DEVELOPING LEADERS AND MASTERING FUNDAMENTALS

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Call for Submissions

Do you have an opinion concerning one of the stories in this issue? We would like to print your responses in our Letters to the Editor column. Have you researched a topic that is of interest to Infantry Soldiers? Submit it to us as an article for the Infantry Bugler. Do you have personal experiences or valuable lessons learned that would benefit other readers? Let us be your vehicle for delivering those thoughts. Send your submissions to bugler@infantryassn.com.
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From the Chairman

On 17 August 2021, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff sent a letter to Soldiers, civilians, family members and Soldiers for Life. His first paragraph emphasized the sacrifices and lasting legacy of honor and commitment over the last two decades. We must remember that during the past two decades our enemies have not attacked America as they did on 11 September 2001. The team to which he sent this letter must remember they answered the call to serve and sacrifice, and they were successful. He shared that he could not be prouder of what has been accomplished over these last two decades.

The Chief acknowledged that today Soldiers are in support of Combatant Commanders around the world and that he knew they would continue to serve with honor and valor when called upon. He also acknowledged that the past two decades tell us that our Soldiers “are a reflection of what makes us the best Army in the world, and I ask that you remain committed as we work to get through these tough times.”

GEN McConville’s last paragraph makes three very important points:

• “In the next few days and weeks, I’d ask that you check in on your teammates as well as our Soldiers for Life, who may be struggling with unfolding events.”
• “We will continue to move forward and serve our Nation with Honor and Dignity.”
• “Proud to serve with you!”

Many of our Army Team are struggling with the unfolding events, and I’d ask Infantry Leaders to employ three small but important words that I have discussed in this column in the past: “Scan, Focus, Act”

Leaders on the Army Team must keep all their senses open, especially eyes and ears. Every waking hour, caring leaders are constantly scanning; thus, they are aware of what is happening around them. They must watch and listen for those who are having a tough time dealing with the unfolding events in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Our team members will have feelings about what is unfolding, and our leaders must be educated and trained to focus in order to help their teammates get the correct assistance they need. Those who have served in areas of operation like Afghanistan will have a wide range of feelings from pride, to mild depression, to suicidal thoughts. Often, a firm pat on the back with a “thank you for a job well done” is all that is required; but with focus, leaders will have a much better chance of getting the “cross-hairs” on the right target,—the correct help their teammates need to receive.

Scanning and focusing are required, but they are not sufficient. Leaders must take the initiative and act. The action might be that pat on the back, but it also could need much more to help a teammate get beyond these trying times. Caring requires action and more action is better than too little action. I strongly recommend you care and devote awake hours each day to alert scanning, knowledgeable focus and positive initiative in order to act. Let’s all work toward keeping our Soldiers, civilians, family members and Soldiers for Life continuing to act with honor and dignity.

From the President

As this Infantry Bugler is distributed, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope all NIA Members have wonderful celebrations with family and friends. We are thrilled that most of our Infantry formations will be at their homes this year, rather than deployed, but please remember those that are deployed. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

I am so proud to be able to represent the past, present and future Infantry at various locations around the United States. Your NIA has represented you and participated in the National Guard of the Army of the United States (NGAUS) and our partner, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Conventions for the dual purpose of expanding reach and making new members. We hope to meet all Infantry Soldiers at these venues.

Now that BG Larry Burris has taken on his multiple roles—Commandant of the United States Army Infantry School (USAIS), Chief of the Infantry Branch, Director of the Cross-Functional Team for Soldier Lethality and Deputy Commanding General for the Maneuver Center of Excellence—we will meet with him to confirm our goals for 2022. Deputy Commandant COL Darnian Mason, CSM Chris Gunn and Office of the Chief of Infantry Director Gary Fox all are wonderful team members who assist the NIA.

Our critical functions will remain: supporting the Chief of Infantry, managing Orders of Saint Maurice and Shield of Sparta Awards, building our Chapter Program, educating with our Infantry Bugler and supporting the National Infantry Museum Foundation.

