

November 2009

Duty 1 First!

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families

Saluting Our Veterans



**Training
to Victory**



The Big Red One Creed

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

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

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

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

READINESS is my priority. To be ready for any mission, anytime, anywhere. My business is first-class training and living high standards of care and equipment, weaponry and tactical and technical competence.

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

U.S. Army Soldiers patrol an area near the village of Kowitz, Khowst province, Afghanistan, July 22. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt Andrew Smith, 55th Signal Company (COMCAM))

Duty **1** First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.
November 2009 www.riley.army.mil

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Front Cover: CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Doing an exercise for blocking, Spc. Andre Doute, from Fayetteville, N.C., readies himself for a combatives tournament being held on Aug. 29. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Back Cover: Veterans from all branches of the U.S. Military gather for Veterans Day. (U.S. Army photo courtesy Photo)

Commanding General **Danger 6**

We Salute Our Veterans!

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

On Nov. 11, 1918, World War I came to an end as the Allied and German forces signed an armistice agreement, bringing an end to the fighting in Europe and bringing Soldiers of the Big Red One home to their Families and friends after a successful campaign. Our 1st Infantry Division "doughboys" were the first to fight in The Great War, and the first American unit to win a battle when the 28th Infantry Regiment secured the French village of Cantigny.

Twenty years later, legislation was passed for a national holiday – Armistice Day – recognizing the signing of that agreement and to honor the veterans who fought in World War I. In 1954, after our nation had been through another World War and the Korean conflict, Armistice Day was redesignated as Veterans Day, a day to honor the legacy, the sacrifice, and the courage of the hundreds of thousands who have served in our nation's military.

Each year we pay tribute to both our present and past veterans. We have parades, ceremonies and honor the fallen at cemeteries across the nation. Among those we honor are the thousands who have worn the Big Red One patch and all of the historic regiments that have made up the ranks of the Fighting First. Some of those regimental histories date back to the Revolutionary War, others fought in the Mexican War, against brothers in the Civil War, kept peace here on the plains and defended freedom in the



Philippine Insurrection. There was no sacrifice too great for those Soldiers serving in some of our division's most historic regiments.

Since 1917, Soldiers have worn the Big Red One patch and fought for freedom and justice at all points across the globe. There has been no mission too difficult. From the Argonne Forest to the beaches of Normandy and from the jungles of Vietnam to the concrete jungles of the Balkans, 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers have served gallantly and heroically, paving the way for the generations now serving in this historic division.

Today's Big Red One Soldiers have kept peace on the streets of Baghdad and helped rebuild a safer, stable and increasingly independent Iraq. They have also fought hard in some of the most remote areas of Afghanistan,

watching over valleys from high mountain outposts and rooting out the Taliban threat in an effort to bring peace to the Afghan people. The Soldiers in today's division have and will continue to put duty first.

The history of this division is truly amazing, and it is the men and women who have worn the Big Red One patch who penned those historic chapters. We should honor them each and every day, but especially on Veterans Day. I want to personally thank all of the veterans who have proudly served in the ranks of the Big Red One. You are the giants on whose shoulders we stand. And we salute you.

Duty First!

Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

Greatest Fraternity

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

In World War I, Pfc. Max Ottenfeld struggled for miles to return to his beloved 18th Infantry Regiment. Jack Streeter charged Normandy Beach on D-Day, crashing through debris, bodies and enemy fire. Retired colonel Billy Murphy served four times with the Big Red One, including with the Black Lions during the Vietnam War.

During Desert Storm, one of Greg Fontenot's defining moments as a leader came as he led the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment through the breach. In Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Cole helped his fellow Soldiers by clearing the roads of improvised explosive devices and in Afghanistan, James Price helped build a more secure environment.

Each of these Big Red One Soldiers had a complex and varied mission. Each of them carried it out with pride and the dedication that comes with the uniform they chose to wear. The stories of these great veterans are told in this month's magazine as a way for us to relive the 1st Infantry Division's legacy.

November's Veterans Day gives us the opportunity to honor the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans. Unlike Memorial Day, in which we honor the fallen, Veterans Day gives us the opportunity to honor not just those who have gone before, but those with us who have sacrificed

part of their lives for our freedom.

Big Red One Soldiers have served our nation in times of war and peace. They have represented some of the best the Army has to offer, regardless of the challenges they faced.

As citizens of this country, we have an obligation to honor our veterans and pledge to them the support they have earned in putting their lives on the line to protect the American way of life. Caring for our veterans is just one way to thank them for their service.

As Soldiers, we know in the military there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We experience a lifetime of camaraderie that few ever get to share, and even as we put the uniform away, on the inside we are Soldiers for the rest of our lives. Never think for a moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping from the job.

Someday, we will all cross that line, when we are no longer active duty Soldiers. My wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

Now, get after it!
Duty First!





DMOR Ceremony

1st HBCT

By Sgt. Scott Kim
1st HBCT Public Affairs

FORT RILEY, Kan. – The past and the present gathered to recognize accomplishments during the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team's Distinguished Members of the Regiment Ceremony Sept. 22 at Fort Riley.

The award, which was given to 10 new recipients, recognized the exploits and deeds of Soldiers that have dedicated their lives, not just to regiment, but to the Army as a whole.

"The Army has a program regarding all units that allow them to recognize distinguished members for the works

they've done both for the military and their country," said retired Col. Gregory Fontenot, honorary colonel of the regiment and retired commander of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Reg. "That is our purpose here today – to celebrate our history and to develop a relatively new tradition inducting distinguished members of the regiment."

Standards for receiving the award are extensive as one day of praiseworthy work does not automatically entail entrance into the DMOR, but instead acts as an example allowing those Soldiers to be considered for the honor.

"This award is for an entire body of work not for a single event," Fontenot said. "However, those single events assist in identifying that Soldier or officer for consideration, but it's the overall performance that helps them gain entry

into the DMOR."

Along with recognizing accomplishments, the DMOR is an association that helps the battalion by providing aid in areas ranging from Family support groups and organizational days to sharing experiences and history with their younger counterparts.

"These retirees will enhance morale and esprit de corps by supplying current Soldiers with a sense of pride in the regiment as well as supporting them in any way they can through other organizations, events and advice," said Lt. Col. Christopher Wilbeck, the current commander of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Reg.

With the ongoing war on terror, often ceremonies such as these are ignored as the needs of combat take a priority over pomp and circumstance, said Wilbeck. However, recognizing the outstanding contributions from retirees help today's Soldiers appreciate and understand those that came before them.

"Due to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, stuff like this gets pushed to the back, but the goal is to incorporate more of the retirees because they are the continuity book for the regiment," Wilbeck said. "Senior noncommissioned officers and officers come and go, but the retirees remain to provide us with a link between the past and the present."

The ceremony ended with Fontenot challenging all



Cannons stand ready to be fired prior to a DMOR Ceremony Sept. 22 at Fort Riley. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Scott Kim, 1st HBCT Public Affairs)

those present to remember the fallen, support the Soldiers and maintain the traditions for future generations to come.

"This regiment is an idea, not a unit and ideas must be nurtured and defended against the ravages of time and short memories," he said. 

From right to left, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Regt. Command Sgt. Maj. John McDwyer, Lt. Col. Christopher Wilbeck, current Battalion Commander, and retired Col. Gregory Fontenot, honorary colonel of the regiment, raise their arms in salute during the national anthem. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Scott Kim, 1st HBCT Public Affairs)



Soldiers stand in formation wearing period uniforms during the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team's Distinguished Members of the Regiment Ceremony. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Scott Kim 1st HBCT Public Affairs)





2nd HBCT

By Sgt. Dustin Roberts
2nd HBCT Public Affairs Office

Welcome Home

FORT RILEY, Kan. – After a year of sweat, struggle and accomplishment, a brigade serving under the oldest and most decorated division in the U.S. Army has returned home from combat.

