

DANGER FORWARD

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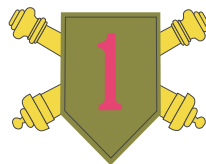
U.S. Army Spc. Chelsea Phillips, a fire support specialist assigned to 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT), operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), locates targets during Hammer 22, a two week training operation alongside Finland's Army Headquarters, Armored Brigade, Pori Brigade, Karelia Brigade, Uti Jaeger Regiment and Logistics Department of the Defense Forces, in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)



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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Casandra B. Ancheta

Foreword



ABOVE

Sergeant Major of the Army William O. Wooldridge (pictured here as a 1st Sergeant at right) relaxes with fellow noncommissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID). As a Private, Wooldridge knew he wanted to be a professional soldier. Over forty years later, he remembered the noncommissioned officers (NCOs) he served with as “true professionals.”

For much of his career, Wooldridge would become attached to the hip of the 1 ID, serving as a 1st Sgt. and Sgt. Maj. in the division. Later he would be appointed as the first Sergeant Major of the Army. As part of an effort to display the essential role of noncommissioned officer in the United States military, the 1st Infantry Division will recognize 2023 as the year of the NCO.

BELOW

U.S. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston speaks to U.S. Soldiers of the 1 ID during a visit to a forward operating site in Bolesławiec, Poland, Dec. 17, 2022. The 1 ID is working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America’s forward deployed corps in Europe. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)



Command Note



Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

2022 is in the history books and 2023 is here. With the onset of a New Year comes new challenges and opportunities, and 2023 is no different. We are excited for one opportunity in particular, an opportunity to celebrate our own. Command Sergeant Major Mullinax and I are excited to announce that this is the Big Red One Year of the NCO.

The Year of the NCO will focus on 1ID's backbone as we continue to place People First. Soldiers are our most precious resource and it is our NCO leaders who are charged with Soldier care and training. We have seen time and time again their professionalism, competence, and vital support to the Officers and Soldiers of the Big Red One. The Year of the NCO is an opportunity to further learn from our NCOs, develop our future leaders, and highlight their accomplishments.

People First is our main effort in 2023, and it is intrinsically linked to the Year of the NCO. This campaign will include everyone within the Big Red One as we conduct initiatives and events that will strengthen us in our profession of arms. I chose People First because leaders, at all levels, are what make us the greatest Army in the world, and we will develop the Army's best leaders in the Big Red One.

Within People First and the Year of the NCO we will focus on leader presence, leader development and Operation Victory Wellness.

Leaders must be present within their formations, there is simply no substitute. This ensures that all of us, from Private to Major General, are held accountable.

2023 will see the continuation of our leadership development program as this is vital to the future of the Army and the Big Red One. We will focus on character development and warfighting mastery to ensure that our future senior leaders are ready for any conflict.

Operation Victory Wellness remains an integral part of the 1st Infantry Division and we will continue to make individuals more resilient in the five dimensions of strength, and develop more cohesive teams.

Command Sergeant Major Mullinax and I are looking forward to joining you and observing your training this year. We know that all of you will embrace the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead for the Big Red One.

DUTY FIRST!

CHRISTOPHER L. MULLINAX
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Division Command Sergeant Major

JOHN V. MEYER, III
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

ENHANCED BATTLE GROUP OF ONE

Story by Staff Sgt. Matthew Foster



NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland soldiers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT) operationally controlled by the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), watch two Polish Mi-24 attack helicopters flyover during the Bull Run live fire exercise in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, Nov. 17, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Gavin K. Ching)



BEMOWO PISKIE, Poland – Members of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group Poland, which is currently led by the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (3-8 CAV), 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT) operationally controlled by the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), serve alongside the U.K. The Royal Lancers, Prince of Wales Troop, the Romanian Sky Guardians, and the Croatian Archer Battery to form a multinational fighting force in defense of the European Eastern front.

Each individual nation’s warfighting functions enhance the eFP Battle Group Poland’s capabilities to deter and defend allied nations against aggression.

“The enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland consists of our partner countries of Croatia, Romania and the United Kingdom, which are all the tenant members of eFP Battle Group Poland,” said U.S. Army Maj. Eric Yost, executive officer of the eFP Battle Group Poland and executive officer of the 3-8 CAV, 3-1 ABCT.

Individual nations contribute differing assets and fighting elements strengthening the overall combat capability of the battle group.

“The main mission for the Romanian detachment here is to cover air defense for the eFP Battle Group Poland, which gives the battle group more flexibility and more capability,” said Romanian Maj. Florian Ion, commander of Romanian Sky Guardians. “Acting in cooperation we have maneuvering forces, such as tanks and infantry units, and it is our mission to cover all of those forces with protection

from air threats.”

Members of the eFP Battle Group Poland continual cohesive training has prepared the allied nations to operate as one synchronous military in all environments.

