

Static Line

Fall - Winter 2018



1Fury, British Paratroopers
Train in Kenya, Africa - Pg.12

Panther 6 Sends

Col. Art Sellers



To the Paratroopers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team,

Throughout 2018, Paratroopers of this Brigade Combat Team accomplished tremendous feats with the professionalism and expertise America expects of the 82nd Airborne Division.

During All American Week, you dominated the entire competition with 1Fury earning the title as best battalion. Later, you successfully and seamlessly transferred the Global Response Force Mission to the Falcon Brigade. Recently, you demonstrated the technical and tactical expertise of the Brigade at Network Integration Evaluation 18.2 at Fort Bliss.

In teams and individually, members of the Brigade embodied the grit, tenacity and lethality of the American Paratrooper. Mortarmen from 1-505th PIR won the Army's Best Mortar Competition for the second year in a row, Staff Sgt. Drew Lehman from 5-73 CAV brought the honor of Division Jumpmaster of the Year to the Brigade, Spc. Christian Caudle from 2-505th PIR was named the Division Soldier of the Year, Staff Sgt. Miguel Mattias from 5-73 CAV was co-victor in the Division Best Medic and there are many more who distinguished themselves.

As we enter the Holiday Block Leave period, Command Sgt. Maj. Teakell and I want to reinforce this should be a time of rest, enjoyment and reflection. This leave period is set aside for us to appreciate the company of loved ones and friends at an unhurried pace.

In quiet moments, I encourage you to reflect upon your personal and professional achievements while fortifying your resolve to make 2019 your best year yet.

Celebrate responsibly and indulge sensibly – even during this holiday season, you are a member of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division; expected by our nation to jump, fight and win on any drop zone in the world.

Command Sgt. Maj. Teakell and I remain humbled and honored to lead this exceptional brigade of All American paratroopers.

We wish you safe travels, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

H-Minus!

Col. Art Sellers
Brigade Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Reese Teakell
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

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Operation Charlotte

2-505th PIR Showcases Proficiency during Joint Forcible Entry Exercise

82nd Airborne Division paratroopers trained to jump into and seize key terrain during a Joint Forcible Entry exercise late Tuesday, August 14th on Fort Bragg's Holland Drop Zone.

Paratroopers from the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division conducted the JFE to hone their combat skills and leadership techniques while showcasing their proficiency at the division's hallmark mission.



A jumpmaster from the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, center right, gives the "Go" command to a paratrooper from the battalion August 14 while aboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft. The paratroopers jumped onto Fort Bragg's Holland Drop Zone as part of a Joint Forcible Entry exercise showcasing their ability to seize terrain and conduct follow on missions.



Photo by Spc. Darius Knight-Elliott

Paratroopers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment perform a security halt on Fort Bragg's Holland Drop Zone on August 14. The 3rd Brigade paratroopers conducted a static-line airborne operation onto the Fort Bragg DZ as part of a Joint Forcible Entry exercise testing their ability to jump, assemble and conduct follow-on combat operations.

After conducting the jump into Holland Drop Zone, the paratroopers assembled and began combat operations as daylight quickly faded.

The rest of the week was filled with varying scenarios testing not only their tactical skills, but their ability to innovate and improvise solutions to complex problems.

Throughout the exercise, the 2P paratroopers proved they were capable of succeeding when given short-notice to assemble and deploy.

All American Engineers Honor Valor, Sacrifice of WWII Waal River Crossing

Members of the 82nd Airborne Division recently honored the valor and sacrifice of engineers who valiantly braved fierce enemy fire and artillery to ferry paratroopers across the Waal River during WWII's Operation Market Garden.



Paratroopers assigned to the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division row Zodiac boats across Fort Bragg's McKellar's Pond on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 in commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the WWII Waal River Crossing.

All American Engineers of the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion commemorated the 74th anniversary of the Waal River Crossing at Fort Bragg's McKellar's Lake on Oct. 3, 2018 with esprit de corps and fierce competition.

"This event provides an opportunity to commemorate the sacrifice our fellow engineer brethren of the 307th AEB made during Operation Market Garden on Sept. 20, 1944," said Maj. Chris Pierce, the battalion's Executive Officer. "It gives paratroopers a sense of what moving across a body of water while totally exposed to enemy fire is like."

The Waal River Crossing during WWII was a daring feat; a daytime river crossing to ferry paratroopers of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment across 250 yards of moving water with no cover from enemy machine gun fire and artillery. Their objective was the north end of the Nijmegen Bridge; deemed essential if Operation Market Garden was to be successful.

