



DUTY FIRST!

JUNE 2011

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

Rangers rally

Division teams
finish in Top 20

- Maj. Gen. Mayville Jr. assumes command of 1ID
- 1ID, Fort Riley working to maintain a green environment
- Soldiers jumping at chance to join outdoorsmen club

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.

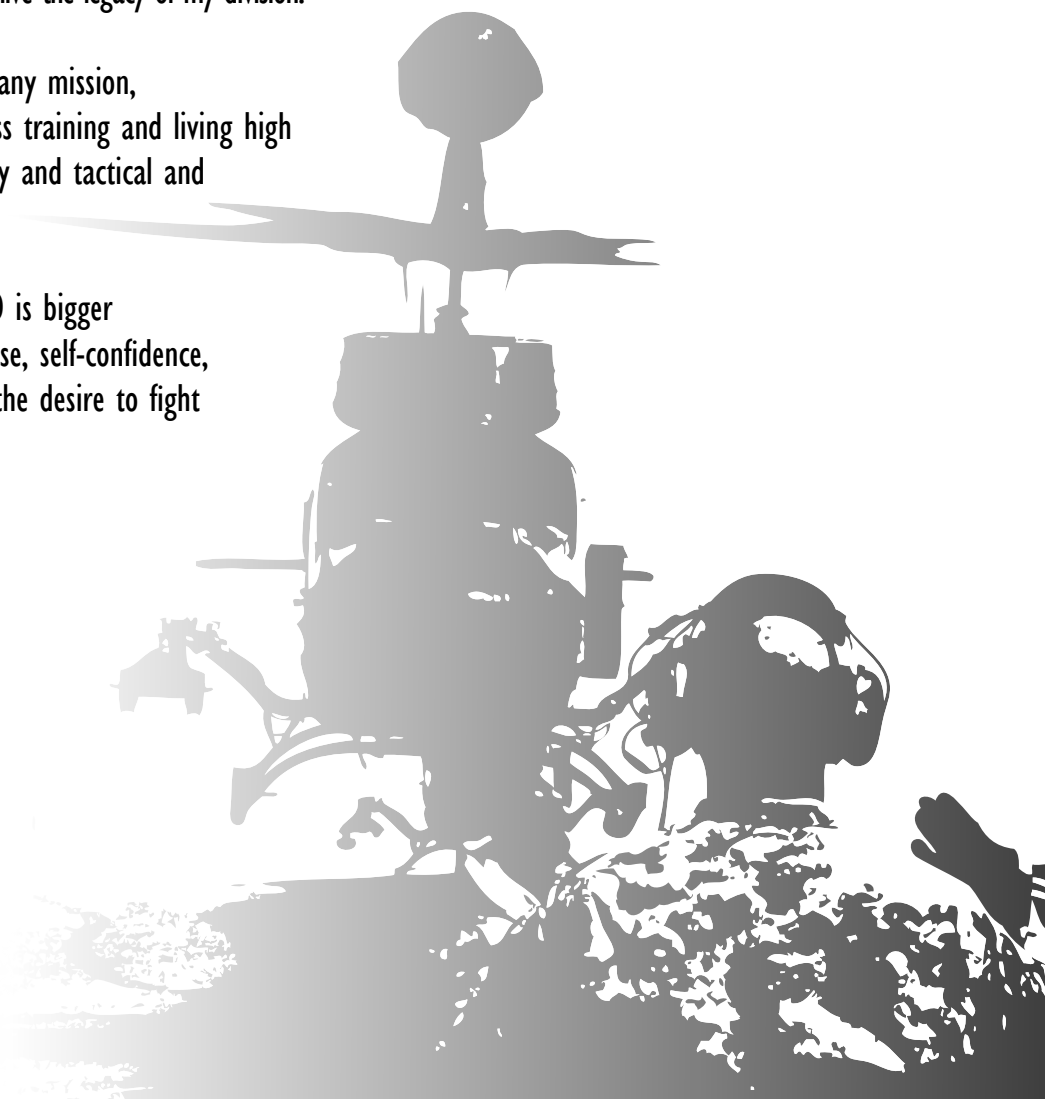
HONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain of command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

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.

June 2011 | www.riley.army.mil

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COVER: Capt. Steven Ackerson, 2nd Bn., 32nd FA Regt., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., moves a mock patient through a simulated battlefield while competing in the 2011 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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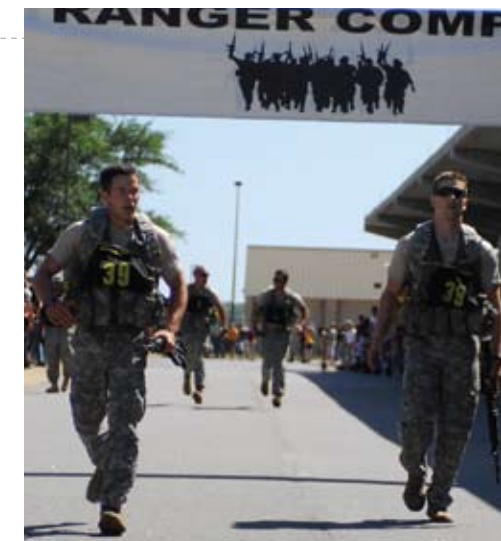
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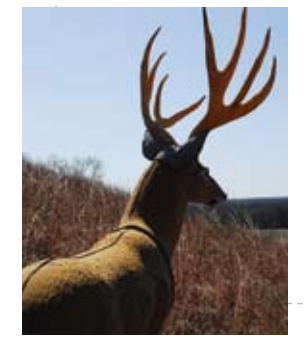
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Ready to maintain excellence

Maj. Gen. William C. Mayville Jr.

My Family and I are proud to be part of the Fort Riley Community and to begin our assignment in the 1st Infantry Division. We wish to extend our deepest gratitude for our warm reception to this magnificent community and to acknowledge the generous spirit that we have encountered since our arrival. In the coming days and weeks, we look forward to meeting you and discussing the issues and activities that are important to you.

This Division is very, very good at what it does. It is that way because of the exceptional skills and professionalism of the Soldiers and leaders who serve in the Division as well as the extraordinary support from those that enable it. I know that many within our ranks are currently deployed, have just



returned from a deployment or are preparing to deploy. Clearly, we are a Division and a military community at war. To that end, I want to assure you of my

commitment to sustain our Soldiers and Families, address the needs of our wounded, prepare Soldiers for success in the current conflict, and reset them effectively when they return while we prepare for an uncertain future.

Know that our accomplishments reflect admirably upon the great history of the "Big Red One" and remember that it is our fighting spirit and will to win that distinguishes us and continues to make us great. It is an honor to be among your ranks as Danger 6. Continue to be great and remain focused on the fundamentals of our profession: courage, commitment, fitness, discipline, adherence to our Creed and our nation's values and ideals.

No Mission Too Difficult, No Sacrifice Too Great ...

Duty First! 

Benefits of 'staying green'

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

In early January 2010, every Soldier on Fort Riley was given an obligation, to make the 1st Infantry Division and the land it sits on bigger, better and always ready.

It goes without saying that this objective has been at the heart of every training day we undertake day in and day out, but when Maj. Gen. Brooks revealed the Fort Riley-2015 Campaign Plan to "Big Red One" and community leaders alike, we were given a clear cut list of what must be done.

