

DUTY NOV/DEC 2010 FIRST!

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



COOL UNDER FIRE

Honoring Division Veterans' efforts, sacrifices

- Soldier earns Silver Star
 - Combatives team finishes second
- Color Guard sits tall at nationals

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.

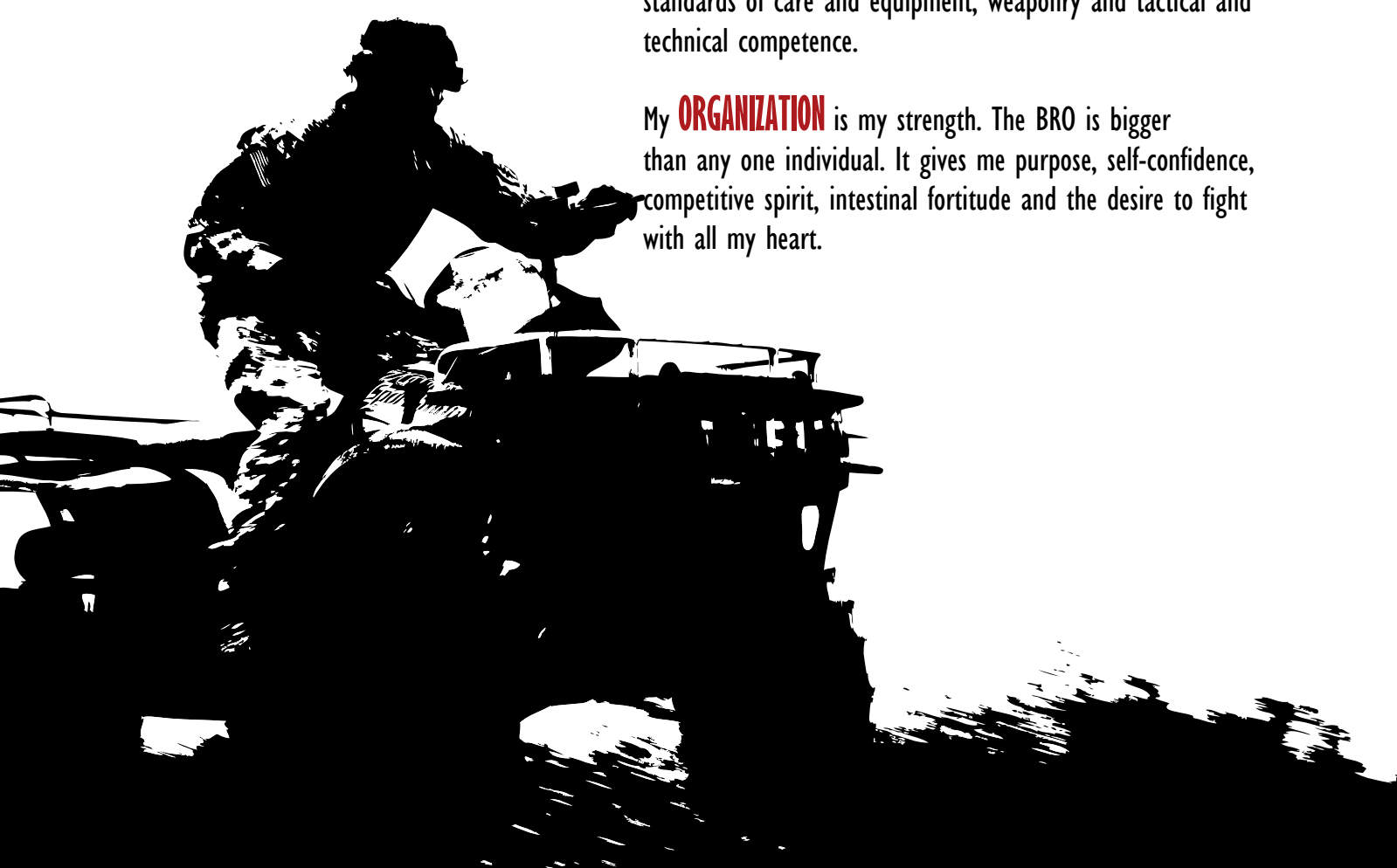
HONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain of command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

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.

Nov/Dec 2010 | www.riley.army.mil

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Cover: Spc. Jeffery Moris, Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, takes out a target with his pistol during the level two mounted pistol competition held at Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas.

PHOTO BY JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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Honor veterans every day

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

On Nov. 11, 1918, World War I came to an end as the Allied and German forces signed an armistice agreement, bringing an end to the fighting in Europe and bringing Soldiers of the Big Red One home to their Families and friends after a successful campaign. Our 1st Infantry Division “doughboys” were the first to fight in The Great War, and the first American unit to win a battle when the 28th Infantry Regiment secured the French village of Cantigny.

Twenty years later, legislation was passed for a national holiday — Armistice Day — recognizing the signing of that agreement and to honor the veterans who fought in World War I. In 1954, after our nation had been through another World War and the Korean conflict, Armistice Day was re-designated as Veterans Day, a day to honor the legacy, the sacrifice, and the courage of the hundreds of thousands who have served in our nation’s military.

Each year we pay tribute to both our present and past veterans. We have parades, ceremonies, and honor the fallen at cemeteries across the nation. Among those we honor are the thousands who have worn the Big Red One patch, and



all of the historic regiments that have made up the ranks of the Fighting First. Some of those regimental histories date back to the Revolutionary War, others fought in the Mexican War, against brothers in the Civil War, kept peace here on the plains, and defended freedom in the Philippine Insurrection. There was no sacrifice too great for those Soldiers serving in some of our division’s most historic regiments.

Since 1917, Soldiers have worn the Big Red One patch and fought for freedom and justice at all points across the globe.

There has been no mission too difficult. From the Argonne Forest to the beaches of Normandy and from the jungles of Vietnam to the concrete jungles of the Balkans, 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers have served gallantly and heroically, paving the way for the generations now serving in this historic division.

Today’s Big Red One Soldiers have kept peace on the streets of Baghdad and helped rebuild a safer, stable, and increasingly independent Iraq. They have also fought hard in some of the most remote areas of Afghanistan, watching over valleys from high mountain outposts and rooting out the Taliban threat in an effort to bring peace to the Afghan people. The Soldiers in today’s division have, and will continue to put duty first.

The history of this division is truly amazing, and it is the men and women who have worn the Big Red One patch who penned those historic chapters. We should honor them each and every day, but especially on Veterans Day. I want to personally thank all of the veterans who have proudly served in the ranks of the Big Red One. You are the giants on whose shoulders we stand. And we salute you.

Duty First! 

An extraordinary holiday

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

Today, they might have gray hair and stooped shoulders, or they might be a student taking night classes to earn a college degree, or they might be anything in between. But however ordinary they might look now, at one point in their lives, they all did something extraordinary: they made the decision and sacrifice to wear the uniform of one of the branches of our Armed Forces.

And every November, we pause life for a day to honor those ordinary people who have done extraordinary things. Many of them have endured great hardships, the loss of family and completely changed their lives in order to mold themselves to serving the military. And those decisions were made just to get to the place where they raised their right hand.

In late 2006, as the “Dragon” Brigade was preparing to deploy, a young Soldier turned in his Family contact paperwork to the Family Readiness Group. No one was listed on the form. When the FRG leader asked why, he told her that his Family was Amish and he knew for certain they would want no contact with him or anyone in the military. That Soldier knows exactly what it is like to



make a huge life change, leave his Family behind, knowing they might never speak to him again, and charge forward. He is one of the small percentage of people who actively choose to make this country great.


Once that uniform rests on someone’s shoulders, it forever changes how they see the world and what they are willing to do for others. In October, Sgt. Zachary Reese, of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan. After observing a group of

approaching enemy fighters, he organized a hasty ambush to take the fight to the enemy. Later, as he was searching the enemy dead, one of them, feigning death lunged at him and Reese engaged him in hand-to-hand combat.

Our Soldiers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Eventually, they take the next step in their lives and no longer put a uniform on every day. Veterans Day is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the choices made by our veterans to serve our nation, whether it was in Europe, Vietnam, Korea, Panama, Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq or Afghanistan.

We cannot forget those choices. This Veterans Day, thank someone who served. Impress upon our youth the importance and depth of that service. Those choices and sacrifices must not be forgotten by the nation they were made for, and should be remembered not just on Veterans Day, but in every day we have the opportunity to say thank you.

We salute all the men and women who have worn our uniforms. Because of you, we stand where we are today.

Now ... get after it! 

Dear Readers,

Every November, Duty First! pays tribute to our veterans. Our veterans are ordinary men and women who chose to do the extraordinary for their country and we are forever in their debt.

Normally, we profile a veteran from each conflict the 1st Infantry Division has fought in; but this year we chose to do something different. We still touch on each conflict, but we opted to do it through different angles.

