

116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team Transitions to a More Mobile, Lethal Force; Announces Final Brigade Ball.

BOISE, Idaho – The 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team (CBCT), the Idaho Army National Guard's largest multi-state unit, is set to undergo a significant transformation as part of a broader U.S. Army initiative to build a more agile and lethal force. The 116th will transition to a Mobile Brigade Combat Team (MBCT) structure, enhancing its readiness and capabilities for modern warfare.

This strategic evolution will involve shifting from heavy armored platforms to lighter, more expeditionary equipment. A key component of this change is the replacement of armored vehicles with advanced Infantry Squad Vehicles (ISVs). These vehicles are designed for rapid deployment and enhanced mobility, allowing the brigade to operate more effectively in fast-paced, dispersed operational environments.

The transition aligns with the U.S. Army's 2030 force structure transformation, which prioritizes speed, flexibility, and lethality to meet the challenges of future conflicts. The move is designed to make the brigade more adaptable for a variety of missions, with a particular focus on readiness for potential large-scale combat operations.

"This transformation is a critical step in modernizing our force and ensuring the 116th remains at the forefront of combat readiness," said Colonel Jason Gracida, commander of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. "Our citizen-soldiers are the most vital part of our organization. This initiative equips them with the tools and structure needed to be more agile and decisive on the battlefield. My commitment is to every soldier in this brigade, and this evolution ensures we continue to uphold the esteemed legacy of the 116th in all that we do."

The 116th CBCT, known as the "Snake River Brigade," is a unique, multi-state unit with headquarters in Boise and subordinate battalions across Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Nevada. The reorganization will impact units across all four states, requiring soldiers to retrain on new systems and tactics to support the mobile infantry concept.

Celebrating a Legacy

To honor its armored legacy and strengthen community ties, the Brigade will host an "Armor Day" on the 6th of June 2026 at the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, ID. This special event will offer the public a unique, hands-on opportunity to see the Brigade's powerful armored vehicles up close while also getting a first look at the new Infantry Squad Vehicles (ISVs) that represent the unit's future. Attendees can participate in soldier-led physical fitness challenges and interact directly with the men and women of the 116th. This event serves as both a farewell to the Brigade's time as an armored unit and a celebration of the community it is sworn to protect.

As a capstone to this era, the 116th will also host its first Brigade Military Ball on the evening of June 6th, 2026. This formal event, supported by the generous contributions of our community partners, will be a tribute to the thousands of soldiers, past and present, who have served under the CBCT banner and a celebration of the families who have supported them.

The 116th is immensely grateful for the local businesses and individuals who have stepped forward to make this a memorable evening. Their support is a testament to the strong bond between the "Snake River Brigade" and the communities we serve. This event allows us to collectively honor the selfless service of our dedicated citizen-soldiers as we close this important chapter of our history.