

DUTY AUGUST 2010 **FIRST!**

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families | www.riley.army.mil



The Ties That Bind **Community, Brotherhood & Education**

TOP NCO VISITS IRAQ, LISTENS TO NEEDS OF BRIGADES

PARTNERSHIP OPENS DOORS BETWEEN KSU, THE BIG RED ONE

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



Duty **1** First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

August 2010 | www.riley.army.mil

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Cover: A Soldier from 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., plays with students at Westwood Elementary.

DUTY FIRST! FILE PHOTO

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Ties fortified by partnerships

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

Throughout the last eight years of combat, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Soldiers, Families, and civilians have received tremendous support from the Central Flint Hills Region. These neighbors have welcomed Army Families and have been a staunchly supportive network for many during extended deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Also, approximately 70 percent of our Army Families live within the local communities and many actively participate in the life of the community—giving back.

The return of the 1st Infantry Division in 2006 to its traditional home in Kansas strengthened the bonds of partnership between Fort Riley and the Central Flint Hills Region. The dramatic infrastructure transition required to accommodate a modern active duty division has provided a significant economic stimulus to the region.

The Army Community Covenant Ceremony in August 2008 represented one of the Army's most supported signature events; with Governor Kathleen Sebelius, the entire Kansas Congressio-



nal delegation, state representatives, and a large number of local officials participating in a ceremony with the Secretary of the Army and Fort Riley commanders. Based on this strong community support foundation, the highly successful Adopt-A-Community program was launched partnering brigades with Central Flint Hills Region counties and respective battalions with communities.

Through the development of a campaign plan that moves Fort Riley forward

in partnership with the region – Fort Riley Campaign Plan 2015, we have expanded the Adopt-A-Community program to include Saline County, now partnered with our Combat Aviation Brigade. This adds to other partnerships: the 1st CAB is also partnered with Pottawatomie County, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team with Geary County, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team with Dickinson County, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with Clay and Riley counties, and 1st Sustainment Brigade with Wabaunsee County. Each unit partnership is unique and still in the process of growing, yet they all have in common a view of the importance to our units, our Families, and our neighbors of maintaining a close connection to one another.

We are proud to be at home in the heartland of America—a place where community values closely align with the Army Values; providing one of the best locations available for Soldiers to raise a Family ... one of the many reasons why Fort Riley is the premier Division-level installation in the Army.

Duty First! 

KSU partnerships good for all

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

Several years ago, “Black Lion” commander Lt. Col. Pat Frank reached out to Kansas State University and asked if the school’s football team would be interested in a joint day of physical training with his Soldiers.

No one could have known then how much that single action would grow. While Fort Riley and the Big Red One have always had a great relationship with K-State, what has developed in the past couple of years goes far beyond Fort Riley Day during football season and video shout-outs from units downrange to cheer on the Wildcat sports teams.

As Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks and I have worked with K-State President Kirk Shulz and Athletic Director John Currie, the partnerships that exist between the 1st Infantry Division and the university have multiplied. Art DeGroat has also played a key role as K-State’s liaison officer and facilitated those partnerships. Because of him, there is constant communication between the university and the 1st Infantry Division.

Now, every 1st Infantry Division brigade stationed at Fort Riley is partnered with at least one athletic team from K-State. That partnership includes Soldiers attending sports events in which those athletes compete, or the team visiting Fort Riley and spending a day with Soldiers to learn about the jobs they do each and every day. And that joint training day once requested by the Black Lions? It’s a more and more frequent occurrence. When deployed, units and teams continue to



find ways to stay in touch and extend their support to one another.

Our partnership with K-State extends beyond athletics, though. The university has offered many services to our Soldiers in order to help educate them before deployment. Just a few weeks ago, Soldiers from 172 Chemical Company visited K-State and spent the day working in one of the university’s chemistry labs. During their day, they received instruction from a university professor on the basics of organic chemistry. For many of those Soldiers, that day was the first time they had been able to work with actual lab equipment.

The division’s Sergeant Audie Murphy Club has teamed up with K-State’s leadership department and added to the professional development of the Big Red One’s noncommissioned officers. In addition, the Commanding General’s

Mounted Color Guard maintains close ties with K-State’s Equine Department and rodeo team. The university’s veterinary department also assists the CGM-CG with care for the unit’s four-legged members.

