz

Staff Writers
Ty Abney
Gary Skidmore

Illustrator
Tammy Dinger

The Duty First is an unofficial publication produced under the provisions of AR 360-1, published by Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army or the 1st Infantry Division. All photos are Army photos unless otherwise noted. Circulation is 6,000 per issue, printed monthly. Story and photos submissions are welcome and should be sent to:

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

Fort Riley, Kan. 66442.

Telephone number

COM 239-6821

DSN 856-6821

or visit Duty First online at
www.riley.army.mil.

Contents

Danger 6 ...	3
Danger 7 ...	3
1ID at War ...	4
1st BDE ...	5
1st SB ...	7
1st CAB ...	9
3rd IBCT ...	11
BRO History ...	13
4th IBCT ...	15
2nd HBCT ...	17
1ID Joins Forces ...	19
Remembering A Day In Infamy ...	21
Living Legend Speaks ...	26



Commanding General **Danger 6**

D-Day

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

6:30 a.m. June 6, 1944. Omaha Beach. A 16-year-old Soldier who falsified his birth certificate so he could join the Army is anxiously awaiting his landing on the beach head. The ramp lowers. Soldiers of the 16th Infantry Regiment courageously move forward, as they have trained many months to do. Many die on the first step.

Pvt. Joe Argenzio follows the advice shouted by a fellow Soldier and bails over the side of his landing craft, since the open ramp of the landing craft seems to have been replaced by a wall of machine gun bullets trained accurately on everyone in the boat. The water is over his head. His comrades are falling all around him. His helmet, rifle and ammunition are lost in the cold, choppy waters of the English Channel.

Joe Argenzio, fighting by not quitting, survives the bullets and the water and makes his way ashore. He takes cover behind obstacles on the beach, then scrambles to the relative safety of a sea wall that provides some relief from the constant barrage of bullets from German machine guns. Argenzio grabs a weapon and ammo from a dead Soldier and after some inspiring words from the 16th Infantry's regimental commander Col. George Taylor, the men of what would later be called the "Rangers" begin to make their way inland. When they secure a German blockhouse on a hill overlooking the beach, a sign, hastily created, points the way ahead with the words – "Danger Forward."

For the Division there had been other "D-Day" assaults – North Africa, Sicily. But this one was unlike any other, before or since. The veterans – sergeants and officers – taught newly arrived Soldiers how to fight and how to get the advantage over the enemy, no matter the odds. Many sacrificed their lives but the Division accomplished nearly an impossible mission while heroes felt they were only doing their duty. Another chapter was added, not only to the Division history, but to human history.

Those Soldiers of yesterday are not unlike our Soldiers of today. They come from diverse backgrounds and blend together as exceptionally capable units. They train to accomplish a variety of missions and are extremely creative in the process. They are guided and trained by a cadre of seasoned combat veterans. They persevere against all odds and make the impossible happen routinely. The Big Red One Soldiers of today are engaged in battles for freedom far from the comforts of home. They are some of the best this generation has to offer. And they serve honorably, as heroes.

Though our war fighting capabilities have changed dramatically in the past 65 years, one thing about this division has not changed – the heart, the spirit, the camaraderie, the professionalism and the bravery of its Soldiers. The warriors who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day lived by the same motto our Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan live by now and sang the same song we sing today. As we reflect on the honorable service and sacrifices this June 6th, let us also rededicate ourselves to the legacy passed to us and carry on the heritage in our service – No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Duty First!



Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

NCOs Through History

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

This month marks the 92nd birthday of the 1st Infantry Division. It also marks the 92nd anniversary of great noncommissioned officer leadership in the division.

Big Red One NCOs serve as an integral part of the division's lineage and honors. Heroes and their legendary exploits define the division's legacy.

Our legacy goes back to World War I, when the division was first activated.

We were first activated in 1917 as the "First Expeditionary Division." It was formed from regular Army units then in service on the Mexican border and at various posts throughout the United States. We already had experienced NCOs in the new division with combat experience.

On July 4, 1917, the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment marched through the boulevards of Paris in an effort to boost the downtrodden spirits of the French. Two days later, the First Expeditionary Division was re-designated as the 1st Inf. Div.

In April 1918, the Germans were within 40 miles of Paris. The Big Red One bolstered the exhausted French First Army and countered the German threat. The division captured the small village of Cantigny and 250 German Soldiers after 45 minutes. It was the first victory for our division, but not the last.

Our division's NCOs have led Soldiers in many battles since then. We've fought in World War II in some of the hardest fought battles of the war. We landed in Italy, Africa and on the bloody beaches of Normandy.

1st Inf. Div. NCOs have led the way in Vietnam, Desert Storm and now in the Global War On Terrorism.

The NCO's mission has changed dramatically over the past eight years during the Global War on Terrorism. In years past, a platoon conducted missions with the leadership of the platoon leader and platoon sergeant. Now, sergeants and staff sergeants lead multiple missions that have a larger strategic impact. Units and organizations across the Army complete thousands of missions daily.

Many things have changed throughout the history of the Big Red One, except the role of the noncommissioned officer. The NCO has always been, and always will be, the backbone of the 1st Infantry Division.

Now...Get After It!

1st Infantry Division at War





Sgt. Jonathan Reinegger; 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 1st Bde., is loaded down with kids from Westwood Elementary School as they race against other Soldiers.

By Gary Skidmore
Duty First! Magazine

Sgts. Jonathan Reinegger, James Kinney and Jeffrey Walters, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, received enough physical training on April 29 to last them a week after playing with students from Westwood Elementary School in Junction City. They ran, jumped, crawled, carried kids, and were the subject of dog piles for several hours during the afternoon.

Supporting the Unified School District 475 "Schools in Review" program, several members of the battalion visited the classrooms, ate lunch and went to the playground with the students.

Kinney has been married for three years but doesn't have children and loved his day with the kids.

"My wife is a student teacher on Fort Riley so I thought it'd be a good opportunity for me to experience what she deals with everyday," Kinney said. "I don't think she goes through a lot of dog piles like I just did, but she enjoys the job. I'm still out of breath from the dog pile."

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Dukes said he thought the partnership they have with the school, part of the recent Army

Community Covenant program, was great.

"One of the good things about this particular program is there's a lot of children with parents in the military and with deployments being what they are, it gives kids a connection while their military parents are deployed. It's also great for with our involvement in the community. We do a lot with Junction City and Grandview Plaza and it helps strengthen our bonds," Dukes said.

Student Support Monitor Jerry Williams, a retired Soldier from Fort Riley, knows the importance of having Soldiers interact with students.

"It's terribly important for the kids to see uniforms here," Williams said. "Most are comfortable with Soldiers and since so many parents are deployed, it gives our students a reassurance and a connection when the battalion comes."

