



## TASK FORCE BAYONET

*Learn about a combat deployment to Afghanistan by the Illinois Army National Guard*

**Wheaton, Ill., September 1, 2022** – The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park continues its Date with History series on **Thursday, September 15, at 7 pm CT**. Key leaders of Task Force Bayonet, including the battalion commander, will speak about their deployment to Afghanistan in 2008-2009.

The presentation is in person and online. Registration is not required for the in-person program at the Cantigny Park Visitors Center, which is free with \$5 parking. Online viewers must register at [FDMuseum.org](https://www.fdmuseum.org) to receive a Zoom link.

Illinois' all-African American 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, which earned its fame during World War I as the 370<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, lives on through the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 178<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment headquartered on 52<sup>nd</sup> and Cottage Grove in Chicago. Known as Task Force Bayonet, the unit deployed to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2008 with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team. It was the largest call-up of Illinois National Guardsmen since World War II. Task Force Bayonet was attached to Task Force Duke (3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division).

In a panel discussion format, members of the command team and battle staff will share experiences and lessons learned during their year-long combat deployment to the Laghman Province. They will also reflect on their relationship with Task Force Duke.

The First Division Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free with paid parking of \$5 per car (\$10 weekends in September). Visit [FDMuseum.org](https://www.fdmuseum.org) for additional details.

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### **About the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park**

The [First Division Museum](https://www.fdmuseum.org), part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation and located at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois, promotes public learning about America's military heritage and affairs through the history of the "Big Red One"—the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. The museum's main exhibit hall, First in War, transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II, and the jungles of Vietnam. A second exhibit hall, Duty First, explores the 1ID's history in more recent times. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival and photo collections. Tanks from every era are outside the museum, along with artillery pieces and a personnel carrier. Memorial markers and commemorative statuary pay further tribute to those who served. For more information, visit [FDMuseum.org](https://www.fdmuseum.org).

### **Media Contact:**

Jeff Reiter  
Cantigny Park  
630.260.8218  
[jreiter@cantigny.org](mailto:jreiter@cantigny.org)