

# DANGER FORWARD

MONTHLY NEWS OF THE

1

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



COVER PHOTO BY PVT. AUTUMN JOHNSON

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

JUNE

This month our team continued to execute priorities while pausing to commemorate the 1st Infantry Division's 106th birthday. June 8 is a time to celebrate the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army and take a moment to recognize the unwavering dedication and sacrifices of all the men and women who served in the Big Red One. It is also a time to take stock in all we have accomplished over the last year, and to celebrate the storied history of our division.

Although technically formed in May of 1917, as the 1st Expeditionary Division, the 1st Infantry Division was officially created in June of 1917. Created in response to the U.S. entering World War I, 1ID troops fired the first American shells of the war toward German lines. In World War II, we were the first division to be sent overseas, in March of 1942.

A great way to honor the accomplishments of our division is to come together and celebrate as a team during a cake cutting ceremony. This year we did just that as we held our birthday celebration prior to Victory Week; a fitting way to celebrate our storied division through competition and comradery. These events strengthen the spirit of solidarity within our team and foster an environment where everyone's contributions are valued and recognized.

By supporting each other we build upon the legacy of the Big Red One and continue to achieve greater milestones in the years to come.

Our history is a vital part of who we are; the men and women who have come before inspire us to be our best. It is fitting that we reopened the U.S. Cavalry Museum this month. With 37 Medal of Honor recipients who served with the 1st Infantry Division throughout the century, the Big Red One sets a historic example for our Soldiers and Civilians to follow. We are extremely excited for the upcoming events this summer and look forward to all 2023 has to offer.

# FOREWORD

## 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIG RED ONE'S D-DAY LANDING

Omaha Beach, situated in Normandy, France, was one of the five landing beaches targeted by the Allies during the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. The beach was heavily defended by German forces, resulting in a fierce and deadly battle for the invading troops.

After the initial landing and securing of the beach, the next crucial phase was the unloading of vital supplies and equipment needed to support the troops' advance inland and liberate France from Nazi occupation.



The 1st Infantry Division color guard observes as a flyover is conducted during the Charles Shay Indian Memorial Ceremony, in Saint-Laurent-Sur-Mer, France, June 5, 2023. Past and present 1st Infantry Division Soldiers and Native American veterans gathered to commemorate U.S. Army veteran Master Sgt. Charles Shay, former Big Red One Soldier and a Penobscot Tribe member, for his efforts during D-Day 79 years ago. Hand-selected Big Red One noncommissioned officers represented the Division throughout D-Day commemorations as part of the Big Red One Year of the NCO campaign. The campaign further develops our NCO Corps and recognizes their contributions, both personal and professional, to the 1st Infantry Division.



# CHIEFS KINGDOM: KC CHIEFS STAFF

## VISIT THE 1ID

JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

### FORT RILEY, Kansas

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley welcomed representatives of the Kansas City Chiefs organization on June 1, 2023. The visit began with members from the Kansas City Chiefs visiting 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters, where they came to understand the history at Fort Riley and build upon their ongoing relationship with The Big Red One.

The team representatives spent the day with leadership from the 1st Inf. Div., touring the installation and participating in demonstrations, such as training simulators and combatives.

"I've been in the National Guard and active-duty side for over 6 years, and it's really nice to see the kind of technology that we wish we had everywhere that is available here for the Soldiers," said Alex Porter, a security guard at Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Their first stop after visiting 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters was at the Fort Riley Combative gym, where Maj. Evan Perperis, the combatives officer in charge and engagement officer assigned to Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Divarty, 1st Inf. Div., gave them insight into soldiers' hand-to-hand combat training and techniques based on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Upon completing the overview, Perperis offered the group the opportunity to conduct combative hands-on training led by instructors and Soldiers from the 1ID Combative Team. This hands-on activity served as a team-building experience where Fort Riley Soldiers could share and showcase their lethal skills while the Kansas City Chiefs Staff got to step out of their comfort zone to experience close combat training.

The group proceeded to the 1st Brigade Engineering Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. Motor-



Kansas City Chiefs staff members visit the 1st Brigade Engineering Battalion motor pool during their tour of Fort Riley.



Jayne Martin (top) and Caitlyn Allen (bottom) both Kansas City Chiefs staff members practice combatives on Fort Riley. The combatives facility was the first stop on their tour around Fort Riley, where instructors showed the group some positions and led the group in practicing them.



Photos and Story by Pvt. Autumn Johnson

pool, where they experienced static displays, followed by lunch at the Cagny Warrior Restaurant. At both stops, the Chiefs staff conducted an awards

**“Building bridges is what we do as engineers, but one bridge we take the most pride in building is the one we build with our community.”**

said 2LT Benjamin Bradford Karmis

ceremony for the Soldiers to commemorate their hard work and dedication to their Country.

“Building bridges is what we do as engineers, but one bridge we take the most pride in building is the one we build with our community. Hosting the KC Chiefs (staff), of all people, was a tremendous

Kansas City Chiefs staff members that visited the Division Headquarters pose for a photo.



U.S. Army Maj. Evan Perperis, the combatives officer in charge and engagement officer assigned to Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Divarty, 1st Infantry Division, leads the combatives demonstration. He gave Kansas City Chiefs staff members insight into soldiers' hand-to-hand combat training and techniques based on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Richard B. Peacock, the commander of the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks with Matt Kenny, a Kansas City Chiefs staff member, at the 1st BEB motorpool on Fort Riley.



honor for our Battalion, Brigade, and Division,” said 2nd. Lt Benjamin Bradford Karmis an engineer officer assigned to the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, “We are very grateful that they took the time to make that hike out here to see us and can only hope they will come back again soon.”

