

# DANGER FORWARD

QUARTERLY NEWS OF THE

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1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



Danger Forward is a quarterly publication showcasing the 1st Infantry Division. (2024-1st Quarter, Issue No. XVII)

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U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, the deputy commanding general support of the 1st Infantry Division, renders final honors to Capt. Larry L. Taylor's burial flag, during a memorial service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Feb. 7, 2024. Due to his exemplary service and courage in a near-death rescue mission, Taylor received the Medal of Honor on Sept. 5, 2023.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

1ST QUARTER

Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

Our team wanted to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who support the Danger Forward Magazine. Your dedication to following our stories and engaging with us on social media is truly appreciated.

The Big Red One kicked off the Year of Victory campaign, a special initiative that highlights our Division's storied history and legacy of Victory, honors the excellence within the Division and the Fort Riley community, and focuses on developing innovative leaders for the future. This year, we will commemorate milestones such as the 80th D-Day Anniversary, the 1st Division Monument commemoration in Washington D.C., and host a guest speaker and leader professional development series. Competing in Army-wide competitions will also be a focal point, as we strive for excellence in all that we do.

Recently, the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery conducted a significant brigade alignment ceremony at King Field House, aligning the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment under one command. This momentous occasion consolidated two historic artillery regiments, symbolizing our ongoing commitment to unity and strength.

We also mourned the loss of U.S. Army Capt. Larry L. Taylor, a Medal of Honor recipient and a veteran of the 1st Infantry Division, who was laid to rest at the

Chattanooga National Cemetery. Capt. Taylor's bravery and sacrifice remind us of the profound dedication of our Soldiers. As Dave Hill, a fellow 1st Infantry Division veteran, poignantly said, "Larry Taylor fought so we could live quiet, protected, and safe lives. Where do we get such men?"

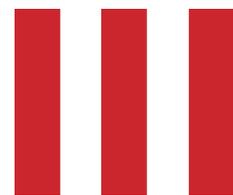
Training and readiness remain at the forefront of our mission. The Danger Ready series, culminating in the Austere Challenge 24 (AC24), underscores our commitment to preparing for real-world combat scenarios. During the latest Danger Ready exercise, our division staff elements tested their decision-making capabilities in a large-scale combat simulation across Fort Riley, Kansas. These exercises, integrating multi-domain operations doctrine, ensure our units are prepared for the evolving nature of modern warfare.

As we embark on this Year of Victory, let us reflect on our past achievements and look forward to the future with hope and determination. Together, we will continue to build on our legacy of excellence. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.

From the 1ID Public Affairs Team, we wish you a year filled with success. Duty First!

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

# FOREWORD



## BEFORE MAJOR MOVEMENTS SOLDIERS MAKE A PLAN

Maj. Kirby Robinson, chief planner, 1st ABCT, briefs a movement plan to convoy drivers prior to a key leader's engagement April 24, 2014 at the tactical movement area at NTC, Fort Irwin, California.



THEN

U.S. Army Spc. Jaelyn Newberry, an intelligence analyst assigned to Signal and Signal Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, adjusts positions on a map during Danger Ready 1, a multinational training exercise hosted on Fort Riley, Kansas. Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. rehearsed multiple scenarios designed to test the units ability to synchronize time and space in a combat environment.

From historic battlefields to modern-day missions, effective planning remains the

cornerstone of military operations. These images, spanning almost a decade, capture Army Soldiers engaged in the critical task of briefing off a terrain map. This vital process, part of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), ensures that time and space are synchronized for strategic precision. Whether in the past or present, meticulous planning through MDMP has been essential for mission success, illustrating that the principles of thorough preparation and teamwork are as crucial today as they were then.



NOW

# 1ID LAUNCHES YEAR OF VICTORY

JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>

FORT RILEY, Kansas



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III and Command Sgt. Major Derek Noyes, command team of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, announced the 'Year of Victory' campaign during a kickoff ceremony held on Jan. 11, 2024.

The kickoff event marks the beginning of the next chapter in the ongoing effort to recount the history of the division, recognize its victorious past and honor former and current Soldiers as it continues to develop future leaders and achieve success throughout its ranks.

"In the end, I think all of us if we live by the motto, duty, honor, country, there will be victory," said Meyer. "All of us as Soldiers have to define what that is."

Throughout the year, the division and its Soldiers will discuss what it means to

be victorious, what role the 1st Inf. Div. has played in the history of the United States and how it will continue playing a pivotal role in the country's future.

"Hopefully, [victory] doesn't mean that we're going to fight the enemy tomorrow or the next day," said Noyes. "What it should mean in this organization right now is what can I do in my little slice of this pie to make myself better and my Soldiers better."

"This organization has a long history of victory," said Noyes. "Before WWII this division was not fully equipped, it wasn't fully manned, it wasn't fully resourced and what did they do? They were the first division in the United States to go to combat, go onto shore in North Africa, go into Sicily and then land on Normandy on the first day."

Photos and story by  
Sgt. 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 Victory kickoff ceremony on Fort Riley.



U.S. Army Soldiers and civilians of the 1st Infantry Division attend the Year of Victory kickoff ceremony.



**“In the end, I think all of us if we live by the motto, duty, honor, country, there will be victory. All of us as Soldiers have to define what that is.”**

said MG John V. Meyer III



YEAR OF  
**VICTORY**



EST. 1917

*Members of the 1st Infantry Division Distinguished Troopers attend the Year of Victory kickoff ceremony on Fort Riley, Kansas, Jan. 11, 2024. The kickoff event marks the beginning of the next chapter in the ongoing effort to recount the history of the division, recognize its victorious past and honor former and current Soldiers as it continues.*





*U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Noyes, command sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, speaks during the Year of Victory kickoff ceremony.*



“They didn’t have the most resources, they didn’t have the most people and a lot of leaders probably thought, ‘we’re not ready for this,’ but what did they do? They got on the boats, they dismounted and they took the beach and created a victory.”

