



NCO OF THE QUARTER



SFC MORGAN HICKS

CONTINUES THE LEGACY OF THE BIG RED ONE

NO ONE IS MORE PROFESSIONAL THAN SFC HICKS. SHE IS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, A LEADER OF SOLDIERS. AS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, SHE REALIZES THAT SHE IS A MEMBER OF A TIME HONORED CORPS, WHICH IS KNOWN AS "THE BACKBONE OF THE ARMY."



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U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John W. Coffield (left) and U.S. Army Sgt. Andrew J. Webb (right), EOD specialists review EOD regulations during the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Joshua Holladay)



Editor's Note

Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

As you well know, February was Black History Month in the United States. Though we should not reserve ourselves to think only between the time frame bracketed from the first and the 28th, we should consider the month an adage of time to recollect upon the history of the country and the contributions made by the men and women of the black community. This month was as much a period celebrating how far the United States has come as it was humbly recognizing how far it still must go.

From the American Revolution, The American Civil War, the Second and First World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, men and women of the black community who fought and died in these conflicts have made equal and immeasurable efforts to better the United States and its Armed Forces.

Some of those efforts include those made by the legendary 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, known more commonly as "The Buffalo Soldiers," who often were stationed at Fort Riley during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to the Tuskegee Airmen who played a pivotal role in clearing sea lanes during the Allied Invasion of Sicily in 1943. These stories about the courage from men and women of the black community will continue to resonate with us.

We encourage all Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division to take this time to reflect on the actions of those remarkable individuals who set aside their differences in an attempt to make the United States better than it was yesterday.

As we move into the month of March, the 1st Infantry Division looks forward to recognizing our Noncommissioned Officer Corps during our Big Red One Year of the NCO campaign and the contributions made by women during Women's History Month.

DUTY FIRST!

Foreword



Staff Sgt. Ivan D. Cruz, 1st Squad Leader for 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, makes preparations to destroy a suspected improvised explosive device (IED). The Explosives Ordnance Detonation team handles the task instead. (Photo and caption courtesy of First Division Museum)



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Serrano, the outgoing ready reserve command sergeant major for the 1st Infantry Division, reflects on his time with the division during a Victory with Honors ceremony held at Victory Hall on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 9, 2022. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Kenneth Barnet)

By Sgt. Alvin Conley

The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley hosted its ‘Big Red One Year of the NCO’ opening ceremony, Feb. 16, 2023, at the division’s Victory Hall headquarters building.

The ‘Big Red One Year of the NCO’ is a year-long campaign dedicated to the Division’s non-commissioned officers, cultivating ownership throughout the division and developing the next generation of leaders.

“I think the most important thing that sets our NCO Corps apart from any other Army in the

world is the discipline, standards, and accountability that the Noncommissioned Officer Corps establishes inside of their formations,” said Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general.

The Army’s NCO Corps has existed for more than 200 years and Big Red One NCO’s have played a vital role in Army history, since the establishment of the 1st Expeditionary Division (later designated the 1st Inf. Div.) in 1917 during WWI.

“We’re doing the Year of the NCO so that we are

better tomorrow than we are today, because we are responsible for safeguarding our country. It’s so future generations will live the freedoms that our Army provides,” said Meyer.

After two decades of prolonged combat and continued support to U.S. NATO allies in Europe, the 1st Inf. Div. dedicated this year to the NCOs and their formations who continue the legacy of the Division. By hosting quarterly signature events to gather and celebrate the NCO Corps, the division seeks to utilize the campaign to provide a venue to showcase the importance of duty, honor, and tradition.

“NCO’s take pride in themselves and are the backbone of the Army,” said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Shantese Ratledge, the 1st Inf. Div. Ready Reserve G-3 sergeant major. “With our troops, enabled by tanks and personnel, we will retain our duties and responsibilities, while fulfilling our greatest obligation as leaders and support and defend our nation.”

The ‘Big Red One Year of the NCO’ kickoff ceremony set the stage for the 1st Inf. Div.’s current leaders to remember their history and heroes, and pass on the IID legacy to the next generation of leaders who wears the iconic Big Red One patch.

BIG RED ONE PASSES THE TORCH TO THE IVY DIVISION

Story by Spc. Casandra Ancheta



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) and the 4th Infantry Division (4 ID) stand in formation during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023. The 1 ID and 4 ID are proudly working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., left, commander of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery (1 ID) and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. McLaughlin, right, command sergeant major of the 1 ID, case the unit colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023.

BOLESŁAWIEC, Poland – U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), the Big Red One, relinquished command to the 4th Infantry Division (4 ID), the Ivy Division, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023.

