

Bridgehead Sentinel

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E S O C I E T Y O F T H E F I R S T I N F A N T R Y D I V I S I O N



Soldiers of the 16th Infantry learn trench warfare in first line trenches at the front, near Einville, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France, in the Somerville Sector, 19 November 1917. Note the French Chauchat machine gun. (McCormick Research Center Collection)



Trooper of the 1st Infantry Division wearing a white camouflage spok suit moves carefully through an open field in Bullingen January 1945.



Belgium, 29 January 1945 - The 26th Regiment machine-gun station, securing the road in newly acquired territory.

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT. NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. DUTY FIRST!

Bridgehead Sentinel



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ADDRESS CHANGES AND DUES

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Robert R. McCormick Foundation*

EDITORIAL POLICY

The purpose of the *Bridgehead Sentinel* is to serve the needs of the Society and the interests of its members by:

- Disseminating information from the Society to its members;
- Publishing articles and items of interest to Society members;
- Promoting the history and heritage of the Big Red One.

The *Bridgehead Sentinel* staff reserves the right to edit all articles for length, grammar, and content.

The *Bridgehead Sentinel* does not publish material relating to political issues or campaigns, solicitations, or material that may be considered defamatory or libelous.

All stories, photos and other items sent to the *Bridgehead Sentinel* will be automatically considered for donation to the First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois, unless otherwise requested.

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ACTIVE DUTY

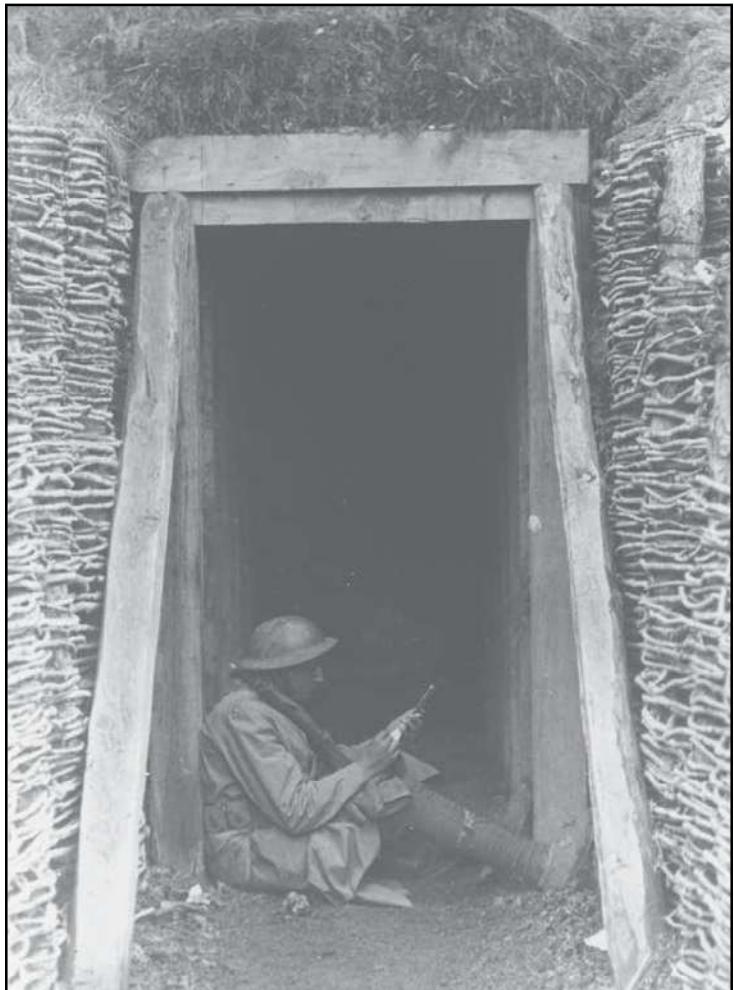
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A U.S. First Division Artilleryman in the doorway of his bombproof shelter utilizes a few peaceful moments in writing to the folks at home. March 7, 1918.



Letter from the President

By General Joe Martin



Dear Society Members,

I want to take a moment to share just how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve as President of our Society. Being part of this community has meant so much to me over the years and having the chance to help guide our organization is an honor. Thank you for your trust, encouragement, and continued support.

Your Society has and will continue to significantly impact the lives of Soldiers and the families of the Big Red One. By the end of the year, over 284 families will receive Commissary gift cards. We plan to expand our reach next year with a large donation to each of the Battalion Family Readiness Groups in the Division to help offset the cost of their family support activities. Based on recommendations from the Soldiers who attended this year's reunion, we are also exploring the feasibility of hosting a Veteran and Soldier social on Fort Riley. None of this would have been possible without your and the McCormick Foundation's generous contributions.

The reunion this year was a wonderful time, and I am grateful for everyone who attended. Your presence, energy, and enthusiasm made it a memorable gathering, and I appreciate each of you for helping make it such a meaningful event.

I'm excited to let you know that the Reunion Committee, the Executive Director, and I are working on our 2026 Society Reunion. We've jumped right into planning, talking through ideas, and sketching out what we hope will be

a memorable gathering in Springfield, Virginia. Our goal is to open registration early this year, not only to give everyone plenty of time to prepare but also to show that next year's reunion is well underway. We are putting special care into the schedule to make sure there is something for everyone—whether you're a regular attendee or returning after some time away.

As plans come together, you'll be hearing from us regularly. Because interest in this reunion is already high, I would like to encourage those who are planning to attend to register as early as possible once registration opens. Early sign-ups truly help us make solid arrangements, manage space, and ensure the best experience for all.

Thank you once again for your enthusiasm, involvement, and the spirit you bring to our Society. We are strong because of you, and I'm looking forward to the road ahead as we prepare for what I believe will be a very special 2026.

Duty First!

General Joe Martin

67th Commanding General of the
1st Infantry Division Society President



Letter from the Executive Director

By MSG (Ret) Joshua A. Sandlin



What a year it has been! The reunion held in Oak Brook, Illinois, was an unforgettable experience. I want to personally thank the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Cantigny Park, and the First Division Museum for hosting and helping make this event truly special. It was wonderful to see everyone in attendance.

The Division proudly supported the reunion with over 70 active-duty Soldiers. These included members of the First Infantry Division Band, who put on a fantastic show at the Welcome Party, as well as the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, which performed horse demonstrations and served as the color guard for the Banquet. Additionally, 25 Soldiers from the BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) Program at Fort Riley participated. The Soldiers had an incredible time and deeply appreciated the opportunity to connect with veterans from the 1st Infantry Division, sharing stories, experiences, and camaraderie across generations.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to LTG (Ret) Ron Watts for his dedicated service and commitment as President of the Society of the First Infantry Division over the past 10 years. Sir, you will be greatly missed, and we are deeply grateful for all you have done to advance the Society and strengthen its mission. At the same time, I would like to warmly welcome GEN (Ret) Joe Martin. I am excited about what we can accomplish

together as we propel the Society into its next chapter.

Thanks to the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and all of your generous contributions to the BRO Support Fund, I'm thrilled to announce that we've purchased 44 tickets for SGTs and below to attend the First Infantry Division Year of Victory Ball. Additionally, we were able to provide Commissary gift cards to support Soldiers and their families each month throughout this year.

We have also replenished our Quartermaster with new Quarter-Zip sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts, hats, flags, flasks, and much more. Pictures and item details are updated in this edition of the BHS. Please visit the Quartermaster link on our website at: <https://www.1stid.org/quartermaster> to see the latest inventory and place an order. If you have any questions or prefer to order by phone to ensure availability, feel free to call us at (785) 579-6761.