In this issue, we remember our veterans who are missing and discuss the ongoing efforts to retrieve their remains; look at conflict through the eyes of a group of veterans who made the pact to continue getting together every year until there are only three of them left—the significance of three being their unit, the 3rd Field Artillery Regiment. A veteran's story is also told through the eyes of his wife, and Desert Storm and our current conflicts are told through the men who fought in them.

While special efforts are always made to recognize veterans

on Veterans Day, I would ask that you do three things for our veterans:

Tell them thank you! They sacrificed much so that our country could always have a force to defend its shores. In ways big and small, they have changed the course of history by their actions.

Tell their stories to our young people. It is impossible to say how important this is. The stories of dedication, courage and strength must be retold so that it is impressed upon our next generation how important small decisions can be and the importance of the legacy they are entrusted with carrying forward.

Help our veterans who cannot help themselves. For many, the scars of war carry on for years, crippling their ability to deal with many things. For them, we are obligated to go the extra mile. Do it! For me, one of the best parts of this job is meeting, talking to and interacting with our veterans and they are some of the best and most loyal friends you could ever ask for!

—Anna Newman, editor

Recovery Leader Kristin Baker, an anthropologist with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, sifts through some World War II-era aircraft wreckage during a recovery mission in the Madang province, Independent State of Papua New Guinea. The team excavated the area for more than 45 days, searching for clues and evidence of the aircraft and its lost aircrew.



JPAC PHOTO BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. AARON ALLMONI

GONE, NOT FORGOTTEN

Since the casualties of World War I, officials continue efforts to recover and return remains of division's Soldiers

Story By Anna Newman | Duty First! Magazine

In World War I, a brand new 1st Infantry Division set sail for Europe. There, the Big Red One fought in the battles of Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and others. This brand new Army division fought with distinction, setting the high standard that it would continue to live up to as time went on.

It was here, on the battlefields of France, that the 1st Inf. Div. experienced its first missing or prisoner of war Soldiers. The Great War saw more than 300 Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division become captured or missing.

Since World War I, Soldiers have been listed as missing or unaccounted for in almost every conflict the division has participated in. Today, approximately 150 Soldiers from the 1st Inf. Div. who fought in World War II are still listed as unaccounted for. Some Big Red One Soldiers who fought in Vietnam and subsequent conflicts have carried the same status at one time or another.

JPAC and the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) still work with other military agencies to locate and recover the remains of military members listed as missing in action.

Family Update Briefings

There are 10 family update briefings hosted by DPMO each year—eight regional meetings throughout the country and then two per year in Washington, D.C. Family briefings were first held in 1995—just 12 family members were present at the first one—and since then, have continued to grow. The briefings give family members of prisoners of war or missing in action service members an opportunity to learn about recovery efforts as they relate to specific conflicts, learn about how the recovery and identification process works, how records are kept and a chance to meet with casualty officers about their particular case.

The Recovery Process

JPAC has several recovery teams that work on the physical recovery of remains. The sites are “found” through a variety of methods—known gravesites or POW camps, eyewitness accounts, or through records provided by other countries. Once a site reaches the excavation phase, a team from JPAC is sent to the site, and remains are retrieved through a methodical pro-



JPAC PHOTO BY MARINE CORPS SGT. KARA L. COONROD

A local Papuan and Petty Officer 2nd Class James Hill work together to clean up the floor of an excavation unit in the Madang province, Independent State of Papua New Guinea. Two recovery teams and one investigation team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command deployed to Papua New Guinea in search of Americans lost during World War II. The mission of JPAC is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of our nation's past conflicts.

cess similar to an archeological dig. Johnie Webb, JPAC deputy commander for public relations and legislative action, said that there are many known sites throughout the world, and several factors decide which sites get priority. The factors include what or how many remains are present, if the host nation of the site is considered friendly, what kind of physical hazards are present, whether the site is in jeopardy of disturbance or destruction and the availability of a recovery team to be deployed to the area.

“Our biggest enemy is time,” Webb said. “Every day that goes by, witnesses that could be helping us are dying and remains are deteriorating ... Time, terrain, weather—they're all enemies.”

The Identification Process

Once remains are recovered, they are sent to the lab at JPAC, the largest skeletal identification lab in the country.

“We approach our recoveries like a crime scene,” said Tom Holland, scien-

tific director at JPAC. “But our crime scenes are 40, 50 or 60 years old.”

Identifying remains is based upon multiple lines of evidence, Holland said, such as material or non-biological evidence, forensic evidence and circumstantial evidence—such as location.

DNA evidence is becoming an increasing factor in identifying remains. While DNA evidence is not the deciding factor in discovering identity, family members of service members who are missing are asked to allow JPAC to take a sample. The sample must come from someone on the service member's maternal family line and consists of a simple cheek swab.

“DNA is not the golden bullet that's going to solve everything out there,” said James Canik, deputy director, Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory. “But when you put it in the context of everything else, then it clarifies the bigger picture.”

For more information, visit: www.jpac.pacom.mil or www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

COURTESY PHOTO

During WWII, the now infamous Remagen Bridge, was the last free standing bridge that allowed movement across the Rhine River. The Germans' attempt to destroy the bridge was unsuccessful due to the efforts of Soldiers from the 9th Armored Division. "The Germans tried to blow it but the engineers got down there and pulled the wires loose. It was all ready to blow but it misfired and only partially went off. That was the first free-standing bridge to cross the Rhine," said Robert Rupp, who served as a battery service commander during the war.



RECOGNITION AT LAST

56 years after war — 3rd Field Artillery's role in Battle of the Bulge earns Presidential Unit Citation

Story By Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine

They watched as their military horses were traded in for self-propelled vehicles, they've witnessed former horse stables transformed into office buildings, but their greatest memory of their military service will be helping their country succeed during a time of war.

Every year the veterans and Family members of the 3rd Field Artillery reconvene upon Fort Riley to reunite at the historic

post that brought them together more than 60 years ago.

Six months before the Japanese would bomb Pearl Harbor, propelling the United States into World War II, Robert Rupp, a young first lieutenant fresh out of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, was assigned to the 3rd Field Artillery Battalion. The unit was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., and was part of the 2nd Cavalry Division.

"When I joined the 'Third,' it was a horse-drawn battalion, one of the oldest artillery units in the Army," Rupp said.

On July 14, 1942, the 2nd Cav. Div. was redesignated as the 9th Armored Division. The unit's Soldiers traded in their horses for half-tracks, their once horse-drawn 75 mm's were now self-propelled 105 howitzers and Jeeps and motorcycles became more prevalent.

"As battalion reconnaissance officer, I was assigned one of those motorcycles with a driver whose main goal in life seemed to be to scare me by whipping through Loblolly Pine forests at break-neck speed during the 1941 Louisiana winter maneuvers. I never admitted fear ... but probably should have," Rupp said.

In addition to participating in the training conducted in Louisiana, the unit also utilized the vast training areas of Fort Riley to exercise with its newly assigned equipment. The training would prove vastly beneficial as the unit's Soldiers would find themselves aboard the Queen Mary in the fall of 1944, bound for service in World War II.

For the first few months, Rupp's unit was stationed northeast of Luxembourg City, in what he recalls as a 'relatively quiet front.'

That would all change in the early morning hours of Dec. 16, 1944. Beginning at approximately 5:30 a.m., the Soldiers came under massive fire. An estimated 900 rounds were fired upon the units within the first hour.

It would later be determined that 30 German divisions were involved in the offensive that was planned by the Axis with the utmost secrecy, utilizing minimal radio traffic and the movement of German troops and equipment during night.

"At about 5:30 a.m., we and the rest of the 'Ninth' began receiving fire on a front that, up until then, had been



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Fred Gordon (left) and Robert Rupp, members of the 3rd Field Artillery Bn. Association, view a monument their association dedicated to Fort Riley in honor of their unit and former battalion commander who they served under during World War II. Every year, the members of the 3rd Field Artillery Bn. Association reunite at Fort Riley to honor their former unit that trained at the post before deploying for World War II.

fairly quiet," Rupp said. "Thus began 'The Battle of the Bulge,' Hitler's last hurrah."

During the next 10 days, the Soldiers of the 3rd Field Artillery Bn. fired more than 26,000 artillery rounds, averaging one round every 40 seconds.

Rupp was a captain at the time and serving as the service battery's commanding officer. The unit's main mission was the transportation of records and personnel files, along with food, clothing and most supplies need by the battalion.

"All that changed for my battery on the cold, wet morning 16 Dec. 16, 1944," he said. "As service battery commander, it was my job to deliver that much needed ammo. We offloaded kitchen equip-

ment, personnel records and battalion supplies and for the next five days, maybe longer, I don't remember being out of my jeep. We made 150 mile turn-arounds, driving blackout at night, but we always found our way back to our guns, which was fortunate because there was no front line. A wrong turn could have meant big trouble."

Once the battle ended and the Allied forces were victorious in defeating the Germans' attempts to take Luxembourg and form a route for their forces to the sea; the unit submitted an application for a Presidential Unit Citation.

