

DUTY FIRST!

SALUTING OUR VETERANS

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

Honoring our VETERANS

Families, communities,
recognize the sacrifices
and efforts of Soldiers
today and those in past



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.

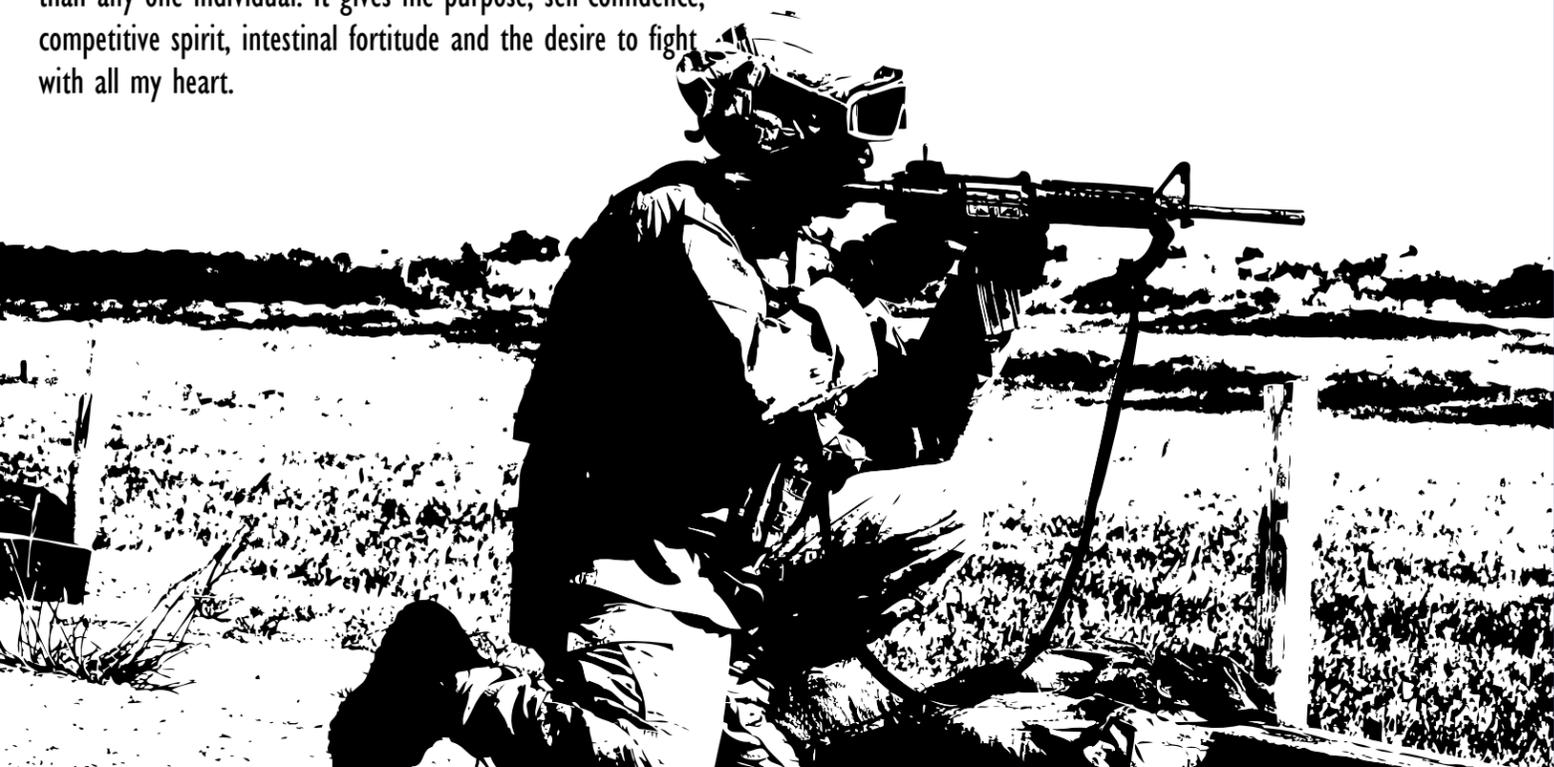
HONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain of command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

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.

Saluting Our Veterans | www.riley.army.mil

1st Infantry Division Commander
Maj. Gen. William Mayville

1st Infantry Division CSM
Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sasser

1st Infantry Division PAO
Lt. Col. Sophie Gainey

Editor
Stephanie Hoff

Staff Writer
Mollie Miller

Illustrator
Justin Angeles

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. Story and photos submissions are welcome and should be sent to:

1st Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office
ATTN: Editor
Bldg. 580
RM 313
Fort Riley, KS 66442
Telephone number
COM 785-239-4696
DSN 856-6821

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

COVER: A student from Northview Elementary School displays a poster honoring Soldiers during the Veterans Day Parade in Manhattan, Kan., on Nov. 11. The day's festivities marked Manhattan and Riley County's 19th year celebrating Veterans Day.

STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

Departments

PICTORIAL
Remembering the efforts, sacrifices of our veterans **14**

Unit Movements
2nd HBCT uncases colors after yearlong tour in Iraq **16-21**



18

Features

'Lucky' vet still contributing
Vietnam veteran continues to stay involved with division **2**

Wounded warrior stays strong
Sacrifices for Family, country do not go unnoticed

Engineering a gathering
'Diehards' from different eras gather, share common stories **8**

Veterans Parade hits L'il Apple
Soldiers, Manhattan residents congregate for festivities **10**

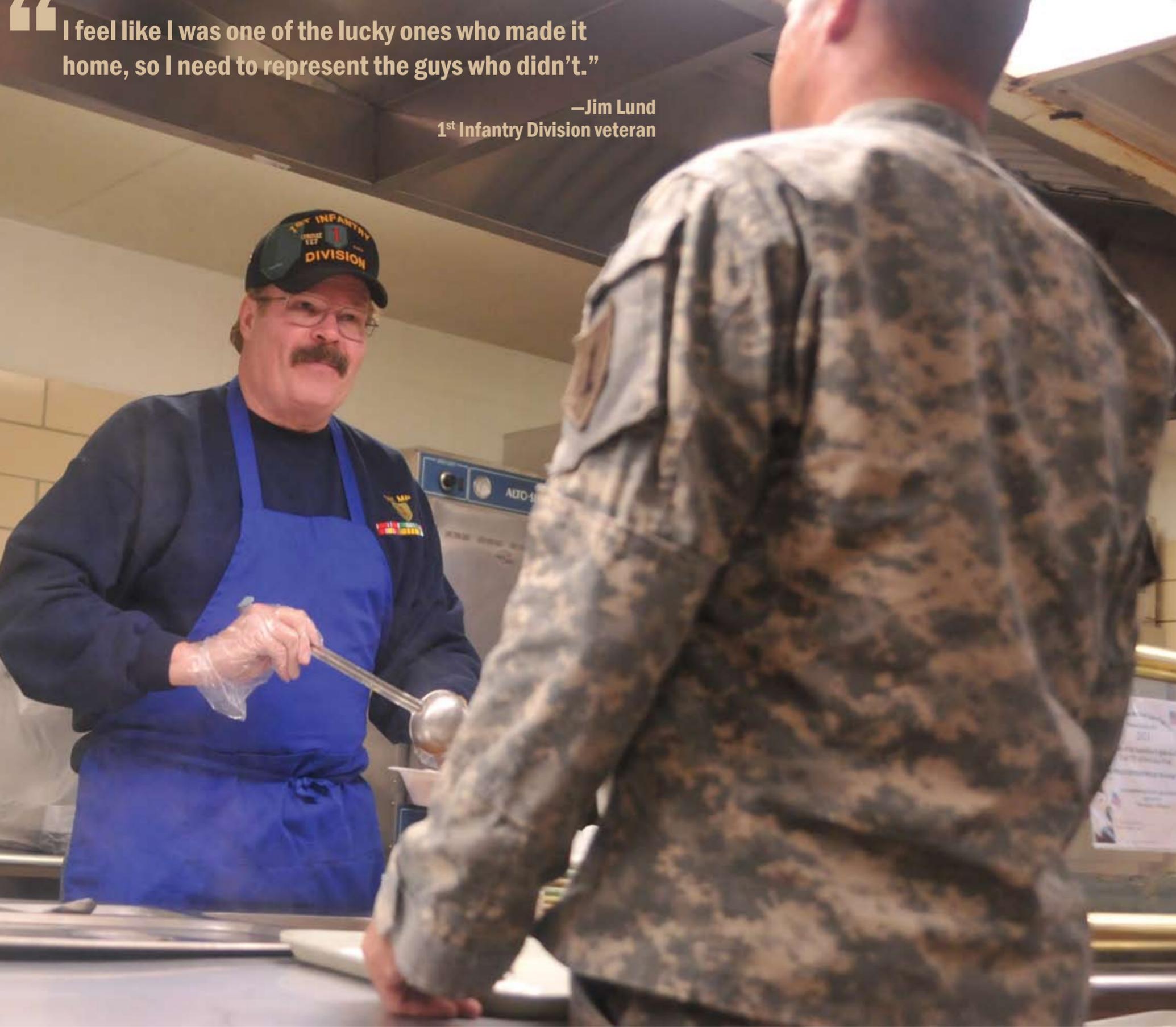
'Proud Americans' unite
Veterans' organization lets Soldiers remain connected **12**



6

I feel like I was one of the lucky ones who made it home, so I need to represent the guys who didn't."

—Jim Lund
1st Infantry Division veteran



Story by Mollie Miller • *Duty First! Magazine*

The Lucky 'ONE'

1st Infantry Division veteran still contributing to BRO Family

Standing behind the serving line during a recent USO event on Fort Riley, 1st Infantry Division veteran Jim Lund prepared to dish up dinner to hundreds of Big Red One Soldiers and Family members.

Although the main course featured on the menu that night was stew, Lund already decided he was going to serve up a whole lot more than bowls full of broth, potatoes and beef. That night, the Vietnam veteran who walked the jungles of Lai Khe and the streets of Saigon as a military policeman offered his BRO Family not just nourishment for their bodies but for their hearts and minds.

