

DEMON



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Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



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Kiowas are one of the Army's oldest airframes on active duty today. Despite being slated for replacement again and again, they remain too useful to throw away

They're underpowered, they take off at a minimum of 95% of their maximum weight, and they are comparatively much slower than their rotary wing counterparts. But if you ask any of their pilots, there is no aircraft they would rather fly. Despite any shortcomings, Kiowas are the most heavily

flown aircraft in the army, the workhorses of the aviation community. As Cpt. Michael J. Olsen, commander of Thug Troop, 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry regiment says, "Our [Operational Tempo] is crazy. We, fly, and fly, and fly some more. We fly a lot. We wondered if we were going to be able to do 24 hour ops leaving,

and we have. We haven't dropped a mission yet." No matter how useful an aircraft is, however, the changing nature of battle dictates that it will eventually be replaced, **Despite shortcomings, Kiowas are some of the most heavily used aircraft around** as thousands of Cobra and Huey pilots could attest to. The Kiowa is currently near the top of the replacement list.

Nevertheless, Kiowa pilots refuse to go out without a bang. As documented in this issue of DEMON magazine, Kiowas are as relevant on the battlefield as they have ever been, using Unmanned Aerial Systems to bring their 1980s technology into the 21st century. With the flight hours they are racking up, and the impact they have had, its hard to imagine the Kiowa going away anytime soon.

Demon Team, we have crossed several milestones in Iraq, and I can report that we are doing exceptionally well. The principal milestone is the TOA plus 120 day mark. This mark takes us through our initial integrative phases of combat operations to a sustained effort. We have done it safely and with dedication and courage.

Now, I need you to pay particular attention to combat operations. Those very exciting, adventurous combat missions are routine – this feeling of routine will cause accidents and combat deaths. Look for areas of vulnerability and take corrective actions to mitigate risk – that is how we will continue to be an effective combat force.

I congratulate you on your recent success in support of operation Iron Harvest. Our efforts have continued to deny extremists safe haven in northern Iraq. The operation has had great success, and the CAB played a key role.

Attack and reconnaissance from 1-1, TF ODIN, 1-6, and 4-6 denied the enemy the ability to hide, and they directly supported the ground efforts to attack and cordon and search the Diyala River valley. Our records reflect numerous

Make a Difference. As the Combat Aviation Brigade continues to provide aggressive support to ground troops, now is the time for all Soldiers to be on the lookout for complacency. **Col. Jessie O. Farrington speaks out on operations and the dangers of complacency**



Photo by Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez

engagements in support of ground forces over the entire operation. Forces have cleared over 350 roadside bombs, captured or killed numerous insurgents and high value individuals, and pushed extremist influence out of many major towns.

3-1 and 2-1 provided air assault and supply movements. Delivering Soldiers on time and on target increased the effectiveness of operations by providing rapid transportation into and out of the area of operation. This increase

in unit activity and numbers of troops are two factors that directly contributed to the success of the operation.

601st support of the Demon Strike Package at Balad ensured that the Strike Team was able to sustain increased operational tempo. Their maintenance teams worked alongside 1-1 and 3-1 maintainers on COB Speicher and in Balad.

I would like to mention our SWO and weather team, who provided weather observation and forecasts. Your efforts ensured the safety of the aircrews flying over the battlefield.

Congratulations on the completion of a major operation. Expect future missions to follow in the footsteps of this success. I know the Soldiers of this Brigade are capable of any task. There is No Mission Too Difficult or Sacrifice Too Great for the Demon Team. Duty First! Demons!

Col. Jessie O. Farrington is the commander of the Combat Aviation Brigade

Standards and Discipline. As the Combat Aviation Brigade team begins to hit its stride, leaders must make a good team better by encouraging and mentoring their Soldiers. **Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wallace speaks out on keeping Soldiers motivated and effective**

A third of our tour is over and we have accomplished so much together. However, it takes the efforts of officers, NCOs and Soldiers working as a team to continue to enjoy the success we experience daily. Remember, there are no lousy units ... only lousy leaders!

Good Soldiers are critical to any operation, and I'm happy to say that from what I've seen so far during this deployment we have outstanding Soldiers in the CAB. We need Soldiers who are healthy, educated, trained and ready to accomplish the mission. Those character traits are not always present in the Soldiers we recruit and hire from our larger society, so we must make it a priority to build those traits within the Soldiers we lead through personal example. I believe our Soldiers want to succeed and will do all they can to meet or exceed standards. When they fail, it is almost always a result of a lack of training, a lack of guidance, and/or a lack of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin Angelo

resources.

Leaders must know their Soldiers and for NCOs this is essential. Knowing your Soldiers was a point of emphasis for Fredrich von Steuben when his BLUE BOOK was drafted. Leadership is a very personal business

and requires a high level of personal, face-to-face interaction.

As NCOs and Soldiers we must trust each other at every level of our command from my level all the way down to the private working as ground crew, admin or shop me-

chanics and then all the way back up the chain. In order to ensure the high level of trust needed to succeed in our deployed environment, we must have a completely open command with no secrets and no hidden agendas. I operate in a completely open fashion.

We must not violate standards of conduct at all levels. I expect every Officer, NCO and Soldier to adhere to the Army values. All CAB personnel must conduct themselves morally and ethically at all times. We must continue to do the right thing. Let's not allow misconduct in the form of sexual harassment, discrimination, fraternization, substance abuse and lack of integrity. When we violate standards of conduct we destroy our unit's cohesiveness, discipline, morale and war-fighting capability.

When we lose a Soldier, it's devastating--to the mission, to the team, to the affected family members. As your Command Sergeant Major, nothing is more important to me personally than the safety and well being of our CAB Soldiers and their families.

Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wallace is the command sergeant major of the Combat Aviation Brigade

Simplifying your life.

Chaplain (Maj.) Suk Jong Lee talks about making your life easier by nipping bad decisions in the bud. **The Combat Aviation Brigade chaplain speaks from the land of Jesus' birth**

As a chaplain, I have had the privilege of getting to know personal struggles of Soldiers over the years and it became clear to me how many of our "problems" were self-induced. Of course, there are issues we have nothing to do with creating, yet I wondered how much simpler our lives would be if we made the right choices.

One of God's favorite persons in the Bible is David. He is said to be "a man after God's own heart." As the youngest of eight sons, David was chosen to succeed Saul, the first King of Israel. Yet, he had to endure the resentment, jealousy and outrage of King Saul before he was actually enthroned as the king years later. When he was misunderstood by his older brothers or was being hunted down by jealous Saul, the only thing he had to focus on was avoiding the arrows that were coming his way. As hard as it might have been for David those days, his real troubles came after he became king and abused his power.