"We put in for recognition after the 'Bulge,' but were turned down, partly, it was rumored, because we hadn't lost enough men," Rupp said.

Upon the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, German battle reports were recovered in the Russian archives. The reports detailed how a German division was unable to gain access into Luxemburg because of fire in all the approach areas.

"Well that was the 3rd Field. We were firing a round every 20 to 30 seconds, and sustained for six days," Rupp said.

"The real satisfaction came 56 years after the war. We resubmitted (for the Presidential Unit Citation). This time it was approved," he said.

Eight of the unit's former Soldiers were in attendance on Aug. 30, 2001, for the award ceremony that recognized the "extraordinary heroism and gallantry," of the battalion's Soldiers during the battle.

"We had stopped an entire German division and anchored the south shoulder of the 'Bulge' while doing it. Finally, we had a PUC to prove it," he said.

Since 1973 the veterans of the 3rd Field Artillery Bn., are reunited once a year at Fort Riley, where their stories, that get 'bigger and better' with each passing year, Rupp chuckled, are retold and shared. ■



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

ABOVE: Tina Webb hugs Sgt. William Cole, Sept. 3, after presenting him a bronze cast in honor of her husband, the late Sgt. 1st Class Francis Webb. Cole was awarded the Sgt. 1st Class Francis Webb Distinguished Honor Graduate for his accomplishments while completing the Warrior Leader Course. **INSETS:** From top, the late Sgt. 1st Class Webb, Tina Webb and Sgt. William Cole.

REMEMBERING A HERO

Vietnam veteran's name lives on in wife's fond memories and Fort Riley's Warrior Leader Course award

Story By Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine

Honored Soldier, respected leader, loving father ... all are terms that have been used when describing the late Sgt. 1st Class Francis Webb. But to his wife, Tina, he will always simply be remembered as a best friend and devoted companion.

Their relationship began one cold winter night in 1970 in Germany. Fran-

cis, who commonly went by Frank, was a young noncommissioned officer, recently returned from serving in Vietnam and Tina was a German native who decided to visit the local NCO club one night with friends.

"I wasn't there to look for somebody. I just wanted to have a good time," she said. "I went to the NCO club and here

he was standing across from me, and he just stared at me. I mean, he didn't take his eyes off of me. And I was asking my friends 'Why is he staring at me?'"

It didn't take long before Frank made his way over to talk to her. The conversation flowed easily, she recalled, and she found herself greatly enjoying his company.

"I fell in love with the guy. Right there and then," she said.

"When it came time to go home, he told me he had a beat up Volkswagen with a heater that didn't work ... and this was in November," Tina said. "But he just said 'If you don't mind; I would like to drive you home anyway."

"I didn't mind. I didn't care what car he drove, if he had money; whatever. It didn't matter to me at all."

As the couple began to date regularly and the conversations continued to flow freely, the one thing that Tina recalls very seldom mentioned during those exchanges was Frank's service in Vietnam.

"I had no idea about what he had already did in the service. I knew he had served in Vietnam, but he didn't brag about it or say that he was a hero," she said. "He would always simply say 'I did what I did.' He never wanted to stand out or be called a hero or anything."

And 'hero' is a very fitting word to describe her late husband. On Feb. 1, 1969, while serving as a platoon sergeant for C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, then-Staff Sgt. Webb, and his men came under intense enemy fire. While receiving rounds from rocket-propelled grenades, automatic weapons and small arms, Frank exposed himself to the North Vietnamese Army and supplied covering fire to allow his men to retreat.

As the fighting continued and the platoon's leader became incapacitated, Frank took charge and crawled on his hands and knees among the Soldiers to provide them directions and encouragement. As the night approached, he and a small group of volunteers advanced forward to retrieve two of their fallen comrades lost in the struggle. He then destroyed an enemy bunker with two light anti-tank weapons, allowing his men to retrieve their fellow Soldiers.

Ten months later he would be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions that day. Another four years later, he would find himself at an NCO club in Germany where he would meet his

future bride. Three months after initially meeting, Frank and Tina were married.

"When I think about his actions (in Vietnam); I think that I could have lost him right there that day and wouldn't have been able to have ever met him," she said. "I've always been proud of him. He wasn't afraid; he did what he had to do. He never thought about himself. He just wanted to help his Soldiers that he fought with."

In 1974, after four years of marriage, they loaded up their young family that now included a son and a daughter and were transferred to the United States.

"Of course I would go with him, wherever he had to go. I didn't think 'Yes! I'm going to the United States and now I'm going to be rich,' Tina said. "I went with him because I loved him and he loved me."

Frank would eventually be assigned to Fort Riley where he would serve as a senior drill sergeant for the U.S. Army Retraining Brigade.

Life at Fort Riley progressed smoothly for the young family as Frank advanced in rank and Tina stayed busy making them a home. Frank's dedication to his Soldiers and the U.S. Army was not only represented by his numerous awards, that now included the Army Commendation Medal and Meritorious Service Medal that Tina proudly displayed in their home, but also in the special care he provided for his Soldiers, she said. She recalled one Christmas where he replaced a young Soldier who was scheduled to work a night shift so the Soldier could have the holiday with his family.

"(Frank) would never think about himself. He just thought about his fellow Soldiers and their Families," Tina said. "He had a Family then too, but I understood why he would want to do that for one of his Soldiers."

The young couple's blossoming family life and Frank's flourishing career took an unexpected turn when Frank began to get ill. After he was diagnosed with Lymphoma, it was believed to be due to exposure of Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam. The family then began to spend a

majority of their time at hospitals located from Kansas City to Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Colorado.

"He never complained when he began to get sick and would always joke around with the doctors," she said. "He wouldn't let loose. He refused to give up. He wanted to go on, but he never complained or told us he was hurting."

"He just didn't want to stay away from his job. He didn't want to be away from his Soldiers." She recalled that it finally took his unit's command sergeant major to tell him that he would no longer be allowed to report for duty due to his ailing health. "This broke his heart."

When Frank took his last breath on March 13, 1979, just shy of 10 years of marriage, he was not only in the company of his family at his bedside, but his fellow Soldiers and commanding officers.

His last wish was to be returned to Tina's native Germany and be buried in her hometown, she said. Even upon his final transportation to Germany, Frank was not alone. A former comrade and friend who had served with him in Vietnam made the journey with him to transport his body to its final resting place.

"I lost a husband. They lost a great Soldier. The Army is a Family. This is how I see it. I found out after my husband passed away this Family, the Army, was there for me. They cared for me and they helped me with anything I needed," Tina said.

More than 30 years after his death, Sgt. 1st Class Webb's heroic actions while serving in Vietnam as well as his attentiveness for his Soldiers are still honored by the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley. The post's former Noncommissioned Officer Academy was renamed the Webb Professional Development Center.

Today, the top graduate of the quarterly Fort Riley Warrior Leader Course is presented the Sgt. 1st Class Francis R. Webb Distinguished Honor Graduate award.

"That they let him live on with all the awards presented in his name; is such an honor," Tina said. ▀