One area the plan focuses on is sustainability and the importance of maintaining the land we occupy, mainly, the grasslands our post sits on, as well as the prairies surrounding us.

Without the ecosystems providing our Soldiers with the 68,000 acres of training area we utilize, we wouldn't be the division we are today.

Outside of Fort Riley, the post manages the tallgrass prairie for both training and habitat-threatened endangered and rare species. If any species becomes listed as threatened, more aggressive management of their habitat would be required,



which could mean restricted training cycles during nesting seasons and reduced flexibility for range projects.

Though we often don't think of it, we are tied to the land and its many underfoot processes that sustain our rigorous training schedules.

We have already come a long way in ensuring Fort Riley remains self-sustainable. In the past two years, we have added alternative fuel vehicles to our


roadways, given van pool options to Soldiers and DoD Civilians who don't live close by, set up flexible work schedules and established the Fort Riley Energy Council. Things are on the right track, but it shouldn't stop there.

The Army says it's "Going Green," now we should remain vigilant in "Staying Green" in every way we can to keep your training strong, that which matters most for consistent success.

If all you can do to help is recycle, do it! In this instance, resiliency in the land and resiliency in you go hand in hand.

It is our duty to make this division the best it has ever been, and each day our nation's flag rises above the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters building, I smile, and know you are all doing great things to protect our nation.

We must keep looking forward and keep taking care of the land we occupy. Stay vigilant in this, and whatever challenge comes our way, I'm glad to know I have the Soldiers of the Big Red One to count on.

Now ... get after it! 

Gen. James Thurman, FORSCOM commanding general (left), hands the 1st Inf. Div.'s colors to Maj. Gen. William Mayville, incoming 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general (right), from Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the 1st Inf. Div.'s and Fort Riley's former commander.

The new face of

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. William Mayville Jr. travels road of leadership to top of 1st Infantry Division

By 1st Infantry Division PAO

He knows leadership, and he knows how to step out in front when danger is close. He inspires Soldiers and when morale is low, everyone knows who to turn to ... Attention! Major General present!

Soldiers, Families, Fort Riley personnel and surrounding community leaders formally welcomed Maj. Gen. William Mayville Jr., as the new commanding general for the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley on May 25.

Outgoing Commander Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks couldn't be more proud to pass his leadership on to Mayville, becoming the division's 75th commanding general, who promises to take the "Big Red One" to new heights.

Last serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations to Gen. (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal in support of the International Security Assistance Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, Mayville knows what it means to undertake responsibility and to stand strong wherever the road may lead, doubtlessly gained from his 29 year service record in the United States Army.

Joining the ranks of our nation's best in

★★★

**MAJ. GEN.
MAYVILLE'S
U.S. AWARDS**

- Defense Superior Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Legion of Merit
- Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
- Bronze Star Medal
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters)
- Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Army Achievement Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge (with Star)
- Expert Infantryman Badge
- Master Parachutist Badge (with 2 Bronze Stars)
- Pathfinder Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Ranger Tab

1982, Mayville has attended the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the United States Army Command and Gen-

eral Staff College. He holds a B.S. from the United States Military Academy, an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Technical Institute and an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Mayville's leadership under McChrystal was not his first time supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. He spent 2004 to 2006 as the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army South European Task Force (Airborne), Italy with duty as the Chief of Staff for the Combined Joint Task Force-76 in Afghanistan.

He was later assigned as the Deputy Commanding General for support for the 82d Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C., from Aug. 2008 to May 2009 after acting as Deputy Director for the U.S. European Command, Germany from 2006 to 2008. He later spent time as the Deputy Commanding General for Combined Joint Task Force-82 in Afghanistan from May to August, 2009.

Mayville rose to his current rank in 2009 and is eager to make his first foray leading the ranks of the Big Red One, where he is bound to see, first-hand, that the Soldiers on Fort Riley truly are the first to thirst for a fight. 🇺🇸



OPPOSITE PAGE: The computer's monitor has been determined to consume a big majority of the unit's electricity. The Fort Riley Energy Council urges the post's work force to turn off their monitors when they leave their office for a meeting and at the end of the day. **TOP LEFT:** Tasks such as turning off the lights to a conference room following a meeting or when leaving the office can reduce the post's energy consumption immensely. **TOP RIGHT:** The Fort Riley Energy Council advises the post's work force to connect their monitors, desktop printers and chargers into power strips and turn the power strip off while they are away for a meeting or leaving at the end of the work day.

A LIGHTS OUT PLAN

Post looks to *small* changes for *big* savings

Story & photos by Stephanie Hoff

In a society that generally advocates 'bigger is better,' post officials are trying to promote the exact opposite. In fact, smaller energy bills today not only help the environment but can lead to bigger and better projects in the post's future.

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

"We made great improvements from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2010 and

actually exceeded the goal set for 2010," said Norman Zuercher, the post's new energy manager. The total energy consumed during fiscal year 2003 was determined as the post's baseline to evaluate future years, he said. "In fiscal year 2010, we achieved a 22.2 percent reduction in total energy usage compared to the baseline. The goal was 15 percent."

Nearly \$18 million is spent annually for the post's energy consumption. Reducing Fort Riley's energy usage by 3 percent each year would generate a savings of nearly \$540,000 per year and a savings of \$5.4 million over 10 years.

"The post basically saves half a million dollars a year just by going down 3 percent in energy usage," said David Scruggs, Fort Riley's chief of the Engineering Services Division for Public Works. "I think it's obtainable. It just takes a little effort on everybody's part."

This past January, Zuercher and two new technicians were hired to fill the vacant positions reserved by Public Works' energy office. The positions had previously been unoccupied for an extended period of time, while awaiting funds. Zuercher and his team have since been diligently implementing and restarting

programs that were previously neglected due to the shortage of staff members.

"We are working to reactivate the Energy Monitoring Program," Zuercher said. "Similarly, the (Fort Riley) Energy Council has been inactive for several years and we are working to get it reactivated."

The Fort Riley Energy Council is an organization designed to ensure the post actively participates in the Army's 'Triple Bottom Line-Plus.' The program promotes identifying alternative technologies and the maximization of limited resources without causing disruption to the mission. Topics such as ways to reduce the post's energy consumption and identifying alternative energy sources will be discussed by the group, Zuercher added. Participants for the council are still being determined but most likely will be comprised of brigade commanders, garrison staff and chaired by the commanding general, he said.

"The plan is to meet quarterly to review and discuss our energy conservation plans, actions and results."

With the establishment of the Energy Monitoring Program, Zuercher and his team hope to raise the work force's awareness of such ways to reduce the post's energy consumption. Under the program,

each building on Fort Riley will be appointed an Energy Monitor, who would be trained in energy conservation and responsible for distributing energy awareness information to the personnel in their building.

Tasks such as turning off lights when they leave their office or a conference room, and utilizing power strips for their monitors, desktop printers and chargers for items such as cell phones and iPods are simple tasks that can reduce the post's energy consumption immensely, Scruggs said.

"At the end of the day or even when you leave the office for a meeting, if you just hit that power strip and turn it off, a lot of energy is saved. If I did that and then the next person does that, the power strips pay for themselves in less than two months," Scruggs said. Another repeat offender that can be costly to the post's energy bill is that morning 'Cup of Joe,' he added.