I'm thrilled to share that planning for the 2026 Reunion in Springfield, Virginia is going wonderfully! The Reunion Committee and our President have been crafting a menu of tours designed to offer something for everyone. Thanks to the generosity of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, which will be hosting the Welcome Party at Mount Vernon, this event promises to be truly unforgettable. Registration is planned to open in early 2026. Please share details about the reunion with fellow BRO Veterans who may not receive our

emails and encourage them to visit our website for updates. I truly hope you can all join us from June 24–28, 2026, and I look forward to seeing each of you there!

I am truly blessed to serve as your Executive Director, and I'm grateful for all you do for the Society. I hope you enjoy the holiday season, and I look forward to connecting with more of you at next year's reunion.

Duty First!

Joshua Sandlin
MSG US Army Retired
Executive Director



Friends of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Kansas!

This fall, the **Big Red One** executed Danger Gauntlet IV and Danger Gauntlet V to increase our warfighting readiness. During Danger Gauntlet IV, the entire division deployed to the field to execute an intensive training cycle, command post exercise (CPX), and fires support command exercise from September 7-17, 2025. From October 22nd to the 31st, we executed Danger Gauntlet V, a CPX with V Corps and US Army Europe and Africa. The Danger Gauntlet exercise series enables us to refine our warfighting systems and processes for Warfighter 26-03, but more importantly, prepares us for our upcoming deployment next summer.

This fall, the Brigades left nothing at rest, with training as the premium. The Devil Brigade continued its forward presence in Europe along NATO's Eastern Flank. The Dagger Brigade conducted company live fire exercises in November and a field training exercise in December to train and certify battalions in preparation for NTC 26-06. The Drumfire Brigade conducted advanced battery certifications and integrated fires with Demon Brigade in joint air-to-ground operations. The Demon Brigade executed three aerial gunneries and resumed Grey Eagle flight operations upon the Fighting Eagles' return from the Southern Border. The Durable Brigade focused on generating and sustaining combat power in direct support of the

Commanding General's Note

By MG Monté L. Rone



Division through Operation Freedom Reaper and pre-deployment operations. On December 4th, CSM Paul Gomez assumed responsibility from CSM Adam Bezanson during the 1st Division Sustainment Brigade Change of Responsibility.

This quarter marks a significant transition in our formation, as we undergo 43 Army structural changes through FY27. Our brigade engineer battalions will transform into engineer battalions, removing the signal and military intelligence companies and adding a third combat engineer company. Our military intelligence professionals are now consolidated at the Division headquarters, as part of the General Support Military Intelligence Company. On December 10th, the Division bid farewell to the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment during its inactivation ceremony. On December 16th, we welcomed the 5th Engineer Battalion, based in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to the **Big Red One** during a Patching Ceremony. Under LTC John Floyd and CSM Daron Martin, the "Fightin' Fifth" will move from Fort Leonard Wood to Fort Riley over the next year.

As we reflect on 2025, I ask you to remember the service and sacrifice of MSG (Retired) Charles Norman Shay, a 1st Infantry Division and D-Day veteran, Silver Star recipient, and former prisoner of war in World War II, who passed away on December 3rd at 101 years old. MSG Shay's service extended far beyond

his time in the 16th Infantry Regiment at Omaha Beach, continuing through the Korean War and even into the era of nuclear testing at Castle Bravo. His courage and lifelong dedication to the Nation stands as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our luminaries who have worn the **Big Red One**.

As we close out 2025, the **Big Red One** extends heartfelt wishes for a joyful holiday season to our Soldiers, Families, and community. May this time bring warmth, rest, and connection, but let us never lose sight of the mission ahead. As 2026 begins, we are fit, inspired, disciplined, and trained and ready, and we will leave nothing at rest.

Duty First!

MG Monté L. Rone
Commanding General
1ID and Fort Riley

A Memorable Year at the Victory Ball

The Victory Ball held at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 14th 2025 marked a truly special year for First Infantry Division, bringing together members, guests, and supporters for an evening of reflection, camaraderie, and celebration of service.

A highlight of the evening was the presence of **Retired General Carter Ham** as the guest speaker. General Ham, a **lifetime member of the Society of the First Infantry Division**, delivered an inspiring and thoughtful address that resonated deeply with all in attendance. His remarks reflected a profound respect for the Division's legacy, its Soldiers—past and present—and the enduring values that define the "Big Red One."

The evening also featured a moment of special recognition when **Mr. Timothy Knight, CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation**, was awarded the coveted **Distinguished Trooper Award**. This distinguished honor recognized Mr. Knight's unwavering support of the **1st Infantry Division** and his continued commitment to preserving its history and honoring the service of its Soldiers. His contributions have strengthened the Society's mission and reinforced the importance of partnership in safeguarding the Division's proud legacy.

Held in the welcoming setting of the Hilton Garden Inn, the Victory Ball provided an opportunity for members to reconnect, honor shared traditions, and celebrate the heritage of the First Infantry Division. The event reflected unity, pride, and shared purpose that defines the Division and its supporters.

This Victory Ball will be remembered not only for its distinguished guest speaker and meaningful recognitions, but for the spirit of fellowship and respect that filled the room—an evening truly worthy of the legacy of the First Infantry Division.



Mr. Timothy Knight, CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation Shakes MG Rones hand after receiving his Red Jacket.
(U.S. Army photos by Pfc. Ryan Lavigne)

2025 BRO Reunion Summary



104th Annual Reunion in Oak Brook, Illinois, June 18-22, 2025

The 104th Annual Reunion of the Society of the First Infantry Division was a tremendous success! With more than 300 attendees, the camaraderie and shared experiences truly shone throughout the weekend. The variety of events—sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation—offered something for everyone, including tours of the First Infantry Division Museum and the Gardens at Cantigny Park, demonstrations by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, golf, a free concert, and a Chicago Cubs game.

It was wonderful to see spouses connecting and socializing, fostering new friendships that will hopefully continue into future gatherings. The welcome party, featuring live music from the First Infantry Division Rock Band, set a perfect tone for the weekend.

The McCormick Foundation also sponsored a BOSS (Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers) trip, bringing 35

single Soldiers from the First Infantry Division. This opportunity allowed them to participate in the reunion and, more importantly, to meet and engage with veterans from the Vietnam Conflict through the Global War on Terror—each sharing the proud legacy of the Big Red One.

The Conflict Breakfast, featuring General (Ret.) Joe Martin—who led at every level of leadership during combat with the First Infantry Division—served as a powerful reminder of our shared history. LTC John Brown delivered solemn remarks during the memorial ceremony, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the Division.

The banquet closed out the reunion with inspiring words from COL Travis Habhab, the 1st Infantry Division Chief of Staff, and recognition of the 28th Infantry Regiment for their outstanding attendance and creative theme—earning

them the award for the second consecutive year.

New this year was the Lieutenant General Thomas G. Rhame Leadership Award, recognizing the First Infantry Division Company Commander of the Year, and the CSM Steve Faulkenburg Leadership Award, honoring the First Infantry Division First Sergeant of the Year. Congratulations to Captain Erika Burmah from the 1st Engineer Battalion and First Sergeant Aaron Peoples for earning these distinguished honors. As always, the NCO and Soldier of the Year were also recognized—this year awarded to Sergeant Danner Renfro and Specialist Aldemir Parra.

