

Duty **1** First!



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.

February 2009

www.1id.army.mil

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

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

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www.1id.army.mil.

Cover Photo: 2nd HBCT/Tierce

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tompkins (left), senior enlisted leader of the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regt., 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., Multi-National Division-Baghdad, returns from a mission in the Ghazaliyah district of northwest Baghdad Nov. 26.

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Commanding General **Danger 6**

Fort Riley Expansion...

Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins

It's no secret that the 1st Infantry Division is growing and as a result, Fort Riley is expanding too. We have lots of moving pieces and parts in this division – but there's one common goal. Soldier and Family well-being are top priorities at Fort Riley and we are investing millions to make this the duty station of choice.

Over the past year, we had plenty of buildings going up, dirt moving and hammers driving nails. But we also made a lot of administrative progress on construction projects for the next couple years. Here's a quick rundown:

Health care: \$404 million hospital opening in fiscal year 2013; groundbreaking last month for a \$50 million Warrior in Transition complex for more than 300 Soldiers that will become the Army standard; groundbreaking in October 2008 for a \$26.3 million Soldier and Family Care Clinic on Custer Hill; and a \$1.2 million renovation project for a traumatic brain injury clinic

Child care: Two new child development centers that opened last month at Camps Forsyth and Whitside, with two more CDCs slated for completion by this fall; free child care for Families of deployed Soldiers (value of \$1,800 per child/per year)

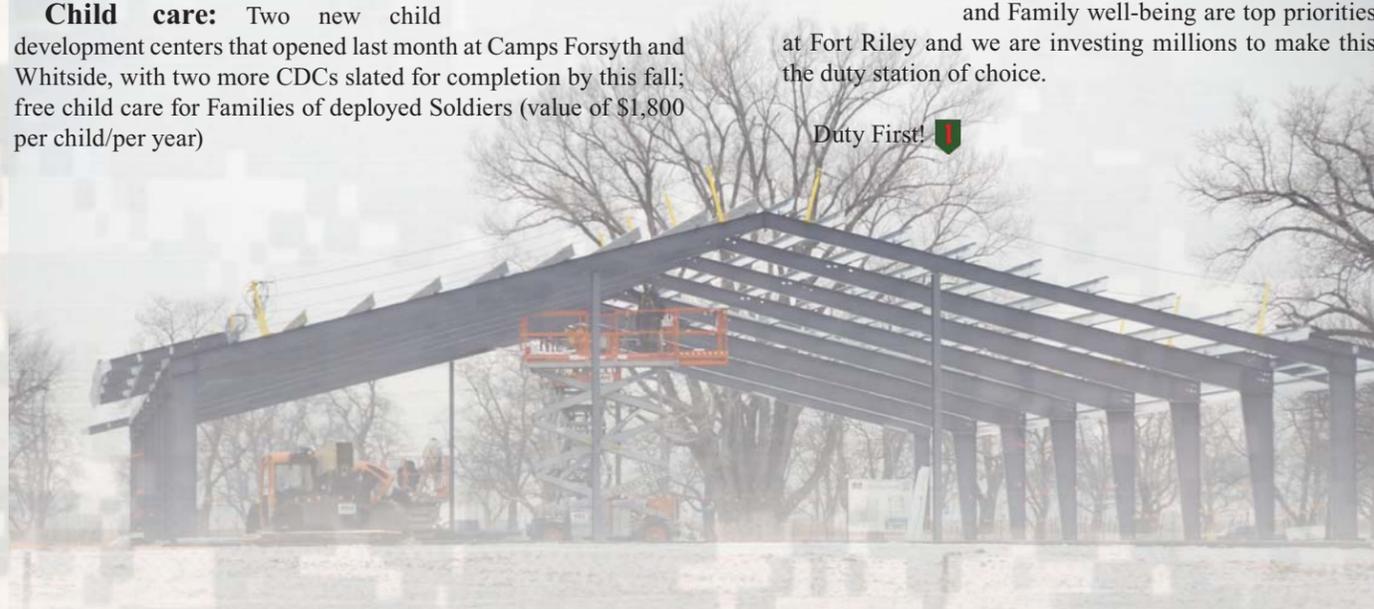
Housing: 250 new quarters built in 2008; 100 more planned for this year; barracks construction on Custer Hill and Camp Whitside; barracks renovations to the 1+1 Army standard

Recreation: Fort Riley Marina phase one complete, phase two to be completed this year; new skeet and trap range planned; Moon Lake expansion project for camping and recreation vehicles; McCormick Park renovation; WarriorZone on Custer Hill; Sportsman's complex; and a USO center slated to open this fall in the old Arts and Crafts building by the Post Exchange.

As you can see, this is just a short list of the more than \$1 billion in construction going on at Fort Riley as a result of the Big Red One coming home to Kansas. We've got even more projects in the works and as I said before, we have one goal in mind with every brick laid and shovel of dirt turned: Soldier and Family well-being are top priorities

at Fort Riley and we are investing millions to make this the duty station of choice.

Duty First! 



Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

If You Drink...

Division Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne



If you drink...don't drive! How hard is that to understand? Drunk driving is no accident—nor is it a victimless crime. Every year, the 1st Infantry Division continues to see far too many Soldiers suffer debilitating injuries or the loss of life and property as a result of impaired driving. This is unacceptable! What will it take for Soldiers to understand the dangers of driving while impaired? When is enough, enough? If you drink... Don't drive ... Period!

There are too many unit and installation programs that are available to prevent a Soldier from making a bad decision. There are funds available for Soldiers to take a taxi back to their barracks. Soldiers who have had too much to drink can call their NCO support channel for that ride back to their barracks.

During 2006 alone, more than 13,000 people were killed in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider with an illegal blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. The picture for motorcycle riders is particularly bleak. Forty-one percent of the 2,007 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2006 had BAC levels of .08 or higher.

The human toll is only half the picture. Crashes cost the nation billions of dollars each year. Drunk driving is not only dangerous, but also a serious, costly crime. Driving impaired is

just not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant. Violators will be punished with the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, attorney fees, time away from work and dozens of other expenses.

In FY 2008, there were 280 DUIs involving Fort Riley Soldiers, Family members and civilians. As of Jan. 26, this fiscal year, there have been 76 DUIs, far too many, and the number keeps climbing.

I warn you, after every DUI, the NCO support channel of the Soldier involved comes to my office for an AAR on how they failed to influence their Soldier to make the right decision. On every occasion, once the onion was peeled back, the NCO had missed something.

It's not enough to just go through the motions of a safety brief. Leaders must go beyond that and be involved in the Soldiers' decision-making process. The Soldier must have the confidence in their leader to call them.

One DUI is one too many. Think before you drink. And I know you've heard this a million times before, if you drink, don't drive. Have a designated driver, call for a ride home. Take a taxi home. Do whatever it takes to be safe, because if you get caught, you will pay the price.

Now ... get after it! 



