

# DANGER FORWARD



A U.S. Soldier with 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stands on top of an M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle at the annual Tanks in Town memorial re-enactment event in Estinnes, Belgium, on Aug. 28, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)

# Foreword



**TOP:** From left to right, Brigadier Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Major General Terry Allen and Lieutenant General George S. Patton, March 1943. Maj. Gen. Terry de la Mesa Allen Sr. commanded Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division in the North Africa campaign and the invasion of Sicily.

**BOTTOM:** From left, German Colonel Wolfgang Schmidt, deputy commander of 41st Armored Brigade, Polish Maj. Jaroslaw Lobos, the senior officer of the civil affairs branch assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Division, and U.S. Army Col. John B. Mountford, Deputy Commanding Officer - Maneuver for the 1st Infantry Division, speak to each other while observing a multinational live-fire exercise that is part of Defender Europe at Mielno Range, Poland, May 17, 2022.





# Message From the Staff



Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families and Friends,

Fall is now in full swing and as you well know, our Big Red One team continues to conduct multiple missions across the globe. We remain humbled by the professionalism, devotion and duty our Soldiers continue to show as they perform exceptionally well both in Europe and at Fort Riley.

In Europe, our focus to support NATO and our Allies continues through community events and rigorous training exercises. Despite an arduous work schedule, Soldiers are busy taking classes, studying for promotion boards, and finding further opportunities for personal growth.

Recently, we have experienced some changes in Europe within the 1st Infantry Division as units in Europe rotate in and out of theater. Notably, we recently welcomed the Soldiers of the Iron Eagle Brigade from Fort Bliss, Texas, replacing the Air CAV Brigade as they traveled back to Fort Hood, Texas.

The Greywolf Brigade continues their readiness training in Poland and are forging lasting bonds with our Polish Allies. The Brigade was able to take a short break from their training to host an Army 10-Miler event with Polish military and community members to bring people together for the annual event.

From Sweden to Romania, our teammates in the Iron Brigade are supporting training efforts throughout the European theatre, sending a powerful message to both our Allies and adversaries.

Soldiers with 1ID DIVARTY continue to lead our efforts in the Baltics as we provide ready and postured, combat-credible forces through multinational training exercises to enhance our cohesion and interoperability.

Our presence in Europe has been fundamental towards enhancing our abilities to respond to any situation that may arise. By improving our ability to communicate, train and coordinate across the theatre, we continue to strengthen our bonds with our host nation militaries while maintaining our effectiveness as a combat ready force.

As always, the Big Red One stands ready to support our Nation's call. In doing so, we lean on the support of our Families to complete those missions. Thank you for everything you continue to do for our Soldiers.

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

**CHRISTOPHER L. MULLINAX**  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
Division Command Sergeant Major



1

# NAMEJS Exercise Paints Long Range Picture with Rapid Response Demonstration

(Story by Spc. Charles Leitner)



A U.S. Soldier with 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, unloads an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) from a C-130 attached to the 352nd Special Operations Wing, at Liepāja International Airport in Liepāja, Latvia Sept. 26, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)

LIEPĀJA, Latvia – Two M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) were deployed via rapid aerial insertion by combined forces working alongside U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) to demonstrate the movement capabilities of the missile systems to locations in Ādaži and Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26 and 27, 2022.

In Latvia, joint U.S. military personnel of 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade and the 1st Infantry Division Artillery utilized two C-130 Hercules aircraft, attached to the 352nd Special Operations Wing, as part of NAMEJS Exercise, to deliver the weapons systems to both locations. After successful delivery, the HIMARS moved to Ādaži and conducted a dry fire drill immediately upon arrival. HIMARS located at a firing point near Liepāja conducted a live fire exercise using two Reduced-Range Practice Rockets (RRPR).

“It’s been nothing but great since we’ve been out here,” said Cpt. William A. Christner, commander of Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade. “We have this launcher [in Liepāja] and we have another launcher that flew into Spilve airfield and I have two more launchers at Camp Ādaži supporting the maneuver brigade.”

