

DANGER FORWARD



A U.S. Army M1A2 Abrams tank assigned to 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, gets ready before a platoon live-fire exercise at Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, Aug. 17, 2022. The 3/4 ABCT is among other units assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, 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 Spc. Hedil Hernández)

Foreword- Page 2
1st Infantry Division- Page 3
1st Inf. DIVARTY- Page 4
3/4th ABCT - Page 5
1st ACB - Page 6
3/1st ABCT "Greywolf"- Page 8
1/3rd ABCT "Raiders"- Page 9
Cupcake Recipe- Page 11

Foreword



Soldiers adapt, equipment evolves but war never changes. Above, a call back to training as we fight features a photo from U.S. Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 6th Infantry Regiment in a trench in Las Cruces on 10 April, 1916. Below, we have U.S. Soldiers assigned to “Chaos” Company, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, engaging targets during a live-fire exercise at Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, Aug. 4, 2022. Although training changes, adapting to new techniques, the fundamentals remain.





1

Remembering “Big Red One” Heroes of D-Day

(Story by Sgt. Agustín Montañez)



NORMANDY, France — History is full of significant military dates and events. However, very few have had an impact on a global scale and left a historical footprint, such as D-Day.

“If any single day can credibly be presented as the defining moment of a century, it’s 6 June 1944, the day of the allied landings at Normandy,” said Peter Jennings, former executive director at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The collaboration between a dozen Western-Allied countries made possible the success of the amphibious Normandy Invasion, also known as Operation Neptune. This operation was, so far, their most significant blow to Nazi Germany during World War II and the largest seaborne invasion in history. Among the U.S. forces, one of its most distinguished elements, who spearheaded the assault and whose accomplishments were pivotal to changing the tide of war, is the 1st Infantry Division, also known as the “Big Red One”.

This year people in the town of Carentan, France, celebrated the 78th anniversary of the events that transpired on June 6, 1944.

In the early morning of D-Day, the division’s motto of “No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great. Duty first!” was put to the test.

U.S. Army Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe, tasked the Big Red One Soldiers with capturing a 5-mile stretch of the coast of Normandy code-named Omaha Beach. The complexity of their mission at this beach was unlike any of the others. Omaha not only had harsh waters and terrain to maneuver in, but it was also one of the most restricted and heavily defended sections within Operation Neptune. For that reason, the combat-seasoned 1st Infantry Division was chosen, among other elements, to complete the task.

Being true to their motto, approximately 2,400 Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice that day. However, it was not in vain. Thanks to them, more than 34,000 Allied troops were able to land at the beach by nightfall. During the next five days, the Big Red One drove inland and secured the remaining beachhead for the arrival of additional troops, equipment, and supplies. Subsequently, the division moved eastward across France and spent nearly six months of continuous fighting against the enemy. By the end of the campaign, 17 of its members were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Moreover, for their individual and collective actions on June 6, 1944, the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division have three different monuments honoring them on the beaches of Normandy: the Signal Monument, the Charles Shay Indian Memorial, and the 1st Infantry Division Monument.

This region and its people have not forgotten.

According to the Mayor of Carentan, Jean-Pierre L'honneur, “while war still knocks on Europe’s doors, it is more important than ever to remember the horrors of past conflicts, and how precious and fragile peace between people is.”

Despite being thousands of miles from the U.S., the townspeople of Carentan haven’t forgotten the courage and sacrifice displayed by the veterans of D-Day. Seventy-eight years later, that event remains a historic reminder of how the strength of the alliance and steadfast resolve to shared ideals proved to be the turning point in a brutal fight against tyranny.

A fight that spanned over three continents, raged for more than five years, and came with a staggering cost of hundreds of thousands of allied casualties and many more civilians.

That historic day on Omaha Beach, the Big Red One, didn’t just help change the fate of WWII. In the fight for democracy, liberty, and human dignity, the 1st Infantry Division helped change the course of human history.

“No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great. Duty first!”



U.S. Soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division participate in the D-Day ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, France, June 6, 2022. The event honored the men of the “Big Red One” who fought in the invasion of Normandy. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Agustín Montañez)

1st Infantry Division Artillery Celebrates its 105th birthday

(Story by Sgt. Eliezer Meléndez and Spc. Hassani Ribera Soto)

ADAZI, Latvia – The early morning sun shined off the Division colors as the 1st Infantry Division Artillery (DIVARTY) celebrated its 105th birthday since it was established as the 1st Infantry Division's field artillery brigade on May 24th, 1917.

