

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families

Duty **1** First!

**Hunting
Fort Riley**

August - September 2009 www.riley.army.mil

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 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.
August - September 2009 www.riley.army.mil

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Contents

Danger 6 ... 3
Danger 7 ... 4
'Devils' Schooled in Basics ... 5
History/Band ... 6
'Dragons' Ready to Breathe Fire ... 7
Couple Reflects on Service ... 10
New Command Sergeant Major ... 11
Commander Settles into Cockpit... 13
Tales From the Woods... 15
Commandments of Safety ... 18
Hunting Grounds ... 19
Recognizing Service, Support... 20
Ties that Bind ... 21

Commanding General **Danger 6**

'Devil' Brigade Encounters Change

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

Change. The one thing in the Army that remains the same. From our field rations and ammunition, to our weapons and training tactics, the Army is constantly adapting to meet an ever-changing enemy.

In recent years, part of that change was to develop small teams of advisors to help train, mentor and assist Iraqi and Afghan security forces. This mission of training transition teams is a critical part of the war, yet can sometimes get overlooked since the trainers are not considered the "tip of the spear," though many of them have been.

For three years, our 1st Brigade was tasked with that critical mission of training Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen to deploy on transition teams. They worked literally around the clock on this no-fail mission, and they constantly adapted the training to fit the changing requirements in theater.

But now that constant known as change has happened again, and our "Devil" Brigade handed off that mission to the 162nd Infantry Brigade at Fort Polk, La. Now, the Devils begin their buildup to a heavy brigade combat team.


The Devils have been adding personnel to the ranks for the



past several months and even more will be getting orders to Fort Riley in the near future. The brigade is close to reaching a completion of ranks, with about 3,800 Soldiers -- quadruple the size it was while training transition teams. The Devils will also be adding thousands of pieces of equipment to their property books. The big pieces – Abrams, Paladins, Bradleys, etc. – will soon be rolling into Camp Funston, which has served as 1st Brigade's "home base" for the last several years.

This will be an exciting time for the Devil Brigade as they add to their ranks, hit the training ranges and prepare to deploy wherever our nation calls. They have done tremendous work training transition teams, and they can certainly take credit for the success of our troops downrange.

I want to thank all of our Devil Soldiers who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the transition team mission. You have played a pivotal role in defending freedom and as you take on this next task of building to a heavy brigade combat team, there is no doubt in my mind you will continue to exceed the standard and live up to the Big Red One motto: No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Duty First! 

Command Sergeant Major **Danger 7**

Sportsman's Paradise

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

Need a break from the operational tempo of being a Soldier in the Big Red One? Then grab your bow, gun or fishing pole — just a few of the items you may need to enjoy the great outdoors of the Central Kansas Flint Hills.

It was late October when my family and I arrived at Fort Riley and we were driving in along the road that goes through Trooper Gate. Low and behold, I witnessed 12 turkeys, of which at least seven were mature toms. I turned to Lisa, my wife, and said, "Hey did you see those?"

She said, "See what?"

The corners of my mouth started to lift into the slightest of smiles. After getting through the gate, we were driving past the post cemetery and there stood a huge 10 point buck. Lisa looked over and asked why I was smiling. Trying not to show too much enthusiasm, I responded, "I'm really going to love this place, baby."

If those birds and that buck were any indication of what lay ahead, I had just landed in a sportsman's paradise.

It didn't take but a few conversations with some of the Soldiers and civilians who have been around a few years to find out that I had struck gold when it came to outdoor activities. So where does a person go to really find out the skinny on where to hunt and fish? A good start is to go visit the wildlife biologists on post. As anyone reading this article knows the people of Kansas are some of the friendliest folks in the Midwest and it didn't take long to meet some great Kansans. Talking with my good friends Alan, Shawn, Steve and Mike at the conservation office provided me with enough insight to get started that fall.

It was 12 degrees outside with about 6 inches of snow on the ground when I finally got out in the woods two weeks after our arrival. Having missed an opportunity to do some scouting, I did a map recon and picked an area that looked promising. I drove out early that morning before sunrise and parked my truck. The weather was bitter cold but I was determined to get




my first Kansas rifle hunt in. I walked in about half a mile along a creek bed and sat in amongst a brush pile. The sun had just come up and I was already shivering from the cold, but was determined to stick it out for a few hours at least. It was beautiful! The landscape was like a mythical story with snow and ice hanging off every possible branch and bush.

Intently watching the creek bottom to my front to see if any movement was coming my way, I noticed a set of horns very near the bank of the creek. Initially I thought it was a buck sneaking by me, but up over the bank came a 6-by-6 point bull elk, followed by another of the same dimensions. I could not believe my eyes. Here, I'm sitting in a brush pile on my first Kansas hunt and standing in front me at twenty yards are two mature bull elk. It

was a stand-off! They knew there was something in front of them, but the wind was in my favor and they had not scented me. It was one of the greatest moments I have ever experienced in the outdoors. The bulls were so close; I could see the steam rising off their backs and coming from their nostrils as they sniffed the air. After what seemed a lifetime, they slowly moved off. I thought back to what Lisa said to me as we were driving into Fort Riley that first day. "Why are you smiling like that?" I knew my answer was now complete — it was right there 20 yards to my front.

