


# DUTY FIRST!

MAY 2011

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families | [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil)

A photograph of three soldiers in camouflage uniforms saluting. They are wearing black berets with blue and white insignia. The soldier on the right has a name tag that says "U.S. ARMY". The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

# Answering the Call

**1st Infantry Division honors leadership  
of the past, the present and the future**

- TRAINING, WEAPONRY & FAMILIES HELPING SOLDIERS PREPARE FOR BATTLE
- COMBATIVES TEAM'S WORKOUT REGIMENT GETTING EARLY START

# 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.

May 2011 | www.riley.army.mil

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**COVER:** Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks (from far left), Gen. James Thurman and Maj. Gen. William Mayville salute May 25 during a change of command ceremony on Fort Riley's Cavalry Parade Field. During this ceremony, Thurman, commanding general of the U.S. Army's Forces Command, handed the division's colors to Mayville, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley from Brooks, the division's former commander.

STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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# Privilege to lead Big Red One

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks

This marks my final column in the Duty First magazine as I am on my way to my next duty assignment to serve as the Commanding General for 3rd Army/Army Forces Central. My new command has a split command structure with one headquarters, the main command post, at Shaw AFB, near Sumter, S.C.; and a second forward headquarters, the operational command post, in the Middle Eastern country of Kuwait, liberated by the “Big Red One” 20 years ago. Carol and I have been honored to have as the highlight of our military service this tour of duty with the Big Red One. What a great way to end my service in a division.

Let me begin by saying thanks to each of you—Soldiers, Family Members, DA civilians, units—for demonstrating the Division’s motto in what you do every day. The motto is more than words. The motto captures the very essence of what it means to be a part of the Fighting First Division. Thanks for being the first in so many ways.

I will cherish the privilege of wearing the distinctive patch on my right shoulder, and with that privilege I will also cherish the memories that surround it. Much has been accomplished by our units and they remain on the edge of danger today in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Division is well-known in both locations and is a shareholder in the sweetness and bitterness of the



successes that have been accomplished. Keep those who are deployed in your thoughts and prayers, and support their Families in any way you can. Indeed, we couldn’t have made it this far without them. They are our reason for doing what we do and we are forever indebted to them.

Much has been accomplished over the last two years, thanks to your hard work and contributions, and thanks to the superb efforts by the U.S. Army Garrison—Fort Riley, the 1st Infantry Division staff and the FORSCOM Mission Support Element. Each of them guided a part of the monumental work that was done with creativity, good stewardship and unparalleled innovation. Without everyone working together, the Fort Riley-2015 Campaign Plan would have been a collection of ideas instead of the

blueprint for successes that have already begun. As I leave Fort Riley and the Division, I do so with great satisfaction at what has been done and with great confidence in what will be done over the coming years.

Finally, it is important to recognize the support network we at Fort Riley and we, the broader Big Red One, enjoy in our surrounding communities. The covenants signed with surrounding communities codify what you know to be the case in reality every day—that is, that there can be no more supportive environment for military service than the environment created by our neighbors. I want to thank them for making everyone who serves in this organization feel at home and for providing a home to our Families. You have been a key to any success enjoyed by the post and the Division, and we feel a part of the successes enjoyed by the communities as well.

We will be on the lookout for you should the opportunity to serve again come our way. We also will continue to follow the activities of the Division with great interest and will always be among the many veterans who associate themselves, forever, with the 1st Infantry Division. God bless each of you as you continue your service, and may God continue to bless Fort Riley, our associated installations and the “Big Red One.”

No Mission too Difficult, No Sacrifice too Great, Duty First! Farewell. 🇺🇸

# Family support aids success

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

It’s no secret that we in the 1st Infantry Division can be put in dangerous situations.

Our Soldiers have braved the battlefields of St. Mihiel, Argonne and Picardy in World War I, raced through the sands of Omaha Beach in World War II, crawled through the jungles of Vietnam and are still sweating in the desert sands of Iraq and Afghanistan today.

Throughout history the Soldiers of the Big Red One have sacrificed all to bring peace wherever the mission has taken them and it’s clear that one thing hasn’t changed in the 93 years the Big Red One has achieved victory, that the tenacity and courage of our Soldiers are always raising the standard through constant training, healthy esprit de corps’ and dedication to duty and honor that fuels our love for tradition.

No matter how hard we train for the mission in both mind and body, we must never forget to take time for our Soldiers.

For noncommissioned officers, that means taking care of your BRO buddies, whose lives and well-being depend on



you. For Soldiers, that means taking care of the person on your right and left. Make sure that your training and physical fitness standards do not slip, even while deployed. Ensure that morale within your unit doesn’t begin to fall. Take care of each other.

Most importantly, though, we need our Families.

Often, as Soldiers, we talk about how important our Families are to our success. This is undeniable. Everything we

go through as Soldiers, our Families also experience, along with all the additional complications that life in the Army can sometimes bring.

Whether we are training on Fort Riley and have the benefit of going home every night, are ensuring your spouse or parents are acquainted with available resources and are plugged into the appropriate family readiness group before you deploy or you’re taking the time to call home while overseas, do it! You and your Family both stand to benefit.

We can’t do what we do without the support of our Families. They are our strength and resilience in the hardest of times and no matter what happens, they will be there.

Whether you’re an infantryman going in on foot, barreling down the road in an M1 Abrams tank or flying high in a Chinook, your training, your mission, is at hand. While you’re out there, take heart in the knowledge that your Family is home safe and is in full support of you. Stay focused and go complete your task with “Big Red One” style!

Now ... get after it! 🇺🇸





# *reflections*

*Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks leaves mark at Fort Riley*

**T**he morning of April 15, 2009, 700 Soldiers representing each 1st Infantry Division subordinate unit were assembled on the Cavalry Parade Field to welcome in the Big Red One's 74th Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks.

Assuming command from Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, Brooks took command with 29 years of service under his belt, including positions as the Chief of Army Public Affairs, acting commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division and deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas.

"(The) spirit of the Big Red One," Brooks said to Soldiers, Families and surrounding community leaders in attendance. "It's a spirit of comradeship that never fades, and that is what excites me about rejoining this division," he continued, having learned his leadership skills as a young company commander during the Cold War. → → → →

*Staff report  
Duty First! Magazine*



(continued from page 5)

That same comradeship he spoke of hasn't left the division and he's confident it never will after spending two years leading Big Red One Soldiers stateside as well as overseas.

Under his leadership, Brooks took the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion on its first deployment in December 2009 since its return from Germany in 2006.

