

Duty 1 First

Winter 2007



The 1st Infantry Division comes home to Fort Riley



ARMY STRONG.



On the cover

(Clockwise from top) 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team marches during pass-in-review at the 1st Infantry Division transfer of authority; Combat Aviation Brigade Soldier appears in a photo for Army Strong campaign; Combat Aviation Brigade Apaches line up on post for the first time; 4th IBCT Soldier engages in training; 1st Brigade Soldiers conduct a raid during a Transition Team training exercise; elements of 1st Brigade train while deployed in Horn of Africa; MG Carter Ham salutes the colors during K-State's Fort Riley Day.

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs staff

1st Infantry Division Commander:
MG Carter F. Ham

1st Infantry Division CSM:
CSM John D. Fourhman

1st Infantry Division PAO:
LTC Christian T. Kubik

1st Infantry Division PAO NCOIC:
MSG Cameron Porter

1st Infantry Division PAO Ops NCO:
MSG Amanda Glenn

Editor:
SPC Stephen Baack

Print Contributors:
SGT Nicole Clarke
SPC Shaina Howard
PFC Nathaniel Smith

Broadcast Section:
SGT Bryant Maude
SPC Richard Colletta
SPC Brian Tierce
SPC Edward Coffey



In this issue

CG, CSM messages.....4

1st ID History.....6-7

Fort Riley Day.....8-9

Army Ads.....10-11

WWI Soldier.....12-13

1st ID Arrives.....14-16

Aviation Brigade.....17-19

DISCOM.....20-21

4th IBCT.....22-24

1st Brigade.....25-27

Combatives.....28-29

1st ID Band.....30

3rd Brigade.....31

The Duty First is an unofficial publication produced under the provisions of AR 360-1, published by Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army or the 1st Infantry Division. All photos are Army photos unless otherwise noted. Circulation is 6,000 per issue, printed quarterly. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to 1st Infantry Division, Public Affairs Office, ATTN: Editor, Bldg. 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442. Telephone numbers are 785-239-2403 or 785-239-2824, DSN 856-2824 or DSN 856-2403, fax 785-239-2592, or e-mail stephen.baack@riley.army.mil, or visit Duty First online at www.1id.army.mil.

Exciting times for 1st ID

A message from MG Carter F. Ham, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley

Your 1st Infantry Division is unquestionably living up to its motto. We are fully engaged – across the full spectrum of operations and across the entire division – in supporting our Nation and our Army. We are at the forefront of a changing Iraq in our critical mission to train transition teams. We have deployed and are deploying nearly every available unit and Soldier into battle. And we are transforming, growing, building, and changing fast.



Transition Team training: The U.S. Army's mission in Iraq is changing quickly. U.S. forces are moving from the forefront of battle to one in which we will be "leading from behind." This means that we will use "Transition Teams" to coach, teach, and advise the Iraqi security forces so that they become capable of effective, independent operations.

To meet this mission, the Army has assigned the 1st Infantry Division the mission to train all Transition Teams. These are small units, ranging from just a few Soldiers to teams of 45 or more, that will embed with Iraqi units. Teams will coach, teach and advise, but will also bring to battle U.S. capabilities such as fires support, medical support and intelligence.

To meet our mission, we have reorganized the 1st Brigade to accomplish this mission. Over the next year, we will train nearly 6,000

Transition Team members.

Deploying forces: The Big Red One currently has nearly 6,000 Soldiers deployed, excluding the 2nd Brigade. Our 2nd Brigade – the Dagger Brigade – is currently deployed under the command and control of the 1st Armored Division. Our units deployed include 4th Brigade Combat Team and seven companies from 1-16 Infantry Regt., 1-34 Armor Regt. and 1-5 Field Artillery Regt., who are performing superbly in challenging security missions across Iraq. Another company of the Iron Rangers – A Co., 1-16 Infantry Regt., is in Africa. The 1st Engineer Battalion is now in Iraq, as are members of the 97th MP Battalion and D Troop, 4th Cav. Regt., 1st Bde.

In the coming months, we are scheduled to deploy just about every other unit in the Division. The 70th Engineer Battalion is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. Our 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will deploy, followed by our Combat Aviation Brigade and then our Sustainment Brigade. Additionally, we will deploy again 2-2 Heavy Equipment Transportation Detachment and the 24th Transportation Company.

Transformation: In the midst of these vital missions, we are changing. Fort Riley is a boom-town of construction and growth. Camp Funston is a full-up forward operating base; our new \$50 million dollar Division Headquarters is taking shape, and we are working hard on improving traffic flow. Custer Hill sports new barracks, unit offices and motor pools.

Both our Combat Aviation Brigade and our Sustainment Brigade are transforming into their new modular organization while preparing for deployment. 4th Brigade is now a full-up modular Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division

has been relieved from the Transition Team training mission to form a modularized Heavy Brigade Combat Team. This modularization comes 11 months earlier than anticipated. The Brigade will have about 3,800 Soldiers when fully formed. At some point in the future, the brigade will reflag as 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Finally, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division will stand up and convert to a modular infantry brigade combat team of about 3,400 Soldiers in April. Due to limited availability of existing facilities for the unit and family members at Fort Knox, Ky., the Army will initially form and train the brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. The Brigade is scheduled to deploy, return to Fort Hood, and then restation to its permanent home at Fort Knox in the FY09 time frame.

These are exciting times to be a Big Red One Soldier. But as we look to the future, we maintain our azimuth by looking to our past. In the glorious history of America's First Division, we find our strength, our character and our charter. We will not fail, and we will execute every mission – whether a combat patrol or training Transition Teams – in a way that makes our veterans proud.

We will meet the standards of those Big Red One Soldiers and leaders who served before us. We owe our BRO vets a great debt – those who served in WW I and II, Vietnam, the Cold War and Desert Storm – and we will never forget that they are the ones who gave real meaning to our Division motto:

No mission too difficult.

No sacrifice too great.

DUTY FIRST!

Biography of MG Carter F. Ham

MG Carter F. Ham served as an enlisted Soldier in the 82nd Airborne Division before being commissioned in the infantry as a Distinguished Military Graduate of John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1976.

Assignments have given him responsibilities as a training officer at Fort Knox, Ky.; recruiting area commander; support of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles; assistant inspector general; battalion operations officer and executive officer at National Training Center; advisor to a Saudi Arabian National Guard brigade; executive officer

for the Infantry School; battalion commander; commander of an infantry regiment; deputy commanding general for I Corps; commander of Multi National Brigade-North in Mosul; and deputy director for regional operations on the Joint Staff.

His military awards and decorations include three Defense Superior Service Medals, two Legions of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, six Meritorious Service Medals, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab.

Division CSM: anything's achievable

*Story by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

Upon joining the Army in 1975 as an armored reconnaissance specialist, a young PVT Fourhman never thought that Soldiers would one day be addressing him as “sergeant major.” Now as the senior-enlisted Soldier in the Army’s oldest continuously serving division, CSM John D. Fourhman is walking proof that, in the Army, what you can achieve is often greater than what you can conceive.

“If I can be the command sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division, anybody can,” Fourhman said with a laugh. “Anybody’s got a chance because I’m just a plain Soldier who always tries to do what’s right. In the senior position I’m the advocate for all of the enlisted Soldiers here.”

Though he’s a new face to most Fort Riley Soldiers, Fourhman has been with the Big Red One for nearly six years as a command sergeant major. His first command sergeant major position was for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, with whom he deployed to Kosovo.

Fourhman was then selected to be com-

mand sergeant major of the Division’s 3rd Brigade, which he took to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II from Vilseck, Germany, with then-COL Dana Pittard.

“Being a Soldier in combat and leading Soldiers in combat are probably the most stressful and rewarding times in a Soldier’s career,” said Fourhman. “Some of the bonds that you establish in combat, some of the experiences that you share with your Soldiers are unlike any other time in a career.”

“The memories last a lifetime, both good and bad, and you establish friendships,” added Fourhman. “All along in the Army you do that, but especially the Soldiers who you served with in combat ... will remain a part of your life the rest of your life.”

Upon Fourhman’s return to Germany, MG John Batiste, then the Division commander, selected Fourhman for the vacant position of Division command sergeant major – previously held by CSM Cory McCarty.

Fourhman remained a part of the command group with MG Kenneth Hunzeker, Division commander, at the headquarters in Wurzburg for nearly two years before the move to Riley.

“The whole transition was unlike any other [permanent change of station] move

that you make because you’re not just moving your immediately family ... you’re moving an entire division,” said Fourhman. “You’re moving your divisional family with you, so it’s kind of like a PCS move on steroids because you not only pack up your house but you pack up your office, your motor pool and everything the Division owns.”

Although Fourhman said it was an emotional time for him and many other Soldiers in the Division who left their German friends, he insisted that the move to Kansas produced friends as well.

“The leaders in Kansas really welcomed us with open arms,” said Fourhman. “The lieutenant governor’s military affairs council that Lt. Gov. John Moore formed really started the prep work for our arrival in Kansas long before we got here. The people there were really ready for us and really eased our move on this side.”

Thirty-one years after he started, Fourhman said there was never anything else he wanted to do but be a Soldier.

“From Day One, I don’t think I really thought about anything else,” said Fourhman. “It’s kind of funny because probably at about the 16 to 18 year mark, you run into people all the time who ask, jokingly, ‘What do you want to do when you grow up?’ It probably took about 16 to 18 years to figure out that I’m doing it. This is exactly what I’ve always wanted to do. So from that point on, I was really comfortable and never thought about doing anything else. The Army’s my life. I love it. I enjoy getting up every morning and coming to work. Something can be said for that.

“Just know from the time you’re a private E-1 that you can really achieve any goal that you set out to do in the Army – I mean in life in general – but especially in the military,” said Fourhman.

“When I came in as an E-1, I never thought that a number of years later I would be a first sergeant, and then a sergeant major, and then a command sergeant major and now the senior-enlisted person in the Division,” added Fourhman. “So work toward that. Anything’s achievable.”



