

Serving the 1st Infantry Division

Fall 2005

Duty First



Air Assault!

AIMING FOR THE BADGE



SPC Richard Snader of A Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, successfully tosses a grenade into the air.

On the cover

Students in Air Assault class 05-01 practice tying their rappel seats prior to heading to the rappel tower. The students were participating in the first Army Air Assault Course hosted in Germany by the 1st Infantry Division. To pass the course, students had to show proficiency at foot marching, sling-load operations, rappelling and written tests.

Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

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Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

to the designated area during EIB testing.

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Proud to be back with the Big Red One

It is with tremendous pride and humility that I assume command of this great Division. Since leaving in June of 1999, I've wanted nothing more than to serve with the Big Red One again, and after six long years, I'm truly thankful to be here today! The 1st Infantry Division has a storied past dating back to 1917 and, as you're well aware, the Big Red One enjoys a superb reputation among veterans, Soldiers and civilians alike. You set impressive standards wherever you serve and your recent service in Kosovo, Turkey and particularly Iraq has been no exception.



As most of you know, the Department of Defense recently announced its basing strategy for Brigade Combat Teams and Division headquarters. DoD also announced its plan to return the Big Red

One to the continental United States in the summer of 2006. These actions will affect all of us. Our units will either be inactivated, converted or return to the states as part of the overall Global Rebasing and Restructuring plan. It is critical that leaders stay engaged with their Soldiers and families in order to take care of our great Army family during this turbulent, but exciting time. As information becomes available we will keep you informed. I ask that you all remain flexible during this period and stay focused on the mission at hand. Taking care of Soldiers, families and civilian employees will be a priority during the entire process.

As the Division transitions, it will be asked to support the Global War on Terrorism through individual Soldier mission requirements for operations in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. These requirements have my highest attention and visibility. Each individual Soldier mission requirement is reviewed by unit commanders and myself. We are committed to supporting our Soldiers

and families during these individual deployments.

I would like to personally congratulate the 341 Soldiers who recently completed the grueling Air Assault Course and the 169 infantrymen who earned the EIB during the last quarter. Your skills as a professional Soldier have been validated. I challenge all our Soldiers to continue to pursue excellence in your professional skills and all that you do.

As you can see, we continue to push forward at an incredible pace here in the Big Red One. It has been said that the only thing that remains constant is change. While it's true that we are indeed seeing and living change, I would suggest that one thing does remain constant – the commitment of the Soldiers and families of this great Division. I appreciate all that you do, each and everyday to make this the greatest Division in the United States Army.

Duty First!

MG Ken Hunzeker

NCOs have key role in transformation

As I travel around the Big Red One area of operations, I am constantly impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of our Soldiers and leaders as they routinely carry out many diverse missions in this time of change. I don't have to tell you that this has been a very busy summer. Since before the Army announced the transformation initiatives that affected the Big Red One, we began setting the conditions to execute very complex tasks that involve every Soldier and family in the Division. The upcoming months will prove to be very challenging as units in the Division take on very different missions.



As part of the Army's latest transformation initiative, the 1st Infantry Division headquarters and select subordinate units are scheduled to return to Fort Riley, Kan., in the summer of 2006.

Fort Riley is one of the Army's premier training, readiness and deployment platforms. I recently visited Fort Riley, and I can report that the military and civilian

communities are excited about our return and committed to setting the conditions to receive our Soldiers and families.

Many other subordinate units in this great Division will either covert, inactivate or enter a period of intensive training to prepare them should they be ordered to deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Throughout this whole process of deployments and transformation, we are completely committed to minimizing the turbulence expected to affect both the Soldiers and their families.

During this time of transformation and change, our noncommissioned officers and Soldiers will be expected to carry out their missions in support of the Army's Global Rebasing and Restructuring plan with the utmost professionalism and responsibility. We must remain flexible and stay focused on the mission at hand. We must always do what is morally right, remain loyal to those we serve, take appropriate action in the absence of orders, and never forget that we are professionals. Continue to look out for one another and value your wingman.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the outstanding accomplishments of so many 1st ID Soldiers in the past couple months. A

big "HOOAH" goes out to the 341 Soldiers who recently pinned on the esteemed Air Assault badge after completing 11 days of warrior-focused training, which was both physically grueling and mentally demanding.

Just as noteworthy are the 169 infantrymen who recently earned the right to wear the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge.

Also deserving of recognition is SGT Edward Klobusaik and SPC James Simpson, both from the 9th Engineer Battalion, who were recently selected as the 1st Infantry Division NCO and Soldier of the Quarter.

Lastly, I want to thank each and every Soldier, family member and civilian of the 1st Infantry Division. Without your commitment to excellence in everything you do, the Big Red One would not be the great Division that it is today. Please do not forget that we still have the 1st Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment engaged in Iraq. Please keep these Soldiers and their families in your prayers.

No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great. Duty First!

CSM John D. Fourhman

Danger 7



French soldiers salute at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony.

Ceremony honors World War I Soldiers

Story and photo by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO

MEUSE-ARGONNE, France - French and U.S. Soldiers were given the opportunity to honor the 14,246 American World War I veterans buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony May 29.

“As Soldiers and citizens of a free nation, we owe these Soldiers a debt of gratitude we can never fully repay,” said MG John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division commanding general. “The greatest tribute we can pay to those we honor is that today’s Soldiers continue to be committed to defend the legacy of freedom.”

According to assistant superintendent of the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, Jeffrey A. Aarnio, the cemetery is reserved exclusively for U.S. World War I Soldiers and is the largest American cemetery in Europe. The 14,246 Soldiers buried in the cemetery include 1,079 1st Infantry Division Soldiers, nine Medal of Honor recipients and 486

unknown headstones.

“There’s a lot of American tradition and history here,” Aarnio said. “I don’t see how someone could come here, visit the cemetery and not be moved by what they see.”

The cemetery opened in October 1918, and was built in what had been the heart of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, which took place from Sept. 26–Nov. 11, 1918.

Aarnio said the War Department handed over responsibility of the cemetery to the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1923, and the commission has been responsible for the cemetery ever since.

The Soldiers participating in the ceremony appreciated the chance to honor the fallen World War I Soldiers.

“This is a great opportunity to show my respect for our fallen comrades,” said SGT Ronald R. Weiss, a D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment avionics technical inspector. “It also shows the French people here that even though the war took place more than 80 years ago, we’re still committed to re-

membering our fallen Soldiers.”

Present day Soldiers weren’t the only ones paying their respects at the ceremony, as several relatives of Soldiers buried in the cemetery also attended the ceremony. William H. Garvey and his wife, Paula, made the trip. Garvey, a World War II veteran, was visiting the cemetery for the first time as an honored guest after finding out, only months earlier, that his uncle of the same name was buried there.

