

# Duty **1** First!



**SERVING  
WITH PRIDE  
DISTINCTION  
DEDICATION**

# The Big Red One Creed

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



## Duty 1 First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

July 2008 [www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil)

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# Commanding General **Danger 6**

## *Victory Week...*

### Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin

This is an exciting month for Soldiers of the Big Red One as we host "Victory Week" – a celebration of our Division's lineage and history. July 14-19 will mark our inaugural Victory Week, but we plan to make it an annual event. We have a full slate of activities planned to honor our fallen comrades, former commanding generals and distinguished members of the Big Red One.

We'll kick things off with a Division run and sports tournament. Fort Riley's annual 10-5-2 Prairie Run will cap things off on the final day of Victory Week. There'll be hands-on tours of our simulators, static displays, museum tours and an inside look at our headquarters building. And some of our former BRO Soldiers will be honored with their induction as 1st ID Distinguished Members of the Regiment.

As part of Victory Week, we'll be hosting our former division commanders for the annual Danger 6 conference. We'll be updating former commanding generals on our current missions within our brigades and they'll have the opportunity to meet with Soldiers in informal settings.

One of the more special events to me will be the dedication of Victory Park, located adjacent to our headquarters building. Many of you probably heard of and possibly even visited Victory Park when it was in Germany. When our Division came back to Fort Riley, with it came Lady Victory, the Fallen Soldier Statue and the memorial stones in Victory Park. The park was built to honor 1st Infantry Division Soldiers killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 and 2. It has since been expanded to include all BRO Soldiers killed in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



We currently have 193 stones in the park, meaning there are at least 250 more granite markers that must be engraved and placed in the park. And until the war on terror ends, there will unfortunately be even more Soldiers who must be remembered.

Surrounding Lady Victory are our most revered fallen Soldiers – our Medal of Honor recipients. We will soon add a stone in honor of Spc. Ross McGinnis, whose Family received the medal on his behalf during a June 2 ceremony at the White House.

The Division Walkway also includes stones in honor of our former Danger 6s and 7s. We currently have only a handful of stones memorializing our former commanders and command sergeants major. We have 71 former commanding generals and 18 former division command sergeants major.

Any Soldier ever assigned or attached to our Division is eligible to be memorialized on a stone. Or maybe a leader, business or civic organization in the Greater Fort Riley Community has significantly impacted your unit. Say "thanks" by purchasing a stone for them. If you'd like to purchase a memorial stone, contact our division headquarters commandant, Master Sgt. John Taylor, at (785) 239-8858 or [john.taylor6@us.army.mil](mailto:john.taylor6@us.army.mil).

I encourage each of you to take a stroll through Victory Park. Read the stones, the names, the sacrifices that our Medal of Honor Soldiers made. Run your fingers over the hundreds of names at the bottom of the Fallen Soldier Statue. These names, those stones, represent the service, sacrifice and courage of the great men and women who have served honorably in our Division. They will never be forgotten.

**DUTY FIRST!** 

# Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

## *I Believe in our Soldiers!*

### Division Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne

This month we celebrate the independence of this great nation. It is a celebration of men of courage and character that made a decision to pursue a life of liberty and happiness ... but those decisions came with a price. Then I am reminded of the hardships and sacrifices to gain our freedom and independence.

Our Army today is still made up of men and women with courage and character and still facing hardships and sacrifices. And just like that Army 233 years ago, our Army today would not be what it is without the individual, and their contributions.

Over the past several weeks I have transitioned into my new role as Danger 7. Without a doubt, Soldiers of the Big Red One are "Getting After it!" While visiting the Daggers at the National Training Center, I was extremely proud to witness Soldiers and their leaders alike fine tuning the skills that will push them through the breach while fighting in Iraq. Not only are the Daggers getting ready but the Dukes are soon to be on their way. You can see in the Dukes eyes they are ready to take it to the enemy in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Let's not forget those Soldiers with the 1st Sustainment Brigade, Combat Aviation Brigade, 75th Fires Brigade, and 3d ESC who are already in the fight carrying on the traditions of the 1st Infantry Division.

4th Brigade is just back after a well earned block leave and will again begin to train and prepare for what ever the nations needs are. 1st Brigade tirelessly continues to train those Soldiers at an incredible pace to assume positions on Transition Teams.

I believe in our Soldiers. Each and every one of them has something significant to add to this team through their experiences, talents and beliefs.

As leaders we need to identify those experiences, talents and beliefs and allow them to be a contribution.

If the Soldier enjoys music, they can use that to raise the morale of their battle buddies. If the Soldier has

great organization skills, they can create a new way to track missions and tasks.

I know this may sound very obvious and simple, but so many times as leaders we would rather do the job ourselves, get it done and get over it, rather than take the time to seek out an individual who may be a subject matter expert.

But there is a Soldier that once couldn't pass their run, now competes in marathons. There is a Soldier that overcame an addiction that can warn others. And there is a Soldier that is eager to step up as a leader although they may be shy or reserved.

We are "Danger Strong" strong because of the individual. We are strong because we can pull from literally a million different ideas and opinions.


Leaders, I challenge you to not to overlook anyone. I challenge you not to assume anything about your Soldiers. I tell you again that each one of them has something to contribute. That "soup sandwich" today, will with leadership involvement become a leader.

Although you may be in a position of authority – it doesn't make you an authority on every subject. A good leader will use their resources to accomplish the mission and one of the best resources is the ideas, imagination, and creativity and of our Soldiers.

I also encourage you to listen to your Soldiers, not just hear them. You may be surprised how much they know and understand and you may learn something yourself. Our Soldiers are that smart, our Soldiers are that strong.

I am so proud of the Soldiers of the Big Red One. Thank you all for your hard work. Thank you for your contribution to the 1st Infantry Division and its many, many missions.

Now ... Get after it!

**Duty First!** 



# Second U.S. Soldier Receives Posthumous Medal of Honor for Actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom

Carrie McLeroy  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** – On June 2, two weeks shy of what would have been his 21st birthday, Spc. Ross McGinnis posthumously received the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony. McGinnis was only the second U.S. Soldier to receive the medal for actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and a special Web site dedicated to his heroics has been created by the Soldiers Media Center at [www.army.mil/medalofhonor/McGinnis](http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/McGinnis). The site includes a profile on the 1st Infantry Division Soldier, battlescape, background on the medal, video news reports and a number of other resources.

**Story of a Hero** – McGinnis began his transformation from scrawny boy to standout Soldier at 17, enlisting in the Army through the Delayed Entry Program in June



2004. Although not remembered as a troublemaker, McGinnis was not interested in school, and spent his teen years struggling to eek by.

“He put us through our trials, definitely. From little up, he liked to push the limits,” his mother, Romaine, said. “You never knew what was going to come out of his mouth or out of his actions.”

In high school, McGinnis never made the honor roll or played sports. According to teachers, he made his mark, but in ways that were uniquely Ross.

“He stood out, but just by bits and pieces,” said Franki Sheatz, McGinnis’s ninth and 11th-grade French teacher at Keystone High School. “When he stood out, a lot of times it was because of his wit, or because he was trying to get away with something. He never did any more or less than a lot of the other kids I had in class, although he was charming in his little way.”

His parents and teachers agreed that the catalyst that sparked a change in McGinnis was his decision to join the military.

“He came to us and said he wanted join the Army, and we accepted that,” said McGinnis’s father Tom. The way we looked at it was that he had no intention of going to school, and there really aren’t very good jobs for a person that doesn’t have higher education. The Army was an opportunity for him to be able to get the kind of education that he wanted.”

The younger McGinnis had aspirations of one day becoming an automotive technician. The Army, in

his eyes, was a means to that end - a place where he could serve his country as an infantryman, but receive an off-duty education that would prepare him for a future career.

Once McGinnis made the decision to join the Army, that became his focus. “The different conversations I had with Ross sometimes were over academics and encouraging him to do his best and that he had goals in mind,” Vicky Walters, Keystone High’s principal said. “We were encouraging him to complete those goals...He indicated he would do what it took to get the job done.” He would finish high school so he could join the Army.

His parents shared concerns about their son enlisting during a time of war, but knew if he stayed in Knox, his odds of making something of himself were limited.

McGinnis left his rural Pennsylvania town for basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., within days of graduating from Keystone High School, just before his 18th birthday. During the first stage of training, McGinnis’s parents received a phone call from him. “He said the first week was boring, a lot of, ‘Hurry up and wait,’” Romaine said. In subsequent calls, he conveyed his increasing enthusiasm.

“He really liked the physical part of the training. Ross wasn’t one to push a pencil. He wanted to be actively involved,” she said. “He was really excited about the weapons training. While in Boy Scouts, they went to a shooting range once and he really liked that, so it didn’t surprise me when he said he wanted to go with the gunner position.”

**Soldier Among Civilians** – McGinnis finished basic and then infantry training in Georgia and headed home to Knox on leave before reporting to his first assignment in Germany. The changes in him were evident, and shocking to some.