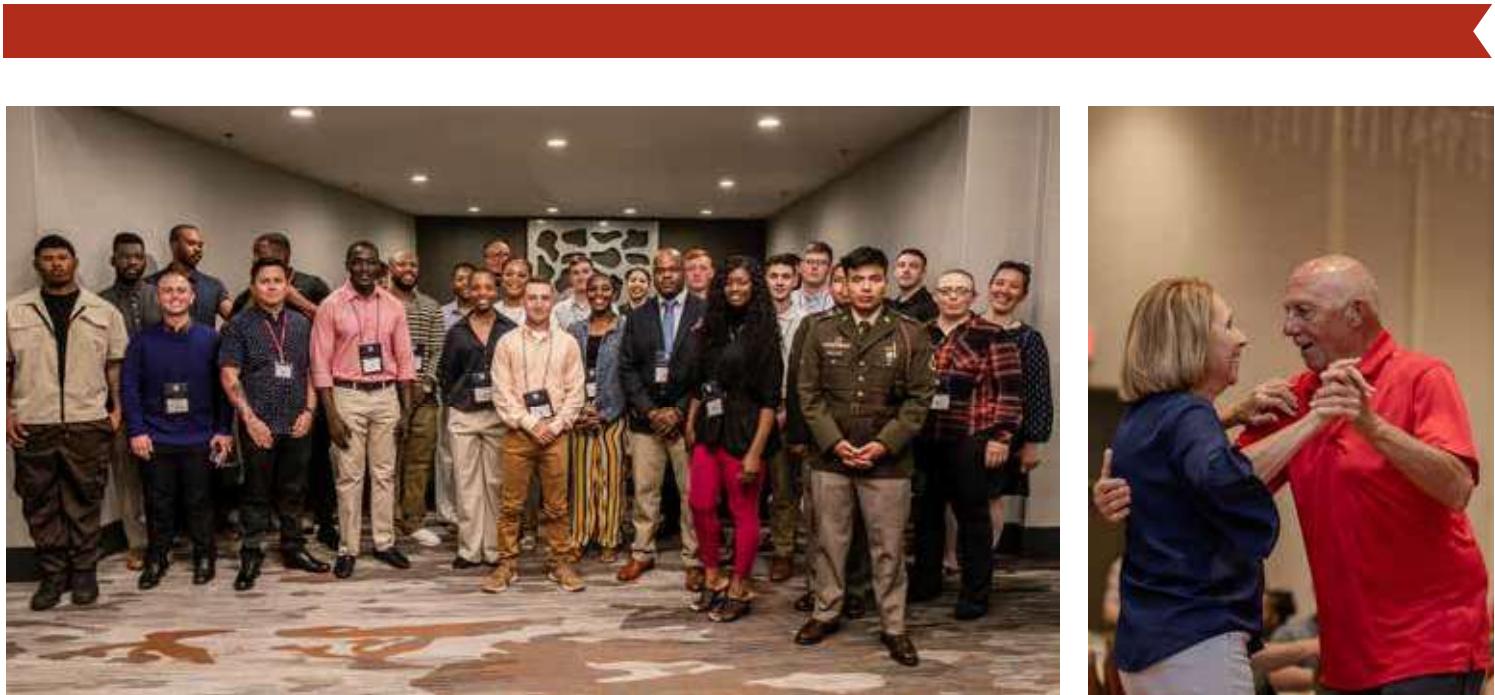
As you prepare for the next reunion in Springfield, Virginia, I encourage you to invite a buddy to join us. I'm certain everyone is already looking forward to reconnecting and creating even more unforgettable memories!





2025 BRO Reunion Summary







SAVE THE DATES!

Springfield, VA 24 – 28 June 2026

Society and the McCormick Foundation are excited to be in the planning phase for the 2026 Reunion. We are honored that the McCormick Foundation has agreed to host our welcome party at historic Mount Vernon. Attendees can look forward to an exceptional lineup of experiences, including tours of Arlington National Cemetery, the National Museum of the United States Army, and key historic landmarks throughout Washington, D.C.—with even more memorable events to come.

We expect to have registration open NLT 1 February 2026. **Tours are expected to fill quickly. All attendees must register, select their**

desired tours, and choose meal options in advance. Bus transportation will be limited, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is strongly encouraged.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND THE SOCIETY WEBPAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY WILL BE POSTED AS PLANNING IS COMPLETED.

This year's reunion promises to be an unforgettable experience, occurring just ahead of the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

2026 Tentative Reunion Program

Hotel

Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA 22150

Reasonable rates for this location & Time of Year: Rates are \$139 (+taxes) during **June 21 through July 1** (Breakfast included)

Book Early: Cut off date to book hotel rooms is 22 May 2026. After this date the Hotel can assign rooms to other customers - no guarantees for reunion attendees after that date. Room reservations will be made by the Society member - Code to follow.

Command Posts: There will be hospitality rooms for CPs which will be assigned. These will be assigned based on the number of attendees from each regiment.

Known Costs (subject to change): Conflict Breakfast (\$40); Banquet (\$55 for registered attendees); Registration (\$55/person increased after 22 May).

Thursday, June 25

0830-1000 Spouse No Host Lunch

1030-1500 Bus Hop On Hop Off Circuit route at DC sites (various key sites, Museums)

1500-1800 Daytime Bus tour of Mall and key DC sites w/ key site stops.

1800-2030 Reunion Welcome at Mount Vernon (Costs will be covered by the McCormick Foundation)

Friday, June 26

0800-0930 Conflict Breakfast

1000-1300 Arlington National Cemetery
- Tomb of Unknown Soldier
- Women's Memorial

1300-1630 Army National Museum

1700-1830 SFID Board Meeting

1930-2230 Night Bus tour of Mall and key DC sites

Saturday, June 27

0900-1000 General Membership Meeting

1015-1045 Memorial Service

1800-2100 Reunion Banquet [Guest Speaker: LTG (R) Douglas (DA) Sims]





Society of the First Infantry Division Member Profile Update

Daily our database is updated by either updating a profile, taking a membership payment, creating a new account, or looking up a member in response to an inquiry.

Please find below the composition of our membership. Please keep in mind it does change daily but generally the total numbers stay close.

On October 1st, 2025, we had a total of 9370 active members (number does not include business partners or corporate sponsors). Some of our members have served in more than one era but this does not change the percentages.

Members:

Life.....	8255	92%
Active Duty.....	202	2.15%
Regular Veteran.....	277	2.95%
Executive Veteran.....	20	0.21%
Associate.....	40	0.43%
Business Partner.....	10	0.11%
Corporate Sponsor.....	5	0.20%