Still breathing heavy 10 minutes after their run and dog piles, Reinegger, Kinney and Walters said there was no doubt they'd be back if asked.

"I'm not too sure about carrying so many kids the next time we race," said Reinegger.

"And I probably won't have that many kids dog pile me next time," said Kinney.

"But we'll be back," added Dukes. 



Sgt. James Kinney; 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 1st Bde., gets dog piled by students at Westwood Elementary School as part of the Schools in Review program.

Duty First! Skidmore

1ST SB

Charting

a Path

By Tyler Abney
Duty First! Magazine

Before a Soldier can complete the Warrior Leader Course and advance to the rank of sergeant, he or she must prove they are proficient in a variety of skills and capable of leading other Soldiers.

For 12 Soldiers of the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, April 8 provided one more chance to sharpen their map reading and land navigation skills before attending WLC.

“When they go to WLC, they teach them land navigation,” said Staff Sgt. Cody Anway, 541st CSSB said. “This is designed to give them a first-hand look prior to going to the course so they’re not going into it blind. They’ll have a background in it and it makes it much easier to successfully negotiate the course.”

The six teams of two Soldiers had two hours to find four points on the range and record their locations. Each team was assigned a starting point and given checkpoints identified by grid coordinates. Armed with a compass and protractor, Soldiers oriented their maps with the specified coordinates and made their way around the range. Each point was identified by orange and white metal signs and tagged with a letter. Once Soldiers reached what they thought to be the correct location, they recorded the letter and progressed to the next location.

At the end of two hours, or whenever the course was completed, teams returned to the starting points where Anway and other noncommissioned officers checked the results. While NCOs were there to provide some assistance, the training was not set up as a class.

“We’re not teaching them land navigation,” Anway said. “It’s their unit’s responsibility to teach them map reading, the compass and things of that nature prior to going out there [WLC]. We run them through this course so they get hands on training and are proficient with what their unit should be instilling.”

Spc. Daniel Scott, a truck driver from 541st CSSB, was one Soldier making use of the extra practice.

“I’ve taken a couple classes in it, but I wouldn’t say I’m experienced,” Scott said. “I want to be able to teach future Soldiers how to do it, just in case they would they would ever encounter something that land navigation would be good for.”

By the end of the training, Soldiers unfamiliar with the land navigation skill acquired more information and those who had not practiced the maneuvers in a while became reacquainted with the practice.

“Land navigation is a critical skill for all Soldiers, regardless of their MOS,” Anway said. “When deployed, Soldiers may be faced with the possibility of being separated from their units during a convoy. It’s vital that every Soldier is familiar with map reading skills, terrain association and how to use a compass.”



Duty First! Magazine/ Abney

Staff Sgt. Cody Anway helps two Soldiers from 541st CSSB orient their map during their land navigation course.

1ST CAB

Unit Receives New Black Hawks

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth
1st Combat Aviation Brigade PAO

The latest in aviation technology for the Army arrived at Fort Riley at the end of April in the form of two UH-60M Black Hawks.

The 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, is the second active duty Army unit to receive the new model of Black Hawk. About 30 more are scheduled to arrive before December.

At first glance, the new UH-60M Black Hawks looks very similar to its sibling, the L model. But open the door and look inside and the changes are very obvious.

"The entire aircraft is a digital aircraft," said Maj. Robert Keeter, pilot and operations officer for the "Nightmare." "It has a lot of upgraded computer systems."

The old round gauges with dials have been replaced with four computer monitors that can display numerous functions to include instruments, radios or maps.



"The new Mike model has an integrated computer system that will let me pull up a map and as I am flying I can look at the map and I can see where I am," Keeter said. "The map has an integrated GPS that moves as I am flying."

In the earlier versions of the Black Hawk, helicopter pilots got a numeric location on their GPS and then had to find that point on a map to figure out where they were. The UH-60M allows the pilot to see where they are and their destination, compared to having to steer toward their destination using a needle on the dash.

"The biggest improvement is situation awareness for the pilots," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matt Hastings, pilot. "We have four computer screens that will tell us exactly where we are at all times and exactly where we are going. The digital battle space is playing in front of us and we have multiple ways to plug into that."

Besides knowing where their aircraft is in relation to the ground and their objective, pilots can also use

the UH-60M's map screen to pinpoint enemy activity.

"As I am flying, if I see a threat, I can put that threat on the map and e-mail it to everyone else flying and to the TOC [the tactical operation center]," said Hastings. "Now everyone knows that threat is out there and its location."

To help maneuver away from that threat, the UH-60M has new composite spar wide-chord blades which are wider than the earlier models, and will provide more lift at the higher altitudes.

The aircraft also has a partial auto-pilot that will assist the pilots when Mother Nature is not cooperating with them.

"The helicopter will fly the whole thing for you," said Hastings. "So when we are in one of those really dark nights, or have bad visibility, the aircraft is taking care of it for us and everything is good to go."

When the mission is over, the computers also help with the maintenance of the Black Hawk by keeping track of more than 200 parameters from the new Black Hawk database, plus dedicated sensors that provide automated data collection and advanced mechanical diagnostics to determine the health of drive system gears, bearings, and shafts. A PCMCIA card logs the data and is then transferred to the helicopters digital logbook.

"The new system and maintenance program is going to make less maintenance for our crew chiefs after we are done flying," said Hastings.

Modifications to the Black Hawk don't stop in the cockpit. "The crew chiefs' seats have been improved," said Keeter. "The crew seats in the older aircraft are stationary facing out, you sit in one spot and that is where you are for the flight. With the new seats they have some maneuverability – they can slide and turn – so the crew chiefs can interact with the passengers or cargo easier during flight."

Their passengers will be safer also as the seats have been redesigned and are now more crash worthy.

The UH-60M is vastly different from the first Black Hawk that rolled off the assembly line in 1978. But one thing has not changed for this medium-lift helicopter – allowing its aircrew to accomplish their mission.

"When we deploy we are going to still have the long days, but once you are in the helicopter you are going to be much more relaxed," said Hastings. "Once we learn this helicopter's fullest capabilities and apply them we are going to work less hard."



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matt Hastings talks to Capt. Robert Lanier about the handling of the new UH-60M Black Hawk.



3-1 AHB pilots look over the modifications on the new UH-60M Black Hawk after it arrived at Marshall Army Airfield.



CAB PAO/ Sgt. 1st Class Troth
Lt. Col. Andrew Cole, (right) 3-1 AHB commander, receives the keys and log book to the battalion's first UH-60M from Maj. Bradley Bruce, the assistant program manager for UH-60M fielding.



The first two of 30 new UH-60M Black Hawks taxi to their parking spots after making their first landing at Marshall Army Airfield.