The deployment also marked the division's first as a modular headquarters, United States Division-South, Iraq, where Big Red One Soldiers were to execute missions at the heart of Operation Iraqi Freedom, maintain peace and deter aggression in their region as well as usher in Operation New Dawn, taking effect Sept. 1, 2010.

While deployed, Brooks entrusted the oversight of 21,000 Soldiers and the mobilization of five brigades to Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy commanding general-rear.

In the course of 12 months, the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team returned from Iraq and began the reset process, while the 1st Sustainment Brigade, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team all trained and then deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Also under Petersen's watchful eyes was Brooks' Fort Riley-2015 Campaign Plan, unveiled to 1st Inf. Div. and community leaders in January 2010.

Using information gathered from a variety of Soldier and Family surveys, the plan addresses improved support in four areas, namely: resiliency, sustainability, community and the Army Force Generation cycle.

"We don't want it to be a secret," Brooks said during the plan's unveiling, regarding the common phrase that Fort Riley is the Army's "best-kept secret."

Brooks not only impacted Fort Riley but the surrounding community, as well.

Mike Rhodes, 2010-11 Junction City mayor, explained he was happy Brooks continued the Community Partnership Conferences on post.

"I think they have been a real benefit to Fort Riley, as well as all of us in the Flint Hills. Getting to know each other, sharing ideas, sharing programs, telling them or showing them what we can do and what they can do for us (has been great.) The exchange of information has been one of the things that I'll miss most about (Maj.) Gen. Brooks," Rhodes said.

Replacing Brooks will be Maj. Gen. William Mayville, Jr., who most recently served as the deputy chief of staff for operations, International Security Assistance Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

The 1st Infantry Division Change of Command Ceremony, when Brooks and Mayville officially exchanged the colors, occurred May 25. → → (more photos on pages 8-9)



1st Inf. Div. Combatives Victory



Change of Command

The exchange of information has been one of the things that I'll miss most about (Maj.) Gen. Brooks."

—Mike Rhodes, 2010-11 Junction City mayor



School Visit



It has been an honor ... to serve under Maj. Gen. Brooks' unwavering leadership and vision, which helped guide the 'Dagger' Brigade to the many successes we have had and will continue to have."

—Col. Paul T. Calvert, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. commander



Victory Run 2009



Resiliency Campus Ribbon-cutting



1st Inf. Div. Deployment Ceremony

Maj. Gen. Brooks has been great for the 1st Infantry Division ... we will be sad to see him go."

—Command Sgt. Maj. Wylie Hutchison, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's command sergeant major



Army Birthday Ball



USD-S Thanksgiving



Maj. Gen. Brooks & Sen. Roberts

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**We will truly miss the guidance we have had the pleasure to receive from Maj. Gen. Brooks during his two years serving this great division. Through his own extensive experience, he has shown us a new and better way to approach the world of Public Affairs and we are forever in his debt."**

—1st Inf. Div. and Garrison Public Affairs



Fort Riley/KSU Partnership

**"His caring, compassionate and hardy leadership ... always inspired us all to truly remain engaged with our Soldiers, and sought to bring out the best in us as commanders."**

—Lt. Col. Andrew Cole Jr., commander of 3rd AHB, 1st Avn. Regt., CAB



Redeployment Ceremony

**I had the privilege and honor to be invited on a trip to Iraq to see what our Soldiers are accomplishing, and what the Soldiers and Families we work with are experiencing first hand. It was a wonderful experience and one I will never regret."**

—Kirk Schultz, president of Kansas State University



Change of Command



KSU Visits Iraq

**Maj. Gen. Brooks is an exceptional senior leader whose amazing eloquence is only overshadowed by his remarkable genuine concern for the well-being of his Soldiers and their Family members."**

—Col. Marshall Cox, DENTAC commander



Veterans Day

**"MG Brooks is a great Commander and motivator ... I have the utmost respect for his desire to train superior leaders and to improve Soldier resiliency throughout the Army."**

—Staff Sgt. Matthew L. Veasley, 1st Sust. Bde.



Brooks Speaks to West Point Cadets

**"He's like looking at a good diamond."**

—Art Degroat, director of military affairs for Kansas State University



Cantigny Visit

**"He is the true definition of an officer and a gentleman."**

— Lt. Col. Roderick Herron, 75th Fires Brigade, Deputy Commanding Officer

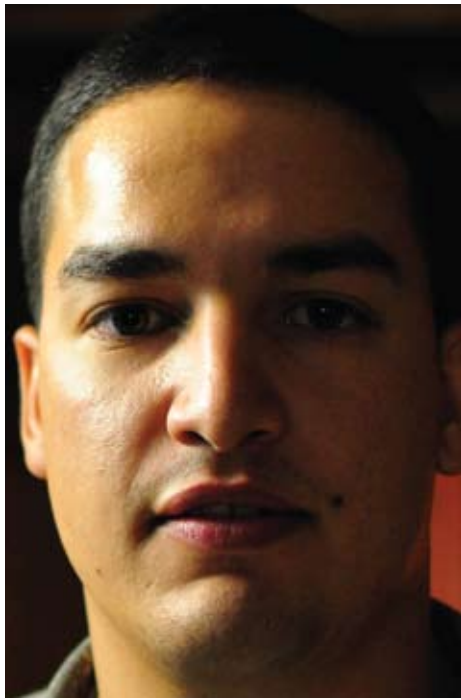


Veterans Day

**He is a great guy, he is there for the Soldiers, and is all about the Soldiers' needs."**

— Sgt. Jeffery McElroy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team





# getting in the right State of mind

*Training, leadership help 1<sup>st</sup> ID  
Soldiers keep 'heads in the game'*

*Story by Mollie Miller • Duty First! Magazine*

When the message about a mortar attack in Ghazaliya, Iraq, popped up on the blue force tracker screen Dec. 31, 2008, Sgt. John Tully's world seemed to turn a funny shade of red.

The message read that Tully's good friend, Pfc. Benjamin Tollefson, had been killed in the mortar attack.

"(Tollefson's team) was stopped at a Joint Security Station when a guy fired a mortar at them. The mortar exploded and Tollefson got hit by a piece of shrapnel," Tully said. "After I saw that message, I was so mad I was seeing red."

When word of Tollefson's death reached him, Tully and his team from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's Personal Security Detachment were on a mission in Sadr City, Iraq. Although incredibly "pissed off," Tully knew he couldn't let his anger get the best of him in that situation—the Soldiers to his left and right were all counting on him to help get them back to base safely.

