



16 May 2018

To the Soldiers, Families, and Community of III Corps and Fort Hood,

On this day in 1918, III Corps was established in France under the supervision of the first Phantom Warrior, Lt. Col. Alfred W. Bjornstad. From its earliest beginnings – earning battle streamers for the Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, Champagne, and Lorraine campaigns in World War I – to today, leading the Coalition of seventy-one nations and four international organizations to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, the remarkable service and sacrifices of our warriors throughout the past 100 years have defined what it means to be a Phantom Warrior.

Serving as an armored corps during World War II, III Corps earned its enduring nickname "Phantom Corps" by exploiting seams and gaps, seizing the initiative, and striking the enemy where least expected. Its efforts during the tough campaigns of Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe were critical to the Allied victory in Western Europe. Following World War II, the Corps maintained a constant state of readiness, always prepared to deploy across the Atlantic Ocean to deter aggression and defend freedom during the Cold War. As our Nation entered the Global War on Terror, Phantom Warriors once again answered the call to serve, earning six campaign streamers during multiple tours to Iraq while bringing hope to the downtrodden and striking fear in the hearts of the enemy.

Today, nearly fourteen thousand Troopers from the III Armored Corps are deployed, spread out across twenty countries on five continents. When not deployed, Phantom Warriors are training to deploy. If history is any indicator of the future, the Phantom Corps will continue to be called on to serve on the frontlines of freedom. We will remain responsible for bringing the power of our Nation to foreign lands thousands of miles away to face our enemies, ranging from insurgents, to pseudo-state terrorist groups, to near-peer competitors. And, we can assure you of one thing – America's Hammer will remain ready to deploy anywhere, anytime, and win.

We want each and every one of you to know that you are valued members of the Phantom Warrior Family. We are immensely proud of your contributions to III Corps' tremendous legacy. Together, let's celebrate and honor OUR Corps on its century of proudly fighting against tyranny and oppression, and standing for freedom.

Phantom Ready! Phantom Strong!

Michael A Crosby

MICHAEL A. CROSBY
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
III Corps and Fort Hood

Paul E Funk II

PAUL E. FUNK II
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

60th CG

Foreword

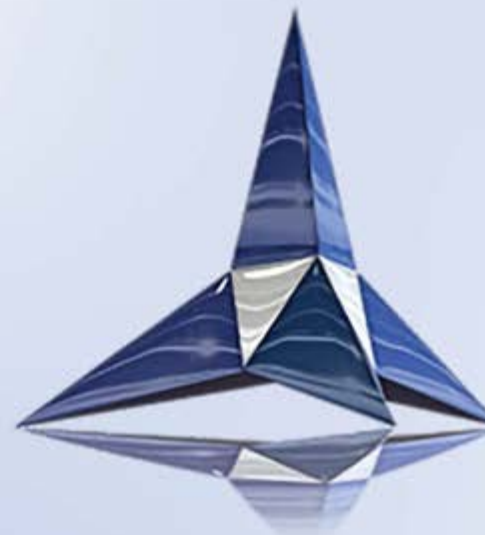
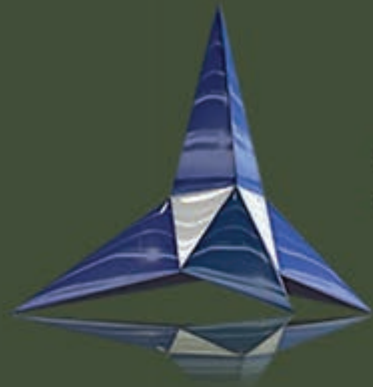
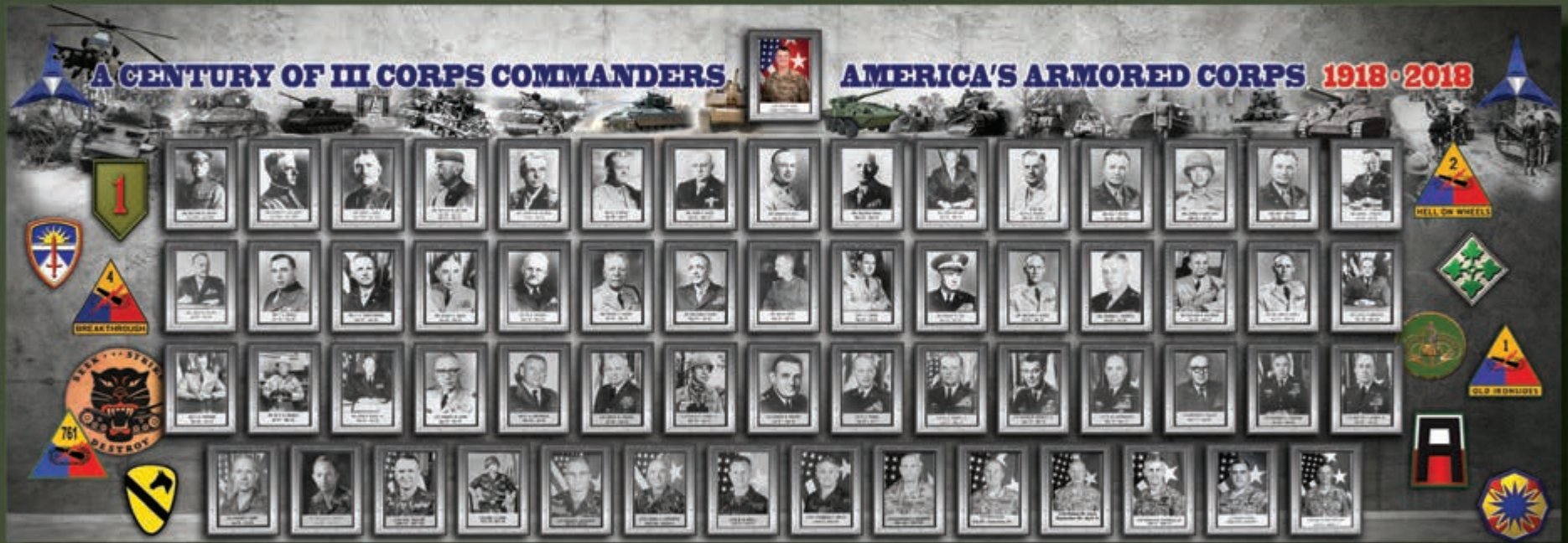


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100 Years of Leadership





Above: Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve
leadership at Union III, Baghdad, Iraq
May 16, 2018

Below: Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve
personnel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait
May 16, 2018



The History of the III Corps “Caltrop”

As the heraldic symbol of III Corps, the “caltrop” brings with it centuries of expertise in the art of war fighting. It is one of the most basic and most effective weapons in the history of war: simple and inexpensive to make, easy to employ, and extremely effective at hindering mounted and dismounted movement.

III Corps’ use of the caltrop as its shoulder sleeve insignia was approved by the Adjutant General, American Expeditionary Force on December 3, 1918. Blue and white are the colors of corps distinguishing flags, and the three points of the caltrop indicate the numerical designation of the corps.



III Corps History

III Corps' colorful history starts with its organization May 16, 1918 in France. During World War I, the corps earned battle streamers for the Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, and Meuse-Argonne campaigns, in addition to streamers for action in Champagne and Lorraine.

Demobilized in 1919, the III Corps returned to active service in 1940 to train combat divisions. During World War II the Corps was deployed to the European theater of operations and earned the nickname "Phantom Corps" by hitting the enemy when least expected. It participated in four campaigns: Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe, and established the Remagen Bridgehead, enabling the Allies to secure a foothold in Germany.

Inactivated in 1946, III Corps was reactivated in 1951 and served on active duty until 1959. Inactivated that year, it quickly returned to duty at Fort Hood during the Berlin Crisis in 1961. In 1962 III Corps was designated as part of the U.S. Army Strategic Army Corps.

During the Vietnam conflict, III Corps planned and supervised the training of units deploying to Southeast Asia, including two Field Force Headquarters and many combat and combat service support units totaling thousands of personnel.

In recent years, III Corps forces have fought in and supported operations worldwide, to include Grenada, Panama, Honduras, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq and provided humanitarian support for Operations Restore Hope in Somalia. III Corps elements provided support for Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For many years, the primary focus of III Corps was the reinforcement of NATO. As the world and the U.S. Army have changed the Corps has also changed, and broadened its focus to be ready to deploy anywhere, anytime and win.

Today, III Corps consists of approximately 90,000 soldiers in four divisions and several separate brigades stationed at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Riley, Kansas; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



III Corps Today

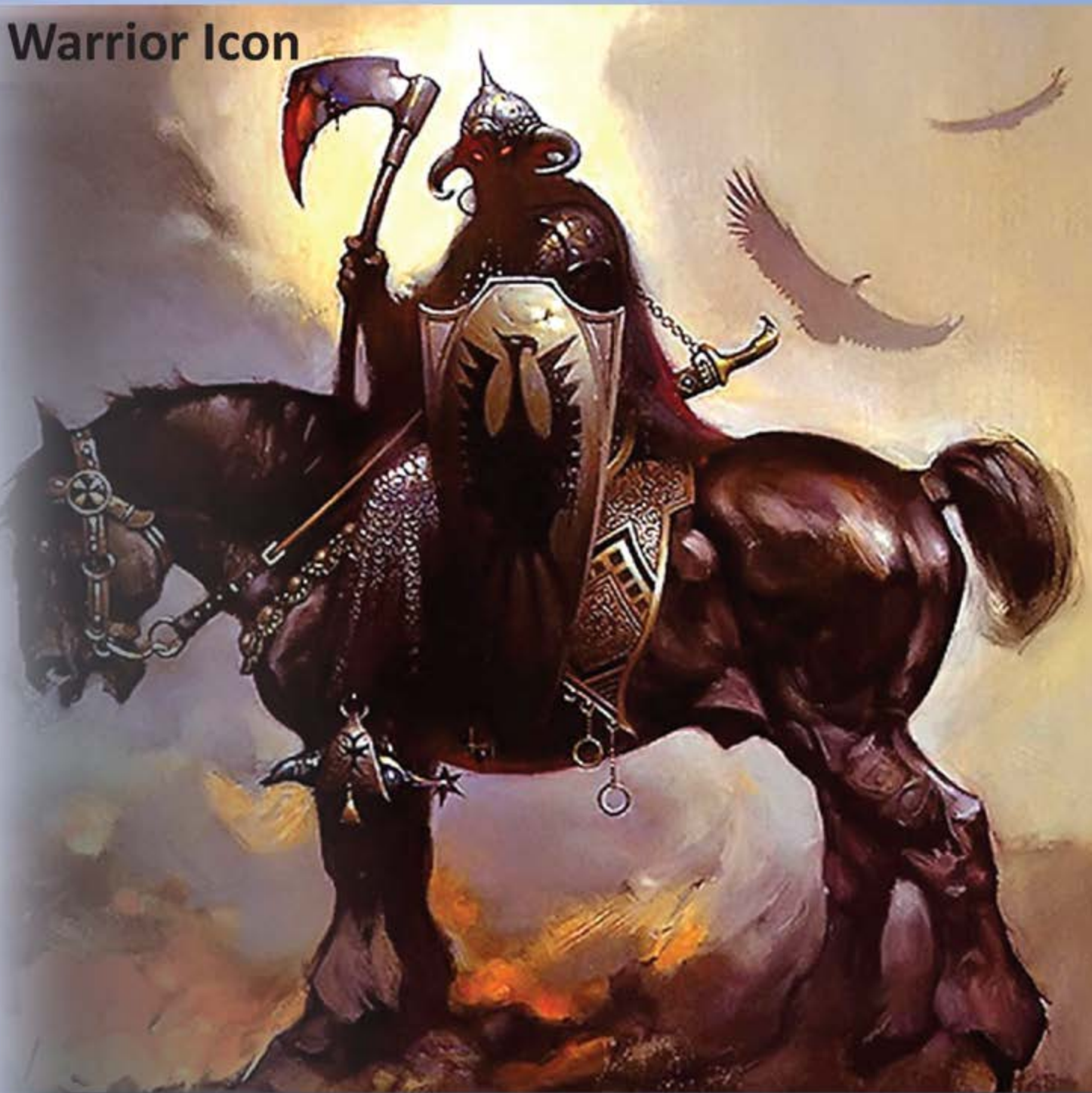


The Phantom Warrior Icon

Death Dealer is Frank Frazetta's iconic 1973 fantasy painting. It depicts a menacing armor-clad warrior with a horned helmet, whose facial features are obscured by shadow, atop a horse, holding a bloody axe and shield. The painting was used as the album cover for the American Southern Rock Band Molly Hatchet on their self-titled debut album released in 1978.

In 1985, then III Corps Commander, LTG Crosbie Saint determined "The Death Dealer" provided a critical symbol to convey his vision of the heavy maneuver force. In April 1986, LTG Saint concluded an agreement with Mr. Frazetta which allowed the Corps to use "The Death Dealer" as a symbol of III Corps, the figure was referred to as "The Phantom Warrior."

The Phantom Warrior represents the heritage and symbol of America's Armored Corps since 1986. Its primary purpose is to serve as a strategic communications device to convey the meaning and identity of the heavy maneuver force through an image of mobility, lethality and strength.



The Shire Horse or English Great Horse was brought to England in 1066 by William the Conqueror. Only stallions were imported, to carry knights in armor into battle. The advent of gunpowder in the late 16th century brought an end to the use of the Great Horse in battle. The girth of a Shire horse varies from 6-8 feet and weighs on average between 2,020-2,460 lbs. Yet this powerful charger could be brought down in battle by a simple caltrop, the heraldic symbol of III Corps.

In 2008, then III Corps commander LTG Rick Lynch re-emphasized The Phantom Warrior as part of a comprehensive III Corps campaign to reinforce and reinvigorate the image identity of the heavy maneuver force to its Soldiers, to the Army and to the Central Texas Community, and Nation.

About the Artist:

Frank Frazetta, born February 9, 1928, is a legendary American fantasy and science fiction artist, noted for work in comic books, paperback book covers and other media. He is the subject of a 2003 documentary – "Painting with Fire."



International Partners in III Corps

As with most units formed in wartime, III Corps is no stranger to working with international allies. As a unit of the American Expeditionary Forces in 1917-1918, III Corps worked extensively with allies, forming close relationships that would be repeated in World War Two. In the late 1990s, the Corps incorporated foreign officers into its peacetime organization, beginning in 1998 with a Canadian two-star general as Deputy Commander for Sustainment. Since then, the Corps has also integrated British general officers into its ranks. Below is a list of deputy commanders who have served with III Corps since this program began:

1998-2013: Canada

1998-2000 BGen Rick Hillier

2000-2002 BGen Matt MacDonald

2002-2005 BGen Walt Natynczyk



2005-2008 BGen Peter Devlin

2008-2011 BGen Peter Atkinson

2011-2013 BGen Dean Milner



2014-Present: United Kingdom

July 2017 to present: Maj. Gen. Felix Gedney



July 2015- July 2017: Maj. Gen. Doug Chalmers
(left)



Aug 2014-July 2015: Maj. Gen. Tim Lai
(right)



The Beginning: 1918-1919

America's III Army Corps headquarters was formally organized May 16, 1918 in France. It was the third of four new corps activated to support Allied Forces as the American Expeditionary Force fighting the Central Powers in WWI. The Corps took command of American forces training with the Seventh French Army.

