

Spring 2022

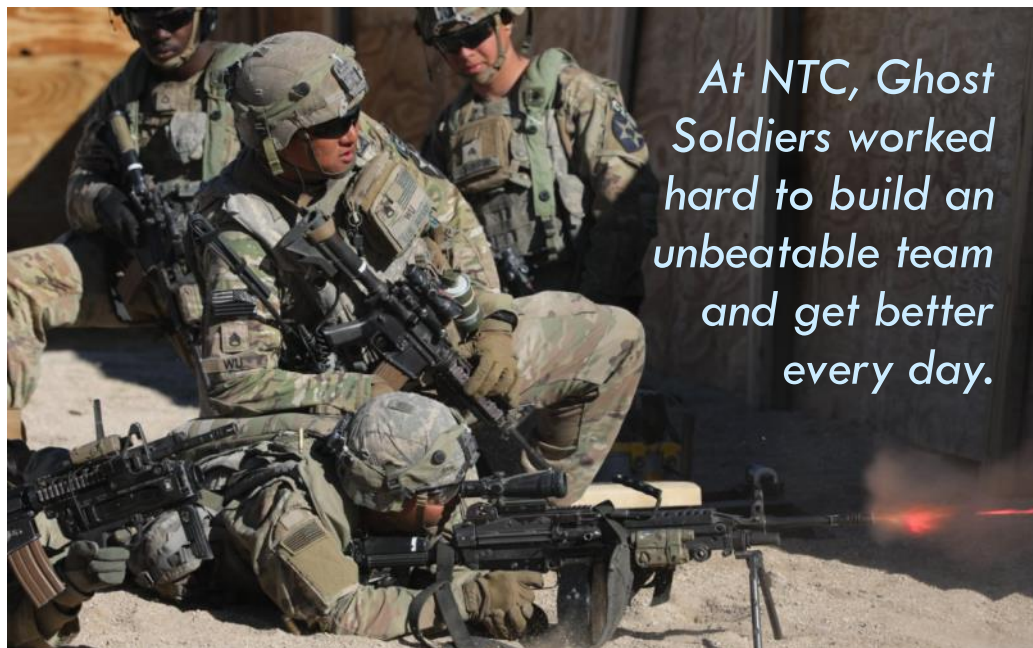


GHOST TIMES

NEWSLETTER FOR 'GHOST BRIGADE' SOLDIERS & FAMILIES

1-2 STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM | JBLM, WA | 'ARRIVE IN SILENCE'

Strong Start to a Transformational Year



At NTC, Ghost Soldiers worked hard to build an unbeatable team and get better every day.

Soldiers of 2-3 Inf. Bn. suppress the enemy during a live-fire exercise Jan. 25 at NTC.

1-2 Stryker Brigade came charging out of the Holidays and into a new year that will bring major changes for the "Ghost Team."

The big story for the Brigade in the past quarter was NTC: a month of tough training for large-scale combat operations at the National Training Center in the California desert. Soldiers lived, slept and trained in a rugged environment designed to simulate the challenges of the modern battlefield.

Throughout January, Ghost Soldiers put their skills to the test and gained confidence in their abilities as individuals and teams. With a laser-focus on mastering the fundamentals, they proved resilient and ready to deploy, fight and win.

Following NTC, the Brigade has focused on reintegration and recovery tasks: receiving and repairing vehicles and equipment as it returns from NTC to JBLM, capturing lessons learned from NTC, and of course making up for lost time with loved ones.

Over the coming months, while continuing to train and improve every day, the Brigade will also turn its focus to modernization: receiving many of the U.S. Army's newest and most capable vehicles and equipment, including next-generation Strykers.

2022 will be a transformational year for Ghost Brigade, but the mission remains constant: standing ready to deploy, fight and win.

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The Bottom Line...

NTC provided a world-class training experience for the Ghost Brigade. Now Soldiers are focusing on the next big mission: receiving and training on next-generation equipment as part of Army Modernization.



Message from the Commander Colonel Jared D. Bordwell, “Ghost 6”

Ghost Team,

Thank you for all you have done. We are immensely proud of you for your hard work and resilience throughout our time at the National Training Center, and for staying focused throughout our recovery and reintegration tasks since returning home—especially as we now prepare for modernization.

We came out of the holiday season and right into a full month of tough training at NTC. From start to finish, across every MOS, you pushed yourselves and each other to get better every day. It was a challenging month, but you grew from every challenge, you stayed focused on safety, and you constantly took the fight to the enemy. At every level, from the brigade down to every squad and team, you put in the hard work and never gave up. As a result, we are stronger, tougher and more prepared to fight and win.