On the tour's last stop, the staff visited the Mission Training Complex on Custer Hill. Again, the Chiefs staff gained valuable exposure to the daily life of a combat arms soldier. They operated weapon simulators from the high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle, engaging in realistic scenarios where they utilized

firearms. Additionally, they conducted room-clearing exercises.

“I think my favorite part of the visit was the training simulators that Fort Riley has here. I've never used anything like this, so it was really cool to get hands-on experience,” said Porter.

After the simulators, the group concluded the day at MTC. They had one last ceremony, where they passed out challenge coins and thanked the Big Red One Soldiers for welcoming them on base.

Leaving Fort Riley, the staff got to experience the readiness, modernization,

and commitment that the Big Red One has to Northeast Kansas.

“We had a really great time. It was an honor truly for all of us to be here today sincerely. All of us have had an amazing time. This was a very great experience,” said Caitlyn Allen, the community outreach operations assistant for the Kansas City Chiefs.

This event demonstrates that Ft. Riley is more than just a place to serve but a place to thrive. The installation and surrounding communities have dozens of opportunities to offer to young service members and their families.

**“We had a really great time. It was an honor truly for all of us to be here today sincerely.”**

said Caitlyn Allen

# THE BIG RED ONE RETURNS:

## D-DAY 79 YEARS LATER

JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup>

### SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER, France

The historic 1st Infantry Division proudly returned to Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, from June 1 to June 6, 2023, for the 79th anniversary of D-Day. A group of 28 Soldiers represented the Division over a week-long gauntlet of prestigious commemorations to the battle that determined the fate of democracy in Europe.

The First Infantry Division, known as the Big Red One for its iconic patch, was one of the units that participated in the famed landing in 1944. The Division witnessed some of the fiercest resistance at the Omaha Beach landing site,

with hundreds falling in the first wave of attacks.

Despite fearsome weather conditions and deeply entrenched positions manned by some of the Third Reich's most elite units, the Big Red One, alongside its sister Divisions, took the two beaches and then proceeded to liberate all of Europe over the course of the War's last two years. Elements of the Big Red One participated in nearly every Allied front of the European War.

The Big Red One Soldiers in attendance at the festivities were a team of highly

motivated NCOs. Each Soldier who attended the various ceremonies were chosen by their organization for their contributions to Ft. Riley and the Army as a whole. This decision was part of 1st Infantry Division's ongoing 'Year of the NCO,' which seeks to develop and honor the capabilities of the NCO Corps in building a lethal, combat-credible, modern force.

"NCOs are the backbone of the Army," said 1st Sgt. Michael Brockman, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company United States Army Garrison, Ft. Riley first sergeant and the noncommis-

sioned-officer-in-charge of the events for 1ID. "Throughout history NCOs have had to take charge in the absence of orders from pre-war to mission complete. This event highlights their contributions and gives us the chance to honor them for their bravery."

Soldiers were particularly honored by the chance to meet some of the heroes of the battle. 43 D-Day veterans from every branch of Service were in attendance.

"The youngest of them was 99," said Sgt. 1st Class Ashlar Olson, an air

traffic controller with Headquarters Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division. "It honestly blows my mind to see so many of them here. It's a testament to their power that they can make it over here at this age."

Master Sgt. (ret.) Charles Norman Shay was one of those recognized veterans. Shay is a decorated WWII veteran from the Penobscot Nation who served as a medic with the Big Red One during the war. The Charles Shay WWII Indian Memorial stands a short distance away from the 1st ID memorial and is a cele-

bration and remembrance of all the First Nations people who gave their life in the struggle against the Axis forces.

"The 1st Infantry Division is the most historic unit we have," said Brockman. "It all gets put into perspective when you come out and see the things they've seen and touched the places they've touched."

Brockman went on to say that the experience deepened his connection to Ft. Riley.

"To have that level of unit pride is one

**"NCOs are the backbone of the Army,"**  
said 1SG Michael Brockman



Story by Sgt. Evan Ruchotzke and photos by Spc. Daniela Lechuga



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, speaks at the 1st Infantry Division Monument Ceremony, Colleville-Sur-Mer, France, June 6, 2023.



U.S. Army Spc. Jorge Ordaz, a AH-64 Helicopter Repairer assigned to 1st Heavy Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, observes the Charles Shay Indian Memorial.



The 1st Infantry Division command team, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax, pose for a photo with French officials at Saint-Laurent-Sur-Mer, France, June 5, 2023.

that every unit should have,” said Brockman. “This amplified everything for me and really showed me what it means to be a Big Red One Soldier.”

On June 6th, the Big Red One Soldiers gathered at the 1st Infantry Division Monument to remember the wartime dead. The ceremony was presided over

the Soldiers were given the opportunity to interact with the visitors, including people from the surrounding communities.

“The French are the most accommodating people you could ever meet,” said Brockman. “They are the most kind, generous and honorable people. We were treated like family in their country.”

Soldiers returned home between the 7th and the 8th of June after taking time to rest from the dozens of ceremonies and commemorations. Afterwards, many remarked on how their perspective on the events of that fateful battle changed, and how they’ll honor the day going forward.