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

Construction of new energy efficient buildings and remodeling the post's aging facilities are some procedures

ITEMS RECYCLED ON FORT RILEY DURING FY 2010

- Cardboard - 1,622,799 pounds
- Newspaper— 77,426 pounds
- White Paper— 142,851 pounds
- Aluminum— 13,814 pounds
- Steel— 39,288 pounds
- Plastic— 72,710 pounds
- Glass— 46,658 pounds
- Pallets— 129,000 pounds
- Mixed Paper— 110,651 pounds
- Toner Cartridges— 2,215 pounds

ITEMS ACCEPTED AT FORT RILEY RECYCLING

- Cardboard
- Newspaper/packing paper
- Mixed paper (colored, magazines, catalogs, phonebooks, manila folders, envelopes, etc.)
- Plastics (numbers 1 through 7)
- Steel cans
- Aluminum (cans, foil, pie pans)
- Glass (clear, brown, green)
- Styrofoam
- Toner Cartridges
- White Printer paper
- Wooden pallets

*Containers originally holding food or drink products must have the lids removed and products rinsed out.

currently taking place on Fort Riley to assist in reducing the post's energy consumption as well as its carbon footprint. Installing solar water heating systems in barracks, and ground source heat pumps into buildings as well as improving existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are just some of the projects the post currently has in the works, Zuercher said.

Whether it's turning off a power strip or a conference room light following a meeting, these small changes to one's habits can create big savings for the Fort Riley habitat.

Editor's Note: Some information from this article previously appeared in the July 2010 issue of the *Duty First! Magazine*.

Brian Monser, DPW-Environmental Conservation Technician, monitors a prescribed burn April 12 near Camp Funston.

Manning the

FIRE

Team strives to create habitat suitable for Fort Riley creatures

Story & photos by Mollie Miller

IT IS A DAVID AND GOLIATH story for the ages—a two-pound greater prairie chicken vs. an almost 150,000-pound M1 tank.

In theory, the feathers and beak of the chicken are no match for the guns and armor of the tank but, just as a small boy killed a giant with a sling shot, if the conditions are right, the chicken will stop the tank every time. **(see story on page 10)**



ABOVE: “Burn Boss” Mark Neely works to make sure a prescribed burn near Camp Funston on April 12 doesn’t jump the fire break. **OPPOSITE PAGE FROM MIDDLE:** Large numbers of greater prairie chickens live on Fort Riley. While they are doing well at the Flint Hills region post, their numbers are declining elsewhere. Officials at Fort Riley are keeping a close eye on population numbers to ensure greater prairie chickens continue to do well on post; currently, Fort Riley has three animals living within post boundaries considered “endangered,” but only one has any impact on the training area. The Topeka shiner is a small, silver colored fish that lives in the training area along Wildcat Creek. To preserve the shiner’s habitat, restrictions are in place that limit where tanks may cross the creek (**OPPOSITE TOP**).

Where does the tiny chicken get so much power? The answer is a simple one—there is power in numbers ... or, in the case of the Greater Prairie Chicken, there is power in low numbers.

“Throughout the Great Plains, the numbers of greater prairie chickens have been declining but the numbers are holding steady at Fort Riley,” Alan Hynek, Directorate of Public Works-Environmental Division Conservation Branch Chief, said. “If their population numbers fell here, it would be difficult for us. We would likely have to train differently than we do now because of the restrictions that may have to be put in place.”

Every day, Hynek and his team at DPW-Environmental participate in a delicate balancing act as they strive to create an environment that not only benefits the people and animals who call Fort Riley home but also ensures this central Kansas post will remain one of the Army’s premier training sites for years to come. Whether “managing” local animal populations, setting fires to preserve the tall grass prairie ecosystem or

forming partnerships with surrounding landowners, the Fort Riley team is actively addressing environmental challenges that could adversely affect the training mission.

“Fort Riley is one of the best places to train heavy mechanized equipment and we want to keep it that way,” Hynek said. “Things are in good shape right now but we must be vigilant in order to keep it that way.”

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

A key component of keeping Fort Riley’s land open to training for years to come is ensuring that no animal living on the property ends up on a threatened or endangered list. Animals considered threatened or endangered receive special protections to stabilize and grow population numbers. At Fort Riley, these restrictions could place extra stress on the training mission as areas become off limits to protect things like habitats and breeding grounds.

Currently, Fort Riley has three animals living

within post boundaries considered “endangered” but only one has any impact on the training area. The Topeka shiner is a small, silver colored fish that lives in the training area along Wildcat Creek. To preserve the Shiner’s habitat, restrictions are in place that limit where tanks may cross the creek.

“The (Topeka shiner’s) impact is minimal—the current mission appears to get along very well with them,” Hynek said.

To ensure no other Fort Riley animal joins the Topeka Shiner on the endangered list, Hynek and his team keep a close eye on several animals currently on watch lists.

“We have a dozen or so birds on watch lists,” he said. “They are not listed as endangered and we want to keep it that way.”

The greater prairie chicken and the Henslow’s sparrow are two birds Hynek’s team keep a close eye on. Both birds were once abundant throughout North America but numbers have dropped significantly because of habitat loss. At Fort Riley, both populations are holding steady thanks in part to the work of the environmental team.

BURN IT UP

To ensure animals like the greater prairie chicken and the Henslow’s sparrow continue to thrive on Fort Riley, the environmental team must preserve the tallgrass prairie ecosystem that runs through the post. The most effective way to do this, according to Hynek, is prescribed burning.

“Prescribed burning has to happen for the prairie to continue,” Hynek said.

Brian Monser, DPW-Environmental Conservation Technician, said if burning were to cease on Fort Riley, trees would begin to sprout “everywhere” which could make some training difficult and would be a terrible blow to the animals living on the prairie.

“These animals are not used to trees,” he said. “One of the worst things that could happen to animals like the



greater prairie chicken is having a tree spring up in the middle of the prairie.”

The benefits of the fall and spring burning extend further than habitat preservation. Hynek said the fires continue a long tradition of prairie rebirth that has made the land very hardy.

“Fort Riley is one of the best places to train heavy mechanized equipment because the soils and vegetation are resilient—you can do whatever you need to here and things will always grow back,” he said.



COURTESY PHOTO

GOOD NEIGHBORS


Animal management and prairie burning are both vital to the continued success of the Fort Riley training environment but all the work could be for nothing if others outside the borders of post are not working toward the same goals according to Hynek.

“We can preserve our little area well enough but that still isn’t good enough,” he said. “All of the Flint Hills has to have a part of this effort.”

Partnerships with individuals, organizations and communities ensure the tallgrass prairie and the animals that live in this ecosystem will continue to thrive. To that end, Fort Riley has joined forces with various universities, local land owners and groups like the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance.

“We don’t want to be an island out here where everything around here grows up in trees and we are the only prairie left,” Hynek said. “These partnerships work out great—it helps them and it helps us.”

Hynek is confident that careful planning, watchful eyes and strong community partnerships will create a place where Soldiers will be training, fish will be swimming, tanks will be driving and chickens will be cackling far into the future.

“From a natural resources standpoint, Fort Riley will be an ideal training location for many years to come,” he said. 