Both divisions share a historic past and have found themselves back in Europe shoulder to shoulder alongside their European allies and partners.

“This Transfer of Authority brings together two of the U.S. Army’s oldest and historic divisions whose illustrious histories were forged on the European battlefields of the previous century,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Kolasheski, commanding general of V Corps. “It also reaffirms our nation’s commitment to the security and prosperity of our European allies and partners.”

During 1 ID’s 22 months in Europe, they have

worked alongside Polish, Swedish, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian allies and partners participating in collective training exercises such as Defender 22 and supporting eFP Battle Groups.

“All of these accomplishments are not only the by-product of the division headquarters, its armored brigade combat teams, combat aviation brigade, and division sustainment brigade but also made possible by its division artillery,” said Kolasheski. “Today we not only conduct the transfer of authority ceremony for the division, but also for the division artillery command.”

The 1st Infantry Division Artillery received a no-notice deployment back in February of 2022 and took command of U.S. Forces in the Baltics and developed land component commands once they arrived in Europe.

“He and his Soldiers participation in numer-



ABOVE

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John S. Kolasheski, commander of V Corps, delivers a speech during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023. Currently, V Corps is America’s forward deployed corps in Europe, proudly working along NATO allies and regional security partners. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Jason Klaer)

ous training and exercises clearly demonstrated proficiency of our forces as well as the command combined readiness of our allies,” said Kolasheski.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commanding general of the 1 ID expressed his thanks to the host nations for their friendship and hospitality.

“It’s been an honor for this division to serve in Europe,” said Meyer. “We truly appreciate the opportunity to serve alongside your soldiers and help defend our alliance.”

These two divisions have a long history of working together on the European continent while both divisions were activated in 1917 to fight in World War I as well as in World War II.

“We didn’t do it ourselves, so I’d like to welcome the 4th Infantry Division,” said Meyer. “Also one

“This Transfer of Authority brings together two of the U.S. Army’s oldest and historic divisions whose illustrious histories were forged on the European battlefields of the previous century,” said Kolasheski

of the most historic divisions in the United States Army, who landed in Normandy on Utah Beach as we were on Omaha.”

This is not the first time the 4 ID is back on the European continent to take command of operations in theater.

“There’s a degree of deja vu in that my division

first assumed responsibilities in the oversight of Atlantic Resolve eight years ago,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. David M. Hodne, commanding general of the 4 ID. “It feels like just yesterday when I was part of this team who turned over responsibilities to my great teammates again, the 1st Infantry Division.”

Since 4 ID relinquished responsibilities in 2018, there have been many changes such as the reactivation of V Corps, as well as expanded allied capabilities.

“What hasn’t changed is the manner in which this mission demonstrates the U.S. commitment to allies and partners,” said Hodne.

As 4 ID takes command, Kolasheski challenges the 4 ID to strengthen existing relationships that the 1 ID has maintained and created as well as build new ones while learning from their allies and partners.

“You will stand shoulder to shoulder with allies and partners from across Europe during this deployment which is critical,” said Kolasheski. “30 members of the alliance stand as one and

“It’s been an honor for this division to serve in Europe,” said Meyer

your presence here on the eastern flank of NATO is essential.”

Hodne went on to say that true to their 105 year legacy, the Ivy Division is ready for this assignment.

“Going forward the Ivy Division will build upon the accomplishments of the 1st Infantry Division,” said Hodne. “Ivy Soldiers are loyal to the mission, loyal to each other, loyal to our allies, and loyal to the ideals and values of the freedom we share shoulder to shoulder. Victory will be done, stronger together, steadfast and loyal.”



ABOVE

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, center, commander of the 1st ID and Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., left, commander of 1 ID Artillery, speaks with a Polish soldier following a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Jason Klaer)

BELOW

Leaders from the 1 ID pose for a photo before the Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, left, commander of the 1 ID and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, right, command sergeant major of 1 ID, case the unit colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Bolesławiec, Poland, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Jason Klaer)

79TH EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

CONDUCTS 'TEAM OF THE YEAR' COMPETITION

Story by Pfc. Dawson Smith photos by Spc. Joshua Holladay

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John W. Coffield, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist assigned to the 630th Ordnance Company, 79th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Battalion, 71st Ordnance Group, fires a Barrett M107 sniper rifle during the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 8, 2023. Coffield fired during a simulated bomb deactivating objective, where he had to destroy the bomb from up to 1,000 meters away.





U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John W. Coffield, an EOD specialist views a scanner during a simulated explosive ordnance range on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023.