“It was amazing,” said Sgt. Meliza Arias, a power generation equipment repairer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division. “It’s truly an honor to get this experience. There’s so much history here and I hope everyone gets the chance to see this place.”

by the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Ft. Riley, Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, alongside the division sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax. Wreaths were laid to commemorate the fallen, after which

**“To have that level of unit pride is one that every unit should have.”**

said 1SG Michael Brockman



**“There’s so much history here and I hope everyone gets the chance to see this place.”**

said SGT Meliza Arias

[Far Left] The 1st Infantry Division and 173rd Airborne Division Soldiers stand at parade rest during a ceremony in Picauville, France on June 2, 2023.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax, command sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, speaks at the Charles Shay Indian Memorial ceremony at Saint Laurent Sur Mer, France, June 5, 2023. The event honored U.S. Army veteran Master Sgt. Charles N. Shay, a combat medic assigned to the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div., and all other Native-American Soldiers who fought on D-Day.

Past and present 1st Infantry Division Soldiers along with Arikara Tribe members assist former U.S. Army veteran Master Sgt. Charles N. Shay, a combat medic assigned to the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div., in his entrance to a memorial named in his honor at Saint-Laurent-Sur-Mer, France, June 5, 2023.

# BEACHES OF SAINT- LAURENT- SUR-MER



The 1st Infantry Division command team, U.S. Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax, pose for a group photo with Soldiers of the Big Red One at Saint-Laurent-Sur-Mer, France, June 5, 2023. Noncommissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division were part of a ceremony honoring U.S. Army veteran Master Sgt. Charles N. Shay and other Native-American Soldiers that fought on D-Day. Hand-selected Big Red One noncommissioned officers represented the Division throughout D-Day commemorations as part of the Big Red One Year of the NCO campaign. The campaign further develops our NCO Corps and recognizes their contributions, both personal and professional, to the 1st Infantry Division.

# 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY



The 1st Infantry Division command team, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax, pose for a group photo with Soldiers of the Big Red One at Omaha Beach in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, June 6, 2023. Noncommissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division participated in a ceremony commemorating the fallen 1st Infantry Division Soldiers that fought on D-Day.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Julia Kelly, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks at the Charles Shay Indian Memorial Ceremony in Saint-Laurent-Sur-Mer, France, June 5, 2023. Past and present Big Red One Soldiers and Native American veterans gathered to commemorate U.S. Army veteran Master Sgt. Charles Shay, former Big Red One Soldier and a Penobscot Tribe member for his efforts during D-Day, 79 years ago.



French Navy Chief Military Chaplain Franck Dufour unveils the French flag with the crest and motto of the 1st Infantry Division in Picauville, France, on June 2, 2023.

U.S. Army veteran Master Sgt. Charles N. Shay, a combat medic assigned to the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, salute during the playing of the National Anthem.



# DIVARTY POST- DEPLOY- MENT

## REINTEGRATION PROCESS

JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>

Story by Sgt. Evan Ruchotzke  
Photos by Spc. Charles Leitner  
& U.S. Army National Guard  
Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano

A pod, loaded with two Reduced-Range Practice Rockets (RRPR), of an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) attached to Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, points toward the Baltic Sea during a Latvian-led combined military exercise in Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. Designed for rapid deployment, HIMARS are wheeled missile launcher systems capable of launching multiple guided artillery strikes on long range targets.



### FORT RILEY, Kansas

The First Infantry Division returned from a deployment in February of 2023. The historic Division, the oldest in the U.S. Army, completed a rotation to support the nation's allies and partners in Europe as part of the ongoing Operation Atlantic Resolve. The nearly year-long deployment tested the Big Red One's mettle as it operated across nearly the entire continent, from the forests of Finland in the north to the shores of the Aegean in sunny Greece.

When the mission finally ended, what waited on the other side of the Atlantic, however, was as great a challenge as anything they faced in the old world: the logistical burden of returning an entire combined-arms division home.

For the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery (DIVARTY), the challenge of deliberate reintegration was a welcome one and a chance to test its elite logisticians' prowess and mental capacity.

"Redeployment and reintegration are always different, and it's always difficult," said Maj. Matthew Boudro, the DIVARTY executive officer. "But we put people first, and that's our framework for reintegration."

The ability of a unit to return to its home station is a critical task for any organization. To do so without a loss of functionality and a minimum of time is a testament to an organization's capability. Moreover, it's a vital task to rehearse in the event of a future conflict. For Boudro, after seeing the speed at which his organization reintegrated at Ft. Riley, there was no concern for the future at all.

"We have to be prepared to execute whenever the nation calls upon us," said Boudro. "If we had to execute another mission tomorrow, we absolutely could."



*U.S. Army Spc. Jamil P. Samuel, left, and Pfc. Richard S. Gammon, both High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) crew members assigned to Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (3-321 FAR), 18th Field Artillery Brigade prepare an M142 HIMARS during a Latvian-led field artillery live fire exercise, NAMEJS, at Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. The 3-321 FAR is among other units assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, 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 Maj. Jenkins L. Dove, an operations officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division, observes an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) at a firing point during a Latvian-led combined military exercise near Liepāja, Latvia Sept. 26, 2022. The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, is among other units assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners.*



**“If we had to execute another mission tomorrow, we absolutely could.”**

said MAJ Matthew Boudro

*U.S. Army Sgt. Cooper Cook, an intelligence noncommissioned officer assigned to Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), calculates unit strength on a whiteboard during Winter Strike 22, a command post exercise held in Bolesławiec, Poland, Dec. 11, 2022. The 1 ID is working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe.*

DIVARTY's deliberate reintegration furnished a valuable opportunity for the organization to test its junior leaders and to see how effectively it could refit and reconfigure itself after a year in the field.

