

# Wagonmasters



**Wagonmaster 6**  
**COL Christopher H. Colavita**



**Wagonmaster 9**  
**CSM Jill L. Crosby**

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## Chaplain's Corner

### Prayer Breakfast



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Douglas T. Downs, chaplain, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, hosted a prayer breakfast at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Feb. 22.

“A prayer brunch is designed to be an opportunity for an organization to pause and reflect on the importance of faith and spirituality,” said Downs. “Our Army values are all based on parallel spiritual values that people of all faiths can recognize and aspire to live by.”

The theme of the gathering was perseverance, which is an especially important in a deployed environment, said Downs. "These events offer opportunities to reflect on their faith, and ask soul-searching questions."



### Wise Choices Wise Living

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Douglas T. Downs, chaplain, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, conducted the Wise Choice Wise Living Seminar at the Wagonmaster Corral on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 29.

Wise Choices/Wise Living is both a Resiliency training class and a Moral Leadership training class with an objective to train and enable Soldiers to make decisions and choices concerning their actions based on a simple criteria-- Is this wise based on my past experience, my current situation, or my future hopes, dreams and goals.



## Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

### 185th CSSB transitions authority to 136th CSSB

By Cpl. Michael Smith

The 185th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), officially concluded its deployment, while the 136th CSSB, 1CD RSSB, officially began theirs at a Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony at Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan, Mar. 2.

The 185th CSSB, a National Guard unit based in Camp Dodge Iowa, arrived at BAF in the summer of 2016. After a nine-month deployment, these Soldiers have fulfilled their duty and will return home shortly to reunite with their loved ones. The 136th CSSB, a National Guard unit based in Bismarck, North Dakota, is now officially a part of the Wagonmaster family, and will assume the duties that the 185th CSSB has performed so admirably for the past nine months. Lt. Col. Donald Mosinski, commander, 185th CSSB, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Newton, command sergeant major, 185th CSSB, cased their unit's colors at the ceremony, signifying the end of their duties in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Donald J. Mosinski (left), commander, 185th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Newton, command sergeant major, 185th CSSB, case their unit colors at the TOA Ceremony at Bagram Airfield, March 2.

Col. Christopher H. Colavita, commander, 1CD RSSB, said he can see



Soldiers sing the "Spirit of the Cav" at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony for the 185th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) and the 136th CSSB, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 2.

the proof behind the statistical success of the 185th CSSB, but the greater loss will be no longer working alongside the men and women of this unit.

Lt. Col. Brock Larson, commander, 136th CSSB, and Command Sgt. Maj. Cory Everson, command sergeant major, 136th CSSB, continued the ceremony by uncasing their unit's colors, solidifying the transfer of authority from one command team to the other.

The casing of the colors is a traditional ceremony that takes place when a unit ceases operations in a certain location. The colors will then be uncased wherever that unit resumes its duties.



Lt. Col. Brock Larson (left), commander, 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), and Command Sgt. Maj. Cory Everson, command sergeant major, 136th CSSB, uncasing their unit colors at the TOA Ceremony at Bagram Airfield, March 2.

### 136th CSSB Joins Wagonmaster Family

By Pfc. Rachele Lewis



Command Sgt. Maj. Cory J. Everson, command sergeant major, Special Troops Battalion (STB), 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), patches Staff Sgt. Kile Kistler, STB, 1CD RSSB, during the patching ceremony at Bagram Airfield, March 6.

The 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), held a patching ceremony that officially joined their 51 Soldiers located on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, to the 1CD RSSB and the 1st Cavalry Division, March 6.

At the ceremony, the Norman shield and horse-head silhouette of the 1st Cav. Div. unit patch was placed on each Soldier's right shoulder. This patch represents each Soldier having performed duties in an area where Congress or the President has declared a hostile environment, or has declared war.

After being patched, these 51 North Dakota National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 136th CSSB, 1CD RSSB, are now officially identified as a part of the Wagonmaster Family and America's First Team.

In accordance with Army Regulation



Soldiers of the 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, stand at parade rest during the patching ceremony at Bagram Airfield, March 6.

670-1, Chapter 21, Paragraph 17, for their service conducting operations in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of the STB and all attached and subordinate units, are authorized to wear the 1st Cav. Div. shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service.



(left) Col. Christopher H. Colavita (right), commander, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), salutes Lt. Col. Brock G. Larson, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 1CD RSSB, at the patching ceremony at Bagram Airfield, March 6.

# Women's History Month

## 1CD RSSB hosts Women's History Month observance



Sgt. Maj. Velma A. Lyons, Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan, speaks at the Women's History Observance at Bagram Airfield, March 26, where she was the guest speaker.

The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) held a Women's History Month Observance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 26.