COURTESY PHOTO



ABOVE: A group of Fort Riley Van Pool users gets ready to head home at the end of the day. The Fort Riley Van Pool Program began in 2009 and, since the program's beginning, it has helped taken at least 121 cars off the road. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Dave Jones arrives at the Manhattan Mall, the pick-up point for his van pool. Jones, a member of the Fort Riley Directorate of Public Works team, has participated in the post's Van Pool Program since June 2009.

Although every bit helps when it comes to protecting the world around us, people who truly want to make a lasting difference in the health of the environment need not look so intently into garbage cans or stare angrily at leaky faucets. True change agents committed to improving the environment must allow their gaze to wander out the window to the heart of a typical citizen's most polluting activity of the day—driving their personal vehicle.

Officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said that while emissions from an individual car are generally low, when that one car turns into hundreds or thousands, the emission levels grow exponentially.

To ease the impact that Fort Riley's Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians have on the environment, the post created a van pool program in 2009 aimed at reducing the number of vehicles on the road and thereby reducing the amount of pollution being generated at the home of the 1st Infantry Division.

"Since the beginning of the program, we have taken 121 cars off the roads," Laura Morris, Fort Riley Van Pool coordinator, said. "In comparison to the thousands of personnel who commute to and from Fort Riley on a daily basis, this amount may seem small, but every bit helps."

The Fort Riley Van Pool Program is serviced by VPSI Inc. and composed of groups of four to 15 people who live in the same community and commute to and from work together. The group shares the lease and fuel costs for the van and establishes pick-up routes and times. As of May 1, Fort Riley had 24 established van pools running to and from towns throughout the Flint Hills region.

Sharon Blea has commuted from her home in Manhattan to her job at Fort Riley's Directorate of Logistics for 28 years. In March, when gas prices hit \$3.50 per gallon, she decided that her car and her bank account had had enough, so she joined the van pool.

"There are several good reasons why I wanted to participate in the program,"



Typically, Soldier and DAC van pool users have no out of pocket expense as the monthly vouchers they receive are an employee benefit paid for by the Department of the Army's Mass Transportation Benefit Program.

"This program has to be saving me thousands of dollars each year," van pool user Christine Harwood-Seets said. "My husband and I were able to eliminate a vehicle payment and all the scheduled services like an oil change every six weeks."

Harwood-Seets has been involved with the program since November 2009 and commutes to and from Abilene with her husband and four other people who all work at the Directorate of Public Works. Although saving money was her initial reason for joining the van pool, Harwood-Seets has come to realize a lot of good can come from the program.

"This helps my morale and the bottom line on my household budget," she said. "Plus traffic flow (at Fort Riley) is four cars smaller because of our van pool."

The benefits of the van pool program are many, agrees Morris. Whether saving money by not having to pay for gas or car service, saving time because there are fewer cars on the road to cause accidents or clog up traffic, or saving the environment by reducing car emissions, the van pool program seems to be a good choice for many on this central Kansas post. Morris is hoping that as roads begin to fill up with redeployed Soldiers, Fort Riley community members will begin to realize what a great commute alternative the van pool program is and take advantage of the free money and easy travel that is waiting for them.

"It is just a matter of changing our mind set," Morris said. "We have been so spoiled always having cars just outside our door but the truth is ... van pools just make sense."

For more information about the Fort Riley Van Pool Program, e-mail Morris at laura.morris3@us.army.mil or call 800-826-7433 (VAN-RIDE).

GET ON THE BUS

The Fort Riley community may soon notice more than just school busses traversing the roads around their homes and work places as officials launch a new experimental program to see how well a bus system would do on post.

ATA Bus, a private, not-for-profit paratransit bus system, operates a demand response general public transportation service for Fort Riley and surrounding communities. One way fares range from \$2 to \$4. Individuals wishing to ride the bus must call the dispatcher 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride.

For more information or to schedule a ride, call 537-6345 or 877-551-6345 or visit www.rileycountyks.gov/ATA.

Blea said. "It is good for the environment, it's a good opportunity to make new friends, it's good for post traffic and it's good for my pocket book."

hitchin' a ride on 1-800-VAN-RIDE

Riley van program pools together conservation efforts



Story & photos by Mollie Miller

EVERY DAY, IN NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS FORT RILEY AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE FLINT HILLS REGION, PEOPLE ARE DILIGENTLY WORKING TO DO THEIR PART TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. WHETHER CAREFULLY SORTING PAPERS, CANS

AND BOTTLES, TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS WHEN A ROOM IS EMPTY OR INSTALLING WATER SAVING SHOWER HEADS, MANY HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ADOPTED "GREEN LIVING" PRACTICES IN AN EFFORT TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

SOUND

Sergeant Major gets unit to buy into recycling's positive benefits

Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew McDowell has a great respect for the outdoors. During his off-duty hours, he can commonly be found with his bow in the woods or lounging on his boat on the lake.

He carries such respect for the environment, that if he sees a piece of trash while out on the hunt, he'll pick it up. That same passion for the environment moved from his home life to his work place when he decided to get his unit involved.

McDowell explained that though environmentally beneficial, that was not the sole reason for launching his squadron-wide initiative to promote recycling.

Two years ago, when he assumed his position as the command sergeant major of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, he made a promise to his Soldiers that he would resurrect the unit's spur rides and formal dinners, events the unit has not been able to conduct because of deployments and hectic reset schedules. Not only are they busy, but such events can weigh down the pocketbook.

After the unit returned from their second deployment in less than four years, McDowell wanted to keep his promise, but he needed to find a way to make the events affordable for his Soldiers.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Spc. Zack Simpson, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, helps his teammates sort through recycling. **LEFT:** Spc. Charles Preston (center), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, enjoys his recycling duties because he knows he is helping his unit in a way they never have before.

"I haven't forgotten where I came from," he said. "When I was a young Soldier and we went to formals, it was very expensive. So I always told myself that if I was in the position to do something, to make it inexpensive while still hanging on to the customs, courtesies and traditions of the military; I was going to do that."

Enter his recycling program.

As McDowell would walk through his unit's headquarters, pondering how he could conduct a formal-military dinner for the squadron without having to charge the average \$40 per person fee, he would walk by a series of trash receptacles that contained dozens of plastic bottles and aluminum cans that had been thrown away each day by the Soldiers.

What came next was an outpour of support from the unit's leadership and Soldiers.

"The one thing about this squadron ... all I have to do is ask. I don't have to tell them anything," McDowell said. "It was easy to sell it to the Soldiers. (The program) is not (on a) 'volun-told' basis. I just asked them, 'Hey, ya'll want to come on board with this?' and the

It's gotten a lot of people who live off post involved as well. My neighbors see us (recycling), and being in the military, I think we should set the example. When they see us doing things like that it just looks positive and it benefits the Army.

—Sgt. 1st Class Grant Pratt, 1st Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt., 4th IBCT

next thing I know, I have garbage bags full (of recycling)."

Nowadays, every Friday, a group of Soldiers led by Sgt. 1st Class Grant Pratt load up the recyclable items that are placed behind the squadron's headquarters and they bring the items down to the Fort Riley Recycling Center.

"The guys really enjoy it. First of all, they know they're working for themselves," Pratt said, referencing the money the unit receives for its recycling items.

"This gives them a reason to do it. They've really jumped on board with it. It's really started to grow."