“There’s a park named after William’s uncle in our hometown, but we never knew where he was buried at. We found out through the Internet and the American Battle Monuments Commission that he was buried here,” Paula Garvey said.

Once this discovery was made, the Garveys were invited by Aarnio to visit the cemetery and attend the ceremony.

“We’re very honored to be here,” Paula Garvey said. “William was named after his uncle and never met him. We cried when we visited his gravestone.”

Remembering our fallen

Big Red One honors memory of those lost in OIF I, II

**Story and photos by SGT W. Wayne Marlow
Editor, 1st ID PAO**

Soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division took time to honor and remember their fallen comrades June 6.

In between spurts of rainfall, 1st ID Soldiers and family members dedicated the Fallen Soldier Memorial in Victory Park on Leighton Barracks. The memorial stands in tribute to the 193 1st ID and Task Force Danger Soldiers, Marines and Airmen who died during OIF I and II. In attendance as guests of honor were family members of 28 fallen Soldiers.

1st ID Chaplain (LTC) Mike Lembke read from the 91st Psalms, and three wreaths were placed at the memorial, including one by MG John R.S. Batiste and CSM John D. Fourhman, the 1st ID commanding general and the division command sergeant major, respectively.

Batiste reflected on the sacrifices made by the service men and women who are honored as part of the memorial.

“It is indeed fitting that we dedicate this memorial on the anniversary of the day that the 1st Infantry Division stormed Omaha Beach,” Batiste said. “Today we honor the legacy of the heroes of Normandy, and we pay tribute to the Soldiers, Airmen and Marines who gave their full measure.”

The lives lost were part of a long struggle the United States and its allies are fighting against terrorism and tyranny, Batiste noted.

“Today we reflect on our incredible sacrifices and accomplishments,” the commanding general said. “Today, we reflect on our noble purpose and the urgency of winning the War on Terrorism. Today, we ask God to be with and comfort the families and loved ones of our fallen

comrades. I could not be prouder of our collective accomplishments in Iraq. We truly made a difference. Our fallen comrades did not die in vain.”

Batiste acknowledged two Soldiers who were integral in the memorial becoming a reality: SGT Carlos Arguello of the 106th Finance Battalion, who designed the memorial, and CPL Jared Luera of HHC, 1st ID, who led the fund-raising effort.

Turning to the family members present, Batiste told them, “It means a great deal to all of us that you all are with us today. Many of you traveled great distances to be here. You well understand what it means to lose a loved one. We grieve with you for your loss and at the same time are inspired by your indomitable spirit.”

Batiste reflected on what the struggle in Iraq will eventually lead to.

“Our comrades died for a great cause: freedom and liberty,” Batiste said. “They took a firm stand against tyranny and oppression. It all came together on 30 January 2005 when 64 percent of Iraqi registered voters ... cast their vote. This majority defied the insurgency and proclaimed a desire for freedom and representative government. The Soldiers we honor today contributed in a major way to this watershed event. They made a difference. Each and every one of these American patriots died a hero.”

Batiste read from a high school writing by one of the fallen Soldiers, SGT Michael C. Carlson.

“He wrote, ‘I want to be known as the best of the best at my job. I want people to need me, to count on me. I want to help people. I want to fight for something, to be part of something, to be part of something that is greater than myself. I sometimes dream of being a Soldier in war. In this war, I am helping to liberate people from oppression. In the end, there is a big parade and a monument built to immortalize us in stone,’” Batiste said.

“I suspect that SGT Carlson’s prophetic words written before he entered the Army ring true for many,” Batiste continued. “He wanted to make a difference. He did. He served a higher calling. He did his duty.

He died for a noble cause. He died for his country and the betterment of mankind.”

Affixed to the ground leading up to the memorial statue





1st ID Soldiers remember those they served with.



MG John R.S. Batiste and CSM John D. Fourhman walk a wreath to the memorial's base.

‘I sometimes dream of being a Soldier in war. In this war, I am helping to liberate people from oppression. In the end, there is a big parade and a monument built to immortalize us in stone.’

- Excerpt from a letter written by SGT Michael C. Carlson, one of the fallen Soldiers

lay 193 engraved marble plaques. Each plaque is dedicated to a fallen Soldier, Marine or Airman from Task Force Danger and the 1st ID. Batiste noted that a memorial is more than the materials poured into it.

“The fallen Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger, and the thousands of other men and women who serve today in Iraq, have built their own memorial – a memorial far more meaningful than we could ever hope to build,” Batiste said. “Their memorial is in the hearts of 25 million Iraqis who now understand that freedom, liberty and representative government are within their grasp. Fallen Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger — we will never forget you. Rest in the knowledge that you made a difference to the people of Iraq, the United States of America, and all of mankind. It was an honor to serve with you.”

Following a prayer for the fallen by Chaplain (COL) Rodney Coleman, attendees made their way across the street to the 1st Infantry Division museum.

There, they witnessed the opening of the museum’s OIF II exhibit.



Lawrence Thomas points out the plaque dedicated to PFC Markus J. Johnson following the dedication ceremony.



SFC John Black stands with his family after being inducted into the Sergeant Morales Club. At right is 1SG Kenneth Bryant. Besides Black and Bryant, six more 1st ID NCOs were inducted.

Eight NCOs inducted into Morales Club

Story and photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow Editor, 1st ID PAO

Making the exclusive Sergeant Morales Club is a highlight of an inductee's Army career, but for many of those recognized July 14 at Leighton Barracks, it was made all the sweeter by a long wait.

Because of the 1st Infantry Division's operations tempo, most notably a year spent in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, those who made the club in 2003 were not officially recognized until nearly two years later.

Inducted were: SFC John Black, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery; 1SG Kenneth Bryant, HHB, DIVARTY; SSG Mendez Frith, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment; SSG Anthony Gantt, C Company, 701st Main Support Battalion; SSG Michelle Raether, HHC, Division Support Command; SGT Humberto Moreno, A Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment; SSG Francisco Santiago, B Company, 201st Forward Support Battalion; and SSG

Marcus McClain, C Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion.

MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker, 1st ID commanding general, called the eight inductees outstanding NCOs who represent the best in their professions.

"You have taken the next step as NCOs and proven you can perform at the next level," he said. "This recognizes those who deserve special recognition."

Hunzeker noted that less than five percent of 1st ID NCOs are in the club.

"You are the standard setters and the team builders," he said. "You are the epitome of what we want our NCOs to be, know and do. You are incredibly competent and always treat everyone with dignity and respect."

Hunzeker noted the NCOs recognized will help spearhead the Army's transformation into the 21st Century.