“He looked so much taller. He wasn’t. I think it was the uniform really,” Romaine said. “But it was, ‘Yes, ma’am,’ and, ‘No, ma’am.’ And I was like, ‘Who is this kid?’ He had a lot of respect, not that Ross ever disrespected us, but there was definitely that attitude that the Army had bred

into him already in that short amount of time.”

Tom echoed his wife’s feelings about the new Soldier. “When he came home on leave and he was around civilians, he felt uneasy because other people seemed to be sloppy and lazy as compared to what it was like in the military. He was definitely different and thought differently after he’d gone through the training. It was surprising, because I don’t know if I ever knew anyone like that before, especially my own son. He had learned and grown quite a bit.”

When his Family learned that McGinnis’s first assignment would be to a Germany-based infantry regiment scheduled for an Iraq deployment, they worried but wished him well. “I told him, ‘Be safe. Think before you act.’ Any parent would say that to their child, I’m sure. We thought he was coming back,” Romaine said.

**Soldier’s Soldier** – McGinnis arrived in Schweinfurt, Germany in November 2005 and reported to 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment with an influx of Soldiers as the company was preparing for its upcoming mission to Iraq. According to retired Staff Sgt. Ian Newland, he immediately became an instrumental part of the team.

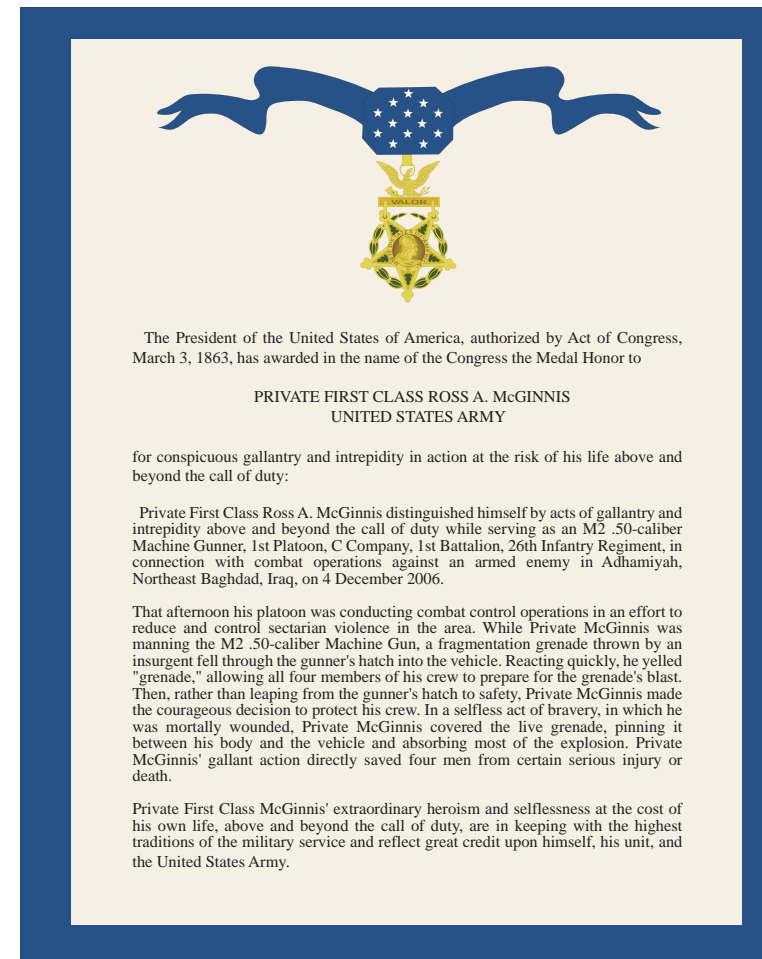
“His personality and humor made him stand out. He was the comedian out of everybody,” Newland, a squad leader with 1st

Platoon at the time, said. “You could be having the worst day in the field, or the worst day in the rear ‘D’, and Ross would come in a room and everybody would be laughing within three minutes.”

His gifts extended beyond platoon funny man according to his leaders, who said he was also a top-notch Soldier.

“I had four platoons, roughly 190 Soldiers in my command. There were certain Soldiers that would stand out. McGinnis was definitely one of those Soldiers,” said Maj. Michael Baka, Co. C commander from June 2005 to March 2007.

He was also a born leader, Newland said, who knew how to read and react to different Soldiers in a variety of



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of the Congress the Medal Honor to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROSS A. MCGINNIS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an M2 .50-caliber Machine Gunner, 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 December 2006.

That afternoon his platoon was conducting combat control operations in an effort to reduce and control sectarian violence in the area. While Private McGinnis was manning the M2 .50-caliber Machine Gun, a fragmentation grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch into the vehicle. Reacting quickly, he yelled "grenade," allowing all four members of his crew to prepare for the grenade's blast. Then, rather than leaping from the gunner's hatch to safety, Private McGinnis made the courageous decision to protect his crew. In a selfless act of bravery, in which he was mortally wounded, Private McGinnis covered the live grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle and absorbing most of the explosion. Private McGinnis' gallant action directly saved four men from certain serious injury or death.

Private First Class McGinnis' extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

situations. “People responded to him, and he knew how to respond to people’s personalities and characters. That is one of the hardest traits to build as a leader, to be able to adapt, per Soldier. He had that naturally.”

**Adamiyah** – The first unit from the battalion on the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jesse A. Newman

ground, Co. C arrived in Iraq Aug. 4, 2006, following a week of training in Kuwait. Combat Outpost Apache in Adamiyah, a northeast section of Baghdad steeped in sectarian violence, was to be their home. The area had lacked a U.S. presence for eight months.

“There were a lot of kidnappings, killings and a lot of enemy activity in our sector,” Baka said. Insurgent attacks, sniper fire, grenade contact and IEDs were all part of daily life in Adamiyah.

In October, just two months into the deployment, Co. C had already lost two of its Soldiers; Staff Sgt. Garth Sizemore to a sniper’s bullet, and Sgt. Willsun Mock in an IED explosion. In November, after Saddam Hussein was found guilty of crimes against humanity, the battalion fought a five-hour battle against enemy insurgents who attacked the outpost.

By December, the men of 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt. were battle hardened, but McGinnis had a way of taking the focus off the tragedies.

“He was constantly motivating and positive all the time, and that really helped the platoon out a lot. He was key in our platoon because of that,” Newland said.

**That Fateful Day** – Dec. 4, 2006, 1st Plt. was gearing up to patrol the streets of Adamiyah and deliver a 250-kilowatt generator to provide increased electricity to the area. Insurgents had been lobbing grenades at vehicles on patrols, and in response the platoon had honed its reaction skills through a series of training scenarios Newland likened to fire drills. He had experienced such an incident nine days earlier on patrol, but the grenade turned out to be a dud.

As they rolled out of Apache’s gates, the men in the six-vehicle patrol felt up to their mission, despite ever-present dangers, as they did each time they patrolled Adamiyah’s streets, Baka said. “We had only just left the gate. We were moving deliberately down the streets, and

had just taken a left-hand turn on a main road just south of Abu Hanifah mosque.”

Baka’s was the fourth vehicle in the order of movement. The platoon sergeant’s vehicle was the last, as is typical for a standard patrol, and McGinnis manned its machine gun.

According to official statements from Sgt. Lyle Buehler (the driver), Sgt. 1st Class Cedric Thomas (platoon sergeant and truck commander), Spc. Sean Lawson (medic) and Newland, McGinnis sat in the gunner strap, .50-cal at the ready, facing backward to ensure rear security. Buehler and Thomas rode in the front of the vehicle, and Newland and Lawson in the back.

As the sixth vehicle made the left turn, Baka heard a loud explosion. His initial thought was that a grenade had exploded outside his own up-armored Humvee. Baka’s machine gunner got on the intercom and said, “Sir, it looks like our last vehicle got hit.” All four of the Humvee’s doors had been blown off. Baka ordered his vehicle and the one behind it to turn around. “Once I saw the vehicle I knew right away that we had a hand grenade that had entered the vehicle, and that we had a large number of casualties,” he said.

Baka got a new driver for the crippled but still running Humvee, and they headed back to Apache. He said he knew the Soldiers had sustained injuries, but did not know to what extent until arriving at the outpost. He didn’t know



that McGinnis was dead, or that he died a hero.

Thomas pulled Baka aside within minutes of arriving at Apache and said, “Sir, McGinnis saved our lives today.” Then he told the story that would support that statement.

An insurgent on a nearby rooftop threw a grenade at McGinnis’s vehicle. He unsuccessfully attempted to deflect the grenade, and it entered the vehicle behind him. McGinnis quickly announced, “Grenade!”

According to official accounts by survivors, McGinnis stood up and was preparing to jump out of the vehicle. “That is what the machine gunner is supposed to do,” Baka said. “He’s supposed to announce the grenade, give a fair amount of time for people in the vehicle to react, and

then he’s supposed to save himself. No one would have blamed him if he did that, because that is what he was trained to do.”

This time, the 19-year-old Soldier would not heed his training.

The other Soldiers asked, “Where?” McGinnis’s response - “It’s in the truck.”

