

DANGER FORWARD

MONTHLY NEWS OF THE

1

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



2023
HIGH-
LIGHTS





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EDITOR'S NOTE DECEMBER

Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families and Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, we want to take a moment to convey our appreciation for your support to the Danger Forward Magazine. It means a lot that you take the time to follow us across our social media platforms and read our stories in the magazine.

We want to remind everyone that the Christmas season is a special time, but it can be challenging for those who are away from their loved ones, serving our nation. We want to assure you that your dedication and resilience do not go unnoticed. Your commitment to duty and to each other is what makes our Division truly exceptional. We are proud to report on and cover the great things our Big Red One Soldiers do.

This holiday season, we encourage you to take some time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the new year with hope and optimism. We have accomplished so much together, and we know that we will continue to do great things in the future.

To the families who stand strong on the home front, your support is immeasurable. Thank you for your patience, your strength, and your understanding during

these challenging times. We are forever grateful for your sacrifices as well.

Safety remains a priority, so as you celebrate this joyous season, please do so with care. Look after one another and make choices that keep the festive period a safe and happy time for everyone. As we celebrate this holiday season, let us hold in our hearts the values of service, sacrifice, and resilience. Together, we can find comfort and joy in each other's company and remember the true meaning of this season.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with hope and happiness, and may the New Year bring us all closer to the peace and security we strive to achieve. Please take some well-deserved rest and enjoy this holiday season to the fullest.

From the 11D Public Affairs Team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. You are the pride of our nation, and we are honored to serve alongside you.

Duty First!

Sincerely,
Editor-in-Chief of the Danger
Forward Magazine

FOREWORD

FORT RILEY HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

On December 1, 2016, Fort Riley held a tree lighting to signify the start of holiday season. "This ceremony has been going on for 33 years here for the holiday season at the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley," said Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander. "The history of the U.S. Army is filled with stories of Soldiers providing Christmas gifts, holiday meals or a visit from Santa to children," Frank said. "I can guarantee you it's going on in Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea with our Soldiers right now." The tree lighting is just one of many traditions and a small representation of Soldiers and their actions during the holiday season, Frank said. Throughout history, U.S. Army Soldiers and other U.S. service members have gone above and beyond to see to it that they and those around them, at home or deployed, enjoy the holidays together.



Fort Riley continues the annual tradition of lighting the tree to usher in the holiday season. In 2023, the tree was lit on November 30 at the Fort Riley Garrison Headquarters before a large crowd of Fort Riley residents and community members. The event included a children's choir, the lighting of the 20-foot-tall tree and a visit from Santa Claus. At the conclusion of the remarks, the switch was flipped and the tree was lit. Children had the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus indoors following the tree lighting. The tree stood in front of the Fort Riley post headquarters throughout the month of December.



Story and photos by
Pfc. Autumn Johnson

U.S. ARMY ALL AMERICAN BOWL

DECEMBER 7TH



FORT RILEY, Kansas

The 1st Infantry Division hosted a U.S. Army All American Bowl Selection, at Victory Hall, Fort Riley, Kansas on Dec. 7, 2023.

U.S. Army Col. Terry Tillis, the deputy commander of maneuver, 1st Inf. Div., honored Michael Boganowski, a student attending Junction City High School, who received an invitation to attend the U.S. Army American Bowl. Bowl week invites many of the nation's top players and teams to showcase their ability and compete on the nation's biggest football stage.

Selected for his talent in the field, Boganowski is a 6-2, 195-pound Linebacker who finished his high school season with 123 Total tackles (67 solo, three for loss), four interceptions, one forced fumble, one passing touch-

down, and two rushing touchdowns. He is being highlighted by the 1st Inf. Div. because he was the number one pick in the state to attend the bowl.

"I've been blessed with a few talents, and I work very hard on and off the field that has helped me be put into this spot," said Boganowski.

U.S. Army Col. Terry Tillis, the deputy commander of maneuver, 1st Inf. Div., spoke about his history with the Boganowski family which dates back to 2013. Boganowski's father, Master Sgt. Michael Boganowski Sr., is a Soldier assigned to Fort Riley. Tillis congratulated the family on Boganowski's athletic success. Tillis had last seen Boganowski as a child and spoke to how amazed he was with the young man he had grown up to be.

"It's your values that have made you different, it's your discipline, your drive, the grit that you give," said Tillis. "It's your family that have all been a part of you becoming the young man that you are. Congratulations on not only this but we believe you have a bright future, we're excited to be cheering for you, and to the family, thank you for your tremendous sacrifices that have helped him get to where he is."