"The NCOs we honor today ... know leadership is an affair of the heart and understand the value of teamwork and the importance of taking care of Soldiers and

Sergeant Morales Club inductees

- SFC John Black*
 - 1SG Kenneth Bryant*
 - SSG Mendez Frith*
 - SSG Anthony Gantt*
 - SSG Marcus McClain*
 - SGT Humberto Moreno*
 - SSG Michelle Raether*
 - SSG Francisco Santiago*
-

families," he said. "I commend you on your tremendous leadership."

Hunzeker also noted the contributions of the NCOs' spouses.

"Your support day in and day out has had an enormous impact. You are truly part of the team," he said.

The Sergeant Morales Club began in 1975 as a way to recognize NCOs who best demonstrate leadership and care for Soldiers, said 1st ID CSM John Fourhman.

"They exemplify our division motto, Duty First," he added. "They possess all of the attributes the Army expects in our NCOs."

3rd Brigade Soldiers conduct railhead ops

Safety key aspect of mission as Abrams, Bradleys role out from Rose Barracks

Story and photo by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade conducted railhead operations at Rose Barracks in Vilseck July 13.

According to CPT Michael James, 3rd Brigade logistic operations officer, the Soldiers were loading 20 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks and three Bradley fighting vehicles in order to transfer property accountability from 3rd BCT to Army Material Command.

"We started today at 7 this morning where the Soldiers linked up with the equipment at the motor pool. From there they moved the tanks and Bradleys here and began loading them on rail cars," James said. "Once the vehicles have been put on, they put them down with blocking and

bracing materials, and from there they're ready to ship."

One major aspect of railhead operations is safety, according to Claude Whitney, 3rd BCT health and safety manager.

One of the biggest safety concerns at most railheads is power lines, Whitney said.

"Luckily, we don't have that problem out here in Vilseck, but a Soldier was seriously injured by a power line during a previous railhead," Whitney said.

Also, a civilian was electrocuted while conducting railhead operations in April.

The problem, Whitney said, is after a vehicle is loaded onto a rail car, Soldiers tend to climb up on top of the vehicle. "If there's a power line up there, it's an instant charge and they can get burned or possibly killed," Whitney said.

Another big railhead safety concern, Whitney said, is proper vehicle ground guiding. Whitney said it's important for Soldiers to walk forward to their ground

guiding spot and stand still while ground guiding.

"They can't back up on the train," he said. "There have been a couple of instances of people backing up and getting crushed between vehicles."

Other things Whitney said he looks out for at a railhead include making sure Soldiers keep at least one train between vehicles and that they are wearing Kevlar helmets and high-visibility vests or have reflective belts on.

Since part one of the railhead took place approximately two weeks prior, and it was virtually the same group of Soldiers at the site this time, Whitney said they already had a good grasp on the safety concept.

"It's going pretty well so far," Whitney said. "I think me just being out here on point, people see me with my orange vest on, and they know to take extra safety precautions. What I'm trying to do is ensure they're doing all the safety stuff when I'm not here."



A 3rd Brigade Soldier ground guides an M1A1 Abrams tank as part of the railhead operations in Vilseck.



Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

CPT John E. Hendricks, battalion surgeon, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, checks to see if the stitches are ready to come out of PV2 George C. Moore.

1-6 FA surgeon reaps Army-wide honor

U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office presents prestigious service award

**Story by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO**

The Surgeon General's Army Physician's Assistant of the Year award was presented earlier this year at the Society of American Physician Assistants convention in Fayetteville, N.C., to the battalion surgeon for 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment.

CPT John E. Hendricks, who was recognized as the Army's top physician's assistant, said he was put in for the award by his battalion staff.

"CPT Hendricks performed outstanding work with 1-6 FA in Baqubah, and he is a

shining example of the fantastic PAs who saved untold numbers of lives during OIF II," said LTC Michael Brumage, 1st Infantry Division surgeon.

As part of the recommendation proceedings, the award nomination was submitted through the 1st Infantry Division surgeon's office before being critiqued by the Department of the Army. Hendricks said he felt very humbled to learn he had won the award.

"I really didn't know how many other people had been put in for the award, so when they told me it was Army-wide, I thought they were joking with me at first," he said.

Hendricks gives credit for winning the award to his team of medics who deployed to Iraq with him and helped him every step of the way.

"They should call this award the 'medical team award' because without the 13 medics I had with me, it wouldn't have been

possible," Hendricks said. He added that working with medics who understand the importance of their jobs and who have the ability to apply their knowledge are the most important things a physician's assistant needs.

"The medics with me had that sense of urgency and were willing to learn their jobs for the whole year," he said.

Hendricks completed the physician's assistant course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in 2001.

"I put my packet in to go to that school when I was still enlisted. I got through the course, and I've been a PA ever since," Hendricks said.

Having been named Army's physician's assistant of the year, Hendricks has no immediate plans to change any of his habits.

"I just want to keep taking care of Soldiers," he said.

1st Brigade tackles JRTC rotation

Story by James Tamez
19th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT POLK, La. - - A brigade of Fort Riley Soldiers has wrapped up about a month of war preparation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and attached units were scheduled for the pre-Iraq deployment training throughout August.

"JRTC represents some of the most sophisticated training the U.S. Army has to offer," said COL Bart Howard, brigade commander. "It is very realistic."

That realism is part of what makes training at the readiness center so important, he said.

"JRTC replicates many things that can happen in theater. What I've told my leaders is all the bad things that could happen in an operation will happen here," Howard said.

Hundreds of role players populated the replicated villages in the training area. They incorporate the different actions insurgents

in Iraq have used in the past.

Howard said 1st Brigade Soldiers have participated in training rotations to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., since the 1980s. However, that was when the unit focused on a conventional threat that was highly mechanized.

Now, 1st Brigade has reconfigured, using more HMMWVs and allowing the brigade greater flexibility in meeting mission challenges. Because of the brigade's new operating procedures and the increased emphasis on asymmetric threats, Howard felt his Soldiers would benefit more from training offered at JRTC.

"Here there is force-on-force training, but with more intricate dealings with the civilians on the battlefield," said SFC Dean Stockert, operations noncommissioned officer with the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"This includes dealing with different cultures throughout the different villages. Some of the villages are loyal, some are

neutral and others are anti-Coalition forces. It really gives a better feel as to what it may be like when deployed," he said.

Stockert said numerous mock villages have been erected throughout the training areas. Role players fill a variety of roles, including neutral and hostile factions.

"Training cannot exactly replicate any and all scenarios we may find," said CPL Everett Blanck of Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, but "any training with this mindset will be valuable ... because of its direct application to what we may be doing when we deploy."

Exposing Soldiers to realistic scenarios before they are in harm's way and ensuring their readiness is a priority for brigade leadership.