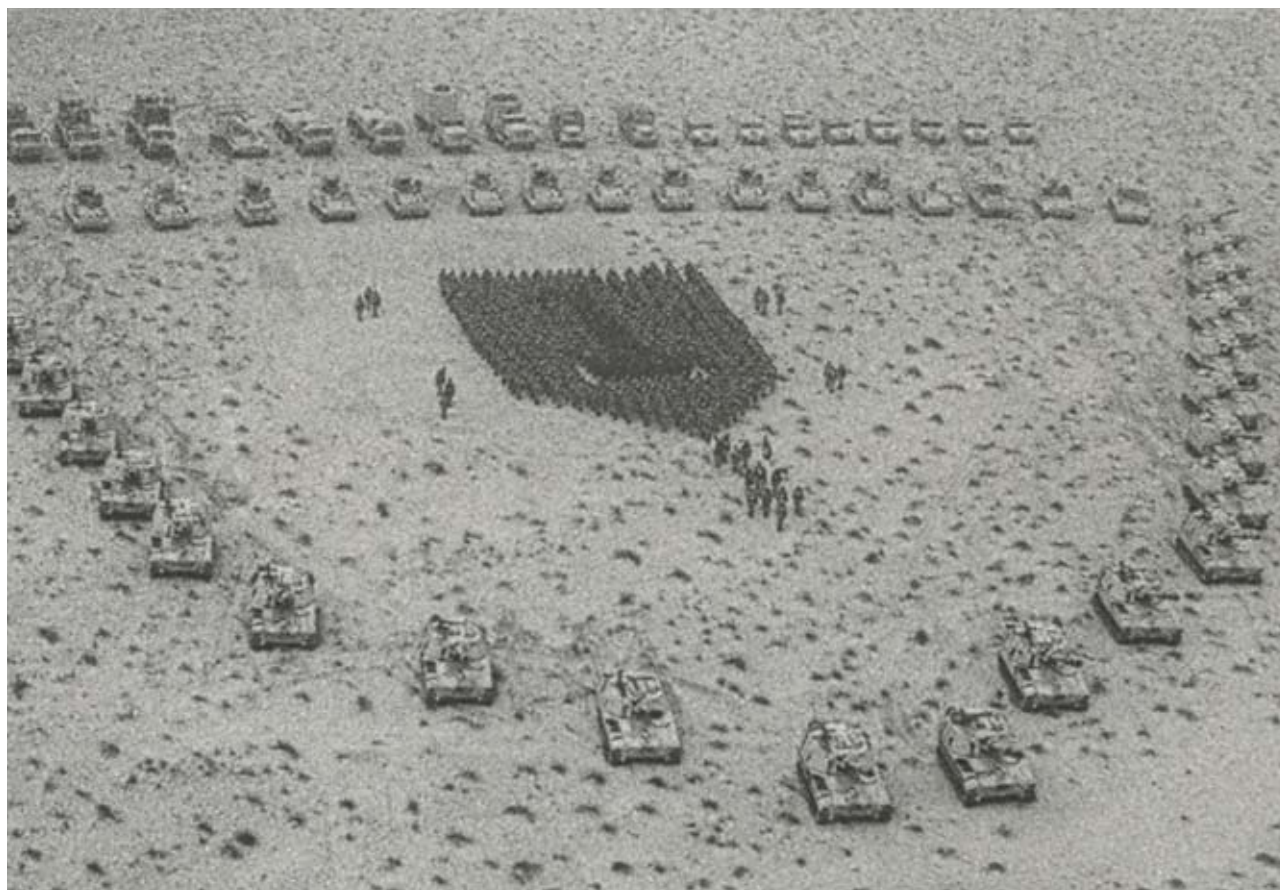


PHOTO COURTESY THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM

1st Infantry Division Soldiers create the Big Red One insignia during Operation Desert Storm.

BEING A SOLDIER FIRST

*Desert Storm veteran recounts volunteerism
being foundation for earning Bronze Star*

Story By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

The Big Red One, the legendary unit famed for its victories and determination, for its courage and ever resilient men and women upholding its colors. Why? Because within each uniform is a person who knows that above all specialized training, job titles and position, they are Soldiers first. Retired Sgt. 1st Class LaMonte Dupree knows that all too well from his time spent in Operation Desert Storm.

Serving in the United States Army for 22-years as a paralegal, Dupree explained he didn't get the chance to practice the skills of his MOS much during his time with the 4th Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., then an aviation brigade, on the ground from Feb. 16 to April 15, 1991.

Instead of working his normal job, handling the paperwork of court marshals, article 15s and elimination and separation actions, he found himself acting as a platoon sergeant a good deal of the time, packing up vehicles, going on convoys, doing electrician work, routing wires from one tent to another and volunteering for the door gunner position on flight missions.

"I flew pretty much every day," Dupree said, explaining that technique and technology has improved since then, but in 1991, there weren't a lot of men who wanted to fly in the desert.

"The sand over there is like fine talcum powder and it just clogs up everything," he said. "Powder is all over the place and you can't see," he said. Often, he explained, pilots would have to trust their skill and instincts to go straight up out of the cloud stirred up on the ground.

"I would only fly with a couple of guys who were willing to fly because they were good pilots," he said.

Aside from the danger appeal, Dupree said he actively volunteered simply for the excitement he received while conducting provisions, people and ammunition pick-ups before coming back by nightfall.

"You have the door there, the '60' is mounted on a hinge, you're tethered and you're right there in the door," he said, living the memory. "Occasionally we would go check something out, I'd lock and load and would check it out, and if it wasn't anything we would continue on with our mission ... it was a little bit of a rush."

Even more dangerous than his vol-



PHOTOS COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM

TOP: Two lines of 1st Infantry Division vehicles sit mission ready in the sands of Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. **ABOVE:** A 1st Infantry Division Soldier keeps his patriotism alive during time spent in Operation Desert Storm.

unteer flying was his volunteer work driving by night, and though it too brought excitement, it was of a different sort.

"We would have night convoys ... even something as simple as ... people wanting to make phone calls back home," he said, explaining U.S. phone companies would set up sites for that purpose, only they

would be in the middle of nowhere.

"It was all a blackout drive, so you'd have to go with a battery operated GPS with the coordinates," he said. "The terrain wasn't always flat, there were cliffs," he continued, implying the levels of anxiety one can achieve when driving without much light in a terrain that could drop out from underneath at any given time.

"It was kind of scary," Dupree said, describing one instance where he missed the edge of a 10 to 15 foot drop by the hairs of his skin.

"I've got my blackout lights on, which lets you see maybe two to three feet of head of you. I'm just driving along and following my coordinates of my GPS ... this one night I slammed on the brakes and threw the wheel and when the S1 looked over the side he was looking over the side of a drop," he remembered.

Daytime convoys were no picnic, either. "We stopped at some place and figured out we were on top of an underground Iraqi compound. We set up for the night and didn't find that out until they would try and come out. As they lifted up the board they would see these lights," Dupree commented, explaining the easiest of solutions was present within one of their trucks, which they moved over the compound entrance.

Throughout all of these experiences, Dupree was fine with not having to concentrate on his paralegal work, explaining he expected to get on to the ground and do whatever was needed of him.

"When you go to the field, your MOS is secondary. You're a Soldier first," he said. Dupree came home from his service in 1991 with the Bronze Star.

"You're very aware of the situation that you're in and the dangers of it. You just hope you get through each day and you get back home." ▀



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Sgt. 1st Class James Freeman (from left) Staff Sgt. Frank McCaskill, Sgt. George Eleazer, Sgt. Travis Drabek and Spc. Tristan Calabrese, 1st Infantry Division Band, stand ready to receive the Combat Action Badge on Sept. 22 in recognition for their actions July 3 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SCORE ONE FOR BAND

Basra Brass Quintet weather attack on convoy, receive Combat Action Badges

Story By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine

It isn't often that members of the 1st Infantry Division Band find themselves taking up arms against the enemy. Five of those Soldiers, however, found themselves doing just that July 3, making their own nation's celebration of independence the following day taste that much sweeter.

Sgt. 1st Class James Freeman, Staff Sgt. Frank McCaskill, Sgt. George Eleazer, Sgt. Travis Drabek and Spc. Tristan Calabrese received the Combat Action Badge on Sept. 22 in recognition for their actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Members of the band's Basra Brass quintet were traveling from COB Basra to Camp Bucca in Southern Iraq when the Soldiers' convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Though the vehicle was totaled, no one was injured during the explosion. Band members took their weapons and immediately secured the area.

"You never expect something like that," said Freeman, a 14-year Army veteran. Freeman said those responsible for the attack were later found and captured.

"There is a certain amount of humility in which I accept this, because I feel fortunate that I survived it," McCaskill said. "The fact that we were able to come out of there OK, I feel very good about that."

McCaskill said that should he be as-

signed to another unit which is about to deploy again, he feels more prepared to mentor younger Soldiers who haven't had the experience he has.

"We all volunteer to take the risk when we go over there and deploy," said Maj. Christopher Ott, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion—rear battalion commander. "These guys were actually engaged by the enemy ... they actually suffered that experience and now have the knowledge that they can fight through, do their duty and survive a hostile attack."

Ott added that the quintet's experience will help inspire their own unit and give confidence to the Soldiers that join them on missions.

"It was something that really strengthened us as a team," Freeman reaffirmed.

More awards were given during the ceremony. Staff Sgt. David Basil was awarded the Bronze Star for exceptional meritorious service while assigned as a personal security detachment and quick reaction force squad leader in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Spc. Tristan Calabrese is awarded the Combat Action Badge Sept. 22 in recognition for his actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom July 3.

The Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service was also awarded to Sgt. Bradley Clark, Sgt. Daniel Aldrich, Spc. Mark Dillon, Spc. Jess Willis and Pv2 Tyler Rolin for their technical, tactical expertise and commitment to excellence.



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

1st Infantry Division Soldiers prepare to receive awards and medals Sept 22. Among those receiving recognition were Sgt. 1st Class James Freeman, Staff Sgt. Frank McCaskill, Sgt. George Eleazer, Sgt. Travis Drabek and Spc. Tristan Calabrese, 1st Infantry Division Band, who each received the Combat Action Badge for their actions July 3 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



FORT BENNING, GA

A COMBATIVE Attitude

Fort Riley finishes second in All-Army Combatives tourney

Story by Anna Newman



An inexperienced but technically masterful Fort Riley combatives team placed **second overall** in the 2010 All-Army Combatives Tournament on Oct. 3.

The team narrowly lost out on first place, racking up **398 points**, behind III Corps' 414. Fort Bragg, N.C., placed third. *(continued on page 16)*

(continued from page 15)

Staff Sgt. Lonnie Kincaid, of 1st Engineer Battalion, placed third in the heavyweight division, winning by knockout against Ivan Iotchkolovsky of the Illinois National Guard. Kincaid fought his way out of an attempted triangle choke hold and then knocked his opponent to the floor with a flurry of punches.