After he established himself as the king of all Israel, he was in his palace while his soldiers were in battle. It was then he lusted over another man's wife and committed adultery. That was the beginning of his heartaches and troubles in his life. When he was told the woman was pregnant with his child, he schemed to cover his misdeed rather than admit his mistake and



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

Bonding: Chaplain (Maj.) Suk Jong Lee spends time with Spc. Priscilla Shivers during Shiver's guard shift.

accept consequences. In his attempt to cover up, he killed the husband of the woman he committed adultery with. He then made her his wife. He made everything look legitimate, so he thought.

However, David was told by the prophet Nathan that "...Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house..." (2 Samuel 12:10) As consequences, David experienced the rape of his daughter by his son, the murder of a son by another son, treason from the son who killed his half brother, and more heartaches and suffering.

I wonder how much of the hardships our Soldiers experience is a direct result of their own misconduct and/or lack of sound judgment. No matter how good ratio-

nalizations may sound, there are consequences for every action and decision we make.

When a Soldier gets into an illicit relationship, his/her life becomes complicated and there will be broken hearts.

How many times have I seen soldiers caught in their own lies and get into bigger problems! How many couples have I seen struggling with their marriage after an inconsiderate action or infidelity! These may be ways we complicate our lives more than necessary – lies and inconsiderate acts toward others. Truth is bound to reveal itself and the only way we can avoid being caught in the middle is to do everything as we do unto the Lord.

Worldview: Europe.

USAEUR is drastically increasing its penalties for losing a military ID card in response to a rash of losses. **Precedent strongly suggests that your unit may be the next to step up punishments**

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

"The art of losing isn't hard to master;/so many things seem filled with the intent to be lost, their loss is no disaster," a poet wrote.

U.S. Army Europe commanders disagree completely.

They've sent out memos over the past couple of years noting the dangers of lost military ID cards — an average of 8,000 a year for the past four years throughout the European command — and enacted policies attempting to curtail the cards' losses.

But the losing streak has continued. In the first three quarters of 2007, an average of 748 cards were lost each month in U.S. Army Europe, for an estimated yearly total of 8,976 lost cards — even as the number of soldiers and dependants have decreased substantially through Army transformation.

Those figures prompted a memo stating a policy that officials say represents a tougher, more scientific approach.

Sent out in November by Brig. Gen. Susan Lawrence, 5th Signal Command commander — it requires significantly more data tracking.

Garrisons must now track exactly who's losing IDs, how, and whether they've lost an ID before. It requires in-person counseling for card-losers, by a lieutenant colonel or civilian equivalent in their chain of command.

Although family members who lose IDs can't legally be forced to attend the counseling, they are being encouraged to do so.

"Gen. Lawrence pushed this," said LeeAnne MacCallister, 5th Signal spokeswoman. "We've already tracked the first quarter. We're still in the process of getting enough data to see patterns and affect change.

"The teeth is ... we know who they are and we know who their bosses are."

Each time an ID card is lost or stolen, "the chance of an unauthorized individual obtaining access to our



Consequences: Losing your card could soon get you a face-to-face counseling with a Lt. Col. or above

installations increases," Gen. David McKiernan wrote in a November 2006 memo.

But officials say despite the potential, no security breeches have occurred because of a lost ID.

Surprisingly, nearly half of lost IDs are lost on post, according to U.S. Army Europe. "Trend data shows that 49% of lost/stolen ID cards occurred on-post; 24% occurred off-post and 27% were in unknown locations," officials wrote in an e-mail.

It wasn't clear how people knew where they lost the cards.

Psychologists say people should put things in designated places, consistently. They should also check that they're bringing everything they need before leaving the house.

4-6 CAV

CAB AT WAR



4-6 CAV dominates the 360-degree battlefield with cutting-edge technology, teamwork, and good old-fashioned courage

BY SPC. MICHAEL HOWARD

Missile away

A Thug Troop, 4-6 CAV OH-58 Kiowa Warrior lets fly a Hellfire missile over the desert

Photo By Jason Kaye

Minimizing your aerial exploits must be a part of possessing The Right Stuff. As four pilots of Thug Troop, 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment sat down to dine after one of the biggest and most dangerous missions of their deployment, conversation revolved around a missing box of pencils and who might have hidden them. Engaged with the box of pencils and their unknown thief, the standout Thug Troop Kiowa Warrior pilots practically ignored the mission that resulted in seven enemy KIA, three enemy WIA, and hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to the insurgents. For the Kiowa pilots, Dec. 30 may as well have been any other day.

The mission started out in sheep's clothing, seeming as mundane as most of the hundreds of missions the pilots had flown during the six months they had been deployed. The pilots were on a daily patrol when they were tasked to destroy a van that 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment's Unmanned Aerial Systems platoon had seen firing a large caliber weapon from its rear doors and that had been involved in an arms transfer. The pilots received clearance to fire and headed off toward the vehicle.

The pilots fired at the vehicle, momentarily scattering the occupants. In response, a number of armed locals rushed in toward the vehicle and fired in concert at the two Kiowas above. This was the point when the once routine mission exploded into one of

Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



Up and Away

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas Boise and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Susan Weathers, both Kiowa Warrior pilots with Thug Troop, 4-6 CAV, take off for a mission after being refueled and rearmed at Mosul Airfield's forward area refueling point

the biggest firefights of Thug's deployment.

Calling on instincts developed over hundreds of engagements, the pilots reacted well-nigh instantaneously. Thug Troop pilots Cpt. Peter DiGiorgio and 1st Lt. Robert I. Sickler dived with .50 caliber machine guns blazing, closing the distance between themselves and the insurgents while Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas Boise and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Susan Weathers hovered above and provided cover.

Though the Kiowas inflicted heavy damage on the insurgents, the insurgents scored as well, hitting Sickler's and DiGiorgio's aircraft.

"As we came in, we were taking fire from our 12 o'clock. We engaged with our .50 cal. We broke left and as we broke left we caught some more rounds, we heard 'ping-ping-ping-pong-pong-ping.' The pings were the rounds going through the airframe and the

'We didn't know whether there was a fire in the cockpit or what was going on. It was pretty hairy.'

--- 1ST LT. ROBERT I. SICKLER,
THUG TROOP KIOWA PILOT

pongs were the rounds hitting the yoke, which is a major junction in the flight controls," said Sickler.

Sickler and DiGiorgio swooped even lower, hugging the ground to avoid further damage, which could have easily been fatal. Sickler tried their radios, but they were no longer operational. As Sickler performed a damage check, the results boded ill for the remainder of the mission.

"Both of the screens in the aircraft went blank so we started checking engine parameters and they were all green. We started pulling power and we got on the other side of a nearby building. Then one of the screens came back up and we started getting warnings about low engine oil pressure, and a number of other warning messages," said Sickler.