"The kind of training we are doing here is absolutely the best welfare I can give the Soldiers," Howard said. "Tough, realistic training is potentially going to save lives down the road. It is the best I can do to prepare them for any future operations."

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For loyal fan, war is no obstacle

Story by SGT W. Wayne Marlow
Editor, 1st ID PAO

In 1978, the Boston Red Sox blew a 14 game lead in the last two and a half months of the season and lost the American League East title to the New York Yankees.

Also that year, CPT Michael W. Tilton was born in Laconia, N.H. So when many newborns are receiving their infant baptism, Tilton was instead baptized into the legion of frustrated Red Sox fans.

In 1986, as the 8-year-old Tilton was just getting into sports, his Red Sox came within one strike of winning the World Series, only to let it get away.

Tilton's father served in the military, but even when moving around, the younger Tilton kept his ties to the Red Sox. By 2003, Tilton was an Army officer and Boston was again threatening to vanquish its many ghosts of previous failures. They led the hated Yankees 5-2 and were just five outs away from making the World Series.

Tilton's sister was serving in Iraq, but would have her leave in October and it looked like the family would be able to watch the Red Sox in the Series as a family. But, in an all-too-familiar turn, Boston again folded when it mattered most. No pennant and, for the Tiltons, no Red Sox-centered family reunion.

Just as Tilton's sister returned from Iraq, Tilton headed there. He served as civil affairs officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment.

In Iraq, he kept a web log on his experiences of following the Red Sox while in a war zone. This caught the eye of Boston Globe reporters, who interviewed Tilton for a story on Red Sox fans around the world.

This led to Tilton being featured in "Reversing the Curse," a book by Boston Globe sportswriter Dan Shaughnessy about the Red Sox 2004 World Championship season.

In the book, Tilton details his flux of emotions as the Red Sox first fell behind three games to none against the Yankees in the playoffs, then reeled off eight straight victories to win the World Series for the first time since 1918. Even though it meant rising in the middle of the night and sacrificing already limited sleep, Tilton played the role of loyal fan and was rewarded with both the World Championship and several mentions in Shaughnessy's book.

During October, Tilton split his time between Forward Operating Bases Speicher and Danger, but he always

managed to find a television at game time. He was beginning to ask himself why, as the Yankees crushed the Red Sox 19-8 in Game Three and led the series 3-0, a hole that even the most optimistic Red Sox fans thought too deep. Tilton tried reverse psychology on himself, hoping to ease the frustration.

"I thought, 'Fine, I'm in Iraq. I didn't want them to win it this year anyway,'" he said.

After Boston won Game Four on an extra-inning home run, Tilton said he started to believe, even though the Red Sox still trailed three games to one to a team that had tormented them repeatedly over the years.

"I had hope because the pitching lineup was more favorable to us after we won Game Four," Tilton said.

Another extra-inning victory followed, then Boston won Game Six at Yankee Stadium to force the deciding seventh game.

In that contest, two early Red Sox home runs, including a grand slam, staked Boston to a huge lead, and it won 10-3.

Buoyed by the momentum gained in the playoffs, Boston easily swept the St. Louis Cardinals, and Tilton celebrated with other Red Sox fans around the world. All in all, it made for a pleasant October.

"It certainly made that month fly by," Tilton said. "I read all the articles on the Globe website, and talking to others from the area, it felt like a little piece of home."

He watched the final game of the World Series with Soldiers from the 323rd Maintenance Company, a Massachusetts unit.

"It was a pretty normal celebration except one of the Soldiers had an M8 alarm that he had hidden, and he turned it on," Tilton recalled.

Tilton said it was bittersweet being in Iraq when Red Sox fans finally got to shed the prefix "long-suffering."

But he wouldn't trade the experience for anything, and he will continue to follow the team.

There was some thought that if the Red Sox finally won the World Series, they would no longer be interesting since the storyline of curses and chokes would be gone.

"I probably thought the same thing, but now that they've won it, I certainly don't see myself rooting any less or caring any less," Tilton said.

Then he added, "Especially since they're in a pennant race with the Yankees."



Photo by CW2 Jeremy Griffin

Even in flight, CPT Michael Tilton pays homage to his Red Sox.

Division welcomes new ADCS

Story and photo by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO

The 1st Infantry Division officially added the newest member of its command group to the team Aug. 5.

BG Peter J. Palmer, 1st ID assistant division commander for support, was welcomed to the division in a ceremony at Warner Barracks.

Palmer, who was previously assigned as director of strategic operations branch, Multi-National Forces-Iraq, will serve as senior tactical commander for the Bamberg area. He's had several past assignments in Germany, most recently as the 2nd Brigade commander in Schweinfurt.

Palmer said Germany has been "like a second home" to him over his Army career, and he and his family were pleased and excited to be members of the Bamberg community.

"This is a wonderful community where Soldiers, civilians, Germans and Americans work together to make sure they have the best advantages," Palmer said.

With the division moving to Fort Riley, Kan., next year, MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker, 1st ID commanding general, called Palmer



BG Peter J. Palmer, 1st Infantry Division assistant division commander for support, renders honors to the colors during his welcome ceremony.

"the right leader at the right time" for the division during this upcoming time of transition.

"He is definitely the kind of leader who will help the division maintain its focus and meet future challenges," Hunzeker said.

*The combined federal campaign
overseas drive runs from
Oct. 3 - Dec. 2*

See your unit CFC representative or visit
www.cfcoverseas.org

Together, we can make a difference



1st Infantry Division welcomes



MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker assumes command of the 1st Infantry Division by taking the colors from LTG Ricardo Sanchez, V Corps commander, during the 1st ID change of command.

**Story and photos by SGT Wayne Marlow
Editor, 1st ID PAO**

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division said goodbye to the commanding general who led them through Operation Iraqi Freedom II during a change of command ceremony June 20 at Victory Park on Leighton

Barracks.

MG John R.S. Batiste relinquished command to MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker as Soldiers, civilians and family members looked on.

Batiste then took time to reflect on his time as the 1st ID's 60th commanding general.

During the last three years, Batiste noted the 1st ID spent 14 months in Kosovo, sent a Task Force to Operation Iraqi Freedom I and contributed to the Army Forces-Turkey mission. There were also numerous training events, which led to the signature moment of Batiste's tenure — Operation Iraqi Freedom

es new commanding general

II.

Batiste credited 1st ID Soldiers, civilians and family members with meeting all of the challenges that come with deployments.

“There never has been, nor will there ever be, a mission too difficult for this amazing team,” Batiste said. “We are surrounded by great Soldiers ... who are very competent at what they do and are totally committed to each other. Our Soldiers were tested under the most arduous of conditions, and they repeatedly came out on top.”

