

Bronco Leader Note #1

24 June 2022



Lightfighters,

Good units often know who they are, what they do, and how they do it; however, truly great teams know why they exist. We are Lightfighters and part of one of the most storied units in the history of the United States Army. **Our purpose is to rapidly deploy, fight, and win** in the crucible of ground combat.

The objective of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is to **win** every tactical engagement - reconnaissance, direct fire, and indirect fire. Winning – our desired end state— is more important than giving 100%. A Lightfighter who gives 110% and loses is captured, wounded, or dead in our profession. Focus on winning.

Our plans must sharpen capability in each of the following core areas:

a. **The Big 6** – Physical Fitness, Lethality, Medical Proficiency, Small Unit Drills, Mobility, and Maintenance — provides the foundation that enables our Lightfighters to win on the battlefield. It is imperative that we are not only better than our enemies in these areas but attain a marked advantage over them. ***No fair fights!***

b. **Organization and Systems.** An organizational and systematic approach to warfare enables us to fully leverage the effectiveness of our subordinate units – teams that have mastered the *Big 6*. This approach sets us apart from our enemies. Maintain, assess, and continually find ways to improve the organization of the brigade and the systems we use to maximize the advantages we have in our *Big 6*.

c. **Initiative and Innovation.** Embrace the mantra of the French 6th Colonial Parachute, *if it is possible we have done it, if it is impossible we will do it*. The Bronco Brigade needs leaders able to think independently to prepare for combat and solve complex problems -- both tactical and administrative. We must remain open to all perspectives even if they seem radical or rebellious or even ridiculous. In our profession, it is more important to get it right than to be right.

The Will to Prepare. While many people have the will to win, few have the will to *prepare* to win. As Bud Wilkinson stated, *the will to prepare is the juncture of where it all happens. It is about the player who can get out of bed at six-fifteen in the morning when he is sore and he is stiff and he does not want to practice. But he goes to practice. And he gears up and does his best totally in every drill of that practice. The will to prepare is what develops the discipline and the knowledge that transforms itself on game day into the will to win. More importantly, preparation engenders confidence that enables the will to win.* When reporters asked hockey great Wayne Gretzky how he knew he was ready to retire, he responded by saying, ‘anyone can play the games. I could play all the games next year, but for the first time I cannot envision myself preparing in the off season – running, lifting, etc—to play those games.’ **The day-to-day focus of every Lightfighter in our brigade should be on preparing to win.**

Credibility. The credibility of the Bronco Brigade makes it a viable force in the minds of those who employ us. Our credibility depends on three things: 1. We do what we say we will do, 2. We do what is right when no one is watching, and 3. We work effectively with any organization. Remember, credibility is precious and perishable, and we are only as good as our last game.

Sacrifice. Service in the United States Army and in the 25th Infantry Division is a calling and often demands personal sacrifice. Frequent training exercises and long deployments are tough on Soldiers and families but what we do is important – critically important - to our Nation and our partners throughout the Indo-Pacific Region. It is a privilege to serve with all of you.

NONE BETTER!

ROBERT M. SHAW
COL, IN
Commanding

SHAUN D. CURRY
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major