

THE DEPLOYED TROOPER



April 2019



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A COLLECTION OF STORIES
FROM DEVIL BRIGADE
SOLDIERS



Soldiers from 1st Eng Bn., 1st ABCT, take cover as Pfc. Isaac Terry, detonates an explosion during live-fire explosives training.

Diehard Engineers have a blast with explosives training

[\(click to watch video online\)](#)

ZAGAN, Poland -- Combat Engineers from, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conduct live-fire explosives training at Joanna range, here, Mar. 6, 2019.

“Today we’re conducting confidence blasts as well as familization with C-4,” Staff Sgt. Jaime Ratledge, Opera-

(right) Soldiers from 1st Eng Bn., 1st ABCT, detonate C-4 during a live fire explosives class.

(far right) A Soldier from, 1st Eng Bn., 1st ABCT, looks on during a live fire explosives class.

tions Sergeant for Bravo Company, 1st Eng. Bn., 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “We want to make sure that our Soldiers are confident with demolition.”

These Combat Engineers got the chance to apply their trade, including knot technique practice and C-4 explosive assembly. The battalion’s obstacle clearance operations shook the ground.

“Fire in the hole, fire in the hole, fire in the hole!” shouted Pfc. Isaac Terry, a combat engineer with B-Co, 1st Eng Bn. [See More](#)





Hamilton's Own conducts fire mission in Torun

[*\(click to watch video online\)*](#)

TORUŃ, Poland -- Field Artillery, known as “The King of Battle” among Soldiers, was identified by Gen. Douglas MacArthur as being the most vital factor on the battlefield. Artillery batteries are required to conduct platoon level certifications on the Paladin M109A7 artillery system. To do this effectively, the artillery companies, known as batteries, are required to meet certain qualification measures and



demonstrate their proficiency level in a combat setting.

Artillery Soldiers from 1-5 FA, conducted table 12 certs, a platoon level certification, on the Paladin M109A7 Artillery System during a training exercise for Atlantic Resolve 14 March 2019.



“The table 12 certification is with your platoon. You go through platoon occupations and fire missions where everybody makes sure the platoon is working together, and has a proper cohesiveness,” said Army Sgt. Juan Howard, an artillery cannon crew chief of his assigned gun. [*See More*](#)

(upper left & cover photo) Spc. Brett Kelly, an artillery cannon gunner assigned to 1-5, hefts a 155mm artillery round into an ammo rack.

(upper right) 155mm artillery rounds are staged prior to being loaded onto Paladin M109A7 Artillery Systems.

(lower left) A Soldier assigned to 1-5, hefts a 155mm artillery round to load it into a Paladin M109A7 Artillery System.

Iron Rangers get up close and personal in Romania



NOVO SELO, Bulgaria -- Soldiers with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas, conduct Close Quarters Battle and Marksmanship training at Novo Selo Training Range, Bulgaria, March 26, 2019.

Squad and platoon leadership led their Soldiers through training so they will be ready to fight in any terrain, including urban terrain, which brings a unique set of challenges. The Army and Department of Defense have recently made preparation for urban combat a priority, leaders at U.S. Futures Command are currently analyzing these challenges.

(top) Soldiers from A-Co, 1-16th, conduct close quarter battle drills at Novo Selo Training Range.

(middle) U.S. Army Spc. Dustin E. Pritchett, from A-Co, 1-16th, observes his target during Close Quarters Marksmanship at Novo Selo Training Area.

(bottom) U.S. Army Cpl. Driscoll and Pvt. Matthew McDaniel from A-Co, 1-16th, conduct close quarter battle drills at Novo Selo Training Range.



Liberty Battalion chemical specialists train Soldiers



[click to watch video online](#)

SKWIERZYNA, Poland -- Soldiers assigned to the 101 Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division taught Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear defense refresher training to their Soldiers in Skwierzyna, Poland, March 21, 2019.

