

Duty **1** First!



Victory Week
2009

The Big Red One

Creed

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

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

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

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

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

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



Duty **1** First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Special Edition 2009

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1st Infantry Division CSM
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Duty First!/Staatz

Cover Photo: Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, leads 111 Soldiers in the Oath of Enlistment July 31 during the Victory Week Division Pass in Review ceremony.

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Commanding General **Danger 6**

Welcome Home 'Dukes'

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

After 12 tough months in the mountains and villages of Afghanistan, our 3rd Brigade 'Dukes' are finally home. Col. John Spiszer, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz and all of the other leaders and Soldiers of the Duke Brigade represented the 1st Infantry Division well throughout their entire deployment and they added yet another thrilling chapter to the history of this storied Division.

There are countless stories of individual heroism that happened during that year in some of the most remote areas of Afghanistan. Despite their remote outpost locations, our Dukes encountered heavy enemy contact. Some dealt with constant attacks at their outposts. Others were ambushed along travel routes. The attacks from Taliban insurgents didn't deter 3rd Brigade Soldiers. There was no sacrifice too great. Unfortunately, some did make the ultimate sacrifice and those brave souls who sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom will live on forever, in our hearts and in our fond memories.

But there was no mission too difficult for our Soldiers and by the time the Dukes redeployed, violence had decreased throughout their areas of operation. Not only that, the Dukes also worked to improve the way



of life for the Afghan people. They helped rebuild schools, distributed supplies when a massive earthquake struck and worked to rebuild communications infrastructure.

The mission of the Dukes was a prime example of how versatile today's Soldiers must be. On one hand, they fire weapons, conduct reconnaissance and hit the streets on patrols. On the other hand, they work side-by-side with partner security forces – whether that be our coalition forces, the local police or national armies. They are Soldiers first, but they must also be diplomats, working to improve not only security, but also the quality-of-life for whatever corner of the world we send them to.

And while those Soldiers are downrange, protecting and defending freedom, here at home are their Families, friends and loved ones. They, too, know the meaning of sacrifice and deserve not only our appreciation, but our respect. So to all of our Duke Families, thank you for your service.

To all of the Soldiers of the Duke Brigade, welcome home and a job well done! You truly embodied the Big Red One motto – No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Duty First! 

Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

Victory Week Celebrates The Big Red One

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

The 1st Infantry Division has played a major role in many of our nation's wars. It's because of our Soldiers and their values that we have always been victorious in every conflict that's confronted us.

I can proudly say that the history of our division is the history of our nation.

Throughout history, our Soldiers have seen victory in battle and prosperity in peace.

Our division, like our nation, will not forget the valorous acts of our veterans — nor the countless acts of sacrifice and devotion by the men and women who fought and served with them which has contributed to the privilege and security we enjoy today.

For 92 years, Big Red One Soldiers have fulfilled their obligations magnificently — and as our division continues down the path of transformation, Big Red One Soldiers will remain the centerpiece that we will organize, equip and train for fighting and winning the nation's wars — and anything else we are asked to do.

Our division's ethics rest on the bedrock of the seven Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. It is a unique collection, unlike any other in the world, and reflects the high standards to which the Big Red One and the entire Army adheres. Our profession ultimately is about the willingness of Soldiers to fight and die,



if necessary, for one another and for our country.

George Washington once said "...without this Army, we wouldn't have this country." He also said the brave heroes who sacrificed so much to give us our independence fought, not for themselves alone, but for the fate of unborn millions, who depended on the courage and conduct of this Army.

I see this same courage in our Soldiers as many of them are and will be deployed overseas for the second, third and fourth time. They are Soldiers of an Army at war, who serve the nation as their predecessors have since before the birth of the republic. Sacrifice, valor and devotion are woven throughout the fabric of the flag they defend.

During our Victory Week celebrations, we celebrated that service; we celebrated the history that is defined by that service; and we celebrated the Soldiers who helped to write that history and the history of the 1st Infantry Division. During Victory Week, we celebrated those values and the Soldiers who for decades have lived by those values, even before they were written down. We have and always will live by our values, and through them, maintain our strength.

Now...Get After it! 

Former Soldier Awarded Silver Star for Bravery

By Anna Staats
Duty First! Magazine

On April 6, 2004, then- Spc. David Sterling wasn't thinking about a Silver Star or even saving someone else's life. He and other members of his mechanized infantry section were headed out to help some Marines near Ar Ramadi, who had taken contact and suffered casualties.

Sterling said when they arrived at the area, he didn't see any American Soldiers; instead he saw members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, and in the midst of the shots being fired, couldn't even tell who was firing at whom. Then Sterling saw a group of Iraqi men in the area acting "kind of strange."

"We requested to fire some warning shots and then moved in a little closer," Sterling recounted.

What happened in the next moments changed the course of his life. A rocket-propelled grenade hit the Bradley he was in, puncturing the side of the Bradley, slicing through the leg of the vehicle commander, Lonnie Moore, and then amputating the lower part of Sterling's right arm on the spot.

Sterling provided first aid to himself. Moore radioed for evacuation and reinforcement, and then blacked out due to loss of blood.

"He (Moore) was bleeding really bad," Sterling said.



Duty First!/Staatz

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, awards David Sterling, II, with the Silver Star during the Victory Week pass in review ceremony July 31.



Duty First!/Staatz

David Sterling, II, salutes Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks after being awarded the Silver Star during the Victory Week division pass in review ceremony on July 31.

He provided covering fire with his M-16 and when that jammed, he used Moore's weapon to continue firing.

Once he and Moore were evacuated, the next few weeks were a blur. Sterling arrived at Walter Reed Medical Center before his wife, and said the first days there were barely a memory.

"I was on so much medication and stuff, that I was just out of it," he said.

He and his wife, Beverly, toughed out those early days, tackling the numerous challenges that faced them. For Sterling, after the basic healing process was over, he had to begin not just rehabilitation on the arm he'd lost, but he also had to relearn everyday tasks.