3RD IBCT

SOLDIER SAVES CHILD FROM ELECTROCUTION

By Staff Sgt. Adora Medina
3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team PAO

JALALABAD AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - Staff Sgt. Kevin P. Sanders believes he was born to be an infantryman.

Having completed five deployments, he understands the sacrifice and bravery that accompanies combat, so when he witnessed an Afghan boy near death, his instincts immediately came into play and he didn't hesitate to free the child from the electric voltage entering his body.

"I didn't think about it, I didn't think anything," said Sanders. "What I saw was my son when I looked at this little kid, and when his body went limp, I thought 'oh God please do something' and I didn't say it out loud, I was talking to myself, and that's when I lunged forward and I grabbed the kid and I pulled him off."

The young boy, about the age of six, had touched exposed wires from an electrical box that had been tampered with on the side of the road near where Sanders and his team of infantrymen were pulling security last October.

Sanders said he heard buzzing and didn't realize that it was the sound of electricity searing the boy's skin until he thought it was too late. He remembers the boy helplessly looking at him and then going limp as if he had given up.



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, Combined Joint Task Force-101 commander, presents Staff Sgt. Kevin Sanders with the Soldier's Medal at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, April 14. Sanders, from St. Ann, Mo., saved a local Afghan boy from electrocution.



3IBCT PAO/ Medina

Staff Sgt. Kevin Sanders, Soldier's Medal recipient from St. Ann, Mo. is awarded for saving a local Afghan boy from electrocution while out on a mission near Jalalabad city, Afghanistan. Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, Combined Joint Task Force-101 commander presented Sanders with the award at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan.

"I thought he was dead," Sanders said. "It all happened in the span of five seconds."

He knew he had to do something, so he acted fast. He pulled the boy toward him, risking the chance of being electrocuted.

"I jumped towards him and I snatched him up by the back of his neck and I pulled him straight up to me and he was still shaking profusely," Sanders recalled. "I turned around and I kicked my medic's door three times and I said 'I need a medic!' as loud as I could scream it."

Still shaken up by the incident, he held the child in his arms as he quickly explained the situation to the medic on patrol, who acted immediately to bandage the child's burns while Sanders team retrieved an interpreter to explain to the child's father that he needed to be taken to a nearby hospital.

Nearly six months following the incident, while on patrol, Sanders was relieved to see the young boy playing with his little sister now the same area.

For risking his life, Sanders was awarded the Soldier's Medal in April, at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan with his fellow infantrymen and Combined Task Force-101 commander, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, in attendance.

"Putting me in for an award as high as this is..." Sanders paused to think. "I'm humbled. It's almost overwhelming. I'm not used to being credited for anything that I do."

Sanders, who is currently a team leader for the personal security detachment of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's commander, Col. John Spiszer, plans to continue on in his military career. Sanders said the Army gives him the structure he's always needed in his life.

"They're going to have to throw me out of the military," he said jokingly, "I've been doing this job for eight years and I wouldn't give it up for nothing."

Sanders emphasized the importance of his job as a Soldier and why he chose the infantryman's path.

"I do what I do not because of the man to the right and to the left of me. I do what I do not because of college, not because of the things that people see you for. I don't do it for glory, honor, or integrity, and I don't do it for my country," Sanders said assertively. "I do it for my countrymen and women, but not so much in the sense that you would think. I do it so they won't have to." 

History Of The Big Red One, 1917 To Present

Compiled by Duty First! Magazine staff

The 1st Infantry Division's history begins in 1917 when Gen. John "Blackjack" Pershing arrived in France with the First American Expeditionary Force. The "Fighting First" led the way for American Soldiers in World War I. Names like Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Argonne Forest tell the story of the gallantry of the Soldiers of the division, now wearing the famous "Big Red One" patch on their left shoulder.

During World War II, the Big Red One was the first to reach England, the first to fight the enemy in North Africa and Sicily, the first on the beaches of Normandy in D-Day and the first to capture a major German City – Aachen.

The D-Day landings on June 6, 1944, provided the supreme test. In five days, the division drove inland and cleared a beachhead for supplies and troops. Driving eastward across France against fanatical resistance, the Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. spent nearly six months in continuous action with the enemy.

After capturing Aachen, the division still faced months of bitter fighting at places like the Hürtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge. When the war ended, the Big Red One had rolled through Germany and into Czechoslovakia.

The 1st Inf. Div. remained in Germany until 1955, first as an occupational force, then as partners with the new Germany in NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In 1955, the Big Red One redeployed to Fort Riley.

In the summer of 1965, the Big Red One was the first division called to fight in Vietnam. For nearly five years, its Soldiers battled the enemy while carrying out programs to aid the people of South Vietnam. In April 1970, the colors of the 1st Inf. Div. returned to Fort Riley. Home again, the Big Red One became a dual-based division with its 3rd Brigade in West Germany.

Another first was credited to the division when it embarked on the beginning of a long series of Return of Forces to Germany exercises. These exercises demonstrated the nation's determination and capability to defend, with NATO allies, Western Europe.

On Nov. 8, 1990, the 1st Inf. Div. was alerted and over the next two months, deployed more than 12,000 Soldiers and 7,000 pieces of equipment to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Another first, the Big Red One led the charge into Iraq. After spearheading the armored attack, the division broke the enemy's defense along the Kuwait border and cut off the path of retreat for the fleeing Iraq Army.

During the next 100 hours, the Big Red One raced across southern Iraq into Kuwait, engaging and destroying all or part of 11 enemy divisions. The division fought its way through 260 kilometers of enemy-held territory, and destroyed more than 500 enemy tanks and 480 armored personnel carriers. In addition, the division captured more than 11,400 enemy prisoners of war – twice as many as any other unit.

On April 10, 1996, the colors of the 1st Inf. Div. moved to the German city of Würzburg. Shortly after their arrival, Big Red One Soldiers assumed peace enforcement responsibilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operations Joint Endeavor/Guard. The division deployed to the Balkans twice in 1999, first as part of Task Force Sabre in Macedonia, then in Kosovo with NATO's Task Force Falcon. This contingent patrolled the streets and countryside of Kosovo until June 2000, when it turned the mission over to the 1st Armored Division.

In November 2002, the 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment joined NATO's Task Force Falcon in support of Operation Joint Guardian for a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. The battalion enforced peace agreements in the Multi-National Brigade East Sector. The unit helped create a more secure environment and assisted in transition to civilian control.

In January 2003, the division primed itself for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Big Red One Soldiers formed Headquarters, Armed Forces-Turkey and prepared the way for the 4th Infantry Division to enter Iraq through Turkey. When the Turkish Government denied access through their border, the 4th Inf. Div. deployed to Iraq via Kuwait.

The division took a more direct role in Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, when its units deployed to Northern Iraq. Operating in the Sunni Triangle Task Force,

it conducted combat operations while simultaneously helping bring stability to the region.