CBRN specialists from the 101 BSB, 1st ABCT, 1st. Inf Div. demonstrated how to properly exchange contaminated chemical suits with uncontaminated suits, to teach Soldiers how to address their health and safety after a chemical attack.

“The objective is to get in there, get it done and get back into the mission,” said Sgt. Michael Kahler, battalion chemical sergeant from 101 BSB, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “It’s to learn how to switch their contaminated chemical suits, with fresh, uncontaminated suits, so that they can get back into the fight until a CBRN unit can get to them to take the appropriate actions to relieve the unit.”

Sgt. Kahler conveyed the importance of personal initiative in suit swapping while his CBRN Soldiers demonstrated utilization of Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology suits and gear.





The command team of the 101st BSB, visited the students and faculty of Gorzów campus.

101st Partners with Polish students

GORZÓW Poland -- The command team of the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division visited the students and faculty of Gorzów campus of Zespół Szkół Technicznych, a military preparatory academy with campuses throughout the country, on March 19, 2019.

The visit from the 101st BSB marked the beginning of a partnership to teach students about U.S. operations and offer English language assistance. The school's program is designed to allow students from the high school the opportunity to interact with U.S. Army Soldiers on a regular basis.

"The students are very interested in meeting with the Soldiers," said



Wojtek Kozłowski, an English teacher at the school "In Gorzow, in terms of secondary level education, there is not a single native speaker to teach English. It would be a great opportunity for them to practice their English and a chance for the soldiers to get to know the Polish people a bit more."

[*See More*](#)

(top right) CSM Tisa Scott from the 101st BSB, watches a volleyball game at the military preparatory academy Zespół Szkół Technicznych.

(bottom left) Students at the military preparatory academy Zespół Szkół Technicznych, demonstrate a chemistry experiment to CSM Tisa Scott from the 101st BSB.

(bottom right) The 101st BSB command team, introduce themselves to a classroom of students at the military preparatory academy Zespół Szkół Technicznych.



Burt's Knights stay lethal in Poland

TRZEBIEN, Poland -- Soldiers from Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division conducted tactical movement in the forests of Karliki, Poland on March 27, 2019.

Their training mission today began as the Soldiers advanced upon the objective in M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and ended with the clearing of an enemy trench. The Soldiers were supervised by Observer Controller Trainers to ensure they executed their movements and tactics correctly.

Bravo team leader Sgt. Kendrick Alvarez coordinated his team's movements and ensured they could clear an objective while dismounted.

The Soldier who effectively helped lead his squad through the mission was Bravo Team leader Sgt. Kendrick Alvarez. Not only was it his mission to coordinate his team's movements, but ensure they could practice how to clear an objective while dismounted.



Quarterhorse demonstrates firepower for the President of Poland



ZAGAN, Poland -- Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division maneuvered and fired Abrams Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and other weapons systems alongside their Polish partners in a display for the President of Poland.

The demonstration took place in celebration of Poland's 20 years in NATO. The skill and readiness of Quarterhorse was broadcast by multiple news outlets in Poland and across the continent, sending the message that the Devil Brigade is ready to fight alongside our European allies.

Quarterhorse Soldiers had a brief opportunity to meet with the President and spent the day with soldiers from the 11th Polish Infantry Division.





Dreadnaughts qualify with heavy machine guns in Germany

GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA, Germany -- Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, qualified with the MK19mm grenade launcher and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun at the range, March 13-14, 2019.

2-34 is from Fort Riley, Kansas and is currently deployed to eastern Europe in support of Atlantic Resolve.

“Our mission here is to build relations with our partner nations and



conduct training,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Kevin A. Smith, scout platoon leader with 2-34. The qualifications were part of the battalion’s gunnery training that they are conducting here.

Gunnery is a series of qualifications, broken down into “tables” conducted over several days, and assesses the individual, team, and crew battle drills and collective tasks. [*See More*](#)

(top left) 1st Lt. Kevin A. Smith with 2-34 qualifies with the MK-19mm grenade machine gun.