On March 30, 1918 the Corps began its formation under the supervision of Lt. Col. Alfred W. Bjornstad, Chief of Staff near Langres, Haute-Marne, France. The Corps reported directly to General Headquarters for the American Expeditionary Force. During the months of April and May, landing divisions including the 3rd Division and 5th Division were attached to III Corps. The Corps oversaw training of those two divisions and was assigned a corps replacement battalion on May 15, 1918.

On the day of activation, May 16, 1918, the Corps HQ with the Chief of Staff was moved and reestablished near Mussey-sur-Seine, Aube. During the first part of June the officers of the Corps staff observed current operations in the French Seventh Army Area of operations and were eventually given administrative control for training American Expeditionary Forces in the area. The Corps moved to near Remiremont, Vosges, June 13 and four days later Major General William M. Wright assumed command of the Corps. On June 25 the AEF announced the organization of III Army Corps.

MG Wright was directed on July 7 by GHQ that his staff was going to be transferred to form part of the First Army and a new staff will be provided at Remiremont. The III Army Corps Chief of Staff reported to Major General Robert L. Bullard, commander of the 1st Division on July 8. The 1st and 2nd Divisions constituted parts of the new III Army Corps and on July 9 MG Bullard was designated commander of the new III Army Corps. Bullard officially assumed command July 14 near Meaux, Seine-at-Marne in the zone of the French Sixth Army.



1918 map of major U.S. operations in France

Initially the Corps and two attached divisions, 1st and 2d Division, were kept in reserve. The Corps was rushed toward Soisson with intent of participating in an attack with the French 10th Army against the western face of the Marne salient. The Corps attacked from the high ground near Soisson, cutting German rail lines used for resupply. The intent was to have the Corps replace the French XXXVIII Corps. The Corps released the 1st and 2d Divisions. After maneuvering into position on July 31 in the French Sixth Army Zone near Chateau-Theirrey, III Corps conducted a relief of the French XXXVIII Corps and assumed tactical command of 3rd, 28th and 32nd Divisions. This began Corps participation in the Aisne-Marne operation.

AISNE-MARNE

August 4-6: III Army Corps Participates in the Aisne-Marne Operation

Beginning August 4 under the French Sixth Army, III Corps participated in operations during the second phase of the Second Battle of the Marne part of the Aisne-Marne Operation and Offensive.

The Second Battle of the Marne was a counter offensive to retake gains from the German offensive earlier in the year which created the Marne salient and was a significant turning point in the war.

The Corps started operations by relieving the French III Corps on Aug. 4 and assuming command of the French 4th Division. Operations from Aug. 4 to Aug. 6 moved rapidly and included the establishment of a critical bridgehead across the Vesle River.



32nd Division Troops Resting



John L. Hines
III Corps Commander
Meuse-Argonne Offensive



5th Division Troops celebrate the Armistice near Remoiville



2nd Division moving up for the attack on July 18, 1918

CHAMPAGNE 1918

August 7-17: III Army Corps Occupies a Defensive Sector in Champagne

On August 7, the Corps occupied a defensive sector in Champagne, France while still continuing the attack with the objective of establishing the bridgehead. This was done with the French 4th Division, the 6th Infantry Brigade, and the American 28th and 32d Divisions. On Aug. 8 the Corps ceased the attack and consolidated its positions. The Corps resumed the attack on Aug. 10, and by the 11th was able to make significant advances along the Vesle River. The Corps played a significant role in proving the need for the American forces to establish their own Army. On Aug. 10, Gen. Pershing officially started forming 1st Army with parts of I and III Army Corps. For actions taken from Aug. 4-17 III Corps was awarded campaign streamers embroidered "Aisne-Marne" and "Champagne 1918."

OISE-AISNE

August 18- September 9, The Corps participates in the Oise-Aisne Operation

After the holding the western part of the Vesle River sector III Army Corps and its divisions took part in the Oise-Aisne Operation. During this operation III Corps actually crossed the Vesle River around Sept. 4 and began an aggressive pursuit of retreating German elements breaking German lines. On Sept. 7, III Corps elements started being relieved in order to join the American First Army. The Corps was awarded the Oise-Aisne campaign streamer for participation in this part of the war.

MEUSE-ARGONNE

First Army and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive

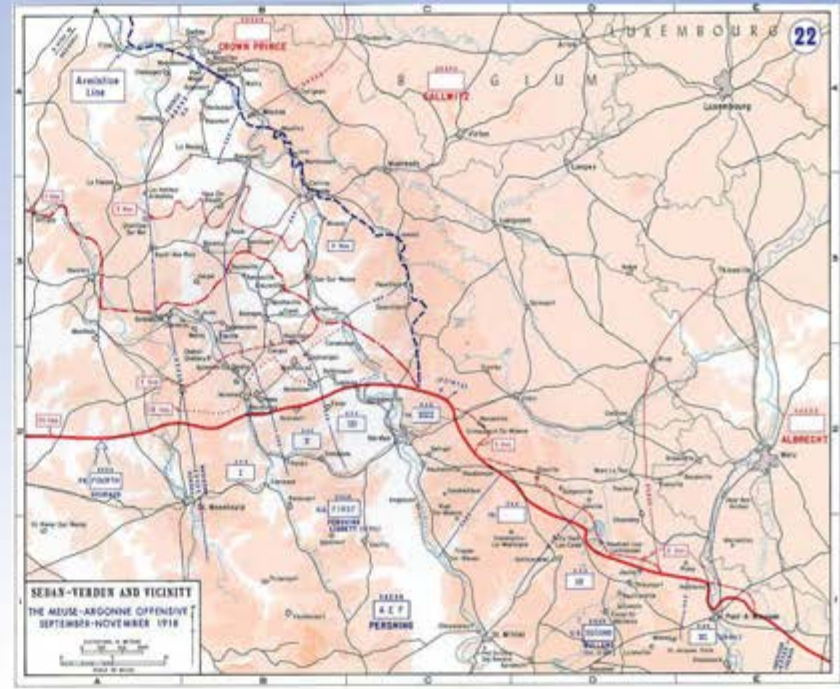
After assuming a defensive position near Lorraine, France around Sept. 15, the Corps began to reorganize under the First Army while reconsolidating. On September 22, the First Army officially relieved the French Second Army and assumed command of III Army Corps. During the operation, III Corps would attack along with First Army from the Meuse River into the Argonne Forest. Sectors of this area had been occupied by German forces for nearly four years. In some places the German lines were 12 miles deep moving through forests and rough terrain. III Corps took part in an offensive that pushed the German back and advanced to Montfaucon, Cunel then to Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. From September through October, and into November, the Corps continued to advance and attack pushing the German lines back. In an offensive beginning on Nov. 1, the Corps pushed the Germans back to the Meuse River and beyond to Barricourt Ridge. The Corps continued to fight until the last minute the armistice was declared on Nov. 11.

The III Corps Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

There are conflicting accounts regarding the Army's approval of the III Corps patch. By some accounts, the Corps was fighting in the Meuse-Argonne in Aug. and Sept. 1918 when the approval arrived by telegram. By other accounts, the approval did not reach the Corps until after the war, on Jan. 30, 1919. Others still assert that III Corps' use of the caltrop as its shoulder sleeve insignia was approved by the Adjutant General, American Expeditionary Force on December 3, 1918.

Although the date of the patch's formal approval is subject to debate, there is no question of the symbol's appropriateness for America's Armored Corps. The caltrop reflects centuries of service in warfare. It is one of the most basic and most effective weapons in the history of war: simple and inexpensive to make, easy to employ, and extremely effective at hindering mounted and dismounted movement.

The original – and most likely unapproved – versions of the III Corps patch were all blue because of the difficulty of obtaining white cloth during World War One. The approved design, however, features a three-pointed blue caltrop with points that lie on a circle of 1½ inch radius, with a white triangle in the center whose points lie on a circle of 3/8 inch radius. The patch is surrounded by green border of 1/8 inch.



1918 Meuse-Argonne Offensive Map



American Troops in Vacherauville



Hand-painted G.I. helmet, 1918

LORRAINE 1918



A drawing depicting the Destruction of Meuse-Argonne

First Army and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (continued)

Blue and white are the colors of corps distinguishing flags, and the three points of the caltrop indicate the numerical designation of the corps. The green border represents the Corps' Army affiliation.

III Corps was awarded campaign streamers embroidered "Meuse-Argonne" and "Lorraine 1918" for its service during this part of the campaign. The Corps continued to serve in Germany by conducting post-conflict activities. The Corps returned stateside, and was officially demobilized at Camp Sherman, Ohio on August 9, 1919.



Destruction of Meuse-Argonne



Drawing of Meuse-Argonne Offensive



German Shells exploding near Cuisy, France



**Fismette, France scene of hard fighting
by the 28th Division**



32d Division Troops in front-line trench near Forges



90th Division Troops passing through Cunel



American Troops crossing a III Corps pontoon bridge

III CORPS' INACTIVE PERIOD: July 1919 - Oct. 1927

1919 Turkish War of Independence

War of Independence 1919-1920

1922 Irish Free-State; Mussolini, Italy; USSR Formed

1920 18th Amendment

1921 Great Famine (Russia)

1923 First Game at Yankee Stadium (vs. Red Sox); King Tut's Chamber Opened



1925 Mt. Rushmore Site Dedication; Great Gatsby; Scopes Monkey Trial; Mein Kampf Published



1924 Ellis Island Closes; Paris hosts Summer Olympics; Chamonix hosts first Winter Olympics



1926 Henry Ford Instituted 40-hour work week; Hirohito Crowned



1927 Lindbergh's Solo Flight Across Atlantic Ocean



Reactivation and World War II: 1927-1946

Pre-war Activity

On Oct. 13, 1927, XXII Corps was redesignated as III Corps as a cadre unit, not officially active until 1940. In 1940, a new III Corps headquarters was activated at the Presidio of Monterey, California, and served as a reception station at the Presidio.

The Corps participated in the famous "Louisiana Maneuvers" of 1941, the largest U.S. Army training event to date, involving 400,000 troops in an exercise that tested training, doctrine, organization and other aspects that would contribute to success in combat in World War Two.



Camp Hood Officers Quarters, circa 1945



806th Tank Destroyer Battalion at Camp Hood, 1940s



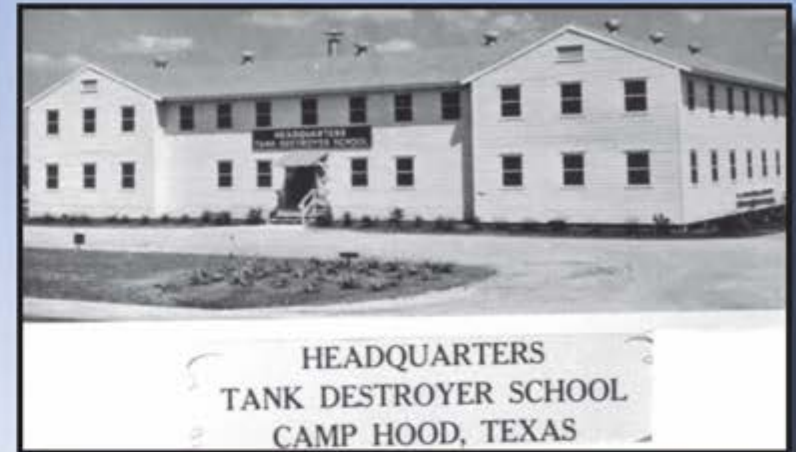
Camp Hood Entrance Sign, circa 1945

Tank Hunters Seek, Strike, Destroy!



Men are taught to fight tanks. Their weapons of destruction are sticky grenades and "Molotov cocktails," which they fling against the enemy tank to put it out of commission.

Pvt Herman Dorman and Sgt William Winter grease up a sticky grenade - a sock full of explosive attached to a short fuse. It is then flung at the enemy tank until it bursts. Circa 1942.



After Pearl Harbor

In early 1942, III Corps was ordered to Fort McPherson, Georgia. The Corps remained in Georgia until January 1944 when it returned to the Presidio as a deployable corps. From the time of the Corps' return through the summer of 1944, III Corps trained Army divisions for deployment and war before departing for Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts on Aug. 23, 1944.

On 27 June 1944, the Army reconstituted the former WWI-era III Army Corps Headquarters, and consolidated it with the existing Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps, in order to perpetuate the Corps' WWI history. After a couple of weeks at Camp Myles Standish, III Corps deployed for the European Theater of Operations on Sept. 5. The Corps arrived in Cherbourg, France that month and was assigned to the 12th Army Group under Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley. After facilitating the flow of troops and equipment through Normandy, the Corps was ready to join the fight.



Charlie Battery 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, 2nd Armored Division has plenty of elevation to hurl shells at long range enemy targets across Roer River. Circa 1944-1945.



Tank Training at Camp Hood, circa 1942-1944



Barbed wire is no barrier to tank hunters. If they can't take time to cut through it they crawl under it to get to their objective. November 1942.

NORTHERN FRANCE

Normandy and the Bulge



German prisoners of war

On Oct. 10, III Corps was assigned to Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army and rolled out on the offensive against the German Army. The objective was Metz in northeastern France, a strategically important location standing at the junction of the Moselle and Seille rivers. The Corps' first major combat action was the capture of Fort Jeanne d'Arc, west of Metz.

The fort controls key terrain in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France, and had been a key victory for Germany in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. The Corps' first major victory at Fort Jeanne d'Arc was complete by Dec. 13, 1944, and the Corps was awarded the Northern France battle streamer to add to the Corps colors.

On Dec. 16, 1944, three days after the Corps' victory at Jeanne d'Arc, Allied forces faced a surprise German counterattack that partially encircled a significant number of troops in what came to be known as "The Battle of the Bulge." Under Third Army, III Corps participated in the relief of the siege of the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, which began Dec. 22. For its role in the Battle of the Bulge, the Corps received the Ardennes-Alsace battle streamer.