With their communications out, Sickler and DiGiorgio flew back around the building, and attempted to get Boise and Weather's attention so that they could return to base. Sickler decided to throw smoke out of the aircraft door. "It was a shot in the dark but it worked," said DiGiorgio. Boise and Weathers saw the smoke, got the message and accompanied Sickler and DiGiorgio back to the airfield. They contacted the tower and got Sickler and DiGiorgio cleared to land.

Making it back to the base was

Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



in itself nearly a miracle. “The way we were flying, we actually were pretty sure the engine was going to quit at some point. We could smell burning, we weren’t sure what was going on. We actually considered landing outside the FOB because we didn’t know whether there was a fire in the cockpit or what was going on. It was pretty hairy,” said Sickler.

Back in the Saddle

Thug Troop pilot Cpt. Peter DiGiorgio mounts up in the gunner’s seat of a new Kiowa to head back into Thug Troop’s engagement

Souvenir

Thug Troop 1st Sgt. Anthony J. Seupaul shows off a small arms round pulled out of Cpt. Peter DiGiorgio and 1st Lt. Robert I. Sickler’s Kiowa Warrior



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

Even with the mission’s inherent danger underlined in the damaged aircraft they piloted back to base, the pilots never considered abandoning the mission when they were safely back. The pilots rushed into a new aircraft while Thug maintainers worked frantically to bring the aircraft off the ground in record time.

To save time, Sickler, previously

the gunner, jumped into the pilot seat on the new aircraft as DiGiorgio shut down the damaged Kiowa. “So when we landed, Cpt. DiGiorgio shut down, I was in the left seat so he was shutting down in the right seat. I ran over to the other aircraft and got it running. And as I was getting it running, Cpt. DiGiorgio came running up and jumped in,” said Sickler.

Round Two

Thug Troop pilots Cpt. Peter DiGiorgio and 1st Lt. Robert I. Sickler head back toward the fight in a new Kiowa

The Thug maintainers refueled Boise and Weather’s Kiowa while Sickler and DiGiorgio got the bird ready, and the pilots flew back into action, utilizing the revolutionary

new sensor-to-shooter link to find the insurgents effortlessly. “UAS was still tracking the guys who hit us. They tracked them into a sedan and they still had eyes on the vehicle. So we went back out and they talked us back onto the sedan,” said Sickler.

The pilots had clearance to fire on the sedan when they arrived, so Boise and Weathers wasted no



Pit Crews

Maintainers, refuelers, battle damage assessment officers, and crew chiefs all work in concert to get Cpt. Peter DiGiorgio, 1st Lt. Robert I. Sickler, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas Boise and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Susan Weathers back into the fight

Photos by Spc. Michael Howard



time in engaging it with a Hellfire missile.

“The Hellfire missile hit the roof of the sedan and detonated just beyond the vehicle, causing severe damage to the vehicle, enough that it could no longer be driven,” said Boise.

The sedan swerved violently off the road and came to a stop. “Everybody got out of the car

and started running in different directions. Then we were told to engage with rockets, so we went in with rockets, and engaged in close quarters,” Boise continued.

“On the third pass, Sickler engaged a guy with a rocket and got a direct hit,” Boise continued, “At this point we went with M4 out the left door and engaged another guy. We wounded the individual,

and he ran until he linked up with a family. There were women and children, and he mixed right in with them. We ceased fire on that cowardly bastard. Then we went back, and continued to fire at the car until it ceased to exist. The command wanted us to destroy the vehicle completely.”

Reflecting on their successful mission, Sickler and DiGiorgio

said that much of the credit went to the radio transmission operators in the Tactical Operations Center and the Unmanned Aerial Systems Platoon, 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Ft. Hood, Tx.

“Without UAS we never would have seen the vehicle, because we would have no way to track all the suspicious activity leading up to the engagement. Without UAS, the engagement never would have happened in the first place.”

UAS identified the hostile act, for one thing. The second thing is that they provided continuous coverage when we would lose the vehicles behind buildings and things like that. It was vital,” said Sickler

“UAS allowed us to maintain our positive identification for long periods of time. This gives us the flexibility to maneuver and get into a good position and be lethal without worrying about losing PID. That’s really our whole point. And they are the ones that give us that flexibility. It’s a great asset,” added DiGiorgio.

DiGiorgio also had words of praise for the 4-6 CAV RTO’s. “They have a vital role in this at all times. They maintain the radio links that we can’t. They work behind the scenes and obtain clearance to fire for us. It makes the engagement go a lot more smoothly,” he said.

Despite the lighthearted tone the pilots took during their dinner, they

Up and Away

Spc. Julian Caicedo, a Thug Troop maintainer with 4-6 CAV, puts Cpt. Peter DiGiorgio and 1st Lt. Robert I. Sickler’s damaged Kiowa Warrion onto wheels to take it back to the Thug maintenance hangar for repairs

did acknowledge the magnitude of the engagement. “This was a very big daytime engagement. It was good to have two big kills in one day like that.

“This was one of the biggest engagements we’ve had, probably top five. The engagements are actually becoming more frequent. We’ve set up shop, and business is good,” said Boise.

The increase in engagements is likely due to an influx of foreign fighters who have come to Northern Iraq to bolster the depleted ranks of the insurgent

cause. These fighters know how to use heavy weapons to effectively engage rotary-wing aircraft like those of Thug Troop.

Sickler and Digiorgio received aviation’s highest award, the Distinguished Flying Cross, for their performance over Mosul. Digiorgio is scheduled to receive his DFC in the near future.

Sickler, injured during a later mission, received his DFC from Gen. David McKiernan, commander of U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army, in Landstuhl Hospital in Germany on Feb. 18.



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



Be Prepared
Chief Warrant Officers
2 Michael Mabis and
Lee Reichbaum take
flight in their Kiowa

Photo Illustration by Spc. Michael Howard

Still in the saddle

The horses are long gone, but that doesn't mean the cavalry hasn't arrived. How 1-6 pilots and their flying mounts make saving lives a daily event

STORY BY MAJ. ENRIQUE VASQUEZ

DURING THE DAYS OF SABER-drawn charges and bugle calls the cliché “Scouts Out” became synonymous with the U.S. cavalry sending out a horse-mounted party to locate the enemy. In 1943 the U.S. cavalry unsaddled its horses for the last time and became a more mobile and technologically advanced entity which serves as a vital component of Army aviation.

Mounted troopers no longer ride into battle atop a galloping

steed. Instead, the modern-day scouts of the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment ride into battle aboard sleek OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopters.

The 1-6 CAV, known as the Fighting Sixth, are currently supporting air operations with the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in northern Iraq.

