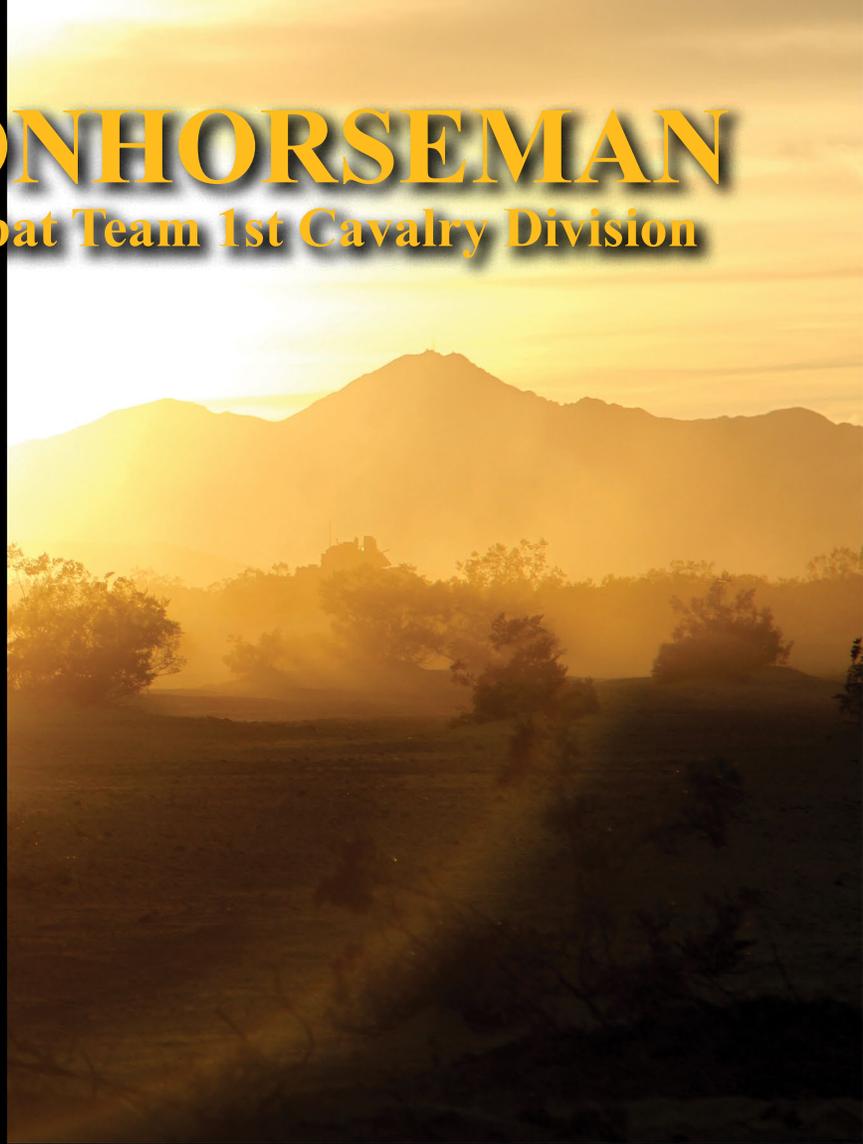




THE IRONHORSEMAN

1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division



**After months of preparation:
the Ironhorse Brigade came,
saw and conquered NTC**



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1st Brigade Combat Team
1st Cavalry Division
Fort Hood, Texas



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Hammer suits up for CBRN training

By Pfc. Paige Pendleton
1BCT, 1CD PAO



1st Sgt. Maria Levitre, a San German, Puerto Rico, native and senior noncommissioned officer from Headquarters and Headquarters "Hammer" Company, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, checks the seal on her protective gas mask during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training, Jan. 10, at Fort Hood, Texas.



1st Sgt. Maria Levitre (right), San German, Puerto Rico, native and senior noncommissioned officer of Hammer Company, supervises Hammer Soldiers as they don chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protective gear during a five-minute drill conducted as a part of Hammer's CBRN refresher training, Jan. 10, at Fort Hood, Texas.