This quick response exercise, performed in tandem with Latvian Armed Forces was conducted to display how fast long range artillery



A soldier with the Latvian National Guard's 4th Brigade, 44th Infantry Battalion speaks with U.S. Army Sgt. Jacob L. Keefe, a multiple launch rocket and high mobility artillery rocket system crewmember with Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, at a firing point during a Latvian-led combined military exercise in Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)

assets can be mobilized across Europe.

“This is tactical operations with strategic effect,” said Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., commander of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery, the unit known as “Drumfire.”

It is important to know NATO’s capabilities and to understand what each partner can do; what the United States can do, what the Latvian military can do and how to better work together, said Lt. Col. Viktors Kareckis, battalion commander for the Latvian National Guard’s 4th Brigade, 44th Infantry Battalion.

“I can say that being together is good,” Kareckis said.

Kareckis and his unit coordinated force protection alongside U.S. Soldiers during NAMEJS, a Latvian-led combined military exercise.

“It’s important that we maintain our readiness and our lethality to be able to support operations worldwide,” said U.S. Army Maj. Jenkins L. Dove, an operations officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. “It’s great to see us increasing our ability to work together and use this system in any location.”

Designed for rapid deployment, HIMARS are wheeled missile launcher



U.S. Army Spc. Jamil P. Samuel, a multiple launch rocket and high mobility artillery rocket system crewmember with Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, remotely controls an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System ( HIMARS) at Liepāja International Airport during a Latvian-led combined military exercise in Liepāja, Latvia, Sep. 26, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)



Two Reduced-Range Practice Rockets (RRPR), fired from an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) attached to Baker Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, fly over the Baltic Sea during a Latvian-led combined military exercise in Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 27, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Caşandra B. Ancheta)

systems capable of launching multiple guided artillery strikes on long range targets. This missile system is capable of carrying one pod of six guided rockets or one pod of a larger extended range missile. HIMARS is capable of rolling onto an aircraft, rolling off of an aircraft and firing within two minutes of landing. According to Christner, the rockets can fire up to 70 km. (approx. 45 miles) while the guided missile can fire up to 270 km. (approx. 170 miles).

“The launcher can roll up to a firing position, acquire its position via GPS and be ready to shoot within thirty seconds,” said Christner. “One of the advantages the HIMARS has is its mobility. It’s a wheeled vehicle so it’s much faster and can go a lot more places than a tracked vehicle. It’s also mobile in that it can get on an aircraft and fly to austere airfields to extend its range.”

Combined military forces with the United States and Latvian armed forces used this exercise to train together so as to learn from one another and operate more effectively as partners.

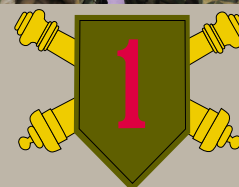
“It’s been a great time being able to support the Latvian defense forces during their missions and training scenarios,” said Christner.



Lt. Col. Viktors Kareckis, battalion commander of the Latvian National Guard's 4th Brigade, 44th Infantry Battalion speaks with reporters during a Latvian-led combined military exercise in Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charles Leitner)



U.S. Army Maj. Jenkins L. Dove, an operations officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery and a Latvian National Armed Forces officer share a laugh during a Latvian-led field artillery live fire exercise, NAMEJS, at Liepāja, Latvia, Sept. 26, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)





# Memorial Event Showcases Key Battle and Duty to Remember History

(Story by Spc. Charles Leitner)



Children play on top of a U.S. Army M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle as part of the Tanks in Town festivities held at Estinnes, Belgium, Aug. 27, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Agustín Montañez)

**ESTINNES, Belgium** – U.S. Army Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, gathered with veterans and historical enthusiasts to support the local community near Mons, Belgium, on Aug. 27 and 28, 2022, to commemorate the liberation of Belgium and the historic Battle of the Mons Pocket.

For the local community, veterans and enthusiasts, who spend hours intricately researching and recreating historically accurate uniforms, memorial re-enactment events like Tanks in Town celebrate the importance of holding on to the stories of history.

“You get to see through the eyes of those who were there,” said Anita Motemans, a Belgian woman attending the event. “You get to experience the way it was like for Soldiers in the war.”

