

# Duty **1** First!

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division magazine for Soldiers and Families



## Where we are, what we're doing



Training for the fight pg 8



Soldiers fighting Soldiers pg 12



Liberating victims pg 15



# The BRO CREED

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

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

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

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

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

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

No mission too difficult,

No sacrifice too great.

Duty First.

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photo by Spc. Nathaniel Smith

**BAGHDAD - Sgt. Michael Reynolds, a light-wheel mechanic from Company B, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Florence, Ky., assesses the link-up on an M88 recovery vehicle during a training exercise at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Dec. 27. The training event was scheduled in order to prepare for Baghdad's upcoming rainy season.**

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**Duty First! Magazine**

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# From the Commanding General

## Where we are and where we are going:

### The philosophy of the Big Red One

#### Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin

This is the first issue in a new era of your *Duty First!* magazine. I have refocused this publication so that it engages, educates, inspires, builds morale, and engenders the 1st Infantry Division culture and identity. Each photo, article and page is designed with the young Soldier in mind – the heart and soul of our Division - while still addressing our senior NCOs, officers, retirees and our legions of loyal Big Red One supporters.

The Big Red One today is widely dispersed: at Fort Riley – the home of the Big Red One - Forts Hood, Sill, and Knox, in Germany and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Communicating is tough in this dispersed environment. This magazine will be one way in which we talk to each other. *Duty First!* will help strengthen the sense of unity and identity long enjoyed by the Big Red One.

In addition to uniting the Soldiers and Families of our division, this magazine will convey my command philosophy and priorities – what’s important to the First Division and the US Army.

In the past, training, maintaining, leading and caring have broadly defined the Army’s priorities, in that order. These are all important areas to focus on. However, we are the best in the world at training and maintaining. We have proven that on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

With extended and multiple deployments taking toll on our Army, we must shift our priorities to caring for Soldiers and Families. The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division must now re-focus on those initiatives that reward our Soldiers and Families with a quality of life commensurate with their service and sacrifice. It means that we address quality of life issues for Soldiers and Families with the same emphasis, enthusiasm, and vibrancy we devote to military operations.


In the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, we also will focus on “leading” through development of our junior leaders. We know that the long-term strength of our Army rests on fundamental leader skills such as counseling, supply accountability and maintenance. We also know that over six years of war, we have focused on combat leadership skills over what we might consider “garrison” skills. We must, if we are to build a strong leader corps for the future, focus on coaching,

teaching, mentoring and training our junior leaders in skills that make them well-rounded, effective leaders in all environments and skill levels.

I will write more on what I mean by “caring” and “leadership” in future issues of *Duty First!*

With brigades scattered throughout the world and United States, communicating is tough. *Duty First!* is intended to re-forge the sense of identity long enjoyed by the Big Red One. We are a legendary division in the true sense of the word – from our start as the First Expeditionary Division during World War 1 and later battles in WWII, Vietnam, and Desert Storm, to executing some of the toughest missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Be proud to be part of this heritage - this glorious and illustrious history. Be proud to serve in the Big Red One in another important era of our nation’s legacy – of forging freedom around the world through service, sacrifice, and courage.

If all of this sounds familiar, it’s because the same attributes are represented in our Division motto: No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great. *Duty First!* 



U.S. Army Photo



U.S. Army Photo



# From the Command Sergeant Major

## A farewell

### Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division is a special organization, and I have been honored and privileged to be associated with it every single day that I have worn the Big Red One on my left shoulder. Although I'm leaving the active rolls of the Division to join Third Army at Fort McPherson Ga., I -- like all of you -- will always be part of the essence of the Big Red One.

I joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. three days after the tragic events on September 11, 2001, as part of the command team of 1-77 Armor, the Steel Tigers. It was the first time I had returned to Germany since I was a private.

When I got there, I was a little apprehensive about how American Soldiers were viewed by our German counterparts. But the walls and sidewalks were covered with banners, flowers, candles and other symbols expressing the outpouring of compassion and support from the German citizens to their American friends -- specifically those Soldiers and families of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division stationed in their town. This bond was already strong and the events of Sept. 11 only served to strengthen that relationship.

Throughout my tenure with the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div., I have seen over and over the special place the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. holds in its surrounding citizens' hearts.

The first time this became evident to me was on a peace enforcement mission to Kosovo. Although the Big Red One had been away from the Balkans for some time, we were far from forgotten. The natives were so glad that the Big Red One had returned. They were happy to see our patch and many were eager to share stories about Soldiers that had befriended them and their families earlier in the conflict.

In the fall of 2003, I joined Duke Brigade with then Col. Dana Pittard in Vilsek, Germany, and again we found a special relationship between the community and the Big Red One.

In Jan. 2004, we deployed as part of Task Force Danger to

Diyala province in Iraq. That year proved to be an emotional rollercoaster filled with many victories and losses.

The Dukes of Diyala made a difference in the province by standing up their potential government, training the 205<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army, equipping police and starting numerous reconstruction projects.

The Soldiers laughed at silly things, cried at the loss of comrades and fought together with commitment to each other and a higher cause.

Spouses were building strong, lasting relationships on the home front -- a sisterhood if you will. They focused on supporting each other and their Soldiers. And although there were many times they gathered and laughed at group meetings, all too many times there were tears as they gathered to support each other and mourn a fallen warrior.

I'll never forget one of the most powerful images of the deployment was that of a wife of a fallen Soldier

as she kneeled at the base of her husband's honor display at the memorial service in Vilsek. That image will remain with me to depict the price our Soldiers pay in combat and everlasting effects it has on our families that experienced the loss of our warrior.