"I was right-handed. I had to learn to do everything with my left," Sterling said.

The 2003-04 deployment was Sterling's first. He joined the Army at 19, in part because it was an honorable way to earn a living for his family. After basic training, he was sent to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade.

"My wife was pregnant and I was looking at how to take care of her and a baby," Sterling said. Now the couple has three children, Michael, Thomas and Callie.

All three children, Beverly, Sterling's mother, Rosemary, and sister, Rachelle Lyon, were present July 31 when Sterling was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in combat.

"It's an honor," Sterling said. "I'm kind of surprised the Army is making a big deal of it...this is a lot."

Sterling and his family live in the Fort Riley area. They opted to stay after Sterling was medically retired in late 2004. Sterling currently works as a civilian for Range Control. 

Big Red One Remembers Fallen Soldiers

By **Laura Stroda**
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

The Victory Bell tolled for its fallen, a firing squad sounded off in salute and bagpipes played a solemn tune as 53 Soldiers were remembered in a somber memorial ceremony July 30 at the 1st Infantry Division's Victory Park.

The ceremony honored the Big Red One Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in battle during the past year.

"They represented the 1st Inf. Div. with honor, with courage and with dedication," said Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley. "Remember that each name is a Soldier with a story. A person who left behind family, friends, brothers and sisters in arms. A person who willingly raised his or her right hand to serve our nation, both here in America and throughout the world ... May their sacrifice, and that of their families, live on in freedom and in liberty, in our hearts and in our fond memories."

More than half of the fallen Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a 1st Inf. Div. brigade that deployed from Fort Hood, Texas. Hit especially hard was the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment. Thirteen "Blue Spaders" were memorialized during the ceremony. The stones of Spc. Stephen Fortunato, Sgt. Preston Medley and Spc. Cory Bertrand, all Soldiers in Company D, were placed on Victory Walk together.



Richard Fortunato of Beverly, Mass., makes a rubbing of his son Stephen's memorial stone July 30 following the victory Park memorial ceremony at the 1st Infantry Division headquarters. Spc. Stephen Fortunato, who deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, was killed Oct. 13, 2008, when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device.


Fortunato's father Richard and his wife, Nancy, traveled from Beverly, Mass., to pay tribute to their son and his fallen comrades, who all died in Oct. 13, 2008, when an improvised explosive device hit their Humvee.

For the Fortunatos, the Victory Park ceremony and outpouring of support from other Soldiers and community members brought back memories of Stephen's memorial ceremony in their hometown. Stephen was the first Soldier from Beverly to be killed in combat since the Vietnam War and Nancy said the community lined the streets to pay tribute to their son.

"We had the bagpipes and a caisson. People came from far and near.... hearing the bagpipes again, it wasn't good; it reminded me of being back home," Richard said.

Nancy said while the ceremony did bring a small amount of closure, it was still an emotional time.

"This place is overwhelming. We didn't realize it was so big, and knowing Stephen was part of this, he was with a wonderful group of people," Richard added.

"Stephen loved the Army; he loved his job and wanted to be in the action. He wanted to protect his men ... He was very proud," Richard said, noting his son quit college after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and enlisted in the Army. "I know he died doing what he wanted. He told me on his last visit, 'Dad, if I have to die, I'm ready to die.' He did what he had to do. He wanted to do this." 



Photos by: 1st Inf. Div. PAO/Stroda

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley pauses with 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne at the stones of fallen Big Red One Soldiers during the Victory Park memorial ceremony July 30 at the 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters.

Victory Park Ceremony

Below are the names of Soldiers who paid the ultimate price between August 2008 and July 2009. Their names were added to the stones in Victory Park.



Master Sgt. Davy N. Weaver
 Lt. Col. James J. Walton
 Sgt. 1st Class Matthew L. Hilton
 Sgt. Douglas J. Bull
 2nd Lt. Michael R. Girdano
 Spc. David J. Badie
 Pvt. Jair D. Garcia
 Spc. William J. Mulvihill
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony M. Carbullido
 Sgt. Jose E. Ulloa
 Staff Sgt. Kristopher D. Rodgers 3
 Sgt. 1st Class David J. Todd, Jr.
 Pvt. Vincent C. Winston, Jr.
 Spc. Marques I. Knight
 Pfc. Michael R. Dinterman
 Pvt. John A. Mattox
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Slebodnik
 Pvt. Michael W. Murdock
 Capt. Bruce E. Hays
 Sft. Brandon W. Farley
 Staff Sgt. David L. Paquet
 Capt. Bruno G. Desolenni
 Staff Sgt. Nathan M. Cox
 Pfc. Joseph F. Gonzales
 Sgt. Preston R. Medley
 Spc. Stephen R. Fortunato

MITT
 MITT
 MITT
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT
 1st Sustainment Brigade
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 Task Force Duke
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team

Spc. Cory J. Bertrand
 Sgt. John M. Penich
 Cpl. Jonnie L. Stiles
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald V. Clark
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christian P. Humphreys
 Master Sgt. Anthony Davis
 Capt. Robert J. Yllescas
 Sgt. John J. Savage
 Pfc. Benjamin B. Tollefson
 Staff Sgt. Joshua L. Rath
 Cpl. Keith E. Essary
 Sgt. Ezra Dawson
 Sgt. Daniel J. Thompson
 Capt. Brian M. Bunting
 Sgt. Christopher P. Abeyta
 Sgt. Robert M. Weinger
 Staff Sgt Timothy L. Bowles
 Spc. Norman L. Cain III
 Lt. Florence B. Choe
 Navy Lt. J.G. Francis L. Toner IV
 Pfc. Richard A. DeWater
 Staff Sgt. William D. Vile
 Sgt. James D. Pirtle
 Spc. Ryan C. King
 Maj. Steven Hutchison
 Spc. Chad A. Edmundson
 Sgt. 1st Class Kevin A. Dupont

3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 Task Force Duke
 Combat Aviation Brigade
 Combat Aviation Brigade
 MITT
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 94th Engineer Bn.
 2 Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT
 MITT
 Task Force Duke
 Task Force Duke
 Task Force Duke
 Task Force Duke
 MITT
 MITT
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 Task Force Duke
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 3rd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT
 2nd Brigade Combat Team
 MITT



WARRIOR COMPETITION PUSHES SKILLS TO THE LIMIT

By Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

Every warrior fights for victory, but the 1st Infantry Division set out to find its 'Victory Warrior' through competition July 29.

