



# THE PANTHER WEEKLY

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## FAREWELL COL CARL ALEX



**3RD BCT COMMAND TEAM**  
COL Michael Fenzel  
CSM Nicholas Rolling

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
SGT Joseph Guenther  
SPC Terrance Payton

**COVER PHOTO**  
The guidon bearers of 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment salute the U.S. flag during the National Anthem as part of the change of command ceremony for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Feb 29, 2012. Col. Carl Alex, the outgoing commander, was replaced by Col. Michael Fenzel. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Allison Shok)



# BRIGADE CHANGE OF COMMAND

Col. Carl Alex, the former commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, relinquished command of the brigade to Col. Michael Fenzel at a ceremony on Pike Field Thursday.

Col. Carl Alex enlisted in the Army in 1983 and is a 1987 Distinguished Military Graduate from the Officer Candidate School. He holds a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Master of Science degrees in Financial Management and Defense Analysis-Irregular Warfare from the Naval Post Graduate School and a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.

Col. Michael R. Fenzel was commissioned an infantry officer in 1989 from Johns Hopkins University. He received a Master's Degree in Public Administration

from Harvard University, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and is a Ph. D. Candidate in the National Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Col. Fenzel's first act as the commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, was to introduce himself and the new command sergeant major, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Rolling, to all the noncommissioned officers of the brigade at Green Ramp.

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Rolling spoke first, and took the opportunity to remind all the brigade's noncommissioned officers the importance of their work and their leadership.

"This brigade wouldn't be able to do what it does without its NCOs," Rolling said.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Allision Shok

Col. Carl Alex, the former commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, passes the colors of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment to Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James Johnson, Jr., the Honary Colonel of the Regiment, as part of the brigade's change of command ceremony at Pike Field March 1, 2012.





Photo by 2nd Lt. Allision Shok



Photo by Spc. Terrance Payton



Photo by Spc. Terrance Payton





# MORE PANTHER TROOPERS COME HOME



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Guenther

Left: A Paratrooper reunites with his wife at Green Ramp Feb. 29, 2012 after returning to Fort Bragg upon the completion of his nine month deployment to Afghanistan with 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Below: A mother embraces her son as she reunites with him upon his return to Fort Bragg from Afghanistan. Many of the returning Paratroopers embraced their mothers, fathers, spouses, and children as soon as they were able, following a short ceremony at Green Ramp.

Bottom: The Paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment march into Green Ramp after stepping off the airplane that returned them home from their nine month deployment from Afghanistan. Friends and family waited for them, many having traveled hundreds of miles at great expense just to see their loved ones return home.

Thank you Paratroopers of 1-Panther. "H-Minus!"



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Guenther



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Guenther





Photo by Spc. Terrance Payton





Col. Carl Alex, front row, third from right, Basic Training photo, 1983.



**3rd Brigade Combat Team**  
**82nd Airborne Division**

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