Our German friends' joy of the return of the Big Red One was soon replaced with deep sadness when the announcement came to leave Germany and return to our previous home, here at Fort Riley, KS. Though a chapter of the Division's history was closing, a new one opened as we were welcomed with open arms back here at Fort Riley.

An elderly man told [then] Maj. Gen. Ham at the ceremony, "Sir, the Big Red One is back home at Fort Riley -- just as God intended." This reflects most Kansans love for the Big Red One and its Soldiers.

You are all part of a special organization -- one in which I sincerely hope that you love and hold dear as much as I do. I want to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to the 1st Infantry Division. ▀



U.S. Army Photo





# Devils learn and lead at every level

Photo by Pfc. Francisca Vega

By Spc. Dustin Roberts, 1st Brigade PAO

Fort Riley, Kan. - Transition Team (TT) training at Fort Riley keeps improving because many leaders preparing teams to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan were TT members themselves at one point.

With the TT mission as a key to success in Iraq and Afghanistan, leaders have to keep training fresh and up-to-date to successfully teach new team members.

“To be an effective Transition Team trainer, I think you’d have to have done it,” said Lt. Col. Lee Gutierrez, deputy Transition Team Director of Cultural Awareness and

Counterinsurgency. “It holds a lot of credibility with the students, plus you really know what you are talking about because you have already done it.”

Much has changed in the TT soldiering business since Gutierrez went through training at Fort Carson, Colo., in 2005. Then, troops stayed in barracks instead of tents.

There was little Iraqi and Afghan language and culture training. Instead of driving Humvees, Soldiers were bused to training areas and mock training villages weren’t as realistic.

And there certainly were no leader meetings.

Leader meetings are staged environments where teams meet with Iraqi or Afghan role players, depending on where the team will deploy.

The role players, who are fluent in the host nation’s language, act as village police chiefs or other government counterparts in 10 different scenarios. In each scenario, team members use interpreters to help solve every-day government issues, such as restoring a town’s water supply.

Team members even



Photo by Pfc. Francisca Vega

sit down in a culturally-realistic environment – eating authentic food and practicing their common courtesies.

“Here is where you have to be very politically correct. You must utilize culture knowledge,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Anthony Alvarez, noncommissioned officer in charge of the DCC.

He also added that because of the experienced leadership, team members gain confidence as the training progresses.

“Each leaders’ meet is a building block,” he said. “They start off with the basics and they build ... until they have helped solve several problems in one meeting.”

Along with the essential cultural knowledge classes and role playing in leader’s meetings, the DCC trains new team members in counterinsurgency and staff integrated training by using the military decision making process.

“We (trainers) try and keep it updated as they come

through the courses ... If a certain mission or style has changed, we incorporate it into the training here,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scott Smith.

The trainers even bring back troops who are on mid-tour leave from deployments to gather insight and techniques that were successful in recent real-world scenarios.

“This is as realistic as you can get,” Gutierrez said. “The guys actually get to learn, and then get to do it again and practice on it.”

The practice TT troops get is based directly on past TT experiences.

“The validation of our trainers gives (TT members) a better insight,” Alvarez said. “It gives them a better idea of where they’re going and what they’re going to be doing. And I’m not just talking about book knowledge; I’m talking actual experience knowledge.”



Photo by PIC: Francisca Vega



# 'Dagger' brigade Soldiers pilot streamlined reintegration process

By Spc. Sean Finch, U.S. Army Europe

SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY-- Parking may be more difficult now, but families here seemed perfectly happy to walk a little further to the post exchange. After all, it's a small price to pay to have more than 4,000 Soldiers home from 15 months deployed at southwest Baghdad.

As the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division continued its return to Germany over the past few weeks, the Schweinfurt military community has experienced the joys of homecoming and the tedium of the necessary processes of redeployment and reintegration.

Fortunately, Schweinfurt has learned some lessons from previous deployment which resulted in an orderly, centralized system for returning "Dagger" Brigade Soldiers to their Families, community and workplaces.

The brigade was the first in U.S. Army Europe to complete a 15-month tour in Iraq since Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced in April that combat tours would be extended from their previous 12-month length.

The "Dagger" Soldiers had already completed two-thirds of their original year long deployment to some of the Iraqi capital's toughest neighborhoods at the time the announcement was made.

Every Soldier who returns from deployment must complete a modified process of reintegration.

In addition to the stations where paperwork is required, "Dagger" Soldiers are also briefed on topics related to rejoining their families and the community. Every planeload of Soldiers is divided into groups to process through each station as quickly and efficiently as possible in an entire floor of one building dedicated by the community.

In the past, Soldiers who redeployed here faced the drudgery spending their seven half-days trudging through a series of tents.

This time the doctors, the lawyers, the vehicle registrars and the many other agency representatives necessary to fully make them "Schweinfurters" again have come to them, to quickly and completely process the troops through reintegration in a compact unit of two heated, well-organized buildings.

"The Army is starting to realize that we do an excellent job of getting our Soldiers ready for deployment, but the

process of getting them back into society with the same organization has been ignored until recently," said Patricia Lemson, redeployment program director for Schweinfurt's Army Community Service. "Our improvements have made a huge difference in how easy it is for our Soldiers to begin the process of reintegration."



By Spc. Sean Finch

Community officials took some time to think about providing a more centralized location for the reintegration process to take place, and how best to move thousands of returning Soldiers through that location efficiently. "The process takes seven days and each day has specific goals and stations to be accomplished," continued Lemson.