McGinnis saw the grenade sitting on the radio mount behind him and realized the others weren’t aware of its location. They were combat-locked in the Humvee and would not have time to escape. As he gave his response, he pushed the gunner strap out from under him and laid his back on top of the grenade. It detonated, killing him instantly.

Buehler and Thomas received minor shrapnel injuries, and Lawson suffered a perforated eardrum and concussion. Newland received more of the blast and was severely wounded, but would survive. “The driver and truck commander I am certain would have been killed if that blast had taken full effect,” Baka said.

Newland, who was medically retired because of his injuries, was able to protect himself because of McGinnis’s warning. “He put his arm over his face, which I think saved his life, because a piece of shrapnel hit him in the arm. Another hit him in the chin and some in his legs. But he’s alive today,” Baka added.

Within 24 hours of McGinnis’s sacrifice, Baka gathered statements from the survivors and wrote the recommendation for his Medal of Honor. He received the Silver Star, the third-highest award for valor, as an interim award.

**Magnitude of his Sacrifice** – “The first time it became full magnitude for me was when we were loading his body onto the helicopter for the hero flight - that’s standard,” Baka said. The unit held a small, informal ceremony and Baka led them in a prayer, as there was no chaplain at the combat outpost. As the helicopter flew away, they saluted the young man who laid down his life so the men he loved and served with could live.

For the men who survived, each breath they take serves as a reminder of McGinnis’s courageous sacrifice.

“By all means I should have died that day. He gave me a life that he can’t have now,” Newland said. “There isn’t a single day or hour that goes by that I don’t take in everything. The smell of my daughter’s hair, the smile my son gives me out of nowhere, the soft touch of my wife’s hand just driving in the car. Normally those are things people might take for granted. I’m able to appreciate and have these things all over again, every day, every hour,

because of what Ross did.”

**Regular Guy Who did an Extraordinary Thing** –

Tom McGinnis is still adjusting to the fact that his son, who he described as average, often to the point of being an underachiever, received the Medal of Honor.

“I never pictured what a Medal of Honor winner is supposed to look like, but I guess I would think of somebody like a John Wayne character in the movies, where the guy is macho and tough and fear is nothing,” Tom said. “But of course, that’s not anywhere close to what my son, Ross, was like. Although he had very little fear in him, he wasn’t a tough, macho type of person. He was just like you and me.” For those outside the Army closest to McGinnis, he was a regular guy who came through for his friends when it mattered.

**Remembering Ross McGinnis** – For his brothers in arms, the best way to remember McGinnis is to tell the story of what he did for them Dec. 4, 2006, and to live their lives every day with purpose and meaning.

“I think for me to thank him, is to do everything I can to live my life to the fullest,” Newland said. “Because if he can have courage like that, if he can give up his 19-year-

old life, then I can live the rest of my life, however long it is, to every day’s fullest.”

The Family McGinnis left behind still wrestles with his hero status and the wounds that haven’t had a chance to heal. Tom and Romyne said the constant focus on their son and what he did honors his memory, but keeps already raw emotions on the surface.

“It’s been good, because people want to keep his

memory alive, and people do things to show you that it really meant a lot to them,” Tom said. “But at the same time, it doesn’t give us a chance to just drop it for a while... it keeps that wound fresh. It’s painful, but eventually once everything dies down, then I think that the healing process will start.”

The McGinnis’s remember their son as an average kid who made mistakes but found purpose and direction as he became a young man, just like many other kids out of high school. For them, it is difficult to think of Ross as the larger-than-life character others may see him as because of his sacrifice. 🇺🇸

*This story was written from videotaped interviews of the sources. Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes and Staff Sgt. Ray Flores of Soldiers Radio and Television conducted the interviews.*



# Run, Forrest, Run!

## Fort Riley Soldier to Return to Hollywood



**Bill Armstrong**  
**Fort Riley, PAO**

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – A 23-year-old infantryman with an Iraq combat tour under his belt, completed his Army service at Fort Riley June 14 and returned to civilian life. Instead of scanning the want ads for a job, this Soldier headed to Hollywood to make movies.

Sound crazy? It would if it were any other guy. But Conner Humphreys, formerly of 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, got a taste of being on the silver screen at the age of 8, and he liked it. Humphreys landed the role of “Young Forrest” in the 1994 hit, “Forrest Gump,” starring Tom Hanks.

“If I really get into a character, I think I’m decent at it. I don’t want to call it a talent. Some people are comfortable with it and some aren’t,” Humphreys said.

Undaunted by his 15-year break in movie making, Humphreys said his military time helped him get a new role in an upcoming World War II movie called “Pathfinders.”

“It’s about the Pathfinders from the 82nd that dropped in prior to the air drops on D-Day. They set up landing zones and what not so the rest of the divisions could come in. They were the initial wave of 18 or 20 guys that went into Normandy right before everyone else showed up and had a hell of a time in there,” he said.

Humphreys plan to resume his acting career after serving his country has been successfully tried before by other Hollywood giants. Jimmy Stewart paused his stellar film career to join the U.S. Army Air Corps at the start of World War II, eventually flying 20 combat missions over Europe. Other famous actor-veterans included William Holden, Clark Gable and Henry Fonda.

Over the years, the lanky young man from Corinth, Miss., has lost most of the Southern drawl that brought attention to his lines in Forrest Gump. Today, the soft-spoken Humphreys credits the Army for giving him what he’ll need to survive a return engagement in Hollywood.

“I think that having been in the military has taught me to be grateful for what I do have. I’m grounded by it and I think going into that industry, there’s so much craziness with people, I think that will keep me away from that. I don’t want 50 mansions. I want to do films but still have a basic life,” Humphreys said.

Having a job as soon as he steps out of uniform was not something Humphreys planned. He said his expiration of term of service was a date already set before he knew about the filming of Pathfinders.

“It’s a lucky coincidence that some of this work I’m getting is all popping up this summer when I was getting out. It’s just good timing for me,” Humphreys said.



Another shot at movie fame is not Humphreys’ ultimate goal in life. As he learns his lines for his next film, he’ll also be searching for a college to attend later this year. His field of interest is archaeology.

“I think it would be a lot of fun to study. I guess I watched Indiana Jones too many times,” Humphreys added with a wide grin. 🇺🇸



# Our Partnerships



**Sgt 1st Class Pamela Voss**  
1st Inf. Div., PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – The history of the 1st Infantry Division is deep and rich, which is due in large part to the enriching, dynamic of partnership it shares with other military commands.

U.S. Army Forces Command is the 1st Infantry Division's major Army command, and instructs the division's execution in providing expeditionary, campaign capable land forces to combatant commanders. This is through training focus to dominate across the full spectrum of operations; work jointly and interdependently; posture for strategic response when called upon; transform to a future force and live the Army Values.



The Installation Management Command provides Fort Riley the installation capabilities and services to support expeditionary operations in a time of persistent conflict, and to provide a quality of life for Soldiers and Families commensurate with their service.



Fort Riley's IMCOM is a source of balance that ensures an environment in which Soldiers and Families can thrive, a structure that supports unit readiness in an era of persistent conflict and a foundation that supports Army Transformation.



U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command executes globally based and expeditionary communications capabilities to enable joint and combined battle-command, which is essential to the 1st Infantry Division during their support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This enables a leveraging of the information grid to ensure extension and reach back capabilities to the Warfighter; while operating, engineering, transforming and defending the Army's LandWarNet enterprise across the full spectrum of network-centric operations and warfare.



Medical Command promotes, sustains and enhances the Soldier's health. This is primarily conducted through Irwin Army Community Hospital. Not only does MEDCOM train, develop and equip a medical force that supports full spectrum operations, it also delivers leading edge health services to our warriors and military Families to optimize outcomes.



Without these resources the 1st Infantry Division would fold, training would cease and mission could not be executed.

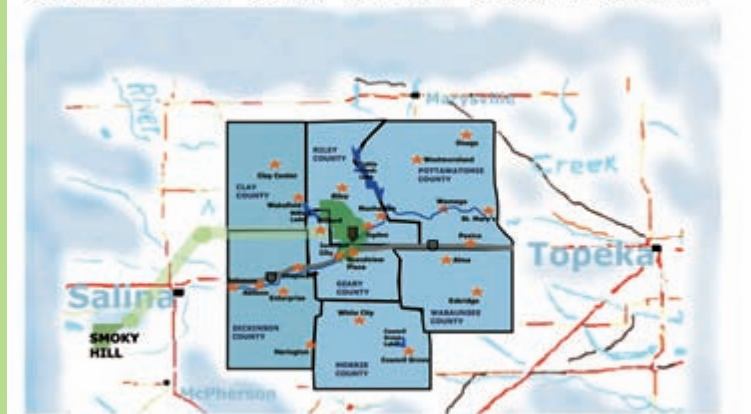
Dental Command is a deployable team providing high quality dental care to a wellness-oriented population. The Fort Riley DENTAC provides excellent dental care and superb customer service whenever and wherever needed. They also provide wellness, readiness, and deployability for the Soldiers, as well as cutting edge skills and continuous improvement of productivity and efficiency.