“We have in our arsenal the Romanian air defense capabilities with the air defense batteries, the UK as our reconnaissance element, out in front of the battle group controlling our indirect fires or artillery that we have from both the US artillery company and the Croatian artil-

U.S. Soldiers assigned to Chaos Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT) operationally controlled by the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), fire a BGM-71 Tube-launched Optically tracked Wire-guided (TOW) missile at a simulated target from a M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle during platoon live fire exercise in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, Dec. 8, 2022. The 3-1 ABCT is among other units assigned to the 1 ID, proudly working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America’s forward deployed corps in Europe. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)



ABOVE

U.S. Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3-1 ABCT, alongside soldiers assigned to The Prince of Wales Troop, The Royal Lancers, discuss amphibious crossing operations during the Bull Run training exercise at Bemowo Piskie, Poland, Nov. 25, 2022.

BELOW

U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3-1 ABCT participated in a NATO Urban Tactical Operations exercise alongside Polish soldiers assigned to the 5th Mazovian Brigade of Territorial Defense Force (TDF) in Komorowo, Poland, Oct. 26, 2022.



lery company gives us a lot of capability, a lot of lethality.” said Yost.

Each nation provides a crucial and unique element to the capabilities of the battle group.

“The Jackals provide a reconnaissance capability, and they work well with the U.S. Combined Arms Battalion and we are trained to act favorably with all of our NATO partners,” said U.K. Maj. Freddie Taylor-Dickson, commander of The Royal Lancers, Prince of Wales Troop. “As reconnaissance soldiers, we’re trained to operate by day, night, in all weather, so it is a challenging environment, but it’s one that we are prepared and trained for.”

NATO Allies work together to create stability of the European theater through interoperability and cooperation between the allied nations within the battle group.

“Exercises and training together, understanding the way that the armor, infantry, artillery and the



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Chaos Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT) operationally controlled by the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), engage the simulated target together with a M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle during the Bull Run live fire exercise in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, Nov. 23, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)

Polish soldiers assigned to 20th Mechanized Brigade utilize a floating pontoon bridge to ferry Armored Multi Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) across a lake while conducting amphibious assault training during the Bull Run training exercise at Bemowo Piskie, Poland, Nov. 23, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)



“We are unified as one team, and as we train as a NATO alliance and battle Group,” said Yost

reconnaissance elements are working together, this is interoperability,” said Ion. “Cohesion and synchronization between the other forces is very important for us.”

The eFP Battle Group Poland is positioned to be the tip of the spear, ready at a moment’s notice to engage and defend should an adversary threaten the allied nation’s sovereignty.

“The more we interact and engage with each member of the battle group, and the differing units, I think it just builds a higher level of trust within the battle group and shows the nations of NATO that we are committed to defending the Eastern Flank of NATO,” said Yost.

The impact of world events within the European theater has had a significant impact and effect among the allied nations along the front and reinforces the importance of eFP Battle Group Poland.

“Each and every nation that is represented here today, they have sent their best, their first teams, this is truly the first team represented from across multiple countries that are here committed to defending one another, the NATO alliance, and the region,” said Yost. “We are honored to be among so many professionals and we’re so very proud to be here, to be a part of eFP Battle Group Poland.”

The members of the eFP Battle Group Poland form one synchronized fighting force to create a defense wall protecting the European theater.

“We are unified as one team, and as we train as a NATO alliance and battle Group,” said Yost. “It only solidifies and reinforces that we are committed to deter any aggression and committed to the mutual defense of any of our allied partner nations.”



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3-1 ABCT, operate a M1A1 Abrams to engage a simulated opposing force while conducting amphibious assault training during the Bull Run training exercise at Bemowo Piskie, Poland, Nov. 25, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)



FIRE FOR EFFECT

Notes on the Forward Observer

Story and photos by Spc. Charles Leitner



NIINISALO, Finland – From under the cover of a camouflaged observation post, U.S. Army Spc. Chelsea Phillips, a joint fire support specialist assigned to 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment (6-9 CAV), 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, a unit operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Europe, watches artillery rounds impact in the distance. Peering through her binoculars, Philips observes from about a kilometer away as the shells go screaming into the dirt, sending plumes of debris into the air.

Together, Phillips and U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Hannah Slomkowski, a fire support officer with the 6-9 CAV, orchestrate moves on a chessboard. Instead of moving pieces on a tabletop, play is conducted on a much larger scale with explosive metal ordnance. For this reason, their calculations must be exact. Incorrect coordinates mean missed targets, or worse, the wrong ones.

Soldiers in joint fire support roles, also known as forward observers, play an essential role in coordinating indirect and air support fire from a vantage.

“A big part of my job as a fire support officer is understanding how maneuvers work,” said Slomkowski. “How we plan out missions so that I can give them the best support with indirect fire.”

A typical sequence of events might go as follows; Phillips locates a target using an AN/PED-1 Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder, a portable target locator that gathers coordinates like a viewfinder used by golfers only far more advanced.

“A big part of my job as a fire support officer is understanding how maneuvers work,” said Slomkowski

BELOW

U.S. Army Spc. Chelsea Phillips, left, and Staff Sgt. Mathew Peat, right, both forward observers assigned to the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3-1 ABCT, calibrate an AN/PED-1 Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022.



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Hannah Slomkowski, a troop fire support officer assigned to 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT), operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), calls for fire during Hammer 22, a two week training operation alongside Finland's Army Headquarters, Armored Brigade, Pori Brigade, Karelia Brigade, Uti Jaeger Regiment and Logistics Department of the Defense Forces, in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022.



