



# THE CAVALRY CHARGE

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~America's First Team~

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## 1st Air Cavalry Brigade changes command



Photo By Staff Sgt. Joe Armas, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, the commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, transfers the colors of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade to Col. Cory Mendenhall, the new brigade commander, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 2 here at Cooper Field. The passing of the colors is a symbolic gesture that marks the transition of leadership from one commander to another.

**By Staff Sgt. Joe Armas**  
 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas -- The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, changed command during a ceremony Aug. 2 here at Cooper Field.

Col. John Novalis, from Williamsport, Pa., relinquished command to Col. Cory Mendenhall, from Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Novalis commanded the brigade during its recent deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As he addressed those in attendance, he took the opportunity to reflect on his time as commander of the 1st ACB.

"Commanding this brigade has been the highlight of my professional career," said Novalis.

Throughout his speech, he gave credit to his strength in God, his family and the Soldiers of the 1st ACB for the success the brigade achieved during its deployment to OEF. He thanked the brigade's Soldiers for the sacrifices they made this past year, as the brigade provided coalition ground forces with aviation assets across four regional commands in Afghanistan.

"There's no higher honor to command Soldiers, especially when we are a nation at war" said Novalis. "You make me proud to wear this uniform and the 'First Team' patch."

During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Vela, from Dallas, transferred responsibility for the brigade to Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Amagliani, from Hartford, Conn.

Novalis thanked Vela for his friendship and the counsel he provided as the brigade's senior enlisted advisor. He also gave his best wishes to the

incoming command team. "I know you both will take this formation on to greater accomplishments. You'll carry on the legacy of discipline, caring, trust and mission execution that makes our Army strong," said Novalis.

Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, presided over the ceremony as the reviewing officer.

He gave his thoughts on the accomplishments of the brigade's outgoing command team.

"(Novalis and Vela) inspired and led the brigade's troops in the toughest conditions," said Ierardi. "They gave selflessly to this unit, placing mission and their Soldiers above everything else."

Ierardi also acknowledged Mary Novalis and Kathy Vela for the contributions they made to the brigade, the division and the local Ft. Hood community.

"Over the course of their husbands' careers, they have given their hearts and souls to the Soldiers and families of the Army, balancing this with the demands of their own families," said Ierardi. The warrior brigade is better off as a result of the sacrifices these two women have made during the past two years, he added.

As for the incoming command team, Mendenhall previously served as the deputy chief of staff for Central Command in Qatar. Amagliani is no stranger to the 1st ACB, having served as the command sergeant major for the 615th Aviation Support Battalion during the brigade's last deployment to Iraq in 2009 and 2010.

Mendenhall began his speech by speaking directly to the outgoing commander and his spouse, Mary.

"Your efforts over the last two years... building, deploying and re-deploying this brigade have left a legacy that will resonate with future leaders of our Army for years to come," said Mendenhall. "You have made a positive difference in so many lives. Brooke and I wish you both the best."

As he concluded his remarks, Mendenhall addressed the 1st ACB troopers who now fall under his command.

"To the warrior Soldiers on the parade field who are willing to answer the nation's call and pay the price for freedom, I'm extremely proud to serve with you as Warrior Six," said Mendenhall.

## Cav warrant still going at 40 years

**By Sgt. Kim Browne**  
 HQ, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – In 1972 the Vietnam War and the draft were still in full swing, President Nixon was in office, and the Women's Army Corps was the only way women were allowed to service in the Army.

40 years ago this month Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeanne Pace, now the commander and band master for the 1st Cavalry Division Band, was 18 years old looking to further her education and decided to join the WAC in August 1972 and serve the military as both of her parents had in the Air Force.

"My interest, at the time, was to pursue an education ... and the only band women could enlist for was the WAC Band," Pace said. "I enlisted for three years to grow up, figure out what I wanted to do and get my money for education."

She began her career as an

private with the 14th Army (WAC) Band at Fort McClellan, Ga. and within her first three years on active duty, Pace had attained the rank of E5, known then as a Spec 5.