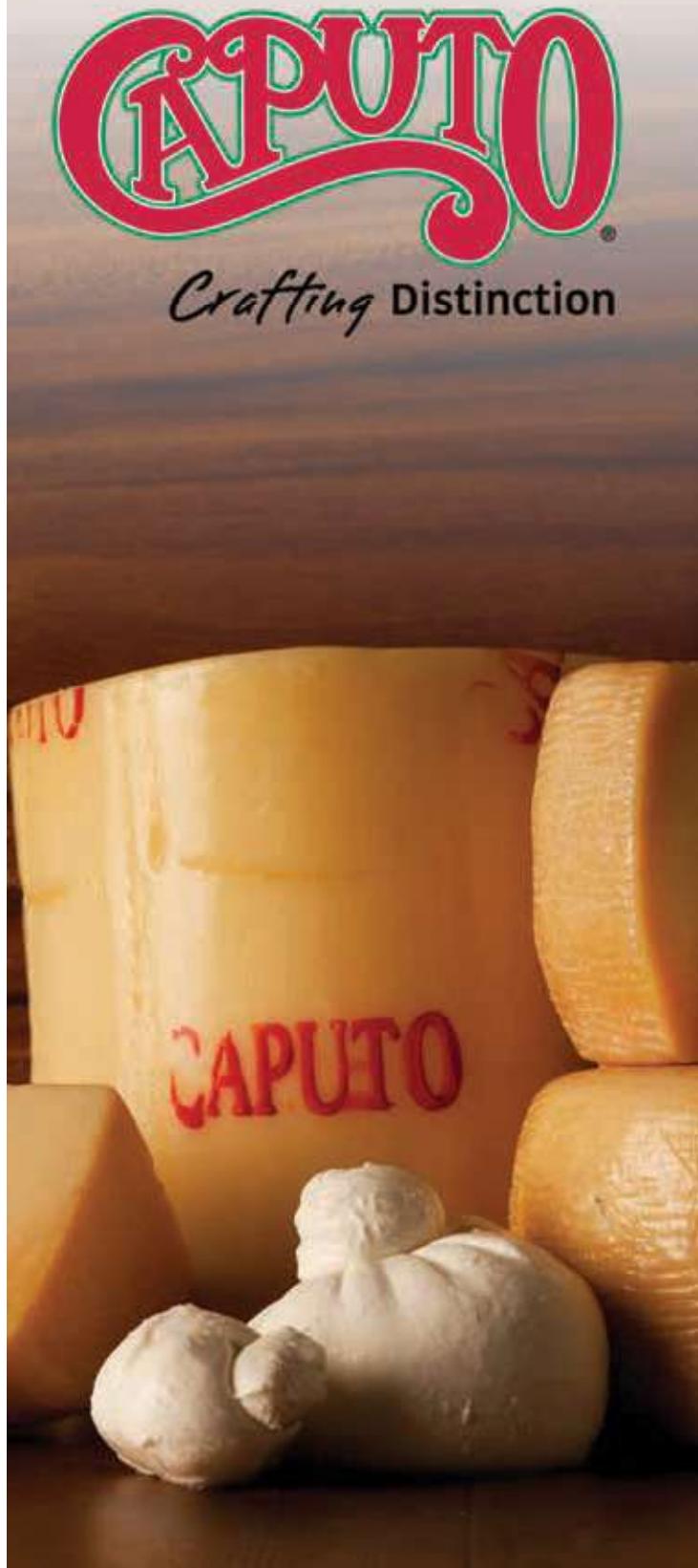
ERA Served:

Post 9-11.....	4025	42.89%
Vietnam*.....	1963	20.92%
Peace Time.....	1070	11.40%
Unknown/NA.....	128	1.36%
Balkans.....	591	6.30%
Cold War.....	392	4.39%
WW II*.....	215	2.29%
Desert Storm/Gulf War.....	254	2.71%

*Includes widows

With the composition of our member database, please note that at present time our general fund operates on approximately 5% of member annual dues, The remainder of the Society Annual Budget is supported by funds from business partners, corporate sponsors, quartermaster sales, donations, and fundraisers.

Caputo Cheese | caputocheese.com



2024 NCO and Soldier of the Year

The 2024 NCO and soldier of the year are: We presented a plaque and membership into the Society of the First Infantry Division during the banquet.

NCO: SGT Danner Renfro,
HQB, HBBn, DIVARTY

Soldier: SPC Aldemir Parra,
HQB, HBBn, DIVARTY

The Company Commander and First Sergeant of the Year are: We Presented a Big Red One plaque and Life membership to the Society of the First Infantry Division during the banquet.

- Captain Erika Burmah A Co,
1st Engineer BN, 1st ABCT
- First Sergeant Aaron Peoples,
HHC, 1DSB



Membership Sponsorship Program

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the **Membership Sponsorship Program**. Because of your generous contributions, we've been able to provide **paid memberships to many Active-Duty Soldiers**, allowing them to stay connected to the legacy and support of the **Society of the 1st Infantry Division**.

It truly takes all of us to build and sustain a strong, successful Society—and we are deeply grateful to our members for their generosity and dedication.

We encourage you to **share your Big Red One story**, as well as the story of the Society, with others. By doing so, you help preserve our legacy and inspire others to **join and support** our mission.

Thank you for sponsoring our Active-Duty Soldiers.

Growing Society Membership Opportunity

Support an Active-Duty E-1 to E-7 with a one-year Membership (\$10.00) into the Society.

Make checks payable to the SFID "Sponsor Active-Duty Soldier."

Mail to: Society of the First Infantry Division
P.O. Box 2307
Fort Riley, KS 66442

Or go to our website: 1stid.org

(there is a link on the right-hand side of the homepage under quick links – Sponsor New Member)

Society of the First Infantry Division Support and Donations

A heartfelt **thank you to all our members and sponsors** who generously donated to the **Big Red One Support Fund**. Your contributions made a meaningful impact by allowing us to support a variety of activities and events that directly benefit our **1st Infantry Division Soldiers and their families**.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to enhance morale, strengthen community ties, and help where it was most needed. Below is a summary of just some of the events your support helped make possible:

- Sponsored 44 Soldiers in the ranks of E1-E5 to attend the 1st Infantry

Division and Fort Riley Year of Warrior Ball.

- From January through December 2025, a total of **402 commissary gift cards**, each valued at **\$50.00**, were provided to support active-duty military families in need, totaling **\$20,100.00** over the Twelve-month period.

These gift cards were supplied to the **Division and Garrison Chaplains Offices** for distribution to **active-duty military families in the E6 grade and below**, specifically those requiring additional support during the holiday season.



Charles Norman Shay Tribal Elder and World War II Hero, Dies at 101

In Memoriam

Charles Norman Shay

(June 27, 1924 – December 27, 2021)

Charles Norman Shay was a man of quiet strength, deep humility, and unwavering compassion. A proud citizen of the Penobscot Nation, Charles carried his heritage, his service, and his humanity with grace throughout his life.

As a young U.S. Army combat medic with the **F Company, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division** during World War II, Charles landed on Omaha Beach at just 19 years old. In the midst of chaos and danger, he did what came naturally to him, he helped others. Again and again, under intense fire, he moved across the battlefield to care for wounded soldiers, never seeking recognition, only focused on saving lives.

For many years after the war, Charles rarely spoke of what he had seen or done. When he eventually chose to share his story, he did so not to relive the past, but to honor those who did not come home and to help others understand the true cost of war. His words were thoughtful, honest, and deeply moving—spoken always with respect and humility.

Beyond his military service, Charles was a devoted advocate for Native American veterans, working to ensure their sacrifices were acknowledged and remembered. Those who knew him remember a gentle man with a warm presence, a steady voice, and a sincere



Charles Norman Shay at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, in 2019. *"I saw there were many wounded men who were floundering in the water," he said, recalling D-Day. "And I knew that if nobody went to help them, they were doomed to die."*

kindness that left a lasting impression.

Charles Norman Shay lived a life defined by service—to his country, his community, and to one another. His legacy lives on in the lives he saved, the stories he shared, and the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

The family traced its ancestry to a 17th-century French officer, Jean-Vincent d'Abbadie de Saint-Castin (for whom the town of Castine, Maine, is named), and one of his wives, a daughter of the Penobscot chief Madockawando.