The rest of the 1st Inf. Div. and Task Force Danger deployed to Northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. The 1st Inf. Div.'s Task Force Danger consisted of Germany-based 1st Inf. Div. units along with the 30th Brigade Combat Team "Old Hickory" based in North Carolina, and the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team from Hawaii.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in the fall of 2003 and returned to Fort Riley in September 2004.

As part of the BRAC changes, the division cased its colors in Germany July 7, 2006. The 1st Inf. Div. conducted a transfer of authority with the 24th Inf. Div. on Aug. 1, 2006, assuming command and control of Fort Riley.

Due to changes in the war strategy, 1st Brigade assumed two new missions for the Army in 2006.

The first mission the brigade was charged with was supporting the Army's transition team training mission where brigade Soldiers train thousands of service members from across the Army, Air Force and Navy to become Iraqi and Afghan military advisors.

The second mission the brigade was given was to provide deployable security force elements that can move anywhere the Army wants them. Approximately 2,000 Soldiers from the brigade deployed in fall 2006 as security force companies.

The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which activated Jan. 16, 2005, deployed from Fort Riley to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2007.

The division's Combat Aviation Brigade., which uncased its colors Aug. 1, 2006, and 1st Sustainment Brigade (formerly known as DISCOM) have also deployed and returned to Fort Riley in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat team is currently deployed to Afghanistan and the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team is currently deployed to Iraq.

Source: *The 1st Infantry Division Web site, www.riley.army.mil.*



Photos courtesy of the 1st Infantry Division Museum

4TH IBCT

Good Leadership Key to Reenlistment Success

By *Spc. Shantelle J. Campbell*
4th Infantry Brigade PAO

FORT RILEY – There are many reasons why a Soldier decides to reenlist. It might be for something as tangible as money or it could be for something as intangible as the bond the Soldier has formed with his or her peers.

During a recent change of command ceremony for 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, the unit's former commander, Lt. Col. Michael J. Lawson, said the strength and spirit of a battalion starts with the commander, but grows with empowered officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers who believe in themselves and in their leadership.

The impressive reenlistment rates of Battery B, 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., and Company E, 701st Brigade Support Bn., attached to 1st Bn., 28th Infantry Regt., 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, are due to the leadership and the family-like atmosphere that has been created in these respective units.

"It's us being with the Soldiers and interacting with the Soldiers in every mission and in everything that they do; we're there with them," said 1st Sgt. Arnaldo Muniz, first sergeant of Co. E, 701st Brigade Support Bn. "Soldiers see that, and they know that we're not just sending them to missions and not being there ... we're sweating just like they are."

Even though the success of "Excalibur" Company stems from the example of the leadership, it's the hard work and bond among the unit's Soldiers that the company's commander, Capt. Melissa Steele, credits with much of the unit's success.

"I think it's all about ownership too," she said. "We're just the (leaders) of this company, but the Soldiers really own and run this company. So, I think just the sense of ownership that they have in knowing that they're the ones doing the work day in and day out. They built this unit from the ground up, literally, since 2005, and we've got NCOs here who are great and love their Soldiers. It's just a good feeling coming into work knowing that everyone is on board with what we want to do and with what we want to accomplish. And, I think that's what keeps people in the unit knowing that they have a sense of purpose in a mission."

"There's just a lot of pride," said Muniz.

During a recent reenlistment ceremony, four Soldiers of Btry B. read the Oath of Enlistment and remained with the battery.

For Sgt. Angel Sosa, a section chief for Btry. B, the family-like atmosphere of the unit had a an influence on his decision to reenlist and stay with the unit.

"We are a family here," said Sosa. "We always look out and take care of each other, no matter what position we're in. I'm really excited to be here, in this unit."

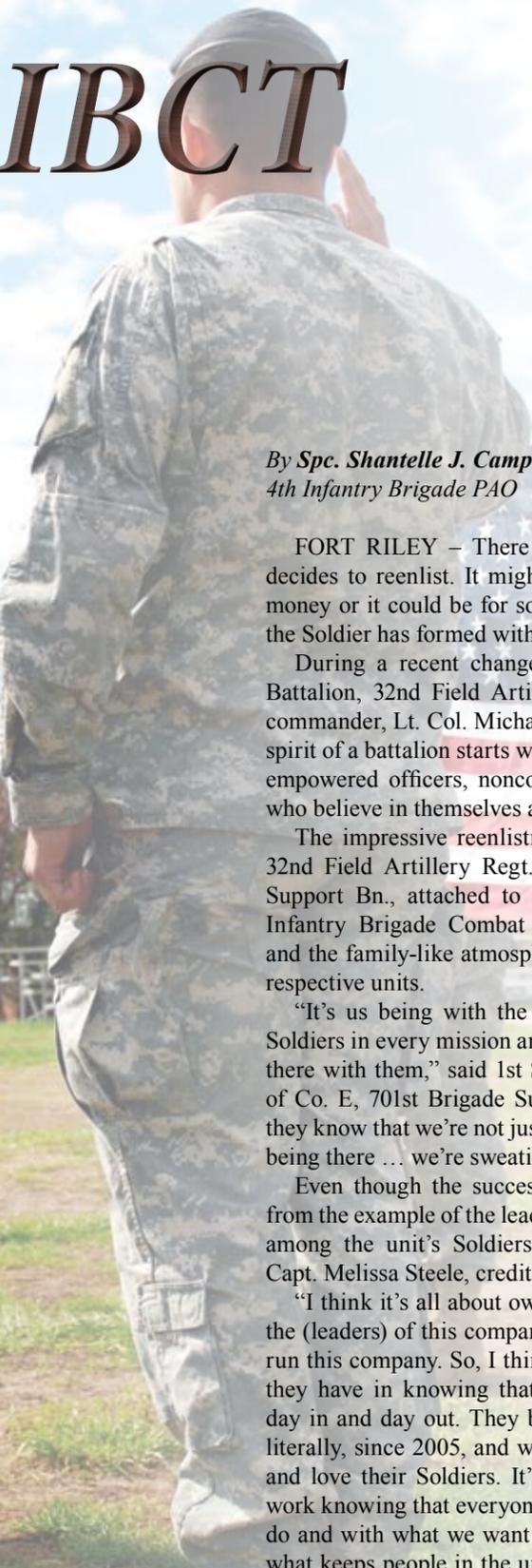
In addition to the family-like atmosphere, the Btry. B commander, Capt. Scott Steele, said caring for his Soldiers and his leaders is what makes the difference in Soldiers choosing to reenlist and remain with the unit.

"The only thing I do is focus on the Soldiers and take care of them," said Scott Steele. "I'm just blessed with very good leadership. My first sergeant and I are on the same page of taking care of everybody and getting things done. We also give the Soldiers the time that they need to take care of their family."