Randall Zimmerman, the head football coach of Junction City high school also attended the ceremony in support of Boganowski.

"I'd like to thank Fort Riley, the U.S. Army, and all military branches for what you do here and abroad to allow young people like Michael and



Michael Boganowski from Junction City, Kansas, was honored at Victory Hall, Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 7, 2023. Boganowski celebrated alongside his family as he was honored for his selection in the U.S. Army All American Bowl as the number one pick to come out of the state of Kansas.

his brothers to grow up in a safe country," said Zimmerman. "Congratulations Michael, I'm looking forward to watching you develop as a football athlete but more importantly as a young man."

Zimmerman is in his 30th season as a football coach for Junction City High School. He has led the Blue Jays to 215 wins in 36 years of service continued.

Boganowski was presented with the jersey he will wear in the upcoming game by the U.S. Army All American Bowl Chairmen Richard McGuinness. "On behalf of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army All American Bowl, for the 2023 class you are one the top 80 players in the country, congratulations, you deserve it," said McGuinness.

"I've been blessed with a few talents, and I work very hard on and off the field ..."

said Michael Boganowski



Closing the ceremony Boganowski shared a few words with those in attendance.

“Thank you to everyone for coming out and witnessing this moment. Thank you to my family for all of your sacrifices and supporting me through these four years and I can’t wait to continue my journey for another four.”

The U.S. Army All American Bowl will take place on Dec. 18th, in Frisco, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Boganowski is committed to the Oklahoma Sooners to continue his football career into college.



Michael Boganowski celebrated alongside his family.

“Thank you to my family for all of your sacrifices and supporting me through these four years . . .”
said Michael Boganowski



Michael Boganowski from Junction City, Kansas, was honored at Victory Hall, Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 7, 2023. Boganowski was honored for his selection in the U.S. Army All American Bowl as the number one pick to come out of the state of Kansas.



U.S. Army All American Bowl Chairmen Richard McGuinness speaks at a ceremony at Victory Hall, Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 7, 2023. McGuinness presented Michael Boganowski, the number one high school recruit out of Kansas with the jersey he will wear in the upcoming U.S. Army All American Bowl.



11D SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE RECEIVES NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

DECEMBER 12TH

FORT RILEY, Kansas

The 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade conducted a change of responsibility ceremony at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 12, 2023.

Durable senior leaders, Soldiers, friends and family, attended the event to bid farewell to U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Raby, the outgoing 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. command sergeant major, and welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Adam Bezanson, the incoming 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. command sergeant major.

Bezanson, a native from Helena, Montana, enlisted into the Army in August of 2002 as a culinary specialist. Bezanson's stateside assignments include, but not limited to, Golf Company, 1-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Lib-

erty, North Carolina; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, I Corps, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington; Joint Staff, Washington D.C.; 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), United States Army Sergeant Major Academy, Fort Bliss. His overseas assignments are United States Forces Korea, Yongsan, Republic of Korea and U.S. Army Europe and Africa in Wiesbaden, Germany. He deployed to Iraq three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The official change of responsibility is accomplished with the transfer of the unit guidon, which represents not only the lineage and honor of the unit but also the loyalty and unity of its Soldiers. The passing of the