Paratroopers of Company C, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion would get them across. Three paratroopers manned each collapsible canvas boat with many of the occupants using their rifles to row in the absence of oars. Twenty-six boats departed in the first wave with only eleven of them returning to ferry more paratroopers across.

In all, engineers of the 307th made five trips across the Waal River under heavy fire and the crossing eventually served as inspiration for the 1977 film "A Bridge Too Far."



Wearing WWII-era uniforms and in a boat replicating the type used to cross the Waal River, members of the All American Airborne Legion and paratroopers from the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion row across Fort Bragg's McKellar's Pond.

Continued on the Next Page



“An event like this helps paratroopers of the battalion understand the history and heritage that makes us the ‘All American Engineer’ battalion,” said Pierce. “Not only does it give them a sense of the valor and courage past engineers displayed in crossing the Waal, it strengthens teamwork and the bonds between paratroopers.”

The event began at the 307th's headquarters where companies of the battalion formed up in the early Fort Bragg morning. Racing more than two miles to McKellar's Pond, each company formed teams that took turns carrying their assigned Zodiac Boat.

After all of the companies arrived, reenactors from the All American Airborne Legion and members of the battalion rowed across the lake in World War II-era uniforms and replicas of the collapsible boats while a narrator read a historical vignette of the river assault.

Paratroopers then loaded into the Zodiacs and competed to be the first to row across McKellar's Pond, each time delivering a paratrooper to form a five-person team required to sprint around the lake back to the starting point.

The memory of Pfc. Willard “Bud” Jenkins was honored throughout the competition. Jenkins was a paratrooper assigned to the 307th AEB at the time of the WWII Waal River Crossing. Jenkins was reportedly manning a rudder on one of the boats when he was shot in the chest and fell overboard.

Jenkins' remains were recently identified and he was buried in his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania with members of the 307th in attendance to provide him military honors.

“Beastmasters” from Company B won the coveted paddle and bragging rights awarded to the victors of the annual competition for the second year in a row.

“The history of this is extremely important that we don't forget the soldiers that fought against insurmountable odds to seize an objective,” said Capt. Aaron Scherffius, the company commander.

"More than a Calling"

1P Airborne Rabbi Leads by Example



Capt. Yisahar Izak's drive to be a role-model to fellow faith-leaders and paratroopers in the midst of adversity spurs him to serve as a Chaplain in the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Determination to lead by example spurs a Chaplain to serve alongside paratroopers.

Capt. Yisahar Izak's drive to be a role-model to fellow faith-leaders and paratroopers in the midst of adversity spurs him to serve as a Chaplain in the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

When I came into the US Army, there was a lack of Jewish Chaplains in active jump status, meaning we are not able to have a Rabbi lead by example for our paratroopers," said Izak. "I was already a fan of the 82nd by virtue of studying its history and proud legacy.

It was a win-win match with my high motivation to become an Airborne-qualified Chaplain."

Before his assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division, Izak globe-trekked through forty different countries on four continents, growing up in six of them and spending over 17 years in developing regions.

"Having been a civilian, member of a Non-Governmental Organization and soldier at war in other countries, I came to the conclusion the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence are the most sacred human-written texts and the only ones that give humans a chance to coexist in a civilized manner," said Izak. "To serve them would be the highest ministry I could achieve."

Orthodox Jewish by faith denomination, Izak previously served as a Rabbi in Flatbush, New York, Izmir, Turkey and in numerous locations in Israel. He first heard his calling to faith while involved in humanitarian relief and disaster response operations in South Asia and the Middle East between 1998 and 1999.

"The amount of suffering pushed me towards more and more self-reflection to the point that after the two large earthquakes in Turkey with over 50,000 casualties combined...I could not reason with all what was going on all around me," said Izak. "All I knew was I needed to understand the balance in all what goes on.

"I set sails to go to seminary. Being concerned with volunteering, eager to address other's needs, and having a genuine concern to help others – I ended up evolving into a faith leader," continued Izak. "More than a calling, it was a natural journey full of divine providence."



The transition from faith-student to faith-leader was natural for Izak. After seven years of full-time study, he was approached by his elders with the offer to study for the Rabbinical exams.

His drive to lead by example in the midst of adversity eventually led him to serve alongside paratroopers in the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg.

Izak's kippa, the traditional brimless skull cap worn by Jews to fulfill orthodox requirements to keep their head covered at all times, is often the topic of conversation between he and paratroopers along with his prayer shawl and other ecclesiastical items.