“A large portion of our mission is counter improvised explosive device operations,” said Chief

Warrant Officer 3 Gary M. Snook, Kiowa pilot for Troop B, 1-6.

“We fly up and down Iraq’s dominate roads and highways, known as main supply routes, looking for people setting up IEDs.

By locating IED emplacements we keep Soldiers on the ground from being hurt or killed,” said Snook.

Pilots of the Fighting Sixth fly ahead of ground units to keep the routes safe..

“We are out supporting the

trailblazer elements on the ground, trying to find and destroy the IEDs before they hit the convoys,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Moore, Troop B, 1-6.

Besides keeping the roadways clear, the scout pilots play a unique role in locating insurgents on the ground.

“By providing direct support to forces on the ground on a daily basis, we know what the insurgents are doing. We know the enemy’s TTPs (tactics techniques and procedures). If the enemy is going to emplace IEDs, we know what he is going to do and where he will go,” said Moore.

This knowledge allows the scouts to know what particular suspicious activities they are looking for. This allows them to discriminate between hostile and non-hostile intent.

“When we make contact with the enemy, we have to ensure they are legitimate. Out here the enemy is very fluid, often blending in with the local populace and appearing like everyone else,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brad Cressman, Troop B, 1-6 CAV. “If the people on the ground we encounter are not doing anything blatantly wrong we just continue to observe and call on

ground forces so they can further develop the situation and get more details,” said Cressman.

Upon encountering possible enemy threats Kiowa aircrews can’t just fire on the mere perception of suspicious activity.

According to Moore, aviation assets are a huge help, because they give Soldiers in contact the situational awareness they need.

“Being in an urban environment, ground forces have a lot of things that preclude them from seeing the enemy or where the shooting is



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Be Prepared... 1-6 CAV maintainers load .50 caliber ammunition into a Kiowa Warrior’s .50 caliber machine gun prior to an escort mission

‘We are out supporting the trailblazer elements on the ground trying to find and destroy the IEDs before they hit the convoys.’

--- CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 CHRISTOPHER MOORE, 1-6 KIWAWA PILOT

coming from,” said Moore.

“We are the eyes in the sky for the Soldiers on the ground. Hence we walk them on to the different targets or suspicious activities,” said Moore.

Keeping the Kiowa airborne, watching the bad guys and guiding the ground units takes a

coordinated effort.

The pilot seated on the right is responsible for positioning the aircraft. He maintains aircraft avoidance and aircraft control.

In turn, the copilot seated on the left takes the information from the ground units and correlates it with the pilot to get the Kiowa into the fight.

The copilot is responsible for keeping an eye on those on the ground and working with the ground units to help distinguish between friend, foe and non-combatants.

“Once on station the (copilot) works all the systems and subsystems, while doing most of the talking trying to coordinate the battle,” said Cressman

Ground troop commanders often make the final determination on whether there is hostile intent, and have the option to call in Kiowa or other aerial platforms to assist and fire on a confirmed enemy.

The knowledge that Army scouts are there to support the ground forces gives Soldiers a positive outlook.

“It gives the troops confidence that we are going to be there to help out. We are looking for insurgents before the troops run into them. In addition, this helps the battle because it preserves the combat power, by keeping Soldiers on the ground safe,” said Snook.

In Iraq today the Fighting Sixth scouts continue to go into battle as they did during the Indian Wars, San Juan Hill and with Patton’s Third Army.

“We are the ‘Scouts Out’, meaning we are out front, we are always the first there and the last out, always looking for the bad guys,” said Snook.



On The Fence

Approaching the day they leave their posts for the last time, 2-1 GSAB's tower guards reflect on the unique contribution they made to both the CAB and COB Speicher

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF TROTH

Most Soldiers deployed to Iraq are doing their part in the war against terrorism using the skills they learned at their advanced individual training. This isn't the case for some Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Soldiers. Their time in country has been nothing like what they learned in AIT or basic training – they are pulling tower guard at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

“I feel pretty important because I protect all the Soldiers that come in and out of this base,” said Spc. Lewis Wetzel, an automated logistics specialist with Company E, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment. “I feel good that I am protecting them, protecting the entire COB.”

Filling the 30 positions needed to guard their portion of COB

Changing of the Guard

Pfc. Jeremy Bedesky of Company E, 2-1 GSAB, stands guard at the base of his guard tower

Speicher's perimeter meant that the unit had to see where they could afford to do without certain Soldiers and still accomplish their mission. According to Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Bell, the 2-1 GSAB force protection NCOIC, the unit looked at positions where they had more than one Soldier working.

“We didn't have excess personnel, but if we had everyone we needed in the 63B (wheeled vehicle mechanic) we would take a couple of those,” said Bell. “Our generator guys are high priority out here. If a generator goes down it kills everyone's missions. So we didn't touch those mechanics.”

“We looked at priority of mission and then we looked at the number of manpower that supports that mission. Then we cut back where we thought we could afford it. We said ‘we are not going to have an armorer, we are only going to have one supply guy when we could have two.’ So priority of mission and strength management is how they were chosen.”



Obligations *Each tower is responsible for a large sector of land*

The Soldiers and NCOs who were chosen for guard tower duty realize that they have a big task.

“I would like to do my logistics job, because that is what I joined the Army to do,” said Wetzel. “I am the kind of person that likes to do things that need to be done, and this is a job that needs to be done. This job is really important.”

“It makes me feel privileged that they trust me enough to put me in charge of keeping everyone safe,” said Spc. Rachel Butcher, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Co. E, 2-1.

Although manning a guard tower is nothing like working in a supply room or motor pool, the Soldiers received the necessary training needed from their predecessors who manned the same tower.

“We were with the previous unit for around two weeks and they taught us what we are supposed to look for and showed us everything that is out there, everything that is normally out there,” said Butcher. “We got a lot of hands on training, which was better than just books.”

Besides being shown the proper scanning techniques and what they could expect to see outside the wire, the incoming CAB Soldiers

were given hands on training for the use, care and maintenance of all the equipment in the tower. This ranged from operation of the communication gear to performing immediate action on the crew served weapon.

“The training was totally different than basic training. We put together a PMI, primary marksmanship instruction class, and we gave everyone classes on the SAW, the 240B, and the .50 cal,” said Staff Sgt. Willie Scott, the 2-1’s force protection commander-of-the-relief. “Then we took them to the range for two days and let each Soldier familiarize themselves with the weapons.”

But their training did not stop there; it has continued through daily and weekly tasks that they must perform while on tower duty.

“They take the weapon apart,

“Everyone on this COB depends on those of us in the towers, and we won’t let them down.”

--- SPC. RACHEL BUTCHER, TOWER GUARD

put it back together, do a functions check and make sure it works. With the .50 cal they do head space and timing every single week,” said Scott. “I base how successful their training is by how those weapons fire when I do my weekly test fires – and I have yet to have a problem with a weapon.”