I challenge you now to hold onto those gains. Continue to train, practice and master the fundamentals. Reflect on lessons learned. Share knowledge and experience with your teammates, especially newcomers just arriving to your unit. Look for opportunities to build on your successes and overcome any challenges from NTC. That is how we build—and maintain—an unbeatable team.

We sincerely thank the Families of Ghost Brigade for your resilience and support while your Soldiers were away. You are the source of our strength and determination. As the weather warms up again, be sure to look for opportunities to get out together and enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Continue to stay safe, support one another and reach out if you need help. Thank you again to every Soldier and Family for all you do.

“We thank the Families of Ghost Brigade for your resilience and support.”

Command Sergeant Major’s Note CSM Charles D. Smith, “Ghost 7”

Ghost Soldiers and Families,

As I begin my service with Ghost Brigade, I am glad I had the opportunity to witness our team's accomplishments at the National Training Center. Thank you and your families for your commitment to the team during our time at NTC in January. Our team has set the example at NTC of what right looks like. Far lower than every rotation in the past year, our rotation had less than half the average safety issues. I once mentioned that Soldiers must be aggressive with safety, and everyone accomplished that mission. Your efforts keep our brigade ready to fight and win.

A huge thank you to your Families. We cannot excel the way we do without the support we receive from our loved ones. The challenges we face, we are able to face together. Take the initiative to spend quality time with your friends and family members after our time away.

We are heading into a new time where our brigade will go through a tremendous change. We will soon be one of the pioneering brigades in the Army, as we modernize our equipment within the next year. Stick with us, and you will witness history in the making.

About Ghost Times

Ghost Times is the authorized newsletter of 1-2 SBCT. Content is reviewed, edited, and approved by the Brigade Public Affairs Officer. Questions/comments/submissions? Contact Sgt. Laurie Ellen Wash at laurieellen.f.wash.mil@army.mil.

This newsletter belongs to all members of the Ghost Team — Soldiers, Civilians, Families.

Send us your photos and stories to be featured in future editions of *Ghost Times*!



Crucible of Training: Ghost Soldiers demonstrate readiness, resilience during rigorous month at NTC



Throughout January, Soldiers put their skills to the test and gained confidence in their abilities as individuals and teams. Ghost Brigade successfully completed NTC Rotation 22-03, testing and enhancing readiness at the individual and unit levels and providing Ghost Leaders and Soldiers with vital, realistic experience deploying into a contested environment and fighting a capable near-peer enemy in large-scale combat operations.

The exercise represented the culmination of months of planning and preparation.

Small-unit leaders gained essential experience during live-fire exercises. Brigade and battalion command posts continuously tested and improved their processes and gained experience planning and overseeing large-scale combat operations.

Their proficiency, resilience and laser-focus on mastering the fundamentals ensured the Ghost Brigade became stronger and more capable over the course of January. Soldiers and leaders at all levels worked to become an even more unbeatable team.





At NTC, specialized teams conduct stability operations following large-scale combat

U.S. Army Sgt. Laurie Ellen Wash
1-2 Stryker Brigade Public Affairs

Specialized teams of U.S. Army Soldiers from 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 448th Civil Affairs Co., and 1270th Tactical PSYOP Detachment trained on stability operations at NTC, Jan. 23 to 27.

Soldiers from civil affairs (CA), PSYOP, public affairs, electronic warfare, legal, and unit ministry teams focused on key tasks following large-scale combat, and managing conflict's impact on civilians.

"Every team had a role to play in the city, in addition to providing security for ourselves and the civilian population," said Army Capt. Bergen Nelson, civil affairs officer for 1-2 SBCT. "We worked together to

establish relationships with local leaders and find innovative, indigenous solutions to critical vulnerabilities. Non-lethal operations covered a wide range of vital functions to connect the city of Reyalem with humanitarian aid and to reintegrate local governance with Atropian leaders, our allies in the scenario."

During the exercise, the multifaceted teams would visit the fictional town of "Reyalem, Atropia" and assess simulated damages, civil strife, religious affairs, and monetary compensation, all while being "attacked" by enemy forces, played by NTC roleplayers, still lurking in the area. The purpose of this opera-

"Non-lethal operations covered a wide range of vital functions ..."

tion was to stabilize the "consolidation area," territory behind the frontlines, and to disrupt opposing forces from reestablishing a foothold, so U.S. and allied forces can consolidate their gains on the battlefield and maintain operational momentum against the enemy.

"Stability Task Force made excellent progress toward securing the Ghost Brigade's rear area, ensuring freedom of maneuver and enabling lethality at the tip of the spear," said Maj. John Burns, CA trainer at NTC.