Initiating their recycling program also started a positive chain-of-events they didn't expect. In addition to recycling at work, the unit's Soldiers have begun to bring in recycled items from their homes and barracks to boost their output, and consequently, money they can put toward unit events.

"It's gotten a lot of people who live off post involved as well," Pratt said, who lives in nearby Abilene. "My neighbors see us (recycling), and being in the military, I think we should set the example. When they see us doing things like that it just looks positive and it benefits the Army."

McDowell acknowledged the many environmental benefits to recycling and praised the Fort Riley community for rewarding those Soldiers and units who recycle.

"I know (in the end) it's about taking care of the Soldiers," he said. "Fort Riley does a great job with their recycling program and my hat goes off to those guys down there, as well as to my Soldiers who dove right in." ▀

Pitching In

STB touts rewards of recycling program

Story & photos by Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine

The simple act of dropping off a few items that could have been tossed into the trash bin has now turned into one big bin that benefits his whole battalion. Spc. Nicholas Steele remains modest when asked about the recycling program his battalion began in response to his resourcefulness.

While dropping off items to the Fort Riley Recycling Center one day, Steele, a Soldier of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, collected information to enter his unit in the facility's recycling program.

"Everyone has been real supportive of (the recycling program)," Steele said. "It's a great feeling knowing that we're helping everyone out; helping out the whole battalion."

Steele explained that the facility offers an incentive program for all units that bring in recyclable items. Under the program, units are grouped together based on their troop strength. It is designed to keep smaller battalions or units from having to compete with larger ones, said Sgt. 1st Class Peter Wunschel, the unit's motor sergeant. The units that bring in the most pounds of recyclable items receive money to use toward their morale and welfare funds.

Once he received the nod to begin the program, Steele and a group of fellow Soldiers from the battalion's maintenance section collected the necessary recycling bins and containers to place around the unit's headquarters and companies. The response they received was astonishing, said Sgt. Jeremy Reed, the maintenance section's noncommissioned officer in

Everyone has been real supportive (of the recycling program). It's a great feeling knowing that we're helping everyone out; helping out the whole battalion."

**Spc. Nicholas Steele,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion,
4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team**

charge. Steel's enthusiasm toward the program has no doubt played a part in the unit's successful participation, he added.

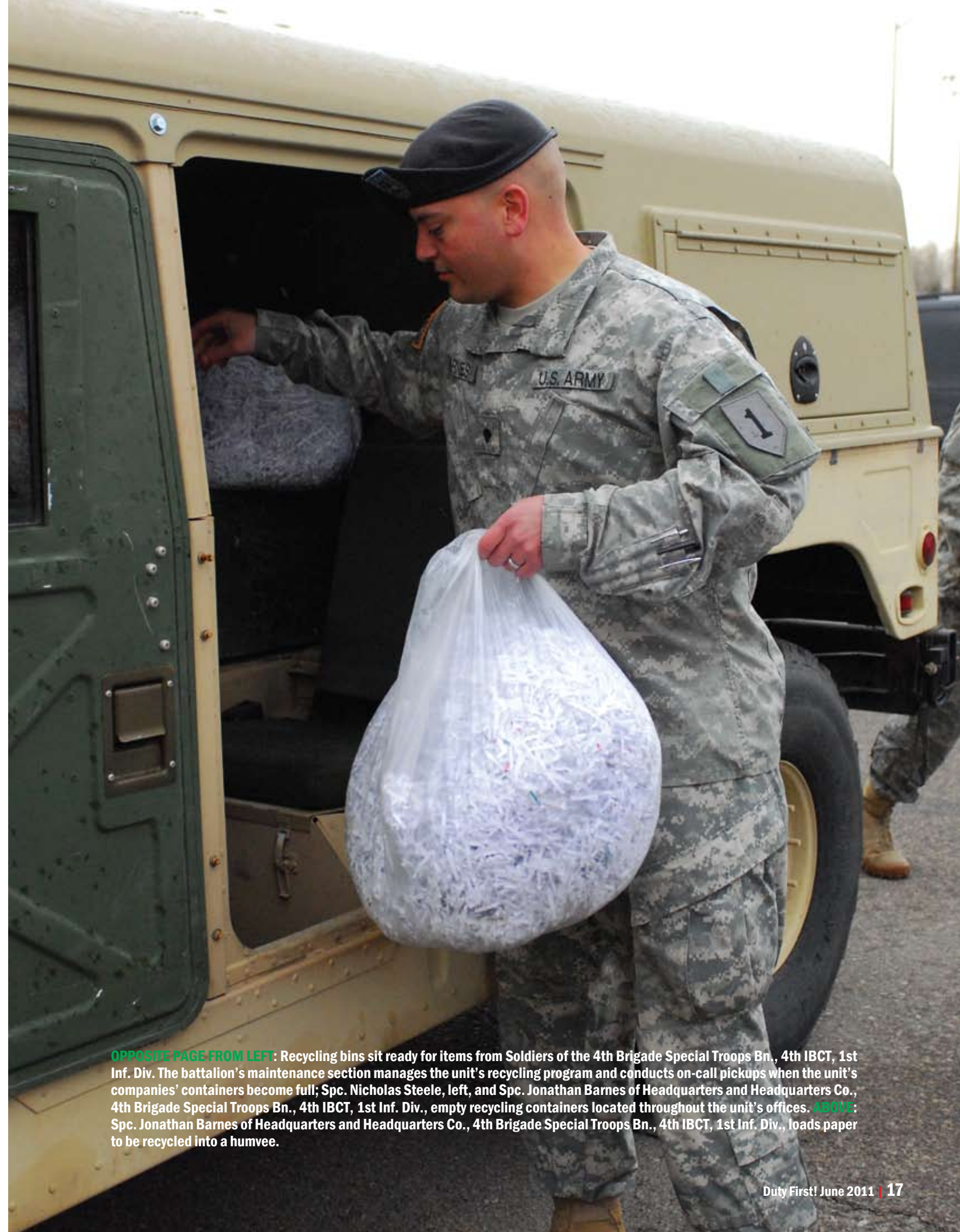
"I gave (Steele) the responsibility of the program and he just rolled with it," Reed said.

The total pounds of recyclable items are calculated on a quarterly basis. Having only entered into the recycling program mid-quarter, the unit was still able to collect more than 1,500 pounds—placing them in second place for their grouping.

"We were literally called dumpster-divers," laughed Wunschel in reference to the times their unit's Soldiers could be seen removing recyclable items that had been placed in trash bins.

The unit's program now operates on a weekly to bi-weekly collection schedule, with on-call collection available as well.

"I think it's pretty necessary. I heard somewhere that if you turn in just one bottle, it keeps a television on for another hour," Steele said. "The Army uses a lot of energy so it's pretty necessary (to recycle)."



OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT: Recycling bins sit ready for items from Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Special Troops Bn., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. The battalion's maintenance section manages the unit's recycling program and conducts on-call pickups when the unit's companies' containers become full; Spc. Nicholas Steele, left, and Spc. Jonathan Barnes of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 4th Brigade Special Troops Bn., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., empty recycling containers located throughout the unit's offices. **ABOVE:** Spc. Jonathan Barnes of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 4th Brigade Special Troops Bn., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., loads paper to be recycled into a humvee.



