

1st Armored Division celebrating 60 years of history



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Future is bright for 'Old Ironsides'

Iron Soldiers!

July 15 was the 60th birthday for "Old Ironsides." After 60 years, the 1st Armored Division remains the Army's only active-duty tank division. From its beginning at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 1940, the division's awesome power has been felt in places like Tunisia, Algeria, Sicily, Italy, Iraq, Bosnia, Albania, and today in Kosovo. Because of you, our division remains a fit, disciplined, cohesive team led by skilled and versatile leaders focused on excellence and capable of rapid deployment and decisive victory. Past accomplishments of this great division serve to remind us of the lethality of an armored force and versatility of the American soldier.

The division's celebrated history has placed it first on beaches in Africa and in Italy during World War II, first in Bosnia during Operation Joint Endeavor in 1995, first in Albania during Operation Allied Force in 1999, and first in Kosovo during Operation Joint Guardian in 1999. Today, a little more than a year after it first entered Kosovo, "Old Ironsides" has returned to assume control of Multi-national Brigade – East from 1st Infantry Division. The division will stay in Kosovo until June 2001 ensuring a safe and

secure environment for Kosovar citizens, fostering the ongoing civil implementation plan, and deterring hostilities.

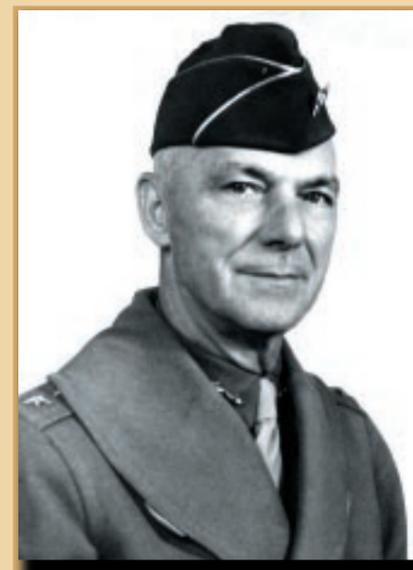
The future is just as bright for "Old Ironsides." Already fully modernized, the division is converting to LCD XXI, and organizational change will increase firepower and reconnaissance capabilities. We have tested new concepts for rapid deployment to demonstrate the ability of Army units to be at the point of influence when they're needed. And we are in the final stages of moving the division headquarters from Bad Kreuznach to Wiesbaden – yet another chapter in our history.

Be proud of your division's heritage and of the future as we celebrate "Old Ironsides" 60th birthday. You are a part of America's Tank Division.



Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.

Major General Bruce R. Magruder July 1940 - March 1942



In 1941 General George S. Patton Jr. had just named his 2nd Armored Division "Hell on Wheels" and everyone thought that the 1st Armored Division needed a name, too. General Bruce Magruder, the commander of the 1st Armored Division, announced a contest to find a suitable name for his division.

Approximately 200 names were submitted including "Fire and Brimstone" and "Kentucky Wonders." The general took them home to study over the weekend but failed to find any that appealed to him.

While mulling the matter over, he happened to glance at a picture of the U.S.S. Constitution that he had bought during a drive for funds for the preservation of that famous fighting ship known as "Old Ironsides."

That ended the search for a name. The 1st Armored Division became "Old Ironsides" that same day and 40 months of fighting later testified that its name was well chosen. This was a fighting division.

Major General Bruce R. Magruder
July 1940 - Mar 1942