The competition was part of the Big Red One's week-long 'Victory Week', a celebration of camaraderie, history and honoring its heroes – past and present.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Dukes, the competition's noncommissioned-officer-in-charge from the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, said the challenge was based upon two other Army competitions, Best Ranger and Expert Infantry Badge.

"It consists of a 12-mile road march, 11 skill-level-one tasks, done within a three hour and thirty-minute time frame," Dukes said. "The time will not stop during any of those events, so it keeps those Soldiers motivated to move fast through the 12-mile road march."

At the end of the road march, a stress shoot ended the challenge, involving short-range and long-range marksmanship, for each two-Soldier team.


At the end of the competition, points were tallied from each event, and a winner determined.

Second Lt. Daniel Abaldo, an operations officer with the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, who participated in the event, said he felt preparation for the competition helped him and his teammate, Capt. Benjamin Ryder, the 2-34 Armor intelligence officer, do well in the event.

"We tried to be advanced and kind of war-game based upon time and capabilities," Abaldo said. "I think we did it pretty well; it really worked in our favor."

Abaldo and Ryder were the first to cross the finish line, but due to the points system for each event, it did not guarantee victory.

Despite that, Abaldo said he felt good about his and his teammate's chances.

"I certainly hope (we win), but I saw a lot of guys and girls pushing hard; good luck to all of them," Abaldo said. "It was a good push, and I couldn't have done it without Capt. Ryder." 

SERVICE, DUTY RECOGNIZED

By Anna Stantz
Duty First! Magazine


First Infantry Division Soldiers capped off a week full of sports competitions, ceremonies and remembrance with a division pass in review ceremony on July 31.

"Victory Week" is an annual Big Red One event, designed to remember the division's fallen, honor its veterans and showcase the strength and prowess of today's Soldiers.

During the pass in review ceremony, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks administered the Oath of Enlistment to 111 Soldiers. The group of Soldiers was led by Spc. Elisabeth Melchione, the youngest Soldiers to reenlist.

Also during the ceremony, three division heroes were recognized for their actions during combat. David Sterling, II, was awarded the Silver Star for actions in combat in April 2004. While conducting combat operation near Ramadi, Iraq, Sterling, a gunner, was assaulted by an enemy counter-attack and struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, which wounded both he and his platoon leader. Even though his hand was blown off in the attack, Sterling applied first aid to his platoon leader, and manned the turret to repel approaching enemy forces.

"This is a big honor," Sterling said. "But at the same time, I'm kind of surprised the Army's made such a big deal out of it. It's very special."

Also received honors were Sgt. Damien Griffith and Spc. Jessica Ross, both of 1st Sustainment Brigade. Griffith and Ross were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained while in combat in Iraq. 



4h IBCT/Campbell

A team arrives at Range 18 for the radio and call for fire portion of the Victory Warrior competition.

RUN TO THE FINISH

Camaraderie, fitness part of division run



Photos by: Jordan Chapman (above Cody Herding (below right) and Spc. Shantelle Campbell (above Right)

Above and upper right: Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks (left), commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and Division Command Sergeant Major Jim Champagne lead Soldiers at the beginning of the division run July 27, which kicked off Victory Week. Below right: Runners are shown from above.

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

Preparatory chants, stretching and encouragement of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers could be heard on and near Custer Hill Parade Field as the early morning light of July 27 slowly revealed the first day of Victory Week.

About 16,000 Soldiers from the division formed up on Custer Hill Parade Field and along Normandy Drive to kick off the first event of the week, Victory Run, a 3.6-mile route around Custer Hill.

Following the conclusion of “The Big Red One” song, sung in unison by all soldiers present, followed directly by the playing of the Rocky Theme song by the 1st Inf. Div. Band, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, division command sergeant major, led the way for all of the Soldiers, many of which couldn’t help but smile as they jogged down the road with the strength of the “Italian Stallion” beating at their ears.

Brooks said that enthusiasm and positive energy also came from getting to run with so many fellow Soldiers.

“It’s about morale. You can see how big the division is, even with some brigades deployed,” said Brooks. “It’s rare that a division can get together on the street ... What it symbolizes this year is that the division headquarters itself is back in the business of leading and fighting.”

A part of that show of leadership came from the division headquarters staff leading the run, the first part of which had division staff running the “gauntlet” with Soldiers on both sides the street looking on.


“Having the leadership run the gauntlet, having the leadership run through the units lined on both sides lets the Soldiers see their leaders, doing the same thing they are doing every morning, doing PT. That pumps them up,” Brooks said.

Maj. Mike Goodwin, G3 Assistant Fire Support Coordinator and Victory Run coordinator, felt that the 10-minute-per-mile pace wasn’t too bad, and though some Soldiers struggled, the majority of the Soldiers gleamed with pride and kept on shouting with enthusiasm as they passed the review point near the final stretch of the run.