Outdoor opportunities are abundant on and around Fort Riley and they provide the right mix of physical and mental resilience. It could be in the form of fly fishing on Wildcat Creek, walleye trolling on Milford Lake or spending an afternoon canoeing on the Republican River with a group of friends. Find your outdoor experience and live it. You will often see me wear a T-shirt that shows a hunter in his tree stand just about 30 minutes before sundown. The reddish orange sunset is on fire and the leaves are turning. It simply reads "Gone thinking!" There's no better way to recharge.

Now ... Get after it! 

'Devils' Schooled in Soldiering Basics

Duty First! Magazine Staff

As 1st Brigade continues to grow and build, its newest Soldiers are integrated into the unit through three weeks of training in the unit's policies and standards known as the "Devil Academy."

"We provide incoming Devil Brigade Soldiers with a base of training in certain critical wartime tasks," said academy 1st Sgt. Gerald Gullion.

Gullion said the training consists of physical fitness training, basic rifle marksmanship, combat life saving, map reading and some drivers training.


"We keep Soldiers fresh on map reading because it's a perishable skill," said Gullion. "Soldiers can't always rely on technology because if that were to take a hit in combat, a Soldier has to resort to a map. We don't want to get away from that."

"Right now we don't take Soldiers to the range," said Capt. Craig Cochran, commander of the academy, "but we do have an engagement skills trainer to help them stay trained on marksmanship. We also have each Soldier go through their mandatory classes like sexual harassment, financial readiness along with other mandatory classes and the history of the 1st Infantry Division."

Gullion said right now, the Devil Brigade is focused on training transition teams for their deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"What we do is help the battalions," Gullion said. "We give our Soldiers the basic training while the units are focused on the training mission. This helps the brigade focus on the Fort Riley training mission and the heavy brigade build-up," he said.

This fall, the brigade will transition out of training transition teams – as that mission will be transferred to Fort Polk, La. The brigade will then formally stand up as a heavy brigade combat team. Sending incoming Soldiers through the Devil Academy ensures everyone is on the same page when it comes to basic skills and brigade standards before being sent to their respective units.

"We send the Soldiers to their battalions after their training here and they arrive at their units with these skills," said Cochran. "They're set up for success. The unit can begin concentrating on squad, platoon and company training instead of this lower level training. That's the ultimate goal." 



Duty First! Magazine Staff

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Bolff helps newly arrived Soldiers on the Engagement Skills Trainer. Bolff is a cadre member of the Devil Academy. The academy was established to take some of the training burdens off the battalions as the brigade builds to a Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

History Band Continues Long Tradition

Duty First! Magazine Staff

Army Bands have provided music throughout the spectrum of military operations to instill in Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of the nation's citizens and promote America's national interests at home and abroad.


In order to meet the musical requirements of a large Army, the War Department established an emergency Army Music School. In June 1941, the Department of the Army established a school for bandmasters at Fort Myer, Va. Currently, Soldiers train at the Army School of Music located in the Armed Forces School of Music at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Va.

The 1st Infantry Division band was created on Oct. 12, 1943, in the regular Army as an organization band.

The Big Red One band has promoted esprit de corps to 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers around the world while serving in World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan and most recently at home on Fort Riley. Army Band Soldiers and Army Bands are capable of performing a wide variety of music for a vast number of musical missions. Some typical ensembles include concert band, big band, ceremonial marching band, brass quintet, rock band, salsa band, Dixie band, wood wind quintet, jazz combo, jazz trio and other small instrument groups.

Although the band has performed regularly since it was created, one notable period in the history of the band was the "Thunder Road" incident in Vietnam, which received national publicity.

Maj. Gen. John Hay, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div., in Vietnam, ordered his band to march down "Thunder Road." This route was critical to the division but was currently under harassment by a North Vietnamese regiment. The band marched for one mile while playing the Colonel Bogey March. The enemy, confused by the action, withdrew from the area. The band executed a remarkable combat mission without firing a shot.

The band currently has 39 enlisted Soldiers and musicians that hold the military occupational specialty of 42R. The commander and conductor of the band is Chief Warrant Officer Jeremiah M. Keillor. First Sergeant David Fallin is the band's enlisted leader. 



'Dragons' Ready to Breathe Fire

Brigade Heads to Iraq for a Second Time

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

Sheltered from the morning sun underneath camouflage Army nets, as well as flooding into the grassy areas surrounding the bleachers, community leaders and Families of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers clapped and cheered on their spouses, sons and daughters for what Maj. Gen. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, described to be the applause that would ring in each Soldier's ears for an entire year.

Whether standing at attention on Custer Hill Parade Field Aug. 13 or looking on from behind, each Soldier making up the proud "Dragon" brigade would soon be deployed to Northern Iraq to assume the role of a security force assistance brigade, as well as work with Iraqi Security Forces to prepare a safe transition of coalition forces out of Iraq.

The brigade's previous deployment was in 2007-2008 to southeast Baghdad where they were one of the first units to take part in "surge" operations to quell violence in Iraq.

"You look fabulous," Brooks told the Soldiers standing before him, explaining that the brigade has done many great things to prepare for this deployment.

"I have every confidence that we have done our duty as a division to prepare this brigade and I have every confidence that this brigade will deliver far more what we were able to give to

them as they conduct their operations," Brooks said.

Those operations will be completed in an area Brooks has described as having achieved "considerable progress," but also is an area where "considerable work" must be done.