In December 1944, a distinguished III Corps alumnus, James Van Fleet, was in command of the 90th Infantry Division and led the crossing of the Moselle River in the drive toward Metz, Germany, earning the highest praise from Gen. Patton. Van Fleet had commanded the 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division (now a III Corps unit) as it landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on June 6. As an interesting "aside" in our consideration of III Corps history, the 4th ID, was led ashore by a former president's son, Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., who was the assistant division commander at the time. Roosevelt had commanded an infantry battalion in another division now under III Corps, the 1st Infantry Division, during the Battle of Cantigny, known as America's first victory in WWI. For his actions commanding the division on June 6, 1944, Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Like Roosevelt, Van Fleet distinguished himself through exemplary leadership throughout the European campaign. He would go on to higher levels of command, including command of III Corps in the waning days of WWII. His name is now immortalized in III Corps' headquarters building at Fort Hood, Van Fleet Hall.



ARDENNES-ALSACE

Sketch of European Theater of Operations, depicting the war travels of 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion in WWII.

The battalion was attached to III Corps from Apr. 5, 1944 through war's end.



American troops and armor of the 30th Division, and 2nd Armored Division occupy the French town of Torry Sur Vire, but still remain on the alert for enemy activity. France, 3 August 1944.



Dragons teeth on the Sigfried Line, circa March 1945.

CENTRAL EUROPE



German Tiger I



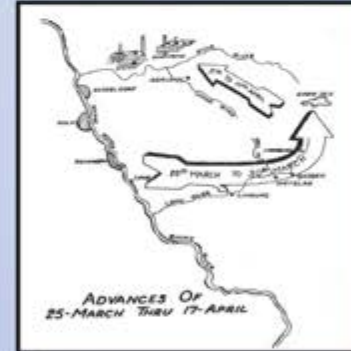
U.S. M-10 Tank Destroyer



Tech 4 Joseph E. Wilson, 1945
E.T.O. 761st Tank Battalion



Company B, 761st Tank Battalion M26 Pershing Light Tank in Siegsdorf,
Germany motorpool, 1945.



Historical Sidebar: 2LT Jackie Robinson at Ft. Hood



Historical Sidebar: 2LT Jackie Robinson at Ft. Hood

The name Rosa Parks is famous for the lady's refusal to move to the back of a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955. However, she had a predecessor at Camp Hood, Texas.

In early 1944, 25-year-old- 2nd Lt. Jack Roosevelt Robinson reported to Camp Hood, Texas, where he was assigned to the 761st Tank Battallion, which later distinguished itself in the European theater's Battle of the Bulge. On July 6 that year, exactly one month after the D-Day landings in Europe, Lt. Robinson boarded a bus for the hospital when the driver ordered him to move back one seat. Robinson refused, and for his refusal, he was court-martialed.

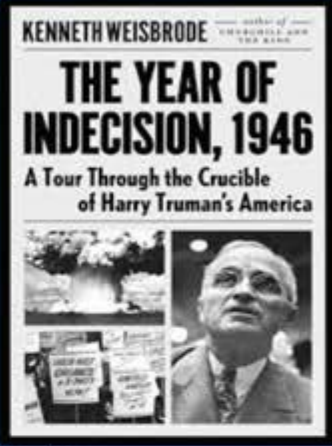
Ultimately acquitted of all charges, Jackie Robinson finished his time in the military and went into professional baseball. Robinson is most famous for breaking baseball's color barrier in April 1947 when the Brooklyn Dodgers, for whom he played until retiring in 1956. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962, and his jersey number, 42, has been retired by all Major League Baseball teams.



III CORPS' INACTIVE PERIOD: 1946-1951

1946

League of Nations Final Meeting/UN First Meeting;
First BBC Broadcast; Bikini Invented



1947

Chuck Yeager Breaks Sound Barrier; Transistor Invented; Marshall Plan Established; Jackie Robinson Breaks Baseball Color Barrier; National Security Act Established; India/Pakistan Independence




1948 Berlin Airlift; Israel Independence



1951 First Color TV Broadcast; First Amendment; Birth Control Pill Invented



1949 Nato Established; Geneva Convention; First VW Beetle Sold in US; NBA Established;



Color by Technicolor
 SPECIAL PROCESSES - **Ibb Twerks**
 SOUND DIRECTOR - **C. O. Slyfield**
 SOUND RECORDING - **Robert O. Cook**
 FILM EDITOR - **John O. Young**
 MUSIC EDITOR - **Al Teeter**
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1950 First Credit Card (Diners' Club); Korean War



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Reactivation and the Fifties: 1951-1959



M-1 Range at Camp Roberts, Ca.,
circa 1952.



Barracks inspection at
Camp Roberts, Ca.,
circa 1952.



Reactivation and the Fifties: 1951-1959



Camp Hood Gate, 1950.

On Mar. 15, 1951, during the height of the Korean War, III Corps was again called to active duty at Camp Roberts in Monterey, California. In November, the corps moved to Ft. MacArthur, near Los Angeles. At the time, the former home of the WWII Tank Destroyer School near Killeen Texas was growing to accommodate an increased mission to train and provide individual replacements for units involved in Korea.

In Apr. 1954, III Corps moved to Ft. Hood, Texas. Camp Hood had been redesignated as a permanent installation, Fort Hood, on Apr. 15, 1950. At Fort Hood, III Corps played an important role by participating in a number of important exercises, either as director headquarters or as a player unit. It took command of both the 1st and 4th Armored Divisions. The main purpose of these operations was the testing of new doctrines, organizations, and equipment.



Patton Tank at Fort Hood, circa 1950.



Obstacle Course training at Fort Hood, circa 1950.



Sherman Tank at Fort Hood, circa 1950.

Historical Sidebar: Elvis Presley at Ft. Hood

Never before, never since, was there a day at Fort Hood like March 28, 1958, when Recruit Elvis Presley reported for duty.

It started as complete chaos about 5 p.m. that day when the bus with Presley aboard arrived from Fort Chaffee, and then quickly became somewhat disorganized.

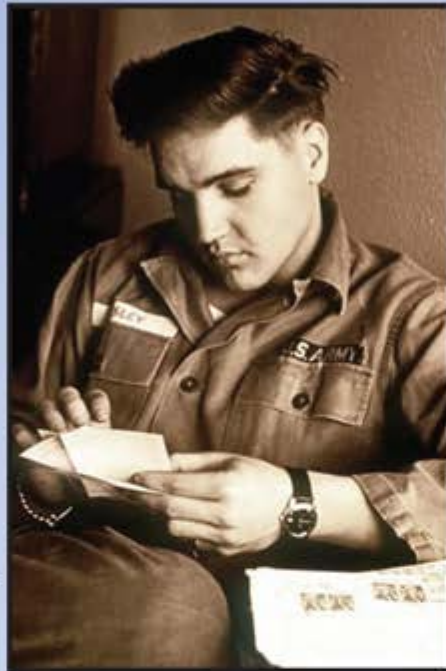
But even rampant pandemonium cannot prevail against the Army. Within a couple days, order again prevailed.



Elvis Presley traveling to Fort Hood, circa 1958.

More in hope than in confidence the Army declared:

“Private Presley will be treated exactly as all trainees are treated. Nothing is to interfere with training while he is at Fort Hood.”

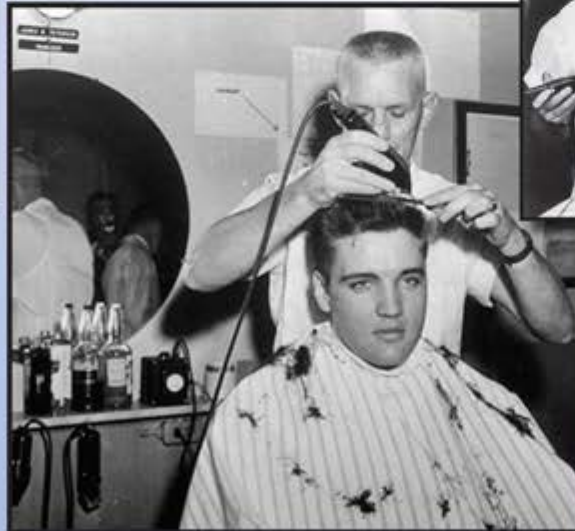


Except for a half dozen “short-stopped” phone calls a day from New York, California, Canada, Australia and other unlikely places, and three or four bags of mail each day, no one tried to interfere with the training of Fort Hood’s famous recruit.

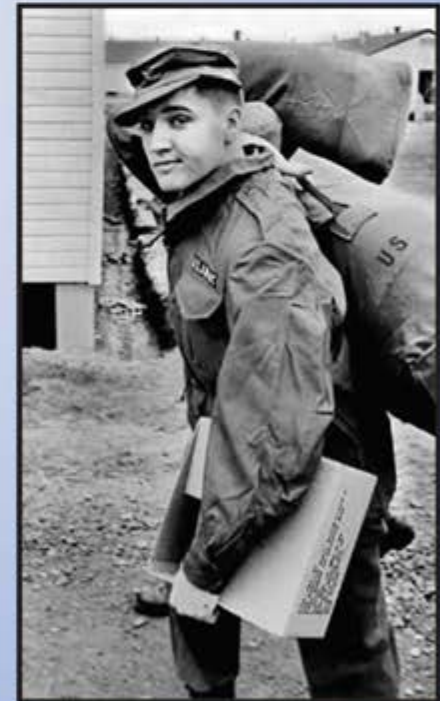
Presley’s platoon sergeant while the singer was a member of Company A, 37th Armor, was Sgt. 1st Class William C. Farley. Farley recalls that he “had a lot of trouble” while Presley was in his platoon, but quickly adds, “It wasn’t his fault. It was caused by the people who came to see him.”

An official letter just before he left Fort Hood in September 1958 noted Presley “showed outstanding leadership traits from the start, and a fine attitude towards his service obligation.”

He became an acting assistant squad leader early in his basic training, and still wears the brassard (chevrons).



Presley receiving an Army barber haircut.



Historical Sidebar: Elvis Presley at Ft. Hood



Appeared in the Cool & Hep Cats Teenage Magazine, pg. 37, circa Apr. 1958.



Recruit Elvis Presley, circa 1958.



Presley in Germany

Presley left Fort Hood September 19, 1958, and joined the 3d Armored Division in Germany, where he completed his required two years of active duty.

Fort Hood had sent another "good soldier" to Germany.

III CORPS' INACTIVE PERIOD: May 1959 – Sept. 1961

III Corps Inactivates: 1959

On May 5, 1959, the corps was again inactivated.

Maj. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, 2AD, Ft. Hood and III Corps Cdr. cased the colors of III Corps.

In his farewell address, Wheeler said, "Should the occasion arise, I feel confident that the colors of III Corps will be unfurled again."



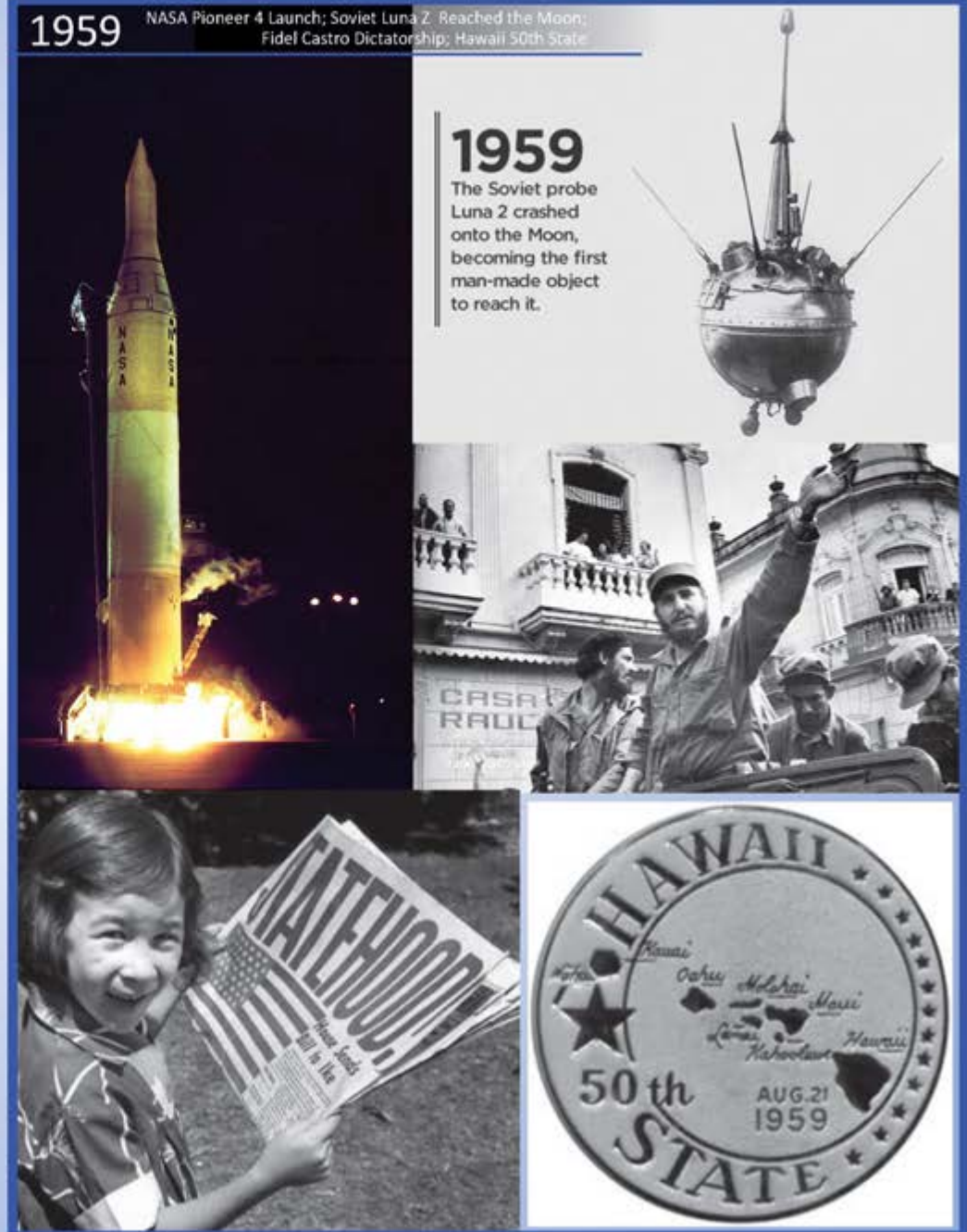
CASING COLORS—Maj. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, right, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, and III Corps commander, cases the colors of III Corps, officially inactivating the Corps. Assisting him is Brig. Gen. Franklin F. Wing Jr., Corps Chief of Staff. The ceremonies, which were attended by the officers and enlisted men of the Corps, took place Tuesday, May 5.

III Corps Is Inactivated

Appeared in the Armored Sentinel, Fort Hood, Tx., May 8, 1959.

On its last day, the Corps had 68 officers, four warrant officers and 152 enlisted men. Of those, most were reassigned to different units at Ft. Hood.