The 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division uncased the “Dagger” Brigade’s colors in a ceremony at King Field House Oct. 22, signifying the return of more than 3,800 Soldiers from a year-long deployment in Iraq.

“The unit colors are a symbol for the entire unit’s history,” said Col. Joseph Martin, Dagger Brigade commander. “The Daggers witnessed history in Iraq.”

In a speech during the ceremony, the commander described the significance of the Dagger Soldiers’ efforts in Iraq. Martin said the brigade was present in northwest Baghdad and Abu Ghraib, the county west of Baghdad, in order to assist local civilians and military leaders assume full control of the nation.

“We established a foundation of visual security through several years of work to eliminate terror cells and networks. We built a partnership with Iraqi security forces,” Martin said. “We established and cleared 1,500 kilometers of roads of improvised explosive devices, reduced violence in our area by 40 percent and reduced IED activity by 60 percent, all by capturing over 700 terrorists and prosecuting them within the Iraqi courts under the authority of Iraqi law.”

Martin emphasized the changes the brigade saw during the deployment, from prosecuting criminals under Iraq law to giving the Iraqi security forces the lead in security.

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Above and Below — Col. Joseph Martin, commander, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Battle, the brigade’s senior enlisted leader, uncasing the brigade colors in a ceremony at King Field House Oct. 22. (U.S. Army Photos by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs)



Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, speaks to attendees of a ceremony uncasing the colors of the “Dagger,” Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. at King Field House Oct. 22. The ceremony signified the return of the “Dagger” Brigade, which recently spent a year deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs)

“The Dagger’s focus shifted,” said Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div and Fort Riley. “Where they had been leading from the front, they were now mentoring from behind; working by, with and through the Iraqis. By doing that, they also enabled the Iraqi people to take charge of their own destiny.”

The Soldiers improved Iraqis’ lives by working with the local government to improve the infrastructure in their area of responsibility, spending about \$33 million, Martin said.

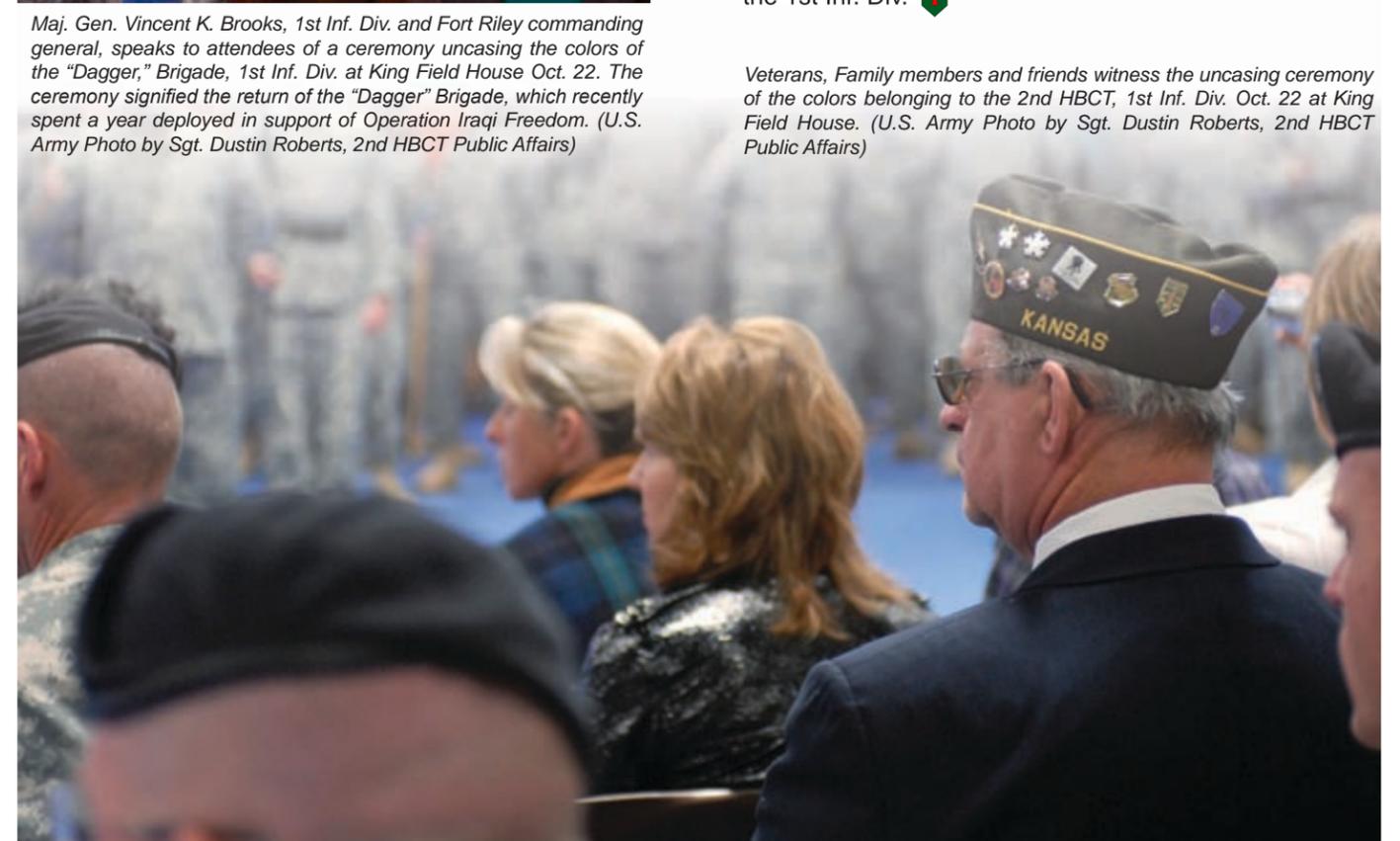
He added that through the openings of schools, water treatment facilities and solar-powered clinics, the people of northwest Baghdad saw improvements they haven’t seen in years.

“These relentless security operations, partnered with the ISF, allowed us to accelerate civil-capacity efforts in support of the local Iraqi authorities,” Martin said. “We facilitated over 280 projects and programs that targeted reconstruction of the Iraqi infrastructure and reduced human suffering.”

When the Dagger Brigade redeployed from Camp Liberty, Iraq, it cased its colors before making the journey to Fort Riley. In the ceremony, the Brigade handed the reins to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

“In the long history of the Dagger Brigade, this is just another amazing chapter completed with this ceremony,” Martin said. “We walk in the footsteps of giants that began as Daggers back in 1917. We proudly served our nation under these colors and we’re even prouder to be a part of the 1st Inf. Div.”

Veterans, Family members and friends witness the uncasing ceremony of the colors belonging to the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div. Oct. 22 at King Field House. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs)





3rd IBCT

By *Catrina Francis*
Fort Knox Public Affairs Office

Setting Boots at Knox

FORT KNOX, Ky. – October 16 marked a new era at Fort Knox when the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, uncased its colors during a ceremony on Brooks Field.

The “Duke” Brigade has a rich history which dates back to World War I.

Fort Knox Commander Maj. Gen. James Milano said during the ceremony that he was extremely proud to be a part of the Duke’s activation, given his past association with the Big Red One as the 1st Brigade Combat Team commander.

“This is a historic day not only for Fort Knox, but also our surrounding communities and the state of Kentucky,” said Milano. “The arrival of the 3rd of the 1st Infantry greatly diversifies the population of Fort Knox and will enrich the Armor Center, the Fort Knox Team and our local communities.”

Milano added that the brigade can take advantage of the tremendous resources available on the installation.

“The Soldiers have everything from world-class urban training areas and live-fire ranges that can accommodate just about anything a commander can imagine to some large swaths of beautiful Kentucky hills and woods to train in – and in my case, get lost in,” Milano said.

