

# DANGER FORWARD

MONTHLY NEWS OF THE

1

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



COVER PHOTO BY SGT. EVAN RUCHOTZKE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

04



Foreword  
**Society of the 1st Infantry Division Reunions**

06



Soldiers, NCOs & Officers of  
**11D Train Future Army Leaders**

12



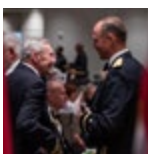
Victory with Honors:  
**Big Red One Welcomes New Deputy Commander**

16



Victory with Honors:  
**11D Bids Farewell to DCSM**

22



For Those Who Came Before:  
**Society of the 11D Hosts 102nd Reunion**

30



Big Red One Attends Kansas City  
**Chiefs Training Camp**

34



The Rhythm of Battle  
**11D Continues to Develop**

38

Celebrate & Reflect  
**Visuals from the Month**



## EDITOR'S NOTE AUGUST

Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

This summer, the 1st Infantry Division continues to uphold its legacy of excellence and service to the nation. August 2023 has been a month marked by transitions, celebrations, and a continued commitment to our Soldiers and NATO Allies. It is with great pride that we share the highlights of our Division's endeavors over the past month.

August witnessed a momentous occasion as we welcomed home our Dagger Brigade from Europe. Their return symbolizes the dedication and readiness of our forces, always prepared to serve wherever and whenever needed. We extend our gratitude for their service abroad and their safe return to their families and loved ones.

Our support to the recruiting summer surge remains steadfast, with numerous community engagements aimed at inspiring and welcoming the next generation of Army leaders. The commitment of our Soldiers to this important mission continues to strengthen the backbone of our armed forces.

In line with our Year of the NCO campaign, selected noncommissioned officers had the opportunity to attend the Society of the First Infantry Division Reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana, alongside the Commanding General. This event serves as a tribute to the expertise and leadership of our NCOs,

who play an indispensable role in shaping our Division's success.

During the month, Devil Brigade conducted warfighting skill development, focusing on the crew training portion of gunnery tables after completing individual training. This dedicated training is vital for maintaining our combat readiness and effectiveness on the battlefield.

We were honored to host our Estonian Allies and partners for our Danger Ready 1 multinational exercise, emphasizing the significance of interoperability and the shared commitment to global security.

Furthermore, we had the privilege of hosting the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Christine Wormuth. Her visit serves as a testament to the importance and impact of the 1st Infantry Division in the broader context of our national defense.

As August draws to a close, we bid farewell to Division Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Mullinax, who has been a guiding force in our Division. We also extend a warm welcome to incoming Deputy Commanding Officer of Maneuver, Col. Terry Tillis, as we prepare for the future with optimism and dedication.

The Army's focus for August included honoring our wounded warriors on National Purple Heart Day (Aug. 7) and observing Women's Equality Day (Aug.

26) by acknowledging the significant contributions of women to our Army and our nation. These events remind us of the diversity and strength that make our armed forces formidable.

As the summer PCS season winds down, we emphasize the importance of local Quality of Life programs that support the health and well-being of our Soldiers and their families. It's a testament to our commitment to the welfare of our Army family.

As we navigate the challenges and triumphs of August, the 1st Infantry Division remains dedicated to its mission and its people. Thank you for your unwavering support, and please enjoy this August 2023 edition as we celebrate the spirit and resilience of our Division.

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



# FOREWORD



The 1974 reunion of the Big Red One Soldiers at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., was a significant event marking the 55th anniversary of the first reunion held by the Society of the First Infantry Division. The Society has a long history of hosting these annual events, dating back to 1919, shortly after the 1st Infantry Division was established at the beginning of World War I.

These reunions are a tradition for the veterans of the 1st Infantry Division. They provide an opportunity for former members of the division to come together, reminisce about their service, reconnect with comrades from their time in the military and honor their shared experiences and the sacrifices that they made.

## SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION HOSTS REUNIONS

The 2023 reunion of the Big Red One Soldiers, held at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans, Louisiana, from August 10-13, marked another milestone as it celebrated the 102nd anniversary of these reunions for veterans and current soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division. These reunions have a rich history of bringing together past and present members of the division to commemorate their service and bond over shared experiences.

It's worth noting that only two reunions have been missed in the past due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on public gatherings and events worldwide, and it's understandable that precautions were taken to ensure the safety of attendees during those years. These reunions also allow current soldiers stationed at Fort Riley to connect with and learn from those who came before them, preserving the traditions and history of 1ID.





# SOLDIERS, NCOs & OFFICERS OF 11D TRAIN FUTURE ARMY LEADERS

JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>

## FORT KNOX, Kentucky

Every summer thousands of college students participating in their school's ROTC programs travel to Fort Knox to attend cadet summer training, a significant step in their military careers that prepares them to become officers in the United States Army.

This year, the 1st Infantry Division sent Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers to support training efforts and mold the Army's future leaders.

"This is my second time being out here for Cadet Summer training," said Sgt. 1st Class Jacobus Smit, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.

Functioning as CST cadre, these Soldiers worked to develop the leadership

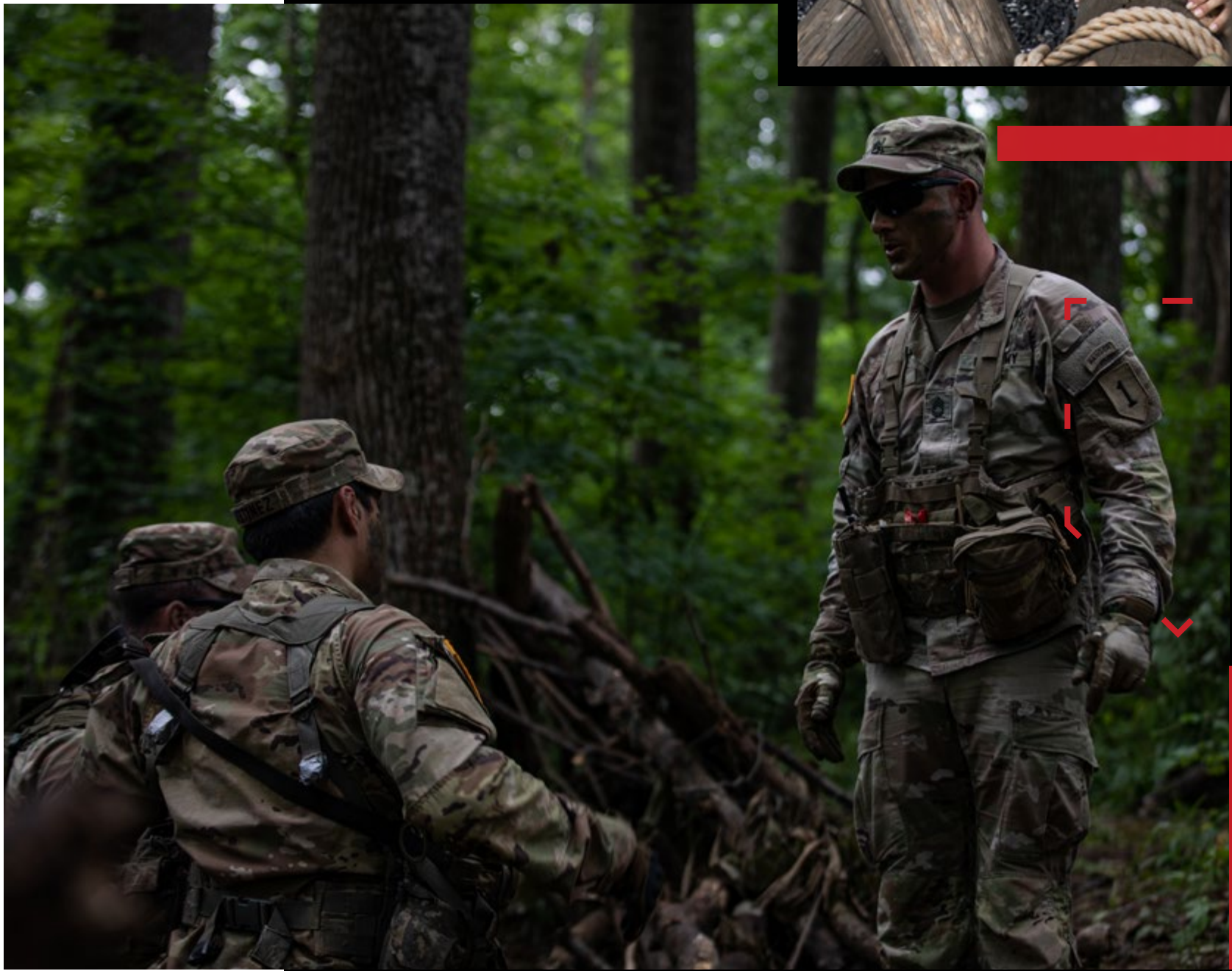
capabilities of the cadets through rigorous training exercises designed to test their mental and physical toughness.

Cadets attending summer training participate in a 32-day basic camp during which they learn the fundamentals of soldiering. Upon completing Basic Camp, cadets move on to a 35-day advanced training camping in which they continue developing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

"When it comes to day-to-day work much less anything further if we ever had to go into combat in the future confidence is of the utmost importance," said Staff Sgt. Spencer Clark, a cavalry scout assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.



A U.S. Army cadet climbs the Alpine Tower while attending Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox. Soldiers and non-commissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division traveled to CST to train future U.S. Army leaders.



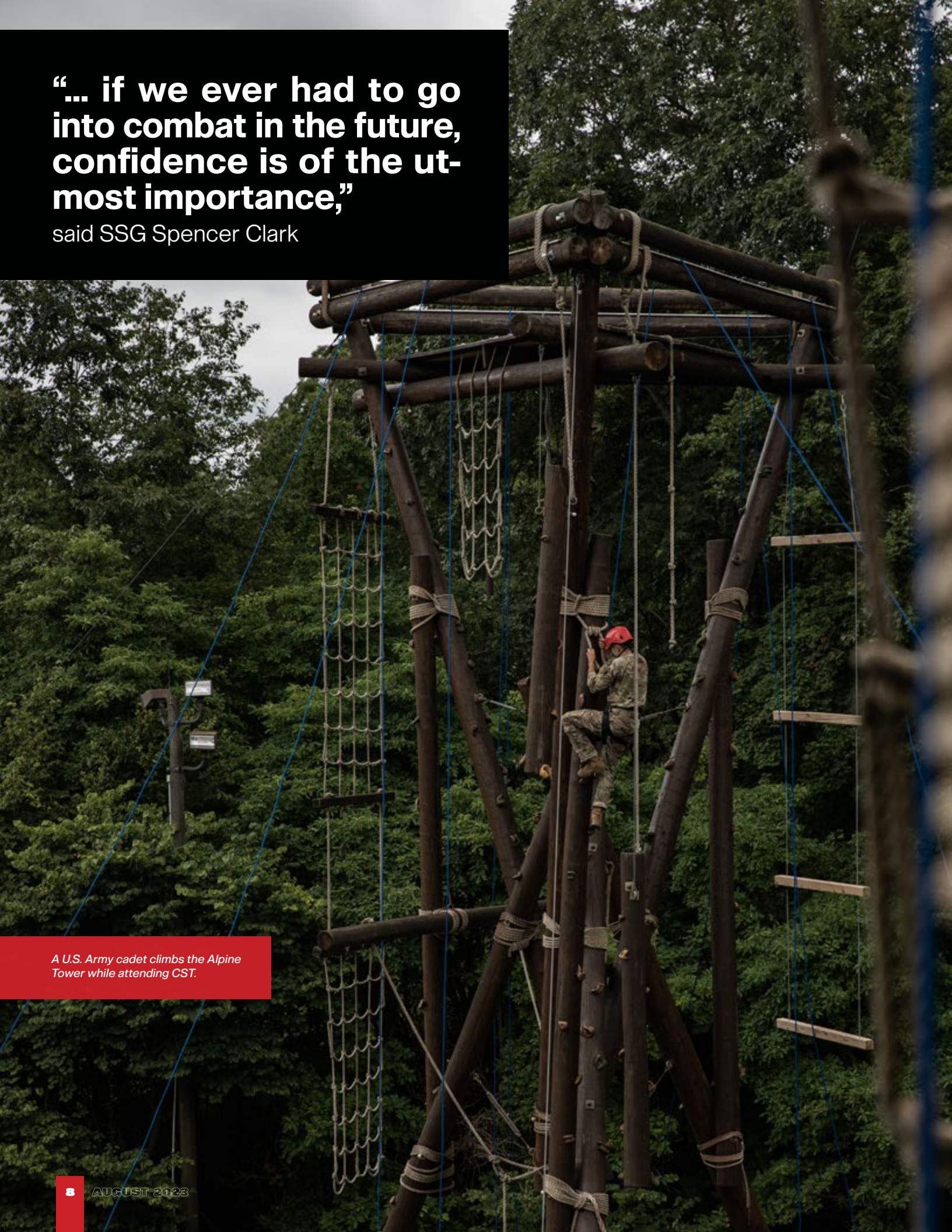
Photos and Story by Spc. Charles Leitner

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Corey Jacobs, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, coaches cadets after a field training exercise. Noncommissioned officers of the 1st Inf. Div. traveled to Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox to train future U.S. Army leaders.



**“... if we ever had to go into combat in the future, confidence is of the utmost importance,”**

said SSG Spencer Clark



*A U.S. Army cadet climbs the Alpine Tower while attending CST.*



*U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Macarios Casanova, a military intelligence officer assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stands in a cadet patrol base.*



*A U.S. Army cadet navigates an obstacle course while attending Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox.*

Like Soldiers who graduate from Basic Combat Training, cadets must undergo a number of trials designed to build their confidence and make them more effective as leaders of Soldiers. Cadets must navigate a series of obstacle courses and lead teams in tactical scenarios that engage many of the skills officers will need to operate successfully in diverse environments.

Good leadership results from the culmination of many characteristics, developed over time by individuals driven to a higher calling. Smit, who coached cadets as they learned to safely rappel down a forty-foot tower, acknowledged that as a leader it's necessary to be loyal to your Soldiers, your chain of command and to yourself. Ultimately, the ability to assess yourself is essential when leading others.

“Never stop challenging yourself,” said Smit. “[Army life] is definitely tough. It’s not easy, but if you are looking to challenge yourself consistently then the Army is the place to do so.”

**“[Army life] is definitely tough. It’s not easy, but if you are looking to challenge yourself consistently then the Army is the place to do so.”**

said SFC Jacobus Smit



# CADET SUMMER TRAINING

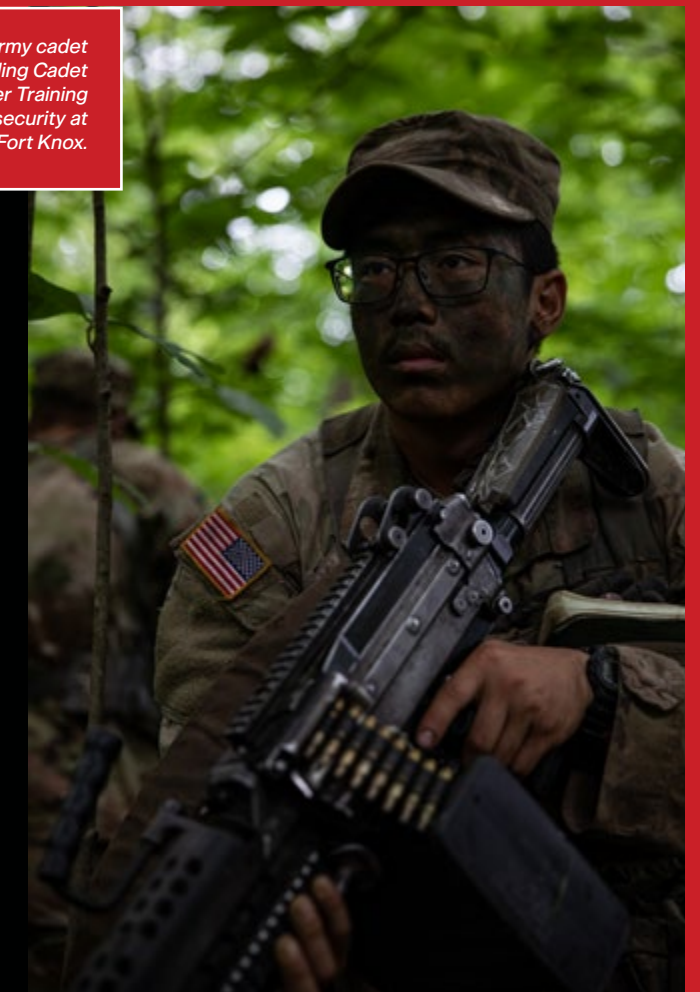
*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Koger, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, observes a cadet tying a Swiss seat at the base of a rappel tower at Fort Knox, Kentucky.*



*U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Corey Jacobs, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, observes cadets conducting a field training exercise.*



*A U.S. Army cadet aims an M249 light machine gun while attending CST.*



*A U.S. Army cadet attending Cadet Summer Training pulls security at Fort Knox.*



# VICTORY WITH HONORS:

## BIG RED ONE WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY COMMANDER



AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, speaks during a Victory with Honors ceremony at Victory Hall. The ceremony honored and welcomed Col. Terry R. Tillis, the 1st Inf. Div. deputy commander-maneuver.

Story and photos by  
Spc. Daniela Lechuga

## FORT RILEY, KS

Big Red One Soldiers, Division staff and distinguished guests gathered at the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters to conduct a Victory with Honors Ceremony on Fort Riley, Kansas, Aug. 4, 2023.

The ceremony honored and welcomed the incoming 1st Inf. Div. Deputy Commander-Maneuver, U.S. Army Col. Terry R. Tillis, formerly the operations group commander of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin.

Tillis, a native of Sanford, Florida, began his military career upon graduation from

the University of Central Florida as an Armor Officer. He served in several command and staff positions including Assistant Operations Officer, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Inf. Div. Ft. Hood, Texas, Tank Company Commander, Charlie Company 3rd Bn., 67th Armored Regt.; Company Observer Coach/Trainer, Operations Group (Tarentula Light Infantry Task Force) Ft. Irwin, California, Military Transition Team Chief and Operations Officer, 3rd Brigade, 25th Inf. Div., Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, Army Training and Doctrine Command Ft. Eustis, Virginia, 4th Inf. Div. Army Chief of Staff Plans Officer; and 2nd

U.S. Army Col. Terry R. Tillis, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commander-maneuver, speaks during his Victory with Honors ceremony at Victory Hall. The 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley conducted the ceremony to welcome and honor Tillis, who replaced Col. John B. Mountford.





**“What an amazing selection and what a great opportunity. We’re truly humbled by the warm welcome and continue to be amazed by the camaraderie and the team effort across the entire community.”**

said COL Terry R. Tillis

Inf. Div. Chief of Staff Operations Officer. His wife, Dana, received a bouquet of yellow rose buds. Yellow, for the color of joy and friendship, and rose buds that will blossom over time, as the friendships that will bloom during her time with the 1st Inf. Div. and Ft. Riley.

“Dana, Taylor [Tillis’s daughter] and I are blessed and beyond humbled to serve here,” Tillis said. “What an amazing selection and what a great opportunity. We’re truly humbled by the warm welcome and continue to be amazed by the camaraderie and the team effort across the entire community.”

Tillis holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Central Florida, a Master of Arts from the University of Southern California, a Master of Military Studies from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and a Masters of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is a graduate of both the U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger Schools, the Armor Officer Basic Course, the Infantry Captains Career Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Naval War College.

To signify his first day as deputy commander-maneuver of the 1st Inf. Div., Tillis received the last round fired from the period cannon.

“I’m here to serve alongside each and every one of you and I’m willing to work and as some of you have already figured out, I’m willing to roll my sleeves way up and jump right in and get after it,” Tillis said. “Let’s do our very best to continue to serve others and live by example, while we enjoy the experience here. I am brave, I am responsible, I am on point. Duty first, victory.”



*U.S. Army Col. Terry R. Tillis, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commander-maneuver, receives the first round fired from the period cannon from Spc. Kolton Graves, a gray eagle operator assigned to Fox Company, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. at Victory Hall. The gifting of the final round signified his first day as the deputy commander-maneuver for the 1st Inf. Div.*

**“... I’m willing to work as some of you have already figured out, I’m willing to roll my sleeves way up and jump right in and get after it,”**

said COL Terry R. Tillis



# VICTORY WITH HONORS:

## 11D BIDS FAREWELL TO DCISM

AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>

FORT RILEY, Kansas



The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley conducted a Victory with Honors Ceremony and Relinquishment of Responsibility at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Aug. 9, 2023.

Big Red One Soldiers, Division staff and distinguished guests gathered to honor U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, the outgoing 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley command sergeant major.

During his time with the division, Mullinax was instrumental to the success of the Big Red One 'Year of Honor', 'Year of family' and the implementation of the 'Year of the Non-commissioned Officer' campaign.

He was involved in the first and only "whole-of-institution" partnership between a major public research university [Kansas State] and warfighting division in America and completed a one year deployment in Europe to support NATO allies during Operation Assure, Deter, and Reinforce, among other achievements.

Mullinax enlisted into the Army on June 24, 1998 as an infantryman. He attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. From there he went on to serve in the 1st, 2d and 3rd Ranger Battalions as well as the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Ranger Special Troops Battalion; 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade; 2nd Stryker Brigade Com-



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, the outgoing command sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, receives a folded American flag from U.S. Army Cpl. Tashaad J. Scott, a fire control specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. Artillery, 1st Inf. Div., during a Victory with Honors ceremony and relinquishment of responsibility held in his honor at King Field House. The American flag symbolizes Mullinax's last day as the command sergeant major of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

Story by Spc. Daniela Lechuga and photos by Spc. Dawson Smith



# “When we talk about Soldiers, sergeant major brings a humanity to the conversation that sometimes may be forgotten,”

said MG John V. Meyer III

bat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and most recently the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade. He has combat deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and tours across Europe and Africa.

As part of the ceremony which honored his achievements earned during service with the 1st Inf. Div., his wife, Kate, received a bouquet of red roses in acknowledgment of her support and devotion to the Sol-

diers and families of the Division. His daughters, Milley and Maddie, who were also in attendance, each received a single red rose.

The official party, consisting of Sgt. Maj. Stephanie Rodriguez, the division operations sergeant major, Mullinax and Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, conducted the relinquishment of responsibility. As the colors passed through the trio, Mullinax's responsibility to Fort Riley and the Big Red One had ended.

Meyer spoke about Mullinax's lead-

ership, their times together during deployment and his devotion to the Soldiers, their families and the Fort Riley community.

“When we talk about Soldiers, sergeant major brings a humanity to the conversation that sometimes may be forgotten,” Meyer said. “For that the Soldiers, the family and the community owe the sergeant major a gratitude that we will never be able to express. Sergeant major, Kate and the girls, thank you for your service to Fort Riley and the community. No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, Duty first.”



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax delivers a speech during a Victory with Honors ceremony and relinquishment of responsibility held in his honor at King Field House. Mullinax recounted his time working alongside Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III and how Meyer served as a mentor and friend during his tenure.



Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax places an artillery canister on his seat during a Victory with Honors ceremony. The artillery canister symbolizes the raising of the flag, therefore signifying Mullinax's last day as the command sergeant major of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

# “For that the Soldiers, the family and the community owe the sergeant major a gratitude that we will never be able to express.”

said MG John V. Meyer III

Mrs. Kate Mullinax, the spouse of Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, receives a bouquet of red roses from U.S. Army Sgt. Alexis M. Finley at King Field House during a Victory with Honors ceremony held in her husband's honor. The 1st Inf. Div. recognized Kate Mullinax for her support and devotion to her family and the Big Red One.



Milley and Maddie Mullinax, the daughters of Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax, receive red roses from Sgt. Alexis M. Finley, a sergeant assigned to the 1st Inf. Div. Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, during their father's relinquishment of responsibility ceremony. The 1st Inf. Div. recognized Milley and Maddie Mullinax for their support to the Big Red One.





Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Mullinax passes the division colors to U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, the commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, during a relinquishment of responsibility and Victory with Honors ceremony held at King Field House on Fort Riley, Kansas, Aug. 9, 2023. The passing of the division colors during this ceremony symbolizes the relinquishment of responsibilities as the command sergeant major of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.



Mullinax is a graduate of all levels of the NCO Education System, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 66, Combat Advisor Training Course, Airborne, and Ranger School. His civilian education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in History.

To emphasize the significance of his last day as command sergeant major of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, Mullinax received a folded American flag and an artillery canister.

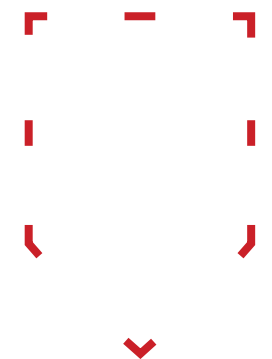
As Mullinax offered his final remarks, he thanked his family for always supporting him. He concluded his remarks by expressing the impact Meyer had on him and how proud he is of all the Soldiers in the division.

"I wouldn't have been able to have the success I've had without the Soldiers, the noncommissioned officers and the officers in the room, but certainly if I didn't have a family who had my back," Mullinax said. "It's been an honor serving in the Big Red One. I'll always be a Big Red One Soldier for life. I couldn't be more proud of the team I've been a part of and the success that I've had is because of everyone in this room. Thank you to the team. Duty first, be all you can be, thank you."

Mullinax will go on to work at The Pentagon, assuming the role of operations, plans and training deputy chief of staff.

**"It's been an honor serving in the Big Red One. I'll always be a Big Red One Soldier for life. I couldn't be more proud of the team I've been a part of and the success that I've had is because of everyone in this room."**

said CSM Christopher L. Mullinax







Story and photos by  
Spc. Charles Leitner

# FOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>

## SOCIETY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION HOSTS 102ND REUNION



*U.S. Army noncommissioned officers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division march with the unit's colors during a banquet at the Society of the 1st Inf. Div. reunion. Noncommissioned officers of the Big Red One traveled to New Orleans to connect with veterans and witness the legacy of the United States First Division.*

### NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana

**I**t's hard to know who has the most captivating stories in a room full of veterans. It's even harder when the generations span across a handful of military conflicts.

Remembering episodes from their times during the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and those spent in Iraq and Afghanistan, those generations of the 1st Infantry Division who served in those engagements reconvened for the 102nd Annual Society of the 1st Inf. Div. reunion in New Orleans on Aug. 10-13, 2023.

In the midst of their reminiscence, they remembered those they had lost along the way, and in doing so carried on the heritage of kinship.

"I remember watching movies as a kid and seeing the Big Red One," said Sgt. First Class George Hernandez, an infantryman formerly assigned to the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. "I remember my dad reading books about the Big Red One, so to me, it felt like I was going to become a part of history."





*U.S. Army veterans who once served in the 1st Infantry Division enjoy the crowds walking down Bourbon Street during a Society of the 1st Inf. Div. reunion.*



*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. (retired) Daniel Dunkel, formerly assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, prays during a memorial service held at the 102nd Society of the 1st Inf. Div. reunion.*

As the memories of the country's WWII veterans become enshrined in the pages of America's history, those remaining hold their memories close. Some remembered how it felt to clear tunnels in the jungles of Vietnam, while others recounted the atmosphere of Iraq at the moment Saddam Hussein was found.

"I have been fortunate," said Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, in a speech made during the reunion banquet dinner. "Not only am I the division commander, but I had the opportunity to serve with the 26th Infantry in Iraq and had the opportunity to command the 28th Infantry in Afghanistan. So to be a 'Blue Spader,' a 'Black Lion' in combat, and then now be the division commander of all the great regiments in the unit's history that are sitting here tonight, is quite an honor."

Among many others who were in the room were Vietnam veterans Daniel Dunkel, J.P. Richard and Juan Santiago; Kenneth H. Bond, a Bronze Star recipient and Sarah Lee, a post 9/11 veteran who now runs a non-profit organization designed to help combat veterans.

Between these select few were stories told of Loc Ninh and Ramadi, Bung Tau and the Battle of Norfolk. Those who

have never experienced such kinetic events would realize that any gaps between generations were merely trivial.

"The cool thing to me was how they're never trying to one-up anybody," said U.S. Army Sgt. Devin Duplantier, a forward observer assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. "They're very interested in what's going on in today's Army no matter what it is. They don't want you to downplay anything. They want to hear everything."

Between these veterans flowed the shared blood of the U.S. Army's storied history, a cavalcade of accounts highlighting the familial bond shared between combat veterans who, though separated by an array of combat theatres across several generations, experienced a hard-wrought understanding of peace and war known only to a few.

"Being in the military, especially if you went to war, you build a bond with your brothers and sisters," said Phyllis Fitzgerald, chief warrant officer three (retired) and executive director of the Society of the 1st Inf. Div. "It's good to come together, to rekindle or just catch up where you left off and share the stories of being together in the military."

*Kenneth Bond, a 1st Infantry Division veteran and Bronze Star recipient, salutes the United States flag during a memorial service.*



Camaraderie, from the gathering of hundreds of Big Red One veterans, was further strengthened over food, drink and much discussion. The history of the unit unfolded with each memory shared.

"Going to the reunion opened up to me how important it is to not just continue service but to continue passing on the legacy of the 1st Inf. Div.," said Duplantier. "You realize there are so many comparisons to the past and how things are done the same way. You want to continue that. You don't want to be the person to lose that tradition. You don't want to be the one person letting the older generations down."

**"I remember my dad reading books about the Big Red One, so to me, it felt like I was going to become a part of history."**

said SFC George Hernandez

As these veterans enjoyed the city and each other's company, the bonds that tethered them to the unit and one another continued to grow. The long history of America's First Division evolved with each story re-told, each bit of laughter and each tear shed.

According to Fitzgerald, over thirty veterans of the unit and the SFID passed away in the last year.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Seth Wilson, a forward observer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks a 1st Inf. Div. veteran during the reunion.

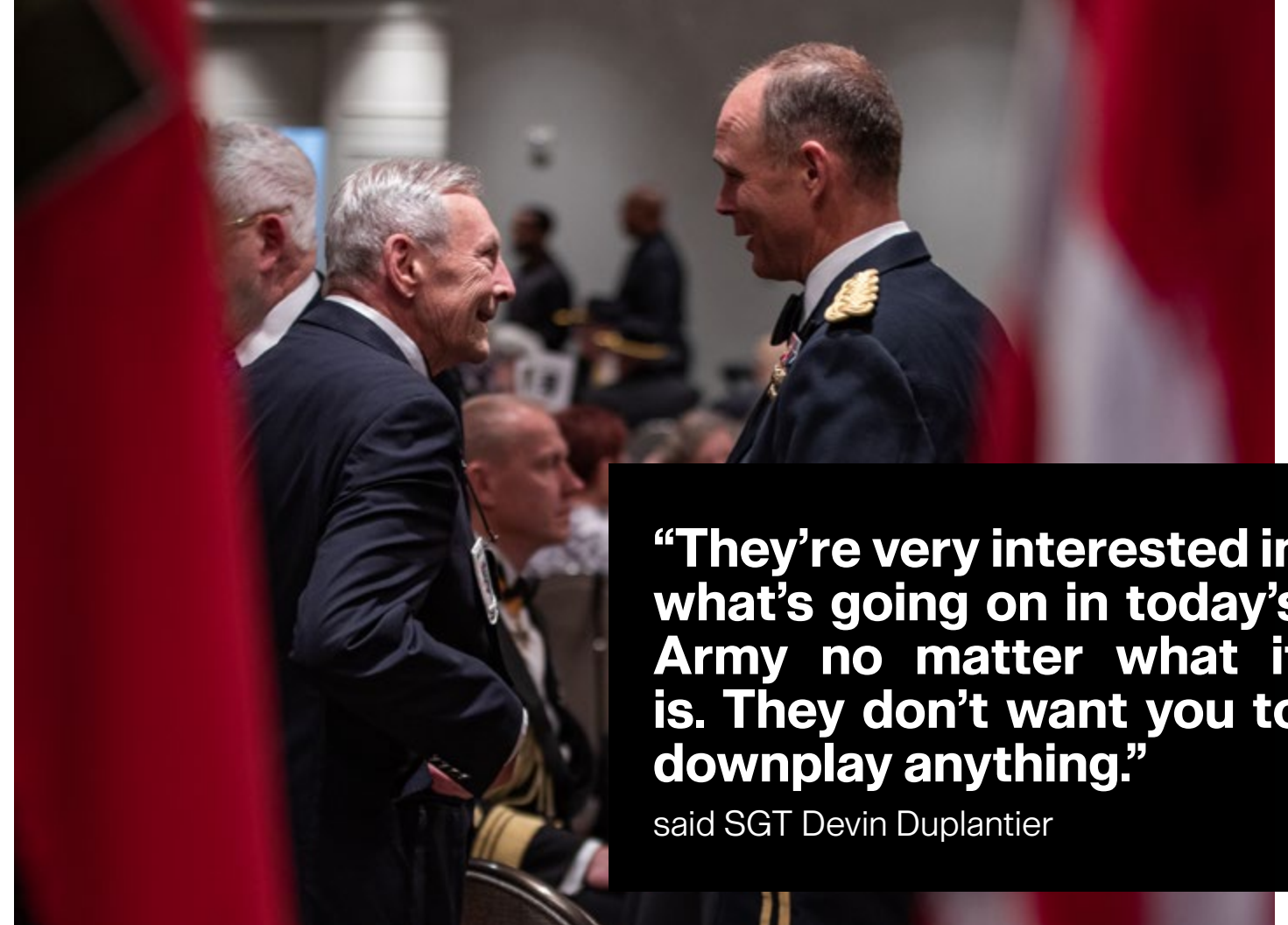
“It was a great experience and great opportunity,” said Duplantier. “I’m thankful that I had the opportunity to go. It was nice to be able to talk to people who served. My perspective on serving and being in the 1st Inf. Div. completely changed after it. I have a lot more respect, I already had a lot of respect, but now I have a stronger sense of how this is my team, this is my unit.”

Their legacies will continue to exist within those who attend future reunions.

“I think it’s important that we come back to Kansas and we keep that going,” said Duplantier. “I would definitely recommend if there are any future opportunities for people to go, send as many people as we can and send different people so that everybody can get that same experience and understand what I got to see. I want other people to see that.”



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, speaks with Mike MacDonald, president of the 28th Inf. Regiment Association. Meyer attended the 102nd annual reunion alongside noncommissioned officers of the Big Red One.



**“They’re very interested in what’s going on in today’s Army no matter what it is. They don’t want you to downplay anything.”**

said SGT Devin Duplantier



U.S. Army Sgt. Miguel Morales, a 92A assigned to the 541st DSSB, 1st SB, 1st Infantry Division, dines with veterans of the 1st Inf. Div. during the 102nd reunion.



# BR1 REUNION 2023



*U.S. Army Sgt. Mark Freeman, a forward observer assigned to 1-5 FA, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, talks with some of the Society of the 1st Inf. Div. members.*



*U.S. Army Sgt. Major Clarence Raby, command sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, speaks with 1st Inf. Div. veterans during the reunion.*



*U.S. Army noncommissioned officers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division pose for a photograph with Sgt. First Class (retired) Juan Santiago, during the 102nd annual Society of the 1st Infantry Division reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana.*

**“Being in the military, especially if you went to war, you build a bond with your brothers and sisters,”**  
 said CW3 (R) Phyllis Fitzgerald



# BIG RED ONE ATTENDS KC TRAINING CAMP

Story and photos by  
Spc. Joshua Holladay

AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>



Gary Cross, a U.S. Army veteran, receives a game ball from the Kansas City Chiefs as a representative of the U.S. Army veterans. Cross, along with several veterans from other branches, received a game ball as a thank you from the Kansas City Chiefs on their annual Military Appreciation Day.

## ST. JOSEPH, MO

The 1st Infantry Division visited the Kansas City Chiefs during their final day of training camp in Craig Field at Spratt Stadium on August 17, 2023.

The Big Red One joined the Kansas City Chiefs during their Military Appreciation Day as part of the ongoing regional relationship between the two. Several players and staff members spent the morning thanking service members and sharing their experiences with the military through an outside perspective.

“My dad and grandparents were military,” said Trent McDuffie, a cornerback for the Kansas City Chiefs. “Just being around everyone today, where we only get to do this once a year, it’s just really cool.”

As a part of the northeast Kansas-Missouri community, the 1st Infantry has been continually building their professional relationship with the Chiefs both at the team’s home and on Fort Riley.

Within the last year, the Chiefs staff has visited Fort Riley several times, being able to share experiences such as color guard duties, tours and flyovers at Arrowhead Stadium.

Five Soldiers were selected to attend the Chiefs’ final day of training camp. The Soldiers were sent to represent the noncommissioned officer corps and what Fort Riley sees as future and current leaders.

“I am extremely grateful,” Modlin said, U.S. Army Sgt. Collin Modlin, a combat medic assigned to the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Bri-

gade Combat Team 1st Inf. Div. “It’s an experience that I’m probably not going to have again, so I’m just grateful and honored to be able to be a part of this.”

Alongside the Soldiers that were selected to represent the division, several Soldiers from the Big Red One’s 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team attended the event, where they presented a static display station that highlighted physical training, explosive ordnance disposal, and new-age military vehicles. They spent the day at the display sharing the opportunities that the Army has to offer for people looking for a military career.

“We want to be a part of the community,” Modlin said. “We strive to maintain that relationship between the families, communities, and our Soldiers.”

Head coach Andy Reid spoke to the gathered service members during the game ball presentations and spoke about the honor of being able to serve the men and women that serve the country daily.

“Presenting the game ball to our service members is the least we can do for our troops,” Reid said.

Andy Reid, the Kansas City Chiefs head coach, speaks about the honor it is to be able to have all of the United States military branches at the final day of training camp and Military Appreciation Day at Spratt Memorial Stadium. The 1st Infantry Division represented the active duty component of the U.S. Army at the camp, where they sent five Soldiers to represent them on behalf of the division campaign, Year of the Noncommissioned Officer.



**“Leadership is vital to being a coach, but it is easier when examples from our forces show everyone what great leadership looks like.”**

said Coach Andy Reid



Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division and Estonian Army take a group photo with a family interacting with the joint-light tactical vehicle static display outside of the Chiefs training camp at Spratt Memorial Stadium. The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. operated the static display on the Chiefs Military Appreciation Day to promote knowledge about the various career opportunities that the United States Army has to offer.



U.S. Army Sgt. Collin Modlin, a combat medic assigned to the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, walks along an Army veteran during the Kansas City Chiefs Military Appreciation Day. Modlin attended the final day of training camp as a representative of the Big Red One, helping continue the regional relationship with the Chiefs.



**“The community was very supportive of their service members. Seeing that support and how grateful they were for our service to our country is really motivating.”**

said SGT Collin Modlin



Reid continued, “Leadership is vital to being a coach, but it is easier when examples from our forces show everyone what great leadership looks like.”

The event concluded with players such as McDuffie, Patrick Mahomes, Isiah Pacheco, Harrison Butker, and George Karlaftis signing memorabilia and take group photos with the service members in attendance.

“The community was very supportive of their service members,” Modlin said. “Seeing that support and how grateful they were for our service to our country is really motivating.”

Trent McDuffie, a Kansas City Chiefs cornerback, takes a group photo with Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division and Estonian Army during the final day of Chiefs training camp. McDuffie relished the opportunity to spend time with the Soldiers in attendance, reflecting on his childhood where he had multiple generations of military family.



U.S. Army Cpl. Brandon Clinton, a geospatial engineer assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., shows his Kansas City Chiefs pride during the last day of training camp at Spratt Memorial Stadium. Clinton attended the training camp as a representative of the noncommissioned officers for the Big Red One on the Kansas City Chiefs Military Appreciation Day.



# THE RHYTHM OF BATTLE

## 11D CONTINUES TO DEVELOP

AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>



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 a combat arms rehearsal during a multinational training exercise. Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. rehearsed multiple scenarios designed to test the units ability to synchronize time and space in a combat environment.*



### FORT RILEY, Kansas

The conference room at 1st Infantry Division headquarters is active with a steady flow of military personnel preparing for the first of four multi-national training exercises designed to enhance capability and interoperability on Fort Riley, Kansas, Aug. 25, 2023.

Professional conversations can be heard as defense forces from each country engage with Soldiers of the Big Red One to discuss various military strategies to synchronize combined forces efforts and enhance future joint combat operations.

“Both The Big Red One and Estonian Division were established in 1917 and have over 100 years of history, albeit with a gap of 80 years of inactivity for the Estonian Division due to the Soviet occupation. Now we must close this gap and catch up,” said Maj. Gen. Veiko-Vello Palm, commander of the Estonian Division. “The Warfighter exercise gives us a

**“Warfighter has a very important role for us in improving our ability to orchestrate large-scale combat operations.”**

said MG Veiko-Vello Palm



great opportunity to take significant steps towards this goal. We re-established the divisional structure in our defense forces less than a year ago and we are still learning how to think and act as a division. Warfighter has a very important role for us in improving our ability to orchestrate large-scale combat operations.”

Expectation and reality often converge during training exercises such as these, where simulations of combat scenarios facilitate discussions among military leaders as the logistics of organized battlefield movements play out on a computer screen.

“What’s critical here is the ability to command and control,” said Lt. Col. (retired) Terry Ferrell, a senior mentor of military strategy working with the Mission Command Training Program in Leavenworth, Kansas. “We’re talking about one aspect of the overall operation. One of the biggest challenges in the Warfighter exercise is the ability to move forward.”

On paper the goal seems simple; synchronize multinational and joint combat elements across time and space.

“This is the opportunity for the division to come together and rehearse specific events that will allow us to conduct operations,” said Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

But how do you do this with division-sized elements with thousands of cogs moving alongside multinational forces looking to maintain a lethal battle rhythm? How do you visualize the warfighting capabilities of such a large force looking to orchestrate reliable reconnaissance with heavy artillery, armored infantry units and attack helicopters in order to shape the enemy, while preserving and sustaining combat power? Practice.

“Terrain management is critical,” said U.S. Army Maj. Shaun Gilbert, an observer working in the MCTP, during a session focused on wet gap crossings, an extremely vulnerable movement for large ground forces. “Really, it’s a timing and area problem.”

Knowing this, leaders within the 1st Inf. Div. and multinational defense forces conducted numerous academic development sessions, alongside experts in military strategy from the MCTP, to foresee potential points of failure and troubleshoot any faults that could arise in an actual combat environment. It allows for units to fine-tune their mechanics, adjust where needed and account for various outcomes to react in coordination with one another.

“The sequence of how we do it is important,” said Col. Brandon Smith, chief of staff of the 1st Inf. Div.

In a combined arms rehearsal, emphasis on critical events facilitated dialogue between 1st Inf. Div. commanders. Lay-outs of a battle plan were addressed, re-addressed and then molded further into a fashion that aims to utilize the many capabilities of the Big Red One.

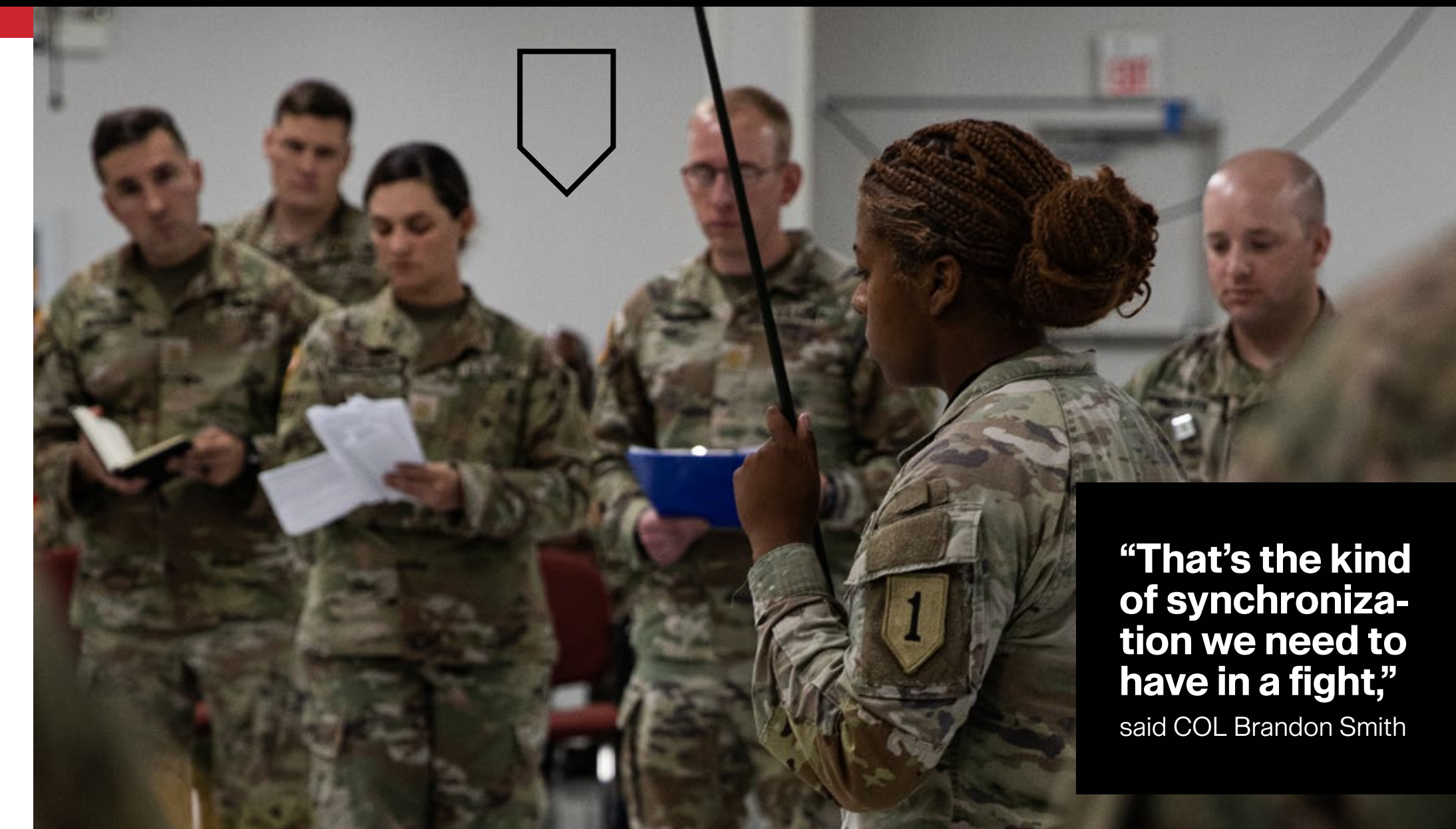
Speaking as though he were talking inside a huddle before the first snap, Smith stressed hypothetical combat events by the minute to articulate the precise coordination required to be successful in large-scale combat operations.

“That’s the kind of synchronization we need to have in a fight,” said Smith.

Effectively synchronizing the many functions of a large force grants freedom of action and, perhaps more importantly, freedom of movement. In turn, this is a confirmation of adequate control of time and space which allows Allied forces to maintain logistical superiority while disrupting enemy movement and their ability to regroup.

“We’re trying to get to a position of advantage,” said Meyer, as he discussed the development of friendly operations over time that impact the enemy’s decision making on the battlefield.

Over the following several months leading up to the Warfighter exercise, a capstone training event where corps and divisions prepare for multi-domain operations at scale, the 1st Inf. Div. and



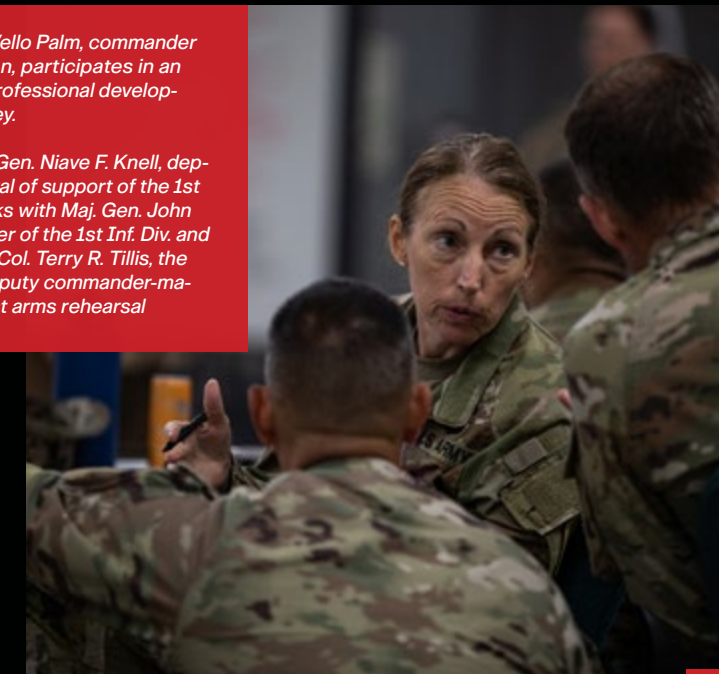
**“That’s the kind of synchronization we need to have in a fight,”**  
said COL Brandon Smith

*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.*



*[Left] Maj. Gen. Veiko-Vello Palm, commander of the Estonian Division, participates in an academic leadership professional development forum on Fort Riley.*

*[Right] U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, deputy commanding general of support of the 1st Infantry Division, speaks with Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, speaks with Col. Terry R. Tillis, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commander-in-chief, during a combat arms rehearsal.*



Fort Riley will continue to host multinational training exercises in order to maintain readiness among its Soldiers.



**1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
VICTORY WITH HONORS  
CEREMONY &  
RELINQUISHMENT OF  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
CSM CHRISTOPHER  
L. MULLINAX**

**CSM CHRISTOPHER L. MULLINAX  
DCSM**

**KING FIELD HOUSE  
202 CUSTER AVE.  
FORT RILEY  
AUGUST 9TH  
AT 9:30 AM**

**FORT RILEY - ASBP BLOOD DRIVE**

**29 - 31 AUGUST 23**  
**0900 - 1500 DAILY**  
**LONG GYM | 8069 NORMANDY DRIVE**

- Everyone - active-duty military, retiree, civilian employee, family member - with proper access to Fort Riley can donate.
- Military Healthcare System needs hundreds of units of blood each day.
- Government civilian employees can get up to 4 hours admin leave when donating.
- Bring ID card or drivers license, you'll need them to check in.
- All donors receive juice and cookies, free T-shirt and heart-felt "thank you."

MHS Military Health System  
health.mil

ASBP  
Armed Services Blood Program  
militaryblood.dod.mil

**ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM**

**WELCOME HOME**

**DAGGER BRIGADE**

# 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:





**1ST  
INFANTRY  
DIVISION**

