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The Quarterly News Magazine
of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division



Winter 2017

Panther 6 Sends

Paratroopers, Family and Friends of the Panther Brigade,

The brigade remains ready and prepared to accomplish the hallmark mission of the 82nd Airborne Division; a mission no other conventional force in the world can accomplish. With short notice, Panther Paratroopers can marshal, deploy to and succeed on any battlefield in the world.

This year tested the brigade like no other and each time, Panther Paratroopers responded in force to exceed the standard.

Individually, Panthers maintained the highest standards of readiness while training to be lethal and effective despite adversity. In October, Panther medics underwent intense evaluation and physical adversity during Expert Field Medic Badge testing. Later, in November, our infantrymen underwent their own rigorous training and testing to earn their Expert Infantryman Badge. In each instance, Panthers demonstrated their capability to meet and exceed demanding standards to earn the prestigious recognition as experts in their profession.

I want to extend special recognition to individuals within the brigade who represented themselves, the Panthers and the All Americans in various competitions. Cobalt Paratroopers 1LT Luke Groom and SSG Carlos Jimenez won the Army's 2017 Best Sapper Competition, SFC Christopher Abrahamson of Panther Recon is the 82nd Airborne Division's Jumpmaster of the Year and SGT Patricia Otoole of 2Panther and SPC Jacob Schrader of the Gators earned the distinction as the Division's Best Medics in September.

Collectively, the Panther Brigade repeatedly demonstrated its capability to deploy as the spearpoint of our nation's Global Response Force. Through Operation Panther Storm in August, the brigade Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-01 in September and Operation Panther Blades, the largest air assault in the recent history of the 82nd Airborne Division in December, we proved to be a force ready to accomplish difficult missions in challenging environments.

Teams of Panthers dominated competitions throughout the year. In March, a team of Panthers won the co-ed military division of the Bataan Death March. April saw two teams of Rangers from the Panther Brigade compete in the Best Ranger Competition, and one of them placed second overall. In May, the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry placed first above all other 82nd Airborne Division elements in the Centennial All American Week. In June, Mortar Squads from 1P placed first and third in the Best Mortar Competition at Fort Benning. Rounding out the year, teams of Loyalty Paratroopers placed first in four out of six categories of the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery's Best of the Best Competition.

As we conclude 2017, I urge you to reflect upon the past year, especially your personal and professional accomplishments. There is much to be proud of and we enter the new year with tremendous momentum to complete the Global Response Force mission.

Personally, I am honored and humbled to serve alongside the men and women of this brigade. Each day, I observe leaders guiding and developing Paratroopers to be members of a division renowned for its combat prowess and legendary for its readiness.

Return from leave rested, restored and prepared to meet the challenges awaiting us in 2018.

H-Minus!

*COL Gregory Beaudoin
Panther 6*

*CSM Kenneth Johnson
Panther 9*



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November's Best Squad Winners
Golf Company, 1-505th PIR



December's "Best of the Best"
Delta Company, 1-505th PIR

Maintainers Compete in Ordnance Crucible

A team of our 3rd Brigade Combat Team maintainers competed in the inaugural U.S. Army Ordnance Corps' Crucible the fourth week of August on Fort Lee, Virginia.

The Ordnance Corps Crucible tests the teamwork and critical thinking skills of the teams as they provide technical and tactical solutions to complex and common Ordnance problems. This year's organizers hailed the competition as a "hallmark demonstration of pride and professionalism within the Ordnance Corps and Army Sustainment communities."

Our Paratroopers competed in the week-long Combat Repair Team of the Year portion, requiring them to perform Battle Damage Assessments and Repair, conduct recovery operations and compete in a culminating maintenance problem designed to evaluate their tactics, techniques and procedures.



From left to right, Paratroopers who participated in the 2017 U.S. Army Ordnance Crucible Combat Repair Team of the Year competition; SGT Brian Raymond, SPC Demetrius Dodson, SSG Stephan Rudd, SGT Travis Gunter, 2LT William Tostenson, SGT Diego Hernandez and WO1 Dustin Vanhoute.

3rd Brigade maintainers conduct a tactical vehicle recovery mission as part of the inaugural U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Crucible the third week of August on Fort Lee, Virginia.

The Crucible consists of week-long competitions like this Combat Repair Team of the Year competition which test participants' competency, teamwork and critical thinking skills.