Batiste then praised family members, civilians and the rear detachment personnel for their contributions during OIF II.

“We are blessed with incredible Soldiers, family members and civilians who well understand the meaning of teamwork and of getting the job done to the highest standard,” Batiste said.

For their support over the years, Batiste thanked USAREUR Commanding General GEN B.B. Bell, and V Corps Commanding General LTG Ricardo Sanchez. He also recalled the many contributions of 1st ID Chief of Staff, COL Keith Cooper, CSM Cory McCarty, CSM John D. Fourhman, and the rest of the division’s senior noncommissioned officers.

“You are the keepers of our rock-solid foundation and are the secret to our success,” Batiste said. “To our brigade and battalion commanders, thank you. It has been an honor to serve with you, and I will never forget your competence and warfighting spirit.”

Batiste also paid tribute to the 193 1st ID and Task Force Danger servicemembers who died during OIF I and II.

“We will never forget these incredible Americans or their families,” Batiste said. “They, and our wounded, will forever be in our prayers.”

Batiste then gave way to his heir apparent. Batiste noted that he has served with Hunzeker before, and he said the division will be in good hands.

“He comes very well qualified,” Batiste said. “There is no one I would rather be standing with here today. Michelle and I are certainly thrilled for Ken and Patty, but we are also thrilled for the Soldiers, family members and civilians of the division. You have all been blessed in ways that you will soon

realize.”

Hunzeker served as the commander of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery in the late 1990s, and he said that he’s glad to be back.

“Since leaving in June of 1999 I’ve wanted nothing more than to serve with the Big Red One again, and after six long years, I’m truly thankful and a little amazed to be here today,” Hunzeker said.

He added he is looking forward to the Big Red One expanding its legacy.

“The coming months are sure to bring many changes and challenges for the divi-

sion, and I have no doubt that the Soldiers and family members of the Big Red One and the great teams of the 98th and 100th Area Support Groups will continue to produce superb results,” Hunzeker said.

He then acknowledged his predecessor.

“I’d like to extend a special thank you to John and Michelle Batiste,” he said. “Not only are they turning over a tremendous organization to Patty and I, but they’ve been wonderfully helpful during the past several weeks leading up to today.”



MG John R.S. Batiste, outgoing 1st Infantry Division commander, salutes during the *The Star-Spangled Banner*.



Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

Outgoing 1st Infantry Division Artillery Commander, COL Richard C. Longo, gives marching instructions during his change of command ceremony with COL Walter L. Gilliam.



Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

COL Bryan G. Watson, left, shares a laugh with his father, retired MG Gerald Watson, after the younger Watson assumed command of the 1st Infantry Division Engineer Brigade.



Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

COL Timothy J. Edens, takes command of the 1st Infantry Division's Aviation Brigade.



Willkommen



Germans, Americans qualify with M16A2 rifles at range

**Story and photos by
SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO**

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division, participated in a partnership range with German soldiers from 13th Panzer Division in Wurzburg Aug. 9.

While the HHC, 1st ID Soldiers qualified with their M-16A2 rifles, 14 soldiers from the 13th Panzer Division were also given an opportunity to fire the weapon for the first time.

“They’re doing the same qualification as we do,” said SSG Larry Gormley, 1st ID’s non-commissioned officer in charge of civil military operations. “They get 40 rounds to qualify and get a chance to zero beforehand. It’s good training for them. Our goal today is to get everyone qualified and for everyone to have a good time.” The 13th Panzer soldiers, who traveled from Leipzig to attend the range, were provided barracks to stay the day before the range by 1st ID. Gormley said this gave them an opportunity to get a good night of rest before going to the range.

“It’s a four-hour drive here from Leipzig, so if they were to drive up here and qualify the same day, it would be pretty exhausting for them,” he said.

According to Gormley, even though it was the first time the German soldiers had fired the M-16, and all the instructions had to be translated for them, they learned very quickly.

“They’re doing really well,” Gormley said. “They went through the zeroing



SSG Larry Gormley, 1st ID’s civil military operations NCOIC, inspects the Germans’ zero targets.

part of the range very quickly. If they shoot that well on the qualification part they’ll all do fine.”

All of the 14 German soldiers who participated in the range qualified with the M-16. Ten of them qualified marksman, while four qualified as sharpshooters.

MSG Gerd Guring, HHC, 13th Panzer Division, said the M-16 was similar in sights to the MG-38 7.62 mm battle rifle they use, but it doesn’t have as much of a kick to it, so he was able to fire it very well.

The range was organized by Gormley and Guring, and while it is the first partnership exercise between the two units, it won’t be the last.

“We were in Iraq last year, so we didn’t have any opportunities to do any partnership exercises,” Gormley said. “The company fully supports us doing these kinds of events, so we hope to do more in the future.”

One such event, planned for fall, is the German Schutzenstur marksmanship qualification, in which the U.S. Soldiers will attempt to qualify using the MG-3 machine gun, MG-38 rifle and the P-8 9 mm pistol.

“It’s great training with the German Soldiers,” Gormley said. “They all seem very positive about coming out here and doing this event.”

The German soldiers were equally pleased with the outcome of the partnership exercise.

“It was a nice day for shooting, and I had a good time,” Guring said. “I look forward to the American Soldiers coming out and firing our weapons.”

Left, Gormley doubles as a translator as he gives the Germans a brief on the M16A2 rifle.



Friendships rekindled at BRO reunion

Story and photo by SPC Joe Alger

Staff writer, 1st ID PAO

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Veterans of the 1st Infantry Division met in Washington, D.C., July 20-24 for the 87th annual reunion of the Society of the 1st Infantry Division .

The reunion not only afforded veterans the opportunity to visit the sites in Washington and take in a concert by the U.S. Army Choir, but also to re-ignite old friendships.

"It's great for all the veterans to get together and talk about what we've been through," said Paul Leifholtz, who served with the 1st ID from 1966-67.

"I've been to five of these," said Bill Baty, 1st ID Soldier from 1965-66. "It's a healing process to see people you haven't seen in a long time. I just wish we could get in touch with everyone who was in Vietnam with us and get them to come to these things."

The bond the attendees shared of being in war also allowed them to meet new people and share their experiences.

Leifholtz, who has attended four reunions, said despite the fact he has not run into any people from his old unit at the reunions, it's OK because it's allowed him to make "piles of new friends."

"The people from other units sort of adopted me," Leifholtz said. "We served for the same cause for the same division, so we're all friends."

First-time attendees at the reunion were also welcomed with open arms.

"I never felt like a stranger or a first time-attendee because everyone has been very welcoming to me," said Joseph Tate, who served with 1st ID from 1967-68.

