



CHARGE!

Volume 23 Number 4

Honoring You, Honoring Our Regiment

December 2023

From the Saddlebag

Christmas Gift Idea

Give your special guy the lasting gift of an inscribed black marble brick for placement at the foundation of the 14th Cavalry Regiment Memorial Monument.



Order a 4-inch by 8-inch or an 8-inch by 8-inch brick online at the Association's website at www.14cav.org. At the top of the home page, click on "Monument."

Watch your inbox for more information about our Memorial Brick/Paver sales program.

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Rarest of Experiences Await Cold War & Today's 14 CAV Troopers

Cold War vets of the 14th CAV have a rare opportunity to relive the experiences of their days in Fulda. 21st Century veteran and Active Duty 14th CAV troopers have an equally rare opportunity to learn first-hand the life of the "Border CAV" along the East-West German border as it faced Warsaw Pact and Soviet forces from the end of WW II to 1972.

2024 Regimental Reunion, 17-22 Sept., Fulda, Germany

The 14th Cavalry Association will hold its 2024 Regimental Reunion 17-22 September in Fulda, Germany, to honor the service and legacy of our Cold War members. Do not miss this opportunity to experience days gone by and reconnect with fellow Troopers from back in the day!

We know this is a long trip, but we want to honor and show our appreciation to our Germany Veteran members by providing an opportunity to visit the grounds and memories of yesterday. We also believe it is important to share a sense of our traditions and legacy with our more recent members. We are making every effort to minimize cost while providing value for your money and time.

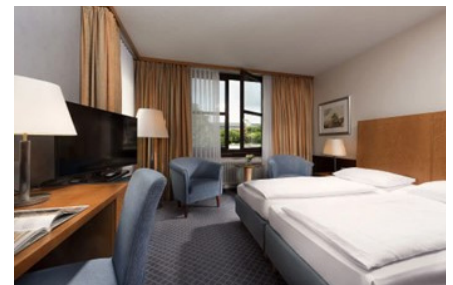
Modern Hotel in Picturesque Setting

Although arrangements are not completely finalized, we expect our Reunion hotel to be the Maritim Hotel in Fulda.



The face and gardens of Fulda's state-of-the-art Maritim Hotel, directly across from City palace and a short walk to old town city center.

Amidst the greenery of this baroque city, directly in view of the picturesque Fulda Castle Garden, you will experience the unique combination of classic ambience and state-of-the-art facilities that make every stay in Fulda a memorable experience. We suspect it could be a little different than any memories you may have of your barracks or government quarters, but we will leave that for you to decide.



Guest room at the Maritim Hotel.

Details about how to reserve a room at our group rate will be forthcoming.

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Commander's Hatch

Greetings 14th Cavalry Troopers!

I hope this letter finds you and your families doing well as we approach the Holiday Season and a New Year. The year 2024 will be an eventful and exciting one for our 14th Cavalry Association.

Let's Go and Let's Grow

Our Association made several exciting decisions during our business meeting at the Reunion at San Antonio this past July. One of the first was to hold our next Reunion in Fulda, Germany to honor the service of those who served in the Regiment during the Cold War era and stood guard between Western Europe and the forces of Communism. Jim Dunivan, our new Association Secretary, currently works in Germany and he is serving as our lead planner for this important event. A second decision was to waive Association Fees for new members for two years (to 1 Jul 25). Our intent with this decision is to GROW our Association. The only way our community will thrive is if we expand our membership into the younger generations of 14th Cavalry Troopers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan

and those who are now preparing for operations throughout our world. Our hope is that eliminating the Association Membership Fees will expand our membership. Now is the time to get your fellow troopers to join. Joining the Association is a fast, easy, and free way to maintain the friendships and comradery of our 14th Cavalry community.

Leadership Team

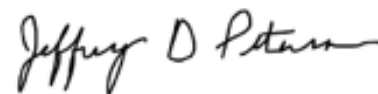
I am so grateful for our new 14th Cavalry Association Leadership team. After multiple years of service as our Association Secretary, Max Whipps has transferred those responsibilities to Jim Dunivan, who is now our official Association Secretary after a unanimous vote by the Executive Council. We all thank Max for his selfless and critical service. Our Association is well positioned for the future thanks to his hard work and dedication. Adam DeWinne has assumed full responsibilities a Treasurer. I am confident that our leadership team will effectively manage our growth for several years to come.

Squadron Reports

As you can see from the Squadron Situation Reports, the Rattlesnake and Warhorse Troopers of 14th Cavalry are maintaining their readiness for whatever mission they may face in an increasingly dangerous world. They are continuing the legacy of providing Scouts who will rise to overcome any challenge. They make me proud and I'm sure you feel the same.