From September 27th to October 10th, the Panther Brigade proved its mettle during Joint Readiness Training Center rotation 18-01.

Realistic environments and a daunting enemy tested Panther Paratroopers on the world-class training ranges of Fort Polk, Louisiana. Once again, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne division proved it is ready to accomplish its mission regardless of the challenges.

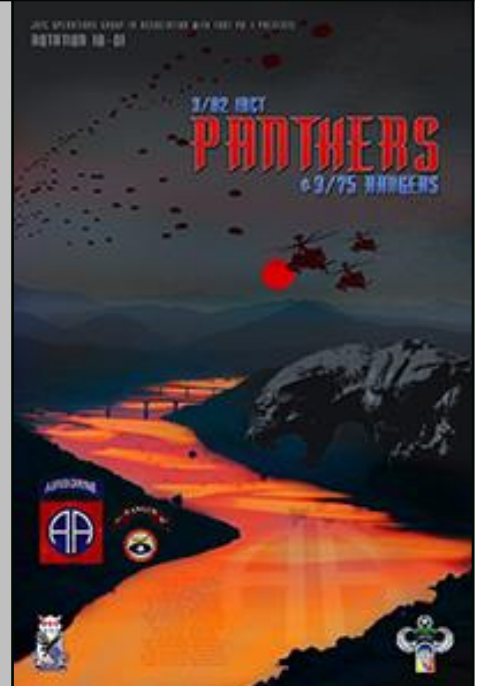




The weeks-long exercise challenged all levels of leadership within the Panther Brigade. From the squad leader establishing a defensive position on the line to the battle-tracking abilities of the battalion and brigade staff, JRTC 18-01 forced Panther Paratroopers into stressful situations requiring disciplined initiative and ingenuity.

The training rotation began with individual tasks and drills and progressed in both complexity and size to squad, platoon, company and battalion-sized operations.

The final phase of Rotation 18-01 saw the Panther Brigade persevere against the opposing force through a combination of proficiency, determination and grit.



The Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-01 poster, courtesy of the JRTC Operations Group.



Collectively, the Panther Brigade emerged from JRTC Rotation 18-01 with confidence knowing it is capable of accomplishing complex missions in the most challenging environments with just a moment's notice.

The Panther Brigade remains grateful to all of the JRTC OC-T's who contributed to the successful rotation and continues to apply the lessons learned there.



Panther Families

Go Trunk-or-Treating

Paratroopers, families and friends of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division Trunk-or-Treated the evening of October 26. The event marked the Panther brigade's celebration of Halloween and included decorated cars and military vehicles along with a costume contest.



Panther FRG Volunteers Recognized for Service

Panther Brigade Family Readiness Group volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service to the Army in early November.

The Iron Mike Award ceremony held November 6 on Fort Bragg recognized volunteers for their enduring service to the military and their efforts to support Paratroopers and their families.



Mrs. Laura Kirk, left, was awarded the Silver Star, Ms. Jen Conley, center, was awarded the Bronze Star and Ms. Bronwen Rae Pence, right, was awarded the Bronze Star.



Panther Family Readiness Group Volunteers were recognized for outstanding support and service in a November 16 luncheon held on Fort Bragg. Ms. Holly De Leon of Panther Recon was recognized as the brigade's volunteer of the quarter.

Ms. Jennifer Conley and Ms. Laura Kirk, both volunteering with Panther Recon, and Ms. Janet Madison from the Headquarters were recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service, [right photo].

Cobalt Crosses Waal

On November 8, Paratroopers from Alpha and Bravo Companies of the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion commemorated the World War II crossing of the Waal River.

Honoring the September 20, 1944 crossing, the friendly competition required Cobalt Paratroopers to paddle across Fort Bragg's McKellar's Lake three times and complete a footrace around the lake with Bravo Company emerging victorious.

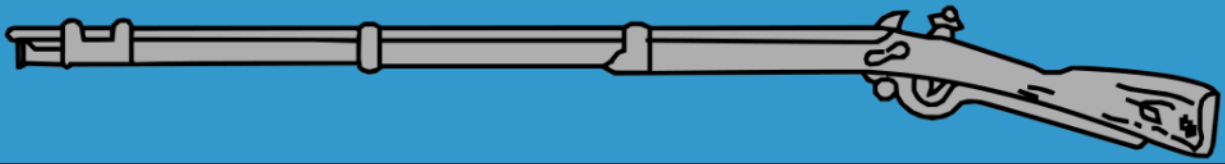


Loyalty from Above

Loyalty Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and the 2Panther Fire Support Team celebrated the 242nd Birthday of the Field Artillery Branch November 17th by conducting an Airborne Operation and live-fire drop zone mission.