Being sent to an area where much violence has already been quelled is the main difference in this deployment compared to the brigade's previous deployment, where Soldiers experienced a very intense and kinetic atmosphere.

"We will be advising and assisting Iraqi Security Forces, leading from the rear as it were, helping them and enabling them to do the mission themselves," said Col. Henry Arnold III, commander, 4th IBCT. Because of that goal, Soldiers have undergone a series of training missions to help them learn scenarios they could face and know what it means to be in an advisory role.

Already, though, Arnold said that during a pre-deployment site survey to Iraq, he and other leaders witnessed two Iraqi brigadier generals, an American lieutenant colonel and other officers, Iraqi Police, government officials and emergency service personnel working together in high-tech meeting rooms and taking control of the situation.

"They were all talking, coordinating and communicating activity throughout the entire province ... I was standing in the back of the room and I told one of the commanders, 'This is it. We won the war,'" Arnold said, though he and others know there are still difficulties and challenges that must be faced.



Duty First!/Chapman

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stand in formation before their deployment ceremony at Custer Hill Parade Field Aug. 13. The "Dragon" brigade is deployed to Northern Iraq for 12 months where they will act as a Security Force Assistance Brigade.



The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team color guard stands at the ready during the brigade's deployment ceremony at Custer Hill Parade Field Aug. 13. The brigade is deployed to Northern Iraq for 12 months.

Duty First!/Chapman

The spouses and Families of these Soldiers have their own challenges to face, but they will not be forgotten after the Soldiers leave to perform their duties, a consideration that was manifested in many comforting words and final embraces that could be seen after the ceremony concluded.

"It's so important that you're here today and you take that opportunity to do that," Brooks said commending those present.

One of those Families was Renee Helbert and daughters Jasmine, 11, and Annabel, 9, who were present to send off their dad and husband, Spc. Charlie Helbert.

Going on his first deployment, Renee Helbert said the Family had collected many memories over the past few months before his deployment, and even took the chance to visit Disney World over the July 4 holiday break.

Helbert explained she and her husband had already discussed how they would communicate while he was away and were off to buy him a laptop later that day.


Though they have purchased a laptop, Helbert said she and her husband were planning on sticking to writing letters for the most part. "I know it's kind of old fashioned, but it has a bit more of a personal note to it," she said.

The Family also plans to send care packages, the contents of which remain unknown, other than lots of candy. "He likes it," Helbert said smiling.

"I want you to know, Families, that we here at Fort Riley and the Central Flint Hills Community will take care of that which is left behind," Brooks said. "The Families of the Soldiers that stay here, this is your home, this is your Family and if you need anything at anytime for those that leave the area, this is where you'll find it."

Arnold told Soldiers they were more than ready to take on the mission ahead of them.

"You — we — are ready. There is no doubt in my mind, nor should there be any doubt in yours that we will prevail," Arnold said, confidence that was echoed in Brooks' advisement.

"We wish you all God speed. Do well, do your mission and remember our motto, 'No Mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, Duty First!'" Brooks said. 

'Black Lion' Soldiers Pocket a Piece of American Spirit

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

As Families and leaders observed the 4th Infantry Brigade Deployment Ceremony Aug. 12, they saw Soldiers with pride, honor and duty standing before them, but hidden from sight was one item in particular that reminded the troops of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry regiment, what they were fighting for: freedom and protecting the American way.

Within each "Black Lion" cargo pocket on Custer Hill Parade Field was a size American flag, encased in a small plastic bag complete with words of sincerity, hopeful prayer and a wish for that Soldier's safe return.

Those flags were hand-delivered by Clayton Bennett, a 16-year-old Eagle Scout from Memphis, Tenn., who was tasked with a final scouting project that had to make a difference.

He not only succeeded, but he helped another organization succeed in its own mission as well as give encouragement to countless Soldiers as they go overseas. Growing up never too far from the military, Bennett wanted to inspire hope in Soldiers as they went into harm's way.

continued on page 9



Courtesy photo

Clayton Bennett and his grandfather, retired Col. Billy Murphy, honorary colonel of the 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., pose for a photo while handing out miniature American flags to the unit commanders on July 29.

continued from page 8

“I hope it reminds them that they have support back here,” Bennett said, explaining the whole idea was to help Soldiers know that people respect them, their mission and what they’re doing, but he chose the Black Lion battalion specifically because it is the same battalion his grandfather, retired Col. Billy Murphy, served in during the Vietnam War.

“He called me and explained his project and said, ‘Papa I need a unit. You’re the honorary colonel of a regiment, I’m not sure what that means, but if I can make a presentation to your combat unit from Vietnam that’s what I would like to do,’” Murphy said after the deployment ceremony concluded. Murphy flew his grandson to Fort Riley and coordinated for him make the presentation on July 29.

Bennett came equipped with 1,000 miniature flags and the inspiration only a young adult can inspire.

He passed about 850 flags out to the commanders of the 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., who then passed them out again to their individual Soldiers.


The remaining flags have been passed out to an Army Reserve unit, commanded by his father, a two-tour veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bennett said passing out the flags was a feeling that made him very proud and was glad that it had such an impact on the unit commanders.

“It was really cool. Lots of guys were really excited about it and one told me that he would take it with him whenever he was about to go on a mission,” Bennett said.