1ST BDE SOLDIER CONQUERS CANCER

By *Lyndsey Born*
The Fort Riley Post Newspaper

A routine post-deployment physical may have saved Capt. Michael Barnett's life. He is a 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, Soldier who found out he had cancer after a lump was found in his neck during his post-deployment physical. After CAT scans and a fine needle aspiration, Barnett learned he had papillary thyroid cancer.

"So within a couple of weeks of redeploying, I was at a hospital getting my thyroid removed, and a month later I went for chemotherapy, which for thyroid cancer you take radioactive iodine pills and they isolate you in a room so that you aren't radioactive to anyone else," Barnett said. "So that was surgery in June, radioactive iodine in July and in September, I was at the career course at Fort Knox."

With thyroid cancer, there can be symptoms such as weight gain or depression, but Barnett said he never had any signs to warn him that he might have cancer.

"I had no idea during my whole entire deployment that this cancer was growing in my neck, and by the time they had removed it my entire right side of my thyroid was fully cancer. The isthmus, which connects the two sides was cancer, plus a large portion of my left side (thyroid) was cancer, plus two or three of my lymph nodes were completely cancer."

A large scar down the side of his neck is the souvenir Barnett received from an eight-hour surgery in September 2008, which was the second operation he had to remove the cancer from his thyroid and lymph nodes.

"They called it a radical dissection. That's where you can see the scar, which goes from the base of my right ear to a little past the mid-line in my neck," Barnett said. "There are five zones in the neck, and they cut into all five of those and took a lymph node from every section. Plus there were two more spots on the thyroid bed that had grown back and that was all cancerous."



Barnett said his family was surprised to learn he had cancer, but very supportive. His mother-in-law was a thyroid cancer survivor, so he had an idea of what he would go through. His children, the youngest of whom was 3 at the time, didn't completely understand what cancer was, Barnett said, but they did know it was harmful.

"They know that cancer is a bad thing, and it hurts people. It's not something they can visualize; like if you see something

on TV, a person with a gun, they know that is going to hurt somebody," Barnett said. "They see me go to work every day, running, working out, playing with them on the floor at the house, so they don't see me being sick. They just know that I have a new scar."

Barnett's scar can be seen just above his T-shirt collar. He doesn't try to hide it, he said, because it shows whoever sees it he is still alive.

"I boast about it sometimes," he said. "It helps start conversation ... 'Hey you can have a big scar on your

neck; you can have cancer and continue to live your life.'"

Barnett said every Soldier should take a few extra minutes during their physicals to be tested because when he found out he had cancer there weren't any symptoms to warn him.

"When we come back we should be real honest on where we were and what we did, what kind of environment we were in. It takes time to get checked out, it could be 10 minutes now or eight hours on a table, for the second time."

After finding out about his cancer, Barnett said he didn't change much about how he lives his life. To him that would have meant that cancer was taking over his life.

"I don't know if I upset people by expressing so much candor about it because I figure people can laugh, they can cry, they can run or hide. But I choose to laugh at it and know that there is always a way I can get better through attitude, through the wonders of medicine like surgery, medication and what not," Barnett said. "My faith has gotten me this far, and it's keeping me going everyday after this. So I don't allow the cancer, I guess, to get in my way." 

1ST CAB Uncasing Of Colors

By *Anna Staatz*
Duty First! Magazine

Signifying the formal return of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, the unit hosted an uncasing ceremony Dec. 11 at King Field House.

About 2,400 Soldiers in the "Demon" Brigade deployed from Fort Riley in September 2007 and returned to the post during November and early December 2008, following a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

During the Dec. 11 ceremony, the brigade's colors were uncased, and the unit was honored by division leadership for its accomplishments in Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, stressed that the brigade did not suffer any combat-related deaths during its deployment. Wiggins also reminded those attending the ceremony that they would soon hear the sounds of helicopters flying overhead again.

"Just remember that it is the sound of freedom," Wiggins said.

The CAB was the largest aviation unit in the Army during its deployment, with an average of two additional battalions attached to it while in Iraq. Its units operated from six separate forward operating bases in northern Iraq.

Soldiers supported ground troops and operations; guarded convoys, performed medical evacuations and conducted reconnaissance operations, all part of a larger effort to assist the Iraqi government in improving internal security, fostering economic growth and improving infrastructure development. During its deployment, the brigade oversaw the operation and maintenance of 200 manned and unmanned aircraft.

The brigade's Soldiers conducted nearly 18,000 missions, identifying and engaging enemy targets 300 times. CAB Soldiers were also responsible for the discovery or defeat of 56 improvised explosive devices and the destruction of more than 125 insurgent vehicles and structures. In addition, the brigade was responsible for transporting more than 91,000 personnel and about 4,000 tons of cargo around Multi-National Division North.

In a Dec. 22 interview, Col. Jessie Farrington, brigade commander, said he was just starting to realize the magnitude of what his Soldiers accomplished during the brigade's deployment.

"We had some very, very courageous acts during this tour that were absolutely impressive," Farrington said. "The day-to-day work ethic and mission focus was beyond impressive, and I don't know how to describe it."

Farrington oversaw the operations of not only the brigade's helicopters, but also unmanned aerial systems and fixed wing aircraft attached to the brigade after it arrived in Iraq. Overall, Farrington said, those combined aircraft logged a total of 240,000 flight hours. The brigade's helicopters clocked more than 170,000 hours in flight time during the 15-month deployment.

"We had 34 aircraft that were battle damaged during our tour. Most of those aircraft were turned around and fixed within 24 to 48 hours, some after being hit six, seven, eight times," Farrington said.

Aircraft assigned to the CAB began arriving at Fort Riley in January, beginning the brigade's reset and training process. 

Spc. Cody Harding contributed to this story.



1st Inf. Div. PAO/Harding

Col. Jessie Farrington addresses the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade during the uncasing ceremony at King Field House here Dec. 11.

2ND HBCT PUBLIC WORKS CLEANING UP BAGHDAD

By Sgt. Brian Tierce
2nd HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD – The citizens of Baghdad are on a new mission these days. Instead of worrying about the violence that once plagued their city, they're focused on making their hometown a cleaner place to live.

In Baghdad, the citizens most responsible for the cleanup process are the workers of the district of Belladiyah. Focusing on water, sewage and trash removal, they are hard at work cleaning streets and the water supply. The 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team is assisting by teaching workers what it will take to sustain their city and making sure they have what they need to complete the job.

"We try to make sure all the essential services: sewer, water, electricity and academics, are being watched after and taken care of by the city of Baghdad," said Lt. Col. Christopher Beckert, deputy commanding officer, 2nd HBCT. "These things are all essential for the people who live in the area."

Beckert said he knows that putting in the hard work at the beginning of the Dagger Brigade's tour will amount to a long term success for the citizens of the Mansour, Kadhamiyah and Karkh districts of northwest Baghdad.