Finding out about the reunion was a revelation for Tate, who had been trying for years to get together with his comrades from Vietnam.

"I had been trying to organize my own reunion, but I hadn't been able to get in touch with anybody from my old unit," Tate said. "A friend of mine told me about this reunion, and I said I would love to go."

Over the course of the reunion, Tate said he ran into six different people from his old unit.

"Seeing them brought back memories of how we used to do things in the field," Tate said. "We had a very strong bond."

During the reunion, veterans were given opportunities to visit the Vietnam and World War II memorials, which brought added significance to the event for the veterans.

According to John Lang, who served with the 1st ID from 1965-66, visiting the Vietnam memorial was a "heart wrenching" experience. "I saw a panel on the wall, and listed were names of people from my company almost from top to bottom," Lang said.

Another important purpose of the reunion, Leifholtz said, is ensuring the experiences of 1st ID Soldiers are passed on to younger generations.

"There will come a time some day when the WWII vets won't be with us anymore, and all that knowledge and history will be lost" he said. "There are a lot of stories there that need to get passed down."

"It's great that all different generations get to reflect with each other here," said retired SFC Jack Durham, who served with 1st ID from 1964-68. "Everything in war is basically the same since the

"It's great that all different generations get to reflect with each other here. Everything in war is basically the same since the beginning of time."

**- Retired SFC Jack Durham
1st ID veteran, 1964-68**



Former 1st Infantry Division Soldiers visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., as part of reunion activities.

beginning of time. The weapons may change, but you still have the same emotions."

With all these reasons for attending a 1st ID reunion, Leifholtz said he couldn't think of any reason a veteran would not want to attend next year's reunion in Phoenix.



The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division Color Guard represents 1st ID Soldiers from each military campaign the division has served in. The Color Guard appeared at the 87th annual reunion of the Society of the 1st Infantry Division in Washington, D.C.

Hard work pays off for color guard in D.C.

**Story and photo by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division, jumped at the chance to perform color guard duties at the 87th annual reunion of the Society of the 1st Infantry Division reunion July 20-24.

Serving as color guard members were SSG Christopher Barberi, SGT David Grindle, SGT Grayson Lambert, SGT Sklyar Holman, CPL Jared Luera and SPC Gabriel Dominguez. The importance of this assignment was not lost on the Soldiers.

Besides being in a visible position throughout the reunion, Soldiers in the color guard got to hear first-hand accounts from 1st ID veterans of various wars.

“It was a real honor to be the color guard in a banquet honoring all the great Soldiers of this division,” said Luera, 1st ID’s secretary

general staff administrative clerk. “It was also a great opportunity to hear their priceless stories and say thank you for all they have done.”

According to Barberi, 1st ID’s command sergeant major’s office noncommissioned officer in charge, his duties included making sure the Soldiers were on time, on target and looking sharp, and he was also responsible for ensuring that each Soldier who represented the color guard held a different job, came from a different part of the country, had a different background, and had various military experiences.

“We’ve got some infantry men, cavalry scouts and some finance people,” Barberi said. “Every time we do one of these color guards, we try to pick people of various jobs as much as possible.”

Barberi said participating in the color guard not only gave him and the other Soldiers the honor and privilege of speaking to veterans of different wars and hearing their experiences but also to pass on a piece of history.

“We learn about what they went through back then when they served and take it back to our units and try to educate the other Soldiers,” Barberi said.

To prepare for their color guard duties, Barberi said the Soldiers put in about 15 hours of practice together. For Barberi and the other Soldiers, the hard work was well worth it, though.

“I know the veterans really enjoy the color guard, and the Soldiers and I would like to do this every time it comes up,” he said.

1-26 staff sergeant honored as top division NCO

Story by SGT W. Wayne Marlow
Editor, 1st ID PAO

The 1st Infantry Division's noncommissioned officer of the year has received plenty of attention for his feat.

But SSG Joshua Grzywa would just as soon have the focus be on his Soldiers and

chain of command in the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

"The board recognizes one individual, but it's really about the Soldiers," Grzywa said in a strong, even voice. "I think we have some of the best Soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division. Blue Spaders are

outstanding young fighting men, and I wanted represent them."

Grzywa, a Bronze Star recipient originally from Illinois, has been in the Army for five years and has displayed a work ethic that has allowed him to move quickly through the ranks, and which served him well before the board.

He presently serves as a mortar section sergeant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company. He won company, battalion and brigade NCO of the year competitions before taking the top prize in division.

For the battalion and brigade competitions, Grzywa had short notice, so knowledge he had already accumulated paid off.

He had much more notice for the division board, and he put several hours into preparation.

"For the division board, I studied about an hour or two every night with one of my buddies," he said.

He credits his NCO support channel and chain of command for the backing they gave him and the battalion's Soldier of the year.

"I definitely had a lot of support from my chain of command. They were really pulling for us, checking up on us," Grzywa said.

Each night, Grzywa poured over prospective questions and rehearsed board procedures. It all paid off earlier this summer when he appeared before the Division NCO of the Year Board on Leighton Barracks. Grzywa got a tougher level of questioning than on previous boards, but he was ready.

"We knew there would be the standard questions, but a lot were situational," he said. "You had to walk the board members through and explain so they knew you had the knowledge. They wanted to see that you knew how the Army works and could take care of Soldiers."

While Grzywa was the winner, he spreads the credit evenly.

"I just did it for the Soldiers," he said. "I want to thank the officers and NCOs who supported me through all this and my family back home and my girlfriend."

Now armed with the Division's NCO of the Year award, Grzywa said he hopes to attend Ranger and U.S. Army Military Freefall School, and also plans to finish his degrees in law enforcement and biology.



Photo by SGT Kristopher Joseph

SSG Joshua Grzywa assists a simulated casualty at the V Corps NCO of the Year Competition.

Administration specialist named Soldier of year

**Story and photo by SPC Joe Alger
Staff writer, 1st ID PAO**

Hard work, dedication and patience are qualities needed to be the best at almost any endeavor.

But to be recognized as the best from a group of thousands of individuals takes even more than that.

SPC Ella Martin, an administrative specialist in the 1st Infantry Division's intelligence and security office and a native of the Bahamas, showed she possessed these qualities by being named 1st ID Soldier of the year after winning the board earlier this summer.

Martin, who was assigned to Fort Knox, Ky., prior to being in the 1st ID, has been in the division for two years and recently reenlisted.

Her road to being named the Division Soldier of the year began innocently enough when she attended a company

Soldier of the month board in order to be recommended for promotion during the division's deployment to Iraq. After she won that board, Martin said she kept attending and winning more boards until she got where she is now.

In addition to having what he calls a "steel trap" brain, which allows her to remember information, SGM Gary Kass, 1st ID intelligence and security office sergeant major, said Martin's self-discipline and dedication to study set her apart from the competition.