"When we got back, I was shocked to see how smooth everything went. I mean, we are in and out of each station quickly and everything has been handled in a professional manner," said Spc. Jason Stacy, and infantryman from the "Dagger" Brigade's 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery.

"I have been pleasantly surprised at how well-run this is," said Capt. Dan Sundenberg, a 2nd BCT operation officer, as he stood in a quickly moving line during his fourth day of reintegration. "It's not the number-one priority for any of us to do more paperwork when we get home - or to do anything for that matter-but everyone here has moved things along and we really don't spend much time waiting around. I am happy to say that so far, things are getting done at an operational tempo that we all agree is pretty quick."

"We are glad to help, but want our Soldiers to remember that reintegration is a process, not an even," said Lemson, noting that it takes time to rejoin a community and family. "These men and women have grown over the last (15 months), and it is important to realize that people do change along the way and it will take more than a seven-day reintegration to adjust. This is only the beginning," she said. ▀







# Dukes get hands-on training with mortar leadership course

*By Sgt. Johnny Goodman, 3rd IBCT PAO*

FORTHOOD, Texas - To stand there without ear protection would be foolish. Even with hearing protection, the blast, was startling and reverberated in the chest as the mortar shell flew downrange some 4,500 meters.

Mortar live-fire was the culmination of five weeks classroom education and hands-on training.

The infantry mortar leadership course (IMLC) made a pit stop at Fort Hood to allow Soldiers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, to move up a notch on the mortar totem pole.

“These Soldiers are being trained to step up from being a gunner or ammo bearer to a position of leadership,” Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark Lykins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 29<sup>th</sup> Inf., Fort Benning, Ga., and IMLC team chief. “They now are certified and can go to any Army range and operate that range.”

The permanent course is at Fort Benning. Normally, it’s reserved for sergeants, staff sergeants and higher, but thanks to the mobile training team, junior enlisted Soldiers can participate.



One such Soldier, Cpl. Glenn Farris, a mortarman with HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 26<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regiment, said the course had its difficult moments, but was worth attending.

“We need more people who are knowledgeable in the fire direction center,” he said.

“The more you have, the better off you will be. I mean, firing is fun, but if you never leave the fire line, you won’t know what is going on in the fire direction center.”

When Farris first arrived at the battalion HHC, only Staff Sgt. Alexander Thorpe was IMLC qualified. Now, the company has four more Soldiers to help ease the burden on Thorpe.

“It will lighten my load and make my life easier,” Thorpe said. “More people will know how to run the fire direction center and won’t always be asking me, ‘What’s this for? How do I do this?’”

What he will do with his newfound free time is anyone’s guess.

“I don’t know,” he said. “Probably sleep in the truck. I’m kidding. I’ll probably walk up and down the firing line with the lieutenant looking for improvements that we can make.”

The Brigade Tactical Operations Center incorporated a number of specialized vehicles, such as the one pictured here, outfitted to carry section specific equipment and provide a mobile platform.



3RD HBCT

# Bulldogs turn the battlefield digital

By Sgt. Brian Tierce, 3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT PAO

FORT RILEY, Kan. - Army commanders have the ability to be situationally aware of their entire force with the help of high tech computer systems. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Brigade Combat Team 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division recently took the necessary steps to give their commander these capabilities by conducting a Digital Exercise or “DIGEX” on Fort Riley.

The first step when conducting a DIGEX is to build the site from the ground up.

While setting up the tents, Soldiers learned different ways to configure the tactical operations center, said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Anthony Valdez, 3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT 1<sup>st</sup> AD operations noncommissioned officer.

The Soldiers involved with building the site also participated also participated in training for nearly a month to learn all the intricacies of today’s tent systems, along with basic generator operations and maintenance for the facility.

Since the experience was a first for most of the brigade’s Soldiers, the expertise of Valdez, 3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT operations Command Sgt. Maj. James Winslow and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gregory Cover helped form a solid foundation. “Having worked at a corps and division level TOC before I got here helped me to facilitate the setup,” said Winslow.

Once the site was up and running, the leadership in the

brigade began to get a feel for what battle field communication is all about. “There are so many ways that units higher and lower can send information,” said Maj. Mark Warden, 3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT 1<sup>st</sup> AD Current Operations Officer. “It’s a filter system to process that information and get it to the right person at the right time.”

**“This exercise showed Soldiers what they can expect once they get into theater”**

**Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Valdez**

That information came in many forms due to the complexity of the digital battle field, but this complex web of information was made a little easier to decipher by giving each section a chance to get to know its staff counterparts.

“During the DIGEX staff sections were worried about two or three important things and several minor things,” said Winslow. “But in the field we see much more of one another so the interoperability from the staff elements is much greater.”

Over the period of the DIGEX all brigade operations that are normally run in a garrison environment were held at the



DIGEX site, giving the Soldiers a feel for their jobs during a deployment.

“This exercise showed Soldiers what they can expect once they get into theater,” said Valdez. “It kind of gives them a picture over a few days as to what they can expect during a year-long deployment.”

As the exercise was wrapping up and the brigade held an after action review or AAR to go over the strengths and weaknesses of the event -- a few bright spots were apparent.

“I think the brigade leadership benefitted the most in the ability to not only have situational awareness on the battle field, but to also have situational understanding,” said Warden.

Along with gaining a better understanding and awareness, the brigade also learned a valuable lesson about the importance of working as a team to accomplish a mission.

“It’s all about a combined arms effort,” said Winslow, “all about building a team.”



Pfc. Chris Conrad and Pfc. Mark Muth of HHC 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team 1st Armored Division utilize their work stations during the brigade’s digital exercise held recently on Fort Riley.