Founded that day in 1775 by the Continental Congress who also elected Henry Knox as the "Colonel of the Regiment," the Field Artillery Regiment entered service January 1st, 1776. In 1907, the Artillery Corps was reorganized into two branches; the Field Artillery and Coast Artillery. Today, two distinct branches; the Field Artillery and the Air Defense Artillery branches draw their heritage and traditions from a similar origin.





Panthers Test for EIB



Weeks of training and preparation culminated in late November when the Panther Brigade conducted testing lanes for the Expert Infantryman Badge. “The Expert Infantryman Badge symbolizes an Infantry warrior’s mastery of their individual craft,” said Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, XVIII Abn. Corps commander.

Of the more than 1,000 candidates testing for the prestigious award, only 287 successfully completed the testing November 18 at Fort Bragg, earning the right to wear the Expert Infantryman Badge .



2P Paratroopers Conduct Night Live Fire

Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment conducted a night-fire training exercise November 20th. Held on a Fort Bragg range, the live-fire training with M240B machine guns improved the 2Panther Paratroopers' ability to engage enemies in both low-light conditions and while wearing night-vision devices.

The training also helped the Panther Paratroopers understand the numerous challenges of engaging enemies at night and how to accurately adjust their fire.



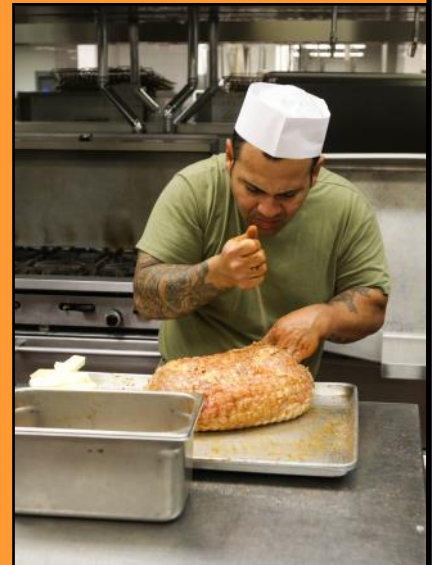
A Panther Thanksgiving Feast

Culinary specialists assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division worked late into the November 21st night and the next morning to prepare the Panther Thanksgiving feast.

Paratroopers prepared thousands of pounds of food for the meal including roasted pig, oven roasted turkey, classic steamship round, apple-cranberry stuffing and numerous elaborate cakes and desserts.

Hundreds of Panther Paratroopers, families and friends enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast held November 22nd at the brigade's dining facility on Fort Bragg.

In keeping with tradition, leadership teams from each battalion served food to diners enjoying the feast before an extended holiday weekend.



Operation Panther Blades



On December 7, The Panther Brigade conducted the largest air assault in recent 82nd Airborne Division history.

More than 1,000 Paratroopers from 2Panther, 1Fury and Loyalty battalions participated in the training event alongside a task force from the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

The exercise, named “Operation Panther Blades,” combined assault forces with live-fire artillery missions and 49 helicopters including CH-47 Chinook and AH-64 Apaches.



A Paratrooper assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division assaults an objective during Operation Panther Blade December 7, 2017.

The massive training event held on Fort Bragg’s Sicily and Holland drop zones showcased the brigade’s ability to conduct complex combat operations at night while integrating artillery and rotary wing fires.



A Paratrooper assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division pulls security during Operation Panther Blade December 7th, 2017.