Photo by SPC Stephen Baack

CSM John D. Fourhman (right), 1st Infantry Division command sergeant major, joins MG Kenneth Hunzeker, former 1st ID commanding general, to case the Division colors during the Division’s departure ceremony at Leighton Barracks’ Victory Park in Wurzburg, Germany, July 6.

HISTORY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



World War I

On the morning of Oct. 23, 1917, the first American shell of the war was sent screaming toward German lines by the First Division's Battery C, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. Two days later, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment suffered the first American casualties of WWI.

Division Soldiers successfully fought through Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Forest until the armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918. By the end of the war, the Division had suffered 22,668 casualties and boasted five Medal of Honor recipients.

World War II

Now known as the 1st Infantry Division, our Soldiers entered WWII as part of "Operation Torch" in North Africa. After a German surrender, the Division moved on to take Sicily in "Operation Husky," to capture Troina and open the Allied road to the straits of Messina.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Big Red One stormed Omaha Beach and captured a German blockhouse that became a command post named "Danger Forward." The Division

went on to liberate Liege, Belgium, and pushed to the German border, crossing through the Siegfried line.

The 1st ID continued into Germany and held the critical shoulder at the "Battle of the Bulge." On Jan. 15, 1945, the Division attacked and penetrated the Siegfried line for the second time, and took over the Remagen bridgehead. By the end of WWII, 1st ID Soldiers had won 20,752 medals and awards, including 16 Medals of Honor.

Operation Gyroscope

On Sept. 27, 1955, the Big Red One participated in the Army's first intercontinental, division-level exchange when it moved from Germany to Fort Riley, Kan., and swapped with the 10th Infantry Division.

With the easing of tensions in Europe, the Army looked for ways to rotate units so other divisions would take turns guarding the German border.

The new system was also expected to raise troop morale, increase combat effectiveness and lower the cost of maintaining the military establishment. The Big Red One remained at Fort Riley until 1996 when the headquarters moved its base of operations back to Germany.

Vietnam

On July 12, 1965, the 1st ID's 2nd Brigade became the first element of an infantry division to arrive in Vietnam. By November, the entire Division was operational and fought its first major battle near Bau Bang where 1st ID elements overcame a Viet Cong regiment.

Over the next five years, the Division proved instrumental in a variety of operations, both as a leading force and with other units, while mastering the use of helicopters and gaining significant experience in re-supply operations, medical evacuation and air assault tactics.

The Division suffered 20,770 casualties during this war. Eleven 1st ID Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor, and 11 Campaign Streamers and two Decorations were added to the Division colors.

Desert Storm

On Feb. 24, 1991, the Soldiers of the Big Red One spearheaded the armored attack and enabled VII Corps units to smash into Iraq. The Division broke through the enemy defensive lines and decimated the Iraqi 26th Infantry Division.

Continuing its attack into enemy territory, the 1st ID destroyed the Tawakalna Division

Republican Guard and the 37th Brigade of the 12th Iraqi Tank Division. Enemy losses included more than 40 tanks and 40 infantry fighting vehicles. The Division exploited its success and continued its pursuit of the demoralized Iraqi forces.

By Feb. 28, 1991, when the war was over, the Big Red One had fought through 260 km of enemy-held territory in 100 hours, destroying 550 enemy tanks, 480 armored personnel carriers and taking 11,400 prisoners.

Bosnia

Big Red One units played a key role in Bosnia and were among the first U.S. troops to move into the war-torn country. 1st ID took command of Task Force Eagle Nov. 10, 1996. Division Soldiers provided cover for the 1st Armored Division units returning to Germany and enforced the military aspects of the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

The 1st ID operated, together with National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, members of the Navy, Air Force and Marines, and soldiers from 12 allied nations, in the area known as Multi-National Division North.

On Oct. 22, 1997, 1st AD again assumed command of Multi-National Division North and Task Force Eagle.

Kosovo

The 1st ID formed Task Force Falcon Feb. 5, 1999, and deployed later that summer to Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian, a NATO-led peacekeeping force.

As Serbian forces left Kosovo in accordance with the Military Technical Agreement,

members of Task Force Falcon ensured compliance until withdrawal was complete June 20, when the focus shifted to enforcing demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army. In June 2000, the Division's responsibilities ended and the 1st ID returned to Germany.

Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II

In April 2003, Task Force 1-63 AR deployed from Germany to Iraq and attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade as its heavy force. TF 1-63 AR returned to Germany one year later.

In September 2003, the 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq where they were initially assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and later to the 1st Marine Division. The 1st BCT participated in many operations in the Sunni Triangle. It formed and trained the 60th Iraqi National Guard Brigade and sponsored more than \$23.8 million in civil projects in Al Anbar Province. The 1st BCT returned to Fort Riley in September 2004.

In the spring of 2004, the 1st ID from Germany deployed to Iraq as Task Force Danger. The Division returned to Germany in February and March of 2005.

Operation Gyroscope II

As part of the Army's restructuring throughout 2006, the 1st ID Headquarters and adjoining units moved to Fort Riley for the second time during "Operation Gyroscope II."

The Division made drastic changes

across the formation to meet the goals of the Army's transformation initiatives.

Subordinate units inactivated or converted to become part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, or prepared to return to Fort Riley with the 1st ID Headquarters.

Current Operations

In late 2005, 1st ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team received word they would soon head to Iraq, and train-up began in Germany during the winter. Despite delays in their deployment and a shift in command from 1st ID to 1st AD, the unit deployed to theater in support of OIF.

Aug. 1, 2006 marked the 1st ID's official return to Fort Riley from Germany after a 10-year absence. The transfer of authority from the 24th Infantry Division also brought forth a change of commanders for the Big Red One, from MG Kenneth Hunzeker to MG Carter Ham.

Since the implementation of Operation Gyroscope II, numerous changes have taken effect within Fort Riley and 1st ID including the formation and growth of a Combat Aviation Brigade, the build-up of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the transfer of responsibility for Transition Team training to 1st ID personnel.

The 4th IBCT, which began its lineage as an aviation brigade in 1986, activated Jan. 12, 2006, at Fort Riley. The activation of this self-sustaining brigade was a step in the transformation to widen the capabilities of the 1st ID and the Army.





MG Carter Ham, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, salutes the colors during the start of Fort Riley Day at Kansas State University's Bill Snyder Family Stadium Sept 9. Five-hundred Fort Riley Soldiers received free tickets to the Wildcats' second game of the season in appreciation from community and local business leaders.

K-State welcomes Big Red One

*Story and photos by
SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

Amid the sea of more than 50,000 football fans mostly dressed in purple for the Kansas State University Wildcats' second game of the season, perhaps the most visible spectators were those in the Army Combat Uniform.

About 500 Soldiers joined hardcore fans and casual spectators alike at Bill Snyder Family Stadium for Fort Riley Day to watch the Wildcats battle the Florida Atlantic Owls Sept. 9.

Preceding the game was a tailgate party catered and organized by volunteers from local businesses who provided food and prizes for free.

"The relationship between Fort Riley and the surrounding communities is truly something special, and it's evidenced by today

where you have commercial sponsors, you have the university, you have civic leaders, community leaders from all of the surrounding areas around Fort Riley coming together to support Soldiers and their families," said MG Carter Ham, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. "It's very, very powerful, very meaningful to us, and we're very appreciative."

A fly-over of Black Hawk and Apache helicopters marked the start of Fort Riley Day minutes before the coin toss. Spectators welcomed the Soldiers with applause and cheers, and watched quietly as the color guard made their way onto the field just before the game. The silence broke quickly as Willie the Wildcat, decked out in ACU's, rode out on the field in a Humvee waving a 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery flag.

Ham was joined by SSG Richard Gentry and SSG Brian Robbins, Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor who were both injured in

Iraq in separate attacks, on the field to observe the coin toss up close.

Though not every Soldier who attended was rooting for K-State, the game started off with a bang as Wildcat Justin McKinney returned the opening kickoff for an 88-yard touchdown—the first time a K-State player has done so since 1936, and the first of many successful K-State plays in the 45-0 shut-out.

The 1st Infantry Division Band took to the field during halftime to play alongside K-State band members, who welcomed the Division back home with a rendition of Coming to America. Halftime also featured a three-and-a-half-minute "Welcome Back" video featuring footage spanning the entire 1st ID history that had the crowd worked up into a near frenzy.

Fort Riley Soldiers were also on hand to unfurl a giant American flag over the center of the field for the standing, cheering crowd



Kansas State University Wildcats fans explode into ovation as Wildcat Justin McKinney returns the opening kickoff for an 88-yard touchdown – the first time a K-State player has done so since 1936. The kickoff return was the first of many successful K-State plays in the 45-0 shutout against the Florida Atlantic Owls during Fort Riley Day at Bill Snyder Family Stadium Sept 9.

– many of whom rarely get to see so many Soldiers up close.

“I think it has two effects,” said LTC (retired) Arthur DeGroat, director of military affairs at K-State. “I think, one: you can say it’s Fort Riley Day, but when all the 55,000 screaming fans get to see the actual Soldiers overhead in a helicopter or on the ground holding our colors ... They get to see the actual Soldiers. It’s amazing—a lot of people from Manhattan don’t get onto the fort and get to meet Soldiers ... so for them to meet and see you guys, I think is very, very powerful.

“Secondly, I’ve taken ROTC cadets on the field,” continued DeGroat. “I know from the Soldiers’ perspective, it feels nice too to look up and see 55,000 people cheering you. You’re really the heroes; it’s not the football players.”

Though rain and lightning forced a 30-minute delay during the first half, the game resumed with little effect to morale.