When it had come time for her to reenlist, her outlook on the Army had become a positive one.

"[WAC] was pretty fun at that point still and I thought, hey this isn't so bad, and at that time you could reenlist for three years, four years, or six years ... So I enlisted for four," Pace said.

During her final year at Fort McClellan a male warrant officer was assigned to conduct the band. She also began seeing male Soldiers come in from their Advanced Individual Training, thus the integration of the WAC with the regular Army had begun.

"In 1976 [WAC Band] did a Bicentennial concert and the following week we did a WAC Band an-

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Photo by TJ Maxwell, Killeen Daily Herald

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeanne Pace, commander and band master of the 1st Cavalry Division Band, leads the Cav Band during a recent concert. Pace has served 40 years in the Army beginning with the Women's Army Corps. Although she has mixed emotions about retiring, she has a mandatory retirement date of August, 2015.

## Warrant

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Courtesy Photo

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeanne Pace, commander and band master of the 1st Cavalry Division Band, when she was with the Women's Army Corps as an E2 and 18 years old in 1972.

niversary concert and at that point in time we were no longer allowed to call ourselves the WAC Band," She said.

The WAC did not fully integrate into the Army until 1978 and at that time Pace was stationed in Panama.

At her 13 year mark Pace was an E7 and in a senior non-commissioned officer course at the School of Music, Virginia Beach, Va. During the school she decided to apply to be a warrant officer. Her first attempt at the warrant officer course was to no avail. Yet she tried again and made it, thereby pinning on the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2 in 1985.

She was then assigned as the band master of the 1st Cavalry Di-

vision Band. After a month on station her position transitioned into a commander's position, therefore she became the first commander/band master of the 1st Cavalry Division Band.

Following Fort Hood her career led her to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Washington D.C., Fort Jackson, S.C., and finally back to Fort Hood where she is again with the 1st Cavalry Division Band.

Pace is now looking at finishing out her career at Fort Hood and the Cav with a mandatory retirement of 2015 and will have 43 years of total time served.

"Sometimes you have to go to the school of hard-knocks to learn how to improve and do better on the other end, so I don't have any regrets," she said.

Currently she is the only woman from the Women's Army Corps Band left on active duty.

"I don't know what else to do," Pace said while holding back tears. "My emotions come through every time (I talk about it) because I don't know how I'm going to let go."

She mentioned a few times throughout different interviews that she lives through her Soldiers and that they keep her young.

Sgt. Devan Peters and Sgt. Ronald Mullins, both members of the division's band, both agreed that Ms. Pace is very passionate about her job and has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

"I believe that when she retires it's going to be a great loss for the Army and band field," Peters said.

Pace plans to continue helping the Army community once she retires. She discussed volunteering with Army One Source and whatever else she can to further help Soldiers.

## 1st ACB Soldier swings for All Army

By Sgt. Richard Wrigley  
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas - With a thunderous crack, a bright neon-green soft ball goes sailing through the air over the flight line at Hood Army Airfield Aug. 17.

Spc. Karah VanMetre, from Cleveland, Texas, a petroleum supply specialist assigned to E Company, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, was showing the rest of the battalion her batting prowess during a ceremony that recognized her for being selected to try out for the All Army women's softball team.

For VanMetre, a distinctive path has led her to this rare opportunity.

"I've been playing since I was in the sixth grade [and] I've always loved it. I played all the sports, but I was always best at softball," said VanMetre.

VanMetre said she had great success early on, making the varsity team throughout her high school career and becoming the first student from her school to get a college scholarship for softball.

However, things took a turn for the worse when she was injured towards the end of her high school career.

What was supposed to be a minor injury was misdiagnosed and turned out to be much more seri-

ous than the initial diagnosis had revealed. VanMetre said it took a couple of years and a total of three surgeries for her to fully recover.

After she recovered from her final surgery, VanMetre decided to join the Army. She did not expect to ever play softball at the level she had in the past ever again, she added.