"While we are securing the population, it is important that we tend to the needs of the population," explained Beckert. "By being responsible partners with the city of Baghdad, we can create a better relationship."

This improved relationship with the citizens of Baghdad has not only led to safer streets, but it also paves the way for a much-improved infrastructure and improved living conditions, he added.

"The easiest way for the population to see that the government is doing its job is to have their basic needs taken care of," said 1st Lt. Conor Browne, civil military affairs officer, 2nd HBCT. "If they see their government is taking care of them, they will buy into the government."

This is just another example of coalition forces not just being ready for the lethal fight," said Beckert. "They are oriented in the non-lethal fight as well."



2nd HBCT PAO/Roberts

Brig. Gen. Robin Swan, deputy commanding general (support), 4th Inf. Div., Multi-National Division-Baghdad, speaks with Col. Joseph M. Martin, commander, 2nd HBCT (Dagger), 1st Inf. Div., MND-B, about essential services at sewage pump station 7 in Ghazaliyah Dec. 10.



2nd HBCT PAO/Roberts

Brig. Gen. Robin Swan (2nd from left), deputy commanding general (support), 4th Inf. Div., Multi-National Division-Baghdad, looks through a sewage well at pump station 7.

Operation IRON DAGGER Aims To Improve Ghazaliyah

By Spc. Dustin Roberts
2nd HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD – As the security in Iraq improves, Soldiers from the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, now focus on an operation that will make long-term neighborhood improvements.

In the areas of Ghazaliyah and Shulla, 2HBCT Soldiers are working in concert with Iraqi security forces to improve essential services as part of Operation Dagger.

"The purpose of this operation is to execute a focused non-lethal effort with integrated programs to improve security, disrupt the enemy in the area and fill the gap between the population and the Iraqi government," said Col. Joseph Martin, commander, 2nd HBCT.

"Most people know there is a problem with electricity in Iraq," said Maj. Todd Auld, Dagger Brigade civil affairs officer. "What we're going to do in Ghazaliyah, Shulla and throughout Baghdad is what we have started in Ameriyah; putting up solar-powered street lights and increasing the quality of life."

Auld said solar lights are advantageous because where there are lights, businesses can stay open later, which improves the economy.

Troopers from the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd HBCT, are patrolling the streets of Ghazaliyah daily with Iraqi security forces.

"Soldiers have been engaging the local leaders in meetings to get a feeling of what Ghazaliyah needs," said Lt. Col. John Richardson IV, commander, 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. "We have been working hard to make sure we know what the people need."

Richardson said the ISF have led the patrols to locate and neutralize the enemy and are ready to take the lead for security actions.

With basic essential services such as street lights, street cleanup and sewer work, ISF and coalition forces work together every day to make progress in Baghdad neighborhoods in the areas the Dagger Brigade operates.

"We're not just going in and fixing broken infrastructure, but we are implementing real sustainable improvements," Auld said. "It's really a win all around for all of us."



US Air Force photo

Iraqi Army Sgt. Hidar helps an Iraqi child down the street to her home in Ghazaliyah Dec.1.



2nd HBCT/Tierce

Soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, return from a patrol in the Ghazaliyah district of northwest Baghdad.

3RD IBCT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM CONNECTS AFGHANISTAN

By **Sgt. Charles Brice**
3rd IBCT PAO

JALALABAD AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Times can be difficult in a war torn country like Afghanistan, especially when lines of communication are broken or non-existent.

The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team is working with Afghan locals to install an international ring of communications that will span across Afghanistan and connect to its neighboring countries.

“The fiber ring will completely overhaul the current communication system by allowing the new system to flow very fast and efficiently,” said Maj. Patrick Dillinger, 3rd IBCT

communications officer.

Under the new system, a more efficient and faster way of communicating between allied forces and local residents will exist.

“The fiber ring extends outward from Bagram Airfield [Afghanistan] coming across all the major areas of operations and back to BAF,” Dillinger said. “Then the fiber ring will extend its arms outward to neighboring countries to expand the reach of communication.

“Fiber optics communication is one of the most reliable networks to depend on while fighting the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is ground breaking work for a historical change in this country.”



3rd IBCT/Dillinger

After a long day of work on a fiber optic connection point, Afghan locals rest near a Russian fighter jet from a previous war. The locals are taking an interest in the project because it will benefit them in the long run.

4TH IBCT TRIED AND TRUE BEFORE COMBAT

By **Anna Staatz**
Duty First! Magazine

Tried and true. By the time medics in the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deploy from Fort Riley, they will have been tested not only in their medical knowledge, but also in their ability to stomach trauma scenarios.

Since October, 4th IBCT medics have rotated through weekend shifts in the emergency room of Truman Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. They can't treat patients or administer care, but pacing beside the hospital's doctors and nurses, they get a front row seat on how to handle a wide range of medical emergencies, from mundane to critical.

Col. Henry Arnold III, brigade commander, implemented a similar program as a battalion commander in the 101st Airborne Division. Then, Arnold sent his new, untested medics to shadow the emergency room staff at a county hospital in Nashville, Tenn., where they were often exposed to gunshot and stabbing wounds. When he became a brigade commander, he continued to place a high priority on medical training for his Soldiers.

“Medical capability has to go beyond just the medics,” Arnold said. “My medics have to be psychologically inoculated from trauma. In my experience, half of all medics do instinctively

what they were trained to do when they're presented with a horribly wounded Soldier. The other half freeze up and some leader who is not a medic has to stop the bleeding or whatever.”

The medics who go to Truman Medical Center pull 12-hours shifts, during which they learn about the hospital's nursing system, the equipment used and observe how to care for the different medical situations.

“It's a good learning experience,” said Pvt. Mark Stevens, healthcare specialist, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. “It was exciting to watch them and see how they handled a trauma situation.”

In addition to training every member of the brigade as a combat lifesaver, Arnold has taken Soldiers in non-medic MOSs – infantry and artillery Soldiers – and given them additional medical training.

“We are sending them to school here locally to be paramedics,” he said. “It's about a six-week school. It's a tough exam, and not all of them pass, but at least they've had the training. And so now you have not only that Army-trained medic, but also someone in that organization that has trained to that same level.”

Spc. Shantelle Campbell, 4 IBCT Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article.



Dylan Hoffman, a registered nurse at the Truman Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo., explains different equipment to Pvt. Mark Stevens, health care specialist of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., Dec. 5.



4th IBCT PAO/Campbell

Pvt. Mark Stevens listens to Suellen Shea, a clinical educator at Truman Medical Center, as she explains the use and operation of the different equipment used in the operating rooms of TMC, Dec. 5.

Careless Keystrokes Can Kill

Don't let your e-mails or blogs make someone a target



Operation Security (OPSEC)

Fort Riley Units Honored For Excellence



1st Inf. Div. PAO/Smith
Holding the Army FORSCOM award is Warrant Officer 1 Eric Dietrich and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Myers.