“It was nice because K-State’s so close,” said PFC Kevin Harrington, a combat engineer with Company A, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Com-

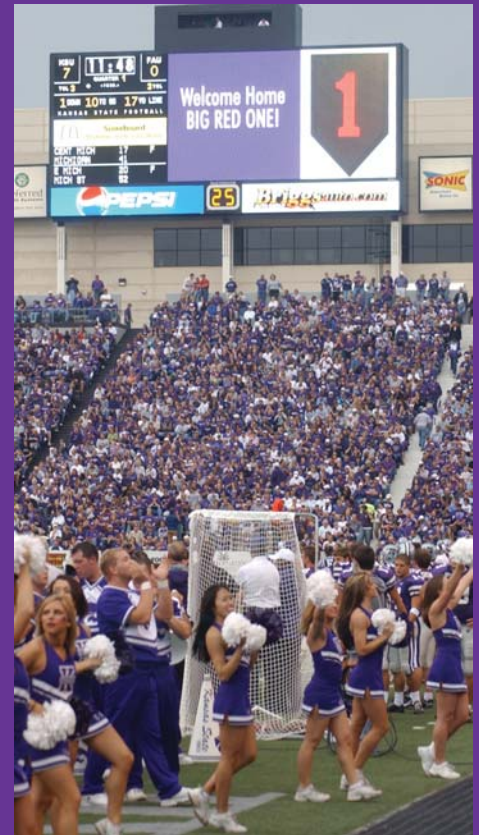
bat Team. “We all go to Manhattan a lot to hang out on weekends. It was nice that they thought of us, to include (us) into their program and come see a game.”

“I thought that was real cool,” added Harrington. “It’s college football, and you don’t get too many chances to get a free ticket to go see a Division One college game. It was awesome that they thought of us to do that.”

(Lower left) Fort Riley Soldiers watch the JumboTron to see Willie the Wildcat go through “Basic Training” on the stadium screen.

(One up from lower left) The Wildcats’ mascot, Willie the Wildcat, rides onto the field in a Humvee while dressed in an Army Combat Uniform.

(Right) K-State welcomes the 1st Infantry Division to Bill Snyder Family Stadium via JumboTron before the game.



Spectators at Bill Snyder Family Stadium stop to recognize the Soldiers in attendance during K-State Fort Riley Day there Sept. 9. Five-hundred Riley Soldiers received free tickets to the Wildcats’ second game of the season in appreciation from community and local business leaders.

Army Ad Campaign comes to Fort Riley

New Army commercials capture strength of Big Red One, Riley



*Story and photos by
PFC Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT PAO*

The lights, camera and action of Hollywood are normally a far cry from the day-to-day operations and training at Fort Riley, but some Soldiers here recently got to experience the glitz and glitter of tinseltown firsthand. That's because the majority of the filming for the new Army ad campaign took place at Fort Riley Sept. 25 to Oct. 5.



Members of Radical Media’s camera crew shoot footage for the new Army ad campaign at Marshall Army Airfield.

HSI Productions, Radical Media and Ami Vitalie filmed the new Army television, Internet and print advertisements, and these ads were released nationwide Nov. 9.

The campaign slogan is “Army Strong,” a phrase intended to convey the inner strength the Army instills in each of its Soldiers. And the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division were chosen by high-ranking Army officials to showcase this strength to the world via the new ad campaign.

“Army strong is meant to portray the strength personified by every U.S. Army Soldier – past, present and future,” said LTC Christian Kubik, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Officer. “It is a commitment to serve and an opportunity to transform young Americans into powerful individuals who are mentally, emotionally and physically capable of facing any adversity that comes their way.”

The Hollywood production companies worked with Big Red One Soldiers on a daily basis during the filming and production.

SGT James Jamerson, a radio operator assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, said he was excited to have the opportunity to participate in the campaign.

“It was a good experience for me, and I really enjoyed it,” he said. “Someday somebody might see the ad, and it’ll inspire them to join the Army.”

Jamerson said he found it interesting to see the film crews in action, and the film crews said they felt the same way.

“It’s nice to work with a group that knows what they’re doing,” said Ian Callum, second assistant director with HSI Productions. “Usually when we work with this many people, we just don’t have the plans in place, but it’s been easy to move things here.”

Before the crews came to Fort Riley, they received sketches of what the advertisements would consist of.

“I got a picture of the story boards and saw that we’d be working with the troops – playing with helicopters and Humvees,” Callum said. “I was just excited to be out here and be a part of it – to get to

see the Army up close and personal.”

While he was excited to get to work on this project, Callum said he knew there would be problems with organizing as many people as the endeavor would require, but he said the shoot went well.

The crew worked many long hours supporting the daunting task of logistically coordinating all aspects of the two-week production – the Soldiers, weapons, helicopters and Humvees as well as the cameras, lighting and other production equipment, Callum said. Despite this logistical nightmare, Callum said the coordination between the Army and HSI Productions went very well.

“It’s been a really good experience, and we’re all getting along very well,” Callum said of the Fort Riley shot “Army Strong” production.

“At Fort Riley, this strength manifests itself not only in our Soldiers, but in our family members and our civilian work force as well.” Kubik said. “Everyday our community stands together to accomplish our mission.

“There is no force in the world greater than the U.S. Army. And there is nothing stronger at Fort Riley than the Big Red One community, working hand-in-hand to train and deploy transition teams to Iraq and Afghanistan, sustain the installation, and provide combat-ready forces in support of the defense of this great nation,” said Kubik.



A makeup artist with Radical Media prepares PFC Andrew Todhunter, a scout sniper with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment, for an interview during filming at Fort Riley’s Training Area 6.



Members of the Old Guard fold the flag over the casket of PVT Francis Lupo, a First Division Soldier who was listed as Missing in Action during WWI, during his burial ceremony Sept. 26 at Arlington National Cemetery.

‘First Division’ Soldier laid to rest

*Story and photos by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army has come one step closer in bringing home its missing Soldiers and confirming to the world that the United States never forgets its missing and fallen servicemembers.

Enter PVT Francis Lupo, a Soldier with Company E, 18th Infantry Regiment, First Division. Official records state he was reported Missing in Action July 21, 1918, during the first French-American multi-divisional attack near Soissons, France, during what would later come to be known as the Second Battle of the Marne. No trace of Lupo was found. That is, until three years ago.

Fast forward 85 years to 2003. While working on a conservation project, a French archaeologist found remains near the town of Ploisy south of Soissons. The archaeologist turned the remains over to the U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity – Europe, which trans-

ferred them to a research team from the Joint Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action Accounting Command. After two years of investigation, JPAC researchers at the Central Identification Laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, concluded they were indeed examining Lupo’s remains.

That conclusion marks the first identification of a Missing-in-Action U.S. servicemember from World War I, according to the Pentagon’s Prisoner-of-War/Missing Personnel Office, and it stands as a new chapter in Big Red One history.

“It’s kind of a great news story that we had the opportunity to recover one of our own,” said CSM John Fourhman, Division command sergeant major. “You can respectfully celebrate the recovery of his body and celebrate the contributions that he made to the Division during his time because he died in battle just over a year after the Division was formed. So, it’s very meaningful to the history of the Division.”

Lupo was laid to rest Sept. 26 at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., after a service at the Fort Myer Post Chapel. Niece Rachel Kleislinger, now 73, attended the burial and Chapel services despite having never met her uncle Francis – who died more than 15 years before she was born.

“My uncle died for his country doing what he felt was the right thing,” said Kleislinger, whose family had talked little of Francis because the subject was too painful for her grandmother.

“I am proud of my uncle and honored to be here representing my family,” she added.

Robert Callahan, vice president for the 18th Infantry Regiment Association and a member of the regiment’s 2nd Battalion from 1966 to 1967, found out about the news from the association’s historian via email.

“I was surprised because the email stated that he was a World War I veteran, and I thought it was an error,” said Callahan, who attended the funeral. “I emailed him back, told him I got the information and that he gave me the wrong era, the wrong war.”

Callahan said he was quite surprised when he discovered the message was actually correct, and he was gratified that someone had found Lupo’s remains.

“I think it gives [servicemembers] a sense of security knowing that if they do fall in battle, that they won’t be left or forgotten about – that the military will take care of them,” he added. “That’s always good to know.”

“Every Soldier’s important and every Soldier needs to know that they have the Army and the nation behind them,” said Fourhman, who also attended the funeral. “This is a story that could only be told in the United States. To my knowledge and to my beliefs, the United States is the only country that aggressively pursues recovering Soldiers lost in combat – especially 88 years later.”

One Soldier now serving in the 18th Infantry Regiment who attended the funeral agreed.

“I think this hammers the point home that our Warrior Ethos are always carried out, and no Soldier is left behind,” said SGT Max Webster, a Bradley mechanic with Company D, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment in Schweinfurt, Germany. “From what I’ve seen here and the information we’ve been given, I feel that every means possible is taken to find every Soldier who we’ve lost over the course of time.”

Lupo’s name appears on the Tablets of the Missing at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the WWI Victory Medal with three Battle Clasps.

Members of the Old Guard render honors immediately after the Chapel service for PVT Francis Lupo, a 1st First Division Soldier who was listed as Missing in Action during WWI, Sept. 26 at Fort Myer just outside Arlington National Cemetery. Before they could be identified, Lupo’s remains were examined for more than two years after being recovered near Soissons, France, in 2003.



Guests observe the funeral of PVT Francis Lupo Sept. 26 at Arlington National Cemetery. Distinguished attendees included CSM John Fourhman, Division command sergeant major; Thomas G. Rhame and Gordon R. Sullivan, President and Vice President of the Society of the First Infantry Division respectively; and three French soldiers.



1st Infantry Division Transfer of Authority



Photo by April Blackmon

The uncased 1st Infantry Division colors (front right) and colors of its subordinate units whip in the wind at the Aug. 1 ceremony transferring authority for Fort Riley from the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) to the Big Red One.

*Story by Anna Morelock
Editor, Fort Riley Post*

MG Carter Ham first came to Fort Riley in 1975 as an ROTC cadet. He didn't see much of main post then and said he didn't recall ever being invited to the general's house. Now, just over 30 years later, that house is his.

Ham took command of Fort Riley and of the oldest division in the Army, the "Big Red One," in a ceremony Aug. 1 on Cavalry Parade Field.

The ceremony marked the return of the 1st Infantry Division to Fort Riley from Germany after a 10-year absence. Ham accepted the Division's colors from LTG Raymond Odierno, commanding general of III Corps, the 1st ID's higher headquarters. MG Kenneth Hunzeker, who brought the Division back from Germany, relinquished command of the renowned fighting Division.

