

Duty 1 First!

August 2008
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Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families

Loyalty
Duty
Respect
Selfless Service
Honor
Integrity
Personal Courage

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

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

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



Duty 1 First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

August 2008

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Commanding General **Danger 6**

Army Values, live them

Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins

As we go about our daily missions in the Big Red One, basic principles should guide our actions. These basic principles are “common sense” concepts. But actually living the seven Army values – Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage – can sometimes be easier said than done.

Loyalty. Are you truly loyal to your unit, to your division, to your Army and nation? It's easy to express pride at being a member of the Fighting First or one of our many storied regiments. But what about that Soldier in your platoon who seems to always find a way to get himself, and others, into trouble? Are you loyal to him? Are you loyal to your superiors, and those in your command, or do you contribute to the gossip at the chow hall? Loyalty means believing in and devoting yourself to your unit – and every Soldier in it.

Duty. Do you fulfill all of your obligations? Performing your duty doesn't mean just getting the mission accomplished. Do you take shortcuts or let others do the work while you take the credit? When it's time to get a job done, roll up your sleeves, do it right and to the best of your abilities. Oftentimes, if you don't do something right the first time, you wind up doing it over again anyway. Live by our motto – Duty First!

Respect. As youngsters, we all learned the golden rule – treat others how you want to be treated. Respect is an important concept in our ranks and is closely tied with duty. Respect isn't just about rank, it's about the person. If you respect someone, you trust that they are capable of fulfilling their duty. And by fulfilling your own duties, you have self-respect. It's a two-way street.

Selfless Service. This is the Army value that we are living every day. Soldiers in today's Army are here because they want to be. We are an Army at war and an all-volunteer force. The men and women who wear this uniform committed themselves to selfless service

when they raised their right hand and swore to defend our nation.

Honor. The nation's highest military award is the Medal of Honor. This award goes to Soldiers who make honor a matter of daily living, Soldiers who develop the habit of being honorable, and solidify that habit with every value choice they make. Honor is a matter of carrying out, acting, and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and personal courage in everything you do.

Integrity. Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself. Integrity is doing what is right when no one else is looking.

Personal Courage. Personal courage has long been associated with our Army. With physical courage, it is a matter of enduring physical duress and at times risking personal safety. Facing

moral fear or adversity may be a long, slow process of continuing forward on the right path, especially if taking those actions is not popular with others. You can build your personal courage by daily standing up for and acting upon the things that you know are honorable.

We in the Army love acronyms and if you take the first letter of all seven Army values you get “LDRSHIP.” This wasn't an accident. A great leader exhibits all of these qualities. A great Soldier lives by all these Army values. As you go about your daily missions, constantly gauge your actions against our Army values. Learn them and live them, along with our division motto – No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Duty First! 



Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

A Soldier plain and simple!

Division Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne

We've all been exposed to the Army Values – Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. We've been told to live up to those values whether on and off duty. At Soldier, NCO and promotion boards we are asked which one means the most to us.

I have been a Soldier for more than two decades and I can tell you from my own personal experience living up to these values can be hard. It can be difficult for a young private first class to tell his squad leader that something is wrong in the unit.

I can tell you though, that living these values is worthwhile. A couple of months ago I had the honor in attending the Medal of Honor Ceremony for Spc. Ross McGinnis. It was overwhelming hearing the unselfish actions of this very young, yet focused individual and the sacrifice he made for his fellow Soldiers.

Here is a quick recap of his story. McGinnis struggled through school, but made it. When he came into the Army it fit him like a glove, especially with weapons. His unit out of Schweinfurt, Germany deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On Dec. 4, 2006 his platoon was conducting combat control operations and McGinnis was manning the M2 .50-caliber machine gun. An insurgent threw a fragmentation grenade and it fell through the gunner's hatch into the vehicle.

McGinnis yelled “grenade,” and rather than leaping from the hatch to safety, McGinnis made the decision to protect his crew. McGinnis covered the grenade with his body, absorbing most of the blast and directly saved four of his battle buddies from injury or even death.

What I like best about McGinnis' story is that he was real. He wasn't a John Wayne or Clint Eastwood. He didn't have a degree from Harvard or Princeton. He was a Soldier plain and simple.

And when it came down to it, McGinnis embodied all the Army Values in one small, albeit amazing and courageous act.

Loyalty: McGinnis could have saved himself. He saw the grenade and his training directed him to get out of the vehicle. However he knew his crew may or may not have heard him call “grenade.” His loyalty to them was in the quick action and sacrifice.

Duty: Although McGinnis acted outside of his training, he didn't act outside of his duty. He knew to save himself would be technically correct, but what about morally?

Respect: Whether McGinnis had time to contemplate a respect for human life is a guess at best. Something in him made him weigh one life against four though, saving those four men.

Selfless Service: McGinnis' action didn't just serve those four Soldiers. It also served their Families, the Army and this nation.

Honor: McGinnis just didn't have honor in that one moment. He lived this reputation everyday. He was said to be optimistic and had a knack of making people feel comfortable around him.

Integrity: In acting according to what McGinnis knew to be right and wrong, it cost him his life. But that is the very meaning of the word. He knew he would

not survive this final decision.

Personal Courage: I guess we would all like to think we could do what Spc. Ross McGinnis did. I see everyday Soldiers helping each other out and taking time to work with one another. We see Soldiers standing up for one another, but to lay down one's life. It is a little overwhelming to think about.

Like I said before, it can be hard living up to the Army Values, but it can be so rewarding also, just ask the parents, wives and children of the Soldiers that were saved by Spc. Ross McGinnis.

GET AFTER IT!

DUTY FIRST! 

Danger 7



Little Joe Donated



Anna Staatz
Staff writer

Goddard, Kan. – Jane Cannefax had a smile that stretched ear to ear as she took Little Joe's lead line from 1st Sgt. Wade Greif of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

"He's beautiful," Cannefax said as she ran her hand along the horse's neck.

Greif and Ron Roller, the civilian trainer for the CGMCG, visited Judge Riddel's Boys Ranch June 11 to donate the horse to the home's saddle club.