(Above) Capt. Timothy Martin (right), Midland, Mich., native and commander of Hammer Company, demonstrates how to properly don chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protective gear during CBRN training, Jan. 10, at Fort Hood, Texas. Hammer conducted CBRN training to refresh Soldiers on the proper use and donning of joint service lightweight integrated suit technology protective gear in preparation for Ironhorse's upcoming rotation to the National Training Center.

(Left) Privates Ryan Knight (left), and Dallas Price-Holmes, both fire support specialists assigned to Hammer Company, don chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protective gear during a five-minute drill conducted as a part of Hammer's CBRN refresher training, Jan. 10, at Fort Hood, Texas.



Cavalry Troops prepare for 1,400-mile Californian journey

Story and Photos By Pfc. Paige Pendleton
1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Caravans of cargo flatbeds began lining motor pools of the 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Jan. 13 to 16, here.

In a combined effort, Company A, 115th “Muleskinner” Brigade Support Battalion of the Ironhorse Bde. along with the 297th “Ghostriders” Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 180th Transportation Bn., 4th Sustainment Bde., 13th Sustainment Command began the process of preparing more than 100 shipping containers for movement to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Throughout the week, Muleskinners lined the brigade’s motor pools with cargo flatbeds while Ghostriders loaded containers on the trucks for transport to the Fort Hood Rail Operations Center.

The shipping containers, stocked with almost everything 1st BCT needs for the training exercise, will later be shipped by rail to NTC.

Sgt. Gustavo Ocasio, a motor transport operator with the 115th, said most equipment travels by rail instead of truck, because it is a more cost-effective means for transporting equipment in large quantities. Other gear, including weapons and radios, will follow in trucks.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel McMillen, a mobility officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT, is responsible for coordinating movement of the equipment to NTC.

A native of Joplin, Mo., McMillen said the movement process begins two weeks before the train arrives ensuring units have their equipment and containers inspected, certified and ready to be shipped. The two-week timeframe allows appropriate time to correct deficiencies, like damage to containers.

“This is the hardest part of the maneuver right here,” said Ocasio, a native of Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. “Getting the Soldiers onto the plane is pretty straightforward, but getting the equipment in place, (there are) a lot of moving pieces.”

The next steps toward moving Ironhorse to NTC are rail operations to ship containers by train, McMillen said, then preparing vehicles and containers for movement by truck.

“It’s truly a team effort,” McMillen said. “Not just internally to the brigade but also with division and outside agencies.”



Sgt. Gustavo Ocasio, a Muleskinner motor transport operator, guides an RT240 Kalmar Rough Terrain Container Handler as it moves shipping containers for transport, Jan. 14, at Fort Hood, Texas.



Spc. David Bell, a cargo specialist assigned to the 297th Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 180th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command, guides an RT240 Kalmar Rough Terrain Container Handler as it carries a Lancer shipping container Jan. 14, at Fort Hood, Texas.



Ironhorse rolls out, establishes area of operations



Pvt. Pedro Mijares (right), a mechanic assigned to Forward Support Company E, 91st "Saber" Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Spc. Jessica Jourden (left), a Soldier assigned to the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to the Ironhorse Brigade, take up a defensive position Feb. 19 at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.



Spc. Nathan Tapp, a Soldier assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 2nd Chemical Battalion, 48th Chemical Brigade, helps set up a tent Feb. 14 at Fort Irwin, Calif. After arriving via convoy to the training area, also known as "The Box" at Fort Irwin's National Training Center, units attached to Ironhorse began establishing areas of operations.

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. John Couffer

1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT IRWIN, CALIF. – During the pre-dawn hours in the Mojave Desert, Soldiers began loading their bags, checking their equipment, and inspecting their vehicles, in preparation for a two-week desert exercise.

Soldiers of the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and its attached elements recently rolled out to the training area, also known as "The Box," at the National Training Center.

The training was planned for months, and the Soldiers were ready.

"The Soldiers are motivated, ready to do their job," said 1st Sgt. Maria Levitre, the first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Hammer," 1st BCT, who aided in the coordination of the convoy.