The transfer of authority from the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) to the 1st ID included inactivation of the "Victory Division" and disappearance of the Taro Leaf patch its



Photo by April Blackmon

Members of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard re-enact a cavalry charge while the 1st Infantry Division band plays Gerry Owen to conclude the transfer of authority ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field Aug. 1.



Photo by April Blackmon

Hardy (front left) and CSM Marvel Dean (front second from left) finish casing the colors of the inactivated 24th ID (Mech) while MG Kenneth Hunzeker (front second from right) and CSM John Fourhman (front right) finish uncasing the 1st ID colors Aug. 1 on Cavalry Parade Field. Hunzeker later relinquished command of the Division to MG Carter Ham. Hardy left his post as 24th ID's (Mech) commanding general to become deputy commanding general of Third Army and U.S. Army Forces Central Command in Kuwait.

Soldiers wore on their left shoulders while serving with the 24th ID (Mech) at Fort Riley.

Ceremony marks 'historic day'

"It's really a historic day," said Bill McKale, historian and Fort Riley museum director, "not only for the Division but for Fort Riley, the Army, for Kansas and for the nation."

The ceremony started with a bang as the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, ceremonial half section fired a replica of an 1853 cannon after a welcome for the many dignitaries, Soldiers and community members attending the historic event.

The 1st ID band walked the field, playing for its first time in a ceremony since arriving on post, and the official party was welcomed by a 15-gun salute provided by light towed howitzer crews of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, one of the newest subordinate units of the Big Red One.

1SG Jason Scott of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard rode Traveler to the front of the VIP section to deliver roses to the wives of the outgoing commanding generals, MG Dennis Hardy, 24th ID

(Mech), and Hunzeker. Ceremonial artillery round canisters were then presented to Hardy, Hunzeker and Ham.

The half-track provided by the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, carried the official party – Hardy, Ham, Hunzeker and Odierno – as they inspected the formed Soldiers representing 1st ID and other units stationed at Fort Riley.

After the unit color bearers massed in front of the reviewing stand and the national anthem played, the 24th ID (Mech) colors were cased and the Big Red One colors were unfurled to signal the return of the Big Red One to Fort Riley.

"It's a wonderful day, a great moment of celebration," said U.S. Rep. Jim Ryun (R-Kan.) after the ceremony. The ceremony and return of the Big Red One to Kansas "represents a lot of work by an awful lot of people," he said. It represents a happy ending with the Big Red One returning, he added.

Outgoing commander thanks Soldiers

Hardy bade farewell by thanking the Soldiers standing before him on the field and the ones they represented who weren't in

attendance. He recalled his fond memories of Fort Riley, including his pride in the Soldiers he's seen go to war and the ones he's welcomed home.

"Diane and I will be forever proud, very proud of all that you've accomplished," he told the troops.

Hunzeker reintroduced the Big Red One to Kansas with a loud "hooah," bringing applause and cheers from the crowd.

"Today we celebrate a significant milestone in the history of our great Division," he said. "I've been known to say the sun always shines on the Big Red One, and thank goodness the weather here in Kansas allows me to continue that tradition."

The day may have been bittersweet for the outgoing commanders, Ham joked, but it was anything but bittersweet for him. "I can't tell you what it means to look across that field and see the Big Red One home," he said.

During a press conference after the ceremony, Ham said it was a little bit intimidating to be the commanding general of the 1st ID.

"I recognize the special legacy and heritage of this Division," he said. "There are heroes from the very start in 1917, the first battles in 1918, throughout World War I,



Photo by Gary Skidmore

MG Carter Ham, commanding general, 1st ID and Fort Riley, talks with news media representatives Aug. 1 at Riley's Conference Center after the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field.

World War II, in Vietnam and most recently two times in Iraq. So, I understand that there is a tremendous legacy and heritage in this very special Division. The men and women who have come before us have set a very, very high standard.”

Ham said that it was a dream come true for him to be able to come to Fort Riley and rejoin the 1st ID.

“As we learned a little bit about this new assignment, one of the things that came through loud and clear from all the folks that I talked to is that there is a very special relationship between the Soldiers and families of Fort Riley and the local communities,” he said.

Soldiers often return to Fort Riley and say that their best days in the Army were spent here, McKale said. Over the next five to 10 years, McKale predicted Fort Riley will see many leaders come through the ranks of the Big Red One who will go on to make names for themselves and for the Army at a national level.

“You look at the 1st ID and you look at the leaders who have come through its ranks, enlisted and officer, who have gone on to important leadership positions Army-wide, and I think that we’re really on the cusp of a very historic point.”

Those future leaders “will have got their seasoning, so to speak, here at Fort Riley; so they’re always going to have a little bit of Kansas that they’re going to take away with them,” he said. “Most of the guys who serve here have a very warm spot for this post because of its history and traditions.”

Ham said Fort Riley’s relationship with its surrounding communities was unlike anything he’d seen in his 30 years of service. “This closeness between the community and the military community is truly something very, very special, and I look forward to being a part of that,” he said. “We will be good neighbors and good stewards.”

Ham also spoke about the Big Red One’s upcoming mission now that it has moved back to Fort Riley.

The most important thing for the Division now is to form, train and prepare Transition Teams to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

“That is absolutely an essential part of our strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan to help those nations’ security forces, both military and civilian police, become better each and every day,” he said.

“We’ve got to get the training right and the support right here so they’re able to accomplish that mission.”

“It was awe inspiring to see that wonderful formation, all those great Soldiers, their commanders, first sergeants, the command sergeants major,” Ham said of the ceremony.

“It was a wonderful ceremony and a tremendous welcome for us to come here to Fort Riley and a most appropriate way to say thanks and farewell to MG and Mrs. Hardy, who have been such integral parts of this community for the past three years,” he added.

2nd BCT arrives in Baghdad, Iraq

Story by SGT Lance Wail

Staff Writer, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st ID

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The arrival of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, to the Multi-National Division – Baghdad area of operation during the second and third week of October marked the beginning of a deployment for a brigade – and the end for another.

Based out of Schweinfurt, Germany, the Soldiers of the 2nd BCT, 1st ID, arrived in Baghdad after several months of rigorous training and preparations for this deployment.

“The Dagger Brigade is the finest trained organization I have ever been a part of. We are represented by well-trained warriors and leaders,” said COL J. B. Burton, commander, 2nd BCT. “We are well equipped and competent to complete the mission.”

Continuing to work with the Iraqi army and Iraqi police to remove any threats will be one of the main focuses of the incoming brigade.

“Our maintaining the relationship that 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, has established is important,” explained Burton, in reference to 2nd BCT’s goal. The team must “continue to show pride, discipline and dignity that we display in everything we do as a brigade combat team.”

The movement from Kuwait to Iraq was simply the next step in a mission that the brigade has been preparing for.



SPC Joshua Ramey

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, exit from the ramp of an Air Force C-17 onto the flight line at Baghdad International Airport after a flight from Kuwait Oct. 19.

“I am looking forward to coming out here and getting the experience,” said SPC Brian Hudock, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

The brigade combat team spent approximately five weeks training in Kuwait prior to the move up to Baghdad.

“We hit the ground at Camp Buehring running, and we will keep going while we are here,” said CPT James Egan, HHB commander.

“I am glad to be in Iraq,” said SGT Kelly Bandy, of HHB’s Personnel Security Detachment, after his experience in Kuwait.

COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

A NEW KIND OF AVIATION UNIT CONTINUES TO GROW

Story by *SGT Nicole Clarke*
CAB PAO

While the 1st Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade may be new to the Division and Fort Riley, its role is also new to the entire Army.

The brigade officially stood up and became part of the Division Aug. 1 during a

transfer of authority ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field on post.

The Combat Aviation Brigade is a new kind of aviation brigade, different from the aviation unit that left post in 1996, said COL Bob Johnson, CAB commander.

With a new kind of aviation brigade comes key differences.

The CAB is different in that it is larger

and can accomplish any mission tasked to aviation: attack, lift, assault and observation, said Chief Warrant Officer Terry Zimmerman, tactical operations and flight operations officer for the CAB.

"Being as large as we are, we can afford the ground-maneuver commander the ability to project a large amount of his force at one time," said Zimmerman.

The CAB brings with it the ability to task-organize multiple battalion-sized organizations and support them each with a reduced logistical footprint in multiple areas of operations, said MAJ William Huff, CAB operations officer.

"The command-and-control piece of it is that we are able to synchronize aviation support more effectively than previous in support of the ground unit," said Huff.

Another difference is that they are capable of maintaining self-sustainable operations.

"The Combat Aviation Brigade can sustain itself in the fact that we can move all the supplies needed to support the Soldiers of the CAB, deliver all the parts needed to fix and maintain our helicopters, move Soldiers from the CAB all over the battlefield to repair or recover our aircraft," said Zimmerman.

"Not only do our crew members maintain our aircraft, they pull guard duty, run convoys and are prepared to conduct any number of missions should they arise at any time," said Zimmerman.

When the Soldiers of the brigade's advance party arrived to post in early May, they had to build the CAB from the ground up.

"Arriving here in the first part of May as the ADVON was a bit like being the first one to a fire with no equipment," said Zimmerman. "We had to hustle to get the systems in place as we were moving the first aircraft within 30 days. But the Soldiers we had were outstanding, and the command understood exactly what we were going through.

"As always, mission accomplishment was first and foremost on our minds," added Zimmerman. "We met the ships in Beaumont, Texas, and transported all 29 UH-60L Black Hawks to Fort Riley on schedule. The crews then set about setting up their lives in the local area. Most took a few days, but we had some challenges with getting everyone set



Photo by Anna Morelock

SGT David Muir (top) covers the nose of an Apache helicopter as SPC Shawn Syverson (left) and SPC John Waters help tie it down May 22. Nine aircraft, which are part of Fort Riley's new Combat Aviation Brigade, arrived that afternoon.



Photo by SGT Nicole Clarke

A CH-47 Chinook Helicopter taxis on the ramp before coming to a complete stop in its parking spot.

up – but as always, Soldiers took the mission in hand and were back to work within the prescribed time.