The ranch, located in Goddard, Kan., is operated by the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections for male youths ages 15 to 19. The ranch's saddle club is one of the most popular activities, said Glenda Martens, corrections coordinator. Youth who participate receive

basic riding lessons and participate in trail rides. They also are responsible for caring for the horses. Once a year, the club has a Cowboy Campout, when they ride about 10 to 15 miles away for several days of camping.

Cannefax, an independent living trainer at the ranch, said the addition of Little Joe gave the ranch a total of 12 horses.

"This place has certainly been a buzz of excitement about him coming," Cannefax said.

Greif said the ranch contacted the CGMCG several months ago to ask if there were any horses that would be possible candidates for a donation.

"Anyone who calls about that we put on the list," Greif said. "We can't make any money off of a horse, so when we can't use them anymore, we have to either trade them

for another horse or donate them."

Little Joe was 10 years old and Greif said the horse was just at the point "where he didn't want to run anymore."

"We weren't able to use him around cannon fire anymore, and he was just tired of running," Greif said. "We can't use him and they can. For what they need, he will be a great fit."

Little Joe has been with the CGMCG for about five years, Greif said. 



Operation Storytime

Spc. Michelle Meadows
1st SB, PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – From thousands of miles away, Soldiers are able to keep in touch with their loved ones through a program called "Operation Storytime."

Capt. Charles Leggett, a Richmond, Va., native, and chaplain for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad, first began the project during his last deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004.

"A suggestion was made to bring a video camera to record letters and send them home via DVD," Leggett said. "I had the video camera and software for editing, so it became my project (during then OIF II)."

Some time later, numerous children's books were



Staff Sgt. Stephen Lieberum, a Pennsauken, N.J., native, participates in Operation Storytime by reading the book, "Scooby Doo and the Alien Invaders" to his 7-year-old daughter, Baily. Operation Storytime is a program designed to afford Soldiers the opportunity to send bedtime stories and letters home via DVD.



Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Leggett, a Richmond, Va., native, counts down to let a Soldier know when to begin reading their story. Leggett is the chaplain for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade

donated to Leggett, and he and a few of his colleagues sat down to brainstorm. Their vote was unanimous. Operation Storytime turned over a new leaf and was restructured to include the recording of bedtime stories to Families back home.

"This time around, I have a much better camera and professional editing software. I can do even more with the video," Leggett said.

For almost four years now, Operation Storytime has reached more than 300 families and continues to keep them in touch during the hardships of long deployments. 

1ST BDE

Army Values and Combat

Spc. Dustin Roberts
1st BDE, PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. – In combat, the seven Army Values can all be boiled down to one: Duty.

That's what one Devil Brigade non-commissioned officer with boots-on-the-ground experience truly believes, with a "get the job done, no matter what" attitude.

Sgt. Brandon Hicks, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, who deployed with Company D, 1-5 F.A. in October 2006 as part of the Security Force mission, said encompassing the Army Values in everyday life, especially in combat, is what keeps Soldiers going during a deployment.

Hicks, the driver of a M-1151 up-armored Humvee while in Iraq, helped deliver food, fuel and supplies to forward operating bases all over Iraq while providing security for Kellogg, Brown and Root, Inc., a major engineering, construction and services company.

While on the road, Hicks and other members of large convoys encountered several improvised explosive devises.

It was one particular IED on June 10, 2007, that affected Hicks enough to get him medically evacuated back to the U.S and a Purple Heart.

It was 3 a.m. on the road to Logistics Support Area Anaconda when the lead vehicle drove past two 155-millimeter rounds taped together, topped with a with a bottle of clear liquid.

The second vehicle, which Hicks was driving, stopped no-more-than 10 meters from the IED when the Soldiers noticed it. As Hicks put the Humvee in reverse, the IED exploded and an 18-wheel recovery vehicle simultaneously rear-ended the vehicle.

"I remember trying to get away from it and I distinctively

remember seeing the fireball," said Hicks. "Then I woke up about a minute later in the back seat because I was thrown from the driver's seat into the back wall of the Humvee."

His comrades responded fast to ensure a speedy recovery from the attack.

Three weeks later he flew home because the effects of the blast grew progressively worse, he said.

"I started to have blackouts and I couldn't take off my sunglasses because any type of light was extremely sensitive to my eyes."

Hicks said the core of every Soldier should have the Army Values because by working together professionally, that is the only way to survive those types of situations.

"It's all about duty. You don't think, 'what is about to happen?' You think, 'what needs to be done to get out of this situation as swiftly and safely as possible?'"

He added that responding quickly, making sure that everyone is okay and administrating aid if need be is all a part of the job that has to be done.

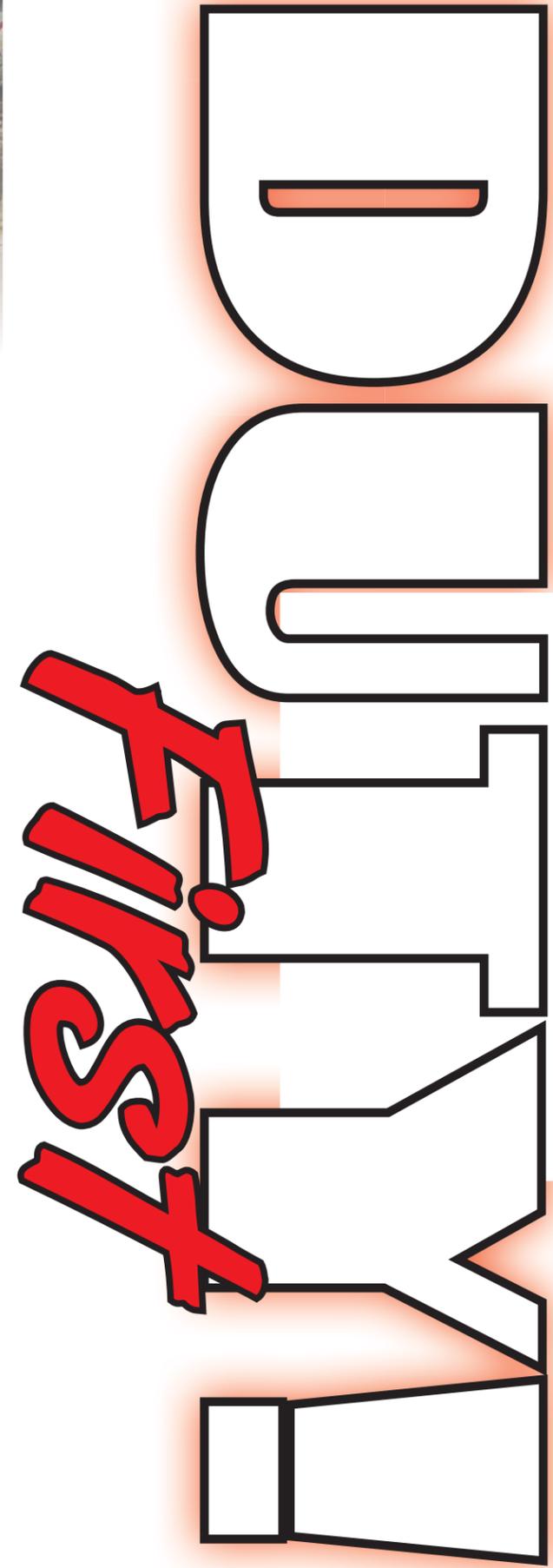
"Some say it's personal courage, which in a sense they are right; but I say it's duty," he said. "Definitely the Army Values are embedded in that mind set."