It's a great feeling for the "Proud American" to see his Soldiers reenlist and know that their decision to stay says a lot about the environment around them.

"It's always great to see Soldiers reenlist," said Scott Steele. "I love my Soldiers and my battery is the best battery. I would not have any other group of Soldiers, officers or NCOs. So, when they reenlist and stay in that means a lot to me because the decision to stay always takes a little consideration of where you're at right now."

For both of the unit's commanders, who also happen to be husband and wife, the recipe to creating a successful unit with an impressive reenlistment rate is simple; good leadership, a group of great Soldiers, and high regard for the ones you need to lead. 



Spc. Joseph P. Hillyart, a Soldier with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, repeats the Oath of Enlistment during the unit's reenlistment ceremony April 21.



Sgt. Angel Sosa, a section chief with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stands with his unit's commander, Capt. Scott D. Steele after the battery's reenlistment ceremony.

4 IBCT PAO/Campbell

2ND HBCT

“FIRST LIGHTNING” SOLDIER BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN

By 1st Lt. Tobin Rader
1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment

BAGHDAD – He came to the United States as a child from Haiti and spent more than a year wearing an Army uniform, but was only recently able to finally call himself an American citizen.

Pfc. Richerson Talleyrand, a radar equipment generator mechanic, serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, became a U.S. citizen during the 13th Multi-National Corps-Iraq Naturalization Ceremony in March.

Talleyrand was born Aug. 30, 1983, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and immigrated to the U.S. with his parents, four brothers and two sisters.

First living in Brooklyn, N.Y., he attended Marine Park Middle School and later moved to Coconut Creek, Fla. where he met his wife, Nicktha.

“She is the one who really gives me strength to go on and do these things,” Talleyrand said.

One of the many reasons Talleyrand joined the Army was to provide a better life for his family and to see the world as well.

Talleyrand was in the Army for about a year before he applied for citizenship. He said it took about six months to complete the process through several examinations.

“I went to school in the United States and the material for becoming a citizen was stuff we learned in the seventh and eighth grade,” he said. “I had to refresh myself on some of it, but I was well prepared.”

Talleyrand also said that the Army may help him be prepared for the civilian world after his service.

“If I choose to leave the Army when my contract is up, I hope that the experience I have gained will help me possibly obtain a job with the government,” said Talleyrand. “My goal is to finish my schooling and continue to create a better life for my family.”

Several dignitaries attended the ceremony, including Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander, Multi-National Forces – Iraq, and Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander, Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

Talleyrand’s chain of command also was on hand to witness him become a U.S. citizen, including Lt. Col. Robert Bailes,



1st Bn., 7th FA Regt./Lt. Mark Peek
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Turner (left), Pfc. Richerson Talleyrand (center) and Capt. Mark Guelich, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, are shown after Talleyrand’s naturalization ceremony.

commander, 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt. and Command Sgt. Maj. Garry Hunt, the battalion’s senior enlisted leader.

“I was surprised to see all of the leadership there,” said Talleyrand. “It was nice of them to take time out of their schedules to come.”

Talleyrand’s company commander said the ceremony had an impact on him.

“It amazed me to see 251 Soldiers and noncommissioned officers of every branch of the military from 65 different countries get their U.S. citizenship,” said Capt. Mark Guelich, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 7th Field Artillery Regt. “It was quite an impressive ceremony.”

Like many young immigrants, Talleyrand once struggled with what to do when he grew up and how he would earn his citizenship. However, he said the Army was the right choice for him.

“There is a steady income, good health care and many other benefits for me and my family,” he said. “I believe I would make the same choice again.”

SUICIDE PREVENTION

KNOW THE TRIGGERS

KNOW THE SIGNS

ALCOHOL ABUSE
DEPLOYMENT
FAMILY RELATIONS
PERSONS WITH DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

1 FORT RILEY SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE 239-HELP 1

1 ID Soldiers Join Forces in Air Assault

By Tyler Abney
Duty First! Magazine

Before deploying to Iraq, Capt. David Pittman, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade and Lt. Col. Mike Tetu, 2-1 General Support Aviation Bn., Combat Aviation Brigade had never worked together. In fact, they didn't even know each other. That all changed on Nov. 16, 2008, when Pittman and Tetu combined efforts to execute an air assault northeast of Baghdad.

While stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Pittman and Tetu held jobs commonly unrelated. Tetu, an air mission commander, spent his time patrolling the skies in a Black Hawk helicopter, while Pittman roamed the streets in an up-armored Humvee. Both wore the 1st Inf. Div. patch on their shoulder, both deployed from Fort Riley, but neither knew they would act as a single force on a day they would never forget.

Pittman and Tetu participated in Operation Automatic Pursuit, a mission which brought together elements of air support, Iraqi Security Forces and military transition teams to first deceive the enemy, and then strike it down.

At 4:09 a.m., three Chinook helicopters, occupied by 80 Iraqi Soldiers, six MiTT members and three interpreters, plus two Apaches lifted off from Warhorse, appearing to be headed for Baghdad. Instead, their attention was focused on the village of Beijat, located 18 miles northeast of Baghdad. Three additional Chinooks armed with 90 coalition forces followed the same routine, but marked for Qualis, a village further north. Both, made up mainly of mud huts and small farms, had been notorious for housing Al-Qaida weapons caches and attacks on ISF convoys, but recent surveillance reported minimal insurgent activity – a report that Pittman and Tetu eventually discovered to be incorrect.

It's not often MiTT teams use helicopters to get where they need to be, but the area around Beijat was so densely occupied by improvised explosive devices and early warning systems, Pittman said success relied on an air assault and the element of surprise. He was just one of the MiTT members who assisted the Iraqi Army in clearing Beijat, while Tetu served as the air mission commander from the sky.

"For us, it was pretty routine," Tetu said. "The Apaches would get up first and secure the area from a distance, using all their systems to report and observe if there was anything that could impact the landings. We flew a deception route that gave an impression we were going somewhere else."

Tetu was positioned in the command and control chopper.

As soon as the Chinooks touched down, the assault on the village began. Contact was made with four Iraqi insurgents seeking shelter in an abandoned Iraqi Army compound. In an exchange of fire and grenades, two Iraqi Soldiers were wounded and in need of immediate medical attention. The nearest medical evacuation was 30 minutes away.

As the fire fight continued, Pittman and the rest of the MiTT Soldiers decided it was time to let the Apaches finish the job. He began moving the Iraqi units into a secure position, but as he moved on to the next unit, the previous unit reclaimed its old position in hopes of eliminating the insurgents. The willingness of the ISF to attack the compound showed Pittman and Tetu they were serious about taking their country back. It also prohibited the Apaches from doing their job.