1st Inf. Div. PAO/Smith
Sgt. Michael Reynolds, a light-wheel mechanic from Company B, 610th Bde. Support Bn., 4th Inf. Bde. Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., assesses the link-up on an M88 recovery vehicle.

By *Spc. Cody Harding*
1st Inf. Div. PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Two 1st Infantry Division units have been awarded the Army Forces Command Award for Maintenance Excellence. They now go on to compete at the Department of the Army level.

Company B, 701st Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, won the award for best small-sized support unit, and the 101st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade took the award for the best medium-sized support unit.

The 701st BSB returned in April from a deployment to Iraq. Their nomination packet included notable points, such as a Soldier who taught himself how to weld in a week to help complete their mission.

The 101st FSB won the award for the best medium-sized support unit in Forces Command.

One notable achievement of the battalion was the creation of a brass deflector for battery boxes in the M1151 up-armored Humvee, which prevented batteries from shorting out when a weapon was fired.

The award has been presented for 25 years by the National Defense Industrial Organization. It goes to the best units that maintain high standards of maintenance, are innovative in their use of programs and equipment and provide excellent quality-of-life programs for their Soldiers.

The award came as no surprise to Maj. Daniel Powers, the support operations officer for the 101st FSB.

"If you're doing what you're supposed to be doing, competing for the award is easy," said Powers.

The award is the first in a series given for excellence. If the units win the DA award, they will compete for Department of Defense honors.

History Of The Big Red One

Desert Storm

By Anna Staats
Duty First! Magazine

The Big Red One has often led the way in the Army's greatest wartime campaigns. It was no different 18 years ago, when Operation Desert Storm began.

Former Iraq dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait after the country and several other nearby Arab countries refused to endorse his plan to cut oil production and raise its price. Hussein spent weeks amassing troops and weapons at the Kuwait-Iraq border, before invading on Aug. 2, 1990. After a week, he declared the country Iraq's 19th province, and began to send his troops to the Saudi Arabian border. The U.S. responded by sending aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia, part of what was initially called Desert Shield. In January 1991, when Hussein still had not withdrawn his military, Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Rhame, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. in 1990, was at Fort Hood, Texas, for meetings in early November when he was notified the division would deploy to the Middle East with VII Corps.

"It was different then than it is today," Rhame said. "We deployed all together – the entire division, instead of just brigades, like you see now."

Most of the division was stationed at Fort Riley, where retired Master Sgt. Tim Donahue first heard the Big Red One was headed to the Middle East. Donahue joined the Army in

the 1980s after "running out of money for college." He served his first four years in the Army as an infantryman before reclassifying as a public affairs noncommissioned officer.

"We were all in a conference room at the old library and we got a phone call from Senator [Robert] Dole's office that the announcement was coming," Donahue said.

Rhame went to Saudi Arabia on a brief reconnaissance trip, and then readied the division for deployment. All the division's elements began deploying around Thanksgiving, Rhame said. He and Donahue both left for the Middle East on Dec. 26. The division was headquartered out of a Saudi Arabia installation south of the

Iraq-Saudi border, Rhame said, where the blueprint for the assault inward was planned.

Donahue ended up in a warehouse with about 2,500 other Soldiers, all waiting to hear the next step. He stayed busy as well, recording the stories of Big Red One Soldiers preparing for war.

"One of the stories I did that I remember most was on the preparation," Donahue said. "The armor and infantry units were going through some very heavy battle drills."

The U.S. ground assault into Kuwait began Feb. 24, after the Iraqi military forces ignited 700 oil wells in Kuwait.

The U.S. ground offensive had



three fronts, with the 1st Inf. Div. spearheading the center ground assault. Division units engaged Iraq's 26th Infantry Division, broke through enemy lines and took more than 2,500 prisoners that first day.

"We had trained hard for that day, the day we attacked into Iraq," Rhame said. "When it was all over, we had penetrated farther than anyone else on the south side."

Continuing the inward assault, along with other units attached to VII Corps, division units collided with the Tawalakana Division Republican Guard and

elements of the 12th Iraqi Tank Division. Big Red One Soldiers fought with enemy forces from both these units late Feb. 26, destroying both. Enemy losses in the battle included more than 40 tanks and 40 infantry fighting vehicles. Following the Battle of Norfolk, the 1st Inf. Div. moved ahead and cut off Iraqi lines retreating from Kuwait City. By late Feb. 27, Soldiers in 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment had seized the main highway leading north out of Kuwait. By the next morning, other division elements had taken up positions along the highway and fully secured the highway.

On March 3, 1991, division Soldiers secured Safwan Airfield for cease-fire negotiations between coalition forces and Iraqi leaders.

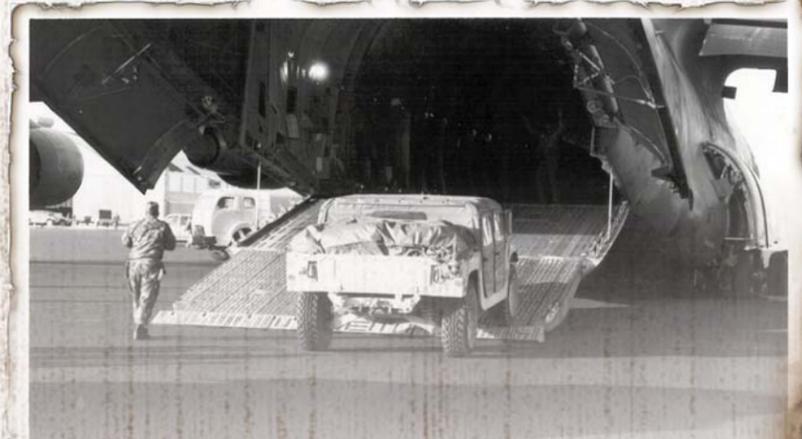
Rhame said what stuck with him most was the confidence and attitude of the Soldiers in the division.



"The outstanding thing I remember most was the confidence and attitude of the division," Rhame said. "The young guys, they had confidence in their leaders, and their leaders had confidence in them."

During the four-day offensive, the division pushed through 260 kilometers of enemy territory, destroyed 550 enemy tanks and 480 enemy armored personnel carriers and captured more than 11,000 prisoners. Eighteen Big Red One Soldiers died in the war. The Big Red One earned three campaign streamers: Defense of Saudi Arabia, Liberation and Defense of Kuwait and Cease Fire.

The division uncased its colors at Fort Riley on May 10, 1991, signifying its redeployment.



All photos provided by the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley regimental museum

Iron Patriot

By *Spc. Shantelle J. Campbell*
4IBCT PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Sgt. 1st Class Matthew S. Richter and 1st Lt. Jamie Sanjuan, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment tested their basic Soldiering skills against eight other two-man teams and won the battalion's first Iron Patriot competition.

The two-day competition challenged each Soldier in a call for fire exercise, weapons familiarization, land navigation, an 8-mile road march and a physical fitness test.