"It was a hard ride back (to base)," Tully said. "I was really mad but I didn't want something bad to happen to anyone else on the team so I couldn't let my guard down, I couldn't lose focus. I was

the lead gunner and it was important that my head was in the game."

A Soldier who keeps their head in the game is an integral part of every successful mission, according to 1st Sgt. Donald Goode.

"If the Soldiers can't concentrate on their mission then it won't be done quickly and to standard," he said.

Goode, assigned to Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., returned to Fort Riley in March following a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq.

The first sergeant said that during his most recent deployment, situations in Iraq and on the homefront came up that had the potential to draw his Soldiers' attention away from their mission, but the company never lost focus of the importance of their duties, thanks, in part, to a caring command team.

"Commanders, first sergeants and leaders who spend their time simply playing cards with Soldiers, discussing the Army career and lifestyle, educating them and listening to their problems extends mission capability by leaps and bounds," Goode said. "Soldiers who know that someone cares about them can focus on the mission and not worry that they are alone."

For Staff Sgt. Frank Morales, Signal Co., STB, 1st Sust. Bde., 1st Inf. Div., thoughts of his family back home kept him moving forward and accomplishing his mission.

"My Family is always in my head because they are the reason why I do what I do," he said.

Tully said a pre-mission routine always helped him focus his mind as he prepared to travel the roads around Baghdad with his PSD team. Tully's routine included various checks and inspections, a visit to the gym, cleaning his weapon, route planning and the gathering of important food items, like Pop Tarts and Slim Jims.

"Getting ready was always a long process," he said.

For Goode and Tully, dedication to the Soldiers to their left and right also



**FROM TOP CLOCKWISE:** 1st Sgt. Donald Goode, Signal Co., STB, 1st Sust. Bde., 1st Inf. Div., knocks out a set of pushups following a promotion ceremony during a recent deployment to Iraq. Goode said being involved in leadership plays an important role in keeping Soldiers' minds on the mission; Sgt. John Tully, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., poses for a picture outside division headquarters. Tully spent a year in Iraq learning the importance of keeping his mind on the mission; Staff Sgt. Frank Morales takes advantage of a little downtime during a recent deployment to Iraq with Signal Co., STB, 1st Sust. Bde., 1st Inf. Div.



helped keep their mind on the mission.


"I know I have to remain strong and focused for my Soldiers," Goode said.

If a Soldier is having trouble keeping his mind focused on the mission, Goode said unit leaders must step in to mitigate whatever issues are drawing the Soldier's attention.

"If a Soldier can't keep their head in the game then leadership embeds all available assets to help them," the senior noncommissioned officer said. "Down-range there are chaplains, resiliency classes, MWR centers, behavior health (specialists), troop medical clinics, and, most importantly, battle buddies. (These

resources) help Soldiers pick themselves up and move forward until it is time to come home."

Tully said Soldiers having trouble focusing their minds on their task at hand should fall back on their training to help ensure mission success.

"Before every mission, I focus my mind by thinking about everything that could possibly happen and what essential tools I'll need for every (scenario)," he said. "You always have to think about and plan for the worst but hope for the best. I know the worst, I have seen the worst, and I hope I don't have to see it again." 



# UNIFORM TRAINING

*Infantrymen find lifesaving tools in forms of training exercises, proper body armor*

*Story by Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine*

**I**N EARLY 2007, A PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WITH 2ND BATTALION, 16TH INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, DEPLOYED WITH HIS UNIT TO IRAQ WITH THE MISSION TO ASSIST IN SECURING BAGHDAD; A STRATEGY NOW COMMONLY KNOWN AS 'THE SURGE.'

He has spent countless hours lifting weights at the gym, completing numerous health assessments and readying his weapon and ammunition, but the moment the first bullet is fired, Staff Sgt. Jay March resorts to one thing: the training that readied him for this exact situation.

"I didn't realize the (magnitude of the) stuff that we experienced until later, when we were already home," March said, who was 20-years-old at the time. "All that goes through your head is, 'I got to do this.' Your adrenaline bursts up, your training kicks in and you just brush it off at the time."

March, an Ohio native, enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was 19-years-old and was assigned to the young unit that was still standing up at Fort Riley, Kan. The battalion was organized in January 2006 and a little over a year later, found its Soldiers on planes bound for Iraq.

During their first year at Fort Riley, the battalion's Soldiers spent endless hours completing mock scenarios and training exercises in the Kansas prairies to prepare them for their upcoming deployment.

"I was lucky to have really good leaders," March said.

The unit's leadership was not only concerned with making sure they completed the required training, but making certain they retained the lessons presented within the training, he added. "The best advice I could give any young Soldier about to deploy is pay attention during training. It could save your life and your buddies' lives."

Another lifesaving tool in the infantryman's preparation for battle, which is also often overlooked, is the uniform they put on everyday during a deployment. When packed with armor plates, weaponry and ammunition, the vital uniform generally weighs at least 60 pounds.

Soldiers must take great care to not only ensure their armor plates are in the precise location (down to the exact inch) but also have committed to memory the exact locations of extra ammunition and first aid equipment to retrieve immediately if necessary.

Soon after arriving in Baghdad, March and the "Rangers" infantry battalion learned first-hand the essential role their uniform and equipment played in a combat zone.

"We were living in Baghdad and not on the (forward operating base)," he said. "We sometimes wouldn't return (to the FOB) for days, so we had to make sure to have our essentials with us at all times."

A few years, and promotions, later, March would once again find himself set to deploy with the battalion that he had come to know during the surge. This time he would not only be deploying to a changed Iraq; he would be deploying as a noncommissioned officer.

"I went from being the guy getting told to get ready to go, to the one who had to make sure my Soldiers were ready to go," March said.



**ABOVE:** Staff Sgt. Jay March, of 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., left, poses for a picture while conducting a patrol during his 2007 deployment to Iraq. **TOP:** Staff Sgt. Jay March (left) poses for a picture with two Iraqi children and another Soldier during the unit's deployment to Iraq in 2007. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Staff Sgt. Jay March poses for a picture before setting out for missions during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The yearlong tour marked the second time March deployed with the unit to Iraq.

His main goal for his Soldiers before they deployed in 2009 was simple, "I trained my guys like my leadership had trained me."

After spending the last five years and two deployments in the "Rangers" battalion, March is set to leave the unit for Fort Campbell, Ky., soon. He stated the departure comes with mixed emotions as he is excited to arrive at the post

that is closer to his hometown and Family but the move requires him to say goodbye to the battle buddies he has experienced so much with.

"I'm going to take the lessons that I learned (from my leaders) on how to be a good infantryman to my new Soldiers," he said. "I learned to always pay attention during training and to trust your team. I'm taking that with me."