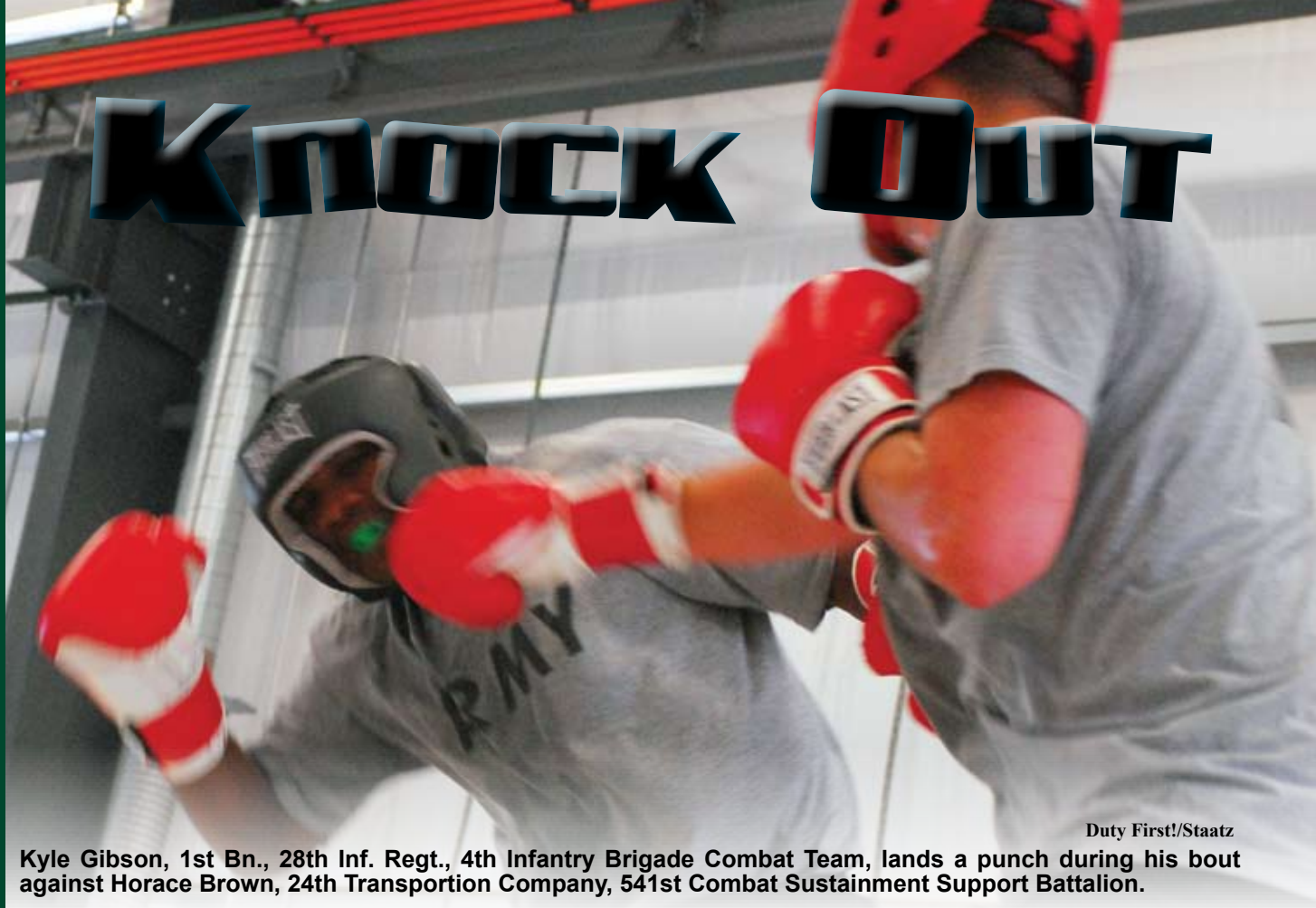
Some Soldiers took the chance to salute Brooks and Champagne or raise their fists in triumph as they jogged passed while others took the chance to play up the Rocky Theme even further, shouting movie phrases or punching at the air.

The enthusiasm shouted from the Soldiers of the Big Red One was the very reason Goodwin felt the Victory Run was the best possible way to start off Victory Week.

“It’s a great thing for people to see so many Soldiers passing by. I just think it’s a great event,” he said, explaining such a display of Soldiers gives a great idea of just how large the division is in manpower, adding further that half of the Soldiers are deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

“It’s just a great way to start the week ... It worked out very well,” Goodwin said. 

KNOCK OUT



Kyle Gibson, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, lands a punch during his bout against Horace Brown, 24th Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Duty First!/Staatz



John Enderle of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4th IBCT, hits his opponent, Jacob Tippit of 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., 4th IBCT.

Duty First!/Staatz

*By Anna Staatz
Duty First! Magazine*

The 541st Motor Pool housed a crowd that stretched its seams as Soldiers, Family members, community members and friends packed in to watch the final rounds of the Victory Week boxing tournament on July 29.

A clang of the bell was all it took to get things underway, with John Enderle of 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Jacob Tippit of 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., 4th IBCT, touching gloves in the men's lightweight round. Tippit won the match by decision after three rounds, and in spite of the loss, Enderle said he was proud of his unit for having three fighters make it to the finals.

"We had a lot of guys compete in this," Enderle said. "Even the new guys who had never put on gloves before did good."

A fellow "Ranger," Spc. Tausolo Aieti, won the middleweight round against Atalau Wiley of 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., by technical knockout in the second round.

Wiley said he felt good about making it to the finals of the Victory Week tournament. During the Dragon Week boxing tournament earlier this year, Wiley lost in his first fight.


"I was more mentally prepared for this tournament," Wiley said. "It feels a lot better this time around, just to have made it to the finals."

In the light middleweight, it was Lorenzo Diaz, of 701st Brigade Support Battalion, up against Ryan Avila of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Avila took the match for HHC, winning by decision.

In the men's heavyweight bout, Kyle Gibson of 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., went up against Horace Brown of 24th Transportation Company, winning by decision.

The final men's bout featured Tim Lambert, of Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4 IBCT, against Petero Taufagu, of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt. Lambert took the super heavyweight match in the second round by technical knockout.

There were also two women's bouts. In the women's lightweight fight, Selena Higgins, of 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., won by decision against Roshandra Hazley, also of the "Proud Americans."

Carla Dotson, 701st BSB, came up victorious in the women's heavyweight match, winning by decision against Sarah Nixon, 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt. 



Selena Higgins, of 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., 4th IBCT, steps into a punch during her bout against Roshandra Hazley, also of the "Proud Americans." Higgins won the lightweight womens title.