I am honored to be part of your team. I wish all of you a very happy Holiday Season and a prosperous 2024. I hope to see you at our Reunion in Germany!

Honoring You, Honoring Our Regiment!



Jeff Peterson, Col., U.S. Army, Ret.
President, 14th Cavalry Association

CSM's Corner

Stable Call

I want to remind everyone about our quarterly virtual "Stable Call." It has been well received, and it's a great opportunity to reconnect and interact with fellow veterans. However, the past two stable calls have seen limited participation, so I hope you all pass the word on to your fellow veterans to increase participation.

The dates and times are always announced by email and are posted on our Facebook page.

Renew Membership, Build Membership

I know you have heard this before, but I want to reiterate: #1- We need you to renew your membership and,

#2- We need you to reach out to those who served in the Regiment and encourage them to join!

Membership is now free, at least for the next two years.

Watch for Coming News on Website & Facebook

We are in the final planning stages for our 2024 Reunion in Fulda, Germany, so periodically check our web page and Facebook page for updates: www.14cav.org and www.14cav.org/facebook

Rare, Memorable 2024 Reunion

Our 2024 reunion promises to be

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CHARGE! is online at www.14cav.org under "News" at top of page.

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Send membership renewals and changes in membership information to Secretary at the address above.



1st Squadron “Warhorse” SITREP



We hope the coming holidays find members and their families of our Regiment doing well.

The Warhorse has been fighting hard for the last few months to prepare our Troopers for our collective training cycle and future deployment to the National Training Center (NTC). We closed out Force Modernization with receipt of the last increment of Double-V Hull Strykers in September, giving 1-14 CAV the newest fleet of Strykers in the Army.

Following the July and September Stryker fieldings, the Squadron deployed to Yakima Training Center (YTC) in August and October to test and train, and build familiarity and expertise, with our new equipment.

Thru the summer heat of August and the freezing cold of October, we transitioned from a Dismount Reconnaissance Squadron to a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron. Forty-five plus days of field training allowed the Squadron to complete Small Arms Densities, CROWS-J and ATVV Gunnery, MCVV MORTEP, multiple PLT STX and LFX iterations, and M/C Node establishment. Additionally, we executed several YTC road trips, ensuring we brought our Troopers home safely. During both YTC deployments, the Squadron executed long duration, extended sustainment across well over 60 km of space. We ended our October trip to YTC, OP GHOST LORRAINE, with a multi-echelon live fire exercise, which allowed Troop Commanders to plan, maneuver, and integrate all Troop ISR and fires capabilities, to include Attack Aviation and 1-37 FA's 155 mm howitzers. To cap our collective training, the Squadron's leaders will go to NTC and execute LTP to sharpen our planning and vertical integration.



SPC Garcia, Warhorse 3G (HHT / 1-14 CAV), conducts a ramp brief with the TAC and Fires convoy prior to a nighttime movement at Yakima Training Center (YTC).



PVT Regis (B TRP / 1-14 CAV) leads a class on proper wear of CBRN PPE and react to a CBRN attack.



CSM Pyle conducts a field board for eligible 1-14 CAV Troopers during GHOST LORRAINE. Congrats to all Troopers that passed the board!



A Trooper from B TRP / 1-14 CAV demonstrates JAVELIN target acquisition as part of concurrent training during Yakima Training Center (YTC).



Troop Commanders, Platoon Leaders, and FIST teams from across the Squadron prepare to execute leader rehearsals in preparation for the Mortar Fire Support Integration Program.



Congratulations to SPC Cifreo (D TRP / 1-14 CAV) for a successful 2200-meter target TOW shoot.

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2nd Squadron “Rattlesnake” SITREP



Happy Holidays to the members of the 14th Cavalry Association!

The Rattlesnakes are looking forward to a relaxing holiday block leave after an incredibly busy few months of training and giving our sister Brigade a fight as the opposing force in their combat training center (CTC) rotation.

The Squadron staff worked hard going into the fall to block off Troop training weeks for Troop command teams to focus on their reconnaissance and security tasks and to get after specific capabilities in their Troops.

Ace Troop focused on their urban reconnaissance progression going from team all the way to Troop echelon training.



Ace Troop conducts urban reconnaissance live fire exercise.

They conducted platoon air assaults into an area reconnaissance of an urban environment and how to gain an initial foothold within an urban environment. Their progression also went from situational training to a live fire exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Bounty Troop returned from Fort Knox, Ky., where it conducted opposing force (OPFOR) attacks on future officers at ROTC cadet summer training and jumped into their lethality weapons focus.