It was during her recent deployment to Afghanistan that this changed.

While deployed, VanMetre worked side by side fueling aircraft with Sgt. Clifford Harris Jr., from Odessa, Texas, an ammunition specialist for E Co.

Harris said he learned of her past exploits playing softball after spending long days working together on a forward and arming refueling point in eastern Afghanistan.

"When she told me how much she used to play and how much she used to enjoy it, well I just thought she might have a chance, so I suggested she submit a packet for the All Army team," Harris said.

Harris continued, "She is a bright, ambitious Soldier; a hard worker, quick learner, and a team player. She's also a fierce athlete ... it's no surprise to me that she was selected."

While it may not be a surprise to Harris that VanMetre was selected, for others the shock still lingers.

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## Longknife throws rounds downrange

By Staff Sgt. Jeff VanWey  
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT POLK, La.—"O' dark thirty." That's the name that Soldiers have given the pre-dawn hours of early morning.

While most Americans are sleeping comfortably in their beds at this time of day, Soldiers, such as those from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are watching the pink and blue hues of the rising sun in the morning sky, ready to work.

"Our [starting point] was 4:40 a.m.," said Spc. Carlos Martinez, an infantryman with A Co., 2-7 Cav. Regt., after completing a live-fire training course during the brigade's Joint Readiness Training Center rotation Aug. 8 here.

Boots changed from tan to brown as A Co. marched through the tall, dew-soaked grass to reach their ob-

jective.

"We did it fully dismounted, which was way more fun than using the trucks," said Pfc. Coy Atkinson, another infantryman from A Co.

The objective of the exercise was to clear and secure a "village" within the Peason Ridge training area; a heavily wooded area with a small village built in a clearing.

"We had a support-by-fire squad set up on the hill and a breach team came up and breached the C-Wire (razor wire)," he said. "Then a clearing element came up and cleared the first building and set up a (casualty collection point) inside it."

Once the CCP was set up inside the building, a second platoon entered and cleared the rest of the mock village, he said.

The live-fire training at JRTC compliments the training available at Fort Hood, the unit's home station,

combining small arms, field artillery and a faux medical evacuation. The terrain and environment of JRTC is also an essential element of the training conducted here.

"They've got the terrain here to best replicate live fire, specifically the combined arms live fire of this nature," said Lt. Col. Robert Kuth, the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt. commander. "By virtue of where Peason Ridge is, they can almost achieve, if not, achieve, a 360 [degree] range, which you just can't get at most posts in the U.S. Army."

The Soldiers who participated in the LFX echoed their battalion commander's assessment of the training.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff VanWey, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT POLK, La.—Soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division lay down suppressive fire at a Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise during the brigade's JRTC rotation Aug. 8 here.

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## ACB trooper's selfless service helps children of Cove

By Sgt. Richard Wrigley  
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas -- "It's about giving back to a community that has given so much to you," said Sgt. Johnny Merial, a native of Dallas Center, Iowa, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter repairer for B Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Merial headed a fund raiser to provide school supplies for the Mae Stevens Elementary school in Copperas Cove, Texas.

For more than a month he collected donations. With help from other soldiers in his platoon, he purchased school supplies and presented the donations at Mae Stevens Elementary School Aug. 22.

After Merial and his fellow Soldiers set up a display of all of the new school supplies in the school's gymnasium, members of the community, along with children, parents and school faculty came by to hear Merial explain why he did all of this.

Merial told the people in attendance about his time in Copperas Cove and how the community had supported him.

"I've been here almost six years, and have lived here the whole time. I'm leaving now, but the community has supported me whenever I needed it, and the school district really looked out for my family when they allowed my children to stay in Mae Stevens even though the re-zoning could have forced them to go to a different school," Merial said.

While this is the biggest volunteer effort that Merial has undertaken, he is no stranger to the selfless service of volunteer work, said Capt. Nicholas Cortez, originally from Iowa City, Iowa, a platoon leader in B Co., 615th ASB.

