



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
6506 INDIANHEAD ROAD
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905

16 June 2020

Past and Present 199th Infantry Brigade 'Redcatchers' Soldiers, NCOs and Officers:

It is our pleasure to write this letter to everyone that is a part of the Redcatcher family and the long and colorful heritage of this Brigade. CSM Roy Young and I have had the pleasure of leading this exceptional Brigade for just over a year now, and would like to take some time to inform every one of the current status of the Brigade. Our goal is to establish a connection between past and current generations of Redcatchers.

The Brigade has undergone many changes since its activation on 24 June 1921. From action in World War II in the Rhineland and the Ardennes, to combat in Vietnam in Operation FAIRFAX and Operation UNIONTOWN, the 199th has consistently shown itself capable of accomplishing the toughest missions and unrelenting in the face of adversity.

Although being deactivated in 1992, the Brigade was transferred to the U.S. Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) in 2006 and reactivated in 2007 at the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) at Fort Benning, GA. During that time, it was designated as the Leader Development Brigade due to the responsibility of training Armor and Infantry Basic Officer Leader Courses (BOLC), the Federal Officer Candidate School (OCS), and the Maneuver Captains Career Course (MCCC).

Our organization has changed slightly since then, but the mission remains the same: 199th trains and develops competent Soldiers and leaders of character who are confident to lead our Army. Our goal is to create students that are technically and tactically proficient, fit and persons of character. We still maintain responsibility for Infantry BOLC, OCS and MCCC, but also train numerous functional courses including Sniper School, Combatives, Bradley Leaders Course and Stryker Leaders Course.

While no longer engaged in direct combat operations, the Redcatcher Brigade has retained the tenacious and standards-based culture that past generations remember. We accomplish this through tough, realistic training and uncompromising standards that Army Soldiers deserve. Our instructors teach, coach and mentor future leaders in a myriad of disciplines to ensure that they are able to operate in volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environments. The 199th Cadre are engaged leaders and doctrinal experts who understand that what they do on a daily basis has a lasting and permanent impact on the entirety of the Army.

Recently, the Brigade has again had to show its flexibility and commitment during the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the majority of the country was under 'stay at home' or 'shelter in place' orders, the Redcatchers realized that we had not been relieved of our

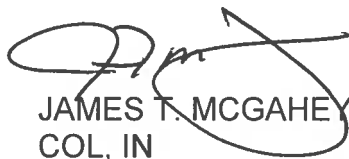
principle requirements for the Army – produce trained Leaders, ready and prepared to win our Nation’s wars. Through inventive and unconventional methods, we were able to continue to train most of our courses while remaining focused on the health and safety of our Soldiers and families. While this may seem natural, the BDE and Fort Benning became the standard and example across the Army for overcoming adversity and continuing the mission. Multiple Senior Leaders within the Army and the Department of Defense traveled to Fort Benning to gain insights on how to continue to meet mission requirements while preventing the infection of COVID-19. Our Officers, NCOs and Soldiers continue to uphold the amazing legacy of dedication, competence and loyalty that has been established through the Brigade’s long history.

The Brigade is also reinvigorating our Distinguished Member of the Brigade program. This program is to recognize past and current members or friends of the Brigade who have had a significant impact on the unit, Army, or community. Our first five inductees will be recognized on 24 June 2020, in celebration of the birth of the Brigade – the four Medal of Honor Recipients of the Brigade and BG William Bond. In the future, we will establish a voting committee and a nomination process and present this award during the annual 199th reunion.

Finally, thank you to all members of the Brigade, past and present. Your service, sacrifice and commitment have laid the foundation from which we build from. We take our history very seriously while looking towards the future to ensure that we train leaders to carry on the same values and virtues. We will ensure that the Army remains trained, ready, and prepared to win our Nation’s wars. Light, Swift, Accurate!



ROY A. YOUNG
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major



JAMES T. MCGAHEY
COL, IN
Commanding