Bounty qualified all their gunners on MK19, M2, and 240B during both day and night firing. Bounty used additional range time on Oahu and the Big Island to really focus on lethality and operating at night.

Charlie Troop, our dismounted reconnaissance troop, focused on the special mobility capabilities they bring to the Brigade. Its 1st Platoon, “Night-



Bounty Troop conducts machine gun ranges to improve lethality in day and night.

mare,” conducted a full progression from individual to platoon Fast Rope Insertion/Extraction Systems (FRIES) and Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction System (SPIES) culminating with a nighttime full combat load FRIES insertion and SPIES extraction. The 2nd Platoon, “Ghost,” completed individual to platoon level waterborne insertion and extraction training.

That consisted of recondo swimming, leaders attending the Marine Corps Coxswains course, individual boat launch site procedures, surf passage, and waterway navigation. These special mobility skills enable reconnaissance into the jungle terrain of the Indo-Pacific.



Ghost platoon conducts surf passage as part of its waterborne mobility training.

We then transitioned to supporting our 3IBCT teammates with their Joint Pacific Multinational Training Center (JPMRC) rotation. Ace provided OPFOR and O/C support for 3IBCT as they conducted their Brigade internal exercise. And the rest of the Squadron deployed to Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island to provide OPFOR for 3IBCT as they air assaulted into PTA and attacked to seize key terrain.



Deploying to PTA on the Big Island of Hawaii.

While the training rotation was focused on 3IBCT, the Squadron used the entire training area to work staff planning, rehearsals, conduct platoon to Squadron situational training, massing indirect fires, and for our Diablo Support Troop to really shine. Diablo Troop conducted field feeding, logistical distribution, more ammo draws and turn ins than we can count, and field maintenance proving that operations are truly driven by logistics. See photos, page 6.

Our OPFOR support at JPMRC really pushed the Squadron to exercise our expeditionary deployment systems, train at every echelon on our reconnaissance and security tasks, and to focus on how we fight utilizing indirect fires from mortars to MRL rockets.

Once we redeployed from PTA, we brought the leaders of the Squadron together for a private tour of the Arizona Memorial and Ford Island with a Pearl

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We Honor George



CSM (Ret.) George DeSario, left, receives the Regimental Memorial Plate from CSM (Ret.) Ray Egan on behalf of the Association.

The Association recently recognized George DeSario for his long and valued support to the Association. He is Director of the Office of Chief of Armor at the U.S Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Ft. Moore (formerly Benning), Ga., a position he has held since 2010.

Throughout the years, George provided invaluable advice with respect to creating and dedicating the 14th Cavalry Regiment Memorial Monument at Patton's Park and our 14th Cavalry Regiment Gallery in Patton Hall of the Armor School, both in 2018, at Ft. Moore.

Earlier, George was Command Sergeant Major of the Army's Armor School at Ft. Knox.

Army Goes Navy

Is the Army becoming a bit more Navy as it adjusts to new roles in the Pacific region? It seems so. It's adopting missiles long in the kit of its sister services, and even developing new cargo vessels.

It's all part of a "multi-year effort" to develop the capabilities the Army will need to provide for the joint force, said Gabe Camarillo, Army undersecretary. "Our role is the linchpin of the Joint Force." Among those capabilities: air- and missile-defense systems, as

well as offensive mid- and long-range fires. The Army can bring SM-6 and Tomahawk missile, weapons long associated with the Navy, to bear on "maritime targets" that threaten U.S. or partners' bases.



The service is also trying to figure out how to keep supplies moving around a vast Pacific theater in wartime. Prepositioned stocks and interior lines are "going to be really critical for us," Camarillo said. "So part of that is ensuring that we have not only the prepositioned capabilities here in the area, but also the ability to move them around within the theater. And that's one of the things the Army is going to be called upon to do. That's why we're investing, for example, in Army watercraft." (*Defense One*)

Tank Upgrade Scrapped

The Army has scrapped its current upgrade plans for the Abrams main battle tank and pursuing a more significant modernization effort to increase its mobility and survivability on the battlefield. Instead, it will develop the M1E3 Abrams focused on challenges the tank is likely to face on the battlefield of 2040 and beyond.

The M1E3 Abrams will "include the best features" of the M1A2 SEPv4 and will be compliant with modular open-systems architecture standards, according to the statement, which will allow for faster and more efficient technology upgrades. This will enable the Army and its commercial partners to design a more survivable, lighter tank that will be more effective on the battlefield at initial fielding and be easier to upgrade in the future.