“I trust that Fort Knox will once again be recognized as a much-desired, highly-sought-after assignment location for (Forces Command) Soldiers once the word gets around.”

Although the post’s history has been primarily home to the cavalry and armor, Col. Chris Toner, the 3rd Brigade commander, said he is excited about being at Fort Knox. He added that the on-post populace and the surrounding communities have embraced the infantry Soldiers as their own.

“We train, we fight, we are all part of one team,” Toner said. “I have never seen the reception that we’ve received here, and I have never seen facilities that have been provided to our Soldiers

like this.

“It’s absolutely incredible. Our Soldiers do not want for anything here, and our Families do not want for anything.”

Toner also acknowledged the Gold Star Families in attendance.

The Soldiers “never forget those who have sacrificed for our nation,” he said. “Please know that no one holds a higher place in our hearts than you do. You honor us all with your presence.”

During his remarks, Toner thanked 1st Inf. Div. veterans for their sterling example of patriotism and their service as heroes and role models.

“What an amazing gathering of patriots,” Toner



A cannon is fired during an uncasing ceremony for the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Knox, Ky. (U.S. Army photo by Sally Harding, Fort Knox Public Affairs Office)

said. “Today before us are over 600 representatives of America’s team — the Soldiers of our great Army — the men and women of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.” He added that the stands held the fans of America’s team — the Families and community members who have rallied to share a common love of the country.

Toner applauded the Duke Soldiers who stood before him for willingly being in harm’s way to bring peace and democracy to those who have been oppressed.

“They are the shield and the sword of our country and the less fortunate,” explained Toner. “They wear awards for valor or the Purple Heart as proof they know all too well the price of freedom.”

“Eight years of war have tested their strength and resolve. This is a testament to their commitment and professionalism, most importantly the result of their undying support and love rendered by their Families and communities.”

Even though Friday was the official activation, personnel from the brigade began arriving on post in the spring. Members of the brigade and their Family members have been volunteering in off-post communities, to assist, for example, in building homes with Habitat for Humanity.

“It’s important for us to give back to the community,” explained Toner. “We are working with Maj. Gen. Milano on this to align our units to the various communities around here – it’s important to us.”

The new post facilities have impressed the Duke Brigade because many of the Soldiers haven’t had an opportunity to live in what Toner calls state-of-the-art

housing.

Pfc. Michael Elm, a Duke infantryman, agreed with Toner. Having lived in a college dorm, he said the college rooms were never as nice as his barracks room.

“I heard horror stories about four men to a room — like a dorm room — and everybody sharing a shower,” EKM said. “The amenities are wonderful here. Fort Knox is a very nice post and I wouldn’t mind coming back here again.”

Elm is among more than half of the Soldiers who are new to the brigade or the Army.

He also echoed the sentiments of his brigade commander when he said the Fort Knox community is a wonderful and fantastic duty assignment. He said that Knox and its surrounding communities have embraced him and his fellow Soldiers and he has seen nothing but friendly faces.

Toner pointed out that 3rd Brigade Family and community members are truly the unit’s unsung heroes.

“We couldn’t accomplish our mission without the strong support, love and prayers from all of you,” Toner said. “Words will never express our undying gratitude.”

“May God bless you and your Families, this wonderful country of ours and the men and women who serve (and) who have served to keep us the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Members of the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard, 1st Infantry Division, participate in the uncasing ceremony of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. (U.S. Army photo by Sally Harding, Fort Knox Public Affairs Office)





4th IBCT

By Spc. Shantelle Campbell
4th IBCT Public Affairs Office

TIKRIT, Iraq – Regardless of where a business is located, the keys to success are the same: customers, employees, a good product and a little education and know-how.

In Iraq, where the economy is being slowly rebuilt, the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone provides educational and job opportunities for Tikrit-area residents. Soldiers of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, toured the center to see how the “Dragon” Brigade can help move the Salah ad Din I-BIZ to the next level.

I-BIZ facilities are located throughout Iraq, in areas

Teaching Skills

close to or inside a U.S. military base. Businesses can apply for a location in an I-BIZ area, which provides opportunities for owners to expand and sustain their company. I-BIZ facilities not only give businesses income opportunities, but also provide skills training and create job openings.

Iraqi businesses in I-BIZ facilities provide such services and items as building materials, repair for equipment and vehicles, construction and retail stores.

In preparation for the withdrawal of U.S. forces, I-BIZ

Electricians at the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, work on a concoction of wires in the electrical shop. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Shantelle Campbell, 4th IBCT Public Affairs)



Inside of the plumbing workshop of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, plumbers work on completing sinks. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Shantelle Campbell, 4th IBCT Public Affairs)

facilities are designed so that once Iraqi Security Forces take control of U.S. bases, the businesses located on them will be Iraqi owned and operated, rather than foreign businesses. I-BIZ locations offer a “variety of businesses in secure areas to provide services and products to the coalition,” while at the same time “directing money into the Iraqi economy and stabilizing security through expanded employment,” according to its Web site.

Sgt. Janelle Nesmith, the vocational educational representative with the 1320th Civil Affairs, a Reserve unit from Queens, N.Y. attached to the Dragon Brigade, said local citizens are learning valuable skills at I-BIZ.

“When they finish with their training, they can go to a business course and put in for a micro-grant and open their own business outside of post,” she said.

Classes at the I-BIZ range from carpentry, construction, welding and plumbing, to electrical work and heating, ventilation and air conditioning maintenance.

“The Iraqi people can take these skills and go back home with them,” said Nesmith, “because everyone needs an electrician, mechanic or plumber.”



A repairman works on fixing a fan at one of the workshops of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Shantelle Campbell, 4th IBCT Public Affairs)



1st Sust

By Sgt. Andrea Merritt
1st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

FORT RILEY, Kan. – As coaches and players from the Kansas State University women’s basketball team stepped into the 1st Sustainment Brigade headquarters Sept. 16, an air of excitement followed them through the door.

Although the team wasn’t sure what to expect during their first visit to Fort Riley, it was clear they were excited to learn more about the Big Red One and its Soldiers.

A few months ago, the 1st Sust. Bde. established a partnership with the K-State women’s basketball team. During this visit, the unit’s leaders and Soldiers became acquainted with their new counterparts and shared their

From Court to Fort

experiences.

The team showed genuine interest in the unit, its leadership and its Soldiers by asking a number of questions regarding the Army rank structure, training and challenges Soldiers faced during deployment.

Throughout the day, the team met various people including Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, the inspector general of the Army.

“Every step of the way, people welcomed our team and

The K-State women’s basketball team coaches and players pose with the 1st Sust. Bde. command team and staff outside of the Cantigny Dining Facility Sept. 16. The team presented the leaders and staff member with basketballs signed by each member on the team. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. David Reardon, 1st Sust. Bde., Public Affairs)



remarked on the importance of our partnership with them,” said Kamie Ethridge, assistant head coach of the K-State women’s basketball team. The team also met with Col. Donnie Walker, commander of the 1st Sust. Bde., and listened as he spoke with them about teamwork, leadership and success.

After the meeting with the brigade commander, the team received a dose of Army training at the Close Combat Tactical Trainer on Fort Riley.

While at the training center, the team manned positions inside of Bradley Fighting Vehicle simulators and engaged enemy targets. Although it was a fun exercise, the scenario had given the team a life-changing perspective.

“Our players experienced a tank simulation that mirrors what our troops face in Iraq and Afghanistan. As I stated before, it was eye opening and frightening to imagine what our troops face day to day,” Ethridge said.



Members of the K-State women’s basketball team enjoy dinner at the Cantigny Dining Facility during their visit to Fort Riley. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. David Reardon, 1st Sust. Bde., Public Affairs)

Members of the K-State women’s basketball team meet with Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general at the 1st Sust. Bde. headquarters. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. David Reardon, 1st Sust. Bde., Public Affairs)





Combat Aviation Bde.