"The purpose of the Iron Patriot is to prepare Soldiers mentally and physically for stressful environments that may occur in combat situations while deployed," said Capt. Joe Breedlove, competition coordinator.

Each team worked together to complete a fire for effect mission, engaging a designated target within 45 seconds of

identifying the target.

They were then called upon to assemble and disassemble several different weapons systems including the MK-19 40-milimeter grenade machine gun, .50-caliber machine gun, M-4 carbine assault rifle, M249 automatic machine gun and M240 B machine gun.

Each team had to complete a day and night land navigation course followed by an 8.7-mile road march with 65 to 70 pound rucksacks.

The teams were also evaluated on their ability to evaluate a casualty, prepare a radio for operations and then call out a medical evacuation report within five minutes.

"The teamwork aspect was proven today," said Richter. "How well you work together is how well you perform. It was a great experience, and I believe that we all serve as role models for Soldiers throughout the battalion." 



4IBCT/Campbell

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew S. Richter, a target acquisitions platoon sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., and 1st Lt. Jamie Sanjuan, executive officer of HHB, 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., took top honors in the Iron Patriot Competition on Jan. 14 at Fort Riley.

Horse Therapy

By *Lisa M. Medrano*
IACH PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Warrior Transition Soldier, Spc. Kevin Snow and his 8-year old daughter, Jasmin, look forward to horsing around together every Wednesday. That's when they participate in equine therapy at the Hope Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center in Manhattan, Kan.

The program offers therapeutic horsemanship and learning which promotes emotional healing, building confidence, improving social skills and helps clients heal in a positive, self-paced manner.

"I feel calmer after spending time with the horses, and Jasmin and I are both in good moods when we leave the Hope Ranch," Snow said.

Having almost no experience with horses, Snow works under supervision. He's coached in catching, grooming and tacking up his horse, "Red."

"When I come to Hope, I control a thousand-pound horse," Snow said. "That gives me a strong dose of self confidence in keeping control of my daily tasks."

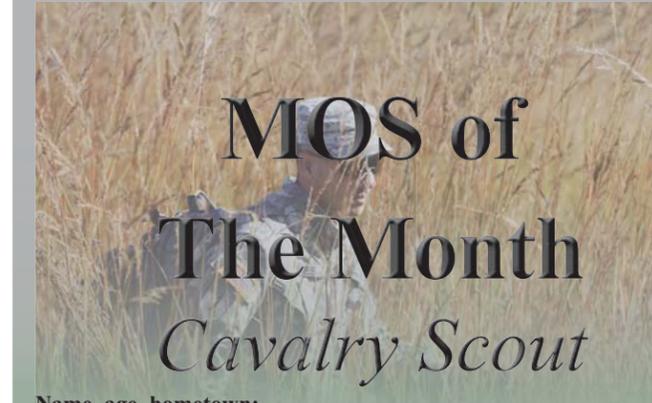
"Since he's started, I have watched his confidence and communication skills improve," said Cassey Dougherty, Hope Ranch trainer.

Horsemanship requires a lot of hand and eye coordination and helps improve short term memory, Dougherty added.

Jazmin also benefits from interacting with the farm kittens, dogs, miniature donkeys and horses. She rides with a trainer leading her horse, and performs simple exercises such as some grooming and a lot of touching and talking to the animals.

Ken Scroggs, Hope Ranch founder and director, told of a child with multiple sclerosis with little lower body control. The child developed trunk control from riding and now is able to grip the saddle with her legs. He also told of an expressionless, autistic child who began to smile and tried to speak after participating in equine therapy.

"When I researched equine therapy," said Scroggs, "I read of extraordinary accomplishments of handicapped people and was just elated when I began to see it happening here." 



MOS of The Month Cavalry Scout

Name, age, hometown;

Sgt. Benjamin Williams, I am 26, and I'm from Durham, N.H.

Why did you join the Army;

Initially, it was for the G.I. Bill, and I figured it would be a good four years of doing something constructive while I think about what I want to do with myself.

What responsibilities come with being a Cavalry Scout;

A 19 Delta is a jack-of-all-trades. You know all the small arms weapons systems, from the M9 pistol to the TOW missile system, as well as working with forward observers. I feel that we're very similar to infantry except that we're mounted. We can do pretty much anything.

What do you like the best about your job;

I like shooting weapons and I like going on the ranges. I love the room clearing training, the stuff that's more combat oriented.

What kind of training or classes does the Army offer so that somebody with this MOS can become better at what they do;

It offers a lot. At the Recon Scout Leadership course at Fort Benning, Ga., which I went to, you learn so much about vehicle identification, urban reconnaissance, use of camouflage, how to move in the woods and set up an observation post. You also have the more general classes like Combat Life Saver so you're better at first aid.

How will the skills you've gained in the Army help you once you return to civilian life;

To be honest, I think a lot of the skills come from after my deployment. In the civilian sector there's not a stressful thing I don't think I couldn't handle. You learn a lot of patience, especially on our previous deployment, working with the Iraqi people. I'm looking forward to the civilian lifestyle again because I know I'm not going to take anything for granted. Being in the military is something I would never take back. The experiences I've had, the training I've had and the hardships I've had, definitely broaden your horizons on what you should be thankful for." 



Members of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th IBCT, scan the area as they make their way through a training exercise.

CGMCG IN INAUGURAL PARADE

By Anna Staats
Duty First! Magazine

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In the old tradition of mounted cavalry, 14 troopers of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard paid their respects to the new commander in chief by riding in the inaugural parade on Jan. 20.

The parade tops the list of "big" events the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard has participated in, and was the culminating moment of weeks of preparation.

Getting Ready

The CGMCG spent weeks getting ready for the parade, preparing its horses and Soldiers by practicing in city environments, with rehearsals in Junction City, Topeka and Wichita. The unit's Civil War era uniforms were prepared, saddles and sabers polished.

"No stone was left unturned," said Staff Sgt. Randy Hubbard, CGMCG platoon sergeant, of the preparations.

A company that specialized in transporting horses across long distances was used to move the horses from Fort Riley to Washington, D.C.

"Our trailers just aren't designed to carry horses that far," said 1st Sgt. Dean Stockert. "I didn't want to get there and have one of the horses turn up lame or something from the trip."

A contingent of Soldiers from the unit traveled with the horses. A small group flew to the nation's Capitol and a third group traveled in vans. The list of supplies was long: 300 pounds of grain, one ton of hay, 17 saddles, 18 uniforms, 16 horse blankets, 27 extra horse shoes, 20 feed buckets, 250 gallons of water, two water tanks, ferrier supplies, a leather repair kit and manure carts and forks.

Most of the Soldiers and horses departed Fort Riley on Jan. 16.

Washington, D.C.

Jan. 19, the unit rode in a rehearsal with a mounted Border Patrol unit before polishing saddles, tack and equipment in preparation for the big day. The Soldiers then headed back to Fort Belvoir, Va., for a few hours of shut-eye.

