



U.S. Army Pfc. Kevyn Jones, a paratrooper assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, returns fire with an M240L machine gun, Feb. 29, 2016, during Exercise Sky Soldier 16, at Chinchilla training area in Spain. The objective of training Exercise Sky Soldier 16 is to prepare the brigade's 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment for future exercises with the Spanish Armed Forces Airborne Brigade (BRIPAC), increase unit lethality, improve tactical airborne proficiency, and build a foundation for future allied training with the Spanish army. The 173rd Airborne Brigade is the U.S. Army's Contingency Response Force in Europe, providing rapidly deploying forces to the U.S. Army Europe, Africa and Central Command Areas of Responsibility within 18 hours. The Brigade routinely trains alongside NATO allies and partners to build stronger relationships and strengthen the alliance. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Opal Vaughn/released)