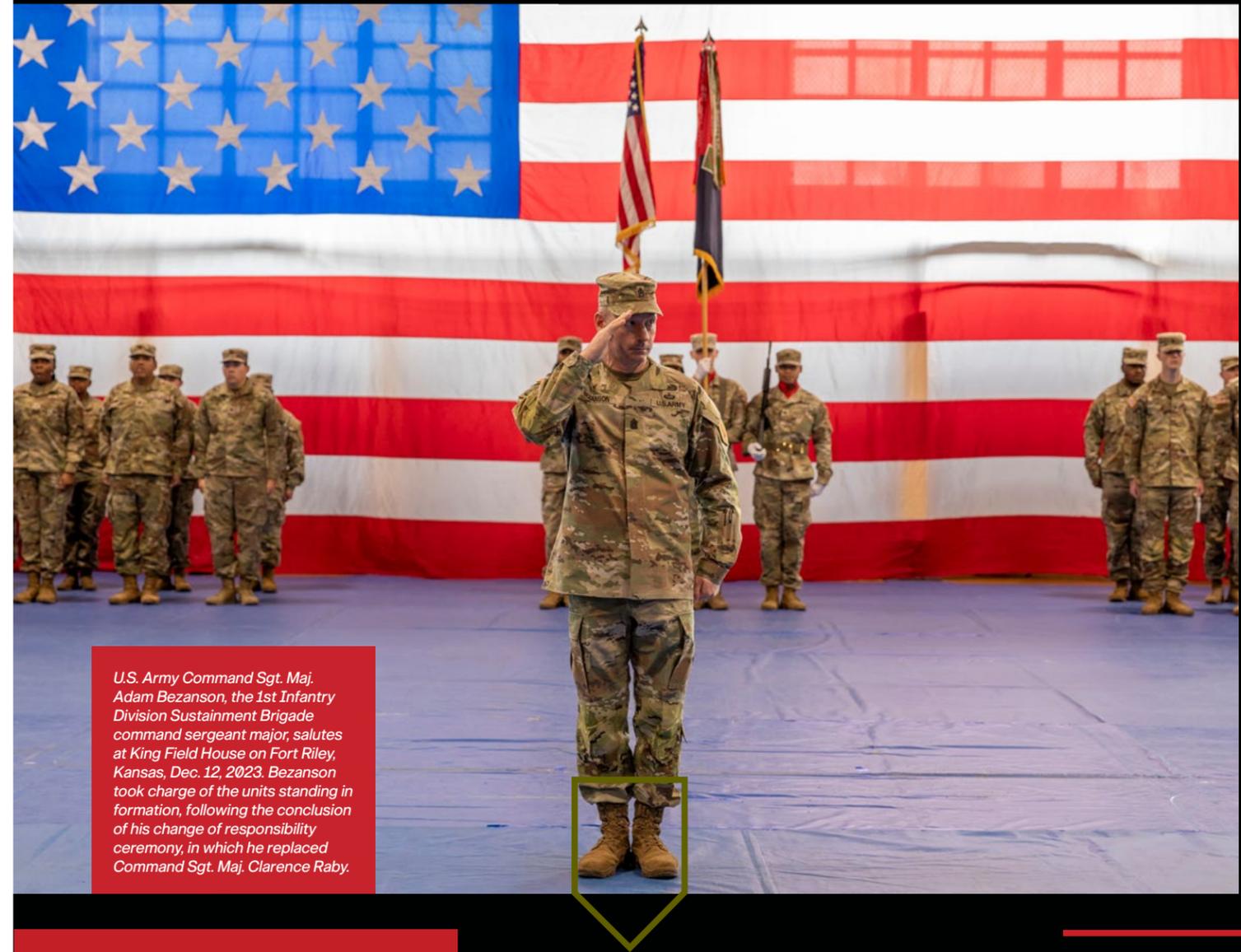
guidon symbolizes the transfer of responsibility from one command sergeant major to another.

Raby passed the guidon to Lt. Col. Charles Montgomery, the 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde., 1st Inf. Div. commander, who then passed the guidon to Bezanson, entrusting him with responsibility of the unit. As the colors passed through the trio, Raby's responsibility to the Durable Brigade ended.

Montgomery gave his remarks, praising the accomplishments of Raby during his time with the Big Red One and the positive impression he had about him from their first day together as Durable Brigade leaders.

"It is evident that Command Sgt. Maj. Raby has made an enormous impact on this division and brigade

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Shantese Ratledge, the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., operations sergeant major (left), salutes command Sgt. Maj. Adam Bezanson, the 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. command sergeant major (right), at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 12, 2023. Bezanson took charge of the units standing in formation, following his change of responsibility ceremony, in which he replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Raby.



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Adam Bezanson, the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, salutes at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 12, 2023. Bezanson took charge of the units standing in formation, following the conclusion of his change of responsibility ceremony, in which he replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Raby.

Story and photos by Spc. Daniela Lechuga

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Adam Bezanson, the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, gives a speech at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 12, 2023. The 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. conducted a change of responsibility ceremony for Bezanson, who replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Raby.



“It is evident that Command Sgt. Maj. Raby has made an enormous impact on this division and brigade over the last 30 months.”

said LTC Charles Montgomery

U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., stand at parade rest in formation at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 12, 2023. The Durable Brigade conducted a change of responsibility ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Adam Bezanson, the incoming 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. command sergeant major, who is replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Raby, the outgoing 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. command sergeant major.



over the last 30 months,” Montgomery said. “I had immediate trust in Command Sgt. Maj. Raby the moment I arrived and he did not disappoint in any manner.”