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. David Chastain, operations sergeant major, of DIVARTY called the brigade to attention as U.S. Army Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., commander of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery, addressed the formation with remarks on DIVARTY's birthday and continued with an awards ceremony. Soldiers received awards for their efforts and dedication to the duty of 1st DIVARTY, including the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Division Coins, and Battalion coins, showcasing various mottos and symbols important to the brigade. As Ikena walked down the line, presenting the awards to the Soldiers, he spoke with them, thanking them and recognizing them individually for their efforts, hard work, and dedication to the mission. Few units in the U.S. armed forces have been around as long as the DIVARTY, whose rich history goes back to World War 1.

DIVARTY was constituted as Headquarters, 1st Field Artillery Brigade during World War I, and assigned to the 1st Expeditionary Division, later known as the 1st Infantry Division. It completed its organization in August 1917 in France and participated in various battles, including the Third Battle of the Aisne, and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, for which they earned battle streamers.

"32 campaign streamers, if you look, seven campaign streamers from World War one, in a one year period of time," said Ikena, during a speech. "Remember our past, remember that those 32 Battle streamers came at a pretty high cost, honor them by standing on their shoulders to operate as we're operating today, making a significant difference again, to assure our allies."

After WWI, it returned to the U.S. and moved to various bases before being disbanded on October 16th, 1939, at Fort Hoyle, Maryland.

It was activated on October 1st, 1940, and participated following the outbreak of World War II, fighting in North Africa and Europe, earning battle streamers for their actions.

Following its return from Germany after WWII, it was re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Division Artillery in 1957, and fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970.

In 1990 to 1991, it participated in the Gulf War with the liberation and defense of Kuwait and inactivated on November 15th, 1995, at Fort Riley, Kansas.

It participated in the war on terrorism, and on the October 16th, 2015, the 1st Infantry Division Artillery was activated and received attachment of all fires elements to standardise gunnery and fire



U.S. Army Col. Richard J. Ikena Jr., commander of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery, gives a speech about the history of the 1st DIVARTY on its 105th birthday to his Soldiers at Forward Operating Site Adazi, Latvia, May 24, 2022. The 1st Infantry Division is among other units assigned to V Corps, America's forward deployed corps in Europe that works alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Eliezer Meléndez)

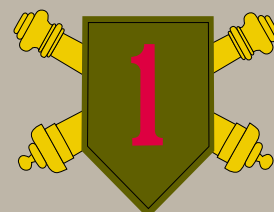
support procedures, integrate and fires in support of maneuver operations, and synchronise the effects of joint fires to ensure combat-ready forces for the 1st Infantry Division.

"I think it's a lot to try to bear that weight, the responsibility to do them proud, the people that have actually given their lives for the Big Red One," said U.S. Army Spc. Christopher White assigned to 1st DIVARTY. "I personally think it means a lot to be able to wear the division's patch, you see it in movies and games and all that kind of stuff. So it was just kind of surreal seeing it there. When you're actually in the unit, there's a lot of people who see its history, learn about it, knowing it's a big deal, it means a lot."

Currently, DIVARTY is one of the units stationed in Europe in support of NATO allies. Historically, it was one of the first units deployed to the theatre during World War 1; its presence, a call back to its inception, and history supporting its allies.

"We are now a brigade headquarters here, with the ability to absorb subordinate battalions. Our NATO Allies are all thrilled that we are here. We are assuring them by being here. Every single one of our Soldiers are valuable with their contribution," said Ikena., speaking to his Soldiers. "I'm the face in the room that's representing the organization trying to do it to the best of my ability, but It's you, the 1st Infantry Division Artillery Soldiers, and your capability, your will, your sweat, and your tears. That is what they want and need."

DIVARTY provides a single proponent within the 1st Infantry Division for standardised fires certification and leader development while exemplifying effective mission command and supporting the seamless cross-attachment of units with standard procedures and a shared understanding of the fires warfighting capabilities.





Five Soldiers from Iron Brigade Save US Army \$26M since April

(Story by Sgt. Tara Fajardo Arteaga)



U.S. Army Pfc. Levi Green, an automatic test systems operator and maintainer assigned to 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, performs a diagnosis on a line replaceable unit at Skwierzyzna, Poland, Aug. 10, 2022. The 3/4 ABCT is among other units assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, 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 Sgt. Tara Fajardo Arteaga)

SKWIERZYNA, Poland – Since the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division hit the ground running in April 2022, and they began working on becoming fit to fight during their rotation in Poland. By using their Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS) to repair versus replace the Line Replaceable Units (LRU) within Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A2 Abrams tanks, they have saved the Army \$26 million in just five months.

Back in the summer of 2021, the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was one of the first Brigades to field the NGATS system, allowing them to prepare for the current mobilization.