Our Families are not excluded from these partnerships. K-State has the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families. Students, professors and other institute personnel research and study issues surrounding the health and resiliency of military personnel, veterans and their Families. The institute researches the effects of trauma and deployments on military members and their Families and offers programs in those areas. It’s a great tool, both to push the stresses our Families face to the forefront of public knowledge and offer our Families resources in those areas.

The partnership we have with K-State affords our Soldiers many opportunities that are irreplaceable. And in turn, the insight our Soldiers give young American students cannot be underestimated. Both are needed and we are fortunate to be located so close to a university that shares the same level of excellence to which we hold our Soldiers accountable. Hard work on both sides of this partnership has set a precedent for how it should be all across the Army. We will continue to work with K-State to ensure that our Soldiers and the university’s students and professors continue to gain all they can from each other.

Now ... go ‘Cats ... get after it! 

running into **Open Arms**

Story by Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

*Adopt-A-Community program
has communities & military
interacting on positive level*

In 2006, the **Central Flint Hills Region** and its residents were reintroduced to the **1st Infantry Division** as it returned to its traditional home at Fort Riley. The result was as commonplace as any Kansan would expect: open arms welcoming Families, activities for single Soldiers and hearty hand-shakes between generals and mayors.



JORDAN CHAPMAN/DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, runs behind a Clay Center Community Middle School student, encouraging him to finish strong while Pvt. Mitchell Olson, 1st Sqdn. 4th Cav. Regt., follows during the school's 5K Positive Addictions Run April 30.

Fast forward two years to August of 2008. The Governor of Kansas, the Secretary of the Army and 1st Inf. Div. leadership crowd around a table to sign the Army and Fort Riley Community Covenant that manifested the Adopt-A-Community program, giving brigade and battalion commanders the unique opportunity to help educate communities about the division and post.

Since then, each brigade on post has come together with their own

adopted community and has had the chance to mingle with citizens during high school football games, 4th of July celebrations, town festivals and rodeos while at the same time getting to show off their own pride and discipline during parades and with static displays of military vehicles and equipment.

"In this day and age, it may sound kind of corny to be so proud of the military, but I truly am," said Clay Center Mayor Sharon Brown

in a previous speech, speaking for her community about the relationship it shares with the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "I truly think those of us who aren't in the military have to take care of those who are because that's what our country's all about. The people in Clay Center are proud of our heritage, we're proud of our traditions and we're proud of our military."

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(continued from page 5)

The relationship between Clay Center and the "Raiders" has only grown since their paths crossed in 2008.

To show their appreciation of the partnership in January of 2009, the 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. presented the city with the battle flag that flew over the unit's headquarters for 15 months during their deployment. It flew high over the town's city hall until strong winds forced the city to frame it and hang it within the building's halls to help preserve the gift.

The partnership didn't end there. The regiment's most recent outreach involved five Soldiers participating in the Clay Center Middle School 5K Positive Addictions Run on April 30.

"This is like doing your job, but not doing your job," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams, excited to help the students to stay healthy and to help motivate them the Army way. "You're not always out to defend a country, you also have to lead by example and help raise the country."

Sgt. Timon Smock, who also participated, loved being a part of the group selected to run and visit with the middle school students and teachers alike. "This is a great way to show surrounding communities where Soldiers come from and what the Army has offered us as individuals, while at the same time promoting the image that Soldiers are no different than the common citizen," he said.

Eighth graders also got to take a firsthand look during a "Day in the Life" field trip to Fort Riley.

Like Clay Center, Wabaunsee County also has durable ties to their own Army unit, the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

Ervan Stuewe, Wabaunsee County District 1 commissioner, feels that the more educated everyone can be about the military, the better off everyone is, remembering the time when Fort Riley was an unknown realm, when the only people that traveled there were the people the worked there.

"We didn't appreciate them like we should have," he said. But things have



DUTY FIRST! FILE PHOTO



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

TOP: Spc. Kingsley Emedo, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, keeps pace with a Clay Center Community Middle School student to help him finish strong during the school's 5K Addictions Run on April 30. ABOVE Col. Donnie Walker visits with staff at the Alma Creamery in Wabaunsee County.

changed since 1st Sustainment Brigade "adopted" the county.

