

YANK

THE ARMY



NEWSPAPER



*By the Soldiers
for the Soldiers
in the service*

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Original YANK cover photo, published March 3, 1944.

READY FIRST Stories: The history of 1/1 AD battalions

YANK

THE ARMY



WEEKLY

5¢ MAR. 3
VOL. 2, NO. 37
1944

By the men . . . for the
men in the service



A NURSE DIGS IN
SOUTH OF ROME



Our Charlie Company, 501st BSB out
in the field.

Beachhead Action Stories: Italy and the Marshalls

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL

PAGES 3 AND 10

Cover photo:

Sgt. Andrea Deas, a lab technician with Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and a native of Georgetown, South Carolina, poses in a field on Fort Bliss to recreate a photo from the YANK, March 3, 1944.

Photo by:

Staff Sgt. Michael Carrigan, 1/1 AD

No Soldiers were harmed in the recreation of this photo.

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TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

*Colonel Coffman outlines his guidance for
Quarters One and Two.*

The READY FIRST Combat Team Headquarters Fort Bliss, Texas

October 15, 2014

We need everyone in READY FIRST brigade to be combat ready now. Our Soldiers must be deployable, physically fit, well-disciplined and well-trained on their individual Warrior skills. For the remainder of the first quarter we will continue to focus on our priorities: physical fitness, weapons qualification, to develop lethality, MOS Job Book and deployability.

We must ensure READY FIRST Soldiers are physically and mentally fit to handle the demanding rigors of combat. We must be proficient in our weapons and crew qualifications- we must be lethal, no matter where our nation sends us. Warrior tasks are essential to our success because those skills are the building blocks upon which we create the most incredibly- focused and equipped organization. Focusing our priorities allows us to be effective when we are called upon to serve our nation.

Next quarter our focus will be on building lethal squads, platoons, and companies through rigorous, multi-echelon combined arms live fires. This will be the culminating event, company level and below, to enable our success not only in our NORTHCOM mission but as well as our training execution at the National Training Center. We will do this simultaneously while assuming our Quick Reaction Forces (QRF) and Rapid Reaction Forces (RRF) mission for NORTHCOM. During these missions, we'll be asked to work with foreign nations as well as being ready on a moment's notice if the nation calls upon us.

Command Sgt. Maj. Biggs and I look forward seeing you over the next three to six months. We are glad to have the team back together again.

READY FIRST – Iron Soldiers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'R. Coffman'. To the right of the signature, the number '33' is written and circled.

Richard R. Coffman
33rd Colonel of the READY FIRST

One Century of Spartan History

The 36th Infantry Regiment was constituted as a unit of the Regular Army July 1, 1916, and was organized July 27, 1917 in Brownsville, Texas. The regiment did not deploy in support of the World War, but instead saw service on the Mexican border. The 36th was ordered to report to Camp Devens, Massachusetts, and assigned to the 26th Infantry Brigade of the 12th Division in 1918.

However, the Armistice of Nov. 11, 1918 brought about the demobilization of the 36th and the regiment was inactivated in 1921. In March 1923, the 36th Infantry Regiment was assigned to the 9th Division and remained in an inactive status until being relieved from the 9th Division in 1940.

Sept. 15, 1943, the regiment arrived in England, where they continued to prepare for the invasion of Europe. The 36th fought throughout Europe for the next 11 months and fought in 221 consecutive days of combat, earning two Presidential Unit Citations. May 12, 1956, the 36th Infantry Regiment arrived as the first major element of the division. Feb. 3, 1962, 1st Armored Rifle Battalion, 36th Infantry was reactivated in Germany and assigned to the 3rd Armored Division's 3rd Brigade.