Hicks also said that if Soldiers weren't loyal to each other after the attack, they would have "hunkered down" in their Humvees, instead of getting out of the vehicle and assessing the situation.

"You have to watch each other's backs out there," Hicks said. "There's no way we would make it if we didn't."

Integrating every Army Value into a mission helps guide the Soldier to execute the mission properly.

"These are morals every Soldier should have in any mission," said Hicks. "It's our job; we have to get the job done and that's the bottom line." 



2ND HBCT NTC Lessons Learned

Sgt. Brian Tierce
2nd HBCT, PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. – The Daggers of the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division recently completed their capstone training event at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Ca.

The rotation put the Soldiers in the most realistic combat training environment the Army has to offer. Dagger Soldiers dealt with extreme weather, realistic scenarios and many other elements that lead to a hard-earned mission completion.

“You’ve worked your tails off and you need to be very proud of that,” said Col. Joseph M. Martin, commander, 2HBCT. “Hear it from me and hear it from me now, you are ready for war today.”

As the new brigade commander having taken command within a month of deployment to the National Training Center, Martin noted the great team work that led to such a successful mission.

“We’ve learned a lot here, we’ve [had] seen some incredible performances and I’m really, really proud of our achievements,” said Martin.

Over the month that the brigade spent at NTC, the central focus was mission accomplishment. The brigade utilized its entire arsenal which includes two combined arms battalions, a cavalry squadron, the unique special troop’s battalion and their artillery and support battalions

in a variety of ways to complete its mission.

“I can honestly say with confidence that we are ready to go into combat,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald L. Battle, 2HBCT Command Sgt. Maj. “We are ready to go into full spectrum operations.”

The “Dagger” Brigade received orders to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom while they were training at NTC, the brigade had long been expecting the orders, but their arrival during the mission readiness exercise drove home the importance of the training.

“You’re part of an organization that stood up from the ground, has prepared long and hard to serve its nation in a time of need,” said Martin. “We will make sure that you have all the equipment you need and when we leave we’ll leave confident and competent in the skills that we must do to accomplish our mission.”

Now back at home station the brigade will work to ensure that the lessons learned on the simulated battlefields of NTC stick in their minds. Of all the Soldiers who participated, they can apply these lessons when the brigade arrives in Iraq later this year.

“You are a part of a historically incredible organization right now, achievements beyond many people’s dreams have happened right here and in route to here, so be very proud,” said Martin.



A medevac helicopter swoops in to recover simulated casualties during training at the National Training Center. The Soldiers pictured are members of the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment and were participating in full spectrum operations at the National Training Center.

1st Infantry Division at War



3RD IBCT BRAC Roadshow

Maj. Chevelle Thomas
3rd IBCT, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – A Fort Knox, Ky., community team talked with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division this past Spring about what awaits them when they return from Afghanistan and make the move to the home of the Gold Vault in late 2009.

The purpose of their visit was to inform Soldiers and Family members of the possibilities at Fort Knox; ease the transition from Fort Hood, and provide information

on housing, child care facilities and sports programs according to Col. Mark D. Needham, Fort Knox Garrison Commander and team leader.

To do this several community representatives also came: Elizabethtown's mayor, Hardin County Schools' superintendent, and representatives from Army Community Services, Child Care Services, Family Housing, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

Western Kentucky University and others.

"The community is very supportive and they paid their own dime to come here and talk to Soldiers, welcome them and tell them what they are about, especially married Soldiers who have to make an informed decision," Needham said. "Army leadership chose to move 3rd IBCT after the deployment because of the schools and the kids. Schools start around Aug. 4," he said.

"The brief was very informative," Spc. Garrett Williams Campbell, a military police in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion said. "They gave pretty much every piece of information that you could ask for on your Family, housing, children activities, etc."

"I wanted to get information on everything to share with those members of my squad that were unable to go because they were attending Soldier Readiness Processing," Campbell said. "My cousin was stationed there and he liked it. So it got me all excited about going there. It has a lot of activities to do there like hiking, mountain climbing and fishing. My hobbies surround a lot of outdoor activities and this would be really fun for me."

Fort Knox also caters to outdoor sportsmen who enjoy hunting and fishing.

"We raise our own trout. We throw them food and come spring time we release them. We also have bass and catfish, and hunting is done over four different weekends," Needham said.

"Fort Knox has (more than) 109 acres including training and recreational areas, 3,000 family housing units and building more and more dedicated units for our junior and senior enlisted. 3rd IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. is expected to arrive in 2009 and they will have all new and renovated facilities," Needham said.

"Our training areas are light infantry centric," Needham said. "We do a lot of platoon on platoon training. There is



A representative from Elizabethtown Community and Technical College provides an overview of some of the options available at their college to one of the 3rd BCT troops.



Col Mark D. Needham provides a presentation to the Soldiers and Family Members of 3rd BCT, 1st ID on the move to Fort Knox that will occur after the unit's deployment to Afghanistan. The brief was on the many facilities and services offered there.