(continued on page 4)

First Infantry Division veteran Jim Lund serves a Big Red One Soldier stew during a recent USO dinner at Fort Riley, Kan. Lund, along with other veterans from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 317, volunteer at the bimonthly USO No Dough Dinners.

MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



COURTESY PHOTO

Former military police officer Jim Lund was stationed in Lai Kai, Vietnam, with the 1st Infantry Division in 1968.



COURTESY PHOTO

First Infantry Division veteran Lund spent one Christmas in Vietnam during an 18-month tour as a military police officer.



COURTESY PHOTO

As a military police officer in Vietnam, Lund and his Big Red One teammates ran checkpoints and provided security for troop convoys.

(continued from page 3)

During the two-hour meal, Lund gave the division's Soldiers, spouses and children a kind smile, an easy laugh, a listening ear and insights gathered during the 18 months he spent in combat and the 41 years he spent trying to forget those days.

"I have become a very good listener," Lund said. "This is a different war, a different generation, but war is war."

Lund joined the Army in 1967 because, he said, he was going nowhere fast at Wichita State University and he didn't want to wait to get drafted. Joining the Army in 1967 meant Lund could pick his military occupational specialty, MP, and his first duty assignment, Germany.

Shortly after arriving in Germany, however, Lund and a friend realized the place they really needed to be was Vietnam.

"We decided that if we were going to be in the military, we wanted to be where we could do the most for our country," he said. "For us, that meant Vietnam."

Lund asked his company commander to go to Vietnam, a request that was promptly denied. Undeterred, Lund sent a letter to the Pentagon requesting orders to Vietnam. Once again, his request was denied. Lund would not take no for an answer though and wrote to congressman Bob Dole. Three weeks later, orders for Vietnam were in his hand.

"Our first sergeant told us 'you guys have no idea what you are getting into,' and we really didn't," Lund said.

Lund arrived in Vietnam in early 1968 on the heels of the Tet Offensive and at the beginning of the deadliest year of the war for U.S. forces.

"We had to come in 'hot' because the base was under fire," he said. "Reality really started setting in."

In Vietnam, Lund and his fellow MPs ran convoys and checkpoints and manned all the entries into the base camps. Within just a few days of being "in country," Lund learned as long as he could survive the first minute of an enemy ambush, he would survive the whole attack.

"They would hit and run," he said.

Lund said his team in Vietnam dealt with a lot of the same issues today's Soldiers are dealing with in Afghanistan and Iraq. Improvised explosive devices, which Lund just called bombs back then, were common and did a lot of damage.

"They (Viet Cong) were great at disguising the bombs and putting all kinds of shrapnel in them so they would do the most damage," he said. "They would put the bombs in the trees or on the side of the roads so that if you pursued them after an ambush, you would walk right into them."

Lund lost many friends and fellow unit members during his time as 1st Inf. Div. MP and later as an undercover agent for the Criminal Investigation Division. One death that still haunts him is when a fellow MP on guard duty was killed just 20 minutes after being introduced to Lund.

"That's when you start thinking that it could have been you," he said. "If anybody ever tells you they weren't scared when they were there, they are lying. You were scared pretty much every minute you were there."

Lund did a 12 month tour of Vietnam, returned to the states for 30 days and went back to Vietnam for six months. At the end of the six months, he flew home to Kansas and to the life he left almost three years before.

Though accounting for a small percentage of time in the grand scheme of things, Lund said the years he spent in Vietnam were the most profound in his life.

"I became a man and I found myself," he said. "I didn't realize it at the time but I grew up and started looking at the world different and started appreciating the little things that I had always taken for granted."

The years that followed Lund's return from Vietnam were full of many things. The young man from Kansas City went back to college and traveled the nation running restaurants. Distinctly absent from the years, however, was any and all talk of Vietnam.

"Anytime someone brought Vietnam up, I would change the subject," he said. "There are a lot of things you have to mentally get a grip on, which was tough."

I have become a very good listener. This is a different war, a different generation, but war is war."

**—Jim Lund
1st Infantry Division veteran**

Talk of his years at war came flooding back into Lund's life about five years ago when he started volunteering with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 317 in Kansas City. About three years after that, Lund officially retired and started volunteering all his time with the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), the American Legion, the Veteran's Affairs Hospitals in Kansas City and Leavenworth, and, finally, with the USO on Fort Riley.

"I feel like I was one of the lucky ones who made it home, so I need to represent the guys who didn't," Lund said.

April Blackmon, director of USO

Fort Riley, said having veterans like Lund serve as part of the USO family in the Flint Hills is a true honor.

"People like (Lund) show us that we have awesome veterans who continue to serve their country by taking care of this generation's troops and Families," she said. "They know and genuinely appreciate what our troops are going through today and we cannot thank them enough for their past service and for their continued support of our nation's military."

Lund said volunteering with veteran's service organizations is his new "career" and he plans to continue doing so until everyone understands what Soldiers and their Families go through. It is the job of every citizen to care for America's fighting men and women, their spouses and children, he said.

"I get more out of volunteering than do the people who I help," he said. "My focus is our warriors and their Families. If there is anything to be done that will make their lives even just a little easier, that's what I'm going to do. Never again will we leave a generation behind." 



