

Former 3BCT and 505th PIR Commanders, Command Sergeants Major, and Panther Association members,

The Panther Brigade Combat Team (BCT) stands ready to jump, fight, and win tonight while on the Global Response Force (GRF). As part of the GRF, 3rd Brigade is the tip of the spear, ready to deploy anywhere in the world when the nation calls. Getting to this point was no easy task, and required an intensive training cycle during 2016. Your Paratroopers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team not only met each required gate, but set a high standard of excellence throughout .

Upon redeploying from Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in November 2015, 3rd Brigade welcomed both veteran and new Panthers to the team. January to March of 2016, while maintaining the razor's edge of readiness, the Panther Brigade focused on the basics, including marksmanship, land navigation, medical skills, and weapons proficiency. In order to master their craft, over 1000 Paratroopers started training for the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) consisting of 40 individual tasks including a 12 mile road march. Following EIB, 3rd Brigade also executed the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB), which tested the combat proficiency of medical personnel.

In late spring, the Panthers delivered a sincere farewell to Colonel Curtis Buzzard as he left to take command of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany and Command Sergeant Major Daniel Gustafson as he left for Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division. Command Sergeant Major Kenneth Johnson and I were extremely fortunate to return back to the Panther Family. We arrived just in time as the Brigade began its most complex training in preparation for a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, LA in August.

After six fierce months sharpening our lethality at the Battalion level, the Panthers were ready for the Army's most complex training. In the sweltering heat of June, the Brigade executed one of the largest Joint Operational Access Exercises (JOAX) at Fort Bragg within the last decade, involving over 5,000 Paratroopers, Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen. The JOAX occupied almost all of the Fort Bragg Training Area, approximately twice the size of Guam. It challenged each and every individual, exceptionally preparing the BCT for JRTC.

Two months later, we deployed to Fort Polk for JRTC Rotation 16-09, the culminating event for the Brigade's training in 2016. The year of hard work was well worth it. The Commander of the JRTC Operations Group personally recognized 3rd Brigade for executing one of the best Decisive Action Training Environment rotations in the last decade. Augmented with a robust package of enablers from Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps Special Operations forces, 3rd BCT again proved its ability to jump, fight, and win tonight and into the future. The Panthers participated in a 12 day field training exercise initiated by a Joint Forcible Entry involving over 1,400 Paratroopers. The DATE rotation included approximately 6,000 Soldiers from Combined Joint Task Force Panther conducted a wide spectrum of activities which simulated many of the operations they could face while on the Global Response Force (GRF).

After an intensive training cycle, the Panther Brigade assumed the Global

Response Force in December. As America's Guard of Honor, the Panther Brigade will be ready to answer the call with distinction.

We are all looking forward to a great 2017. For your planning consideration, All American Week this year is from 22-25 May 2017, the 100th Anniversary of our mighty Division.

Attached you will find our 2016 Year in Review "Static Line." The "Static Line" is published monthly and accessible via our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/panther.brigade>.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the BCT and continued support of the Paratroopers and Families of the Panther Brigade Combat Team!

READY! H-Minus!

Gregory B. Beaudoin  
COL, IN  
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America's Guard of Honor!