“We have been fielded two NGATS systems, consisting of 4 containers that have electronic diagnosis and troubleshooting systems inside of them along with work benches and an overhead lift system,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Patrick Reardon, commander of the 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “The Soldiers will take an LRU, they’ll put it on the lift system, they’ll set it on the workbench, and hook up the wiring harnesses to the LRU. Those wiring harnesses feed back into the electronic troubleshooting and diagnosis system and then they’ll run the diagnosis. What the NGATS does is determine where the faults are inside of that LRU. So it will tell us that a circuit card is faulty, then we know we just need to replace that one circuit card to bring the entire LRU fully mission capable for that Bradley.”

The LRU is the brains of the warfighting machinery, and without the brains, it becomes non-mission capable.

“Every tank and every Bradley has an LRU, these are basically boxes full of electronic components inside that perform various functions on those platforms,” said Reardon. “A simple LRU could cost anywhere from \$80,000 to hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the capability that we bring with the NGATS system is the ability to repair the internals of those very expensive components. So, where we can buy and replace a circuit card for \$14,000 and crack open an LRU and replace the simple circuit card, it saves us from purchasing a whole new LRU that may be \$80,000 - \$100,000.”

Reardon is proud of the Soldiers who run the NGATS, namely five Automatic Test Systems Operators and one Electronic Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Rodríguez. And rightfully so, the previous unit, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, saved an estimated \$3 million in the first few months of their Poland rotation. The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team has already saved eight times that amount in five months.

“We already saved, based on the troubleshooting and repairs that we did, a lot more exponentially compared to how the last unit did,” said Rodríguez.

When asked why, Rodríguez responded, “They were using the old system, DSESTS, which is a predecessor system to NGATS.”

DSESTS stands for Direct Support Electrical Systems Test Sets and is being replaced by the more efficient NGATS system.

“DSESTS is the legacy system we have had for years,” said Reardon. “Over the last couple of years, the NGATS has replaced the DSESTS which has been around since probably the 80s. Army Materiel Command fielded us the NGATS platforms and that has proven to be much more efficient than the DSESTS system that we have used forever.”

The NGATS system allows for a more precise diagnosis of any issues that might be going on in an LRU that might need to be repaired or replaced.

“When we talk about our control systems and electronics, that’s really where we’re talking about LRUs,” said Reardon. “If our operational readiness number drops it’s generally because of LRU failures. And that’s where it’s so critical to get them diagnosed, repaired, and back in the fight so that the Soldiers can continue firing on those platforms and remain ready at all times.”



Commemorating the Buffalo Soldiers

(Story by Spc. Hassani Ribera Soto)

POZNAN, Poland – With the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, and the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment deploying to Europe, not many people know about the rich histories of these units and their roles as the original Buffalo Soldier units. July 28th commemorates the formation of the first regular U.S. Army regiments composed of African American Soldiers in 1866.

Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, U.S. Congress authorized the Army to establish Colored Regiments. Among these regiments, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were established. These units would participate in the westward expansion of the U.S., protecting settlers, establishing forts, and guarding mail routes in this new frontier.

During the Indian Wars, 17 African American Soldiers earned the Medal of Honor for valor in combat. In this conflict, they became known as Buffalo Soldiers. There is some dispute on how this term came to be known. The most known source is that Native Americans referred to them because of their curly, kinky hair that resembled bison fur.

Following the start of the Spanish-American War, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments left the west and fought in Cuba. In June 1898, they found themselves fighting alongside Col. Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders during the assault of San Juan Hill. During this war, five members of the 10th Cavalry Regiment earned the Medal of Honor.

Members of the 9th Cavalry Regiment also became the first park rangers of what would become the National Park Service, protecting wildlife from poachers and building roads and trails.

After Cuba, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to the Philippines to quell

an insurgency, serving with distinction and seizing the first major stronghold on the island of Luzon. After their return from the Philippines, the 9th and 10th Cavalry remained on the U.S.-Mexico border and participated in General John J. Pershing's hunt for Pancho Villa, a Mexican revolutionary who attacked a village named Columbus, New Mexico.

The election of President Woodrow Wilson prevented the Buffalo Soldiers from serving in Europe during World War I. However, they still made their presence known, as noncommissioned officers made up the leadership backbone of Black units sent with the American Expeditionary Force.

During the interwar period, the Army turned the 9th and 10th Cavalry from combat units into support units.

In 1948, President Harry Truman signed an executive order to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces, allowing African American Soldiers to fight alongside white Soldiers.