The peace of Hainaut province and the Walloon region seems to be disturbed only by the calls of the donkeys whenever they feel they’ve been ignored. Except for the sounds coming from a company of re-pur-

posed tanks and historical re-enactors, it is difficult to imagine that not one but two major battles in both world wars occurred here near a small town nestled in the countryside along the Franco-Belgium border. But by the end of the summer, in 1914 and 1944, the area experienced battles that would decide the outcome of both global conflicts.

The first major battle of World War I occurred in the region on Aug. 23, 1914, when British forces attempted to hold their lines along the Mons-Condé Canal against an advancing German army. The British agreed to hold the area for 24 hours and had spent the day prior digging in along the canal to prevent the Germans from flanking the French, who were busy fighting a few miles down the road near Charleroi.

On Sept. 2, 1944, almost exactly thirty years later, Allied Soldiers of the 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, assisted the Belgians in driving enemy forces from the area in what is now known as the Battle of the Mons Pocket. During the battle, Allied forc-





U.S. Soldiers aboard an M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle lead a parade as part of the Tanks in Town festivities held at Estinnes, Belgium, Aug. 27, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Agustín Montañez)

es succeeded in capturing nearly 25,000 enemy soldiers. In doing so, Belgian and Allied forces could regroup before pushing east towards Berlin.

“To see how technology has progressed between then and now is incredible,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Babinec, a section leader with 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, who spent the weekend alongside his Soldiers giving visitors tours of an M109 Bradley Fighting Vehicle on static display throughout the event. “We can kind of see how they fought in the forties with the weapons and vehicles they had.”

Thousands of visitors had the opportunity to retrace the steps of the liberators in an immersive atmosphere as tanks rumbled through the fields, giving rides for a fare, and collectors of history posed in their military garb while their children climbed on top of the vehicles, a museum’s collection of Sherman tanks, U.S. Army Jeeps and half-tracks.

“Being here is a celebration of the liberation of Belgium from Germany in WWII,” said Babinec. “It’s interesting to see how important our role during that time was and how it continues to affect people.”

Events like Tanks in Town, which memorialize certain moments of history, are not only symbolic of the liberation of Belgium and Europe but also of the collective history shared by every descendent of that tumultuous era and beyond. For re-enactors, it is a way to give back and preserve history, said Joakim Steinweden, a German re-enactor with the U.S. Military Vehicle Club and the Vice President of Historical Events at the General Creighton W. Abrams Association of the United



A young boy laughs while wearing a U.S. combat vehicle crewman helmet as part of the Tanks in Town festivities held at Estinnes, Belgium, Aug. 27, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Agustín Montañez)

States Army (AUSA) Chapter in Frankfurt, Germany.

“People in Germany, especially the people that have been old enough to be part of the divided Germany, appreciate the support of NATO and the Americans,” said Steinweden. “During the Cold War, my generation was sleeping safely because of the duty of American Soldiers. The Germans never forgot about the Berlin Airlift. It is still today the strongest symbol for the German-American friendship. We did not forget.”







# US Army's 'Iron Eagles' assume aviation responsibility in Europe, bid farewell to 1st Air Cav

(Story by Capt. William Stroud)



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, left, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, gives the authorization to conclude a transfer of authority ceremony at Powidz, Poland, Sept. 12, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Hassani Ribera)

POWIDZ, Poland - The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division officially cased its colors as the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, affectionately known as the "Iron Eagles," assumed responsibility over the aviation component of Atlantic Resolve in a historic Transfer of Authority Ceremony at the 33rd Air Base, Powidz, Poland, Sept. 12, 2022.

Held inside a large aviation hangar, a Polish Air Force C-130 cargo plane and MI-17 helicopter set the backdrop while the Iron Eagles' aerial might arrayed front and center for the ceremony. The Polish and American flags waved in unison as the renowned "Old Ironsides" and "First Team" patches were showcased in the morning sun.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, stand at attention after a transfer of authority ceremony at Powidz, Poland, Sept. 12, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Hassani Ribera)

Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, presided over the ceremony. Local community partners, both military and civilian, observed as the Air Cav cased their colors for a ceremonious return home and the Iron Eagles uncased their colors, symbolizing the official start of their rotation. Only brigade and battalion command teams participated in the formation of troops. Having already redeployed most of its force, 1ACB's senior leaders remained behind to complete the final task of casing their colors for the journey home to Fort Hood, Texas.