Coming to the end of his speech, Montgomery welcomed Bezanson and expressed trust in the new command sergeant major’s ability to lead the brigade alongside him.

Raby delivered a heartfelt speech, expressing his gratitude to his family, the command teams across the division and the leaders he served under, for their support, mentorship, and for making him a better non-commissioned officer and leader. Raby expressed his appreciation to all the Soldiers for working hard to make not only the brigade better, but the entire organization.

“Serving as your Command Sergeant Major has been the greatest honor of my career,” Raby said. “The successes of the brigade are a testament to the teamwork, discipline, and commitment that make this unit exceptional. I have witnessed your resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to our mission and each other, and for that, I am immensely proud.”

Following his closing remarks, Raby recited the “Long Motto Call”, the Division’s motto, as his last order for the bridge after which Bezanson thanked his predecessor and formally introduced himself to the unit.

Bezanson gave his incoming remarks, thanking his family for their support, Raby for his mentorship, and expressed his readiness to lead the brigade alongside Montgomery. He concluded his speech with one piece of advice directed to the Soldiers of his new unit.



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Adam Bezanson, the incoming 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. command sergeant major, receives the brigade guidon by Lt. Col. Montgomery, the 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde., 1st Inf. Div. commander at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 12, 2023. The Durable Brigade conducted a change of responsibility ceremony for Bezanson, who replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Raby.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve the people of the United States as a member of this team,” Bezanson said. “I thank all of you for your dedicated service and sacrifice in support of our nation and I want you to know that I work for you.”

Raby will transition to Ft. Stewart, Georgia, to serve as commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, where he will assist in training and developing future NCOs.

Story and photos by Spc. Charles Leitner



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, speaks during the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. Meyer hosted the ball, culminating a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.

YEAR OF THE NCO ENDS WITH 11D BALL

DECEMBER 20TH

MANHATTAN, Kansas

US. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III and Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Noyes, command team of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, hosted a ball culminating a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States Military, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023.

"We win because we have a noncommissioned officer corps that trains Soldiers to standard, enforces those standards, and holds everybody accountable, from private to major general, throughout this division," said Meyer. "The noncommissioned officer runs the United States Army."

The role of the modern American NCO, as the event's guest speaker Sgt. Maj. of the Army (retired) Daniel A. Dailey said in his speech, has been molded through the advent of war throughout the country's history, and includes vast duties, responsibilities and authorities.

Known as the backbone of the Army, NCOs are responsible for the care and training of Soldiers. They have played a pivotal role in every conflict since the founding of the U.S. Army, and are a paramount fixture in every American military victory from Gettysburg to Normandy, and beyond.

"The noncommissioned officer runs the United States Army."

said MG John V. Meyer III



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, awards an Army Commendation Medal to Spc. Dustin Kinzie, an infantryman assigned to the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., for winning Soldier of the Year during the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. Meyer hosted the ball, culminating a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Toriano G. Jackson, command sergeant major of the 541st Division Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division speaks with Command Sgt. Maj. Deondre L. Long, command sergeant major of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., during the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. The ball was held to culminate a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.

The bedrock of the Corps of noncommissioned officers was built during the American Revolution and the appointing of Baron von Steuben as Inspector General of the Army in 1778, who standardized the duties and responsibilities of the NCO by creating the regulation of the order and discipline of the troops.

"Ladies and gentlemen, what you have accomplished here at the Big Red One is not just another campaign with a nice banner and a few events," said Dailey. "What you have done is sent a message; a clear message to our officer corps and all those who lead this great army,

that the trust between us and them is a sacred bond that cannot be broken.

"What you have done is sent a clear message that the United States Army will continue to do what it's supposed to do regardless of their allegiance to anything outside what our common cause is, that is to defend the Constitution of the United States of America."

With the close of the Year of the NCO begins the Year of Victory, the next chapter in the ongoing effort to recount the history of the Big Red One and recognize its victorious past, while honoring former

"What you have done is sent a message; a clear message to our officer corps and all those who lead this great army, that the trust between us and them is a sacred bond that cannot be broken."

said CSM of the Army (retired) Daniel A. Dailey

YEAR OF THE NCO BALL



and current Soldiers, as it develops future leaders.

The division will focus on sending accomplished Soldiers to compete in Army wide competitions in order to build camaraderie amongst the

ranks. Milestones for the Year of Victory will include the 80th D-Day Anniversary Ceremony and the Victory Week celebration, as well as ongoing guest speaker and leadership professional development opportunities.