1st Inf. Div. PAO/Smith

Strength Showcased In Athletic Competitions

By **Jordan Chapman**
Duty First! Magazine

Soldiers had no shortage of entertainment during Victory Week. Whether they participated in events or merely observed and cheered on their fellow Soldiers, each contributed to the success of the many athletic activities that occurred on Custer Hill.

Whether it was basketball or soccer, football or softball, Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division confirmed that they enjoyed the time to compete against one another, but claimed it took many things for a team to achieve a championship.

For the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion flag football team, that championship was a result of a lot of practice.

"We practiced a lot before the tournament ... every Monday and Wednesday," said Private Christopher Brown, DHHB, though Spc. Roy Striblin, also of DHHB, jokingly added that there wasn't any competition. The team played a total of four games, one on July 27 and three on July 28.

The 1st Brigade Softball team also had a tight schedule. In two days, they played a total of five games, but claimed the secret to their championship was having teammates that had played together before.

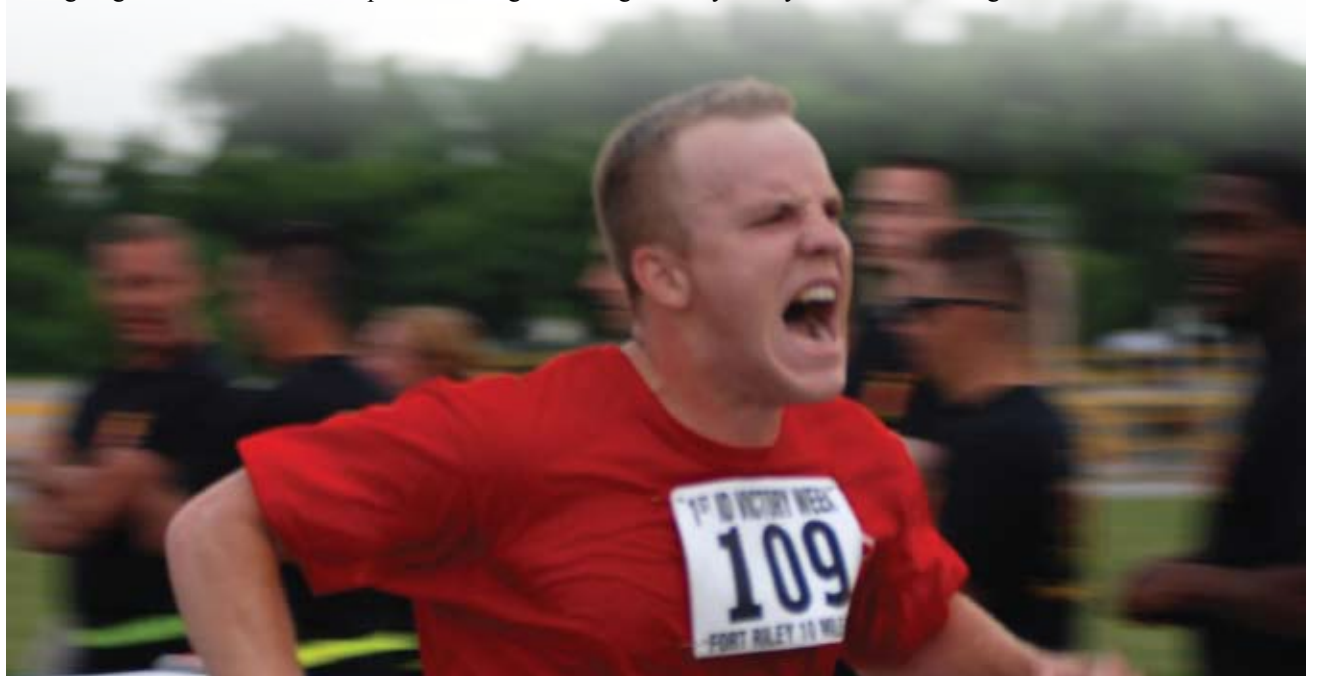
"They already know each other and work together well," said Staff Sgt. Leo Guzman, team captain. "It was fun."

More activities included the 10 mile-run, which took runners from King Field House, down Dickman Avenue to Huebner Road, to the Ogden Gate and back.

The run was the qualifier for the Big Red One's Army 10-miler team, which will compete in October at the United States Army conference in Washington, D.C.

Though the soccer, tug of war, dodgeball, weight lifting and basketball were all a success, it was the boxing and combative finals on July 29 that may have drawn the most support from fellow Soldiers.

Each connecting blow would fill the host locations with cheers and shouts of what move a fighter should execute next, though fighters of both events explained the right training was key to any success in the ring.



CAB PAO/Pfc.Hale

A Soldier gives every last bit of strength he has left crossing the finish line for the Fort Riley 10 mile run July 28.

"I put a lot more time and effort in training this year. That helped me out a lot to get me to the top," said Spc. Jeremy Gilmore, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team explaining further that he competed for third place in the combatives competition in 2008. "(I like) the sportsmanship. I like to go out there and watch the other guys compete and I like competing myself. This sport is outstanding."

Atalau Wiley of 2nd Bn., 32nd Field Artillery Regt., 4IBCT, also felt he was more prepared for the boxing tournament, after losing in his first fight during Dragon Week earlier this year. "I was more mentally prepared for this tournament," Wiley said. "It feels a lot better this time around, just to have made it to the finals."

After three days of Victory Week athletic events that entailed grueling matches in the afternoon heat, exciting finishes and crushing defeat, only a handful of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers were allowed to call themselves champions during the Victory Cup Awards Ceremony July 30 at Infantry Parade Field.

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, congratulated each of the Soldiers receiving awards and felt the competitions showed lots of spirit and great sportsmanship.


"It was a great showing of the spirit of the Big Red One throughout all of the competition. I'm really proud of you. It's just awesome to see you be able to do that," Brooks said, just prior to Soldiers coming up to accept awards.