“The spouses went about their mission of registering children in schools and getting life on track on the home front, while the Soldiers and officers went about getting the aircraft ready to support the 1st Infantry Division and its mission,” said Zimmerman.

The CAB contains a headquarters ele-

ment, an attack battalion (1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment) a general support aviation battalion (2nd Battalion, 1st Avn. Regt.), an air assault battalion (3rd Battalion, 1st Avn. Regt.) and a logistical aviation support battalion (601st ASB) and has a reconnaissance squadron assigned to them out of Fort Carson (1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment).

The brigade can find, fix and kill the enemy in any number of ways, said Zimmerman.

The CAB has attack, lift, heavy-lift and reconnaissance aircraft under the control of the brigade commander.

The CAB supports both the Division and its brigade combat teams as well.

“The Combat Aviation Brigade allows the Division commander the ability to move, shoot and observe the entire battlefield in real time,” said Zimmerman.

“What the CAB brings to the 1st Infantry Division is the capability to integrate air and ground operations in order to train and support the brigade combat teams,” said Huff.

The CAB enhances the air-assault capability of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, while the General Support Aviation Battalion brings Chinooks in to support the forward support battalions and main support battalions with re-supply operations, said Huff.

The CABs overall mission is to deploy on order to an area of operations and conduct aviation operations in support of its designated headquarters.

Along with the overall mission is the mission of each battalion.

The mission of 1st Bn., 1st Avn Regt. is to conduct close-combat attacks with ground elements, while the regiment’s 2nd Battalion conducts air-traffic services, aerial command and control, logistical re-supply and medical evacuation operations. The 3rd Battalion provides capabilities to Fort Riley’s assault combat arms battalions and task forces.

The mission of the 601st ASB is to provide intermediate maintenance for all aircraft



Photo by April Blackmon

Three of the first nine Apache helicopters that have become part of the Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Riley land at Marshall Army Airfield May 22. Nine aircraft arrived that day, the first of more than 100 helicopters that will form the new brigade.



Photo by April Blackmon

Apache helicopter crews prepare to exit their aircraft soon after they touched down on Fort Riley’s Marshall Army Airfield May 22.

and communications for the brigade, while the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment conducts reconnaissance and security operations.

The Combat Aviation Brigade will only continue to expand at Fort Riley, said Zimmerman. Like any unit in the Army that is brand new, The CAB will keep expanding until it reaches its projected strength of approximately 2,700 Soldiers, 116 aircraft, and all of the support equipment that goes with it.

“We will support other units here on post that are deploying with aviation integration with things like close combat attacks, casualty evacuation training, and also sling-load training,” said Huff.

Along with supporting other units on post, the CAB is slated to train for their rotations this year to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

“We will do a gunnery operation in March with Apaches and some Black Hawks,” said Huff. “During the next quarter we will be training up for JRTC and NTC and then during

the third quarter we will be going to JRTC and NTC.”

To maintain a battle-ready status, the units in the CAB launch aircraft daily for individual and collective crew training, said Huff. That training enhances the pilot and crew chief readiness level.

“When we are able, we try to integrate with the ground elements as much as possible,” said Huff.

A pilot from 3rd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt. echoed Huff in regards to working with ground troops.

“We’ll train with the infantry units how to work around the aircraft, load the aircraft and incorporate (the aviation brigade) into their mission so they can use us when they’re out in the

field,” said Chief Warrant Officer Gene Montanaro, Black Hawk pilot, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt.

SFC Donald Powers, a flight engineer with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., conducts checks on the CH-47 Chinook Helicopter and keeps communications with the pilots after landing the Chinook Oct. 20, at Marshall Army Field on Post.



Photo by SGT Nicole Clarke

DISCOM converts to Sustainment Brigade

Transformation to result in more modular, more robust brigade

*Story by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

Over the past year in Germany, the Big Red One's Division Support Command (DISCOM) has had its hands full preparing and supporting other units within the 1st Infantry Division footprint for transformation, deployment, inactivation and redeployment. Now that the DISCOM Headquarters is at Fort Riley, it's their turn to transform.

The Army's recent push for a modular force is already imposing noticeable changes on the Division's logistical core, which, by mid-February, is slated to turn into Fort Riley's 1st Sustainment Brigade. The unit will have a new patch, crest, guidon, task organization and mission.

Before DISCOM's departure from Germany, its subordinate battalions either shifted themselves under the command and control of separate brigade combat teams, or simply inactivated and sidestepped the return to Riley. The remaining element of DISCOM – the headquarters – was the only part to return.

Since arriving stateside with about 20 percent of its authorized personnel – just fewer than 50 people – the DISCOM HQ is already building toward the new structure and the modified table of organization and equipment, said COL Kevin O'Connell, DISCOM commander.

"Previously we had command and control over all the support battalions in the Division," explained O'Connell. "With modularity, the support battalions are now under the direct command and control of their brigade combat teams, so we [will be] a modular headquarters that can unplug from Fort Riley and the Big Red One, deploy to a theater, and assume command and control of five to seven

combat sustainment support battalions from across the Army."

These combat sustainment support battalions could be from the active force, the reserve component, and multiple companies from different states or all over the world, according to O'Connell.

With the transformation into that modular role, the mission of DISCOM is also now in flux. While its role in Germany entailed supply, maintenance, transportation and medical support to 1st ID, the DISCOM has now refocused its efforts on providing materiel management for the Division and Fort Riley.

"I'm still the senior logistician on Fort Riley," said O'Connell. "I talk frequently to what will be called the brigade support battalion commanders here on post, even though they don't work for me. I coordinate with them and synchronize and help anyway we can to facilitate them performing their mission for their brigade combat teams. It's now more a synchronization effort than a command-and-control effort in Garrison at Fort Riley."

More specifically, DISCOM helps with the Fort Riley training mission by acquiring equipment for units on post, expediting repair parts for that equipment, turning in excess equipment, overseeing property book management and other functions, in what is now more of a managerial mode than one of execution, said O'Connell.

By all accounts, the transition is expected to result in a larger personnel base and a far more robust headquarters structure.

With new components becoming a part of the brigade, such as legal, finance and signal, the ways in which the new structure and personnel base will support the Division – or any other division – is still a challenge as the integration of new Soldiers alters their operation.

"Going through the transformation, we do not have a blue book, a guide or a checklist ... so we're going in this uncharted territory," said CSM Frank Cardoza, brigade command sergeant major. "We're just kind of feeling out what our responsibilities are."

According to Cardoza, the senior members of DISCOM will most likely be feeling the effects of conversion more dramatically than the junior enlisted Soldiers.

"I don't think it would drastically impact them because they would get the task at hand and complete that task," said Cardoza. "That's what they've learned through all their [Noncommissioned Officer Educational System schools] and [Advanced Individual Training] anyway ... It's a big change in the mindset of how we operate for our senior noncommissioned officers, to include our officers.

"We'll probably find that in the end our mission and our respon-



sibilities to any division, not any particular division per se, will probably have increased more so than the DISCOM previously had,” added Cardoza.

“We’ve got a great nucleus of people that we brought from Germany with us, and we’re building around that nucleus that’s already been established as the continuity, as we get new people and incorporate them into the team,” said O’Connell. “We just need to get the full complement of people, but I feel good about that.”

Like many other brigades across the Army, this future Sustainment Brigade is ramping up for a possible deployment. When the brigade does deploy this year, it will be to fulfill its role as a modular theater-distribution logistics core for its yet-to-be-determined subordinate units downrange.

Though DISCOM is set to deploy from a modularity standpoint, the unit also has a rich history of combat with the rest of the 1st ID dating back to World War I. In addition, leaders within DISCOM acknowledge the importance of logistics on the battlefield.

Key leaders of DISCOM took staff rides to France last year and the year before to better learn how and why their predecessors during WWI and WWII made important decisions in the heat of battle, and how they led their own Soldiers through combat – mainly from a logistics standpoint.

“The big thing that most of our officers, senior NCOs and junior NCOs learned were the lessons of always being innovative, agile, and responsive,” said LTC Hielke Welling, the DISCOM Support Operations Officer. “There were things that were happening on the battlefield that caused logisticians to develop solutions to overcome both natural and man-made obstacles. It was mostly about



being innovative ... You’ve got to anticipate so the Warfighter never has to change their scheme of maneuver or fails to accomplish their mission due to a lack of resources.

“That kind of heritage is what we’re taking forward with the new Sustainment Brigade,” added Welling. “We’re always going to be flexible, creative, and power-project logistics anywhere that the Army needs it.”

“We’re very proud to be in the 11D,” said O’Connell. “Now with this modularity effort, we embrace that. We recognize that as part of change. It’s going to be tough to take the 11D patch off, but that’s part of forward progress for the Army. We are going to have a patch that still has elements of, and is associated with, the Big Red One even though we’re now going to be a separate brigade. We embrace the future as logistics modularity moves forward as part of the entire Army modularity plan.”

History of the Division Support Command

The 1st Infantry Division Support Command traces its origins to World War I, where in 1917, the Division “trains” were formed to support the newly formed 1st ID.

Support battalions deployed back to Europe to support the Big Red One during World War II, and participated in all eight campaigns credited to 1st ID. In 1955, the Division and its support organizations returned to Fort Riley, and those supporting units were officially redesignated as the Division Support Command in 1957.

In 1965, DISCOM deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam, supporting the Division in all 11 campaigns.

After Vietnam, the Division Materiel Management Center (DMMC) was established, and the finance and personnel services companies (PSC) were reorganized into battalion commands. In

1990, DISCOM deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Storm.

In 1996, DISCOM relocated once again to Germany from Fort Riley with the 101st FSB at Fort Riley, the 201st FSB in Vilseck, Germany, the 299th FSB in Schweinfurt, the 601st ASB in Katterbach, the 701st MSB in Kitzingen, and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, also in Kitzingen.