“As a Soldier, the reaffirmation people make of their support for you means so much. It can be small or large but to go through all of what that young man did and to actually show that kind of commitment to our battalion was phenomenal,” said Lt. Col. Eric Timmerman, battalion commander.

“It’s a little piece of home,” another Soldier said.

“It was a very heartwarming moment to hear and see the support for our Soldiers from that young man. I think all of us were impressed with Clayton’s patriotism and sincerity,” Timmerman added. 



Courtesy Photo

Clayton Bennett presents a miniature flag to Capt. Drew Carrigan of the 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., July 29 for an Eagle Scout project.

Dual Military Couple Reflects On Combined Service

By Anna Staatz
Duty First! Magazine

The Army has always had Soldiers who overcame the odds and set new standards. For Juan Santiago and his wife, Carmen Nizzi-Santiago, it was no different.

Juan enlisted in the Army in Puerto Rico in 1958. Prior to enlisting, Juan had dropped out of high school and was getting by on the slim earnings from shining shoes and selling newspapers. The Army was a way to earn a living and serve his country. In 1965, Juan was part of the 5th Infantry Division when the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 2nd Infantry Regiment were transferred to the 1st Inf. Div. A few months after switching the patch on his shoulder, Juan was on his way to Vietnam. He was in Vietnam as part of the Big Red One from 1965 to 1967.

Once Vietnam was behind him, he attended the Defense Race Relations Institute and then was stationed at Camp Zama, Japan, as part of Headquarters, U.S. Army Japan.

“We blame Camp Zama for what happened,” Carmen said with a smile.

Carmen received a direct commission in the Womens Army Corps in 1971. She joined the Army after clipping out an ad in a TV Guide magazine.

“I was graduating from college, and wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do,” Carmen said. “I saw a thing in TV Guide that said ‘join the Army, get more education money and see the world.’ So I pulled it out and sent it in, and I got called by a female recruiter who called and said, ‘So you’re interested in the Army?’”

Lured by the pay and the opportunity to get educational

funds to pay for a master’s degree, Carmen joined for two years. With very little knowledge of the military, she wasn’t sure what to expect, but said she was sure that she’d be able to “tough it out.”

Two years later, Carmen was detailed to the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Lee, Va. After receiving the necessary qualifications and school as a supply officer, she was sent to Camp Zama, Japan, in 1973.


“Camp Zama was a very small post,” Carmen said. “They didn’t have an officer club and an NCO club. They had a consolidated club with an officer lounge, an NCO lounge with a common dining room and a common ballroom.”

The couple met on the dance floor at the club one night and were married in 1975, becoming one of a very few dual-military couples in the Army at that time. Both said being in the Army gave each other a greater understanding, because they knew what the other was going through and dealing with at work. It also lent itself to some humorous moments.

“Whenever I’d catch him outside, I’d make him salute me,” Carmen said with a smile. “After a while, he’d see me coming and go hide in a building or something.”

Both Juan and Carmen retired from the Army, Juan in 1981 after 23 years and Carmen in 1992.

For couples in the Army, the Santiagos’ advice is simple: Be good Soldiers and be professionals.

“And if you’re thinking about getting married and you’re both in the Army, think long and hard,” Carmen added. “Both jobs are full-time jobs in which people depend on you.” 



Juan and Carmen Santiago at the Big Red One Reunion in August.

Duty First!/Staatz

75th Fires Brigade Welcomes New Command Sergeant Major

By **Staff Sgt. Joe M. Battle**
75th Fires Brigade Public Affairs Office

The 75th Fires “Tough As Diamonds” Brigade welcomed its newest top noncommissioned officer during an Aug. 18 ceremony in the Artillery Bowl at Fort Sill, Okla.

Command Sgt. Maj. Sam K. Young assumed responsibility as the 75th Fires Bde. command sergeant major, leaving his former position as the command sergeant major for the 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery Regiment, currently stationed at Fort Sill.

Col. Joseph Harrington, brigade commander, spoke during the ceremony and commented on the history of the location of the ceremony and its significance.

“Like the NCO Corps, this coliseum has stood the test of time. The Artillery Bowl represents our storied history and long traditions,” Harrington said. “In recent years, the bowl has been used by the NCO Academy for noncommissioned officer school graduations and often for NCO induction ceremonies.”

“Thus, this building represents our famed past, our fighting spirit and is steeped in our NCO traditions,” he added. “I can think of no finer place to welcome our new brigade command sergeant major.”


Young spoke of the brigade’s history and tradition as he spoke to the Soldiers and leaders in attendance and to those who couldn’t be there.

“As you can see by looking at the guidons and battalion colors before you, the Diamond Brigade has a long and proud history,” said Young. “It is an honor for me to be able to serve in such a strong, versatile unit. I just hope I’m up to the challenge.”

“To the Soldiers and leaders in the brigade, I promise to give you 110 percent each and every day,” he added. “Not only in taking care of Soldiers, but also in building and maintaining the strongest brigade team in the Army – not just in the 1st Infantry Division, but in the Army.”

Young began his Army career in May 1986 as a cannon crewmember. Serving primarily in the light artillery world, a few of his most notable assignments include Howitzer gunner, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Drum, N.Y.; platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.; first sergeant, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Polk, La. and command sergeant major, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Fort Drum, N.Y.