In recounting the history of the Big Red One, the ‘Year of Victory’ campaign looks to highlight the achievements of Soldiers and reflect upon the ideals that helped create such a storied division.

“What is victory to me? It’s doing your duty,” said Meyer. “It’s in our division motto. It’s what the Soldiers have been doing in this division since 1917. We have done our duty. We did our duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as we were ordered to do. We served with honor.”

Over the course of the next year, 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.

**“... They got on the boats, they dismounted and they took the beach and created a victory.”**

said CSM Derek Noyes

Story by Sgt. Charles Leitner  
Photos by Spc. Mackenzie Striker



U.S. Army Soldiers stand in formation during the 1st Infantry Division Artillery Alignment Ceremony at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Jan. 19, 2024. The ceremony brought different groups together under the "DIVARTY" title for the first time.

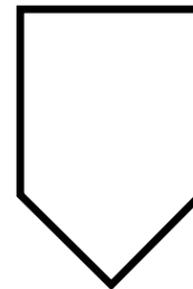
**"I believe the true purpose of this re-alignment is to best prepare the 1st Infantry Division's most lethal weapon system against any potential future foe,"**  
said COL Jeff Pickler



# VICTORY THROUGH FIRES: DIVARTY PERFORMS ALIGNMENT CEREMONY

JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>

FORT RILEY, Kansas



Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery conducted a brigade alignment ceremony at King Field House on Jan. 19, 2024.

The ceremony signified the alignment of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, in a significant moment that consolidated two historic artillery regiments under one command.

"I believe the true purpose of this re-alignment is to best prepare the 1st Infantry Division's most lethal weapon system against any potential future foe," said U.S. Army Col. Jeff Pickler, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. Artillery. "1-5 and 1-7 Field Artillery have a proud history with the Devil and Dagger Brigades and my commitment to them is that, that history will continue."

After the unit was first formed in 1917 it quickly evolved structurally, into an inte-

gral part of the 1st Inf. Div., one that provided support to units fighting across multiple theaters of war. The unit wrote its story in the pages of U.S. history, not with a pen, but with the constant barrage of howitzers clearing the way for Soldiers on the ground.

During the assault on the city of Aachen, the unit matched fires from twelve artillery battalions and fired 169 tons of high explosive ordnance on just the first day, leading to the capture of a key point in the Siegfried Line by the division. Many years later, during Desert Storm, the unit fired 11,000 rounds of artillery and 414 rockets in just thirty minutes.

From its trials in combat at Meuse-Argonne and Saint-Mihiel to the recent no notice deployment to Europe in support of Operation Assure, Deter and Reinforce, the 1st Inf. Div. Artillery's story has become integral to the many victories achieved by the United States Army.



*U.S. Army Soldier narrates during the 1st Infantry Division Artillery Alignment Ceremony. The ceremony brought different groups together under the "DIVARTY" title for the first time.*



*U.S. Army Soldier sings the Army song during the 1st Infantry Division Artillery Alignment Ceremony.*



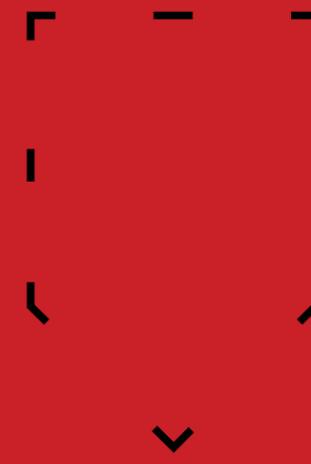
|||||  
"As a career warfighter and combat veteran, I wish for nothing more than peace from this day forward," said Pickler. "But I have lived long enough to know that this will likely not be the case. Although nobody can predict with certainty where our next fight will occur, Drumfire guns and Drumfire Soldiers will be ready. We will be ready to mass fires when needed and we will always contribute to the 1st Infantry Division's victory."

Units throughout the U.S. Army continue to evolve in order to tune themselves to any operational environment. The consolidation of artillery units within the Big Red One comes as the division trains for future operations and as the division begins to initiate Danger Ready III, a large-scale combat simulation designed to train Soldiers in preparation for Warfighter 2024.

**"As a career warfighter and combat veteran, I wish for nothing more than peace from this day forward, but I have lived long enough to know that this will likely not be the case."**  
said COL Jeff Pickler



U.S. Army Soldier salutes the flag during the national anthem during the DIVARTY Alignment Ceremony at King Field House. The national anthem is played during military ceremonies as a time-honored tradition.



**“... there was still a common understanding and there was a confidence among us, a shared trust that we had, that we knew we could count on one another when the time came.”**

said BG (Ret.) William A. Turner



U.S. Army Col. Jeffrey W. Pickler, 1st Infantry Division Artillery Commander, speaks about DIVARTY and the impact it makes, during the DIVARTY Alignment Ceremony.

# 1ID CONDUCTS FINAL LEG IN DANGER READY EXERCISE

JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> - FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>

## FORT RILEY, Kansas

During the last iteration of the four-part Danger Ready exercise, a large-scale combat simulation, division staff elements continued to test their decision-making capabilities while preparing for warfighter (AC24) across various locations across Fort Riley, Kansas, between Jan. 29 and Feb. 2, 2024.

The soldiers serving in the U.S. Army undergo continuous training and development. The 1st Infantry Division, in particular, employs large-scale combat simulations to ensure their units are effective and ready for the ever-changing nature of modern warfare. By integrating multi-domain operations doctrine into their simulated training, the ground forces in the 1st Infantry Division are better equipped to tackle real-world challenges.

“Using the synthetic training environment allows us to execute staff functions at scales that we couldn’t do without pro-

curing large quantities of land,” said Maj. Sean Meade, chief of current operations at the 1st Inf. Div. “My role as the chief of current operations (CUOP) is to utilize the integration process to achieve the desired results, ultimately leading to the accomplishment of the commander’s intent.”