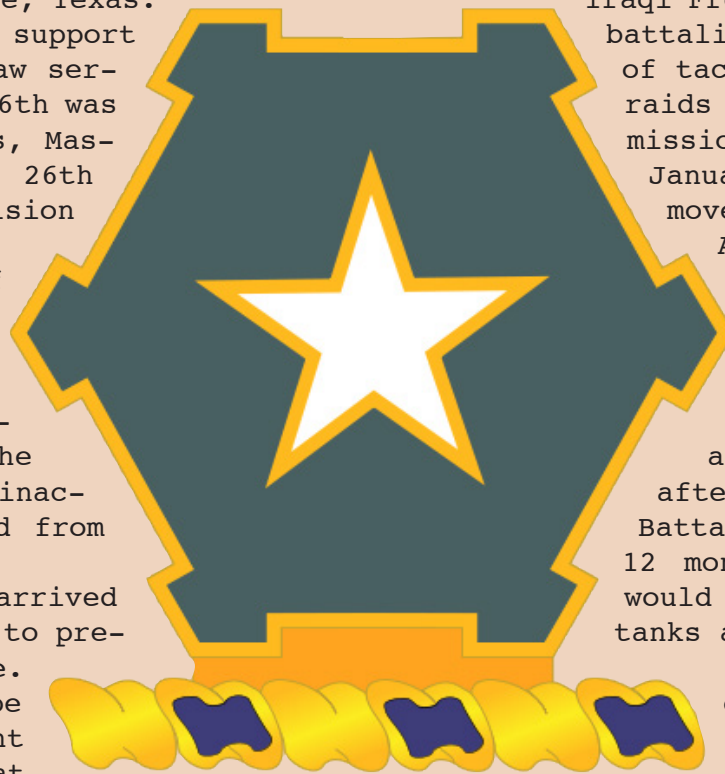
Their primary mission during this period was, in the event of war, to defend the Fulda Gap against Warsaw Pact forces alongside other NATO elements. In 2000, 1-36 IN deployed with the "READY FIRST" Brigade to Kosovo in support of Operation Allied

Force and Operation Joint Guardian. In April 2003, 1-36th IN was called to duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They conducted more than 20 battalion cordon and searches, hundreds of tactical check-points, more than 140 raids and participated in seven brigade missions. They deployed again to Iraq in January 2006, and received orders to move south to the city of Ramadi, in Al Anbar Province.

The 1-36 IN was relieved in September 2008, from assignment to the 1st Armored Division and assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas and was soon after reactivated as a Combined Arms Battalion in October 2008. For the next 12 months, the Spartans of 1-36th IN would conduct New Equipment Training on tanks and fighting vehicles.

Dec. 3, 2009, the battalion deployed to the Ninevah Province and attached to the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division to Mosul. In July 2010, they turned over control of its battlespace to 1-64 Armor, having been the last battalion in Multination Division-North to complete its mission. Dec. 30 2012, 1-36 IN assumed responsibility of the most volatile district in Kandahar province and partnered with the afghan national security forces to improve security and the quality of life for the people of Maiwand.

The battalion again deployed in December 2012 to the Maiwand District, under 1/1 AD, returning in September 2013.



Above left: A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, pulls security in the back of a Stryker in the Maiwand District of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, July 2, 2012. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, 1/1 AD PAO)

Above right: A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment conducts a foot patrol through Hit, Iraq, a city 70 miles northwest of Ramadi in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, June 13, 2006. At that time, the "Spartans" were based out of Friedberg, Germany. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Goodwin)

Straight and Stalwart

In 1867 following the Civil War, the 41st (Colored) Infantry Division was established. It was one of six segregated regiments provided for African-American participation in the defense of the United States. The regiment was consolidated with the 38th Colored Infantry Regiment to format the 24th Infantry Regiment.

The initial formation of the 41st Infantry Regiment was in June 1917, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. In July 1918, the regiment was assigned to the 10th Division at Camp Funston, Kansas. From here the 41st prepared to deploy to Europe to fight in World War I. In October 1918, the regiment sent an advance party to France to prepare to deploy.

However the war ended in November so the regiment did not deploy. After the war the 41st was deactivated in September 1921 at Meade, Maryland. The 41st was reactivated in July 1940 as Company A, 41st Infantry (Armored) at Fort Benning, Georgia. It was tasked out to be part of the 2nd Armored Division. The association of the 41st and 2nd Armored Division continued from World War II until Operation Desert Storm.

