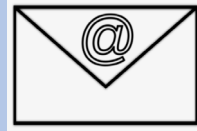


February 2025



e-letter



Division in Vietnam



60th Anniversary of the
1st Brigade's Arrival in Country

Report to Members

- The **National Salute to Veteran Patients Week** each year is an opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, the more than 9 million Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes. During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and Veteran recognition programs. The week also provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical center.
- If you have a Facebook Account you should check out our **Facebook Page** where we provide items of interest for our members (and potential members) as well as up to date information about Association events and activities. We also encourage you to **share our page** with your Facebook Friends and/or Facebook Groups. It's a great and easy way to create interest in our Association and to promote membership.
- Let's show our support for our deployed troops by wearing red on Fridays. Currently 101 AVN, 716th MPs and Division Sustainment have soldiers deployed. 2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team will deploy to Eastern Europe soon to support NATO partners.

Airborne! Air Assault!

Randal Underhill

Executive Director

Bart Di Giovanni

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2025 CALENDAR

Red Shirt Fridays (RED=Remember Everyone Deployed.)

Wear a red shirt on Fridays to show support of all deployed service members.

February

24 – OPERATION DESERT STORM (1991)
G-Day – Objective Cobra secured by 1st Brigade

March

4 - Hug a GI Day
10 - Start Daylight Savings Time
13 - K-9 Veterans Day
17 - St. Patrick's Day
19 - First Day of Spring
20 - OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (2003)
G-Day – 3rd Brigade Crosses the Berm
25 - National Medal of Honor Day
29 - National Vietnam War Veteran's Day
31 – Easter Sunday



OPERATION DESERT STORM Remembering G-Day

On February 24, 1991, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) invaded Iraq, launching an air assault on Objective Cobra, deep into enemy territory. The 1st BDE, commanded by Colonel James T. Hill, had the mission to secure and establish a Forward Operating Base (FOB) and a Forward Area Refueling Point (FARP) at the objective. Just as the World War II Paratroopers who had assembled and tried to sleep under the wings of their C-47s on the night prior to D-Day, on the night prior to G-Day, the troops assembled and tried to sleep near their Blackhawk helicopters.

After a fog-shrouded delay (H-Hour was designated as 0600 hours), at 0825 hours, 1/327, the lead battalion, assaulted the objective. As the troops dismounted, Apache and Cobra attack helicopters engaged an Iraqi bunker complex. After being pounded for 90 minutes by infantry small arms fire, TOW missiles, artillery and close air support (USAF F-16s and A-10s), the entrenched Iraqi battalion surrendered. At 1039 hours, the objective was reported as secure. DISCOM soldiers immediately went to work setting up the FARP, connecting blivets, hoses and pumps as sling-loaded, 1,500-gallon gas bags were being delivered by Chinook. Within two hours, sixteen refuel points for Blackhawks and Chinooks, plus eight more for Apaches were set-up and pumping. FOB Cobra was open for business!

Keeping up with our Division:

New Army Rifle, Machine Gun and Optic

The Army's newest rifle and automatic rifle, known as the XM7 and XM250, respectively, along with its advanced optic, the XM157 fire control, was delivered to a platoon in the 101st Airborne Division in late September. That platoon, along with a squad from the 75th Ranger Regiment, has been conducting user tests. The test feedback will be used to make any adjustments before the Army ramps up for full fielding.

The XM7 will replace the M4 for close combat units such as infantry, scouts, combat engineers and special operations forces. The XM250 will replace the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon for the same units (the weapons and optics will drop the "X" in their names once fielded.). Non-close combat forces will continue to carry the M4 and M249 for the foreseeable future.

The M4 and M249 fire the 5.56mm round while the XM7 and XM250 fire the recently developed 6.8mm cartridge. The Army began development of the "intermediate caliber" to better defeat enemy body armor and increase both accuracy and lethality at longer ranges. The heavier round provides better penetration and outperforms the 7.62mm round used in the M240 machine gun system, typically found at the platoon level. The increased energy of the round also allows shooters to penetrate barriers that deflected 5.56mm rounds.

The fire control allows for computer-aided ballistics, matching the round and weapon with the optic for better accuracy. The shooter can aim at the target, push a button on the weapon or optic and it will automatically adjust for distance and bullet drop, allowing the user to adjust fire rapidly. The fire control has preprogrammed ballistics information and can be fit to nearly any small arms weapon system in the Army's inventory.

The Army is building a separate ammunition production line at the Lake City Ammunition Plant in Missouri, while Sig Sauer, the firearm producer, which has a 10-year contract, is churning out 6.8mm rounds at a facility in Arkansas. The 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division should receive delivery and be equipped with the new weapons by March.

(information condensed from an article in Army Times)

UPCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

- **Memorial Day** (Wreaths placed at 101st Airborne Division Monument at Arlington National Cemetery) – May 26, 2025. Washington, DC. Hosted by the National Capital Chapter. POC: Bob Ponzo, Tel: (540) 659-7212, email: oznopsf@gmail.com
- **Week of the Eagles** – June 9-15, 2025. 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY
- **Annual Reunion**, August 20 through 23rd, Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819. More info to come on www.screamingingeagle.org