FORT RILEY, Kan. - The 79th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) conducted its annual 'Team of the Year' competition in preparation for the 71st Ordnance Group 'Team of the Year' competition in March.

The 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition evaluates EOD Soldiers' readiness and mastery of tactical and technical skills. The teams competed in physically and mentally demanding environments to showcase their abilities to respond quickly in various situations, enabling them to think critically about whatever the mission may be.

"The competition is designed to test the varied aspects of EOD," said Cpt. Matthew Johnson, an EOD officer assigned to the 79th EOD Bn. "It includes tasks an EOD technician needs to be proficient in."

This event was organized by the 79th EOD Battalion and included explosive ordnance disposal specialists Staff Sgt. Jacob T. Knust and Spc.

"I think the most important part is being a good team," said Himes

Dean D. Lopez, assigned to the 797th Ordnance Company, Staff Sgt. John W. Coffield and Sgt. Andrew J. Webb assigned to the 630th Ordnance Company, Staff Sgt. John A Pape and Staff Sgt. Cody L. Himes assigned to the 752nd Ordnance Company, and Staff Sgt. Traice R. Prentice and Spc. Levi A. Newhouse assigned to the 774th Ordnance Company.

Following an Army Combat Fitness Test, weapons qualification, and an eight-mile ruck march



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Traice R. Prentice, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist assigned to the 774th Ordnance Company, 79th EOD Bn., 71st Ordnance Group, through the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, ties a rope around the nose of a simulated explosive device during the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 8, 2023.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Traice R. Prentice, an EOD specialist tapes a rope to the nose of a simulated explosive device during the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 8, 2023.

to test physical readiness, the competition continued to EOD testing lanes. The lanes evaluated how quickly teams could efficiently perform an array of MOS-specific tasks.

“Events like these are significant because they give companies a chance to compete against each other,” Pape said. “They help to see where you stand compared to other companies as well as pointing out any training gaps within your own.”

Pape led his team through each event as they worked through a series of problem sets designed to test their skills in realistic scenarios.

“While the competition doesn’t reflect reality, it reduces the time you will typically have, causing you to move faster to accomplish the task,” Pape said. “I think my team member and I got new experiences in seeing how we employ the different skill sets in an operational environment.”

After being an infantryman for approximately six years, Himes wanted to pursue something different in his career and submitted a packet for EOD school.

“Coming straight from EOD school, there were a few times when my real-world knowledge was limited and I was relying on my team leader,” said Himes.

The competition continued with a cornucopia event, involving six time-constrained scenarios and a long-distance range, where teams shot a Barrett M107 rifle. With 50-caliber ammunition and a rapid-fire range extending to 1,000 meters, teams were able to demonstrate their weapons capabilities.

“As a team member, I think the ability to work as efficiently as possible with your team leader and knowing your equipment well is important to getting ready for this type of event,” Himes said.



ABOVE

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John W. Coffield, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist assigned to the 630th Ordnance Company, 79th EOD Bn., 71st Ordnance Group, through the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, sets up a SmartRay Vision Mini-Tac scanner during a simulated explosive ordnance range on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023.

BELOW

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John A. Pape (left) and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody L. Himes (right), explosive ordnance disposal specialists assigned to the 630th Ordnance Company, 79th EOD Bn., 71st Ordnance Group, receive mortar-shaped trophies for their first-place finish in the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition in Manhattan, Kansas, Feb. 9, 2023.

“The competition is designed to test the varied aspects of EOD,” said Johnson

“I think the most important part is being a good team.”

Pape and Himes placed first in the competition, and both received an Army Commendation Medal for their notable actions and consistent, cohesive teamwork.

“I think they performed pretty well,” Johnson said. “This is a team-oriented event, so they won because of their cohesiveness and ability to work together.”

Pape and Himes will go on to compete in the 71st Ordnance Group ‘Team of the Year’ competition in March.





U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John W. Coffield, an EOD specialist, removes a simulated mortar to a safe zone during the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023.



ABOVE

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody L. Himes, an EOD specialist with 752nd Ordnance Company, 79th EOD battalion, 71st Ordnance Group qualifies with an M1A4 Carbine at Range 1 on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 6, 2023.

BELOW

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody L. Himes, an EOD specialist, scans the field for the simulated chemical-based ordnance during the 79th EOD Bn. "Team of the Year" competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 8, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Mackenzie Striker)





EOD specialists assigned to the 630th Ordnance Company, 79th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Battalion, 71st Ordnance Group, through the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, review the ordnance removal lane during the 79th EOD Bn. 'Team of the Year' competition on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023.

