

# Static Line

Spring 2019



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# Panther 6 Sends

**Col. Art Sellers**



## *Paratroopers, Panther Families and Friends,*

Once again, America calls upon Paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to deploy into harm's way. No one is more READY for the crucible of ground combat in Afghanistan alongside Afghan and international partners.

Our mission requires the professionalism, competence and lethality expected of the American Paratrooper in a complex and dynamic environment. Our previous training prepared us for these challenges.

Paratroopers staffing our Rear Detachment are the best possible and specially selected to fulfill their trifold mission; maintain an exceptionally high level of readiness to deploy, support deployed operations and support Panther Families through the Paratrooper Family Readiness Group (PFRG).

As we step forward from Fort Bragg/Pope Army Airfield, we follow in the footsteps of 3rd Brigade Paratroopers who deployed to combat before us.

A new generation is eager to open and write another chapter in the storied history and heritage of the Panther Brigade.

It is an honor to serve at your side.

COL Art Sellers  
Brigade Commander

CSM Reese Teakell  
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Ready, Competent, Lethal! H-Minus!

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# High Angle Excellence; 1P Mortar Team Best in Army Three Years in a Row

For the third year in a row, the best Mortar Team in the United States Army is from the 82nd Airborne Division.

A Mortar Team composed of paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division won the U.S Army Best Mortar Competition on April 11, 2019; the third time in a row.

“Winning three in a row demonstrates a culture of sustained excellence,” said Lt. Col. Jason Wayne, commander of 1-505th PIR. “Winning the Best Mortar Competition is simply a visible recognition of the hours of hard work the entire Mortar Platoon puts into mastering their warfighting tasks each day.”

The annual competition held at Fort Benning, Georgia is a grueling multi-day test of participants’ ability to work as a synchronized team despite physical adversity and mental exhaustion. The first time it was held in 2017 served as a validation for it to become an official Army-level competition.

Events during the competition test participants’ tactical skills, mental grit technical knowledge as Indirect Fire Infantryman.



From Left to Right, Pfc. Loren Dow, Spc. Elliott Christian, Sgt. Alec Norton and Staff Sgt. James Pennington of 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division are the U.S. Army’s Best Mortar Team for the third year in a row after winning the 2019 Best Mortar Competition held at Fort Benning, Georgia. This was Norton’s third Best Mortar victory and Pennington’s second Best Mortar victory.



Team 11 from the 82nd Airborne Division walk to the Bolton Field obstacle course. After three days of competition among 19 U.S. Army mortar teams and one Dutch army mortar team, the 82nd Airborne Division prevailed as champions during the Best Mortar Competition April 11 here.

The winning team was from the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The squad included Staff Sgt. James Pennington, Sgt. Alec Norton, Spc. Christian Elliot and Pfc. Loren Dow.

The 82nd Airborne Division also won during the first year of the competition, when Pennington and Norton were on the team. (U.S. Army photo by Markeith Horace, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs)



Team 11 from 82nd Airborne Division hold their trophies after winning the 2019 Best Mortar Competition April 11 here. After three days of competition among 19 U.S. Army mortar teams and one Dutch army mortar team, the 82nd Airborne Division prevailed as champions during the Best Mortar Competition April 11 here. The winning team was from the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The squad included Staff Sgt. James Pennington, Sgt. Alec Norton, Spc. Christian Elliot and Pfc. Loren Dow. The 82nd Airborne Division also won during the first year of the competition, when Pennington and Norton were on the team. (U.S. Army photo by Patrick Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs)

“Day two of the competition was the most physically demanding. After completing the Downy mile and leaders walk, our team was at our lowest point” said Sgt. Alec Norton who has competed and won in all three of the Best Mortar Competitions. “We dug deep and used our strengths and weakness to our advantage through the event immediately following it, the obstacle course.”

At Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the team trained intensively for months to prepare for the competition, focusing on performing fundamental tactical and technical tasks like first aid exceptionally. Speed and adjusting to adversity were two factors underlying each training session.

“As a team for two straight weeks leading up to the competition, I helped teach Fire Direction Controls and hands-on mortar training to cater to the Task, Conditions and Standards of the competition,” said Norton.