The Abrams tank "can no longer

grow its capabilities without adding weight, and we need to reduce its logistical footprint," said Maj. Gen. Glenn Dean, the Army's program executive officer for ground combat systems. "The war in Ukraine has highlighted a critical need for integrated protections for soldiers, built from within instead of adding on." (*Defense News*)

Monument Bricks Handoff



CSM (Ret.) Ray Egan, left, and Col. (Ret.) Frank Varljen.

The recently two linked-up to hand off the sales of monument bricks from Frank to Ray, and to inspect our Regimental Memorial Monument (shown) at Ft. Moore. They report, "It's in great shape."

While at the post, they visited the Columbus Monument Co., constructors of our monument and manufacturers (and inscribers) of the black marble bricks ordered by any former or current member of the Regiment for emplacement on both sides of the walkway to the monument.

Working from a monument design approved by members, Frank handled the contract, the installation, and the brick sales, prior to its dedication during our 2018 reunion. Ray will now handle brick sales. Watch your inbox for details on how to order.

Robotic Combat Vehicles

The Army has selected companies to build light robotic combat vehicle

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1st Squadron

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To say I am proud of our Troopers and how far they have come is an understatement. The Squadron is a cohesive team of all-weather Troopers who are singularly focused on the purpose of a Cavalry Squadron: answering the Brigade Commander's Priority Intelligence Requirements to enable him to make decisions to place the Brigade in a position of relative advantage.

Although we are most always on the go, the Regimental Room is always open to the Association. Anytime any Association member wants to stop by to take a walk down memory lane--or check out our new horses--they need not ask; just come see us.

Lastly: #1- Season's Greetings to each of you. #2- Save the Date: The 1-14 CAV Squadron Ball will be on 14 Mar 24 at the Hotel Murano! You're invited.

SUIVEZ MOI

Shigenobu T. Morinaga
LTC, Armor
Commanding



Chaplain (CPT) Bodiford holds religious services for Troopers during field training at Yakima Training Center.



D TRP executes a TOW live fire as a part of its ATGM Gunnery.

2nd Squadron

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Harbor Memorial historian. This was truly an incredible experience especially just two weeks before the 82nd Anniversary.

On behalf of the Rattlesnake Ohana in Hawaii we hope everyone has a blessed holiday and a Happy New Year!

SUIVEZ MOI

Adam F. McComb
LTC, Armor
Commanding



Diablo Troop conducting field feeding, delivering ammo, and nighttime logistics resupply.

prototypes, dubbed RCV-Light. Variants of the vehicles will serve as scouts or escorts for manned fighting vehicles. The RCV-Light will deliver increased situational awareness, lethality, and tactical options for Army formations in support of multi-domain operations, according to an Army statement.

The companies--General Dynamics Land Systems, Oshkosh Defense, McQ, and Textron Systems--have until August 2024 to build and deliver the prototypes to the Army for testing and evaluation with soldiers.

The Army is expected to choose a winner in the second phase of the competition in FY25 to deliver up to nine prototypes om 2026. The Army has set FY 27 for a production decision and FY 28 for fielding to the first unit. (*Defense News*)

Army Posts Renamed

Fort Eisenhower is the new name of Ft. Gordon, Ga. The change took place Oct 27, the last of nine Army posts renamed by a Congressional commission.

Other posts with new titles are: Ft. Moore, Ga. (Benning); Ft. Cavazos, Tex. (Hood); Ft. Johnson, La., (Polk); Ft. Liberty, N.C. (Bragg); Ft. Barfoot, Va. (Pickett); Ft. Novosel, Ala., (Rucker); Ft. Gregg-Adams, Va., (Lee); Ft. Walker, Va., (A.P. Hill). (*Army Times*)

Rotting Equipment

A recent DOD Office of Inspector General investigation uncovered critical deficiencies in how the Pentagon maintains and protects core components of the Army's land capabilities. Investigators inspected \$1.96 billion worth of equipment stored at two distribution centers controlled by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

The spare parts stored at these facilities support some of the Army's flagship land fighting technology, including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the Stryker Armored Combat Vehicle, and the Abrams tank,

Among the spare parts in critical

condition were 80 gas turbines, worth almost \$90 million, stacked together on a lawn outside of a warehouse. The turbines, meant to be stored indoors, had been there since 2020, investigators learned. Investigators also found tens of millions of dollars of tank tracks, vehicle transmission assemblies, and diesel engines stashed away in open-air facilities without proper packaging. (*Army Times*)

Recruiting Challenges

The Army will transform how it attracts and recruits new soldiers, said its top leaders at a recent press conference. The moves come after the service failed to meet its recruiting targets for two consecutive fiscal years, causing its end strength to fall from an original level of 485,000 in late 2021 to around 452,000 active duty soldiers today--its smallest full-time force since 1940, the year before the U.S. entered World War II.