Today, the 41st Infantry Regiment is located

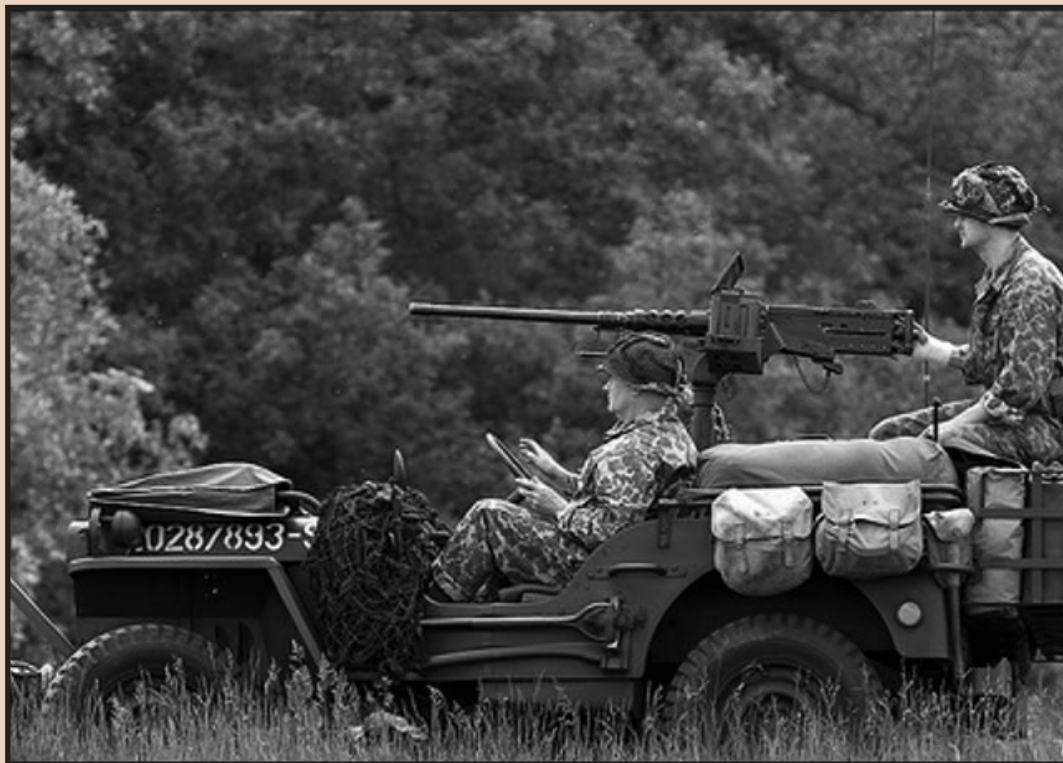
in Fort Bliss, Texas. The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1-41 IN, is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

The 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, "Rifles," is assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, First Armored Division, "READY FIRST."

In the regiment's history they received four presidential unit citations in World War II for leading the invasion of Normandy and another for the invasion of Germany.

The unit crest is a blue shield with a yellow ring that has a castle inside of it to represent Fort Snelling, which is where the unit became a true regiment. The crest also contains a star in the top left corner to represent their association with the department of Texas that took place in 1865, before the regiment became a legitimate unit. Under the shield is a banner with the words "straight and stalwart."

Straight represents the unit's physical, mental, and moral standpoint. Stalwart is defined as loyal, reliable and hard-working.



Left: An unknown Soldier with 41st Infantry Regiment takes a break while in Normandy, France in 1944 for Operation Cobra. (Photo credit unknown)

Above right: Armored infantry Soldiers with the 41st Infantry Regiment move into the woods in Normandy prior to Operation Cobra in 1944. (Photo credit unknown)

Buffalos reminded where they came from

Constituted as part of the Union's response to the April 1861 bombardment against Fort Sumter, the 4-17 creation was ordered on May 3rd, 1861, as Company D, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry. Four months later, at Fort Preble, Maine, the commissioned officers of the 17th Infantry assembled, assumed command, and began recruiting enlisted Soldiers across Maine and New Hampshire. Once organized, the 17th Infantry Regiment joined Brigadier General George "Slow Trot" Sykes brigade of "Regulars" (as opposed to Militia), falling under V Corps in the Army of the Potomac. It is from V Corps that the 17th Infantry Regiment gets the white cross patee in the upper left corner on its distinctive unit insignia (DUI).

The 17th Infantry Regiment earned ten campaign streamers during the Civil War, and fought in countless battles and skirmishes. Dec. 11, 1862, the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rappahannock River into the Confederate held city of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Initially, things seemed to go well. By the end of the first day of fighting, the Union Soldiers had crossed the river and won their way through the streets of Fredericksburg while the Confederates retreated to defensive positions on Marye's Heights and Prospect Hill. Unfortunately, Burnside then gave his troops a day to rest and recuperate, which allowed Gen. Robert E. Lee to consolidate his forces and strengthen those defensive positions.