“We've got the right leaders in the right place,” said Boudro. “They're doing what they need to do in order to ensure that we set our Soldiers and our unit up for success and prepare our equipment for whatever is waiting on the horizon.”

Boudro also acknowledged that the mission would have been impossible without its enlisted Soldiers' efforts, especially its noncommissioned officers' efforts.

“At the end of the day, we cannot do anything without the NCOs,” said Boudro. “A staff can make all the great plans in the world, but if we don't have great NCOs in our formations, nothing will happen.”

One of those NCOs, Staff Sgt. Steve Hill, the DIVARTY mobility noncommissioned officer-in-charge, was a key player in the mission's reintegration effort for DIVARTY. The ease of return was surprising for Hill, even for an NCO of his experience.

“We got everything back here quicker than I expected,” said Hill. “Of course, we had our issues and delays, but that's not any one person's fault. I was blown away by how easy the return ended up being.”

Hill was only at Ft. Riley for a month, having recently arrived from his previous duty assignment in Korea when he got word that he'd be headed to Europe. However, despite the extreme circumstances, he said that he didn't feel daunted.

“Yeah, I was relatively new when I heard that we were packing up the entire di-



**“I'd done exercises and such for operations like this before, but never an element this size, let alone into a real-world environment.”**

said 1SG Michael Brockman

vision,” said Hill. “I'd done exercises and such for operations like this before, but never an element this size, let alone into a real-world environment.”

Hill, by his own admission, enjoyed his time in Europe but said that the return journey was one of the more challenging aspects of the deployment. Even though his duties were demanding, Hill said he was impressed by how well the process came together in the final days of the mission.

“What I guess I'm trying to get at is that we just went right back into the battle rhythm; there wasn't much of a slow-down,” said Hill. “We put the equipment back in the motor pool and then went on about our business.”

The nuts-and-bolts work of redeploying the organization all came to a head at the port of Riga, the capital city of the Latvian Republic, from whence DIVARTY would ship all of its vehicles and equipment to Corpus Christi, Texas, where it would be unloaded and then taken across the country on a train.

“One of the biggest things was making sure all the containers were good to go,” said Capt. Constantine Toliias, the DIVARTY fires control officer and the mobility officer for the redeployment.

U.S. Army Soldiers of Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, perform a systems check in an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) at Liepāja International Airport during a Latvian-led combined military exercise in Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, is among other units assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners.

“February in the Baltics is not a pleasant time, especially by the sea.”

With assistance from the Latvian government and the hard work and determination of the organization, DIVARTY managed to containerize its entire organization in four days. Following that, a month-long journey on a freighter ship brought the organization’s equipment back to the United States, after which a short real journey moved the equipment back to Camp Funston.

“This went so well because like any great plan, it was well thought out,” said Tolias. “The Ready Reserve component at Camp Funston was instrumental in completing the last leg of this mission.”

After the vehicles were parked and the last Soldier was accounted for, DIVARTY settled in for some well-earned rest and relaxation during a scheduled block of leave. On the Soldiers’ return from leave, the organization was ready to resume their mission.

**“This has been the smoothest reintegration that I’ve ever gone through.”**  
said MAJ Matthew Boudro

“At the end of the day, it was the guys and gals of DIVARTY that came together to get us back here,” said Tolias. “I can’t thank them enough for doing what it takes to get this unit out the door.”

Echoing Tolias’ gratitude, Boudro credited the strength and professionalism that the organization displayed in its reintegration to the healthy organizational culture that exists between the Soldiers.

“This has been the smoothest reintegration that I’ve ever gone through,” said Boudro, who has served in the Army for 16 years. “I attribute that to the strong bonds shared by the Soldiers in our formation.”

“I’m proud of them,” said Boudro. “I hope they’re proud of themselves and the great work they’ve done.”

DIVARTY began regular workflow with its full organizational strength and equipment during the first week in April 2023, one month exactly from its redeployment.

Overall, DIVARTY fast and well-executed reintegration shows Ft. Riley and the 1st Infantry Division’s commitment to readiness and modernization. Our Nation expects us to fight and win on the battlefield, and when our teams maintain their equipment, they are deadly force.

U.S. Army Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., left, commander of Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), shares artillery mapping information with a Lithuanian officer during Winter Strike 22, a command post exercise held in Bolesławiec, Poland, Dec. 11, 2022.



U.S. Army Maj. Jenkins L. Dove, an operations officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery and a Latvian National Armed Forces officer share a laugh during a Latvian-led field artillery live fire exercise, NAMEJS, at Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. Latvia is proudly working alongside 1st Infantry Division, other NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America’s forward deployed corps in Europe.



# TRUE GRIT:

## 16TH SMA VISITS FORT RILEY

JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>

FORT RILEY, Kansas

Story and photos by  
Spc. Charles Leitner



The lines in Sgt. Major of the Army Michael Grinston's face are well-defined, carved out from an almost 36-year-long career leading U.S. Soldiers across multiple theatres around the world.

