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"Dignity and Respect"

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In this issue...

| | |
|---|----|
| 1-94 FA (MLRS) certified battle ready..... | 4 |
| 1AD NCO wins All-Armed Forces tournament.. | 8 |
| Joined in life and service..... | 12 |
| 4-1 FA preps for NTC..... | 15 |
| Maj. Gen. Sanchez assumes command of 1AD..... | 6 |
| 1AD welcomes new leaders..... | 10 |



501st MI Battalion marches colors to new home

Capt. Thomas Finch, Company D commander, and 1st Sgt. Dale McDonald, Company D first sergeant, pass the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion colors and saber to Capt. Carey Luse, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, and 1st Sgt. Gerardus Wykoff, Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, for the final leg of the battalion's colors march, from Dexheim to their new home at McCully Barracks in Wackernheim, Germany.

Cover: Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, aren't sandbagging as they load a red bag charge during a training exercise at Fort Riley, Kan, in July. Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez receives the colors and command of the 1st Armored Division, from Lt. Gen. James C. Riley, V Corps commander, during a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Air Field.



Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez

Iron Soldiers! My family and I are ecstatic about rejoining the Iron team. It is an honor to be your division commander. I look forward to soldiering and meeting with each of you. Our top priority will be to continue to build upon the tremendous successes of our predecessors as we work together to keep the 1st Armored Division a competent and professional warfighting team. Over the past two years, I have watched the remarkable exploits of Old Ironsides - in Kosovo, during the Warfighter in March, and in a very complicated and emotional move to Wiesbaden. In every case, the soldiers and leaders accomplished the mission with distinction and pride. The exceptionally high standards demonstrated during those tough missions have come to characterize America's Tank Division. What a great team! Again, I am very glad to be here.

The opportunity to lead America's sons and daughters who are assigned to the last remaining active tank division in the Army is humbling and a challenge that can only be met by teamwork. Teamwork is a necessary ingredient for everything that we do as soldiers. Every leader must ensure that our soldiers are prepared to fight and win on any battlefield, anytime, under any conditions - that is what America expects of us. Warfighting readiness must be our top priority. Every Iron soldier must be trained for the mission we will expect him to perform in combat - No soldier will go into harm's way without the proper training. Our collective training will be focused on the decisive tasks that will make us successful on the battlefield, and it will be tough. Platoons and companies win battles - that's where we will focus our collective training efforts. Our training does not need to be fancy or complicated, but everything we do should focus on warfighting fundamentals and training those decisive tasks to the point where they are instinctive.

Making subordinates successful is every leader's responsibility. Training junior leaders who can replace us in combat must be the essence of our leader development programs. We must allow our subordinates to learn from the tough training opportunities that we provide for them. Underwrite mistakes made in training and allow our junior leaders to grow. Providing the resources necessary to accomplish any mission assigned is the responsibility of commanders. Don't set yourself up for failure by failing in this

responsibility.

The coming months will require significant sacrifices by our soldiers and their families as we execute our training strategy and as we prepare Old Ironsides units for operational deployments. Every soldier and his family must recognize that deployments are a way of life in this theater and must plan accordingly. Family readiness is crucial to our overall readiness and every one of us has a role in being prepared to deploy on a moment's notice. I am committed to continuing the great Family Well-Being initiatives that are present in our communities, and I will work for continued improvement. Don't neglect this component of our business.

The warrior profession that we have chosen, for whatever length of time, requires demanding, tough, dirty, satisfying work. Being a soldier means accepting an institutional value system that has evolved over time and is necessary if we are to succeed in combat. The standards that we impose on ourselves are higher than any other profession. Know those values and live by them.

In summary, conducting tough, focused training, developing leaders, taking care of families and having soldiers and units that live by the Army's values are what will make each and every one of us individually and collectively successful. In the end, if called upon to defend our national interests, Old Ironsides will be better trained and prepared to fight and win against any adversary.

See you on the high ground.

Iron Soldiers! Dignity and Respect!