His deployments include Operation Golden Pheasant in Honduras, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Thunder in Kuwait, Operation Iraqi Freedom I and Operation Iraqi Freedom V.

Young’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 OLC, Army Commendation Medal with 6 OLC, and the Army Achievement Medal with 7 OLC, the Outstanding Volunteer Medal, Air Assault Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, German Parachutist Badge and the Combat Action Badge. 



75th Fires PAO
Command Sgt. Maj. Sam K. Young assumes responsibility as the top enlisted Soldier of the 75th Fires Brigade during a ceremony Aug. 18 in Fort Sill, Okla.

New Commander Settles into the Cockpit

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks told Soldiers of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade July 10 that they had just inherited one of the Army's finest aviation leaders, 23-year veteran Col. Frank Muth. Since then, the brigade's Soldiers have gotten to know not only a commander, but also a fellow Soldier who wants to continue the success and victory the brigade has already had.

Such success included being selected as the Combat Aviation Brigade of the year, along with numerous battalion awards within the brigade after its most recent 15-month deployment to Iraq under the leadership of outgoing commander Col. Jessie Farrington.

"Under (Farrington's) leadership the 'Demon' Brigade has climbed and soared ... to new heights of excellence," Brooks said, particularly noting the accomplishments of the brigade during its most recent deployment.

"The CAB conducted over a quarter of a million flight hours flown without any aircraft mishaps or combat losses. That's a remarkable record," Brooks praised, stating further that all of the brigade's accomplishments show off Farrington's leadership ability.

"This Combat Aviation Brigade met every challenge. Our 'Demon' Soldiers have been extraordinary ... we took the fight to the enemy with dogged determination for 15-months and I believe we were one of the key elements that broke his back in Northern Iraq. We did it safely and with deadly effect," Farrington said.

Since that sunny morning witnessed by Fort Riley and surrounding community leaders alike, Muth has capitalized on the experience that is still within the brigade since that deployment, as well as taken new ideas and talents from incoming Soldiers to create a team that will continue the success and improvement of the brigade.

"This will help develop and take (the brigade) to its next level," Muth said, explaining he also is relying on his knowledge and ability gained from his previous assignment at the Pentagon to successfully lead the CAB to new heights.

As the Systems Director of the Aviation Directorate, which focuses on the aviation branch, Muth feels his knowledge of the "big picture" and knowing how things are done within the acquisition, development, procurement and budgeting of all aviation systems from the Pentagon all the way down to a combat unit helps in his ability to get things done.

"When somebody has a question of 'how come we can't get



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks (standing right), commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and Col. Jessie Farrington, outgoing commander of the Combat Aviation Brigade, review the Soldiers of the "Demon" Brigade in a World War II era Half-Track July 10 during a Change of Command ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield.

this new weapon system or aircraft survivability equipment?," I kind of understand that cascade effect and how it works at the Pentagon and how it works its way through the entire procurement process," Muth said.

In recent months, correlation and teamwork between the CAB Soldiers has taken two battalions from within the brigade to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., to test their skills, work on their missions and continue working together to better the success of the CAB upon deployment.


"The great thing is those battalions, when they deploy, they are going to take pieces of the other battalions and create taskforces," Muth said, explaining CAB Soldiers weren't just training in one helicopter while at the training centers. "When they deploy they will take Apaches, Chinooks and Blackhawks ... and form a cohesive team and that multi-complex capability which has all aviation aspects to it."

At the same time, Muth and his team are forming up the CAB headquarters as well as preparing for a brigade deployment to Fort Rucker, Ala., in December for an Aviation Training Exercise.

After two months of being in command, Muth said his favorite part of leading the CAB is the Soldiers.

"It's just great to go out there and talk to Soldiers, running PT, stopping and asking who they are and where they are from," Muth said, explaining he has also had the chance to take flights on the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior, a helicopter he is rated in, along with Blackhawks. "It was nice to get in a cockpit," he said, trying to explain the difference between working at the Pentagon and being a part of a unit.

"There is a unique aspect about that. In that capacity you're getting to hang out with Soldiers and do things. That can be eating lunch, that can be running PT, flying and all of the other things I have been able to do," Muth said.

Such enthusiasm for the Army and his job hasn't diminished in 23 years. "As far back as I can remember I can't think of anything else I wanted to do. There was never any thought about not serving in the Army. Even when I was a kid," Muth said. 



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, passes the Combat Aviation Brigade colors to incoming commander Col. Frank Muth during a Change of Command ceremony.



Photos by: Duty First!/Chapman

Col. Frank Muth (right), incoming commander of the Combat Aviation Brigade, salutes the flag with Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and Col. Jessie Farrington, outgoing commander, July 10 during a Change of Command ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield.



The National and Combat Aviation Brigade colors fly high July 10 during a Change of Command Ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield. Col. Jessie Farrington relinquished his command to incoming commander Col. Frank Muth.

Tales from the Woods

By **Jordan Chapman**
Duty First! Magazine

For the Soldiers at Fort Riley who enjoy outdoor activities, the dawn of the 2009 hunting season is synonymous with solitude, escape and a time to respect nature.

Yet, even as a hunter gains peace within the woods, they can't deny the adrenaline they feel as they creep through the wilderness or remain ever so still in a tree stand waiting for the right moment to take down a deer, elk or a number of large and small game available at Fort Riley that is sure to fill their freezers for the winter and their minds with a lifetime of unforgettable memories.