As he paced in front of a room full of noncommissioned officers with the 1st Infantry Division, Grinston shared stories of his time serving in the U.S. Army and the wisdom he has gathered over the years. As part of a leader professional development (LPD) program aligned with the 1st Infantry Division's Year of the NCO campaign, Grinston stopped at Fort Riley on June 7, 2023, to discuss his drive to create a more lethal fighting force and the challenges all Sol-

diers must forego while preparing for and experiencing combat.

"The future is in this room right now," said Grinston. "You all are the ones that are going to have to fight that next fight. And you've got to be ready for that."

Grinston, a Jasper, Alabama native, has an extensive military resume that includes numerous combat deployments, two of which occurred while he was serving in the 1st Inf. Div. Recalling the chaos that ensues during combat, Grinston offered leaders of the 1st Inf. Div. lessons to carry with them as they continue to fill the shoes in the spaces he now prepares to leave behind.



U.S. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston smiles while speaking to a room of noncommissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division during a leadership professional development engagement on Fort Riley, Kansas, June 6, 2023. Grinston engaged with NCOs in open discussion and talked about lessons he learned during his 36 years of service in the U.S. Army.

# “[Soldiers] should experience those lessons learned,”

said CSM Toriano G. Jackson

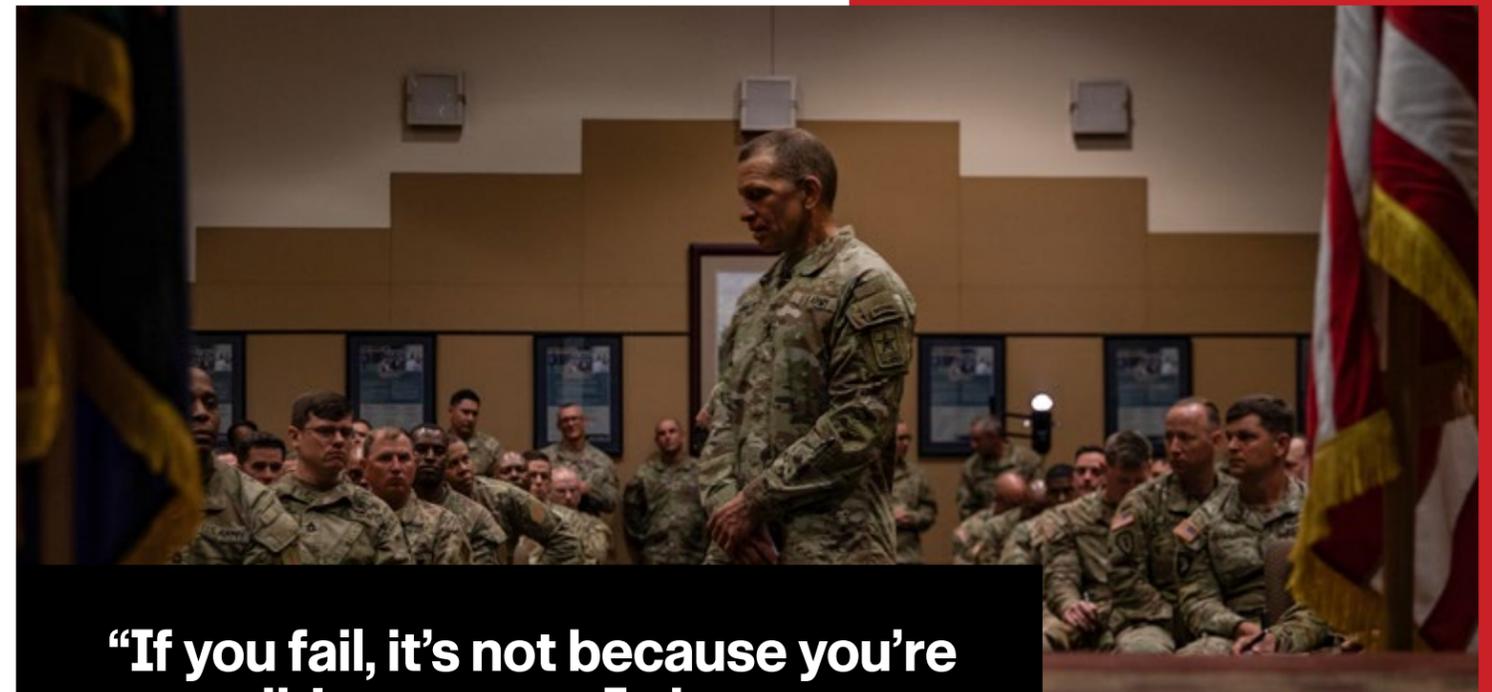
“[Soldiers] should experience those lessons learned,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Toriano G. Jackson, command sergeant major of the 541st Division Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. “That makes us better leaders in the future, it gives us perspective, and makes us better.”

During combat, Grinston learned that Soldiers often perform at their lowest common denominator. This means that the stressors endured inside a combat environment often restrict people from performing at their highest level. Most

people went to the basics they had trained at, acknowledged Grinston.

Because of this, the outgoing sergeant major of the Army stressed, Soldiers must make the most of their training. Leaders throughout the ranks must propel their Soldiers forward by providing them with sufficient training regiments that allow for them to be tested at the highest levels. To increase the common denominator amongst their ranks, leaders must challenge Soldiers in order to prepare them for the rigors of combat.

