



### President's Corner May 2025



### Regulars,

Spring is my favorite time of year.



This spring, I spent time building a mountain house in Southern Colorado. Other things of note: **David Allin** has found an excellent venue for our May 2026 Reunion (The Sheraton in Oklahoma City,

Oklahoma) and he will provide some details in this Newsletter. Our active duty battalion Triple Deuce will be deploying from the Middle East back to their home station - Ft Drum, NY this summer. Also the Triple Deuce will be holding a Battalion Ball this October 3, contact **Dave Thomas** ([david.n.thomas.2@gmail.com](mailto:david.n.thomas.2@gmail.com)) if you would like to attend and buy a beverage for our Regulars and warfighters. We had our French 22nd Infantry President (**Loic Parent**) and Historian (**Julien Woestyn**) visit Ft Drum and Washington DC. **Chris Tuccio** wrote up an article about the visit for this quarter's newsletter. An excellent read.

I received a note from **Sue Millikan** last month; she emailed me a picture of her mom, **Phyllis Worthman** (widow of WW II veteran **John Worthman**), Carrie (my wife) and I from the Syracuse Reunion. These are the



relationships that are: "the tie that binds" our society together.

Remember to mark your Calendars

and prepare to attend the 22nd Infantry Regiment Reunion in Oklahoma City in May 2026! I don't want any excuses for not joining your brethren and fellow warriors in camaraderie and lively conversations remembering the past and discussing each other's futures and families!

Check out the new 22nd Infantry Webpage and please feel free to provide me some

[feedback: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society - 22nd Infantry, Veterans, Army.](#)

Forward the URL for fellow soldiers that want to join the society: [Society and Membership \(22ndinfantry.org\)](#). We continue to work on establishing a duties and responsibilities handbook for all future officers within the 22nd Infantry Society to carry on our organization and traditions.

I think that gets everyone up to date from February. As always, I want to thank all of you for your service to this amazing country! Freedom is not Free, it is paid for with the blood of the current generation holding the baton to keep this country free. I want to thank my heroes, the Vietnam warriors -

without you, my life experience would be much different.

“Deeds Not Words”!!

*Mark*

Mark S. Woempner

President 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regimental Society

**A 22nd Infantry soldier was featured on the cover of Time magazine.**



The cover of Time magazine for March 15, 2004 prominently displayed in its center a photo of **Specialist Cody Hoefer**, of Ballantine, Montana.

Cody Hoefer was at the time the personal driver for **Lieutenant Colonel Steve Russell**, Commander of 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry 1st Raider Brigade 4th Infantry Division. This was on the first deployment of the 4th Infantry Division to Iraq, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003-2004.

Several months prior to this issue of the magazine being published, a reporting team from Time visited with the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq, and interviewed and photographed various units and personnel of the Division.

Time spokesman **Ty Trippet** said Hoefer's photo on the magazine cover was selected for its visual appeal. The

magazine featured articles on the course of the war in Iraq.

Cody's father, **Bill Hoefer**, said it's fitting that Cody's image appears with a story about the conflict in Iraq. "I think the photographer could see he's the epitome of the American soldier," said Hoefer, a heavy equipment operator. "His mom says he was born with camouflage on." "He eats, sleeps and breathes military," Bill Hoefer said.

Cody graduated from Huntley Project High School in Worden, Montana in 2000. He ran track and played on the high school's Red Devils championship football team. He joined the National Guard at 17, and participated in tasks such as helping control wildfires. In 2003 Cody transferred to the Regular Army and was assigned to 1-22 Infantry in the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

"He wanted to go to Iraq to make America safer for his little sister," his dad said. Some years later, when the 22nd Infantry Regiment monument at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia was in the planning stage, it was decided by the monument creators that a statue would be placed in front of the monument. That statue would represent a soldier of the Regiment, who would stand guard over the monument, and keep watch over the names of the Regiment's soldiers that were killed in action, which were engraved on the monument.

For the statue, the monument creators chose the image of Cody Hoefer, as presented on the cover of Time magazine, to be their eternal guard of the monument. "I wanted to have one of our 'Regulars'," Lieutenant Colonel Russell said. "I can't think of anyone greater."