Soldiers were able to aid the local populace through their areas of expertise. Civil Affairs and PSYOP Soldiers pieced together the puzzle of complex connections between local groups and either friendly or enemy forces, while assessing the effects of war in civilian areas. Unit Ministry Teams created relationships with the local residents and spoke frequently to simulated religious leaders in the area.

Electronic warfare teams scanned for enemy radio traffic. The legal team listened to civilians' claims and provided monetary compensation for damages. The public affairs team spoke to media and assisted Soldiers during simulated news interviews.

While each team had a separate role to play, sharing information between teams became vital to unraveling the web of stories in the scenario. Overall, graders during the exercise were happy with the performance of all teams, with one officer saying, "I would be happy to deploy with any one of you."



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Family News

JBLM financial counselors supporting Soldiers & Families

Living in a high cost-of-living area poses many challenges to financial readiness. Couple this with an unusually high inflation rate and now our money doesn't seem to go as far. Everything from groceries to gas cost more.

If you find yourself taking on debt to pay for necessary expenses or are living paycheck to paycheck, there are financial counselors available to meet with you.

The Brigade's designated financial counselor, Mr. Scott Schoen, is passionate about helping Soldiers and Families improve financial readiness. In addition to helping with financial stress, he can also discuss the im-

portance of investing towards your retirement in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) - all free of charge.

To schedule a financial counseling appointment with Scott at Waller Hall, visit <https://jblmfrp.timetap.com/> or email scott.m.schoen.civ@army.mil. Scott is also available for financial counseling on non-DONSA Fridays, within the 1-2 SBCT footprint, in Building 3680, Room 216 from 0830 to 1400. No appointment needed. If you don't want to attend financial counseling, but just have a question or two, email Scott with your questions at scott.m.schoen.civ@army.mil.



Financial Counselors are ready to assist you with improving your overall financial wellness

- Budgeting
- Debt Management
- Credit Management
- Financial Goal Setting
- Financial Planning for Retirement
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
- Blended Retirement System (BRS)
- Identity Theft & Consumer Awareness
- Car Buying
- Home Buying Basics
- Money Management
- Student Loan Debt



Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Directorate of Personnel &
Family Readiness

Financial Readiness Program



Lewis-Main

Waller Hall
2140 Liggett Ave.
Phone: 253-967-1453

McChord Field

The Castle
100 COL Joe Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 253-982-3125

FRP



Schedule a one-on-one financial counseling appointment, or sign up for a personal finance class at:

<https://jblmfrp.timetap.com>
(253) 967-1453

Schedule an appointment for Army Emergency Relief at:
<https://jblmfrp.timetap.com>
(253) 967-9852

AER



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AER

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF (AER)

AER is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of its Own".

AER provides financial assistance to Soldiers - active and retired, their family members, surviving spouses, and orphans who are experiencing a financial hardship. Army Reserve, National Guard, and their Family members are eligible when on continuous active duty under Title 10 orders for at least 30 consecutive days.

Assistance is provided in the form of no-interest loans, grants, or a combination of both based on financial circumstances.

AER also offers scholarships for college and vocational training for spouses and dependent children of Soldiers.

Schedule an AER appointment at:
<https://jblmfrp.timetap.com>
(253) 967-9852

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

Call the American Red Cross 24/7
1-877-272-7337



Family News



JBLM DPFR
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PLAYGROUP

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10-11:30 AM



- AT THE -
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF JBLM

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF JBLM IS LOCATED AT 2275 LIGGETT AVE, JBLM LEWIS-MAIN



children's museum at JBLM

NO PLAYGROUPS HELD ON FEDERAL HOLIDAYS
@JBLMDPFR | 253-967-5901

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022



Spouses' Club of Lewis-McChord Presents ACE 2022

Night in Wonderland

March 12, 2022 | 6-10pm | McGavick Center Clover Park Tech College
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DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

6:00PM - 10PM

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For more information, visit www.spousesclublm.org



Health & Safety

March is National Nutrition Month,

and this year's theme is "Celebrating a World of Flavors" which reminds us of the benefits of incorporating foods from various cultures into our eating patterns. Today we highlight Shakshuka, a delicious dish from North Africa and the Middle East. The tomatoes in the Shakshuka provide potassium and Vitamin A which can improve endurance training performance. Vitamin A is absorbed best from foods and it is NOT recommended to take high doses of supplemental vitamin A since it can be toxic if taken in large doses. Also, some warm Naan bread goes great with this dish. We hope you enjoy this simple yet delicious, one-pan meal.