BLUE BABE 6

The Legend Continues

Story and photos by Sgt. Timothy Brokhoff

ZAGAN, Poland –The 82nd Brigade Engineer (Blue Babe) Battalion (82 BEB), 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division had a change of command in Zagan, Poland, Jan. 23, 2023.

The ceremony was held to honor Lt. Col. Jodie L. Kunkel, the outgoing commander and Lt. Col. Rolland H. Johnson, the incoming commander.

When first arriving at the “Blue Babe” battalion Kunkel said that her number one priority was to “nurture the “golden triangle”, leaders, friends, and families, referencing the story of “Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox.”

Lt. Col. Jodie L. Kunkel, outgoing commander, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division gives a speech during a change of command ceremony, Jan. 23, 2023, Zagan, Poland.



“The leaders are Paul from the story,” said Kunkel. “They find us, get to know us, and they give us purpose; we are Babe, super-human, able to accomplish the mission, but sometimes stubborn and sometimes lost; and Bessy is our family and friends who provide us with the motivation to do what we do.”

During her speech, Kunkel addressed the formation one last time.

“As I transfer “Blue Babe” to Lt. Col. Johnson, I leave you with this,” said Kunkel. “Continue to take care of each other and the unit, and always remember that you matter; “Blue Babe” six signing off the net.”

Kunkel’s next assignment is to be the Counter Explosives Hazard Center director in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Johnson comes to the “Blue Babe” battalion with various staff and command experience from both Armored Brigade Combat Teams and Stryker Brigades.

During his career, Johnson commanded E Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas, deploying with them in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and most recently, upon deploying with the 1st Infantry Division to Poland held the position as the division

“Continue to take care of each other and the unit, and always remember that you matter,” said Kunkel



engineer in support of Operation Assure, Deter and Reinforce.

Johnson began his speech by thanking the attendees and addressing his formation for the first time as their commander.

“To the Soldiers and families of the ‘Blue Babe’ battalion,” said Johnson. “You have trained hard to get to this point; I look forward to serving with you, getting to know your families, and giving you absolutely everything that I have.”

Continuing with his speech, Johnson reminded the Soldiers and attendees of the rich history behind the 82 BEB and what that means as he takes on his new role as “Blue Babe” Six.

“We are Babe, super-human, able to accomplish the mission,” said Kunkel

“I am honored to extend this storied legacy and to successfully lead the ‘Blue Babes’ in our next chapter in Poland and wherever else we are called,” said Johnson. “Duty First, Ready Now, Strength and Courage.”



LEFT

Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer, III, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Lt. Col. Rolland H. Johnson, commander, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division pose for a photo, Jan. 23, 2023, Zagan, Poland.

ABOVE

Col. Bryan M. Harris, commander, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division passes the brigade colors to Lt. Col. Rolland H. Johnson, incoming commander, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2ABCT, 1ID during a change of command ceremony, Jan. 23, 2023, Zagan, Poland.



From left to right, Lt. Col. Jodie L. Kunkel, outgoing commander, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Col. Bryan M. Harris, Commander, 2nd ABCT, 1ID, and Lt. Col. Rolland H. Johnson, incoming commander, 82nd BEB, 2ABCT, 1ID salute during a change of command ceremony Jan. 23, 2023, Zagan, Poland.



UNDER THE HOOD

Ordnance Chief Enlisted

Career Manager Visits Ft. Riley

Story and photos by Spc. Charles Leitner

U.S. Army Spc. Hector Perez, an allied trade specialist assigned to the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, melts a damaged bolt using an exothermic cutter on Fort Riley, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2023. Perez demonstrated the tool's capabilities during a visit by Sgt. Maj. Paul Gomez, the chief enlisted career manager in the U.S. Army's Ordnance Corps.





U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Paul Gomez, the chief enlisted career manager of the Ordnance Corps, speaks to Soldiers assigned to the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, after a morning physical training session on Fort Riley, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2023. Gomez conducted PT and spoke with Soldiers about the essential capabilities of sustainment and how to progress how to develop oneself as a leader.

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Paul Gomez, the chief enlisted career manager in the Ordnance Corps, awards Sgt. Michael Washington, a diagnostic equipment maintenance specialist assigned to the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, a coin during a visit to Fort Riley, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2023.



First, he asked them if they were doing anything to improve themselves and then what were they doing to improve others.

“We’re trying to build the Army’s culture of maintenance,” said Gomez. “If we’re going to build this culture, it’s going to take developing our team.”