Simulating combat operations through training exercises has been a common practice for many years. Whenever a commander needs a clear view of a unit’s area of operations, military strategists, staff officers, and soldiers work together to create simulated environments to prepare allied forces for upcoming engagements. Even before the founding of the country, military

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Charles Leitner

A HUMVEE attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, parks at a training site on Fort Riley.

“Using the synthetic training environment allows us to execute staff functions at scales that we couldn’t do without procuring large quantities of land,”

said MAJ Sean Meade





commanders had large maps drawn to visualize battle strategies.

In preparation for the Normandy invasion, significant efforts were made for Operation Overlord. Commanders and planners made extensive arrangements to provide proper training to thousands of troops from different countries and branches of the military. They devised training methods that conserved vital resources and minimized the overall training area, as there were constant threats of espionage and sabotage.

Veterans of the U.S. Army's most recent engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq recall the use of large sand tables molded from the earth. They used backhoes and excavators to create hyper-realistic terrain models large enough for command teams to stand in. This method enabled them to view an active bat-



U.S. Army Sgt. Jake Gilson, a combat Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, walks through a field at a training site on Fort Riley.

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Joshua Vargo, first sergeant of Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, speaks to Soldiers in a HMMWV at a training site. Elements belonging to the 1st Inf. Div.'s Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Sustainment Brigade, Signal Company and Division Artillery, continued with Danger Ready, a series of ongoing exercises designed to prepare Soldiers for a capstone multinational Warfighter exercise.



U.S. Army Private First Class Cameron Boarts, a human intelligence collector assigned to Signal Intelligence and Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, tapes a plastic sheet during Danger Ready 2, on Fort Riley, Kansas, Oct. 26, 2023. Danger Ready 2 is part of a series of field exercises designed to enhance Soldiers' combat-readiness and increase the 1st Inf. Div.'s interoperability with its NATO allies and partners.

**"...The speed and the technology definitely have changed and will continue to evolve, but the basics still exist,"**

said MAJ Michael Swientek

tle space from different perspectives, such as from inside deep valleys or city blocks.

"Twenty years ago, the simulation was very elementary because computers were still coming into the mainstream," said Maj. Michael Swientek, the 1st Inf. Div. simulation officer. "The computing power wasn't there to provide the number of entities we provide in the simulation today. That will continue to grow as we look towards how we will do training in the future."

Simulated training exercises have proven to be successful on the battlefield at every level. With the advancement of technology, particularly the availability of more powerful computing options, Soldiers now have access

to more comprehensive training simulations. This has allowed for the creation of more realistic problem sets, enabling Soldiers to train in a broader range of environments. Since the development of more advanced technologies, especially with the rise in more commercially available computing options, Soldiers have been given more comprehensive access to the means to produce even more realistic problem sets, therefore increasing their ability to train in more diverse environments.

"The fundamental concepts of combat for the 1st Inf. Div. have not changed," said Swientek. "Even though the technology has continued to evolve and change, the basic requirements of what we do are still there. We still have fires. We

still have maneuver. We still have sustainment requirements. The speed and the technology definitely have changed and will continue to evolve, but the basics still exist."

The Danger Ready simulation, constructed under a set of guidelines dictated by Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div., was designed to give Soldiers the most realistic opportunity to train under conditions present during large-scale combat operations.

"We're seeing it daily as the Army goes through its redesign and how we organize our divisions to fight," said Swientek.

Simulation officers and strategists have the ability to modify and control almost every aspect of a

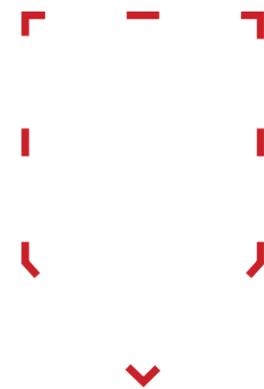


**“You can simulate effects like the weather, the enemy, the terrain, etc. Anything that you want to, you can simulate to train against it,”**  
 said MAJ Sean Meade

*U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division operate key internal systems during Danger Ready 2, on Fort Riley, Kansas, Oct. 26, 2023. Danger Ready 2 is a division-wide field exercise that trains Soldiers for mission readiness.*



*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Phillip Lee Borgmann, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, drives a HMMWV at a site on Fort Riley.*



training scenario to match the training requirements of a unit. Various departments within the division, such as armor elements, infantry platoons, legal departments, and public affairs shops, can also be tested. Various situations that can impede combat operations, such as ineffective supply chains or adverse weather conditions, can be observed, experienced, and resolved. Commanders can leverage advanced technology to enhance the range of challenges that their decision-makers might face, providing more opportunities to learn and enhance their skills.

“It doesn’t help if we go right out of the gate and they encounter OPFOR (Opposing Force), and they’re not able to achieve those training objectives, and they’re fighting through problems from the start,” said Swientek. “We have to tailor where they’re able to learn and grow, but we are creating

realistic, challenging problems for the division to work through.”

Simulation officers have several ways to improve realism within simulated environments. The adjustable dials are designed to tailor training to the specific needs of each unit. Controlled training environments can create large-scale problems that mimic real-world scenarios and challenge division staff elements to identify and counter them as long as they align with the commander’s training objectives.

“You can simulate effects like the weather, the enemy, the terrain, etc. Anything that you want to, you can simulate to train against it,” said Meade. “You lose the value of being able to get out and actually walk the terrain, but the resources necessary to get out and walk the terrain on the scale that we’re doing this exercise is not feasi-

ble. So, it is a very good training value to be able to use the simulation.”

Danger Ready training progressed with each iteration, incorporating broader training levels that integrated units from the U.S. Army’s V Corps and other global partners and allies. As a culmination of this program, Lt. Gen. Alfons Mais, the Chief of the German Army, visited Fort Riley to interact with soldiers and officers during their training, with the aim of fostering interoperability among partners and allies.

As the 1st Inf. Div. prepares for AC24, opportunities to improve the division’s warfighting capabilities will continue with its Year of Victory initiative.