History of the Big Red One

History from the Society of the 1st Infantry Division web-page

COLD WAR – When compared to its magnificent combat record in WWI, WWII and Vietnam, the accomplishments of the Big Red One between those conflicts may seem unimportant. They are, however, very significant and well worthy of note in any 1st Infantry Division history. During these periods, the Division mastered an array of vital non-combat missions. Its troops supported operations in pursuit of international justice and were among the first to

confront Soviet expansionism. Preparing for war on three continents, the Division deployed units to the “front line” of a low intensity conflict known as the Cold War. All the while maintaining its reputation as one of the world’s premier military organizations.

Following Allied victory in Europe, most Army units returned home or deactivated. The 1st Inf. Div., however, remained in Europe as an occupation force. To showcase its finest, the Army dispersed 1st Inf. Div. troops throughout West Germany and Austria. Division headquarters settled at Bad Tölz. Battalions of the 16th Infantry occupied Vienna, Salzburg, and Berlin. The 18th Infantry held Bremen and Frankfurt while the 26th Infantry moved into Ludwigsburg, Munich and Nuremberg. Division artillery and other support elements participated fully in the occupation. The 3rd Battalion of the 26th Infantry, “Blue Spaders,” was chosen to secure the historic Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. Press photos of that era reveal flawless formations of Big Red One troops parading in former European capitals and guarding vanquished Third Reich leaders.



As it had in battle, the division excelled in its conqueror/occupier role. Static duties, however, had a deteriorating effect on the division’s tactical capabilities. By the end of 1946, it was estimated that the Big Red One’s combat efficiency was only 20 percent. So dispersed were its troops that training and



control by the division commander was impossible. In 1947, 1st Inf. Div. began serving as a tactical reserve and quick reaction force in support of U.S. Constabulary operations. To that end, the division reassembled at Grafenwöhr and initiated a rigorous combat training program. A 1948 reorganization, consistent with the army’s new TO&E, added about 5,000 personnel to the division. For a time the Big Red One found itself with two marching bands and outfits with exotic nomenclatures such as “7825th Station Complement Unit (Mobile),” and “7793rd Augmentation Detachment” – hardly the cutting edge. Nevertheless, the Division was preparing for combat operations.

By 1949, the threat of Communist aggression was undeniable. That year, NATO was established as free nations became serious about defending Western Europe. Communism’s aggressive nature became more apparent a year later when their forces invaded South Korea. As the U.S. rushed thousands of troops, including National Guard units, to Asia and Germany, the 1st Infantry Division stood as a vanguard of democracy in Europe. German politics evolved dramatically between VE Day and 1955. Except for Berlin, the occupation ceased. West Germany, with a new government in Bonn, was rearming under NATO. A Soviet threat remained, but with additional regular U.S. Army divisions, the situation stabilized.



After 13 years overseas the BRO came home. In 1955, Operation Gyroscope exchanged assignments of the 1st Inf. Div. with the 10th Infantry Division at Fort Riley. Following a triumphant welcome in New York City, troops wearing the Big Red One moved westward to and made their home on the Kansas plains. The Division was administratively challenged to reorganize under the Pentomic concept. Three infantry regiments in each division were eliminated as tactical units; replaced by five “battle groups” (smaller than regiments, larger than battalions; designed to move and fight on nuclear battlefields). To perpetuate the lineage of regiments, the “Combat Arms Regimental System” (CARS) was developed, linking each battle group to the history, honors, and customs of a parent regiment. When reorganization concluded by 1959, 1st Inf. Div. incorporated 1st Battle Group, 5th Infantry; 2nd Battle Group, 8th Infantry; 2nd Battle Group, 12th Infantry; 1st Battle Group, 13th Infantry; and 1st Battle Group, 28th Infantry. Of these, only the 28th Infantry “Lions of Cantigny” had historic ties (from WWI) to the Big Red One.

Another challenge facing the division was turning civilians into Soldiers. A reception center was established in Camp Whitside’s old hospital on the Fort Riley complex. There, new Army inductees were tested, inoculated, clothed, and indoctrinated, then assigned to 1st Inf. Div. units where they underwent eight weeks of Basic Combat Training (BCT). Following BCT, many recruits remained at Fort Riley to complete Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in combat arms. Thousands of hardened, highly trained, disciplined Soldiers left to fill positions in combat ready units around the world, to be replaced at Ft. Riley by new cycles of trainees.

The division’s recruit training program was halted in August 1961. Berlin, Germany’s former capital

Photos courtesy of the 1st ID Museum



had been a source of contention between Soviet and Western occupying powers for years. A full-blown crisis erupted that month when Communist troops walled off their Eastern Sector to keep refugees from fleeing to freedom. Soviet Premier Khrushchev pressured the West to abandon its Berlin positions, 110 miles inside Communist territory. America responded by reinforcing its Berlin garrison with troops from West Germany. U.S. Armed Forces were alerted. Leaves were canceled and enlistments extended. Thousands of reservists were activated. At Fort Riley, 1st Infantry Division units ceased recruit training to prepare for combat. Trainees primed for transfer were retained. Recruits from Fort Ord and Fort Jackson, along with seasoned troops returning from overseas, rushed to Fort Riley to flesh out the Division. "If you're going to be one, be a Big Red One," became Fort Riley's unofficial motto. Unit combat training was comprehensive and included weeks on end in the field. That autumn the division leased several hundred acres of Colorado forest for Army Training Tests. Individually, the Big Red One's five battle groups, still armed with WWII era weapons, convoyed to the Rocky Mountains for weeks of maneuvers in sub-zero weather.

Testing its new strength, in February and March 1962 the division sent a brigade (made up of 1-28th Inf, 1-4th Cav, and 2-33rd Arty) to Operation Bristlecome at Fort Irwin, CA, providing "aggressor" opposition to the 32nd Infantry Division. The following spring BRO troopers received up-to-date M-14 rifles and M-60 machine guns. The division was considered ready for combat deployment and became an element of the Strategic Army Corps (STRAC). That summer two battle groups (1-13th & 1-28th) participated in Navy/Marine Corps Amphibious Assault Courses at Little Creek, Va. The Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 drove the division to its highest level of alert. The 121st Signal Battalion deployed to forward

positions in Florida, establishing communications for an assault on Cuba. The 1st Infantry Division and the world stood on the brink, and then stood down.

