



Col. Edward T. Bohnemann, commander and Command Sgt. Major Michael W. Boom, senior enlisted advisor of the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade cases the colors after a ceremony Friday at the Grafenwoehr Fitness Center. (Photo by U.S. Army Europe)

172nd Infantry Brigade Cases Colors in Germany

From the Army News Service

The 172nd Infantry Brigade cased its colors in Grafenwoehr, Germany, marking the unit's inactivation.

The 172nd Infantry Brigade shoulder sleeve insignia.

While the 172nd's official history dates back to World War I, its modern history in Germany began in March 2008, in Schweinfurt, when 2nd "Dagger" Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, reflagged to become the 172nd "Blackhawk" Infantry Brigade. The brigade headquarters and most of the brigade later moved to Grafenwoehr.

The brigade deployed twice, once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. Nineteen of the brigade's Soldiers died during those deployments.

"The sacrifices of the 19 Blackhawks who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan signify the most recent chapter in a legacy of service the 172nd has given to our

Nation," said Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, Jr., USA-REUR's commanding general, in his remarks during the ceremony.

After praising the unit's performance in combat and acknowledging the challenges of the brigade's final mission, the preparations for its inactivation, Campbell ended with words of encouragement and pride.

"The young privates, sergeants, and lieutenants who proudly wear the Blackhawk combat patch today will likely be asked in 10 years, 'What unit is that?'"

"They will know and carry your legacy into the future. They will understand how you helped shape USAREUR into a more agile force in support of the Army's ongoing transformation and carry this accomplishment with pride," Campbell said.

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