“... the United States Army will continue to do what it’s supposed to do regardless of their allegiance to anything outside what our common cause is, that is to defend the Constitution of the United States of America.”

said CSM of the Army (retired) Daniel A. Dailey



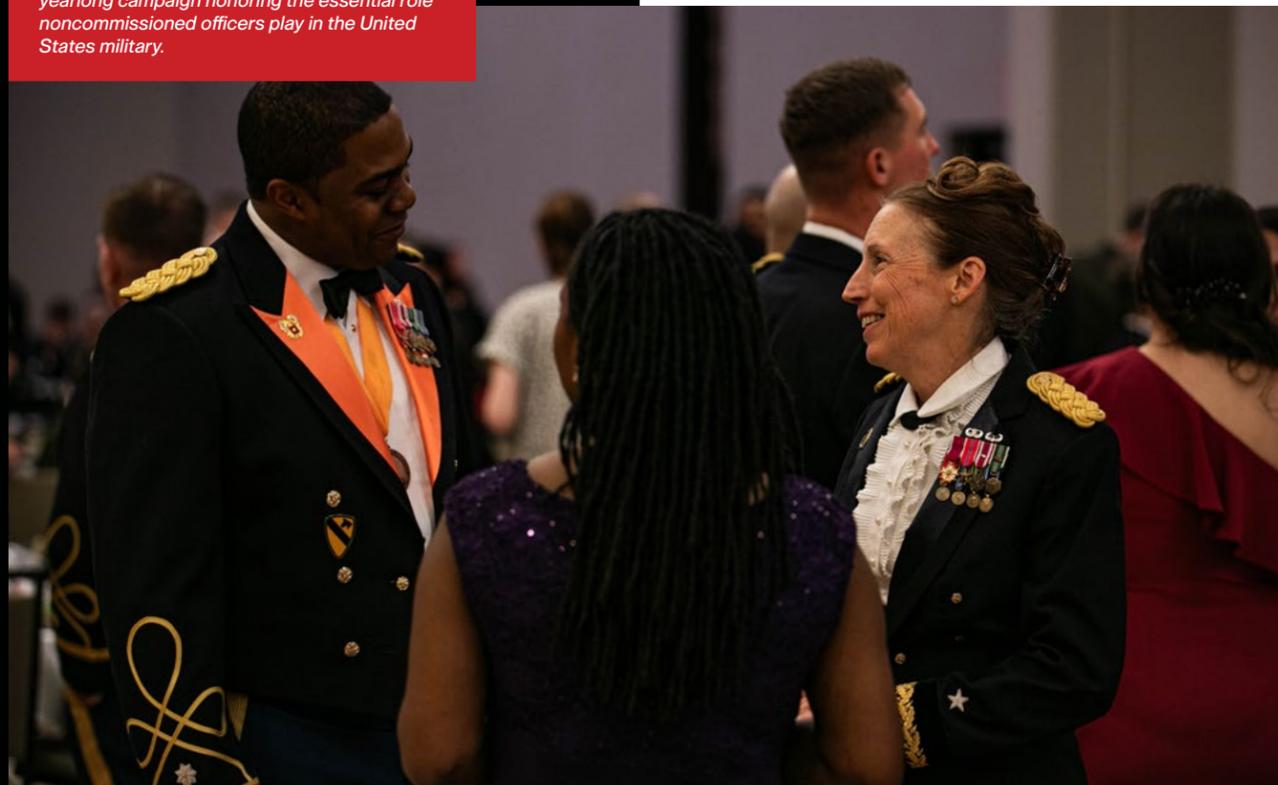
U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, greets Soldiers attending the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. Meyer hosted the ball, culminating a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army (retired) Daniel A. Dailey and Sgt. Danilu Ramirez, a noncommissioned officer assigned to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, listen as Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, speaks during the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. The ball was held to culminate a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.