"We've gotten to know some folks we didn't know before and have learned more. It's a positive situation with all of the communication going on," he said, explaining that he and county citizens have had more than one chance to meet and talk to Soldiers.

One particular time was June of 2009, when the county was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

4HBCT	3-1 Aaslt Bn—Wamego
1-4 Cav—Clay Center	601 ASB—St. Mary's
2-32 FA—Wakefield	
2-16 IN—Riley	1stSB
701 BSB—Ogden	BSTB—Alma
	BSTB—Eskridge
2HBCT	BSTB—Alta Vista
5-4 Cav—Chapman	541 CSSB—Paxico
1-7 FA—Solomon	541 CSSB—Maple Hill
1-63 CAB—Abilene	
1-18 CAB—Herington	1HBCT
BSTB—Enterprise	1-5 FA—Milford
	1-16 CAB—Grandview
CAB	Plaza
1-1 Atk Bn—Westmoreland	2-34 CAB—White City
2-1 GS BN—Onaga	4-4 CAV—Council Grove

The brigade's Soldiers who attended brought equipment and static displays and were able to converse with thousands of citizens that flocked to the court house square to attend the event.

"It was a great opportunity to learn more about what they do," Stuewe stated, adding that Soldiers also were able to march in a 4-H parade in town.

"A good group of military came to march in the parade. The crowd stood up as they passed and it was really something. It was a really moving event ... they are a great bunch of young men and women. We are fortunate to have them," he continued, looking forward to July 25, when brigade and city officials will re-sign their community covenant, rededicating their relationship to another year of excitement at the prospect of working together and forever continuing the communication and knowledge that can be shared to make for a greater community overall.

Smock may have said it best. "We are right here with you," he said, at the time talking about his unit supporting Clay Center. But the feelings are mutual and extend to many units and their adopted communities. 

STOP THE ABUSE

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.

Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

If you feel you may be in an abusive relationship; please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) or your local domestic violence center to talk with someone about it.



1 + 1 = Schoolmates for Life

Adopt-A-School program provides lifelong lessons for Soldiers, students

By Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine

Finding exemplary role models for today's youth is a task that is generally not easily accomplished. However it is becoming fairly simple for staff members of the 17 school districts neighboring Fort Riley. Through the post's Adopt-A-School program, a Fort Riley unit is paired with a local school and the Soldiers serve as positive role models for the students and assist school district staff members.

(continued on page 10)



DUTY FIRST! FILE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Sgt. James Kinney, 1st Bn, 16th Infantry gets dog piled by students at Westwood Elementary School. **PREVIOUS PAGE:** Sgt. Aaron Brewer; 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry follows a group of students from Westwood Elementary School through the parallel bars.

(continued from page 9)

“Generally it’s a very positive relationship, where the Soldiers actually come in enthusiastic and they have a lot of pride about themselves, they have the mannerism that we would like to see in role models,” said Ron Walker, superintendent for Unified School District 475. “When that happens, you get a very good interaction between Soldier and student.”

The previously diminishing program has recently received strong support from current Fort Riley and unit leaders, who hope to see all the schools associated with Fort Riley linked with a unit. The duties that the Soldiers complete for the schools can vary from assisting with homework assignments to providing lunch room support as well as hosting events and outings with the students.

“The Adopt-A-School program allows Soldiers to develop a personal

connection with the students as well as giving them an opportunity to share some of their own experiences with the students,” said Lt. Col. Brandon Grubbs, commander of 101st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, whose battalion has had a long-lasting partnership with Sheridan Elementary School. “The students get a chance to see Soldiers in an unscripted setting and develop personal friendships with the Soldiers.”

The “Guardian” Soldiers, who have had a 10-year relationship with the school, currently travel to Sheridan Elementary School every Wednesday, where they join the students for lunch, recess and then class room activities. The Soldiers have additionally accepted invitations to join the students on special occupations such as holiday celebrations and planned outings.

“It’s just been a wonderful partnership. Our kids just look forward to it. We have to tell the students ahead of time if the Soldiers will not be able to come, because the first thing they ask on Wednesday mornings is ‘When are our Soldiers going to be here?’” said Nancy Hubbard, principal for Sheridan Elementary School. “It’s just been a marvelous relationship. I think the Soldiers who have participated have gotten as much out of it as our students have. We’re pretty proud of how successful our partnership has been and also of the 101st for making it happen.”