It's all about motivation and having the right frame of mind when it comes to successful training, she added.

Prior to moving out, Soldiers received a safety, route and emergency communication plan brief. Leaders conducted vehicle and personal equipment inspections, ensuring everyone had what they needed for the training.

At 10 a.m., Levitre directed the con-

voy move out, and together, the vehicles traveled about 25 kilometers over curving, bumpy and dusty roads en route to their destination.

Levitre said the convoy, which she initially thought would take longer, went well.

"I thought it (went) great," said Levitre. "I say that because we were estimating the time to be six hours, and we made it in three hours and twenty minutes."

The convoy snaked across the desert, and consisted of about 50 vehicles, ranging from cargo trucks pulling trailers to High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles.

Upon arrival to the training area, some Soldiers pulled security while others got to work establishing various unit tactical operations centers to conduct operations as a brigade on-the-go.

Soldiers pulled together to establish critical command systems, deploy shelters and set up radio and digital communications.

"The teamwork is good, I mean, the bottom line is (the Soldiers) want to complete the mission," said Master Sgt. Corey McFadden, the brigade's operations sergeant major.

Addressing the overall picture of the Ironhorse Brigade's training at NTC, McFadden said this type of training better prepares the unit and Soldiers for any future mission.

"It's an experience," McFadden said.

Pfc. Joseph Ybanez, a supply specialist assigned to Hammer Troop said he was excited about the training.

"It gives me a real world look at what my job truly is," Ybanez said.

As a supply specialist working in the brigade's support section, Ybanez tracks what items battalions have on hand, like food and water, and then he predicts what the unit will need 72 hours out, and coordinates with other supply units to get what is needed.

Ybanez said it was amazing to see the brigade move into the middle of nowhere, establish network communications, see the units work hand-in-hand, and accomplish the mission.

Being in the field also presents an opportunity to make new friends.

"In the field, you have conversations with people you don't normally talk to," Ybanez said.

He said he made some really good friends while working on details like guard duty with other Soldiers.

Ybanez offered some friendly advice to Soldiers who've never been to NTC, but who may be going. He said to keep an open mind and be ready to learn.

"It's an experience like no other," Ybanez said. "Everybody needs to come with a perspective to learn ... why not get better as a brigade (or) as an individual Soldier."



Stallion Soldiers reenlist at National Training Center

By Sgt. Bailey Kramer
IBCT, 1CD PAO

(Right) Five Soldiers from the 2nd "Stallion" Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division reenlisted Feb. 9, during their training rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. (Left to right) Company A Soldiers Sgt. George Semidey, an infantryman and New York native; Spc. Ryan Asch, an infantryman and Taberg, N.Y., native; Spc. Gary Jordan, an infantryman and Mt. Vernon, Ind., native; Spc. Ashli Riggsbee, a Vader, Wash., native and wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Forward Support Company J; and Spc. Christopher James, an infantryman and Sacramento, Calif., native also assigned to Company A render salutes at the conclusion of their reenlistment ceremony.



(Above) Spc. Christopher James (right), a Sacramento, Calif., native and Stallion infantryman is presented his oath of reenlistment from his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Felix Perez, at Fort Irwin, Calif., Feb. 9.

(Right) Lt. Col. Felix Perez (left), Stallion commander, swore in five Soldiers during their reenlistment at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., Feb. 9. The Soldiers raised their right hands at the Ironhorse Rock, right outside the training post's gate.



SMA visits Cav units at the National Training Center

By Staff Sgt. John Couffer, photos by Sgt. Fred Brown
IBCT, 1CD PAO



Col. Steve Gilland (right), commander of the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and Sgt. Maj. Richard Johnson (left), the senior enlisted member of the Ironhorse Brigade, orient Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler (center) to the brigade's training area at the National Training Center Feb. 20, at Fort Irwin, Calif. During Chandler's visit he spoke with and recognized leaders and Soldiers.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler (left) meets with Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Lawson of the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division during his visit to the National Training Center Feb. 20 at Fort Irwin, Calif. Lawson, the noncommissioned officer of the brigade's engineer section received a Sergeant Major of the Army coin in recognition of his efforts during the brigade's training rotation.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler (left) speaks with Sgt. Maj. Richard Johnson, the senior enlisted member of the Ironhorse Brigade, during his visit to the National Training Center Feb. 20, at Fort Irwin, Calif.