The task of manning the guard towers not only allows the rest of the CAB to concentrate on their mission of providing round-the-clock aviation support in northern Iraq, it also frees up infantrymen who might have been tasked to

protect the COB.

“By us manning the towers as opposed to an infantry unit helps their mission,” said Scott. “If they had to put Soldiers in the towers it would impact their mission considerably. They wouldn’t have the manpower they need when they are out on the road, doing patrols and kicking in doors.”

In the near future a contract goes into effect relieving the 2-1 of their guard duties. Although the Soldiers will be doing the job they joined the Army for, they say they will miss manning the towers.

“They love what they are doing,” said Bell. “They have actually been doing what they had hoped they would be able to do. And now, they are being told ‘you did a great job but we are sending you back to your units’.

“The Soldiers that are in those towers feel like they have set a standard that is beyond compare. They have taken ownership of those towers and made them their own. They definitely don’t want to leave the towers.”

Until their replacements show up and the 2-1 Soldiers give them the

Eyes peeled

Spc. Billy Miller Company E, 2-1 GSAB, loads his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

same training, the same briefs that they received in September, they have only one thing on their mind, keeping the base safe.

“My biggest concern is that maybe I won’t notice something,” said Butcher. “That is the only thing that worries me, because everyone on this COB depends on those of us in the towers, and we won’t let them down.”



Aviation's AutoZone

Never mind NAPA -- These mechanics face hardships far beyond a frozen bolt or seized engine block. How the 601st ASB mechanics keep the CAB moving

STORY BY 2ND LT. JACOB KONKOL

Faster than Jiffy Lube and with more parts than Pep Boys, the 601st Aviation Support Battalion's Motor Pool Platoon are ready to work on everything from fuel trucks to M16s.

Its 4 a.m. on a Friday morning and the motor pool Soldiers are lining up vehicles belonging to the 601st Quick Reactionary Force to perform monthly preventive maintenance checks and services. Keeping these vehicles running is a number one priority for the mechanics, as they are vital to the security of Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

The QRF vehicles are just part of the 601st motor pool's monthly PMCS/services plan. It incorporates a variety of wheeled vehicles that are essential to maintaining the over 200 aircraft of the CAB. Throughout the course of the month all of the 601st sections, to include the Downed Aircraft Recovery Team, Forward Area Refueling Point, Vehicle Recovery

Team and Transportation Platoon bring their deadlined vehicles to the motor pool for repairs.

"We maintain the vehicles that are the backbone to supporting the aviation mission of this unit," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Gray. "Without us nothing on wheels moves."

Throughout the course of the day a variety of vehicles come through the bays, as soon as one vehicle moves out, another one is rolled in. "I like that I get to explore the inner workings of such complicated pieces of equipment," said Spc. Nathaniel Tibbits as he works on a torque rod bracket for a 5-ton truck. "I like the jobs that challenge me. There isn't any job that I'm afraid to take on."

Much of the time in the motor pool is spent working on deadlined vehicles that take more than a day to complete. "One of the best parts of this job is that time goes quickly with the jobs we do here," said Spc. Tormain Jefferson, as he works to replace an engine in an up-armored Humvee, the primary

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



vehicle for U.S. combat missions. "It is crazy how I get working on an engine and before I know it, it is time to go home."

Throughout the day, vehicles continue to roll through the motor pool with items that need repairs; many drop off generators to the Power Generation Section.

"We support a large variety of generators, varying in size from 3 Kilowatts to 100 Kilowatts; it requires a lot of knowledge and experience to work on so many types of equipment like that," added Spc. Corey Evans.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Fluids flowing

Spc. James Friddle, top, of Headquarters Company, 601st ASB, replaces the gear oil in a 2½ ton truck. Left, Pfc. Randell Richards lubricates the U-joints on a 2½ ton truck



Backbone

For more photos of the 601st maintainers, go to www.dvidshub.net/units/CAB-1id



Demon Redeemers

Million-selling Christian rock act Third Day ventures into the land of the Demons to bring their unique style to an audience of faith-filled CAB Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MAJ. ENRIQUE T. VASQUEZ

New experiences

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Coy Pennington explains Apache features to Mark Lee of Third Day



Third Day Live

For more photos of the Third Day Concert, go to www.dvidshub.net/units/CAB-1id

Soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, spent a music-filled evening jamming to the sounds of the Atlanta-based Christian rock band Third Day.

The CAB Soldiers, along with several hundred other Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Civilians attended a United Service Organizations sponsored concert at Contingency Operating Base Speicher on Jan. 17. Military fans

of the multi-platinum, Grammy and Dove Award-winning rock band got to see the veteran music group up close and personal in Iraq.

The background sounds of electric guitar, bass and drums complemented the vocals of lead singer Mac Powell who quickly turned the crowd into a euphoric audience. Concert attendees were moved by the spiritual lyrics of the band as they raised their arms and sang with the band.

"I think it's uplifting and I believe by them being here, they give us a sense of hope and faith while we are away from our family and friends. Just hearing God's word and having that around you along with his love and glory can be quite uplifting to anybody," said Pfc. Jazzlyn D. Castro, Headquarters Support Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion.

The band experienced a very warm welcome by service members as reflected by those attending the concert.

"I think it's a great thing that the band took time to come to a war zone to entertain the troops. There are a lot of music groups that can be brought for Soldiers, but it's impressive to solicit a Christian group to come to play for the troops," said Sgt. 1st Class Travis Wilson, Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment.

During the concert the band

invited several members of the audience to play and sing with the band, including Sgt. Chad E. "Sticks" Cooke, of Company D, 2-1 GSAB.



Inspired Mac Powell of Third Day plays "Love Song" for Soldiers at COB Speicher

"Come on down Sticks, show us what you got. Play the drums with us. You better be good," said Powell. After a few instructions, Cooke and the rest of the band played the song, "Consuming Fire."

Powell and drummer David Carr were extremely impressed with Cooke's drumming skill

and remarked Carr should get ready for new employment in Iraq.

"Looks like David Carr will be looking for another line of work, Sticks did a real good job; let's have a round of applause for Sticks," said Powell.

Over the past decade, Third Day has amassed 24 No. 1 singles and sold almost six million albums.

"I think it's great the band came to entertain," said Chief Warrant

'Just hearing God's word and having that around you can be quite uplifting to anybody.'

--- PFC. JAZZLYN D. CASTRO, 601ST AVIATION SUPPORT BATTALION



Drummer Boy Sgt. Chad E. "Sticks" Cooke, of Company D, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, plays the drums for the Atlanta-based Christian rock band Third Day during the song "Consuming Fire" to a crowd of several hundred service members.