The students have also accepted invitations from the unit to visit the Soldiers on post to experience and learn about the Soldiers’ daily duties. Upon recommendation by the staff at Sheridan Elementary School, the entire school district nominated the battalion for the state-

recognized Friend of Education Award, for the unit’s successful partnership with the school. Hubbard and Grubbs both anticipate the partnership continuing throughout the battalion’s deployment, scheduled for this fall.

“We definitely plan on continuing with the program. I think that during the deployment, it is even more important that we continue this. By doing so, our Soldiers and the students will continue to build and foster the relationships that they developed,” Grubbs said. “Additionally, it is even more important for our Soldiers; in that they can take a break from the stress of deployment by reading or writing a letter to the students.”

The groundwork has already been set and plans to partner additional schools with contributing units is currently in the works, noted Erin Sullivan, a school liaison officer for Fort Riley’s Child, Youth and School Services. Invitations have been sent to each school within the 17 districts, describing the program and how the students can benefit from the interaction with Soldiers.

“Each school district will be different

It’s just been a marvelous relationship. I think the Soldiers who have participated have gotten as much out of it as our students have. We’re pretty proud of how successful our partnership has been ...”

— Nancy Hubbard

Sheridan Elementary School principal

just based on their personality. There is no right or wrong way to conduct the program,” Sullivan said. “It also helps the teachers, counselors and principals understand the military. They’re seeing the Soldiers come in and they’re able to get to know them and ask them questions and they’re getting a better understanding of the military, based on the Soldiers’ perspective.”

The excitement and joy the one-on-one connections the program creates can not only be noted on the faces of the students, but in the Soldiers who participate as well, Walker added.

“I really think that the program is very beneficial. I think one thing that happens that we didn’t foresee is that the Soldiers can sometimes get more out of it than the students. I think they really get some insights and they really get more involved than what we thought they would,” Walker said. “The relationships that they develop, they carry on for quite a while and we, the school, get a role model coming in, who is not a teacher or the principal, who is an outside person showing interest in the students. That’s always a huge benefit.”



STAFF SGT. ROBERT DEDEAUX, 1ST HBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS



COURTESY PHOTO

LEFT: Students from Riley County School District walk with Fort Riley Soldiers during the 2009 Riley County Veteran’s Day Parade in Manhattan, Kan. The Riley County Elementary School has had a very successful partnership program between its students and Fort Riley Soldiers, said Sandy Johnson, a Fort Riley school liaison officer. **RIGHT:** From left, Lt. Col. Brandon Grubbs, battalion commander of 101st Forward Support Battalion, 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., Nancy Hubbard, principal of Sheridan Elementary School, Command Sgt. Major Jeffrey Adams, battalion command sergeant major of 101st FSB and Sgt. Rickey Stone, 101st FSB’s school liaison, pose for a photo with a student during a proclamation signing ceremony. The battalion and Sheridan Elementary School have been partners for more than ten years.



COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. participate with Kansas State University's Willie the Wildcat to complete pushups following a KSU touchdown during the 'Fort Riley Day' home football game. This year's Fort Riley Day is scheduled for September 25 and will feature discounted military tickets as well as participation from various Fort Riley units and a half-time display featuring Soldiers of the "Big Red One."



TRACKING

A Successful Partnership

K-State, Big Red One foster mutual respect between Soldiers & student athletes

By Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine

One feline reached out to another ... and what developed was a long-running friendship that opened the door for others to follow suit. The two cats, one a "Black Lion" and the other a "Wildcat," didn't meet in the wild, but rather utilized the telephone to begin what is now viewed as a successful partnership.

The Black Lions of 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and the Wildcats of the Kansas State University football team began a long-lasting partnership when Lt. Col. Pat Frank, former battalion commander, contacted the KSU football team to possibly schedule a day of training between his Soldiers and the Division I level athletes.

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COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley and Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley command sergeant major, lead the Kansas State University football team onto the field before the beginning of the annual 'Fort Riley Day.' The university's football team hosts the annual event at a game each season. Soldiers of the division and Fort Riley are recognized and participate in pre-game and halftime events.



COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

Bill Snyder, the head coach for Kansas State University's football team visits with Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley while touring the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. The KSU football team and Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Inf., 4th IBCT were the first two organizations to form a partnership between a Fort Riley unit and KSU athletic team.



COURTESY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

ABOVE: Soldiers of 1st Bn., 7th Field Artillery, 2nd HBCT, cheer on the Kansas State University's men's basketball team during a home game at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kan. LEFT: Band Members and color bearers of the 1st Inf. Div. participate in a half-time performance with members of the Kansas State University cheer squad. The university's football team hosts an annual 'Fort Riley Day,' where Soldiers of the division and Fort Riley are recognized.

(continued from page 13)

"The partnership between the Black Lions and the football team is the first and best and it's really all due to Lt. Col. Frank, the former battalion commander. It was all his idea," said Art Degroat, director of military affairs for KSU. "That's the most mature relationship and the longest standing."

The partnership between the two organizations has since progressed over the years and has formed life-long friendships between the athletes and Soldiers. The insignia of the Black Lions' crest is now on display in the KSU Vanier Football complex and the team has established the Black Lion Award. The award was created within the battalion to recognize individuals who demonstrate the strong character values that represent Black Lion Soldiers. KSU's Ian Campbell wore the Black Lion medallion on his football jersey for two seasons—something

that required the organization to receive authorization from the Big 12 Athletic Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association for Campbell to don the decoration.

"We wanted to offer a relationship, more than just a gesture of appreciation. We wanted to produce intimate partnerships where student athletes get to see and know Soldiers firsthand and what they do," Degroat said. "It's reinforcing the character development that the coaches are doing because they're trying to mold student athletes with high character values, just like our senior NCOs and officers are doing with the Soldiers."

The football team and Fort Riley have also formed a general partnership to invite the post to join them for 'Fort Riley Day,' generally scheduled during a home game in September. This year's Fort Riley Day is scheduled for September 25 and will feature discounted military tickets as well as participation from various Fort

Riley units and a half-time display featuring Soldiers of the "Big Red One."

"These appreciation day events are great. They are designed to show appreciation and they do just that," he said. "Through these partnerships and other things that we're doing, we're giving Soldiers and their families a unique opportunity that doesn't exist many other places."

Since the formation of the partnership between the Black Lions and the KSU football team, various units and KSU athletic teams have initiated relationships based off the original model. The second relationship established was formed between 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team and the KSU men's basketball team.

"Every one of the partnerships is unique. How they initiate their partnership and what they do as the relationship is formed is unique to each partnership," Degroat said. "My idea of supporting this was that Soldiers and students need to

meet each other and get to see how the other lives. It's good for building community and an appreciation for the sacrifices and life style of each other."

During the battalion's previous deployment, a recently filmed video clip would play before each week's home game. The film would feature a different "First Lightning" Soldier in Iraq and the Soldier would announce "bring on the cats" before the team entered the coliseum.

"The fans would just go wild. They loved it," he said.

While 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., prepared for its deployment, the team joined the battalion for a day of training on Fort Riley. The unit has since had Soldiers join the team at practices, as well as received complimentary tickets to come view their partners during home games. The whole team, including Head Coach Frank Martin, wore the insignia of the First Lightning battalion on their jerseys this past season. When the team advanced to the NCAA tournament and

BIG RED ONE & KANSAS STATE PARTNERSHIPS

KSU Football	1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
KSU Men's Basketball	1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team
KSU Women's Basketball	Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade
KSU Women's Volleyball	Combat Aviation Brigade
KSU Men's Baseball	2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
KSU Band	1st Infantry Division Band
*KSU Track & Field	299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team
*KSU Cheer & Mascot Program	5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team
	* Future partnerships planned between the institutions

then on to the Elite Eight, people all over the nation began to notice and inquire the unit's crest.

"People everywhere were trying to figure out what that thing was on their jerseys and that Frank Martin was wearing. The supply sergeant from 1-7 received e-mails from people all over the country trying to buy their unit's crest," said Degroat.

All relationships have been formed on a voluntary basis and have begun by

the individual units contacting KSU and requesting the partnership, he noted.

"There has been no eternal pressure to direct, manage or create these. It's all been genuine outreach and mutual and I think the success of the partnerships is because they are maintained that way. It's not an extra duty for the unit; it's not an extra duty for the teams. It's what they want to do, it's a relationship they've created for themselves and they honor continually. It's very, very genuine." 🐾



You have a ...