Military sustainment is categorized as the provision of logistics, personnel services and health service support as is necessary to maintain warfighter operations. To keep the cogs turning, Soldiers serving in a sustainment capacity play an essential role in keeping vehicles and warfighting tools ready for action. Gomez, alongside Master Sgt. David Henderson, the senior career manager of the Ordnance Corps, toured facilities and multiple shops attached the 101st BSB, often referred to as the “Durable” brigade, in an effort to encourage budding members of the 1st Inf. Div.’s ordnance corps and discuss the essential functions of a leader.

“Good leaders generate more leaders not followers,” said Gomez. “We as leaders have a responsibility to develop. One of the things that we need to do is develop ourselves in an effort to

“One of the things that we need to do is develop ourselves in an effort to develop future leaders,” said Gomez

develop future leaders.”

As Gomez and Henderson toured vehicle maintenance bays, radio and arms repair shops, Soldiers provided insight into how to improve



functional capabilities within the sustainment brigade. Soldiers in sustainment are required to think outside of the box, Gomez noted, they must fabricate parts and solutions to keep critical parts of the 1st Inf. Div. in motion. "I appreciate each and every one of you," said Gomez. "Not everyone realizes how much you

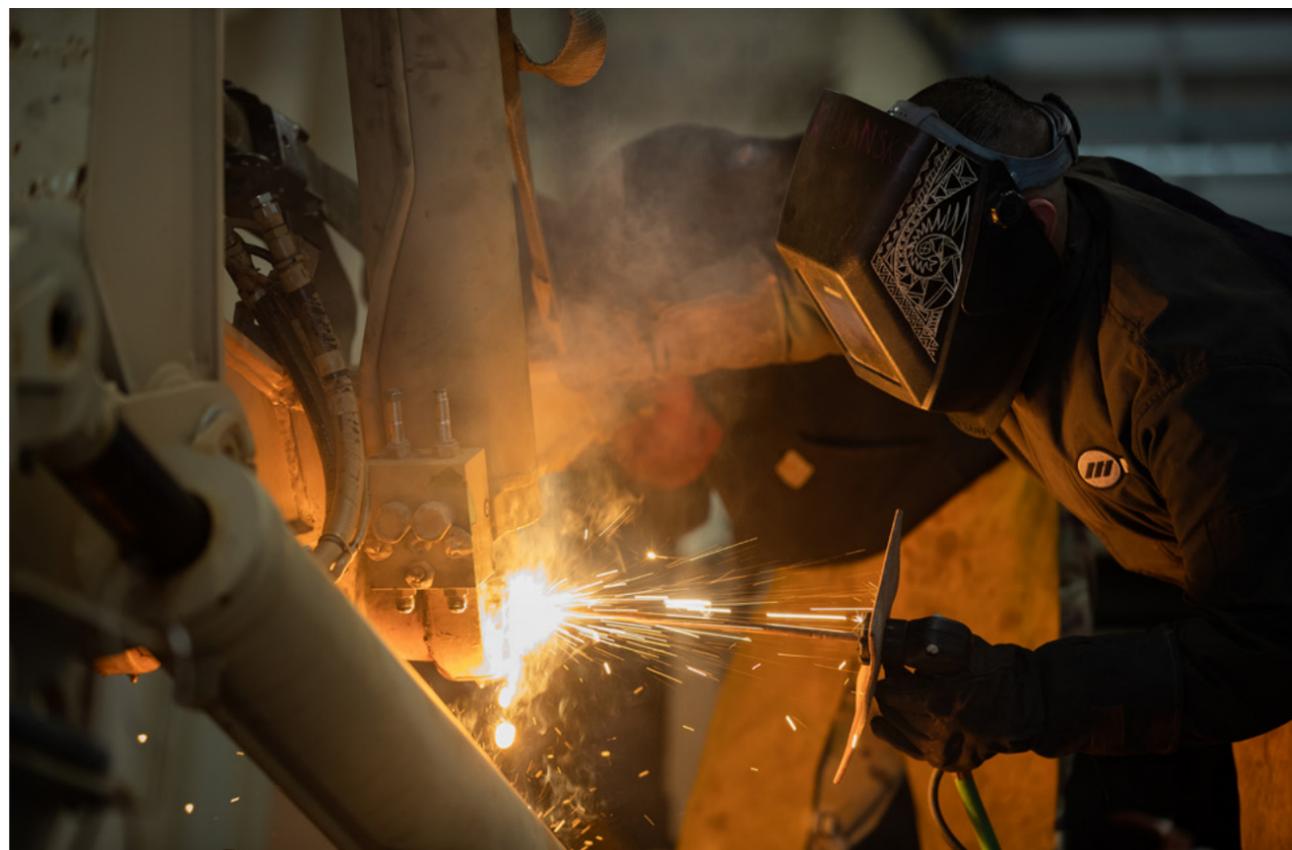
"As long as you continuously love what you do, you will go far," said Henderson

do."