"One of the three main competencies of the Chaplain Corps is to nourish the living, requiring me to provide services for my religion while facilitating services for all paratroopers per their faith group," said Izak. "I love the concept of chaplaincy where a minister can care for everyone regardless what religion they are."

Loyalty Sling Loads Howitzers Conducts Live-Fire

Artillery paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division conducted sling load operations and a live-fire exercise Oct. 24, 2018 on Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Paratroopers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment partnered with aviators from Company C, 2-82 Aviation Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade to conduct the complex air assault and live fire exercise.

The operation tested the paratroopers' and aviators' ability to integrate their capabilities while demonstrating their technical expertise and tactical capability to provide lethal fires upon short notice.



Photos by
Spec. John Lytle



Panther Brigade Uses Crucible of Ground Combat to Test Technology



Fort Bragg-based paratroopers recently concluded an intensive training exercise requiring them to test what may be the U.S. Army's next step in Mission-Command technology.

Paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in cooperation with the Joint Modernization Command, recently executed Network Integration Exercise 18.2 from late October to early November 2018.

"The best way to test a paratrooper and his or her equipment is to replicate the demanding crucible of ground combat," said Col. Arthur Sellers, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. "NIE provided the brigade an excellent environment to evaluate the Army's future Mission Command Systems and associated technologies, with the purpose of creating shared understanding and enabling the BCT to be more lethal".

Network Integration Exercise, spearheaded by JMC, examines concepts and capabilities addressing three of the six Army Modernization Priorities – Soldier Lethality, Long-Range Precision Fires and the Future Network.

"Our main objectives are to facilitate the execution of operationally realistic warfighting assessments for over two weeks and assess multi-domain operations while obtaining feedback from paratroopers on the ground," said Rodger Lemons, Chief of Strategic Plans at the JMC.



Paratroopers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division operate a tethered drone during the Network Integration Exercise 18.2 in El Paso, Texas, October 30th, 2018. Paratroopers from the brigade role-played as an opposing force during NIE, a large-scale evaluation of what may become the Army's next generation of Mission Command technology.



Paratroopers assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division conduct a systems check on their VROD/VMAX electronic warfare equipment before conducting a tactical exercise at the recently concluded Network Integration Exercise. Paratroopers from the brigade conducted NIE as a large-scale evaluation of what may become the Army's next generation of Mission Command technology.

The exercise's keystone concept focused on equipping 3rd Brigade paratroopers and units with emerging technology and equipment while setting them through a series of combat scenarios. Those using the equipment were then encouraged to provide candid criticism of the shortfalls and benefits of the technology.

"Paratroopers on the ground are able to give developers immediate feedback," said Lieutenant General Bruce T. Crawford, the Army's chief information officer. "This allows the Army to move away from the monolithic programs of record and move into a more iterative approach that allows us to keep up with technological advancements."

We are pushing towards a culture of innovation and the role these Paratroopers are playing is a game changer, continued Crawford.



A paratrooper assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division launches a PUMA Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Vehicle during the recently concluded Network Integration Exercise. Paratroopers from the brigade conducted NIE as a large-scale evaluation of what may become the Army's next generation of Mission Command technology.

1Fury, 2Para Paratroopers Train in Kenya

Photos by
Spc. John Lytle



Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and paratroopers from 2PARA, 16 Air Assault Brigade trained to fight a simulated near-peer adversary in Kenya, Africa in late November and early December.

The training exercise was part of Operation Askari Storm, a multinational training exercise occurring in Kenya, Africa between U.S., British and other partner-nation forces.





The training focuses on increasing the readiness and interoperability of the participating forces while placing them in tough, realistic scenarios against simulated near-peer adversaries.



"Intense Attention to Every Detail"

Gator Paratroopers Prepare Thanksgiving Feast for Panther Brigade



Culinary Specialists assigned to the 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division worked late into the night, Monday, Nov. 19, 2018, to prepare for the brigade's Thanksgiving feast.

The paratroopers prepared over 640 lbs. of turkey, 558 lbs. of steamship round, 72 lbs. of shrimp, more than 100 pies, approximately 700 servings of sweet potatoes and approximately 800 servings of green bean casserole to serve during the brigade's Thanksgiving meal.

The meal offered many of the paratroopers an opportunity to showcase their talents and demonstrate their intense attention to every detail in their culinary creations.