By Pfc. Roland Hale
Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Aside from seeing their loved ones in uniform, Families usually don't get a chance to see firsthand what their Soldiers in the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, do on a daily basis.

The battalion changed that Sept. 16, inviting the squadron's Families to attend a day at a Fort Riley range

Family War Day

Refueling Point, where ground crews serviced the aircraft before and after hitting the range. Families also toured the range tower, from which range operations are controlled. After watching their pilots in action, the Families got a chance to sit behind the controls of a Kiowa at a static display set up behind the range tower.

"It's good to have the Families out here, seeing what we do, the hard work that goes into making everything happen, all while having fun watching us," Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Young said.

The presence of the Families didn't change the basic intent of the range, however, said Young. While there was a dedicated focus on the entertainment of the Families, pilots continued to qualify as they do on normal range days.

"We've got to qualify with our aircraft just like ground troops qualify with their rifles," said Young. "It's important that we stay up on these skills."

During qualification, the pilots fired at an assortment of targets, including clustered silhouettes, mock-up buildings and moving objects simulating vehicles in motion.

The day culminated with fireworks – cavalry style. With the Kiowas' red lights reflecting off the rotors, the pilots did just as they had before, this time sending a brilliant display of tracer fire into to the horizon. 



Ground crews refuel and re-arm an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, preparing it for the range as another makes its approach Oct. 21. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Roland Hale, CAB Public Affairs)

as the pilots qualified on the weapon systems of their OH-58D Kiowa Warriors.

Families arrived at the range in groups and were escorted to several positions on the range, from which they could observe the different aspects of the qualification process. From a set of bleachers, Families watched as the pilots fired at targets down-range with the Kiowas' mounted .50 caliber machine guns and training rockets.

"The kids love the helicopters, they already want to be Soldiers for Halloween," said Colleen Murphy, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Murphy, one of the battalion's pilots. "They get pretty excited to see the helicopters fire. It's not something we get to see in person very often."

In addition to taking in the roar of the machine guns and the resonating boom of the Kiowas' rockets, Families watched as pilots landed at the Forward Arming and



Family members watch as an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior heads towards the range. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Roland Hale, CAB Public Affairs)



75th Fires

By Sgt. David Chapman
75th Fires Brigade Public Affairs Office

FORT SILL, Okla. – For Soldiers of the 75th Fires Brigade, day-to-day tasks may consist of typing orders, preparing counseling statements or conducting

Range Training

maintenance on unit vehicles.

But for a change of pace, many members of the "Diamond" Brigade had the opportunity to send rounds downrange at various sites around Fort Sill.

Over the week-long training period, Soldiers fired thousands of rounds from the M2 .50 Caliber Rifle, MK19 40mm grenade launcher, M16 assault rifle, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, M240B machine gun and the 9 mm pistol.

The week consisted of preliminary marksmanship instruction, covering each weapon system so the Soldiers firing the weapon would be comfortable and handle them properly.

"I thought the PMI's were well taught. I learned a lot about the 249 and the 240B that I never knew before," said Pfc. James Curry, 75th Fires Brigade intelligence analyst. "It was a great learning experience for those of us who have never shot these weapons before."

For some, firing the weapons was a new experience and for others the weapons brought back deployment stories to be shared with others.

"Getting to fire the 240B was a lot of fun and a lot different than firing the old M16 that we usually shoot," said Pfc. Rudy Castillo, signal support systems specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 75th Fires Brigade. "I'm glad that most of us were able to get out there and shoot some heavy weapons"

The range week was not only educational, but also a break from the normal routine for many of the Soldiers.

"Going to the MK19 range was probably the best range I have been to all year," said Staff Sgt. David Hamblin, 75th Fires Brigade senior intelligence analyst. "It was run quickly and proficient; we got in there and had our fun, it ran real smooth."

At the end of the week, many of the Soldiers had qualified and fired weapons entirely new to them as well as those they have used since basic training. 



Spc. Mary Yates, 75th Fires Brigade human resources specialist, lines up her ammunition prior to firing the 240B machine gun during the brigade's range week. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. David Chapman, 75th Fires Bde., Public Affairs)



4th MEB

By Pvt. Alexis Koster
4th MEB Public Affairs

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Dauntless Week, which began Oct. 5, was a week of fun, friendship and celebration to commemorate the first anniversary of the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade uncasing its colors.

Dauntless Week aims to boost unit cohesion, enhance esprit de corps, improve morale and reflect on the brigade's history and establish its lineage.

"I am happy and proud of all of the things that the brigade has accomplished in such a short amount of time," said Col. Robert Risberg, 4th MEB Brigade commander. "The 4th MEB has become a valuable force not only to the installation but the 1st Infantry Division as well."

Risberg commenced the first Dauntless Week with a brigade run at Gammon Field Oct. 5. Before the run, each battalion and company was called up so they could



Soldiers from the 193rd Battalion hold the company guidons after the 4th MEB brigade run during Dauntless Week. (U.S. Army Photo by Pvt. Alexis Koster, 4th MEB Public Affairs)

Soldiers Compete for Cup

donate food to the brigade food drive. The food drive will help support the Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., community during the upcoming holiday season.

After the run, Risberg spoke to the Soldiers about the importance of Dauntless Week. He also recognized a few Soldiers from the Company C, who are preparing to deploy soon.

The brigade celebrated the week with the units coming together to play team sports. Events were hosted every afternoon in which Soldiers could compete.

"It's really fun putting different units together to compete," said Sgt. Kevin Smith, 193rd Brigade Support Battalion. "It's a nice break for the Soldiers, and it's really enjoyable. There is a good variety of activities so that everyone can participate."

Sporting events included flag football, softball, golf, fishing, volleyball, paintball, bowling, basketball and trap shooting.

"I had a really good time, even with other opponents," said Sgt. Eric Jackson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th MEB. "For what I've seen, there is really good sportsmanship between teams. I've met a lot of other people and made some good contacts."

The week finished with a re-enlistment ceremony, an awards ceremony and the presentation of the Dauntless Cup. The festivities also included a barbeque for the Soldiers of the brigade and their families.

"I am very proud of all of things that our Soldiers and our Families accomplished this year, and I'm extremely grateful to you for your hard work, your dedication and your many

sacrifices – large and small – that have helped to make us successful," Risberg said.



Dragon Earns Star

By Jordan Chapman
Duty First! Magazine

FORT RILEY, Kan. -- A lowering sun shone brightly on the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters Oct. 23 as though a tribute to the ceremony taking place on the building's parade field, where Fort Riley leaders, Soldiers, family, friends and surrounding community representatives gathered to witness Col. Randal Dragon's promotion to brigadier general.

Arriving at Fort Riley this previous summer, Dragon has been filling one of the 1st Inf. Div.'s two deputy commanding general positions since August 14.

"It is right and fitting in this case that his (Dragon's) entry into the general officer's ranks would occur in this division," said Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley. "I am blessed to have Gen. Dragon as my deputy commanding general for support to help carry that responsibility."

Brooks added that the ceremony also begins the process that will leave four general officers at Fort Riley by December's conclusion.

"It is a terrific honor for me as the commander of the Fighting First to promote General Dragon ... because of (his) long history of outstanding service within the ranks of the Big Red One," Brooks said.

Dragon presented flowers to each female member of his family, and extended family, who had traveled from "the four corners" of the United States to attend the wind-blown ceremony.

"When you look up and say, 'What got you here?,' for me it was patience, persistence, it was love of this profession and the Soldiers. It was luck in some cases and it was duty, always duty first," Dragon said.

"You have to be a Soldier to lead Soldiers," he continued, adding that he is proud of his promotion, but it is only a reflection of himself, his family and those he has been able to walk beside during his years of service.

"Throughout the 234-year history of our Army, general officers have been held in high regard," Brooks said. "They are entrusted with great responsibility and in their hands they hold the safety of tens of thousands of Soldiers ... I am blessed to have Gen. Dragon as my deputy general commander for support to help carry that responsibility."

