



U.S. Army Forces Command FRONTLINE

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Senior Leaders 'Always ready, always there'



"From militia companies mustering on village greens in response to Paul Revere's warning, to the ever-evolving and complex world that we live in today, the National Guard is more resilient, relevant and ready than ever before"

— Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel
Chief, National Guard Bureau
Dec. 1, 2017, Arlington, Va.

On Point Happy Birthday to the National Guard

The National Guard is the oldest military force in the Department of Defense and will celebrate its 381st birthday on Dec. 13, 2017, continuing to answer the call since 1636 when the first militia regiments in North America were organized into three permanent regiments—East, South, and North Regiments. It is symbolic of the founding of all the state, territory, and District of Columbia militias that collectively make up today's National Guard. This year's theme is '**381 Years of Service to our States and our Nation.**'



Blended Retirement System

Service members eligible to opt into the Blended Retirement System in 2018 can now take a free course to learn to use the online comparison calculator to aid in determining whether the new BRS or the legacy retirement system is a better choice for their circumstances

Army announces activation of second SFAB at Fort Bragg



Soldiers from 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade patrol during live-fire training at Cactus Range, Nov. 6, 2017, on Fort Benning, Ga. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Vincent Byrd)

By U.S. Army Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec 8, 2017) - The Department of the Army announced the activation of the second Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in Jan. 2018. SFABs are specialized units whose core mission is to conduct advise-and-assist operations with allied and partner nations.

This is the second of six planned units. SFAB Soldiers are highly trained and are among the top tactical leaders in the Army. Their work will strengthen our allies and partners while supporting this nation's security objectives and the combatant commanders' warfighting needs.

"It is my assessment, and the assessment of the secretary and the assessment of the Army staff, that we are likely to be involved in train, advise, and assist operations for many years to

come," said Gen. Mark A. Milley, chief of staff of the Army.

The decision to station the second SFAB at Fort Bragg was based on strategic considerations including projected time to activate and train an SFAB, presence of senior grade personnel to man the unit, and required facility costs.

SFABs are designed on the brigade combat team (BCT) model and consist of approximately 800 senior and noncommissioned officers who have proven expertise in training and advising foreign security forces.

Soldiers in the SFAB are screened based on qualifications and experience. The unit will receive the best, most advanced military equipment available. SFAB soldiers receive special training through the Military Advisor Training Academy to include language, foreign weapons and the Joint Fires Observer course.

FORSCOM in the news

The 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, **recently tested their readiness** in Eastern Europe.



The 1st Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, recently participated in **an urban training exercise** to prepare for a rotation at the National Training Center.



The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), recently began fielding **the Army's new Modular Handgun System**, the M17 and M18 pistols.



Spc. Charles Lawrence, an infantryman with 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, **recently graduated U.S. Army Ranger School.**



Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division Sustainment Brigade's 510th Human Resources Company, recently returned from **supporting relief efforts** in Puerto Rico.



Medal of Honor ceremony



14th Public Affairs Detachment - Maj. Gen. Randy A. George, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, renders honors at the Medal of Honor wall in the 4th Inf. Div. headquarters, Fort Carson, Colo., after receiving two Medals of Honor on behalf of the Division, Dec. 7, 2017. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Micah Merrill)

TOP SHOTS

Here are the best photos from FORSCOM Public Affairs professionals world-wide. For more photos and information, click these photos or visit army.mil/forscom



Right Fort Stewart Soldiers and Families gather at Club Stewart for the installation Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 5, 2017, to celebrate the holiday season and meet Santa Claus. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Noelle E. Wiehe)

Left In sub-freezing temperatures, 1st Lt. Daniel Butensky, an engineer officer assigned to 299th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, cuts through metal with a Broco torch during the Best Sapper Competition at Fort Carson, Colo., December, 6, 2017. (U. S. Army photo by Sgt. Micah Merrill)



Above A Soldier assigned to 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, scans the terrain, Nov. 18, 2017, during an Allied Spirit VII training event in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin D. Biven)



Above Soldiers assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, secure a tactical assembly area during a Decisive Action Rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., Nov. 24, 2017. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Daniel Parrott)

Left A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, uses a Laser Designator Rangefinder to determine if artillery destroyed targets during a Joint Capabilities Integration Exercise, Nov. 14, 2017, at Yakima Training Center, Wash. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Northrup)



Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, AFCS-PA
Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command
4700 Knox St., Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000
usarmy.bragg.forscom.list.pao-media-report-distro-list@mail.mil

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