

# THE DEPLOYED TROOPER



March 2019



# THE DEPLOYED TROOPER



A COLLECTION OF NEWS  
AND STORIES FROM DEVIL  
BRIGADE SOLDIERS

## Soldiers settle in, await new opportunities



Two Soldiers from 3-66 AR review a map during a field training exercise.

“I am looking forward to experiencing a new culture and understanding foreign nations first hand”

This is the first time for many Soldiers to step foot outside the U.S. and be away from loved ones. Post Exchange stores, USO services, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation tents are available to help make the transition easier for troops. A local phone service provider is also available to soldiers for purchase, making it easier to communicate with friends and loved ones back home. Many Soldiers brought books, laptops, video game consoles and TVs, to help pass time when not out in the field training.

While in the field, American Soldiers work hand in hand with soldiers of allied countries

and NATO partners. The 3-66 AR will be conducting range operations including small-arms training, crew-served weapons and community relations, during their nine-month stay.



# Soldiers conduct live-fire training



COVER PHOTO: PFC Haydn Basher, from Lacey, Washington, carries ammunition rounds during a live-fire training.



(above) A Soldier from 3-66 AR conducts live-fire training.



## SOLDIER PROFILE

### PFC Garrett Richard

Richard is currently deployed to Poland with his unit, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment in support of the Atlantic Resolve mission. The Atlantic Resolve mission builds readiness and fosters interoperability with our allied and partner nations in order to strengthen security in the region.

### Why I joined the Army:

“I joined to serve my country, become more financially stable, and to pay for schooling. I’m a Cavalry Scout. (19D). My job has to do with forward reconnaissance, scoping out the enemy and keeping the command team aware of troop movements and any changes. However, I perform in a support capacity at the moment, working with the command team to coordinate the general flow of information and keep records up to date and accessible.”



**MSG Shantel Moneke Johnson watches as SPC Jeb Stuart Dickey takes the oath for reenlistment.**

their families, they're going to remember you, Johnson adds. Due to the hard work and dedication of Johnson, her team and the brigade leadership, the Devils are always in the running for number one in retention within the Big Red One. In turn, the BRO is number one across the entire Army!

**(upper left) SPC Jeb Stuart Dickey, is congratulated by Polish Army CPT Mike Chrzasczewski, ABCT coordinator.**

**(lower left) SPC Jeb Stuart Dickey, signs his reenlistment certificate.**

**(lower right) MSG Shantel Moneke Johnson, answers questions from soldiers after a successful class on retention.**

## Devil retention strives for perfection

When your team is No. 1, it's a constant challenge to stay at the top. As a member of one of the top career counseling and retention teams in the Army, connecting with 40 soldiers every week is the ultimate goal. In order to be effective at retaining top quality personnel, it's important to talk to as many soldiers as possible.

"I want to set a goal for my team that we're always striving to hit," said Master SGT Shantel Moneke Johnson, senior career counselor for 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. "This means you have to lay hands on a lot more people because you can't touch five and be guaranteed to get five (reenlistments), so you might need to touch 25!"

As long as you're always reaching out and contacting soldiers and







## SOLDIER PROFILE

### PFC Jovanny Aparicio (35G)

As a GEOINT Analyst mobilized in Zagan, Poland, Aparicio has learned to analyze complex satellite imagery and relay his observations back to the forces in the field to use while conducting operations.

In military terms, Geospatial Intelligence is using satellite imagery and cutting-edge technology to provide real-time intelligence to U.S. and allied Soldiers in the field. This is the main job of PFC Jovanny Aparicio as a Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analyst in the Intelligence shop of the HHC Co, 1st ABCT, 1ID.

With almost two years in the military, Aparicio is already halfway to a degree in Geospatial Intelligence and hopes to have a GEOINT Professional Certification from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency before he returns home to Fort Riley.