STAFF SGT. NATHANIEL SMITH, USDS

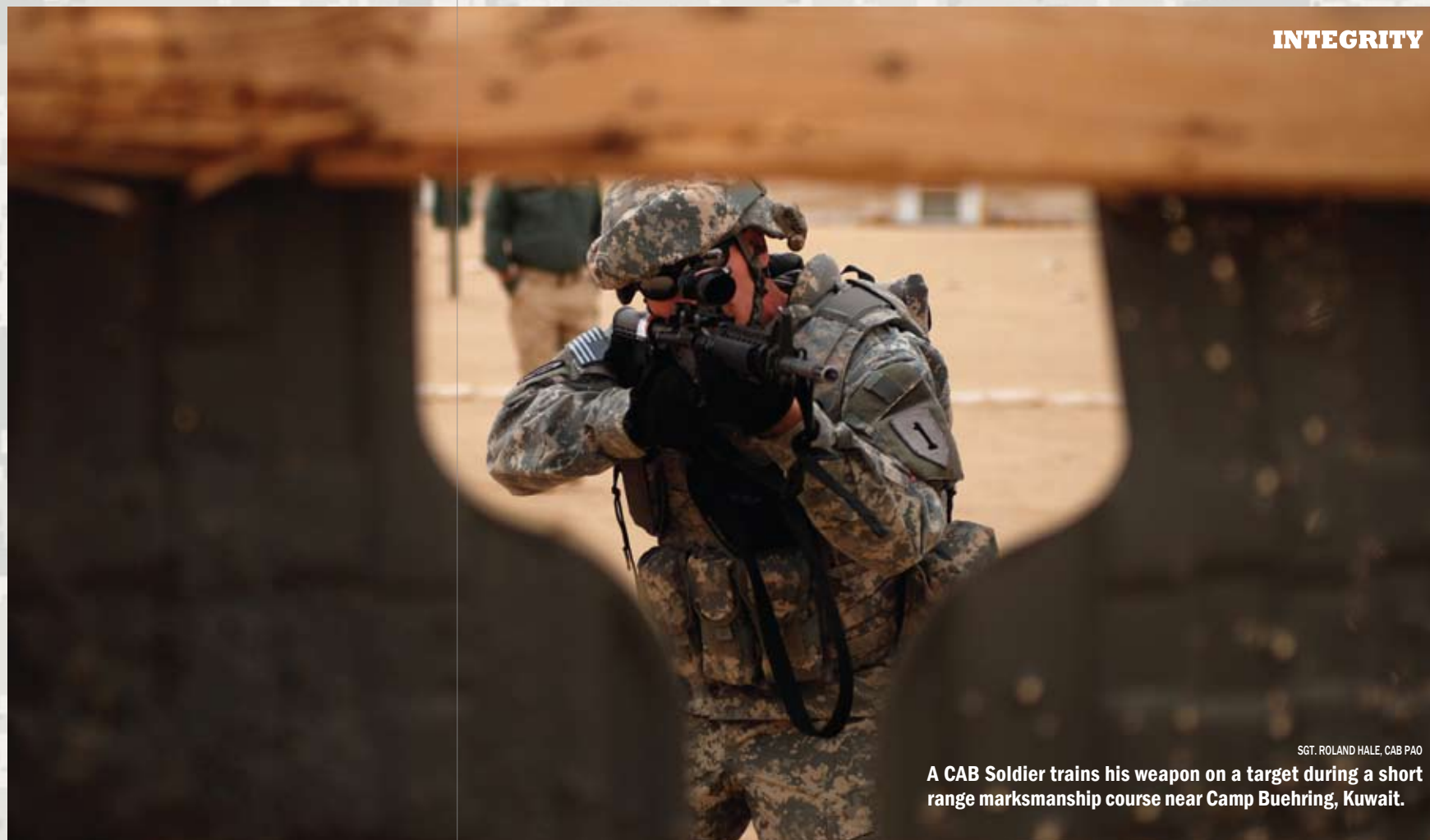
LOYALTY

ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, United States Division-South deputy commanding general for maneuver, left, re-enlists Spc. Jessica Jernigan, Gibbs' administrative assistant and a Hampton, Va., native, right, aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in flight above southern Iraq. **RIGHT:** Pfc. Jesse Buck, right, an armor crewman with Co. B, 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., and a Springfield, Ohio, native, explains the proper way to disassemble and clean a rifle to a group of Iraqi Soldiers with the 11th Iraqi Army Div. March 7 at Joint Security Station Old Ministry of Defense, Iraq.



SPC. WILLIAM K. ERWATINGER, 2ND AAB

DUTY



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO

A CAB Soldier trains his weapon on a target during a short range marksmanship course near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

INTEGRITY

BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: Lt. Col. Paul Dismer, commander of the 541st CSSB, 1st Sust. Bde., 1st Inf. Div., right, plays bingo with one of the veterans at the Kansas Veterans Home; Lt. Col. Kenneth Chase, commander of the 1st Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., CAB, 1st Inf. Div., left, pins an Air Medal on the chest of Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Kearns, center, during an end of tour award ceremony Feb. 1 at Camp Taji, Iraq; Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets march past an M1A1 Abrams Battle Tank in the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment motor Pool; members of the Patriot Guard Riders escort the procession of 1st Lt. Eric Yates, a Rineville, Ky., native, from Godman Army Airfield in Fort Knox, Ky.

going, going, GONE GREEN

The Army's 7 most renewable resources...

COURTESY PHOTO



RESPECT

SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB PAO



SELFLESS SERVICE

SPC. DANIEL STOUTMIRE, 2ND HCRT PAO



PERSONAL COURAGE

STAFF SGT. BEN K. NAVRATIL



HONOR



RANGER

1st Lt. Joshua Gorczynski, 1st Bn., 28th Inf., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. completes a rope-drop obstacle while participating in the 2011 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

**by land,
sea
or
air**

*Division's Ranger teams
excel at national competition*

For the past 27 years, U.S. Army Rangers representing units from across the world have set out for Fort Benning, Ga., where for three days they compete on tasks designed to test them physically and mentally.

A total of 51 teams, comprised of two Soldiers each, registered for this year's competition. Of those teams, three of them were there representing the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in the 2011 U.S. Army's Best Ranger Competition. →→→

Stories & photos by Stephanie Hoff



(continued from page 21)

With their game faces on, the Soldiers arrived to Fort Benning at the end of March to begin preparations for the competition that took place April 15–17.

The six Soldiers representing the 1st Inf. Div. in this year's competition were: Capts. Joshua Hunsucker and Steven Ackerson; Capt. Christopher Johnson and 1st Lt. Shaun Pothin; and 1st Lts. Joshua Gorczynski and Nicholas Fender. This year marked the first time each of the Soldiers competed in the demanding three-day challenge.

In keeping with the event's tradition, competitors are not made aware of the testing sequence until their arrival at the testing site. Recurring events that have acclaimed historical recognition as some of the competition's most grueling include: the helocast, where teams are required to jump from a helicopter into water and swim ashore; the "Buddy Run," a race of unknown distance that often includes a swim; and the "Darby Queen," a one-mile obstacle course set deep in the post's wooded landscape.

"It's been amazing to get to watch him compete," said Kelly Hunsucker of her husband, Joshua. "When they train on (Fort Riley), the Families don't get many opportunities to watch them. This has been my first time getting to witness their abilities with my own two eyes. It's wonderful getting to see how strong and talented they are."