Soldiers in sustainment frequently accomplish their work behind the scenes in the repair shops and maintenance bays. These Soldiers often work with their hands. They wear coveralls that are often covered in grease after a day spent fixing a line of Humvees and welding goggles to protect their eyes from the sparks flying in all directions as they use exothermic cutters to melt and remove damaged bolts and plasma tables to fabricate custom parts.

What seems like a chaotic maze of winches, rivets, hand cranks, chains, nuts, bolts and oil drums is actually a meticulously organized machine designed to support Soldiers training in the field.

"Keep learning and no one can tell you that you can't go far," said Henderson. "As long as you continuously love what you do, you will go far."



U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Paul Gomez, the chief enlisted career manager in the Ordnance Corps, uses an exothermic cutter to melt a damaged bolt in a vehicle maintenance bay at Fort Riley, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2023.



U.S. Army Spc. Deyon May, an allied trade specialist assigned to the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, uses a gaming controller to operate a plasma table at a maintenance shop on Fort Riley, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2023. A plasma table has the capability to cut unique parts from sheet metal in order to keep tools and vehicles in action.



U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Paul Gomez, the ordnance chief enlisted career manager in the Ordnance Corps, paints a sign with Soldiers assigned to the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in a maintenance bay at Fort Riley, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2023.

WE FOUGHT AS ONE

Big Red One Returns Home After Year-Long Deployment



Story by Sgt. Jared Simmons

FORT RILEY, Kan. – The 1st Infantry Division held a joint homecoming and colors uncasing ceremony for the division headquarters and the 1st Inf. Division Artillery on Feb. 11, 2023.

The uncasing of a unit's colors is a historical Army tradition that symbolizes a unit's movement from one theater of operation to another. For the 1st Inf. Div., the ceremony signified an official return to Fort Riley from Europe.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division arrive after serving on a months long rotation in Poland to assure NATO partners and allies at Topeka Regional Airport in Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 31, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Don Sae Kang)

During the deployment, the 1st Inf. Div. led operations across Europe to provide ready, combat-credible forces, enable rapid-response capability and further demonstrate our ability to deter foreign aggression and defend our NATO Allies.

“It is great to have the division reunited at Fort Riley after serving 21 months in support of operations in Europe,” said Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. “Thank you to the family and friends of the Big Red One; we appreciate your support and sacrifices. We are excited to be here.”

The Big Red One initially assumed the mission in July 2021 as the mission command element in Europe. Following the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the 1st Inf. Div. deployed in February 2022. As the Division returned home, it turned its mission responsibility over to the 4th Infantry Division, based out of Fort Carson, Colorado. A Transfer of Authority ceremony was conducted on Feb. 7, marking the end of the 1st Inf. Div.’s 21-month mission in Europe.

The division headquarters mission has concluded, but the Big Red One’s ties to our European Allies persists. As the headquarters returned home, the division’s 2nd Armored Brigade

“We appreciate your support and sacrifices. We are excited to be here,” said Meyer

Combat Team continues its deployment in Eastern Europe to show the division’s commitment to our NATO Allies and partners.

“During the last year, we’ve been responsible for two divisions, and I’ve spent more time with Soldiers with other divisions than my own, which I am very proud of,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley command sergeant major. “Now, I couldn’t be more excited and proud to be with those who wear the Big Red One patch again.”

As the 1st Inf. Div. returns from Europe, it begins The Big Red One Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, a campaign that recognizes the hard work, dedication, and legacy of the NCO Corps.