Army Materiel Command is always evolving its mission and focus. Through new programs and initiatives, the command continues to find better ways to ensure our warfighters get what they need - where they need it - when they need it. Every weapon and piece of equipment used by the 1st Infantry Division is derived from AMC.

U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command conducts intelligence, security and information operations for military commanders and national decision makers. This is filtered and fed to 1st Infantry Division leadership.

Human Resources Command ensures the full spectrum of human resources programs, services and systems are executed to support the readiness and well-being of Army personnel worldwide. For 1st Infantry Division Soldiers this reflects their administrative files, promotions, and selections.

## GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY



"A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN"  
"A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE"

This mutual existence offers support and quality of life for the Soldiers and Family members of the 1st Infantry Division.

In addition the following agencies take a special interest in Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division:

- Association of the US Army Central Kansas Chapter
- Junction City/ Geary County Military Affairs Council
- Manhattan Military Relations Committee
- Kansas Governor's Military Commission/ LT. Gov's Task Force
- Old Trooper Regiment- Junction City
- Little Apple Brigade- Manhattan
- Boy Scouts of America- Quivera District
- American Legion- GFRC area
- Veterans of Foreign Wars- GFRC area
- Abilene Military Affairs Task Force
- Flint Hills Veteran's Coalition



# Phishing Scam Targets Families of Fallen

**WASHINGTON** – A “phishing scam” targeting the Families of fallen Soldiers reportedly has con artists promising compensation in exchange for information that might aid them in identity theft.



The scam artist pretends to be from the Defense Finance and Accounting Office or the Army Human Resources Command, according to an Army G3 Information Paper. The Families of deceased Soldiers are informed that they are entitled to monetary compensation in excess of \$12 million that will be available to them in one week of responding to the request for additional information.


The Families are instructed to provide sensitive their personal information, such as social security number, date of birth, address and other facts about the deceased Soldier.

They are instructed to either visit the Army Human Resources Command offices in Alexandria, Va., or e-mail the information to an overseas Yahoo account.

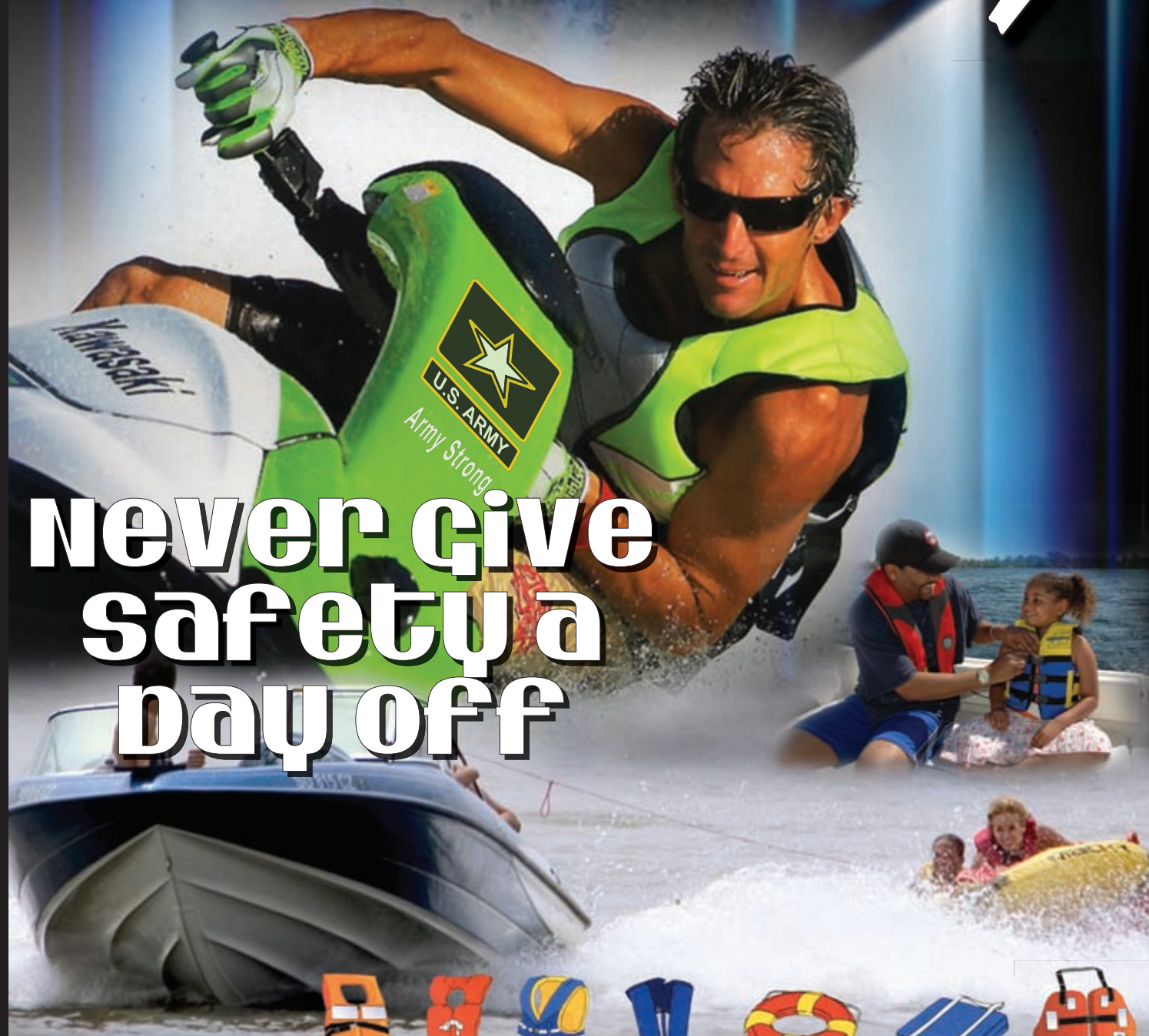
Angela Sykes, an operations security officer with Army G3, said that the scammers reportedly get the name of fallen Soldiers from the Web, then either call or e-mail Families with the same last name in the Soldier's hometown.

“We sent word to all the OPSEC program managers ... and asked them to disseminate the information to their personnel,” Sykes said.

The Army Human Resources Command asked that the field be advised of the phishing scam after the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center learned what was happening.

The Army Installation Management Command was notified of the scam, along with the Family, Morale Welfare and Recreation Command. These commands then alerted Family Readiness Group liaisons to further disseminate the information. 

# Water Safety



## Never Give Safety a Day Off

Personal  
Flotation Devices



Type I



Type II



Type III



Type III Inflatable



Type IV Ring Buoy



Type IV Cushion



Type V



# DIVISIONAL CHANGE

## How We Got Here

**Laura Stroda**  
1st Inf. Div., PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.**— The makeup of the Army unit known as a division has changed drastically since the Army was constituted on June 14, 1775. Here's a glance at how the divisional structure has changed.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, divisions were typically a temporary unit and varied in size and structure. They were used during war and had command and control of the regiments and brigades assigned to them.

The Army decided a permanent combined arms division was necessary following the Spanish-American War. The intent was to build a division consisting of three infantry brigades, a cavalry regiment, an engineer battalion, a signal company, four field hospitals and nine field artillery batteries.

A division was defined as "a self-contained unit made up of all necessary arms and services, and complete in itself with every requirement for independent action incident to its operation." Now, that definition is pushed down also to the brigade level.

There was no set strength of the Army's early divisions. Instead, the size was dictated by how long it took for the unit to complete a day's road march to the front lines. The formations were designed to occupy no more than 14 miles of road space.

As the U.S. was preparing for World War I, the division structure was modified again. But it retained its triangular configuration – two combat teams for maneuver and one for reserve.

Because the U.S. Army division was created using so many small units, command and control issues began to arise and commanders found the units lacked necessary firepower. Thus, the division was restructured to consist



of two infantry brigades – each with two infantry regiments – light and heavy artillery, signal and engineer troops, and service units.

The new "square division" concept was applied to the Army's first permanent division on June 8, 1917. The 1st Expeditionary Division went on to become the 1st Infantry Division.

Following World War I, Army planners decided to stick with the divisional concept, giving commanders the opportunity to train large numbers of troops for war. Units were organized into brigades, divisions and Army corps.

In 1935, divisions returned to the triangular shape following a study that indicated an infantry division with three combat teams simplified command structure and provided more flexibility.

One of the weaknesses revealed during World War II was that the triangular division lacked tank, tank destroyer and anti-aircraft artillery battalions. The German Blitzkrieg in 1939 prompted the development of a new type of division – the armored division.

The first armored divisions were organized into five elements – command, reconnaissance, striking, service and support. In 1942, it was modified to resemble an infantry division, with two armored regiments under two combat commands, with a division artillery.

At the end of World War II, divisions were restructured and kept their three regimental combat teams, but were also assigned the units regularly attached to them in combat. The strength of this division grew to more than 19,000. The Korean War was fought using this type of divisional structure.

As the U.S. entered the Cold War era, Army officials

determined that the Communist bloc could field more men and resources than the U.S. and its allies. Nuclear firepower was their answer to this problem and the focus shifted to fielding a division with greater firepower and less manpower.