# Hand-in-Hand

*Stability at home equals focused Soldier abroad*

✠ Mollie Miller • Duty First! Magazine ✠

CAPT. DAN TOWER IS A BUSY GUY THESE DAYS. A COMPANY COMMANDER CURRENTLY DEPLOYED TO IRAQ WITH 1ST BATTALION, 18TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND HEAVY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, TOWER AND HIS TEAMMATES HAVE BEEN

CHARGED WITH PREPARING CONTINGENCY OPERATING STATION HAMMER FOR HANDOVER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

IT IS A MISSION WITH MANY MOVING PIECES AND PEOPLE, ONE THAT REQUIRES TOWER'S CONSTANT FOCUS AND ATTENTION.

**My grandpa once said that you have to take hold of life and make it do what you want, otherwise it will run over you. I think that's very true for deployments."**

**—Emily Tower  
wife of Capt. Dan Tower**

"I have been given an important mission, and I'm going to get it done," he said.

With his attention focused primarily on getting the job done at COS Hammer, Tower has little time to think about problems that might be arising at home. That's OK with Tower, however, because he said his wife, Emily, has the homefront mission covered.

"Knowing things are being taken care of at home makes focusing on the mission (in Iraq) a little bit easier," he said. "I thank the Lord every day that I picked a really good (wife)."

Emily understands the importance of her role in the success of the Army's missions and describes her own priorities in simple terms.

"My mission is to carry on at home without going nuts and without driving (Dan) nuts," she said, achieving daily victory by staying focused on the goals she has set for herself: taking care of the couple's finances, home and new daughter while at the same time always finding a reason to laugh.

"There are some days that you get up and you have to force yourself into a positive attitude," she said. "If you can always find something to laugh at, every problem doesn't have to turn into a crisis."

Jessica Goode, whose husband, 1st Sgt. Donald Goode, returned in March from a 12-month deployment in Iraq, has a mission similar to Emily's, to focus on caring for the couple's three daughters and working a full-time job. She is proud of herself and the role she plays in her husband's success.

"I understand that this is his job, that he is doing good things for his country and that it is important that I support him," Jessica said.

Sometimes both Emily and Jessica find it hard to keep their heads focused on their own "homefront missions" and out of Iraq. A phone call that ends unexpectedly or a missed Skype date might stir up many negative thoughts but both are committed to

returning their focus to their missions, their routines.

"It is sometimes hard when you are on the phone and it suddenly disconnects," Jessica said. "It's just important to keep telling yourself that nothing is wrong, that the phones just quit, and be thankful that you got a phone call at all."

Emily, who is marking her second deployment as an Army girlfriend/wife, said staying focused on the homefront requires spouses to think positive thoughts even when the days of deployment seem to stretch on forever.

"My grandpa once said that you have to take hold of life and make it do what you want, otherwise it will run over you. I think



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

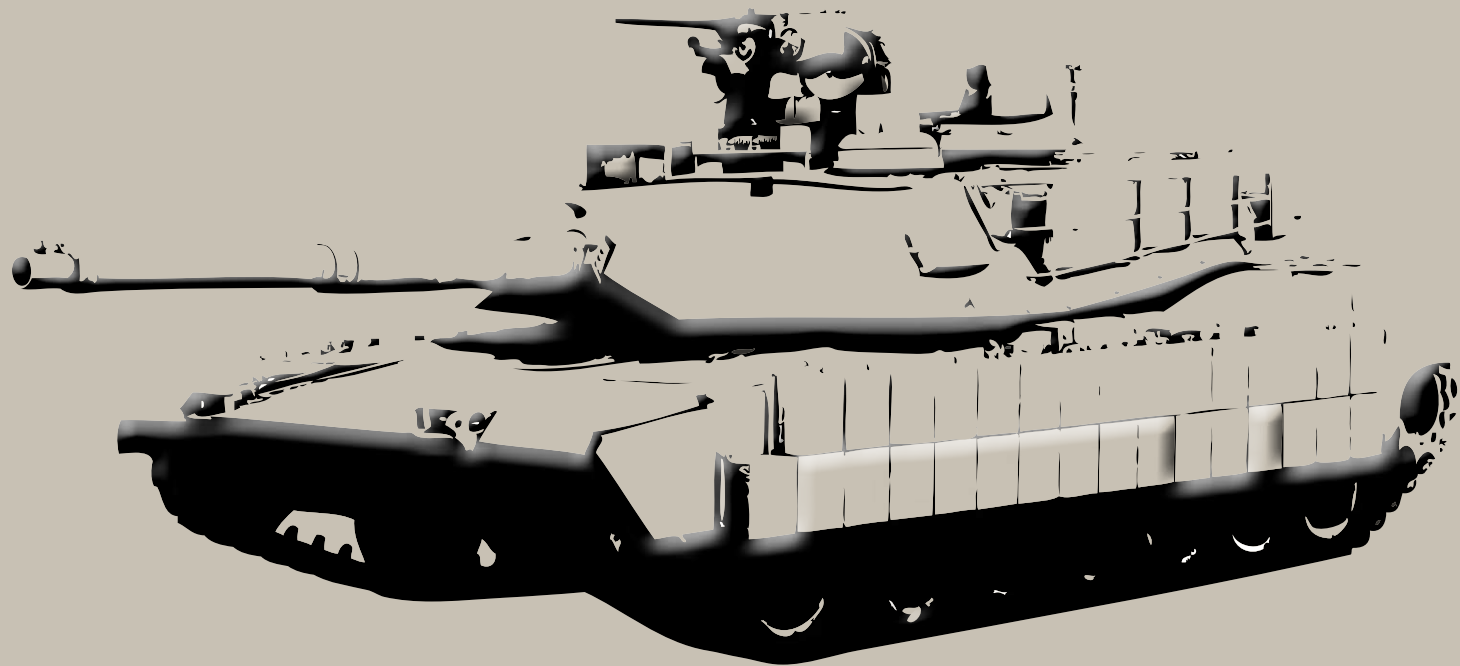
**ABOVE: Capt. Dan Tower, 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., and his wife, Emily, celebrate a few moments of quiet time with their new daughter, Allison. OPPOSITE PAGE: Emily Tower holds her daughter Allison's hand.**

that's very true for deployments," she said. "You have to control the deployment, use it to accomplish your goals so that when (your Soldier) gets home, you both can be very proud of yourselves and all that was accomplished during the year."

Dan appreciates his wife's dedication to their family, her personal mission and keeping the home-fires burning until he returns to Fort Riley in the fall.