Mr. Shay, bottom left, with fellow soldiers near Aachen, Germany, in 1944. Credit via Shay Family



A young Charles Shay, center, in an undated photo with family members at the Penobscot Indian Island Reservation in Maine. Credit Charles Shay Family Archive, via Associated Press

2025 Scholarship Recipients



Huebner Scholarship

- **Hannah Baka** attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, majoring in Aeronautical Science
- **Noah Brown** attending Iowa State, majoring in Aerospace Engineering
- **Marley Denton** attending Vanderbilt University, majoring in Secondary Education
- **Savannah Price** attending Purdue University, majoring in Psychology
- **Jackson Gutierrez** attending University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, majoring in Biology
- **Phoebe Davis** attending the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Public Health
- **Paige Cardon** attending the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, majoring in Political Science with a minor in English
- **Sarah Elgan** attending Brigham Young University, majoring in Recreational Therapy
- **Emily Rhame** attending George Mason, majoring in Computer Science
- **Chloe Lamb** attending University of Tennessee-Knoxville, majoring Aerospace Engineering
- **McKenzie Calderwood** attending Dakota State University, majoring in Digital Art and Design
- **Abigail Spahr** attending Catholic University of America, majoring in Chemistry
- **Zachary Bender** attending Kansas University, majoring in Bio-Chemistry
- **Luella Sikorski** attending University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, majoring in Fine Arts Acting
- **Loretta Lenhart** attending North Carolina State University, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

- **Reece Carlson** attending University of Michigan, majoring in History
- **Kathryn Johnson** attending Providence College, majoring in Accounting
- **Sylvia Arriaga** attending Texas A&M University, majoring in Biochemistry

McCormick Scholarship

- **John Pickler** attending Colorado School of Mines, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- **Ethan Fontaine** attending Dartmouth College, majoring in Economics
- **Gabe Martin** attending Kansas State University, majoring in Business Finance
- **Isabella Pearson** attending Kansas State University, majoring in Elementary Education
- **Ameera Ashraf** attending the University of Kansas, majoring Social Work

Trade, Vocational and Career Schools

- **Myles Dowling** attending Southeast Community College/Automotive Technology/ Diesel
- **Gavin Carr** attending Natural Gas Compression-Industrial Technologies



Local Chapters of the Society

Currently there are five (6) chapters in the states of Buffalo New York, Indiana, Kansas, New York/New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The BHS allocates space for local chapters to share updates. As chapters meet, they can share with everyone what their chapter is involved in and up to.

The Society is available to assist in getting chapters going. We help by reaching out to our members and advising them that a chapter is being formed in their area, along with point of contact information. If you are interested in getting a local chapter going in your area, email or call us (785-579-6761) at Society

Headquarters; or you can email: sfidevents@gmail.com

We salute our members that have offered to get a chapter going in their community.

Chapters with POC information are listed below and on our webpage: <https://www.1std.org/chapters>

Local Chapter Updates

Our local chapters always welcome new members. To join one or find out more, reach out to the contacts listed below via email or phone.

Indiana

East Central Indiana Chapter

POC: James Allen

Jallen5749@gmail.com

765-969-7977

Currently, I am the only member. Anyone in the East Indiana/West Ohio area that is interested in joining, please email or call to learn more.

Buffalo/Western New York

SSG David Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter

Society of the First Infantry Division

POC: Dr. John B. Long

marinawoolcock54@gmail.com

716-877-6818

If you live in the Western New York area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Dr. Long.

Kansas

Junction City Kansas Chapter

POC: Joshua Sandlin

sfid1919@gmail.com

785-579-6761

If you live in the Junction City/Fort Riley area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Josh.

Eastern New York

New York/Fort Dix Branch of the Society of the First Infantry Division

POC: Antonio Maria

black_lions66@yahoo.com

973-477-9360

Ohio

Society of the 1st Infantry Division

Southeastern Ohio Chapter

POC: Mike DeBolt

1infdiveo@gmail.com

740-252-1485

1434 Linden Ave

Zanesville, OH 43701

If you live in the Zanesville, Ohio, area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Mike.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Society of the 1st Infantry Division Chapter

POC: Jeff Anderson

jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com

608-381-3791

If you live in the Wisconsin area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Jeff.

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Museum Notes

FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY

MCCORMICK RESEARCH CENTER

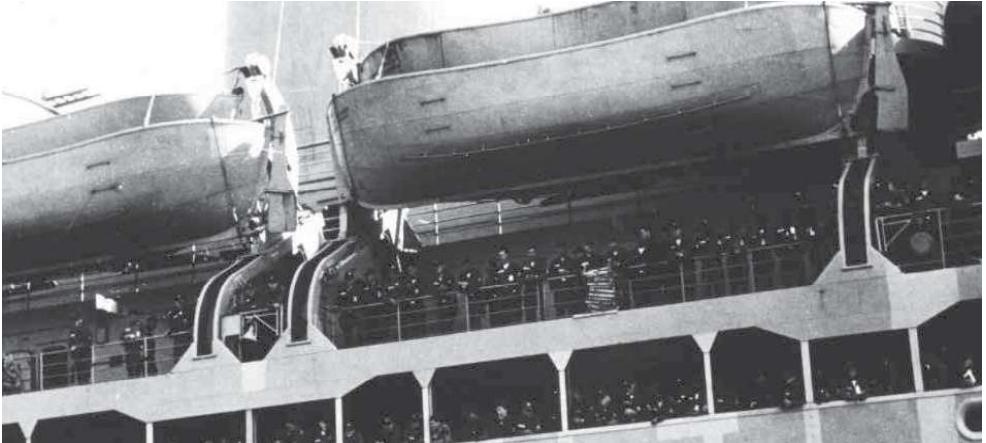
1s151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL 60189-3353 • FDMuseum.org

Welcome to the Sea

The First Division Heads to Vietnam, 1965

By Bradley Cesario, First Division Museum Research Historian

On May 22, 1965, First Division Headquarters Fort Riley released Movement Order No. 13. This was the official indication to all soldiers of the First Division that they would be headed to U.S. Army Pacific, overseas to America's growing conflict in Southeast Asia. Major General Jonathan O. Seaman, commanding general of the Division, had been informed in mid-April to begin preparing a brigade for Vietnam service. He chose the 2d Brigade, which was the best prepared for a quick deployment as the Division's designated Rapid Reaction Force, then further strengthened the 2d by bulking it up with weapons and vehicles from the Division's other two brigades. Movement Order No. 13 encompassed the complete 2d Brigade: 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry; 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery; elements of 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery; and additional support units. In early June of 1965 the



Men of the 2d Brigade line the decks of USNS General W.H. Gordon in Oakland, 25 June 1965. MRC 1996.96

2d Brigade departed Kansas and headed for the west coast and the Oakland Army Terminal. On June 25th, the nearly 4000 troops that made up the brigade crossed underneath the Golden Gate Bridge aboard the USNS *General W.H. Gordon*. Once at sea, brigade executive officer Lt. Col. Edgar Glotzbach officially made the shipboard announcement that the brigade already knew: their destination

was South Vietnam. The journey aboard the *General Gordon* would take about two weeks, and troops were prepared for boredom. The ship's crew produced *The Gordonaire* newsletter, which welcomed the First Division to the sea, provided tips on dealing with seasickness, and included a warning to conserve fresh water. Amenities were sparse – a Navy Exchange and a barber



Douglas Kiel of 2/18 Infantry was initiated into the Domain of the Golden Dragon while aboard the General Gordon. MRC 2005.100



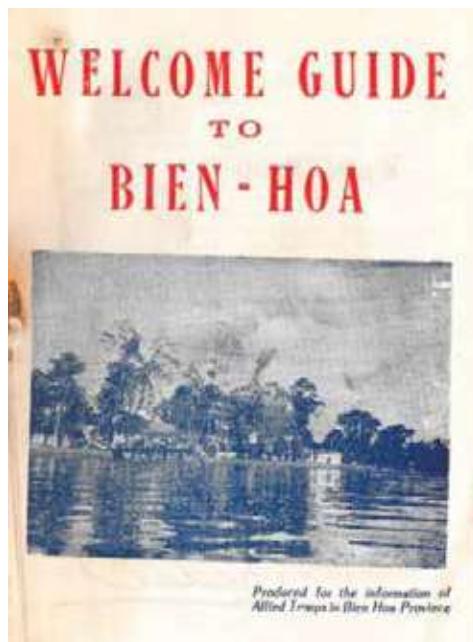
Members of 1/18 Infantry arrive in Vietnam aboard the General Gordon. MRC 2004.77

shop, although troops were also shown movies (alarmingly including *King Kong vs. Godzilla*). Other unofficial events included a celebration of crossing the International Date Line, which qualified brigade members for initiation into the Domain of the Golden Dragon.