Cav Trooper takes unique opportunity to remember fallen Soldier

By Pfc. Paige Behringer
1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – After 25 years, one Soldier was afforded the opportunity of a lifetime as he flew among clouds above a vast desert in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, looking out the window for something near to his heart at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., March 2.

During his unit's rotation to NTC, 1st Lt. Robert Wilson III searched an area known as Refrigerator Gap for the site of a 25 year-old helicopter crash.

The goal of the search wasn't simply to locate the site of a training accident involving the same type of helicopter carrying him over the windy desert that day, but to find the memorial to someone the Austin, Texas, native barely knew – his father.

"I was always kind of interested in seeing (the site)," said Wilson, a platoon leader assigned to Company D of the 2nd "Lancer" Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "I didn't know if I'd have the opportunity."

When Wilson was only 9 months old, his father, 1st Lt. Robert "Rob" Wilson II, was killed in a training accident on July 22, 1989, along with five other Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

During Rob's rotation to NTC, the helicopter he was aboard nose-dived, striking a large boulder with enough force to leave gouges on its surface.

Rob, a native of Dumfries, Va., was serving as an intelligence officer at the time of



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Couffer

1st Lt. Robert Wilson III, a Lancer platoon leader, looks out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter window over an area known as Refrigerator Gap March 2 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

the accident, but he began his Army career as an aviation officer at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

He met his wife and Wilson's mother, Darlene "Cookie" Wilson, a retired Army aviation officer, when they were classmates at the USMA. After college, Rob and Cookie began dating and were married in April 1987.

Cookie, now an associate professor at the University of Texas and emergency room nurse, said the accident was never a secret to their son. She would even tell him during thunderstorms that his father was bowling up in heaven.

Although the accident left Wilson without a father, his grandparents provided father figures for him to look up to, because they were a big part of his life. Wilson visited Rob's parents every summer growing up.

"My father was almost like his father," Cookie said. "My parents considered him one of their children."

Cookie said Wilson is the spitting image of Rob, adding

that their pictures are almost identical.

"I'm told frequently by my mom and by his parents that I'm very similar to how he was," Wilson said. "It gives me a pretty clear picture of how he was as a person, which I never really got to experience."

Cookie said Wilson resembles Rob in many ways, describing him as quiet, driven and organized with the same temperament as his father.

"(My son) even kicks the soccer ball the same way his dad did with his foot turned in," Cookie said.

Cookie recalled one difficult moment for Wilson growing up. When he was in the eighth grade, she was called back to active duty for the invasion of Iraq.

"(My son) looked at me and said, 'The Army has already taken my father. Why do they have to take my mother?'" Cookie said. "I think that was the hardest thing in my life, and I looked at him and said, 'Someday you will understand. You will do the same.'"

Approximately eight years later, Wilson joined the Army

as an armor officer, choosing the path of many family members before him.

Wilson said he believes there is inherent danger involved with NTC, but he wasn't fazed by it.

"I was wary about (NTC), but at the same time, it was the same danger as pretty much anywhere we go," Wilson explained.

"I think I was more worried about (my son going to) NTC than if he told me he was being deployed to Afghanistan, because that's where I lost his father," Cookie said.

Although his mother was concerned, Wilson knew she had faith in him.

"She gets a little bit worried like all moms do ... but she was also in the Army and understands how the Army works," Wilson said. "She knows me and believes in my ability to do things correctly and safely."

Two years after Rob's accident, Cookie was a company commander at Fort Polk, La., and had the opportunity to visit the crash site when her unit went to NTC.

Six white crosses, each named for the Soldiers whose lives were lost in the accident, marked the site as well as some evidence of the crash.

"I walked around, and I picked up a couple (of) little pieces of the aircraft, and I just felt at peace," Cookie said, her voice cracking. "For me it was closure."

Cookie said Wilson's rotation to NTC presented an opportunity for him to visit the site and possibly resolve feelings she may not know about.

