



# COMMANDER'S CORNER



By **Maj. Gen. Edward C. Cardon**  
*Division Commander*

## SUSTAINING THE LEGACY OF COMMITMENT

**September 30, 2011**

I want to thank all of the great Warrior Soldiers who participated in the change of command ceremony last week. I was so proud, so honored and so humbled to stand before you for the first time. You looked absolutely magnificent and a true representation of the great history of 2nd Infantry Division – well done!

The core strength of the Warrior Division is our Soldiers and our Families. Preserving and improving our core strength frames our responsibility to our U.S. and KATUSA Soldiers, Families, and the many outstanding Civilians who support the 2nd Infantry Division. I encourage you to again read our Division's distinguished history which is replete with tremendous acts of bravery and courage during both war and peace. This is our legacy, and we will build on that legacy in the days, weeks and months ahead.

There is a reason we are here, and the unexpected can become a reality at a moment's notice. We serve in an alliance that is a time-tested commitment to cooperation and deterrence, and should deterrence fail, victory on the battlefield. With this in mind, each Soldier must remain ready every day to fight tonight. We must see each day as an opportunity to continue building strong Soldiers, strong leaders, strong units and strong Families.

Disciplined and professional Soldiers are the key to our success as we live the Army values. Strong Soldiers have a passion for excellence in everything they do, and can be counted on in the toughest of situations to do the right thing.

We are our Army's only permanently forward stationed, fully committed, Division. Maintaining our readiness and ability to execute decisive action and combined arms maneuver is our hallmark. We are the tip of the spear here on the Korean Peninsula, manned with the best Soldiers and equipped with the most modern and lethal weapons that exist in the world today. You are motivated and well trained. Many of you are proven combat veterans, so you know what it means to be ready to fight tonight, and I know that if called upon, we are prepared and will remain dominant. We will maintain that edge, we will remain ready.

We will remain committed to helping maintain and strengthen one of our nation's strongest and most enduring alliances, that between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea. I look forward to continuing to build on that partnership as we serve and train side-by-side with a firm understanding and a deepening appreciation of each other's warfighting abilities. We will continue to integrate our mutual support, strengthen our combined capabilities, and promote our ability to provide for the security of the Korean peninsula and stability of the region. We will continue to strengthen the alliance through innovative, tough, realistic, joint and combined training as we relentlessly train with our ROK partners to maintain both our readiness and our ability to fight tonight – for we do go together.

We will also continue to take care of the Soldiers and Families across the division. Ensuring we maintain the strong bonds and stability of our Families is an area of special focus. This is especially true for those Soldiers who are serving here on unaccompanied tours.

Our geographically separated Soldiers continue to endure the hardship of long separations, missed anniversaries, birthdays and graduations. Your sacrifice is not forgotten and developing holistic Family resiliency is critical. We will maintain our commitment to Comprehensive Soldier Fitness initiatives to help our Soldiers manage life's challenges. We will sustain many of the initiatives already in place such as Warrior University and Warrior Family Days.

As this is the inaugural column for me as your new commander, I want to thank you for all you and your Families have done for the 2nd Infantry Division and the U.S. Army. Your professionalism and selfless service are an inspiration to all – I am honored to be your commander.

“Second to none”.