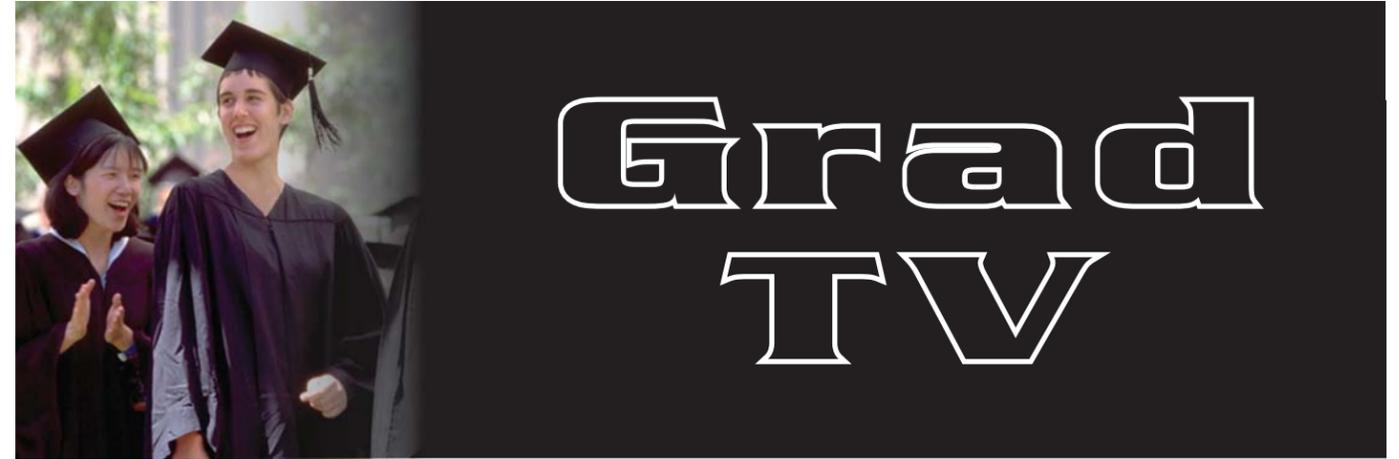
While the rest of the 1st Div prepared to invade Cuba, its 2nd Battle Group, 12th Infantry was already on the Cold War's front line — Berlin. Operation Long Thrust deployed combat ready battle groups from America to West Germany for training and evaluation. Units scoring superior ATTs at Wildflecken advanced through Communist East Germany to augment the Berlin Brigade. Long Thrust Operations were more than training exercises. They launched BRO troops into what has been called "flash point of the world," directly confronting hostile forces. Soldiers serving in Berlin during the crisis were awarded U.S. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals along with WWII



Army of Occupation Medals. After several months defending Free Berlin, 1st Inf. Div. troops withdrew to Fort Riley. Other Big Red One battle groups guarding West Berlin during that period were 1-13th, 1-28th "Black Lions" (present when President Kennedy delivered his memorable Cold War "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech) and 2-26th "Blue Spaders" (which had replaced 1-5th).

Late 1963 found 1st Inf. Div. at Fort Riley reorganizing under ROAD (Reorganization Objective Army Divisions). ROAD Divisions activated three "flexible response" brigade headquarters. Maneuver elements were assigned to each brigade depending upon its mission. Infantry battalions with historic ties to the 1st Inf. Div. replaced battle groups. By early 1964, the Big Red One's organic line units were the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 16th Infantry, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 18th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry; 1st and 2nd Battalions, 28th Infantry. These units had fought in WWI and/or WWII with the division and would do so in Vietnam. Spring 1964 found Big Red One personnel conducting counter-insurgency exercises in Fort Leonard Wood's thick forests. Rumors of combat deployment became more persistent. Later that year troops flew to Florida for jungle warfare training. The 1st and 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry joined the division in 1965 as it deployed to Southeast Asia. 

DUTY FIRST



Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Voss 1st Inf. Div., PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. — Each year, during the month of May, thoughts start focusing on high school graduations. This is the time when parents watch with pride as their children cross the stage to receive their diplomas. When a Soldier is deployed the student misses the opportunity of seeing the pride in their parents eyes and hearing their words of encouragement, and the Soldier misses one of the major events in a parents life.

To help ease the pain of separation during this time the Fort Riley Multimedia/Visual Information Support Center (M/VISC), a branch of the Directorate of Information Management, took the lead to solve the problem.

First, a proposal was presented to the garrison commander to purchase a small enclosed trailer and outfit it with the video teleconference (VTC) equipment needed to set up a mobile secure site.

"The idea was to go to area high schools and use the VTC so deployed Soldiers had the opportunity to watch

their child graduate and also had the chance to speak with them directly. The idea was well received and given the green light," said the M/VISC manager, Curtis Blanke.

Blanke spent the next several months acquiring the needed resources to make the idea a reality. He procured the trailer and the equipment and spent many hours setting the equipment up so the events would go smoothly in an off-post capacity.

He then verified the deployed service members participation, contacted the spouses and students, and set up coordination with the area high schools with students of deployed Soldiers.

On May 17 and 18, 2008, the idea was put into action. Students of deployed Soldiers at the Abilene, Manhattan and Junction City High Schools graduated with their deployed parent watching.

"This proved to be a very positive step. Soldiers and Family members were afforded the opportunity to be a little closer together during graduation," said Blanke. "Many hands were involved to make the events a success and a hardy thank you goes to all those involved." 





Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT, PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Since its formation, the Army has had morals which gave Soldiers a standard to live up to no matter the condition, whether it's on the battlefield or in garrison, at the birth of our nation or in the modern Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The values guided Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division on their recent deployment to Iraq, whether they're returning from one of multiple tours or they just graduated from advanced individual training.

Pfc. Rusty Morris, an intelligence analyst with the 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., said the Army Values apply to more than just military life.

"I live by them on and off duty. They're more than just Army Values; they're life values," Morris said. "To be a good person, you have to abide by them all times, and always strive to live by those standards that make a Soldier a Soldier."