The bronze Soldier statue was sculpted by **Robert Summers**, a sculptor known for his bronze renderings of **John Wayne**, **Byron Nelson** and **John Chisum**, as well as for the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On June 23, 2015 the 22nd Infantry monument was dedicated on the Walk Of Honor at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning Georgia. During the ceremony Cody Hoefer unveiled the statue bearing his likeness, which was the official act that dedicated the monument.

The illustration shows the Time magazine cover featuring Specialist Cody Hoefer.

At the right is a photo of the statue representing Cody Hoefer, standing guard in front of the 22nd Infantry monument at Fort Benning.

**Micheal Belis, DMOR**  
**C/1-22 VN**

### **Oklahoma City Reunion 2026**

Mark your calendars, our next 22<sup>nd</sup> IRS reunion is **May 13-17, 2026**, in exciting downtown Oklahoma City. It will be at the Sheraton, which is located at Main and Broadway, the center of the downtown area. Within easy walking distance are numerous attractions, including the Bricktown entertainment district, the Bricktown canal and riverwalk, the Paycom Center where the OKC Thunder plays, the Bricktown ballpark for our AAA baseball team, the Myriad Botanical Gardens, the National Banjo Museum, beautiful Scissortail Park, the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and Museum, a



huge Bass Pro Shop, and more. And if you don't like to walk, there is a trolley system that runs a couple loops to all the sights, and costs only a \$1, \$0.50 for seniors.



A short drive away are more things to see and do, such as the Lincoln Park golf course, the OKC Zoo, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the First Americans Museum, the Riversports Adventure area (site for the 2028 Olympics kayaking event), the Okana resort and giant waterpark, and the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Museum.

Oklahoma City is at the center of the nation, at the intersection of I-35, I-40, and I-44, if you are driving, and home of Will Rogers International Airport if you fly. The hotel is 15 minutes from the airport, and four blocks from the interstate. There is a city parking garage right next to the hotel, with a covered walkway connecting it. You won't find a more convenient location for a reunion.

Details and registration information will be coming out closer to the time of the event, but start thinking about it now. We believe this will be the best reunion ever.

**David Allin**

### **2/22 Returning Home**

Redeployment time is right around the corner for the soldiers of "Triple Deuce" here at Fort Drum. While our men and women prepare to leave Syria, Iraq and Kuwait, the Rear Detachment here at Drum is also preparing for their return.

At the direction of the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, gift baskets are being assembled for each Single Soldier that include personal items, snacks and drinks, and at least three frozen meals. Also in the



works: getting gift cards and discounts on meals from local restaurants and even trying to get some cruise tickets from Uncle Sam Boat Tours up in Alexandria Bay.

OPSEC, of course, is top priority, and the dates are always subject to change, but according to a broad-strokes timeline, the Battalion will begin redeployment operations sometime in July and finish sometime in August. There are plans for a ball on October 3, 2025, with more information to come.

For those Alpha Company alumni out there, there was a change of command ceremony last month and **CPT Andrew Lee** relinquished command to **CPT Elisha Lewis**, and has since returned home to Fort Drum. CPT Lee has been an outstanding commander with Anvil Company and will be missed.

**SSG (RET) David N. Thomas II, DMOR**  
HHC 1998-2003  
*"DEEDS NOT WORDS!"*

### **Tough Ruck 2025**



We look forward to this weekend each year. The mission, the reunification of friends, the chaos of it all—there is nothing quite like it. There is nothing quite as special as being part of the 2/22 family.

I have so many people to thank for making the support operations possible, especially my children. For the last 3 years they've spent the holiday weekend serving hundreds of Marathoners during this Military Friends

and Family event. Each year they demonstrate commitment, compassion, and leadership that fills me with pride to be their mom.

**Dez Brown**

Tough Ruck #9 completed, what a great weekend. Always a pleasure to see my veteran brothers and catch up. Our team did outstanding on fundraising again, THANK YOU to all that helped us meet our goal! It was a pleasure to see **Dawn DeCiccio** and **Beth Tasca** out there for Adam.