The TOA Ceremony has taken place in Illersheim, Germany, since 2014 for rotational aviation units to Atlantic Resolve. For the first time in history, a Regionally Aligned Forces Combat Aviation Brigade is headquartered in Poland. This move was strategically enacted to reassure our Allies and Partners across Europe and deter aggression from adversaries seeking to destroy the bonds of friendship. "As I travel around Europe, I'm frequently asked why we are here," Meyer addressed the formation, "We're here because we volunteered. Each and every one of us raised our right hand and took an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That's why we are here...because we volunteered. Our country needed us to deploy to Eastern Europe to defend freedom, assure our allies, and deter aggression. That's why we are here."

The Air Cav's mission has finally come to an end.

"For the Soldiers of the Air Cav, thank you for being part of the 'Big Red One,'" Meyer resumed. "Thank you for your service to our nation and for defending freedom. It has been an honor to serve with you."

The Iron Eagles' mission begins now.

Meyer concluded, "For the Soldiers of the Iron Eagles. Welcome to the "Big Red One" and Fifth Corps. We are proud to serve alongside you and continue defending the values that make our nation great."

Following Meyer, Col. Timothy R. Jaeger, the 1ACB commander, addressed the audience and his Troopers.

"The transfer of authority between the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and the Iron Eagle Brigade marks a change in units but not a change in dedicated support to assure our allies and partners and deter our enemies who may wish to do harm to those who share our common



A U.S. Army AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopter assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, stands as a display at a transfer of authority ceremony at Powidz, Poland, Sept. 12, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Hassani Ribera)



values,” Jaeger said.

For nine enduring months, 1ACB has lived and trained with allied and partner militaries across 11 distinct NATO countries to build interoperability and enhance the “Stronger Together” Ethos. They executed real-world MEDEVAC missions while providing multi-functional aviation support in Europe’s four Tier 1 and three Tier 2 NATO exercises.

Following Jaeger, Col. John A. Morris III, the 1AD CAB commander, addressed the Polish community and his Iron Eagles.

“What a great day to establish a new tradition! Today, we establish a new tradition and forge a new partnership with the community of Powidz, Poland,” Morris said. “For the first time, we will headquarter a Regionally Aligned Forces Combat Aviation Brigade within these grounds.”

It now falls to the mighty Iron Eagles and its premier aviation capabilities to support and train our NATO partners across Europe.

“The uncasing of our colors here today signifies the beginning of a new and exciting mission together. It serves as a powerful reminder of our commitment to Poland, the greater European community, and the NATO alliance,” Morris said empathetically. “We are thrilled to be here and look forward to serving with you.”

Morris concluded with a promise to partners and a command to the soldiers. “Iron Eagles, we have our mission. Build readiness, increase lethality, and stand with our Polish and NATO partners as we deter any adversary that would seek to tear us apart.”

The Iron Eagles will operate primarily out of Poland but has forward operating stations in other countries, such as Germany, Latvia, and Romania. The brigade is aligned under the mission command of the 1st Infantry Division Forward. 1ID is the mission command element for Atlantic Resolve as of July, 2021.

U.S. Army Europe and Africa has led the Department of Defense’s Atlantic Resolve land efforts by rotating units from CONUS to Europe since April, 2014. There are four types of U.S. Army Atlantic Resolve rotations – armored, aviation, sustainment task force, and division headquarters. Rotational units conduct bilateral, joint, and multinational training events across more than a dozen countries. Atlantic Resolve is funded by the European Deterrence Initiative, which enables the U.S. to enhance deterrence, increase readiness, and support NATO.



Poland, Sept. 12, 2022, the 1st Armored Division Assumed Responsibility for the aviation component of Atlantic Resolve under the 1st Infantry Division, Providing Air support capabilities to units deployed in Europe. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Hassani Ribera)



# GREYWOLF Hosts Army Ten- Miler in Poland

(Story by Staff Sgt. Charles Porter)



The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hosts the Army Ten-Miler event on Sept. 25th, 2022, in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. David Dumas)

**DRAWSKO POMORSKIE, Poland** - The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division hosted the Army Ten-Miler event, Sept. 25th, 2022, in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland. This is the first time the annual event took place there.