"He's done a lot of volunteering for the unit and the surrounding community. When I think of Sgt. Merial, I think of selfless service," added Cortez.

"He is also a very disciplined," Cortez said. "In my opinion his professionalism and work ethic are unparalleled at his level within the platoon."



Photo By Sgt. Richard Wrigley, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

Sgt. Johnny Merial, a native of Dallas Center, Iowa, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter repairer for B Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, puts on a display of donated school supplies at Mae Stevens Elementary School in Copperas Cove, Texas, Aug. 22.

The students and family members of the school were in dire need of the supplies, which was also a main factor behind the decision to donate specifically to Mae Stevens Elementary, added Merial.

Joe Burns, the superintendent for the Copperas Cove Independent School District, echoed Merial's sentiment.

"About 63 percent of this campus' student population consists of kids who receive free or reduced lunches. This means that a lot of the families that have kids who attend here simply don't have the resources to provide [the children] with all the things they need for school," Burns said.

"This donation Sgt. Merial put together ... will go a long, long way to meeting the needs of those families," Burns added.

Another official from the Copperas Cove ISD talked about how the results of the fund raiser will benefit the students as they begin this school year.

"Many of these students are used to getting hand-me-down materials. Just imagine how happy these students will be to have a brand-new notebook or binder this year," said Rick Kirkpatrick, the deputy superintendent for Copperas Cove ISD.

Merial said he hopes that his and his fellow soldiers' efforts to help the families of the local community will have a lasting impact.

"This is going to help the kids, this is going to help the families ... My family and I are about to leave, but the good that this has done for the community will last much longer than that," said Merial.

## Downrange

Continued from page 2

"It's not often we get to use more than just live rounds and actually use things like the demo charge ... to coincide with field artillery or actually have a [medical evacuation] drop in, granted it was notional" said Martinez, referring to the helicopter which landed at the training site to simulate MEDEVAC procedures. "It was good practice for some of the new guys."

The company went through the course the previous day using blanks and no ammunition. JRTC's operator controllers escorted the troopers every step of the way, guiding and mentoring the young Soldiers.

"Their ability to bring in subject-matter expertise can take even our most junior Soldiers, junior leaders, junior (noncommissioned officers), junior officers, and bring them to a whole other level," Kuth said.

## 2BCT mourns loss of fallen Soldier

Sgt. Justin Naylor

2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers, civilians and family members gathered to mourn the loss of Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Holley at a memorial service held in his honor here Aug. 1.

Holley died July 9, 2012.

Holley entered active duty Feb. 18, 2010, at Fort Benning, Ga., where he completed initial entry training and infantry training. He graduated from training as an infantryman.

Holley was then stationed with B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Following his time with B Co., Holley was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, where he served on rear detachment while the unit was deployed to Iraq.

"Today we remember our fallen trooper and brother-in-arms, Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Holley," said Lt. Col. Jason Joose, the commander of 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt. "He was our comrade and friend and we will never forget him."

"He was a man that left an impression," said Capt. Andrew Eagen, the commander of HHC, 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt. "He impressed me as an individual that wanted to work for what he got and to earn the respect and confidence of those around him. In speaking with those that knew him best that impression only strengthened."

"He had a good heart," said Sgt. Jairo Recheverri, who served with Holley.

Recheverri remembers Holley often speaking of his passion for working on cars.

"There are many of us sitting here today who remember the way he helped us either by assisting with our vehicles or simply listening. If you needed help, he was there."

Holley's military awards include the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Holley is survived by his wife, Kassi; and his sons, Joshua and Jeremiah.



Sgt. Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas—Soldiers offer a final salute to Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Holley at a memorial service held in Holley's honor here Aug. 1.

YouTube



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Live The Legend!

# 3rd BCT holds resiliency, PRT competition

By Sgt. Sharla Lewis

3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division completed a week of Greywolf Strong training, a program designed to fall in line with the Army's push toward sustaining the health of the force, with a physical training competition July 27, 2012 at the baseball fields on Battalion Ave.