"I consider myself a very, very lucky guy," he said. ▀





# man's new Best Friend

*Soldier wouldn't trade time in tank for anything*

Story by Stephanie Hoff • Duty First! Magazine



Sgt. 1st Class William Griffith of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., reclining in the front, poses for a picture with Soldiers from his platoon during their deployment to Iraq in 2005.

**H**e knows what it likes, and what it doesn't. He knows how it copes in the cold, and in the heat. He knows how it handles in Kansas fields, and in the sands of Iraq. He knows how to respond when it acts up. He knows when it's due for its next oil change, and when it loses a track he's most likely in for a long day.

For Sgt. 1st Class William "John" Griffith, knowing how to operate his M1A1 Abrams tank is more than merely his day job, but a carefully chosen career field.

Griffith, a native of Nashville, Tenn., joined the U.S. Army in 2001 with one aspiration: to join the proud ranks of the Army's armor branch.

"I knew I wanted to be a tanker since before I joined. My dad was armor. He served as a tank commander in Vietnam," he said.

Nearly a decade later, he is living that dream.

For the past year, he has served as the master gunner for Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. The highly decorated battalion has served as his second family since his arrival to the unit in 2001.

In 2004, the "Dreadnaughts" received orders they were to deploy in January 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The deployment would require him and the three additional Soldiers assigned to his tank's team to prepare the 65-ton military vehicle for a year-long mission to Iraq.

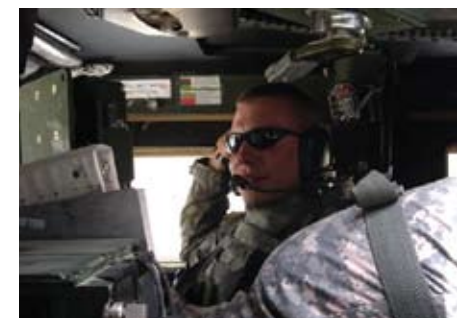
"It felt good deploying as part of a tank crew," Griffith said. "If I had my choice, I would spend every day on a tank."

Griffith's second deployment in May 2008 would find him returning to Iraq, however, with a very different mission and without his second skin, his tank. He was chosen as part of a select few Soldiers who served as the personal security detachment for Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, who was then serving as assistant division commander for the division.

"I learned a lot from serving on the PSD," Griffith said. "But I also looked forward to returning to my tank."

Once he returned from his second deployment in mid-2009, he quickly found himself reunited with his former unit as well as the military vehicle that initially brought him into the Army.

In early 2010, he once again departed



COURTESY PHOTO

**FROM TOP:** Sgt. 1st Class William Griffith of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., stands with his wife, Ashley, and daughter, Jaqueline, March 2 during his promotion ceremony on Fort Riley, Kan. Griffith recently deployed with the "Dreadnaughts," marking his third deployment; Griffith, front far right, poses for a picture with the members of his tank's team while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005; Griffith rides in a Humvee while serving in Iraq in 2008. During the deployment, Griffith served on a personal security detachment for Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, former assistant division commander of the 1st Inf. Div.

Fort Riley, home to the Dreadnaughts since 1987, for Fort Knox, Ky., to test his tank skills at the Army's Armor School. "I didn't know it at the time, but while I was deployed on the PSD, my leadership was already filing the paperwork for me to be entered into the master gunner course."

For the next 55-days, he would live and breathe the M1A1, studying and working with some of the Army's top tankers to master the finer details of his vehicle: the mechanics, electrical, hydraulic and weaponry systems.

One of four Fort Riley armor Soldiers selected for the course, he would leave with his master gunner certification.


"I felt very honored and humbled to get to attend the training when I returned," he said, explaining further that as a newly appointed master gunner, his duties included the execution and evaluation of tank training received by battalion Soldiers as well as assisting with troubleshooting and weapons maintenance for all of the unit's tanks.

"For the past year, I was able to help out with the knowledge I gained at master gunner school," he said. "For the past couple of months my responsibilities have shifted to focus on my duties as a platoon sergeant."

Last month, Griffith deployed with the Dreadnaughts to Afghanistan, though the battalion's tanks were deemed inapt for the unit's assigned mission in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Again, he is without his second skin.

For the next year, the Dreadnaught Soldiers will be working with Afghan Security Forces in conducting security operations.

Griffith is unsure on the route that his Army career will take upon his return, but he already knows exactly where he would like to see it go.

"I would like to go somewhere where they have tanks. Whether that is Fort Riley, or a school house somewhere," he said. "If the Army would let me pick, I'd be on a tank every day." 



Story by Jordan Chapman

# TESTING ONE'S LIMITS



COURTESY PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE ENHANCED COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE, 1ST INF. DIV. PAO

Day and night, Chinook aircraft pilots with the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., prepare for missions during their 12-month deployment to Iraq. The brigade returned to Fort Riley in February and March 2011.



1st Infantry Division

*test pilot knows no fear*

**CW4** Doug Adams is of average build and good character, but when duty calls, his skin turns to steel, his arms and legs are blades and rotors, he's loud, he weighs 23,401 pounds on an empty belly and he can fly. Sound like a boyhood dream? It's certainly close.

Welcome to the world of a 601st Aviation Support Battalion Chinook test pilot, where the fun never stops.

Though currently a part of Headquarters Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, CW4 Adams has been on the job as a test pilot for 20 years.

Safe to assume he knows his way around the cockpit, Adams has reached a point in his career where he and the helicopter are one, his crewman are his eyes, and the maneuverability he requires in a high stress situation comes as naturally as walking down the street.

Considering the missions he must undertake, becoming one with his machine has been an important endeavor, one only accomplished through countless hours of training and flight experience, of which Adams has roughly 2,500 hours.

Of course, the act of becoming a test pilot has been essential in Adams learning the "ins and outs" of his chosen aircraft.

Like everything else, learning a new skill requires more school.

"It's a course you get sent to after you become a senior pilot, when you have at least 500 to 1,000 hours under your belt and already experienced all the tactics in

**Based on that crew coordination you get everyone's comfort level so you can continue with the mission and change the mission as needed."**

—CW4 Doug Adams  
601st Aviation Support Battalion Chinook test pilot

being with a unit," Adams said, explaining the test pilot course is for pilots who are already comfortable with the aircraft, know how to fly and want to stretch their boundaries.

Once out of school, Adams found himself testing the airworthiness of Chinook helicopters after any scheduled maintenance or to test certain components that needed to be replaced.

Sounds scary, risky even, but the fear one would expect to be inherent in being a test pilot doesn't affect Adams, explaining that it's non-existent.