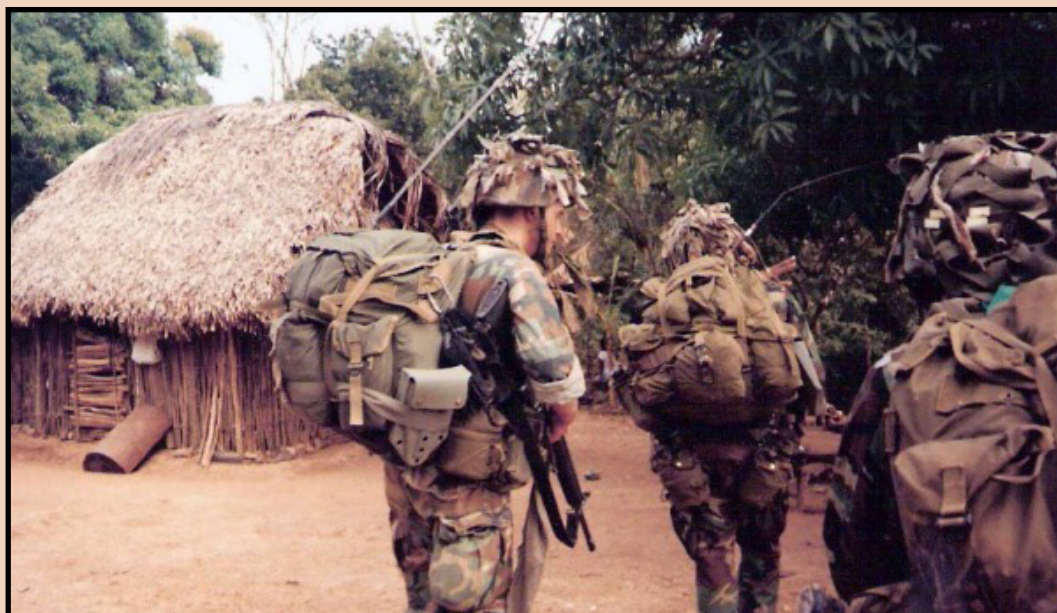
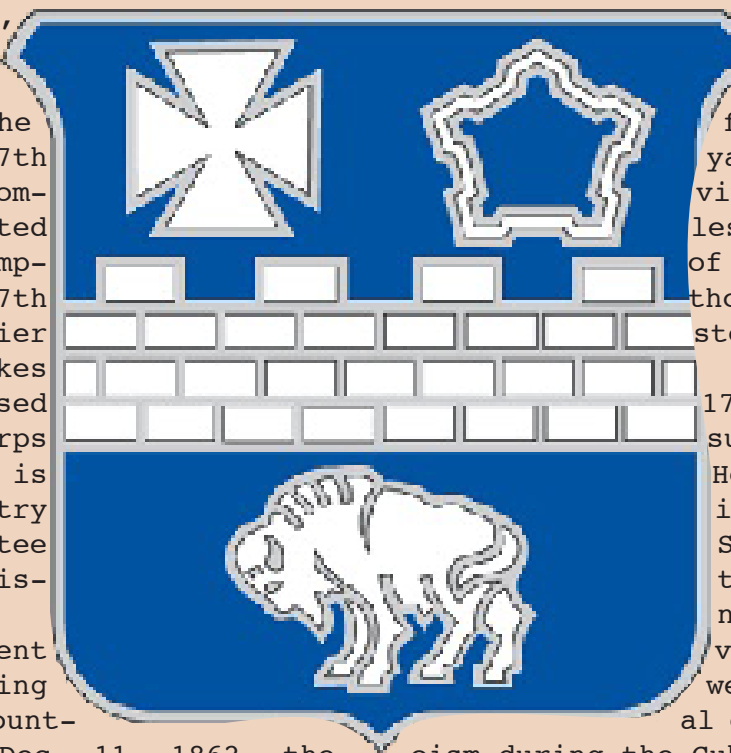
The ensuing battle was disastrous for the Union. Burnside split his forces, sending I and VI Corps to Prospect Hill and holding the remainder of his troops, including V Corps and the 17th Infantry Regiment, west of Fredericksburg to assault Marye's Heights. Confederate Soldiers positioned behind a four foot stone wall, and artillery arranged

on the high ground overlooking the battlefield, held out against every wave of Union Soldiers sent against them. Slow Trot Sykes sent the 17th forward against the wall on December 14th, but Confederate fire pinned them down just eighty yards shy of their objective. Survivors were forced to remain motionless, lest they draw the attention of enemy sharpshooters. In honor of those men, the 17th's DUI bears a stone wall.

Following the Civil War, the 17th Infantry Regiment saw action in such notable battles as Little Big Horn and Pine Ridge before deploying with V Corps to Cuba in the Spanish-American War. The five bastioned fort on the upper right corner of the DUI represents this service. Nine Soldiers of the 17th were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for acts of valor and heroism during the Cuban campaign.

After a series of inactivations, reactivations, and reassignments, the unit saw action yet again in World War II, earning still more campaign streamers, and later the Korean War. It was during that campaign that the 17th acquired the "Buffalo" nickname. At the time, Colonel William "Buffalo Bill" Quinn commanded the 17th Infantry, under 7th Division. In 1966, following his retirement as a Lt. General, Quinn was named Honorary Colonel of the 17th Infantry, the Buffaloes. In his honor, the 17th's DUI bears a buffalo centered below the stone wall.

Since the Korean War (and another ten campaign streamers) Buffalo Soldiers have fought in Vietnam, Panama, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment continues to uphold more than a century and a half long tradition of being ready when the nation calls.



Above left: U.S. Army Spc. Timothy Mangas, with the 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, pulls security at a school in the village of Delavarkhan Kalacheh, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Feb. 24, 2013. U.S. Soldiers go on patrols several times a week with members of the Afghan Uniformed Police. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, 1/1 AD PAO)

Above right: Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, conduct a patrol in Panama between 1989 and 1990. (Photo credit unknown)

Rich lineage of the 6-1 Cavalry Regiment, "Blackhawks"

The 1st Cavalry Regiment produced 37 Medal of Honor recipients and won 92 battle honors during its 179 years of existence. Born March 2, 1833, as the 1st Regiment of Dragoons, the regiment took up the motto, "Animo et Fide" (translated as "Courageous and Faithful,") summing up the spirit of the rough men who would go on to found a legacy that echos across all of U.S. Army History.

The first years of the regiment were spread across the territories that would become the American Mid-West and West providing security for pioneers from Native American attacks, including the fierce Blackhawk nation. It was from these brave opponents the regiment won its nickname, "Blackhawks." When America went to war with Mexico in 1846, the Blackhawk were ordered into action and distinguished themselves by earning five battle honors during the conflict.

Shortly after the secession of the southern states, the regiment was renamed by Act of Congress, "The 1st U.S. Regiment of Cavalry," Aug. 3, 1861. The Blackhawks fought in every major Cavalry engagement of the American Civil War.

In 1865, the regiment returned to the frontier and became one of the premiere organizations in the American Indian Wars, meeting many tribes in combat. The Blackhawks became famous for their audacity, courage and will to fight to the bitter end for their comrades. In December 1890, A Troop marched more than 170 miles in only 56 hours in order to relieve comrades under attack by warring tribes.

In 1898, the U.S. went to war with Spain. The regiment deployed to Cuba and fought at the Battle of Santiago. After the war concluded, elements of the

Blackhawks were sent to the newly acquired territory of the Philippines to help secure American interests there.

In the early 1900s, things were changing for the U.S. Cavalry, as machines replaced horses as the primary method of transportation. Dec. 14, 1932, the regiment held its final review as mounted horse cavalry before transitioning to a mechanized force under the newly formed 1st Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

During the Second World War, the Regiment fought in many engagements, from North Africa to Sicily and up the Italian Peninsula. After a brief period of deactivation, the Regiment reformed and was sent to Vietnam. Sixth Squadron was in the field continuously from 1967-1972, taking part in 13 separate campaigns.

After hostilities ended, the unit returned to the United States briefly before being sent with the rest of the 1st Armored Division to Germany to stand guard against the Warsaw Pact.

After Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, the Squadron spearheaded the 1st Armored Division into Operation Desert Storm in February 1991. After the quick conclusion to that conflict, the Squadron returned to Europe, taking the lead in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. When war returned to Iraq, the squadron earned three separate unit citations during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004.

Most recently, the squadron deployed with 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas, to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, from December 2012 to September 2013.



Above: A U.S. Soldier from Bravo Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, maintains security at the corner of a building during a cordon and search of a village near Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 12. The U.S. and Iraqi forces worked together to locate three rockets, 12 BK-4M canisters and three boxes of MCZ-57 fuses. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Leistikow)



Left: Spc. An Duc Le, a native of Orange County, Calif., Staff Sgt. Daniel Agriesti, a native of Venice, Fla., and Spc. Joshua Twiggs, a native of Blue Ridge, Ga., lower the American flag at Camp Nathan Smith, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, July 31. The soldiers, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, participated in a ceremony indicating the transition of CNS from American troops to Afghan Uniform Police. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, 1/1 AD PAO)

Gunners history brings out the best

The history of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment dates back to Jan. 11, 1812, when the first Gunners assembled near Salisbury, North Carolina, under Capt. Donoho, the 2nd Regiment of Artillery.

Units of the regiment were involved in their first combat during the War of 1812 in the Canadian Campaign. The battalion has since earned numerous battle streams, including one for fighting against the Seminoles during the Indian Wars in Florida.

Units of the regiment were awarded 13 battle streamers for service during the Mexican War. This included battles fought at Vera Cruz and Cerro Gordo. Less than 15 years later, the battalion earned 14 battle streamers, participating in the American Civil War, including campaigns at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and Petersburg.

In 1898, the battalion participated in the Santiago Campaign of the Spanish-American War. In July 1918, the unit deployed to Europe with the 6th Division for action in World War I. In August 1944, the battalion returned to action in Europe as part of the 9th Armored Division, spending time in Britain and France. The battalion soon engaged the Germans along the Siegfried Line on Germany's western border. During the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and January 1945, the battalion helped relieve the garrison at Bastogne, later supporting the drive into Germany across the Rhine River at Remagen.

They smashed their way through central Germany near Wetzlar before driving northward toward Berlin, then south into Czechoslovakia, then taking up oc-

cupation duty near Nurnberg. During that time, approximately eight months, the battalion earned its laurels as the unit that saw the most combat time of any unit in the 9th Armored Division.

Firing 56,426 rounds from its M7 "Priest," self-propelled 105m Howitzers, the battalion earned the most individual decorations of any unit in the Division Artillery. The battalion even earned the Presidential Unit Citation for actions taken at the onset of the Battle of the Bulge.

Feb. 24, 1991, the battalion moved across the Iraqi border in support of Operation Desert Storm and fired their first round at the enemy since 1945. In 2004, the battalion deployed with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, "READY FIRST," in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, to Baghdad and again in 2006 to Tal Afar and Ramadi.

The battalion deactivated in 2007 in Giesesen, Germany, and reactivated in 2008 as part of the READY FIRST Combat Team at Fort Bliss, Texas.

2-3 FA deployed to Afghanistan in December 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and returned home in September 2013. They conducted security force assistance in Shah Wali Kot District, Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a combined arms task force, as well as providing artillery support throughout the READY FIRST area of operations.

Today, the officers and Soldiers of the battalion continue to maintain the high standards of training and maintenance initiated by Capt. Donoho back in 1812. They stand ever-ready to execute and all missions as part of America's Tank Division.



Above left: Pvt. Austin Ramsey, 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, stands on an ammunition bunker to look out for possible enemy during an indirect fire training exercise at Forward Operating Base Frontenac, Jan. 19, 2013. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Ragucci)

Above right: Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, pose in front of their vehicles during Operation Desert Storm. (Photo credit unknown)

New to READY FIRST, Catamounts bring rich history from campaigns

After the 16th Engineer Battalion stood up last November, Lt. Col. Mark Nadig addressed the Soldiers of the battalion, telling them to take a knee and consider the events that led them to that point in time. He asked them to take pride in the colors, the prestige and the history of the battalion.

A platitude about history goes that one must know his past if he wishes to define the future.

And so it goes that the United States Army constituted the 16th Engineer Regiment, Dec. 11, 1935. The 16th Engineer Battalion was redesignated as thus, activated and assigned to the 1st Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky, July 15, 1940.

The 16th Engineer Battalion was further redesignated as the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, January 1, 1942, deployed from the New York Port of Embarkation, May 11, 1942, arriving in Northern Ireland, May 18, 1942. They landed in North Africa Dec. 21, 1942. They then participated in the Tunisian Campaign until its cessation in May 1943.

The 16th Armored Engineer Battalion arrived in Sicily, July 10, 1943, fighting in Operation Husky and participating in the Sicily Campaign until August of the same year.