INGREDIENTS

- EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
- 1 LARGE YELLOW ONION, CHOPPED
- 2 GREEN PEPPERS, CHOPPED
- 2 GARLIC CLOVES, PEELED, CHOPPED
- 1 TSP. GROUND CORIANDER
- 1 TSP. SWEET PAPRIKA
- 1/2 TSP. GROUND CUMIN
- PINCH RED PEPPER FLAKES (OPTIONAL)
- SALT AND PEPPER
- 6 VINE-RIPE TOMATOES, CHOPPED (ABOUT 6 CUPS CHOPPED TOMATOES)
- 1/2 CUP TOMATO SAUCE
- 6 LARGE EGGS
- 1/4 CUP CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY LEAVES
- 1/4 CUP CHOPPED FRESH MINT LEAVES

(SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS)



DIRECTIONS

1. HEAT 3 TBSP. OLIVE OIL IN A LARGE CAST IRON SKILLET. ADD THE ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, GARLIC, SPICES, AND PINCH OF SALT AND PEPPER. COOK, STIRRING OCCASIONALLY, UNTIL THE VEGETABLES HAVE SOFTENED, ABOUT 5 MINUTES.
2. ADD THE TOMATOES AND TOMATO SAUCE. COVER AND LET SIMMER FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES. UNCOVER AND COOK A BIT LONGER TO ALLOW THE MIXTURE TO REDUCE AND THICKEN. TASTE AND ADJUST THE SEASONING TO YOUR LIKING.
3. USING A WOODEN SPOON, MAKE 6 INDENTATIONS, OR "WELLS," IN THE TOMATO MIXTURE (MAKE SURE THE INDENTATIONS ARE SPACED OUT). GENTLY CRACK AN EGG INTO EACH INDENTATION.
4. REDUCE THE HEAT, COVER THE SKILLET, AND COOK ON LOW UNTIL THE EGG WHITES ARE SET.
5. UNCOVER AND ADD THE FRESH PARSLEY AND MINT. YOU CAN ADD MORE BLACK PEPPER OR CRUSHED RED PEPPER, IF YOU LIKE. SERVE WITH WARM PITA, CHALLAH BREAD, OR YOUR CHOICE OF CRUSTY BREAD.

Consult our H2F Dietitian!

Soldiers may schedule an individual consultation with the Brigade Dietitian at <https://visibook.com/ghosth2f> or to book a unit class, email maria.j.stukenborg.mil@mail.mil



Health & Safety

Reach out whenever you need help.



1-2 SBCT Embedded Behavioral Health

Supporting Ghost Soldiers with individual therapy, medication/prescription intervention, group therapy and classes, and walk-ins for crisis situations.

To schedule an appointment call:
253-966-3640 or 253-966-4814

Location: BLDG R3742, Railroad Ave.

Walk-in hours: 0730-1630



SHARP

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GHOST SIGHTINGS

Images from around the Ghost Brigade

1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment — “Warhorse”



(Above) Atop a Stryker reconnaissance vehicle, a Warhorse Soldier provides security with a MK-19 automatic grenade launcher.

(Left) Troopers of 1-14 CAV observe simulated enemy movement during the “force-on-force” phase of NTC.

2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment — “Patriot”



(Above) Patriot Soldiers conduct company live-fire exercise Jan. 25 at NTC.

(Right) A Soldier practices operating a shoulder-launched, surface-to-air Stinger Missile, due to the threat of simulated enemy aircraft during NTC.





GHOST SIGHTINGS

Images from around the Ghost Brigade

5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment — “Syke’s Regulars”



(Left) Soldiers of the Regular Battalion work to maintain and repair vehicles following a month of training in the rugged desert of NTC. (Above) Soldiers move in to secure a village from enemy forces during field training exercises at NTC.

1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment — “Tomahawks”



(Above) First-line leaders across the battalion got back to basics during the Tomahawk Team Leader Academy. (Right) Scouts and snipers of Renegade Platoon -- with help from UH-60 Black Hawks of 16th Combat Aviation Brigade -- rapidly establish an observation post high atop Siberian Ridge during the Brigade defensive live-fire exercise at NTC.





GHOST SIGHTINGS

Images from around the Ghost Brigade

23rd Brigade Engineer Battalion — “Spearhead”



(Left) Spearhead Battalion command and staff pose beside the 23 BEB’s “Painted Rock” at NTC. (Above) A Soldier operates the D-6 Dozer as the BEB clears the way for friendly forces (mobility), blocks the enemy’s approach (counter-mobility), and builds protective barriers (survivability).