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# 'Dragons' recover in the mud



Photo by Spc. Nathaniel Smith

Spc. David Waiter, a welder on the vehicle recovery team of Company B, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Houston, hooks a cable to an entrenched M88 recovery vehicle during a training event at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Dec. 27. "I like getting out in the mud. Even though it's cold, I like it; it's fun," Waiter said.

*By Spc. Nathaniel Smith, 4th IBCT PAO*

BAGHDAD – In the world of sports, analogies are frequently made between the games played and battle. What the witty sportscasters and writers don't take into account is a glaring difference.

Combat operations don't get called on account of rain or poor field conditions.

With that thought in mind, the vehicle recovery team of the 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, trained for Baghdad's rainy season at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

The event consisted of pulling an M88 recovery vehicle stuck in mud over its tracks to stable ground where the 70-ton vehicle was again fully operable. But the task had to be accomplished safely, as well as effectively.

Spc. David Waiter, a welder on the crew from 610th BSB's Company B, said while the training wasn't performed under easy conditions, he still enjoyed the event.

"I like getting out in the mud. Even though it's cold, I like it; it's fun," the Houston native said. "It's not easy, but it's not going to be easy work whenever you try to do it."

The Soldiers had to wade out in knee-deep cold water, and sometimes partially submerge themselves to hook up

the disabled vehicle. Waiter added that the heavy equipment used, such as the 140-pound snatchblock used to hook the recovery vehicle to its cargo, does not make their lives any easier.

"It's a workout to use," he said.

Master Sgt. Richard Carullo, the 610th BSB support operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge from Orlando, Fla., said due to the Soldiers taking on additional missions while deployed, the training was vital to Task Force Dragon's success.

"This is not our normal mission; we're a light infantry brigade. We're not normally assigned M88's or HETs (Heavy Equipment Transports)," Carullo said. "We picked this mission up in theater, and having picked it up in theater, we haven't had the opportunity to train. We felt it was important because of the time of year, and because of the rainy season coming on, we needed to train Soldiers before they had to go into sector to recover vehicles stuck in the mud."

Despite having the extra challenge of adapting to an entirely new set of obstacles while conducting daily operations in a combat zone, Waiter said he takes everything in stride because all Soldiers face their own set of trials.

"We do what we have to do just like anybody else. We have our mission, they have theirs. To me, we're all on the same level," he said. ▀



# Sustaining the fight

By Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude,  
1st Sustainment PAO

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq** – Over the sound of a diesel generator, the cheers of a large crowd can be heard emanating from a non-descript tent near Pad 4 on Renee Drive in Camp Liberty, Iraq.

“Welcome to Friday Night Fights,” shouts Staff Sgt. Jerry Maldonado, the equal opportunity representative for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

The boxers’ hands are taped and inserted into gloves, and then the rules explained. Once the bell sounds, the fight begins. Each round is a minute long.

“One minute sounds like a short time, but when you got three of them together and someone’s over there throwing blows at you, making you miss, well, the flights are gong to end up good and make you tired,” Maldonado said.

What started out as a small vision for Maldonado has mushroomed into the place to be for some Soldier’s on Liberty.

“Each Friday night, there’s a little ‘boxing smoker’ that we hold – a tournament for the Soldiers – so we can allow Soldiers a chance to let off a little steam,” said Maldonado, the promoter and referee of Friday Night Fights.

When he found the abandoned, semi-falling down, framed tent, he thought it would make a great place for him to teach Soldiers the art of boxing.

“There was a single-string boxing ring and a whole lot of trash in here,” Maldonado said. When he started fixing the place, people within the command took notice and offered to help.

“Everyone’s been great ... the name Friday Night Fights, for example, came from the battalion commander,” Maldonado said.

With the help of Sgt. Robert Flanagan and Sgt. Kyle Butler, drivers for the 168th BSB command team,



Photo: By Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Pvt. Emanuel Blandy (left) throws a left hook at Spc. David Guerrero (right) in the boxing ring on Camp Liberty, Iraq. “He done whipped me up! Bottom line, I’m bleeding, he’s not,” stated Guerrero. “He had that Angel with him,” finished Guerrero. Each Friday night, Staff Sgt Maldonado hosts a boxing smoker called Friday Night Fights with the help of Sgt Kyle Butler and Sgt. Robert Flanagan.

Maldonado restored the tent.

They repaired the walls and roof and built a raised boxing ring – complete with ropes, corner guards and a bell fashioned from an old fire extinguisher and bolt.

“It took us about a week,” Flanagan said. “We made the place more appealing to the eye,” finished Maldonado.

For Pfc. Sergio Cedeno, a supply specialist with Headquarters Company, 168th BSB, Friday Night Fights are the fulfillment of childhood dream.

“Growing up in Puerto Rico I, watched the boxers on T.V. and dreamed of one day being like them,” Cedeno said.

Since his training began a month ago, he has been in the ring twice and is committed to keep going the distance.

“I train every day. I’ll come next week, and the week after. I’ll come every day until I learn what I got to learn,” said Cedeno, shortly after his second appearance in the ring at Friday Night Fights.

Cedeno’s opponent that night was Sgt. William Harrell, a tactical radio specialist with 168th BSB.

“Everything was going good until I got hit and then all that training went out the window,” explained Harrell. “He was a great opponent and any time he wants to go again, it’ll be great!”



# Promises Kept

1ST CAB



Henry Mare Sr., an ice plant operator with Kellogg, Brown, and Root, and his son Pfc. Henry Mare Jr., a command driver with Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, pose together at Mare Sr.'s ice plant.