Inauguration day began early for the Soldiers and horses. Most of the 1st Inf. Div.'s troopers were up close to 3 a.m. After making the trek from Fort Belvoir, Va., to the equestrian center in Maryland where the horses were stabled, the CGMCG fed



1st Sgt. Dean Stockert is interviewed by several members of the media during a parade practice on Jan. 12.



Sp. Darrell Dressler tacks up his horse, Rifle, Jan. 20 in preparation for the inaugural parade.

and saddled horses before loading them up to await a police escort into the capital city.

Once in the city, the unit weaved through a maze of security, spectators and chaos to line up for the parade route.

"I never thought ever, that I'd get to come to an inauguration and be a part of it," said Sgt. James Reimers.

The parade had more than 70 elements and lasted more than two and a half hours. After a late start, it concluded well after 7 p.m. The CGMCG was the only mounted Army unit to participate in the inaugural parade. However, three of the horses – Trooper, Cyclone and Chicote – had marched the route in previous inaugural parades.

When the Day Was Over

It was cold and windy in Washington, D.C., on inauguration day. It was also a very long day out in the elements for the horses and Soldiers. After getting up at 3 a.m., the group didn't get back to the stables until about 8 p.m., and still had to feed and water the horses before calling it a night.

"The Soldiers and the horses did an outstanding job," Stockert said. "Our veterinarian made the comment that our horses were some of the few horses that did not have to be tranquilized because of the commotion and the long wait. I attribute that to the training of our horses and the temperament

of the horses that we own and then also the conditioning of our Soldiers. They just toughed it out."

Stockert said he was particularly mindful of the lack of violence that accompanied the events surrounding a new president taking office, noting that in other countries, that wasn't the case.

"It crossed my mind [in the parade], what a great country we live in — America, where we do regime change in this fashion," Stockert said. "Where the Soldiers and other parts of the government fall right in line and it turns into a peaceful celebration instead of what happens in a lot of countries."

Stockert said to him, riding in the parade was also a chance to honor the sacrifices of Soldiers who were deployed.

"That's what gives us the most pride is that we can do this and represent those who are deployed around the world and honor the service and sacrifices they are making right now on our behalf," he said.

The chance to be a part of something so much bigger than what most Soldiers get to participate in was exciting for Hubbard.

"I was really excited about an opportunity to go there and be a part of something that's bigger than the Army," Hubbard said. "It was a great honor to be able to go up there, especially with it being such a historical event."

The CGMCG has also participated in inaugural parades in 2001 and 2005 for former President George W. Bush. ↓



The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, 1st Inf. Div., passes the reviewing stand Jan. 20 during the presidential inaugural parade.

MORE SOLDIERS ELIGIBLE FOR TRAUMATIC SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

By C. Todd Lopez
Veterans Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More Soldiers who have been traumatically injured in combat, or even in a car accident stateside, may now be eligible for up to \$100,000 to help adjust to life following their injury.

The Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance is a supplemental insurance program included in a Soldier's SGLI that provides a tax-free payment to Soldiers in the event they suffer traumatic injuries, such as severe burns or loss-of-limb.

The types of injuries that qualify for TSGLI were recently expanded, resulting in more Soldiers being able to benefit under the program.

"The expansion came about as a result of a review conducted by the Veterans Administration of the TSGLI program," said Capt. Nathan Black, officer in charge of TSGLI. "They spoke with each branch of service, medical professionals, those awarded and denied TSGLI, and others in the wounded warrior lifecycle. From this process, they were able to determine expanded loss definitions and

additional losses that would allow for more Soldiers to benefit from TSGLI."

For example, under the new guidelines, a Soldier may receive \$50,000 for paralysis of one limb; previous rules required paralysis of two or more limbs. Additionally, the new rules state a Soldier who sustains second-degree burns over 20 percent or more of his body or face is entitled to \$100,000. Under the former requirements, Soldiers must have sustained third-degree burns over 30 percent of their body or face.

The new guidelines also include limb salvage, and allow Soldiers \$50,000 for loss of sight that has lasted 120 days for each eye rather than total and permanent loss in both. The complete schedule of losses under TSGLI can be found at www.tsgli.army.mil.

Payments under TSGLI are per event, and Soldiers who have multiple injuries may receive more than one payment, but no more than the maximum \$100,000 per event.

Additionally, Black said the changes to TSGLI are retroactive. The TSGLI office is conducting a re-look initiative for any Soldier who was previously denied or received less than the maximum payment amount of \$100,000.

There is no need for a Soldier to resubmit a claim unless there is new additional supporting documentation to support the case, Black said. The TSGLI office will contact those who are approved under the new guidelines.

"The TSGLI expansion," said Black, "is another example of how we continue to enhance our program to better meet the needs of our Soldiers and their families."



Soldiers Help Iraqi Teenager

By Sgt. Charles Brice
3rd IBCT PAO

JALALABAD AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – International Security Assistance Force Soldiers in Afghanistan are working to win the hearts and minds of locals by showing them there are bigger and better opportunities available to them. ISAF Soldiers recently gave one Afghan teen the gift of mobility.

The Afghan National Army, Able Main 5-3 Embedded Training Team and Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team wanted to help a local teenager who couldn't walk, hindering him from going to school like other kids in his village.

"The young man wanted to get a higher education, but due to a birth defect that hindered him from walking, he couldn't attend school," Capt. James M. Marino, 3rd Marine Division, Able Main 5-3 ETT said. Marino added the teen started his first day of school fully stocked with donated school supplies.

"We looked into the situation and contacted some people in Kuwait and they sent us a few wheelchairs to put together."

"We helped one teenager and because of it, we've made inroads into winning the hearts and minds of the residents of Konar Province," he said. 



Photos provided by the 1st Inf. Div. Library and archives



1st Infantry Division at War

1st Infantry Division

Oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army. Over 7,000 Soldiers from two brigades are deployed.

Primarily located in Fort Riley, Kan.; training responsibility extends to three other states: Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas.

The Division modularized in fall 2008.

1st Brigade, Fort Riley

Trains transition teams. So far more than 11,000 servicemembers have trained and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 1,800 have redeployed. Transition Teams live and work with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Afghan National Army (ANA).

Scheduled to modularize FY09.

3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Iraq

Provide theater logistics command and control for the theater commander supporting the Army Forces (ARFOR) and Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) mission. Deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom May 2008.

75th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill

Integrates attached ground and air maneuver forces and on order functions as a maneuver headquarters in support of full spectrum operations. Separate battalions currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley

Currently resetting at Fort Riley, Kan., the brigade is training for a second deployment to Iraq. The Department of Defense recently issued deployment orders for 2009.

2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

The brigade departed Fort Riley, Kan., in October 2008 on a scheduled 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade Combat Team, Iraq

Finished a 15 month deployment to Iraq.

1st Sustainment Brigade, Iraq

Recently provided logistic, human resource and financial management for 80,000 Soldiers and 20,000 civilians and contractors throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad and area support for Multi-National Division-Central. The brigade re-deployed to Fort Riley, Kan., in December 2008.