(top right) Pvt. Ryan A. Knabe with 2-34, loads a MK-19mm grenade machine gun.

(bottom left) Staff Sgt. Matthew Bickle with 2-34, tracks rounds fired down range.

(bottom right) Soldiers with 2-34 drive down range to qualify with a mounted M2 .50 caliber machine gun.



Soldiers test for coveted Expert Infantryman Badge



A Soldier from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, performs a weapons check for a grader as he approaches the finish line of a 12 mile ruck march to qualify for the Expert Infantryman Badge

VILSECK, Germany -- Soldiers from the 1st ABCT, 1st ID, trained and tested for the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB), at the Vilseck Army Airfield, Germany, March 4-22, 2019.

“For those that earned their EIB, I want to talk to you about the importance of it,” said Brig. Gen. Christopher C. LaNeve, commanding general for the 7th Army Training Command. “The badge itself represents hours of long work, hard work, and studying.”

A total of 583 Soldiers began the intense journey toward the coveted EIB, with 83 successfully graduating and 21 earning the designation of “True Blue”, by completing each phase of testing on their first attempt.

For the last three weeks, Soldiers have been training and testing out in all of the different tasks required to earn the EIB, said Sgt. Charles E. Webb, an EIB Grader and Team Leader from the 1-16th Reg. 1st ABCT 1st Inf. Div.

[See More](#)



Staff Sgt. Brett Alexander, a platoon sergeant with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., treats a simulated casualty during testing for the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB).

Fond farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Fenderson, embodiment of discipline and character



(top) CSM Quentin V. Fenderson, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., smiles during his participation in the time honored tradition of a Relinquishment of Responsibility ceremony.

(right) CSM Quentin V. Fenderson, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., hands the brigade colors to Col. Charles S. Armstrong.

(bottom) CSM Quentin V. Fenderson, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., shakes hands with people saying goodbye and wanting to show appreciation for Fenderson.



ZAGAN, Poland -- Command Sergeant Major Quentin V. Fenderson leaves a formation of Soldiers who are stronger, and leaders who are more dignified because of his influence. The Devil Brigade is grateful for his leadership and committed to live up to his standard. He relinquished his responsibility here on March 4, 2019, to take over as the Operations Sgt. Maj. at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California.



Soldiers provide service to a local church by cleaning up piled leaves and branches.

Devil Value One brings resilience to Soldiers in Poland

ZAGAN, Poland -- Twenty-five Soldiers and six small group leaders from all over the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division participated in the third iteration of the Devil Value One Program, March 7-9, 2019.

The Devil Value One Program is a three day resiliency program where junior enlisted battle buddy pairs get mental and spiritual resilience through discussion, service, and team focused activities. The idea was first developed by 2nd Lt. Shaun Bell of the 1st ABCT,

1st Inf. Div., who then refined it with Maj. Donald Bickel, the Brigade Chaplain. [*See More*](#)

(bottom left) Soldiers provide service to a local church by cleaning up piled leaves and branches.

(bottom middle) Soldiers listen to Col. Armstrong, as he shares his wisdom on the importance of getting to know Soldiers on a personal level.

(bottom right) Soldiers participate in an open discussion about personal character and how it can be a source of strength in adversity.



Devil Communication Professionals on the move in Europe

ZAGAN, Poland -- The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's communication section and Charlie Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., worked together to enable the brigade to command and control its forces across Europe here on March 19.

Their efforts were in support of Foundation 3, a command post exercise that validated the brigade's ability to establish and maintain communications while planning complex operations on the move. The communications section, also known as the S-6, is the HHC, 1 ABCT section responsible for a multitude of systems that enable disparate elements to shoot and move as one force.

"We work with the brigade S-6...We help them and they help us so that we can mesh and integrate together," said 2nd Lt. Donovan Thompson, 2nd Platoon Leader Charlie Company, 1st Eng.Bn.

[See More](#)

(top right) SFC Bartels, bottom, and SPC Wheeler, top, members of the S-6, 1st ABCT, remove a satellite radio antenna from the top of a vehicle.