The Ten-Miler began in 1985, hosted by the U.S. Army in the nation's capital of Washington, D.C. Since its inception 37 years ago, more than 443,685 runners have participated, making it the world's third largest 10-mile road race.

This year's race was hosted by the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Over 500 participants showed up to run Drawsko Pomorskie's first Army Ten-Miler race. Participants included members of the U.S. and Polish armed forces, the Drawsko Pomorskie Fire and Police Departments, and Polish civilians.

"It's an opportunity to build partnership with our Polish allies and a chance to have that cultural experience 'out in the economy,' and for Polish people to participate in a longstanding army tradition," said U.S. Army Maj. Thomas F. Lorenson, battalion operations officer for

2-7 Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

"So we're doing it in conjunction with the main event in D.C., as a satellite race affiliated with it,"

The course started at Chopina Park and brought runners through the Polish countryside and streets of Drawsko Pomorskie, where they could experience some of the important landmarks throughout the city.

"We've done a lot of work to make it a quality event for everyone involved," said Lorenson. "It's a great opportunity for young soldiers to interact with the local population and to realize that there is a really important mission that we are all doing here in Poland."

U.S. Army Sgt. Eric Poindexter, assigned to Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was the first overall U.S. Army soldier to finish the race with a time of just over an hour.

"It was a great race, I am honored to have the privilege and opportunity to be able to run the Army Ten-Miler here in Poland," said Sgt. Poindexter.

1st Lt. Annika Smith, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was the first U.S. Army female soldier to finish.

"The course was very challenging," said Smith. "This event was awesome. It was a very cool experience that I will remember for a long time."

Hosting this event with the Polish military and civilian population helps to grow lasting partnerships between 3ABCT and regional security partners, as well as the local communities in the area.

"To our Polish friends here today and our partners from the Polish Military, thank you for having us," said U.S. Army Col. John B. Gilliam, commander of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "The Army Ten-Miler is a big deal for us back in the states and we appreciate the opportunity to share this event with people here. It continues to speak to the great bonds we have both with the Polish military as well as the Polish people."







The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hosts the Army Ten-Miler event on Sept. 25th, 2022, in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland. Events like these continue to build partnership between GREWOLF and the local population of Poland. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. David Dumas)



The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hosts the Army Ten-Miler event on Sept. 25th, 2022, in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland. (U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. David Dumas)



# Chaplain's Corner

With the arrival of Fort Riley Apple Days, we prepare ourselves for the change of summer to winter, as we begin our journey through autumn. Fall is a time of sweaters, changing colors, and of course, pumpkin spice lattes.

However, with the changing of seasons comes the reminder of the one aspect of life that never changes:

**Change.** Change is a constant, particularly for the Soldiers and Family members of the Big Red One.

Changes of Command, Changes of Responsibility, TDY, PCS, and deployments are all common Army changes.

Marriages, the birth of babies, and children graduating high school, are joyful periods of change. However, some change is painful, and often clouded in uncertainty. Illness, the passing of loved ones, or elderly parents too frail to care for at home.

During these seasons of change we may only see the darkness.

Bono, the lead vocalist of U2, sings, "...and if the night runs over, and if, the day won't last, and if your way should falter, along this stony path. It's just a moment, this time will pass."

He sings of the experience of being in the darkness when we are "stuck in a moment and can't get out of it." When change has reared its ugly head.

His lyrics are based on Psalm 30:5. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning." The fact of life is change happens, and sometimes it brings confusion, doubt, and pain.

During our journey on the stony path, we must remember, the Lord wants to join us on the journey. To comfort us while we mourn, and to give us strength when we are weak.

He desires to transform our dark nights into the joy of the morning. To change our despair into hope.

So, while change is a constant, and brings with it many joys, challenges, and occasionally pain, we need to remember to invite the Lord into our journey. To give him thanks for the good, and to ask him to change our darkness into the light of morning.

**Lt. Col. Rich West, 1st Infantry Division Chaplain**