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Afghanistan

Deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in June 2008. The deployment is scheduled to last 12 months, during which Soldiers will conduct counterinsurgency and stability operations.

4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood

The MEB is a new concept in area operations and stability operations. The 4th MEB unique staff is composed of engineer, military police, and chemical cells and organically has a brigade support battalion and a signal company. The brigade was activated at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in October 2008.

NEW HQ BATTALION FIRST TO USE MODULAR DESIGN

By *Spc. Cody Harding*
1st Inf. Div PAO

The first division headquarters organized using the Army's new modular warfare model was activated at the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters.

The 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion unit colors were uncased by Lt. Col. Mark Childs, commander of the "Defender Battalion," and Command Sgt. Major John Jones, the senior noncommissioned officer of the DHHB.

1st Inf. Div. Chief of Staff Col. Ricky Gibbs spoke about the history of the division and the significance of the event. He pointed out that this was the first headquarters battalion structured under the Army's new modular design.

"It is a huge change, not just in this battalion, but in the way we do business in the Army," Gibbs said.

Gibbs praised Childs and Jones for their excellent work in the military, and welcomed them into their new roles as the leaders of the 1st Inf. Div headquarters.

"We have a great team of leadership here today standing up this battalion," Gibbs said.

Childs followed by stating that the activation of the battalion meant more than a change in how the division looks on paper.

"A unit is much more than its organizational structure," said Childs.

"It consists of Soldiers and Families. It lives and breathes, and it has a history and a legacy."

Note: CSM Jones is now the Command Sergeant Major for 1st Brigade.



1st Inf. Div. PAO/Harding



1st Inf. Div. PAO/Harding

Command Sgt. Major John Jones speaks with a Soldier during the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion activation ceremony, Dec. 12. The DHHB is the first activated under the military's new modular design.

Col. Mark Childs uncases the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion colors during the activation ceremony Dec. 12. Childs is the new battalion commander of DHHB.

Brigade Command

By Anna Staats
Duty First! Magazine

Ten years ago, combat experience wasn't necessarily a requirement to receive a brigade command assignment. After Sept. 11, 2001, that all changed. Now, with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the road to brigade command lies in the proven ability to lead Soldiers in a combat environment.

All of the 1st Infantry Division's brigade leaders have spent combat time as battalion commanders, and those experiences shaped how they operated during a brigade deployment or how they are building their brigade now.

A Brigade Building

Col. Henry Arnold III, commander, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is in the train-up phase with his brigade, already slated for deployment later this year.

Arnold commanded 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, during a deployment to Iraq from

2003 to 2004. Looking back on his time as a battalion commander, he noted first that understanding the combat environment topped the priority list in deployment preparations.

"It's a much more complex environment than traditional warfare, and it creates a much more psychological and emotional and mental terrain for the force than traditional warfare does," Arnold said. "Understanding that environment became critical for me and making sure my leaders understood that as well."

In resetting 4th IBCT for deployment, Arnold has pushed counterinsurgency education for his officers, making books and discussion part of his Officer Professional Development every month.

"I've assigned those foundational books that form the basis for our COIN manual, instead of just reading the manual," Arnold said. "They read them, and we sit down and talk about the key parts of the books, and I spread that into other examples of working in that environment. We have a lot of experienced people –

most of these captains have experience as lieutenants in that environment, so they're able to connect the dots in what we're talking about."

At the Soldier level, Arnold said he has emphasized to his noncommissioned officers the importance of realistic training that mimics as closely as possible the real combat environment.

As a battalion commander, Arnold also saw the importance of physical fitness, something that he has also placed high priority on as a brigade commander.

"I've always believed it, but it [deployment as a battalion commander] validated it for me, how critically important physical fitness is," Arnold said. "In that environment, when you're wearing all that body armor, and you've got all that equipment on you, with all the things you have to do in 120, 130 degree heat – you have to be in absolute phenomenal physical condition to be able to continue to function and be able to survive wounds."

In 4th IBCT, the importance of physical fitness takes on a "lead by example" philosophy, with Arnold and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McCoy leading the monthly Iron Dragon physical fitness challenge. Arnold also does "Cold Steel PT" weekly with a different company, so he can gauge the physical fitness abilities of his Soldiers. By April, he wants every company to average an Army Physical Fitness Test score of at least 270.

Arnold also pointed to discipline and maintenance as things he placed importance on as a battalion commander that continue to be his priority as a brigade commander.

"Everyone knows discipline is essential to any military organization," Arnold said. "But in that environment, you have a lot of units who are out there alone – squads and platoons out there operating on a patrol or something. It's very important for junior leaders to have all the technical and tactical tools they need and understand how to employ them at their level; but they also must know what right is and what it is not from a tactical and moral standpoint."

Maintenance is also important, he said, to not only keep up on administrative items such as promotions and awards, but also for troop morale.

"Too many people think that once you're deployed, administrative things – maintenance, training, all the things you do in garrison stop – because of their deployment," Arnold said. "It's important to do routine things routinely. ... And it's good for the mindset of everyone there. There's certain comfort in having a mundane meeting on awards or maintenance while you're there."

A Brigade After Deployment

Col. Jessie Farrington took command of 1st Combat

Aviation Brigade, just two and a half months before the unit deployed to Iraq for 15 months. The fast turnaround was something he'd also experienced as a battalion commander. While commanding 1st Bn., 229th Aviation Regt., he'd had a little more than two months to take the unit from the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., to combat in Afghanistan, soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

As a battalion commander, when Farrington arrived in Afghanistan, he was commanding a battalion of 24 AH-64 Apaches. Because of the task force setup in Afghanistan, he quickly ended up overseeing the operations of 10 Chinooks, 10 Black Hawks and three medical evacuation units.

"When we got to Afghanistan, things changed a bit. As an attack helicopter battalion commander, I had to learn pretty quick what all of the other functions did – the assault helicopter, the lift helicopter," Farrington said. "That right there was one of the things that helped me a lot as I came into the brigade, because in the brigade you have five different battalions."

"When I came into brigade command two and a half months before deployment, I can tell you there were a lot of people who were concerned," Farrington said. "I had to make very quick assessments of what we had and what training we'd done, and I understood everyone's concern."

Farrington said that one of the most important things during deployment, especially for an aviation unit, is maintenance.

"Before we left, we had a plan to do maintenance," he said. "In Iraq, we had about 160 contractors to help us out with the maintenance; however I did not allow my Soldiers not to do scheduled maintenance. During this tour, because the maintenance was so good, the limiting factor for us wasn't aircraft ready to launch, it was crews available."

He compared that to the situation early on in Afghanistan, where support systems for maintenance and needed parts were much more limited. As a result, the brigade operated rotary wing (helicopters), unmanned aerial systems and fixed wing aircraft for more than 240,000 hours of flight time. The helicopters alone spent more than 170,000 hours on flight missions during the 15 months the brigade was deployed.

