



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and Fort Riley**

# **HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE**



**April 30, 2018**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

#### **Secretary of the US Army to visit Fort Riley, 'Big Red One' Soldiers**

FORT RILEY, Kansas – The secretary of the U.S. Army will visit Fort Riley May 4, meeting with 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division leaders and interacting with “Big Red One” Soldiers.

Mark T. Esper, the 23<sup>rd</sup> secretary of the U.S. Army, was sworn in on Nov. 17, 2017. As secretary, he has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army, to include the recruitment, organization, training, equipping and care of 1.4 million active duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and their families.



*Mark T. Esper*

Esper previously served as senior executive at the Raytheon Company as vice president of government relations and was the national security advisor for former Sen. Bill Frist, Senate majority leader from 2003-2007.

He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1986 and received his commission in the Infantry. Upon completion of Ranger and Pathfinder training, Esper served on active duty for more than decade, including service in the 1990-1991 Gulf War with the 101st Airborne Division. He later commanded an airborne rifle company in Europe. Following active duty, he served in both the Virginia and District of Columbia National Guard and Army Reserve before retiring in 2007.

Esper's priorities for the Army include readiness, modernization, reform, people, values and partners and allies.

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Secretary Esper will have a limited media engagement to discuss his priorities, his visit to Fort Riley and the future of the Army at 4 p.m. May 4 at the Kansas Jet Center, 1705 S. Airport Road in Manhattan, Kansas. He will be joined by U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran.

Space is extremely limited and priority will be given to those media outlets that RSVP first. To RSVP, contact the 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office at (785) 240-1796 or via email at [jason.p.roberts22.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:jason.p.roberts22.ctr@mail.mil).

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