"SPC Martin is an excellent Soldier," Kass said. "She's hard working, pleasant, never gets stressed out and is willing to work long hours. She's also the only administrative specialist working in our office, and she's always there whenever we need her."

According to Martin, the key thing to remember while at a board is to "stay

focused" and "breathe."

In fact, unlike most Soldiers, Martin said the most difficult part of the board experience for her comes after she is finished.

"I'm always second-guessing myself and worrying that I didn't do well after I get out of the board," she said.

Martin added that she never imagined when she went to her first board that she would one day be the Division Soldier of the year.

But the experience has taught her a lot, and Martin said that even if a Soldier doesn't plan on making the Army a career, attending a board is still something to consider doing.

"These boards motivate you and enhance your communication skills," Martin said. "Every Soldier should try to go to a board."



Photo by SGT Kristopher Joseph

SPC Ella Martin, an administrative specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division, represents the Big Red One during the V Corps Soldier of the Year Competition. Martin is the 1st ID's Soldier of the Year.

BIG RED



Photo by SPC Joe Alger

Soldiers in Air Assault class 05-01 cross the finish line of their 12-mile foot march at Camp Robertson.

Air assault course comes to Germany

Story by SGT W. Wayne Marlow
Editor, 1st ID PAO

Standing in line at the base of a rappel tower on Camp Robertson, PV2 Gregory Hernandez said he felt calm. But he realized that could all change very soon.

“On the top, it could be a little different,” said Hernandez, who serves with B Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, and was a student in the first Army Air Assault Course hosted in Germany by the 1st ID.

The students’ first bounds down the 52-foot tower came with a reassuring wall to fall back on. But next they came down the other side of the tower, with only their brake hand and air separating them from the ground.

For Hernandez and the rest, the rappel tower was just one of the challenges to overcome.

They also experienced an excruciating “Zero Day” that saw more than 25 percent of the class wash out. There were foot marches, including a 12-miler on the final day that had to be finished in three hours, despite lugging 35 pounds of gear and carrying a rifle.

“I felt pretty sore and a little beat up,” 2LT Joshua Hearn said after the foot march. Hearn serves with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment. “It was a pretty good gut check. I didn’t know the last six miles would be so rough.”

Besides marching, there was sling load operations and lots of written tests, which took some of the Soldiers by surprise.

“It’s definitely more mentally challenging than I originally expected,” said SPC Christian Smith of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade. “I didn’t realize we’d have to remember such a great quantity of numbers. There’s a lot of information to take in.”

Hernandez expressed similar sentiments. He said he disliked the written tests, and he described the sling load phase as stressful.

“It was pretty hard,” he said. “I had a no-go on one of them, but I retested and got it. It’s been a lot more than I expected. I didn’t expect it to be so much work.”

While both were surprised at how mentally taxing the course proved to be, they both expected and received many physical demands.

Hernandez said he considered Zero Day more stressful than his first day of basic training.

“It was interesting,” he said. “We had a lot of dropouts, and it was always a lot of work.”

The day prior to Zero Day consisted of in-processing, which convinced Smith the course would be much more laid-back than he thought.

“I expected them to be on us the first day, and there was nothing,” he said. “So the next day I was expecting it to be relaxed, and they were firing smoke.”

It all served as a lead-in to the rest of the course, with its foot marches, rappelling and occasional smoke sessions.

“I did a lot of marching back in basic training, but here you have to go a lot faster. You have to meet a certain time,” Hernandez said.

Along those lines, Hernandez advises those who come to the course to “be good at PT and good at testing, and don’t be nervous.”

While the testing and sling load operations caught Smith by surprise, he found the rest of the course to be very enjoyable.

“I’ve rappelled before. I’m not afraid of heights,” he said. “This is the fun stuff. I’m really looking forward to rappelling out of Black Hawks. That’s the main reason I came here.”

In spite of the smoke sessions and raised voices, Hernandez and Smith report the students had nothing but respect for the cadre, who are National Guardsmen with the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga.

“They’re very professional, but you must pay attention and pay attention to detail,” Smith said. “Sometimes it reverts to what it was like in basic training, but what are you going to do?”



Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

By day seven, students are ready for the rappel tower.



Photo by SGT W. Wayne Marlow

After finishing a class on how to tie a rappel seat, students in Air Assault class 05-01 run toward the rappel tower to test their new-found knowledge.



Excellence is standard when gunning for EIB

**Story and photos by SGT Wayne Marlow
Editor, 1st ID PAO**

Showing excellence in physical fitness, foot marching and land navigation, all while qualifying as expert with one's weapon, would seemingly make for a full week.

But for Soldiers wanting the Expert Infantryman Badge, it's all just a prerequisite. After showing proficiency in those areas, the real work starts.

For the nearly 300 1st Infantry Division Soldiers who made it through the preliminaries, testing was held Aug. 23-25 at Camp Robertson.

There, they tested on 35 infantry tasks, with little margin for error. Candidates were allowed only two no-goes among the 35 tasks, and the no-goes could not be on the same test.

The Soldiers had put in many hours of preparation, according to SFC Raymond Long of C Co., 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. Long serves as his unit's EIB representative.

But all the training could go down the drain with just a moment's lapse.

"The no-goes they get are the result of just very small lack of attention to detail," Long said. "These guys know the task. They could probably show you right now how to do it. But when they went through, they forgot a step."

One problem Long noted was what he called "Iraqisms."

"They had to unlearn a lot of what they did downrange," he said. For instance, weapons clearing was different in Iraq than it is during EIB testing.

Another challenge was that many of the newer Soldiers were seeing weapons systems for the first time.

Despite these obstacles, most Soldiers were having success. SGT Evan Johnson

of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, took time between stations to talk about his testing.

"We did some training at our unit to get familiar with the tasks. We ran through all the stations for two weeks," he said. "Without that, I don't think I would have gotten any of the tasks right. Everything has to be done in the exact proper sequence."



PV2 Chris Turkasz of A Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, hurls a grenade during EIB testing.

Johnson found the EIB practical, since he said he will do about half of the tasks in a given month.

“There’s a lot of overlaps on the task, too, and it’s good if you’re downrange,” he said. “They may say you’re going to be a 240 gunner because the usual 240 gunner went down, and you’ll have experience on it.”

While Johnson cited experience as a plus, PFC Daniel Taylor viewed his inexperience as beneficial.

“I just got out of basic training so I haven’t learned any bad habits,” said Taylor of C Co., 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Taylor felt confident about every station except for grenades.

“I got expert in basic, but it can go either way when you’re doing it,” he said. “You can have one bad throw, and you’re done.”