We appreciate all of the great service and support our National Infantry Association Board of Directors provides to our NIA Headquarters. These board members receive no compensation. Their direction keeps the NIA keel in the right direction as our small team rows. As we move into 2022, we know that their sage advice and phenomenal suggestions will move us forward.

The unsung heroes on our team are our employees—Lauren Byrd, Chelsea Grabzik, Brian Nelson and Jill Tigner. They are delightful to collaborate with, all are phenomenally dedicated employees and they are always available to resolve issues you may have as they relate to the NIA, Infantry Bugler, Awards, Social Media and Chapter challenges. Thanks to all four for their friendship and hard work.

We have several events that will occur while this edition is printed. Besides AUSA, we have the Heroes of America Marathon (HAM) replacing the Soldier Marathon, Infantry Call at Fort Benning and several Christmas parties to attend. Please invite us to all of your events. We’ll let you know right away if we can attend. We also want to share photos from them in our News & Awards section of the Bugler. Infantry Balls, Infantry Calls with Awards Presentations and Rendezvous, Conferences and Celebrations are all important events that we would love to help with.

Special thanks to the 4th Infantry Division, “Steadfast and Loyal,” for their contributions to this edition of the Infantry Bugler. We hope to get future submissions from the 2nd ID, 3rd ID, 82nd Airborne and our National Guard formations.

We also want to recognize our advertisers and supporters Phantom Lights (PhantomLights.com), Pro-Shot Products (ProShotProducts.com) and the National Infantry Museum Foundation. We have magnificent associate partners with AUSA, Ranger Associations, Airborne Associations and others. We are hoping to link with the Combat Infantryman’s Association in the near future.

The NIA has several events upcoming in 2022. The highlight of the first quarter will be the Maneuver Week in February. This affords us the opportunity to host the Doughboy Dinner. We look forward to releasing the date for this event.

We wish all of our past, present and future Infantry Soldiers and their families a wonderful holiday season, extending our hope, well wishes and blessings for continued success in 2022.
From the Chief of Infantry

On 6 August 2021, I assumed responsibility for four roles, including Commandant of the United States Army Infantry School (USAIS), Chief of the Infantry Branch, Director of the Cross-Functional Team for Soldier Lethality and Deputy Commanding General for the Maneuver Center of Excellence. The shared interest among all these roles is ensuring that we continue to produce the most lethal Infantry Soldier in the world led by the most competent and dedicated leaders possible. My experience at various echelons throughout my career has impressed upon me the tremendous responsibility of USAIS in developing competent and lethal Infantry Soldiers of character. The following paragraphs briefly outline my thoughts on maintaining the health and direction of the Infantry Branch.

Assignment as the Infantry Commandant is exciting because throughout my career I have observed the Infantry School’s incredible impact on producing the Soldiers that we need to close with and destroy the enemy. During multiple deployments, I witnessed how USAIS training provides the foundation that our Infantry Soldiers and leaders will build on throughout their time in Army service. We must continue to improve the foundational training Soldiers receive at Fort Benning by continuously adapting programs of instruction to emphasize Large-Scale Combat Operations and multi-domain concepts. Simultaneously we must ensure that our training emphasizes and provides numerous opportunities to master Infantry fundamentals throughout a Soldier’s training at Fort Benning.

The Infantry Commandant’s primary responsibility is to ensure that Infantry Soldiers and officers receive the leader education and development to successfully perform in diverse and challenging assignments. Such challenges include performing well in both vehicular and non-vehicular assignments and staff positions that span the tactical, operational and strategic levels. Additionally, serving effectively at multiple echelons requires applying fundamentals while thinking creatively and critically to solve new dilemmas. Therefore, how well we perform our leader development responsibilities at Fort Benning plays a tremendous role in the success of Infantry officers and NCOs throughout their entire careers.