They then battled in the Naples-Foggia campaign in Italy until January 1944, and subsequently took part in the Anzio Campaign from January until May 1944. Soon after that campaign, Delta and Echo companies both disbanded.

The battalion additionally participated in the Rome-Arno Campaign from January 1944 to September 1944, and the Po Valley Campaign in April to May

1945, then relocated in Salzburg, Austria, August 14, 1945.

After nearly four years overseas, the battalion arrived back at the New York Port of Embarkation in April 1945, with the remainder of the battalion inactivating at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

In February 1951, Delta Company was reconstituted.

The 16th Armored Engineer Battalion was activated March 7, 1951 at Fort Hood, Texas, before its subsequent redesignation as the 16th Engineer Battalion, Feb. 15, 1957. The battalion was inactivated December 23, 1957, with the exclusion of Alpha Company, before activating again Feb. 3, 1962 at Fort Hood.

The 16th Engineer Battalion was relieved from assignment from the 1st Armored Division and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division June 16, 1991, before again being relieved from 3rd Infantry Division in 1993.

In February 1997, the battalion was assigned to the 1st Armored Division, for a mere ten years before being relieved again.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division activated the 16th Engineer Battalion Nov. 16, 2013 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

All in all, the Catamounts have earned campaign participation credit in Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Po Valley, Defense of Saudi Arabia, Liberation and Defense of Kuwait, Cease Fire and War on Terrorism. They have earned merited decorations of the Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award and Army Superior Unit Award.



Above left: Mine sweepers, Pvt. Paul Metcalf, of Guysville, Ohio, and Pvt. Brodis C. Baxter, of Lincolnton, North Carolina. Both men are from 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division. Fifth Army, Anzio area, Italy, May 24, 1944. (Photo credit unknown)

Above right: A U.S. Army combat engineer vehicle demolishes a Bosnian Serb bunker on Route Arizona near Dubrave, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Jan. 10, 1996. Route Arizona is the main deployment route from the Sava River Bridge for the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) deployment into Bosnia and Herzegovina for Operation Joint Endeavor. The combat engineer vehicle is from the 16th Engineer Battalion, 130th Brigade, of Bamberg, Germany. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cumper)

Providers -- There and back, a history

The 501st has been exposed to many wars as both an attached and organic unit to the 1st Armored Division. From its conception until recent times, the Providers have been forging ahead with their combat arms brethren in the brigade named after a powerful warship – Old Ironsides.

Initially, though, the 501st was simply a Supply Battalion, formed Jan. 1, 1942. They were activated January 3rd of the same year, in order to support the 1st Armored Division during their campaign in World War II. Near the end of the war, in September 1944, the supply battalion was deactivated as the war waned.

The 501st was again reactivated in 1951 – this time as a Quartermaster Battalion, at Ft. Hood, Texas, but deactivated once more at Ft. Polk, Louisiana in 1957. Five years later, the 501st popped up once more as the 501st Supply and Transportation Battalion, but then deactivated in 1984 in Germany. This followed once again with an activation and redesignation in 1987 to the 501st Support Battalion.

Finally, in 2001 under the force structure redistribution, the unit became the 501st Brigade Support Battalion, as commands usually held separately for support were placed under their respective divisions, brigades and battalions – thus made organic to their units.

The 501st has participated in many wars with the 1st Armored Division, including World War II, the Korean War, the Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Operation Enduring Freedom. 501st BSB has made a multitude of impacts within military history by always providing world class combat support. The most

recent of these impacts was made in Afghanistan where fighting units were provided the best combat support which lead to a successful tenure in southern Afghanistan. 501st BSB supported 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division from November 2012, until September 2013 with zero deficiencies.

Afghanistan consisted of a nine-month tour in which the BSB was nestled in a Forward Operations Base (FOB). In this FOB, the BSB worked hand in hand with the 115th Military Police Battalion, out of Salisbury, Maryland, to provide support – maintenance, supply, medical and security to the areas surrounding Kandahar Air Field. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Alpha Company and the Military Police provided the security required both to protect surrounding areas and to move convoys across the battlefield in order to supply and maintain other units, but especially the other battalions of the 1st Armored Division.

Not only was the BSB responsible for support, but also for the immense task of retrograding the equipment used for the past 13 years in Afghanistan. This consisted of constantly rolling convoys bringing items and inventory back to FOB Walton, which could then be processed at Kandahar Airfield (KAF). From there, this equipment made its way back into the supply system, saving billions – and considered one of the biggest retrograde missions in history.

These undertakings, while both immense and impressive, are nothing short of a Battalion within 1st Armored Division. Providers – always supporting, always ready, standards and discipline. The 501st BSB motto says it all. "Providers."



Above left: U.S. Army Sgt. Larry Davie, top, a dental hygienist for Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, cleans the teeth of Staff Sgt. Mike Carrigan, a brigade mortuary affairs specialist at Forward Operating Base Walton in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, March 9, 2013. Davie helps run the only dental clinic in the brigade. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, 1/1 AD PAO)

Above right: 501st BSB participates in reactivation parade for 1st Armored Division, Feb. 3, 1962. (Photo credit unknown)



TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

Command Sgt. Maj. Biggs discusses changes in priorities for READY FIRST

Time is a finite resource. Because it is so precious, it must be managed carefully by every leader in the formation. One way in which commanders try to assist in time management of organizations is to establish priorities. These priorities are normally established at all levels of command from the Chief of Staff of the Army down to the company level. These priorities are nested from one commander to the next. When a subordinate leader is unsure of what task or effort is the most important, he or she simply needs to refer to the commander's priorities to help answer that question.

The Division Commander has established five priorities for the 1st Armored Division. These priorities are:

- Execute Tough and Realistic Training
- Develop Leaders
- Maintain Equipment Readiness
- Take Care of Soldiers and Families
- Continue to Strengthen Community Relations

These five priorities provide a broad basis for commanders and leaders of subordinate organizations to focus efforts in the near-term, short-term, and long-term.

Ready 6 is changing his priorities for the READY FIRST brigade. The priorities will shift from an individual focus to a collective focus in preparation for gunnery, Iron Focus, and the National Training Center rotation. These priorities are:

- Lethality from Individual to Joint Fires
- Battle Drills at Echelon
- Trained and Certified Leaders on the Integration of Warfighting Functions
- Combined Arms Live-Fire from Squad to Company

Even though the commander is shifting to a collective focus, this does not change the priorities for NCOs in the Brigade. Our priorities remain the same:

- APFT
- Individual/Crew Weapons Qualification
- Warrior Tasks
- Job Books
- EDRE and Road Side Inspection Program
- Troops Schools

These priorities remain the primary building blocks for all collective tasks. It has been documented at the Army Combat Training Centers that individual- and small unit-proficiency are the key areas of needed improvement throughout the force. This fact emphasizes the need for the five priorities to remain unchanged for the NCOs of the READY FIRST Brigade. NCOs are the primary trainers of individuals, crews and small units. We will continue to provide that focus for the RFCT.

Paul E. Biggs

CSM Paul E. Biggs
Ready 7

Want a voice in the YANK?
Send all questions, comments
or suggestions to our
public affairs office. We want
to hear from YOU!

Private message us through
the Brigade Facebook page or
email us directly.

READY FIRST Commander:
Col. Richard Ross Coffman

READY FIRST Command Sgt. Maj.:
Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Biggs

Public Affairs Officer:
Maj. Alain M. Polynice

Public Affairs NCOIC:
Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus
Public Affairs Broadcaster:
Sgt. Sarah Goss

Contributing writers:
1st Lt. Miguel De Jesus, 1-36 IN
Pfc. James Phillips, 3-41 IN
1st Lt. Tobias Duncan, 2-3 FA
Pfc. Michael Hess, 6-1 CAV
Sgt. Christian Resurreccion, 16th EN
1st Lt. Andres Gil, 501st BSB

Contact the READY FIRST PAO:
readyfirstpao@gmail.com

Facebook:
1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division
COL Ross Coffman

DVIDS:
<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/1SBCT-1AD>

Twitter:
@ReadyFirst6

You tell us WHERE and WE
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suggestions to the
editors!

YANK, the Army Weekly, was a
magazine published by the
United States military
during World War II. The
first issue was published
with the cover date of June
17, 1942. The magazine was
written by enlisted rank
Soldiers only for service
members stationed overseas.
YANK was published at
facilities around the world,
for a total of 21 editions
in 17 countries. It was the
most widely read magazine in
the history of the U.S.
military, achieving world-
wide circulation of more
than 2.6 million readers.