# 11D SOLDIERS HONORED MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

**“I knew that if I didn’t go down and get them, they wouldn’t make it. I was just doing my job,”**

said CPT (Ret.) Larry Taylor



*The gravestone of U.S. Army Capt. Larry L. Taylor, a Medal of Honor recipient and honorary veteran of the 1st Infantry Division, now rests in the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee. Taylor flew into enemy fire to rescue a four-man long-range reconnaissance patrol team, which went on to earn him the nation's highest honor - the Medal of Honor.*

Story and photos by  
Spc. Dawson Smith





## CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee

**S**oldiers of the 1st Infantry Division mourned the loss of U.S. Army Capt. Larry L. Taylor, a Medal of Honor recipient and a veteran of the 1st Inf. Div., at the Chattanooga National Cemetery on Feb. 7, 2024.

“Larry Taylor fought so we could live quiet, protected and safe lives,” said Dave Hill, a veteran of the 1st Inf. Div. “Where do we get such men?”

Military service had always been highly-valued in the Taylor family; his great-great-grandfather, father and uncles all served in the military. Due to Taylor’s deep admiration for serving his country, he was commissioned through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Tennessee.

He volunteered as an armor officer then transitioned into Army aviation after he earned qualification through the U.S. Army Primary Helicopter School at Fort Wolters, Texas, and Fort Rucker, Alabama. Taylor had the opportunity to fly some of the Army’s first AH-1G Cobra attack helicopters.

With tension rising between Vietnam and the U.S. in August of 1967, Taylor deployed to Vietnam to serve with Troop D (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div. at Bien Hoa Air Base. There, he either flew reconnaissance missions, involving two cobra attack helicopters and two scout helicopters to locate any potential threat; or scrambles: when the horn goes off, you have two minutes to get the helicopter in the air and en route to the target.

*[top left] Gen. (Ret.) Burwell Baxter (B.B.) Bell III speaks about Captain Taylor’s distinguished service during his memorial service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery on Feb. 7, 2024.*

*[top right] U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division march with the American flag, the 1st Inf. Div. colors and the Medal of Honor Flag at the memorial service.*

*[bottom] U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division lead the procession for a memorial service that honored Capt. Larry L. Taylor for his actions in the Vietnam War. Due to his exemplary service and courage in a near-death rescue mission, Taylor received the Medal of Honor on Sept. 5, 2023*



On June 18, 1968, at approximately 2100, a horn sounded and the pilots raced to get their helicopters en route to a rice paddy near a village south of Ap Go Cong Du'ong Province of the Republic of Vietnam. After learning that the coordinates led to a four-man long-range reconnaissance patrol team whom the enemy had outnumbered and surrounded, Taylor had to think fast. Taylor exhausted his remaining ammunition to protect the Soldiers, and shut off the helicopter lights to conceal himself from the enemy. He instructed a Soldier to throw his last four claymore mines so everyone could run to the helicopter. The pilot of a helicopter designed for only two, rescued four additional people on its landing gear: a feat never attempted before.

"I knew that if I didn't go down and get them, they wouldn't make it," recounted Taylor. "I was just doing my job."

Having flown in 1,200 combat missions, earning 61 combat decorations and embarking on a daring rescue mission during the Vietnam War, Taylor earned a Silver Star for his actions. Taylor's bravery and valor enabled families to be reunited, and his legacy lives on in the 1st Inf. Div. as an example for other Soldiers to strive for.

On September 5, 2023, Taylor's Silver Star was upgraded to the nation's highest honor - the Medal of Honor. His life, service and indelible leadership are beacons of inspiration, urging everyone in the Big Red One to strive for excellence and carry forth his legacy.



**"Larry Taylor fought so we could live quiet, protected and safe lives. Where do we get such men?"**

said Dave Hill

[above] U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, the deputy commanding general support of the 1st Infantry Division, renders final honors to Capt. Larry L. Taylor's burial flag.

[right] U.S. Army Sgt. Jerrick Miralles, a cavalry scout assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, salutes the American flag during Taylor's memorial service.

[far Right] U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Dylan Wheeler, a cavalry scout assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, salutes the Medal of Honor Flag during the memorial.



# LONG FITNESS CENTER REOPENING

FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

FORT RILEY, Kansas



Story and photos by  
Pfc. Autumn Johnson

Holistic Health and Fitness teams from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, and 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, hosted a ceremony for the reopening of Long Fitness Center on Fort Riley, Kansas, Feb. 13, 2024.

U.S. Army Maj. Grant Smith, the division H2F director assigned to Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., attended the ceremony and gave insight to the importance of the new facility and how it will help strengthen and condition Soldiers.

The gym has been closed for the remodeling of the basketball court and racquetball flooring. The basketball court is now