We must look across our training programs at Fort Benning and ensure that Soldiers continue to be the most trained, lethal and competent in the world. Ensuring we have Infantry officers and Soldiers who can perform successfully many years after leaving Fort Benning speaks to my role as the 60th Chief of Infantry. The U.S. Infantry has a proud history and maintaining the long-term health and vitality of the Infantry Branch requires us to connect that past with the present. We must work to ensure new officers understand and can share that history with their formations. We must also work every day to maintain that legacy through our engagements with recruits and cadets considering the Infantry Branch. We must communicate through both words and actions that when they meet the standard, the Infantry will provide them with equal opportunity to succeed regardless of gender, race or ethnicity. No branch emphasizes teamwork, shared responsibility and testing human endurance more than the Infantry. We are a branch that bases inclusivity on performance and results—not outward appearance.

Assuring a world-class training environment on Fort Benning means creating a climate that allows trainees and cadre to focus on training by minimizing distractors. To do so, we must maintain the Infantry Branch’s familial attitude of caring for each other, respecting one another and enforcing our standards. Those standards must include how Infantry Soldiers apply what they learn at Fort Benning to combat, training, safety and the treatment of others. Acquiring and retaining the best Soldiers and leaders for the Infantry rests on the trust that all men and women can serve without the fear of harassment, assault or discrimination by teammates and supervisors. Ultimately, what our Infantry Soldiers and young leaders experience during their time training at Fort Benning will set the tone for how they treat others and how they feel about the Infantry Branch for the rest of their careers.

I look forward to serving with and for the entire Infantry community and ensuring our Soldiers continue to be the most trained, lethal and competent in the world.

One Force! One Fight!
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The 4th Infantry Division has fought in every major American war since 1917. The 4th Infantry Division formed at Camp Greene, North Carolina and immediately proved itself in the crucible of brutal close combat that characterized the First World War. In the decades that followed, Ivy leaders led the charge onto Utah Beach and through the Hurtgen Forest, fought valiantly in the Ia Drang valley during Vietnam and relentlessly pursued our Nation’s enemies in the streets of Baghdad and in the mountains of the Hindu Kush.

One hundred four years later, the Ivy Division continues to answer our nation’s call, as it is not uncommon to see all three Brigade Combat Teams deployed across the world. Today, the Ivy Division is proud to maintain a training center that embodies the spirit of the military’s founding principles and remains dedicated to preparing future leaders who uphold the values of the United States Army.

More than 48 lieutenant colonels in the 4th Infantry Division participate in the Mabry Mile as a part of a grueling 36-hour training event to challenge senior leaders of the division to reflect and rethink how to train soldiers for the rigors of the modern battlefield. The Mabry Mile is a Fort Carson obstacle named for George L. Mabry Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient and former Soldier within the ranks of the Ivy division. The Ivy division proudly uses his name and legacy to exemplify loyalty, duty and courage through the Mabry Mile obstacle course. Photo by SPC. Matthew Rabahy
globe. In today’s complex and dangerous world, the Ivy Division remains focused and ready. As I write this column, we have one Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq and Syria and other Brigades preparing to deploy. Lastly, with our unique blend of Stryker Infantry and Heavy Armor formations, the Ivy Division converges faster, closes with the enemy faster and consolidates gains faster than any other formation.

As our Army concludes our mission in Afghanistan, the Ivy Division will develop leaders prepared to fight and win in environments that are dynamic, complex and characterized by uncertainty. While tomorrow’s battlefield will be increasingly dangerous and more complex, what remains constant is the final yards still host intense, personal and close-in fighting. We should never assume our ability to close in the final yards essential to winning our nation’s wars. We must invest in our leaders and soldiers to build cohesive teams necessary to close in these final yards.

I maintain our Army’s source of overmatch always rests with our people.

Our leaders and soldiers must remain disciplined and proficient in both their individual and collective tasks. Our leaders must routinely refresh, or pursue, mastery of individual and leader skills to set the example for their formations. This expertise will inspire our young soldiers and future leaders to similarly realize their full potential.

Here in the Ivy Division, our approach starts with training and certifying our leaders to master the fundamentals. Last month, the Ivy Division executed the Division Leader Academy to train and develop 48 lieutenant colonels in individual and collective tasks while operating in an uncertain environment. This “Mungadai” event echoed the tenants of Genghis Khan’s legendary Mongolian cavalry selection process where the Mungadai tests leaders’ endurance, warrior skills and ability to overcome obstacles as a cohesive team. The Division Leader Academy started with a foot march to execute the Army’s Integrated Weapons Training Strategy with leaders firing Table VI with M4s. Then, leaders conducted an air assault into the Sawtooth Mountains to infiltrate Fort Carson’s most rugged and restrictive terrain. After hiking down the mountain, leaders learned the intricacies of vehicular operations as both a leader and a Soldier. The latter afforded these lieutenant
colonels to experience loss of situational awareness crammed in the back of a Stryker.
The rigorous first day ended with leaders conducting late night patrol base operations to prepare for the next day’s events.

With less than four hours of sleep, the senior leaders began their second day with individual skills training ranging from vehicle maintenance to marksmanship classes. The entire team was rewarded with another air movement and high altitude landing at Almagre (12,367 feet above sea level) to plant the Division colors in the shadow of Pike’s Peak. The leaders faced their final and unknown challenge after flying back to garrison—the Mabry Mile obstacle course. Overcoming fatigue and surprise, to “fight” for the final yards, the leaders again worked as a team to complete the mile-long obstacle course. The grueling 36-hour training event challenged senior leaders of the Division to

ATTENTION NIA CHAPTERS

During the pandemic, several of our chapters became stagnant or went on inactive status due to not submitting meeting information, point of contact info or financials.

All chapters that are actively meeting, please submit updated POC information. We also need to update member rosters, officer names and contact, in addition to getting financial records. The deadline for Quarter 4 reporting is February 15, 2022.

*Please submit these documents as well as any questions to Chapters@InfantryAssn.com.*
MG David M. Hodne, (left), commanding general, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, and Command Sergeant Major Adam Nash, (center), senior enlisted advisor, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, lead 48 lieutenant colonels on a ruck march during the Ivy Division Leader’s Academy to train and develop leaders on individual and collective tasks while operating in an uncertain environment. Photo by SPC. Scyrrus Corregidor

reflect and rethink how they train their soldiers for the rigors of the modern battlefield. All leaders also left with a renewed appreciation of the fundamentals.

While this event certainly tested everyone, it was not solely a “gut check.” In addition to adapting under pressure, moving unknown distances, carrying heavy loads, operating with little rest, all while leading peers, the Division Leader Academy balanced these factors against productive training on the fundamentals, what we call the Ivy 7: fitness, marksmanship, battle drills, maintenance, communication, medical and vehicular operations. This approach of shared hardship deliberately aligned against Division priorities and directed learning outcomes is essential towards instilling confidence. This confidence not only inspires belief in self, teammates and leaders, it also reminds or allows leaders to understand the experiences of our Soldiers while establishing an environment necessitating and rewarding teamwork.

The Ivy Division Leader Academy marks only one of many approaches to prepare our leaders and soldiers for the uncertainty of tomorrow’s battlefield. Our leader development at all echelons seeks to develop soldiers who are fit, motivated and disciplined fighters who master their craft and use their initiative at every opportunity. It also seeks to develop leaders who are ruthless in preparing and conducting training to standard, who accomplish their mission regardless of any obstacle—physical, mental or human. Lastly, it seeks to develop

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Winter 2021
units trained to standard in drills and collective tasks that can adapt to changing conditions and succeed in any environment. Ultimately, developing leaders will be the legacy of this great Division and our Army.

The Fourth Infantry Division stands ready to answer the Nation’s call just as it has over the last century. As our Nation’s strategic missions become more uncertain and peer and near-peer adversaries continue to advance their Armies technologically, the 4th Infantry Division will accomplish all assigned missions; defeat any enemy, anytime, anywhere … and do this under any condition. Steadfast and Loyal!

MG David Hodne is the Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Colorado. He most recently served as the Chief of Infantry, Commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School and Director of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team.

HONOR THE LEGACY

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Please make checks payable to National Infantry Museum Foundation. Pavers are considered a tax-deductible donation. For more information, call (706) 695-5813.
“America brought a Soldier back, and we are blessed that it was our family member.”

These words were spoken at his great-uncle’s funeral service by Billy DaVault, a United States Marine Corps veteran.

This wasn’t a typical service. It was a family reunion over 70 years in the making.

In 1944, PVT Warren DaVault was one of 4,000 4th Infantry Division Soldiers to lose their life in the World War II battle of Hürtgen Forest. He, along with 35 other Ivy Soldiers were never recovered and identified after the battle, until now. On 14 August 2021, DaVault was once again reunited with his family in Dayton, Tennessee due to the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Since 2015, DPAA spearheaded efforts to recover and identify missing U.S. military personnel across the globe.

“I can guarantee everyone in our family has a tear in their eye and feels the exact same way that I feel to finally have my uncle home,” DaVault said at his great-uncle’s funeral service.
DaVault was assigned to what is currently designated as 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division when he lost his life in Hürtgen Forest. The current command team, LTC Thomas Carroll, commander of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and CSM Joseph Gaskin, senior enlisted advisor, joined the DaVault family in Tennessee for DaVault’s return home.

“This is a testament to the fact that when the Army as whole says we will never leave a fallen comrade, we mean it,” Carroll said. “Almost 77 years this young man has been away from home. And now he is back with his family.”

In World War II alone, an estimated 405,000 Americans died worldwide, spanning across Europe, the Pacific theater and even training accidents in the States. Due to the chaotic nature of combat and the sheer scope of those battles, many Soldier remains have never been recovered, accurately identified or both.

Dr. Ian Spurgeon, a DPAA historian, attached to a multi-disciplinary team tasked with identifying missing service members in Central and Eastern Europe, understands the gravity of his assignment.

In particular, Spurgeon and his team have focused much of their efforts on one exceptionally bloody battleground of WWII: Hürtgen Forest.

At the outset of their investigations, DPAA estimated 200 American Soldiers missing or unaccounted for in and around Hürtgen Forest, with 35 of them being 4th Infantry Division Soldiers.

In the years following WWII, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC), the original organization tasked with identifying and bringing home missing American personnel after WWII, was able to recover 280,000 fallen Soldiers, but 72,000 were never recovered.

“The DPAA’s mission to identify the fallen makes our historical work more meaningful than any other type of historical research and analysis I’ve ever done,” Spurgeon said. “This is very personal. This is trying to put a name and story to what was lost. This type of historical work has finality to it that a lot of other research and military studies lack. When we do our job well, it closes the loop not only for the family and for our mission, but also for that particular historical question and mystery.”

Though Spurgeon and his team have made great progress thus far, resulting in the joyous reunions between family members separated for decades, the cases left for last often prove to be the most difficult.

“The service members who are still missing are the most difficult cases,” Spurgeon said. “They are the cases that our predecessors couldn’t find or couldn’t identify with 1940s’ technology. I try to give a lot of credit to previous graves registration teams who were trying to recover and identify these Soldiers in the middle of a combat zone. There were still land mines and unexploded ordinance, grenades, mortars and artillery rounds.”

LTC Thomas Carroll, (right), presents Bill DaVault (left) with a folded U.S. flag during PVT Warren DaVault’s funeral in Dayton, Tennessee.
Even with the vastly improved technology and more sophisticated methodologies of the 21st century, Spurgeon isn’t deluded about the complexity of the problem at hand. Much of the work focuses on unidentified remains previously recovered from the Hürtgen Forest and currently buried as Unknown Soldiers in military cemeteries. He estimates that almost two-thirds of all the remains were in less than favorable condition due to serious damage incurred from combat as well as other logistical difficulties.

“Not every unknown remain is the same,” Spurgeon said. “Some of them are in very poor shape. About a third of the remains were mostly complete remains that were not identified because of lack of information. But we have been able to fairly quickly exhume and identify them with dental records, DNA and other methods.”

No matter how challenging this undertaking may be, Spurgeon emphasizes the necessity of this mission not only for the sake of the military but also for the families who have patiently carried the decades-long burden of a missing family member.

“The trauma of these families’ losses has been carried down the generations,” Spurgeon said. “I talk to children or grandchildren and they say, ‘my mother,’ or, ‘my grandmother never got over the loss.’ So often the ability for these current family members to bury those remains next to that Soldier’s parents, who never learned what happened, gives them peace and closure.”

Since 2015, Spurgeon’s team has formally identified 41 Soldiers, hailing from the 1st, 4th, 8th, 9th, 28th and 83rd Infantry Divisions, as well as one tank destroyer battalion.

Twelve of those Soldiers belonged to the 4th Inf. Div.: PVT Shirley E. Bailey, PVT Kenneth D. Farris, PFC William F. Delaney, PFC Raymond H. Middlekauff, PVT Ballard McCurley, PVT Pearl F. Barrow, PFC Oliver Jeffers, PFC Warren DaVault, SGT Arthur W. Countryman, SSG William R. Linder, PVT Archie V. Fleeman, and PFC William L. Groh; with Groh, Countryman, Linder, Fleeman and DaVault being the most recently accounted for Soldiers.

Countryman and DaVault both received proper military funerals this past August. Linder’s and Fleeman’s families received notification of identification late September 2021.

SGT Matthew Rabahy is a Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist who joined the United States Army in March 2018. He attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He then went to the Defense Information School for Advanced Individual Training at Fort Meade, Maryland. From September 2018 up to the present, SGT Rabahy has served with the 14th Public Affairs Detachment, 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colorado.
In December 1917, the 4th Infantry Division and its iconic ivy leaf insignia were founded. What was originally derived from the ivy’s symbolic meaning of tenacity and fidelity was the division’s motto, “Steadfast and Loyal.”

These words have been instilled in Soldiers and practiced for more than 100 years. The meaning has been exemplified through disciplined Soldiers who are experts in their craft. Being “Steadfast and Loyal” is one of the reasons Soldiers have prevailed in battle and been able to perform incredible acts of valor.

Three “Ivy” Soldiers carried out the motto and distinguished themselves during Operation Enduring Freedom. These three: Clinton Lovar Romesha, Ty Michael Carter and Florent Groberg were the most recent recipients of the highest and most prestigious military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

**SPC Ty Michael Carter**

SPC Ty Michael Carter served as a scout, also with Bravo Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 61st Cav. Reg., 4th BCT. His actions were critical in resupplying ammunition and defending their position. Located on the opposite side of the compound during the same engagement as Romesha, Carter reinforced the forward battle position with his M4 carbine rifle.

“My job was to support that guard position because if that guard position fell, then the camp would possibly fall,” Carter explained.

Although he was injured, Carter ran through enemy rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire to rescue a critically wounded comrade and coordinate their evacuation using the squad’s radio. Carter’s actions helped defend Combat Outpost Keating and saved the lives of his fellow Soldiers.

**SSG Clinton L. Romesha**

SSG Clinton L. Romesha served as a section leader with Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div., during his deployment to Afghanistan. His actions were critical in suppressing an enemy that had far outnumbered their team. On 3 October 2009, the team was awakened by an attack of concentrated fire from approximately 300 enemy fighters surrounding their
complex, Combat Outpost Keating. Despite shrapnel wounds inflicted by a rocket-propelled grenade, Romesha continually exposed himself to heavy enemy fire throughout the battlefield to destroy multiple enemy targets, including several Taliban fighters. Seeing several injured platoon mates, Romesha went back to the barracks under heavy fire to create a small fire team that would help the injured move to a safer area.

“One of the greatest things I’ve ever seen in my life is the leaders who stood up without hesitation,” Romesha recounted. “I asked for volunteers, and they said, ‘Hey, we’ll follow you. Let’s go!’”

He and his five-man team provided covering fire to allow injured Soldiers to safely reach the aid station. Romesha’s actions during the overwhelming ambush allowed Bravo Troop to regroup and secure Combat Outpost Keating. Today, his M4 carbine rifle is on display in the 4th Inf. Div. Museum at Fort Carson.

CPT Florent Groberg

CPT Florent Groberg served as a personal security detachment commander for Task Force Mountain Warrior and was responsible for the safety of several personnel, including commanders and command sergeants major of the Afghan national army. On 8 August 2012, Groberg led an escort mission from Forward Operating Base Fiaz to the provincial governor’s compound in Asabad, Kunar Province, when a lone individual walking nearby the formation made an abrupt turn toward them. Groberg rushed toward the man, pushed him away from the patrol and confirmed the man had on a suicide vest. While pinned to the ground, the bomber’s explosive vest detonated and triggered a second suicide vest to prematurely explode.

Groberg believes what he did to protect the formation felt natural. “You are out there every day, training for years and living together,” he said. “You go through a lot of crazy things together and you are willing to do anything for these guys.”

Due to Groberg’s selfless actions, he was able to protect his security patrol. He sustained a loss of nearly half his left calf muscle, a blown eardrum and a mild traumatic brain injury. Despite heavy injuries, his actions disrupted both bombers’ plans and saved many lives in the process.

With almost complete disregard for their own lives, all three Soldiers performed beyond the call of duty and distinguished themselves with their heroic acts. A symbolic image is permanently etched into the center of each Medal of Honor produced, as pointed out by 4th Inf. Div. Museum Director Michael Cline. The etching reads:

“In the center is Minerva, the goddess of (defensive) warfare. She represents strategy and virtue. Soldiers don’t earn this medal because of their might and ferocity, but because of their virtue and valor.”

4th Inf. Div. Soldiers come from a proud and courageous heritage. The Ivy division has the most Medal of Honor recipients from the War in Afghanistan and these three individuals are the embodiment of the Ivy division motto—“Steadfast and Loyal.” In a dangerous and uncertain world, the Ivy division remains eager to carry its legacy forward.

ILT Robin Pyo is a Field Artillery Officer who commissioned from Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 2019. From 2019 to 2021, she served as a firing platoon leader, executive officer and commander’s translator for 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment in Camp Casey, South Korea. She now serves with 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment in Fort Carson, Colorado.
Quick survey: how many of you have been stationed at Fort Benning? Raise your hands. Yep, that’s what I thought. Most of the country’s finest Infantry Soldiers have marched across the Army post’s 284 square miles at some point in their careers. And while you may have no interest in reliving ruck marches or oh-dark-thirty PT in pea soup humidity, we would like you to think about the lifelong lessons, friendships and memories you made here and help us preserve those memories for the generations of Infantrymen who follow in your bootsteps.

The National Infantry Museum, which sits just outside the gates of Fort Benning, has launched a new monthly giving program called Follow Me Home. Your support will help the museum continue its mission of honoring Soldiers and educating the public that freedom isn’t free. For just a few dollars a month, you can make a big difference every day. The program allows you to set up your membership to automatically deduct from your checking account or be charged to your credit card. And then you don’t have to think about it again.

We’ll send you a small thank-you in the form of a window decal that tells the world just how much it means to be an Infantryman.

Former Infantrymen are among the museum’s best supporters. More than 190 retired general officers’ names are listed on The Graybeards wall. Dozens of others make a significant donation every year to be part of the exclusive 1775 Society. And now, with Follow Me Home, we have a way for all to demonstrate their support, at any level that feels comfortable.

You don’t have to be an Infantryman to sign up for Follow Me Home. Maybe
a loved one served, or maybe you’re just a patriotic American who wants to say thank you to the men and women who earned and have protected our nation’s freedom for more than 245 years.

Like most everyone else, the National Infantry Museum Foundation has suffered financially throughout the pandemic. Being closed to the public for more than a year and a half has meant no dollars in the donation boxes, no event rentals, no restaurant sales, no gift shop purchases—it all adds up. Or rather, it doesn’t add up—at least not in dollars needed to keep the museum going.

Please don’t forget that the museum is operated by a private, non-profit foundation. It receives only a portion of its budget from the Army to cover the costs of caring for the artifacts the Army owns. The rest of the museum’s budget comes from sponsors, donors and generous supporters like you. We can’t do it without you.

Of course, there are other ways to support the National Infantry Museum. You can become a Premier Partner or Sustaining Sponsor with an annual gift of $5,000 or more. This is great for businesses and organizations seeking recognition benefits. Or, you can join the 1775 Society for $1,000 a year or more. Maybe you’d prefer to buy a memorial gift—a commemorative paver, a tree, a bench—in honor of a loved one. These gifts can be purchased for as little as $250.

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Want to learn more about Follow Me Home or any of the other giving opportunities? Contact Director of Development Jane Bayer at jbayer@nationalinfantryfoundation.org, or 706-653-2604.
The commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command is the latest inductee of the Order of St. Maurice following a ceremony 15 September 2021 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. BG Douglas Lowrey was inducted into the Order of St. Maurice by COL Jeffrey Bryson, the U.S. Army South director of operations and fellow infantryman.

On 30 August 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia, 1SG Michael Thompson presented the Order of St. Maurice to SSG Joey Ferguson.

BG (Ret) Sean Casey, (left) and LTC Adam Tiffin (right) Commander 1st Battalion 175th Infantry presented the Order of St. Maurice to SGM William Ward at the VFW Post 8185 during their recent dinner.

On 22 June 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia, COL (Ret) Paul Longgrear (far right) presented the Order of St. Maurice to 1LT Jose Gutierrez. Also at the presentation were (left to right) Bob Brown and MSG (Ret) Howard “Max” Mullen.

On 24 September 2021 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, BG (Ret) Robin L. Mealer presented the Order of St. Maurice to LTC Jason L. Bartlett following his retirement ceremony after 33 years of service.

On 22 June 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia, COL (Ret) Paul Longgrear (far right) presented the Order of St. Maurice to 1LT Jose Gutierrez. Also at the presentation were (left to right) Bob Brown and MSG (Ret) Howard “Max” Mullen.

Longtime US Family Health Plan member CSM (Ret) Robert Delia, (right), recently presented the Order of Saint Maurice to US Family Health Plan Dr. Charles Rollinger for his compassion and care in taking care of Infantry Soldiers and Veterans in the greater Boston area. Nurse Practitioner Mara Wermuth (left) was also on hand for the presentation.
SFC Richard E Hanley, 1SG of C Co, 5-20 IN, 1SBCT, 2ID, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington was recently presented the Order of St. Maurice.

BG Wallace of the 36th ID recently presented WWII veteran SSG Charles Edwin Dyer the order of St. Maurice at Camp Mabry, Texas. Dyer served with Co I, 108th Infantry Regiment, 40th ID.

Silvia Rivero was presented the Order of St Maurice by LTC Matt Johnson at Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems on 30 June 2021.

Ralph Wampler was presented the Order of St Maurice by LTC Matt Johnson at Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems on 28 April 2021.

Ryan Johnson was presented the Shield of Sparta by her husband, LTC Matt Johnson, at Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems on 7 July 2021.
On July 10, MAJ Walter Rosado was presented the Order of Saint Maurice from COL Matthew S. Woodruff, Commander of the 37th IBCT, and Chief of Staff for the Ohio Army National Guard.

National Infantry Museum President and COO Pete Jones (left) and former NIM President and COO Greg Camp (right) presented Mim Hallock the Shield of Sparta, which is awarded to a spouse who has significantly contributed to the Infantry.

SFC Robert Gray (right) and SFC James Jackson (left) presented SSG Keith French with a replacement Order of Saint Maurice Legionnaire at a family gathering. French was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice Legionnaire while stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. In December of 2020, French and his family lost all of their personal belongings in an apartment fire. Fifteen years of active duty service memorabilia was lost in the fire, including his original OSM award. Gray and Jackson replaced the original and presented him with a framed award.

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