# 3rd Brigade Lieutenants Compete for Janney Cup

Junior officers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division recently participated in a competition honoring the memory of a young officer killed in World War II.

Lieutenants assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division competed in the Janney Cup competition April 24 and 25 on Fort Bragg, North Carolina in honor of 1st. Lt. Richard Janney. Janney was assigned to 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and completed two World War II combat parachute jumps into Sicily and Salerno before he was killed when his vehicle ran over a landmine north of Naples.

The multi-day competition tested the junior officers' physical endurance by starting off with a Ranger Physical Assessment Test at Fort Bragg's Towle Stadium. After completing the five-mile run, Lieutenants cycled through three events; a written test, marksmanship and a two-mile kit run to navigate obstacles along the All American Mile.

The second day of the Janney Cup required the Lieutenants to complete a timed 12-mile ruck march through Fort Bragg training areas with a 35lb packing list. After the ruck march, the junior officers proved

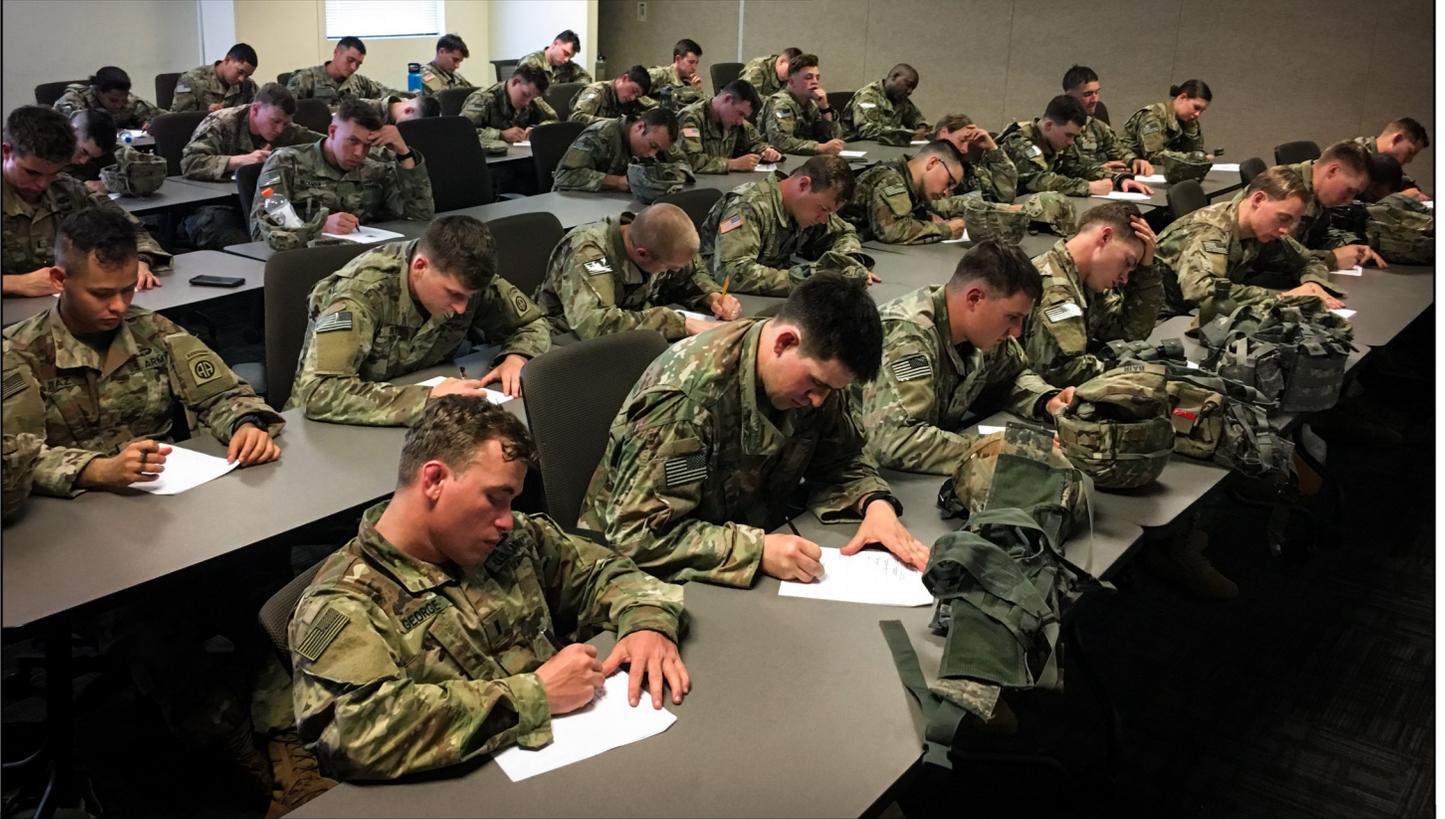


A Lieutenant assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division drags a litter April 25, 2019 on Fort Bragg's Pike Field during the brigade's annual Janney Cup competition.

their airborne proficiency and tactical knowledge during the Warrior Stakes lanes.

The top five Lieutenants then donned their dress uniforms and went before a board consisting of the brigade's senior leadership to demonstrate their knowledge of the profession of arms.

1st Lt. Nathaniel Fairbank of 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment emerged as the winner of the 2019 Janney Cup, having the highest overall score from the multi-day competition.





# 82nd Airborne Division earns title of Best Scout Squad at 2019 Gainey Cup

By Mr. Bryan Gatchell (Benning) May 3, 2019

After several days of Cavalry scout-related tasks, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, representing the 82nd Airborne Division, won the fourth biennial Gainey Cup International Scout Squad Competition May 3 at Brave Rifles Field here.

The 5th Squadron from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, earned the title of "Best Scout Squad" against 24 other competing squads from across the U.S. Army and from international partner militaries, including Canada, Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

Cavalry scouts in the U.S. Army must secure and prepare ammunition on scout vehicles, perform navigation during combat, report information on terrain and the enemy, and collect data on routes, tunnels and bridges. The Gainey Cup tested the scout squads on their ability to perform their job in the field.

"What we did here over the last several days are the most important things a scout should be training on," said Brig. Gen. David A. Lesperance, the U.S. Army Armor School commandant. "If there's no other time to do anything else than just these tasks, you're going to be a phenomenal outfit in the United States Army.

So take that lesson back with you to your formations."

During the first phase of the competition April 25 through 28, the squads took tests on doctrine, performed vehicle identification, called for fire, tested their gunnery skills and performed land navigation.

The second phase of the competition began with a run in gear, April 29, and a three-day round robin, April 30 to May 2, during which teams oriented on a reconnaissance objective, conducted a tactical mission under live-fire conditions, and navigated mounted on an assigned platform while collecting and reporting information for their commander.

The last event of the competition was the Final Charge, May 3, at Brave Rifles Field. The six-soldier squads began with a more-than three-mile run to the field where they then had to conduct several Cavalry scout tasks, including operating an advanced Special Improvement Program radio, determining their location, assembling and checking an M240 machine gun, calling for fire and more.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, the first senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a Cavalry scout and the namesake of the competition, emphasized the training value of the competition to the assembled scout soldiers.

"I'm going to challenge every one of you," Gainey told the audience. "I want each of you to go home, to your country, your city, your state, your unit, and I want you to take one private and teach him or her one task that you learned while you were here. I want you tell that individual for the next thirty days to teach one brother or sister the same task."

Lesperance expressed the desire for the competitors, which included many junior enlisted Soldiers, to grow in their careers in the Army.

"I hope to see you as future senior leaders of the force," he said to the crowd after he had all the privates, specialists and sergeants raise their hand in the crowd of competitors.

Going into the last day and the Final Charge, the 5th Squadron had the lead, but securing success depended on their performance in the Final Charge.

Sgt. Matthew Brooks said winning was important given the 82nd Airborne Division's other recent win. The 82nd's 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, also won the Best Mortar Competition, April 11, at Fort Benning.

"They had expectations for us to win; it's a competitive unit," said Brooks of the 82nd Airborne Division.

"They did an awesome job," said 82nd Airborne Division Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Goodart. "The scouts in the 82nd Airborne Division are proficient, they're lethal, and they are outstanding, physically fit paratroopers. They are proud of the fact that they are paratroopers and Cav scouts."

The second place went to 42nd Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron (42 Brigade Verkennings Eskadron) of the Royal Netherlands Army.

"The biggest challenge was the reports," said Sgt. Joost Van den Dool, of the 42 BE. "The reports are a bit different than the Netherlands. And the route reconnaissance is more detailed, more technical reconnaissance than we do. I really had to study on that."

# Fury Paratroopers train with Army's first personal Unmanned Aerial System

By Patrick Ferraris May 17, 2019

Imagine a battlefield where Soldiers have access to near-real time video transmitted back to them on a handheld device. Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO Soldier) fielded the first personal Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) in the U.S. Army to Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, April 29 -May 3, 2019 at Fort Bragg, NC.

Soldiers did more than just inventory and take possession of the system during the week-long fielding. The Soldiers were also trained via classroom instruction about the system's capabilities, its controls, and how to operate it.

Soldiers received hands on training of the system and flew the drone through various scenarios which culminated in an exercise that tested everything they learned throughout the week.

It was all done in preparation for the BCT to take the system with them on their upcoming deployment, making this the first personal UAS to deploy at the squad level within a unit in the Army.

New Army technology like the Soldier Borne Sensors (SBS) mitigates future losses of life and injuries by having a drone complete dangerous work that combat Soldiers would usually perform on their own such as sending a fire team to gain reconnaissance information, or sending out dismounted Soldiers for route clearance operations. PEO Soldier delivers systems and equipment like this to our Soldiers to ensure they remain decisive and dominant throughout the full spectrum of military operations.

The UAS is part of PEO Soldier's SBS program and it consists of multiple components; the ground control system, which is composed of a base station with hand controller and display unit, and two air Vehicles (one day and one night). The display acts as the main hub for Soldiers to interact with the system, while the air vehicles are small, highly maneuverable airborne sensors with low visual and audio signatures that support pre-planned and on-the-fly reconnaissance missions.

"This system is something new that not a lot of Soldiers have touched or even seen before, so it's cool to test it out and push it to its limits before we take it with us on our deployment" said Sgt. Dalton Kruse, one of the operators being trained on the system. "Most of us have never flown a drone before, but this training gave us the confidence and knowledge to use the system, making us more comfortable to use it while deployed.



SGT Richard Molina, B. Co., 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, shows off the Soldier Borne Sensors system during its initial fielding at Ft. Bragg, N.C., May 2, 2019. The system contains a base station, hand controller, display, and two air vehicles, all man-portable.

It was easy to pick up and fly, very user-friendly, and I can already tell that this system will benefit my unit downrange."

The potential of having a personal UAS equipped to every squad gives them the ability to assess a situation from a cover and concealed position, mitigating the risk to the Soldier.

John Paul Kruszewski, Lead Engineer for the unmanned systems at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center (CCDC SC), likens the system to a flying pair of binoculars.

"Using this system, Soldiers can understand their operational environment better so they can make better decisions and make these decisions quicker than ever. It makes Soldiers more effective while reducing their tactical risk."

The CCDC SC is dedicated to using science and technology to ensure America's warfighters are optimized, protected, and lethal.

This means that the SBS provides a type of protection to Soldiers that they've never experienced before, and this protection is what Soldiers like Sgt. Ryan Subers, another operator of the system, values the most.

"I was really impressed with the system, its capabilities, and what it offers Soldiers in terms of risk reduction. This kind of technology will be a life-saver for us because it takes us out of harm's way while enhancing our ability to execute whatever combat mission we're on. I'm very grateful for technology like this and to be a part of the first unit to use it."

The initial fielding of the SBS paves the way for a system that will eventually equip every squad with an organic UAS in the future.

"It is the start of an era where every squad will have vision beyond their line of sight," said Nathan Heslink, Assistant Program Manager, SBS, PEO Soldier. "The squad will not have any dead space within its area of operations and this allows Soldiers to detect threats earlier than ever, meaning it is more likely Soldiers won't be harmed during their missions."



Pvt. Kesley Darnell, B. Co., 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, lets go of the air vehicle as it takes off during the systems fielding at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 2, 2019. Soldiers spent the week preparing for the flight exercise with classroom and hands on training.

# 2P Claims AAW2019

## Best Battalion

Paratroopers of 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division claimed the title of All American Week 2019's "Best Battalion" on Thursday, May 30th during the Division Review at Sicily Drop Zone on Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The 2P paratroopers earned the title by dominating their near-peer sister battalions across the division during the competitions held during AAW to claim the title, the third year in a row a 3rd Brigade battalion has earned the top spot.



# Loyalty Paratrooper Becomes U.S. Citizen



On May 20th, 2019, Spc. Tuan Truong officially became a citizen of the United States of American during a Naturalization Ceremony!

Truong, a native of Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam, enlisted in the Army in May 2017 and embarked on his journey to become a U.S. Citizen since then.

Truong serves in Fox Company, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

# Recon Paratrooper is the Division Paratrooper of the Year!

Spc. Kameron T. Faulkenberry is the 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper of the Year!

Faulkenberry, a Recon paratrooper serving in the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was named the Paratrooper of the Year May 30th, 2019 during the closing ceremony of All American Week 2019 at Sicily Drop Zone.

To earn the top title, Faulkenberry excelled at a series of boards at the Troop, Squadron, Brigade and Division level. Each board tested his professional demeanor, tactical competence, physical endurance, mental agility and airborne proficiency through a series of events and evaluations.



# Panthers Test For, Earn EIB



In May 2019, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division hosted one of the most important events in an Infantryman's career; the training and testing for the Expert Infantryman Badge.

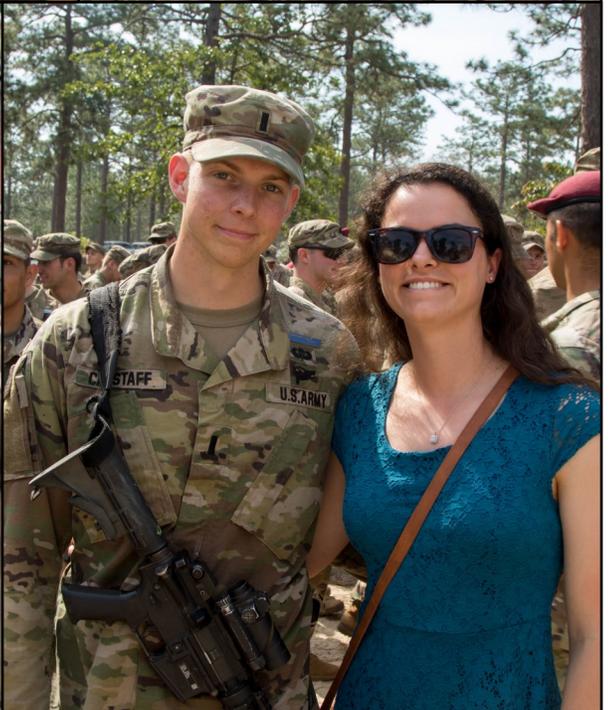
Known to be one of the most rewarding, yet difficult achievements in a Paratrooper's career, testing and training for the EIB occurred over a 14-day period on Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Eight hundred twenty-three candidates started off the EIB testing phase, giving their full measure during the grueling evaluations of their technical skill, tactical proficiency and physical endurance.

Testing concluded early Friday, May 17th, as paratroopers completed one of their final events; a timed 12-mile ruckmarch carrying a 35lb rucksack.

Of the eight hundred twenty-three EIB candidates who began, 70 earned the coveted badge with 11 of them earning "True Blue" status - having passed each evaluation on their first attempt.





# Gators Serve Fayetteville Community



Twenty-seven paratroopers from the 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division recently volunteered their time, skill and muscle to aid two Fayetteville, North Carolina families whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Matthew.

The Gator paratroopers conducted yard work, cleared crawl spaces, and removed debris and damaged drywall in an effort to make the homes safe and healthy for habitation again.



# Cobalt Engineers Celebrate with Spring Fling



Paratroopers and Families of Company A, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion celebrated the Easter Holiday and Spring season Saturday, April 13th with a “Spring Fling” event at their battalion headquarters on Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Hosted by the company’s Paratrooper Family Readiness Group, the event gave members of the company an opportunity to relax and bond over a pot-luck lunch, egg decorating stations and an egg hunt.



**Col. Art Sellers  
3rd Brigade Commander**

**Command Sgt. Maj Reese Teakell  
3rd Brigade Command Sergeant Major**