"I felt (Rob) was with me there," Cookie said, on the verge of tears. "I thought maybe my son could feel that as well."



Cav Trooper takes unique opportunity to remember fallen Soldier

An email to Lt. Col. Cain Baker, the 1-227th battalion commander, turned out to be the opportunity Cookie hoped for.

“He wrote me back three months later, which to me was like divine intervention, because it was the week that (my son) had already gone to NTC,” Cookie explained.

Baker, deployed in Afghanistan at the time, took care of the coordination to ensure Wilson was able to visit the location.

“(My son’s) leadership was so amazing,” Cookie said. “They embraced my request and took my son under their wing to get that mission done ... It just gave me faith in today’s Army leaders ... at

the end of the day they’re not only leaders, but they’re kind, compassionate fathers and husbands.”

Wilson was in a meeting when Lt. Col. Carter Price, the Lancer battalion commander, approached him asking if he would be interested in visiting the site of his father’s accident.

“That was definitely an example of good leadership,” Wilson said. “(It showed) that the chain of command supports their Soldiers and honors Soldiers that have fallen. It was good to see that sacrifice and service (are) valued in this organization.”

The day Wilson, Price, and a small group of Soldiers flew to the site at NTC, it was cloudy and cold, but he was able to

walk the same area his mother walked years before.

“I wasn’t really sure how to feel,” Wilson said. “I just kind of went in with an open mind about it to try and absorb everything.”

He looked for the boulder struck by the helicopter 25 years ago, and believes he found it. Unfortunately he was unable to locate the memorial of crosses, suspecting two and a half decades of unpredictable weather may be the cause.

“It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience,” Wilson said. “I’ll never get that opportunity again.”

Feeling his visit would have been impossible without his rotation to NTC, Wilson said he believes he was able to

get some closure about the accident.

“I want to say that Price, his battalion commander, I think he walked up and down that mountain with my son,” Cookie said. “You know how lieutenants think of battalion commanders; they’re just this hardcore leader. I really think he felt, my son felt, Price walking him not only as a mentor and a leader but as a father. I can’t thank him enough for doing that for my son.”

Wilson and Cookie said they plan to visit the Fort Hood memorial dedicated to Rob and the Soldiers involved in the helicopter accident to remember, honor and pay respects to those fallen, loved and missed fathers, brothers and sons.

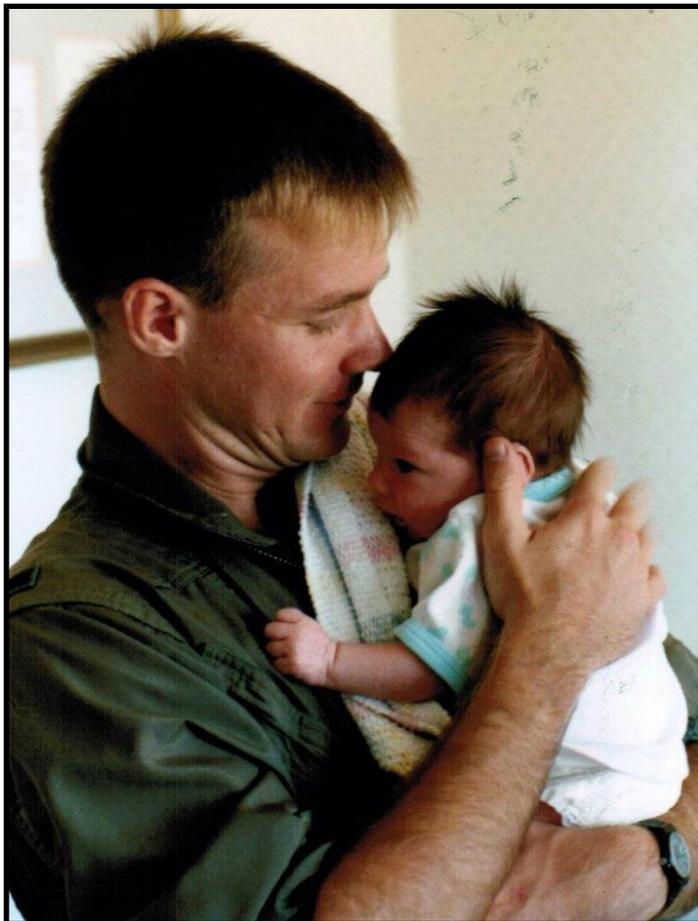


Photo courtesy of Darlene “Cookie” Wilson
1st Lt. Robert “Rob” Wilson II, a former aviation officer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division holds his young son, now 1st Lt. Robert Wilson III, a Lancer platoon leader, in May 1989 in Killeen, Texas.