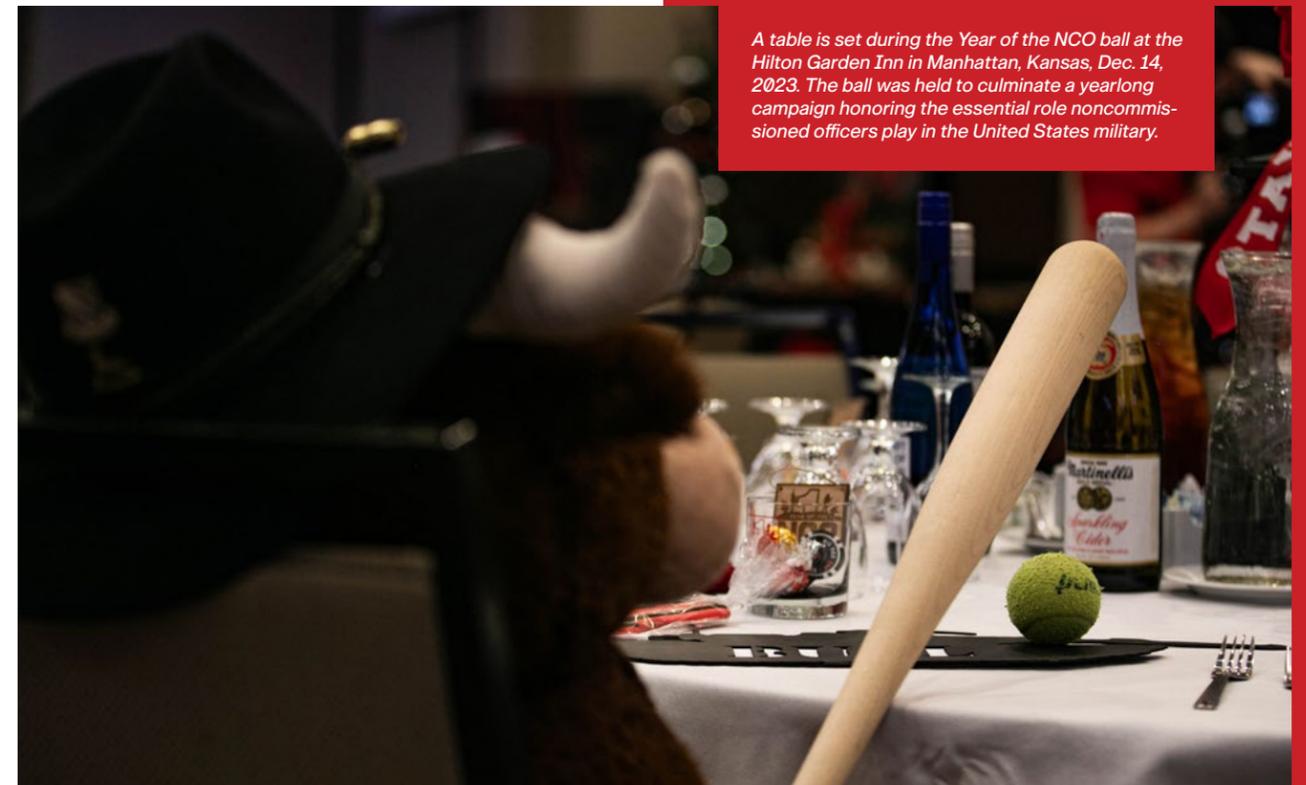
U.S. Army Sergeants Maj. assigned to the 1st Infantry Division pose for a photograph with Sgt. Maj. of the Army (retired) Daniel A. Dailey during the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. The ball was held to culminate a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Naive F. Knell, deputy commanding general-support of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, talks with Soldiers and officers attending the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. The ball was held to culminate a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.



A table is set during the Year of the NCO ball at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2023. The ball was held to culminate a yearlong campaign honoring the essential role noncommissioned officers play in the United States military.



Did You KNOW?

Army and Fort Riley regulations require all privately owned firearms brought onto the installation to be registered.

Avoid legal trouble. Register your firearms.

All your firearm questions can be answered on the Fort Riley Homepage.

- Registration
- Transportation
- Storage



HAPPY Hanukkah

FROM THE BIG RED ONE



Merry Christmas



FROM THE BIG RED ONE

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 VICTORY
- LEADERSHIP
- OWNERSHIP
- READINESS
- MODERNIZATION

Scan the QR CODE to reach the submissions page:



HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY



Fort Riley's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Lawn Card Contest.

BEST RANGER AND BEST SAPPER



1st Infantry Division's Best Ranger and Best Sapper Competition, 2023.

COMBAT MEDICS COMPETE IN 11D BEST MEDIC TRIALS



Combat Medics assigned to the 1st Infantry Division compete in division best medic trials at Fort Riley, Kansas, Dec. 5 and 6, 2023.

TANK ACADEMY



Infantry Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division learned new skills from their Armor Crew comrades during the first two weeks of December, 2023.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Regional and Fort Riley community members volunteered for the annual Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony at Fort Riley Post Cemetery, December 16, 2023.

THE NCO CREED



No 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.

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**

