



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dragoons Unfurl Colors and Honor Fallen

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Vilseck, Germany – Dragoons of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry were welcomed home to Vilseck with a week of celebration that began Friday, July 22 with the official uncasing of the Regimental colors and memorial rededication held in Dragoon Memorial Park on Rose Barracks. Thousands of Troopers stood in formation before the Dragoon Memorial as the Regimental colors were unfurled by the 75th Colonel of the Regiment, Col. James Blackburn and Regimental Command Sergeant Major Mark Morris.

That day was filled with a somber mood of honor and pride as Troopers and family members gathered to pay tribute to their brothers who paid the ultimate price for freedom. There were 84 family members of the 20 fallen heroes present to witness the addition to the memorial monument.

“What a humbling picture before you,” Blackburn said as he addressed the masses.

“Their eyes fixed upon the granite, tracing each and every letter etched in stone.”

“It is simply miraculous to watch that formation of warriors,” he continued. “Their eyes fixed like a laser beam on this monument, simply miraculous, simply humbling.”

“Today we honor and remember our fallen,” he said. “We gather here in this place of honor to pay tribute to them.”

“To remind us why we serve,” Blackburn continued. “To remind ourselves of our fallen brothers, who selflessly served.”

“To remind us who fell fighting savages to bring peace to a people who have only known war.”

“We shall never forget,” Blackburn said. “They will forever live on within us as we do in them.”

Blackburn extolled the dynamic efforts of each and every Dragoon during their mission in Afghanistan and reminded them of the importance of their contribution to the rich legacy of the Regiment.

“The 2nd Regiment of Dragoons was activated on May 23, 1836,” he explained, “175 years ago and we haven’t stopped for a moment since.”

“This Regiment and every one of the 4,500 Dragoons who served in Afghanistan this pivotal past year,” Blackburn said, “formed an amazing unit, writing another brilliant chapter in a best selling book.”