

## First Army celebrates new “firsts” as Arsenal and Quad City neighbors

Written by Robert Saxon  
Monday, 18 July 2011 10:35

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ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, ILL. - First Army will uncase its organizational colors Thursday, July 21 at 9 a.m. at First Army headquarters (Bldg. 68) signifying the official arrival of the unit here.

First Army Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Mick Bednarek and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr., will uncase the unit's colors in a time-honored ceremony attended by invited VIPs and guests from the Arsenal and the Quad-Cities community.

First Army's long-line of “firsts” includes the first Americans into Paris, the first to cross the Siegfried Line and first to reach the Rhine River in Germany during World War II.

Another “first” will take place on Friday, July 22, at 6:30 a.m., when Lt. Gen. Bednarek and Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews lead First Army Soldiers and Civilian employees on a 2.5 mile organizational run through the Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center. No other unit at the Arsenal has ever conducted a run of this type.

The run will start and end at Memorial Field, near the southeast corner of Rodman Ave. and East Street.

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Media wishing to attend should contact First Army Public Affairs Media Relations, Rob Saxon at 309.782.9647 or [robert.d.saxon2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robert.d.saxon2.civ@mail.mil) ; or FA Director, Public Affairs, Lt. Col. Mike Kenfield 309.782.9200 or [Michael.w.kenfield.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Michael.w.kenfield.mil@mail.mil)

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