The new, smaller "pentomic division" consisted of five small battle groups that replaced the traditional three infantry regiments. Its strength was about 13,500 Soldiers. However, armored divisions did not adopt the pentagonal structure.

The new ROAD (Reorganization Objective Army Divisions) divisions called for infantry and armor maneuver battalions under three brigade headquarters, division artillery, aviation, reconnaissance, engineer and signal battalions, along with a division support command.

The flexibility of the ROAD concept allowed modern tanks, fighting vehicles and field artillery weapons to be assigned to the divisions. By maintaining the base and changing the number and type of maneuver battalions assigned, divisions became more flexible.

The ROAD divisions were maintained until after 9/11, when the Army began to transform to a modular force. The focus shifted from the division level to the brigade level. Brigades are now designed to be self-sustaining units, complete with support and reconnaissance capabilities.

The new modular units are designed identically Army-wide, which allows for "plug and play" capabilities. Under the modular structure, a brigade combat team can deploy independently and fall under the command and control of a separate division in theater. Likewise, division headquarters are capable of deploying independent of their brigades.

Today's Army consists of 10 active divisions, supplemented by eight National Guard and 12 reserve training divisions. The "Big Red One" remains the longest, continually-serving active duty division.

Source: *The Army Historical Foundation*



# History of the Big Red One

History from the Society of the 1st Infantry Division webpage

**WORLD WAR II**, – On Aug. 1, 1942, the 1st Expeditionary Division was reorganized and redesignated as the 1st Infantry Division.

The 1st Inf. Div. entered combat in World War II as part of "Operation Torch", the invasion of North Africa, the first American campaign against the Axis powers. On Nov. 8, 1942, following training in the United Kingdom, men of the 1st Inf. Div. landed on the coast of Algeria near Oran. The initial lessons of combat were harsh and many men were casualties in the campaign that followed and which stretched from Algiers into Tunisia. On May 9, 1943, the commander of the German "Afrika Korps" surrendered his force of 40,000 and North African operations for the Big Red One ended. The Division then moved on to take Sicily in "Operation Husky." It stormed ashore at Gela, July 10, 1943, and quickly overpowered the Italian defenses. Soon after, the Division came face-to-face with 100 tanks of the Herman Goering Tank Division. With the help of naval gunfire, its own artillery and Canadian allies, the 1st Inf. Div. fought its way over the island's hills, driving the enemy back. The Fighting First advanced on to capture Troina and opened the Allied road to the straits of Messina. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Big Red One stormed ashore at Omaha Beach. Soon after H-Hour, the Division's 16th Infantry Regiment was fighting for its life on a strip of beach near Coleville-sur-Mer that had been marked the "Easy Red" on battle maps. As the assault progressed, the beach became so congested with destroyed equipment, the dead and the wounded, that there was little room to land reinforcements. Col. George Taylor, commander of the 16th Infantry Regt., told his men, "Two kinds

of people are staying on this beach! The dead and those who are going to die! Now, let's get the hell out of here!" Slowly, spurred by the individual heroism of many individuals, the move inland got underway.

A German blockhouse above the beach became a command post named "Danger Forward."

After the beachhead was secured, the Division moved through the Normandy Hedgerows. The Division liberated Liege, Belgium, and pushed to the German border, crossing through the fortified Siegfried line. The 1st Inf. Div. attacked the first major German city, Aachen, and after many days of bitter house-to-house fighting, the German commander surrendered the city on Oct. 21, 1944.

The Division continued its push into Germany, crossing the Rhine River. On Dec. 16, 24 enemy divisions, 10 of which were armored, launched a massive counterattack in the Ardennes sector, resulting in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. The Big Red One held the critical shoulder of the "Bulge" at Bullingen, destroying hundreds of German tanks in the process. On Jan. 15, 1945, the First Infantry attacked and penetrated the Siegfried line for the second time and occupied the Remagen bridgehead. On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, the Division marched 150 miles to the east of Siegen. On April 8, the Division crossed the Weser River into Czechoslovakia. The war was over May 8, 1945.

At the end of World War II, the Division had suffered 21,023 casualties and 43,743 men had served in its ranks. Its soldiers had won a total of 20,752 medals and awards, including 16 Congressional Medals of Honor. Over 100,000 prisoners had been taken.

Following the war, the First Division remained in Germany as occupation troops, until 1955, when the Division moved to Fort Riley, Kan.

**DUTY FIRST!**

ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO - 1942

TUNISIA

Elements of the 1st Division came ashore at Arzew, a few miles east of Oran.



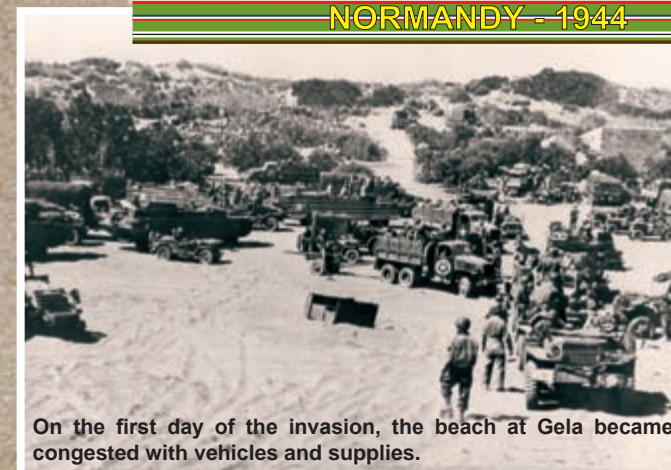
The aftermath of the battle: LSTs unload tons of material needed to consolidate the landing.



American troops "mop up" while French troops look on.

SICILY - 1943

NORMANDY - 1944



On the first day of the invasion, the beach at Gela became congested with vehicles and supplies.

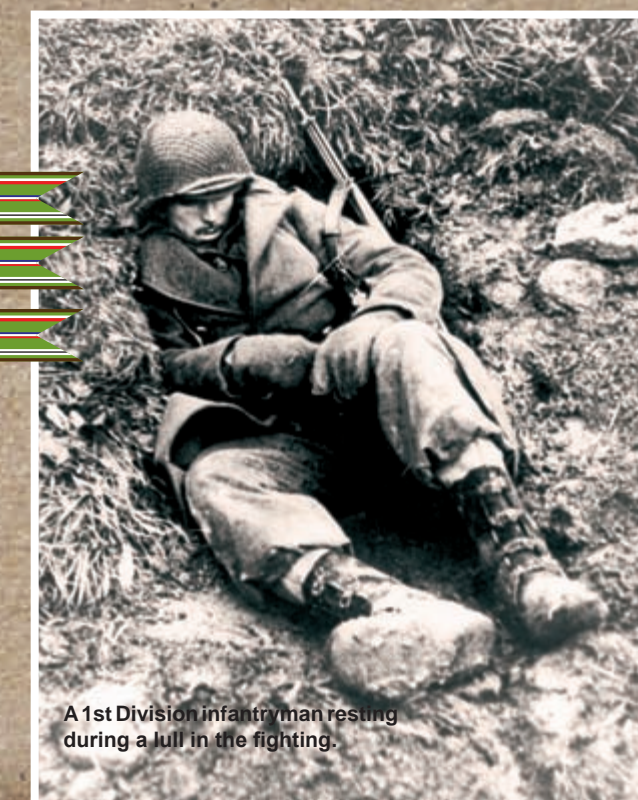
NORTHERN FRANCE - 1944

RHINELAND

ARDENNES-ALSACE



Sgt. Ronald Myers, 1st Inf Div, walks way into German town at Everensbach - 14 April 45



A 1st Division infantryman resting during a lull in the fighting.

# Who We are Now



**Spc. Francisca Vega**  
1st Inf. Div., PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – As the oldest division in the U.S. Army, history is something the Big Red One takes pride in knowing, but war is a different business now than it was in the “Lost Generation” (WWI generation.)

As weapons become more sophisticated, new and innovative techniques of warfare are introduced and as international relationships change, so does the way the 1st Infantry Division goes about leading its troops.

A significant change brought about by senior Army leadership recently is the Army Family Covenant. Commanding General of the 1st Inf. Div., Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, has embraced the spirit of the covenant by making it a point to attend many Family events. Aside from producing free childcare services, new equipment in on-post gyms and a new child development center, Durbin has pushed for 250 new quarters on Fort Riley and an adventure recreation program for Soldiers for this year alone. By 2010 Durbin hopes Fort Riley will be home to a new Commissary and Post Exchange, along with four new child development centers and more fitness centers.

It is no secret that a happy Family makes for happier, more productive Soldier at work. Chaplains have confirmed that a Soldier who doesn't has to worry about their family while they are deployed have more mind to focus on the mission at hand. These changes, upgrades and additions are designed to do just that; take care of the Army Family.


Another change the BRO is currently undergoing is one that the Army is also undergoing, and it is the biggest restructuring change that it has adopted in 50 years. The change is one that will require significant cultural, organizational and personal change, reports a Congressional Research Service, Report for Congress.