Photo courtesy of Darlene “Cookie” Wilson
1st Lt. Robert “Rob” Wilson II, a former aviation officer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and his wife, Darlene “Cookie” Wilson, a retired Army aviation officer, smile for a photo on the flightline of the Robert Gray Army Airfield in October 1986 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Dragons honor Soldiers, spouses at Saint Barbara's Day Ball

Story and Photos By Pfc. Paige Pendleton
IBCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – “To the King of Battle!”

This response to a toast proposed to the U.S. field artillery roared throughout the banquet hall during the Saint Barbara's Day Ball, recently hosted by the 1st “Dragon” Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, in Killeen, Texas.

At the ball, Soldiers, spouses and distinguished guests dressed their best and paid tribute to Saint Barbara, the patron saint of field artillery.

Saint Barbara wasn't the only honoree at the event. Twenty-one Soldiers were awarded the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara and eight spouses were awarded the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher.

Soldiers receiving the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara were recognized for their hard work and contributions to field artillery by demonstrating competence, integrity, moral character and going above and beyond the call of duty.

The Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher recognized spouses of field artillery Soldiers who contributed to the field artillery community by supporting their Soldiers.

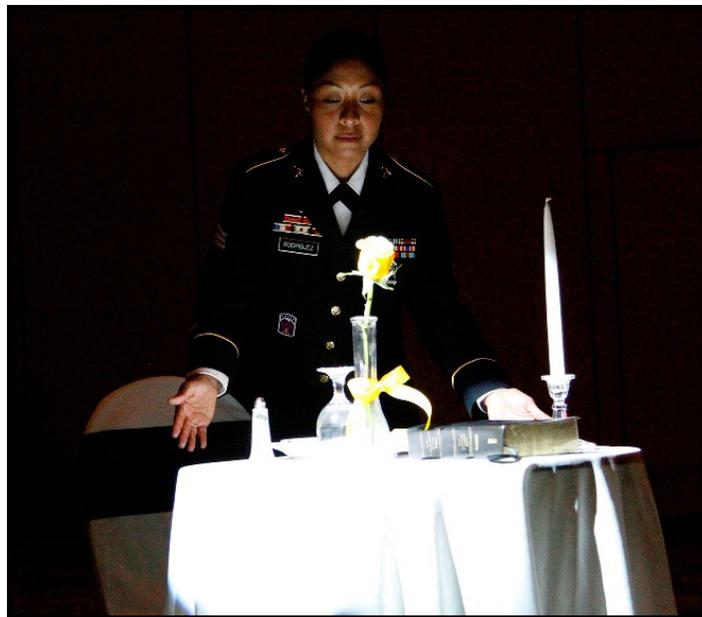
“It signifies long-standing contributions to the field artillery and the field artillery community, commitment to excellence, and selfless service,” said Lt. Col. Richard Ng, the Dragon commander.

Ng, a Tampa, Fla., native, said he felt honored and privileged to recognize the 21 Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Russell Sanchez, a Dragon field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist, didn't know until the night of the ball that he was receiving the award he strived for his entire career.

“To me that was a shocker,” said Sanchez, a Fayetteville, N.C., native, “(For) 10 years I've bled, sweat and cried for artillery ... It was just something I've truly worked for.”

Sanchez said he loves artillery, and after ten years he under-



Sgt. Betsy Rodriguez, a Dragon combat medic gestures to each piece of the Missing Man Table while a presenter explains the significance of each item during the Dragon's Saint Barbara's Day Ball, recently, in Killeen, Texas. After the table was set, attendees shared a silent toast to fallen comrades.

stands what it means to contribute.