In 2003, the DISCOM deployed to Turkey in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I while simultaneously supporting peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

In 2004, the DISCOM deployed to Southwest Asia in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Finally, in August 2006 the DISCOM moved back to Fort Riley, Kansas, with the 1st ID. (History provided courtesy of DISCOM)





4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

**Story and photos by SFC Robert Timmons
4th IBCT PAO NCOIC**

“The past few months of rigorous training have brought us closer together, made us mentally and physically stronger and have made us better prepared for combat operations,” said PFC Peterson, with Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



Since its activation in January, the 4th IBCT, 1st Infantry Division has been training hard and realistically to prepare itself for deployment. Recently, the Brigade shipped its vehicles and equipment to Fort Irwin, Calif., for a National Training Center rotation.

“We had the opportunity to get training that we can’t get anywhere else,” said LTC James Crider, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment commander. “We had the opportunity to go and we are taking advantage of it. It will be worth it. We will be a whole different unit when we get back.”

He said that roughly 75 percent of Brigade Soldiers going to NTC will be going there for the first time, and that the training, “puts us in a position that if called upon we will be ready.”

Using the “crawl, walk, run” method, the brigade has continually intensified training during the year.

“I personally think it has gone very well – we’ve conducted aggressive training,” said COL Ricky Gibbs, 4th IBCT commander, in an interview with the Junction City, Kan., *Daily Union*. “We started with teaching Soldiers individual skills like marksmanship, how to properly wear a ruck, first aid and all the things that an individual must know and execute to be effective. From there, we graduated to squad-level training, followed by platoon training, where you have a 40-man element and then training companies. We’ve done a lot of good, hard training in a relatively short amount of time.”

The Dragon Brigade uses innovative training methods and more conventional means to get its troopers up to speed quickly – getting them ready for any mission it receives.

In July, the 1-4 Cav. Regt. conducted external evaluations at the Smoky Hills National Guard training area, getting away from Fort Riley to operate in a more expansive setting.

The scouts were executing various combat skills during the evaluations to determine the unit’s strengths and weaknesses, and to

(Left) PVT Brian Tritt, Btry. A, 2nd Bn., 32nd FA, steadies the fuse on a 105mm round while other members of his team scramble to prepare more shells for firing June 20. Tritt’s gun fired the first artillery round of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

build the team.

“Today I’m hoping to see a lot of learning,” said 2LT Robert Humphrey, platoon leader, before his unit took to the dusty trails July 27. “So when we return to Fort Riley we know what we need to work on.”

Like most of the 4th IBCT, the 1-4 Cav. Regt. contains a mixture of the combat-tested and those troops fresh out of school.

“The [noncommissioned officer] leadership has been outstanding,” said Humphrey. “They understand that everyone here is new. My platoon sergeant and NCOs are helping to mentor me and at the same time mentor the rest of the unit towards a common goal. I see a lot of coming together with the entire troop I’m in.

“Being out in the field with the platoon really brings the guys together,” he added. “They see each others’ strengths and weaknesses and learn how to fill in the gaps.”

On Sept. 11, the 1-28 Inf. Regt. Black Lions hosted a group of journalism students as media role-players.

A platoon leader said he liked meeting with the students personally.

“When in college, I experienced a lot of students with different views and I think it is great to allow people of all sorts on post – so we can have face-to-face contact,” said 2LT William Perry, platoon leader with Company C. “I would actually like to see a lot more students come here because the more face time we get with the rest

of the American population, the more they will get to know us. They will see that we are really devoted and we really love our jobs.”

2LT Melissa Brasko, a distribution platoon leader with Company F, 610th Brigade

Support Battalion and a convoy commander during a live-fire exercise, said she liked the combination of training and camaraderie.

“It’s important that our guys get out on the road and learn what we would be doing in theater,” she added.

Soldiers of the Dragon Brigade stress realistic training, but also strive to maintain a strong physical regimen using the Modern Army Combatives program.

ILT Brent Warren, with 1-4 Cav. Regt., said after a combatives tournament, “[It] was a huge success because it not only matched troopers against each other in a physically exhausting match, but it motivated troopers to take an active part in the Modern Army



A 1st Bn., 28th Inf., Soldier guards weapons uncovered during the battalion’s CALFEX “attack” against a mock Iraqi village at Fort Riley.



A machine gunner with Company B, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment rushes with his M240B machine gun into position as his fire team prepares to shift fire during the 4th IBCT Field Training Exercise/Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise in early October.



SPC Robert Bradford, Company A, 4-1 Brigade Special Troops Battalion, watches intently as his team prepares to assault a suspected insurgent stronghold during the battalion's Family Day event May 13 at Forsyth Village.

Combatives Program that is not only great physical training but also reflects the Warrior Ethos and Spirit.”

Always on the cutting edge of training, the Brigade sent its senior noncommissioned officer leadership to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to attend the Senior Leaders Advanced Urban Breaching Exercise held by the Sapper School.

At the course, the NCOs learned advanced breaching techniques including how to create field-expedient breaching charges, dust-initiator charges and explosives using fuel.

Not only does the brigade strive to keep its NCOs up-to-date on new training, it has also empowered its junior-enlisted Soldiers with training usually reserved for higher ranks.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment had four privates graduate from the Sniper School at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark., while six Soldiers graduated from the mortar course at Fort Benning, Ga. – both normally reserved for sergeants and above.

“It was a great opportunity,” said PVT Joshua Lehman who graduated the Infantry Mortar Leadership Course, “to go to school with officers and noncommissioned officers. I had NCOs tell me

they were waiting years and years to go and here we have been in the Army like nine months.”

The 4-1 Brigade Special Troops Battalion assaulted a mock village during its Family Day May 13, allowing family members to witness their troopers first-hand.

“Training during a Family Day makes it easier on family members, said SPC Lamarr Anderson, a combat engineer with Company A, 4-1 BSTB. “It makes it easier because they can see what is going on while we are deployed to Iraq and Kuwait. When I was deployed my wife really didn’t know what was going on. It’s better that she can see it first hand and she can feel more comfortable about what we are doing.”

With the brigade nearing 100 percent strength, it was assigned a training rotation at NTC, allowing it to grow as fast as possible in a short time.

Leading a newly formed brigade is unique, Gibbs said.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” the brigade commander said. “Most units you go to already have someone else’s footprint, so when you look at how this unit comes out, it will be nobody’s fault but my own. The hardest job is starting from scratch: how do you want it done? You develop the training plan, but at the same time, you still have to do other things that higher headquarters needs you to do. You can’t say ‘I don’t have the equipment or people I need to accomplish the mission.’ Nobody wants to hear that. So, we all have to, as leaders, be imaginative, innovative, flexible and positive in our approach to how we train our Soldiers and accomplish our missions. It’s always a challenge, but a rewarding one.”



A Black Lion with Company C, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment rushes to the extraction point moments after seizing an enemy trench line. During that engagement, journalism students from Kansas State University watched the action, then asked questions as media role players.

The Devil Brigade

1st Brigade's mission shifts to the future

*Story by SPC Shaina Howard
Staff Writer, 1st ID PAO*

The 1st Infantry Division's 1st Brigade stands as one of the oldest and most historic brigades in the Army, and yet the Devil Brigade has stayed in step with the needs of the modern battlefield since its inception.

From World War I, Vietnam, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 1st Bde. has participated in some prominent campaigns – the most notable of which include the Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Picardy, Tet Counteroffensive and the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait.

Since Desert Storm, the “Devil Brigade” has participated in numerous rotations to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.,

and deployments to Bosnia, Kuwait and to Korea to participate in a 2nd Infantry Division exercise.

In July of 2003, 1st Bde. was alerted of their deployment to the Iraq Theater of Operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For 12 months, the brigade's offensive operations killed 541 insurgents, wounded 101 more, and detained more than 2,081 enemy fighters, including the capture of 18 High Value Targets and 20 foreign fighters. The brigade responded to hundreds of small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks, as well as more than 550 improvised explosive device attacks. In order to disrupt the enemy's ability to conduct operations, the brigade captured 41 heavy machine guns, 175 RPG launchers, 3,134 mortar and artillery

rounds, 1,781 rockets and 17 surface-to-air missiles. In addition to combat operations, the brigade formed and trained the 60th Iraqi National Guard Brigade, including the 500th, 501st and 502nd ING Battalions. The 1st Brigade also sponsored more than \$23.8 million dollars in civil projects in the Al Anbar province.

In January 2005, 1st Bde. Soldiers were once again called on to prepare for a deployment in support of OIF. The brigade spent most of 2005 training for that deployment. This training came into play with the brigade's deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., in August and September of 2005.

In late December, Soldiers of the “Devil Brigade” learned the Department of Defense



Photo by Anna Morelock

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 5th FA help another Soldier wounded when a simulated improvised explosive device detonated near their Humvee. The Soldiers were part of a SECFOR company preparing to deploy to Iraq in the fall of last year to provide security for logistic convoys traveling throughout Iraq.

had decided to put a hold on their deployment because of major advances the Iraqi Security Forces had made in protecting the citizens and fighting the insurgency.

Instead of deploying, the 1st Bde. assumed three new missions for the Army.

One of these missions was forming Transition Teams to help the Iraqis develop their security forces. The next was to train for deployment. The third was to provide deployable security force elements that can move anywhere the Army wants them to, said MAJ Gary Belcher in January, who was then the brigade civil military affairs officer.

The first task undertaken by 1st Bde. was determining the makeup of TTs, what equipment it would need and what the brigade would need to train TTs, he said.

To help the 1st Bde. with the adjustment from deployment to training, the 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support) out of Fort Carson, Colo., was mobilized to Fort Riley to assist and provide some guidance to the bri-

gade staff. The 2nd Bde, 91st Div. helped shape the TT training mission at Fort Riley for the most part from scratch when they arrived in March.

One adjustment for the Devil Brigade was reconfiguring the “heavy” mechanized brigade from a combat mission to a training mission, Belcher said. The change in mission meant a change in equipment and personnel for the brigade.

“We looked at all the requirements to train, the equipment that was needed and at how to mobilize the teams that come to Fort Riley to train,” he said.

Since TTs don’t use tanks or heavy artillery, the brigade didn’t need the majority of its heavy equipment. The brigade’s equipment loss was an equipment gain for the Army overall, Belcher said.