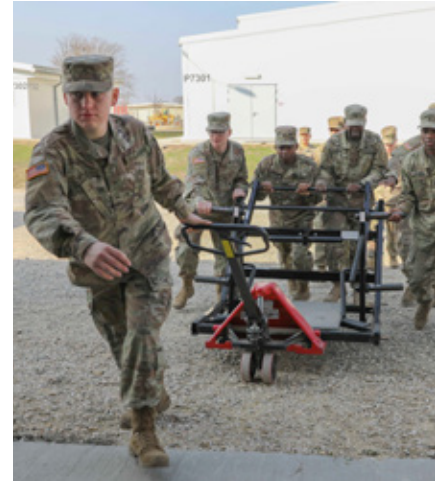


## SOLDIER PROFILE

### PFC Marvin (68W)

Hamilton's Own **Soldier of the Week** is PFC Marvin (68W). Since arriving to Camp Destroyer in late January, PFC Marvin has worked tirelessly to assist the Medical Platoon in maintaining readiness throughout the Battalion.

Marvin is currently serving as a clinic medic where she has provided care to over 100 Soldiers. Her medical knowledge, attention to detail, and dedication to the unit have been paramount as she ensures 1-5 FA Soldiers remain medically capable of accomplishing all assigned missions and tasks. Marvin embodies what it means to be Dedicated and On Point for the Nation here in 1-5 FA and getting us #fittofight #hamiltonsown #kingofbattle 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.



## Soldiers assist with gym renovation

The Installation Management Command (IMCOM) is renovating and modernizing the base's main fitness facility and adding a functional fitness center to meet the needs of the military. IMCOM's mission is to manage base operations and provide services and programs to enhance community life, foster readiness, promote mental and physical fitness and deliver a quality living and working environment.

The main fitness center currently consists of a variety of equipment including free weights, squat racks, and bench presses. Cardio machines run along the outside of the basketball court in hopes that it will not interfere with an ongoing game.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation team is currently taking lead of the renovation and with the help of contractors. A facility once served as a movie theater will be converted to the new functional fitness center.

Adding a functional fitness center will be very beneficial for the multinational service members who will be participating in the upcoming joint training exercises.

U.S. Army rotational units here will also use this as an opportunity to train for the new Army Combat Fitness test which will be implemented fiscal year 2020.



(upper left) SPC Zachary C. Abrams, C-Co, 1-16 IN, 1st ABCT, 1ID, adjusts the position of a treadmill during a renovation project.

(lower left) A Soldier from C-Co, 1-16 IN, 1st ABCT, 1ID, assembles a cable machine at the new functional fitness center here during a renovation project.

(lower right) Soldiers from C-Co, 1-16 IN, 1st ABCT, 1ID, move fitness equipment during a renovation project.





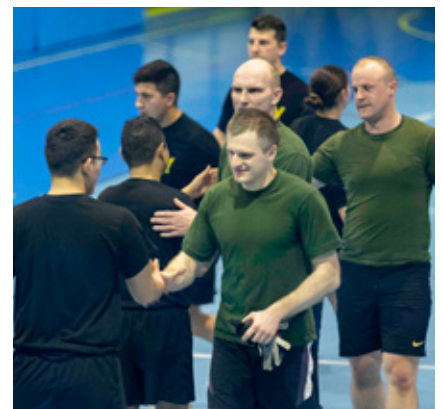
## American and Polish soldiers strengthen ties through futsal

Soldiers from 101 BSB, 1st ABCT, 1-ID, held a friendly futsal game with Polish soldiers, here, Feb. 21. Futsal is a variation of standard outdoor soccer, played on a hard court and typically indoors.

“When we got here [to Poland] we saw that there was an indoor soccer gym and a bunch of us in the unit just started to play,” said Capt. Jameson Williams, chaplain, 101st BSB, 1st ABCT 1ID.

The 101st BSB, 1st ABCT Soldiers are deployed to Europe in support of Atlantic Resolve. They are here as part of the approximately 6,000 Soldiers participating in Atlantic Resolve.