CSM Maurice Wharton said Taylor, Johnson and the rest were aiming for something that was “difficult, yet attainable.”

Wharton serves as EIB command sergeant major for the 2nd Brigade.

“The purpose is to recognize any outstanding infantry Soldier who attains a high degree of skill, expertise and excellence, and who can expertly maintain,

operate and employ his weapons and equipment,” Wharton said. “It’s an outstanding training tool. We’re training on everything they’re going to have to do in combat.”

Because of the high standards required to earn the EIB, Wharton said

achieving the badge is an indication of excellence.

“When a Soldier wears an EIB, it lets you know he has achieved infantry excellence and that Soldier has achieved a certain amount of skill,” Wharton said. “He’s an expert and that’s what the badge is all about.”



SGT Justin Martinez of C Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, tackles the Javelin.



PV2 Thomas Batchelor plots grid coordinates during the map reading portion of EIB.



Right, SPC Noah Plumb treats a simulated lower limb wound during his first aid test.

Army transformation to include



Brigade combat team stationing plan announced

WASHINGTON – As part of its largest restructuring since World War II, the Army has announced its stationing of active component modular Brigade Combat Teams.

The plan includes new organizations being formed and other units being returned from overseas locations. The return of the overseas units adds up to 50,000 Soldiers and 150,000 family members being brought back to bases in the United States.

In the end state, the number of active modular BCTs will increase from 33 to 43, enhancing the active Army's combat power by 30 percent.

The plan was announced at a Pentagon press briefing conducted by Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army Raymond F. Dubois and Army Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard Cody.

Cody explained the benefits the Army and its Soldiers will see from the stationing plan. "What this does for us, is it sets up the

footprint of the United States Army," Cody said. "It optimizes the training areas. Posts, camps and stations are structured properly for the new weapons systems we have. It sets us up for some great training opportunities. I think, over time, the big winners are going to be our Army families because we can put a Soldier and his family at a post, camp or station and leave them there for four to five years."

Cody said the Army's modular force initiative and stationing plan will also help the Army meet its strategic commitments.

He explained that the life cycle management of BCTs will be stabilized through three-year rotation cycles.

"The Army will not be moving its people around as much. This will reduce turbulence in brigades and battalions," Cody said. "This will stabilize forces and provide for more cohesion within Brigade Combat Teams."

Impact 1st Infantry Division

Big Red One headquarters set for move to Fort Riley, Kan.

The Department of Defense announced July 29 plans to return the 1st Infantry Division headquarters to Fort Riley, Kan., in the summer of 2006.

1st Infantry Division units will be inactivated, converted, or reduced to a cadre that will be used to reconstitute the 1st Infantry Division as a modular UE (x) at a later date.

Soldiers assigned to these units may be reassigned or reclassified, based on the Army's needs.

Specifics as to which individual Soldiers will be reclassified, which Soldiers will remain assigned to the division and which Soldiers will be reassigned elsewhere in Germany or the continental United States will be resolved and discussed in detail with the affected Soldiers through the chain of command over the course of the coming months.

In addition, 11 Army bases will be returned to Germany in fiscal year 2007.

Leighton Barracks and the Hospital in Wurzburg have been identified for return in following years. The hospital is the only U.S.-operated inpatient treatment facility in the region, and Leighton Barracks provides key regional housing, schools, administration and shopping facilities. Both will be retained until those facilities are no longer needed to support troop populations.

The entire command leadership is concerned about the disruption that this action could cause to Soldiers and families and is committed to applying all available assets of the unit and the community to ensure that these actions are conducted smoothly.

The 1ID units that will return in FY 06 are:

- HHC 1ID (Minus)
- HHC DISCOM (Minus)
- 1st ID Band
- 1-1 AV (Longbow Transition)

The 1ID units that will inactivate in FY 06 are:

- HHB DIVARTY
- HHC DIVENG
- 510th Engineer Detachment (Topographical) (Minus)
- 517th Engineer Detachment (Topographical) (Minus)
- 701st MSB
- 121st SIG BN (Minus)
- 101st MI BN (Minus)
- 1st MP Company (Minus)

1ID units to be converted in FY 06 are:

- 1-4 Cavalry Squadron (Minus)—Converts to become the Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition squadron of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.
- 82nd Engineer Battalion (Minus)—Becomes the Brigade Troops Battalion for the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.
- 1-33 Field Artillery Bn.—Becomes the Fires Battalion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.
- 4th Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company—Reflagged as the 12th Aviation Brigade and converts to become part of UR Multi-functional Aviation Brigade (MFAB).
- 2-1 Aviation Battalion—Reflagged as the 5-158 AVN Battalion and converts to become part of UR Multi-functional Aviation Brigade (MFAB).
- 601st Division Aviation Support Battalion (Minus)—Converts to become part of UR Multi-

functional Aviation Brigade (MFAB).

Other actions:

- The 2nd BCT will be assigned to another USAREUR unit at time TBD until further disposition is determined and announced. The following units will be attached to 2BCT for these actions: 1-7FA, 9EN, 299FSB, A/121 SIG, C/101 MI, and 2PLT/1MP.
- The 3rd BCT is drawing down to cadre, as previously announced. The following units are attached to 3BCT will undergo unit actions with the BCT: 1-6FA (Bamberg) and 201FSB (Vilseck).
- The 12th Chemical Co. and BIDS platoons (Kitzingen) will be retained as a USAREUR unit and will move to Grafenwoehr

The following installations are scheduled to be returned in the first quarter of FY 07 (October-December 2006):

- Harvey Barracks, Kitzingen, Germany
- Kitzingen Family Housing
- Kitzingen Training Area
- Larson Barracks, Kitzingen, Germany
- Schwanberg DCS Site, Kitzingen, Germany
- Faulenberg Kaserne, Wuerzburg, Germany
- Wuerzburg Training Areas
- Giebelstadt Army Airfield, Giebelstadt Germany (This installation includes the Giebelstadt Tactical Defense Site and DYA Camp.)
- Breitsol Communications Station, Wuerzburg Germany

The following facilities will be retained until they are no longer needed and eventually returned at a date to be determined:

- Leighton Barracks
- Wuerzburg Hospital



1st ID Medal of Honor recipient LTC Charles C. Rogers

When the forward fire base of the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery Regiment was attacked on Nov. 1, 1968, LTC Rogers led his Soldiers into action. In spite of wounds, he twice led counter-attacks against hostile penetrations. His exemplary leadership inspired his men to repel the attack. He moved under fire to a sector threatened by a third assault and noticed a Howitzer out of action because of casualties. Teaming with surviving crew members, Rogers helped return the Howitzer to action. He was then wounded by heavy mortar fire but continued to give encouragement and direction to his Soldiers.