Officer 5 Coy Pennington of Headquarters and Headquarter Company, CAB, a fan of the band for the past ten years.

"I have heard everything they have ever played and own all of their albums," he said.

Pennington got a chance to spend time with the band earlier in the day when Third Day visited the

'The show was nothing short of unbelievable... I had to look down the whole time or I'd totally lose it.'

--- MARK LEE, THIRD DAY GUITARIST

CAB area. He and other pilots were on hand to show the musicians the high-tech AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters.

The band exhibited excitement, especially for one song pertaining to Christ's sacrifice on Calvary hill, which left a deep impression on the band.

"The show was nothing short of unbelievable. We decided to add 'Love Song' to the middle of the set and I had to look down the whole time or I'd totally lose it.

"I talked to several after the show who had lost it during that song and at several other times during the set," said Mark Lee, guitarist for Third Day.

Bringing people together through music is what some service members think about Third Day's

songs and lyrics.

"Music events are great because they do a couple of things. They bring Soldiers together, which allows them to worship together.

It also encourages Soldiers to listen to others that minister too. Third Day is a very Christ centered band and they put the word out quite well," said Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff McKinney, the battalion chaplain for 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment.

"The music is awesome!" said Spc. Zachary M. Smalley, with Headquarters and Headquarters' Company, 1-1 AA.

"It is the easiest way to get young people's attention, and old people's attention; music is what binds people together," he said.



Photo Illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Taxing Times

You've got a deadline extension, but by filing now, you can avoid giving Uncle Sam an interest-free loan

BY CPT FRANK KOSTIK AND SPC EMILY PEREZ

AS THE APRIL 15 TAX deadline approaches, don't forget about important tax benefits available to deployed Soldiers and family members and potential filing issues while your loved one is deployed. The Army and the federal government offer a variety of approaches to meeting your family's tax obligation while balancing the hardship of deployment. Two important benefits to remember are deployed Soldiers and their Families can

delay paying taxes or complete taxes using a power of attorney.

Soldiers who are deployed to a combat zone are eligible for an automatic extension through the duration of their deployment and the amount of time during tax season plus 180 days. This time starts the day the Soldier re-

Just because you can wait to file your taxes, does not make it a good idea!

deploys. Sometimes this number can be difficult to calculate; problems can be alleviated by filing your taxes or speaking to a legal assistance attorney within 180 days from re-deployment. This extension also applies to stateside spouses, if you will be filing a joint return.

In addition to filing federal taxes, some states also require service members to file a tax return. Many states do not follow the same rules or have automatic extensions for deployed Soldiers. Contact the Fort Riley Tax Center at the numbers below to determine if your state requires a request for an extension or if it is automatic. This easy step will avoid unnecessary filing penalties later.

Soldiers currently deployed in a combat zone may provide a power of attorney for the purpose of filing their federal and state taxes to either their Spouse or a responsible third party.

A power of attorney for taxes can be obtained and completed by deployed Soldiers here in Iraq at the CAB Legal Center or by family members at the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office.

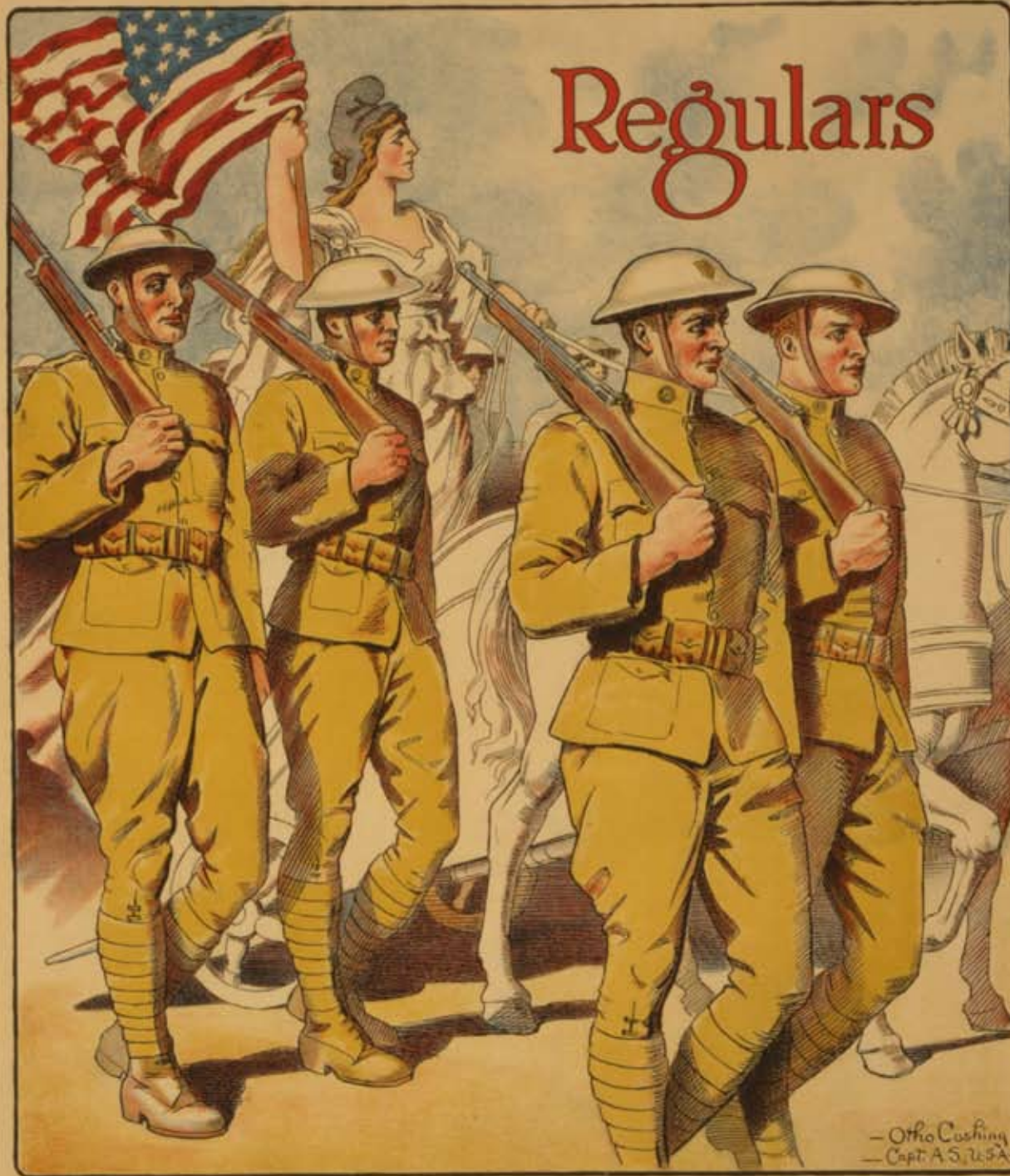
Just because you can wait to file your taxes, does not make it a good idea! If you are due a refund, wouldn't you rather have it sooner than later?