U.S. Army noncommissioned officers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division listen to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston.



**“If you fail, it’s not because you’re a terrible person. It just means you need to train more then go back and try again. That’s the number one advice I have for you in regards to future fighting.”**

said SMA Michael Grinston

U.S. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston speaks to a room of noncommissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division about combat readiness during a leadership professional development engagement.



U.S. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston listens to a question from Command Sgt. Maj. Christian Panquerne, command sergeant major of the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, during a leadership professional development engagement.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major Susie S. Nuuvai, command sergeant major of the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, asks Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston a question about awards during a leadership professional development engagement.



U.S. Army noncommissioned officers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division listen to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston during a leadership professional development engagement on Fort Riley.



“Approach every mission to the highest level that you can have in combat,” Grinston said. “And every time you go to the field train to that level.”

Grinston encouraged leaders of the 1st Inf. Div. to ask themselves if they’ve pushed their Soldiers to their limits and to seek out as many opportunities to train Soldiers so that if and when they are deployed for combat they can go forward together saying, “We’re ready.”

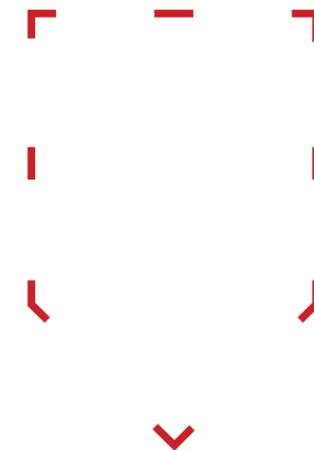
“Don’t be afraid to try something hard,” said Grinston. “If you fail, it’s not because you’re a terrible person. It just

means you need to train more then go back and try again. That’s the number one advice I have for you in regards to future fighting.”

Events like this showcase how the 1st Infantry Division guides its NCOs to aspire to become better leaders through professional development initiatives and training. based reconnaissance as part of their daily duties.

**“Approach every mission to the highest level that you can have in combat, and every time you go to the field, train to that level.”**

said SMA Michael Grinston



# THE BIG RED ONE TURNS 106

Story by Spc. Charles Leitner  
Photos by Spc. Joshua Holladay



JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, speaks of his interaction with retired Master Sgt. Charles Shay on his visit to Normandy for the 79th anniversary of D-Day during the 1st Inf. Div. birthday cake cutting ceremony at Victory Hall on Fort Riley. Meyer spoke about the story of Shay and how Soldiers like him really highlight the division.

## FORT RILEY, KS

The 1st Infantry Division celebrated its 106th birthday on Fort Riley, Kansas, June 8, 2023.

Punctuated by a ceremonial cake cutting performed by Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley command team, the event signified the long history of the Big Red One, a legacy of courage in battles fought the world over.

“Over 106 years this division has defended our country and the values that set us apart from the rest of the world,” said Meyer. “We were the first division to see combat in WWI, the first division overseas and the first to fight in offensive operations in Cantigny, France.” Founded in 1917, the Big Red One is the oldest continuously serving division in the U.S. Army. Once referred to as the First Expeditionary Division and then the 1st Division, the unit was constituted on May 24, 1917 and was officially organized on June 8th a few weeks later under the command of Brig. Gen. William L. Sibert. From there the

unit would go on to participate in every major conflict involving the U.S. Army.

Because of its place in American history, many Soldiers are humbled by serving in the Big Red One.

“Every day you come into work you want to be a part of that legacy,” said 1st Sgt. Jason Wright, first sergeant of the 1st Victory Reception Company, 1st Inf. Div. “To me, wearing this patch on my left sleeve is an accomplishment of its own knowing that we are helping build those Soldiers that are going to continue this legacy.”

Returning from a recent trip to France to honor Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. who fought and died on the beaches of Nor-

mandy, Meyer and Mullinax recounted the courage of Soldiers like Master Sgt. Charles Shay. Shay, who saved numerous Soldiers from drowning as the unit assaulted heavily fortified positions, exemplifies the legacy of selfless service that exists in the Big Red One. “It is the Year of the NCO and I think it’s appropriate that today on the birthday of the division we should spend a few moments where we think back on the role of noncommissioned officers in the past 106 years,” said Meyer. “It was noncommissioned officers that led our Soldiers up those bluffs. When officers were killed, noncommissioned officers stood up, led from the front and said follow me then took those Soldiers up the bluffs.”

While highlighting the role of noncom-

missioned officers in the U.S. Army, the 1st Inf. Div. often looks to the past to drive it further in the future. This past year Soldiers continued the legacy of the 1st Inf. Div. in Europe after an eleven-month rotation to Eastern Europe as part of Operation Assure, Deter and Reinforce. In recalling the division’s time spent assisting NATO Allies and partners, Mullinax emphasized the duty of 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers to never forget the past.

“Those were American Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country,” said Mullinax. “There is nothing more beautiful than laying down your life for your brother or sister and that’s what they did. So, it’s our duty to memorialize them so they are never forgotten.”

A cake with the logo of the Year of the NCO sits after being cut for the celebration of the 106th birthday of the 1st Infantry Division at Victory Hall on Fort Riley, Kansas, June 8, 2023. The cake was cut with a saber, signifying the historic tradition of the division.



