

# *Static Line*

MAY  
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3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.  
Official Magazine



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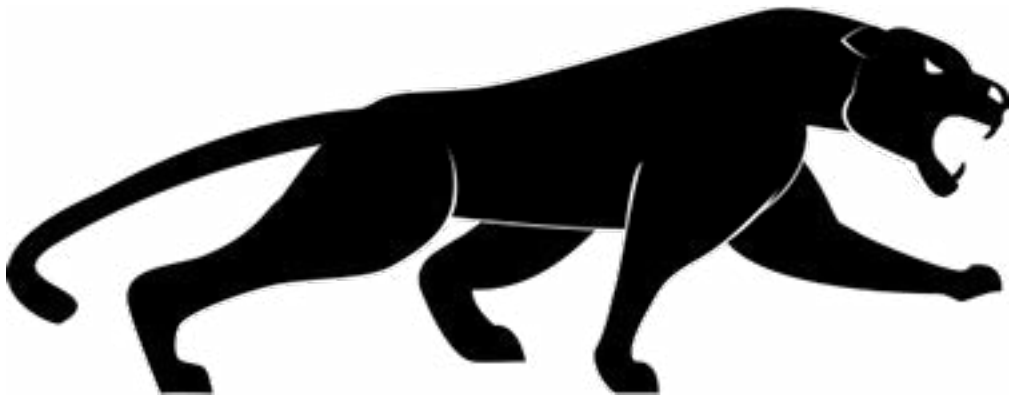
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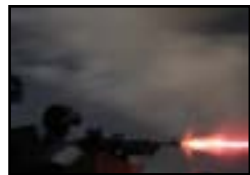
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## From Panther 6 & 9

### Greetings from the Panther Brigade,

The Panther Brigade Combat Team (BCT) continues to prove that they are ready to jump, fight, and win tonight while on the Global Response Force (GRF). As part of the GRF, 3rd Brigade remains ready to deploy anywhere in the world when the nation calls. Maintaining such a high level of readiness is no easy feat, but the professionalism and competency of our Paratroopers makes the task look easy.

After the spring season was in full swing and going into the summer, the Panther Brigade took a tactical pause in observance of All American Week 100, celebrating a century of service.

The Paratroopers were eager to compete, and when Panther Paratroopers compete they dominate to win. And win they did. 2-505 placed first in the team 10-miler. We had over five first place winners in the combatives tournament, but the biggest victory of them all is 1-505 placing first overall in points and bringing the AAW100 trophy home to Panther land.

Speaking of winners, our Paratroopers continue to place themselves and units above the rest in the Division by winning yearly and quarterly competitions. 5-73 CAV won the Division "Jumpmaster of the Year" for the second consecutive year. Bravo, 2-505

won the "Sgt. Alvin York" competition - a competition that evaluates a company's overall marksmanship skills. And one of the bigger unit victories is Charlie, 1-508th bringing home the "Gavin Cup". This quarterly competition highlights one company of 142 overall, with the highest individual readiness in the Division.

The Panther Brigade was busy this last quarter maintaining a high level of readiness while beginning an intensive training cycle. After eight months of assuming the Global Response Force mission, the Panthers executed its second Division Readiness Exercise (DRE) on the largest scale in the past 16 years at Fort Bragg. After being alerted on short notice, approximately 6,000 Soldiers from across the Army executed a rapid mobilization and outload in the sweltering North Carolina heat.

At Fort Bragg, the Panthers pushed about 3,000 troops within 96 hours. Enablers from across the Army simultaneously proved their readiness to deploy anywhere in the world. For example, the 18th Military Police Brigade, 722nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal and the 21st Chemical Company supported the Panther Brigade mission following the DRE into a Joint Operational Access Exercise known as "Operation Panther Storm" a six day field exercise, that was initiated with a Joint Forcible

Entry (JFE).

Crediting a successful JOAX was the brigade and battalion echelon leadership coming together for a Leadership Training Program at Fort Polk, Louisiana. There the brigade was given a complex scenario and had only three days to assemble a strategy through the military decision making process. The coaches and mentors were undoubtedly impressed with the brigade's ability to plan and coordinate in such a short amount of time.

After LTP, the Panthers took advantage of being in Louisiana with a trip to New Orleans and visit to the National World War Two Museum. There the paratroopers toured and explored their legacy and heritage of those whom served before them.

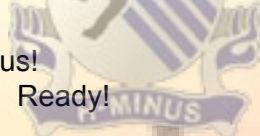
After a busy spring and into mid-summer the Brigade took opportunity leave in order to recharge and rest. All this training is in preparation for the upcoming battalion live fire exercises and Joint Readiness Training Center rotation at Fort Polk, LA later this year.