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

ABOVE: Pfc. Kyle Hockenberry, 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav., 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., got his first and only tattoo just weeks before he deployed to Afghanistan. The tattoo reads, "For those I love, I will sacrifice." The 19-year-old Soldier was injured June 15 when a pressure plate IED exploded near him. The blast cost Hockenberry both legs and his left arm. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP:** Hockenberry's family visits him at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, including mom, Kathy, dad, Chet, and brother, Chad.

Sacrifice, Ink.

Wounded BRO Soldier's sacrifice etched in body, resolve set in stone

Story by Mollie Miller | Duty First! Magazine

LOVE can make people do some crazy, unusual, heroic things.

A dance outside in a rain storm, a midnight flight across the country, a dash into a burning home — none of these are outside the realm of what people will do for those they love.

For one 1st Infantry Division Soldier, his love for his family and his country led him into an Army recruiter's office, into basic training, west to

Fort Riley, Kan., and around the world to Afghanistan.

And then that love led him right to death's front door.

Pfc. Kyle Hockenberry, 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, joined the Army in the fall of 2010 after a summer full of friends, dirt bikes and post-high school graduation parties. Joining the Army was the realization of a dream for the 19-year-old from Marietta, Ohio.

"I always wanted to serve my country, protect our freedom, to keep the life that all the ones I love live safe," he said recently.

Hockenberry's enlistment wasn't much of a surprise for his parents, Chet and Kathy.

"Being a Soldier was all Kyle ever talked about, even when he was little," Kathy said of her youngest son. "I still have all his G.I. Joe guys that he always used to play with because he didn't want me to get rid of them."

Kyle graduated from basic training in January 2011 and was assigned to the Big Red One's 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. "Pale Riders." The Pale Rider team was already busy making final preparations for a deployment to Afghanistan when Kyle arrived. The new Soldier began his own preparations for this upcoming mission, one that would have him leaving Kansas in less than six weeks.

First on Kyle's list of deployment preparations was a visit to a tattoo shop in Manhattan, Kan.

"I had wanted a tattoo for a long time, and I wanted to finally get one before we left," he said.

One evening, shortly before the deployment, Kyle and a few fellow Soldiers "went under the needle." One of the Soldiers had his children's names or birthdates tattooed, some had a lucky number or special picture done, but Kyle selected a seven word phrase that rolled around in his head ever since he decided he was going to be a Soldier.

That night, the tattoo artist etched, "For those I love, I will sacrifice," onto Kyle's right side.

"I thought since I was in the military that it would be a good one to get," he said. "'Those I love' is for everyone — for my parents, my brother and all my family but it's really for everyone in the country."

Kyle left for Afghanistan at the end of February 2011. Less than four months later, during a June 15 patrol outside of Haji Ramuddin, the young man who never wanted to be anything other than a Soldier was forced into a better understanding of sacrifice.

"We were in a firefight in Haji Ramuddin and I don't know if I was trying to move into cover or something but I stepped on a pressure plate (improvised explosive device)," he said. "I don't remember anything after that for a long time."

The blast from the pressure plate IED cost Kyle both legs and his left arm. It cost Spc. Nick Hensley his life.

"I received a phone call at work on June 15 and the caller said Kyle had



COURTESY PHOTO

think Kyle would survive the flight back to the states. Kyle stabilized and the Army transported him to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. The young infantryman has been there ever since.

Kathy said the recovery and rehabilitation process has been challenging, but her son has shown an amazing strength in the face of some great tests.

"I'm not surprised though," she said. "Kyle has always been very tough."

If it weren't for people like Kyle and his fellow Soldiers who sacrifice

so much, the country would be in pretty bad shape, Chet said.

"We are just so proud of them and all their service," he said. "They are all heroes in our eyes."

Although many pieces of the future remain uncertain for the young man from Ohio, Kyle is sure of one thing — if the Army will have him, he wants to stay on active duty and do whatever he can to continue to help his brothers and sisters in uniform.

"I want him to be happy," Kathy said of her youngest son. "Whatever he chooses to do, I just want him to be happy."

For now, Kyle is looking forward to being fitted for his prosthetics and getting healthy enough so his doctors will clear him to travel to Fort Riley in April to attend the 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. Welcome Home Ball.

"If everything is good, I plan to be there," he said.

As far as his mom is concerned, this is a goal easily within her son's reach.

"If there was ever something out there you told him he couldn't do, he would tell you he could ... and then he would do it," Kathy said. "Kyle wants to be at that ball and if he has anything to say about it, he will be at that ball."

For Lt. Col. Michael Katona, commander of 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., having the Soldier who has served as an inspiration to so many at the ball would be an honor.

"He is still part of this squadron," he said. "He will always be part of our family." 



COURTESY PHOTO

Pfc. Hockenberry tries on his Army Combat Uniform Dec. 9 for the first time since being injured June 15 outside of Haji Ramuddin, Afghanistan.

been seriously wounded in Afghanistan and that we would get another call later with more information," Chet said. "Every call, they kept telling us that they were right by his side doing everything they could for him. They were dedicated 100 percent to getting him home to us and we are very appreciative of what everyone did for Kyle."