Dragon previously served in the 1st Inf. Div. as a

battalion and brigade commander while the division was headquartered in Germany. He commanded 2nd Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., during deployments to Kosovo and Iraq.

The other deputy commanding general position is filled by Col. Ricky Gibbs, who is also slated for promotion prior to the division's deployment to Iraq early next year.



Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon and Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, stand at attention during a promotion ceremony in honor in front of Division Headquarters building Oct. 23. (U.S. Army Photo by Jordan Chapman, Duty First! Magazine)

"You have to be a Soldier to lead Soldiers," – Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon

Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon speaks to 1st Infantry Division leaders, family and friends during a ceremony in honor in front of Division Headquarters building Oct. 23. (U.S. Army Photo by Jordan Chapman, Duty First! Magazine)



WORLD WAR I

A Veteran's Perspective

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

Between the years 1914 and 1918, a generation of young men ventured into “no man’s land” to conquer their enemies in the world’s first “Great War,” where they won many victories, lost many friends and knew the cost of victory.

Among these men was World War I veteran, Pfc. Max Ottenfeld, a signalman for the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, whose most intriguing memories of the war come directly after his 19th birthday on Oct. 3, 1918, when his unit was ordered to the Argonne Meuse offensive.

However, sometime soon after they marched out, he and his fellow Soldiers came under fire and a series of concussive blasts, one of which knocked Ottenfeld off of his feet and prompted him to take shelter in a nearby shell hole. He woke up drenched in rain and separated from the Soldiers he knew best.

Ottenfeld wasn’t alone for long. Upon crawling out of the mud he spotted more Soldiers heading in his direction.

“I guess I must have been a mess, because it usually always rained, especially when they were shelling, and I got out and (saw) some troops and they looked at me,” Ottenfeld told John Votaw, Executive Director of the First Division Museum out of Wheaton, Ill., in 1989.

Walking up to his position were members of the Headquarters Company of the 26th Infantry Regiment, who took Ottenfeld into their ranks as their own signalman.

“We are short; very short signalmen, telephone men. Now you stay right here with us,” Ottenfeld said the company leader told him.

“I stayed with them and on the move, our artillery started falling short,” he said, explaining that because they were moving too fast, the Soldiers were moving into their own artillery fire. “We were losing men, and I mean

losing men,” he said, adding that they all took cover in an opening along the side of a hill, but they couldn’t stop the explosions around them because all of telephone wire was beyond repair.

“Absolutely you couldn’t do anything. If anything, any kind of message had to be sent in person ... you did the best you could,” Ottenfeld said, later relating one memory from the bombardment that has stuck with him his entire life.

“They brought one man in ... he got a piece of shrapnel in the throat, right in the jugular and blood was pouring out of it,” he said, describing the hole to be about the size of a penny or dime,” he said.

Not knowing what to do, Ottenfeld yelled for the aid of a medic, who came rushing over. “The blood was spurting out and he said, ‘I’ve got to go. I can’t do anything.’ I knew (this Soldier) didn’t have everlasting blood and the way it was coming out I knew there was only a certain amount in your body. That has stayed with me. I have lost a lot of sleep over that,” Ottenfeld stated, unable to tell exactly how long it took for the man to die in front of him. “Was it a minute, was it two minutes, was it five minutes? I don’t know.”

As though a prelude to his own future, it wasn’t long after that Ottenfeld, too, was grazed by a piece of shrapnel on the back, but what came out wasn’t blood.

“The shrapnel” pierced the one side of my mess kit ... and the juice from the baked beans and the pork belly came out of that and down my back and these guys thought I was bleeding. Well, when we found out what it was there was a hell of a laugh, you know,” Ottenfeld related, saying that he kept that mess kit around

for as long as he could, but most likely lost it when he was taken from St. Mihiel to the hospital for the first time Oct. 12, 1918, on the back of a Signal Corps mule.

“The ones that used to carry the spoons,” he described, explaining he was carried out of combat because he had taken in phosgene and mustard gas and was suffering

from shell shock.

“I think that’s what may have knocked me out. Of course, the gas may have,” he said. Soon after his admission to the hospital, the War Department sent a letter to his mother stating he had suffered injuries from gas, but she didn’t receive it for four months after he was wounded.

It wasn’t until Nov. 11, 1918, that Ottenfeld was discharged from the hospital and notified that he would be sent to “replacement camps” instead of his unit, an action that was simply unsatisfactory to the veteran. Ottenfeld said no matter how hard he tried to explain that he needed to be back with the 18th Regt., no one listened.

“They had their orders ... well, I walked back to where the groups were and got what little I had to take and out I went by myself. I didn’t know where the hell I was going,” Ottenfeld remembered, adding that he didn’t have any money either because he had been away for so long he hadn’t been available to be paid.

Eventually vehicles began passing him. Ottenfeld was eventually able to find out that his unit was located in Luxembourg City, and started hitching rides to get there.

After arriving, he learned the 18th Regt. wasn’t there, but he kept traveling. It wasn’t until Ottenfeld reached Grevenmacher, Luxembourg along the Moselle River when he finally saw a familiar face.

“I think I arrived about three days before Thanksgiving ... I had finally reached my unit, and, boy...,” Ottenfeld said, seemingly as thankful for finding his unit again in 1989 as he was actually experiencing it in 1918.

Ottenfeld carried and “stretched” single strand wire up until the end of the war and worked hard to keep lines of communication open.

One example of his prowess tells of him following his lines back under enemy fire to repair breaks for lines that fed directly to the command post of Gen. Frank Parker at the battle of the Argonne and went four to five days without food and was made sick by drinking from poisoned streams to do so.

Ottenfeld was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart from Gen. Parker in June of 1919 for his efforts before he was discharged that October. Ottenfeld married his wife, Esther, on June 2, 1923. He died of malignant lymphoma in 1992. 



Pfc. Max Ottenfeld (center) with fellow Soldiers in January 1919. (Photo courtesy of the 1st Division Museum)



Pfc. Max Ottenfeld passes time in October 1918. (U. S. Army Photo courtesy of the 1st Division Museum)



Pfc. Max Ottenfeld practices firing in August 1918. (Photo courtesy of the 1st Division Museum)

WORLD WAR II

A Veteran's Perspective

By Anna Staatz
Duty First! Magazine

June 6, 1944, 2nd Lt. Jack Streeter was among the many 1st Infantry Division Soldiers who stormed Omaha Beach. As tracer bullets ripped into nearby landing craft, Streeter knew survival depended on moving forward, off the shore. He made his way through bodies, equipment and wreckage, attempting to lead his men through complete chaos and towards the enemy.

Sixty-five years later, in August at the Big Red One Reunion in Dearborn, Mich., Streeter looked back on his

time in the Army – a service record that includes a Silver Star with four oak leaf clusters, a Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, a purple heart with four oak leaf clusters, an Arrowhead Award for the assault landing at Omaha Beach on D-Day, and a French and Belgium Croix de Guerres with palm.

Streeter started his career in the Army through the ROTC program at the University of Nevada, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in 1943. Streeter went straight to Europe, and served during World War II as a member of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

He first served with the battalion's 81 mm mortars in



A division patrol from Co. F, 18th Inf. Regt. search the woods between Eupen and Butgenbach, Belgium for German parachutists who were dropped in that area. 18 Dec. 44. (U.S. Army Photo courtesy of 1st Infantry Division Museum)



Infantryman of Co. F, 18th Inf. Regt., 1st Division, move through the town of Stockheim, Germany, as artillery lays a barrage on the next objectives. 27 Feb 45 (U.S. Army Photo courtesy of 1st Infantry Division Museum)

H Company, and then later commanded E Company. He earned his Silver Stars in the Battle of Mons, Belgium; Battle of Aachen, Germany; Huertgen Forest, Germany; Battle of the Bulge, Germany; and Remagen Bridgehead, Germany. To earn his third Silver Star, Streeter put himself under direct fire to distract three machine gun nests, and killed three Germans, allowing his assault unit freedom of movement. Because of his actions, his unit escaped destruction the following day. By the end of World War II, Streeter had attained the rank of captain, but he chose not to stay in the Army.