By Spc. Michael Howard, 1st CAB PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq  
– No matter what happened, Henry Mare Sr. never in his life

broke his word to his son. So when he told his son that he was going to join him in Iraq despite being stuck in Texas with little cash, no job offers, and generally no means to take himself halfway across the globe, his son, Pfc. Henry Mare Jr., knew that if anyone could pull off the seemingly impossible, it would be his father.

Mare Jr., a command driver with Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His father, an ice plant operator for government contractor KBR, Inc., arrived in Iraq two days before Thanksgiving just in time to spend the holidays with his son.

It was in Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa, where both Mares cemented a bond that would last them a lifetime. Mare Jr. described their bond as one unique among father-son relationships.

“We grew up together. My dad raised me as a father, but he raised me more as a friend ... If I asked him something, he wouldn't lie to me ... I think that's how we were friends,” Henry Jr. said.

From the time his son was born, the elder Mare made him the first priority in his life. “Ever since he was a kid, when he went to school, for functions or sports, he would ask me, ‘dad, will you be there?’ and I would say, ‘You have my word,’” Henry Sr. said.

The elder Mare decided to seek his fortune in America in 1995. Five years later the younger Mare, who had been living with his grandparents, joined his father in America. “I wanted to live with him, so he bought me an airplane ticket and I came over,” he said.

Life in America was hard on the Mares at first. Their first residence together was a one bedroom apartment. They shared a bedroom – sleeping on two inflatable mattresses – and ate on plastic plates with plastic cutlery, but they were together, and the Mares said that was all that mattered.



Pfc. Henry Mare Jr., a command driver with Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, learns about his father's, Henry Mare Sr., job managing an ice plant.



# Two faced Soldier

By Sgt. Joe Battle,  
75th Fires BDE PAO

**F**ORT SILL, Okla., For most people, leading a double life can be devious, untrustworthy and dangerous.

In the case of Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Emlinger, it can mean the difference between living and dying for some unlucky people in

the Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., area.

Emlinger, the senior medic for the 75th Fires Brigade during the week, serves as an emergency medical technician on the weekend.

“As an EMT, we are the bridge for advanced medical care for people prior to arriving at the hospital,” said Emlinger, a 38-year-old Orange County, Calif. native. “We are the first people to administer care; we are the difference between survival and death to many people involved in accidents.”

Unlike traditional registered nurses, who must get permission before treating a patient, an EMT must do what is needed to benefit the patient, said Emlinger. “We have lots of freedom; we make split-second decisions and have no time to make mistakes.”

On Friday nights, Emlinger hangs his beret and dons his EMT

uniform.

“I begin at 6 p.m. Friday night and end my shift at 6 p.m. Sunday night,” he said. “A typical shift begins with checking out our unit, making sure we are stocked up on anything we may need for the next two days.”

As for calls, Emlinger said he has seen everything from shootings and stabbings to car accidents.

“For a lot of the calls we respond to, the accident wouldn’t have happened if someone had been smart and thought before they acted,” he said. “Some people just think they are invincible; but I know for a fact that they aren’t.”

His unit’s response time is between four and six minutes once they get the call from dispatch. Emlinger said he can normally get the patient to the hospital in about 10 minutes, unless there are circumstances that may hold him up.

“For drug overdoses, assaults and other crime scenes, we must wait for the police department to secure the area,” he said. “We have actually had people shoot at the ambulance before.”

As an 18-year veteran of the EMT lifestyle, Emlinger has worked hundreds of accidents and incidents, including the 1995 earthquake that hit the San Francisco area.

“I was standing in a supermarket when the earthquake hit,” he said. “At first, the ground started shaking and then everything flew off of the shelves.

“A small girl was standing in front of me and instinctively, I threw myself on top of her to shield her from debris,” said Emlinger. “After the earthquake stopped, her dad quickly came over, shook my hand and thanked me.”

For Emlinger, though, the job isn’t about the rewards or the attention he receives. “I just love doing the job ... and helping people.”

Their happiness was cut short when the elder Mare had to return to South Africa to care for his mother, whose health was failing. Henry Jr. joined the Army and was deployed almost immediately after basic and advanced individual training. His father missed his farewell ceremony by two days. It looked like the Mares, who had sacrificed for years in order to be together, were about to be split for the next 15 months. Enter KBR.

Even before KBR recruited him, the elder Mare said he knew deep inside that he was going to join his son in Iraq. About two months into his son’s deployment, he talked about that feeling in a phone call.

“I was on the phone with Henry and I told him that I was coming to see him in Iraq. He thought I was just kidding at the time, and he laughed. I mean, I was in Texas, and there is no particular reason I would have been heading over here, but I just had a feeling. He wouldn’t believe me. He laughed, and said, ‘yeah, right.’ And I left it at that.”

Ten minutes later, the elder Mare’s phone rang. It was a call from KBR regarding a job as an ice plant operator that he had applied for in 2002. He agreed happily, but he had a

request. “I said, ‘You know, it just so happens that my son Henry is in camp Speicher. Do you have anything available there?’” Nine days later, he was on the first leg of a 14 day trip that took him to camp Speicher.

The younger Mare says that he has few memories in his life as vivid as the moment of their reunion. “It was... wow,” he said, “I was sitting around back, and I had just gotten back from lunch, and all the sudden I heard this voice say in Afrikaans, ‘You better get back to work, you lazy bum.’ When I heard that I turned and saw him, and I just dropped everything and ran. I just ran, and hugged him. It was wonderful.”

The elder Mare will be in Iraq for one year, and his son was three months into his 15-month tour when his father arrived. Since their return to the states will take place at almost the same time, they have already made plans for their return.