"That says a lot about the Soldiers that we have and the commitment they have to the mission," Farrington said.

He also compared the area of northern Iraq the brigade operated out of to Afghanistan, noting the long distances that his crews often had to fly to reach the mission area.

"It was a huge area, and it sometimes took us 45 minutes to get where we needed to go," Farrington said. "The enemy also showed themselves more in Iraq as compared to Afghanistan, where the enemy was more elusive and less overt."

Currently, the 1st Infantry Division has two brigades deployed – 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, in Iraq, and 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in Afghanistan. Both 4th IBCT and CAB redeployed to Fort Riley in 2008, following 15-month deployments to Iraq. Fourth IBCT has already received deployment orders for late summer. 1st Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., is preparing to stand up later this year as a heavy brigade combat team under the Army's latest modular structure. 1st Sustainment Brigade also redeployed in December 2008 to Fort Riley following a 15-month deployment to Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Patrick Lair

Capt. Peter Di Giorgio, (center) Troop A, 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, shakes the hand of Col. Jessie O. Farrington, commander, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, after receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross at Forward Operating Base Diamondback, in Mosul, Iraq, on March 2, for his actions on Dec. 30, 2007, while flying in support of Task Force Iron.

BOSS

By Ty Abney
Duty First! Magazine

For single Soldiers living in the Fort Riley area, it may not seem like there's much to do on weekends and evenings. While the flat plains and small towns of Kansas don't exactly provide the luxury of a beach or the excitement of a big city, there is a program which keeps single Soldiers in mind when it comes to finding things to do.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is an Army program, that began in 1989 after the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center was asked to look into a way to meet the recreation and leisure needs of single Soldiers. Focus groups consisting of single Soldiers were set up, and by 1991 BOSS expanded into not only a recreation provider, but a source for improving single Soldier quality of life.

Another major component of BOSS is volunteering at local community service events. Fort Riley chapter BOSS president Cpl. Winter Young said in the past, BOSS has taken trips to Veterans' Hospitals to eat lunch with patients, played BINGO, built floats for parades and even collected and wrapped presents during Operation Santa Claus.

One area of interest for many Soldiers participating in the BOSS program is the trips the program offers. Young said BOSS plans approximately 25 trips a year to get Soldiers out of uniform and into a relaxing setting where fun is the name of the game.

BOSS schedules everything from three-on-three basketball tournaments to Kansas City Royals games to extended trips to places like Tampa, Fla., and Chicago.

Young said a four-day trip to Chicago in March is in the works.

"We'll be there around St. Patrick's Day when they dye the river green," Young said.

While the smaller events generally draw a smaller crowd, Young said the number of people allowed to go on the bigger trips depends on available transportation and the amount

of money BOSS raises. Each year BOSS puts on a haunted house, talent shows, car washes and holds the Rusty Club golf tournament on post as ways of making money to offset trip costs.

According to Young, most events are scheduled through the Information Ticket Registration Office and have a sign-up list, which is put out approximately two weeks prior to the event taking place.

As the name states, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, has to limit its participation to single Soldiers, geographical bachelors and single parents.

With 7,000 to 9,000 single Soldiers on Fort Riley at any given time, BOSS tries to provide activities everyone can enjoy.

Young said each unit has a BOSS representative and alternate in charge of informing Soldiers of BOSS happenings each month, and each month the BOSS representatives get together to discuss upcoming happenings and activities available to Soldiers.

Participating in BOSS events not only gives single Soldiers something to do in their free time, but also sets a standard for them.

"BOSS Soldiers are Soldiers we want to keep in the Army because Army-wide, BOSS has only had two Soldiers fail a urinalysis," Young said. "No DUIs, no court marshals. I don't know if it gives them some kind of moral guidance, but at least they have a goal to be a BOSS representative and watch out for other Soldiers."

"When I first came in the Army, I thought BOSS wasn't cool. It took a few years of being in the Army to realize everything it does for Soldiers and all the opportunities it brings," said Young. 

For more information about the BOSS program contact Spc. Winter Young at (785) 239-8147.

LESSONS LEARNED INTEGRATION

By Dena O'Dell
The 1st Infantry Division Post

In March 2006, Gen. David Petraeus, the former commanding general of the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, initiated Lessons Learned Integration, a network for sharing Army lessons learned. The purpose of the initiative was to speed the spread of lessons learned in theater by sharing best practices, relevant observations, insights, tactics, techniques and procedures.

Under Lessons Learned Integration, CALL dispersed liaison officers to implement the program in four phases, beginning with Army schools and agencies and ending with joint and combined settings.

Two CALL liaison officers are available at Fort Riley – Chris Cooke, 1st Infantry Division liaison officer, and Bill Spiegel, 1st Brigade liaison officer supporting transition teams, located in Building 1861A, Camp Funston.

The purpose of CALL is to assist Soldiers with any information they need about the respective country where they are deploying. At Building 1861A on Camp Funston, Spiegel offers pamphlets, magazines, DVDs, CDs and books on subject matters ranging from war fighting to understanding the Iraqi or Afghan culture and language. The materials are free to any Soldier who wants them. Additionally, a Soldier can contact CALL for any information needed or questions regarding their deployment – from what the terrain is like in Afghanistan to how to speak the language, Spiegel said.

From the first point of contact, CALL has 24 hours to respond to a Soldier's inquiry. If the request for

information comes via e-mail from a deployed Soldier, the request must be processed within a 72-hour period. If Spiegel cannot locate the information, he contacts CALL at Fort Leavenworth, which has archived information regarding combat operations dating back to 1991.

In addition to providing information to Soldiers, the CALL at Camp Funston collects and analyzes feedback from the Soldiers on lessons learned while in country.

Information sharing begins the moment transition team members arrive for training at Fort Riley, with Spiegel briefing each new class of Soldiers on all of CALL's capabilities.

In addition to providing information to Soldiers, CALL also collects information from the Soldiers by conducting interviews with select members of transition teams mid-tour and upon their redeployment to Fort Riley.

Once the data from the Soldiers is collected, it is analyzed and then sent to Fort Leavenworth, where the information is reviewed and integrated into tactics, techniques and procedures and published into the Army's doctrine.

"It is one big revolving wheel. We collect the information, we analyze it and disseminate it for review, and then it goes into TTPs. From seven to 100 days, it gets researched and then put into practice. From there, if it's good, it goes into doctrine at 180 days – something that would normally take eight to 10 years," Spiegel said. 

For more information about resources available at the CALL at Camp Funston, contact Spiegel at 785-240-1340 or by e-mail at william.spiegel@us.army.mil. For more information about resources available at the Division level, contact Chris Cooke at 785-239-3990 or by e-mail at christopher.cooke@us.army.mil. To check out the CALL website, go to <http://call.army.mil>.

Still looking for Information
About The Big Red One?



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