Capt. Joshua Sorge, the physical therapist for the brigade, designed the competition to test their skills in physical readiness and teamwork.

"We wanted to teach them different ways of doing PRT (Physical Readiness Training)," he said. "In this environment, we are able to build the group mentality and identify future leaders as well as give them the option of helping their battle buddies across the finish line."

Before the start, the groups laughed and joked among themselves that the competition would be 'a piece of cake' but after the first two repetitions of Buddy Pushups, (an exercise where Soldiers line up in the pushup position and put their feet on the shoulders of their team mate behind them, all team members must then do pushups at the same time) the tone changed and they be-



Photo by Sgt. Sharla Lewis, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

Troopers with 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conduct Star Bursts as part of a physical training competition July 27, at the baseball field on Battalion Ave. on Fort Hood.

gan wondering if they'd be able to make it at all.

From station to station they ran, executing exercises they'd been honing all week and hollering motivation to each other throughout the course. The groups discussed the best techniques to complete each exercise quickly and when a trooper finished a task, he ran back to collect his buddies.

The competition consisted of seven

stations that included individual, paired and team exercises. In between the stations, the groups conducted exercises from the PRT manual that had to be performed as a unit and in cadence.

"These classes have helped us stand out as leaders," Spc. Sergio Avalle said. "This teaches us how to work together towards a common goal." Participants said repeating proper form and exercise techniques

throughout the week really paid off in the end and helped push them across the finish line.

The course took more than 15 minutes to complete and by the end, uniforms were dark with sweat and Soldiers stumbled exhaustedly toward their gear to rest.

1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment's team of eight, the smallest that competed, won with a time of 15:05.

The competition concluded a week of resiliency and physical readiness training that the brigade conducted to educate leaders throughout the units here. With twice-daily work out sessions, morning and afternoon lectures and homework to be completed within a deadline, the classes were more like a college curriculum than your average Army training block.

Sorge said the more Soldiers understand how these fundamental techniques fall in line with the Army's push towards sustaining the health of the force, the better.

"We wanted to put it out to the leadership and subsequently into the units to be utilized daily," Sorge said. "I hope the message that we conveyed was that there are fun, interesting and exciting ways of conducting PRT."

## Softball

Continued from page 2

"It's so exciting," VanMetre said. "I can't believe I actually made it this far to get picked."

Regardless of the shock, VanMetre will leave in the next few days to go to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., for the team's tryout camp.

Judging by the outpouring of support and well wishes at the ceremony in her honor, it seems all of 1-227th ARB's thoughts will go with her as well.



Photo by Sgt. Richard Wrigley, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

Spc. Karah VanMetre, from Cleveland, Texas, a petroleum supply specialist of E Company, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, crushes a softball high and far at a ceremony in her honor on Hood Army Airfield, Aug. 17.

# Iron Maiden visits Garry Owen

Photos by Sgt. John Couffer, 1BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas - Members of Iron Maiden visited with Soldiers and participated in various training events, Aug. 16, hosted by 1-7 Cav, on the bands day off from their Maiden England North American Tour – 2012.

(Below) Bruce Dickinson (left), lead vocalist for the famous British heavy metal band, Iron Maiden, looks at various tank rounds for the M1A2 Abrams tank as Sgt. Michael Orwig, a soldier assigned to the 1st BCT, 1st Cav Div, describes the characteristics of each round and the vehicle.

(Top right) Janick Gers (left), guitarist for Iron Maiden, speaks with Soldiers of the 1st BCT, 1st Cav Div while in back of an armored vehicle



(Bottom right) Nicko McBrain, the drummer for the famous British heavy metal band, Iron Maiden, sits in the driver's seat of an M1A2 Abrams tank as Sgt. Michael Orwig, a soldier assigned to the 1st BCT, 1st Cav Div, explains the vehicle's controls to him.