Group Invitation

Social networking outlets allow Soldiers & Families to stay in the know

By Jordan Chapman
Duty First! Magazine

IF YOU'RE ONLINE OFTEN, CHANCES ARE YOU SPEND TIME ON AT LEAST ONE, BUT PROBABLY THREE OR FOUR SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES. AND IF YOU PAY ATTENTION, IT'S HARD TO MISS THE GROWING MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE WEB, AND UNITS IN THE BIG RED ONE ARE NO EXCEPTION.

Social networking is leading the way in the virtual world, and because leading is what the Big Red One does best, it's only right that Fort Riley leadership and news agencies have their hand in every social networking site available.

Want to see what today's Soldiers are doing? Big Red One headlines and news are easily accessible via Twitter and Facebook, videos of past and present BRO Soldiers are all over YouTube. Images of every major event held on post can be found at Flickr and any kind of information you want to gather is on the main page of the Fort Riley Web Site. Soldiers and their families couldn't forget if they tried.

The main Fort Riley Web site has everything any Soldier or spouse could need. Find basic information about the post from a phone directory, to the news to the current weather. Unit pages

WHERE TO FIND US

- www.riley.army.mil/
- twitter.com/fightingfirst
- www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision
- www.facebook.com/1stSustBde
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- www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Riley-KS/Special-Troops-Battalion-1st-Sustainment-Brigade
- www.flickr.com/photos/firstinfantrydivision

*Also find the 1st Inf. Division on youtube.com, troottube.com, and ireport.cnn.com

link to every brigade and battalion that make up the division, each with their own page with information. New arrivals can find out what to expect with their own dedicated tab, and if you're coming back for another year, find out what new recreational activities are waiting for you.

Twitter and Facebook offer more interactive experiences.

Following the Fighting First on Twitter

allows anyone to read the major headlines and announcements currently going on at Fort Riley. The option to check manually online is available but so is the ability to be updated via cell phone.

Imbedded within each "tweet" followers usually can find a link to an update or article to get a closer look on Facebook, taking you directly to the Official 1st Infantry Division page, where any newcomer is presented with a wealth of media information. Options range from print, pictures to videos, along with announcements and shout outs from past BRO Soldiers who have moved forward in their careers.

Select brigades and battalions also have their own pages dedicated to their own events and announcements.

Along with millions of other videos on YouTube, simply typing in the 1st Inf. Div. will offer a number of videos ranging from Vietnam to Operation Iraqi Freedom memorial videos to our very own Soldiers doing what they do best, handing it to the enemy.

Flickr, too, must never be forgotten. Perfect for the searcher uninterested in print or videos, this site features many photos taken by our media specialists in high resolution.

Want to stay involved? Here's your chance! 🇺🇸

STEPHANIE HOFF/DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

A Fort Riley Soldier receives an update on Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div. by viewing the Official facebook page of the 1st Infantry Division. Big Red One headlines and news are immediately and easily accessible via Twitter and Facebook.

forward

Top NCO visits Iraq

Sgt. Maj. Preston: Meetings help gauge where priorities lie

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div., Public Affairs

COB BASRA, IRAQ—THE ARMY'S TOP NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER VISITED SOLDIERS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ TO SEE HOW THEY ARE LIVING IN A DEPLOYED ENVIRONMENT AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WAY AHEAD AS THE DRAWDOWN IN IRAQ APPROACHES.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, the Army's senior enlisted member, visited Soldiers of United States Division-South at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Patrol Base Minden, and the Shalamcha Point of Entry along the Iraq-Iran border.

At PB Minden, which is occupied by Soldiers from one of his former units, the 10th Cavalry Regiment, Preston had a chance to see fitness, recreation, dining and living facilities for the troopers, which he said play a role in the readiness of a unit.

"What goes on in the dining facility is a big part of the morale, part of the esprit de corps; it's where units and organizations come together," Preston said.