And as always sad to see the weekend end. Until next year.. DNW

**Bruce T. Kosmicki**

It was a real "full circle" moment to have my son **Tyler Fielding** hang out with my Team 2/22 INF Tough Ruck 2025 brothers 20 years after I left for Baghdad with my Triple Deuce teammates ... leaving him behind growing on his own as a young man doing great things in high school while my brothers and I were 6,000 miles away fighting for the chance to simply get back home and reunite with him and all of our families.

It meant a great deal to me to see him out on the Tough Ruck course with the names of two of our fallen Triple Deuce teammates, **Adam Deciccio (Dawn DeCiccio)** and **Tyler Pickett (Kristy Pickett)** on yellow ribbons pinned to HIS ruck. Adam and Tyler were also like sons to me ... and so ... now ... they are Tyler's brothers, too. Tyler teaches 6th graders in a school district full of kids whose parents serve and fight with the 10th Mountain Division. I can't think of a better example or supporter in the classroom for those kids with deployed moms and dads.



Thank you son. I'm proud of you and love you, not just for putting in the 26.2 miles but for

being a resilient young man, and a good husband and father.

**Kevin Brown**

Spent a great Easter with some amazing people at Tough Ruck Boston, a full 26.2 marathon with a weighted ruck sack on your back, run in honor of fallen soldiers, fireman and police to raise money for their charities and part of the Boston Marathon. I volunteered as part of the sandwich slingers at an aid station along the route, supporting the 2/22 Infantry. Very rewarding day!. The band of brothers bond carries over to family as well.

**Kathy Lilley**

**Members of the Twenty Second Infantry Regiment (France) visit with the soldiers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, the Triple Deuce.**



[Lt] Loic Parent and [SSG] Juilen Woestyn (22INF France), are historical re-enactors from France and Belgium.

The duo have been planning a trip abroad to visit the last remaining Battalion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment for the past year with the assistance of **Chris Tuccio**, HHC 2/22 (1996-2004). Parent and Woestyn are the driving force behind the Twenty Second Infantry Regiment (France). The 22INF(France) was born from the stories and historical accounts of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division veteran, **Isaac Curtis Phillips**, who served with the Regiment until being wounded in battle. After which Phillips ultimately met and married his wife **Arelette**. The couple lived in Belgium until Isaac passed in 2021. The 22INF(France) re-enact the battles of the Battalion, from Normandy to the Siegfried line where Isaac was seriously wounded.

A longtime dream of Parent and Woestyn was to visit Fort Drum and have a firsthand experience at the place where the last remaining Battalion of the



Regiment is stationed. Chris Tuccio arranged for Loic and Julien to travel to Fort Drum and visit the last Battalion of the Regiment. While the Battalion is currently deployed forward, Tuccio assisted by **David Thomas** HHC 2/22, along with **Captain Jack Smith**, the rear detachment XO made the trip possible.



Once at Fort Drum, Loic and Julien got to experience life in the army, the way that all soldiers start their day, with a trip to the DFAC. Once at the "Chow Hall", they were joined by **Captain Reyes** and **SFC Sommers** the Rear Detachment Commander and NCOIC. After breakfast, the group made its way over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Headquarters where Loic and Julein

were able to trace the history of the Regiment through historical and original photos and other items.

Next up was a trip down to HHC, where we met **Sgt. Oliynyk** a HHC Medic who took the time to lay out his aid bag and take questions



about how army medics have evolved from WW2 battlefields to current combat operations. The group also got to inspect



some modern issued equipment. This included an 81mm mortar to a pair of sniper rifles. The group had the pleasure of spending

some time talking with and learning from the next generation of warfighters in the Regiment.

Tuccio, Parent, and Woestyn continued to Washington DC after Fort Drum for a few days where they got to walk Arlington Cemetery, paying their respects at the grave of **Col Lanham**, the Regiment's Commander in WW2, various monuments and even a trip to the Capitol building, before heading back to Belgium. Hopefully with stories and memories to pass on to the membership of the 22INF(France). Regardless, Parent and Woestyn continue to live by the Battalion motto of "Deeds, Not Words!"

**Chris Tuccio**  
HHC, 2/22, 1996-2004

### 2025 Scholarships

We are now accepting applications for the 2025 Scholarship. Requirements for scholarship:

- A. Served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment.
- B. Be a direct relation (son, daughter, or grandchild of person that served with 22nd Infantry Regiment. (To include legally adoptive child)
- C. Be an active member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, with five (5) years of current active membership. Deceased must have had five (5) of active membership.