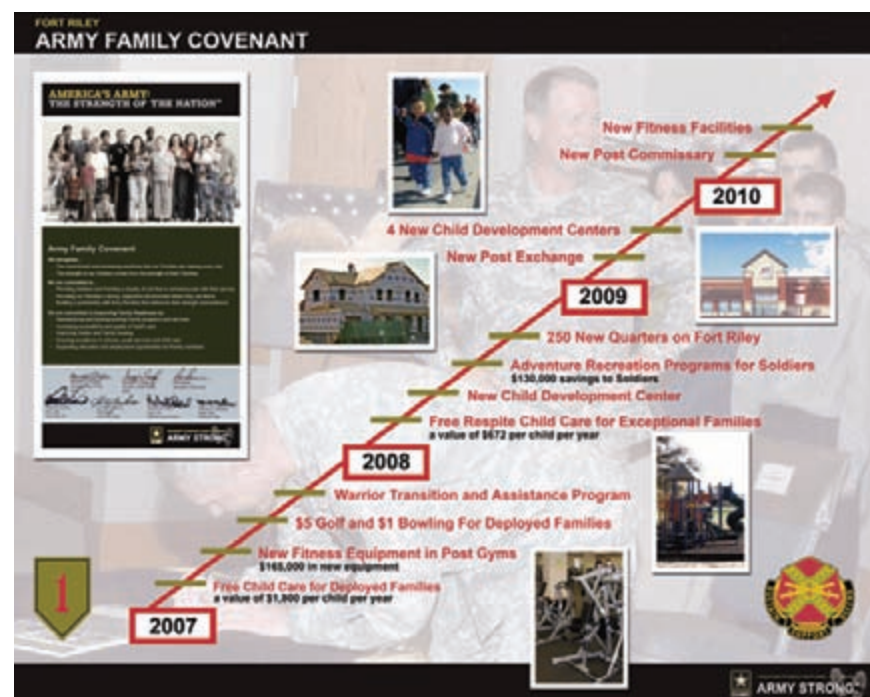
Modularization has been adopted by the BRO and the Army in an effort to produce a larger deployable fighting force to relieve

stress on units currently deployed and possibly shorten deployments.

As of July 2008, all the units that receive training oversight by the 1st Inf. Div. have been modularized, with the exception of 1st Brigade and the Division Headquarters. Due to the mission the BRO received from the Department of the Army of training the Military Transition Teams, 1st Brigade has worked hard to deliver to the Army the best advisors possible. With many Soldiers working six-day work-weeks to accomplish this task, modularizing has not been possible.

Durbin's list of priorities, in order of descending precedence has been caring, training, sustaining, and protecting. This varies from a time when the Army held training as its highest priority and didn't realize the significance of other areas. Though battalion commanders and Soldiers will always strive to achieve and maintain excellence in training objective, Soldiers cannot sustain the standards with training alone.

With the new direction Durbin has implemented with the aid of his initiatives a stronger, more dedicated and focused division is predicated in the future. 



# 1<sup>ST</sup> BDE

## The Other Side of the Coin

**Spc. Dustin Roberts**  
1st BDE, PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – Lt. Col. John Nagl, commander, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, is one of six children from Omaha, Neb. He graduated near the top of his class at West Point in 1988 and was selected as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England. He provided insight and recommendations of counterinsurgency to Gen. David Petraeus, helping him write the Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual. He retired in June 2008 after 24 years as an Army Officer and joined the Center for a New American Security in Washington, D.C. Duty First!'s Spc. Dustin Roberts had the opportunity to sit down with him and ask a few questions.

**Duty First!:** At what point in your career did you feel you wanted to be involved with counterinsurgency doctrine?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** My personal exposure to war began with Operation Desert Storm where I had a tank platoon in the 1st Cavalry Division. As I reflected back over the next couple of years on that experience of leading Soldiers in Combat and the way our enemies had fought us, the American Military, the most capable military in the world, took the Iraqi Army from the fourth largest in the world to the second largest in Iraq in a period of about 100 hours. The conclusion I came to was, to the greatest extent possible, our enemies would never let us do that to them again.

**Duty First!:** How did you think our future enemies would fight us?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** They would fight us not in a conventional fight, in which they cannot hope to win; No tank-on-tank, fighter plane-on-fighter plane symmetric conflict, but instead they would fight us asymmetrically. They would either try and go to the high end of the spectrum and acquire weapons of mass destruction, or they would fight us on the low end of the spectrum of conflict, using insurgency and terror.

**Duty First!:** After Desert Storm and after commanding a cavalry troop in Germany, you went back to Oxford to get your doctorate. What did you write your dissertation about?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** I decided to write that dissertation on the low end of the spectrum of conflict on insurgency and counterinsurgency. I looked at a case of the British Army in Malaya, what is now Malaysia, where the Brits fought a very successful counterinsurgency campaign from 1948-1960. I compared that with the case of the American Army in Vietnam, which fought a not-as-completely successful counterinsurgency campaign, with the major fighting happening between 1965 and 1973. So it was the experience of fighting in Desert Storm, a conventional war that led me to think that America's conventional military superiority was so great



that our future enemies would be likely to fight us as insurgents and terrorists. That's when the interest really began.

**Duty First!:** What was your role in writing the Counterinsurgency Field Manual?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** I published the dissertation a number of years later in a book in 2002 after the attacks on the World Trade Center, but before the invasion of Iraq. The book came to the attention of some people, including Gen. David Petraeus, who is an old mentor of mine. One of his tasks ahead of him as commander of the combined arms center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. was re-writing the Counterinsurgency Field Manual. I had some recommendations for him on how I thought we could do that to best help the Army.

**Duty First!:** You've been in command of 1/34 since 1st Bde. took the Transition Team mission in 2006. How have you seen the TT evolve?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** Since I took command I have seen a professionalization of the training, I have seen the Army devote vastly more resources to it. Two months after we began here the Army published The Army and Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual. I think that the book drew upon lessons the Army had learned and codified them and then we fed them back into the Army to sort of level the playing field and provide a common basis of understanding counterinsurgency.

**Duty First!:** You think the manual helped the training here?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** I think it helped the TT program, the TT members and the Army. We've since translated it into Dari and into Arabic so that the Iraqi and Afghan security forces can also develop a common understanding of counterinsurgency. We've

created a pretty good training program here that has come a long, long way. We've developed a product that I'm proud of, both in terms of training them for the kinetic tasks, the rifle qualifications and mounted combat patrols, but also the counterinsurgency training, some of the more intellectual aspects of this kind of war. This training forces TTs to find proper balance and shift mentally from being polite, professional and ready to kill and also working hard for economic and political development.

**Duty First!:** What is your best piece of advice that you can give to our present and future combat advisors?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** The most important thing we do as counterinsurgents is provide security to the population and the most effective way to do that is not to do it ourselves, but to have our partner nations take care of their own people. There are many ways to accomplish a mission, and just because it's not the American way doesn't mean it's the wrong way. While working together in partnership, we can make a difference in providing more security to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. The great combat advisors working with more effective Iraqi and Afghan security forces have made a huge difference and they need to keep up the fight.

**Duty First!:** We know you've proposed the Army developing a permanent advisor corps. If the Army does develop a corps similar to what you have suggested, where do you see the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan going?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** The mission of advising our friends and

allies around the globe is perhaps the most important part of our strategy as a nation for winning the Long War. The challenges that spur the growth of terror and insurgency is poor government, lack of education, lack of hope, poor economic opportunity, religious radicalism, all those things are not primarily military problems.

**Duty First!:**What do you suggest?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** The military advisory effort is really only part of a broader U.S. government and all of our allies and friends' advisory effort, not to just help the military forces. The departments of justice and the ministries of interior and agriculture of these countries we're helping should also be advised. I think there will be a need for an advisory capacity and capability throughout the U.S. government, not just in military, for a very long time to come.

**Duty First!:** What's important about your proposition?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** The important thing is that we value and reward that advisor service appropriately for what I believe is doing the most important and most difficult part of waging this war. We can't win these wars, what we can do is enable and empower our friends and allies to win it for us and really to win it for them and their own people. Advisors have a critical role to

***There are many ways to accomplish a mission, and just because it's not the American way doesn't mean it's the wrong way.***

play in that happening.

**Duty First!:** You're retiring in June to complete 24 years of service and heading to our Nation's capital to work for the Center for a New American Security. What will be your role there?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** I'm going to continue to think and write about U.S. national security policy, which includes information operations. One of the things I'm most interested in is how we win the global war of ideas. I'm going to continue to think about U.S. counterinsurgency policy in the non-uniformed elements of the U.S. government. It's not big enough to do all the things that we've needed to do in the post-Sept. 11th world. I think we have become far better in waging counterinsurgency then we were 5-10 years ago, but there is still more we can do to make ourselves more effective with this kind of war.

**Duty First!:** How do you feel about your accomplishment in the Army?

**Lt. Col. Nagl:** It's been a great 24 years in uniform for me. I'm hopeful that I can continue to contribute to the security of the United States and put to use all of the great experiences and the great learning that I've had as an Army officer in the continued service of my nation. 🇺🇸

# 2ND HBCT BATTLE READINESS

**Sgt. Brian Tierce**  
2nd HBCT, PAO

**FORT IRWIN, Calif.** – Soldiers from 1st and 2nd Platoons of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment trained on foreign relations and insurgent defense May 24 at the simulated Iraqi village of Abar Layla at the National Training Center.