One such memory came for Lt. Col David Waters, 1st Infantry Division Chaplain, and Sgt. Maj. Mark Dombrowski, Directorate of Emergency Services at Fort Riley, when they each won a once in a lifetime hunting lottery, an either sex elk tag. It gave them the chance to kill a bull elk, an animal described as one of the largest species of deer in the world and one of the largest mammals in North America and eastern Asia.

"If you get a bull tag it's a once in a lifetime draw ... there are tons of people that have been here 10 to 15 years and never been selected," Dombrowski said, explaining further he had never hunted elk before so he started studying and asking about the best ways to do so at the Conservation Office, located at Building 404, Pershing Court.

"They taught me a lot and I went out and started scouting in July," Dombrowski said, explaining that as he continued to scout he never once saw or heard any elk until Sept. 28, 2006, when he heard his first elk bugle, followed by his first elk sighting the following day.

Dombrowski said when Oct. 1 came around, he decided to begin his hunt in Area K off the side of the road. However, he soon found himself moving deeper into the woods to get away from passing cars that he knew would scare off any game.

As he moved deeper into the brush he kept making his call and was consistently returned two to three elk bugles a time.



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Maj. Mark Dombrowski, Directorate of Emergency Services at Fort Riley, and son Nikolas pose for a photo behind their kill after a successful morning hunt.

"I kept on moving and I got a good 2,000 meters off of the road when I could smell this pungent odor," Dombrowski said, knowing full well that elk have a very distinct smell.

After following his nose through a series of thickets he came across a small hollow of mud and water.

"I stood up and called and all of a sudden I could hear some cows coming up from behind me ... and then to my front about 20 meters here they come, some more cows. All of a sudden I look over and I see two rag horn elk and they come walking by behind me," he said, clearly surprised at being in the middle of this group and feeling as though he would not shoot the first thing he saw, but would walk away with a great first experience.

"That's when I see off to my right as what I perceive to be trees moving," he said, describing the trees as moving away from him so he called again, an action that led the elk to begin busting through the brush and come into an opening 30 yards ahead of him.

"The elk just stopped there and it's just looking at me ... and all of sudden something spooked the elk," Dombrowski said, knowing then that was the elk he would shoot because it was going to come up the "funnel" to where he was.

"He veered at me and my initial instinct was to not let him come any further," he said, saying he shot the elk a little high and hit a bone, which caused the bullet to ricochet up into the bull's spine and dropping the elk in place.

The bull had a total of 13 points and was five years old.

"What a tremendous experience. Out of all my experiences that is one I'll never forget," Dombrowski said.

After about two months of hunting and searching, Waters found and shot his first 13-point, 800-pound and approximately 10-year-old elk in Area K Oct. 19, 2008, but he didn't follow his nose.

Waters found his animal by keeping faith and learning what the herds were currently eating.

"I had found a sorghum field ... and found where they had been tearing that field up. You could see where they had eaten till they were full and they would leave the field. They were gradually working their way down this field," Waters explained, adding that he decided to stay near the field at key times to see what kind of elk were nearby.

Even when Waters knew where the elk were, it took multiple trips to the field to spot a bull.

Waters explained that as he sat in his tree stand, a bull and multiple cows moved onto the field more than 100 yards from his tree and he only had his bow, which is most deadly at about 30 to 40 yards. "I watched the bull eat for about 30 minutes and decided to try to come down the tree and move in for a shot," he said, explaining that as he did so the bull heard him and began to leave.

Eager for his first bull elk kill, Waters began to move down a tree line to move in closer. "The bull was still on the edge of the plot and I decided to use my cow call to hold him on the field in order to get a closer shot," he said, except the cow call did the opposite of its purpose and scared the bull and the herd away, effectively ending the day's hunt.

continued on page 17



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Maj. Mark Dombrowski, directorate of Emergency Services at Fort Riley, moves through the brush of the Fort Riley hunting grounds in September of 2006. He spent about two months hunting elk before he got his first bull kill.

continued from page 16

Waters returned to the same plot Oct. 19 with his bow as well as a rifle in hand, explaining he would rather get a bow kill but, if the bull was too distant, he would resort to the rifle.

After hours upon hours of waiting and growing more frustrated by the minute, Waters said he called his wife and asked for her to send a prayer for his success.


"I called my wife and said, 'Honey, I'm about shot on this, I've about had it. Say a little prayer for me that I'll be successful.' No joke, 20 minutes after I got off the phone I saw (a bull elk's) horns coming through the brush," he said, adding that the bull then disappeared and reappeared 50 yards from Waters' tree stand. "He looked right at me and froze. I raised my gun and shot and he spun around to move away from me another 20 yards. Now all I could see was the back of his neck and rack. I shot him in the back of his neck and he dropped to the ground," Waters said, though the bull would get up once more before falling down for the last time.

Elk aren't the only game on Fort Riley though. "This post

has some of the finest deer in the nation," Waters commented. "Some of the largest here in the nation I think are here on Fort Riley."

Though Pfc. Warren Palmer, intelligence analyst for the Combat Aviation Brigade, hasn't yet had the chance to hunt deer on Fort Riley, he too finds thrill in the hunt.