“The equipment can be rebuilt and sent elsewhere, where it is needed,” he said.

The brigade also did not need as many Soldiers as it had when it was set to deploy,

Belcher said. Brigade leaders worked on the reconfiguration to deployable 11-man TTs for the new training mission and realized the brigade needed Soldiers with different skill sets than it had at the time.

TTs do not need armor crewmen, for example. These Soldiers were among the significant number of Soldiers who deployed as security force units. Some of the Soldiers deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility with about 1,700 members of the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

The task force’s mission is to detect, disrupt and defeat terrorists in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Yemen, said LTC Frank Zachar, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., commander.

Company A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt. is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of this mission.

The Fort Riley company’s emphasis during its deployment will not be direct combat,

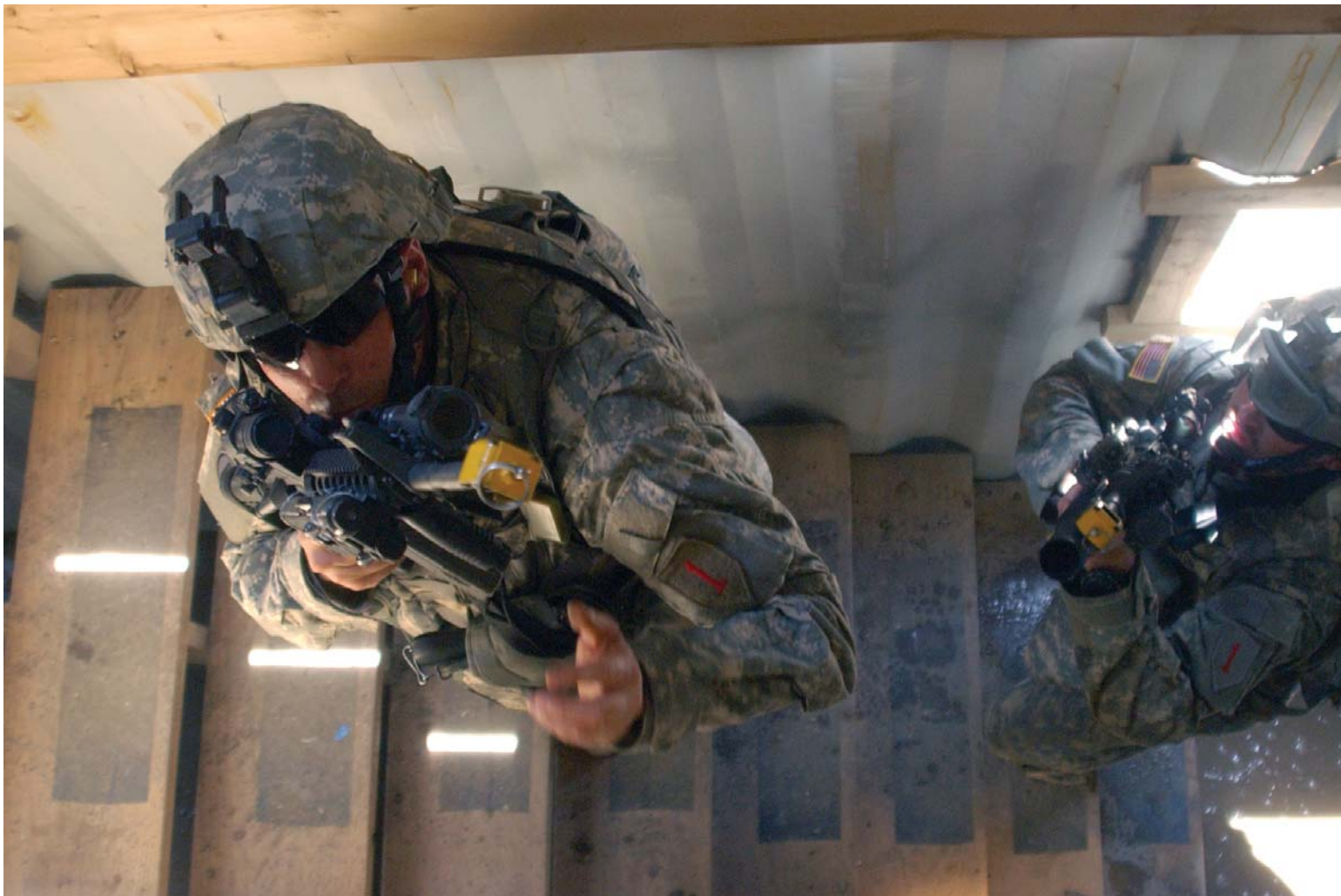


Photo by Anna Morelock

Members of one of the Transition Teams training at Fort Riley search for “insurgents” in a building at Urban Cluster Site three. Soldiers from 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt. were on hand to observe the training and take part as observer/controllers in preparation for the battalion’s take over of the training October 16.

said COL Bart Howard, former commander of 1st Bde. Instead, they will be conducting military-to-military training, he said.

“[Soldiers deploying with the company] will have the opportunity to partner with a host nation military to both improve each unit’s capabilities and show solidarity in the Global War on Terror,” said Howard.

The 1st Bde. also has the following units deployed as security force units in Iraq: Company B, 1st Bn. 16th Inf. Regt.; Company C, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt.; Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment; Battery D, 1st Bn., 5th FA Regt.; Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment; Company C, 1st Bn., 34th Armor Regt.; and Troop D, 4th Cavalry Regiment.

The 1st Engineer Battalion is also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The remaining elements of the brigade have been reorganized and re-missioned to lead the Transition Team training mission at Fort Riley.

TTs will contain specialists in key military fields, such as planning, logistics, security operations and intelligence gathering, Belcher said. They will be assigned to units of the Iraqi army and police forces to work with their leaders to improve their capabilities for success, protecting their nation and defeating insurgents, he said.

The 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment began training TT Soldiers on post Oct. 13. The centerpiece of the mission is training host-nation force advisers selected by the Army.

The focus is to make sure individuals tasked have the necessary skills needed to successfully accomplish the mission. The training the TT members receive is designed to prepare them to assist and advise real foreign security forces.

Over the course of a typical TT training course – about 60 days – Soldiers assigned to the 10-man training teams will teach classes in survival skills and tactics, individual- and crew-served weapons and equip-

ment, combat-lifesaver skills and cultural awareness.

The Soldiers also attend advanced drivers-training and conduct collective exercises, but the most important lesson the teams learn during their 60-day training cycle may be teamwork, said MAJ Peter Shull, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., operations officer.

The biggest, and perhaps most important, thing they do is bring the teams together for the first time, said Shull. Here, they will have various opportunities to work jointly and think things through as a team. Teamwork will be crucial if the MiTTs are to successfully train the host nation forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, Shull added.

“This training is essential to a successful transition in place,” Shull said. “This is a very important mission overall. Our piece is ensuring that the teams are prepared.”

The unit’s current mission is not dissimilar to its combat mission in 2003 and 2004 in Rhamadi, said Shull. CPT Moses Scheinfeld, commander, Company D, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., agrees with Shull, but with one difference.

“Before, our mission was to engage and destroy the enemy,” said Scheinfeld. “Now we are assisting the host nation forces.”

“[This training is a] rigorous and demanding preparation program that is designed to get team members mentally, physically and technically prepared to train and advise Iraqi counterparts while maintaining their own security,” said COL Jeff Ingram, 1st Brigade commander.



Photo by Anna Morelock

In five-vehicle convoys, the Soldiers of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment took to the range July 18 for motorized gunnery training in preparation for their deployment to Iraq last fall as a security force company.

Fort Riley rocks

All-Army Combatives Tournament

**Story and photos by Mike Heronemus
Editor, Daily Union**

Fort Riley's 12-man combatives team surprised about 300 opponents with its skill and determination, placing second in the All-Army Combatives Tournament Nov. 3-5 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Two Fort Riley competitors won all-Army titles in their weight classes. 2LT Brandon Bear of 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, won the title in the cruiser weight – 185 pounds and below – matches.

2LT Benjamin Hart of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., won the title in the lightweight – 140 pounds and below – competition.

PFC Ryan Nyhus of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., placed third in light heavy-weight – 205 pounds and below – matches. SGT Timothy Wineberg of U.S. Army Medical Department at Fort Riley, placed fourth in lightweight fighting. Wineberg placed fourth in last year's tournament, too.

Last year's 10-man Fort Riley team placed fifth with one fighter finishing as an all-Army champ. This year, the fighters scored 95 team points, seven more than the 75th Ranger Regiment, who was last year's all-Army champion, and only three points behind this year's champs, the JFK Special Warfare Center.

All but four of the post's combative team members belong to 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Besides Wineberg with MEDDAC, team members from

units other than 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., were SGT Brent Srnka of Company E, 610th Brigade Support Battalion; SGT Henry Phillips of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry; and SSG Vincent Miller of 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support).

Other team members from 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., included SSG Michael Gutierrez, CPL Nicholas Looney, 2LT Aaron Chonko, PFC Raymond Moungey and PFC Alexander Tellez.

Barton County Community College combatives coaches Dave Durnil, Joe Wilk, Jon Menke and Ethan Day accompanied Fort Riley's team. Alex Dibenedetto is the team's fitness and strength coach.

The Army Combatives School at Fort Benning hosted the 34 active duty and reserve teams traveling to the tournament from as far away as Germany and Guam. Teams entered in the tournament included Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; 7th Special Forces Group; 25th Infantry Division; 3rd Infantry Division; Fort Benning; and Fort Stewart, Ga.

Fort Riley fighters faced about 30 opponents in each weight class, maybe more, Chonko (185 pounds) guessed. That made competing very tough because of the stamina needed, especially "if you went to the losers' bracket ... (you) had a lot of fights that went six minutes if your opponent didn't tap out," he said.

Srnka (155 pounds) said he thought opponents in his class were really tough because they all were in good shape and very strong for their weight. "Some cut weight, as much as 20 pounds, to get down to weight for weigh-in," he said.

Most of the lost weight was water weight that they would put back on within a few hours. "You could definitely feel it when they cut weight," he said.

