

## Senior Leaders 101st returns to Afghanistan



"Our new team will continue to work with Afghan National Defense and Security Forces as they continue to seize the initiative and drive our common enemies to reconciliation, or capitulation."

– Maj. Gen. Andrew Poppas  
CG, 101st Airborne Division  
April 15, 2018, Afghanistan

## On Point Month of the Military Child

The U.S. Army observes the Month of the Military Child to recognize and honor the commitment, contributions and sacrifices children and youth make to the nation through the strength



they provide Soldiers and Families. The Army recognizes Month of the Military Child as an opportunity to recognize and respect the unique challenges military children face and overcome. This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the Department of Defense designating April as Month of the Military Child. This year's theme, "**Brave Hearts, Resilient Souls,**" will help the nation understand how important military children are. Military children are the epitome of strength and resilience who contribute to enabling Soldiers to focus on defending the nation. Strong and resilient Army children contribute to the success of the Army's mission.



### Volunteer Appreciation Week

The U.S. Army recognizes volunteers' extraordinary service and support during Volunteer Appreciation Week and highlights the volunteers' contributions and accomplishments. The Army theme for 2018 is "**Army Volunteers: We Salute You.**"

## 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) assumes Afghanistan mission



Maj. Gen. Andrew Poppas, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commander (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Sims, 101st Abn. Div. senior enlisted leader, unfurl the division headquarters' colors, April 15, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lerone Simmons)

### By Master Sgt. Tanya C Polk, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) colors unfurled at Bagram Airfield, April 15 during a ceremony that marked the beginning of the unit's fourth deployment to Afghanistan in the last decade.

Maj. Gen. Andrew Poppas, 101st Abn. Div. commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Sims, 101st Abn. Div. senior enlisted leader, uncased the division headquarters' colors during a transfer of authority ceremony, officially assuming their new mission from the 3rd Infantry Division.

"The 101st Abn. Div. is ready for this new 'Rendezvous with Destiny,'" said Poppas during the ceremony. "Since the day I took command, our future was written, and we knew we were returning to Afghanistan and have trained specifically for this mission."

Unlike the 101st Abn. Div.'s past deployments to the country, which were focused in the eastern region, the division will oversee NATO's train, advise and assist mission and U.S. counterterrorism operations nationwide.

"It is encouraging to see how much has changed, how much has progressed since we took command of Regional Command East on the 101st day of 2008," said Poppas reflecting on the division's time served in Afghanistan. "Not only are the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces fully responsible for Afghanistan's security nationwide, but routinely conducting independent and combined arms operations. We have gone from an active combat role or partnered operations to merely training, advising and assisting these capable Afghan combat formations – a monumental and hard-fought achievement."

## FORSCOM in the news

Senior leaders from Joint Base Lewis-McChord recently joined the Consulate General of Japan to **celebrate Japan's continued partnership with the U.S.**



The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade commander, 10th Mountain Division, recently **met with community members to discuss exercise Falcon's Peak.**



The 82nd Airborne Division recently announced the inaugural class of the "**All American Hall of Fame,**" to be unveiled during All American Week.



Soldiers with 177th Armored Brigade, First Army Division East, recently **received recognition for their support of the Hurricane Maria relief efforts.**



Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, recently **trained to fight and win in megacity and subterranean environments.**



## 'Iron Focus 18.1'



**24th Press Camp Headquarters** - Pfc. Angel Murillo, an infantryman with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, aims a M136 AT4 Rocket Launcher during exercise 'Iron Focus 18.1,' held at Orogrande, N.M., March 22, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. John Onuoha)



# TOP SHOTS

Here are the best photos from FORSCOM Public Affairs professionals world-wide. For more photos and information, click these photos or visit [army.mil/forscom](http://army.mil/forscom)



**Left** Capt. Matthew Baca, 189th Combined Arms Training Brigade, First Army Division West, maneuvers through an obstacle during the Brigade's 'Best Captain Competition' on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., April 4, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by SSG Eliverto V Larios)

**Right** Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Chang, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, approaches the finish line of the Day Stakes Orienteering event during the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined 'Division Best Warrior Competition' at Camp Hovey, Korea, April 9, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maryam Treece)



**Above** Staff Sgt. John Velasquez, 71st Ordnance Group (EOD), 20th Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosives Command, wears the EOD-8 Bomb suit to inspect a suspicious package during 'Raven's Challenge 2018' at Camp Shelby, Miss., April 10, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ashley Hayes)



**Above** Soldiers assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, provide security on a hallway during a nighttime air assault of a notional enemy compound at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., March 20, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. John Lytle)

**Left** An M1 Abrams tank from 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, fires a round during a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, March 26, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hubert D. Delany III)



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