“When we arrived here on post we heard a rumor that there was a soccer league starting up and at first it was inter-battalion with Alpha, Bravo and Charlie [companies] playing,” said SPC Matthew Kinser a combat medic with 101st BSB, 1st ABCT 1ID. “Then it came about that the winners were going to play the Polish. I’m super psyched, ready to play and I’m just glad to be here.”



## Devil Soldiers participate in Polish oath ceremony



A platoon of Soldiers from 101st BSB attend a ceremony in support of 61 Polish cadets taking an oath.



A platoon of Soldiers from 101st BSB, march into position, in support of 61 Polish cadets, during their public oath ceremony.



A platoon of Soldiers from 101st BSB attend a ceremony in support of 61 Polish cadets taking an oath.



### SOLDIER PROFILE

#### SPC Daniel Burch

SPC Daniel Burch is the 101st BSB resident weapons expert. His dedication to duty is unquestionable. Not only did he provide PMIs on each weapon system, but he provided one-on-one coaching after normal duty hours to ensure Soldiers were prepared to execute at the range. He conducted immediate retraining at the ranges to maximize effectiveness of the time allowed. Burch is a shining example of maintaining discipline and military bearing and never hesitates to help out fellow Soldiers.



## 1-4 Soldiers join Polish forces in napalm course

On 19-20 February 2019, 1LT Erickson and SFC Garza of the CBRN Recon Platoon in Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment joined Polish Forces in a Napalm Defense Course. The 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade of Swietoszow, Poland sent two battalions to the Engineering and CBRN Troops Training Center in Wroclaw, Poland for the exercise. Napalm is an incendiary mixture of a gelling agent and a petrochemical (usually gasoline). Napalm mimics rubber cement and when lit on fire, is extremely difficult to put out.

The Napalm Defense Course featured both instruction and hands-on training. In the morning, Soldiers were taught the basics of Napalm, and how to defend against it. They rotated through three stations to practice putting out flames. At the first, Soldiers waited in a trench and on command attempted to put out the fires that had been set around them. They established a security

posture while others smothered the flames with sand and dirt. At the second station, Instructors set up two metal manikins; one in MOPP gear and the other in BDUs. They set the clothes on fire and Soldiers took turns attempting to put it out with wet blankets. This proved quite difficult and ultimately they had to lay the manikins down and smother the flames in the sand. At the last station, soldiers waited inside a BRDM while cans of napalm were set on fire just outside. They evacuated and put out the flames. They were given a fire extinguisher however, that failed to quiet the flames. Only moments after the fire was out, it roared back alive. After all three stations, it was apparent that smothering was the most effective, if not only, way to defend against a Napalm Fire.

The second part of the day featured a Confidence Course of 10 obstacles including a rope bridge, trench, and concrete house. Soldiers were permitted a practice run and then the course was lit on fire. Napalm not only produces a persistent flame, but causes heavy and (continued)





somewhat toxic smoke as well. Therefore, participants were required to wear a Protective Mask in addition to their ACH and gloves. Protective Masks can disrupt dexterity and the smoke limited vision. Each obstacle produced a separate problem with flames of varying intensities and heights. The Confidence Course allows Soldiers to feel comfortable with their gear while in a stressful situation.

The CBRN Recon Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant were very excited about the training

opportunity and returned from the trip having learned a great deal. "It's not every day that you get to learn about and experience Napalm. This was a first for me and was definitely worthwhile training" expressed 1LT Erickson, "It is training that the Polish deem relevant not only for their CBRN Soldiers, but for their whole force. It is still a significant threat and this training is excellent preparation."