“Every day I woke up and just tried to be the best I can to get there,” Sanchez said, smiling.

The award ceremony took place after dinner, and no ball would be complete without traditional festivities.

Nine toasts rang through the room, one being a silent toast to fallen comrades, after New York native, Sgt. Betsy Rodriguez, a Dragon combat medic, set the Missing Man Table.

After the formal portion of the ball concluded, the lights were dimmed, and Soldiers were invited to bring their dates to the dance floor.

CONTACT US

Have an interesting story idea? Know an interesting Soldier? Feel free to contact our office via phone, email or social media. We would love to hear from you!



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Ironhorse EO News

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1BCT Equal Opportunity Advisor



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Monthly Observance

Holocaust Days of Remembrance
Observance

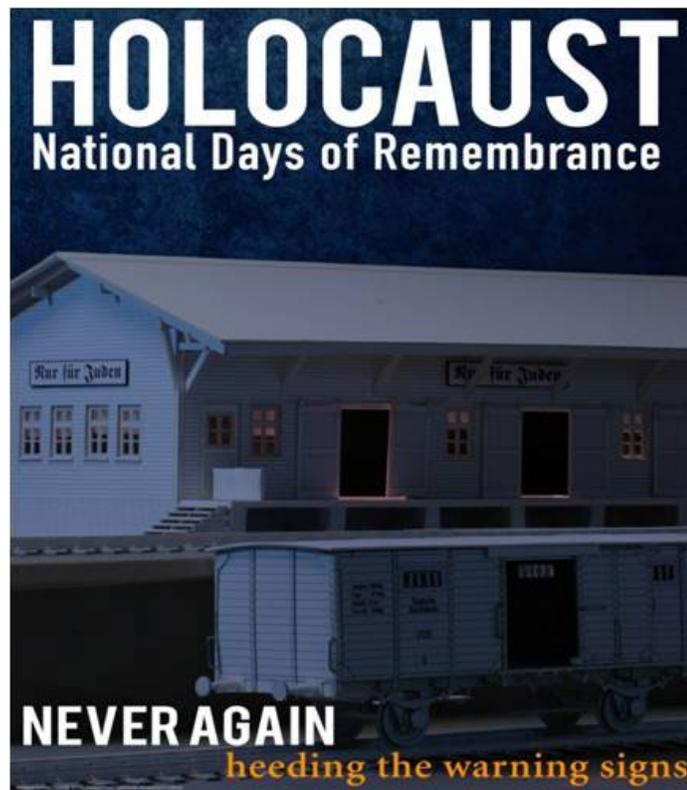
Guest Speaker
(TBA)

30 April 2014
1330 – 1430hrs
Club Hood bldg 5764

SQDN/BN EOLs

HHT, 1BCT
SSG Clay / 287-6121
1-7 CAV
SSG Puntillo / 618-7162
2-5 CAV
SSG Mouring / 288-1417
2-8 CAV
SFC Boyer / 288-6000
2-12 CAV
SFC Landon / 287-0467
1-82 FA
SSG Grabowski / 288-7851
115th BSB
SFC McLeod / 287-0812
91st BEB
SSG Shane-Travota / 288- 2130

Holocaust Days of Remembrance



The Holocaust Days of Remembrance is observed each year during the week of Remembrance which runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah) through the following Sunday.

This year, Holocaust remembrance week is April 27–May 4, 2014. The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent, living memorial to those victims. The Museum designated "Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses" as the theme for the 2014 observance.

In accordance with its congressional mandate, the museum is responsible for leading the nation in commemorating the Days of Remembrance, and for encouraging and sponsoring appropriate observances throughout the United States.

Remembrance not only obligates us to memorialize those who were killed during the Holocaust, but also reminds us of the fragility of democracy and the need for citizens to be vigilant in the protection of democratic ideals. We remember because we recognize the importance of preserving freedom, promoting human dignity, and confronting hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

SOURCE: www.ushmm.org United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Maximizing Potential Through Leadership and Equality