“We’re going to go back, and we’re going to take a two week cruise. We’re just going to cruise and relax and just spend a lot of time together,” said the elder Mare.



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

# Walking In the Shoes of a BRO Soldier during

*Please visit the National Holocaust Museum and Holocaust Center of N. California at [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org) and [www.hcnc.org](http://www.hcnc.org). Special thanks to Joseph Argenzio, Judith Janec and Andy Hollinger.*

*By Spc. Edward Coffey,  
1st ID PAO*

FALKENAU, Czechoslovakia-  
0600HRS. April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1945.  
In the closing hours of World War II, Soldiers from the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division approach Falkenau, Czechoslovakia.

At 0615 Lt. Hopkins sends a transmission to the S-3:



“Do you have any information on the town of Falkenau? It was to be surrendered to CCA (Combat Command A) this morning thru contact with the [burgomeister (mayor)] .”

“No, we have no information on that,” they reply.

The Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> move in to the town. Just on the outskirts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion comes under small arms fire. They continue moving and take out the enemy encountering small skirmishes along the way.

Pushing through the town the soldiers from the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment stumble across a camp. As they move closer German soldiers come around barracks and open fire on the approaching Americans. The Soldiers immediately moved into defensive positions and returned fire. They moved through the gates taking heavy gunfire. American Soldiers moved around the barracks and continued to pursue German soldiers and Hitler’s elite SS troops trying to flee or take up defensive positions to return fire.

By 0750 that morning, the German Garrison at Falkenau surrendered. The enemy in the town were rounded up and German radio announced all hostilities had ceased and that all Germans should return home.

Joseph Argenzio, a platoon sergeant with Co. M, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division during the operation, recalls what he and the Soldiers of the Big Red One came across that morning. “We jumped off and said we’re going to take this place called Falkenau and it



Photos from  
the website  
[www.about.com](http://www.about.com).



turned out that it was a death camp.”

Upon opening the barracks the Soldiers got to see, first hand, Hitler’s final solution. The site was horrendous. The Soldiers marveled at the sight of what they called “human skeletons.”

“The stench was something horrible,” recalls Argenzio.

Jewish prisoners approached the Americans hoping to embrace them in appreciation for liberating the camp but the Soldiers were horrified at the sight and were concerned with getting tuberculosis.

As the Allies closed in on the Flossenburg and Falkenau Concentration Camps 15,000 prisoners were taken on a death march for four days.

William Luksemburg was in that death march and the



message to the S-3: “Have a message from Blue (Blue was the code name for 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn) – He says the town of Falkenau is in bad shape. There is a camp on the northwest side of town with 1,000 women in it, all in bad shape physically.”

They also reported the discovery of a camp with about 1,500 Russians in it.

The Commander of Co. I gathered a squad to round up the local populace.

“Clean out your places with what clothes you can bring,” the Commander said.

Soldiers brought the people to the camp and made them dress the dead as much as they could. After, the dead were placed on carts and pulled to a cemetery where a local Catholic Priest, the newly liberated prisoners and Soldiers of the 16<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg. gave the dead a proper burial.

At the close of hostilities Sam Fuller, author and director of the film *The Big Red One*, a Sergeant with the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, pulls out a 16mm motion picture camera and records Hitler’s murderous work at the Falkenau Concentration Camp. Both the book and film tell of his experience in Falkenau.

Word started to spread among the Soldiers of the Big Red One that the war was over. At 1115 that day, as the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment liberated the Falkenau Concentration Camp, a message came through: “Here is a message from V-Corps dated 7 May – An agreement was signed by a high military person of unconditional surrender of Sea, Air, and land forces in Germany.”

If there ever was a question or doubt or regret as of to why these soldiers were doing what they were doing, it went away that day as the sight of Hitler’s atrocities from North Africa, France, Germany and Eastern Europe, witnessed by Soldiers of the Big Red One.



fact that he survived amazes him today. “I remember going through those doors ... I didn’t think I was going to live.”

“You looked around ... you kept shoving back and forth,” said William. “You worked with your nerves because you knew if you slow down, you’d die.” The Nazi’s marched prisoners until they couldn’t walk any more. A soldier at the end of the formation would shoot stragglers in the head from behind and shoot those that would stop within the formation.

Exhausted, William fell to the ground. He closed his eyes and laid there, expecting a bullet in the back of his head. “I didn’t care if I died. I was miserable,” he said. “I kept on looking out the corner of my eye and I see them marching and they didn’t care about me.”

A farmer found William, starved and full of lice. The farmer took him into a barn and took off William’s prisoner jacket and gave him clothes and food. The next day the German farmer told William the Americans arrived and sent him to the American Soldiers.

The Nazis used William and many other prisoners at the camp in granite quarries, armament factories and in air plane production. About 64,890 prisoners passed through Flossenburg and approximately 2,000 people were in the camp when it was liberated.

At 2030Hrs 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment sends a

# A night in the Little Apple

Stock photo on the internet

By Spc. Dustin Roberts, 1st Brigade PAO

It was an autumn Friday at Fort Riley and it just so happened to be payday. My shop was released a couple of hours early and there was some scheming for us Soldiers to do.

A few of my buddies and I were fortunate to be single and at least 21 years of age, and we just so happened to be stationed 20 minutes away from a college town with a strip of at least 20 bars.

We also just so happen to have a good friend named Edward, who enjoys the night life with his battle buddies who doesn't drink alcohol and has a valid driver's license.

Now all I had to do was check my list: Cash? Check. I.D?