U.S. Army Warrant Officer Cena L. Duran, assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Band, 1st Inf. Div., returns to Fort Riley, Kansas from Poland, Jan. 31, 2023. Family and friends welcomed Soldiers home during a ceremony earlier that day. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jordan Dymally)



A stuffed bull brought home from Poland by U.S. Army Col. Brandon T. Smith, chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division, waits beside more luggage at the Deployment Center on Fort Riley, Kansas, Jan. 31, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Marlin Watson)



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, the 1st Infantry Division commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, the command sergeant major of the 1st Inf. Div., uncased the division colors, Feb. 11, 2023, at the Fort Riley Deployment Center on Fort Riley, Kansas. The 1st Inf. Div. colors were uncased following a brief ceremony which marked the return of the division from a successful, year-long deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jared Simmons)

Elementary School Given **STARBASE TOUR**

Photo Story by Pfc. Daniela Lechuga and Pfc. Jordan Dymally



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Dannettia Bedford, assigned to 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, explains the different parts of an aircraft to students from Sheridan Elementary School at the 1st Avn. Regt. building on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army phot by Pfc. Daniela Lechuga)



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jessica J. Roper, Charlie Troop, 1st Heavy Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, assists a student of Sheridan Elementary School in climbing into a Boeing AH-64 Apache on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jordan Dymally)



ABOVE

U.S. Army Spc. Daniel Gonzalez, an MQ-1C Gray Eagle operator, Fox Company, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, leads students from Sheridan Elementary School through a Black Hawk helicopter simulator at the 1st Avn. Reg. building on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Daniela Lechuga)

BELOW

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jessica J. Roper, Charlie Troop, 1st Heavy Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, explains the functions of the Boeing AH-64 Apache to a student of Sheridan Elementary School on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jordan Dymally)





U.S. Army CW3 Ian A. Corbin, assigned to 1st Heavy Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, educates children from Sheridan Elementary School about his military occupational specialty, at the Maintenance Hangar on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 7, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Daniela Lechuga)

BONE CHILLING

FORT RILEY FIRE DEPT. CONDUCTS ICE SURVIVAL TRAINING

Photo story by Spc. Joshua Holladay and Spc. Kenneth Barnett



Quentin Farnsworth, a firefighter with the Fort Riley Fire Department, walks back to the shore of Moon Lake after Ice Survival training on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kenneth Barnett)

The Fort Riley Fire Department conducts ice survival training at Moon Lake on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. The fire department had to demonstrate and evaluate their skills in ice survival, extraction, and response abilities. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Holladay)





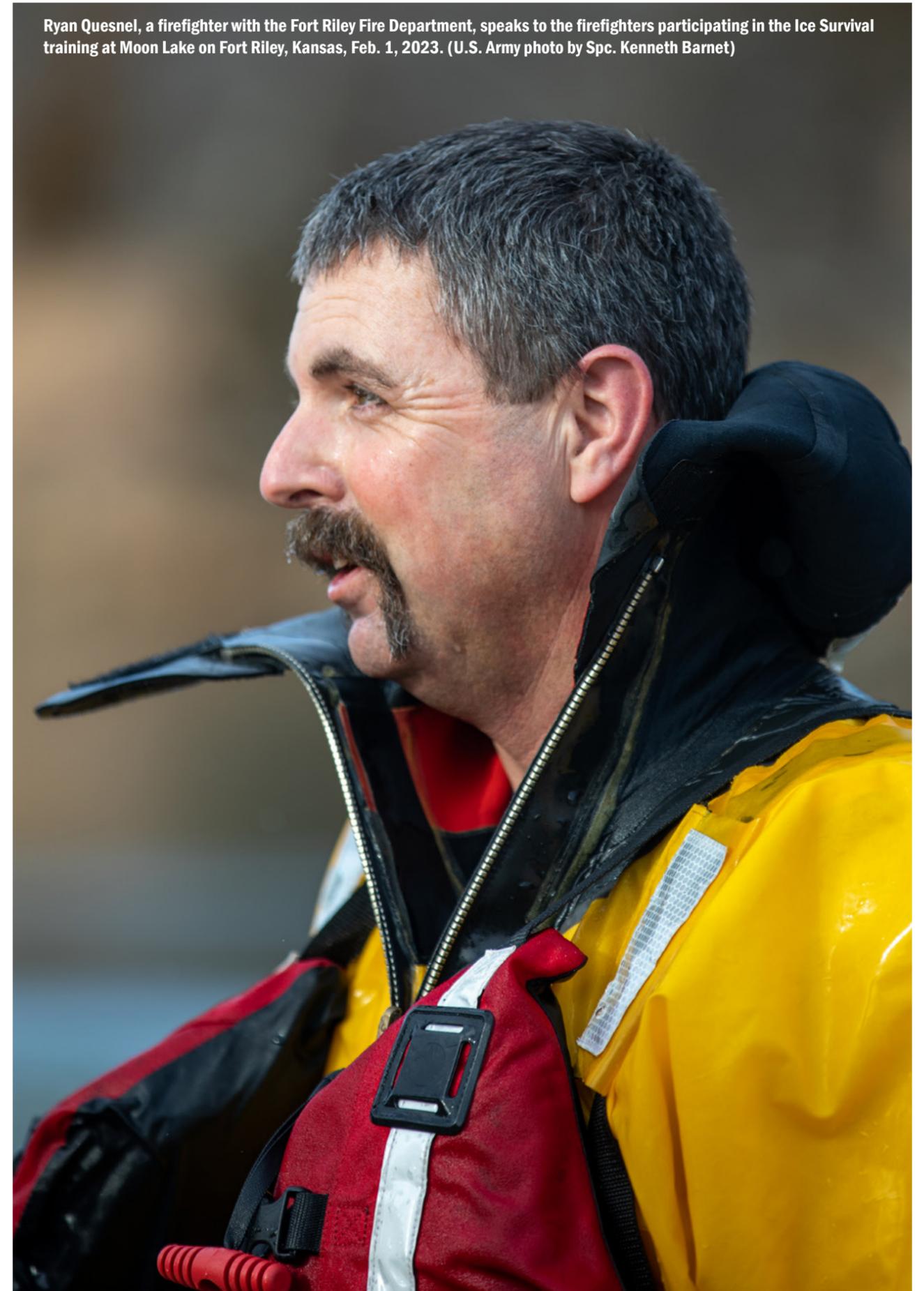
Quentin Farnsworth, a firefighter with the Fort Riley Fire Department, clears the ice hole for the practical exercise part of the Ice Survival training at Moon Lake on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kenneth Barnet)