Women's History month is a time to recognize and celebrate the lives and contributions of American Women. The theme for this year's celebration was "Honoring Trailblazing Women Who Have Paved the Way for Future Generations," a theme that recognizes women who have overcome challenges, making great strides and accomplishments for all female service members.

"Please don't try to track my age because I only get better with time," said Sergeant Maj. Velma Lyons, Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan, who was the guest speaker for the observance.

Lyons enlisted in the Army in 1978, and is the last actively serving



From left: Sgt. 1st Class Grendaliz Nieves, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Thielges and Sgt. Ashley Jones, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, speak at the Women's History Observance at Bagram Airfield, March 26.



SpC. Alondra Catalan, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, speaks at the Women's History Observance at Bagram Airfield, March 26.

member of the Women's Army Corps, which was established as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942, before women were allowed to serve in the Regular Army, and discontinued in 1978.

Lyons said joining the Army was one of the best decisions she ever made, but the mother of five plans to retire in two years after 41 years of service.

Lyons, told those in attendance to share their talents, gifts and love and make a difference in everything they do. "I support excellence, and excellent support is what I give," said Lyons.

Lyons talked about being the first of her 14 siblings to enlist in the Army.

The first bed she ever had to herself was at basic training, and she spoke of performing her first physical fitness test in combat boots because they had no physical fitness uniforms.

Lyons said the Women's Army Corps prepared her for a variety of challenges, professionally and personally, and she hopes some of her experience has rubbed off on her Soldiers.

"I stand firm and in an honorable position to say that I am the last, but I will never be the last woman to strive for greatness," said Lyons to the crowd. "You are my legacy, and it is an honor for me to gaze out and see my legacy sitting before me."

"There are many things I enjoy about serving, but the part I cherish the most, is learning the stories of our great troopers," said Colavita.

Colavita said Lyons is an icon and a national treasure who knows what it means to be a fearless pioneer and stand for something greater than herself.



SpC. Ninostka Amaro, human resource specialist, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, speaks at the Women's History Observance at Bagram Airfield, March 26.



Clockwise from Above: Participants, speakers and organizers of the Women's History Observance pose for a picture with Maj. Gen. J. T. Thomson (far left), Bagram Airfield (BAF) Commander, after the ceremony at BAF, March 26. From left: SpC. Brittany Talley, Pfc. Shatasha Payne and Capt. Tammi Summers sing the National Anthem at the Women's History Observance at Bagram Airfield, March 26. From left: Col. Christopher H. Colavita, commander, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), Sgt. Maj. Velma A. Lyons, sergeant major, Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan, Command Sgt. Maj. Jill L. Crosby, command sergeant major, 1CD RSSB, pose with a Certificate of Achievement presented to Lyons for serving as the guest speaker at the Women's History Observance at Bagram Airfield, March 26.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY WAGONMASTERS



## 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade History



The history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade can be traced back to the Korean Occupation with the constitution of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division Trains on Aug. 22, 1957. Units incorporated into the Division Trains included the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Band, 15<sup>th</sup> Administration Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, 23<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company, and the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Battalion. Following their constitution, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Trains was activated on 1 November 1957 in South Korea.

On Sept. 1, 1963, Headquarters, Division Trains was redesignated as Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Support Command. The Support Command accompanied the Division to South Vietnam in 1965 in order to provide logistics support during the Vietnam War. Arriving on Sept. 12, the Support Command organization would participate in all of the Division's major campaigns and would also distinguish itself by not only earning both the Presidential Unit Citation and Valorous Unit Award, but also three Meritorious Unit Commendations, three awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and one Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal.

On May 5, 1971, the Support Command Headquarters was reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division Support Command when the Division Band was withdrawn from its command. In October 1984, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Forward Support Battalions were activated utilizing elements of the



three functional battalions while on 20 June 1985 the Army of Excellence reorganization transformed the elements of the remaining functional battalions, Maintenance, Medical, and Supply/Transport, into the 4<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion.

The same reorganization added the 493<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company to the Division Support Command. On May 20, 1987, the 1<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion, 493<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Aviation Maintenance Company were redesignated the 115<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion, and the 227<sup>th</sup> Transportation Aviation Maintenance Company.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Support Command, deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield on Sept. 28, 1990. In January and February 1991, the Support Command provided logistics support to the Division for the remainder of Operation Desert Storm which resulted in the liberation of Kuwait. For its actions, the Division Support Command would earn a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

On July 15, 2005, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Support Command was inactivated as part of the Army's transformation towards a modular force. The function of centralized support was assumed by activation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade along with its organic elements that were concurrently constituted and activated. On June 25, 2015, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade was inactivated at Fort Hood, Texas and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade was activated returning once again to the First Team.