In 1945, he got out of Army and pursued a career in law, eventually becoming a district attorney in Nevada.

Streeter has visited Normandy several times throughout the years. He said now, nothing looks the



same, and most of the time, the memories of that day are something he tries not to think about.

"It's not something you like to think about, what happened there," Streeter said.

In August, Streeter talked about days gone by with long-time friend John McHugh, who also served in World War II, with the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt. The two did not know each other during World War II, but met at the annual reunion of the Society of the 1st Infantry Division in 1990. They've been friends since then, and even visited Normandy together.

The saddest thing for Streeter is realizing the stories of World War II are dying off with the veterans who lived them. He and McHugh both noted that there are fewer and fewer every year.

Streeter continues to make his home in Nevada. 🇺🇸



VIETNAM WAR

A Veteran's Perspective

By **Shelley Roten**
Duty First! Magazine

Billy Murphy made a decision at his high school career day that shaped the rest of his life and ultimately led to numerous military honors and awards, four assignments with the Big Red One and the title of honorary colonel for the 28th Infantry Regiment.

When Murphy enlisted at 17, his father, Fred Murphy, a coal miner from eastern Kentucky, was very pleased with his decision. Fred Murphy did not want Billy or his younger brother to go into the coal mines. His family had moved to Ohio in the mid-1950s and he graduated from high school there.

"I guess to make sure we didn't go into the mines he moved the family up into central Ohio," Murphy said with a laugh.

The career day he attended at his high school was one of the most pivotal moments in his life. His father had drilled the concept of service into him and his younger brother, and looking around the career day he was immediately drawn to the serviceman.

"I looked at the people from private industry and they were in business attire and I looked at those folks in uniform and I liked the uniform," said Murphy. "They had something that identified them from everybody else and I thought that was pretty cool."

It also occurred to him that there is a difference between policeman, fireman and the military serviceman. "It started to dawn on me that policemen are in the service of their community and firemen serve their community. And military people are in the service of their country. And that just appealed to me," he said.

After he enlisted, Billy intended to do his three years and get out because his high school sweetheart was two years behind him in school. Murphy began his first assignment with the 11th Armor Cavalry Regiment in

Germany in 1960 and during those three years in Europe, he found a life he loved.

"I didn't know what I was looking for in life, but the Army seemed to be 'it' and I reenlisted while I was in Europe," Murphy said.

Murphy came back to the U.S. after his first assignment, married his high school sweetheart, Barbara – his wife of 47 years – and was next assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He was a young noncommissioned officer at Fort Campbell, attended all the schools and academies expected of NCOs and did such a good job that he made an impression on Maj. Norman G. Delbridge, who in turn made a big difference in Billy's life.

Delbridge strongly encouraged Murphy to go to Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., which Billy did in the fall of 1965. Just a little more than five years after he enlisted, Murphy was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

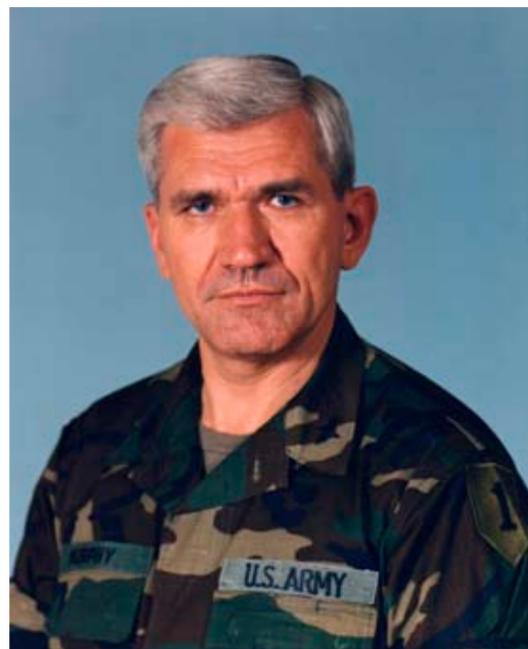
After finishing Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Murphy stayed on for a few months as a tactical officer before getting orders to go to Vietnam.

Murphy was told he was going to the 1st Cav. Div., but when he arrived in Vietnam they posted a list of names in the reception station of who was going to leave that day and what unit they were assigned to. "When I checked, my name was on that little list and it said I was going to the Big Red One. I thought, 'well my goodness, I was supposed

to go to 1st Cav.," Murphy said.

Murphy was told there was a huge need for platoon leaders, so he went to the 1st Inf. Div. in August of 1966.

After all the in-processing, he got to Charlie Company, 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., and there wasn't an officer to be found – just a young staff sergeant trying to hold his band of men together and Murphy said he will never forget their first meeting. The staff sergeant said, "Lieutenant, I sure



Col. Billy Murphy (Ret) (Photo Courtesy of Billy Murphy)



Lt. Billy Murphy (second from the right) with some of his Soldiers in Vietnam. (Photo Courtesy of Billy Murphy)

do need you."

As a lieutenant, Murphy became the S3 of the 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., and he left that tour at the end of August 1967. When Murphy came back to the states, he was assigned to an infantry unit at Fort McClellan, Ala. He remembers getting a call from one of the officers that he had been with in the 28th Inf. Regt., who asked him somewhat lightheartedly, "are you ready to go back to Vietnam?"

At first Murphy thought his friend was kidding, but he learned that the turnaround time for company-grade infantry officers was about 11 months with a 30-day leave on both ends.

He had only been home for a few months and wasn't particularly interested in going back that soon and seriously considered getting out of the Army for a few brief moments.

His comrade asked if he was interested in going to flight school and explained that it was nine months long, which would postpone his return to Vietnam for the duration.

He also learned that the Army was looking for a few Soldiers like him who had been on the ground in Vietnam as rifle platoon leaders and rifle company commanders. The Army wanted these individuals to go to helicopter school and go back over to Vietnam as flight leads and flight platoon leaders. After a few days of consideration Murphy decided to go to flight school and as soon as he finished, he went right back to Vietnam.

Murphy's first battalion commander in the 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., was an officer named Elmer D. Pendleton. Murphy found out that Pendleton was going back to Vietnam to take command of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Div. Murphy got a copy of his orders to Pendleton and once he arrived back in Vietnam he went back to the 1st Div.

"The 1st Div. has a tendency to take care of its own and I went to the 1st Combat Aviation Battalion, which



Lt. Billy Murphy (right) in Vietnam in 1966. (Photo Courtesy of Billy Murphy)

was the 1st Division's organic aviation battalion in those days," Murphy said.

After returning from his second tour in Vietnam, Murphy attended the Infantry Officer Advanced Course. This was in 1970 to 1971, when Vietnam was winding down and the Army had an excess of officers. To eliminate the possibility of Murphy being a part of the involuntary reduction in force, leadership in the 1st Div. once again reached out to him and encouraged him to attend college.

Murphy got his first experience in the Midwest when he arrived at Park University in Parkville, Mo. in 1971. Although Murphy had served twice with the 1st Inf. Div. in Vietnam, he had yet to set foot on Fort Riley.

After college, the Army sent him to his second tour with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, where he alternated between infantry assignments and aviation assignments.

"It was a great assignment because the Army had just started its Air Assault Division in those days so we were doing some pretty neat things down there," Murphy said.

He then was assigned to the 7th Corps in Europe where he worked in the G3 shop for Col. Gordon R. Sullivan, who later became the commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. at Fort Riley.