Down the road from Minden, Preston saw border operations first hand at Shalamcha POE along the Iranian border,



TOP: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, senior enlisted member of the U.S. Army, talks to Soldiers of the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment at Patrol Base Minden in southern Iraq on June 25. **ABOVE:** Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, left, the senior noncommissioned officer of United States Division-South and the 1st Infantry Division, talks to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, senior enlisted member of the U.S. Army, at the Shalamcha Point of Entry in southern Iraq on June 25. Shalamcha is positioned on the Iraq-Iran border and is a critical part of smuggling interdiction in southern Iraq.

where Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division prevent smugglers from bringing contraband into Iraq.

After Shalamcha, Preston flew to Contingency Operating Base Basra, home of the United States Division-South head-

quarters, where he held a town hall meeting to address issues and answer any questions.

Preston, a native of Mount Savage, Md., said such meetings help him gauge where his priorities should lie.

"I can tell by the questions you ask, what's on your mind, things we need to do a better job at getting information out, and things we need to fix in the future," he said.

Spc. Joshua Mitchell, an air traffic controller with the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, said as the son of a retired sergeant major, he has a unique appreciation for the sergeant major of the Army taking time out of his schedule to talk to troops.

"It allows me to remember the things my father did and went through," said Mitchell. "That's a lot of long nights and no weekends so the significance of the time and determination it takes to reach that rank is something I look up to."

Preston fielded questions on a variety of topics, from future uniforms and uniform policies to how the drawdown in Iraq impacts dwell time.

After the question and answer session, Preston left the troops with praise for the job they are doing in Iraq.

"We're very proud of the mission you're doing over here right now. We're very proud of all the things you've accomplished," he said. "We want you to finish up your mission over here and get back to your families." 



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks talks with aviation mechanics July 6 during a visit to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. at Camp Taji.

'Let's see Lady Victory'

Maj. Gen. Brooks tells brigade to savor its unique experience

By Spc. Roland Hale
CAB Public Affairs Office

CAMP TAJI, IRAQ—MAJ. GEN. VINCENT BROOKS, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND U.S. DIVISION-SOUTH IN IRAQ, VISITED ONE OF HIS DEPLOYED BRIGADES JULY 6 TO MEET SOME OF HIS SOLDIERS STATIONED AT CAMP TAJI.

Brooks visited the Combat Aviation Brigade, which is responsible for providing air support to U.S. and Iraqi ground forces across nearly all of Iraq. The general met with unit commanders and received a summary of the brigade's operations but spent most of his time with the troops.

Brooks walked through the brigade's

hangars and talked to Soldiers about everything from their Families to their future, always talking about the benefits of staying in the military.

"In this business, we bring out the best in everybody," Brooks said. "If you feel like you're making a difference—keep doing it. You won't find this experience anywhere else."

Brooks ended many of his conversations with the words, "Let's see that Lady Victory!" a call for his aide to hand him a 1st Inf. Div. coin bearing the division's historic symbol and the words, "for excellence." Coins are presented in the military as tokens of achievement.

Pfc. Sean Kruchten had not met a two-star general before, but said despite the intimidation associated with the rank it was good to see his senior-leadership involved with the little guys.

"I've seen it first-hand now—I think the things the general is saying to us today are genuine. I really think he cares," Kruchten said.

The general's visit also had official purposes. While his current command as head of U.S. Division-South does not put the CAB, 1st Inf. Div. under his jurisdiction, Brooks still met with Col. Frank Muth, brigade commander, to speak about the unit's operations.

The brigade is scheduled to remain in Iraq until next spring as the Army's last active-duty aviation unit to support Operation New Dawn. It is scheduled to become the only aviation brigade in Army history to be dubbed an enhanced combat aviation brigade and will be responsible for all of the country's Army aviation support by the end of the summer. 

Around the **DIVISION**

Big Red One Reunion set for Aug. 25-29 in San Antonio

The annual Big Red One reunion will be Aug. 25 to 29 along the river walk in San Antonio, Texas. This annual event, sponsored by the Society of the 1st Infantry Division, is a special opportunity to meet up with old friends and connect with new ones, all veterans and their Families, who have the shared bond of serving their country while wearing the Big Red One patch on their uniform.

The event will feature several tours into the nearby area, including the Spanish Mission Trail, historic Fredericksburg, and the Brooke Army Medical Center. The week concludes with a banquet dinner. You must be registered in advance to attend and participate.

For more information or to register, contact the Society of the 1st Infantry Division at (888) 324-4733, or by email to SoC1ID@aol.com.