"There are at least three steps, or sets of eyes, that go over that aircraft and who test out those systems. In other words, we don't just go from putting it together and taking it to flight," he said, describing the process as first putting the helicopter back together, sending the helicopter through a series of diagnostics tests and then is passed on to a technical inspector, a senior mechanic who has "turned wrenches" for 10 to 12 years.

"They (technical inspectors) know what looks right, what goes together correctly and they can spot something. The third level, we actually run (the Chinooks) up on the ground before we fly," Adams said.

Without the fear, Adams is able to focus his mind where it matters the most, on keeping his newly maintained body safe from harm.

Achieving his level of comfort took about four years, but this is a job he can't do alone, which means he needs to be able to read his crew members on sight.

"Some of the new guys are kind of nervous to fly, so that keys me and the rest of the crew that we're not going to go out and do some of the maneuvers we might do with a more experienced crew," he said. "Based on that crew coordination you get everyone's comfort level so you can continue with the mission and change the mission as needed."

Knowing these protocols has brought mission success upon Adams, as well as his crew, countless times through the years.

It is through his passion for the job, indeed, the Chinook, and taking the time and effort to learn every aspect of his vehicle that he knows how to react when things go wrong, and the same can be said for all Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div.

Illustrated through their countless victories, whether overseas or stateside, it is easy to see that the vehicles and weapons operated by our brave Soldiers are truly one with the infantry.





SGT. KEVEN PARRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
**Sgt. Kyle Gibson attempts to reposition his advantage over Spc. Jermaine Yanzie during the Fort Riley combatives tournament at the Fort Riley combatives center on March 15.**

# Man Up

*Fort Riley combatives team holds division-wide tourney*

*Story & photos by Sgt. Keven Parry • 1st Infantry Division PAO*

WHEN THE SOLDIERS OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION place their feet on a combatives mat, they have accepted an agreement. There no longer is a choice between the instinctive question of “fight or flight.” Pain doesn’t matter and when told to begin, there is only one step to take: forward.

The Fort Riley combatives team held a division-wide tournament at their training center March 15, where a total of 21 competitors from various weight levels competed to not only represent their respective units, but for a chance to represent Fort Riley at this year’s All-Army Combatives tournament, a competition that the team has placed in the top three spots in since 2008. ➔





(continued from page 19)

Clearly established as a winning team, the tournament acted as a recruitment tool to replace those members who have since departed.

“We wanted to run a post tournament as a stop-gap between the weight

classes that we’re

missing, and to

see what other

talent that we

have out there,”

said Staff Sgt. Francisco Portillo, combatives instructor and

team noncommissioned officer in charge, explaining further

that new members will be able to learn

from the team’s already impressive base of competitors who have competed in both internal and national tournaments.

Instructors who ran and oversaw the tournament saw a lot of good aspects in those who competed, as well as a lot of room for improvement. “The level wasn’t that bad,” said Portillo. “Some of them showed good technique ... once you get tired, the only thing that’s left is technique.”

Many of the competitors that showed up displayed skills that will prove beneficial throughout their careers in combatives, while many others good conditioning, all of which will improve for those who made it high enough in the tournament to be chosen to train with the team.

The tournament had challenges for many of those with previous combatives experience. Soldiers often found that they had to rely on skills they had learned in the past in order to overcome an opponent who had been training recently.

Kyle Gibson, an Infantry Team Leader with B Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Heavy Brigade Combat Team 1st Inf. Div., said that his most challenging match was when he and another had to face off after being trained by the same instructor.

“He teaches the fundamentals first and then builds up from there,” said Gibson. “He had all the fundamentals.”

The combatives instructors believe that there is much hidden talent on Fort Riley, and they encourage any Soldier who has the interest to enroll in the tournaments they will continue to host until they find the team that will once again become All-Army Tournament champions. ▀

**The level wasn’t that bad. Some of them showed good technique ... once you get tired, the only thing that’s left is technique.”**

**—Staff Sgt. Francisco Portillo  
combatives instructor**



SGT. KEVEN PARRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Spc. Jermaine Yanzie attempts to gain full control of Command Sgt. Maj. David Boling during the Fort Riley combatives tournament at the Fort Riley combatives center on March 15.**



**TOP ROW FROM LEFT:** Spc. Jermaine Yanzie and Spc. Cheker Guerrier grapple during one of the early matches of the Fort Riley combatives tournament at the Fort Riley combatives center March 15; two competitors strive for domination while observed by a combatives instructor. Instructors served as referees during the tournament; Command Sgt. Maj. David Boling grapples with a younger soldier. **MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT:** Sgt. Jacob Tippet begins to break free of his opponent; Sgt. Kyle Gibson releases his hold on 2nd Lt. Matthew Valonski after the match is declared over; an instructor checks to ensure that safe maneuvers are being applied during a match. **BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT:** Spc. Cheker Guerrier begins to break the hold applied to him by Pfc. Jessie Burton; Sgt. Hector Pedroza pulls his opponent to the ground at the beginning of his match; Command Sgt. Maj. David Boling battles for control against his opponent.





Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Field, 7, stands with his squad during a farewell award ceremony April 15 at Barlow Theater on Fort Riley. The Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to grant Ian's wish to become a Soldier. Ian is currently battling Duchenne muscular dystrophy. **BELOW:** Ian prepares to surprise a bad guy with a grenade while squad leader 1st Sgt. Brandon McGuire provides instruction. **BOTTOM:** Ian zeroes in on his target with the help of a BRO friend at Fort Riley's Engagement Skills Trainer.



# Field Command

*Big Red One helps fulfill child's wish to become a Soldier*

Story & photos by Mollie Miller

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stood tall April 15 as the 1st Infantry Division's newest command sergeant major strolled into Barlow Theater on Fort Riley.

All eyes were locked forward as Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Field ascended the stairs to the theater's stage and turned to face his unit. With a small smile playing around the corners of his mouth, Ian quietly told the Soldiers standing before him to take their seats and, in a wave, every one sat down.

It may have been the first time in history that a group of tough, battle-tested infantrymen took orders from a 7-year-old.

The journey that brought Ian to the 1st Infantry Division began about two years ago when his parents, Jason and Angelia Field, noticed their youngest son didn't run like his siblings. A visit to Ian's pediatrician kicked off a series of doctor visits that eventually led to a diagnosis of

Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a disorder that involves rapidly worsening muscle weakness.

"He is in a wheelchair part time now but eventually it will get to a point where he is in a wheelchair fulltime," Jason said.

