

DUTY FIRST!

JULY 2010

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families | www.riley.army.mil

VICTORY WEEK -2010-



CHANGE OF COMMAND FOR DAGGER, DEVIL BRIGADES

ARMY SUSTAINMENT PROGRAMS IN FULL FORCE

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.

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Cover: Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general-rear, and Command Sgt. Maj. "Buddy" Wallace, command sergeant major-rear, place a wreath of remembrance at the base of the Fallen Soldier Memorial June 17 at Fort Riley.

PHOTO BY JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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Securing the future

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

The United States Army has long recognized that our mission is only accomplished because America entrusts us with its most precious resources—its sons and daughters. It is our obligation to ensure that our Soldiers today—and the Soldiers of the future—have the land, water and air resources they need to train; a healthy environment in which to live; and the support of local communities and the American people.

We have recognized the need to focus on sustainability at both the Army level and within the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. The new Army Strategy for the Environment: Sustain the Mission—Secure the Future establishes a long-range vision that enables the Army to meet its mission today and into the future. Sustainability is also one of four goals within the Fort Riley 2015 Campaign Plan. Together, these strategies focus our thinking to address both present and future needs, while strengthening community partnerships that improve our ability to organize, equip, train and deploy our Soldiers as part of the joint force.

Sustainability connects our activities today to those of tomorrow with sound business and environmental practices. We have learned over the past decades that simply complying with environmental regulations will not ensure that we will be able to sustain our mission. We must strive to become systems thinkers if we are to benefit from the interrelationships of



the triple bottom line of sustainability: mission, environment, and community. To sustain the future Army we must implement effective policies and practices that safeguard the environment and our quality of life in a manner that our nation expects of us.

Factors influencing our nation's security and stability have dramatically changed since the Army last published a comprehensive environmental strategy in 1992. America's potential enemies are no longer exclusively established states with physical assets at risk. Advances in technology, ever-increasing global population and urbanization have effectively made the world smaller. They have placed greater stresses on the world's interconnected human, economic, and natural systems. Local and

regional issues, such as famine, natural disasters, ecological degradation, economic decline, political upheaval, and disputes over precious and sometimes scarce natural resources are evolving into global issues that influence how the United States must respond and interact—through political, economic, and when necessary, military engagement.

Although much is changing, certain things remain constant. The Army's primary mission is to defend the United States—its people, its land and its heritage. Our core values endure. While remaining true to our primary mission and these values, the Army must continually evolve to remain relevant and ready to meet these global challenges. In this rapidly changing environment, meeting mission requirements worldwide will increasingly require both safeguarding the natural systems, upon which our quality of life depends, and more effective partnering at the global, federal, state and local levels.

To meet these challenges, we are transforming how we fight, how we train, how we do business and how we interact with others in order to continually improve and provide for the nation's security. More importantly, we are changing the way we think and act. It is up to all of us to work together to "Sustain the Mission—Secure the Future."

Duty First! 

Staying connected to military

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

Roughly 45 years ago, our nation's men were called to fight in Vietnam, many entering the war by way of the draft. They served their time and came home, but for many of them, life was forever changed.

They came home to protests on college campuses and in major cities, and a sweeping anti-war attitude in the media. Often, the warmth of the welcome home ceremonies we are so familiar with was absent as these Soldiers came home.

I will never forget the homecoming story of one Vietnam veteran, a recipient of two Purple Heart Awards. He arrived back in the United States, and was stopped on his way out of the airport by a security officer. The officer told him there was a large anti-war protest going on near the airport and that it was not safe for him to leave the area while wearing his uniform. Understandably, this veteran became very angry when he heard this—he had spilled blood for his country and this was the thanks he received. He went into the restroom, changed into civilian clothes, threw his uniform in the trash and walked out of the airport. His interactions with the military agencies available to help returning veterans and with fellow veterans were few and far between after that.

Many veterans, even if their story wasn't quite the same as this Soldier,




are very aware of the pockets of animosity toward anyone associated with the Vietnam War that existed in many parts of the country. This year, during our Victory Week celebration, the Big Red One reached out to some of our own Vietnam veterans, as well as those local veterans who served in that war, but weren't part of the 1st Infantry Division. Some of them spoke at ceremonies during the week, some of them visited with the current Soldiers of regiments they once served in, and some marched in a special formation during the division review. It was our very small way of attempting to right a wrong that happened a long time ago, and our very short opportunity to tell those veterans thank you.

To the veterans of Vietnam, I extend my sincere thank you, from one Soldier to another. I'd like to also remind you that despite the conditions you may have returned home to, you are honor-bound to the men you served with to stay connected to the military community. Beyond staying on top of what's available to you through the Veterans Administration, you should stay in touch with the fellow Soldiers you fought beside. All too often, the challenges faced while transitioning home lead to long-term frustration with the military in general. Your brethren need you—they need to talk to you, share stories, and find the relief of sharing a painful experience with someone who knows exactly what they are talking about. And more than that, the Soldiers of today need you to share those experiences and set the example and standard for living through the challenges that follow time in combat. Perhaps most of all, the average American needs you to share your stories, your piece of history, so that it is not forgotten.

Stay in touch—with each other, with today's Soldier, with those who won't otherwise hear a Soldier's story.

And for those Soldiers of today, don't forget to shake the hand of the next Vietnam veteran you meet and say thank you. That is your duty to them.

Now ... get after it! 

CAB gets early start

Soldiers celebrate Victory Day in Iraq

By *Spc. Roland Hale*
Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD—June 15 started a flurry of recreation at Fort Riley, Kan., as the 1st Infantry Division kicked off its annual Victory Week. Soldiers and families of the 1st Inf. Div. came together on the post for sporting events, concerts and ceremonies with the intent of building unit camaraderie and celebrating the division's heritage. But this year, Fort Riley's Victory Week was missing something. Several 1st Inf. Div. units, including the division's headquarters, are currently deployed and weren't there to celebrate, but one unit did its best to bring the spirit of Victory Week to Iraq.

With temperatures soaring above a hundred degrees, Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. at Camp Taji, Iraq, took a break from their daily duties June 6 to celebrate the birthday of the 1st Infantry Division – and the 66th anniversary of the D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

The CAB Soldiers took part in a five-kilometer race and a volleyball tournament. Also in celebration, the brigade re-enlisted 111 Soldiers on Taji Army Airfield. The Soldiers raised their right hands to take the oath of re-enlistment while standing around a several hundred square-foot painting of the 1st Inf. Div.'s insignia—a Big Red One.

"Good vibes, great energy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson, the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer. "About 400 Soldiers turned out this



SPC. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO

Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., fight for a point during a volleyball tournament June 6 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The group was celebrating the birthday of the 1st Infantry Division and the 66th anniversary of the D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

morning to run in the spirit of the 1st Infantry Division, to show their support for those who paved the way for us."