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt, HIBCT, were awarded first place for tug of war, golf and the Victory Warrior competition; Soldiers making up a team from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regt., 4IBCT took first place in soccer; the 1st Engineer Battalion took first in the 111 Mile Relay and 10 mile run; 2nd Bn. 16th Inf. Regt., was awarded first place for basketball, volleyball and combatives; Soldiers from 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team took the softball championship; Soldiers of the Division

Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion took first in flag football; Soldiers of HHC, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade were awarded first place in dodgeball; 2nd Bn., 32nd Regt. took first in boxing; the 601st Aviation Support Bn. was awarded first in the Color Guard competition; and the 2nd General Support Avn. Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., accepted the first place trophy for weightlifting.

Though each Soldier was pleased with their first place prize, they were all still competing for the top trophy, the Victory Cup.

After Brooks took suggestions on who should receive the cup from the shouting Soldiers in front of the stage, he awarded the cup to the "Black Lions" of the 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt.

"It's been a great week, Victory Week," Brooks said. "The competitions I saw over the last couple of days (were) fabulous, great teamwork." 



1st Sust. Bde. PAO/Sgt. Merritt

David Bounds, a petroleum specialist with Company A, 701st Forward Support Battalion, gains seven yards on a play during a game of flag football July 27 on Custer Hill as part of Victory Week.

FIGHTERS GRAPPLE FOR RING TITLES

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

The sight of blood wasn't that uncommon as 1st Infantry Division Soldiers headed in and out of the combatives ring July 29.

The Victory Week event allowed Soldiers of every weight class to stake their claim in the ring while feeding off of the energy of the crowd, all of whom were clearly not let down by the day's activities.


Though many Soldiers vied for a chance and fought for their pride throughout the week, only 14 made it into the finals inside the chain-link ring. Those Soldiers were divided into seven weight classes: fly-weight, light-weight, welter-weight, middle-weight, cruiser-weight, light heavy-weight and heavy-weight.

Despite who was named the winner of each weight class, each Soldier agreed that it's all fun and games in the end, especially since many of the fighters were teammates or knew each other.

"It's definitely exciting and it's good experience overall," said Spc. Scott Kay, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who fought for the Heavyweight title against teammate, 1st Lt. Richard Sexton, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4th IBCT.

Though some of the fighters knew each other, the nerves and excitement that come before a match still didn't fade or stop them from doing their best inside the ring.

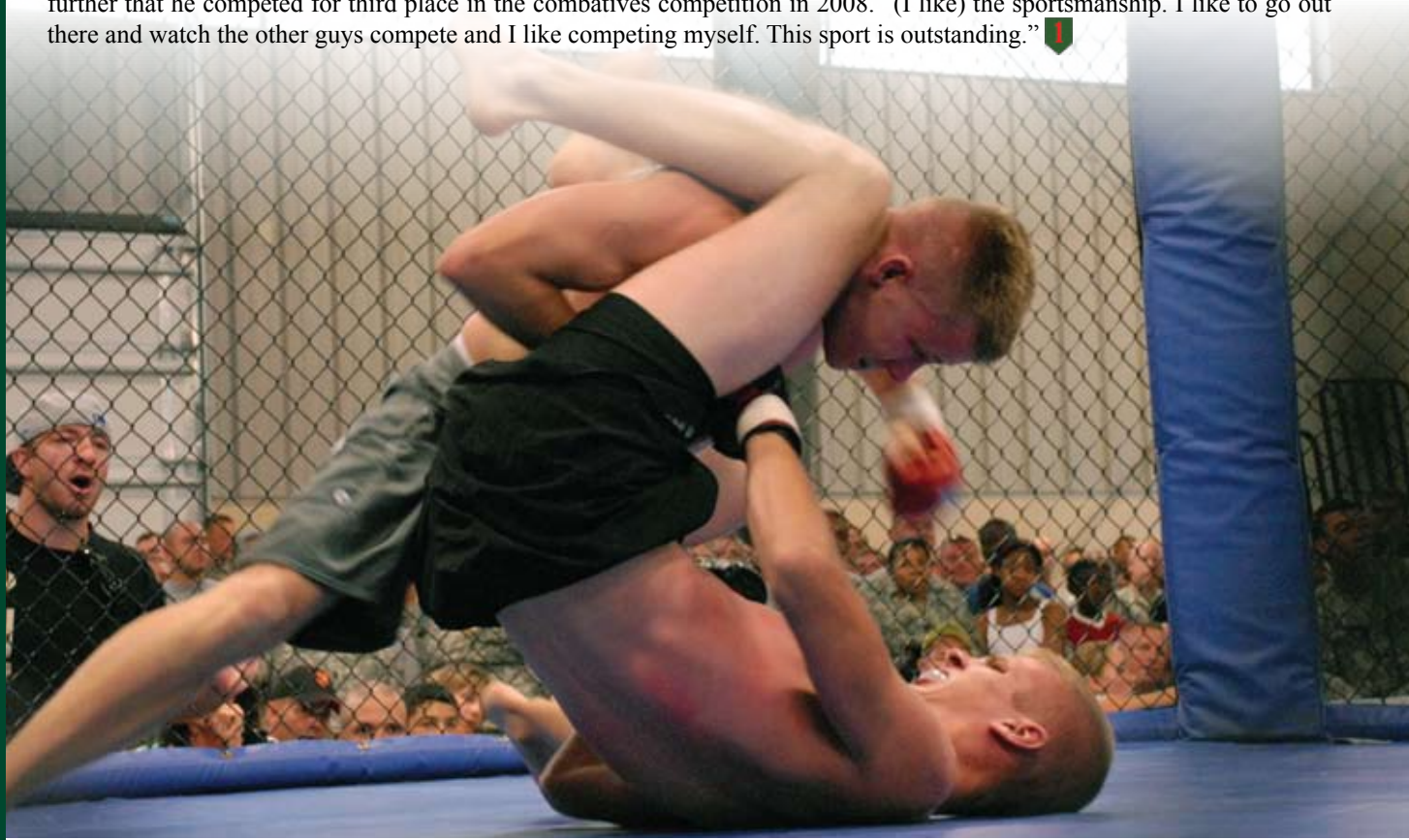
"Relax and stay calm. Do what you know," Kay advised Soldiers who wanted to do well, while Spc. Jeremy Gilmore, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4th IBCT, felt much success can be gained from the right amount of training.