Following the diagnosis, the Field family was contacted by representatives from the Make-A-Wish Foundation inquiring about what they could do to help make a wish come true for Ian. Jason said his son's immediate response was that he wanted to be a Soldier.

Eventually, word of Ian's desire to be a Soldier reached the 1st Infantry Division and Col. Joseph Wawro, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander.

"Ian could have wished to see Mickey Mouse, he could have wished to see an astronaut, he could have wished to see or be anything and his wish was to be a Soldier," Wawro said.

Soon, Wawro's Soldiers in 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., were busy trying to figure out how to turn a 7-year-old boy into an American Soldier in just two days.

"We wanted to capture the total Army experience in two days so we scheduled events where Ian would get the badges and awards Soldiers earn during a 20 year career," 1st Sgt. Brandon McGuire said.

Ian's two day Soldier experience kicked off April 14 with an early morning enlistment and promotion ceremony in front of 1st Infantry Division headquarters. Surrounded by his parents, his brothers, Austin, 15, Carson, 12, and his sister, Savanna, 9, Ian raised his right hand and committed himself to the United States Army. Now an official Soldier, Ian was promoted to private 1st class and introduced to his squad, the men he would be training, eating and living with for the next two days.

"Ian's day is now, his time is now and we are proud to help make his wish come true," Wawro said as he sent the newest 4th IBCT Soldier out to train with his Black Lion squad.

During his two days with the Black Lions, Ian participated in the many activities that help prepare America's fighting men and women for battle. On the

first day, Ian tossed grenades, shot a variety of weapons, fired a Howitzer, saved a wounded comrade on the battlefield, rappelled down a wall, rode in a humvee through a simulated battle, arrested a bad guy and earned a lot of bragging rights as he beat his fellow Soldiers in a game of Call of Duty—Black Ops during a night at the barracks.

"It was amazing to see Ian light up on things that we do every day," Ian's squad leader, McGuire, said.

Although bad weather threatened to derail plans on the second day, Ian proved he was as tough as his comrades as he soldiered on through rain and sleet



## COMMAND SGT. MAJ. IAN FIELD'S AWARDS

The units below presented the following awards, decorations and gifts to Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Field

- 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment: Army Achievement Medal, the expert infantryman badge, the combat infantryman badge, the combat medical badge and the expert marksmanship badge
- 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment: Ranger tab and air assault wings
- 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment: Stetson and spurs
- 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment: 105mm Howitzer casing
- 4-1 Brigade Special Troops Battalion: Sapper tab
- 701st Brigade Support Battalion: Driver's badge
- 1st Engineer Battalion: Battalion coin & crest
- 1st Combat Aviation Brigade: Air Crew badge
- 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment and 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment: Top Tank award
- 101st Brigade Support Battalion: Army Commendation Medal & 1st Brigade coin

and heavy winds to fly a UH-60 Black Hawk simulator and drive a tank before attending his farewell award ceremony.

"I would like to thank Jason and Angelia for entrusting us with their treasure for the past 48 hours," Wawro said as he wrapped up Ian's farewell. "It has been our honor and privilege ... to have this young man, Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Field, in our ranks and our formation."

Throughout his visit, Ian had the opportunity to see just how many "Army things" his fellow Soldiers excel at—shooting, driving, flying, navigating and taking care of their buddies, but that's not all that the 1st Infantry Division troops do well.

While they may not look much like leprechauns or genies, Big Red One Soldiers are also pretty good at granting wishes, according to Ian's parents.

"They treated us like royalty," Jason said. "We are so grateful."


The Soldiers who had the opportunity to spend time with Ian during his rapid accession through the ranks seem equally grateful for the experience.

"When I first learned that Ian's one wish above all else was to be a Soldier I was truly humbled," said Lt. Col. Peter Shull, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt. "I hope that the last two days made his wish come true."

Pfc. Devin Thacker, a member of Ian's squad, said he considers April 14–15 two of his best days in the Army.

"Ian is a great kid and we got to do a lot of fun stuff with him," Thacker said. "I'm proud to have been part of making his wish come true."

McGuire, Ian's constant companion during the two day visit, said the time he spent with his little charge reminded him just how lucky he is to be able to serve his country as a Soldier.

"Never again will I complain about having to go to the field or train in bad weather because there are people like Ian who would give anything to be able to do what I do every day," he said. "Ian reminded a lot of us of something we tend to forget when we get stuck in the daily grind of things. He reminded us that Soldiers have the greatest job in the world." 





## 4th IBCT, Wildcat baseball see bright future for partnership

MANHATTAN—The words, “Raise your right hand,” echoed throughout Tointon Family Stadium during the Kansas State University Baseball pre-game activities March 4.

Issued forth from Col. Joseph Wawro, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, standing on the pitcher’s mound with 30 Soldiers behind him lining the bases from first to third, they soon all sounded off with booming voices.

In front of more than 1,000 Kansas State University baseball fans, the Soldiers re-affirmed their commitment to being a securer of freedom during a mass re-enlistment ceremony.

When asked how it felt to re-enlist in front of the fans at the K-State baseball game, Spc. Daniel Carlisle, an infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th IBCT, answered with bright eyes.

“It felt kind of good,” said the Boaze, Ala., native. “It was nice to see everyone support us. It was pretty cool.”

The 2nd Bn. 16th Inf. Regt. unit’s insignia the “Ranger Diamond” was unveiled before the start of the ceremony at right center field below the scoreboard. Smaller versions of the diamond also were displayed on the player’s game-day uniforms to showcase the

dual partnership between the K-State athletics department and the battalion.

“We wanted to do something that showed the linkage between the 2nd Bn. 16th Inf. Regt. and this great baseball team,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Lambert, commander of the “Rangers” Battalion. “We are really excited for where (the partnership) is headed.”

The Wildcats went on to defeat the Western Illinois University team, 6-4.

“I really think (the ceremony) captivated our players, and it captivated me,” said Brad Hill, Wildcats head baseball coach. “Just to see the commitment and loyalty to our country—it was unbelievable pride out there. It was something that we’re very proud to be a part of.”



## 12th IA Signal Regiment finishes communications training

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION K1, Iraq—Soldiers of Signal Regiment, 12th Iraqi Army Division concluded a nine-week com-

munications training course with a radio-telephone operator class at Contingency Operating Location K1, Kirkuk, March 10.

The class, supervised by Staff Sgt. Thomas Harrelson, communication specialist and assistant advisor to the Signal Regiment, reviewed the steps to operate a telephone switch board.