(middle right) PFC Best from C-Co, 1st Eng. Bn., removes boxes holding communications equipment from a truck.

(bottom) PFC Best from C-Co, 1st Eng. Bn., prepares a satellite trailer to provide network communications for a Tactical Operations Center.





Devil Brigade Joint Fires Observers train with Polish allies during Dynamic Front 19

TORUN, Poland – Joint Fires Observers from 3-66 AR, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. and their assigned Tactical Air Control Party conducted a week of training from March 4 to March 8 in conjunction with Exercise Dynamic Front 19 in Torun, Poland. The 56th Combat Helicopter Regiment from Inowroclaw, Poland provided Mi-24 helicopters and their assigned Joint Terminal Attack Controllers for the training. They were joined by the 1-6th Cavalry Heavy Attack Reconnaissance Squadron from 1st Combat Aviation Brigade. Surface to surface fires came from 4th Battalion 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, an artillery battalion from Slovakia, and a rocket battalion from Poland.

Polish JTACs and JFOs, American JTACs and JFOs all came together to provide targeting data for fires and integrate rotary wing assets into the scheme of fires. “This week, Soldiers and Airmen conducted live fire training with Polish partners. “Training consisted of live fire artillery, rockets, and AH-64 fires,” said TSgt Justin Priniski, Flight Chief for 2nd Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron. “Both Polish and American JFOs provided real time targeting to American and Polish JTACs.”

All of this was conducted while bridging language barriers and understanding common NATO procedures. “This type of training is a great opportunity for us to work with our host nation that

allows both of us to gain a shared understanding of how each other works in a tactical environment,” said Sergeant First Class Anthony Suchey, Brigade JFO-Evaluator. “Which also build trusts and confidence between two militaries.”

The Devil Brigade Soldiers and Airmen also conducted certifications as part of the Brigade JFO program. Two JFOs and one JFO-Evaluator left the training as fully certified and able to provide integration of air and ground fires per the guidance of a maneuver commander.





U.S. Army medics prepare a mock casualty for transport to the Air Base during a training exercise held at the Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base.

Medics conduct medical evacuation training

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU AIR BASE, Romania -- Medics from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment took part in medical evacuation training held at MK Air Base, Mar 4, 2019. The Soldiers conducted mock training in order to sharpen their skills and their response time in case of actual medical emergency situation arising. This will be beneficial for the Soldiers in preparation of their upcoming mission.

The 1-16th Infantry Regiment, along with other battalions with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, will conduct joint training exercises with allied and NATO partners to build readiness, increase interoperability and enhance the bond between the nations.

Soldiers participating included experienced medics such as Army Sgt. Anthony Banks, a treatment non-commissioned officer with the 1-16th Infantry Regiment. Banks, a native of Kansas City, Kansas has more than eight years of experience providing medical support, in U.S and abroad including Iraq and Kuwait.

The training was made as realistic as possible, including utilizing aerial evacuation to transport the patients.



U.S. Army medics provide initial treatment to one of the mock casualties during a training exercise held at the Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base.

Destroyer FDC sets a new standard

TORUN, Poland -- 1st Platoon conducts AT V Certification, 7-8 March, 2019. 1st platoon FDC had to certify in preparation for higher echelon certifications and future training missions. In addition to being a first time “GO”, 1st FDC was the first in the battalion evaluated under the new artillery TC 3-09.8 standard.

“We trained hard in preparation for this table, and our hard work paid off when we met and exceeded the standards,” said SGT Tyler Foster.

The new standard has three times as many missions than the previous certification varying from basic low angle, adjust fire, to sweeping zone and coordinated illumination. The FDC was also evaluated on advance party responsibilities including security sweep and a timed OE-254 setup. 1st FDC’s performance has set the standard for future certifications.

“My section’s dedication and hard work showed when they were able to handle every challenge and obstacle thrown at them, making every time standard while staying calm and organized,” added 2LT Christina Rimbey.