'Duke' Brigade presents awards to FRG, FRSA leaders

FORT KNOX, Ky.—Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team recognized some of their Family readiness staff and volunteers on July 15. Members of the command staff, Families and several Family Readiness Group members were present in 3-1 IBC's annex to award the staff and volunteers.

Ally Reese, brigade family readiness support assistant, said that the hard work of the Family readiness volunteers has established strong bonds within the community.

"Our volunteers have over 620 hours of service within their FRGs and communities," Reese said.

Reese, an FRSA for more than three years, says the various volunteers have done everything from leading local Boy Scout troops to workshops on deployment preparedness.

"Our FRGs are covering a wide range of activities and events," Reese said. "Their

hard work helps the morale, welfare and deployment preparedness of the brigade."

The brigade gave 10 different types of awards to several FRG and FRSA leaders. Awardees were presented with coins from 3-1 IBC's Commander Col. Christopher Toner and Command Sergeant Major Drew Pumarejo, in addition to their individual awards.



'Dragon' Brigade cases colors, ends current mission in Iraq

TIKRIT, Iraq—Inside the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's headquarters building at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Col. Hank Arnold and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. McCoy, the commander and top noncommissioned officer of the Dragon brigade, cased their unit's colors during a July 15 ceremony.

Since deploying to the Salah ad-Din province, last fall, the 'Dragon' brigade oversaw a successful parliamentary election in March and returned 12 of 18 military bases to the Iraqi government. The brigade also worked hand-in-hand with the U.S. State Department Provincial Reconstruction team to complete several projects aimed to better the economy and provide a better quality of life for the people of Salah ad-Din.

"We took over an operating environment that was already moving forward, and we continued to improve upon that operating environment and made it better than what it was," Arnold said. "...We accomplished our mission, and we get to finish this mission with honor and go

home knowing that we participated in a very important part in the history of Iraq and in the Iraqi people."



Aviators fly joint training mission with Iraqi partners

BAGHDAD—U.S. Army aviators flew with aviators from the Iraqi Army July 19 for a training mission in the Baghdad area intended to strengthen relations between their units and train the Iraqi aviators on VIP transportation.

This is one of many aviation missions conducted with the Iraqi Army this year as they take a more active role in the war's aviation operations. The U.S. aviators were from the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade. The battalion is also involved in training Iraqi air traffic controllers, with whom they share Camp Taji's air traffic control tower.

On this mission, the U.S. aviators flew a UH-60L Black Hawk while the Iraqi aviators flew a UH-1 Huey. The Iraqi Army, which recently took control of their military's rotary-wing assets from the Iraqi Air Force, uses the Huey primarily as a scout and reconnaissance aircraft. This mission, however, showed the Iraqis how to use the aircraft to transport VIP's around the battlefield.

"One thing I've seen change since the war started is the Iraqi's participation in everything," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christian Frobenius, one of the Black Hawk pilots. "They want to do this, and we're here to facilitate that." 



Taking the next step ...

ASAP

Army Substance Abuse Program

Program Objectives:

- ➔ Increase individual fitness and overall unit readiness.
- ➔ Provide services which are proactive and responsive to the needs of the Army's workforce and emphasize alcohol and other drug abuse deterrence, prevention, education, and rehabilitation.
- ➔ Implement alcohol and other drug risk reduction and prevention strategies that respond to potential problems before they jeopardize readiness, productivity, and careers.
- ➔ Restore to duty those substance-impaired Soldiers who have the potential for continued military Service.
- ➔ Provide effective alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and education at all levels of command, and encourage commanders to provide alcohol and drug-free leisure activities.
- ➔ Ensure all personnel assigned to ASAP staff are appropriately trained and experienced to accomplish their missions.
- ➔ Achieve maximum productivity and reduce absenteeism and attrition among civilian corps members by reducing the effects of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.
- ➔ Improve readiness by extending services to the Soldiers, civilian corps members, and Family members.

The Army Substance Abuse Program's mission is to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's work force, to conserve manpower and to enhance the combat readiness of Soldiers.

To find out more about the Army Substance Abuse Program, visit www.riley.army.mil/UnitPage.aspx?unit=DHR.ASAP. You also can get contact information with unit FRGs and FRSAs.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIG **RED** ONE?

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