As the GRF, the Panthers continue to stand READY as America's Guard of Honor.

All The Way!

H-Minus!

Ready!



## Iron Mike Volunteer Awardees

Volunteers and spouses of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division receive an Iron Mike Pin for 300 hours of volunteer service at Fort, N.C., July 26, 2017.



Allison Beaudoin



Milo Kiriloca-Serna



Mary Kate-Wright



Heather Reyes



Natalya Munn



Stacy McQuality



Bonnie Weber



Krisstin Garcia



Corrine Contreras

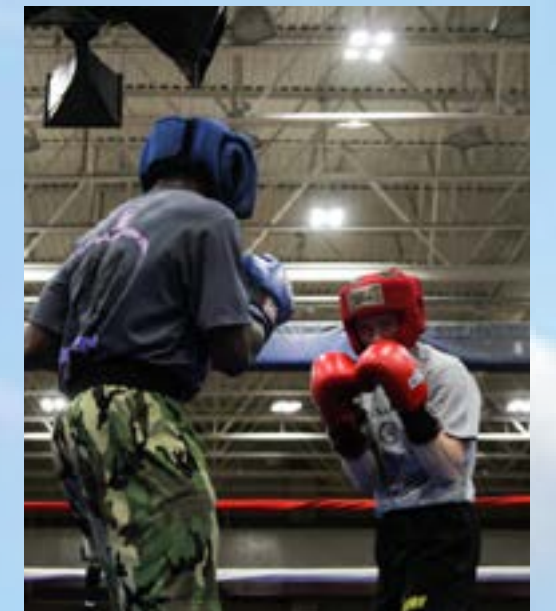




## Division Run: Panthers on the move



## AAW Sports: Panthers compete to dominate

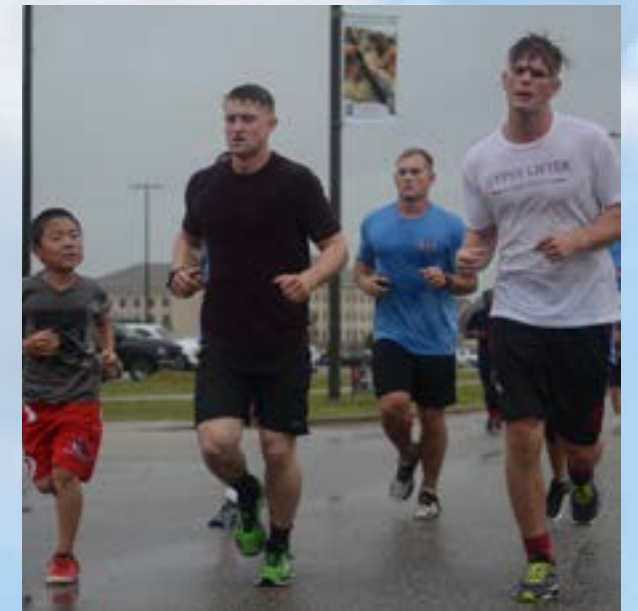




# 3BCT Picnic: Paratroopers for Life



# Family Run: Espirit De Corps for Familia

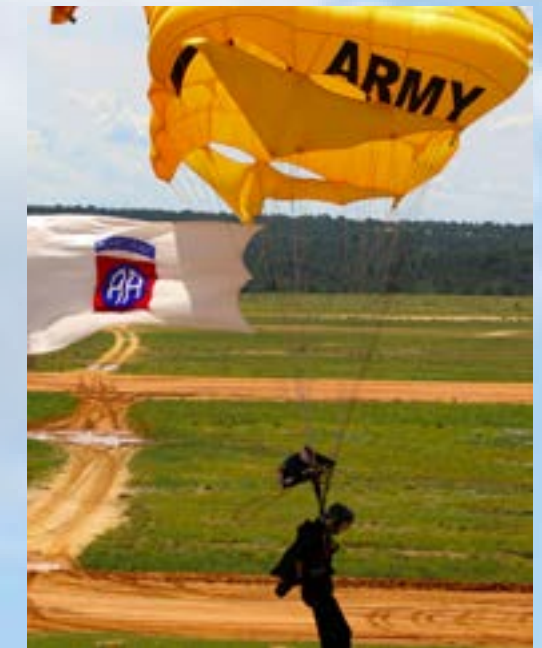




# Gold Star Family Lunch:



# AAW100 Lethality Demonstration





# “*The Army adopted me*” : Paratrooper raised in Iraq

Story by: Staff Sgt. Anthony Hewitt

In the capital city of Baghdad during the 1980s, a family of six brothers and one sister, all very close in age, played in the streets and parks of their hometown, enjoying the simple things in life they had at the time. Through the decades, there were a lot of changes and some things were not as simple. Sgt. Ali Alsaedy, an Iraqi native and Paratrooper assigned to the 307th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division describes his journey from being a young college student in Baghdad to becoming a Paratrooper in America's Guard of Honor.