Getting Kyle home to his family was no easy task. Kathy said medics "lost" her son several times on the battlefield and again in the medical evacuation helicopter. Kyle's kidneys and liver failed and Army representatives prepared Chet and Kathy for a trip to Germany as they didn't

'DIEHARDS' ... till the end

Engineer veterans of different conflicts gather to share similar experiences

By Sgt. Scott Lamberson
4th IBCT PAO

Different generations, separated by years and diverse wars, were brought together Sept. 13 by a single red "one" they all proudly wore on their shoulder.

The 1st Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division hosted in September the Society of the 1st Engineer Battalion, an organization comprised of veterans who have served with the battalion through various conflicts. Although the "Diehard" battalion has moved numerous times and fallen under many different commands, the veterans expressed their joy that the unit once again falls under the "Big Red One."

"I think it's great, last year I went to their reunion in Williamsburg, Penn.,

it was a life-changing event for me. Luckily this year they came to Fort Riley so the whole battalion is experiencing that feeling," said Lt. Col. Kirk Gibbs, the battalion's commander.

Veterans from the Gulf War, Vietnam and World War II had the unique opportunity to visit the post's Engagement Skills Trainer, an electronic firing system that allows the shooter to experience the feel and kick of a specific weapon.

The EST allowed the Veterans to become familiar with the M4 as well as a multitude of different weapons that weren't around when they served. The opportunity also allowed the veterans to experience the new training the Army has implemented since their departure from its ranks.

The veterans then joined the unit's Soldiers at Fort Riley's "Range One."

When you Veterans come to visit and begin sharing your stories with the Soldiers, they see the connection."

—Lt. Col. Kirk Gibbs
Commander, 1st Engineer Battalion

Once there, they were geared up with M4's with advanced sights, which was a jurassic change from the weapons they once carried into battle, said Johnny Kinder, a veteran who formally served with the battalion.

"I think its very important to meet all the young Soldiers today because its so much different now then when we were in. All the Soldiers I have met are nice and courteous and carry



SGT. SCOTT LAMBERSON, 4TH IBCT PAO

LEFT: Ron Danielson, a Vietnam Veteran who served with the 1st Eng. Bn., fires an M4 from the kneeling position Sept. 13. **Spc. Adam Williams**, a combat engineer with 41st Sapper Co., 1st Eng. Bn., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., acts as a coach as the veteran fires. **RIGHT:** Paul Bores, a Vietnam veteran who served with the 1st Eng. Bn., is given a quick class on the M4 during a live-fire range. **Spc. Adam Dewayne**, a combat engineer with the 41st Sapper Co., 1st Eng. Bn., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., explains the characteristics of the weapon.

themselves in a professional manner," Kinder said.

As the group ate lunch at the range, an event that brought back memories of the field, stories were exchanged amongst the current and former "Diehard" Soldiers.

"We're always talking about the his-

tory of this battalion, it's 165 years old, we tied the Soldiers serving today into that history and let them know they are a part of it. When you Veterans come to visit and begin sharing your stories with the Soldiers, they see the connection," Gibbs said.

Kinder said the benefits of such vis-

its were also greatly felt by the veterans as much as the Soldiers.

"It drives home the point that knowing this is part of your life and part of your history," Kinder said. "It's a tremendous morale booster to be able to see they're still active and see that what we did wasn't for nothing."

Engineers cap visit with evening banquet

By Sgt. Gene A. Arnold
4th IBCT PAO

It was an evening of fine dining and swapping of war stories for past and present "Diehards."

Soldiers of the 1st Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division ended a multiple-day visit with former veterans of the unit with a banquet-style dinner Sept 13 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and Geary County Convention Center, Junction City.

The event allowed the unit's current Soldiers to visit and share with veterans who wore their unit's patch while serving in conflicts such as World War II and Vietnam.

"It's history you can't teach in

school," said Kim Thompson, former editor of the 1st Combat Engineers Newsletter. "The history I've learned, the stories I've been privy to, the conversations I've had with these (veterans) are a total blessing."

For example, Thompson added, not many Soldiers who are currently serving in the "Big Red One" know that the U.S. Army's oldest and most decorated engineer battalion—the 1st Eng. Bn.—is located within their unit.

In May, the battalion, which was founded in 1846, attached its 66th campaign streamer to its guidon. The battalion is praised with valiantly serving in every conflict from the Mexican-American War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I know present in this audience are members of America's greatest generation ... I'm honored to be here in your presence," said Brig. Gen. Paul Funk, the 1st Inf. Div.'s deputy commanding general for maneuver. "Our Army and nation are undoubtedly stronger because of the contribution of the 1st Engineers ... you have played a critical role in the building of our nation; because of this battalion's valiant service we have the freedoms that this country treasures."

Several of the unit's Soldiers expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to meet the veterans.

"I loved (visiting with the veterans) it's the best thing that's happened since I've been back (from deployment)," said Capt. Kristofer Johnson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Eng. Bn.



"Meeting these veterans and talking to them about experiences from three and four different wars, (you find) the stories they share are a lot alike, very similar. The Army never changes, and if it does the funny stories never do."

The evening's special guests re-iterated their appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the unit's current Soldiers.