## 2-34 AR Continues Fight to Deter Aggressors and Build Interoperability with Allied Militaries

Since April 2014, the United States military has increased its presence along Europe's Eastern flank in order to aid ally and partner militaries in deterring aggressors and building interoperability. For years, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) has brought heel-to-toe rotational action forces to Europe for 9 months at a time. Now, it is the 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team (1ABCT), 1st Infantry Division's (1 ID) turn to replace the previous units taking part in the regular rotation of forces in support of the Atlantic Resolve mission. While overseas, 2-34 AR plans to enhance readiness and build relations with host nation forces through an intensive and comprehensive training cycle.

Bravo Company of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (2-34 AR) was activated on October 1, 1941. Since its birth, the Dreadnaught battalion has continuously supported missions worldwide. The Dreadnaughts defended the Californian west coast from potential Japanese invasion during World War II, participated in numerous REFORGER exercises, National Training Center rotations, and occasional humanitarian assistance missions, as well as, Operation Desert Saber. Currently postured in Germany, 2-34 AR is demonstrating unrelenting commitment to mission readiness, having planned and prepared, months in advance, a training mission that exercises combat readiness and mission command. 2-34 AR's goal is to demonstrate sound and speedy assembly, as well as, achieve a ready-now, combat-credible status in order to set strong conditions for future operations in Europe.



## 1-5 Soldiers getting the job done



"I've enjoyed being out at the range and helping my battery run it for the battalion," said SPC Travis Grippin. "It went smooth and we got a lot of Soldiers through and qualified."



SGT Dylan Rector and SGT Dalton Flach take a break for a photo.



"It was the first clear day in awhile, great day to shoot," said PFC Jorge Martin. "It was cool to see and use another Army's range."



### SOLDIER PROFILE

#### PFC Nicholas Rasmussen

Rasmussen of 101st BSB, is the brigades sole radiology specialist. His dedication to duty is displayed daily as he comes in all hours and at a moments notice to ensure that he is providing the utmost medical care.

He is always professional and ensures that his images are the highest quality for the doctors to read. In the last week, he has imaged eight patients allowing them to get the proper treatment and return to duty.





**PFC Jacob Fannin, Assault Breacher Vehicle (ABV) mechanic, works on his equipment tirelessly in order to get the parts installed. The ABV is a critical Engineer asset in enabling the Brigade's ability to breach obstacles.**

## **1st Engineers improve maintenance program**

The 1st Engineer Battalion has made large strides towards improving their maintenance program. Mission capable equipment is critical to ensure our Soldiers are lethal and prepared to fight. Echo Forward Support Company (E FSC), 101st Brigade Support Battalion is attached to the 1st Engineer Battalion to assist in repairing and sustaining all pieces of equipment. The Battalion's fleet stretches over three separate locations approximately 30 miles apart, forcing the maintenance teams to be creative and flexible in accomplishing their mission.

"We have come a long way with the maintenance program," says Chief Warrant Officer 3 Benjamin Green, Battalion Maintenance Technician. "Our plan to continue to improve maintenance is to get operators and first line leaders involved with maintenance and take ownership of their equipment."

In an effort to train all leaders on the maintenance program, Green has integrated maintenance briefings into the Battalion's Leader Professional Development (LPD) Program. Green performed a block of instruction for all leaders on proper interpretation of GCSS-A Equipment Status Report, key tasks in a Company Maintenance Meeting, and the correct procedures for filling out and reading a DA-5988E. In the future, the Battalion will hold LPDs on "Command Supply Disciple", "Battalion Maintenance

Program”, and “Sustainment at the Brigade Level and Below.”

“The companies now own their maintenance program and brief the statuses of their own equipment,” said Green. “Now that the companies can take ownership of tracking and paperwork, the mechanics can focus on installing parts.”

E FSC Soldiers have been working long and hard days in order to get the Battalion “Ready to Fight.” A typical maintenance team day begins with a synchronization meeting between the mechanics and the maintenance team chiefs to discuss priorities of work. If a high priority part is at the Supply Support Activity (SSA), the mechanics start preparing the vehicle for installation. Once the part is on hand, they work on the vehicle until it is fully mission capable or they identify another fault.

“We have had a lot of work on our plate, but we have been knocking it out by working long hours and weekends getting the battalion vehicles fit to fight,” said PFC Jacob Fannin.

It has been a struggle to adapt the maintenance program from one consolidated location with ample supplies within a mile of the motor pool to the Battalion’s current dispersed state. However, the maintenance teams have produced resounding results. In just one week, they improved the Battalion’s M2A3 Bradley fleet from 53% Full Mission Capable to 80% Full Mission Capable.

To maximize maintenance support, E FSC has established maintenance packages for each location with specific Military Occupational Specialties to match the density of the vehicle fleet. These unique opportunities allow E FSC mechanics to train first hand on their equipment.



**E Co, 101st BSB maintenance teams have been working diligently to repair all pacing items, to include the Battalion’s M88 Recovery Vehicle. The M88 is essential in ensuring all vehicles make it safely to training events in case of emergencies.**



## Burt's Knights arrive in Europe

### 3-66 AR embarks on a tri-country road march

The 3rd Battalion 66th Armored Regiment has steadily worked towards achieving a “ready to fight” status. Since January of this year, the Burt's Knights Battalion established their presence in Europe. A key event in this effort was a road march spanning over 900km and 3 countries! The journey began in Antwerp, Belgium and culminated at the final destination of Trzebien, Poland. One of the drivers during this event, PFC Obrien, felt that the road march was, “a unique experience”. The movement took Soldiers across Belgium and Germany before arriving in Poland; lasting for 5 days. Driving was done throughout the night on each day of the movement and was conducted by a variety of the Battalion's wheeled vehicle platforms, to include HMMWVs and LMTVs. This essential part in establishing 3-66 AR in the region was expertly executed and saw all vehicles arrive in Trzebien.

The 3rd Battalion 66th Armored Regiment, “Burt's Knights”, is a combined arms Battalion that brings highly trained and prepared Infantry soldiers and Tank crews to the fight for 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Burt's Knights began deploying Soldiers and equipment to Europe in January in order to support Operation Atlantic Resolve.

“It was a unique experience to be able to see so much of Europe this way,” said PFC Kassandra Obrien with medical platoon.



A 3-66 AR Soldier engages a target down range with a .50 caliber Browning machine gun during a live-fire training.

### 3-66 Company Spotlight

Black Knight Company, one of four organic companies to 3-66 AR BN, has exceeded standards in establishing an armored presence at ISB Trzebień.

It started with receiving the company's equipment by train and line haul trucks. After receiving equipment, full Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services of pacer items and vehicles were performed. In order to meet "Ready to Fight" standards, Black Knight Company has conducted heavy hours of maintenance and physical security operations for the past month.

Maintenance was not the only priority for Black Knight Co. as Soldiers completed a variety of small arms ranges and live fire exercises. Black Knight Soldiers proved their proficiency with the M4 rifle and M17 pistol by qualifying all assigned personnel on their weapon systems.

Black Knight Co. also saw great success during the live fire accuracy screening tests for the M1A2 SEP V Main Battle Tanks, which saw crews perfect boresighting and overall lethality with their tanks.

Much of the continued success Black Knight Co. has seen over the past 35 days can be attributed to its establishment of a consistently flowing battle rhythm.

A sample of a typical week is as follows:

Monday- Soldiers conduct full PMCS of vehicles within the Motor Pool.

Tuesday- 91A mechanics and crews verify fault on vehicles in order to begin putting parts on order and having the Company PLL Clerk update the 5988s for the vehicles.

Wednesday thru Sunday- Platoon Sergeants conduct classes, such as how to properly charge a dead tank by conducting slave procedures and other tank crew tasks. Along with classes, First



Soldiers from 3-66 AR out of conduct live-fire training.



Soldiers from 3-66 AR out of conduct live-fire training.

SGT Garcia and platoon sergeants from the company have been conducting mock boards in order to prepare Soldiers attending promotion boards to help develop lower subordinates into competent and mature leaders.

Black Knight Company is "Ready to Fight", no matter the slant or personnel that are fully mission capable.



## Iron Rangers arrive in Romania

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment arrived in Romania on Feb. 20, ending their journey from Poland. This was the second batch of Soldiers arriving from Poland and with this; all the Soldiers of Headquarter, Charlie and India Companies are on ground and ready to do their part of the mission in support of Atlantic Resolve.

These Soldiers will conduct joint training exercises with allied and NATO partners to build readiness, increase interoperability and enhance the bond between the nations.

The Soldiers started their journey two day journey in Poland, traveling through scenic views of European cities and countries on their way to Romania. Although exhausted by the long trip, these Soldiers seemed excited upon arrival and are keen on being able to do their job as well as taking advantage of any possible traveling opportunities in Europe provided the mission requirements are fulfilled.

“I am very excited to be here in Romania and I am very motivated to do my job to the best of my abilities,” said SPC Mathew Hill, a native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

SPC Bolden from Nebraska, a medic who joined the Army in October 2016, (continued on page 18)



(above) Soldiers with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 11D, unload baggage during the arrival of the rest of the unit.

(continued from page 17) said she was looking forward to going abroad and joining the Army allowed her that opportunity.

Bolden said that she can now serve her country and travel abroad at the same time.

“It’s like a dream come true,” said Bolden. “I am really happy to be here in Romania and look forward to play my role in forwarding the Army’s mission.”

## 1-16 Soldiers transport vehicles



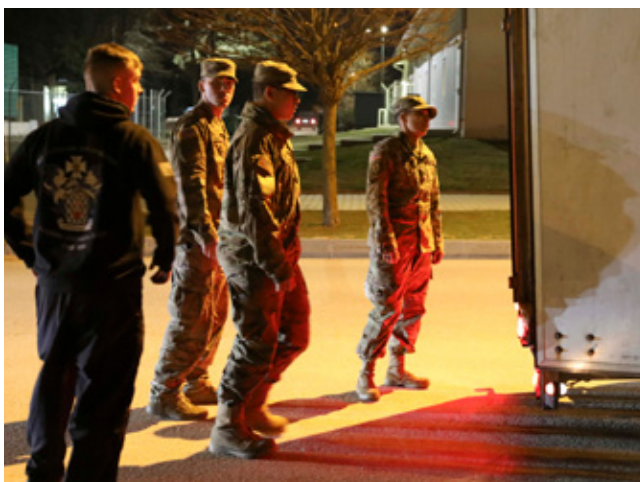
Soldiers with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 1 ID, prepare to load a tank onto a train Feb. 17, 2019. The 1-16 is currently deployed to eastern Europe.



Soldiers with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 1ID, unload baggage during the arrival of the rest of the unit.



A Soldier with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 1ID, oversees the cleaning and decontamination of vehicles Feb. 17, 2019. The vehicles were transported to support the 1-16 during their deployment to eastern Europe.



Soldiers with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 1ID, unload baggage during the arrival of the rest of the unit.



Soldiers with the 1-16th, 1st ABCT, 1 ID, load a tank onto a train Feb. 17, 2019. The 1-16 is currently deployed to eastern Europe.



## 101st Soldiers hit the road, log over 17k miles



Alpha Company is a true representation of “We Carry the Burden”. In support of the Operation Atlantic Resolve, the Atlas Company has provided expeditious logistics support and delivery of supplies to 5 different ISBs geographically dispersed across Poland. With 259 pallets delivered and approximately 17,074 miles to account for all their hard work, they show no look of slowing down. The timeless amount of preparation by the 101 BSB SAA and Distro platoons is truly noteworthy.



Congratulations SPC Simanu & SPC Reyes Medina on their reenlistment. The Liberty Battalion is always proud to see upcoming leaders dedicating themselves to selfless service. Good luck on your future endeavours.