"An Opportunity to Fellowship:" Panther Brigade Celebrates Thanksgiving



Paratroopers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division serves Thanksgiving dinner to a family member of the brigade November 20, 2018 in the brigade's dining hall.

Paratroopers and family members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday Tuesday, November 22 at the brigade's Dining Facility on Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"Today, paratroopers and family members of the brigade are thankful for the opportunity to celebrate as we enter the holiday season," said Col. Arthur Sellers, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's Commander. "This meal gives everyone an opportunity to fellowship while enjoying the delicious food prepared by our expert culinary team," he continued.

To prepare the meal, Culinary Specialists from the 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, part of the 3rd BCT, began preparing the night before and worked into the early morning on the finishing touches. The paratroopers prepared over 640 lbs. of turkey, 558 lbs. of steamship round, 72 lbs. of shrimp, more than 100 pies, approximately 700 servings of sweet potatoes and approximately 800 servings of green bean casserole.

The Panther Brigade's Thanksgiving meal was held Tuesday, November 20th in the brigade's Dining Facility on Fort Bragg. Honoring tradition, leaders from across the brigade served the meal to paratroopers and their families while dressed in their Army Service Uniform.

Special decorations adorned the dining facility to celebrate the holiday and honor the 50th anniversary of the brigade's short-notice deployment in 1968 to Vietnam to conduct combat operations.

Sent in response to the Tet Offensive, the 3rd Brigade gained the nickname "The Golden Brigade" while fighting the Viet Cong in numerous pitched battles over the course of a year-long deployment.

A paratrooper assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division serves Thanksgiving dinner to a family member of the brigade November 20, 2018 in





"Wearing Spurs Means a Cavalry Paratrooper Persevered"

Cavalry paratroopers from the recently proved themselves worthy to wear spurs.

Paratroopers assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division conducted a Spur Ride on Fort Bragg in late November, ending in a Spur Ceremony on Wednesday, November 28th.



Cavalry paratroopers assigned to 5-73 CAV ruckmarch to their next lane during a Spur Ride, Tuesday, November 27 on Fort Bragg. The Spur Ride honored the heritage of the 73rd Cavalry Regiment by testing the candidates' grit and determination over a 36-hour period where they were evaluated on their knowledge of regimental history, tactics, medical skills and airborne proficiency.

"Any day spent under the shade of red and white guidons is a great day," said Maj. Shawn McNicol, the Executive Officer for 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry

Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division during his opening comments. "However, today is especially significant as we are able to bring together three Squadrons of the 73rd Cavalry Regiment in a single event of comradery and fellowship."

The tradition of the Spur Ride draws from the heritage of U.S. Cavalry units. When new soldiers arrived to cavalry units, they required extensive training in horsemanship and mounted swordsmanship. These soldiers' received a horse with a shaved tail, identifying them as a potential hazard and requiring extra space in which to train and operate.

While riding a "shave tail," new Cavalry soldiers were not permitted to wear spurs, as their undisciplined use would only worsen a problem.

Only after extensive training and evaluation proving their skill at maneuvering a horse and wielding a sword would a Cavalry soldier be presented with spurs and his horse be permitted to grow out their shaved tail.

"The modern-day Spur Ride provides a Cavalry paratrooper a true gut-check; the means to do a personal assessment of their grit and determination," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Hartsock, Commander of 5-73 CAV.



“Wearing spurs means a cavalry paratrooper persevered. They were pushed to their physical and mental limits and they emerged victorious.”

Spur candidates, known as “Shave Tails,” underwent the thirty six hour long Spur Ride with minimal opportunity to rest and even less chances to sleep. As temperatures dipped below freezing in the November North Carolina winter, candidates continued to demonstrate their knowledge of Cavalry history, tactics, medical techniques and airborne proficiency.

“As a Cavalry paratrooper, the only thing more memorable than receiving your spurs is placing them on the heel of a candidate you sponsored through their Spur Ride,” continued Hartsock. “The Cavalry community here on Fort Bragg is strong and events like this continue our long and proud history.”

Staff Sgt. Brittany Wildman, forefront, a paratrooper assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment receives her spurs during a Spur Ceremony on Wednesday, November 28th on Fort Bragg. Wildman and other Cavalry paratroopers at the ceremony successfully completed a Spur Ride honoring the heritage of the 73rd Cavalry Regiment by testing the candidates’ grit and determination over a 36-hour period where they were evaluated on their knowledge of regimental



Col. Art Sellers
3rd Brigade Commander

Command Sgt. Maj Reese Teakell
3rd Brigade Command Sergeant Major