"What I saw that day is something you can't teach any Soldier," Pittman said. "It was just natural instinct to really want to kill insurgents."

"What we were commenting on in my helicopter was 'these sons-of-guns' want to get into the fight," Tetu said. "Every time he's pulling them back, they're racing on their own initiative to go kill the bad guys. They're doing what we've always wanted them to do, but what I was in complete awe of how hard the MiTT Soldiers had to work, running up and down the firing point to grab the Iraqi Soldiers to clear them from the Apache's line of fire."

The longer the Apaches waited for an 'all clear' to fire, the more fuel they burned. Tetu and the rest of the command group eventually turned them loose to refuel.

With the wounded Iraqi Soldiers still on the ground and MEDEVAC still en route, Tetu's chopper landed under fire to fly the first wounded Soldier to safety. Tetu said an Iraqi general was on board his Black Hawk and joined in helping his wounded Soldier onto the chopper.

"What I was most moved by was this general," Tetu said. "It was like something out of the movie *Gladiator*. It's all about the man who's leading his army, holding the head of a guy who just got hurt. It was very emotional and very moving."

At the end of the day, two insurgents committed suicide, two were captured and four were eliminated. The two wounded Iraqi Soldiers survived thanks to an open line of communication and quick thinking.

During the two-hour fire fight, Pittman and Tetu were in constant radio contact, but were yet to figure out they were both from Fort Riley. Finally, after they both redeployed to

Fort Riley, Pittman and Tetu were reunited.

Pittman said he returned to his office one day to find a note from Tetu, thanking him for his efforts.

"My take away is that the MiTT mission is successful beyond all calculations," Tetu said. "And it should never be down-played as just an equitable job for a similar captain. Those guys do more than we ever had to do. They are dealing with so many different paths, different personalities plus the language barriers, worries we never had to explore."

Pittman however, credited success to the communication between himself and Tetu and the Iraqi Army's will to succeed.

"Watching the Iraqi army that day, they are very capable of defending their country," Pittman said. "They have the determination and will to better their country and I saw that first hand. It really changed my view on the Iraqi Army."

Editor's Note: While Pittman and Tetu were just two pieces of a very large puzzle, several other American Soldiers contributed greatly during the assault on Beijat and Qualis. Capt. Pittman, Maj. Morgan Southern, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth LaFleur, and Cpt. George Athanasopoulos all received Bronze Star Medals with Valor. Maj. Brian Hayes was awarded a Combat Action Badge and Sgt. 1st Class Alan Sims was awarded the Combat Medical Badge. 



Iraqi ground movement Soldiers travel between Beijat and Qualis.

Courtesy Photo



Allie Invasion of France. A soldier of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st US Infantry Division, who has gained the comparative safety offered by the chalk cliff at his back, gazes out into the harbor where other landing craft, like those which landed him, move onto Omaha Beach at Colliville-Sur-Mar, Normandy, France. 6 June 1944

Remembering The Longest Day

By Gary Skidmore
Duty First! Magazine

“Two kinds of people are staying on this beach! The dead and those who are going to die! Now let’s get the hell out of here!”

Col. George Taylor, commanding officer, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944

Operation Overlord brought together the land, air and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest invasion force in human history. The D-Day operation delivered five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, France. The beaches were given the codenames UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, JUNO and SWORD. Almost 133,000 troops from England, Canada and the United States landed on D-Day. Casualties from the three countries during the landing numbered 10,300.

Elements of the 1st Infantry Division faced the veteran German 352nd Infantry Division, a combat veteran battalion and one of the best trained on the beaches. Omaha was also the most heavily fortified beach, with high bluffs defended by funneled mortars, machine guns, and artillery. Difficulties in navigation caused the majority of landings to drift eastward, missing their assigned sectors and the initial assault waves of tanks, infantry and engineers took heavy casualties. Of the 16 tanks that landed, only two survived. According to the Stephen E. Ambrose book, “D-Day,” the official record stated “within 10 minutes of the ramps being lowered, the leading company had become ineffective, leaderless and almost incapable of action. Every officer and noncommissioned officer had been killed or wounded ... It had become a struggle for survival.” The heavily defended draws, the only vehicular routes off the beach, could not be taken and two hours after the first assault the beach was closed for all but infantry landings. Commanders (including General Omar Bradley) considered abandoning the beachhead. But the infantrymen of the famed 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div. kept pressing

forward until they breached the heavily fortified German lines. Famed World War II combat journalist Ernie Pyle was at Normandy and sent articles back to the states everyday. In one, his love for the infantry was apparent.

“I love the infantry because they are the underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost-and-wind boys. They have no comforts, and they even learn to live without the necessities. And in the end, they are the guys that wars can’t be won without,” Pyle wrote.

It was infantrymen from the Big Red One assaulting Omaha Beach that morning that Pyle wrote about. Bob Slaughter was one of them.

Bob Slaughter

“As our teams were called, we assembled on the landing craft and were lowered into the water, it was rough and the spray from the sea was cold,” he said. “We were taking water from the rough sea over the bow, and we were bailing to try to keep afloat. Some of the landing craft sank because of the rough sea. We picked up some of our buddies eight or nine miles from shore. We had taken them on as extra cargo; and some stuff that we should have picked up or would have liked to have picked up, we left because we didn’t have room.”

Slaughter said it was a terrible ride to the beach. “Over to our right, the battleship Texas was firing into the cliffs, and every time its big guns went off, a tsunami swamped our boat, and made our seasickness worse.

“As we got in to 1,000 yards offshore, we started taking some mortar shells and some artillery. They were just over our bow and exploding off to our side,” said Slaughter. “We could also hear the small arms as we got in a little closer.

“Our boat was one of six in the first wave. When we got close to the beach, the obstacles erected were fully in view.

“I was the rifle sergeant and followed Lt. Anderson off the boat. There was a wide expanse of beach, and the Germans were firing at us with small-arm fire.

Continued on page 23



“As we came down the ramp, we were in water about knee high. I saw some tracers coming from a concrete emplacement, which to me looked mammoth. I attempted to fire back, but I had no concept of what was going on behind me. The fellows I was with were being hit and put out of action so quickly that it became a struggle to stay on my feet.

Slaughter was wounded the first time trying to get his balance in the surf.

“I was shot through the left hand, which broke a knuckle, and then through the palm of the hand. I felt nothing but a little sting at the time.

“I made my way forward as best I could. My rifle jammed, so I picked up a carbine and got off a couple of rounds. I was hit again, once in the left thigh, which broke my hip bone, and a couple of times in my pack, and then my chin strap on my helmet was severed by a bullet. I worked my way up onto the beach, staggered up against a wall, and collapsed there. The bodies of the other guys washed ashore, and I was one live body amongst many of my friends who were dead and, in many cases, blown to pieces.