File your taxes when you are able to, rather than waiting. Unfortunately, the legal office cannot help with deployed Soldiers' taxes.

The Fort Riley Tax Center is now open to file taxes. It is located at Building 7102, across the street from the Post Exchange. Capt. Jeremy Jacobs is the officer-in-charge and can be reached at 785-239-1040 or DSN at 312-856-1040.

FIRST **1** DIVISION

CAMP TAYLOR, KENTUCKY



INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

ENLIST FOR

Infantry, Cavalry, Field Artillery, Engineers, Signal Corps
Quartermaster Corps, Medical Department or Coast Artillery
Air Service, Tank Corps, Motor Transport, Ordnance & Construction Division.

APPLY

1ID HISTORY

STORY BY SPC. MICHAEL HOWARD

The Big Red One's journey into existence began on May 2, 1917, when Army Chief of Staff Gen. Hugh Scott ordered Maj. Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing to select one artillery and four infantry regiments and prepare them for shipment to France to serve as the vanguard of American forces in World War I. Pershing selected the 16th, 18th, 26th, and 28th Infantry Regiments and the 6th Field Artillery Regiment for assignment to what was initially known as the 1st Expeditionary Division.

During the next few months, these regiments were joined by the 5th and 7th Field Artillery regiments and many other organizations to form the 1st Infantry Division.

Army Assistant Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Tasker Bliss awarded command of the division to Maj. Gen. William L. Seibert, based on his excellent performance as an engineer in the Panama Canal Zone. Seibert had little experience with infantry units.

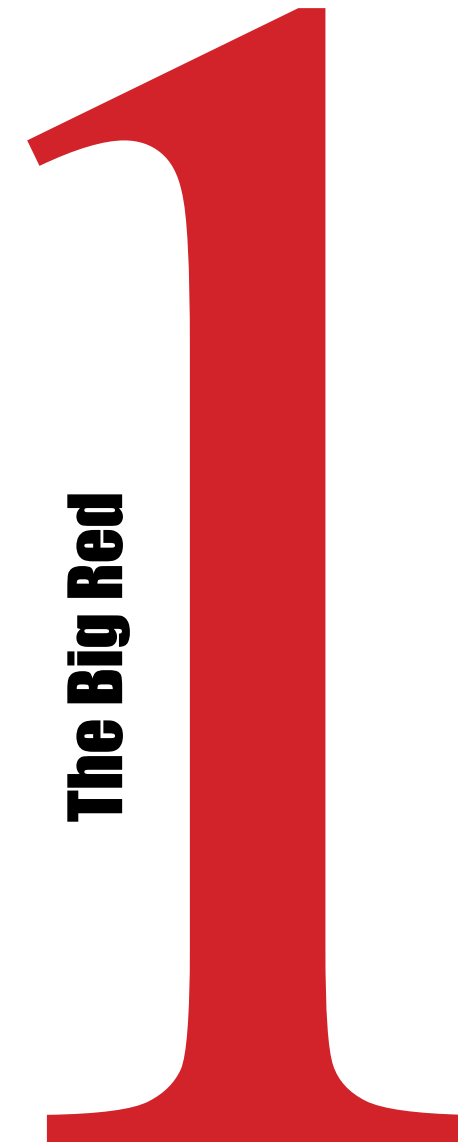
A rude awakening

The Army was less prepared for war in April 1917 than they would ever be again in the 20th century, with a total Regular Army strength of 127,588 Soldiers. The then 1st Expeditionary Division reflected the miserable readiness condition of the U.S. Army in 1917.

One of the first problems was that there was no structure for an Army division beyond the tentative decision that it would contain four infantry regiments and that it would be a combined arms organization of infantry and artillery.

The War Department proposed a divisional structure that included 19,492 men, organized in two brigades of two regiments each. Pershing modified this plan by deciding that 12,288 men would be riflemen instead of the originally planned 7,344. This change reflected Pershing's belief that riflemen trained in long-range marksmanship would be the primary weapon needed to break the stalemate on the Western Front.

It was quite convenient for Pershing to hold this belief, because the Springfield M1903 bolt-action, single-shot rifle was the only viable weapon the division had in any number. The 1ID had about 500 three-inch guns on hand, about one seventh of the approximately 3,500 needed to make the field artillery an effective force on the battlefield. The rest of the



The Big Red

Begins Its Birth

Arriving in France, a mass of troops coalesces into the unit of lore under Gen. John Pershing's guidance

guns would have to be borrowed from the French forces.

The division had only two weeks to get organized from the time of their activation to their railroad trip to New Jersey and their subsequent trip overseas. This was barely enough time for leaders to meet troops, issue uniforms and rifles to the 14,000 men who would initially constitute the division.

LaFayette, we are here!

As Pershing and his assistants tackled the challenges of creating an expeditionary force almost from scratch, the men of the 11D headed across the Atlantic. They disembarked in St. Nazaire on June 26, 1917 and with little fanfare, marched to their temporary quarters in a cantonment whose former purpose was to hold German prisoners of war. In early July, the infantry regiments moved to more permanent quarters located at Gondrecourt in Lorraine via rail. The officers sat in 2nd class passenger coaches, and the enlisted men rode in cattle boxcars. In Gondrecourt, the Soldiers were accommodated in barns and other farm buildings.

The artillery units went to train with the French at their artillery center in Valdahon in eastern France. The artillerymen received training in the morning from French instructors and practiced the techniques they learned under their own officers in the afternoon.

Strategy sessions

One of Pershing's first challenges was to decide the strategy his troops would use to break the stalemate on the Western Front. Pershing based all of his training on the belief that American Soldiers needed to master the skills

required of open warfare before they learned the expedient tactics of trench warfare.

Open warfare was not trench warfare, with its emphasis on defensive positions, machine guns, heavy use of artillery and barbed wire. It was an offensive doctrine that emphasized open formations of infantrymen using their rifles at long ranges and maneuver by dispersed units to destroy enemy machine gun positions.

Open warfare was a state of mind as much as a doctrine. It did not fit the current tactical situation, and certainly didn't prepare the American Army for its immediate tactical role in World War I.

French and British leaders were convinced that the best way to train the Americans was to place American companies and battalions in French or British divisions for an extended period of service. Whether or not this was true, President Woodrow Wilson entered the Great War with the intent of placing himself at the head of the negotiating table when the war was won. Accepting this amalgamation would have undermined American clout during the peace negotiations.