U.S. Army Capt. Joseph Browne, a squadron fire support officer assigned to 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3-1 ABCT, peers through binoculars in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022.

“Dismounting from an [M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle], setting up observation points and calling up artillery, motors and attack aviation is my primary job,” said Phillips.

From there, Phillips will check her coordinates and relay them back to Slomkowski,

who is connected by radio to a nearby artillery battery. At this point Slomkowski takes over, re-confirming the coordinates with the battery before calling for fire. There are a few pops as the shells are fired, a whistle as they fly overhead then a splash of dirt as they burst upon the earth.



Phillips checks to ensure the rounds hit their intended targets, communicates this information through the chain and the team repeats the process as needed.

“I absolutely love this job, you get a lot of leeway with how you want to paint the battlefield.” said Phillips. “If you’re somebody that goes into the military and has this expectation of being in the firefight, operating different weapons systems and having some sort of power behind your job, then being a [forward observer] is the way to go.”

Forward observers with the 6-9 CAV corresponded with Finnish artillery batteries and mortar crews during exercise Hammer 22, a two week training operation conducted in Niinisalo, Finland during the month of November. Their effort developed communication between the two forces allowing Finnish soldiers to familiarize themselves with the protocol used by the United States and its NATO Allies and partners.

ABOVE

U.S. Army Spc. Noah Hughes, a fire support specialist assigned to 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3-1 ABCT, searches for targets using an AN/PED-1 Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder, a portable target locator, in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022.

BELOW

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class William Boyle, a squadron fire support sergeant assigned to the 3-1 ABCT, applies face camouflage during Hammer 22, a two week training operation in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022.



“I absolutely love this job, you get a lot of leeway with how you want to paint the battlefield,” said Phillips

“It was a really great opportunity because we got to call up Finnish artillery and motors,” said Phillips. “They’ve learned how we transcribe our fire missions so it was very cool to be able to teach them on the observation post the ways that we operate.”

U.S. Soldiers participated in the exercise alongside soldiers of Finland’s Armored Brigade, Pori Brigade, Karelia Brigade, Uti Jaeger Regiment and its Army Headquarters and Logistics Department of the Defense Forces.

“These past two weeks I have learned more about my job than in the past eight months,” said Slomkowski. “Without working with the Finnish I would have never had this opportunity to get these reps, this is extremely crucial for us to be better at what we do.”

BELOW

A Finnish soldier stands U.S. forward observers assigned to 6-9 CAV during Hammer 22, a two week training operation alongside Finland’s Army Headquarters, Armored Brigade, Pori Brigade, Karelia Brigade, Uti Jaeger Regiment and Logistics Department of the Defense Forces, in Niinisalo, Finland, Nov. 5, 2022. The 3-1 ABCT is among other units under the 1 ID working alongside allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America’s forward deployed corps in Europe.



101ST ZEROS IN ON THEIR TARGETS

Story and photos by Spc. Kevin T. Brown Jr.

U.S. Army Sgt. Leonides Ortega, an infantryman assigned to Delta Company, “Dog Division Sustainment Brigade (DSB) aims an M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V

Company,” 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st at Mielec, Poland, Dec.15, 2022. 101 DSB is among other units proudly working alongside Corps, America’s forward deployed corps in Europe.



MIELEC, Poland - Ready. Aim. Fire! Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment (2-502 IR), 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Division Sustainment Brigade teams up with Polish snipers from the 16th Polish Airborne Brigade to train their weapon systems and conduct weapons drills.

“Today we are here with our Polish allies and we are working together to increase lethality and create more cohesive teams at a joint live fire,” said 1st Lt. Matthew J. Hinkley, infantry officer and platoon leader, assigned to Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st DSB. “We’ve been blessed to work with them throughout multiple iterations, styles of training and each time we’ve come away with a deeper bond with one another.”

Snipers from 2-502 IR and 16th Polish Airborne Brigade zero and true the M2010 Semi-Automatic Sniper System and M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System to practice long range precision



fires on the battlefield.

“Our Dog company commander reached out to us and said we have an opportunity to co-train with the 16th Airborne Brigade,” said 1st Lt. Brenna McAnally, an Infantry officer and reconnaissance platoon leader, assigned to Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment,

“You see the guys getting together, trading patches, swapping stories, speaking a little bit of Polish, they’re speaking a little bit of English and it’s building a team,” said Hinkley

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st DSB. Soldiers used sight scopes to observe shots taken by trained snipers on targets 100-200 meters down range, then used this information to provide feedback for any scope adjustments.

Snipers have to take many things into account such as wind speed and direction, range, target movement, light source and temperature just to name a few.

“We know how each other works, we communicate better with one another and it’s a familiarity that can’t be instructed by higher level,” said Hinkley. “It needs to come down to the individu-

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Matthew J. Hinkley, an infantry officer and platoon leader assigned to Delta Company, “Dog Company,” 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Division Sustainment Brigade (DSB), pose for photo at Mielec, Poland, Dec.15, 2022.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Delta Company, “Dog Company,” 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Division Sustainment Brigade (DSB), get ready to conduct weapons drills at Mielec, Poland, Dec.15, 2022.

al Soldiers working together.”
At the end of training, Soldiers from
2-502 IR and 16th Polish Airborne Bri-
gade grouped together for a photo.