1P Paratroopers Conduct Mortar Live-Fire

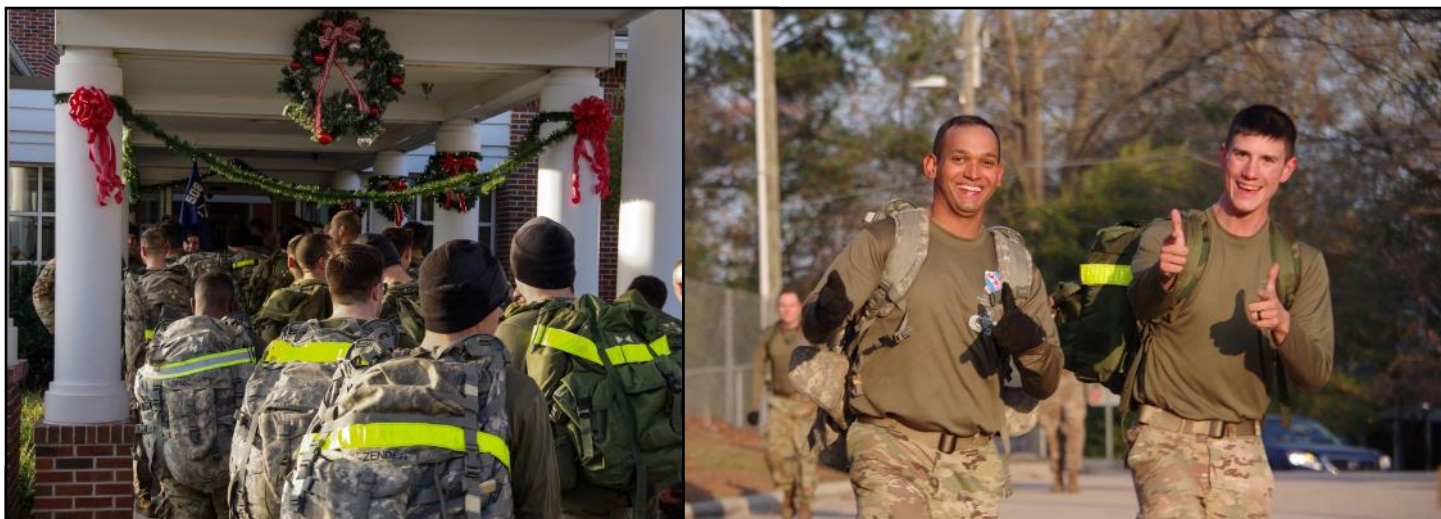
Paratroopers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment conducted live-fire mortar training in December.



The live-fire exercise conducted December 14th improved the 1Panther Paratroopers' proficiency and lethality on the indirect fire system in daytime, low-light and night-time conditions.



Fury Rucks Food for Veterans



Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment conducted a charity ruck march December 15th to the North Carolina State Veteran's Home in Fayetteville.

The Fury Paratroopers carried canned food in their rucksacks and, after sorting the donations, served and ate a meal with the veterans there.



Panther Recon Paratroopers Serve on a Saturday

More than 60 Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division spent a Saturday morning lending their time, talents and gifts to a Fayetteville, North Carolina community ministry.

Paratroopers and family members from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment volunteered at the Fayetteville Urban Ministry Saturday, December 16 to sort and organize donations the ministry plans to distribute in the days leading up to Christmas.

“Our squadron is always looking for opportunities to reach out to the greater Fayetteville community to make positive and long-lasting impacts,” said the Squadron Chaplain, Capt. Oleksandr Ishchuk who coordinated the outreach event. Serving others reminds us what is truly important in life and brings us to a place where we can reflect upon how blessed we are. It makes us think of how can share these blessings with others he continued.

After unloading boxes filled with toy and food donations gathered at the squadron, Paratroopers and family members divided into three teams to sort clothing items, prepare food boxes



1st Lt. Chioma Odocha, front right, a member of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, sorts food donations at the Fayetteville Urban Ministry December 16.

and wrap presents. Later in the morning, volunteers interacted with some families receiving aid from the Fayetteville Urban Ministry.

The morning’s volunteer effort will impact and bless a lot of families receiving help from the ministry, said Melody Rowe, a staff member at the Fayetteville Urban Ministry which offers services like Emergency Assistance and Adult Literacy education to individuals and families in need.



Staff Sgt. Seth Biehl, right, and his fiancée Susie Mann, members of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, sort clothing at the Fayetteville Urban Ministry December 16.

“I want Paratroopers volunteering today to learn they can find fulfillment when giving back to the Fayetteville community,” said LTC Scott Pence, commander of the Cavalry Regiment. “I also want them to learn a service project like this is where the most talented and can-do Paratroopers are on a Saturday morning.”

3rd Brigade Combat Team

82nd Airborne Division

H-Minus!



Brigade Commander
Colonel Gregory Beaudoin

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major Kenneth Johnson