The competition kicked off at 6 a.m. April 15 with a fitness test. Once they took their first step, they committed to the next 60 hours, knowing there was no scheduled time for sleep or relaxation. Within

that time, they would be required to complete such tasks as marksmanship, a rope climb, rappelling and travel more than 60 miles on foot.

"We planned on just making it to the finish line," Fender said of himself and teammate, Gorczynski, who completed the event with a 15th place finish. "As the competition progressed we found ourselves trying to move up in the rankings. (Gorczynski) and I feel pretty good because we exceeded the goals we set for ourselves."


Throughout the competition, participants acquired points for their success during each task. The final day's events included the helocast, the water confidence test and the "dreaded" Darby Queen.

"It's almost like you go into 'robot mode,'" Joshua Hunsucker said. "You don't really think too much about it at the time and just do what is directed of you at each task. It feels great to have finished it all the way through."

Thirty-one out of the initial 51 teams completed the event.

"Team 39," comprised of Hunsucker and Ackerson, were awarded 19th place, marking the second "Big Red One" team to not only complete the event but to receive a top 20 finish.

Despite the cuts, bruises and swollen feet... all four "Dragon" Brigade Soldiers who crossed the event's finish line said they would participate in the competition again if given the opportunity.

"They did awesome," said Command Sgt. Maj. Wylie Hutchison, 4th IBCT's command sergeant major. "I'm very proud of all of them." 



FROM TOP LEFT DOWN: 1st Lts. Joshua Gorczynski, left, and Nicholas Fender, both of 1st Bn., 28th Inf., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., race to the finish line to mark their completion of the water confidence test during the 2011 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.; 1st Lt. Joshua Gorczynski, 1st Bn., 28th Inf., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. completes a hand grenade course; Capt. Joshua Hunsucker of HHC, 4th IBCT, releases a zip-line to dive into a pond on Fort Benning, Ga.; 1st Lt. Joshua Gorczynski, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., climbs a wall obstacle while participating in the 2011 Best Ranger Competition.



ABOVE: Capt. Steve Ackerson of 2nd Bn., 32nd FA Regt., 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., dives into a pond while completing the water confidence test during the 2011 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. **RIGHT:** Capt. Steven Ackerson (left) 2nd Bn., 32nd FA Regt., 4th IBCT poses for a photo with his father, Jeff, following his completion of the 2011 Best Ranger Competition.



Artillery Soldier shows strengths

When most people think of a Soldier assigned to the U.S. Army's Field Artillery Branch, they visualize big cannons and loud "booms." For Capt. Steven Ackerson, keeping his body in shape has always been an additional priority.

On April 15, Ackerson, commander of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, put his body through one of its most extreme tests when he began the 2011 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

The event marked the 28th anniversary of the competition, which consists of nearly 60 hours of back-to-back physical and mental tasks with no scheduled time for sleep or relaxation.

Of the total 102 competitors, Ackerson made up one of only two Soldiers from an artillery unit. "(Ackerson) is one of those two," his father, Jeff, said proudly.

A graduate of Purdue University, Ackerson was commissioned into the Army in 2004, and while the physically demanding field of the infantry appealed to him, the artillery won as his final field of choice.

"When it came time for me to pick my field, a lot of the officers that I knew were picking to go into the infantry," Steven said. "So I thought, 'Why not try the artillery?'"

When it came time for his commissioning, he would once again find himself as a rarity. His father, who was a colonel in the U.S. Air Force at the time, was not only present at his commissioning, but

the individual who commissioned him into the Army. His father was also able to share the same moment with Steven's twin brother, Brian, when he was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force.


"I'm very proud of him and his accomplishments... I've been privileged to witness so many of them first hand," Jeff said, as he watched from the sidelines as Steven competed in the BRC.

The father/son trip to Fort Benning was not the first time the duo made the trip to the Georgia post. In 2009, Jeff was there to pin on Steven's Ranger tab following his son's completion of Ranger School.

"(Brian) and I come from a military family, but serving in the military as he did, our father has a great understanding of it and what it requires," Steven said. "It has been great to not only have him present, but to get to share those significant points of my career with him."

Steven and his Ranger teammate, Capt. Joshua Hunsucker, were awarded a 19th place finish following their exertions during the competition.

"(Finishing in the top twenty) just feels surreal," Steven said. "Initially, we just had our minds set on reaching the finish line."

Within the next few months, Steven will depart the division and Fort Riley, which has been his home since 2005 and arrive for his new assignment at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He's not quite sure what the future with his new unit has in store for him, but he does know if the opportunity to compete in the Best Ranger Competition comes up again, he'll be there. 



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB, 1ST INF. DIV. PAO
Lt. Col. Erich Campbell speaks after receiving the Purple Heart at Fort Riley, April 27. Campbell received the decoration for a traumatic brain injury sustained while deployed to Iraq in 2008, when a suicide bomber disguised as an Iraqi police officer attacked his unit.



FIGHTING

for our home

Fort Riley Purple Heart recipient ready for action in Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. Roland Hale | 1st Infantry Division PAO

Two years after receiving a traumatic brain injury in Iraq and just days before heading into harm's way again, a change in policy allowed Army Lt. Col. Erich Campbell to receive the Purple Heart on Fort Riley, April 27.

Campbell, who deployed to Afghanistan in May, received the medal for injuries sustained when a suicide bomber disguised as an Iraqi police officer attacked his unit in 2008. The explosion killed six Iraqi police officers, including an Iraqi general, he said.

(story continued on page 26)



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB. 1ST INF. DIV. PAO



SGT. ROLAND HALE, CAB. 1ST INF. DIV. PAO



STEPHANIE HOFF, DUTY FIRST IMAGINE

FROM LEFT: Lt. Col. Erich Campbell, right, shakes hands with then-Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks after receiving the Purple Heart; Campbell embraces a friend after receiving the Purple Heart; Campbell poses for a picture with Family after being awarded a Purple Heart at the mild Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic on Fort Riley. Shown from left are Campbell's daughter, Allison, wife, Cornelia, and son, Johan.

(continued from page 25)

Campbell is one of the first service members to receive a Purple Heart for traumatic brain injury, or TBI, due to a recent change in the military's recognition of the injuries.

"At the time of the injury, I was taken to the CSH (combat support hospital), given Motrin and told, 'Well you just got your bell rung, take three days off, get some rest and you should be good.' It wasn't very long after that that I realized there was something wrong."

Previously if service members were not diagnosed with TBI immediately after an incident, it could complicate the process of presenting them the Purple Heart, he explained.

"What the Purple Heart does for me today is it quantifies that there really was something wrong with us," Campbell said.

Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks presented the medal to Campbell in front of an audience gathered at Fort Riley's TBI Clinic for the ceremony.

I'm here to tell you it takes a nation to heal a warrior. Not just the military."

"This is a recognition that no one wants, no one seeks," Brooks said. "Unlike other decorations, it's not an award you earn. It's an entitlement. It's a way our nation says, 'You have exposed yourself and have borne the brunt of the battle.'"

Brooks also addressed the change that allowed Campbell to receive the Purple Heart:

"While blasts and traumatic brain injuries are not something new to warriors, not new at all, our recognition of it as an injury is very different. It's about time, quite frankly. It's about time," he said.