Roy Arnn

Roy Arnn was a squad leader whose mission was to clear the area of mines and booby traps. Each man on the squad had a pack of plastic explosives that they carried to blow up the obstacles on the beach. Arnn also had a mine detector, his rifle, a coil of rope with a triple hook on it and some tape to mark obstacles on the beach.

“We were all pretty sea-sick after getting into the assault boat because of the rough water and we were using the puke bags that we had around our necks,” he said. “As the assault boat neared the beach, machine gun fire hit around the front of the boat and some of the sea-sickness left. When the ramp went down we started for the obstacles.

“I was one of the last ones off of the boat as we had to put

a rubber raft, filled with plastic explosives, into the water so it could be taken to the beach,” he said.

The force of a German 88 artillery shell landed near Arnn and blew his helmet off and cut the corner of his eye. “I soon lost sight in my eye because of the blood was running into it.

According to Arnn, Max Norris was the medic and as he tried to get the rifle from Arnn’s shoulder, it began to really hurt.

“I found out later that the scapula and clavicle were broken besides the deep wounds in my shoulder and leg.”

Harley Reynolds

Harley Reynolds has a deep respect for engineers, especially the guys with the Bangalore Torpedoes.

Reynolds, who landed on the section of the beach called Easy Red, said the place was a nightmare.

“There was absolutely nothing easy about Easy Red,” said Reynolds. “It was one of the hardest, most dangerous beaches to assault. The water was red with blood.”

Reynolds said one of the greatest heroes on the beach was a guy with a Bangalore Torpedo.

“We were pinned down right there on the beach. We had bodies stacking up, people were getting shot everywhere and it looked like we weren’t going to get off the beach alive,” he said. “This guy shows up with a Bangalore Torpedo. All of our guys who carried them had been killed. We didn’t even have a pair of wire cutters, so when this guy showed up, there was hope.”

Reynolds said the Soldier pushed the Bangalore under the wire and set it off, creating a passageway through the wire.

“We started to break through when I looked down, the guy was looking at me but he was dead,” Reynolds said. “To me he was the greatest hero on the beach. He saved a lot of Soldiers’ lives that day.”

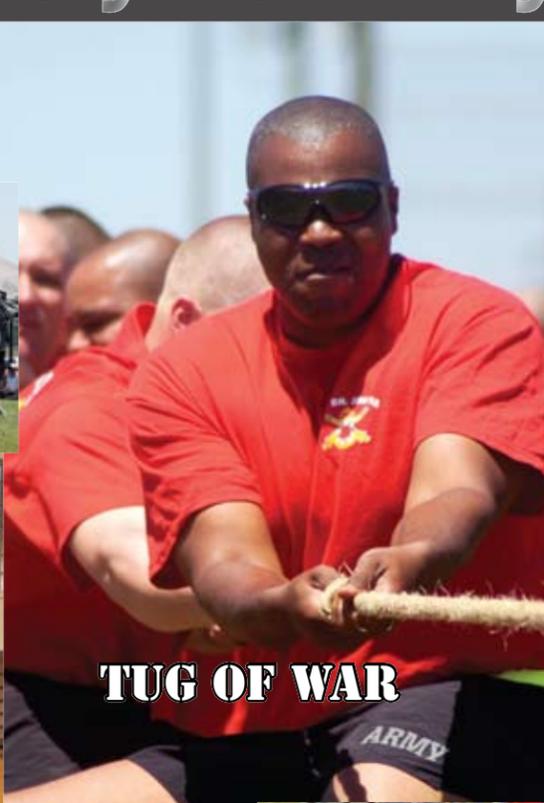
Photos courtesy of the 1st Infantry Division Museum



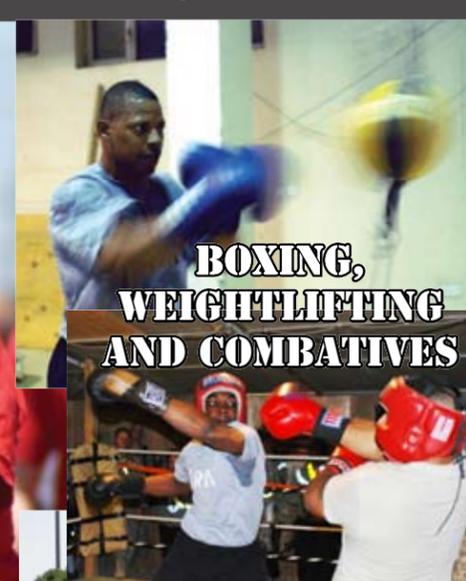
Join in the activities during Victory Week July 27-31



FLAG FOOTBALL



TUG OF WAR



BOXING, WEIGHTLIFTING AND COMBATIVES



BASKETBALL



DODGEBALL



SOFTBALL



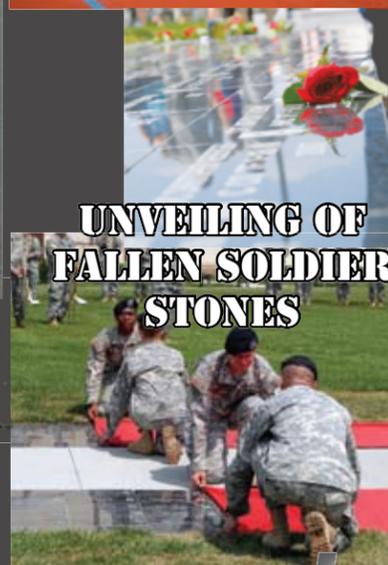
10 MILE RUN AND 11 MILE RELAY



VOLLEYBALL



GOLF AND SOCCER



UNVEILING OF FALLEN SOLDIER STONES

Contact your unit command

Behavioral Health Specialist

Name, age and hometown

Arturo Z. Lincon, 38, Del Rio, Texas

How long have you been in the Army, have you enjoyed your time and why?

I've been in the Army for 10 years active duty and four years in the Army Reserves. I've enjoyed all 14 years mostly because of the people, Soldiers, NCOs and officers I've had the opportunity to serve with. I've also been able to see a variety of cultures, participate in exercises and visit different parts of the world.

Why did you join the Army?

Several reasons: to serve my country, career opportunities, benefits, retirement system and the chance to see other parts of the world.

What is your MOS and what do you do?

I am a multifunctional logistician in 541st CSSB. I am responsible for integrating the functions of supply and services, ammunition, transportation and maintenance for internal units as well as external units within the battalion's area of support.

What do you like best about your MOS?

The variety of areas you get to work in such as transportation, ammunition, maintenance and supply activities. The transportation branch is responsible for moving supplies, troops and equipment anywhere in the world. As such, you can specialize in ground transportation like rail and highway, port operations and even medium boat and heavy watercraft operations.