Applications should be received by **July 31, 2025**

If you would like a scholarship application or have questions, please contact Skip Fahel at

eqf2231@gmail.com

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

Soldiers assigned to 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Courage, conduct mortar live-fire and reconnaissance training during Exercise Jade Chameleon 25.1 in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.



Exercises like Jade Chameleon 25.1 develop U.S. and Jordanian service members and enable increased military capacity to address threats to regional security.

### TAPS

**Gary W. Orum**, of Wadsworth, OH, passed away on January 5, 2022. Gary served with B Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in 1968-69.

**Timothy R. Hall**, of Hampton Roads, VA, passes away on February 12, 2025. Tim served with B Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division during the Global War on Terror.

**Joesph "Doc" O'Neill**, of Milwaukie, OR, passed away on March 9, 2025. "Doc" O'Neill served with HHC/A Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in Iraq 2005-06.

### Lest You Forget—What the 22nd Infantry Regiment Did for You:

1. Gave you the opportunity to serve your country in a proud and prestigious national unit.
2. Gave you buddies who stuck by you
3. and hardship.
4. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.
5. Gave you treasured lifetime friends markedly improving the quality of your life.

**MG (Ret) John F. Ruggles**  
**Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment**





Bumper sticker \$3.00



Challenge Coins

One coin: \$12.00. Shipping included  
 Five Coins: \$11.00 each +\$8.00 Shipping  
 10 Coins: \$10.00 each + \$16.00 shipping  
 15 coins: \$9.00 each + \$24.00 Shipping  
 20 Coins: \$8.00 each + \$32.00 shipping



Divisional Pins  
 Small \$5.00  
 Large \$7.00  
 Shipping is \$6.00 per pin\*\*



Coasters: \$7.00 each. Shipping for 2, \$3.00 \*\*



Mini Flag: \$5.00  
 Shipping: \$6.00\*\*



CIB/DUI: \$12.00  
 Shipping : \$6.00 \*\*



22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Crossed Rifles: \$14.00 per set  
 Shipping: \$6.00\*\*



Mini CIB: \$5.00. Midi CIB: \$7.00  
 Shipping: \$6.00 \*\*



Blazer Patch: \$10.00  
 Shipping: \$3.00\*\*



Unit Crest [DUI] \$7.00  
 Shipping: \$6.00 \*\*



Mouse Pad: \$5.00  
 Shipping: \$3.00 \*\*

**\*\*These item shipped without charge if ordered with hats or shirts.**



Denim Long  
Sleeve Shirts  
\$43.00 sizes  
Small to XL  
\$46.00 sizes  
XXL & XXXL

Shipping  
\$12.00

Other colors of  
shirts are  
available. Add  
\$5.00 to above  
prices. See  
instructions on  
order form to  
place special  
orders

Royal Blue  
Short Sleeve  
Polo Shirt  
with pocket.  
\$32.00 sizes  
Small to XL  
\$35.00 sizes  
XXL & XXXL



All Hats:  
\$20.00 one  
size fits all



### SHIPPING

One hat: \$6.00 Two hats or One Polo Shirt: \$6.50  
One hat and one shirt or Polo shirt: \$8.00  
Two Shirts: \$12.00  
Denim Long Sleeve Shirt: \$12.00  
One hat and one Denim shirt \$13.00  
Add \$5.00 for each additional item



Monument T-Shirt: \$19.00 sizes small to XL  
\$22.00 XXL & XXXL

**"All prices are Suggested Donations."**

**Make checks payable to: 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society**

Send orders to: Jim May  
P.O. Box 665  
Norridgewock, ME 04957  
Phone: 207-634-3355. E-mail: jlmay@tds.net

If I'm out of something, I'll let you know  
when to expect it. If you'd like something  
special, let me know

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Order Form

Item 1: \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_ Item 2: \_\_\_\_\_ size: \_\_\_\_\_

Item 3: \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_ Item 4: \_\_\_\_\_ size: \_\_\_\_\_

Other items: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Shipping Charges: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_