"At first, when he had that triangle choke, I was like 'uh-oh.' But I wasn't choking, I was too wide for him. So I just found a hole and got out," Kincaid said. "The intention wasn't to knock him out, I just wanted to beat the hell out of him."

Pfc. Matt Yaure, assigned to 1st Bn., 5th Field Artillery Regt., 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, also fought in the third-place match, but lost the bout by submission to Robert Texidor of III Corps. The fourth-place finish was far better than Yaure, making his first tournament appearance, expected to complete in a competition boasting more than 500 Soldiers.

"I had looked into UFC and MMA-style stuff before, but it wasn't until after I joined the Army and saw the poster in my company area that I actually did this," Yaure said. Yaure has never taken an Army combatives class. After seeing the poster, he decided to compete in the Fort Riley Combatives Tournament last spring. He did well enough there to qualify for the all-Army team and then spent the past three months in daily training with other team members.

"I learned a lot through watching YouTube videos and then training," Yaure said. "This is my first major tournament and to finish fourth feels great. I'm definitely going to stick with it."

(continued on page 18)



Pfc. Matt Yaure fights his way out of an armbar during the fight for third place on Oct. 3.



ANNA NEWMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE
Spc. Matthew Arrington, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., hangs upside down, while sinking in a triangle choke hold. He won the match by submission.

Big Red One team sends first woman to 2010 All-Army combatives event

By Anna Newman
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga.—It was another first for the 1st Infantry Division: Sgt. TanyaJean Pangelinan took to the mats as a competitor in the all-Army Combatives Tournament, marking the first time the Big Red One has sent a female contender to the event.

Pangelinan, assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, qualified for the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley all-Army team at the post combatives tournament last spring. She trained alongside other members of the team, which included her fiancé, Sgt. Richard Pry.



Pangelinan

"We would train as a team, and then my fiancé and I would go home and train some more," Pangelinan said. "A lot of females go through the combatives classes, but don't take it to the next level."


For Pangelinan, though, she never thought much about being the only woman on the team.

"These guys, while we were training, treated me just like another fighter. And that's good," she said. "There are no males or females on the battlefield."

Pangelinan did not get the finish she had hoped for, going 0-2 in the tournament, but she said it was still a valuable experience.

"I enjoyed everything," she said. "There's a lot of camaraderie that developed within our team and everyone supported each other."

The most valuable thing Pangelinan took away, though, were the things she could share with her unit.

"Everything with this is a learning experience and it's something you can take back to the unit," she said. "All the moves and stuff you learn—that's stuff you can take back to your unit and use to train other Soldiers." 

Eggleston brings home the gold

4th MEB Soldier wins 1st in light heavyweight division

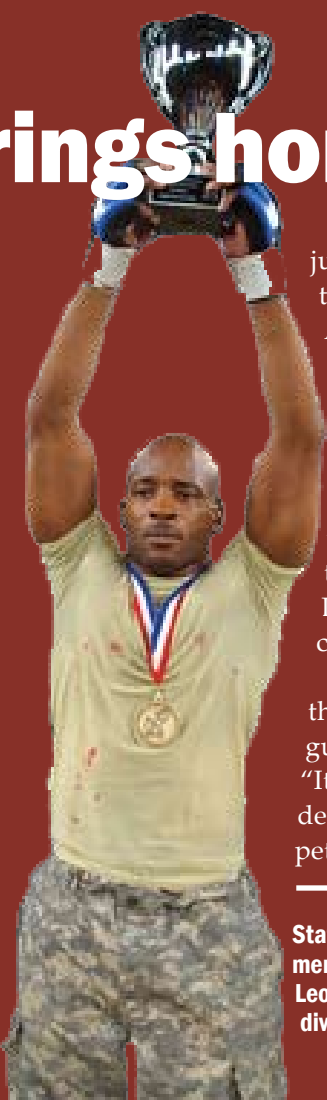
By Jasmine Walthall
The Guidon Newspaper

In his first appearance at the All-Army Combatives Tournament, Staff Sgt. Jason Eggleston was golden.

Eggleston, of 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, fighting on the Fort Leonard Wood team, took first in the light heavyweight division, winning with an inverted arm bar submission.

"My team was behind me, I had good coaching and I was just feeling my mojo," Eggleston said. "I kept thinking about the guys that were with me, and everyone that was supporting me back at Fort Leonard Wood. I did not want to make everyone that said that I could do it out to be liars."

Eggleston has been practicing Brazilian



jujitsu for the past nine years. He was trained in the art at Balance/Tai Kai Jiu Jitsu Academy in Syracuse, N.Y.

The Fort Leonard Wood team, which was comprised of the winners of each weight class at the post combatives tournament, practiced together before taking the trip to Fort Benning, Ga., to compete with combative teams from Army installations throughout the world. This was Fort Leonard Wood's first time attending the competition.

"This is my first military competition, although I have competed with a lot of the guys in the civilian world," Eggleston said. "It was some serious competition. The Army definitely sent their best guys and the competition was tough, but outstanding."

COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Jason Eggleston, of 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, fighting on the Fort Leonard Wood team, took first in the light heavyweight division at the All-Army Combatives Tournament.

(continued from page 16)

Other top six finishes went to Spc. Brett Hayes, flyweight division, and Staff Sgt. Jimmy Wilson, flyweight division.

The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley sent 24 Soldiers to the All-Army Combatives Tournament. Those 24 Soldiers were divided into two teams. Only six of the 24 had ever competed in the tournament before. The annual tournament pits the best in the Army against each other in an Ultimate Fighting Championship style tournament. Combatives tournaments are designed to help Soldiers hone their hand-to-hand combat skills and build their willpower in fighting a tough enemy. Fort Benning officials said this year's tournament featured nearly 100 more fighters that last year's.

Teams from the 1st Infantry Division



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Wilson looks for an opening during an Oct. 2 fight at the All-Army Combatives Tournament.

and Fort Riley have consistently placed in the top three spots at the tournament. The team finished third last year and first in 2008.



ANNA NEWMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Sgt. Brandon Sandefur, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, takes on an opponent during rounds on Oct. 1 in Fort Benning, Ga.

Sandefur, Mosall represent 3rd IBCT

By Anna Newman
Duty First! Magazine

FORT BENNING, Ga.—Two members of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, made an appearance in the all-Army Combatives Tournament as part of the Fort Knox, Ky., team.

Sgt. Brandon Sandefur, Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, fought for the third and final time in the tournament; and Spc. Matthew Mosall, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, made his first appearance in the tournament. The 3rd IBCT is currently stationed at Fort Knox. Both Sandefur and Mosall qualified for the team through the Fort Knox post tournament last spring. Since then, the team has spent three days a week training and preparing.

Sandefur, of South Bend, Ind., was a high school and college wrestler and took third place in his weight bracket during his first trip to the all-Army tournament in 2007.

Sandefur wanted to pursue the World Class Athletes Program when he joined the Army, but did not do as well

as he had hoped at U.S. Nationals. He returned to Fort Hood, Texas, and was convinced by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Pilewski to train for combatives instead.

"I was hooked instantly. Once I saw it, I could see how my skills would fit in with it and help me do well at it," he said.

He is leaving the Army early next year, and was hoping for a top finish during his final appearance at the event, but it wasn't to be. Sandefur fought through the top side of the bracket Oct. 1, remaining in the contest with a shot at first place. The following day, he lost his first bout of the day, which dropped him to the consolation bracket, fighting for third and fourth place. He then lost the following bout by decision, putting him out of contention.

Mosall, from Albany, NY, in his first tournament appearance, went out of contention during the first day of bouts, but said the experience overall was good for him.

"It's definitely a learning experience," Mosall said. "I'm more aware of what I need to do to get better for next time."



JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

1st Infantry Division Mounted Color Guard Troopers pose for a photo after the end of the Major Howze team competition Sept. 30 during the 2010 Annual Bivouac & National Cavalry Competition held at Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas.

No horsin' around

Mounted Color Guard Troopers sit tall in saddle at Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition

*By Jordan Chapman | Duty First! Magazine
SAN ANGELO, TX*

The excitement was high as cavalry units from every branch of the military, re-enactors and military riders from Australia and England converged on the historic grounds of Fort Concho Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

The 12 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard Troopers were more than ready to participate in the 2010 Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition. **(continued on page 22)**

(continued from page 21)

Staff Sgt. Michael Steede, Staff Sgt. Kristine McGinley, Sgt. William Colberg, Sgt. Corey Elder, Sgt. Tommy Evans, Sgt. Edward Pacola, Cpl. Carl Dreis, Spc. Jeffery Morris, Spc. Stephen Saracco, Spc. Tara Svedeen, Spc. David Williams and Spc. Jordan Wright attended, each divided up into differing levels of expertise – levels one, two and three.

“I’m ready to go,” said Williams. “We’ve practiced and are on top of it. We’ve memorized the course and now it’s all down to how our horses act and how we act.”

They may have been competing against different competitors, but every day, each Trooper cantered in on their horse and gathered around to share advice, stories or tips to help each other perform well in their individual classes.

Each day was divided into different competitions, the first day presenting each with the challenge of military horsemanship, which demonstrated how much control the rider has over the horse in different stages of stride, changing paces at different areas of the course; mounted pistol, which presented each rider balloons to shoot on the course, some of which had to be shot while in mid-jump on the horse, the height of which was determined by the competitor’s level; and the Maj. Howze team competition, a 5.5 mile timed trail ride, historic for its remembrance for the last ever cavalry charge.

The first day presented its challenges and victories, and gave each competitor something to improve upon, no matter their successes.

Elder said one need for improvement revolved around calming down each horse before an event started.

According to Wright, such nervousness on his horse’s part was due to the 12-hour road trip, the different stall and the new terrain his horse, Vast, had to get accustomed to.

There are ways to calm a horse, though, Elder said.

“You can give them (the horses) stuff to do. Run them in circles, figure eight patterns, flexing his head left and right,



35TH ANNUAL BANQUET RIBBON WINNERS

- **Sgt. William Colberg (level 1)**
2nd Place—Mounted Saber
3rd Place—Military Field Jumping
- **Spc. Jordan Wright (level 1)**
2nd Place—Military Field Jumping
3rd Place—Mounted Pistol
3rd Place—Mounted Saber
- **Sgt. Tommy Evans (level 2)**
2nd Place—Mounted Pistol
2nd Place—Mounted Saber
3rd Place—Military Horsemanship
- **Spc. Tara Svedeen (level 2)**
1st Place—Military Horsemanship
Pegasus Memorial Award (Lexington)
- **Spc. David Williams (level 3)**
2nd Place—Military Field Jumping

pulling on the reigns and turning his head around to you,” Elder said, describing ways to calm a horse before a competition. “Just simple little stuff to keep his head busy and start listening to you, instead of trying to do what he wants to do.”

Taking the extra time to calm a horse could make the difference in it trusting its rider to make a jump successfully and to collect themselves after the jump, as opposed to dodging or refusing to jump and costing the team points.

Such advice worked, as performances by some Troopers stood out during the

second day of competition, which was full of military field jumping and mounted saber.

Wright stated that he surprised himself in the saber competition. “Normally I have difficulty stabbing through the ring or stirrup. I’ll usually get close to it but ... I think I did really well on the sabers.”

Another surprise on the second day of competition came from Williams in the jumping competition.

Riding his horse, Saber, who swung him to the ground on the first day of competition, Williams again had to battle through some of his horse’s nervousness at the beginning of the jumping course.

“I let him run his course with it, I got him pointed in the right direction, I choked up on the reigns,” Williams said, who, despite the start, presented the judges with a competitive jumping run.

“I did everything I had to do to get him through. He fought me every step of the way but he did go through for me and I’m proud of him for that,” he said. Williams earned second place for that run, which also helped him be invited into the Bolte Cup on the third day of competition, a level three champions’ competition that is reserved for the 15 best riders of the event.

“He (Saber) wasn’t too bad and he did eventually go through every single obstacle on the course for me. The horse has the hard part. All we have to do is swing and shoot,” he said.

Though he didn’t win the cup, it was the experience and the pride of being invited to the event that matter most to him.

“I was very excited to have another chance to win at something else and to be able to get out here and do something that only the top 15 competitors get to do,” Williams said.

They may have been there to win, but each could agree on one thing.

“In the end, you remember, ‘Yes, it’s a competition and yes you should put forth 100 percent, but you should also remember to have fun. It helps with everything,” McGinley said. 🐾

1ID COMMANDING GENERAL’S MOUNTED COLOR GUARD

- **Rider: Staff Sgt. Michael Steede**
Time in CGMCG: 1 year, 2 months
Horse: Rambler
Time in CGMCG: 3 years, 6 months
Time Training Together: 10 months
1st time in competition together / Level 1
- **Rider: Staff Sgt. Kristine McGinley**
Time in CGMCG: 1 year
Horse: Comanche
Time in CGMCG: 2 years
Time Training Together: 8 months
1st time in competition together / Level 1
- **Rider: Sgt. William Colberg**
Time in CGMCG: 10 months
Horse: Cyclone
Time in CGMCG: 6 years, 4 months
Time Training Together: 6 months
1st time in competition together / Level 1
- **Rider: Sgt. Corey Elder**
Time in CGMCG: 2 years, 4 months
Horse: Trooper
Time in CGMCG: 11 years, 9 months
Time Training Together: 2 years
2nd time in competition together / Level 3
- **Rider: Sgt. Tommy Evans**
Time in CGMCG: 9 months
Horse: Jicote
Time in CGMCG: 12 years, 10 months
Time Training Together: 5 months
1st time in competition together / Level 1
- **Rider: Sgt. Edward Pacola**
Time in CGMCG: 1 year, 3 months
Horse: Bill
Time in CGMCG: 3 years, 8 months
Time Training Together: 11 months
2nd time in competition together / Level 2
- **Rider: Cpl. Carl Dreis**
Time in CGMCG: 2 years, 4 months
Horse: Mac
Time in CGMCG: 9 years, 2 months
Time Training Together: 6 months
2nd time in competition (Dreis), 1st time in competition together / Level 3
- **Rider: Spc. Jeffery Morris**
Time in CGMCG: 1 year
Horse: Rifle
Time in CGMCG: 3 years, 6 months
Time Training Together: 8 months
1st time in competition together / Level 2
- **Rider: Spc. Stephen Saracco**
Time in CGMCG: 1 year, 1 month
Horse: Scout
Time in CGMCG: 4 years, 8 months
Time Training Together: 1 year, 9 months
2nd time in competition together / Level 3
- **Rider: Spc. Tara Svedeen**
Time in CGMCG: 1 year, 2 months
Horse: Lexington
Time in CGMCG: 7 months
Time Training Together: 7 months
2nd time in competition (Svedeen), 1st time in competition together / Level 2
- **Rider: Spc. David Williams**
Time in CGMCG: 2 years, 1 month
Horse: Saber
Time in CGMCG: 4 years, 9 months
Time Training Together: 1 year, 9 months
2nd time in competition together / Level 3
- **Rider: Spc. Jordan Wright**
Time in CGMCG: 8 months
Horse: Vast
Time in CGMCG: 6 months
Time Training Together: 4 months
1st time in competition together / Level 1

Man’s new four-legged best friend

By *Jordan Chapman*
Duty First! Magazine

When it comes to relationship ties between man and animal, for the 1st Infantry Division Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard, the dog is out.

No greater bond exists for the Fort Riley Trooper than the bond between themselves and their horse. They are like minded, they train together, they know each other and trust one another to keep the other safe in any situation.

About 60 days after the Trooper arrives at the stables, they are first introduced to their horse, though it may not be a match in the beginning.

“We try to match the Soldier’s personality with the horse’s personality,” said 1st Sgt. Joseph Ballard, explaining

that finding a match between horse and rider means they won’t fight each other, but complement each other as they train together.

“If you have a high strung horse and you don’t have a high strung individual, they won’t get a long because the horse will want to go, go, go but the rider will want to go slow and easy,” Ballard said.

Once the horse is chosen, training begins.

“It depends on much they ride them,” said Sgt. Corey Elder, explaining the amount of time it usually takes for a horse and rider to get comfortable with one another, which he figured could be as short as 30 days if they ride together every day.

“For some horses, it’s really easy to

pick their gait up,” he stated, describing the different traits a horse can have, such as the way they walk.

Using his own horse, Trooper, as an example, Elder said the horse’s gait is extremely smooth but at the same time, he must always be ready for Trooper’s little quirks, such as wanting to go too fast.

“Trooper is a Mustang. He likes to (go all out all the time), but the rider does too,” Ballard stated, illustrating his previous point for the necessity of like minded personalities when it comes an award winning pair.

Add 12 of these pairings together, and you have the 2010 CGMCG team who attended this year’s Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition at Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas Sept. 29 to Oct. 2. 🐾



The Wright man for the Vast enterprise

By Jordan Chapman
Duty First! Magazine

In early 2009, Spc. Jordan Wright didn't know much about horses. He knew he liked them, and had decided some time ago while on a trail ride, that if ever presented the opportunity; working with them would be something that would tickle his interest.

Fast forward to Dec. 29, 2009, and Wright is walking into the historic 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard stable grounds, green behind the ears, but determined to succeed, and a good thing, too, because in exactly 10 months he would find himself in his first national horse competition, the 2010 Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition held at Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas, Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

"I know we'll (Wright and his horse) be bringing home some ribbons," he said with conviction, just days prior to departure.

Despite his composed outward appearance during the competition, discussions with other riders acknowledge the fact that everyone has two battles to fight in a national competition with so many riders present: the one they are here to compete in, and the nervousness inside themselves, which often can be reinforced with doubt and fear.

Nervous for himself and his horse, having enrolled in every individual level 1 event available, including military horsemanship, authenticity, mounted pistols, military field jumping and mounted saber, Wright was good on his word. He placed second in military field jumping, third in mounted pistol and ninth in military horsemanship.

It was hard work making those placements, though. Wright had to first work on his horse, Vast, who he could tell was un-

comfortable with his surroundings by the way he moved and wouldn't cooperate.

"He was being difficult when we were doing our equitation (military horsemanship). I wish we would have done better," he said, disappointed, because he knew before he came that the equitation competition was going to be the hardest for both of them.

"Getting (Vast) into a trot or canter is easy enough, but slowing him down is something else, because he doesn't want to slow down," Wright said.

Following his final event, Wright felt good about his performance, and especially the way Vast had improved throughout the competition.

"He did really well. I think we did really well today," he said.

THE ROAD TO VICTORY

Like so many, though, it was the experiences that got him to the point of victory that were most memorable.

The first of those memories started while in his 30 day trial period while riding bareback on retired horses, to best illustrate to his mentors his ability to balance as well as how well he could work his legs, ankle and hands while on the back of a horse.

"During (those) days, I would fall off 10 times a day. They didn't know if they would keep me, but I showed the initiative to keep trying and working myself to give myself the (opportunity) to get better," he said.

No matter how difficult any day was, it was worth it when he was shown the horse he would be working with for the duration of his stay with the color guard. Like Wright, the horse was the newest addition into the stable.

"As corny as it is, I fell in love with him

(Vast) at first glance," Wright said, explaining he and his superiors went down to their training arena to see how he and Vast would respond to each other.


"We try to match the Soldier's personality with the horse's personality," said 1st Sgt. Joseph Ballard, CGMCG 1st Sergeant, explaining that finding a match between horse and rider means they won't fight each other, but complement each other as they train together.

"Vast is a hot head," Wright said smiling. "He likes to go. He doesn't like to slow down and sometimes he doesn't want to listen but you have to work on that," he said, explaining that like Vast, he is willing to take any challenge and succeed while doing it.

"Since I've been here, they have challenged me ... any challenge you put in front of him (Vast), any challenge you put in front of us, we will work to get through it or get through it the first time," he said, making his point by describing the first time they were both presented with level three military jumps. First try, no problem.

"You do have to be in tune with your horse," Wright said. "He and I work like gears on a clock ... he and I are becoming a team. A really good one," he added.

"I've had to work all of my nine months to become what I want to call average," Wright said humbly, indicating that the work isn't done and there is a lot of ground to cover, though getting to participate in his first ever national competition has given him much experience.

"It's been different. I hadn't ever heard people getting together to (compete like this) ... until I got to the color guard," Wright said. "Now that I have come down and done that, it's been a lot of fun. More fun than it was competition." 



Spc. David Williams, 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, practices with a trapdoor Springfield Rifle for his dismounted rifle portion of the Bolte Cup event, a level-three championship competition, during the final day of the 2010 Annual Bivouac & National Cavalry Competition held at Fort Concho.

Williams, Saber take part in Bolte Cup round

By Jordan Chapman
Duty First! Magazine

It is only meant for the best. It is the Bolte Cup championship round of the annual Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition, pitting 15 cavalry riders against one another in time, accuracy and horsemanship. This year, Spc. David Williams, 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, was invited to join in the fun.

Held at Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas, the championship course was designed to test the skills of a cavalry rider in every form. The course allows the rider to illustrate their skills in mounted saber, mounted pistol, military field jumping, each of which Williams had already participated in.

The Bolte course also presented riders with a surprise obstacle—a dismounted rifle shoot that tests the constitution and training of the horse. While the rider shoots the rifle, the horse, mere inches away, mustn't move outside of a designated box marked on the ground.

It's no easy mission, but Williams was excited to join the fray Oct. 2, the final day of competition.

Before the start of the course, Williams was unsure of how his horse, Saber, would react. He and many others from the group of 12 Fort Riley Troopers that attended the event found their horses to be slightly skittish while on the individual courses, either bucking them off entirely or dodging or hesitating on field jumps.

"Anytime (our horses) see a jump they get real amped up and they just want to blast away and do it, but they don't know how to control themselves on it," said Sgt. Corey Elder and fellow Trooper to Williams, explaining that without the rider the

horse can't effectively navigate the jump to course speculations.

This problem presented itself to Williams during two of his previous runs. He was swung off his horse Sept. 30 during his mounted pistol run, and had troubles Oct. 1 during the military field jumping run, which he ended up getting second place in.


"I did everything I had to do to get him through. He fought me every step of the way but he did go through for me and I'm proud of him for that," he continued.

Williams was not deterred by these previous troubles upon the start of the Bolte Cup course, and commented to teammates afterward that he felt Saber did much better than on previous courses. Seeing his horse do well meant a lot to Williams, because he feels the riders have the easy part.

"As far as my part, it's not that difficult. We do stuff like that (sabers, pistols and jumping) a lot in our practice arena. The thing is having a horse getting on a new course," he said, explaining that it can be difficult for a horse to adjust easily to a new environment. "They are trusting us to tell us what to do and sometimes, they get a little skittish at stuff. That's some of the issues I had today.

"He (Saber) wasn't too bad and he did eventually go through every single obstacle on the course for me. The horse has the hard part. All we have to do is swing and shoot," he said.

Though he didn't win the cup, it was the experience and the pride of being invited to the event that matter most to him.

"I was very excited to have another chance to win at something else and to be able to get out here and do something that only the top 15 competitors get to do," Williams said. 

JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. NATHANIEL SMITH, USD-S PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 'Desert Divas' cross the finish line of the Oktober Runfest 5K in Basra Oct. 9. The Divas won the all-female team bracket and the unofficial best-dressed category.

Basra hosts Oktober Runfest 5K

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div. PAO

BASRA, Iraq—Beer, schweinebraten and ... running?

A lot of things come to mind at the mention of Oktoberfest, but a 5K run isn't typically one of them. That's exactly what Staff Sgt. Brooke Schiebel, an aid station noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 1st Infantry Division, thought of while organizing a run in Basra, Iraq.

"I wanted to do a run, and I knew that on leave I was going to Oktoberfest," Schiebel said. "It just kind of hit me one day, 'I should do an Oktoberfest theme.'"

So the Oktober Runfest 5K was born at Basra on Oct. 9 when 11 four-person teams took to the streets of the base.

Sgt. Maj. Bill Sutton, the protection sergeant major for 1st Inf. Div., helped

Schiebel organize the event using his experience from planning the Basra Running Series, an eight-run series that has been going throughout the 1st Inf. Div.'s current deployment, culminating with the Army 10-Miler on Oct. 16.

"It was her concept. I just provided the route for her and some general guidance," Sutton said. "I kind of gave her the script to follow, and just made general suggestions."

Part of the script Schiebel wrote was the additional message of responsible drinking.

Schiebel's unit, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, is within the 90-day window of redeploying to Fort Riley, and she coordinated with a friend who works for Budweiser to provide gear for the first-place winners in the individual male and female categories.

"Budweiser has a theme of drinking responsibly. (They are) kind of sponsoring it, and because I'm giving away a Budweiser prize, I wanted to advocate drinking responsibly when we get back from the deployment," Schiebel said.

"It's a good message to get out there to our folks," Sutton added. "We've got a lot of first-time deployers over here, and there's always historically been a problem when we get back where Soldiers make that mistake of drinking and driving or do something against their better judgment."

"Anything we can do to promote that message to think before you drink and have a plan is something (noncommissioned officers) will always preach and try to get the message into their heads. Any way that we can do it, it's a good message and a good cause." ▀

First joint regional exercise success for ISF

By Spc. James Kennedy Benjamin
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq—"It is like a soccer practice before the big game," said Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South deputy commanding general of maneuver, illustrating the importance of practice, repetition and teamwork to a room full of Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Soldiers. "You can't win a game with just one good player. You have to have many players that play together as a team. If you want that Iraqi team to win on the battlefield, you have to play together, practice together, so you can win together."

With minimal U.S. advice or assistance, the combined effort of the Iraqi Army, Department of Border Enforcement, and Iraqi Police led to the successful completion of the first regional joint strategic military exercise Oct. 5 in Basra, Iraq.

Gibbs met with ISF leadership toward the end of the training at the 4th Region DBE Headquarters to discuss the map exercise, or MAPEX.

"We are all very proud of you as your partners and brothers in the security forces," Gibbs said. "It does take a joint com-



PHOTO BY SPC. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN

Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, United States Division-South deputy commanding general of maneuver, and Maj. Gen. Ismael Arar, Maysan Provincial Chief of Police talk about the map exercise at the 4th Region Department of Enforcement Headquarters Oct. 5 in Basra, Iraq, moments after it finished.

bined force of all the security forces, not just the Army or Department of Border Enforcement. It is one team, one fight."

The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate and improve the participants' ability to react to situations that threatened their security.