"I think it's very important to meet all the young Soldiers today, it's so much different from when we were in," said Johnny Kinder, a veteran who served with the battalion in Vietnam. "It's been a wonderful experience to get to meet all of you, all of the (Soldiers) have been so friendly and supportive. We're so proud of you for carrying on (the tradition)."



SGT. GENE A. ARNOLD, 4TH IBCT, PAO

ABOVE: Pfc. Steven Staggenborg and Richard Hauri, a Vietnam Veteran, take a moment to share experiences from the two-day event at the 33rd Die Hard reunion dinner. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Past and present Soldiers from the 1st Eng. Bn., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., take a moment to add a photographic memory to the 33rd Die Hard Reunion that culminated in a banquet style dining-in at the Courtyard Marriott in Junction City, Kan.

A 1st Inf. Div. Soldier walks with a student of the Riley County School District on Nov. 11 during Manhattan's Veterans Day Parade. The day's festivities marked Manhattan and Riley County's 19th year honoring Veterans Day and included Soldiers from various "Big Red One" units marching with students from partnered schools.



A 1st Inf. Div. Soldier marches with students from Amanda Arnold Elementary School on Nov. 11.

First Inf. Div. Soldiers marched with students from the Riley County School District during the annual Manhattan Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.



Maj. Gen. William Mayville, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, marches in front of the division's colors Nov. 11, during the annual Manhattan Veterans Day Parade.

a li'l apple affair

Manhattan honors veterans with parade & festivities

*Story & photos by Stephanie Hoff
Duty First! Magazine*

Hundreds of spectators lined Poyntz Avenue, waving miniature American flags Nov. 11, as numerous 1st Infantry Division Soldiers marched past in Manhattan's annual Veterans Day Parade.

Marching from the Manhattan Town Center down Poyntz Avenue, Soldiers were joined by state, county, city and Kansas State University officials, along with local business owners in the pa-

rade, while flanked by cheering city and surrounding community residents.

"(Nov. 11) is a day that our nation sets aside to observe the traditions of this great country and remembering the courage displayed and the sacrifices made by men and women in uniform," said Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, during a commemorative ceremony following the parade.

The date was first recognized as "Armistice Day" in honor of the Nov. 11, 1926, signing of the treaty officially ending World War I. In 1953, a resident of Emporia, Kan., proposed Armistice Day be re-named "Veterans Day" in honor of veterans from all wars and conflicts.

The day's festivities marked Manhattan and Riley County's 19th year honoring Veterans Day since dedicating the Armed Forces Memorial on Nov. 11, 1992.

“ ”

(Nov. 11) is a day that our nation sets aside to observe the traditions of this great country and remember the courage displayed and the sacrifices made by men and women in uniform.

— Maj. Gen. William Mayville
1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general

The parade also featured Soldiers from various "Big Red One" units marching with students from their partnered schools. 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, as well as assist school staffers.

"I think we've all seen that Manhattan knows how to celebrate Veterans

Day," said Manhattan Mayor Jim Shearrow. "This was a great day to celebrate the accomplishments, the sacrifice and the service of our veterans. We had a great parade today, and there was a tremendous outpouring of the support our community gives to the veterans here."

Mayville said since his arrival to Fort Riley, he's noticed a trend of veterans choosing to retire in the area. There is a

reason for that: it's an incredible community and it's no surprise to him that Soldiers and their Families would want to remain here, Mayville added.

"The support from this city to Fort Riley and the Soldiers of the "Big Red One" is remarkable. Nothing short of extraordinary, and it is unlike any other relationship that I know of in the United States Army. It is very, very special," he said. ▀



COURTESY PHOTO
 Ralph Jones, a Vietnam veteran who served with 2nd Bn., 32nd FA Regt., presents the unit with a plaque Sept. 1 commemorating the unit's history during a battle at Fire Support Base Illingsworth, Vietnam.

'Once and always Proud Americans'

Vietnam veterans' organization looks to reunite Soldiers who served together

Sgt. Scott Lamberson | 4th IBCT

Many Americans show their patriotism for their country by proudly displaying the U.S. flag in front of their home, or by purchasing products produced within their country. For Vietnam Veteran Ralph Jones, being a 'Proud American' goes a little further. 🇺🇸

“
Every Soldier who serves their country, should at least have one chance to go to a reunion.

— Vietnam veteran Ralph Jones

”

COURTESY PHOTO
 Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 32nd FA Regt., provide a tour of their unit's motor pool to veteran Ralph Jones, a former Soldier of the unit during its service in Vietnam.



of more than 200 strong and assisted with the creation of two monuments to honor their fallen comrades at Fort Sill, Okla.

A driving factor for him in starting the organization was reuniting Soldiers who served together.

“Every Soldier that serves their country, should at least have one chance to go to a reunion,” Jones said.

During his visit, Jones also had the opportunity to meet with Col. Joseph Warwo, commander of the “Dragon Brigade,” before traveling to the battalion's motor pool.

As he walked around swapping war stories with current Soldiers of the “Proud Americans” battalion, he thanked each of them for their service. Before saying goodbye, Jones presented the unit with a plaque commemorating the unit's rich history.