Check. Designated Driver? Check. Handsome face, stylish clothes and a ridiculous sense of sex appeal? Check. It was "go time."

The five of us piled into my generic, foreign four-door sedan and arrived at the Aggieville business district of Manhattan, Kan., while the night was still young.

We started off at the *KatHouse Lounge*- A classy, dimly-lit joint with hottie waitresses and good music; the perfect place to start off the night and unwind a little.

After about an hour of chit chat, laughs and a "few" vodka cocktails, someone decided to play Michael Jackson, "You are not alone." It was time to go. Notice the difference between "go

time" and "time to go."

I was feeling loose as a grey goose as we walked to *Tubby's*, when my good friend Steve made a proposal. "Hey,



Photo by Pfc. Francisca Vega



let's play a drinking game! How about we order beers, drink them, and then order some more beers!" It was the funniest thing I had heard all night. It also sounded like one hell of a battle plan.

Two words: Miller Light pounders. Okay, maybe it was three beers. Or four. Or seven. All I know is that when Brian said, "We should get shirts made that say, 'I go to K-State. I swear to God.' It would really match our haircuts," I laughed harder than someone more sober than me would have.

We decided *Tubby's* was too crowded and the male-female ratio was absolutely way against our favor.

As the adventure continued on to a bar called *Rusty's Last Chance*, I realized I had to piss worse than a Chinese war horse, or whatever the phrase is.

So we stopped at a nearby gas station to avoid lines in the clubs, and that's when I saw the nachos. It was a glorious sight. I smothered as much of the gooey, heaven-sent, golden deliciousness on my chips as possible. How I ate the heap of mush is still a mystery to me today. What is certain is that nachos while intoxicated is the greatest thing since penciled pockets; just as long as you don't spread left over cheddar sauce on Steve's shirt. Although he didn't agree with me, I thought it was pretty damn funny.

After the feast of the century I realized time was of the essence and I desperately needed a big cup of Coors at *Rusty's*.

With beer in hand, music blaring, and an aura of studliness around me, I was feeling pretty good. I knew I was destined for greatness that very moment. Then I saw my soul-mate.

She said her name was Shelly, or Shelby, or Erica, or let's just say Samantha. I told her she had the most beautiful eyes I had seen the second half of the night, and she told me the sweat pouring down my face highlighted the cheese stain on my chin. It might have been love at first site, but I was R-E-C-T, wrecked.

I didn't realize how drunk I was until I puked my guts out all over *Rusty's* floor. It was time to go.



Stock photo on the internet



Photo by Jeff Croft

Edward guided me to the trash can and patted my back. I knew I shouldn't have accepted and immediately downed that random Jack and Coke from that random chick earlier. What a night.

Brian and I wrestled each other in the back seat on the way home and Edward, who I obnoxiously nicknamed Sober Eddy, yelled at us from the driver's seat to calm down. We calmed down once we realized we were being pulled over.

We found it hilarious that the sober one was given a field sobriety test. He had to walk the line, stand on one foot, and even follow the finger with his eyes.

But there was no ticket, no jail, no UCMJ, and more importantly, no one hurt or killed. The cop actually thanked Edward and sent us off with a wave.

We made it back to the barracks safe and sound, and the only thing I wanted in the entire world was my bed.

Soldiers work hard. That means we can play hard too. Just as long as we play safe and smart. So do yourself a favor and have a set-in-stone designated driver before you go out, and try not to make a fool out of yourself, like I did. More alcohol doesn't mean more fun. Play responsibly and maybe you can score Samantha's digits. ▣





# FRG bridges communi

*By Anna Staats, Fort Riley Post*

As technology expands and changes the way people interact with each other, the Army has changed the look of the Family Readiness Group.

Virtual FRGs have become a quick and easy way for Soldiers, rear detachments, unit commanders and spouses to link up and receive the same information. Depending on the unit, vFRGs offer redeployment information, news articles, information on activities for spouses and Families and other resources. Some are large, active and encompass parents, friends and signification others while others are tailored only to the requirements of a non-deployed unit.

For Noel Waterman, Family Readiness Support assistant for 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and transition teams, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division,

the vFRG has become one of her most important tools for communicating with spouses and Families of Soldiers serving on transition teams in Iraq and Afghanistan. Because servicemembers are only at Fort Riley for 60 days prior to deployment, often the Families are not in the area. As a result, Waterman's use of the brigade's vFRG site has become a priority.

"I'm on it everyday, even on the weekends, making sure articles and





# nication



information get out to the Families,” Waterman said.

The site was already up and in use when Waterman was hired, but she quickly inherited updating the site and making it as user friendly as she could.

“I’ve figured out a few little things,” she said. “I figured out how to make it in color and I put my first thread out on it the other day.”

Waterman said it was important to her that she posted articles on the site that pertained to both the transition team mission and the needs of deployed spouses and Families.

“I can’t just have Fort Riley stuff,” she said. “Most of them don’t really care too much about Fort Riley.”

Transition team members come from all 50 states, all U.S. territories and 12 countries, so having a way of staying in contact that doesn’t involve in-person meetings is a necessity.

“Everyone seems very appreciative that we try to keep them as informed as possible,” Waterman said. “I know when I came on; it seemed for awhile a lot of people didn’t know about the virtual FRG. Now, we inform Soldiers, and then mail letters to Families saying this is where your information is at, it’s very important you have access to this. And it’s overwhelming at times the number of hits we’ve gotten.”

Waterman said the most important part of maintaining a vFRG site was keeping it current.

“It’s very important to keep it current and up-to-date because people are on it all the time,” she said.