Approximately 70 percent of the enlisted Soldiers were assigned to 1st Armored Division. Another 20 percent were assigned to U.S. Army Garrison, Ft. Hood, and the others went to smaller units of the post.



1959

NASA Pioneer 4 Launch; Soviet Luna 2 Reached the Moon; Fidel Castro Dictatorship; Hawaii 50th State

1959

The Soviet probe Luna 2 crashed onto the Moon, becoming the first man-made object to reach it.

1960

U.S. Announces Troops to Vietnam; JFK Wins Presidency; U-2 Spyplane Shot Down; OPEC Formed

The Other Ascent Into The Unknown



HISTORY & HEADLINES

On May 1, 1960, CIA employee Gary Powers was flying a reconnaissance mission over the Soviet Union when his top secret U-2 spyplane was shot down.



1961

Berlin Wall Construction; First Man in Space - Yuri Gagarin; Peace Corps Established



The Huntsville Times

Man Enters Space

So Close, Yet So Far, Sighs Cape U.S. Had Hoped For Own Launch

Hubble Admits 1944 Starling

Praise Is Heaped On Major Gagarin

Soviet Officer Orbits Globe In 5-Ton Ship

Maximum Height Reached Reported As 108 Miles

The Press Op. U.S.A. Must Not Lose Staff

Anti-Navy Squawking News Dies

We need someone with a good back, strong stomach, level head and a big heart.

Peace Corps.

The highest of professions.

Reactivation and the 1960s



2nd Armored Division Colors, mounted in an M106 Armored Mortar Carrier, pass in review for LTG Ralph E. Haines Jr., departing III Corps and Fort Hood CG, during the mounted farewell review given in his honor, 28 April 1967.

The reactivation of III Corps on Sept. 1, 1961 was prompted by the Berlin Crisis. The corps had been active at Ft. Hood from April 1954 through its deactivation in May 1959. The standoff between the Soviet Union and the West, which came to a head in Berlin, demonstrated the United States' need for a ready, rapidly deployable force to confront post-World War II challenges in Europe.

The newly reactivated corps conducted intensive training immediately upon activation and in December 1961, it was deemed operationally ready. Two months later, III Corps was designated as a unit of the U.S. Strategic Army Corps.

"I was a lieutenant here my first tour in the Army," retired Lt. Gen. Paul "Butch" Funk said in a July 2017 interview recalling those early '60s years. "We ... were ordered to deploy in order to be moved to positions to invade Cuba. That was during the Cuban (Missile) Crisis and the 1st Armored Division, which was here then."

Funk, the father of current III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, said movement of massive amounts of troops and equipment, in those days, was difficult.

"We had one rail line coming into the post," he recalled. "One. Period. Now, they've got at least 24 out there where you can load simultaneously. So, it took us an awful long time to get enough cars to move to put the equipment on and then just to get them out of here, marshaled and moved."

Lessons learned in the early 1960s as a lieutenant stayed with the elder Funk throughout his Army career, which eventually saw him commanding III Corps and Fort Hood from October 1993 through December 1995. How to improve rapidly moving troops remained a focus.

"That was always in my mind, going over the years and I'm sure it was in others, too," he said. "And, by the way, this is true of the other installations, too, where we had to really focus on ... the development of that."

The Corps remained focused on its Strategic Army Corps mission by training and maintaining readiness for rapid deployment to Europe in the event the Cold War heated up.

III Corps in the 1970s



Throughout the Vietnam War and into the 1970s, III Corps remained a key player in training units and detachments headed to the Pacific, including I and II Field Force staffs and individuals. During this time, the Corps' distinctive unit insignia, or crest, was authorized, which featured the famous caltrop approved in the early days of the Corps in the First World War.



OH-58 Kiowa helicopter refuels at Fort Hood, mid-1970s.

In 1973, III Corps was assigned to the newly established U.S. Army Forces Command, taking part thereafter in a series of tests and trials under Training and Doctrine Command. The Corps would remain at the cutting edge of organization, doctrine and equipment through the 1990s as the Army went through sweeping change leading to the end of the Cold War.

One leading-edge development spearheaded by the Corps in 1974 was the creation of an air cavalry combat brigade. The first such unit was the 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat), formed out of second brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Other units joined the brigade subsequently, to include 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment; 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment and 5th and 7th Squadrons, 17th Cavalry Regiment. The new corps-level asset provided III Corps with an organic asset with which to test new concepts for the employment of attack helicopters in combat.

A key annual training event of the 1970s and 80s was REFORGER, the Return of Forces to Germany. REFORGER involved the deployment of 10 US divisions to Europe within 10 days to participate in massive training exercises, sending a signal to the Soviet Union that the United States was prepared to rapidly deploy on short notice to Europe, arriving fully capable of initiating combat operations immediately.

Historical Sidebar: The Pattons and 2AD

November 1977 appears as an interesting footnote to the Corps' history for the 1970s. That month, Maj. Gen. George S. Patton IV relinquished command of the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Patton commanded the division for two years and during his time, its 3rd brigade was forward-stationed at Grafenwoehr, Germany as part of the U.S. Army's Cold War stance. Maintaining a prepared stance for possible war with the Soviet Union required a heavy forward presence to counter Soviet threats from East Germany and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Patton's father, George S. Patton, Sr., had served in the same division from 1940-1942. As a colonel when the division was stood up at Fort Benning, Ga. in July 1940, Patton was the director of operations. When division commander Maj. Gen. Charles L. Scott was promoted to take the 1st Armored Corps, Patton was promoted to Brig. Gen. and commanded the division through February 1942. Patton would ultimately garner fame as the commander of Third Army, during which time he would famously reposition forces – including III Corps – to defeat the German onslaught in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge.



Nearly 31 years after the Battle of the Bulge, in Aug. 1975, Maj. Gen. George S. Patton IV assumed command of 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, home of III Corps. It was the first time in American history a son took command of the same division as his father. There are only a few father-son pairs to command the same units as their fathers, including Gen. Creighton W. Abrams and his son, Gen. John N. Abrams (V Corps), Lt. Gens. William Caldwell III and IV (Fifth Army/Army North), and Lt. Gens. Paul E. Funk I and II (III Corps).

Patton relinquished command of the 2nd Armored Division in Nov. 1977, but the division's Cold War stance continued to change. In 1978, the 3rd brigade of the 2nd Armored Division officially became 2nd Armored Division (Forward) at Grafenwoehr, commanded by a one-star general who also served as commander of III Corps (Forward), which was headquartered at Maastricht, Netherlands.

During the REFORGER period, upon arrival of the main body, commander of 2nd Armored Division (Forward) would revert to assistant division commander under the two-star general from Fort Hood. When the bulk of 2nd Armored Division returned from DESERT STORM in 1991, it inactivated, leaving 2nd AD Forward as the divisional element. In 1992 the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, La. would become the 2nd AD briefly before the division moved to Fort Hood and fell under III Corps the following year. The 2nd Armored Division was completely inactivated in 1995, after two years under III Corps at Fort Hood. Although the 2nd Armored Division spent a relatively short time under III Corps, we see many intersections of time and circumstance that tie our histories together.

Modernizing the Corps: the 1980s

The 1980s saw major developments in American mounted warfare, and III Corps was at the forefront of these changes. This included the testing and fielding of upgraded command and control systems, new attack helicopters, artillery, and state-of-the-art armored fighting vehicles still in use today. At the same time, III Corps prioritized training and readiness, with new training initiatives and massive overseas exercises, to ensure “America’s Hammer” was able to meet the continued threats of the Cold War.

M-1 Abrams Main Battle Tank

III Corps entered the 1980s facing continued Cold War threats, including the specter of increasingly advanced Soviet weaponry such as the T-72 battle tank.

In 1980, however, the U.S. Army – and III Corps in particular – experienced the first of several leaps forward in American combat power, when the 1st Cavalry Division became the first combat unit to receive the Chrysler M-1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, replacing the aging M60 Patton. The “Hell on Wheels” Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Division also received the Abrams over the next year.

M2/M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle

In March 1983, the 1st Battalion, 41st Mechanized Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, became the first combat unit equipped with the M2 “Bradley” Infantry Fighting Vehicle and M3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle. With a crew of three and carrying up to six infantry Soldiers, the Bradley was praised for its improved armor, firepower and speed advantages over the 20-year-old M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier. In total, the 2nd Armored Division signed for an authorized 177 Bradleys that year.



Modernizing the Corps: the 1980s

Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)

In March 1984, the 2nd Armored Division debuted another new piece of combat equipment, the Multiple Launch Rocket System. The MLRS boasted high mobility, rapid and intense firepower with a range of 30 kilometers, and ability to operate in all weather conditions. On March 9, the unit invited more than 500 military and civilian guests for an inaugural live-fire demonstration led by Battery C, 1st Bn., 82nd Field Artillery, 2nd AD.

AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter

Improvements to III Corps' combat capabilities were not confined to ground forces. In 1986, III Corps units were also the first to receive the new AH-64A Apache attack helicopter. It was warmly received for its precision firepower, all-weather endurance, and most of all for its unparalleled night-flying capabilities. That April, the 7th Battalion, 17th Cavalry Brigade, began training on the Apache at Ft. Hood. Training and fielding went smoothly enough that III Corps was able to deploy 68 Apaches for exercises in Europe the following year.

Upgraded Communications

III Corps experienced modernization of not just combat arms and frontline equipment, but also its command and control capabilities. In the summer of 1987, the 1st Cavalry Division became the first recipient of an advanced tactical communications network known as Mobile Subscriber Equipment – which at the time was the largest tactical communications contract ever awarded by the Army, with a \$4.3 billion price tag.

The MSE was designed to give each corps and division commander a faster, more reliable and secure means of battlefield communication, which could cover a five-division corps area up to 37,000 square kilometers.



Modernizing the Corps: the 1980s

REFORGER '87

For much of the 1980s, III Corps was designated and ready to deploy to Western Germany in support of NATO in the event of imminent Soviet attack. In 1987, they proved their readiness to deploy and fight, and became the first-ever American Army corps to deploy almost in its entirety for one of NATO's largest Cold War exercises – Reforger 87. This exercise was the largest deployment of American troops to Europe since World War Two.

“Reforger,” shorthand for “return of forces to Germany,” took place over four weeks in October, and saw the deployment of more than 20,000 III Corps Soldiers for the exercise, including the entire 1st Cavalry and 2nd Armored Divisions. In about three days, after some 100 flights by troop transport aircraft, the majority of the Corps had arrived.

The event rehearsed the ability of the United States to reinforce Western Europe in the face of an imminent Soviet attack, receive and operate prepositioned stocks of tanks and other heavy combat equipment, and conduct a defense and counterattack.

In total, 78,000 troops participated from the United States, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Great Britain, and France.

III Corps units involved in the exercise included the III Corps Headquarters, III Corps Artillery Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat), 13th Support Command/Sustainment Command, 504th Military Intelligence/Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, 3rd Signal Brigade, and 89th Military Police Brigade.



South America: Grenada & Panama



III Corps: Engaged Across the Western Hemisphere

While the Army and III Corps were modernizing for a potential showdown with the Soviet Union in Western Europe, the United States was also engaged in deterring Communist pressure in the Western Hemisphere.

Operation URGENT FURY

American suspicions that the small Caribbean island of Grenada would become a Soviet satellite led in October 1983 to Operation URGENT FURY, the largest American military undertaking since the Vietnam War. A hastily improvised Joint Task force secured the island in three days, ousted the Marxist revolutionaries, and rescued over 600 American students at risk of becoming hostages. The 411th Military Police Company of III Corps' 89th Military Police Brigade deployed following the invasion to perform security missions and assist members of the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force and the Royal Grenadian Police Force in the restoration of order and civil governance.



Operation JUST CAUSE

In response to Soviet, Cuban, and Nicaraguan efforts to foment discord throughout Central America, the Corps also rotated units to Honduras throughout the 1980s. The III Corps units performed a variety of missions to include aviation, support, site security, and convoy escort. These unsung and unpublicized deployments were often fired upon by insurgent groups as they helped counter Communist threats to Honduras and El Salvador.

The effects of a decade's worth of modernization, leadership development, and training were demonstrated in December 1989, not on the plains of Central Europe, but in Panama, as the Corps contributed units to Operation JUST CAUSE. Among the first units to make contact during the operation was the 89th MP Brigade's 401st Military Police Company which established blocking positions and secured critical sites, while the Corps' 5th Infantry Division participated in some of the heaviest fighting at the Commandancia, in Panama City.

The 1990s: Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm

Iraq Invades Kuwait

When the Iraqi Army overran Kuwait in early August 1990, III Corps was tasked to support the efforts to contain the attack from spreading to Saudi Arabia and eventually roll back the Iraqi aggression. Soon after the invasion, the Corps' "First Team" – the 1st Cavalry Division, soon to be joined by the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), and 212th Field Artillery Brigade, were alerted for deployment to Southwest Asia for Operation DESERT SHIELD - the defense of Saudi Arabia against a potential Iraqi attack.

Logistical Combat Support

They were eventually united with the Corps' 13th Corps Support Command, 1st Medical Group, 3rd Signal Brigade, 36th Engineer Group, and 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat), all of which deployed elements to provide logistical and combat support to the over 350,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and civilians that would eventually deploy to the sands of Saudi Arabia.



Success

Successful in their mission of deterrence, the III Corps units spent months honing their offensive combat skills by training with allied and joint partners. True to form and personifying their moniker as "America's Hammer," III Corps units were among the first to lead the liberation of Kuwait. On February 20, 1991 in DESERT STORM's first major mounted ground engagement, the 2nd (Blackjack) Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, as part of an elaborate deception plan, attacked 10 miles into Iraq, confirming and destroying enemy positions. Two days later, the 3rd ACR was the first unit assigned to XVIII Airborne Corps to engage in ground combat. The MSE was designed to give each corps and division commander a faster, more reliable and secure means of battlefield communication, which could cover a five-division corps area up to 37,000 square kilometers.

Four days later, On February 26, 1991 the Commander of the Allied Forces, General Norman Schwarzkopf, directed the final attacks of the campaign stating, "Send in the First Team. Destroy the Republican Guard. Let's go home." III Corps' decades-long exertions as the Army's premier testbed for new formations, technologies, and equipment on the hills of Central Texas came to fruition in the deserts and wadis of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq, as the fourth largest army in the world was dismantled in less than 100 hours.

The 1990s: Operation Restore Hope



Humanitarian Assistance

Following the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War in the 1990s, the III Corps headquarters itself saw no major contingencies, however, numerous units under its command provided humanitarian support for Operation RESTORE HOPE in Somalia, and peacekeeping during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all while still easing into its new role as the primary counteroffensive force for the US Army.