How will the skills you've gained help after life in the Army?

The skills and experience you gain as a logistician, especially in transportation, are always in high demand in the civilian sector. Ninety to 95 percent of all domestic freight in the continental United States moves by rail or truck. As long as there's a need to move freight, there will always be a need for experienced transportation equipment operators and managers.

What training does the Army offer for this MOS and which have you taken part in?

The Army offers several dozen transportation courses, both resident and Internet based. I have attended the Transportation Officer Advanced Course, the Air Load Planner Course, Unit Movement Officer Course and the Transportation Coordinators' - Automated Information for Movements System II course.



Maj. Arturo Lincon fills out paperwork as part of his job as multifunctional logistician. Lincon enjoys the variety of arenas his job allows him to work in.

"In The News"

DCG Recognized

Soldiers, leaders and friends of the 1st Infantry Division gathered April 23 to say goodbye to assistant division commander Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins in traditional Big Red One fashion with a Victory Honors ceremony at the 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters.



Wiggins commanded the 1st Inf. Div. from July 2008 to April 15, 2009, when he was succeeded by Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks. During the ceremony, Brooks congratulated Wiggins for his "outstanding" work during his time as commander.

Wiggins emphasized the pride he felt for those he worked with, claiming his success was because of those around him.

"I've witnessed first-hand the professionalism, resourcefulness and dedication of the Soldiers who fill the ranks of the Big Red One...and it has been a privilege to serve alongside you," he said.

Wiggins has been assigned as deputy commanding general, Fifth U.S. Army North, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

84th EOD Deploys to Iraq

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 84th Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) cased their unit's colors during a deployment ceremony April 21 at Fort Riley.



About 30 Soldiers with the unit deployed to Iraq for a 12-month tour. While deployed, 84th EOD Soldiers will be responsible for neutralizing Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) and improvised explosive device threats and conducting information to help defeat IED networks. They will also provide training and recommend materiel solutions to protect troops and assist Iraqi security forces in building sustainable security capabilities.

Foundation Awards Fellowship

The Cantigny First Division Foundation recently selected its first Cantigny Research Fellow. Michael Dolski, a history instructor at Ball State University, and a doctorate history candidate at Temple University, earned a \$5,000 sponsorship toward completion of his Ph.D dissertation on "D-Day in American Consciousness."

The Cantigny First Division Foundation offers research fellowships to history majors, graduate students, doctoral candidates and post-doctoral scholars. Fellowships are decided on the basis of using the history of the 1st Infantry Division to further the foundation's mission. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, a cover letter and at least one letter of recommendation from the scholar's current professor, faculty advisor or department chair. Interested persons should contact the executive director at (630) 260 8185 or info@firstdivisionmuseum.org.

Living Legend Speaks To Leadership

*By Gary Skidmore
Duty First! Magazine*

Dwight D. Eisenhower said "the supreme quality for a leader is unquestionable integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is in a section gang, on a football field or in an army. If his associates find him guilty of phoniness, if they find that he lacks forthright integrity, he will fail. His teachings and actions must square with each other. The first great need, therefore, is integrity and high purpose."

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Richard J. Seitz has lived by those words all of his life, and on April 22, spoke to the 1st Infantry Division senior leadership about his principals of leadership.

"Without integrity, it's impossible to have trust in the leadership and trust is the foundation of leadership - it's the glue," he said.

Introducing Seitz to the standing room only audience, Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, then - 1st Inf. Div. deputy division commander told the group to pay particular attention to what the general had to say.

"Very rarely do we get the opportunity to have a legend standing before us willing to pontificate on what he thinks it takes to be a member of this profession of arms," said Wiggins. "And he is a charter member. He is a man that walks with humility. He is a man who could go around bragging, but does not. That is the character of the man who stands before you."

At 91 years old, Seitz, still possessing his command presence, shared his principals of leadership for more than an hour.

"You know the principals of leadership but the challenge is to use them everyday," he said.

"Our Army, your Army, my Army is the most deployed army in the world," said Seitz. "You are the leaders of this great Army. You are the gold standard throughout the world for



a professional military. And you are the leaders of our most precious asset, the American Soldier. Take care of them and they will follow you where ever you lead."

After the initial discussion about leadership, Seitz opened the floor to questions.

The general was asked about his mentors when he was a young officer just starting his career.

"My first company commander was a guy of the name of Capt. Jim Gavin (who later became the commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II). He was my mentor. He counseled me many times," said Seitz. "Some of it was good and some of it was correctional."

Seitz told a story about Gavin when he was a company commander. According to Seitz, the battalion commander was upset about a situation that he wanted corrected immediately.

"At the morning formation I heard all of these company commanders raising hell and telling their companies at the tops of their voices they were going to straighten the Soldiers out."

Seitz said Capt. Gavin took the report from the first sergeant and told the men in a calm voice what was going on.

"Men, I want to talk to you. Some of the units are letting us down. They're not saluting properly. They don't show the right spirit and we've got to work twice as hard. First Sergeant, take charge. I mean to tell you, that was it," said Seitz.

According to Seitz, who eventually served under Gavin as a young battalion commander, Gavin was the same, calm commander in combat.

"One time I was taking a few licks in combat when General Gavin came up to me, told me in his soft voice what he expected and told me how I was going to accomplish the mission. He never even raised his voice," said Seitz. "He was a man of integrity and a true leader of men," said Seitz. 



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION and FORT RILEY
580 1ST DIVISION ROAD
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-7000

AFZN-SO

APR 24 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 111 Fatality Free Privately Owned Vehicle Days

1. On 31 March 2009, the 1st Infantry Division and its partner units successfully completed 111 POV fatality free days. I hereby authorize a 3-day weekend as a safety award to bring attention to and continually improve safety awareness through recognition and promotion of individual and organizational accident prevention measures and successes. I believe timely, accurate and public recognition of deserving units reinforces accident prevention efforts, increases safety awareness and enhances a positive safety culture.
2. The 1st Infantry Division has set a high benchmark in loss control and should be commended for their performance. The realistic goals leaders and Soldiers set for themselves have all been met, and the Division has successfully turned the tide of accidental and operational mishaps into an Army success story this past 111 days. The command effort is a model that demonstrates how leader involvement with accident avoidance can effect mission improvement and preserve combat power.
3. The weekend of 1-3 May 2009 will be a 3-day weekend to acknowledge the 1st Infantry Division's efforts in having 111 POV fatality free days. I commend all units for their hard work in meeting the standard, and encourage commanders and Soldiers to continue in maintaining this standard every 111 days. Commanders have the option to schedule their 3-day weekend within 30 days based off of their training calendars.

*Well done Troops!
Give me more of
these to sign!*

VINCENT K. BROOKS
Major General, US Army
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: *Danger 6*
A