"When you're walking in the woods in the early morning, it's pretty quiet, since you're out there without light. But when everything starts waking up you hear all of the animals. The woods get pretty loud when you're out there by yourself," Palmer said, trying to explain the relaxing sensation a hunter gets. "I fall asleep half the time I'm out there."

He said that like Dombrowski and Waters, the feeling of adrenaline grows ever larger when he can hear a deer walking in slow. "And once you take your shot it's a relief from the adrenaline," he said. "Then you have to gut it and it smells, but it's worth it," he said with a smile full of passion, a perfect symbol for the satisfaction the hunters and Soldiers of Fort Riley receive during the days of hunting season. 



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Maj. Mark Dombrowski, Directorate of Emergency Services at Fort Riley, stands beside his first elk kill after shooting his prey Oct. 1, 2006.



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. David Waters, 1st Infantry Division Chaplain, poses beside his first bull elk kill in area K of Fort Riley's 71,000 acres of hunting land Oct 19, 2008. The animal was estimated to be about 800 pounds and 10 years old.

Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety

1. Treat every gun as if it was loaded. Every time a gun is handled, check to make sure that the gun is empty of shells or cartridges. Always assume the gun has the ability to load itself.
2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. No one should ever see the muzzle end of your gun.
3. Be sure of your target and beyond. A safe hunter would never take aim at a sound, movement or flash of color. A safe shot is taken at a positively identified target against a clear, safe background.
4. Never point a gun at anything you don't want to shoot. Avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
5. Unload guns when not in use. Have the actions open to ensure that a gun is not loaded. Guns should be carried in cases to the hunting or shooting area.
6. Store guns and ammunition separately. Store in a place where the guns are out of reach of children or careless adults.
7. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions. Only carry ammunition for the gun you are carrying and the game you are hunting.
8. Never climb a fence or tree, cross a log or a stream or jump a ditch with a loaded gun.
9. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water. When target practicing, be sure your backstop is adequate.
10. Never use alcoholic beverages or drugs when handling a firearm. Alcohol or drugs should not be used before or during the hunt or when cleaning a gun. Always be fully alert and in control.



Fort Riley Area Rich In Hunting Grounds

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

As the fall and winter months approach, Soldiers who enjoy hunting are itching to get out their firearms and bows that have been stashed away in racks or closets, to be cleaned and prepared for their game of choice.

For those who have never hunted on Fort Riley's 71,000 accessible acres, there is much land to explore and many sights to behold on some of the best concentrations of upland game, wild turkeys and big game opportunities in the area for military and civilians.

Any and all information regarding hunting seasons, the purchase of permits, the acceptance of rules and regulations and how to access the 30 different hunting areas on Fort Riley can be found by visiting the Conservation Office at Building 404, Pershing Court or calling (785) 239-8574 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Only individuals holding a Department of Defense identification card, and their guests accompanied by the cardholder, may hunt with a firearm in Areas 1-30 as long as those areas are listed as open.

To find out what areas are open, hunters should call the Open Areas Hotline at (785) 239-6669. Open area listings can also be found daily at each of the 10 self-service hunter check stations on the fort.

Hunters can begin registering and buying tags for deer hunting beginning on Aug. 19. The dates for deer hunting with a firearm on Fort Riley are Nov. 27-29, Dec. 18-22 and Dec. 26-29.

Those using a bow and arrow on deer will be allowed to hunt at Fort Riley Sept. 1 to Dec. 31.

Hunters who have won the privilege to hunt elk this year will be allowed to do so Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 with a firearm and Sept. 1 - Oct. 4 if using a muzzleloader or bow.


Pheasant and quail season for regular hunters will be held Nov. 14 to Jan. 31 with youth allowed to hunt Nov. 7 and 8. The daily bag limit for pheasant is four cocks in the regular season and two cocks during the youth season.

The daily bag limit for quail is eight in the regular season and four in the youth season.

Prairie chicken season will last from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 with a daily bag limit of two in the East zone, Nov. 21 to Dec. 31 with a daily bag limit of one in the Southwest zone and Nov. 21 to Jan. 31, 2010 with a daily bag limit of two in the East and Northwest zones.

Allowable hunting season for turkeys will fall between the dates of Oct. 1 to Dec. 1, Dec. 14 to 31 and Jan. 11 to 31, 2010.

The Conservation Office would like to remind hunters that each individual participating in recreation on the post must hold appropriate federal, state and Fort Riley licenses, permits, stamps and/or tags.

Additionally, all firearms must be registered before being brought onto the installation. Soldiers stationed at Fort Riley must register them with their units' arms room. Others may register their firearms at the Provost Marshal Office or the Conservation Office. 

Not Stationed At Fort Riley?

Big Red One Soldiers stationed at Fort Sill and Fort Knox can find hunting information on their areas through the following channels:

Fort Sill, Okla.

Hunters at Fort Sill can find out specific hunting dates, bag limits and how to purchase tags and permits by either calling Sportsman Services located in Building 1458, PunchBowl Road at (580) 442-3453. The same information can also be found at http://sill-www.army.mil/dhr/Admin_Svcs_Div/FS_Pubs/Cirs/200-07-01.pdf.

Fort Knox, Ky.

Hunters at Fort Knox can call the Hunt Control Office located at Building 112 at the intersection of 11th Ave. and Binter Street at either (502) 624-7311 or (502) 624-2712. Soldiers and civilians also may visit them in person to find out about and purchase Kentucky state hunting permits, licenses as well as get information on what areas are open to hunt or to become familiar with check-in and check-out procedures.