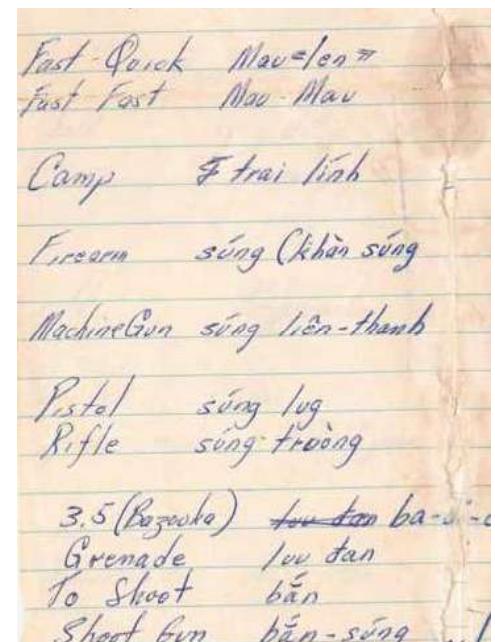
Before the 2d Brigade even arrived in Vietnam, their destination had changed. A small advance party had preceded the *General Gordon* by air, and PFC Gerold Worster of the 7th Artillery became the first member of the Big Red One to arrive in Vietnam on June 23. But he had arrived at Qui Nhon, where the original plan was for the brigade to provide security for supply and logistics facilities under construction. While the *General Gordon* was still at sea, new orders arrived that split the brigade upon arrival. On July 12, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry and one battery of 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery disembarked at Cam Ranh Bay to provide security for the port being constructed there. Two days later the rest of the brigade disembarked at Vung Tau Air Base and flew from there to Bien Hoa Air Base northeast of Saigon. By July 16th they had begun setting up a base camp near Bien Hoa.

Living in Vietnam was a new experience for most brigade soldiers. To aid in acculturation, the Army provided handouts and informational cards with refreshers on combat fundamentals and reminders for all personnel about the rules of engagement in Vietnam. Local South Vietnamese authorities produced a welcome guide to Bien Hoa, including an overview of regional customs and a list of provincial officials. Some troops even took additional lessons in the Vietnamese language.

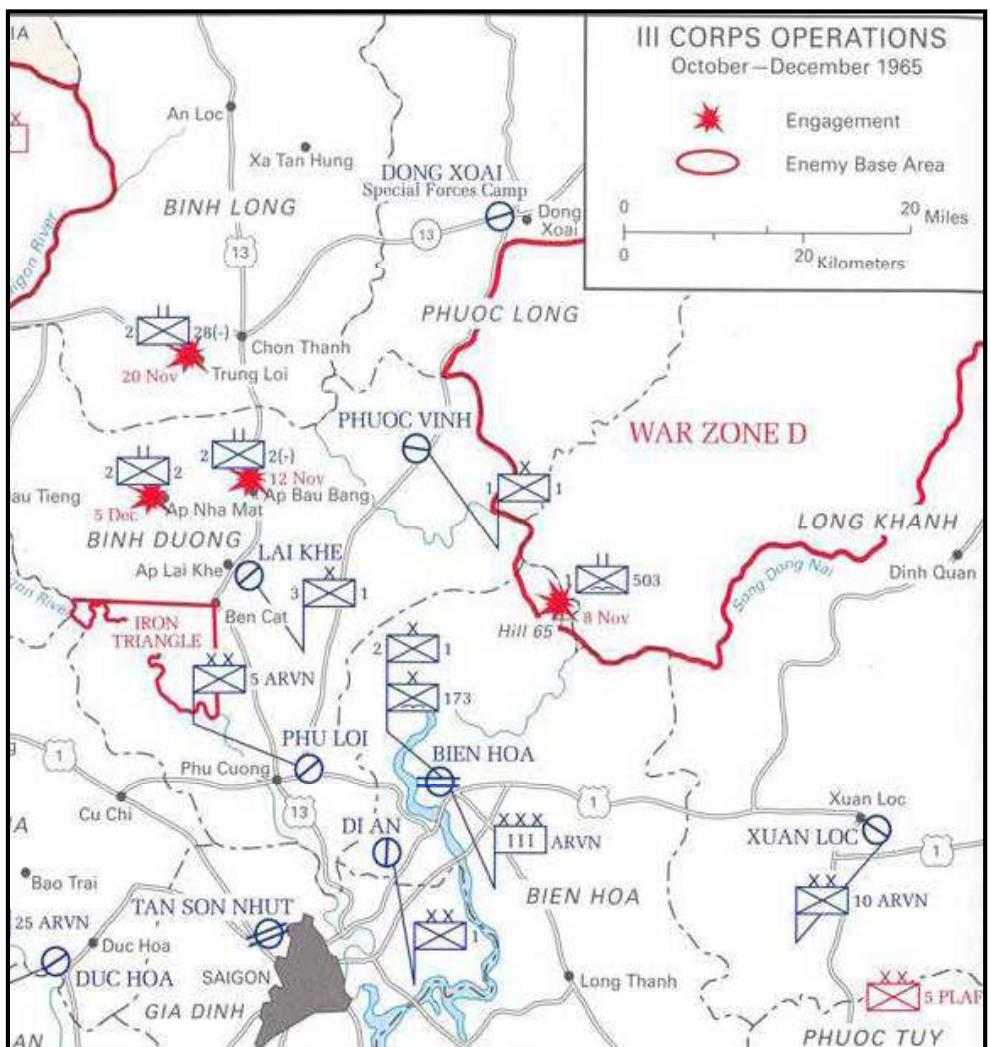
It took less than 24 hours from arrival at Bien Hoa before 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry came under enemy fire, and the First Division was in combat for the first time in twenty years. 2/18 suffered the Division's first casualty of Vietnam a day later. Besides the persistent Viet Cong probing attacks, the logistical situation at Bien Hoa was grim. The recent change of orders meant most of the brigade's pre-placed food and ammunition was hundreds of miles away at Qui Nhon. For the rest of July, Big



This guide to Bien Hoa was produced by the South Vietnamese government. MRC 2005.396



Bernard Kenan of 2/18 Infantry practiced his Vietnamese aboard ship. MRC 2005.396



All initial bases for the First Division in Vietnam are visible on this map. John M. Carland, *The United States Army in Vietnam: Stemming the Tide, May 1965 to October 1966* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 2000), p.74.

Red One soldiers ate Navy food and fired South Vietnamese artillery rounds. But the brigade's bulldozers cleared a base camp through enemy fire, and by August supplies were flowing into a well-defended perimeter. Company-sized combat patrols against Viet Cong forces began on July 22nd, and battalion-sized sweeps were underway by early September. That month saw 1/18 rejoin the rest of the 2d Brigade, and by October the remaining two brigades of the First Division had arrived in South Vietnam. The Division was spread out across five bases: besides the 2d Brigade at Bien Hoa, the 1st Brigade was at Phuoc Vinh and the 3d Brigade at Lai Khe. Division Artillery was based at Phu Loi, and Division Headquarters / Support Command were at Di An.