“When we first got here, we were stand-
offish, but as we went through the train-
ing and spent more time with one another,
you see the guys getting together,” said

Hinkley. “Trading patches, swapping sto-
ries, speaking a little bit of Polish, they’re
speaking a little bit of English and it’s
building a team.”

McAnally explained the importance of
working with your Polish counterparts
and how interactions like these increase
team cohesion and interoperability.



U.S. Army Spc. Arturo Duran, an infantryman assigned to Delta Company, “Dog Company,”
2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Division
Sustainment Brigade (DSB) fires an M240B machine gun from a common remotely operated
weapon station mounted on top of a humvee at Mielec, Poland, Dec.15, 2022.



The 2-502 IR continues to train their weapon systems with 16th Polish Airborne Brigade forces in their area of operations.

“It’s been an amazing experience working with our Polish counterparts,” said Hinkley. “Since coming here I’ve grown to appreciate the Polish country and their Army, they are very professional, great hosts and great to work with.”

U.S. Army Kollin Wade, an infantryman assigned to Delta Company, “Dog Company,” 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Division Sustainment Brigade (DSB) uses an M151 spotting scope to examine shots on target down range at Mielec, Poland, Dec.15, 2022.

DAGGER TAKES THE HELM

Story and photos by Spc. Charles Leitner

ZAGAN, Poland – U.S. Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (Dagger Brigade), 1st Infantry Division (2-1 ABCT), replaced the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat (Iron Brigade), 4th Infantry Division (3-4 ABCT), at a ceremonial transfer of authority held in Zagan, Poland, Dec. 9, 2022.

Once used to indicate rallying points to Soldiers fighting on the battlefield, a unit's colors were designed to stand out in the chaos of combat. Today, after the commands, "unseat colors," and "seat colors," echoed during Thursday's ceremony by Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth S. Chaney, command sergeant major of Iron Brigade,

the colors often serve to represent a moment of transition between two units.

With Chaney's call, Iron became Dagger as 3-4 ABCT was replaced by 2-1 ABCT. Dagger will now take part in the 1st Infantry Division's mission in Europe as it continues to work alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, hosted the ceremony alongside U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John Kolasheski, commander of V Corps, Gen.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Darvin T. Williams, command sergeant major of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (Dagger Brigade), 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), stands at parade rest during a transfer of authority ceremony held in Zagan, Poland, Dec. 9, 2022. Dagger Brigade replaces the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, to take part in the 1 ID's mission in Europe as the division continues to work alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe.



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John Kolasheski, commander of V Corp, sits beside Gen. Jaroslaw Mika, commander of Poland's Branches of the Armed Forces, during a transfer of authority ceremony held in Zagan, Poland, Dec. 9, 2022.



Jaroslaw Mika, commander of Poland's armed forces branches, and Polish army Maj. Gen. Piotr Trytek, commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Division.

The Iron and Dagger Brigades share a storied past in Europe. Together they emerged from the English Channel and gallantly broke through German defenses entrenched at Normandy. They continue to write pages in the ever developing history of Europe.

"We appreciate [Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division] joining the Big Red One," said Meyer. "We appreciate you joining our team. While here, you had an opportunity to improve your readiness, you had an opportunity to prepare for your warfighting tasks and to work with our Allies on improving our capacity, our capability and our interoperability so we can fight together if needed."

As soon as their boots touched the ground, the Iron Brigade participated in Defender 22, the largest land forces exercise conducted in Europe.

"What an incredible experience for all of us assigned to the Iron Brigade," said U.S. Army Col. Stephen E. Capeheart, commander of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "We remain ready for any mission, any time, under any conditions. That is due to the fantastic training opportunities that we've been able to have."

From there, the brigade went on to train across numerous countries throughout the Baltics and work alongside a diverse set of allied units. Together alongside NATO forces they participated in Operation Karahall and through exercises Ryse, Badger and Bear which contributed to the collective readiness of Europe.

"We have to be ready for the known and unknown challenges of a complex world," said Capeheart. "We are truly stronger together."

The ceremony was held inside the auditorium of the new Black Division Club. Completed in September 2022, the club was built in honor of the Polish 1st Armored Division, an armored



ABOVE

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Darvin T. Williams, command sergeant major of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, uncases the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held in Zagan, Poland, Dec. 9, 2022.

division of the Polish armed forces in the West that was mustered in Duns, Scotland, in February 1942. The unit was present during the final phases of the Battle of Normandy and participated in a number of significant moments of the Second World War thereafter.

"I am deeply grateful that [the United States] has been serving here and working on tightening Polish and American military cooperation," said Mika. "Serving together, Polish and American soldiers have had a great opportunity to exchange their military capabilities but also to learn from each other and expand their horizons."

For the 2-1 ABCT, preparing for their upcoming mission to support NATO has been nothing short of vigorous. Before boarding a plane heading for Poland, the brigade trained rigorously and per-

formed in a constant state of readiness, prepared to leave Kansas at any moment. Over the course of the past they participated in two national training center rotations and an emergency readiness exercise.

This is not the first time the unit has been in Poland. In 1917, the Dagger Brigade first set foot on European soil. Like the rest of their division, the brigade landed in North Africa, in Sicily and in Normandy. Now, over 105 years later, its Soldiers continue to participate in the history of the continent.