After finishing the start-up tests, Harrelson explained the steps to enter the phone’s information into the system, testing the phone functions, then deleting the information and disassembling the operating system.

Harrelson, a Brigham, Utah native, assigned to Company B, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., said the course provided the Iraqi Army soldiers of the Signal Regiment with an understanding of how to use their radio and telephone systems.

The nine-week course introduced the Iraqi soldiers to principles of radio theory, where the trainees learned about radio waves and usage of line-of-sight communications.

The Iraqi signal soldiers also learned to operate various radio systems during the class.

The familiarization training improved the student’s knowledge of both their equipment and their jobs, said Harrelson.

## 1-16th FRG provides comfort to Families of deployed Soldiers

Excitement and anticipation filled the room as the Families and friends of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, entered into the Barlow Theater on March 8.

Even though the ‘Iron Rangers’ are currently deployed, the unit’s Family Readiness Group is hard at work strengthening the cohesion of the battalion Family.

Capt. Reuben Bishop, 1st Bn. 16th Inf. Regt. Rear-Detachment commander, viewed the event as an opportunity to open the lines of communication, explaining that the Families were allotted time to discuss and share current deployment issues or concerns with both he and his attending staff.

The event consisted of a “Soldier Doll” presentation where FRG members offered Soldier dolls to all in attendance.

Dressed in an Army Combat Uniform (ACU) with yarn-like hair, the doll’s face is picture frame, a perfect place for a picture of their families hero.

Not only for memories, it was explained that the doll has been known to be used a comfort tool for children when their mother or father is absent for a long period of time.

“The dolls are a success with the families,” said Liz Tripp, 1st Bn. 16th Inf. Regt. Family Readiness Support Assistant.

“They were the first thing to go with the briefings. They went out very fast at the pre-deployment briefings.”

The dolls were supplied by ‘Operation Give a Hug,’ a non-profit organization designed to comfort military children during separation because of deployment. Since the battalion’s departure, more than 430 dolls have been distributed to the families of the “Iron Rangers.”

“It’s great. It’s a great time for the families to come out and meet us, for us to meet them, to touch base and to keep them in touch with their family members downrange,” Bishop said about the FRG.



## ‘Vanguard’ Battalion Soldiers train new Iraqi Army Soldiers

BAGHDAD—A key factor in a military’s success may be its ability to train new Soldiers. To assist in facilitating this ability within the Iraqi Army, Soldiers with Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist

Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division-Center, work regularly with new Soldiers of the 11th Iraqi Army Division on basic Soldier skills at Joint Security Station Old Ministry of Defense in eastern Baghdad.


During one regularly scheduled training session between Co. B Soldiers and their 11th Iraqi Army Div. counterparts, the day began with joint physical fitness training.

“(Working) together exercising helps improve their physical condition and build camaraderie,” said Pfc. Jesse Buck, an infantryman with Co. B and a Springfield, Ohio, native.

After exercising and personal hygiene, Soldiers reported to classrooms for their daily training. The Iraqi Soldiers were separated by their military jobs – infantry Soldiers went to one class and mechanics to another.

Some of the classes hosted by the American mechanics focused on the repair and maintenance of Humvees.

“The Soldiers in the class were mostly drivers, and we did have a few mechanics,” said Spc. Anthony Wong, a mechanic with Co. B and a Bethel, Pa., native.

The class consisted of two sessions. The first was a formal classroom environment in which the systems of the vehicle were discussed, while the second session offered a hands-on approach, which allowed Soldiers to identify individual parts. 



# ACUs in Action

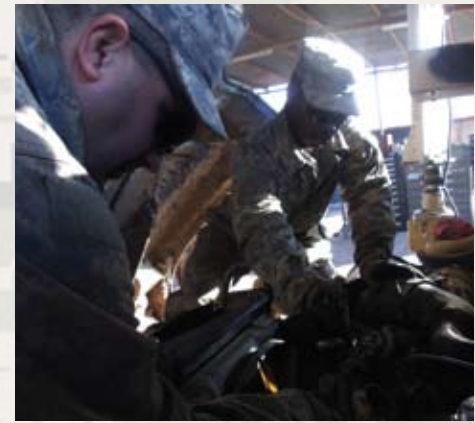
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JORDAN CHAPMAN, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO



SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON HAGER, 2ND AAB



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Spc. Aaron Crichlow of HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, 1st HBCT, completes a challenge Oct. 6 on Water Tank Hill while completing 'The Smoker,' an obstacle course included in the company's 'Headhunters Stakes.'



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO



PARKER ROME, GARRISON PAO



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO

**FROM TOP DOWN:** 1-year-old Wesley Francis inspects the American flag on a nearby Soldier while waiting for his father, Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Francis, to arrive during the Combat Aviation Brigade's first redeployment ceremony of 2011 early Feb. 13; Spc. Lucas Hawkins, a mechanic with Co. E, 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div., USD-C, and a Clinton, Mich., native, left, and Pfc. Reginald Dates, a mechanic with Co. E, 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., 2nd AAB, and a Childersburg, Ala., native, right, work on a Humvee at Camp Liberty, Iraq; a 1st Infantry Division Soldier pumps out a final push-up at Bill Snyder Family Stadium during a halftime show that involved the 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., reaffirming their commitment to the residents and leadership of Riley County with an Army Community Covenant signing.

**FROM TOP CLOCKWISE:** Spc. David Kovach, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crew chief serving in Iraq with the Enhanced CAB, 1st Inf. Div., sits on the tail ramp of his aircraft during a mission in the Baghdad area; Spc. Kiwanuas Harrington, an AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopter crew chief serving in Iraq, circles his aircraft after it returns from a mission in the Baghdad area; Spc. Bradley Kelly, a Soldier assigned to the Enhanced CAB, 1st Inf. Div., and native of Ripley, W. Va., runs across a weapons range during a night-time exercise at Camp Taji, Iraq; an HH-60M Medical Evacuation Helicopter spins up at Camp Taji, Iraq. The HH-60M is being used for the first time here by Co. C, 3rd Bn., 126th Avn. Regt.; Pfc. Tim Gallups, a paralegal specialist with the Enhanced CAB, 1st Inf. Div., and a native of Alexander City, Ala., won his unit's weight loss competition. Gallups lost nine pounds in the 10-week competition and lost a total of 24 pounds during his deployment to Iraq; Jim Pfaff, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, Fowler, prepares to shoot an M16 during a simulation April 20 at the Close Combat Tactical Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. CHAD MENEGAY





1

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

- [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil)
- [www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision](https://www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision)
- [twitter.com/fightingfirst](https://twitter.com/fightingfirst)
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