This was consistent with the Division's mission. During the summer months the 2d Brigade's objective was "to protect essential airfields and other installations and to act, in the last resort, as a reaction force to obstruct an enemy takeover."¹ As more Division personnel and weaponry arrived, the focus switched to clearing out enemy supplies and eventually to search and destroy missions. The first major engagement was the Battle of Ap Bau Bang on November 12, where 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry (one of the new arrivals with 3d Brigade) successfully fought off a Viet Cong attack and inflicted around 200 casualties. By the end of 1965 more than 9,600 members of the Big Red One were in Vietnam, ready to write the next chapters in the Division's history.²



1/26 Infantry was a later arrival with the 1st Brigade, but they made themselves at home by October - and their soldiers, like Staton Strother, soon came to appreciate the weariness of a two-week patrol. MRC 1999.134



1 - John M. Carland, *The United States Army in Vietnam: Stemming the Tide, May 1965 to October 1966* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 2000), p.21.

2 - This article was compiled from the following sources: Brigade Information Office, Vietnam, *The First Year: A Pictorial History of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division* (Tokyo: Dai Nippon

Printing Company, 1966); Jimmie Wilson, ed., *The 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam, Volume I, July 1965 – April 1967* (Tokyo: Dai Nippon Printing Company, 1967); John M. Carland, *The United States Army in Vietnam: Stemming the Tide, May 1965 to October 1966* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 2000).

2025

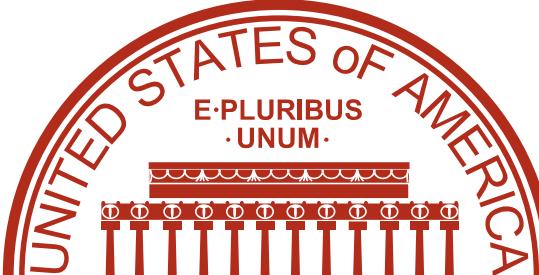
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I want to thank the members listed below for their generous donation during this year's Match Day. We had a total of 67 donations totaling with the Match \$15,171.

Your contributions will go a long way in helping the Society further its mission and support our ongoing initiatives. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment to honoring the legacy of the 1st Infantry Division and ensuring that its work continues to thrive.

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We value our members and want to make sure we can stay in touch with you. If you move or change your phone number or email address, please let us know so we can update your member profile.

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We want to keep you informed, but we need your help.

Please notify us of any changes to your contact information as soon as possible so we can keep your member profile up to date. You may submit

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Phone: 785-579-6761

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P.O. Box 2307
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The Bro Support Fund

The Big Red One Support Fund is the Society's own fund that provides assistance to serving 1st Infantry Division Soldiers and their families in non-emergency situations—our 1st Infantry Division Foundation's McCormick Grants program handles the emergencies. As the Global War on Terror has progressed, the number of needs and assistance programs have multiplied dramatically, yet there are often needs that fall between the cracks. These situations are the reason the BRO Support Fund exists.

If you would like to donate to the BRO Support Fund, please use the coupon on the left or the membership renewal application on page 10 to do so. With your generosity, help and support, the Big Red One continues to take care of its own!

Century Club

Welcome to the new members of the Century Club! These are members who have donated \$100 or more toward the Big Red One Support Fund. Thank you for partnering with us to support our division!

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Mahlon & Claire Hile

James Jensen
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Please make your check payable to: **Society of the First Infantry Division.**

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in your community to join the Society as a business member!**



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P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Phone: (785) 579-6761

sfidkansas@gmail.com Web: www.1stID.org



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- An e-subscription to the Bridgehead Sentinel
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- A window decal signifying your support

Annual Membership Fee: \$200

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ Beyond my regular dues.

I would like to become a CENTURY CLUB member with a donation of \$ _____ (\$100 minimum) to the BRO Support Fund which is used to assist Active Duty Soldiers in need.

Century Club members will be recognized in the Bridgehead Sentinel throughout the year.

**The Society of the 1st Infantry division is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.**

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PLEASE CHARGE MY (CIRCLE ONE) VISA

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CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____ / _____
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(Code on back of card)

SIGNATURE _____

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Phone: 785-579-6761 www.1stid.org



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* * * * THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT * * * *

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REGULAR \$35 per year
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 80 + \$100

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Bridgehead Sentinel

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FREE – 2 Year Membership for ACTIVE-DUTY SOLDIERS



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QUARTERMASTER

1 - Big Red 1 Insulated
Coffee Mug 15oz



2 - Auto License Plate



3 - Baseball Cap Society



4 - 1st ID Baseball
Cap Desert Storm



5 - Baseball Cap -
Gray 1 ID



6 - Baseball Cap - 1 ID
(Black, Tan or White)



6a - Baseball Cap -
OIF/OEF



7 - 1 ID or SFID Visor (Black or White)



8 - "BIG RED ONE"
Insulated 20oz
Tumbler (Black)



9 - Bumper Stickers
(DS/Iraq/Afghan)



10 - Desert Storm Coin



11 - Charm Women's 1ID
(Chain not included)



12 - 1st ID Brooch



13 - Lady Victory
Brooch (2")



14 - Lady Victory Lapel
Pin (3/4" or 1")



15 - Lady Victory
Necklace



16 - Lapel Pin
(1 1/4" or 2")



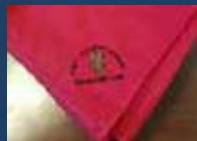
17 - Miniature
Badge CAB



18 - Miniature Badge
CIB, CIB 2nd



20 - Tie w/ 1 ID Patch



21 - Shoulder Patch
(Red, Subdued or Desert)



22 - Coin 1st Infantry
Division/Lady Victory



23 - Ultra Men's Polo Shirts
(Red/Black)



24 - Coffee Mug (11 oz) 1 ID - Lady Victory



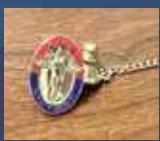
25 - 100 Year Print (Unframed)



26 - 1 ID Duty First
Socks



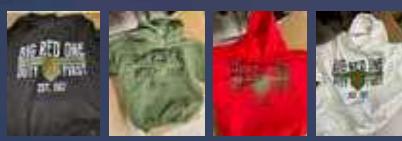
27 - Tie Tack
Lady Victory



28* - 2022 Pull Over Hoodies
(limited quantity)



29* - 2023 Version Pull Over Hoodies



30* - Men's Golf Shirts
(Port Authority - Older
Version)



31* - Ultra Men's
Polo Shirts
(2x Green & 1 Gray)



32* - Women's Golf Shirts
(Port Authority - Older
Version)



33* - Zipper
Hoodie
(Very limited quantity)



34. 1st Infantry Big Red One Crewnecks



35. Big Red One Mesh Cap
with border



36. Big Red 1
Mesh Cap



*Call for sizes or look online for availability (785-579-6761)

37. All Black Big Red 1 Mesh Cap w/ White Border



38. Golf Ball, Poker Chip and T Set



39. Embroidered Golf Towel



40. 1st Infantry Big Red 1 Shirt



41. Big Red 1 Drip Crewneck



42. Big Red 1 Drip T-Shirt



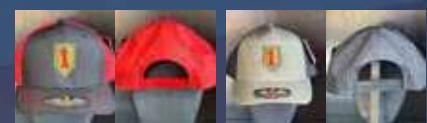
43. 1st Infantry License Plate Cover



44. Society of the First Infantry Division Stickers



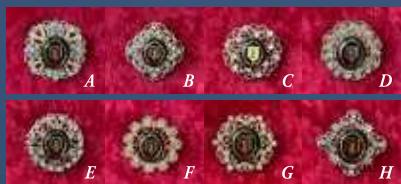
45. Centered Big Red 1 Perforated Snapback Hat



46. 1st Infantry Big Red 1 Full Zip Hoodie



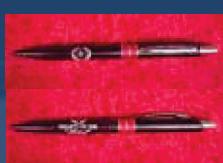
47. 1st ID Brooch (multiple styles)



48. BRO Patch Sticker Matte 3"



49. Society of The First Infantry Division ballpoint pen



50. 1st Infantry 6oz Hip Flask



51. Big Red 1 Embroidered Left Chest Nike Polo (Red, Dark Gray, Black)



52. Big Red 1 Wreath Snapback Trucker Cap Black/Charcoal



53. Big Red 1 Wreath Trucker Cap (Red/White, Black/Khaki)



54. Big Red 1 Embroidered Trucker Cap (Red/White, Black, Black/Charcoal)



55. Big Red 1 Embroidered Snapback Trucker Cap (Loden, Black/Gray, Black)



56. 1st Infantry Big Red 1 Long Sleeve T-shirt (Black, Red)



57. Independent Trading Co Big Red 1 Embroidered Half Zip Pullover (Army, Black Heathered)



58. Columbia Black Heathered Big Red 1 Embroidered Half Zip Pullover



59. Big Red 1 Stripped Duty First Fleece Crewneck (Light Gray, Oatmeal Heathered)



60. Big Red 1 Stripped Duty 1st T-Shirt (Dark Heathered Gray, Light Olive)



*Call for sizes or look online for availability (785-579-6761)

Item #		Cost	Qty	Circle Size/Type	Circle Color	Total
1	"THE BIG RED ONE" Insulated coffee mug 15 oz	22.00	11		Red	
2	Auto License Plate	15.00	58			
3	Baseball Cap- SFID w/wreath	20.00	6/5		White/Tan	
4	Baseball Cap-Desert Storm	20.00	1		Black	
5	Baseball Cap-1ID Gray	20.00	11		Gray	
6	Baseball Cap-1ID (writing)	20.00	11		White/Black/Tan	
6a	Baseball Cap - OIF/OEF	20.00	10		Black	
7	1 ID/SFID Visor	22.00	4	1 ID/SFID	3 White/ 1 Black	
8	"THE BIG RED ONE" Insulated Tumbler 20 oz	12.00	24		Black	
9	Bumper Sticker Afghanistan	5.00	22	DS/Iraq/Afghan		
	Bumper Sticker Iraq	5.00	2			
	Bumper Sticker Big Red 1	5.00	19			
10	Coin-Desert Storm	4.00	9			
11	Charm Women's 1ID (no chain)	10.00	85			
12	1 st ID Brooch	20.00	8	Various styles of 1 st ID brooch		
13	Lady V Brooch	15.00	35			
14	Lady Victory or 1 ID Lapel Pin	8/10	8/211	Small ¾" /Regular 1"		
15	Lady Victory Necklace	11.00	3			
16	1 ID Lapel Pin	10.00	11	Regular (1½")		
17	Miniature Badge	12.00	9	CAB		
18	Miniature Badge	12.00	5	CIB/CIB 2 nd		
20	1 ID Red Blanket	20.00	3	1ID	Size is 50" x 60"	
21	Shoulder Patch	4.00	582	Red/Subdued/Desert		
22	Coin-1 st IID/Lady V	15.00	16			
23	Ultra Men's Polo Shirts	40.00	43	Red/Black		
24	Coffee Mug (11 oz) 1ID-Lady Victory	12.00	9	Additional options on website		
25	100 Year Print	20.00	34	Approx.: 18"x36 ½"	Unframed	
26	1ID Duty First Socks	12.00	63			
27	Tie Tack	10.00	9	Lady Victory only		
28	2022 Pull over Hoodie	32/35.00	3	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes* limited amount	
29	2023 pull over Hoodie	35/38.00	38	Red, Black, Green White	*Call For Sizes*	
30	Golf Shirt Men's Port Authority	40.00	11	Red, Black, Green, Gray	*Call For Sizes* *Call For Sizes*	
31	Polo Shirt Men's Ultra	40.00	2/1	Green or Gray		
32	Golf Shirt Women's Port Authority	35.00	48	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes*	
33	Zipper Hoodie (Unisex)	35.00	1	Black	*Call For Sizes* limited amount	
34	1 st Infantry Big Red One Crewnecks	30.00	33	Black, Navy, Gray	*Call For Sizes*	
35	Big Red One Mesh Cap with Border	28.00	9	Black/Red with White Border		
36	Big Red 1 Mesh Cap	30.00	0	Black/Red		
37	All black Big Red 1 Mesh Cap w / white border	28.00	11	Blackish Gray		
38	Golf Ball, Poker and T set	15.00	74			
39	Embroidered Golf Towel	13.00	100	Black		
40	1 st Infantry Big Red 1 Shirt	18.00	9/11	Black, Red	*Call For Sizes*	
41	Big Red 1 Drip Crewneck	32.00	20	Heathered Army Green	*Call For Sizes*	
42	Big Red 1 Drip T-shirt	18.00	23 /21	Heathered Red, Heathered Green	*Call For Sizes*	
43	1 st Infantry License Plate Cover	8.00	91	Black		
44	Society Of The First Infantry Division Stickers	2.00	16	Logo		
45	Centered Big Red 1 Perforated Snapback Hat	30.00	9 /10	Black/Red, Black/Olive		
46	1 st Infantry Big Red 1 Full Zip Hoodie	42.00	18/ 25/ 17	Purple, Black, Red	*Call For Sizes*	
47	1 st ID Brooch	15.00	8	Multiple Styles A/B/C/D/E/F/G/H	1 each	
48	BRO Patch Sticker Matte 3"	1.50				
49	Society of The First Infantry Division Ballpoint Pen	1.50				
50	1 st Infantry 6oz Hip Flask	13.00				
51	Big Red 1 Embroidered Left Chest Nike Polo	50.00		Red, Dark Gray, Black	*Call For Sizes*	
52	Big Red 1 Wreath Snapback Trucker Cap	28.00		Black/Charcoal		
53	Big Red 1 Wreath Trucker Cap	28.00		Red/White, Black/Khaki		
54	Big Red 1 Embroidered Trucker Cap	25.00		Red/White, Black, Black/Charcoal		
55	Big Red 1 Embroidered Snapback Trucker Cap	26.00		Loden, Black/ Gray, Black		
56	1 st Infantry Big Red 1 Long Sleeve T-shirt	27.00		Black, Red	*Call For Sizes*	
57	Independent Trading Co Big Red 1 Embroidered Half Zip Pullover	50.00		Army, Black Heathered	*Call For Sizes*	
58	Columbia Black Heathered Big Red 1 Embroidered Half Zip Pullover	70.00		Black Heathered	*Call For Sizes*	
59	Big Red 1 Stripped Duty First Fleece Crewneck	35.00		Light Gray, Oatmeal Heathered	*Call For Sizes*	
60	Big Red 1 Stripped Duty 1 st T-Shirt	25.00		Dark Heathered Gray, Light Olive	*Call For Sizes*	

NOTE Shipping Charge is \$10.50

FALL/WINTER 2025 ORDER FORM

Mail to:

Quartermaster Society
of the 1st Infantry Division
P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Previous order forms are no longer valid. Please use this form only until next issue.

New Items Coming to Our
Quartermaster Web Store!
Check it out:
1std.org/quartermaster

SUB-TOTAL _____

KS Residents Only ADD 7.75%

for state sales tax +(x .0775) _____

Overseas Orders ADD 10% +(x .10) _____

+\$10.50 Shipping Charge _____

TOTAL _____

Make checks payable to: Society of the
First Infantry Division

Payment method (circle one):
Cash, Check, Visa, MC, Amex, Discover

Card Number _____

Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____
(e.g. 08/25)

Security Code _____
(Back of card)

Signature _____