"Across western Europe you'll see monuments, markers, artifacts and cemeteries honoring the men and the women that wore the Big Red One patch before us," said U.S. Army Col. Bryan M.

"Serving together, Polish and American soldiers have had a great opportunity to exchange their military capabilities but also to learn from each other and expand their horizons," said Mika

Harris, commander of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. "This deployment to Eastern Europe will add luster to our brigade's storied legacy and reputation. Dagger is ready for the journey."

As one chapter closes a new one fast begins. Like the Iron Brigade before them, the Dagger Brigade is eager to hit the ground running.

IRON EAGLES

SHOWCASE

AH-64 APACHE

Photo story by Spc. William Thompson

U.S. Army Spc. Johnson, a AH-64 Attack Helicopter Repairer, assigned to Delta Troop, 3-6 Air Cavalry Squadron, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, shows Polish Soldiers the rotor mechanism of an AH-64 Apache while explaining it's different functions in Inowroclaw, Poland, Jan. 11, 2022. The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division was able to introduce the Polish military to refuelling and maintenance procedures as they begin integrating the Apache into their fleet.





ABOVE

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4. Keenan Bachmeyer, the 3-6 Aviation Maintenance Officer, assigned 3-6 Air Cavalry Squadron, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, shows Polish Soldiers the outside of an AH-64 Apache while explaining the aircraft's different functions in Inowroclaw, Poland, Jan. 11, 2022.

BELOW

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Stand side by side with the Polish Soldiers for a group photo after getting to discuss about the AH-64 Apache in Inowroclaw, Poland, Jan. 12, 2022.





U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4. Keenan Bachmeyer, the 3-6 Aviation Maintenance Officer, assigned 3-6 Air Cavalry Squadron, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, speaks to a Polish Soldier about the capability an AH-64 Apache in Inowroclaw, Poland, Jan. 11, 2022.

U.S. ARMY SHOWCASES HIMARS IN ESTONIA

Photo story by Spc. Charles Leitner



Hanno Pevkur, the Estonian Minister of Defense, speaks to reporters in front of an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System attached to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment (1-14 FA), operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2023. The 1-14 FA is working alongside the 1 ID, supporting NATO allies and regional security partners and providing combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe.

