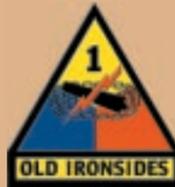
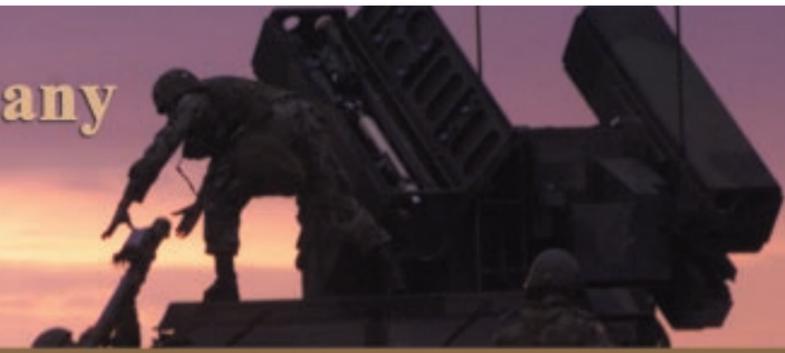


# Iron Brigade Cook of the year Putlos, Germany strikes hard at IRT Man on the street... Connely competition



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Photo by Spc. Joe Thompson

Commander Bill Foster, of the USS Constitution, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., commander of the 1st Armored Division, as old bonds are renewed aboard "Old Ironsides" in Boston Harbor, Aug. 25.

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Iron Soldiers!

America's Tank Division is fully engaged. We've focused our efforts on several major events including the 1-4 ADA's Aerial Gunnery at Putlos, 1-1Cav's CMTC rotation and exercise with SETAF. Our main focus is sustaining Task Force Falcon 2A and organizing, training and preparing 2nd Brigade for its Kosovo rotation with Staff Exercises, Individual Readiness Training, riot control training, a functional area analysis, a Fire Coordination Exercise and at the end of September, TFF 2B's Mission Rehearsal Exercise.

2nd Brigade ran an outstanding gunnery and live fire exercise. Soldiers focused hard on their respective tables and proved they are ready for conventional warfighting. They've laid the foundation for a smooth transition into Kosovo this coming December and are well on their way to a successful KFOR rotation.

Our soldiers in Kosovo have made steady progress in their sector. The "Ready First" combat team has been doing an outstanding job in Kosovo helping bring peace and stability to the

region. Every day our soldiers are building relationships with the local population and maintaining a safe and secure environment so agencies like the United Nations Mission in Kosovo can make a better life for everyone. As Iron Soldiers help make those small improvements every day, they build a lasting peace for tomorrow.

Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty soldiers from the United States bring much needed talent and expertise to the KFOR mission. These units are fully integrated into the Task Force and are continuing great work as a part of the Falcon team.

The Kosovo rotation will still take some work. Keep your heads in the game! A lot of hard work went into all the training you've completed. Focus on your efforts that made the transfer of authority from the 11D in June so successful and build on the lessons learned to make our transition seamless.

Remember: the most important soldier we have in this Division is the soldier on duty in Kosovo.

Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.



### Old Ironsides

Commentary by  
Spc. Joe Thompson  
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany—Anyone walking into the 1st Armored Division Headquarters will notice the fairly

large division patch and underneath that a replica of an old ship. For those who don't know, the ship is the USS Constitution, nicknamed "Old Ironsides" from its campaign during the War of 1812.

On a recent trip to Boston, I had the opportunity to meet the crew of the oldest commissioned warship in the U.S. Navy, and like the many sailors in Boston, I knew as little about the ship "Old Ironsides" as they did about the 1st Armored Division. Under the direction of Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, 1st Armored Division Commander, we established a friendship with the sailors of the USS Constitution and renewed our bond with the old ship.

The bond started back at the inception of the 1st Armored Division in 1940, when then Division Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce Magruder, named the 1st Armored Division after the battle-proven ship. Since then, 1st Armored Division has been historically welded to that old frigate of the past.

If you get the chance, do a little historical research and learn something about our history and the history of the ship. You'll come away with a sense of pride, knowing that the division in which you serve is named after one of the greatest ships in American history.