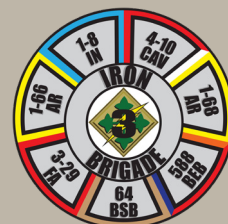
Currently, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments serve as parent regiments to two squadrons deployed to Europe. The 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, under the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is part of the regular armored brigade combat team in Poland, and the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment under the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, an additional armored brigade combat team deployed in Germany.



U.S. Army M1A2 Abrams tanks assigned to 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division line up before conducting a live fire accuracy screening test as part of Defender Europe 22 at Mielno Range at Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, May 11, 2022. Defender Europe 22 is a series of U.S. Army Europe and Africa multinational training exercises taking place in Eastern Europe. The exercise demonstrates U.S. Army Europe and Africa's ability to conduct large scale ground combat operations across multiple theaters in support of NATO. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Hedil Hernández)



Buffalo Soldiers Day on July 28 commemorates the formation of the first regular Army regiments comprised of African American soldiers on September 21, 1866, seventeen months after the end of the Civil War. Established by Congress, these regiments were the first peacetime, all-black regiments in the regular U.S. Army. (U.S. Army National Guard photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Gabriel Rivera)





Polish, U.S. Militaries Work Together for Successful Gunnery

(Story by Sgt. Tara Fajardo Arteaga)



MIROŚLAWIEC, Poland – U.S. Soldiers of Task Force Palehorse assigned to 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conduct aerial gunnery here, April 1-15, 2022.

The aerial gunnery training includes support operations utilizing the Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP), airfield management, and aviation maintenance. “The point of this training is to keep familiarity and increase the familiarization and connectivity within the squadron,” said Maj. Vernon Fergie, operations officer, assigned to 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, “not only does it exercise the pilots and the crews, but it also exercises maintenance and logistics, so we also have to have a tactical air command (TAC) out here to manage that as well.”

The Soldiers who are participating in the exercise are members of various units. “We are in a task force formation right now,” said Fergie, “so we have Black Hawks and medivac helicopters from different battalions attached to us.”

During the qualification, helicopter crew members in AH-64E Apache attack helicopters go through various tables with various objectives while engaging targets with a 30mm chain gun, 10-pound point detonated rockets, and flechettes.

Aerial gunnery exercises are important because they increase the rated crewmembers’ proficiency, allow them to know the limitations of their weapons, and enhance positive threat identification while overseas. “This is our job, and this is one of the times during the year that we get to come out and train in the same way that we would fight,” said Chief

Warrant Officer 2 Zach Nibbelink, Apache pilot assigned to Charlie Troop, 7th Squadron 17th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

This gunnery is helping to prepare Task Force Palehorse for real-world events by qualifying 22 Apache crews and 12 Black Hawk crews, all while conducting refueling and maintenance operations in a new location. “It improves the connectivity within the squadron,” said Maj. Vernon Fergie, “not only does it exercise the pilots and the crews, but it also exercises maintenance and logistics, so we also have to have a TAC out here to manage that.”

Task Force Palehorse has been training in Greece since the end of November 2021 and planned on conducting their gunnery there. However, they received a call and, within 48 hours, had to change their plans. Since then, they’ve been transitioning their movement to Poland and completed that movement at the beginning of March. For the last month, Task Force Palehorse has been conducting operations out of Powidz, Poland. They started planning this exercise as soon as they arrived in Poland.

“The initial coordination with the Polish unit was positive,” said Fergie, “we reached out, and they were very welcoming and accommodating. They helped us out from day one. This has improved our relations with our host nation. It would be very easy to come and do any follow-up training with the Polish.”

“The Polish have been very friendly and accommodating,” said Nibbelink. “This gunnery was on a short suspense, and they could facilitate the gunnery and work with us to make sure that we had everything we needed.”

Task Force Palehorse looks forward to successful gunnery to qualify their pilots and crew while maintaining relations with a NATO ally. Nibbelink commented, “It confirms what we already knew, that we can work with the Polish and get things done together, quickly.”



From left, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jacob Wojasinski, bravo troop pilot and U.S. Army Capt. Jacob Zinge, bravo troop commander, both assigned to 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, prepare an AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopter before completing table IV and table V qualification during Apache gunnery at Miroslawiec, Poland, April 13, 2022. The 1 ACB is among other units assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, 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 Sgt. Tara Fajardo Arteaga)

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Deploys to Europe

Story by Staff Sgt. Charles Porter



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, board a plane to deploy to the U.S. Army Europe and Africa area of operations, from Fort Hood, Texas, July 13, 2022. The Fort Hood-based 3ABCT, 1CD will go to Europe to reassure NATO allies, deter Russian aggression and to be prepared to support a range of other requirements in the region. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Porter)

FORT HOOD, Texas. — Approximately 4,200 troopers, primarily composed of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, will deploy to support NATO allies, deter further aggression against NATO member states and train with host-nation forces by the end of the month.