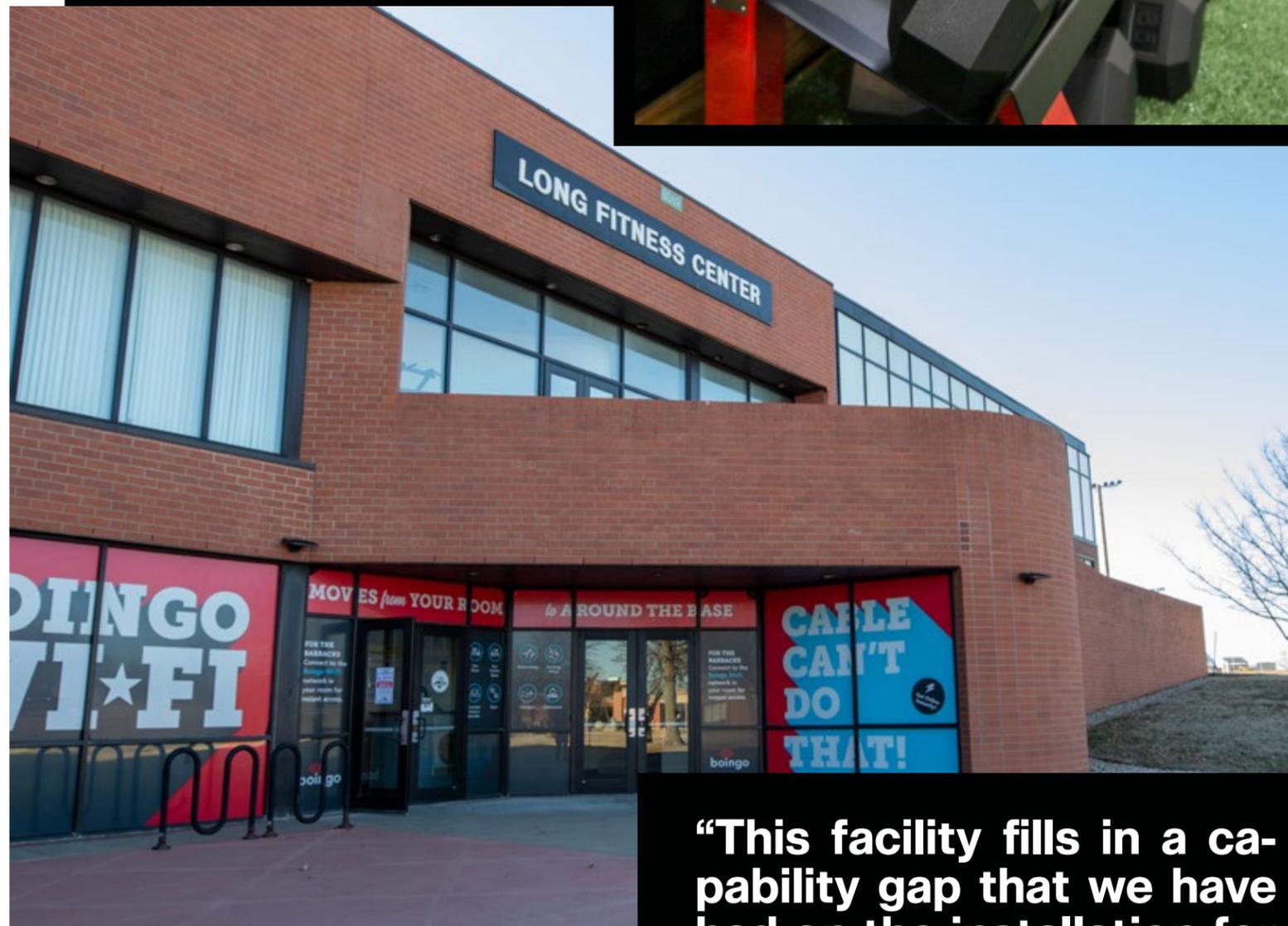
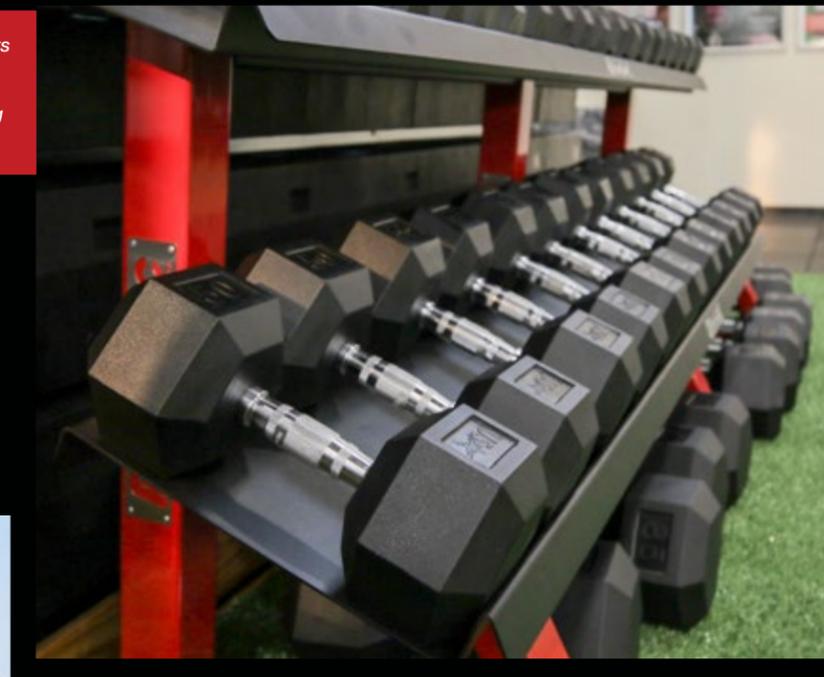
a functioning holistic health and fitness physical training facility in support of all units located in the Custer Hill area.

The new training facility features new turf flooring and new equipment such as dumbbells, squat racks, rowing machines, bikes, treadmills, glute ham development machines, medicine balls, sleds and more.

"This facility fills in a capability gap that we have had on the installation for some time," said Smith. "If you look around the installation there's a lack of turf area; so we have expanded that capability to allow for more agility work, sled work and other types of strength and conditioning modalities that are going to be helpful for performance on the combat fitness test and overall Soldier performance."



New workout equipment awaits Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in the remodeled Holistic Health and Fitness facility located inside the Long Fitness Center.



Closed in Oct. 2023, the newly remodeled Fitness Center has been turned into a Holistic Health and Fitness training facility.

**"This facility fills in a capability gap that we have had on the installation for some time,"**  
said MAJ Grant Smith

U.S. Army Capt. Robert Martinusek, the unit control officer assigned to 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade Holistic Health and Fitness Team, 1st Infantry Division alongside DOD Civilian Justin Anderson, 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. H2F, stand for a photo at Long Fitness Center on Feb. 13, 2024. The H2F team spreads knowledge, information and resources to Soldiers to help them maintain healthy lifestyles.



**“The other big gap that it filled was during physical training hours there’s limited availability and space inside gyms”**

said MAJ Grant Smith

Part of the 1st Infantry Division 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team Holistic Health and Fitness team, U.S. Army Soldiers and DOD Civilians, gather for a photo.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team Holistic Health and Fitness Team, 1st Infantry Division, alongside DOD Civilians from the 1st ABCT H2F team, gather for a photo.



**“This opening is a resource for our Division, for our Soldiers, and our families,”**

said COL Terry Tillis

“The other big gap that it filled was during physical training hours there’s limited availability and space inside gyms. Especially during the winter months, this is a place where the brigades that are located on [Custer Hill] are going to be able to use their H2F performance teams to have dedicated time with Soldiers when they have the blocked off time to conduct PT.”

The new facility adds to the 2024 United States Secretary of the Army’s plan for Army Life where one of the focuses is to improve the quality of life for Soldiers by helping them maintain healthy lifestyles.

“This opening is a resource for our Division, for our Soldiers, and our families,”

said Army Col. Terry Tillis, the deputy commander for maneuver, 1st Inf. Div., who also spoke at the reopening. “It’s about getting your Soldiers in here to utilize the equipment and resources we have been given.”

The new facility can be reserved through the brigade’s H2F teams for unit training. When the facility is not reserved, the operating hours are Monday - Friday 0600 - 1500, closed weekends, training & federal holidays and is open to all DoD card holders.

# 11D PARTIC- IPATES IN AUSTERE CHALLENGE 24

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>



## FORT RILEY, Kansas

From March 1 to March 15, 2024, 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers participated in a global multinational exercise that enhanced their warfighting capabilities.

After conducting a four-part Danger Ready Series, the Warfighter is a culminating exercise where Soldiers test their abilities to conduct real-time combat operations by planning sequential and branch operations and synchronizing warfighting functions globally. The Danger Ready series, constructed under a set of guidelines, were field training exercises used as building blocks in preparation for Austere Challenge 24 (AC24).

“The primary purpose of Austere Challenge 24 was to enhance the warfighting capabilities of the participating units,” said U.S. Army Maj. John Helmers, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs Engagements Officer.

AC24 took place from March 1st to the 15th. During this exercise, Soldiers were trained on how to collaborate with NATO allies by participating in war simulations, preparing for potential real-life scenarios. U.S. Army V Corp, based out of Europe, were high command for the 1st Inf. Div., with American participation to include the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and the 3rd Infantry Division. Other participating military elements included the United Kingdom and Estonia, amongst many other NATO allies and partners connected to AC24.

Story by Spc. Mackenzie Stiker  
Photos by 19th PAD

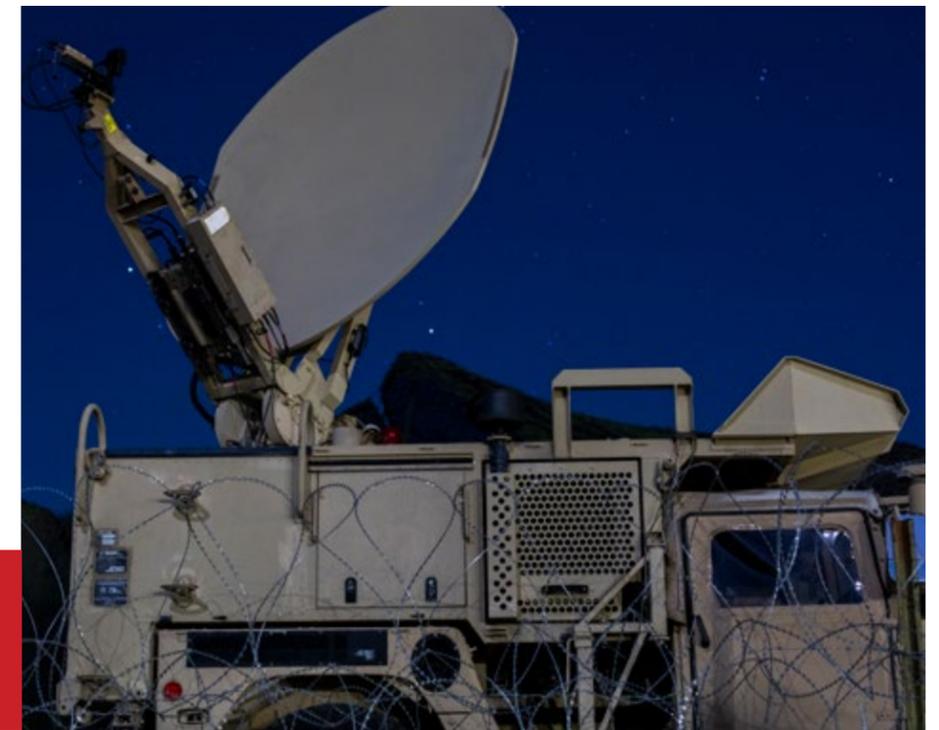
A satellite assigned to Signal Intelligence and Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Inf. Div., is set up for division-level field exercises behind a hangar at Marshall Air Field.

**“The 1st Inf. Div. staff had to optimize their individual abilities as individual sections while learning and embracing the importance and functions of others”**

said MAJ John Helmers

*High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Inf. Div., sit at a motor pool at Marshall Airfield. The Big Red One continued a series of field exercises to test and maintain unit warfighter mastery and mission readiness.*

*A High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle with an attached intelligence satellite assigned to the 1st Infantry Division is set behind c-wire at the Mission Training Complex during a field exercise on Fort Riley, Kansas.*



To enable large elements secure communication across vast distances, the Mission Command Training Program established an environment which enabled a jointly secure communication platform shared by allies and partners.

“The 1st Inf. Div. staff had to optimize their individual abilities as individual sections while learning and embracing the importance and functions of others,” Helmers said.

During this time period, multinational forces visited various locations on the installation to better understand the integration and communication utilized during the warfighter.

During a visit to the Mission Training Complex, Maj. Michael Swientek, the

division simulation officer, gave the visitors an overview of the division’s training with the Estonians through its integration with V Corps in Europe.

The training consisted of replicating the challenges of distributed operations. According to Swientek, the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade’s headquarters, currently deployed in Europe, worked in conjunction with the response cell here at Fort Riley.

A warfighter is a rigorous training exercise that validates and refines the division’s ability to execute large-scale combat operations. The 1st Inf. Div. will continue to work alongside NATO allies and partners to maintain combat readiness and warfighter mastery.



*U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Carr, a fire support noncommissioned officer assigned to Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Inf. Div., relays a message to his coworker during exercises at the Marshall Airfield hangars. Fire support NCOs coordinate the clearance of airspace for processing indirect fires and close air support.*



*U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Signal Intelligence and Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 1st Inf. Div., conduct a training exercise on a satellite transportable terminal at the Fox Company, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division hangar at Marshall Airfield on Fort Riley, Kansas. The division used the hangar as a forward operating base during a field exercise that tested the division's warfighter mastery and overall mission readiness.*

# A PEEK BEHIND THE ARMY ANALYST'S DESK

## MAJ. ADAMS' SERVICE THROUGH SIMULATION

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

### FORT RILEY, Kansas

Formerly a field artillery officer, Maj. Mark Adams was introduced to the ORSA (Operations Research and Systems Analyst) branch in 2019 while studying mathematics at West Point. His work in the field of modeling and simulation analytics would go on to make major impacts throughout the U.S. Army's resourcing and tactical decisions.

Adams grew up in Kirkville, NY. After high school he attended West Point, where they would afford him the opportunity to wrestle throughout his time there. Adams continued to serve his country by commissioning as an artilleryman after college. He deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in 2016 to assist with Operation Spartan Shield, as well as to the EUCOM (United States European Command) AoR (area of responsibility) in 2022.

"I loved being an artilleryman," said Adams. "The reason I ultimately made the switch was because I wanted to have an impact at the highest levels of the Army, through analysis, to ensure future victories."

While deployed to the EUCOM AoR with the 1st Infantry Division, he began to develop his own method of modeling analysis, which directly affected the decision dominance of EUCOM. Instead of mathematically predicting outcomes, Adams decided to try something different. He studied past historical battles and terrain throughout five different countries, observed outcomes of aviation attack simulations, and applied lessons learned. He used these to show the spectrum of impacts through potential ground force outcomes. This helped him understand risk to force versus risk to mission, and allowed commanders to make more efficient resourcing decisions.

"Decision dominance ... is the ability for a commander to sense, understand, decide, act, and assess faster and more effectively than any adversary," said Gen. John Murray, former Army Futures Command chief.

As one of the 1st Inf. Div.'s ORSAs, Adams uses data analysis to generate a more comprehensive view of intricate military logistics for senior leaders. While in a tactical environment, this view narrows to focus on more singular tasks, such as analysis of enemy and friendly actions, identifying risks and opportunities, and helping to ensure resource use is optimized for the fight ahead. This is all part of a comprehensive team-effort to increase the commanding general's awareness and enhance his ability to make informed decisions.

In order to do this, Adams realized he would have to first look into the military's past successes and failures.

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Tyler Selige



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Noyes, and Maj. Mark Adams pose for a photo after Adams received the Army Modeling and Simulation award.

"...I wanted to have an impact at the highest levels of the Army, through analysis, to ensure future victories"

said MAJ Mark J. Adams





**“If I can help our commanding general make one decision during Warfighter, or real life, then I have achieved my intent as an ORSA.”**

said MAJ Mark Adams

He studied Operation Eagle Claw, which was a failed rescue operation to extract more than 50 hostages from the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran in 1980. Eagle Claw was one of the first modern joint-military operations, and as such it was plagued by deficiencies in mission planning, as well as unexpected weather conditions, which led to a total mission failure that resulted in the loss of eight servicemembers.

“When the risk to mission is high and outcomes are uncertain, then understanding the resourcing required to ensure the accomplishment of a task is paramount,” said Adams.

By learning from historical operations and using the tools he was trained with, Adams directly supported his command team in making some major decisions. In doing this, Adams, along with his fellow analysts, support the Army’s data plan which prioritizes data analytics to out-think and out-pace any adversary. As well as its multi-domain transformation, which is meant to provide the Joint Force with technologies needed to achieve future decision dominance required to win their next big fight.

“If I can help our commanding general make one decision during Warfighter, or real life, then I have achieved my intent as an ORSA.” said Adams.

Adams has achieved much during his time in the Army, but he makes

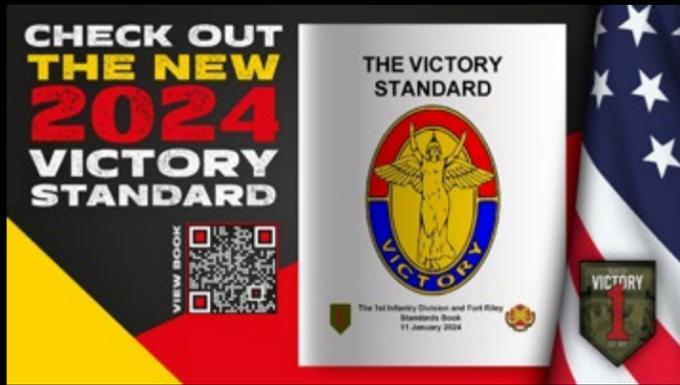
it clear the combined effort he sees every day is from his team. It is a clear point of pride for him that the 1st Inf. Div. was the only United States Army Forces Command unit to submit for and receive this award. Humbled and proud to have worked with his fellow analysts, Adams is thankful for the command team that has consistently supported his team and provided them with the time and resources to perform at the highest level.

