

28ID History... A short history of a storied & renowned Division

The 28th Infantry Division (28ID) and the PA National Guard trace their lineage back to the militia organized by Benjamin Franklin in 1747 known as the "Associators". Franklin organized artillery and infantry units to defend the city of Philadelphia against French and Spanish privateers. The first meeting of the Associators occurred on November 21, 1747 and on December 7, 1747 the enlistees and officers were formally commissioned by the Provincial Council President, Anthony Palmer. On that day, hundreds of armed Associators presented themselves to Palmer at the Philadelphia Courthouse and he wisely stated their activities were "not disapproved" and duly commissioned all of them.

The 28ID is the oldest continuously serving Division in the United States Army. On March 12, 1879, Governor Henry Hoyt signed General Order No. 1 appointing MG John Hartranft as the first Division Commander of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, and the most storied and renowned Division in the history of the US Army was born. The keystone was prescribed as the designated symbol of the National Guard of Pennsylvania on August 27, 1879.

The Division was mustered into service for the Spanish-American War in 1898, and 3 regiments, 3 artillery batteries, and 3 cavalry troops were deployed for service. In 1916 the Division, then designated the 7th Division, was mustered into service and deployed to El Paso, TX to serve along the Mexican Border.

In response to WWI, the Division was drafted into federal service on August 5, 1917, and trained at Camp Hancock, Georgia. While in Georgia, the Division was reorganized as the 28ID on October 11, 1917. After arriving in France, the 28ID gained fame as a result of its gallant stand on July 15, 1918. As the Division took up defensive positions along the Marne River east of Chateau-Thierry, the Germans commenced their attack with a fierce artillery bombardment. When the German assault collided with the main force of the 28ID, the fighting became bitter hand to hand combat. The 28ID repelled the German forces and decisively defeated their enemy. After the battle, General John Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force, visited the battlefield and declared that the 28ID Soldiers are "Men of Iron" and named the 28ID his "Iron Division". The 28ID developed a red keystone-shaped shoulder patch, officially adopted October 27, 1918.

History continued on back panel...

History continued from inside ...

The 28ID was mobilized in preparation for WWII on February 1, 1941. The first Soldiers of the 28ID stepped ashore at Omaha Beach on July 22, 1944. On August 29, 1944, the 28ID had the honor of being the first American Division to parade through Paris, and later fought across Northern France into Germany. As the 28ID breached the formidable Westwall of the German defenses in September 1944, SSG Francis Clark from the 109th IN, earned the Medal of Honor. The 28ID fought valiantly in the Huertgen Forest, disrupted the German counter-offensive during the Battle of the Bulge, and eventually liberated Colmar, France from the grip of the German military. The 28ID crossed the Rhine and took up positions in the Ruhr Pocket to stop any German forces driving south, and was in those positions when the fighting in Europe came to an end.

During the Korean War, the 28ID was mobilized and deployed to Europe as a part of the NATO command defending Western Europe from the threat of Soviet attack. The 28ID mobilized on September 5, 1950 and remained on federal service until May 22, 1953.

The Soldiers of the 28ID have continued to make history since September 11, 2001. The Division has conducted operations in places including Bosnia, Kosovo, The Sinai, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Many 28ID Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and hundreds have been recognized for their dedicated service and valor. The 28ID continues to build on its legacy as the Iron Division and 28ID Warriors take pride in being fit, resilient, and well trained in order to support each other and defend our great Nation.



28ID Song

We're the 28th men and we're out to fight again
for the good old U.S.A.
We're the guys who know where to strike the blow
and you'll know just why after we say:

Roll On, 28th ... Roll On, set the pace
Hold the banners high and raise the cry,
We're off to victory!
Let the Keystone shine right down the line
for all the world to see.

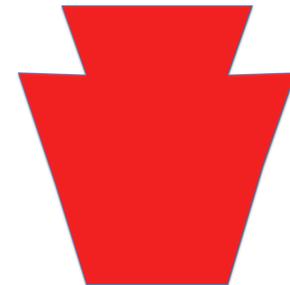
When we meet the foe we'll let them know
we're Iron Infantry,
So Roll On, 28th, Roll On!

28th Infantry Division

MG John L. Gronski
28ID Commanding General

CSM Christopher Kepner
28ID Command Sergeant Major

Iron Division !