U.S. Army soldiers with the Wichita Recruiting Company hosted a recruitment booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kansas on September 9, 2023. (Pfc. Aiden Griffiths/Army)

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said the changes came after an in-depth recruiting study that compared 25 years of internal Army data and organizational structure against labor market trends and private sector practices. The reforms, which are to begin immediately (but some will take years to complete), include:

- Establishing new specialized enlistment and warrant officer recruiting career

fields that will replace the existing 79R MOS and eventually abolish involuntary recruiting assignments.

- Formally increasing recruiters' mandate to woo prospective soldiers with college education, due to the shrinking proportion of workforce members who have only a high school education.
- Creating an experimentation directorate within the Recruiting Command that is isolated from current-year production pressure.
- Integrating effective data analysis to support recruiting policy decisions after the study group found the service has failed to verify whether historical changes were effective.
- Reassigning Recruiting Command to report directly to Wormuth, and raising its commanding general rank to a three-star level and extending the command tour length to four years.
- Reassigning the Army Enterprise Marketing Office to report to Recruiting Command.

Gift Ideas

Get Christmas and birthday gift ideas at our online Supply Room.

Go to <http://www.14cavsupplyroom.com>



'23 Reunion

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Watch for an announcement in your email inbox.

Day-by-Day Events

A daily schedule of events is being coordinated and finalized as we write this, but we are working to arrange a schedule similar to the following:

- Tuesday, 17 SEP. Travel day; arrive in Fulda. We will have reunion registration that evening with a Welcome Stable Call in the hotel to kick things off.
- Wednesday, 18 SEP. After complimentary breakfast at the hotel (served daily throughout the reunion) we will meet up and move to the Ludendorff Kaserne or Downs Barracks, site of the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment Headquarters and the 1st Squadron in Fulda. Plan on lunch there in the Kontakt Clubhouse, followed by a tour of the Museum of American Troops in the Fulda Region.



Welcome to the Museum of American Troops in the Fulda Region.



The museum salutes the Regiment from its post-WW II Constabulary days to its Armored Cavalry days throughout the Cold War.



A sample display of some of the memorabilia contributed by members of the Regiment. Poster in the Museum.



Poster in the Museum.



L-19 "Bird Dog" single engine recon plane.



Another display in the museum.

We may or may not have more events this day in the Fulda area, or at least make

something optional in the afternoon for those with jet lag. Plan on an open evening on your own in Fulda.

- Thursday, 19 SEP. We will spend the morning at Point Alpha, overlooking portions of the "old interzonal border."



Observation Post (OP) Alpha as it is today, a far cry from the humble LP (Listening Post)/OP Alpha known to Scouts of the past.

After lunch in the kantine, we will cross into what was once "enemy territory" to visit a working German Army Kaserne at Bad Salzungen to view current military equipment and facilities and talk with soldiers of our very critical host-Nation partner. We will stop for a quick visit at the new building for the German American Museum in Tann before returning to the hotel. We will have a full-service Watering Hole that evening to keep the war stories and tall tales going into the evening.

- Friday, 20 SEP. We are working to arrange optional trips to Bad Kissingen and Bad Hersfeld, headquarters of the 2nd and 3rd squadrons respectively, and an event in Fulda for anyone wanting to remain in Fulda. That afternoon we will visit the 17th-century mountaintop Franciscan Kreuzberg Monastery for the finest beer in the world and some first-class German cuisine. Plan on a free evening in Fulda after this extended afternoon at Kreuzberg.
- Saturday, 21 SEP. We will hold our annual members meeting at the hotel in the morning. We are working to have a spouse

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'23 Reunion

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event that coincides with the meeting for those interested, such as a German cooking class or a garden tour. Likewise, we are looking for an early afternoon activity in Fulda for everyone. We will have a Social Hour and our Regimental Banquet this evening at the hotel. This dinner and program will be a little more formal than our last couple of reunions, as we plan to have our German guests present for an evening of festivities in honor of the Regiment.

- Sunday, 22 SEP. This is a travel day to officially end the reunion and depart Fulda, but we are looking at church service options for anyone interested in attending a service at the Fulda Cathedral.

Speak-Up

We are still early in the planning stages, so if anyone has any other sites you would like to see or activities you'd like to while in Fulda do not hesitate to come up on the

net.

Expect to get some kind of information via email by January on final costs to register for the reunion and for details on how to register. We certainly look forward to seeing you at this reunion!

14TH CAVALRY SUPPLY ROOM

www.14thcavsupplyroom.com





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