Adam’s work with combat and resourcing simulations titled “Deterministic and Stochastic Modeling Analysis in support of Decision Dominance” would earn him the Army Modeling and Simulation award on Jan. 25, 2024. His goal was to allow the commander to make more informed decisions on the battlefield, with the ultimate goal of saving lives and winning our nation’s wars. He has shared his work with various divisions who have gone on to adopt and modify his model to fit their own purposes.

Currently he is writing a paper detailing how his methods can be used to enhance tactical planning in different levels throughout the United States military. His next upcoming assignment is to the Naval Postgraduate School to earn his PhD in Operations Research.

*Maj. Mark Adams poses for a photo in 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters at Fort Riley, KS, on March 27, 2024.*





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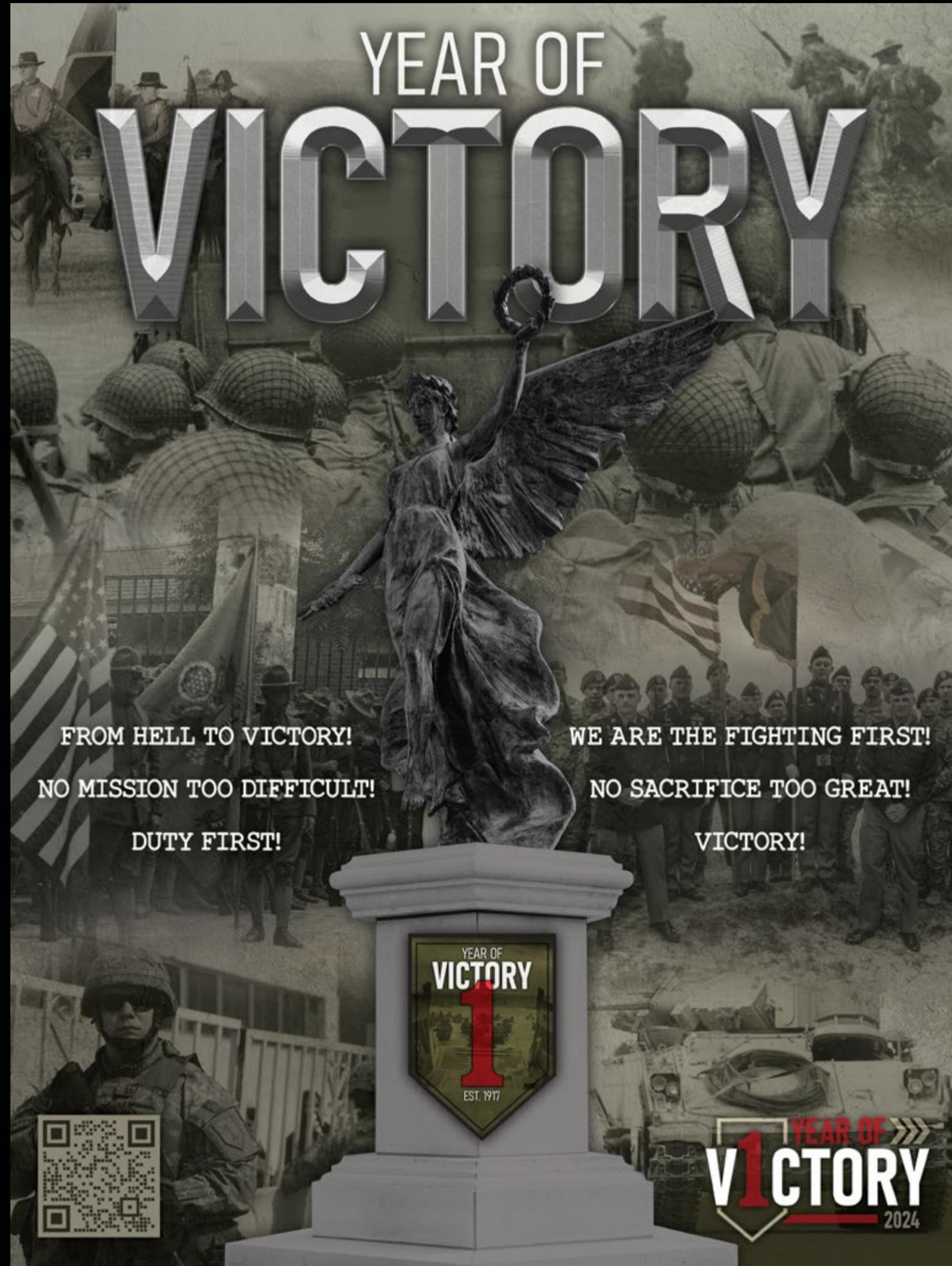
# YEAR OF VICTORY

## EVENT CALENDAR

<p>     </p> <p><b>11</b> JAN</p> <p>Year of Victory Kickoff Event</p>	<p><b>23</b> DEC</p> <p>    <b>24</b> JAN</p> <p>Best Ranger/Sapper Competition</p>	<p><b>07</b> FEB</p> <p>    <b>05</b> APR</p> <p>Best Mortar/Sniper Competition</p>
<p><b>26</b> FEB</p> <p>    <b>30</b> APR</p> <p>Sullivan's Cup</p>	<p><b>01</b> APR</p> <p>    <b>30</b> APR</p> <p>E3B Training</p>	<p><b>08</b> APR</p> <p>    <b>12</b> APR</p> <p>HHBn Victory Wellness Action Week</p>
<p><b>01</b> JUN</p> <p>    <b>10</b> JUN</p> <p>D-Day 80th Anniversary</p>	<p><b>23</b> JUN</p> <p>    <b>29</b> JUN</p> <p>Best Squad Competition</p>	<p>     </p> <p><b>27</b> JUN</p> <p>Volunteer/Soldier of the Quarter Award Ceremony</p>

All dates are subject to change.

Home of the BIG RED ONE



FROM HELL TO VICTORY!  
NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT!  
DUTY FIRST!

WE ARE THE FIGHTING FIRST!  
NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT!  
VICTORY!

# 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



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