"I put a lot more time and effort in training this year. That helped me out a lot to get me to the top," Gilmore said, explaining further that he competed for third place in the combatives competition in 2008. "(I like) the sportsmanship. I like to go out there and watch the other guys compete and I like competing myself. This sport is outstanding." 



Photos by Duty First!/Chapman

Michael "The Killer" Andrade of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry takes the upper hand from Damien "Beast-Slayer" Cardwell of 1st Brigade, 101st Forward Support Battalion during the Light-Weight Combatives Championship match July 29 in building 88312.



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Jeremy "Wing Man" Gilmore of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry prepares to land a blow to the head of Scott "Rock Wall" Stanridge, also of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., during their Fly-Weight Combatives Championship match July 29 in building 88312.

Flyweight	
*Jeremy "Wing Man" Gilmore Height: 5'3" Weight: 125 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT	*David "The Animal" Andrews Height: 5'9" Weight: 170 Unit: Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion
Lightweight	
Scott "Rock Wall" Stanridge Height: 5'10" Weight: 125 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT	Kyle "Constrictor" Roudebush Height: 6'1" Weight: 175 Unit: CAB 601st Aviation Support Battalion
Welterweight	
Damien "Beast-Slayer" Cardwell Height: 5'6" Weight: 140 Unit: 1st Brigade, 101st Forward Support Battalion	*Charles "All Out" Gualtierie Height: 6'4" Weight: 185 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT
Middleweight	
*Michael "The Crippler" Andrade Height: 5'9" Weight: 140 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT	*Raymond "Everyone Loves" Moungey Height: 6'2" Weight: 205 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT
Heavyweight	
*Curtis "Keoki" Borge Height: 5'7" Weight: 155 Unit: Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion	Jonathan "DELO" Brown Height: 5'8" Weight: 191 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT
Wayne "All That" Jacob Height: 5'10" Weight: 155 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT	*Richard "Maxim" Sexton Height: 6'3" Weight: 205 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT
Cruiser Weight	
Joshua "Well-Digger" Welbourn Height: 5'10" Weight: 170 Unit: 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4 IBCT	Scott "Shamrock" Kay Height: 5'9" Weight: 222 Unit: 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 4IBCT
* = winner	

FORT RILEY LEADERS PLEDGE COMMITMENT TO ARMY FAMILIES

Fort Riley Public Affairs Office

Fort Riley's leaders reaffirmed their commitment to Army Families when they re-signed the Army Family Covenant July 31 during the Victory Week Celebration.

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, Garrison Commander Col. Kevin Brown and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann each placed their signature on the covenant, before the performance of country music singer Keni Thomas.

The official Army Family Covenant was originally signed Oct. 17, 2007, by then Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey Jr. Fort Riley signed its copy of the covenant Oct. 29, 2007, formally recognizing the sacrifices made by Families on the home front while the Army is at war.

Fort Riley further pledged to continue existing Family programs and services, increase the accessibility and quality of health care, improve Soldier and Family housing, ensure excellence in schools, youth services and child care and expand education and employment opportunities for Family members.

"We're very fortunate to be in a place where Families matter so much," Brooks said before signing the covenant. "We're also fortunate to be in an Army that has committed itself, at the highest level all the way down to the lowest level, to taking care of our Families and trying to say thanks back to them, through our deeds, not our words; the things we do that commit ourselves back to Families who have done so much in service and sacrifice for us as Soldiers."

The covenant has helped the Family of Sgt. Kevin Snow, who said he would have been unable to care for his four children without the Army's aid.

"The covenant has helped our Family because, medically, I can't take care of my kids," Snow said. "The covenant has helped us in a way that it has paid for our day care. The Army has looked out for our Family, even after I was out of the Army. They still look out for families and veterans that have given so much."



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, signs the Army Family Covenant during a ceremony on July 31, marking the conclusion of Victory Week.

Spouses Cheer On Soldiers

By Parker Rome
1st Infantry Division Post newspaper

Family Readiness Groups showed their support 1st Infantry Division Soldiers as they stood at cheering sections during the Victory Run on July 27, just one example of how our Soldiers are depended on to carry out tasks and do so each day with the support and their Families.

Three locations were set up for Family Readiness Group members to meet and cheer on the Soldiers during the 4-mile run across Custer Hill.

"They work hard to do their job, and the little things that we do to let them know that we're here for them encourage them on," Anna Hurning said.

Hurning said that the experience was rewarding even though she had to wake up early to get to her spot.

Hurning and Priscilla Rutherford, who both have spouses in the 1st Sustainment Brigade, brought signs decorated by children.

"At our last FRG meeting, the children took time while we were having the meeting to make the signs, color them and get them involved in this," Rutherford said.



A group of Family Readiness Group members cheer for Soldiers as they run by towards the end of the Victory Run July 27 at Custer Hill.

Rutherford said she enjoys opportunities like this to show her support.

"Whatever it takes to support our troops out there," Rutherford said.



Anna Hurning, a 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team spouse, writes a message on a sign before the Victory Run.

FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FAMILIES, FUN

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

Victory Week came to a relaxing close as Soldiers and Families of the 1st Infantry Division took over Infantry Parade Field dressed in casual clothing and giving out plentiful smiles as they each walked around the grounds to experience the fun, games, food and music.

“This is an event that encompasses so many elements, so there is something for everyone,” said Melissa Kinney, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Chief.

Available to those who attended the event were an enclosed paint ball course, a rock wall, scavenger hunt, car show, activities for children, military working dog demonstrations, Commanding General Mounted Color Guard demonstrations and food booths.