The 1st Infantry Division was activated on June 8, 1917, and has played a key role in each of the nation's major conflicts since then, with the exception of the Korean War. During the D-Day invasion, Big Red One Soldiers landed on Utah beach, one of the more famous fronts of the assault.

Today, Thomson said, the good vibes and great energy also are evident in the mass re-enlistment ceremony. The brigade, which recently arrived in Iraq, already has met its annual retention quota.

"The fact that so many participated

in the run and in the volleyball tournament, and in the re-enlistment ... is an indication that morale in the brigade is high," Thomson said.

In the middle of the day's celebrations, however, CAB Soldiers were reminded of their mission when the explosion of a nearby improvised explosive device echoed across Taji.

"In everything we did today we took a moment to remember the division's history—and sure enough, we're still in a dangerous place," Thomson said, speaking about the explosion. "Iraq has come a long way and it's entering a new phase of the operation, but it was a reminder that there are still dangers out here. And we're still warriors." 



SPC. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO

Lt. Col Paul Mele, commander of the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, runs through a spray of water at the finish of a five-kilometer run June 6 at Camp Taji, Iraq. INSET: A mass formation of CAB, 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers re-enlist June 6 at Taji Army Airfield.



The "Red Dragons" quarterback of 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Okla., tries his luck at rushing the football down the field June 16 on Custer Hill.

JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Victory

leading the way to

Unit sports teams compete during Victory Week to win Commander's Cup award

By the 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office

One of the biggest parts of Victory Week is sports competition. Throughout the week, Soldiers represent their units in 14 different sports events, accumulating points toward winning the Commander's Cup award at the end of the week.

It all started June 15, as clashes of thunder were echoed with cheers of enthusiasm from more than 5,000 1st Infantry Division Soldiers. The Soldiers stood in formation in the rain to participate in the annual Victory Run, but that didn't deter them from doing their best

in the event that kicked off Victory Week, a weeklong celebration the Big Red One's lineage and history.

The run was led by Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley deputy commanding general-rear, and Command Sgt. Major Darrel Wallace, division command sergeant major-rear.

Rear detachments from deployed 1st Inf. Div. units, such as the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Sustainment Brigade and the Combat Aviation Brigade represented their organizations by running with the unit's cased colors.

The week continued with competitions in volleyball, basketball, kickball, weight lifting, golf, boxing, combatives, dodgeball, flag football, tug-of-war, softball and a 10-mile run.

The 10 Mile Run is a qualifying event for Soldiers to compete in the Army Ten Miler, scheduled for this October in Washington, D.C., but also earned competitors points toward the Commander's Cup.

Second Lts. Charles Billi and Meghan Curran, of 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, 75th Fires Brigade, from Fort Sill, Okla., crossed the race's finish line in first and second, respectively.



"It feels great. It was a tough course, I always thought that Kansas was flat but there were plenty of hills along the route for an extra challenge," Billi chuckled. He was the first runner to cross the finish line with a time of 1 hour, 3 minutes and 50 seconds.

"It was a lot of fun," he said.

Shortly after, Curran was the first female runner to cross the finish line and second overall competitor to complete the race. Both she and Billi will advance to compete for their inaugural run in the Army Ten Miler this fall.

"Running has always been fun for me," she said. "I had a great time participating in the Victory Week Ten Mile run today and I look forward to representing the Big Red One in the Army Ten miler."

Twelve Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division donned headgear and boxing gloves and went head to head with fellow Soldiers of the Big Red One on June 17 in Hanger 863. The 12 competitors sparred in six different weight classes that ranged from heavy-lightweight to super heavy.

Participating in the boxing competition "was a lot of fun," said Pvt. Carissa Accardo of Dental Activity, who defeated Pvt. Tay Weeks of 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, in the female light-middleweight division. "I had never boxed before. I practiced about

four times leading up to Victory Week and really enjoyed it. I look forward to participating in the competition next year."

In combatives, Soldiers from all over the 1st Infantry Division competed to determine who is the best, most skilled, and most mentally tough fighter in a Modern Army Combatives tournament final June 17 at King Field House in front of a large and enthralled audience.

The tournament placed fighters into six weight classes, from flyweight to heavyweight, with the winners qualifying to train and participate on the team which will represent the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley at the all-Army combatives tournament in October at Fort Benning, Ga.

One of the fighters was 46-year-old Staff Sgt. James Wilson, Jr., 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

"I love combatives," Wilson said. "I've been fighting all my life."

Despite being much older than his opponent, the Brooklyn, N.Y. native finished third in the lightweight class, and had much of the crowd behind him for the entirety of his three-round fight, which he won unanimously on points.

"It feels great to finish third. Feels fantastic," he said. "It lets me know I still got it."

In the end, the Commander's Cup

went to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team. The winners from each athletic event were recognized before the entire 1st Infantry Division on June 18, just before the division review at Marshall Army Airfield.

To secure their prize, the "Iron Rangers" were able to achieve first place overall finishes in softball, the 10-miler, boxing and the Victory Warrior competition.

It's not who wins that matters, though. For many Soldiers, winning or not, Victory Week acts as a time to get closer as a unit and division.

Cpl. Ronald Parker, 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., agreed with Griffin.

"Everyone works together to show how much of a team they can be," Parker said. Parker earned a first place finishing position in the lightweight weightlifting competition with a 235-pound bench press.

Getting together to have fun while coming together as a unit is important to Parker, he continued, stating that becoming a better team now means better training later.

"Our motivation goes up even higher... when it's time to train everyone is already motivated and keep going as a team."

** Editor's note: Stephanie Hoff, Jordan Chapman and Spc. Daniel Stoutamire contributed this story.*



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley deputy commanding general-rear, and Command Sgt. Major Darrel Wallace, division command sergeant major-rear, lead more than 5,000 Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division, June 15 at the beginning of the four-mile Victory Run. The run was the initial kick-off of Victory Week.

Warriors stand proud

Victory Warrior competition brings out best for participating soldiers

By Sgt. Jason Lee
Kansas Adjutant General's Public Affairs Office
FORT RILEY, Kan. — Seven Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division participated in the Victory Warrior competition June 16 as part of a week-long event to honor the division's heritage.

The Victory Warrior competition tested Soldiers on their basic combat skills. The Soldiers worked in teams of two—with one exception—and were graded on their ability to complete the tasks. Some of the tasks the Soldiers were given to complete were to call for indirect fire, employ a hand grenade, apply a tourniquet and litter carry a 200-pound dummy 150 meters. All of the tasks were done while completing a 12-mile road march.

"I'm not a ruck marcher," said Sgt. John Jasper, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team. "The road march was probably the worse."

The Soldiers competed first in hot sun

and then plowed through the last portion as heavy rain clouds gathered.

The final part of the Victory Warrior competition was a marksmanship competition in which the team members had to hit eight-inch disk targets at 25 meters, four-inch disk targets at 15 meters and three-inch disk targets at 10 meters. The competitors also shot long-range targets in unsupported, kneeling and standing off-hand positions.

"We got out there and the sun was pretty much beating us down the whole day," Jasper said. "It was rough going up and down the hills."

Jasper and teammate, Cpl. Terrence Jones took first place in the competition.

"It is defiantly tough," Jones said. "I'll probably be here next year to defend the title."

The Victory Warrior competition was one of 16 events that took place in which battalions could compete in to get points in order to win the Commander's Cup, presented to the battalion with the most points at the end of the week. ■



SGT. JASON LEE, KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

TOP: Sgt. Garrett Zuerker, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, assembles a radio at one of the stations in the Victory Week Warrior Competition June 16 at Fort Riley. **ABOVE:** Cpl. Terrence Jones and Sgt. John Jasper, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, put a tourniquet in place on a mock injury as part of the Victory Week Warrior Competition on June 16 at Fort Riley. **BACKGROUND:** Three competitors march their way toward the next station during the Victory Warrior competition.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

1st Infantry Division Soldiers dressed in period uniforms stand in formation during the Army's 235th and the 1st Inf. Div.'s 93rd Birthday celebration June 15 on the 1st Inf. Div. Headquarter's Parade Field.

celebrating Pride & Tradition

Soldiers mark Army and Division birthdays

By Jordan Chapman
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

Two words were on the minds of Soldiers and Veterans attending the Army's 235th and the 1st Infantry Division's 93rd birthday celebration—pride and tradition.

Lined with honor units standing at attention with unit flags and the colors of the United States of America rippling in the wind, the 1st Inf. Div. Parade Field was filled with history June 15, the day also marking the beginning of Victory Week, 2010.

Not only were attendees able to hear Army and Big Red One history, they were able to see an illustration of the past as period vehicles dropped off Soldiers dressed in previous war-time uniforms from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This patch on my left shoulder, the Big Red One, for 93 years the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division forged a brotherhood of peace in a time of war

that can never be broken," Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general-rear, said.

By showing such respect to the uniform each Soldier wore, attendees also showed much reverence for any Soldier who wore the uniform during the Army's past 235 years.

"Whether it's 93 years or 235 years, American Soldiers have been willing to sacrifice for this nation for a long time," Petersen said, adding that like some other things, the United States Army gets better with age.

"Were it not for the courage and tenacity of our Soldiers, our country would not be what it is today. Against all odds and through all the hardships they have had to face, they have followed through with a simple vow, 'We will be free,'" Petersen said.

Retired Col. Kenneth Burgoon, former Big Red One Soldier and World War II veteran, could appreciate the

words spoken at the celebration.

"The tradition that is here carries on year to year and they never forget it. It's something they (the Soldiers) learn to live by," Burgoon noted, proud of his division and certain that every veteran of the 1st Inf. Div. still lives by their previous unit's tradition.

One other tradition never forgotten was the cutting of cake. With the help of the youngest Soldier currently stationed at Fort Riley, Pfc. Tanner Holder, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Petersen sliced the Army's cake.

"It was an honor, it feels really good," Holder said.

"The Army's story is America's story," Petersen said. "Every man and woman wearing a uniform today is pinning another chapter in that glorious history... and now today that burden, that duty, indeed that privilege falls upon the Soldiers of today." ■

Remembering

Fallen Heroes

Victory Park ceremony recognizes Soldiers' ultimate sacrifice

Story By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

LOVE, PRIDE,
DEDICATION,
IMMORTALITY.

Each word may have meant a little more than the other depending on the person's relationship to the fallen, but

Park June 17, an emotional ceremony underlined by loved ones visiting the stones, touching their names and sharing memories of the past which could only be endured with the embraces and support of other Family present.

Confronted by a buffeting wind and hot sun, each person in attendance paid tribute to the fallen with music performed by the Pipe and Drum Corps presented by the Isis Shrine Temple, the laying of a wreath at the base of the Fallen Soldier Memorial, the singing of

"This is the patch of sacrifice," he continued, adamant to tell why everyone must remember why such sacrifices were made.

Symbolically speaking, Shelton stated that the great men being remembered died so that our nation's flag might still wave over us, though to him, it means something different.

"Those sacrifices we honor today mean that they fought and died for the principles by which our nation stands: equality of opportunity, life, liberty and



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TOP FROM LEFT: Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general-rear, and Command Sgt. Maj. "Buddy" Wallace, Command Sergeant Major for the 1st Infantry Division-rear, move toward the Fallen Soldier Memorial and then place a wreath of remembrance at its base during the Victory Park Ceremony on June 17 at Fort Riley; **Flags adorn Victory Park during the June 17 ceremony.** **BOTTOM FROM LEFT:** A crowd of Family, Soldiers and friends surround 8-month-old Chloe Smith as she reaches out to the touch the memorial stone of her father, Senior Airman Bradley Smith; Soldiers conducting 21-Gun Salute stand ready and then fire their third round in honor of those 1st Infantry Division Soldiers who gave their lives in the past year; 1st Infantry Division and Sergeant Audie Murphy Association Soldiers unveil the memorial stones of those Soldiers who gave their lives during the past year while deployed.



it's certain that every mother and father, sister or brother, Soldier or commander in attendance of the Victory Park Ceremony held one priority higher than the rest—remembrance.

Spc. David Lane, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook, Staff Sgt. Ryan Zorn, Spc. Charles Parrish, Cpl. Tony Carrasco, Jr., Senior Airman Bradley Smith and Sgt. 1st Class Glen Whetten each had their names added to memorial stones at the Fallen Soldier Memorial in Victory



"Amazing Grace," a 21-gun salute, taps and the reading of each name.

"The patch that we wore on our shoulder pulls us all together... we are bonded together by the Big Red One patch," said the guest speaker, retired Brig. Gen. James Shelton, explaining that he served in nine divisions throughout his career but none was ever so special as the Big Red One.

the pursuit of happiness for all mankind," Shelton said.

The ceremony at Victory Park has been an annual occurrence since the park was dedicated at Fort Riley two years ago. The stones at the park honor Big Red One service members who have paid the ultimate price during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each year, fallen heroes from the past 12 months are honored.

For Your Review

Nearly 1,100 Soldiers on display at Division Review Ceremony

By Stephanie Hoff
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

THE PAST AND PRESENT of the 1st Infantry Division came together June 18 on Marshall Army Airfield during a formal Division Review.

Nearly 1,100 Soldiers representing each of the units currently assigned to the Big Red One were presented during the ceremony.

The Soldiers currently assigned to the division were able to hear the first-hand experiences of a former Soldier of the Big Red One, who served as a company commander during the Vietnam War.

Retired Lt. Col. Albert Clark Welch, a former company commander in 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, was the ceremony's guest speaker. He described to the Soldiers and spectators the differences between serving as a

Soldier in the Vietnam War as opposed to today's military operations.

"My thanks and my profound appreciation to you veterans and what you did in Vietnam," he said. "My profound thanks I also extend to you, the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division today. You are fighting a war, that I won't say is better or is more or less deadly.