Soldiers trained with government contractors and NTC staff, who posed as Iraqi police, to hone their skills when reacting to improvised explosive devices, civilian media and suspected sniper fire. Exercise scenarios provided Soldiers with the opportunity to initiate and maintain traffic control points, evacuate casualties from a hostile environment and conduct community relations with Iraqi security forces.

Simulated training situations were presented to Btry. B giving them experience working with “Iraqi police.”

“The main mission of Bravo Battery is to assist the Iraqi army get in the lead of the operation here. We’re here to support them in whatever they need.” said Capt. Steve A. Padilla, Btry. B commander.

The two platoons followed the simulated Iraqi army soldiers as they conducted a road march into the town of Abar Layla where the coalition reacted to a possible IED.

“We’re integrating them within our operations right now



U.S. Army soldiers work in coalition with simulated Iraqi army soldiers in the training Iraqi village of Abar Layla. Soldiers provide security while leaders speak with the village mayor on community relations issues.

so we can jointly provide a safer, more secure environment,” Padilla said.

Soldiers moved into the village section of the training area while platoon leaders entered the village on a community relations mission. Meeting the mock mayor, they talked about securing the village through traffic control points and patrols.

“Specific tasks are to work jointly with the Iraqi army and the Iraqi police, to have them in the lead and support them in all their efforts to bring security, stability and governance to the town,” said Padilla.

Observer controllers provided critiques of Soldiers and leadership. Notes taken during the exercise provided critical feedback to the elements involved. Through these observations, changes can be made to better the unit’s cohesion and skills working with a coalition force securing hostile areas in Iraq.

“The coalition has faced challenges within the insurgent cells trying to prevent progress with them. We are trying to face the insurgents and get the Iraqi people the security they need,” Padilla said.

The simulated coalition mission concluded with Soldiers and leaders training on the areas noted as “needing practice.” The battery also discussed the tasks successfully completed to maintain its level of effectiveness providing security forces to aid the coalition.

# 1st Infantry Division at War



Simulated Iraqi army Captain, Capt. Mustafah Abdelah speaks through his interpreter to U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jason E. Cady coordinating tactical movement between U.S. Army and Iraqi army soldiers to Abar Layla, a mock Iraqi training village.

# 3RD IBCT

# Enhance Security



## CSI Tricks

## Enhance Security

**Sgt. Todd Goodman**  
3rd IBCT, PAO

**FORT HOOD, Texas** – Biometrics literally translates as the measurement of life. Soldiers on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan are taking measurements that will improve security immensely.

“It’s the military version of CSI [Crime Scene Investigation],” Michael Benasutti, senior principal engineer, Computer Sciences Corporation, said. Benasutti was on hand to produce a DVD to increase Soldiers’ awareness of the system.

There are two parts to the biometric system. The Biometric Automated Toolset (BAT) and the Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Device (HIIDE). The BAT is a high resolution, fixed system on a network. The HIIDE is the mobile unit that Soldiers use in the field to gather biometric data on the populous. Confused yet?

Imagine going into an Afghani village of 2,000 people with a box-like device and scanning their eyes. This is done to track the people. It gives Soldiers a genetic file on the people in their area of operations. Say an IED goes off several miles away and a hair is found on the scene. Well, that biometric information from the hair will match the information from the eye scan or a fingerprint, which is on file in the BAT. It creates a watchlist, whereby people on the list may be tracked and observed or apprehended.

“It is an absolute sure fire way of identifying and proving that someone was in a certain place at a certain time,” Benasutti said.

The possibilities are vast. Eyes will be scanned at entry points and as long as the info from the BAT has been transferred to

the HIIDE, gate guards can see immediately if the person trying to enter is on the watchlist. Fingerprints also may be taken at entry points.

“This really improves force protection,” Sgt. Maj. Robert Haemmerle, biometrics master gunner and instructor for the weeklong class at Fort Hood. “This system strips insurgents of anonymity and restricts their freedom of movement.”

Staff Sgt. Joseph Smith, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, has downrange experience with HIIDE in Iraq. He took the course at Hood and will use BAT in Afghanistan, as well as teach others how to use it.

“We took devices with us on patrol in Iraq and didn’t capture anyone at first, but after getting people in the system, we tracked people and made some arrests,” Smith said.

“I think it will be very helpful to our Soldiers on the ground,” Staff Sgt. Aniruj Alfred, 1-6 FA, said. “Coming to a new populous, the departing unit will already have information on the people. We can inherit that information.”

The BAT has been in use since 2001, and HIIDE has been in the field since early 2007, with great success in Iraq, Haemmerle said.

“It allows us to track people globally,” He said. “You can change your name, but can’t change your biometrics.”



# 4<sup>TH</sup> IBCT **RESET**

**Spc. Francisca Vega**  
1st Inf. Div., PAO

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – After the excitement of the initial homecoming there is the reset phase. Paperwork is filed and changed from downrange, deployed status to garrison and in house.

Amongst medical appointments and visits to storage facilities to be reunited with sorely missed personal affects, Soldiers can find themselves just as busy assimilating as they were while they were deployed.

While all of this is going on, Soldiers are being reintegrated with their families and friends and what better way to reintegrate then to take some long denied leave?

For those that have filled out a leave form, less commonly but more properly called a DA form 31, and all information associated with a leave packet, this can be a complicated task, especially if the company requires a lot of extra information. Fortunately for many Soldiers however, there are the “S” shops that assist with process.

“We need to get the mission done, so that they can focus on their mission,” said Sgt. Deshun Prater, administrative specialist supervisor with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “They can’t focus on their mission if they

have a pay issues, or if their paperwork is not right.”

Block leave for 4th IBCT was slated for 30 days. Within that time, the Dragons experienced minimal manning and maximum integration.

“They have been together of the last 14 months,” said Prater. “This is a time they can use to unwind and get away from each other before they come back.”

Home is where most of the Soldiers go to “get away form each other,” and for most Soldiers home is some where in the US.

“They scattered throughout the 50 states,” said Staff Sgt. Jeff Clark, administrative NCO for 4th IBCT’s Special Troops Battalion, who is in charge of over 400 leave slips.

“Most of these Soldiers aren’t mine,” said Clark. “but we take care of them.”

Taking care of Soldiers is a mutual feeling administrative specialists share.

“Our job is to take care of them,” added Prater. “I tell my Soldiers, ‘one day it could be you in that chair.’ I know I wouldn’t want my files to be wrong.”

The importance of properly filed paperwork could be debatable, but for those that are in charge of making sure it is done correctly, the task is inarguably a challenge.

With Soldiers at work who place taking care of their own as a priority, taking leave can lead to one less thing to worry about. 🇺🇸



# TT Mission

- Transition Teams advise, teach, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces and the Afghan National Army.
- Transition Teams provide direct access to Coalition capabilities such as air support, artillery, medical evacuation, and intelligence gathering.
- Transition Teams are critical to the transfer of security responsibility to the Iraqi and Afghan governments.
- The consolidation of training at Fort Riley provides standardization of high quality training and effective use of resources.
- Dedicating the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and one of the Division’s Brigades to the Transition Team mission demonstrates full commitment by the US Army.



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SB HighRollers

**Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer**  
1st SB, PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Sounds of The Eagles, Bon Jovi, and original music by Spc. David Palmer, a Chicago native and member of the 515th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad, echoed through the night as the HighRollers' band performed May 10 at the Camp Taji Mudhouse on an open mic night.

Six months ago, the band was merely three people looking for something to pass the time.

"Barker and I started out with an acoustic guitar and a set of bongo drums," laughed Staff Sgt. Benjamin Reyes, a Boston, Mass., native, and the band's lead vocalist, percussionist and drummer. "Later that day Palmer joined in to give us a total of three 'bored' members."

Songwriter, vocalist and guitarist are among the many talents Palmer has brought to the band since he joined. He is also the only member who is able to say he was once on American Idol.

"I love music and that's all there is to it," said Palmer, who plays rhythm guitar and sings vocals for the band.

Since then, many other Soldiers in the unit have joined the band looking for an escape from the long deployment months. Steadily growing, the band is presently seven deep with members from various ranks.

The band's members include: Reyes, Palmer; Sgt. Michael Kilroy, an Egg Harbor Township, N.J., native, and back-up drummer; Sgt. Antares White, a New Haven, Conn.,

native, and a vocalist; Sgt. Brandon Jones, a Whiting, Maine, native, and the lead bassist; Spc. Malcolm Barker, a Tupelo, Miss., native, and the lead guitarists who also plays the harmonica; and Pfc. Carl Ross, a Greensboro, N.C., native, and vocalist.

One goal of the HighRollers is to produce a Mudhouse CD and leave behind a piece of their music history. How, one might ask, can a small unit band produce such a thing?

The band has a recording studio built right into their unit's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation room.