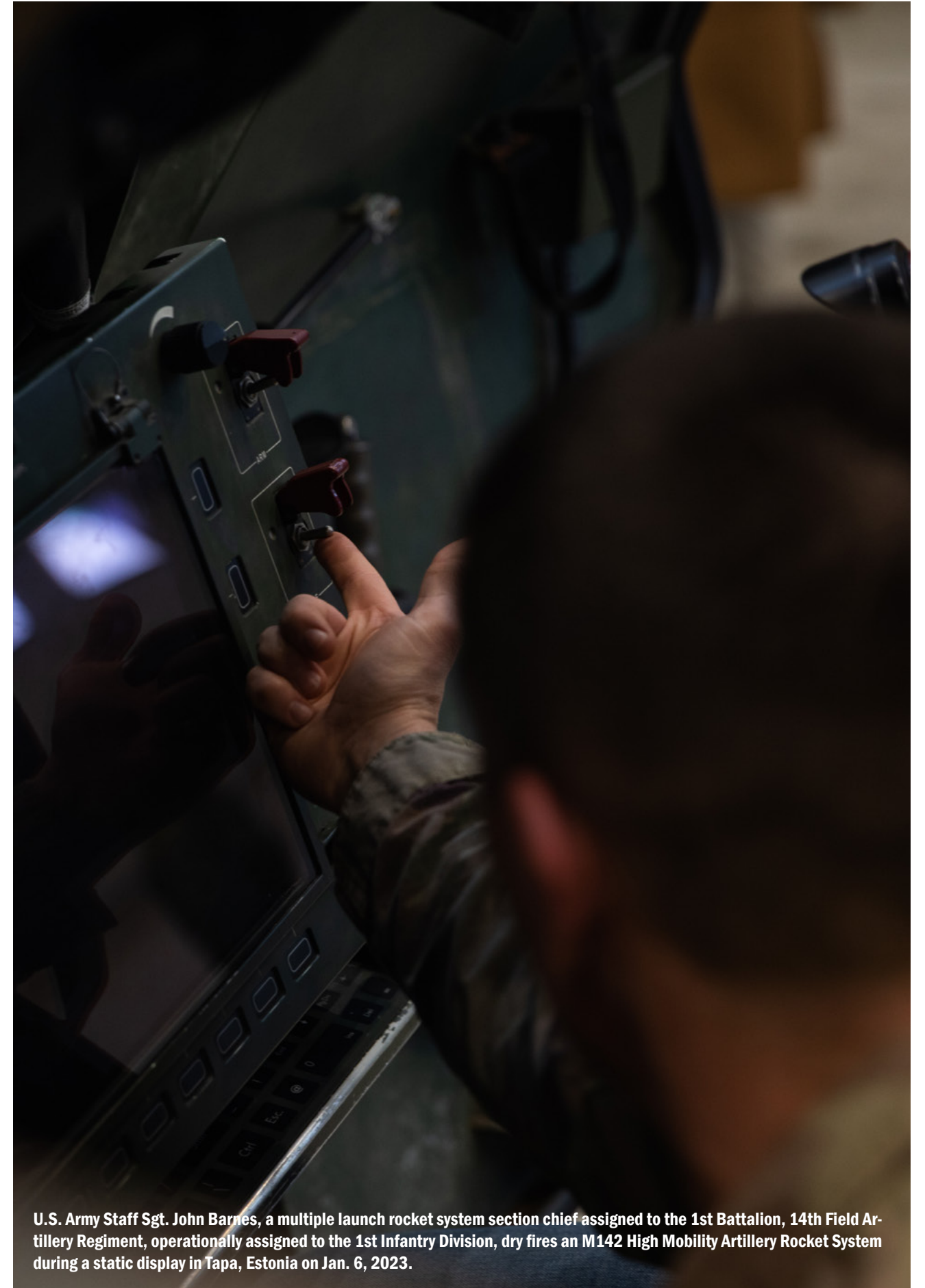


ABOVE:

Hanno Pevkur, the Estonian Minister of Defense, sits in an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System attached to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2023.

BELOW

U.S. Army Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., commander of Division Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, discusses the battlefield capabilities of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2023.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Barnes, a multiple launch rocket system section chief assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, dry fires an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2023.



ABOVE

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian, commander of the 56th Artillery Command, speaks to Hanno Pevkur, the Estonian Minister of Defense, in front of an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2022.

BELOW

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Barnes, a multiple launch rocket system section chief assigned to the 1-14 FA speaks to reporters while sitting inside an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2023.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, operationally assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, demonstrate the movement capabilities of an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a static display in Tapa, Estonia on Jan. 6, 2023.

2-82 FA

PIERCES THROUGH

THE WINTER SNOW

Story and photos by Spc. Casandra Ancheta

ĀDAŽI, Latvia – U.S. Soldiers assigned to Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment (2-82 FA), 3rd Armored Brigade Combat team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT) operationally controlled by the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), participated in a joint live fire exercise with Danish armed forces and Spanish armed forces in Camp Ādaži, Latvia, Dec. 13-15, 2022.

The 2-82 FA, 3-1 ABCT conducted a live-fire training exercise utilizing M109A7 Paladin howitzers to fire 155mm artillery rounds onto designated targets to simulate artillery support for combat missions.

“This exercise was a great opportunity to ensure the interoperability of our battery and mission readiness by combining our qualification exercise into a NATO live fire exercise,” said U.S. Army Capt. Michael Tkach, Charlie battery commander for the 2-82 FA, 3-1 ABCT.

Live fire exercises like these are a small part of the certification sustainment tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) in place to ensure readiness and competency for future exercises.

“We did our last certification back in Sep-



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat team, 1st Cavalry Division (3-1 ABCT) operationally controlled by the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), positions the M109A7 Paladin howitzer during a joint live fire exercise in Camp Ādaži, Latvia, Dec. 14, 2022.



tember,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Brock Daughtery, a field artillery officer and platoon leader for 2-82 FA. “We had some extra rounds so we used this as an opportunity to keep our certifications, make sure the crews are up and everyone is still certified with their exact crews to fire.”

Aside from maintaining and sustaining their certification, live fire exercises provide the Soldiers with a realistic oppor-

tunity to enhance the efficiency of their positions as well as their TTPs.

“Going through these repetitions are definitely important to making sure each Soldier knows their job, the next job up and their purpose,” said Daughtery. The interoperability showcased alongside the Danish and Spanish armed forces made this live fire exercise a unique opportunity for U.S. Soldiers to work together, shoulder to shoulder, with their



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3-1 ABCT prepare a M109A7 Paladin howitzer to engage a designated target during a joint live fire exercise in Camp Ādaži, Latvia, Dec. 14, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)

NATO counterparts.

“The gunline recognized that we’re part of something bigger than just a normal shoot,” said Daughtery. “The Soldiers have really enjoyed knowing that we’re working with another nation.”

Teamwork and synchronization among allied nations during training exercises is the foundation of a cohesive international military war fighting

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component.

“The professionalism of these two countries continue to impress me every time I work with them,” said Tkach.

Throughout the 2-82 FA rotation to Europe, this was their first experience working together with NATO countries.

“This exercise is the most important training exercise our battery has done on this entire rotation,” said Tkach. “It is the most integrated NATO experience our Soldiers have had.”

For U.S. Soldiers, the opportunity to train alongside other nations strengthens the capabilities and proficiencies of the allied nations military to deter and defend against any aggressors to the region.

BELOW

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Brock Daughtery, a field artillery officer and platoon leader for the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3-1 ABCT poses in front of the M109A7 Paladin howitzer during a joint live fire exercise in Camp Ādaži, Latvia, Dec. 15, 2022.



“We know that being part of NATO requires you to work with other nations and for the U.S. Army, we don’t have a lot of training like that unless we are overseas,” said Daughtery. “Our commander took advantage of that, reached out to other units and worked on doing an exercise together.”

The results of the multinational live fire exercise provided readiness for the Soldiers and cultivated camaraderie and strength-

ened the bonds between allied nations military fighting units that defend the European theater.