"I will say that as I walk around here, I believe that us, Vietnam veterans, who were tough people and we're still tough people, cannot compare to you men and women who are serving today. You look like every one of you has a personal trainer."

Welch described the vast distinctions the Soldiers in Vietnam experienced upon their return home in contrast to the welcome home ceremonies received from today's active-duty Soldiers.

"We went to war because our country asked us to. Simple as that. But more important, we went to war because we saw it as our duty to go wherever we were needed and fight for our country," Welch said. "Those of us who went there, took on bloody fighting and bitter sacrifice and it just kept getting worse and worse and worse until we came home. We were young and confident and patriotic and there were countrymen who knew little and cared less of what we experienced. That is not true of you."

A similarity experienced by both generations of Soldiers is the camaraderie and bonds that are formed amongst fellow soldiers, he noted.

"We loved each other. I would have given anything to keep up the lives of the men who'd been entrusted to me. I




STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

FROM LEFT: A group of local Vietnam war veterans, salute to Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general-rear, as they pass the review stand June 18 on Marshall Army Airfield; Petersen rides in a World War I era Army vehicle during a Division Review Ceremony. **BELOW:** Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division salute during the playing of the National Anthem during the Division Review Ceremony on Marshall Army Airfield. The review featured nearly 1,100 Soldiers representing each of the Big Red One's current units.


would have given anything. I'd give anything now to get them back," he said. "In battle, our world shrunk down to just a few men; the man on our left and the man on our right. We held each other's lives in our hands. That is exactly the same thing experienced by you men and women today."

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy commanding general-rear, was driven around the assembled troops in a World War I-era vehicle, in order to inspect the formation, and then units marched past Petersen and Command Sgt. Maj. "Bud-

I would have given anything to keep up the lives of the men who'd been entrusted to me. I would have given anything. I'd give anything now to get them back."



Retired Lt. Col. Albert Clark Welch

dy" Wallace, division command sergeant major-rear, to conclude the ceremony. The Division Review marked the final day of Victory Week, a week-long celebration of the lineage and history of the Big Red One. 





on the Road to Completion

Story by Jordan Chapman

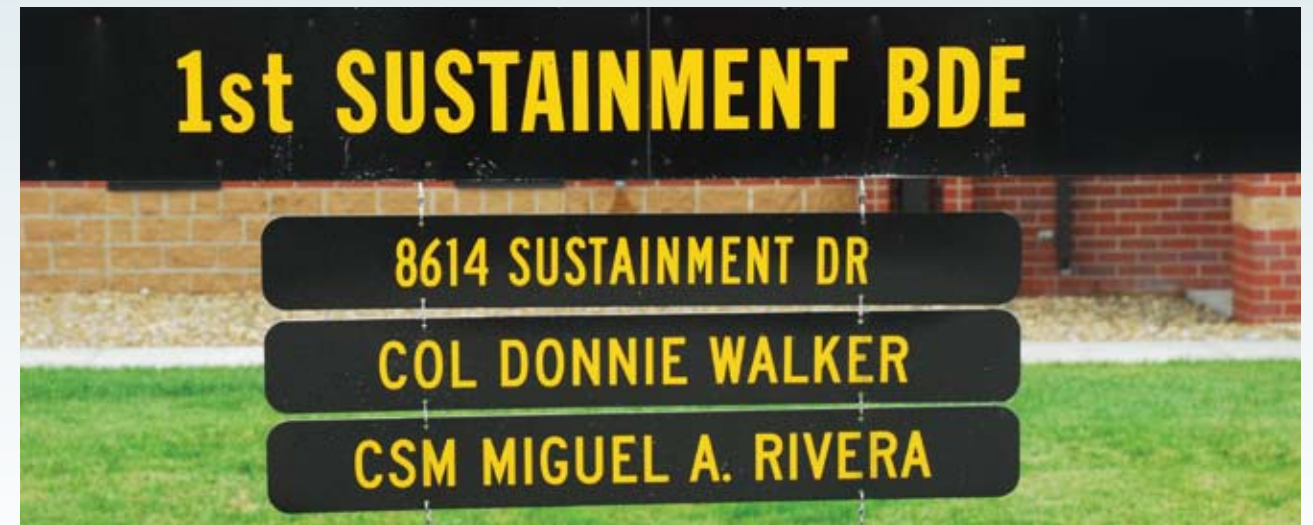
Task Force Durable offers seamless transition

WHEN COL. JEFF CARRA LOOKS OUT HIS OFFICE WINDOW, there is an excitement in his eyes. Carra sees buildings being constructed around Sustainment Drive that once completed, will allow a central location for every sustainment unit on Fort Riley. He sees Soldiers coming in and out of the 1st Sustainment Brigade headquarters conducting business, completing their duties and supporting Fort Riley as though the 1st Sustainment Brigade hasn't been deployed to Kuwait for the past four months. He sees progress and success in the seamless transition between the brigade's deployment and the start of his own mission, commanding Task Force Durable.

Currently made up of 20 Army Reserve Soldiers, Task Force Durable provides oversight for the brigade's battalions while the brigade's Sustainment Operation Center synchronizes and optimizes the sustainment functions for Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division.

"We maintain connectivity with the Division and the garrison so there isn't a void when the 1st Sustainment Brigade main body departed," Carra said. "We are prepping Fort Riley for when they come back. We are, in a way, the brigade staff that still is here, while

key staff and leaders from all eight brigades in the 1st Infantry Division, including 3rd Brigade Combat Team in Fort Knox, Ky., the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and the 75th Fires Brigade in Fort Sill, Okla. Other attendees at the meetings include the Mission Support Element, Army Materiel Command, Fort Riley Garrison, MED-DAC and DENTAC and others to discuss the Army's core enterprises: manning, equipping, funding, maintenance and facilities.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

ABOVE AND BELOW: The 1st Sustainment Brigade headquarters building stands tall and fully operational even as the brigade is deployed to Kuwait for 12-months.



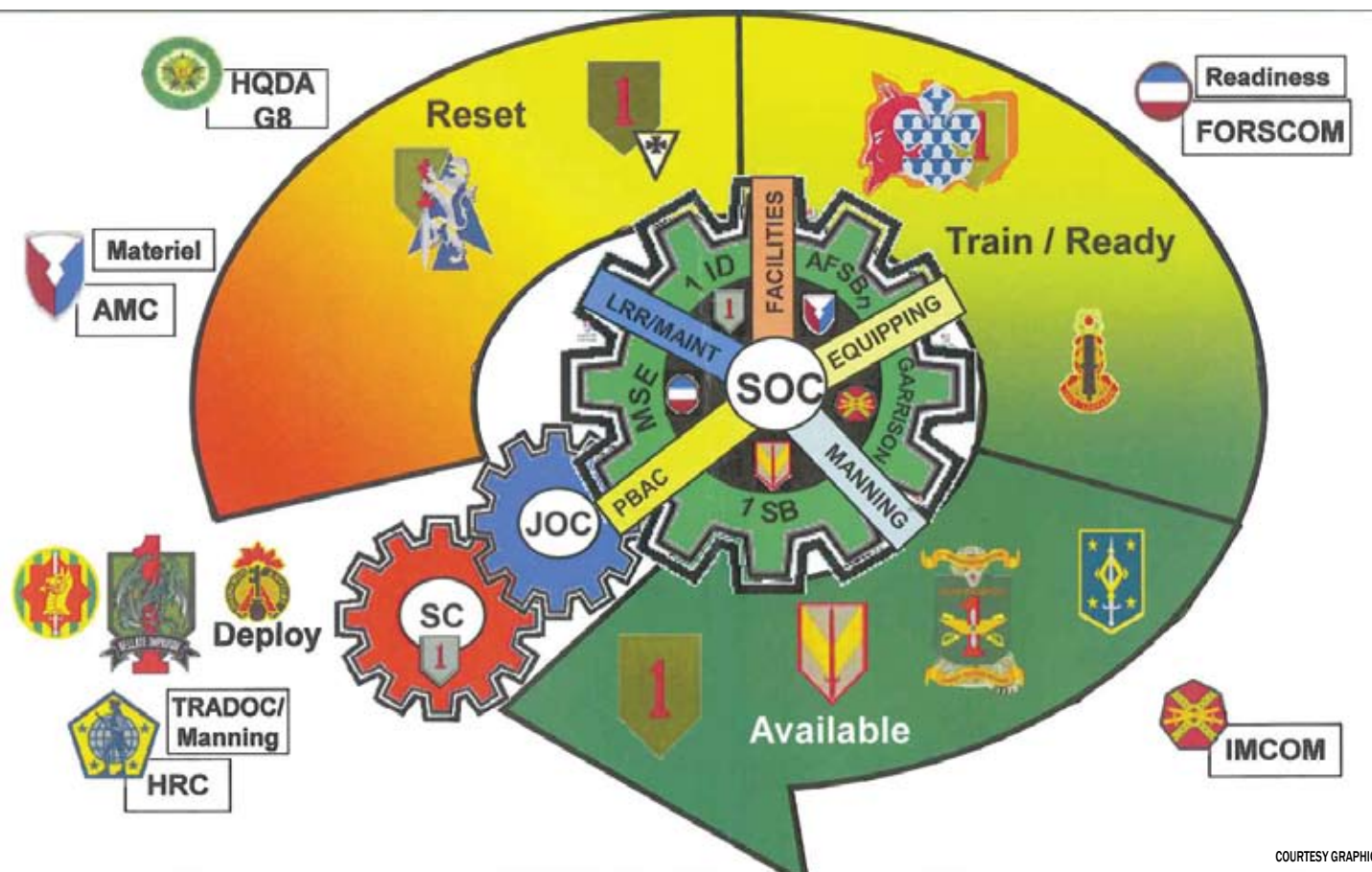
the brigade staff-main, is forward in Kuwait doing their job."

"We have a lot of specialized expertise in logistics, finance, human resources and other areas that are sustainment functions ... and we can help," Carra continued, explaining that to start the process they had to find any and all friction points in the Army Forces Generation process, which is handled in large part by the SOC.

"We have to find out why it's a friction point. Is it a self-inflicted issue or is this a systemic issue," Carra said. These questions are asked and answered at weekly Sustainment Synchronization meetings with

"It is these things that drive the ARFORGEN process," said Lt. Col. Brian Tempest, SOC deputy chief, explaining that the SOC instigates communication between every key leader on Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division to work through trouble areas to better inform the senior commander when he needs to make decisions or know where his units are at within the ARFORGEN process.

"We are here as a vehicle to support that process," Carra said, ready to push forward to ensure success while the 1st Sust. Bde. conducts the sustainment mission in Kuwait day in and day out. ▀



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Big wheel keeps on turning

Sustainment Operations Center manages continuous loop of information and operations that drives Big Red One

Jordan Chapman
Duty First! Magazine

The human brain is the center of the human nervous center. It continuously receives sensory information and rapidly analyzes the data and then responds, controlling bodily actions and functions. Comparatively, it's the equivalent of the Sustainment Operations Center.

Having become fully operational Sept. 10, 2009, and built to synchronize and optimize sustainment functions for Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division, logistically speaking, the SOC is the center pivot to the constantly turning wheel of information and operations that drives Big Red One units to success.

First conceived as a necessity for the division after Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general for the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, decided that the Army Forces Generation cycle needed to be optimized, the SOC has since become the Army's standard in how to build and run such centers with efficiency.

"We fuse the core enterprises (readiness, facilities, equipping and manning) using all the players of the logistics personnel on this post and we provide that information through the Joint Operations Center (JOC) to the senior commander, so he can make a decision as to where his units are at in the ARFORGEN process," said Lt. Col. Brian Tempest, SOC deputy chief, explaining he and his team's constant mission is to monitor, track and assist in finding the disconnects in communication on Fort Riley and finally addressing them through four consolidated meetings per month, each of which focuses on one of the core enterprises.

Though the 1st Sustainment Brigade deployed to Kuwait in March, the SOC is still fully operational and manned by personnel provided by Task Force Du-

Our job is to find those (disconnects), fuse it, analyze it, get it back to the right agency and get the fix. It's working, that's the beautiful thing about it."

Lt. Col. Brian Tempest,
SOC deputy chief

able, a type of "mission support element" tasked to continue sustainment operations on Fort Riley while Col. Donnie Walker, 1st Sust. Bde. commander, and his Durable Soldiers complete their missions overseas.

So far, mission success. "Our job is to find those (disconnects), fuse it, analyze it, get it back to the right agency and get the fix. It's working, that's the beautiful thing about it," Tempest said.

There is still some road ahead, though. "We have got the facilities, we have the manning, we have the equipment and money. Now it's matter of taking it the next step, which is putting the system in place that will give us that holistic look of a Brigade Combat Team on the ARFORGEN timeline with all its key tasks and sub tasks identified and a system to monitor and track. That's where we are going," Tempest said.



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Construction workers work to complete new 1 + 1 barracks, June 9, on Graves Street. The 1 + 1 barracks initiative provides each Soldier with a private bedroom and a shared common kitchenette and bathroom between two junior enlisted Soldiers.

1 + 1 = Less Foot traffic

BY STEPHANIE HOFF | DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

New barracks initiative to provide single Soldiers with more privacy

The days of a single Soldier having to climb up on his bunk bed at the end of the day or walking down the hall to the restroom are quickly diminishing.

The Fort Riley Directorate of Public Works along with the Corps of Engineers and selected contractors have been busy building new housing for the post's single Soldiers that correspond to the Army's 1 + 1 barracks initiative.