Operation RESTORE HOPE

With the downsizing of other major Army formations, III Corps gained command of heavier units redeploying from Germany while the XVIII Airborne Corps took charge of rapid-deployment for emergency contingencies. From December 1992 to May 1993, Fort Hood soldiers deployed to Somalia for Operation RESTORE HOPE to command and control the Joint Task Force Support Command.

The 1990s: Operation Joint Endeavor



Peacemakers

III Corps units supported Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR in Bosnia, to help bring In 1998, the 1ST Cavalry Division was designated to be the Army's first Multi-Component unit. The main objective being to enhance Total Force integration, optimize the unique capabilities of each component and improve the overall readiness of the Army.

The program was developed to leverage the strengths of the Army's three components (Active, Reserve and National Guard). As such, 515 positions within the division were allocated to the Reserve components.

III Corps units supported Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR in Bosnia, to help bring an end to the years of bloodshed in that war-torn country. In October 1998, the 1st Cavalry Division was the first CONUS based division to assume command of the Multinational Division (North) area of operation in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

The mission was to conduct operations to enforce the military provisions set forth by the Dayton Peace Accords. an end to the years of bloodshed in that war-torn country. In October 1998, the 1st Cavalry Division was the first CONUS based division to assume command of the Multinational Division (North) area of operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The mission was to conduct operations to enforce the military provisions set forth by the Dayton Peace Accords.

Historical Sidebar: Lt. Gen. Paul E. “Butch” Funk

Former commander of III Corps (Oct. 1993 to Dec. 1995)



Q: What's your general feeling about having your son here, commanding III Corps during its centennial year?

A: It's wonderful to have him here, that's the first reaction. The second of course is you know tremendous pride to just share that sort of thing with your son is very hard to describe, but everybody can sense that the pride that you have in choosing in the same profession. And of course we can talk shop all the time.

Q: You have a lot of history with III Corps and Fort Hood, don't you? A: My first tour in the Army and my last tour in the Army were Fort Hood.

Q: Tell us about that first tour.

A: We were ordered to deploy in order to be moved to positions to invade Cuba. That was during the Cuban crisis and the 1st Armored Division was here then. They didn't have enough rail cars to move the 1st Armored Division. Furthermore, we had one rail line coming into the post in one. And that's the only one. Period. Now I don't know if they've got at least 24 out there where you can load simultaneously. So it took us an awful long time to get enough cars to move to put the equipment on, and then just to get them out here get them marshaled and move over into our case. So that was always in my mind going over the years and I'm sure it was in others' too. We have got to improve the ability to move the Corps. And by the way this is true of the other installations too, where we had to really focus on how we can have the development of that.

Q: So if the U.S. Army can't deploy to places in the world, then strategically you're not worth a lot? Can you talk about III Corps' deployability and your focus as a corps commander?

A: Over the years we developed the ability to deploy forces with great combat power. III Corps, when I commanded, was the most powerful corps ever assembled. Not only this army, but in the world. It had more combat power than any other. At that time we had three armored corps in the Army: two in Europe, one here. This one was the biggest and the most powerful. Because of all of the of the kinds of things that the Army has had to do in this so-called war on terror we have lost, given up, a huge amount of combat power. We don't have that anymore. When you hear [former III Corps commander and current Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark] Milley talk about the readiness for the Army now and the capabilities of the Army, that's what he's talking about. My focus then was deployment because that's what our corps is supposed to be able to do: to go anywhere in the world and fight. Well if you're going to move the force, it's going to be moving by rail, moving by sea. Some by air, but not much. What you can move by air are things like the corps headquarters, and one of my goals was to put a tactical operations center together that we can put in three (at that time) C-5s, and move it anywhere in the world and set up and operate the corps. That's the corps staff. That's the war fighting stance. So my overall goal was to continue to grow and refine.

Historical Sidebar: Lt. Gen. Paul E. “Butch” Funk

Former commander of III Corps (Oct. 1993 to Dec. 1995)

Q: The Great Place is a pretty big place to command. What can you say about Fort Hood and the local community in those days?

A: I’m really proud of the way we developed goals and objectives for the installation, where the garrison commander could manage and be the mayor, or the city manager, of Fort Hood which at that time had a daytime population of between 110-120,000. We’re a little smaller now. We had over 6,000 civilian employees then here. And all of the military employees and the families that lived in a family housing. So I recall we had about 6,500 sets of quarters but we had 24 plus thousand married soldiers, so a lot of people were living off post. So that meant we wanted to have the best relationships we could have in and around the community.

We tried reaching out and talking to the communities, because that’s where a lot of our folks lived. But to me, the best way to take care of families in the first place is to make sure they are well-trained and prepared so that when we deploy to fight somewhere, they can come home. We certainly saw that in Desert Storm and it was a huge victory for our army.

Q: You mentioned how powerful III Corps was. Can you talk more about that?

A: At the time, we had four divisions in the Corps. We had the 3d Cavalry Regiment. We had the Corps artillery which had five missile brigades. Nobody has that kind of combat power and nobody today. Plus, we had four Army National Guard divisions that we were responsible for aiding in training events. And that’s slowly coming back. Now Paul [Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, who took command of III Corps Mar. 31, 2017] has at this time he has four divisions again.

Q: But the world order was changing back then, right?

A: This [early-to-mid 1990s] was a really important time. And of course all of us were oriented on deploying to Europe to fight the Soviet Union. Well, the Wall had come down and that was disintegrating. Then we changed the orientation on Korea and to the Middle East. And so all of these things still were mounted combat, and the training was oriented on mounted combat. So it was busy and it was focused on warfighting.

Q: And things continue to change at Fort Hood?

A: I think to the surrounding communities have gotten a lot better about accepting people and welcoming them into the area. I think on post, things have gotten better in terms of facilities and all that, but that stuff doesn’t really make it: it’s more about attitude. It’s how you feel about your mission.

Q: What do you think about the future of III Corps and Fort Hood?

A: The current guy is doing okay. He thinks I might be a little crazy. You know, we’re very, very proud. And I’m really proud that he wanted to be a soldier. His eyes light up when he talks about how much he loves being a soldier.



Left to right: MG Paul E. Funk, commanding 3AD; CPT Paul E. Funk II, 3AD; and LTG John Yeosock, commanding Third Army/CFLCC, Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. (Courtesy photo by MAJ Martin Dempsey)

TRANSITION OF IRAQ

IRAQI GOVERNANCE

Global War on Terrorism: 2001 to Present

Following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and increasing global stability during the 1990s, the United States and the III Corps entered the new millennium with the promise of enduring peace and prosperity. However, the terror attacks in New York City in September 11, 2001 that killed more than 3,000 Americans heralded the new Global War on Terror. In America's war against terrorism and extremism, III Corps has been an integral part of the combat operations aimed at attacking the root of terrorism and extremism that posed a danger to everyone around the world.

OIF: 2004-2005

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, III Corps was first deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 to head the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, in charge of all joint and combined ground tactical operations in the country. In the midst of a growing insurgency movement and changes to Iraq's politics, III Corps oversaw some of the most pivotal moments during the early phases of the OEF.

First, III Corps commander Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz oversaw the creation of the MNC-I, after Combined Joint Task Force 7 was split between operational and theater-wide operations (which was to be the responsibility of the newly-created Multi-National Force-Iraq) and tactical operations, which fell under MNC-I. The change in command structure was precipitated by the concern that CJTF-7 was not large enough to handle the complex range of military operations required to bring peace and security in Iraq. The transition to MNC-I was completed by July 2004.

Second, within a few months of arrival in theater, the killing of four American contractors and five U.S. servicemembers led to the Battle of Fallujah, which began in March 2004 and would last until the end of the year. The First Battle for Fallujah, Operation Vigilant Resolve, ended in a stalemate as the U.S.-backed Fallujah Brigade took over operations from coalition forces, only to surrender control to insurgents. The Second Battle for Fallujah, also known as Operation Phantom Fury, was a largely conventional urban operation that resulted in coalition forces taking decisive control of the city. The operations to take control of Fallujah were to be the most extensive during OIF and the largest U.S. offensive since Vietnam. However, it was also a turning point in the understanding about the war, from one against militias loyal to Saddam Hussein to one against an insurgency movement.



NATIONAL RESOLUTION

IRAQI SURGE

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Finally, III Corps was the military lead for the parliamentary elections held on January 2005, the country's first free elections in 50 years. While the planning and execution of the elections was a result of close coordination between the MNC-I, the Iraqi transitional government and various NGOs, III Corps was instrumental in providing the security and resources that allowed for the elections to successfully take place. While sporadic violence took place during the day of the election, the insurgency was prevented from any dramatic offensive operations that would have greatly disrupted the process, making the vote a major milestone in Iraq's move towards full democracy.

OIF: 2006-2008

In 2006, III Corps deployed to Iraq for a second time to head the MNC-I. While the Corps' first deployment saw the development of the insurgency, its second deployment occurred in the middle of the worst years of the war, when the bombing of the Shia Al Askari Shrine in Samarra in February 2006 caused an explosion of sectarian violence. The Corps' second deployment also saw the emergence of counterinsurgency, or COIN, under the helm of MNF-I commander Gen. David Petraeus. While previous strategies focused on actively rooting out terror cells in the country, the new strategy focused on rooting out the insurgency's base of support among Iraqi civilian through the deployment of civilian and military efforts designed to bring security and stability among civilians.

III Corps commander Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, as the commander of MNC-I, was tasked to create the space in which the vast civil-military work that is at the heart of COIN can take place. Lt. Gen. Odierno's strategy for setting the stage for COIN was focused on "clear, hold, and build": clearing areas of an active insurgency, providing U.S. hold forces to secure the area, and dedicating resources to rebuild local capabilities in order to incur trust and support among the population. This was a marked contrast from the previous strategy that focused on U.S. forces clearing an area and quickly transitioning security to local Iraqi forces, which often lacked the necessary skills and resources to maintain security in their area of responsibility.

The resulting operations designed to sustain offensive action in order to disrupt enemy lines of communications required thoughtful allocation of manpower throughout Iraq, and demonstrated III Corps' other achievement during its second deployment: the effective use of the 2007 troop surge, which was announced by President George W. Bush to curb the increasing violence in the country. Through the surge, Lt. Gen. Odierno had the capabilities and manpower to clear and retain terrain in Baghdad during Operation Fardh al-Qanoon; deny the enemy support areas from Baghdad's outer belts during Operation Phantom Thunder; and the defeat of enemy cells across the country during Operation Phantom Strike.

While the deaths of U.S. servicemembers remained high during the first part of 2007 due to an increased operational tempo and ongoing insurgent attacks and sectarian violence, the second half of 2007 saw a marked decline in the deaths of U.S. servicemembers, ISF personnel and civilians, a trend that was to continue for the rest of OIF. The significant improvement in security in Iraq was in no small part attributed to the operations conducted by III Corps that denied terrain to the enemy, and denied support to the enemy through the constant disruption of their lines of communications.

Operation Iraqi Freedom



IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY

OIF/OND: 2010-2011

In February 2010, III Corps deployed to Iraq under LTG Robert Cone as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While the Corps was instrumental in major strategic evolutions in the conflict during its previous deployments, its third deployment was for something altogether different: to manage the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq and to set the stage for the end of OIF and the beginning of Operation New Dawn.

During its deployment, the Corps' primary mission was to transfer security operations from U.S. forces to Iraqi security forces, ensuring that they have the training and equipment they need to continue the fight against extremist and insurgent groups with minimal U.S. forces alongside them. The Corps' goal was to train and equip more than 660,000 Iraqi security forces, while U.S. personnel continued to advise Iraqi forces on training, intelligence, and logistics.

In addition to training hundreds of thousands of Iraqi personnel to provide security for the country, III Corps managed the return or reallocation of thousands of personnel and equipment, along with the closure of American bases throughout the country. During its deployment, the Corps reduced the number of bases across Iraq to 92, a significant reduction from 500 at the peak of the war. Additionally, the efficiency with which the Corps executed the massive logistical undertaking of drawing down the war was reflected by the fact that within a few months into its deployment, it has already sent back more than 18,000 vehicles and 600,000 pieces of equipment from Iraq. Finally, the Corps also managed the significant reduction of U.S. presence in Iraq, leaving behind 50,000 troops in-country from 170,000 during the peak of the war.

While the orderly reduction or transfer of equipment was the biggest logistical operation the military has undertaken since the build-up of World War II, III Corps' accomplishment during its third rotation in Iraq was not limited to its management of the drawdown's seemingly insurmountable logistical undertaking. Security operations throughout the country also created the space through which the continued work of assisting Iraq's development was able to occur. Due to the leadership provided by the Corps, a largely peaceful national election was able to take place with more than two-thirds of Iraqis participating, and violence dropped to its lowest level throughout the war.

While the drawdown left many with great uncertainty as to the future of Iraq, III Corps' deployment undoubtedly furthered the country towards its destination of full and meaningful peace and stability as the Corps returned to Fort Hood in February 2011.

NEW DAWN



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Operation NEW DAWN: *Remembering General Cone*



General Robert W. Cone

General Robert W. Cone commanded III Corps when deployed to Iraq in February 2010, and led Operation IRAQI FREEDOM through its transition to Operation NEW DAWN.

He redeployed the Corps in February 2011. Cone went on to pin a fourth star and take command of Training and Doctrine Command in April 2011.

His death from cancer in 2016 was mourned by Fort Hood, where the III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General's House was renamed the General Robert W. Cone House in April 2017.

We were fortunate during III Corps' hundredth year to be able to interview two officers who served closely with General Cone.



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Phantom Voices: An interview with LTG Jeffrey Buchanan



LTG Jeffrey Buchanan, Commander
U.S. Army North/5th U.S. Army

LTG Jeffrey Buchanan, currently commanding United States Army North/Fifth United States Army, served as the J9 for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation NEW DAWN from July 2010 through December 2011.

Q: What is it like serving in III Corps under, then, LTG Cone?

A: Actually I'd served under or adjacent to IIIrd Corps on a number of different times in other deployments and it is a great organization with a tremendous history. It was a lot of fun serving under LTG Cone's leadership. You know he's an exceptional leader, a guy who kind of epitomizes leadership by example and he had a sense of calm he could bring, calm to a chaotic situation and that was pretty important in 2010 and 11.

Q: Did you learn anything special from him?

A: He had an unbelievable ability to get at the core issue and figure out what was the particular problem and he was a great listener, which I'm not real great at myself, but I tried to follow his example. The more senior you get the better listener you have to be and I thought he was an exceptional listener. He would then focus in on the core issues and come up with great solutions.

Q: How did you prepare for the deployment to Iraq that resulted in the NEW DAWN transition?

A: It was a different role for me. Every tour prior to that point in time I was carrying a rifle and on this one I was going to be the J9 and when they asked me, "we want to bring you to Iraq to be the J9" I'd only been home from Iraq for seven months. I said sure I'll do that, what's the J9? And they said, well, oil, water, electricity. You're going to be working governance, agriculture and just as importantly you're going to be the guy that does strategic communications and the spokesman for the command. I thought this is completely different from any experience that I've had. So I did some specific things to try and prepare myself to do a better job on the spokesman side and learning about dealing with media and those kinds of things but mostly I just tried to read and stay in contact with what was going on in Iraq at the time because I knew that the best way to represent GEN Austin and LTG Cone as the spokesman was going to be able to tie things back into operations because all my experience was operations; it wasn't about media affairs.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Phantom Voices: An interview with LTG Jeffrey Buchanan

Q: What's your most notable memory of the deployment?

A: At the end of August we transitioned from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn and the president made this big announcement about how combat operations were over but in fact we continued to conduct operations that looked a heck of a lot like combat operations for the next year and a half. We still had 50K troops there and the transition was a little more gradual; it wasn't as quick as the changing of the name. More and more over that last year and a half that I served in Iraq we transitioned more to where the Iraqi security forces fully did have the lead for everything and the coalition forces, and in this case really just the American forces, by this point in time we stepped more and more into the background. That was a much more gradual transition. I think the thing that was most significant to me was in February of 2011, I got promoted to Major General, and LTG Cone attended the ceremony and GEN Austin actually officiated. I remember it just being striking that peace had kind of broken out.

Q: You spent most of your life as a light infantryman; can you talk about what it was like adjusting to life in America's Armored Corps?

A: My best preparation for it was when I was a senior observer controller trainer at the National Training Center when I was the head light infantry guy and up to that point I'd spent a lot of years on jump status, I'd only ever been in the light infantry. I learned about maintenance and about the speed of operations, about how breach operations in principle may look the same but they were fundamentally different on such a large scale. Based on that I was able to understand the mentality, I thought, of III Corps based on my experience at the National Training Center so it wasn't brand new to me or a shock. These guys had a swagger to their step and they deserved it.

Q: You'd been to Iraq three times before your deployment with III Corps, what was your experience like with the Corps, what were the major similarities and differences?

A: What was fundamentally different for me from operating in III Corps was that I was now a Major General, I was at a staff level looking at things across the entire country, dealing a lot with CENTCOM, organizations that, really even when I was a deputy commander of a division we were focused down and inside what was going on in our particular area of operation and not what was going on across Iraq and more broadly what was the situation with Kuwait and how did this relate to CENTCOM. For one thing that was different I was at a much higher level. The other thing is that a couple of things came together in 2007-08 that really changed the equation in Iraq. You had the "awakening" or what was believed to have started in Anbar but basically the Sunni Arabs rising up against Al Qaida and that was not just in Anbar but also in Diyala and Baghdad proper and all the way up into Tikrit we had this "awakening" moment. We had a cease fire with the Jaysh Al-Mahdi Militia, Sadr's army and they sort of laid down their arms and stopped attacking Americans. We had a surge of US forces, we brought in a lot more US forces, who by the way, at the same time, changed our tactics to where we were no longer just focused on the bad guys. We actually looked at the people as the prize so we moved back out into the communities and established these small patrol bases and forward operating bases focused on protecting the people. The last thing that's often not talked about a lot is a surge in the Iraqi Security Forces both in the quantity and quality to where they got to be much better. The levels of violence plummeted compared to where they had been in 2005-06, and in 2010-11 they were much lower, so that was a difference as well. I think that the greatest similarity was that we just had great people.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Phantom Voices: An interview with LTG Jeffrey Buchanan

Q: When people talk about III Corps and its 100 year heritage what's the first thought that comes to your mind?

A: I just think of the power of an armored and mechanized force, speed and power, and there's something to be said about dominating a situation, dominating an enemy, dominating terrain, and you can do all that with a mechanized force and when I think about the Phantom Warriors that's what I think about. We're gonna ram it down their throats.

Q: Any final thoughts for our audience?

A: I am proud of my time serving under III Corps and LTG Cone, he's one of the best leaders that we ever had in our Army. I think everybody who knew him misses him. It was a great organization and I was proud to be part of it.

Phantom Voices: An interview with MG(R) Kendall Cox



MG(R) Kendall Cox

MG (Ret.) Kendall Cox served as the J7 under III Corps and LTG Cone during Operation NEW DAWN in 2010-11. He served as III Corps' deputy commanding general prior to his retirement in 2015.

Q. What was it like serving in III Corps under then-LTG Cone?

A: LTG Cone himself was just an unbelievable leader, Soldier and personal friend. His work ethic, his professionalism, his concept of how he leads Soldiers was something that is very hard to find in anyone else. He was a classmate of mine from West Point so I've known him, fundamentally, for a majority of my lifetime and so to be able to serve with him in a combat environment and to actually be on his staff was just an opportunity not many people are afforded. He was a quite professional, calm in every environment. Very few people are offered that opportunity to work with and for someone with such tremendous capability and professionalism.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Phantom Voices: An interview with MG(R) Kendall Cox

Q. How did you prepare for the deployment to Iraq that resulted in the NEW DAWN transition? Did that change your preparation?

A: I had already been in Iraq when the command, Multi-National Force Iraq, transitioned to what was then called US Forces Iraq because the preponderance of our allies had already departed and that was the beginnings of, the start of, this thing called Operation New Dawn. I came over as the J7, as a single assigned officer, then working under the I Corps command that was directly underneath the MNF-I command. When New Dawn started and our primary responsibility was to assist the multinational and US forces essentially drawing down their footprint, transition all of the property and equipment that was going to stay in theater over to the Iraqi government and the Iraqi Security Forces and allow our forces and our equipment as necessary to transition out of country. To prepare for it I was fortunate to have already been there for 11 months when the actual change of command and change of mission occurred. It was a stepping process from transitioning from combat operations, which had been our primary operation, to train, advise and assist to the Iraqi Security Forces. Ultimately they were completely in the lead and we were seeing our force structure draw down significantly.

Q. What is your most notable memory of the deployment?

A: I was able to work alongside a true tremendous commanding general and then of course we worked closely with, then previously General Odierno and then followed up by General Austin as we prepared for and then executed these transitions. On a personal note, and part of this is directly related to my relationship with then LTG Bob Cone as the III Corps Commanding General and Deputy to the USF-I Commander, he was able to promote me to my second star while we were in theater. It's not very often that you can get promoted, at any time, by a classmate, a peer, but then to be promoted in theater, in a theater of war, to your second star was just something you could never... you can't ask for it in any other environment and he did a fantastic job recognizing me and my family. My family was on by VTC, and it was just one of those things I'll never forget to have the honor to have General Cone doing that was unforgettable.

Q. You've served in a lot of different units, but I see you had deployed to Iraq twice before NEW DAWN -- one of which was with 1CD. Can you talk about what made the tour with III Corps really different?

A: The very first deployment, with 1CAV during OIF2, that was absolutely all combat operations and going over as an engineer brigade commander working for a tremendous commanding general, General Pete Chiarelli, was phenomenal. Surrounded by a just an amazing group of brigade commanders, many of which now are four stars in the United States Army. That was a very specific environment where predominately the combat forces were involved in fighting and winning our nation's wars, and as an engineer bridge commander I was working directly with the mayor of Baghdad in trying to figure out how to turn back on their essential services. Still every single day my engineer force was involved in combat operations. When I went back over the second time I was still a Colonel and I was working, then, for general Chiarelli who was the MNC-I commander, and in that environment I was working directly with the ministerial level, ministers themselves and their staff as we attempted to find ways to grow the country, grow their capacity, grow their capability. The third time we were transitioning to almost an exclusive train, advise and assist to the Iraqi Security Forces, limited combat operations and then of course the transition to Operation New Dawn when we left. I got to see the full spectrum of operations.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Phantom Voices: An interview with MG(R) Kendall Cox

Q. When people talk about III Corps and its 100-year heritage, what's the first impression or memory that comes to your mind?

A: 100 years: that's a long time. Many people that serve in uniform today their memory goes back as far as, if they are lucky, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, I mean those people have now been serving for 28 years. The preponderance of our force, their understanding about what our Army and our nation has done from a military perspective all revolves around Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Those two theaters of war where a preponderance of our Soldiers have served. So to try and wrap your arms around this thing called a hundred years, a command that's served in every conflict from World War 1, that ultimately has been responsible for several victories that have led to freedom around the world, it's just hard to fathom, it's hard to really understand but what it should tell our Soldiers today, those that wear the III Corps patch, that have the blessing to be assigned to the III Corps whether you're wearing that patch or you're one of the subordinate units.

Q. What's one of your most salient memories from your time in III Corps?

A: I worked for some tremendous leaders, GEN Milley, LTG McFarland but can sum it up in two words, the people. The Soldiers that I served with, the community that I was surrounded by the leadership in all the subordinate divisions that were here. Every single one of them means something and then when I was afforded the opportunity to retire here at Ft. Hood, to go back to Cooper Field where I had taken command of the engineer brigade. They allowed the CAV Charge, they allowed me to ride a horse again for the first time in many, many years, to troop the line, it's something you don't understand until you experience it personally.

Q. What does it mean to be a Phantom Warrior?

A: When people see that patch they know success follows. They know that Soldiers that are part of the Phantom Warrior Corps bring with them just an unbelievable resiliency and capability that's not necessarily found anywhere else. That Phantom Warrior, at the end of the day, is all about Phantom Ready and Phantom Strong.

Q. Any final thoughts for our audience?

A: To all those that have a chance to see this, it's something special to be a Soldier, something special for anybody that gets to wear the cloth of our nation and to raise their right hand and swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. We should not lose sight of that. I know that the American people do a lot of things today to thank their Soldiers in uniform. We should continue to thank those that have served, encourage those that want to serve and understand that this truly is more than just a job; it's a profession and we should all be thankful for the opportunity to serve our country.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM



OEF: 2013-2014

In May 2013, III Corps deployed to Afghanistan to head the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Kabul, with Corps commander Lt. Gen. Mark Milley taking command of the IJC mission. Much like its third deployment to Iraq, the Corps' primary mission during its rotation to Afghanistan is to successfully transfer security operations in the country to the Afghan government and to transition the joint NATO mission from combat operations to a primarily advise and assist role with Afghan forces.

With the transfer of NATO mission to Afghan forces formalized in June 2013, the Corps' challenge became providing logistical and intelligence support to the more than 352,000 Afghan servicemembers in the force. The challenges were heavy, as the Taliban stepped up attacks on Afghan forces, and the indigenous fighting force suffered 33 casualties for every coalition killed. Nevertheless, the confidence instilled by the coalition on their Afghan counterparts allowed the Afghan National Security Force to carry out more than 90% of all operations during the summer fighting season, conducting more than 1,000 patrols per day.



While empowering the Afghan security forces to plan and conduct security operations throughout the country, the Corps was also instrumental in creating the space to allow the flourishing of civic life in Afghanistan. With close coordination with their Afghan counterparts as well as the Afghan government in the local, national and tribal levels, the III Corps was instrumental in planning the country's national presidential elections in 2014 and continuing to aid the government in providing for the basic needs of its people.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Operation Inherent Resolve 2015 - 2016

On September 19, 2015, the III US Armored Corps, commanded by LTG Sean MacFarland, assumed the mission of leading Combined Joint Task Force-Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (CJTF-OIR) from Third Army/U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) in response to ISIL/Daesh advances from Syria into Iraq and the collapse of the Iraqi Army. The CJTF-OIR headquarters, built around Headquarters, III Armored Corps, individual augmentees from all four armed forces, U.S. interagency partners, and numerous coalition nations, led an international coalition of sixty-six nations and partnerships with the mission to militarily defeat Daesh in order to enable whole-of-coalition governmental actions to increase regional stability.

Prior to its deployment, III Corps conducted a series of Warfighter command post exercises and served as the higher control headquarters for the 82d Airborne Division, which had been designated as the next unit to perform the Combined Joint Force Land Component Command-Iraq (CFLCC-1) mission for OIR. The time between its notification and deployment enabled the III Corps headquarters to tailor its structure, building on the foundations laid by ARCENT.

Building on the initial gains made under ARCENT in the first year of CJTF-OIR, the CJTF accelerated the campaign, reversing many of the gains that Dawlah al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham (the organization calling itself the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, abbreviated Daesh) had made since 2014. III Corps continued to maintain the campaign's momentum and to prepare for the military defeat of Daesh in Iraq and Syria.





GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Given the constraints on the mission, training and equipping partner forces was a decisive effort. A shift from counterinsurgency operations to combined arms maneuver showed the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) how to integrate infantry, armor, artillery, engineers, aviation, and other combat multipliers to achieve an overwhelming advantage at the right place and time on the battlefield.

The CJTF trained more than 25,000 members of the ISF, including Iraqi Army soldiers, Counter Terrorism Service soldiers, Peshmerga, Federal Police, and Border Security soldiers. CJTF emphasis on police training and recruiting tribal forces added 5,000 local police and over 20,000 tribal fighters. These personnel were integral to holding gains and protecting some 700,000 newly liberated Iraqis.

Coming off the successes of 2015, the Coalition accelerated its efforts significantly, pressuring Daesh in Iraq and Syria on multiple fronts, creating additional opportunities for the Coalition. During operations in Iraq and Syria, Coalition aircraft conducted about 15,000 strikes of about 50,000 sorties against Daesh, dropping more than 30,000 munitions on the enemy, with approximately two-thirds of those in Iraq and one third in Syria. Coalition artillery conducted more than 700 fire missions.

More than 200 CJTF strikes against the illicit oil and natural gas activities of Daesh destroyed more than 640 tanker trucks and a number of critical facilities, reducing the terrorists' oil revenue stream by perhaps 50%. ISIS oil facilities, significant sources of funding to ISIS operations in the CJOA, were degraded by 80%, depriving the enemy of more than \$25 million in funding. Also, some 25 bulk cash sites were hit, destroying at least one-half billion dollars. CJTF operations have vigorously attacked enemy leadership, command and control, and weapons manufacturing capabilities.

CJTF strikes enabled the liberation of more than 25,000 total square kilometers from Daesh. That is nearly half of what the enemy once controlled in Iraq and 20% of what they once controlled in Syria. Additionally, through the Corps' leadership and coordination of effort among coalition members, more than 146,000 tons of supplies were delivered to partner forces on the ground.



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

At the end of the Corps' year-long deployment, the momentum on the fight against ISIS was finally on the side of the Iraqis and Coalition partner forces in Syria. Within a year of the Corps' arrival, ISIS has lost more than 45% of their territory in Iraq and 20% in Syria. By December 2015, a 10,000-strong ISF liberated Ramadi from ISIS control. By February 2016, the recently-formed Syrian Democratic Forces liberated Shaddadi in northeastern Syria. Finally, in June 2016, the ISF liberated Fallujah, denying ISIS of significant terrain from which to launch attacks in Baghdad. After three years of uninhibited offensive operation across Syria and Iraq, ISIS was finally on the retreat.

The contributions of CJTF-OIR from 19 September 2015 to 20 August 2016 helped induce a turning point in the OIR campaign, but success did not come without cost: Army Master Sergeant Joshua Wheeler, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Louis Cardin, and Navy Petty Officer First Class Charles Keating gave their lives in support of the mission. Iraqi Security Forces and our partnered forces in Syria sacrificed hundreds killed and wounded, bearing the brunt of the fight against our common enemy; they too, deserve to be honored and remembered.

Operation Inherent Resolve: 2017-2018

On August 2017, III Corps returned to the Middle East to head CJTF-OIR, with Lt. Gen. Paul Funk assuming command of a 73-member coalition. By tour's end, the Coalition would grow to 78 members with the addition of Cameroon, the Philippines, the Republic of Guinea, Kenya, and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. At the time, approximately 75% of the land once held by ISIS at its peak from 2014 to 2016 had been liberated by Coalition partners under the leadership of Third Army (2014-2015), III Corps (2015-2016), and XVIII Airborne Corps (2016-2017). Of the nearly eight million people brutalized by ISIS at its peak, approximately 5.6 million had been freed by Coalition and partner efforts.

Like its III Corps forebears who led OIR II from September 2015 to August 2016, the Phantom Corps prepared for its deployment with a series of command post exercises in late 2016, followed by two Warfighters in early 2017: acting as higher control for 1st Armored Division in February 2017, and then building the joint team as training audience for the April 2017 Warfighter. After staff integration and academics through the early summer of 2017, III Corps began deploying to the Middle East in August. As August drew to a close and the staff was assembled under Lt. Gen. Funk, Iraqi Security Forces were completing the initial clearance of Tal Afar as Syrian Democratic Forces were putting increased pressure on ISIS in the older, historic portion of Raqqah, Syria. Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Crosby and III Corps assumed leadership of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve from Lt. Gen. Steven Townsend and the XVIII Airborne Corps staff on Sept. 5, 2017, the day after Syrian Democratic Forces had liberated the historic Great Mosque in Raqqah, and four days before the SDF initiated Operation Jazeera Storm to liberate the Khabur River Valley, north of Dayr Az Zawr City, Syria.





Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve



The Coalition trained Iraqi Security Forces on various skills, such as entering and clearing buildings.

In the first several months with III Corps at the helm of the Coalition effort to work by, with and through partner forces to defeat ISIS, the terrorists' control of territory rapidly dwindled across the Combined Joint Operations Area. The Iraqi Security Forces initiated the battle to liberate Hawijah, Iraq Sept. 21 and declared the city liberated Oct. 5. Nine days later on Oct. 17, the Coalition recognized the third anniversary of the establishment of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. Three days later on Oct. 20, the Syrian Democratic Forces liberated Raqqah, Syria. With Mosul, Iraq having previously fallen to the Iraqi Security Forces, ISIS now found itself without control of either of the twin capitals of its so-called “caliphate.”

Emboldened Coalition partner forces maintained heavy pressure on ISIS through the end of 2017. Iraqi forces initiated operations to liberate Al Qaim, Iraq Oct. 26, 2017. The fall of Al Qaim Nov. 3 completed the liberation of the last major populated center, and the last ISIS stronghold in Iraq. On Dec. 9, 2017, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared Iraq fully liberated.

To the west, Syrian Democratic Forces had demonstrated continued success against ISIS in Syria. With liberated areas returning to the control of local civil councils, internal security forces began assuming responsibility for liberated areas, enabling the SDF to continue its focus on defeating ISIS along the Middle Euphrates River Valley and Syria-Iraq border region. The Raqqah Internal Security Forces' assumption of security for three Raqqah neighborhoods on Nov. 21 marked a turning point for internally-focused security forces in northeastern Syria, which was increasingly notable for being the most stable region of the country, with representative local councils leading security and recovery efforts.



French F-16 Rafale



U.K. Royal Air Force



Iraqi Air Force



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

On Dec. 10, 2017, the Syrian Democratic Forces and Iraqi Security Forces conducted an historic linkup along the Syria-Iraq border, demonstrating legitimate control of the border on both sides, as well as continued success in defeating ISIS in both countries.

During the calendar year, seven nations had joined the Coalition, reflecting growing world support for the defeat-ISIS mission. By the end of 2017, more than 98% of the land once controlled by ISIS had been liberated, as well as approximately 7.7 million Iraqis and Syrians. This reflects an increase of 23% of the land liberated, as well as 2.1 million additional people freed of ISIS control during the first four months III Corps' second tour leading Operation Inherent Resolve.

As a sign of success in the campaign, Maj. Gen. Walt Piatt and the 10th Mountain Division cased the colors of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command in Baghdad, Iraq April 30, signaling a shift from enabling combat operations in Iraq to the consolidation of gains. This was an important moment in the continued transformation of Operation Inherent Resolve to meet partner requirements in pursuing the lasting defeat of ISIS. Under Operation Reliable Partnership, CJTF-OIR continues to enhance Iraqi Security Forces' capabilities to ensure effective, sustainable security forces capable of addressing current and future threats to the Iraqi people.

Reliable Partnership provides advice and assistance at select ministerial-level organizations, partnering with ISF at the brigade level and above, and training and equipping forces as requested.



Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian Democratic Forces officials conducted an historic linkup at the border Dec. 10, 2017, one day after Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi declared the full liberation of Iraq from ISIS.



U.S. Navy Strike Group



The casing of 10th Mountain Division's colors at the stand-down of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command in Baghdad, Iraq on Apr. 30, 2018 signaled a shift in focus from enabling combat operations in Iraq to building and enhancing Iraqi Security Forces' capabilities.



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve



**U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division,
2nd Brigade Combat Team**

Demonstrating increasing capabilities and independence, the Iraqi Air Force launched the first of several cross-border strikes into northeastern Syria Apr. 19, targeting ISIS leadership and fighters there. Continued cross-border operations, including artillery and airstrikes, supported Operation Roundup, announced May 1, 2018 as the effort to accelerate the defeat of ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley and the Syria-Iraq border region. Continued pressure on ISIS near Hajin and Dashisha, Syria pushed ISIS remnants closer to the Euphrates for a final defensive stand. Operation Roundup would continue to run in three phases from spring through the summer of 2018.

Key events during this time period included the Iraqi Security Forces' security, independent of Coalition assistance, of the May 12 parliamentary elections without incident. These were the first such elections since ISIS' rise in 2014, and their peaceful completion sent a positive message about progress toward stability in the nation. Other key events included increased security during the May-June Ramadan observances, as well as security during civilian movements toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the Hajj pilgrimage in August.



**U.S. Memorial Day, Camp
Arifjan, Kuwait 2018**



**Iraqi Security Forces
Combat Life Saver Training**



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

Raqqaq Internal Security Force



Iraqi Security Forces Counter Terrorism Service Training



ISF Training with French Instructor





Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve



Syrian Democratic Forces soldier celebrates the liberation of Raqqah, Oct. 20, 2017.



Female soldiers of the Syrian Democratic Forces were feared by ISIS terrorists.



U.S. forces lead a Coalition patrol supporting Operation Inherent Resolve's defeat-ISIS mission.



Naim Circle in Raqqah, immediately following liberation from Daesh in late October, 2017. The inset depicts repair of damages to the circle and surrounding area by summer 2018.



Coalition independent, coordinated patrols with Turkey began in spring 2018 outside Manbij, Syria.



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve



Iraqi and Syrian children eagerly await their return to school for the first time since ISIS rose to the peak of its power in 2014-2016.

As the XVIII Airborne Corps began arriving in August for the Sept. 13 transfer of authority for Operation Inherent Resolve, the Coalition's Syrian Democratic Forces partners remained positioned to continue the annihilation of ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley as world powers worked toward potential solutions for the seven-plus year civil war and four-plus year presence of ISIS terrorism there. In Iraq, lawmakers ratified the May 12 election results in late August, maintaining forward progress on formation of a government there. CJTF-OIR's mission remains focused on supporting the lasting defeat of ISIS in designated parts of Iraq and Syria, and in Iraq this includes working in partnership with a new NATO Mission-Iraq headquarters that stood up in September as Lt. Gen. Paul LaCamera and the XVIII Airborne Corps took over leadership of Inherent Resolve.

III Corps departed the Middle East in September 2018, leaving 99% of the land and nearly eight million Iraqis and Syrians liberated from ISIS' brutal control. III Corps and the Coalition hold dear the sacrifices of the Iraqi and Syrian people, including thousands of their security forces, as well as the sacrifices of all Coalition nations, 39 of whose citizens lost their lives during the CJTF-OIR mission.



After liberating the nation from ISIS in late 2017, the Iraqi Security Forces enjoyed a soaring public approval rating.



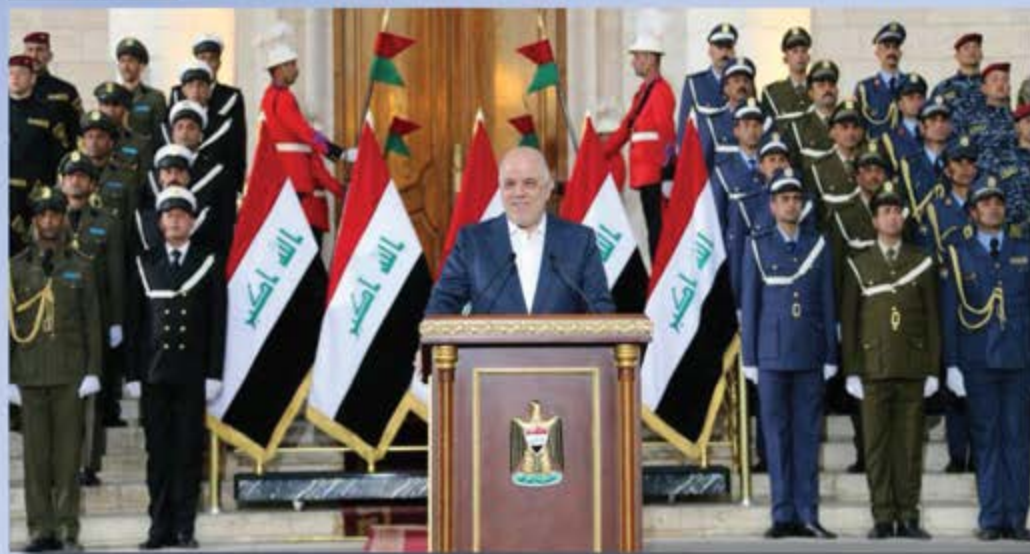
Children rest at an internally displaced person screening point in Dibis, Iraq, Sept. 30, 2017.



Iraqis celebrate the freedom to elect their government May 12, 2018.



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the liberation of Iraq from ISIS Dec. 9, 2017.



Iraqi Security Forces took full advantage of training opportunities offered by the Coalition. During III Corps' tour leading Operation Inherent Resolve from Sept. 2017 to Sept. 2018, the Coalition trained more than 45,000 ISF members and thousands of partner forces troops in northeast Syria.



Mosul University was used as a terrorist base during ISIS' occupation and the subsequent battle to liberate the city. The university was liberated January 2017. Classes were back in session that March, with many buildings still under repair. By early 2018, significant repairs had been made to the campus, as pictured to the left.



Victorious Iraqi troops proudly display their flag, late 2017.



Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve



CJTF-OIR personnel celebrate III Corps' Centennial Birthday with a cake cutting in front of an M1 Abrams Tank at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 16, 2018.



CJTF-OIR leadership at Joint Operations Command-Iraq on III Corps' Centennial Birthday, Union III, Baghdad, Iraq, May 16, 2018.



In Memoriam: Generals Shoemaker & Cavazos

IN OUR ONE-HUNDREDTH YEAR, WE MOURNED THE LOSS OF TWO GREAT FORMER III CORPS COMMANDERS



General Robert M. Shoemaker
Mar. 1975 - Nov. 1977

General Robert M. Shoemaker commanded III Corps from Mar. 1975 to Nov. 1977. Previously in Vietnam, he led two 1st Cavalry Division Units: 1/12 CAV and 1/9 CAV. After commanding III Corps, he was assigned in 1977 as deputy commander of U.S. Army Forces Command before he received his fourth star and took command of the organization. Upon his retirement and return to Fort Hood in 1982, he became a local leader and fixture. He supported the establishment of Texas A&M-Central Texas near Fort Hood, and a Killeen high school bears his name. He passed away on Jun. 21, 2017 in Harker Heights and is buried at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.



General Richard E. Cavazos
Jan.- 1980 - Feb. 1982

General Richard E. Cavazos, a Texas native, commanded III Corps as a lieutenant general from Jan. 1980 to Feb. 1982. He is the first Hispanic Army general to be promoted to four-star rank, and he commanded U.S. Army Forces Command from 1982-84. His combat service includes Korea, where he was awarded the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross, and Vietnam, where he earned a second Distinguished Service Cross. He passed away in San Antonio on Oct. 29, 2017 and is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Phantom Spouses: Toughest Job in the Army

Life Before Becoming a Phantom Warrior Spouse

The Phantom Corps was established while deployed in 1918, and has spent many years of its storied history abroad, defending the United States and its interests. An important but frequently overlooked part of that history includes the spouses, who have kept home fires burning and supported the Corps wherever it has gone.

On our 100th year, we've taken some time to talk with spouses about III Corps' history, as well as its longtime home, Fort Hood. Everyone's story is different, but our affiliations with the Army and the Phantom Corps is a strong common thread that binds us together.



LTG Paul E. Funk II & Dr. Beth Funk

"My history at Ft. Hood goes even further back than my experience as an Army spouse because I came to the Killeen / Ft. Hood area when I was a young high schooler, when my father was stationed here in the late 1970s and so we spent less than a year and a half here. I came at the end of my freshman year and then was here, I went to Killeen High School my sophomore year so we lived off of Ft. Hood and that was our first experience with The Great Place. Fast forward to the late 1980s, in 1987, Paul and I were married here that year. We got married at the 1st CAV Chapel, I was a new graduate right out of the University of Texas at Austin. Two weeks after graduation we got married and he was serving here as a Lieutenant and that was the beginning of our married world here at Ft. Hood."

-- Dr. Beth Funk (née Yeosock), daughter of former First Cavalry Division and later Third Army commander, LTG John Yeosock and wife of III Corps commander, LTG Paul E. Funk II.

Phantom Spouses: Toughest Job in the Army

Life Before Becoming a Phantom Warrior Spouse



"Well, we met when he was still in school. He went to West Point and I was volunteering, leading retreats, at the retreat center across the river from West Point. We met at the Catholic Cadet Young Adult Group. We were friends for a while and then we started dating, so I kind of had an idea of what I was getting myself into."

-- Mrs. Andrea Hickey, spouse of CPT Brendan Hickey, III Corps staff officer



"My father was Air Force so I had been an Air Force brat. He graduated when I was 12, or rather he retired when I was 12 so for the first 12 years of my life I was an Air Force brat. They retired in Mississippi so I finished up junior high and high school and then came here and became an Army spouse."

-- Mrs. Cindy Gaaney – spouse of Command Sergeant Major (Retired) William J. Gaaney, former III Corps Command Sgt. Maj. and first senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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Best Part of Being Part of the III Corps Family

"I love having family close by. It's a place where you run into a lot of people you've been stationed with before and of course this has gotten even better, more so as the years have gone on. You come here now and you meet up with people you've served with all along the way. There's a lot here, there are a lot of jobs here and so you keep meeting up with people over and over again and that's one of my favorite things about being here."

-- Dr. Beth Funk



"I was excited to be two hours away from Ft. Worth, two, two and half hours from San Antonio, an hour from Austin and kind of just in the middle of everything. It seemed like a fun opportunity for some traveling, like local travel."

-- Mrs. Andrea Hickey



"I think the people. This area is just...the people are so good. When my husband deployed to Iraq in '04 the surrounding communities and civilians, and even the agencies on post, they were a godsend to not just myself but to the other military spouses going through the same thing. They just embraced us, included us. It was a hard deployment, don't get me wrong, but I think because of that we just all pulled together and it became just something that we will never forget."

-- Mrs. Cindy Gainey



"I work on post, and I do enjoy how celebratory everybody is. Everything is made such a big deal here like the Corps Birthday. I really got to sit there and learn the history of III Corps and get to see what it was all about, especially being new to the area. I like that it's centrally located. We have a lot of places that we can go visit and take that opportunity. I like that we have San Antonio that's close, Austin, Dallas, we've taken opportunities to go travel around Texas and see what it has to offer. The post has a lot to offer."

-- Mrs. Arayna Randall



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Advice to New Army Spouses

"First and foremost, be yourself and just bring yourself to the table. I think that sometimes we hear or expect military spouses to be the same but we're not cookie cutter. We're all different. We come with unique perspectives, unique experiences, unique talents and strengths and that really is the beauty of what we bring. My best advice would be to be yourself and not try to conform to any notion of what you think the Army spouse should be like."

-- Dr. Beth Funk



"I think it's just really important to find likeminded folks and people who are in the same situation. People don't really understand military life, and there are a lot resources for deployed spouses. There are a lot of people who are in a similar situation. It's nice to try to get in and get connected with some kind of group on post, whether that is volunteering at the thrift shop, or at the museums or things like that: something that interests you, so you can get connected and meet other people who are in the same situation."

-- Mrs. Andrea Hickey



"Just keeping kids busy and being with my friends and other spouses. That's how I've always done it. I always tend to look at the positive side of life, I try to not dwell on negativity or stress. I just don't get stressed about those things – it is what it is and I can deal with what we're dealing with. Honestly the communication was the biggest thing, if you can stay connected to your spouse who's deployed, I think that that eases a lot of those fears, especially for kids. If they can see mom or dad and know they're okay, I think that's a big key. Just be that support to your Soldier, and that's the biggest thing. You may not like a lot of things because no one likes everything about every aspect of life, but you can still be a support to them and listen, just listen to them. I have said to so many young spouses, "The military is a lifestyle, it's not a job." That's my advice, it's just to support, give that support, and reach out to other spouses because there's so many programs out there that can help you get through these things."

-- Mrs. Cindy Gainey



"Definitely don't expect it to be a regular 8-to-5 job. They want to be home just as bad as you want them home, but that's not always the case. Get out there and really see what the military has to offer because there's a lot of programs like Army Community Services that will teach you so many things from Army Family Team Building to how to buy a new house or car. Get involved with your Family ReadinessGroup. It's not going to be easy. It's going to be hard, but it is worth it. Really get out there and see whatthe military has to offer."

-- Mrs. Arayna Randall



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Why We Serve

"I serve because thirty one years ago Paul and I decided that this is how we were going to spend our life. That we were committed to serving our country, and this was going to be the direction, and we were in it for the long haul, and we were in it together, and it was going to be hard but it was going to be beautiful, and that every day we have the opportunity to create our own happiness and to decide what the experience is going to be like for us. So we made the commitment and we've been sticking with it through the highs and lows and it's been an incredibly beautiful life because we are doing it together. "This has been our life: my whole life as an Army child, and now as an Army spouse. And so my whole life has been about this and I've loved our life. I'm proud of the work that my husband has done and I am proud and honored and humbled by the opportunity to assist in the work that he's done and the service that he's giving, and I'm honored to serve these families that have given so much, sacrificed so much. They've loved their spouses and they've loved their country, and they love their community so much that they are willing to continue to give and give and give, and I am inspired by that and humbled to be a part of that."

-- Dr. Beth Funk



"When they are in the field or they are deployed, it's not fun. But when they are home, you really learn to cherish the moments when they are home."

-- Mrs. Andrea Hickey



"For me, it was just meeting the diversity of different people, just having that experience of travel and cultures, all of that. I enjoyed that, I've always been kind of a gypsy, having grown up in the Air Force. Every three years it's time to move: 'Let's go!' It was always an adventure to me. I always hated to leave the people that I had met, good friends. But the military is pretty small, so usually you are going to run across those people again. I always loved going to a new place. It's exciting to check it out and learn about it and meet new people; that's what I liked about it."

-- Mrs. Cindy Gainey



"We sacrifice just as much as our Soldiers do. It is very hard for them downrange, but sometimes it's just as hard for us to hold it all together and make sure that we put on a happy face so they have a good mindset while they are away."

-- Mrs. Arayna Randall



1st Cavalry Division Memorial

The 1st Cavalry Division was activated on 13 September 1921 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and its first duties included the mounted patrolling of the US-Mexican border. By the Second World War the efficacy of horse-mounted soldiers was in rapid decline and the division served in the Pacific Theater as infantry. During the Luzon Campaign, the division became the first US troops to enter Manila in February 1945. For this, commander Maj. Gen. Chase gave it the nickname, "First Team." The Division would also be the first into Tokyo during the occupation of Japan and the first into Pyongyang during the Korean War. In Vietnam the First Team was the Army's first airmobile division, pioneering doctrine still in use today. In the 1990s the division served in both the Gulf War and in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the Global War on Terrorism the 1st Cavalry Division has deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan during some of the most intense periods of combat. On 4 April 2004, a platoon of Comanche Company, 2-5 CAV was pinned down Sadr City, Baghdad, triggering an engagement that lasted nearly ten days and claimed the lives of eight TF Lancer Troopers, wounding more than 70. This event was the beginning of 90 days of near-continuous combat for the Battalion and is known as "Black Sunday." This event has been immortalized in Martha Raddatz's book, "The Long Road Home." The book was turned into an eight-part miniseries by National Geographic, supported by III Corps public affairs and filmed at Fort Hood prior to the Corps' deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The series aired in October 2017.



The 1st Cavalry Division's memorial stands outside the division headquarters on Fort Hood

3d Cavalry Regiment Memorial

The Third Cavalry Regiment's monument sits near the outdoor vehicle display near the 1st Cavalry Division Museum at Fort Hood.



The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was authorized by an Act of Congress on Dec. 1, 1845. This brought into existence a new organization in the United States Army: a regiment of riflemen, mounted to create greater mobility than the infantry, and equipped with rifles to provide greater range and accuracy than the muskets of the infantry or the dragoon's smoothbore carbines. The Mounted Rifles were considered a separate branch of the service and were outfitted with distinctive uniforms and the trumpet branch insignia which remains part of the unit's insignia today. The regiment served in the battles of General Winfield Scott's Mexico City Campaign where after the battle of Contreras, General Scott made the statement, "Brave Rifles! Veterans! You have been baptized in fire and blood and come out steel." This became the Regimental accolade and the basis of the motto, "Blood and Steel." The Regiment served with distinction in many of the nation's wars including the Indian Wars, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, The Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, and the Gulf War. More recently the regiment has served in support of the Global War on Terror in Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Enduring Freedom, Freedom's Sentinel, Resolute Support and Inherent Resolve. From Chapultepec to the Hindu Kush, the 3d Cavalry Regiment has a history of valorous service to the nation.

4th Infantry Division Memorial

The 4th Infantry Division was organized at Camp Greene, North Carolina on 10 December 1917 under the command of Maj. Gen. George H. Cameron. It was here they adopted their distinctive insignia, the four ivy leaves. The ivy leaf came from the Roman numerals for four (IV) and signified their motto "Steadfast and Loyal". The division was organized as part of the United States buildup following the Declaration of War on 6 April 1917 and the entry of the United States into the war on the side of the British and French.

The division proudly served in World War Two, landing at Utah Beach on June 6, 1944 and fighting across Europe. In May 1951 it deployed to Germany as the first of four United States divisions committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization during the early years of the Cold War. The division headquarters was at Frankfurt. After a five-year tour in Germany, the division redeployed to Fort Lewis, Washington in May 1956.



The 4th Infantry Division deployed to Vietnam in 1966 and served more than four years there, returning to Fort Carson, Colorado in December 1970. The division remained in Colorado from 1970 through 1995, but in December 1995 the division headquarters was moved to Fort Hood, Texas after deactivation of the 2nd Armored Division. Based out of Fort Hood, the 4th Infantry Division became an experimental division, and as such it spearheaded "Force XXI," the Army's modernization program.

The division deployed to Iraq 2003-2004, and again from 2005-2006 and 2007-2009. After its third combat tour in Iraq, the division headquarters moved back to Ft. Carson in 2009.

The 4th Infantry Division deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2009-2010, and also deployed to Iraq in 2015-2016 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. In the winter/spring of 2015-2016, the division also sent its Combat Aviation Brigade and Second Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan.

The Ivy Division deployed units to Europe in 2017 in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, and deployed attack aviation to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2018.



13 September 2018

To the Soldiers, Families, and Community of III Corps and Fort Hood,


Over twelve months ago, the Phantom Corps answered our Nation's call to serve on the frontlines of freedom for the eighth time in its illustrious one-hundred year history, assuming responsibility of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (CJTF-OIR). Working *by, with and through* our remarkable Iraqi and Syrian partners, the Coalition of seventy-three nations and five international organizations came together to defeat ISIS while offering a helping hand to millions of innocent civilians. Last September, our Syrian partners were engaged in brutal combat to liberate Raqqah, and ISIS still held terrain in the Euphrates River Valley in Iraq and Syria. Today, we stand on the precipice of the total defeat of ISIS' so-called physical caliphate in Iraq and northeast Syria.

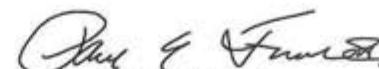
There are two words to describe what has changed in the last four years since the formation of this Coalition – honor and hope. As brave Iraqis closed with the enemy, looked them in the eyes, and defeated them, they not only liberated terrain...they restored honor to their nation. By building and enhancing partner capacity, the Coalition watched the Iraqi Security Forces transform into a confident, professional organization and changed the fate of the Iraqi people. In northeast Syria, hope has replaced fear and oppression. Our Syrian partners are emboldened knowing that the Coalition provides the support they need to fight and win. They strive to set the conditions to establish a bright future of opportunity, stability, and security. Through our collective efforts and the sacrifices of our Heroes who selflessly gave their lives in this fight, life in Iraq and northeast Syria is returning to normal. However, there is still a tough fight ahead.

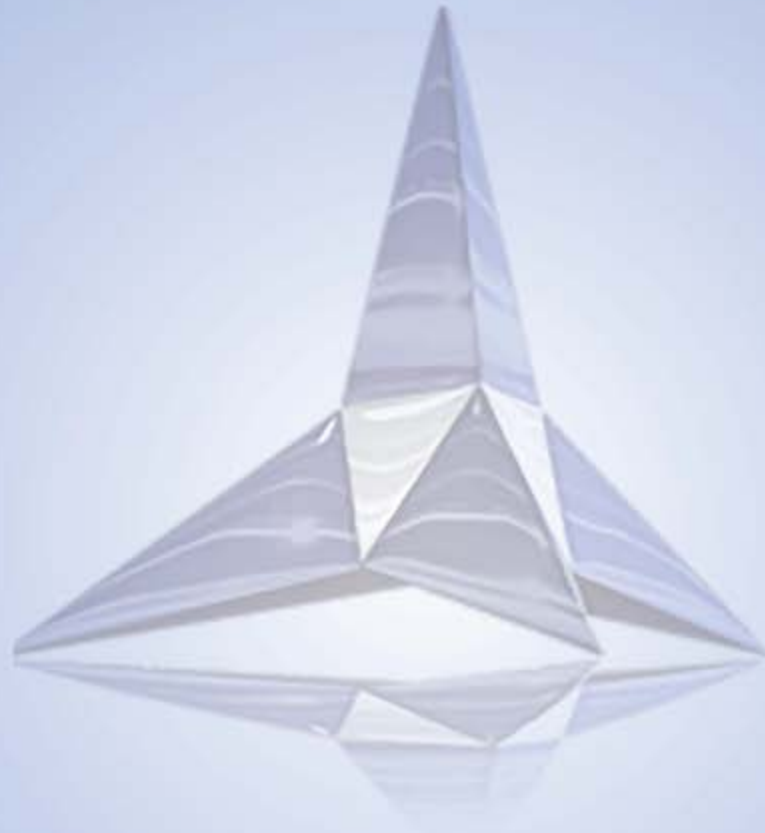
While ISIS' so-called physical caliphate has collapsed, ISIS' center of gravity remains its ideology. As the III Armored Corps transitions the helm of CJTF-OIR to the XVIII Airborne Corps for the second time, the Coalition remains steadfast in its commitment to empower our Iraqi and Syrian partners to secure the lasting defeat of ISIS. Evil continues to lurk in the shadows, and we have no doubt that the XVIII Airborne Corps will maintain the momentum to change the conditions under which ISIS emerged.

To our Family and friends in the Central Texas community, thank you for your outpouring of love and unceasing support throughout our deployment. We are immensely grateful for your sacrifices, and we know that it's our Families who allow us to pursue this most noble of professions. The Phantom Warriors are honored to have led the men and women of the most powerful Coalition ever assembled in the fight to preserve our ideals, values, and way of life while adding to our Corps' storied century of service to the Nation.

Phantom Ready! Phantom Strong!


MICHAEL A. CROSBY
CSM, U.S. Army
III Corps and Fort Hood


PAUL E. FUNK II
LTG, U.S. Army
Commanding



This book was written and arranged by the III Corps and Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve public affairs staff while deployed to Iraq and Kuwait August 26, 2017 through September 13, 2018. Special thanks to the III Corps Historian and fact-checking by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.