Campbell gave a speech to his audience after the ceremony, most of which he dedicated to thanking his friends in the community and the Army.

"I really know what we're fighting for. It's for you guys," Campbell said,

pointing around the room, "and for our home."

"Someone once wrote a book, 'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child.' I'm here to tell you it takes a nation to heal a warrior. Not just the military," he said.

Campbell has spent the last year serving as the rear detachment commander for Fort Riley's Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. With that unit recently returned from Iraq, Campbell is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

"(It) proves that you can suffer from a traumatic brain injury, get treated, not affect your career, and go on to serve the military," Campbell said.

Campbell said after his tour he plans to retire to his home in Holton, Kan., with his neighbors, his family and his Bassett hounds. 

Army Lt. Col. Erich Campbell, Purple Heart recipient



LIFE OUTSIDE THE GATE



FROG promotes outdoor recreation

Helps Soldiers, Families figure out where to fish, hunt in Fort Riley area

Editor's note: *Life Outside the Gate* will be a monthly feature in *Duty First! Magazine*. This feature will explore groups, organizations and events in the Flint Hills Region that are available to Soldiers and their Families.

By Mollie Miller
Duty First! Magazine

The quest to find the best spot to hunt or fish is often wrought with disappointments and dead ends.

Outdoor sportsmen new to the Flint Hills region, however, need not endure the trials and tribulations in their own quests for the perfect field, bush or tree. The men and women of the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group (FROG) already have done much of the hard work and are ready to share the information with their fellow FROG members.

"The FROG is full of people who have been hunting and fishing this area for years and know the locations of all the best spots," Executive Board Member Frank Rottinghaus said.

"Being a part of FROG is a great way for Soldiers who are coming from all corners of the globe to figure out how to hunt and fish Fort Riley."

FROG, founded in 2005, is a group dedicated to the mission of promoting

JUMP ON OVER TO FROG

The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group, or FROG, founded in 2005, is a group dedicated to the mission of promoting conservation and outdoor recreation on Fort Riley.

FROG Membership is free and open to anyone of any age interested in promoting conservation and outdoor recreation. You can sign up by e-mailing FROG@FortRileyOutdoorsmenGroup.com. Members receive periodic e-newsletters and notifications of the stocking of fish, regulation changes, project proposals, biologist's notes, and privately-owned firearms and archery range dates and times.

For information about FROG, visit the group's website at www.fortrileyoutdoorsmengroup.com.



conservation and outdoor recreation on Fort Riley, according to the organization's website. Since its founding, the FROG has accomplished this mission by focusing on projects like turkey and deer youth hunts, fishing derbies, conservation projects and the establishment of the Fort Riley Trap/Skeet Range and Archery Range.

"FROG's efforts in conservation and recreation on Fort Riley improve habitat, optimize sustainable wildlife populations and increase ethical, informed participation in outdoor recreation," FROG President


Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne said. FROG Executive Board Member Shawn Stratton is one of the original founders of the group. The fish and wildlife biologist said he helped form the FROG because he saw a need for "a connection between recreation users, fish and wildlife managers and conservation organizations at Fort Riley." Stratton said he has seen that important connection flourish which has resulted in many outdoor recreation improvements at Fort Riley.

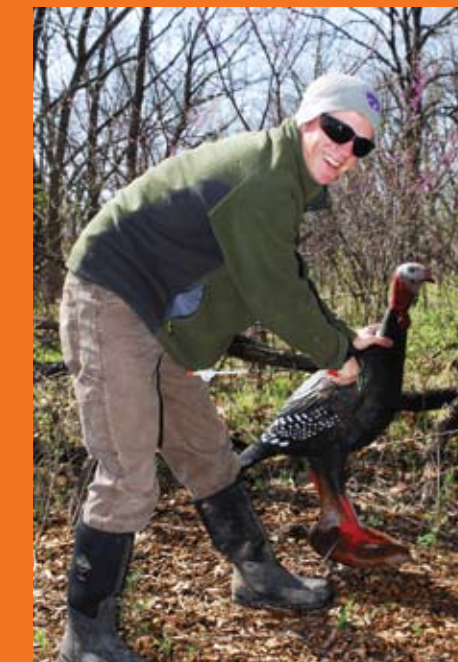
"I have seen some great services implemented at the installation including the Archery Range and the Trap and Skeet Range," he said.

Stratton said while FROG accomplishments are many, the thing he is most proud of is the work the group has done to ensure that children, whose parents are deployed, still have the opportunity to get out and hunt and fish.

"We have given youth ... the chance to stay involved with the outdoors even while their mom or dad is away," he said.

With a current membership of more than 1,000 Soldiers, Family members, retirees, and civilians, the FROG is a virtual treasure chest of knowledge about the many outdoor recreation opportunities available in and around Fort Riley.

"We have a lot of fun (in the FROG) because we are surrounded by people who all have positive attitudes toward nature," Rottinghaus said. "The members all have a lot in common including a strong interest in being good stewards of the environment." 



words of wisdom

Editor's note: *This is the initial column in what will become a monthly feature in Duty First! Magazine.*

YOUR DUTY FIRST! 1ST SERGEANT

Men! We are in the battle of our lives and when it comes to battle, the difference between victory and defeat lies in the focus of our training and the quality of mentorship our Noncommissioned Officers provide to the "Joes" who depend on them.

Not only do the young Soldiers of the Big Red One depend on you, the NCO, but I depend on you, the NCO, to take care of our junior troopers.

Without you, we'd be lost. That hasn't changed since the creation of the NCO in 1775.

The one who executes the training and who makes sure that training is at a standard that is representative of today's state of the art army, the NCO has an imperative responsibility to this army that makes my little eyes fill up with tears of joy! There's pride and excitement in the responsibility! Do you feel it? Coming up with the

planning, the resourcing and, finally, the field training. It's nothing short of glory!


However, amidst the pride in our hearts and the lust for adventure overflowing at our fingertips, we must not forget the standards that are in place to ensure each and every Soldier is in the best position possible to accomplish their various missions. For we have been tasked with knowing and enforcing such standards without prejudice or favoritism, and if you're a good NCO, you won't have any problems with that.

Communication is the solution to any problem. The more you communicate with your Soldiers, the easier enforcing the standard will be, but even this can cause trouble if approached in the wrong way.

I recently had to tear a certain Sergeant a new one for letting his friendship with his Soldiers get in the way of his duty. Sure, I don't care if

Communication is the solution to any problem. The more you communicate with your Soldiers, the easier enforcing the standard will be, but even this can cause trouble if approached in the wrong way.

you buddy up with your troops, but if it starts to get in the way of disciplining certain squad members who are endangering the mission, we have a problem.

Never forget that if you look the other way without correcting a deficiency, you have essentially set a new standard and have done a disservice to the Soldiers who look up to you to show them what looks and sounds right. The success of the mission, even the lives of your Soldiers, depends on you and your ability to keep the standard high! 

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT: Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group Executive Board Member Frank Rottinghaus shows off his skills at the Fort Riley 3-D Archery Range. The range was developed, in part, by members of the FROG; Rottinghaus' arrow lands just outside the score circle on a turkey, one of 40 3-D targets at the Fort Riley Archery Range.

MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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

1

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