Alsaedy, the son of an officer reservist serving in the Iraqi Army Ministry of Defense, says Iraq was a joyous place to grow up. “We played basketball, walked to school, all the children in the neighborhood were close,” said Alsaedy. “There were negatives in politics, but we believed in our father and everything was fine.”

Alsaedy's dream was to travel. “Everybody's goal [in high school] was to travel the world, places like U.K., U.S., and Europe,” said Alsaedy. He kept that dream with him before pursuing a degree

in biochemical engineering at the University of Baghdad.

“I was in my second year of college when everything happened, the troops arrived,” said Alsaedy. “It was a year later when it seemed things began to settle down. We all were trying to educate ourselves on the matter because we believed—and still do—that the U.S. forces and allies were there to transform the country and help. We felt there was not going to be any more tyranny system or sects of families taking over the country, doing whatever they felt they wanted, so we believed in the change and welcomed it.”

After graduating college, Alsaedy needed to find work, preferably in the engineering field. He said it was extremely hard to come by the due to the nature of the country and most employers only hired within their sects.

“I did not know exactly what to do or what I wanted to do, but I did know that I wanted to work for and with the Service members. It was not just about money or security, it was about being a part of something important to me,” said Alsaedy.

Unable to break into the U.S. contractor market, Alsaedy's education and skill-set eventually gravitated employers to him within the private sector. In 2005, he found stability in the information technology field as a networking specialist for satellite communications.

“Then one day a man came into the shop and it changed my life forever,” said Alsaedy. “He inquired about an internet network to be installed on a military base in Baghdad. I took the job. After the work was complete, they were very satisfied and needed more, so they hired me full-time. My English was very fluent and I became a translator for them too.”

While the years passed, Alsaedy's experiences and relationships grew through the ranks, by 2007 he was a popular name amongst higher ranking officials with the Air Force and the Marines in Alqaim, Iraq.

“I saw in the Soldiers what very few of us [natives] see,” said Alsaedy. “They were trustful, pleasant, and respectful; they integrated me into their brotherhood.”

“I remember the insurgency propaganda, it stated, the Amer-

icans are here to destroy everything,” said Alsaedy. “But they were not, they were building.”

“They built infrastructure for the population and barracks for the Iraqi Army. They supplied resources increasing our livelihood; creating jobs for husbands and fathers.”

At the end of 2007, Alsaedy received some big news. President George W. Bush signs and passes a declaration allowing vetted contractors who had worked for a minimum of five years for the U.S. Government to be granted a special immigrant visa for them and their families. The visa allowed them to live and work within the United States.

At the end of 2009, the surge of U.S. withdraw began.

“I slowly started to see things change,” said Alsaedy. “The protection was decreasing and so was the structure. I knew if I stayed, my family and I were going to die soon.”

In 2010, Alsaedy met his five-year requirement in order to qualify for the special visa for him and his family to move to the United States.

He arrived and settled in Norfolk, Virginia. A new country and culture surrounded him. What he once knew as a world of war was now a life of peace and the pursuit of happiness. He was immediately hired by a major oil and gas company from 2011-2012.

“I did not hurt for money, I did a lot of international travel, but I did not feel grateful,” said Alsaedy. “At this time I owed the U.S. Government nothing. I fulfilled my obligation. I felt grateful for everything they gave me in Iraq and the United States.”

“I wanted to give them more; for my daughter, for myself and for those brothers that I became a part of overseas,” he said.

He enlisted into the U.S.

Army in August 2013 as a combat engineer. Shortly thereafter, he attended basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri.

Alsaedy showed off his potential, quick learning abilities, and outstanding physical fitness. He was afforded the opportunity to attend airborne school at Fort Benning, Georgia, upon graduation.

“I found out that I was going to be assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division,” said Alsaedy. “I knew it was an honor and a prestigious unit. I remember seeing the Double-A patch in Iraq. And to realize that I am now one of those Paratroopers along with my Family, I was beyond excited and humbled.”

“However, it truly did not hit me until I came to Fort Bragg and walked through the division's





museum, that's when I realized I was a part of something special."

In 2014, Alsaedy arrived full of energy to Alpha Company, 307th BEB. He was a new Panther Engineer and integrated just fine amongst his leaders and peers.

"We did a lot of training. We went to every kind of weapons range you could think of. I learned demolitions, steel cutting, too many ruck marches and was just very happy," said Alsaedy.

There was a deep secret in Alsaedy's heart he was holding, there was something missing. Another reason why he joined and he could not force it. It could only happen on its own.

"My real dream was to return to Iraq," said Alsaedy. "I wanted to be an asset to the unit. I had the language, the background, and culture. I knew if I ever went back I would put myself out there to be as valuable as I could for the 307th."

In early 2015 the 3rd BCT deployed to southwest Asia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. At the time, it was the newest campaign in the fight against the Islamic State. There, Paratroopers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division provided advice and assistance to Iraqi Security Forces.

In a twist of fate, Alsaedy's unit operated in the same neighborhood he was raised in and grew up around. His dream finally came true.

"It wasn't easy at first," Al-

saedy said, while looking up with glassy eyes. "But it was my leadership. They understood my situation. They supported me. It made my job and task much easier."

Alsaedy's background and capabilities soon became an asset for his battalion commander all the way up to division command sergeant major, and higher ranking officials in multiple tactical operations centers around the area of operations.

With his hard work and commitment to his leadership and unit's mission, Alsaedy became a part of the 82nd Airborne Division legacy he thought so much of, he became the first battlefield promotion to noncommissioned officer during the OIR campaign.

He was pinned with the rank of sergeant during the fall of 2015 upon the unit's redeployment to Fort Bragg.

His accomplishments and accolades did not stop there.

"When I became an NCO great things began to happen for me and my Family," said Alsaedy.

Alsaedy attended the Warrior Leader's Course soon after becoming a sergeant, learning technical skills and correspondence in the craft of an NCO.

Alsaedy's motivation and physical fitness separated himself from his peers. He wanted to go to Sapper school and master his craft as an engineer.

"I may have had a more advanced role during deployment, but I am still an engineer in the 307th," said Alsaedy.

Early 2016 came around and he began training with the division's Best Sapper Team, who were preparing to compete in the U.S. Army Best Sapper Competition.

To keep himself busy and find new challenges, Alsaedy attended the Fort Bragg Pre-Ranger Course which is a two-week course that evaluates and prepares future candidates for the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning.

He never went to Sapper School though. Immediately upon graduating the Pre-Ranger Course, he was put on a bus to Ranger School.

Alsaedy went straight through the 62-day course, a course that normally has a high attrition rate.

"I have been busy that's for sure," said Alsaedy. "But I felt the more I accomplish as an NCO and a Paratrooper, the more I am giving back to the Army. I am just so grateful. I cannot put into words how I feel. Landing the opportunity during the mid-2000s, to becoming a citizen, a Soldier deployed to my hometown and a Ranger. My wife and child love the installation, the people, and my daughter is receiving a great education from the schools on Fort Bragg. The Army adopted me and I am forever in debt to the most professional and perfect organization, the 82nd Airborne [Division]."

# Panther Brigade Winners



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Abrahamson, is recognized as the Division's "Jumpmaster of the Year". 5-73 CAV has held the title for the second consecutive year.

Lt. Col. Marcus Wright and Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Bristow command team of 1-505 PIR gather for a photo after their battalion wins the All American Week Trophy. The trophy is given to the one unit within the division that competes and achieves over all others during the week of events.

Charlie, 1-508th wins the coveted Gavin Cup. The award goes to only one company of the 42 within the division, each quarter. The company chosen demonstrates the overall excellence in readiness, from medical, to fitness, and marksmanship.

Bravo, 2-505 PIR wins the division York Award for outstanding execution of marksmanship as a company.





# NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson honors Paratrooper



In recognition of Memorial Day Weekend, NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson honored fallen Paratrooper Spc. Michael Rodriguez of 5-73 CAV, who was killed in action, Iraq, 2007.

He visited Fort Bragg to meet Rodruigeuz Family and unveiled a custom patriotic concept design for the car he raced during the Coca-Cola 600...with Spc. Rodriguez`s name inscribed on top of the windshield.

# Panther Leadership revisit their legacy National WWII Museum, New Orleans





# Operation Panther Storm

## Step 1. Division Readiness Exercise





## Step 2. Joint Forcible Entry



## Step 3. Defend your turf





## Step 4. Expand and take more turf



## Step 5. Panthers on the offense









**3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM**  
**82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION**  
**“H-MINUS!”**