“I think (the battalion) is better now than we were during the Vietnam War,” Jones said, complimenting the great strides the unit has accomplished since he wore the patch. 🇺🇸

The "Big Red One" covers the memorial stones of Soldiers fallen during the past year before the start of the Victory Park Ceremony held June 17 at Fort Riley.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

A veteran with VFW Post 1786 displays his continued patriotism at the annual Manhattan Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



Veterans with VFW Post 1258 and American Legion Post 172 were just some of the Soldiers, current and past, to participate in the annual Manhattan Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.

Veterans, Soldiers and Family members of the 1st Infantry Division gathered for the division's 93rd Annual Reunion get ready to watch the Buffalo Bison take on the Toledo Mud Hens during a AAA baseball game Aug. 19 at Coca Cola Field in Buffalo, N.Y.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

ABOVE: First Sgt. Gloria Cain, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, gives division veteran Paul Miller a kiss on the cheek Aug. 19 during the division's 93rd Annual Reunion in Buffalo, N.Y. Hundreds of current and former 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers and their Family members gathered for the four-day event that celebrated the bond of the "Big Red One" brotherhood. RIGHT: Vietnam veterans with the 2nd Infantry Regiment Association salute during the posting of the colors at the formal dinner portion of the 93rd annual 1st Infantry Division Reunion in Buffalo, N.Y. BELOW: Students from Riley County School District carry a banner supporting the Soldiers of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., during the Manhattan Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

HONORING OUR VETERANS 1



COURTESY PHOTO

Shown above is the gravesite of Billy Wayne Rapp, a 1st Infantry Division Soldier who served as a military police officer with the division in Vietnam.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Current 2nd Infantry Regiment Soldiers Sgt. Brian Lake, Sgt. Nicholas Giggey and Sgt. Robert Curry, front row, pause for a photo with the veterans of the 2nd Infantry Regiment Association. Lake, Giggey and Curry were all wounded in Afghanistan in May and attended the 1st Infantry Division Reunion in Buffalo, N.Y., as guests of the 2nd Infantry Regiment Association.



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Welcome home

'Devil' Brigade marks return with uncasing

By Shandi Pase
1st Inf. Div. Post

The "Devils" have returned to Fort Riley. Soldiers with the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, marked their official return to Fort Riley with an uncasing ceremony Nov. 16.

The brigade headquarters, 101st Brigade Support Battalion and Special Troops Battalion were among the units uncasing their colors during the ceremony.

The units deployed in October 2010 to Iraq, where they served as the core of the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force.

The brigade worked to improve the capabilities of the Kirkuk Province police, 12th Iraqi Army Division and the 1st Pershmerga Regional Guards Brigade. The units also built cooperation and stability between ethnic and political factions vying for influence in the province under the Iraqi constitution, said Col. Michael Pappal, the brigade's commander.

"I am in awe of what our Soldiers can achieve if given the chance and resources to get the mission done," Pappal said. "This was a truly magnificent level of performance by everyone, and I am proud to command such Soldiers."

Only three of the battalions' colors within the "Devil" Brigade were uncased during the ceremony. The remaining four, representing three battalions in Afghanistan and a battalion in Iraq's Kirkuk Province, followed in the months after.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment returned from operations in Kirkuk where they advised security forces and worked with Iraqi army units.

Following the return of "Hamilton's Own" was the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment.

Pappal said the "Iron Rangers" did "amazing work across the country of Afghanistan with the Special Forces to form, train and equip the Afghan local police."



SGT. KANDI HUGGINS, 1ST HBCT PAO

Colonel Michael Pappal, commander, Devil Brigade, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks with local reporters Nov. 16, after the brigade and its respective units uncased their colors at Fort Riley, Kan. Pappal thanked his Soldiers for their support and efforts in completing their mission during Operation New Dawn, in Northern Iraq, and recognized the other units who are currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment and the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment returned in early 2012.

"They have been aggressively taking the fight to the Taliban, while building Afghan national security forces and infrastructure," Pappal said.

He added that it was great to officially be back at Fort Riley and he looked forward to having all of his brigade's Soldiers home within the upcoming months.

"It will be a great day for the 'Devil' Brigade to be once again consolidated after being spread across the world conducting missions in support of our national interests."



DENA O'DELL, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

INSET: Company, battalion and brigade commanders with the 1st HBCT uncasing their respective unit's colors during a Nov. 16 ceremony. **ABOVE:** Soldiers, of the 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., present the American Flag along with their unit's colors Nov. 16, during an uncasing ceremony celebrating the "Devil" Brigade's return to Fort Riley following a year-long tour in Iraq.



SGT. DANIEL STOUTAMIRE, 2HBCT PAO

Having completed a yearlong deployment in Iraq, Soldiers of the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., officially announced their homecoming Dec. 6 by uncasing the unit colors during a ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield. Speaking at the ceremony were 2nd HBCT Commander Col. Paul Calvert and Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general.