Roll On !

28ID Soldier's Creed

**The 28ID Soldier can do anything.
There is no challenge that is too great for us.
There is no difficulty that we cannot overcome.
Roll On!**

Follow the 28th Infantry Division Online



<http://pa.ng.mil/ARNG/28ID>



www.facebook.com/28thID



Follow the CG @28IDCG

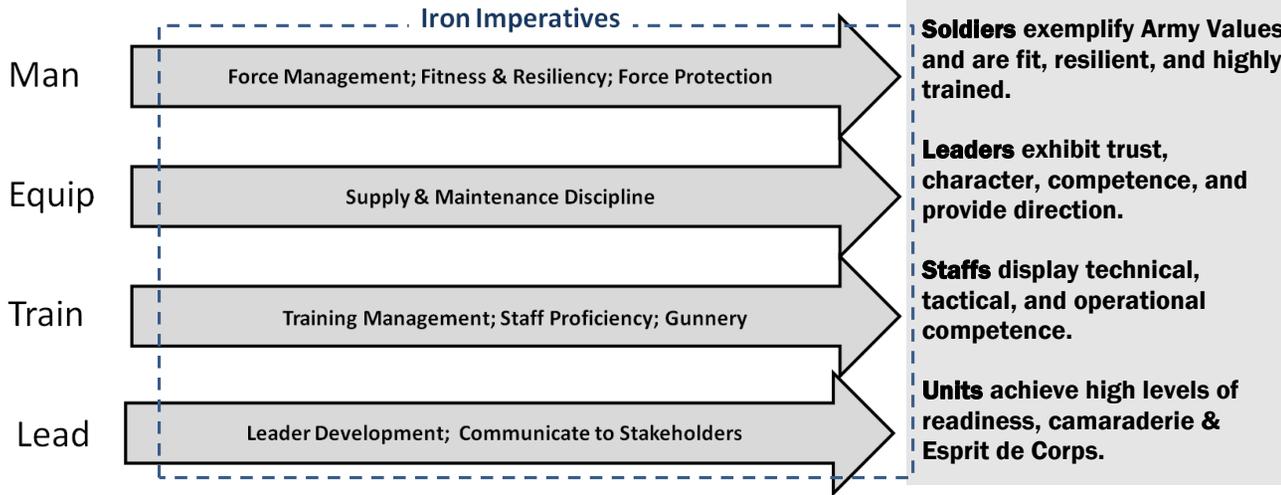


Follow the CSM @28IDCSM

28ID Commander's Intent

Purpose: Win when deployed overseas & successfully support DSCA missions here at home.

Key Tasks: We will accomplish this by focusing on nine (9) key tasks (Iron Imperatives) along four (4) lines of effort:



28ID CG Guidance

Every leader is trusted and expected to use disciplined initiative within the commander's intent without wasting time requesting permission. Report up as the situation develops. Request further guidance or support as necessary. *Demonstrating a high level of initiative is worth the risk of making honest mistakes.*

Units will conduct challenging, realistic, battle focused training. Units will train to deploy, fight, sustain itself, and win against complex state and non-state threats in austere environments and rugged terrain (expeditionary mindset).

Mitigate risk by ensuring Soldiers are well trained, rather than implementing artificial measures a Soldier would not encounter in the operational environment.

All Soldiers will train in their core competency based on their MOS or position at least 50% of the time over the course of a training year.

28ID CSM Guidance

The Iron Division Soldier is a fit, resilient, and well trained professional that is ready to deploy, dominate, and win decisively in a complex operational environment.

Non Commissioned Officers are obligated to keep our Soldiers safe; we do that by enforcing standards.

Non Commissioned Officers are the primary trainers of our Soldiers.

Non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers are trained at the appropriate level of NCOES before they are promoted.

Non Commissioned Officers are everywhere our soldiers are; we will take back the barracks.

Non Commissioned Officers will not allow suicide or sexual harassment/assault to happen in our Division, our Brigades, our Battalions, our Companies, our Platoons, our Squads, and our Teams.

The Iron Division Non Commissioned Officer is a standards based professional who enable fit, resilient, and well trained soldiers to dominate and win decisively in a complex operational environment.