Basic Training

Half of recruits underwent their basic training at the former German POW camp at St. Nazaire. The American commanders covered saluting, personal bearing, and proper wear of uniform.

Rifle training began Aug. 2, 1917. The soldiers got heavy training assistance from the French in covering grenades, mortars, 37mm cannon, and machine guns.

On Sept. 21, Siebert decided it was time for the division to stand alone. He dropped the training assistance from the French, and

relieved several commanders he didn't think could get the job done.

In early October, Siebert began plans to put division elements into combat. The artillery regiments training at Valdahon got high



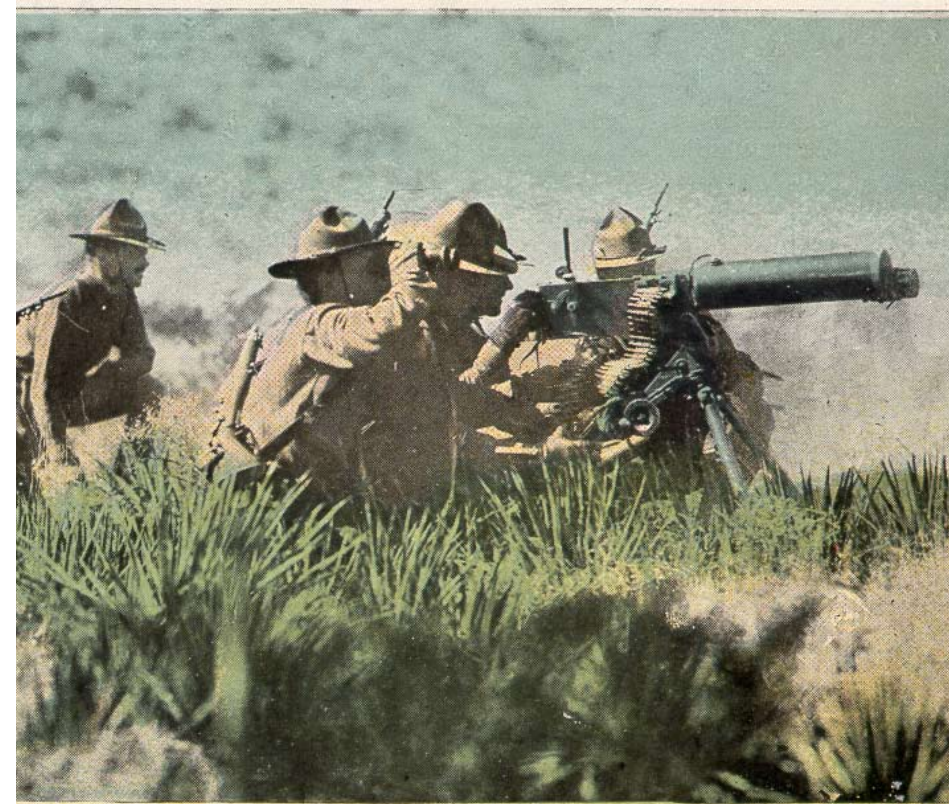
Patchwork Original patch used to designate Soldiers of the Big Red One in Europe

marks from their instructors and were especially ready to join the battle. The French provided the artillery units with almost all their equipment, including horses and cannons.

First taste of combat

On Oct. 8, General Headquarters ordered Siebert to select four battalions to go into combat in the French trenches. On Oct. 17, the first battalions to join the fight set out by truck from their billets at Gondrecourt to the Sommerville Sector in Lorraine. They relieved the French in their trenches for the first time on the night of Oct. 20.

The infantry was quickly reinforced with French artillery units augmented with the 1st Infantry Division's artillery battalions on Oct. 22. Battery C, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, fired the first American artillery round of the war at 6:05 a.m., Oct. 23, 1917.



Short Supply Near the beginning, American machine guns were not available in large quantities

The U.S. Soldiers fought alongside their French counterparts for ten days, racking up their first three dead, but gaining a measure of respect from the French commanders. As the men trucked back to their billets at Gondrecourt, Siebert issued a general order to the division that "we are now starting on the final period of training. Weather conditions will make it a particularly hard and trying one."

Siebert did not know that this uninspiring message would be one of the last messages he gave to his division. Pershing relieved Siebert on Dec. 14. Pershing said that Siebert did not fit his vision of an aggressive, loyal commander.

Pershing's case was supported by a series of messages Siebert sent to AEF headquarters in October and November that emphasized the division's difficulties and omitted the progress it was making.

Pershing decided that if training difficulties discouraged Siebert to this extent, there was no way he could handle the difficulties and setbacks inherent in combat.

Pershing had Maj. Gen. Robert Bullard assume command. Bullard imparted to the division's commanders his sense of urgency and total commitment to Pershing's philosophy of command. At one of his staff meetings, he said, "if we cannot do the job, we will be replaced." He made it clear that he would not be the first to be relieved. He followed up on his promise almost immediately, relieving Brig Gen. Charles McKinstry and Col. Ulysses Grant McAlexander.

Big Red One in action

The Big Red One underwent trial by mire long before they underwent their trial by fire. Bullard received orders to move his troops to the front west of Toul and relieve the French on Jan. 16, 1918. The

troops set out for the Ansauville subsector, 40 kilometers away on Jan. 14. With no motor transport, they walked on roads made of a slushy combination of mud and ice, and entire teams of horses slid off, having to be reharnessed if they were not too badly injured to continue. It would be months before the division's horse teams recovered.

Under the torturous conditions, the division arrived two days late. They relieved the French over three nights, from the 18th to the 21st of January. The sector the division inherited was a marshy section of ground overlooked by a hill known as Montsec. From Montsec, the Germans could fire artillery at will against the 11D.

During its time in Ansauville the 1st Division received major attention from AEF Headquarters, General Pershing, and Allied leaders. Everyone wanted to visit the first sector of the front held by an American division and commanded by American generals. Despite the "help" from the dignitaries, Bullard and his staff developed the routines and skills needed to command a division at war.

Artillery commander Brig. Gen. Charles P. Summerall aggressively sought targets in the German lines, and artillery observers lived at the front with the infantry, connected to their guns by telephone. Thus began the modern tradition of combined arms operation that have characterized the U.S. Army since.

On April 8th, Pershing declared the division fully trained and prepared for offensive combat operations. The 1st Infantry Division had become America's first combat-ready division in the twentieth century.

SELFLESS

SERVICE

Put the welfare of the Nation,
the Army, the CAB, and your
subordinates before you own.

*"A young man that does not have what it
takes to perform military service does not
to have what it takes to make a living"*

— John Fitzgerald Kennedy

U.S. ARMY
CALL TO DUTY
BOOTS ON THE GROUND



U.S. ARMY

1

ARMY STRONG.

ARMY
VALUES