Spc. Steven Zimmermann, of 601st Aviation Support Bn., Combat Aviation Brigade, had good things to say about the car show available to viewers. “They have some nice cars here,” he said, explaining he has a real passion for cars, but couldn’t decide which one he would rather own. “All of them,” he said.

Pvt. First Class Thomas Newman of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regt., 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said he felt the week went off without a hitch and thought the festival was a great way to cap off events.

“They have a lot of stuff for children and Families. That’s something nice to see,” he said. “Victory Week they say is for the Families and Soldiers ... It was a short week, a lot of activities. It definitely makes a difference.”

Newman also noted that he also liked that the signing of the Army/Family Covenant would take place for all to see. The covenant was signed by Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Division Command Sergeant Major Jim Champagne, Col. Kevin Brown, garrison commander, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann and Families from Fort Riley.

Recognizing the commitment and increasing sacrifices that Army Families make every day, Newman felt that having Families see the signing will hopefully allow them to feel like they have a better role and can feel more comfortable taking part in Army events.

“It makes them feel more active and generally involved,” Newman said, hoping that the covenant will also help Families know and understand more of what is going on.

Those that enjoy music were not left out of the fun, either. Behind all of the activities stood a stage surrounded by bleachers for the evening’s Battle of the Bands and a concert given by Keni Thomas, a former Army ranger.


Thomas fought in the battle recounted in the book and motion picture “Black Hawk Down” and also served as military advisor for the film “We Were Soldiers.” The Bronze Star for valor and the combat infantryman’s badge are among Thomas’s various awards.

“You will never find a better audience,” Thomas said. “Anytime you play for a military audience you will find they are the most appreciative.”

Thomas added that he too gets the chance to be appreciative towards the, because they have all been through and experienced similar situations.

It is the moments where he and his audience connect that make it all worth it, Thomas explained, saying it is in those moments that he can truly tell people what is dear to his heart and hopefully make a difference.

“You can make a difference with whatever it is you do. You can go out with a Gibson or you can go out with an M4. You’re going to make a difference in this world whether you know it or not,” he said.

A fireworks demonstration closed down the night and the end of Victory Week. 



Staff Sgt. Jack Wheeler of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, helps his son, Dillon, 3, pull back on a water balloon sling shot July 31 at the Victory Week Festival held near Infantry Parade Field. Both father and son launched many successful balloons together.



Josh Goodwin, 12, takes his shot at the rock wall July 31 at the Victory Week Festival.



Photos by Duty First!/Chapman

Spc. Steven Zimmermann of 601st Aviation Support Bn., Combat Aviation Brigade, explains to his wife, Jennifer, how one specific piece of a car works as they look at the classic cars on display as his their son, Kayden, 14 months, waits patiently to the side July 31 at the Victory Week Festival held on Infantry Parade Field. Zimmermann said cars and car knowledge is one of his hobbies.



Photos: (Top) Keni Thomas plays during his concert July 31 at Victory Week Festival, the week's concluding event.

(Bottom Left) Aria Musil, 8, shoots at Air Soft targets during the Victory Week celebration on July 31.

(Bottom Left) Pvt. First Class Thomas Newman of 1st Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt., 4th Inf. Brigade Combat Team, shows his son Jaydon, 4, and daughter, Madison, 7, a horse that makes up the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard while wife, Aimee, looks on July 31 during the Victory Week Festival held on Infantry Parade Field.

US Army Garrison at Fort Riley PAO

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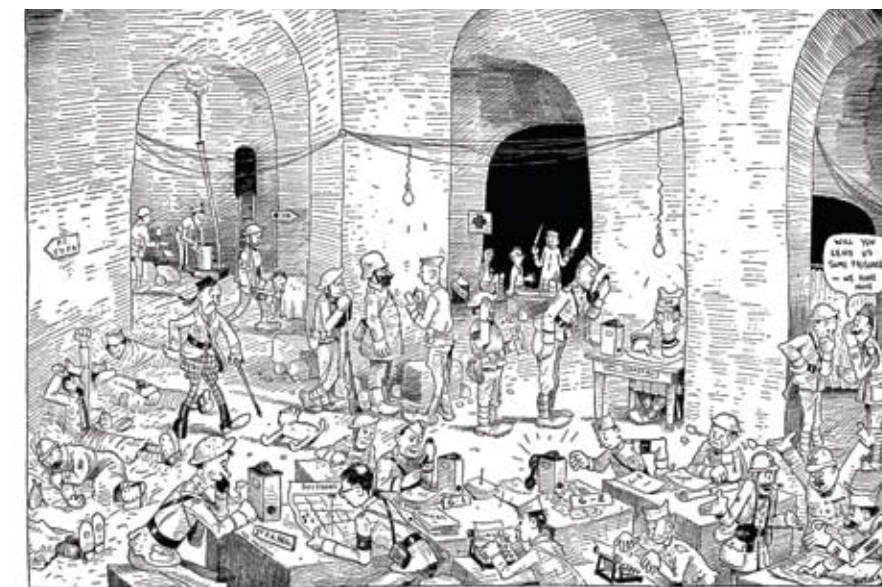
LEARNING TRENCH WARFARE

The 47th French Division of Chasseurs Alpins was stationed in the same area, and the First Division quickly learned not only the rudiments of trench warfare, but also much of the esprit of the "Blue Devils." Many of the weapons, such as grenades, trench-mortars, Chauchat automatic rifles, gas-masks and French 75's were new to American troops. Skinny French horses and even French mules had to be mastered, while British instructors taught the bayonet drill. August 1917.



SIDE DOOR PULLMANS

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



DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

A HUGE underground quarry in the hillside overlooking the village of Cœuvres made an excellent headquarters. The more important of the various members of the division staff had large blocks of stone for tables. Cooking was done in one corner, surgery in another, prisoners were questioned in a third, while staff officers from the corps argued in all directions. Meanwhile, the routine of directing an advancing division was maintained. July 1918.

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