# BIG RED ONE 2023 VICTORY WEEK

JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>

FORT RILEY,  
Kansas



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax, command sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, lead a division run at the start of Victory Week on Fort Riley.

The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley celebrated their 106th Birthday and the Army's 248th Birthday with their annual Victory Week celebration across Junction City and Fort Riley, Kansas, June 12-15, 2023.

Victory Week started with a Division-wide run led by U.S. Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, command team of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

"The Division Run is a great chance for the entire division to get out, be together and really build up that unit morale from the lowest to the highest levels," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Victor Courey, a UH-60M pilot with the 3rd Attack Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Throughout the week, Soldiers and units competed for the commanders

Victory Cup in a series of events such as basketball, arm wrestling, soccer and more. Victory Week is a time for Soldiers and families to bond and share the proud history of the 1st Infantry Division.

"I felt like this week was needed among our units and it honestly really helped me make new friends and find new leaders to look up to," said Sgt. Collin Modlin, a combat medic specialist assigned to 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

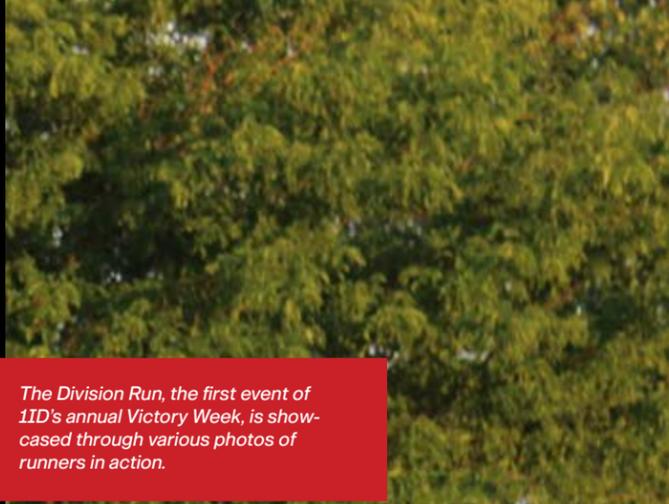
Victory week is a great example of Victory Wellness and its five pillars: emotional, Spiritual, physical, mental, and family. The week allowed Soldiers and their families to demonstrate team cohesion, unit morale, and esprit de corps. "Being able to compete with my Commander 1st Lt. Smith, was awesome. This week allowed me to see someone so busy balance all of his work, event practices and family time the best way possible. I really enjoyed this week and cannot wait for next year!" said Collins.

The Big Red One continues to focus on its People First initiative, which seeks to achieve trust between leaders, subordinates, and the surrounding community to build and sustain those connections.

During the first event of Victory Week, the Fort Riley Fire Department showcased their support by spraying water during the Division run.



Story by Spc. Kenneth Barnet  
Photos by 19PAD



The Division Run, the first event of 1ID's annual Victory Week, is showcased through various photos of runners in action.

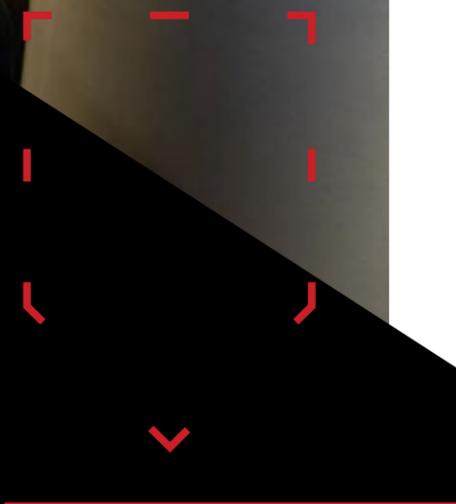


Soldiers preparing to participate in the first event of Victory Week, the Division run.



During the Division Run, smiles and comradery emerge, setting the tone for the week's upcoming events in the quest for the commander's Victory Cup.

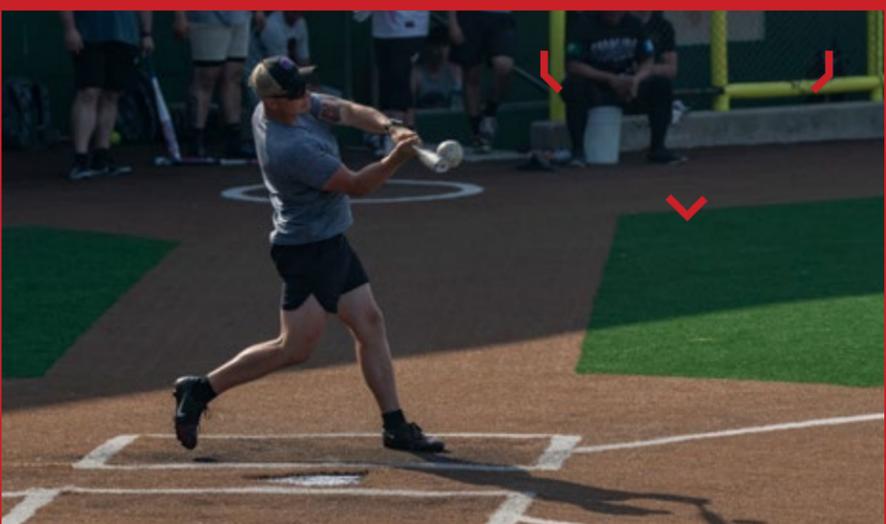




*During Victory Week 2023, Soldiers and families of the 1st Infantry Division, Big Red One veterans, distinguished members of the Flint Hills community, and invited guests actively participated in various activities. These photos feature engaging video game and flag football competitions.*



A snippet of the diverse events during Victory Week at Fort Riley.