Master Sgt. Lee Wright, a truck master with Company A, 701st Main Support Battalion, 4th IBCT, said he has used the Army Values to keep him focused in hard times.

"It's a code for when times get rough and you have a question about ethics or anything, you have words to live by that lead you and make sure you're going the right direction," the 22-year veteran said. "They give you additional strength to keep fighting and stay dedicated to the mission."

Morris, who has been in the Army a year, said the morals the Army teaches young Soldiers starting in basic training fall in line with those he learned outside the military.

"I got values from church and my Family; the values I grew up on were very similar," he said. "I learned duty from my dad who served in the military. He also

taught me loyalty and respect for my elders.

"I was taught to treat others how I want to be treated growing up."

Morris added he learned tenants of leadership in high school through athletics and employment.

While Morris does not have kids to extol virtues to, Wright, a father of two, said he teaches his children values similar to the Army's through his example.

"They look at my character in reference to those words," he said. "The things I do in the house, I try to make sure to teach my kids to have good character; it definitely helps out."

Wright, a veteran of five deployments, added the code which the Army trains Soldiers to live by assists in the most trying times: combat.

"It helps you have the will to stay focused on doing the right thing," he said. "When you're caught in a situation to kill or caught in a situation to use excessive force, the values help you go through the decision-making process instead of going through the emotional process." 



Community Relationships Strengthen

Sgt 1st Class Pamela Voss
1st Inf. Div., PAO

Army Community Covenant signings are planned across the United States between April and December 2008, recognizing the strength of Soldiers and Families and the support of communities.

The Army Family Covenant was a commitment by the Army leadership to Soldiers and Families. By contrast, the Army Community Covenant includes a similar broad statement of support and commitment from local (off-post) communities, such as civic and business leaders, educators and state and city government officials.

The Greater Fort Riley Community covenant signing is scheduled for 11 a.m. Aug. 20, in Building 580. For

the past several months Fort Riley, the 1st Infantry Division and the surrounding communities have worked to strengthen their interdependent relationships.

This fostering provides support from these communities as well as towards them.

"The 1st Inf. Div. relies heavily on our partners in the Greater Fort Riley Community to help us perform our mission each day," said Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley. "Each day our friends in the local region step up to the plate and work with us side-by-side as we go about caring for our Families and preparing our Soldiers for war."

Secretary of the Army, Honorable Pete Geren; Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius; U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts and other members of Congress are scheduled to attend. Leaders from the seven counties in the Greater Fort Riley Community and the general public are invited to attend. 

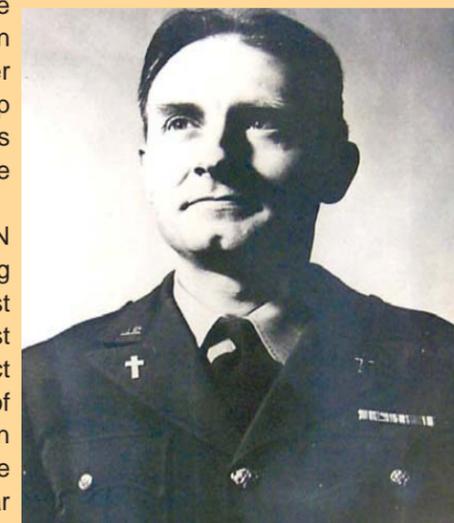
Selfless Service

Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun

Courtesy of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School web page

Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun became one of the best known heroes of the Korean War and was referred to by one writer as "the man whose story best sums up the glory of the Chaplain Corps." His story typifies selfless-service to the Corps, the Army, and the nation.

It took place in late 1950 when UN forces swept north in pursuit of fleeing North Korean forces. During the first days of November, UN and Communist Chinese forces came into contact near Usan, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang. Chaplain Kapaun, a Roman Catholic priest, and a veteran of the Burma-Chinese Theater in World War II, was serving as a chaplain with the 8th Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division. On November 2, 1950, Kapaun's unit received the full force of the Chinese assault.



His battalion was nearly wiped out during the severe battle. Chinese soldiers captured Kapaun while with a group of more than 50 wounded he had helped to gather in an old dugout. Ordered to leave many of those for

whom he had risked his life, Kapaun and a few ambulatory wounded were forced to crawl through the battlefield and were later imprisoned. For six months, under the most terrible conditions, he fought Communist indoctrination among the men, ministered to sick and dying, and literally stole food from the enemy in trying to keep his fellow soldiers alive. Eventually, suffering from a blood clot, pneumonia, and dysentery, he died as a prisoner on May 23, 1951.

He was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit, and the citation praises his "courageous actions." He was a man who "considered no task beneath him." In death he joined those other heroic chaplains who were captured by the enemy during the Korean War, none of whom survived their internment 

1ST SB

A Step Up

Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer
1st SB, PAO



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Originally designed during World War I to help fill the ranks due to immense losses, the battlefield promotion system has been tucked away for some time.

The Department of the Army has reactivated this program as a one-year pilot program to give Soldiers who show extraordinary performance while engaged in combat operations the chance to advance to the next rank without meeting the normal requirements.

This program allows one promotion per Soldier, up to the rank of staff sergeant, for those who excel while performing duties in a level above the rank they wear. Recently, the military personnel message system released a bulletin outlining the program; thus making this available to Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sgts. Corey McDowell, a Lumberton, N.C., native, and Jeffery Johanson, a Redding, Calif., native, were the first Soldiers assigned to the 1st Sustainment Brigade to receive their sergeant stripes under this program.

“This is an exciting day for the 1st SB and for these outstanding

Col. Kevin O’Connell (left), commander of the 1st SB, places sergeant stripes on the chest of Sgt. Corey McDowell, during the 1st SB’s very first battlefield promotion ceremony. McDowell is a member of Headquarters Platoon, Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st SB.

“It is truly an honor to be one of the first (Soldiers) promoted under this program,” McDowell said.



Sgt. Jeffery Johanson (right), makes 1st SB history, as one of the first Soldiers to receive a battlefield promotion to the rank of sergeant. Johanson is a California National Guard Soldier who volunteered to stay behind with the 1st SB when his unit redeployed last March.