The 1 + 1 barracks provide each Soldier with a private, well-appointed bedroom. Two junior enlisted Soldiers share a common kitchenette and bath in a two-bedroom suite, hence the 1 + 1 moniker. Dozens of projects for new 1+1 barracks and renovation of existing barracks are in design or under construction for Fort Riley's Soldiers.

"I don't think you'll meet any Soldier who has moved into their new barracks and said 'I wish they would have left it the way it was,'" said Alan Ingwersen. "It's just completely different from the World War II barracks where possibly 100 Soldiers would share one big room with bunk beds. You had no privacy. It's just completely different. It just feels great to turn the barracks over to these well-deserving Soldiers."

The goal of the planners for PW is to provide every re-deploying unit to Fort Riley with completed 1+1 barracks. When the Combat Aviation Brigade returned from their previous deployment, the unit's single Soldiers received brand new 1 + 1 barracks located on Whitside, off of Huebner Road. The Soldiers of Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion and 1st Sustainment Brigade received new barracks before they left and may return to different barracks but will still receive 1 + 1 barracks.

"It's nice to think that we have this coordinated program that has construction being completed just as units are returning from deployment but that's not true," said Mike Goreham, chief of planning for PW. The military construction process could take up to four years, when adding in the time it takes for the process to get approved by Congress to the final completion of the new building, Goreham explained.

"Our goal is that all Soldiers, who are single Soldiers, return from deployment and move into 1 + 1 barracks," he said. "It looks like we'll achieve that goal by the end of 2012."

When the Soldiers of the CAB previously re-deployed to Fort Riley, they were welcomed home to six brand new barracks buildings, each with the capacity to house 156 Soldiers. The buildings all feature individual bedrooms with two Soldiers sharing a common kitchenette and restroom.

With some elements of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team returning earlier than expected to Fort Riley, housing arrangements for the single Soldiers of the "Dragon" brigade are being made to ensure that the each returning Soldier receives 1 + 1 barracks, said Christina Hill, master planner for PW. The unit may be temporarily housed in 1 + 1 barracks until the completion of their permanent barracks, she noted.

"It's not like we say 'Why don't you just hold them in theater an extra two months so we can finish the barracks?'"



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

TOP: Remodeling efforts are currently under way to transform the barracks buildings located at the end of the Normandy Drive to 430 private suites for senior enlisted Soldiers. The suites will include private bedrooms and bathrooms for each Soldier. **ABOVE:** The new kitchenettes included in the 1 + 1 barracks initiative include a refrigerator, range and microwave. The kitchenette and common area are shared among two junior enlisted Soldiers, who each have their own private bedroom.

Ingwersen said. "They're going to come back, and we're happy that they get to come home early, and we're going to get them into 1 + 1 barracks and, when the other barracks are done, unfortunately they get to move. But it's into brand new barracks."

Monitoring the changes for scheduled deployments and re-deployments and arranging 'back-up' plans is practically a must when determining available barracks housing, Goreham added.

"It's a constant challenge to always look at which units are scheduled to return and which units are coming back first and try to keep up with those changes in the deployment schedules. You have to have contingency plans," he said.

"It feels good to turn over brand new barracks. It's a great feeling for me as a project manager," Ingwersen said. "These guys deserve the best and that is what we are striving to deliver to them." ▀



When connected to a usage monitor, a cell-phone charger displays the electricity usage it is still consuming while not charging a phone.

Reduction Plan

Post looks to cut back energy usage 30 percent by 2015

Stephanie Hoff | *Duty First! Magazine*

It takes approximately two seconds to perform, but when multiplied by the number of the Fort Riley work force, the simple act of shutting off your computer monitor and office light switch when away from your desk, can potentially save the post thousands of dollars.

Under Presidential Executive Order 13423, Fort Riley is expected to reduce energy consumption by 3 percent annually or 30 percent overall by September 2015. Monitoring of the post's energy usage began in 2007.

"On some good weather years, we have reached that three percent target. Weather is a huge variable in tracking something like this," said David Scruggs, Fort Riley's chief of the Engineering Services Division for Public Works. "We're not that far off from reaching our goal. I think it's obtainable. It just takes a little effort on everybody's part."

Nearly \$18 million is spent annually for the post's energy consumption. Reducing Fort Riley's energy

usage by 3 percent each year would generate a savings of nearly \$540,000 per year and a savings of \$5.4 million over 10 years.

"The post basically saves half a million dollars a year just by going down 3 percent in energy usage," Scruggs said.

The Fort Riley Energy Management Program is broken down into four areas: engineering, awareness and procurement and renewable energy, Scruggs said.

Informing the post's work force of simple tasks that they can insert into during their daily routine falls under energy awareness. Scruggs recommends turning off lights when the room or office is not in use and plugging individual's monitors, desktop printers and charges for cell phones and iPods into power strips and turning the power strip off when the employee is away from their desk or leaves for the day.

"The most efficient piece of equipment is the one

that is turned off. That is the best way, even better than stand-by mode. Anything that is plugged in is basically pulling energy," he said. "At the end of the day or even when you leave the office for a meeting, if you just hit that power strip and turn it off, a lot of energy is saved. If I did that and then the next person does that, the power strips pay for themselves in less than two months.

"A big energy consumer is coffee pots. A lot of people will leave that coffee pot on all afternoon, long after they've finished their coffee."

Energy engineering and procurement are the areas that require minimal to no input from the average work force. Constructing new energy efficient buildings and re-modeling the post's aging facilities are some examples of procedures currently taking place to reduce Fort Riley's excess usage. Improved insulation, installing fluorescent light bulbs and thermostats that are automatically set to adjust during the peak and non-peak hours of the day are some of the leading energy-saving exercises currently under way.

"The new buildings we are building on post are built to a much higher standard. Energy engineering are the things that we can put in place to make that building operate a whole lot more efficiently. Things that we can do that really don't take user input. The users really don't have to do anything, the building does it itself," Scruggs said. "Those are the types of things that don't impact the workforce at all as far as they don't have to do anything to make savings."

Energy procurement involves the purchasing of the post's energy sources such as electricity, natural gas and propane as well as the purchase of a portion of those energy commodities by on-post contractors.

"Fort Riley currently purchases its natural gas six months ahead of time to receive a significant discount on the purchase," he said. "That is a huge thing. It's kind of one of those 'out of sight, out of mind' things for the general post population. It doesn't save any energy but it does save a lot of money."

Informing the workforce, building new energy-efficient buildings and re-modeling the post's current facilities to enhance their energy usage are all methods that Fort Riley is currently undertaking to reduce its energy consumption by 3 percent each year. The establishment of Energy Conservation Officers in each building is an additional possibility that may be installed in the future. The ECOs would be responsible for informing the work force of energy-saving practices and of keeping the individuals informed of the latest techniques.

"Is this new? No, this is not new. The things that we're doing in energy conservation today are the same things we were doing 25 years ago. It was all there it was just the amount of emphasis that was put toward it," Scruggs said. "Most people think it doesn't matter anyway. Well if you take a whole lot of 'it doesn't matters' they add up to a whole lot throughout the day and throughout the year. Those little steps, you don't think they're that big of deal, but they add up."

COURTESY PHOTOS

FROM TOP: The computer's monitor has been determined to consume some of the unit's most electricity. The Fort Riley work force should turn their monitors off when they leave their office for a meeting and at the end of the work day. Under the new Fort Riley Energy Conservation Program, the work force is discouraged from operating miniature refrigerators in their offices, as the appliances can consume at least more than 150 watts of electricity. Under the new Fort Riley Energy Conservation Program, the work force is encouraged to hook monitors, desktop printers and charges into power strips and turn the power strip off when the employee is away from their desk or leaves for the day. "The most efficient piece of equipment is the one that is turned off," said David Scruggs, Fort Riley's chief of the Engineering Services Division for Public Works.



WTB Complex open

\$54M facility to help in evolution of health care

By Deikeya Greer
1st Inf. Div. Post Newspaper

"This is truly a historic day, a mark of tangible commitment providing the absolute best care for our wounded warriors," said Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and deputy commanding general-rear on May 27 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Fort Riley's Warrior Transition Battalion Complex. Fort Riley, home to the first WTB in the Army is now home to the first completed WTB complex—a \$54 million dollar facility.

"This is a start of what will continue to be an evolving way of taking care of those who have sacrificed so much," Petersen said.

According to Petersen, the complex will be a place where wounded servicemembers and their Families will be able to take part in physical and behavioral health activities, receive quality outcome-focused care and service, and access to conscious care.

The three-building facility will provide a battalion headquarters, company operating facilities and a Soldier and Family Assistance Center.

Groundbreaking on the project began in September 2008. It took 18 months to finish the project. The new

barracks, battalion headquarters, COFs and SFAC total about 131,000 square feet.

Along with the ribbon cutting, leaders signed the Army Medicine Health-care Covenant.

The signing of the covenant marked the commitment to providing quality health care to wounded, ill and injured Soldiers as well as their Families.

The WTB complex project was a joint effort among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fort Riley garrison, the Army Medical Department and the Warrior Transition Command. Prior to the building of the WTB complex, Soldiers assigned to this battalion lived in temporary mobile housing units.

The construction of this new facility is aimed to meet the needs of and better the lives of the servicemembers.

"This facility is much like a dorm room," said L'Tanya Pugh, outreach coordinator for SFAC. "We want the warriors to be as comfortable as possible. They have already given so much. This is just a little comfort as they transition back into their normal routines."

In the WTB barracks, each servicemember has their own room, already furnished with a television and laptop, a bed, desk and recliner. There are gathering places, fireplaces and other rooms and activities to keep the servicemembers in a relaxed and conducive environment.

"It's not about the brick and mortar—that's not what takes care of Soldiers. It's the people, the processes and the care that will occur on the inside of

the facility," said Col. Kevin Brown, garrison commander. "We recognize the sustained conflict that we are in and the sacrifice of their Families, and we've committed the dollars and time to put together a facility like the one here today."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers served as the executing agent for design and construction for the WTB complex.

"I think this is a great commitment to the Soldiers and taking care of them during their time of transition," said Christopher Prinslow, deputy commander, Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is very proud to have been a part of this endeavor."

According to the WTB website, the mission of WTB is to provide care and healing for the wounded, ill and injured Soldiers, their Families and caregivers in order to develop a balanced structure that is responsive to the Army and the needs of the warriors in the midst of this transition. The new facility will help accomplish this mission.

"This was a wonderful event. I think it will boost the morale of Soldiers because for so long wounded Soldiers have been thrown away when they were injured, but now this shows that the Army does care about them and this is proof of their giving back," said Lt. Col. John Jones, WTB.

The new WTB Complex is located next to the Irwin Army Community Hospital and its new building site just off Huebner Road. 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST NEWSPAPER

TOP: Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general-rear, speaks at the Warrior Transition Battalion ribbon cutting ceremony. **MIDDLE:** Representatives from Fort Riley, IACH and the WTB stand with the Army Medicine Health Care Covenant during the grand opening of the WTB Complex at Fort Riley. **BOTTOM:** Representatives from Fort Riley, IACH and the WTB along with Family and community members cut a ribbon marking the grand opening of the WTB Complex at Fort Riley. The complex is the first to be completed in the Army.



Fort Riley Soldiers find themselves in the Zone

Opening the doors to Building 8067, you're presented with a cool rush of air, low lighting and the scent of café style food. The atmosphere is the epitome of relaxation as you hear the low rumble of a movie theater, the laughing conversations of the staff and your buddies calling you over to the pool table. It's the Warrior Zone, a community for all.

By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

Unique to Fort Riley and the Army, the entertainment facility welcomed its first guests during Super Bowl Sunday of 2010. Since then, the 4,200 square foot building has continued to offer a pool table, wireless internet access, a food and beverage bar serving wings, fries, gourmet salads, wraps, sandwiches, pizza, breakfast items, javacinnos, coffee and teas, quality beers and much more; seven high powered gaming machines, four stand-alone computers for internet browsing, 19 flat screen TV's that can be watched using portable audio speakers, gaming consoles, games, movies, a back patio featuring a top of the line grill and a movie theater complete with plush recliners that are tested and approved for "movie narcolepsy."

"This is their place, we do it all for them," said the dedicated Mike Alderson, Warrior Zone operation business manager, expressing his own desire to constantly provide the highest quality entertainment environment for any Soldier that walks through his door.

"They're our boss. We love what they do for us," he said, a comment that could be justified in every staff member's action, especially one Angela Jackson,

Food and Beverage manager, whose amiable smile and personality has earned her the nickname "Mom" to many of the facilities warriors.

Pvt. Zack Slater, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, is one Soldier who helps uphold the nickname, who feels Jackson is like his second mother.

"When I first got here, new to Kansas, I came with five or six other guys from my unit. We all came up here and ever since we always come in here. It's a lot of fun. It has everything a single Soldier could possibly want to do on a weekend," he said, explaining

Year-old entertainment facility offers little bit of everything for everyone

he has met a few of his friends through the activities there and oftentimes finds himself visiting with the staff more than anything else.

Staff Sgt. Charles Keaton, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team could agree and additionally felt the Warrior Zone a great relief for Soldiers on post who can't travel off post. "This is the best idea Fort Riley has ever had," he praised.

Best idea or not, it's the attitude within that helps the Warrior Zone succeed. When a Soldier is talking to Alderson, there is one phrase constantly on the verge of his lips: "We want you to feel at home when you come here," Alderson would say. "This is your place. Let us know what you need, what you want, what you enjoy and what you don't enjoy. I think all of my people want to know that."

When confronted with such a statement, on the whole, the Soldiers want more of what is offered, a wish that has been granted.

Within the next month, ground will break on a new Warrior Zone to be located on Custer Hill that is bigger and better in order to help accommodate the Fort Riley Soldier's growing appetite for fun. The new facility is to be complete in June or July of 2011. More information on The Warrior Zone also can be found at www.riley.army.mil under the Recreation tab.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE
LEFT: A Soldier enjoys his time playing an X-Box 360 video game at the Warrior Zone on June 4. **BELOW:** Seven high powered computers, perfect for gaming, wait to be played in the Warrior Zone.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE
RIGHT: Angela "Mom" Jackson, front, food and beverage manager, and Amanda Wood, food and beverage attendant, arrange the ingredients of a sandwich for a Soldier waiting in line at the Warrior Zone on June 4. **ABOVE:** Amongst many other entertainments, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers have the option of playing a round of pool at the Warrior Zone.





CHANGE *in* COMMAND

*Devil Brigade welcomes in
new commanding officer*

*Story & photos by Stephanie Hoff
Duty First! Magazine*



ABOVE: Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley deputy commanding general-rear, passes the colors of 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division to Col. Eric Welsh, signifying Welsh as the brigade's new commander, during a change of command ceremony May 25 on Custer Hill Parade Field. **OPPOSITE:** Soldiers of 1st Bn., 5th Field Artillery fire 'Old Thunder' signifying the beginning of the change of command ceremony for 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, May 25 on Custer Hill Parade Field. Col. Eric Welsh assumed command of the historic brigade from Col. Eric Wesley.



SOLDIERS REPRESENTING each battalion of the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division stood at attention at 9 a.m., May 25, on Custer Hill Parade Field to say good bye to their former leader and welcome their new commanding officer.

Col. Eric Welsh assumed command of the 'Devil' Brigade during the change of command ceremony from Col. Eric Wesley.

"This truly is an exciting day here at Fort Riley, for the 1st Infantry Division and for the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team," said Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley deputy commanding general-rear. "The Wesley's have provided exceptional service and leadership in the last two years. It's an honor for me to take a little bit of time to reflect on what this outstanding Army couple has done for the Soldiers and Families of the 'Devil' brigade."

Petersen commented on the vast changes the brigade has undergone during the two years of Wesley's command. For the past three years the mission for the Soldiers of 1st HBCT was to train the Soldiers who had been assigned to a Military Transition Team. Before assuming the mission, the brigade was required to hand over a majority of its equipment and vehicles and decrease its once 3,000-Soldier-strong population to a little more than 300. The unit was then no longer an official brigade, but referred to by the Army as a Table of Distribution and Allowances. A TDA is generally a

small group of Soldiers who comprise non-combat and non-deployable workload based units.

"You were charged with the training of all Army, Navy and Air Force personnel to serve on Transition Teams," Petersen said. "Not an easy task by any means, but important, as those missions are often most difficult. Through your leadership; those teams have deployed to theater, knowing that they had received the best training that was available."

In September 2009, the MTT training mission was transitioned to Fort Polk, La., and the "Devil" Brigade began to rebuild its resources and train for their upcoming deployment, scheduled for this fall. The return to a heavy brigade combat team from a TDA required the simultaneous transition of equipment and personnel to Fort Polk while receiving new equipment and Soldiers being assigned to the building unit daily.

"I can't even imagine the logistical nightmare that could have been," Petersen said. "But it's a task that you made look easy and before long, the 'Devil' Brigade was at 100 percent strength and ready to train. And that's exactly what they've been doing."


Wesley is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan to become the new Chief of Plans for the CJ35 or combined joint planning section and International Security Assistance Force.

He commented on his appreciation for the opportunity to lead such a historic battalion as it underwent a major

transition and now prepares for the new role of an advise and assist brigade.

"This is both the oldest and newest brigade in the United States Army. It's oldest by its lineage and it's the newest by modularity as the newest Heavy Brigade Combat Team and that will be my thing," Wesley said to the Soldiers and Families of the brigade. "I have to tell you that I am amazed at what you do. I could not be more proud to have commanded the oldest and the newest brigade in the Army. "I'm convinced that (Col. Welsh) will make this a better brigade. I respect his passion and his intellect and I'm certain that he will lift this brigade to levels that you would not expect."

Wesley's previous assignments have included his service as battalion commander of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 4th Brigade, 1st US Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas and most recently as a Joint Staff Officer serving as the director of the Chairmen of the Joint Chief of Staff's Special Program's Office and as the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA) in Washington D.C.

"This brigade has accomplished many great things. From preparing to deploy in 2005 to standing down; in order to build the transition team training mission from scratch, to standing up yet again as a heavy brigade combat team," Wesley said. "I am humbled and I am honored to be standing before you today and I look forward to the opportunity to lead these fine Soldiers in this heavy brigade combat team as it prepares to deploy to Iraq." 

NEW 'DAGGER' IN PLACE



Commanding officer thankful for opportunity

Story & photos by Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine



TOP: 1st Infantry Division Soldiers dressed in period uniforms stand at rest before firing the cannon behind them during the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Change of Command ceremony June 4 at Custer Hill Parade Field. **ABOVE:** Cannons fire during the change of command ceremony at Custer Hill Parade. **OPPOSITE:** David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley deputy commanding general-rear, passes the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team colors to incoming commander Col. Paul Calvert during a Change of Command ceremony June 4 at Custer Hill Parade Field.

SOLDIERS OF the 1st Infantry Division "Dagger" Brigade welcomed Col. Paul Calvert as their new commander June 4 on Custer Hill Parade Field.

While standing in formation before their friends, peers and community leaders, the Soldiers of the brigade watched as outgoing commander Col. Joseph Martin, Calvert and Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy commanding general for the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley—rear, inspected their ranks and then spoke.

Martin first gave all the credit of his own success with the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team to his Soldiers, explaining by way of quotes from Ecclesiasticus from the Book of Apocrypha, that it is all too easy to credit leaders with great successes of the state, an organization or unit.

"(Ecclesiasticus) acknowledged that those who were truly responsible for an organization is those who make up the organization as a whole and all of those who supported them," Martin said, implying the importance of the Family behind a Soldier.

"The brigade's accomplishments are many ... you've heard them in previous speeches, you've heard Brig. Gen. Petersen talk about them. To achieve those accomplishments it took a team of teams," Martin said. He acknowledged his own Family as one team and thanked all of the others that have supported the Soldiers under his command while he was responsible for their well-being.


As for the Soldiers he leaves behind under the eyes of Calvert, Martin advised

each trooper to remain confident, remain high in spirit and always keep the "can-do" attitude that continues to amaze the entire division.

Calvert was the first to recognize and give applause to his new Soldiers upon taking the podium.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to command in this storied brigade and division," Calvert said. He assured his listeners that he does not take the responsibility lightly, understanding the challenges that he and his men will face.

"Together, there is nothing that we as a team are incapable of overcoming," he said.

The Dagger Brigade last deployed to Iraq in 2008 and returned to Fort Riley in late 2009. The unit is currently preparing for another deployment. 



LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIG **RED** ONE?

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