After attending the general staff college and spending time at Forces Command Headquarters in Atlanta, Murphy got a call that a position was opening up in his designated command window at Fort Riley.

It was during his third assignment to the 1st Inf. Div. that Murphy finally got to experience the home of the

Big Red One. He moved his wife and two daughters to Fort Riley in June 1983, where he commanded the 1st Combat Aviation Battalion, the same battalion he was a part of during his second tour in Vietnam.

And just a few years later in July 1988 he would return to Fort Riley for his fourth assignment and again command the aviation brigade.

Murphy had a total of four tours and duties with the 1st Inf. Div.

"There aren't many jobs that you could do in the Division that

I haven't had the chance to do," Murphy said.

Murphy has been decorated with numerous awards and honors: the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross, to name a few. He was also decorated by the Vietnamese government with their Cross of Gallantry. But the award he is most proud of is the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

"I think you would get a similar response from any infantry guy," Murphy said.

During his fourth assignment at Fort Riley as a brigade commander, Murphy was selected to be inducted into the Infantry Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning. 



By **Shelley Roten**
Duty First! Magazine

Even after a lifetime of service, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers never forget the defining moments that make them proud to wear the Big Red One patch.

For retired Col. Gregory Fontenot, one of those defining moments came during Operation Desert Storm, when he led a 1st Infantry Division battalion into battle.

Fontenot served in the 1st Inf. Div. as a 2nd lieutenant, 1st lieutenant, major and lieutenant colonel. He was commissioned when he graduated from Kansas State University as a distinguished military graduate in May 1971.

"I don't know anybody that ever served in the 1st Inf. Div. that wasn't proud of it. To the day I die the thing that I will be proudest of is that I earned a combat patch in the 1st Infantry Division," Fontenot said.

Fontenot spoke highly of all the men he served for beginning with the drill instructor and captain at ROTC summer camp following his college graduation.

"Staff Sgt. Kidd and Capt. Scruggs were the kind of people you wanted to be like. Both of them were first-class men," recalls Fontenot when reflecting on his "boot camp" experience.

Fontenot feels blessed to have served under fine leaders.

"I served for great leaders and I hope that came through [in the interview]," he said.

"But when I see those guys every year at the division officers' reunion dinner and you've shared an experience like that it's unforgettable."

When Fontenot recalled

the events leading up to the Big Red One's Gulf War attack and the role his battalion played in it, it was easy to understand the prestige of being awarded the Combat Badge with the 1st Inf. Div.

On Aug. 2, 1990, Lt. Col. Greg Fontenot had his battalion, 2 Bn., 34th Armor, at tank gunnery when he got an out-of-the-ordinary call from his wife. He was in disbelief when she told him Iraq was invading Kuwait. Fontenot told her, "We're going to war. This won't stand. We are going to be in this fight."

The 1st Inf. Div. was put on alert for deployment on Nov. 8, 1990. The division deployed more than 12,000 Soldiers and 7,000 pieces of equipment to Saudi Arabia during the next two months.

Fontenot and his battalion arrived in Saudi Arabia on New Year's Eve, 1990.

Lt. Col Greg Fontenot standing in front of a T55 shortly after the cease fire on Feb. 28, 1991 (Photo courtesy of Gregory Fontenot)



Before they had ever left Fort Riley they knew what their mission would be. The 1st Inf. Div. was going to be the assault division that would breach the Iraqi's defenses.

Now they just had to get out of port and up to where things were going to happen.

Fontenot's battalion moved up in country in the middle of February as part of the 1st Brigade and assumed a security role on the border in the neutral zone.

On the morning of Feb. 24, 1991, under Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Rhame, the Big Red One initiated the armored attack into Iraq, with the breach battalions opening up lanes, minefields and the enemy positions for the follow-on battalions to go deep.

"Arguably the big fight for the division was not the breach, it was a fight at objective Norfolk, just east of a phase line on the 73 easting of longitude in the grid map called phase line smash," Fontenot said. "A lot of people know about the 2nd Cav. Reg. getting in contact up there and the division passed through them at 10:30 at night on the 26th of February and attacked 20-plus kilometers to the east in an all-night tank battle."

It was a big fight, he said. "In fact, I've had a Navy

officer who was flying over the fight that night at 50,000 feet, tell me later that he could see tracer and gun fire from horizon to horizon."

The night before the cease fire on February 28, 1991, Fontenot's battalion had fought their way up to a place that the troops named "the valley of the boogers."

"They called it that because it was this low place where they had been quarrying things out of there which left holes and burns," Fontenot explained.

"We literally fought all night long in a herringbone Vietnam-style formation all along this trail that went through there. Second Brigade had gotten by it. And so they're in a big gun fight with bad guy tanks and we're in a big gun fight with RPG-carrying infantrymen. The next morning at sunup, the infantrymen discovered they had surrounded two battalions and tanks and they surrendered. And that's how the war ended for us," Fontenot recalled

The battalion returned home on May 9, 1991, and on May 10 the Division displayed its colors at Fort Riley, signifying its return home. 

Lt. Col. Greg Fontenot in his tactical operations center in northern Saudi Arabia with then - Maj. Gen. Thomas Rhame. (Photo courtesy to Greg





IRAQ WAR

A Veteran's Perspective

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

With improvised explosive devices a leading cause of death for Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, it was knowing how to stay alert and keep a watchful eye that helped retired Sgt. 1st Class Eric Cole return home safely after two deployments.

A member of the 1st Engineer Battalion, it was Cole's job during his second deployment in September 2006 to spend time clearing IED's to facilitate the "freedom of maneuver" for combat logistical patrols and maneuver units on the ground, a daunting and dangerous task given that 72 IED events were reported daily when he arrived in theater.

Cole and his fellow Soldiers continued forward, however. To complete their mission they drove through and cleared the same roadway between forward operating bases every single day for 15 months straight, unless called upon to support a mission that could take advantage of their engineering capabilities.

Though Cole said some days could be long while completing up to 24-hour long patrols, the job never got old. "The (IED) you miss is the one that blows up," he stated matter of factly, implying the importance and necessity to always be alert.

Items Cole and his 16-man team would look for included abandoned cars, additional craters, tampered craters, command and pressure wires; and remote control, surface-laid or cell-phone triggered IED's.

With so much to look for, though, Cole explained his trucks were always organized in a way to allow for redundancy.

"We had our team set up so two of each truck in each lane could identify those things (triggers), plus the redundancy for the other three vehicles we had in tow, in case somebody missed it," he said.

Cole doesn't know exactly how many IED's his team found over the course of their deployment, but at least one-third of the bombs were found after the IED had already exploded, 16 of which went off a mere one meter from his own vehicle.

"It's like slow motion. When it goes off, you definitely know it and it's like slow motion," he described, explaining even with all of their body gear he and his men could feel the blast. "The concussion, you feel it ... the shrapnel hit the truck, nothing to penetrate but you definitely felt the effect of the explosion."

Cole said if it weren't for their vehicles, the RG-31 and the Buffalo, two mine-resistant vehicles, the IED's would have stopped his team's progress.

"The trucks are great. If it were a Humvee or something, it would have been done," Cole said, adding that not even their armored vehicles could always drive away from a blast.

"If we didn't have communication (after an explosion), the Buffalo would go around the truck, get a visual of



Eric Cole in Iraq in 2006 with fellow Soldiers from the 1st Engineer Battalion. (Photo Courtesy of Eric Cole)

everybody and see if everyone is (responsive)... check the area, make sure there are no secondary (IED's) and once we establish that the area is secure ... depending on the situation request (recovery) support or air support. Every situation is different," he said. "I had a good crew ... I was all about (the mission) because I liked the adrenaline."

The 2006 deployment was Cole's final deployment in the United States Army, as he retired July 31, 2008, after 22 years of service.

"I loved it," he said. 