“I am honored and truly grateful to be a part of this (day) and to be under such great leadership,” Johanson said.

In addition, he is certified as a Combatives Level II instructor and enjoys competing for excellence at various promotion and Soldier of the Month boards. McDowell has won numerous Soldier of the Month boards ranging from company to brigade levels.

He also represented the 1st SB at the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier of the Quarter board last March, all while wearing the rank of specialist.

“It is truly an honor to be one of the first (Soldiers) promoted under this program,” McDowell said.

Johanson reflected pride in his eyes as he took part in the ceremony beside McDowell. Johanson is a member of the personal security detail to the brigade commander and command sergeant major. Ironically, he did not deploy with the 1st SB, and is not an active duty Soldier. With courage and dedication to the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission, Johanson volunteered to stay behind when his California National Guard unit: Company A, 1-143rd Field Artillery, headed home last March.

“Johanson came on board after serving his deployment in a convoy security platoon for the 1-143rd (FA). He volunteered to put his expertise to use as a member of our PSD to the command group,” said Sgt. Salvador Ramirez, a Wichita Falls, Texas, native, and command group administrator for the 1st SB. “He has been a huge help and certainly earned this.”

At the end of the day, Johanson is happy with his decision to extend his tour of duty in Iraq and is even considering another extension after the 1st SB leaves later this year.

“I am honored and truly grateful to be a part of this (day) and to be under such great leadership,” Johanson said.

Soldiers,” said Col. Kevin G. O’Connell, a Clinton, Md., native and commander of the 1st SB. “Not only are they the first (Soldiers) within the brigade, ever, to receive this honor, they were promoted on Memorial Day, which is also something great.”

McDowell is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the communication and electronics cable install and repair section of Headquarters Platoon, Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st SB, in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad. He was also hand picked by his first sergeant to be the height and weight control NCO for the company. He developed a program that helped six Soldiers to be successfully removed from the overweight program.

1ST CAB

Medals for Heroism

Spc. Michael Howard
1st CAB, PAO

COB SPEICHER, IRAQ – Two UH-60 Black Hawk aircrews assigned to the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, received medals for heroism resulting from their actions during combat operations while flying east of Balad, Iraq on Jan. 16, 2008.

Lt. Col James H. Bradley Jr., the 3-1 Avn. Battalion Commander, received the Silver Star; UH-60 Aircraft

Commander Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lyndle Ratliff received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Howe, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Henry, Sgt. Paul Perdock, Sgt. Fredrick Benuzzi, Spc. Kenneth Steinmetz, and Spc. Jacob Norotsky received the Air Medal with "V" Device in a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher on June 14, 2008.

Bradley and his crews distinguished themselves while conducting an air assault and insertion of an Aerial Reaction Force from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). After infiltration,

ground troops became decisively engaged and began taking casualties from enemy fire.

Bradley assessed the severity of the situation and realized the supporting Apache gunships could not engage with friendly forces in such close proximity to the enemy. He immediately took charge of the situation and directed an all out assault of the insurgent position with his Black Hawk team to allow the reaction force to withdraw.

Bradley and Henry began a series of low, sweeping passes to identify both enemy and friendly positions in an attempt to clarify the increasingly chaotic situation, while Ratliff and Howe made four gun runs at extremely close range while his door gunners poured a heavy volume of effective machine gun fire into the enemy.

Despite receiving enemy fire to the cockpit and the rest of his aircraft, Ratliff and Howe continued to engage, at one point coming to a low hover within 100 meters from the enemy to allow his door gunners to kill the insurgents and protect the fixed reaction force.

As the fight progressed, Bradley and Henry leapt into the close fight, again pouring machine gun fire into the enemy position. Bradley and his crew made three deliberately slow passes under withering direct fire, expending all his ammunition and killing or injuring most of the enemy in their ambush position.

Bradley and Henry remained over the besieged troops and continued to expose his aircraft, even though his door gunners were out of ammunition, in order to draw enemy fire away from the reaction force Soldiers.

Because of their concentrated fire at close range and continuous low, slow passes to draw enemy fire, the reaction force was able to finally withdraw their Soldiers out of the kill zone to a pick-up point for extraction and CASEVAC (casualty evacuation).

"Let me tell you, I've seen the overhead film of the fight, and I walked the ground of the fight, and had it not been for those two aircrews, there would have been several more memories of Soldiers who didn't make it through that day," said Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, the Task Force Iron Commanding General, during the awards ceremony.

"But when you talk about the heroism of the people we just awarded, it's just unbelievable. As I walked through that line, and looked in the eyes of each one of these Soldiers, all I saw was humility," said Hertling.



Lt. Col. James H. Bradley, Jr., 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment Commander, receives the Silver Star.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lyndle Ratliff (right) pilot with Company B, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, receives the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Spc. Kenneth Steinmetz, (center) door gunner with Company B, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, receives the Air Medal with "V" Device.



Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling the Task Force Iron Commanding General, stands with the aircrews assigned to Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers

ARE YOU BOARD READY?

Review your Enlisted Records Brief or Office Record Brief to make sure everything is up-to-date.

Get your uniform ready. Make sure it fits correctly and all patches and stripes are correct. Take the uniform to the cleaners.

Make sure all awards and decorations are on your uniform correctly according to what is listed in your ERB or ORB. Only the unit awards listed can be worn. No leadership tabs, no cord or ropes except for the Schutzenschnur. The distinctive unit insignias (unit crests) **MUST BE WORN.**

Have your command check to make sure your uniform is correct.

Call or go to the Fort Riley M/VISC (Photo Lab) to make an appointment for a DA photo. 785-239-3871 or Building 222 on Custer Avenue, Main Post. Photo appointments are considered an appointed place of duty just like medical and dental. Last minute cancellations or no shows will be reported.

Report for your photo about 15 minutes prior to the appointment.

Note

M/VISC is limited to the number of photos that can be taken in a day. No walk-ins or stand-bys will be accepted. Each year a large number of Soldiers wait until the last two weeks prior to their board and then want to get a photo. M/VISC recommends to make your appointment now and make sure your photo is looked at by the board. M/VISC will only take one DA Photo per person each 12 months.



DA Photos are important to each Soldier, be considerate of each other. A good leader is prepared and doesn't wait till the last minute...