"Soldiers and Leaders of this illustrious organization, have trained hard and are prepared for the upcoming deployment and thank you for all that you will do as we head overseas," said Col. John Gilliam, commander of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division unload equipment after arriving in Poznan, Poland July 26, 2022. The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, 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. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ellison Schuman)

The 3rd ABCT recently completed one of the most successful rotations in recent history to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California in preparation for their deployment to Europe. Using new vehicles and equipment, including the Abrams M1A2 SEPv3 main battle tanks and Joint Lightweight Tactical Vehicles, the 3rd ABCT was able to test their combined arms capability.

"The truest test of readiness, a no notice deployment to a real world crisis in Europe, in support of European Command where this brigade has prepared to deploy to eastern Europe to reassure our NATO allies and to deter our adversaries on the European continent," said Maj. Gen. John B. Richardson, 1st Cavalry Division commanding general. 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team will replace the 1st Armored Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. These deployments are a one-for-one unit replacement which leaves the overall force posture in the region unchanged.

"It's your individual and collective task to create great moments," said Gilliam, "Show our allies how strong and effective a well-led ABCT can be and show our adversaries the folly of testing the U.S. Army. It will be a hell of a ride, and I look forward to serving with each of you."



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division arrive in Poznan, Poland, July 26, 2022. The 1st Cavalry Division 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. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ellison Schuman)



The Raider Brigade has a peachy Return Home

The Raider Brigade will begin their redeployment to Ft. Stewart, Georgia in August 2022. The brigade deployed to Germany in February 2022, as U.S. Army Europe and Africa's immediate response force to deter Russian aggression, and reinforce NATO allies and partners under the 1st Infantry Division and V Corps, America's Forward Deployed Corps in Europe. They will be replaced by the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, III Corps, out of Fort Hood, Texas.

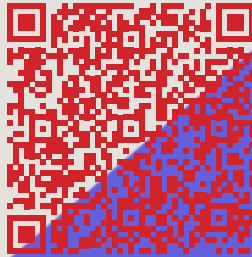
U.S. Army Col. Peter Moon, commander of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, said, "I am immensely proud of the Raider Soldiers' hard work and dedication to global security. I also want to thank all the families for their support and sacrifice. You are an integral part of our success."

During their deployment, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team trained in Grafenwoehr Training Area and completed Combined Resolve XVII at Joint Multinational Readiness Center with 11 other NATO allies and partners to enhance interoperability and readiness. The training and exercises completed throughout the deployment included squad-based live-fire exercises, combined live-fire exercises, M1 Abrams tank, Bradley, Paladin gunnery qualification tables, and joint live-fire exercises with other NATO elements.

"Our forward presence in Eastern Europe enabled us to assure our Allies and deter our adversaries," said Moon. "The Raider Brigade enhanced warfighting proficiency by training alongside our Allies and partners as we reinforced our ironclad commitment to NATO."

The Raider Brigade returned home by the end of August 2022.





Big Red One Velvet Cupcakes

Ingredients

Cake:

1 cups flour
3 tablespoons and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon and $\frac{1}{10}$ teaspoon unsweetened cocoa powder
 $\frac{2}{5}$ teaspoon baking soda
 $\frac{1}{5}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup and $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon and $\frac{7}{8}$ teaspoon sugar
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup and 1 tablespoon and $\frac{1}{6}$ teaspoon butter, softened
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ large eggs
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup and 1 tablespoon and $\frac{1}{6}$ teaspoon sour cream
3 tablespoons and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon and $\frac{1}{10}$ teaspoon milk
1 ounce bottle red food color
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting:

8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons and $\frac{1}{7}$ teaspoon butter, softened
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon and $\frac{7}{8}$ teaspoon sour cream
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract



Directions

Instructions Checklist

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
Line 30 muffin cups with paper liners.

Step 2

Make cake: Mix together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl; set aside.

Step 3

Beat sugar and butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Mix in sour cream, milk, food color, and vanilla. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until just blended; do not overbeat. Spoon batter into the prepared muffin cups, filling each $\frac{2}{3}$ full.

Step 4

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into a cupcake comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Cool in the pans on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Remove cupcakes from the pans; cool completely.

Step 5

While cupcakes are cooling, make frosting: Beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream, and vanilla extract in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth.

Step 6

Spread or pipe frosting onto cooled cupcakes.