AFGHAN WAR

A Veteran's Perspective

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

Capt. James Price, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, was born in Yreka, Calif., joined the Army at 18, and served the United States Army during the end of the Cold War and in Korea, Germany and Alaska ... then the Twin Towers fell, calling Price and his fellow Soldiers into action yet again.

Though Operation Enduring Freedom began in 2001, it wasn't until after Price had completed embedded tactical training at Fort Riley that he was deployed to Afghanistan from Dec. 22, 2007, to Feb. 15, 2009.

"I enjoyed my tour over there," Price said. "The people were receptive that we were around. It was nice to shift a country that was lacking economic structure and education and be able to take off some stress and provide them with security to hopefully get a generation or two educated, which will hopefully change their country around a little bit."

Providing that security was not always easy, however, as Price did his part by becoming the operations officer for a commando program.

"I was in charge of field equipment programming and training," he said, adding that he and others were charged with building a permanent training facility for the program as well as coordinating all other commando camps to make operations work efficiently.

"These guys are the cream of the crop. They are training all of the time," Price said, describing the

commandos and explaining they would be sent out in search of the leaders causing havoc for the country.

To coordinate so much activity and to pursue recruitment, which Price described to be much like a Special Forces selection, he was able to see almost all of Afghanistan, but even the flights throughout the country proved to be anything but dull.

Traveling by the Afghan Air Corps, Priced noted that all flying would be done by line of sight because the aircraft they were traveling in didn't have instruments, something that isn't good when presented with a sandstorm.

"They had to take an emergency landing because they couldn't see the road and they couldn't see the mountain pass so they landed in the middle of a soccer field," Price said, which happened be in the downtown marketplace of one town.



Member of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team were deployed to Afghanistan from 2008-2009. (U.S. Army Photo by 3HBCT, Public Affairs)

"It was interesting because all of a sudden, a bunch of Afghans rushed the fence. We got the commandos out and got a perimeter set up," he said, explaining further they called a nearby base for help and were eventually taken to safety.

"It turned out great but it was kind of 'iffy' at first," Price said.

Another difficulty Price encountered was a lack

of communication devices. Even with the challenges, Price said that overall, things went well for him while deployed.

"We had a great community network around our forward operating base that worked well with the coalition and the Afghans," Price said. "We had no problems with them. We got along well." 

Big Red One Cartoons



then-intelligence officer Butler.

Butler was serving under Summerall, who commanded the First Field Artillery Brigade, and later would go on to command the First Division, A.E.F.

In an effort to keep the morale of his troops up, Summerall tasked Butler with a project to provide a daily

An Artist's Depiction of the Division's History

By Shelley Roten
Duty First! Magazine

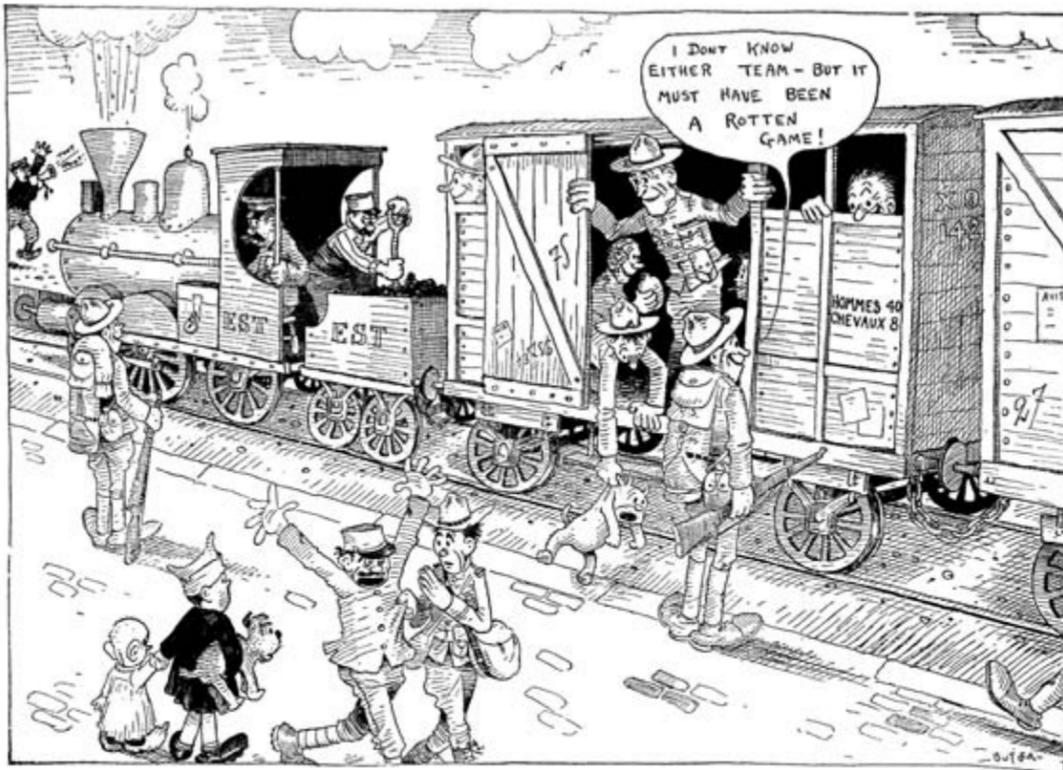
It benefits a Soldier to cheerfully approach whatever task may fall upon him, according to Gen. Charles P. Summerall, in the foreword of "Happy Days! A Humorous Narrative in Drawings of the Progress of American Arms 1917-1919."

It's evident Summerall had one of his Soldiers – an officer who would soon be known throughout Allied camps for his wartime cartoons – in mind when he wrote "The man who can contribute to his spirit of fun, and therefore, to his morale, is invaluable to any command."

"Captain Alban B. Butler, Jr., A.D.C., was rarely gifted in his keen sense of humor and his artistic power of expressing it," wrote Summerall.

The First Division was exuberant following the victory at Cantigny on May 28, 1918. They were ramped up and ready for their next mission, as the Second Division was on the way to provide relief.

At the last minute, the Second Division was diverted, and the rest, as they say, is history for



SIDE DOOR PULLMANS

A BATTALION of the First Division was sent to Paris to march in the parade of July 4th, 1917. This was the first experience with French railroads. In contrast to American journeys, where army regulations provide for Pullman tourist sleepers, the American soldiers were introduced to the tiny freight cars. These sometimes carried forty soldiers and, at other times, eight horses. The remainder of the Division entrained soon after for the Gondrecourt and La Valdahon training areas.
July 1917.

bulletin of news, humor, baseball scores and happenings on other fronts.

Drawing cartoons wasn't a foreign duty to Butler, who had previously illustrated cartoons as the chairman of the Yale Record.

His new assignment was to depict the everyday occurrences of the First Division in a realistic-yet-lighthearted manner.

The daily cartoon ran in the First Field Artillery Brigade Observer that started out as a daily "trench newspaper" and went out to every battalion in the division.

The Observer became a huge success and the distribution list grew and grew, largely to the popularity of Butler's drawings.

Butler's drawings were described as "always funny, absolutely true in every detail of material and equipment, sometimes a little cynical but never bitter."

The division's higher staff began to take notice and soon the neighboring French unit requested copies of the Observer.

According to "Happy Days!" the division staff learned that our Allies considered Butler's cartoons as the finest caricatures of the French Army they had ever seen.

"Happy Days" was published by the Society of the First Division, A.E.F in 1928 in order to permanently preserve Butler's drawing and sketches that now serve as a priceless record of the First Division's involvement in World War I. 



THE SURPRISE ATTACK

WITHOUT the slightest warning, Mangin's Army, with the First American Division, the First Moroccan Division and the Second American Division forming the spearhead, leapt forward at dawn on the 18th of July at the one vital spot in the German lines. Taken by complete surprise, whole battalions of the enemy were captured in support line dugouts. July 1918.

Honoring all Veterans

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