For more information hunters also can visit <http://www.knox.army.mil/fw/>.

Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Soldiers interested in hunting need to visit the Outdoor Adventure Center, building 2290, on post. The center will provide any information needed for potential to seasoned hunters including: hunter education classes, post permits, regulations, tags and maps.

For more information call (573) 596-4223 or visit <http://www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com/odr.htm>

Recognizing Service, Support

Duty First! Magazine Staff

On June 14, Freedom Team Salute presented its 2 millionth commendation to former 1st Infantry Division Soldier, Sgt. Christopher Meyers. The recognition occurred in East Chicago, Ind., in partnership with the Support Our Service Members Organization.

Freedom Team Salute is an official Army commendation and outreach program recognizing the bond between the Army, Families, veterans, employers, and supporters.

"Sacrifice and service are borne by more than just our Soldiers. Our Families, employers, and other supporters also making sacrifices in support of our Soldiers," said Col. David Griffith, program director. "Our veterans are most familiar with the challenges that service to our country brings. They have set the example for our currently serving Soldiers and are the standard that every Soldier measures themselves against," he said.

According to Griffith, the program gives every Soldier the opportunity to formally thank their parents and spouses. National Guard and Reserve Soldiers can also recognize their employers.

"Additionally, anyone (military or civilian) can recognize a discharged Army veteran for their years of dedicated service, a Soldier's children or other relatives, a veteran's spouse, family readiness group leaders and members, businesses, civic leaders, organizations and individuals sending care packages," Griffith said.

Griffith said the program provides a simple, but heartfelt way to say thank you to those making difficult sacrifices as and for Soldiers. He added that it's a way to honor those who have served the country.

Griffith said the Freedom Team Salute has a formal ambassador program to raise local awareness by conducting events and commendation ceremonies at the "grassroots" level.


"There are currently 850 ambassadors operating in all 50 states and 15 different countries," Griffith said.

According to Griffith, his staff is small and could never have been able to hand deliver each of the two million commendations.

"We wish that we could do that," said Griffith. "However, most commendations are provided through the mail or by one of our ambassadors."

In order to send a commendation, those interested should visit the program Web site at www.freedomteamsalute.com and fill out an online commendation form.

"All that is required is a name and an address," Griffith said. "It's that simple."

Griffith said the honoree should receive their commendation in 3-4 weeks, either through the mail or from one of the ambassadors. 

The Ties That Bind

Veterans, Soldiers come together at Big Red One Reunion

By Anna Staatz
Duty First! Magazine

It was a bond that drew several hundred Big Red One veterans, Soldiers and Family members to Detroit in early August. The bond of battles fought, brothers remembered and a common patch they all wore on their left shoulder.

At the annual Big Red One reunion Aug. 5-9 in Detroit, it took only a short walk up and down the halls of the Hyatt Regency Hotel to hear the stories.

Art Leinen served with the 2nd Battalion, 26th Infantry

Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, during World War II. Leinen wasn't sent to Germany until late 1944, and he became part of an American occupational force near Nuremberg, the site of trials for war crimes.

"It was a very interesting time to be there, with the Nuremberg Trials going on," Leinen said. Leinen got out of the Army after his draft time expired. He has managed to make it to many Big Red One reunions over the years.

"I, personally, enjoy the ones near an Army installation the best," Leinen said. "It just adds a lot to the time together."

Leinen said for he and other World War II veterans, the numbers of those who make it each year dwindle.

"A lot of us are passed on and gone," Leinen said. "Each year, there are a few less of us."

The dwindling number of World War II veterans was also on the minds of Jack Streeter and John McHugh, who both served in the 18th Infantry Regiment during the war. Streeter served in the regiment's 1st Battalion, while McHugh was in the 2nd Battalion. The two met at a Big Red One reunion in 1990. Since then, they've met up every year at the annual event.

"I'd say in the 1990s, there were a lot of World War II veterans and only a few Vietnam veterans at the reunions," McHugh said. "Anymore, we're the minority. There are fewer of us every year."

Streeter noted that when he first came to the reunions, he met a few people from his former unit, but since then they've passed away. Streeter, who was awarded five Silver Stars for his actions during World War II, and McHugh, who was also awarded a Silver Star, have twice had the opportunity to go


back to Normandy and visit the battlefields there.

"That was quite an experience," McHugh said. "It was very emotional."

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, posed a question to guests at the reunion's concluding dinner that drove to the heart of the common bond between veterans and Soldiers. Brooks asked attendees "why did you come back?"

After telling the stories of Soldiers from 1st Infantry Division brigades, Brooks spoke of that common bond.

"You came back because you were and you are part of something great and something timeless," Brooks said.

During the event, veterans and Soldiers also had the opportunity to participate in various local activities, such as taking in a baseball game and visiting the Henry Ford museum. They also paused to remember the division's fallen Soldiers during a memorial service. Next year's reunion is set at the end of August in San Antonio, Texas. 



Duty First!/Staatz

A memorial tribute to 1st Infantry Division Soldiers who gave their all was part of the 2009 Big Red One Reunion.



Duty First!/Staatz

Veterans visit during the Big Red One Reunion Aug. 5-8 in Detroit.



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