# THE ARMY TURNS 248

Photos by Pfc. Mackenzie Striker



A closeup of the winning cake's detailed beach scenes.

JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>



A cake in the shape of the 1st Infantry Division's insignia in a beach theme sits ready before the celebration of the Army's 248th birthday at Cantigny Warrior Restaurant on Fort Riley. The cake was crafted to depict the 1st Infantry Division's time during WWII, to include the beach landings at Tunisia, Sicily, and Normandy. Cantigny Warrior Restaurant Soldiers won the post's annual baking competition and have the honor of celebrating the Army's birthday in their facility.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Command Sergeant Major, cut the winning cake during the celebration of the Army's 248th birthday at Cantigny Warrior Restaurant on Fort Riley. The celebration coincided with the 1st Infantry Division's annual 'Victory Week,' a week-long celebration that commemorates the founding of the 1st Infantry Division as well as the Army's Birthday.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to the  
**JUNE 8 2023**

**1st INFANTRY DIVISION**

**1917-2023**  
**CELEBRATING 106 YEARS**

Join us for a cake cutting at the  
**VICTORY HALL FOYER AT 1430**

**V CORPS' EHLERS CUP COMPETITION**



**FORT RILEY'S 2023**

**ARMY HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION**  
ENJOY ETHNIC FOOD TASTINGS, MUSIC, GAMES, PRIZES, T-SHIRT DECORATING, ART PAINTING, AND HORSES!

JOIN US AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF THE SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS, AND FAMILIES OF OUR FORT RILEY COMMUNITY.

**JUNE 13 • 1100-1500**  
**RILEY'S COMMUNITY CENTER**

**1944 D-DAY**

**1st INFANTRY DIVISION**

"Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months..."

**Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower**

**ARMY'S 248th BIRTHDAY**

**WELCOME HOME**

**DAGGER BRIGADE**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**DAGGER BRIGADE**

**FOR WINNING THE VICTORY WEEK COMMANDER'S CUP**

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

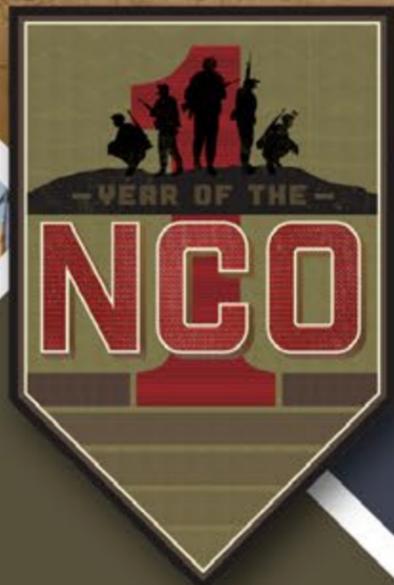
Are you interested in appearing in future issues of **DANGER FORWARD?**

The editors of the 1st Infantry Division public affairs office are looking for submissions relating to the following topics:

- YEAR OF THE NCO**
- LEADERSHIP**
- OWNERSHIP**
- READINESS**
- MODERNIZATION**

Scan the QR CODE to reach the submissions page:





# YEAR OF THE NCO BOARD QUESTIONS

1. Define Army Logistics.
2. Define Commander's Critical Information Requirement (CCIR).
3. How many Protection Principles are there and what are they?
4. What subject does ADP 7-0 cover?
5. What improves the abilities of our partner nations to secure themselves?
6. Define Doctrine.
7. What is Intelligence synchronization?
8. What is a hybrid threat?
9. How does AER provide relief?
10. Who is eligible for AER?
11. What is the time limit for recommending an award?
12. Who is the approving authority for the Medal of Honor?
13. What does Article 3 pertain to?
14. How many Articles are in the Code of Conduct?
15. What is the cadence count for "Quick Time" and "Double Time?"

1. Army Logistics is the planning and execution of the movement and support of forces.
2. Any information requirement identified by the commander as being critical to facilitating timely decision making.
3. Five – Comprehensive, Integrated, Layered, Redundant, and Enduring.
4. Training Units and Developing Leaders
5. The equipment, training, and financial assistance the United States provides.
6. Fundamental principles by which the military forces or elements thereof guide their actions in support of national objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgment in application.
7. The "art" of integrating information collection and intelligence analysis with operations to effectively and efficiently support decision making.
8. The diverse and dynamic combination of regular forces, irregular forces, terrorist forces, criminal elements, or a combination of these forces and elements all united to achieve mutually benefiting effects.
9. Financial assistance is provided by AER either as a loan without interest, as a grant, or as a combination of both.
10. Active Army and Family members, National Guard and Reserve on Active Duty in excess of 30 days and their Family members. Spouses, and Orphans of eligible Army Personnel who die while on Active Duty.
11. Two years.
12. The United States Congress.
13. Escape and Evasion.
14. Six.
15. 120 and 180 counts or steps per minute.

# THE NCO CREED



**N**o one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a non-commissioned 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.

**C**ompetence 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.

**O**fficers 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**