(left to right) 2LT Christina Rimbey, PFC Niklus Newhauser, SGT Tyler Foster, PFC Daniel Chandler

Combat Life Saver Training Essential to Medic Success

The 3rd Battalion 66th Armored Regiment “Burt’s Knights” Medical Platoon can be found honing their medical prowess daily on the open field behind the Battalion Aid Station (BAS). The primary goal of

this training is to sharpen their MOS specific 10-level tasks. The expectation of every 68W is to be proficient in all aspects of care; from head-to-toe. Competency in establishing intravenous (IV) access and applying tourniquets/pressure dressings are just a few of the skills being honed during training.

“We must become experts at the simple tasks so they become muscle memory,” proclaims CPT Maselli, the Battalion Physician Assistant. “We will continue to refine our skillset because our job is not limited to combat or the field, but the preparation for everyday life”.



Spc. Girard administers an IV on a simulated casualty.

Leaders participate in team building PT

Leaders from across Burt’s Knights came together on February 25th to conduct the first of many Leader Development sessions, led by CSM Jeffrey McCummings. This event was PT focused and saw teams work together to move skedcos with 3 water cans across the camp area, while stopping at each checkpoint to perform various exercises. The desired end state of these sessions is to build leaders to better serve the Soldiers.





A Soldier with the 1-16th is working on a vehicle at the motor pool in Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria.

Vehicle maintenance keeps Devil Brigade ready to fight

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria – Soldiers from 16th Infantry Regiment, have been busy in maintenance of vehicles. The maintenance of the vehicles is an ongoing process which is necessary to ensure vehicles availability for operations and training exercises as and when needed. The maintenance includes preventative maintenance and repair activities.

Vehicle maintenance is a time consuming and hands-on job which has to be completed regardless of the weather conditions. Soldiers check and diagnose areas which require maintenance and then follow the maintenance procedure which can vary from fixing the vehicles themselves for small issues and taking the vehicles to the mechanics for any complex issues.

The 1-16th Infantry Regiment, along with other battalions with the 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., will conduct joint training exercises with allied and NATO partners to build readiness, increase interoperability and enhance the bond between the nations.

The vehicles which are brought to mechanics are fixed by Soldiers whose job description is to be expert mechanics when it comes to military vehicles. Pvt. Tarrin Ballin, a mechanic with India Company, 1-16th Infantry Regiment, believes that being a mechanic will provide him with the necessary skills needed outside the Army.

“The experiences I gain from working as a mechanic here will also come in handy if I ever choose to leave the Army.” said Ballin. “I like my job and I think I am very confident in the training and experience I have gained since I have joined the U.S. Army.”

Burt's Knights at the presidential range in Poland



RELIGIOUS SERVICES FORUM

Integration with Polish starts strong



(from left to right) Father Przemyslaw, Interpreter Chris, MAJ Michael Liscano, Father Lucaz and CH Brian Blake.

**“IT’S ABOUT
FRIENDSHIP
WITH POLES AND
TO LET THE
CIVILIANS KNOW
WHAT THE
AMERICANS ARE
DOING HERE”**

**-FATHER LUCAZ ON HAVING
3-66 PRESENCE AT EVENTS**

On Friday, March 1st, MAJ Liscano, CH Blake, and CPT Stine met with local religious leaders in order to discuss Catholic religious support and integrating 3-66 AR into significant local events.

Spiritual fitness is one of the key tenants in maintaining our readiness; supported expertly by CH Blake for the Battalion. With the added support of Father Przemyslaw and Father Lucaz, who exclaimed that he would be happy to support our Catholic soldiers, access to religious resources has been made even easier for soldiers.

To further show the welcome reception of US forces, Burt’s Knights have been invited to celebrate Flag Day and Constitution day with our Polish allies. Polish Flag Day falls on May 2nd and serves as a prelude to Constitution Day on May 3rd. Plans were discussed to integrate the Battalion into the celebration, cementing the Poland-America alliance.