“This exercise ensured we would be successful in any contingency operations in the Baltic region,” said Tkach. “I could not be prouder of our Soldiers and the accomplishments of our little multinational artillery group.”

U.S. Soldiers assigned to Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3-1 ABCT fire the M109A7 Paladin howitzer during a joint live fire exercise in Camp Ādaži, Latvia, Dec. 15, 2022.



Members of the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) band, stand after a performance at the Mustamäe Cultural Center Kaja in Tallinn, Estonia on Jan. 9, 2023. The 1 ID is currently working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe.



BIG RED ONE BAND PLAYS EUROPE



Story and photos by Spc. Charles Leitner

“We want to try to make Estonia feel like home,”

said Lusin

TALLINN, Estonia – On the third floor of a vacated studio apartment in the old town square of Tallinn, Estonia, U.S. Soldiers of the 1st infantry Division (1 ID) band fiddle with their instruments on Jan. 8, 2023.

Some oil brass pistons or practice the set list, stretching the muscles in their fingers and jaws in the process as others tape hand warmer packets to areas of their instruments that are prone to freeze. They will be playing outside where it is negative 10 degrees Celsius, about 14 degrees Fahrenheit. For nearly three months, the band circumnavigated an area rife with different cultures and



ABOVE

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Dave Gerasch, a drummer in the 1 ID band, prepares his dress uniform before taking the stage at the Mustamäe Cultural Center Kaja in Tallinn, Estonia on Jan. 9, 2023.



Estonian dancers dressed in traditional clothing walk through the old town square before a performance by the 1 ID band in Tallinn, Estonia on Jan. 8, 2023.



U.S. Army Warrant Officer Cena Duran, commander and conductor of the 1 ID band, performs during a show at the old town center in Tallinn, Estonia on Jan. 9, 2023.



languages, engaging with those communities that have hosted U.S. Army units operationally assigned to the 1 ID in Europe.

“The highlights have definitely been the collaborations with our NATO allies,” said U.S. Army Warrant Officer Cena Duran, the commander and conductor of the 1 ID band.

The band’s tour began after their arrival at a forward operating station in Poland on Nov. 20, 2022. Since then, their journey has taken them through town squares, concert halls and tents located throughout many Baltic states where U.S. Soldiers are stationed in support of NATO allies and partners.

They played a Christmas show in an audience packed square in Bolesławiec, finishing their set with a rendition of “Carol of the Bells,” a popular holiday song written by the Ukrainian composer, Mykola Leontovych, in 1914. In Vilnius, they were joined by the Lithuanian armed forces band to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the country’s admittance into NATO.

ABOVE

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Larry Dean, an Army musician assigned to the 1 ID Band, performs in a combined concert with the Lithuanian Military Band for the 20th Anniversary of the Lithuanian invitation to join NATO during the Lithuanian Armed Forces Day celebration at Vilnius, Lithuania, Nov. 23, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lianne Hirano)

“It was my first time leaving the United States with the Army to perform in a capacity like this,” said Northup



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ernesto Luque, an Army musician assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Band (1 ID) performs in a brass band for the 20th Anniversary of the Lithuanian invitation to join NATO during the Lithuanian Armed Forces Day celebration at Vilnius, Lithuania, Nov. 23, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lianne Hirano)



“It was my first time leaving the United States with the Army to perform in a capacity like this,” said U.S. Army Spc. Mark Northup, a saxophonist in the 1 ID band. “The overwhelming response has been wonderful, I am just glad we can reach out to both troops and civilians.”

But of all their performances, one stood out more than the rest. While in Estonia, a small wind section of the 1 ID band had the opportunity to play at the Vabaduse School, a

school for Ukrainian refugees.

The school was founded less than a year ago with the first students arriving in February 2022, shortly after the start of the conflict in Ukraine. Currently, it teaches over five hundred children between the ages of 12 and 18. According to Vladislave Lusin, the head of communications at the school, most of the students traveled to Tallinn with at least one parent. Some traveled alone and are living with relatives or foster parents.

U.S. Army Sgt. Erec VonSeggern, a flutist with the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) band, speaks to students at the Vabaduse School, a school for Ukrainian refugees, before a performance in Tallinn, Estonia on Jan. 9, 2023.

“We are really trying to offer some extra-curricular activities for our students,” said Lusin. “We want to try to make Estonia feel like home.”

The students are in the process of learning Estonian and few understand English, but a common tongue flowed from the notes that resounded from the instruments. Northrup went on to say that through music, members of the 1 ID band are able to interact with communities in a way most of the conventional military cannot.

“The 1st Infantry Division has infantry

capability, we have artillery capability and we have human capability with our band performing the international language of music,” said U.S. Army Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., commander of Division Artillery, 1 ID.

After their performance at the school, the 1 ID band finished their time in Estonia at the Mustamäe Cultural Center Kaja. There they played a new set to a full hall with songs made known by The Weekend and Adele. They will finish their European tour with one more stop at the forward operating station in Bolesławiec after which they will return to Fort Riley, Kansas.

U.S. Army Spc. Trystan Fritts, a trombonist and upright bassist in the 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) band, plays during a performance at the old town center in Tallinn, Estonia on Jan. 9, 2023.