'Daggers' pointed home

Uncasing colors symbolizes brigade's return

Story by Sgt. Daniel Stoutamire | 2nd HBCT PAO

HAVING COMPLETED A YEARLONG DEPLOYMENT AS ONE OF THE FINAL AMERICAN UNITS IN BAGHDAD, MEMBERS OF THE 2ND HEAVY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY

DIVISION, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THEIR HOMECOMING ON DEC. 6 BY FORMALLY UNCASING THE UNIT COLORS DURING A CEREMONY AT MARSHALL ARMY AIRFIELD.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the "Dagger" Brigade is home," said Col. Paul Calvert, 2nd HBCT commander. "Today marks the fourth time that our beloved colors have been uncased following a deployment to Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn."

The "Dagger" brigade was the sole U.S. brigade-sized element in Baghdad Province throughout its deployment and worked with two Iraqi security forces area commands, seven Iraqi security forces divisions and two Iraqi police directorates, while also helping to logistically support all U.S. forces in the province. The brigade's work assisted to set the stage for a withdrawal of U.S. forces by the end of 2011, in compliance with a security agreement between Iraq and the U.S.

"You were the last ones to put the finishing touches on our nation's war in Iraq," said Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. "Yours were the last faces the ISF saw. You left the standards behind for your Iraqi counterparts to meet. It's a job well done—tremendous, tremendous work, and we are very proud of you."

"You were the last ones to put the finishing touches on our nation's war in Iraq. ... You left the standards behind for your Iraqi counterparts to meet."

— Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general

Both Calvert and Mayville paid tribute to the work of the brigade's rear detachment and Family support groups, which maintained the home front and whose sacrifices enabled deployed "Daggers" to focus on the mission at hand.

The "Dagger" Brigade made a difference, Calvert said. That fact was the result of hard work and sacrifices by Families and communities around the Central Flint Hills Region, by the command teams with U.S. Forces-Iraq and U.S. Division-Center, by the companies and battalions which were assigned temporarily to the unit and by outstanding leaders within the formation, he said.

"Last but not least, we made a difference because we have the greatest Soldiers our nation has to offer," he said. "They have been the constant in the fight—the one thing we can always rely upon."



SGT. DANIEL STOUTAMIRE, 2HBCT PAO

Soldiers, of the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., present the American Flag along with their unit's colors Dec. 6, during an uncasing ceremony celebrating the 'Dagger' Brigade's return to Fort Riley following a year-long tour in Iraq.

During their deployment, the "Dagger" Soldiers earned more than 800 Combat Action Badges, Combat Infantryman and Combat Medic badges. More than 500 Bronze Star Medals were earned, along with more than 350 Army Commendation Medals. Forty Purple Hearts were awarded to Soldiers in the brigade. Nine "Dagger" Brigade Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq.

Calvert added, he is unsure what missions lie ahead now that the "Daggers" have returned home.

"What we do know is that we have to be prepared," he said. "We will start getting back our baseline Soldier skills and build confidence and expertise in our equipment, so we can move forward."



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Soldiers of the 3rd IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., the "Duke" Brigade stand at attention during a Dec. 9 ceremony celebrating the Soldiers' return to Fort Knox, Ky. The 3,500 Soldier-strong brigade deployed to Afghanistan last winter for a yearlong tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Exactly one year before, on the same date, the brigade said farewell to the post during its deployment ceremony.

“This is a great day. I am pleased to be here to welcome home these great Soldiers.”

—Brig. Gen. Paul Funk
1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for maneuver



a GOLDEN return

Fort Knox welcomes home Big Red One's 'Duke' Brigade

By Stephanie Hoff
Duty First! Magazine

FORT KNOX, Ky.— Exactly one year to the day after saying goodbye, about 180 Soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, were reunited with their loved ones. The Soldiers were welcomed home Dec. 9 to Fort Knox during a re-deployment ceremony at the post's Natcher Fitness Center.

"This is a great day," said Brig. Gen. Paul Funk, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for maneuver. "I am pleased to be here to welcome home these great Soldiers."

Exactly one year before, the brigade said farewell to the post during its deployment ceremony the previous Dec. 6. About 3,500 Soldiers in the brigade deployed to Afghanistan for a yearlong tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their mission was to assist Afghan national security forces in protecting the Afghan people, neutralizing the insurgency and setting the conditions necessary for a successful transition of regional con-



trol to the Afghan government.

"These guys have done a great job, and all of us at the 'Big Red One' are proud of them," Funk said.

The brigade, which officially stood up at Fort Knox on Oct. 16, 2009, built up its troop strength in just more than a year before deploying to Afghanistan last winter.

"(Them returning) feels great," said Jamie Ortiz, wife of Pfc. David Ortiz, 3rd IBCT, adding her husband would be home for the birth of their first children, identical twin girls due in early February.

"The girls' room is al-



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

TOP: Brig. Gen. Paul Funk, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general-maneuver, salutes Soldiers from the division's 3rd IBCT, during a Dec. 9 re-deployment ceremony welcoming the Soldiers' return to Fort Knox, Ky. ABOVE: A Soldier of the 3rd IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., is greeted upon his return from Afghanistan, Dec. 9 at Fort Knox, Ky.

most ready, but I waited to decorate (for Christmas) for him to get home," she said. "I'm so

excited to have him home and for all the joys the upcoming months have in store for us."



1

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

- www.riley.army.mil
- www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision
- www.twitter.com/fightingfirst
- www.flickr.com/photos/firstinfantrydivision
- www.facebook.com/FortRiley