Chris Abitz (left) suits up Ryan Quesnel (right) before starting Ice Survival training at Moon Lake on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kenneth Barnet)



Noah VanSchaick, a firefighter with the Fort Riley Fire Department, throws a safety line during Ice Survival training at Moon Lake on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Holladay)



Ryan Quesnel, a firefighter with the Fort Riley Fire Department, speaks to the firefighters participating in the Ice Survival training at Moon Lake on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kenneth Barnet)

Fort Riley Fire Department and Emergency Services firefighter Lieutenant Doug Barnett rolls up a fire hose during their ice rescue training at Moon Lake on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2023. Barnett set up the training lanes for the firefighters to show their skills in ice survival, extraction, and response abilities. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Holladay)



Year of the NCO
BOARD
QUESTIONS
of the month

1. What is Army Sustainment?
2. What does the acronyms ADP, ADRP, NATO and JP stand for?
3. What subject does ADP 4-0 cover?
4. What is the bedrock of the Army's relationship with the American people?
5. Soldiers and Army Civilians who are bound together to accomplish the Army mission as expressed in our historic and prophetic motto: What is that motto?
6. What subject does ADP 1-02 cover?
7. What is Honorable Service?
8. What is the Army Regulation for the Army Continuing Education System?
9. What Army publication covers the Army Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action?
10. What does OSHA stand for?
11. What is DEERS?
12. What is AER and what AR covers it?
13. Whose picture is on the picture is on the Purple Heart?
14. What is the maximum number of oak leaf clusters authorized to wear on a single ribbon?
15. What Army Regulation Covers Awards and Decorations?
16. What is a map?
17. How close does an eight-digit, six-digit and four-digit grid coordinate locate a point?
18. Name the five types of Terrain found on a map.
19. What are the five basic colors of a map and what do they stand for?
20. How long is "Reveille"?

ANSWER KEY:

1. Army Sustainment is the provision of logistics, personnel services and health service support necessary to maintain operations until successful mission completion. 2. Army Doctrine Publications, Army Doctrine Reference Publications, North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Joint Publications. 3. Sustainment. 4. Trust. 5. This We'll Defend. 6. Operational Terms and Symbols. 7. Honorable Service. It is to support and defense of the Constitution, the American people and the national interest in a manner consistent with the Army Ethic. 8. AR 621-5. 9. AR 600-20. 10. Occupational Safety and Health Association. 11. Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. It is the program used to obtain Dependent ID cards for eligible Spouses and Children. 12. Army Emergency Relief. It is a non-profit organization. Its purpose is solely to help Army Personnel and their Family Members (AR 930-4). 13. George Washington. 14. Four. 15. AR 600-8-22. 16. A graphic representation of a portion of the Earth's surface drawn to scale, as seen from above. 17. 10 meters, 100 meters and 1,000 meters. 18. Ridges, Hills, Valleys, Depressions and Saddles. 19. Blue: Water and water features, Red: Roads, Black: Man-made objects, Green: Vegetation, Brown: Contour lines, elevation and relief. 20. Twenty seconds

The
NCO
CREED



No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of noncommissioned officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a noncommissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION