

THE DEPLOYED TROOPER



July 2019



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A COLLECTION OF STORIES
FROM DEVIL BRIGADE
SOLDIERS



A newly promoted noncommissioned officer within the brigade, is congratulated by Command Sgts. Maj. of the battalions during the NCO induction ceremony at Camp Destroyer, the U.S. Army training area near Torun, Poland June 13, 2019.

Devil Brigade Soldiers welcomed into the NCO Corps

(click to watch video online)

TORUN Poland -- Newly promoted Army noncommissioned officers from every battalion in the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, convened

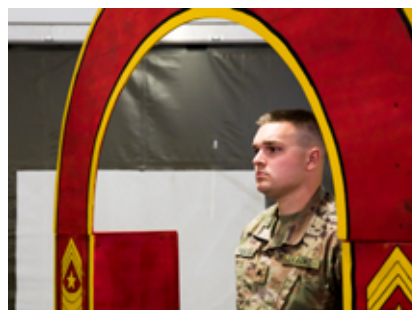
together at Camp Destroyer, the U.S. Army training area near Torun, Poland to participate in a Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony, June 13, 2019.

Roughly 50 Soldiers, all recently promoted to the rank of sergeant, represented each battalion within the 1st ABCT at an NCO induction ceremony held in their honor.

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(right) Army Sgt. Roderick Painter, a newly promoted NCO within the brigade prepares to pass through the NCO arch, symbolic of his entrance into the NCO Corps

(far right) Sgt. Nicholas Messarina recites the Charge of the NCO along with other newly promoted sergeants within the brigade.





Devil Brigade brings muscle to Saber Guardian 19

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

BORDUSANI, Romania -- Some 175 Soldiers and over 50 military vehicles from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, spearheaded by 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, participated in a multinational operation to cross the Danube river, as the culminating event of Saber Guardian 2019, June 23, 2019.

“Our battalion has been operating within a multinational division operation to cross a large river, [Wet Gap Crossing], and then secure the far side and follow on objectives, to enable further movement and build combat power,” said Lt. Col. Drew Conover, commander of the 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Reg.

[*See More*](#)





Combat Engineers conduct breach training

TRZEBIEN, Poland -- Combat Engineers with 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division practiced breaching obstacles using C-4 plastic explosive charges as part of multiple days of breach training they conducted at a range near Camp Trzebien, Poland May 23, 2019.

“Today, we conducted a dismounted breach with infantry from the 3-66th Armor Regiment,” said Spc. Abdulrahman Albayati, a Combat Engineer with the 1st Engineer Battalion, and part of the dismounted breach during the day’s training. “The breach is first identified by the breach commander. Once we hit the breach, we dismount from our Bradley’s and send the engineers to conduct the breach. Then, the infantry moves in to clear the objective.” [See More](#)



Dreadnaughts are ready for immediate movement



(top) Soldiers of Charlie Company, backup a M3 Bradley that has just been unloaded to a staging area at Camp Karliki, Poland.

(middle) Sgt. Murray and Spc. Grissom of Charlie Company upack equipment from the back of a M3 Bradley.

(bottom) A Soldier of Charlie Company, moves with a M3 Bradley that has just been unloaded to a staging area at Camp Karliki, Poland.

CAMP KARLIKI, Poland -- Charlie Company from the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, took part in an Initial Ready Task Force (IRTF) exercise, that started at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland and ended at Karliki, Poland, June 17, 2019.

“IRTF’s are important to validate what our company can do and what we are capable of accomplishing,” said 1st Sgt. Robert M. McCorkendale, C. Co. 2-34. “Our rapid movement is a real world example that shows what it really means to be ready.”

An IRTF is a no-notice, rapid-deployment exercise designed to test a unit’s ability to alert, marshal, and deploy forces and equipment for contingency operations or an emergency disaster.

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Military Intelligence Soldiers assemble an M249 during the 'Best Intel Competition' that took place in Zagan, Poland, June 12, 2019.

M.I. Soldiers compete in unique competition

ZAGAN, Poland – Military Intelligence Soldiers assigned to the various Battalions in the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, assemble to compete in a Best Warrior style competition in Zagan, Poland, June 12, 2019.

The competition, defined as a 'Best Intelligence Competition', is a three-part, team orientated challenge designed to test Soldier skills and build camaraderie for those specializing in military intelligence. To improve their performance in a combat environment, these Soldiers were provided the opportunity to participate in "Operation Rescorla," an all-day MI challenge whose name was inspired by Army veteran and 9/11 hero, Richard Rescorla.

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(left) Military Intelligence Soldiers from team 2 near the finish of the land navigation course during the best intel competition in Zagan, Poland.

(right) Military Intelligence Soldiers from the winning team of the best intel competition receive Army Achievement Medals from the 1st ABCT intelligence officer Major Christopher Collins.



Quarter Cav. change of command ceremony



SWIETOSZOW Poland -- Lt. Col. Bob Underwood assumes command of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team. The ceremony took place at a Polish military base in Swietoszow, Poland June 10, 2019.

The 1st ABCT extends thanks to LTC Brian Gilbert and family for their dedicated service and leadership as we welcome L. Col. Underwood into the Devil Brigade family.

The 4th Cavalry Regiment traces their lineage back to the 1850s and the American Frontier.





Iron Rangers conduct “cage match” competition

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

SMARDAN TRAINING AREA, Romania – Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division conducted a friendly competition of a “tank cage match” at Smardan Training Area, Romania, June 1, 2019.

together in an all-out battle to see who would be the last vehicles standing. Boundaries were set so that the team could only maneuver within a certain area. The Iron Rangers utilized the multiple integrated laser engagement system to ensure that training would simulate realistic scenarios.

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A Bradley Fighting Vehicle and an M1 Abrams tank were paired



Iron Rangers train with Romanian allies during Justice Eagle



A Romanian soldier with the 631st Tank Battalion aims a simulated rocket launcher at the opposition force during a force on force exercise as part of Justice Eagle on a range near Smardan Training Area, Romania.

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

SMARDAN, Romania -- Infantry Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, participated in Justice Eagle, a combined bilateral exercise with Romanian allies, at Smardan training area, Romania May 30, 2019.

The main event of the operation was a force on force exercise that included mounted maneuvers and a breach and seizure of follow on objectives by dismounted soldiers of both nations. Two companies from two different Romanian battalions were attached to the 1-16th Inf. for this event.

“Big training events such as this allows us to test our readiness, test our ability to get our vehicles out to the line of departure, test our communications, and ultimately our ability to maneuver,” said Lt. Col. Drew Conover, battalion commander of the 1-16th Inf. [*See More*](#)



(left) Army Lt. Col. Drew Conover, commander of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, and Lt. Col. Cristian Badea, commander of the 631st Tank Battalion Romania, hold a salute as the national anthems of both nations play during the opening ceremony of joint exercise Justice Eagle.

(right) A Romanian soldier with the 631st Tank Battalion mounted in a TAB-77 personnel carrier surveys the area during a force on force exercise as part of Justice Eagle.



Devil Brigade Soldiers show air defense capabilities



(top) Sgt. Zane Pettibone and Spc. Svenson Albert, an MANPADS team conduct engagement sequences and the 13 critical checks of the Stinger MANPADS, as part of the multinational live-fire training exercise Shabla 19.

(left) Sgt. Zane Pettibone and Spc. Svenson Albert, members of a Stinger MANPAD team fire and hit an out-law drone target, as part of exercise Shabla 19.

(bottom) A 2K12 Kub mobile surface-to-air missile system fires during the multinational live-fire training exercise Shabla 19.

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

SHABLA, Bulgaria -- Three teams of two Soldiers each, from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, participated in Shabla 19, here, June 10-15, 2019.

Shabla 19 is designed to improve readiness and interoperability between the Bulgarian Air Force, Navy and Land Forces, and the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, U.S. Army Europe.

The Devil Brigade Soldiers were on site to train in Short-Range Air Defense (SHORAD) and showcase the Stinger Man-Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) while the 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment also displayed their credibility with the MANPADS and Avenger Air Defence System.

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Hamilton's Own community family day



Families from the Toruń community were invited by the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment on June 1st, 2019 to visit the installation and enjoy a few activities as our guests. This community outreach event was to build relationships with those that are hosting us, the U.S. Armed Forces, in their home of Poland.

For every activity members of the unit were there to interact and answer questions with the families. Activities included a static display of tactical vehicles and Soldiers' vests and helmets, hop-scotch and horse-shoes, at the medics station there was also a display and face painting, in the MWR or recreation room there was painting, crafting, board-games, and snacks.



1st Engineer Soldiers moving across bridges

TRZEBIEN, Poland -- Combat Engineers with 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division successfully deployed an M60 Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge system and crossed an 85-class bridge as part of a day of breach training they conducted at a range near Camp Trzebien, Poland May 22, 2019.

The bridge system was used to cross a tank ditch, which would be too wide and deep to cross without the bridge system deployed. For the combat engineers, this is referred to as a trench breach. Practice deploying and crossing this type of bridge is an essential part of the readiness mission of the 1st Engineer Battalion. The 1st Engineers were joined by units with the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment for the day's training.

"Today's training was to allow other elements to see how an actual tank ditch breach with an AVLB is done," said Spc. Wess Frentz, a combat engineer and team leader with Bravo Company, 1st Eng. Bat. "It allows the Soldiers to get some training time actually cross-



ing over the bridge and learning how to do it efficiently and safely."

This was the first time that this particular bridge system, designed to allow large tracked vehicles such as the M1 Abrams Tank and the Bradley Fight Vehicle to cross trenches safely, had been deployed by this unit. [See More](#)





Big Red One Soldiers seize air assault objective

BORDUSANI, Romania -- A platoon of three squads from the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted an air assault mission as part of the wet gap crossing during Saber Guardian 19, on June 20, 2019.



“While the wet gap crossing is being conducted with the Romanians and our tanks and bradley’s, we are conducting an air assault in conjunction with artillery fire, so that we can seize a support by fire position and allow the rest of the battalion to



conduct a breach and continue the attack,” said Lt. Andrew Papathanasiou, a platoon leader with 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Reg.

Air assault is the movement of ground-based military forces, typically by helicopter, to directly engage enemy forces as well as seize and hold terrain.

“Once we got off [the helicopter], we set up security and got into the wedge to push forward to our positions to continue the mission,” said Cpl. Luis Perez, an infantryman and team leader with 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Reg.

[*See More*](#)



Iron Rangers conduct advanced rifle marksmanship



U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division conduct advanced weapons familiarization training at Smardan Training Area, Romania.

Advanced marksmanship training helps prepare the Soldiers of the 1-16 Infantry to be a lethal asset to NATO allies in support of Atlantic Resolve.

(left) Pfc. Seven McDorman, an with the 1-16th Infantry Regiment, loads rounds into a magazine prior to firing his M4A1 carbine.



(above) Spc. Joseph Medina, with the 1-16th Infantry Regiment, fires his M4A1 carbines during advanced rifle marksmanship training.

(right) Army 2nd Lt. Brittany Werdeman, an Intelligence Officer with the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, fires an M17 pistol during a pistol marksmanship familiarization training on a range near Smardan, Romania, June 5, 2019.



Devil Brigade celebrates the Army's Birthday



1-4 Cav. tests their mettle during Saber Guardian 19

ÚDJÖRÖGD TRAINING AREA, Hungary -- Soldiers with Comanche Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, were tasked to support 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment with squadron tactical exercises, by acting as an opposing force (OPFOR).

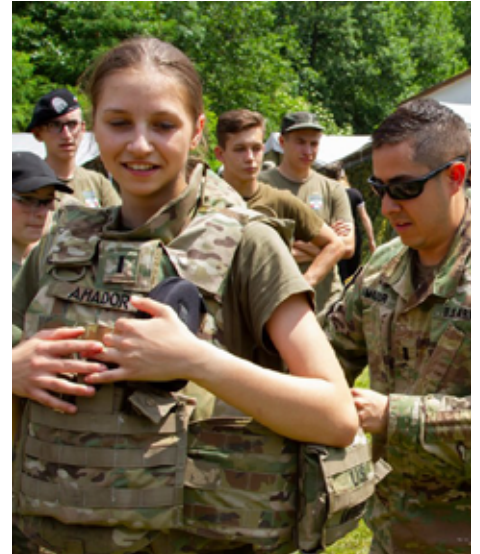
“It was a tough three days for Comanche Troop. Setting up a deliberate defense and maneuvering to stop an entire Squadron of Strykers was something that we’ve never had a chance to do before,” said 1st Lt. Joshua Pultro, Executive Officer for Comanche Troop, 1-4 Cavalry. Pultro also executed the role of Troop Commander during the field obstacle. “1-2 Cavalry had an exceptionally professional group of Soldiers who dismounted for hours to identify our defenses,” said Pultro.

The troop began maneuvering on June 7, 2019. They established a screen and conducted rehearsals into June 8, 2019. Multiple units worked long hours in preparation for training and the upcoming defense posture against 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

“As dismounted scouts, we rarely get to practice operating independently far away from our tracked vehicles,” mentioned Spc. Kieran Adamski, a cavalry scout from Comanche Troop, 1-4 Cavalry. “We established operating posts 24 hours in advance, while incorporating air defense, construction assets and sappers into the training.”

As training began, Initial contact was made with a notional enemy unmanned air surveillance drone. 1-2 Cavalry dismounted an entire troop to scout Bradley locations and utilized notional AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopters to destroy tanks and air defense artillery assets in the training scenario. The engineer’s obstacle denied the 1-2 Cavalry Stryker Armored Vehicle movement through the training corridors. The battle scenario concluded after 14 hours. 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment were grateful for the unique training, as it tested the readiness and lethality of both units, respectively.





101st BSB Soldiers talk tactics with Polish Cadets

GORZOW, Poland -- Soldiers from the 101st Brigade Support Battalion- Liberty, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division participated alongside cadets from the Gorzow Vocational School, while the Polish military and local police instructed cadets on tactical and team training during a seven-day training camp in Gorzow, Poland on June 7, 2019.