BULL BATTERY *BLASTS* *INTO THE* *EUROPEAN THEATER*

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Matthew Foster



TORUŃ, Poland – U.S. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bull Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment (1-7 FA), 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted live fire training certification exercises, to be fully combat capable and ready to fight to defend allied nations' sovereignty, Jan. 16-20, 2023.

The 1-7 FA has recently deployed to Poland to bolster the current U.S. fighting forces positioned throughout Europe.

“Here today we’re finishing up our platoon certification as an artillery battery,” said U.S. Army Capt. Paige Olson, an artillery field officer and commander of the 1-7 FA. “This is critical because it enables us to adapt as platoons; we can operate independently on our own, especially here in Poland in the smaller more condensed forest areas.”

The ability to operate independently strengthens the warfighting capabilities of the individual combat units.

U.S. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bull Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) utilizes M109A7 Paladin howitzers during a live fire exercise at Toruń, Poland, Jan. 17, 2023. The 1 ID is proudly working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps America's forward deployed corps in Europe.

“We can split up our platoons, one for survivability and two, to be able to conduct mass fires if need be during training exercises or live combat situations,” said Olson.

Live fire training exercises enable Soldiers to operate as cohesive units ready to engage opposition forces at a moment’s notice.

“It’s important because it gives us an opportunity to come out here and test our systems in an austere environment,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Philip M. Taylor, a cannon crewmember and platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon, 1-7 FA. “At this platoon level, we need to be able to operate together and be able to fight as a team.”

Training opportunities like this allow U.S. Soldiers to utilize their critical problem-solving skills to quickly react, adapt and overcome obstacles.

“Being ready to fight allows us to show that we can act and fight proficiently with accurate fire on each weapon system for each section,” said U.S. Army Capt. Robert Koryus, an artillery officer and 1-7 FA battalion fire direction officer. “We are going beyond that in order to prepare

“We are prepared to fight and we will defend the people of Poland and our allies,” said Olson

our platoons to support all of our NATO partners with Soldiers that are sufficient and autonomous in operations.”

Individual nations’ military forces work together to create stability in the European theater through interoperability and cooperation between NATO allies and partners.

“Working hand in hand with our NATO Allies



U.S. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bull Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (1 ID), prepares to reposition a M109A7 Paladin howitzer to another location during a live fire exercise at Toruń, Poland, Jan. 17, 2023.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bull Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) engage targets utilizing M109A7 Paladin howitzers during a live fire exercise at Toruń, Poland, Jan. 17, 2023.

and partners and being able to make connections, whether it was Estonia, the Baltics, Germany, Italy, France or the UK,” said Koryus. “We are here to work with our allies and show that we can provide accurate and timely fires on a joint level.”

Recent events within the European theater have had a significant impact and effect among the allied nations communities and populations which reinforces the importance of the U.S. and NATO partners ability to defend and deter aggression.

“I’ve been working closely with people within the community, and the people are

happy that we are here,” said Olson. “One of the civilian employees’ daughter was inconsolable after what had happened. She was afraid that would happen here in Poland but was comforted and able to peacefully sleep when she was told that the Americans are still here.”

Olson concluded with the importance of the U.S. presence in Poland and how it impacts training.

“These exercises show the people that we are here,” said Olson. “We are prepared to fight and we will defend the people of Poland and our allies.”

U.S. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bull Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (1 ID) engage targets utilizing M109A7 Paladin howitzers by firing 155mm artillery rounds from M284 cannons onto designated targets during a live fire exercise at Toruń, Poland, Jan. 17, 2023.

Year of the NCO

BOARD

QUESTIONS

of the month

1. What does ADP 6-22 cover?
2. How many Leader Competencies are there and what are they?
3. What subject does ADP 3-90 cover?
4. What are the three Army Attributes?
5. What is the distinguishing characteristic of the land domain?
6. Who establishes Army policy for developing doctrinal terms?
7. What are Offensive operations intentions?
8. What is ISR?
9. Describe Army sustainment?
10. What is MDMP?
11. What is Improvisation?
12. Define the Troop leading procedures.
13. What is prudent risk?
14. A leader needs to be self-aware of what?
15. Describe an Army leader.

ANSWER KEY:

1. Army Leadership 2. Three- Lead, Develop and Achieve 3. Offense and Defense 4. Character, Presence and Intellect 5. The presence of humans in large numbers. 6. United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) 7. To defeat and destroy enemy forces and seize terrain, resources and population centers. 8. Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) 9. The provision of logistics, personnel services and health service support necessary to maintain operations until successful mission completion. 10. Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) 11. The ability to adapt sustainment operations to unexpected situations or circumstances affecting a mission. 12. A dynamic process used by small-unit leaders to analyze a mission, develop a plan and prepare for an operation. 13. A deliberate exposure to potential injury or loss when the commander judges the outcome in terms of mission accomplishment as worth the cost. Opportunities come with risks. 14. Their strengths and limitations and apply them accordingly. 15. Anyone who by virtue of assumed role or assigned responsibility inspires and influences people to accomplish organizational goals. Army leaders motivate people both inside and outside the chain of command to pursue actions, focus thinking and shape decisions for the greater good of the organization.

The NCO

CREED



No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as “The Backbone of the Army”. I am proud of the Corps of noncommissioned officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a noncommissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION