

Commander proud to have served with 100th Division

“Time to strike the tent”

By Maj. Gen. John TINDALL Jr.
Commanding General

Soldiers of the Century Division, friends and comrades; my tenure as your Commanding General is rapidly coming to a close—it is time to “strike the tent.” As I reflect on the achievements you and the 100th Division have made to the United States Army during the four years I have been privileged to be your commander—I am truly indebted to you for your hard work and continued adherence to excellence in all you do.

When I assumed command on 26 June, 1999, it appeared that all would be business as usual. We proudly stood up the new 8th Brigade (ROTC), and I was equally proud when we later added to that Brigade the 4-399 ROTC Support Battalion. In addition, our staff was initiating a strategy of moving several 100th Division units further south in order to bolster Division numbers and structure. The 7th Brigade put several units at Fort McClellan and Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; while the 1st Brigade repositioned B Company 3-397 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Later, we convinced USARC that it was in the best interests of the Army for New York’s 98th DIV(IT) to give up an entire IET battalion!



MG Tindall

As a result, an additional 107 soldiers, belonging to the new 4-398 Regiment (headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama), joined our ranks. Yes, the 100th Division was on the march; units were being added and numbers of qualified Drill Sergeants and Instructors continued to improve. I was optimistic that my goal of leaving a healthier, more robust 100th Division to my successor was well under way.

Little did this Vietnam veteran realize that the events of September 11th would also put me in the ranks of the 100th Division’s wartime era Commanding Generals. Since that dark September day, the Soldiers of the Century have stepped up and supported numerous missions.

You have made history. For the first time since World War II, Century Division soldiers have been mobilized and sent to units deploying overseas. About half of these mobilizations have been involuntary call-ups; all soldiers have left families and loved ones—no mobilization is without sacrifice. But I am proud to tell you that not one soldier from the 100th Division has failed to do their duty.

During Operation Noble Eagle many of our chemical soldiers were cross-leveled to bolster homeland security. We also stood up a Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS) detachment of 65 soldiers—a unique part of the entire U.S. Army.

During Operation Enduring Freedom, thirty-three (33) 100th

Division soldiers became part of the Fort Knox Training Base Expansion, and another sixty-three (63) were mobilized as Task Force 100 to augment the 1st Armor Training Brigade at Fort Knox. To date, Task Force 100 soldiers have provided instruction to 8,750 soldiers!

In support of 9/11, and Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, the total number of Century Soldiers mobilized to date is 167. Within the last several weeks we have also responded to a request to send training cadre to Afghanistan, to help train the Afghan Army. We have MPs serving in Kuwait and other warriors of Operation Iraqi Freedom scattered throughout the world. Your 100th Division is now for the first time, actively involved in training, war fighting, and nation building. It is an extraordinary transition from where we were four years ago.

Bottom line up front: In the four years I have been in command, the 100th Division has trained approximately 18,093 soldiers on the TASS side, and assisted with the training of about 44,000 IET soldiers. You have supported wartime missions as patriots and soldiers, and as a result, made the 100th Division a success in all the areas that count. You—citizen-soldiers—the Soldiers of the Century, have my eternal gratitude, respect, and admiration for a job well done. Now, it is time to strike the tent, shoulder my rucksack and march on toward new goals.

Thanks for a great four years, a lifetime of comrades and friends, and the satisfaction of proudly serving the U.S. Army 100th Division and the United States of America. May God Bless you all in your future endeavors, and always, “Train ‘em Tough!”