To counter such strategy, Fort Riley's team "always practiced fighting a heavier guy, and that worked well for the team, overall," Srnka said.

"Fort Riley stacked up pretty good physically, but being in the field hurt our cardio condition because we didn't get to do PT (physical training) as much as we wanted," Moungey (205 pounds) said.

A lot of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., time in October was spent training for deployment to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., this month. In fact, eight of the team's fighters were released from training at NTC to compete in the tournament and returned the day after it ended to rejoin the training in progress.

Durnil, head coach, said the team was given some dedicated time to train.

"We took time to train for about six weeks, two to three hours a day and personally gave up lunch hours to train," Tellez (205 pounds and over) said. Team members used their lunch hours to "roll," a term that describes sparring with a partner.

Besides the toughness they found in competitors, the Fort Riley fighters and coaches expressed some surprise at their opponents' mindset. "Their mindset wasn't to 'tap out' (give up)," Moungey explained.

"There was a lot of pride on the line, but the guys are good about not trying to hurt each other," Wilk said.

Gutierrez (170 pounds) said he put his first-round opponent to sleep when he wouldn't tap out. "It took him several minutes to wake up," he said.

Referees stopped the fighting at times to prevent injury to Soldiers, Durnil added.

Competition was surprisingly better than last year's, Looney (170 pounds) said. He watched last year's tournament and this year the fighters used a lot more technique, he said. "It wasn't just people throwing each other around."

A lot of fighters were black belts in jiu-jitsu, Tellez recalled. He felt his training efforts to improve ground techniques paid off because "the main thing we were trying to get was submissions, not just gain points," he said.

"I'm pretty sure our team racked up more submissions than any other team there," he boasted.

Much of the techniques opponents used came as no surprise to the Fort Riley fighters, they said. But that wasn't always the case. Gutierrez said he got taken out in his seventh match by an ankle lock he hadn't trained for.

Nyhus recalled facing a 75th Ranger Regt. fighter who had been a combatives instructor for two years. "He's a real tough guy. He did a lot of moves I hadn't seen before. I would like to learn a lot of those moves and use them in the future," he said.



Aaron Chonko lifts Issachar Anderson off the mat before slamming him back down in their 185-pound and under combative match for third place during Fort Riley's All-Army qualifiers Sept. 9-10.



Larry Jackson (top) gains a position in "the guard" from his opponent, Arnulfo Navarro, in the 140-pound and under match for third place during Fort Riley's All-Army qualifiers Sept. 9-10. Jackson ultimately won the match.

1st Infantry Division Band

Band members play, but that's not all



Photo by Anna Morelock

The 1st Infantry Division Band plays its way down Poyntz Avenue during the Soldier Salute on Poyntz Aug. 24 in Manhattan.

*Story by SPC Stephen Baack
Editor, 1st ID PAO*

First Infantry Division band members play musical instruments, of course, but that isn't all they do. They must master basic Soldier skills like any infantryman. They also serve as support personnel for their company, like any supply sergeant or administrative specialist.

"There is no typical day in the band," said Chief Warrant Officer Scott MacDonald, commander and bandmaster of the 1st ID band. "There's no typical week. Our days are usually pretty long and very regimented, depending on what we have scheduled.

"A lot of people think the band is like the fire department," MacDonald continued. "We're just sitting around up here waiting for someone to hit the alarm and say, 'We've got a ceremony. Call the band.' That's far from the truth."

Most of the band's time is spent training for their next commitment, because every mission is different, MacDonald said. Missions vary by season, audience and occasion. The band plays at changes of command, unit activations and inactivations, for holiday concerts and community relations events, and even for dignitaries and while deployed.

Last year, band members performed a variety of music during Kansas State University's Fort Riley Day at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Less than a month before, they played at the Soldier Salute on Poyntz in Manhattan.

During the division's deployment from 2004 to 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the band's mission of performing music to support morale and esprit did not waver.

"The band played in every [Forward Operating Base] in the division footprint when we were downrange," MacDonald said. "In addition, there were some band members who went on convoy duty and did guard duty at guard towers ... but that's not our primary

responsibility. Even (when) deployed, we play music. Unless the conflict reaches such intensity that we're no longer able to do that, our mission continues even while deployed."

"I think it's very important," said band 1SG Allen Freeman about the mission. "I've played concerts in places like Korea at Christmas, where it was very evident that we were a very big impact on morale."

The smaller part of the band's musical training is sustainment training. This is, however, considered as important as their primary mission training, because band members regard their musical ability as a very perishable skill.

Despite this, the band exists as a mostly self-sustaining organization. Though an Army band's main mission is to promote the morale and esprit of the Army through music, the band is a separate company, providing its own operations, security, supply and administrative support.

"My supply sergeant is a trombone player," MacDonald said. "My admin sergeant is a saxophone player, but they have to know all these other

jobs as well. Everyone in the band has secondary, and sometimes, a tertiary responsibility in addition to a primary [military occupational specialty]."

"We have to wear many hats," said SSG Keith Cassant, saxophonist, drum major and operations noncommissioned-officer-in-charge.

"We have to be self-sustaining. Unlike other units, we don't have admin people attached to us. I've held jobs in a [personnel] shop doing promotions, re-enlistments and awards," he explained.

Band members learn these added tasks without formal training; but by the time they are staff sergeants and above, they really know what they are doing, Freeman said. With performing music, technical training and internal support comes arguably the most important aspect: Soldiering skills.

"We do so much more than what people realize," Cassant said. "A lot of people probably don't even realize we do weapons qualifications, Army physical fitness tests and [common task training]. We're Soldiers as well."

While there is no typical day or week, Freeman said the more common activities among band members during any given day include physical training in the morning, squad leader or platoon sergeant time for mentoring and counseling, any training the division requires, concert-band rehearsal, small group rehearsal, administrative time and, on Thursdays, Sergeant's Time training.

Soldiers come into the musical branch having a varying level of experience and skill. Yet, these variations are not considered discrepancies and are irrelevant as far as rank is concerned, Freeman said.

"We have a lot of different ability levels within the band," MacDonald said.

"We have such a great variety," he added. "It's never really a problem putting all that together. Everything we do is based on teamwork, because that's what you have to do musically ... you can't have one part of the team drop out or the music might fall apart."

3rd Brigade

STEPS UP

conversion

**Story by SGT Nicole Clarke
CAB PAO**

The commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley held a press conference at the post headquarters Dec. 20 to discuss the accelerated conversion of two future Big Red One brigade combat teams.

MG Carter Ham spoke about the Department of Army's announcement for the accelerated conversion of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to modular brigade combat teams.

The effective date of the conversion is now set for April 16, 2007, which is 11 months earlier than anticipated.

"The reason for the acceleration for these two brigades is to place two more brigade combat teams in the Army's inventory," Ham said.

The decision to increase the Army's inventory is meant to relieve stress on the current force, and fulfill vital roles in the defense of the nation and the transformed Army.

In the autumn of 2007, 3rd Bde., 1st AD is scheduled to reflag as 2nd Brigade, 1st ID.

That new brigade will feature two combat-arms battalions (one focused on mechanized infantry and the other on armor), a reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition squadron, an artillery battalion and a support battalion.

"This is a heavy brigade combat team, so we have to get the tanks, the Bradley fighting vehicles, the artillery pieces and all of that heavy equipment back to Fort Riley to equip this unit," Ham said.

Before the unit can convert to a heavy brigade combat team, they need to transfer their current mission to 1st Brigade.

"Currently, the 3rd Brigade is specifically organized for a piece of the Transition Team training mission," Ham said. "Once the 3rd Brigade commander transfers his mission to the 1st Brigade it will allow him to focus solely and intently on building this new

heavy brigade combat team."

The 3rd Bde. will start transferring their responsibility of training the Transition Teams to the Division's 1st Bde. The transfer will include moving some of the Soldiers from the 3rd Bde. to 1st Bde., Ham said.

"Many of the Soldiers are happy we will be standing up the brigade," said Col. Norb Jocz, commander of 3rd Bde., 1st AD. "They look at it as another opportunity, another challenge. Other Soldiers are happy they will be able to continue the transition team training as they move to the 1st Brigade."

Once the Soldiers transfer to 1st Bde., that organization will be in charge of the entire Transition Team mission, Ham said.

"We don't see any slowdown, any shortcomings, whatsoever, for that mission," said Ham. "And that mission remains our very, very highest priority."

"There are challenges to be sure, but I've

got every confidence in the leadership of this brigade," Ham said. "Many of you have seen the growth of the 4th Brigade, so we know how to do this."

The brigade will have about 3,800 Soldiers when fully formed. The unit will gain personnel and equipment over the next year, and will conduct training at the individual and collective levels throughout the build-up.

"We have to get the Soldiers in place and train them from the individual tasks to collective training so that the unit is available to deploy in 2008 if they are needed," Ham said.

"We have been directed by the Department of the Army to have that brigade ready to deploy by 2008," Ham said. "It is important to recognize that we do not have specific instructions to deploy that brigade."

Along with 3rd Bde., 1st AD, major changes are happening for 3rd Bde., 1st ID.

The 1st ID's 3rd Bde. is slated to stand up and convert to a modular infantry brigade combat team comprising about 3,400 Soldiers.

Due to limited availability of facilities for the unit and family members at Fort Knox, Ky., the Army will initially form and train the brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. The Brigade is scheduled to deploy, return to Fort Hood, and then re-station to its permanent home at Fort Knox in the Fiscal Year 2009 time frame.

During the accelerated conversion, Fort Riley will continue building at a brisk pace. The post will execute more than \$330 million in construction this year to meet the demands of housing the estimated 18,300 Soldiers who will be here once the Division is fully formed.



Photo by SPC Stephen Baack

Mock Iraqi Security Forces from the 3rd Brigade play a vital role in Transition Team training. The 3rd Brigade also oversaw all Mission Readiness Exercises for Transition Team training.

THERE'S STRONG.

**THEN THERE'S
ARMY STRONG.**



ARE YOU ARMY STRONG?



U.S. ARMY