"In the beginning, things started out slow," said Maj. Gen. Ismael Arar, Maysan provincial chief of police, "but after briefing the [Iraqi] soldiers on what they had to do, it started going smooth."

The army, police and DBE trained on

smuggling interdiction strategies around the southern Maysan and northern Basra provinces—areas known for smuggling.

The MAPEX centered on how well the intelligence and information sections coordinated between one another. ISF units were evaluated on their ability to understand the situation, develop a plan of action, and execute the plan by communicating to subordinate elements.

The different sections participating in the exercise jotted notes on their successes and failures throughout the exercise, which provided feedback during the after action review.

"Repetition is the mother of all learning," Gibbs said. "So you practice together all the time and it becomes second nature."

The different branches of the armed forces work together and know what each other does, Gibbs said, attributing victory on the battlefield to joint cooperation.

The ISF is anxious to do more of these joint training exercises with its partners in the future, Arar said.

"[The exercise] met its goal," Arar said. "At the end of it, I would consider this training successful." ▀

Aviation brigade holds re-enlistment in Iraq

By Spc. Roland Hale
Combat Aviation Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Ten Soldiers serving in Iraq with an Army aviation battalion re-enlisted Oct. 2 during a special ceremony on Camp Taji.

The Soldiers, assigned to the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, re-enlisted at a Forward Arming and Refueling Point on the base, as fuelers from their battalion celebrated pumping their millionth gallon of fuel during the deployment.

The support battalion is part of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, which deployed from Fort Riley, this March. The Soldiers who re-en-

listed represented several of the battalion's facets, including transportation, supply and maintenance.

Staff Sgt. Justin Puls, the battalion's career counselor, not only helped the Soldiers re-enlist, but also re-enlisted himself. Puls re-enlisted indefinitely, and plans to spend at least 20 years in the Army. This is his third re-enlistment, and also his most memorable, he said.

"As much as it was about me, it was about everyone I re-enlisted with. It was a great opportunity to go out there with those Soldiers," said Puls. "It makes me proud, not only of the Soldiers, but also to be a part of the battalion pumping that millionth gallon."

Pfc. Syrta Wilson, a motor transport operator with the battalion and a native of Warner Robbins, Ga., also re-enlisted.

"It was good to have other people re-enlist with me, and at the same time know that we reached the 1 million mark," Wilson said.

Wilson re-enlisted for six more years of service, and plans to make the military a career after becoming an officer.

The battalion will hold several more re-enlistment ceremonies before it redeployes to Fort Riley next March. The battalion's fueling point on Camp Taji also plans to pump over 2 million gallons by the deployment's end. ▀

Around the **DIVISION**



Cav Soldiers complete competition, earn their spurs

Sixteen Soldiers with the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, completed a three-day competition, testing their physical and mental fitness to earn their spurs in the Spur Ride Qualification event.

The first two days consisted of day and night land navigation; an Army physical fitness test; a history test; threat ID test; obstacle course; weapons qualification, scoring at least sharpshooter, as well as clearing, disassembly, re-assembly and functions check of the M9 pistol, M4 rifle, 240B machine gun and the M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun.

The third and final day of the spur ride qualification, Oct. 7, consisted of a 12-mile ruck march, with Soldiers carrying a minimum of 25 pounds in their ruck sacks.

"The march has to be completed in three hours before a Soldier would be disqualified," said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cook, command sergeant major of the 4th Sqdn., 4th Cavalry Regt. "But I think all our guys will make it in."

All 16 Soldiers completed the ruck march, with the last Soldier's time at 2 hours, 52 minutes and 23 seconds.

Capt. Timothy W. Decker, D Co., 2nd Battalion, 34 Armor Regiment, 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., who is attached to 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 1st HBCT, received the highest individual score for an officer; Sgt. Jared A. Davis, Headquarter and Headquarters Troop, 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., received the highest individual score for an enlisted Soldier; and team three, which consisted of 2nd Lt. Patrick Dehnart, C

Troop, 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., and 2nd Lt. Scott Andrew Boxler and Spc. William J. Gibbs, both with HHT, 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., was recognized for obtaining the highest points overall with a score of 574 out of 600.



Sept. ceremony recognizes 'Devil' Soldiers about to deploy

Fort Riley leaders and members of the surrounding communities gathered Sept. 20 on Custer Hill Parade Field, for a deployment ceremony to say goodbye to approximately 950 Soldiers of the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The "Devil" Brigade Soldiers will deploy soon to southwest Asia in support of Operation New Dawn, where their mission will be to maintain peace and deter aggression throughout the region and serve in an advise and assist role.

"The 1st Brigade is the one of the first advise and assist brigades to deploy into theater as part of Operation New Dawn," said Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy division commander-rear. "OND represents a change in the mission of the U.S. forces in Iraq. Operations are shifting from combat missions conducted by U.S. forces to stability operations conducted by Iraqi security forces with the U.S.'s advice and assistance.

Petersen noted that with the security improvements achieved in Iraq and the U.S.'s current mission to decrease its troop strength in Iraq to 50,000, only 950

of the 3,500 Soldier-strong brigade will deploy in October.

The units set to deploy are the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 101st Forward Support Battalion.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the Devils will succeed, because this is precisely how they trained during their recent rotation at the National Training Center," Petersen said.

The deploying 1 HBCT units are slated for a 12-month deployment.

Clay Center welcomes home 'Dragon' Brigade Soldiers

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, received a special welcome home from the community of Clay Center, Kan., Sept. 25, during a Community Covenant ceremony.

The ceremony was to reaffirm the partnership by re-signing the covenant created between the "Raiders" Squadron and Clay Center in August of 2008.

"The reaffirmation of the Army Community Covenant is an important demonstration of the partnership that exists between our two units and entities—entities being Clay County, Clay Center, the 1st Squadron and the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team," said Lt. Col. Scott Nelson, commander of 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., during the ceremony.

"I'm very proud to stand here and reaffirm our covenant with Clay County and Clay Center," Nelson added.

"To be able to reaffirm (the covenant) is so important, and I am so glad we were able to do that," said Sharon Brown, Clay Center mayor.

The Clay County and Clay Center Army Community Covenant signing is one of several covenant signings that will take within the Central Flint Hills Region through October. In February 2011, the covenants will be taken to the capitol in Topeka and signed in February by state officials. 



LEFT: Sgt. Zachary Reese, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, is congratulated on receiving the Silver Star Medal as his wife, Reina, looks on at a ceremony Oct. 18 at Sadowski Field House in Fort Knox, Ky. The Silver Star is the third highest military decoration awarded for valor in the face of the enemy. **RIGHT:** Brig. Gen. David Petersen, Deputy Commanding General 1st Infantry Division presents Sgt. Reese with the Silver Star on Oct. 18.



PHOTO BY SPC. TOBEY WHITE

Soldier earns Silver Star for heroics

Sergeant leads ambush against enemy forces in Afghanistan

By Sgt. John Zumer
3 IBCT Public Affairs Office

FORT KNOX, Ky.—Sgt. Zachary Reese rolled the dice in 2006 as a civilian when mulling a career move. Four years later, his decision to join the U.S. Army paid off in ways he probably couldn't have imagined, with his fellow Soldiers and the nation as the biggest winners.

Reese received the Silver Star Medal on Oct. 18 during a ceremony at Sadowski Field House in Fort Knox, Ky. Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy commanding general-rear, 1st Infantry Division, presided over the ceremony.

The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States armed forces for valor in the face of the enemy. The required gallantry must have been performed with marked distinction, which was certainly evident in Reese's case, Petersen said.

During his comments to the audience, Petersen spoke of Reese's actions in April 2009, while assigned to a reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment "Blue Spaders," who are part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Reese's platoon was operating in the volatile Korengal Valley of Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Reese observed a large group of enemy fighters approaching his unit that day and reported the enemy force to his superiors. His unit was then able to take precautions and set up a hasty ambush with just enough time to deal with the threat. Several enemy fighters died where they stood because of Reese's actions, but that didn't end his involvement. After the firefight, he went back and searched the enemy dead. An enemy fighter feigning death lunged at him, but Reese was able to use his knife to dispatch the enemy.

Reese still doesn't consider himself a hero and is quick to hand off any credit to others that he served with.


"What made it easy was having all these guys next to you," he said.

Many others, including Petersen, said Reese's actions that day were not only far from ordinary, but represented something even higher.

"Your bravery that day embodies the spirit of the Big Red One," Petersen said.

Reese admits to simply doing his job. He says he was grateful that his buddies were there not only to help each other out when needed on the battlefield, but to also help pass the time with their camaraderie. Most importantly, he said, their bond and unique contributions in Afghanistan brought much success.

"We felt we were making a difference," Reese said.

As for the next big step in his life, Reese and his wife Reina are looking forward to him becoming a civilian again. He will be leaving the Army early next year for a college classroom. Federal service may call again in the future, but Reese is hopeful it will be in the form of working for the U.S. Border Patrol. 

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

- www.riley.army.mil
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