There are more than 1,100 vFRG sites across the Army. For more information, go to [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org). 🇺🇸



# BLOGS

*By Spc. Theresa Wiersgalla, 3rd HBCT PAO*

A few strokes on the keyboard, a click of the mouse and BAM! Your personal comments have instantly been shared with billions around the world. No, you're not an influential journalist, you're a member of the citizen media; you're a blogger.

Today's virtual voice potential is extremely powerful, according to Weblog tracker Technorati, which currently tracks more than 104.1 million blogs. That's up drastically from the 27.2 million in 2006 and the mere 4 million in 2004.

About 150,000 troops are fighting the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq. Anywhere between the 1.1 million tracked by Technorati and Google's 15 million Iraq-related postings are battling an information war in cyberspace.

"Milblogging" has been the coined term to define those who write about the military.

John Donovan considers himself to be the "Big Red One's milblogger." His blog, "The Armorer of Argghhh!!!" regularly features news and comments about the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

"Someone's got to tell the stories. My (reach) is

multinational. People in China, Burkina Faso, Iceland and Nepal read about the Soldiers of the Big Red One via my site. Not huge numbers, to be sure – but they're there, and they read," Donovan said.

Donovan often uses humor in his blogs.

On of his blogs state, "If you're going to be one, be a Big Red One. No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, Duty First! Unless we've had a bad week – then it's 'No mission – too difficult. No sacrifice – too great. Duty? First I'll have a beer, thanks.'"

"I confess I have cognitive dissonance about the war," writes 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artilleryman Capt. David Bradley in his milblog "David's War Diary."

"Though I think we must stay the course and finish what we started, I surely don't want that person finishing the job to be me if I can help it."

While many blogs are done with honorable intentions – sharing stories, remembering friends – some are unclear in motive.

One example is the shocking tales from Dagger Brigade Soldier, Pvt. Scott Beauchamp, writing under the alias "Scott Thomas," who briefly served as the "Baghdad Diarist" for The New Republic.

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***"At stake is not a Soldier's  
First Amendment rights, but  
rather his or her life as well as  
the lives of fellow Soldiers."  
Paul Boyce***

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His posts were graphic and brutal: "I know another private who really only enjoyed driving Bradley Fighting Vehicles because it gave him the opportunity to run things over... his favorite target: dogs... He slowed the Bradley down to lure the first kill in, and, as the diesel engine grew quieter, the dog walked close enough for him to jerk the machine hard to the right and snag its leg under the tracks."

Such allegations sparked controversy and outrage in the blog world and sparked curiosity from media. People began questioning the validity of his stories.

Months after his blogs put The New Republic on the map, a formal military investigation discredited the postings. No evidence was found to back his claims, and his fellow Soldiers refuted the allegations.

How can Soldiers like Beauchamp fabricate stories and Soldiers like Bradley

***"Though I think we must stay the course and finish what we started, I surely don't want that person finishing the job to be me if I can help it."***

***Capt. David Bradley***

express their internal conflict for the Army? Quite simply, it's their right to freedom of speech.

While many Soldiers feel their First Amendment rights are fully stripped from them when they take the oath, there are no regulations prohibiting them from chiming in with their two-cents worth.

The Army does, however, have regulation to prevent operational security.

"Soldiers, civilians, contractors and Family members all play crucial roles to protect critical and sensitive information from getting into the wrong hands. At stake is not a Soldier's First Amendment rights, but rather his or her life as well as the lives of fellow Soldiers," wrote Paul Boyce, Deputy Division Chief, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, to Wired magazine's blog network.

OPSEC violators who are caught will face punishment. Take the short-lived fame of Beauchamp, who was reduced in rank from Pfc. to Pvt. It wasn't for his outlandish postings about alleged activities involving his unit, but for potentially endangering the safety of his comrades.

The post that sealed his fate: "We finally got official dates on Iraq deployment: May 15 - our Bradleys get shipped to Kuwait. June 11- advanced units move in. June 28 - Bravo Team, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (the breakdown of who I belong to) deploys. We're probably going to sit in Kuwait for some unknown amount of time, and then move into Baghdad."

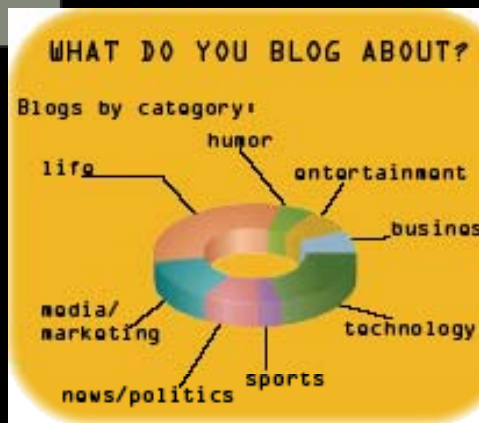
Such troop movement details were clearly an OPSEC violation, said Maj. Kirk Luedeke, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Officer.

Surprisingly, blogs are not significant OPSEC culprits, according to various reports from the Army Web Risk Assessment Cell. And it seems most Soldiers are savvy enough to watch what they write.

For the majority – the responsible milbloggers in cyberspace – blogs provide an outlet to the world; a chance to share stories rarely seen in the news.

"Repeatedly we hear from people, 'I never would have heard this story in the mainstream media,'" said Army Reserve Spc. Claude Flowers of the 304th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Kent, Wash. in 2006. Flowers was part of a Central Command team established to engage these writers and their electronic information forums.

"People really are interested in what Soldiers are doing. Blogs are individual statements. They're the voice of individuals. They're a way of understanding this war on a very human level."





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