THE CHOICE IS YOURS

YOUR VOTE FILLS THIS PODIUM AND MANY OTHERS

Brig. Gen. Reuben D. Jones
Adjutant general

As the Army's senior service voting representative, I strongly encourage you to participate and cast your vote in the 2008 general election. Voting is the essence of our democracy and one of our most fundamental Constitutional rights. Our elected officials have very important jobs; the good news is, you have a voice in who is elected to do them ... if you vote. You can exercise your right to vote by completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) or complying with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which you vote. The FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed or sent electronically as soon as possible. You should then receive your absentee ballot as requested. The Federal Voting Assistance Program has been working with the states to allow ballots to be submitted and received electronically. Check with your unit voting assistance officer for your state requirements.

Mailing guidelines differ from state to state; therefore, we recommend you check your state's guidelines by contacting your UVAO, or by visiting the Army Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.vote.army.mil. It is imperative that you complete and send in your ballot immediately to ensure it is received by your hometown local election officials no later than your state's deadline. If you are an overseas voter and have not received your regular absentee ballot 30 to 45 days prior to your state's deadline, you should complete a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot and send it to your local election official. If you later receive your absentee ballot, you should also complete and send it in for processing.

The 2008 General Election is quickly approaching, so please don't wait until the very last minute to register and or send in your absentee ballot.

Be Smart. Do your part. Vote. 

Pass The Keys

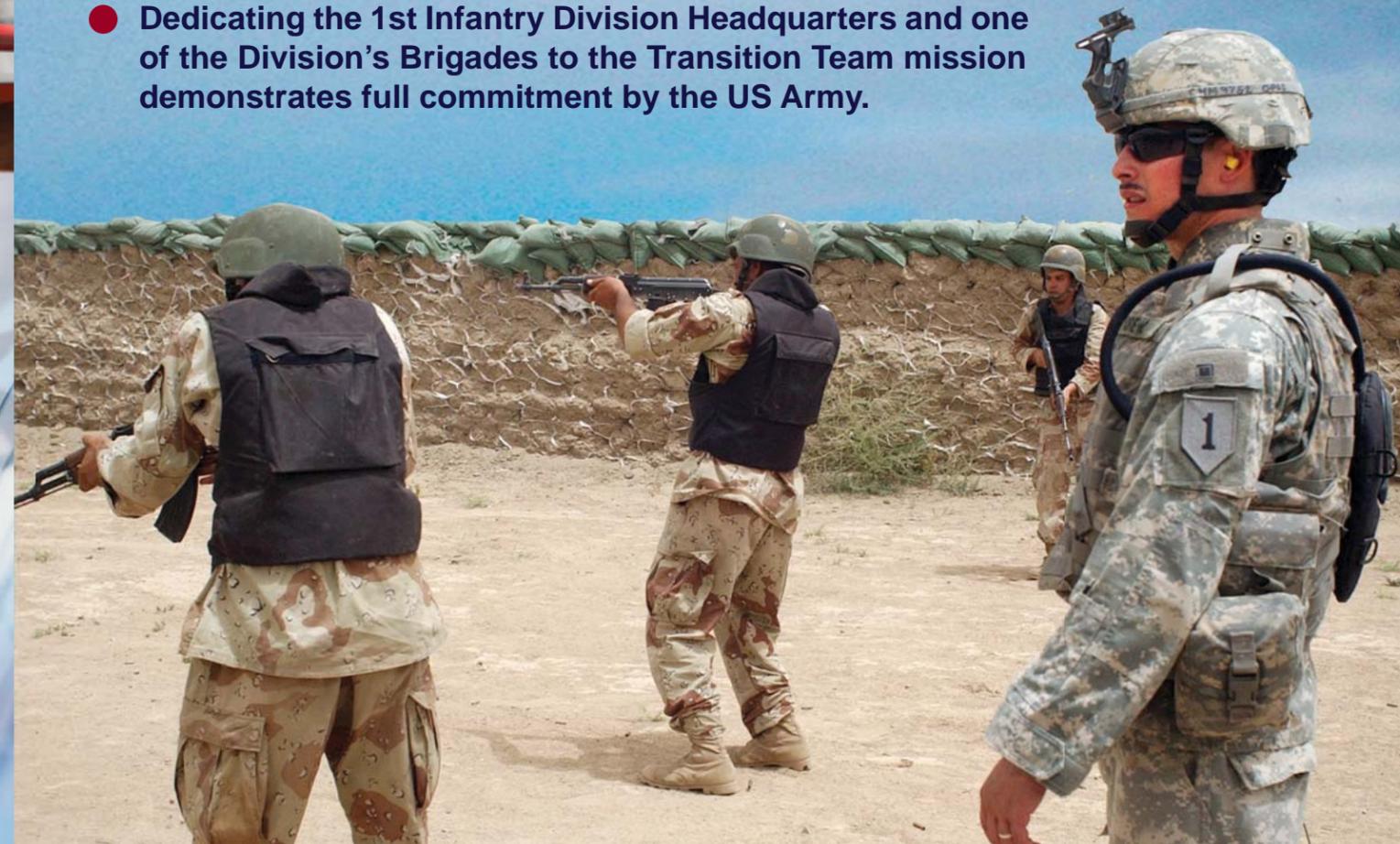
Avoid the Consequences

*No matter what logic you use...
You Drink, You Drive, You Lose!*



TT Mission

- Transition Teams advise, teach, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces and the Afghan National Army.
- Transition Teams provide direct access to Coalition capabilities such as air support, artillery, medical evacuation, and intelligence gathering.
- Transition Teams are critical to the transfer of security responsibility to the Iraqi and Afghan governments.
- The consolidation of training at Fort Riley provides standardization of high quality training and effective use of resources.
- Dedicating the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and one of the Division's Brigades to the Transition Team mission demonstrates full commitment by the US Army.



Army Values

Loyalty

Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers.

Duty

Fulfill your obligations.

Respect

Treat people as they should be treated.

Selfless Service

Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.

Honor

Live up to all the Army values.

Integrity

Do what's right—legally and morally.

Personal Courage

Face fear, danger, or adversity both physical or moral.