1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment — “Red Lion”



(Above) Congratulations to the newest Noncommissioned Officers of 1-37 FA! During a March 1 NCO Induction Ceremony, these new leaders were honored for their transition into the Army NCO Corps. (Right) Howitzer crews from 1-37 FA conduct fire missions throughout the month of January at the National Training Center. Precision long-range artillery is essential for a brigade combat team, enabling friendly forces to target and destroy the enemy from a far distance.





GHOST SIGHTINGS

Images from around the Ghost Brigade

296th Brigade Support Battalion — “Frontline”



Frontline Soldiers defend against simulated enemy forces during a month of field exercises at the National Training Center in California.



Connelly Award Winners

Ghost Bistro was commended for its commitment to Soldiers and the JBLM Community, receiving the Phillip A Connelly Award for the Installation Food Service Competition — a highly sought after honor for food service professionals across JBLM. 296 BSB has command oversight over the Ghost Bistro, and the command team and staff have put countless hours and resources in having the best Dining Facility for our Soldiers and Families on base. Congratulations and well done!

Brigade Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC) — “Huron”



HHC welcomed a new commander and first sergeant, Capt. Schultes and 1st Sgt. Tucker, and bid farewell to outgoing company command team Capt. Pait and 1st Sgt. Grafford, in a March 11 ceremony.



At the conclusion of NTC, Ghost Brigade’s command and staff pose next to the 1-2 SBCT’s “Painted Rock” outside Ft. Irwin, California.



Chaplain's Message

“Relationships”

Chaplain (Maj.) Tony Luxem
Brigade Chaplain, 1-2 SBCT

“Affection is when you see someone’s strengths. Love is when you accept someone’s flaws.”

Life and the Army are all about relationships. Great relationships build the strongest teams, accomplish the hardest missions and most satisfying marriages. Bad relationships tear apart Families and military cohesion.

Sometimes, we fall into the trap of liking others because of their utility to us- the way they serve our needs and mission. Challenges comes when we experience them more holistically, understanding their character and priority difference. On the other hand, we might be seeking to please others and lose ourselves in the process. A last pitfall to good relationships is hiding. When we hide an issue from those around us, we struggle with truthfulness, never really connecting because we choose

not to be known. New acquaintances/romances are often built on affection- a hiding of the real us for a period of time.

Relationships must be REAL between people - both ways, to be meaningful and enduring. Knowing and discussing our differences and our setbacks (that we can see with the help of others) is humbling but the only way to grow. We must also RELATE with others as a human being. This means having grace with ourselves and others when we or they cannot do it all, perfectly- all the time. That is not a realistic expectation.

James 5-16 says “ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” Being known means responsibly accepting our issues and loving others through theirs- for our very best.

Talk with a Chaplain, counsellor, or good friend today to grow and have the best relationships you can. You can find me at Soldier’s Memorial Chapel Bldg 3799 and reach me at cell 253-344-0491 and email tony.m.luxem.mil@army.mil.



1-2 SBCT Unit Ministry Contact Roster

CH (MAJ) Luxem, Tony Cell: 816-507-9278	Brigade	SSG McCray, Jacoby Cell: 912-492-4596
CH Johnson, Solomon Cell: 256-288-6745	2-3 IN	SGT Preciado, Mayra Cell: 661-390-2184
CH Golden, Sean Cell: 740-586-9590	1-37 FA	SGT Hovey, Ian Cell: 360-551-8861
CH Spencer, Cameron Cell: 405-694-5385	296 BSB	SPC Moses, Kwontez Cell: 678-221-7535

CH Kim, Stephen Cell: 803-704-5199	5-20 IN	
CH Niemtschk, Bobby Cell: 512-366-2933	1-14 CAV	SGT Louissaint, Kervin Cell: 912-463-0574
CH Cho, John Cell: 914-434-0928	23 BEB	SGT Hughes, Kelvin Cell: 909-905-3240
CH Chambers, Scott Cell: 307-460-8263	1-23 IN	PFC Nelson, Tori Cell: 843-263-4809

1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team



At A Glance...

- ◆ 1ST STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION
- ◆ NICKNAME: "GHOST BRIGADE," NAMED FOR 1-2 SBCT'S PROVEN ABILITY TO SILENTLY APPROACH AND STRIKE THE ENEMY
- ◆ ASSIGNED TO 7TH INFANTRY DIV., I CORPS, AT JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA, WITH A FOCUS ON THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION
- ◆ MORE THAN 4,000 SOLDIERS FROM VARIOUS SPECIALTIES AND COMBINED ARMS CAPABILITIES



Ghost Brigade
Arrive In Silence