"The sound-proof room, now that was a crazy thing! We were going over some songs one night and Barker said how much he wished we had a booth to record in," Reyes commented.

Before the room was built, the band was using a padded wall locker located in a Soldier's living quarters.

"After about 15 minutes of brainstorming, I got up from behind the drums, went out back and got some lumber. It took me three days to get the majority of it done before the guys realized it could work," he continued.

For the most part, the band performs its favorite songs, which range from rock to the blues. The HighRollers also pride themselves on giving

their own unique twist to their all-time favorites. How often is Lynyrd Skynyrd's Sweet Home Alabama performed with a beat-box, free-style rap twist to it?

"The band has come together so much over time. It has been real fun and given us all the chance to be part of something great," said Reyes.



Sgt. Brandon Jones, who serves as the bands lead bassist, performs an Eagles song, "Hotel California" at the Camp Taji Mudhouse.

Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer, 1st SB, PAO

# Rock Out



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Reyes, the HighRollers' lead vocalist, goes behind the mic inside the bands new sound booth as Spc. David Palmer and Spc. Malcolm Barker man the controls as they record for their up coming Camp Taji Mudhouse CD



Spc. David Palmer who serves as the band's lead rhythm guitarist and vocalist, performs "Blue," a song he wrote, at the Camp Taji Mudhouse





# 1<sup>ST</sup> CAB

## The Legacy Continues

**Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez**  
1st CAB, PAO

**TIKRIT, Iraq** – Since the days of early aviation, Army pilots have played a key role in the outcome of ground battles and air missions.

For pilots flying the AH-64 Apache Longbows of the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment in northern Iraq, the legacy of influencing the fight continues through careful mission preparation and teamwork. These pilots, known as the Gunfighters, are part of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division's efforts to sustain a constant presence over the skies of northern Iraq in support of Task Force Iron.

However, before the Gunfighters jump into their cockpits and head out into the skies of Multi-National Division-North, they must plan meticulously prior to each mission.

"First thing we do is get our mission data cards for the aircraft ready through our AMPS (aviation mission planning station computer) via our CP (command post) with all the aircraft specific data. We receive our tail number and we print out the knee-board cards and communications cards," said Chief Warrant Officer Thaddeus Menold, air mission commander 1-1 ARB.

"From there we head over to the battalion tactical operations center and receive a mission team brief," said 1st Lt. Deborah Lindeman, Co. C, 1-1 ARB.

Personnel from the operations and intelligence staffs



brief the pilots on the details of their mission to insure they know what to expect.

"Pilots are briefed on the five Ws- who, what, where, when, how and why- in respect to the operations portion of the brief. The crews receive instructions on what the ground commanders want along with any changes in procedures or radio frequencies," said 1st Lt. Peter Huang, a battle captain for 1-1 ARB.

"Furthermore, pilots receive any changes in battlespace and any updates as to what friendly forces are in the area of operations."

Just as the operations officer gives a detailed briefing, so does the intelligence officer. Everything the enemy might be doing or trying to do is briefed to include the careful articulation of possible enemy courses of action.

"We find patterns and trends the enemy might be engaged in like IED, small arms fire and emplacements. We give the pilots an assessment so they know what to look for, how the enemy might act and what to expect," said Staff Sgt. Floyd Perry, 1-1 ARB intelligence analyst.

"The intel guys can give a 72-hour look of what has happened in the area of operations as well as a threat analysis to tell us where the bad guys are, based on previous activity," said Menold.

Once each Apache crew is briefed and understands their mission set, they receive a team brief by their air mission commander.

"After our intelligence and operations brief we go back to our CP and we do a team brief and we plan our route of ingress, our execution and our route of egress. We also discuss what our greatest threat might be, and what the greatest safety risk is," said Menold.

"In addition we address what to do if we lose communications or have an emergency. From there we head out to the aircraft for pre-flight checks and we also check the weather one more time before we go on the mission," said Menold.

Although the Apache is a two-seater helicopter, both pilots in an AH-64 Apache Longbow has a certain job to perform. While both are capable of flying the aircraft, the

duties of the command pilot and the co-pilot gunner called the CPG; are distinctly different in a combat situation.

"The pilot maneuvers the helicopter so that the CPG can fire," said Lindeman.

"The advantage to being the CPG is that you have laser and you can shoot missiles or the 30mm cannon."

The pilots must work together to accomplish in-flight tasks and duties.

"We just talk to each other and I let him (the pilot) know if I have something, where I am looking at left or right. From there the pilot can see the video I am looking at through my screen, he then places the aircraft to where I am looking," said Lindeman.

During a mission, individual Apache crews work with a sister gunship and are part of a weapons attack team made up of two AH-64 Apache helicopters flying as a pair. Mission success depends on the gunship crews working well with each other.

"I like crew coordination not just in the cockpit but in the team. I like to see crew coordination between aircrafts. If someone has a minor problem no matter how small I want to know about it," said Menold.

Each Apache helicopter crew has a distinct role during a mission set.

"The lead aircraft is the primary shooter, navigator and

serves as the principal communicator with the ground force commander. The trail aircraft covers the lead aircraft should the lead aircraft take fire. The trail Apache also monitors the CTAF (Common Traffic Advisory Frequency) for air-to-air deconfliction," said Capt. Jason Lynn, 1-1 ARB plans officer.

Supporting the ground units is what each mission is about.


"Mission success is measured by supporting the ground units and helping them get back to their bases safely. So we do our best to help them in any way we can," said Menold.

"There is nothing better than catching someone emplacing IEDs. The ground units are always appreciative of us being there."

There are several types of missions Apache crews often fly. The missions vary between counter IED reconnaissance, to ground support.

Apache pilots say they can see the positive contributions they are making in defeating insurgents.

"The violence has scaled down quite a bit since we got here," said Menold.

"We used to catch a lot of insurgents emplacing IEDs. However, there are not as many emplacers as there used to be. We are definitely having an impact on IED activity," said Menold. 



# 75<sup>TH</sup> FIRES BDE AMBASSADOR FOR THE ARMY

**Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo**  
**75th Fires, PAO**

**FORT SILL Okla.** – Several years ago a 19 year-old man was on vacation to the U.S. and a chance encounter with a U.S. Army recruiter changed his life forever.

“I was born on St. Thomas in the capital Charlotte Amalie, the economic hub of the Virgin Islands. My parents and their parents are from the British Commonwealth, twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda,” said 1st Lt. Jermaine Athill, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, battalion personnel actions officer.

“I was schooled in Antigua where I attended the Cobbs Cross Primary. I attended the University of the West Indies Antigua Campus for a year prior to accepting a job at Sandals Resort Antigua where I was a purchase and receiving deputy manager,” Athill said.

“I joined the Army in November of 1993 just by chance encounter with an Army recruiter in New York City, as I was on vacation and then decided that I will enlist.

“Back then it was the ‘Be All You Can Be’ Army motto and I considered joining the Army for some time but mom was against it,” Athill said. “(The recruiter) said ‘join up, travel and see the world,’ and I latched on to that little bit of foresight to see the world.”

And travel he did.

His first assignment was in the Federal Republic of Germany with 115th Postal Company in Kaiserslautern, FRG, then 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Mechanized Brigade in Baumholder, FRG; the 90th Postal Company, 90th Personnel Support Battalion in Kaiserslautern, Bad Kreuznach, and Baumholder, FRG.

After several years in Europe, Athill was then selected to serve in Hawaii.

“The Army exceeded my expectations on so many ways and that’s why I volunteered to become a recruiter—to give something back to the Army,” he said. “I would say eighty percent of Soldiers join because of that recruiter—an Ambassador for the Army—sold himself to Soldiers.”

Athill’s philosophy is that people are willing to join the Army because they see something in their recruiter that they want to be, Athill said.

“When I first came into the Army, my NCOs instilled that discipline to go to school and take initiative for on-the-job training [correspondence course],” said Athill. “There’s a great opportunity to go to school in the Army, even though some MOSs can not go to school and can not go sit in a college 100-percent of the time. There are a plethora of jobs in the Army and if you realize that you do not like your job then there’s the beauty of reenlisting.”

“I was selected for promotion to sergeant first class in August 2003 with nine years then promoted in September 2004. I was then approached by my company, battalion and brigade commanders about becoming either a permanent U.S. Army Europe Command Recruiter or consider Officer Candidate School, which I chose (Officer Candidate School),” he said.

Athill said he never considered becoming an officer, and so he said took the compliment in stride and continued doing his duties. But after some thought while doing

another Soldier’s OCS packet, he realized that perhaps the transition to officer would not interfere with his future goals but in fact enhance them.

“I now have 14 years in the Army and on the mainland. I look forward to a bright and rewarding future in the Army; however, my future goal and most ambitious attraction is to become a future governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands around 2028,” he said. “I fully believe that whatever the mind can conceive and believe it will achieve and so only time is in my way.”

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo

As the 1st, 17th FAR, battalion personnel actions officer, Athill (left) assists the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Roy Sevalia (center) with numerous tasks like processing awards, Soldiers finances and personnel accountability for the battalion.



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